MONDAY 30, November 2026

WORKSHOP I: **Specific Issues and Challenges in Provenance Research in Technical and Military Collections: Confiscated Motor Vehicles and War Booty as Case Studies**

Meeting Point: Information Desk of the Technisches Museum Wien (TMW), Mariahilfer Straße 212, 1140 Vienna
Duration: 2 x 90 min
Workshop Hosts: Christian Klösch (Technisches Museum Wien), Stefan Kurz (Museum of Military History, Vienna)
Maximum number of participants: 15
Registration is due by October 31, 2026, to register please contact
christian.kloesch@tmw.at
Please note that your registration is not final until you receive confirmation!

1:30–3:00 pm

Part 1: Provenance Research on Motor Vehicles
Motor vehicles can still be uniquely identified today by their engine and chassis numbers as well as license plates. Using concrete examples from the TMW collection and the online vehicle database, the specific challenges of confiscation and restitution will be discussed.
Guided tour of the exhibition "Inventory Number 1938" – Provenance Research at the Technischen Museum Wien

3:30–5:00 pm

Part 2: Legitimate War Booty or Loot?
The appropriation and relocation of objects under the influence of military force – the "taking of spoils" – is an accompaniment of nearly all wars in history, and war booty can be found in most military history collections. Possible answers to the difficult question of what war booty actually is and what criteria might be used to distinguish between legitimate war booty and looted items will be discussed together using concrete examples.

WORKSHOP II: **Online card index of the Central Depot for Seized Collections in Vienna. Insights into the historical background, additions and feedback since 2017**

Meeting point: front desk Weltmuseum Wien, Heldenplatz, 1010 Vienna
Duration: 90 minutes
Organised & presented by: Lisa Frank (Commission for Provenance Research, Vienna), Susanne Hehenberger (archivist, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna), Peter Kloser (TMS-administrator, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna)
Maximum number of participants: 15 (specialist audience)
Registration is due by October 31, 2026, to register please use the link:
Termino.gv.at
Please note that your registration is not final until you receive confirmation!

11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Almost exactly nine years after the publication of the Online Central Depot card index and annotated catalogue of seized collections (1 December 2017), we invite you to a workshop to jointly examine the history of the Central Depot using sources from the archive of the Kunsthistorisches Museum. Together, we will discuss the making of this cross-institutional source edition, reflect on feedback and additions received over the years, and work on concrete questions for its planned relaunch:

- How can a long-established online edition be made fit for the future under conditions of limited resources?
- What practical experience has been gained from comparable projects, and what can we learn from it?
- How can supplementary sources and new information be integrated in a sustainable way?

We look forward to an open exchange and collaborative problem-solving. All participants are encouraged to contribute their own perspectives and experiences.

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WORKSHOP III: **Provenance data in libraries**

Meeting Point: Room: Kleines Kurszimmer, Vienna University Library, University of Vienna, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Wien
Duration: 120 minutes
Workshop host: Olivia Kaiser (Vienna University Library)
Maximum number of participants: 15
Registration is due by October 31, 2026; to register please contact
olivia.kaiser@univie.ac.at
Please note that your registration is not final until you receive confirmation!

2:00–4:00 p.m.

Libraries and librarians love data and even more they love their catalogues. State of the art discovery systems offer a wide range of functionalities for daily business but even more they offer a transparent way of documenting provenance data. Since libraries and librarians were extensively involved in the looting of cultural assets in the Nazi Period, provenance research in libraries means taking responsibility for the institutional history and furthermore the holdings. For many decades researching actively for provenances was not seen as an important task. With the Washington Principles and the Austrian Art Restitution act librarians received support for their bottom-up research and laid basics for the field of provenance research in libraries. Since more than 25 years librarians across borders work on guidelines and recommendations for documenting traces of unrightful translocation of books and printed materials. The information enhances catalogue entries in specific manner: research data is added, transparency is maintained and evidence of Nazi persecution is recorded.

In the course of the workshop we explore and ask:

- How can we deal with provenance data as research data in a library catalogue?
- Which guidelines can we follow to document provenance information?
- How do library catalogues comply with FAIR data principles?
- How does a catalogue entry contribute to the culture of remembrance?

WORKSHOP IV: **The Process of Locating Heirs: Insights from the Task Force**

Meeting Point: Bureau of the Commission for Provenance Research, Michaelerplatz 1, 1010 Vienna (Exact meeting point will be announced after registration).
Duration: 90 minutes
Maximum number of participants: 20
Organised & presented by: Mathias Lichtenwagner, Tamara Loitfellner, Sabine Loitfellner (Commission for Provenance Research, Vienna)
Registration is due by October 31, 2026; to register please contact
tamara.loitfellner@bda.gv.at
Please note that your registration is not final until you receive confirmation

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12:00–1:30 p.m.

Following the decision by the competent minister regarding the restitution of objects from Austrian federal collections, the search for the rightful heirs begins. Thanks to the constant improvement in the accessibility of information, and, above all, the expertise acquired over decades, the specialist knowledge and investigative skills involved as well as the support of Austrian authorities and foreign missions, we are able to resolve almost all cases of inheritance. In this workshop, we will provide an insight into the work of our "heirs task force" and address the following questions and topics:

- Who is entitled to inherit in art restitution cases?
- Genealogical methods and research
- Working with partner organisations/authorities
- Dealing with descendants (establishing contact, sensitive communication, data protection) and what should be done if no heirs can be found?