

What is Iconclass?

Iconclass is a comprehensive classification system for the content of images. It provides subject access to the collections of many museums and libraries, but its vocabulary covers a spectrum of visual communication that is broader than that of the traditional cultural heritage domain.



What is new in this edition?

This is the third version of the online Iconclass browser. It is different from its predecessors, because it offers a large corpus of classified images to be used for comparison and inspiration.



What the Illustrated Iconclass is NOT

Iconclass is a classification. It consists of *words*. The illustrations included here merely demonstrate how those words have been used in the online information systems of heritage organizations. They show the potential of Iconclass but they are NOT an alternative for the retrieval systems of museums or documentation institutes.



History and future

Iconclass started as the idea of Henri van de Waal, professor of Art History at Leiden university. He laid the groundwork from the 1940's forward. It was first published in printed form and then digitized. It is maintained and further developed under the auspices of the [Henri van de Waal Foundation](https://www.hvdf.nl/), but for a stable and sustainable future the Foundation will need the active support of the Iconclass user community.

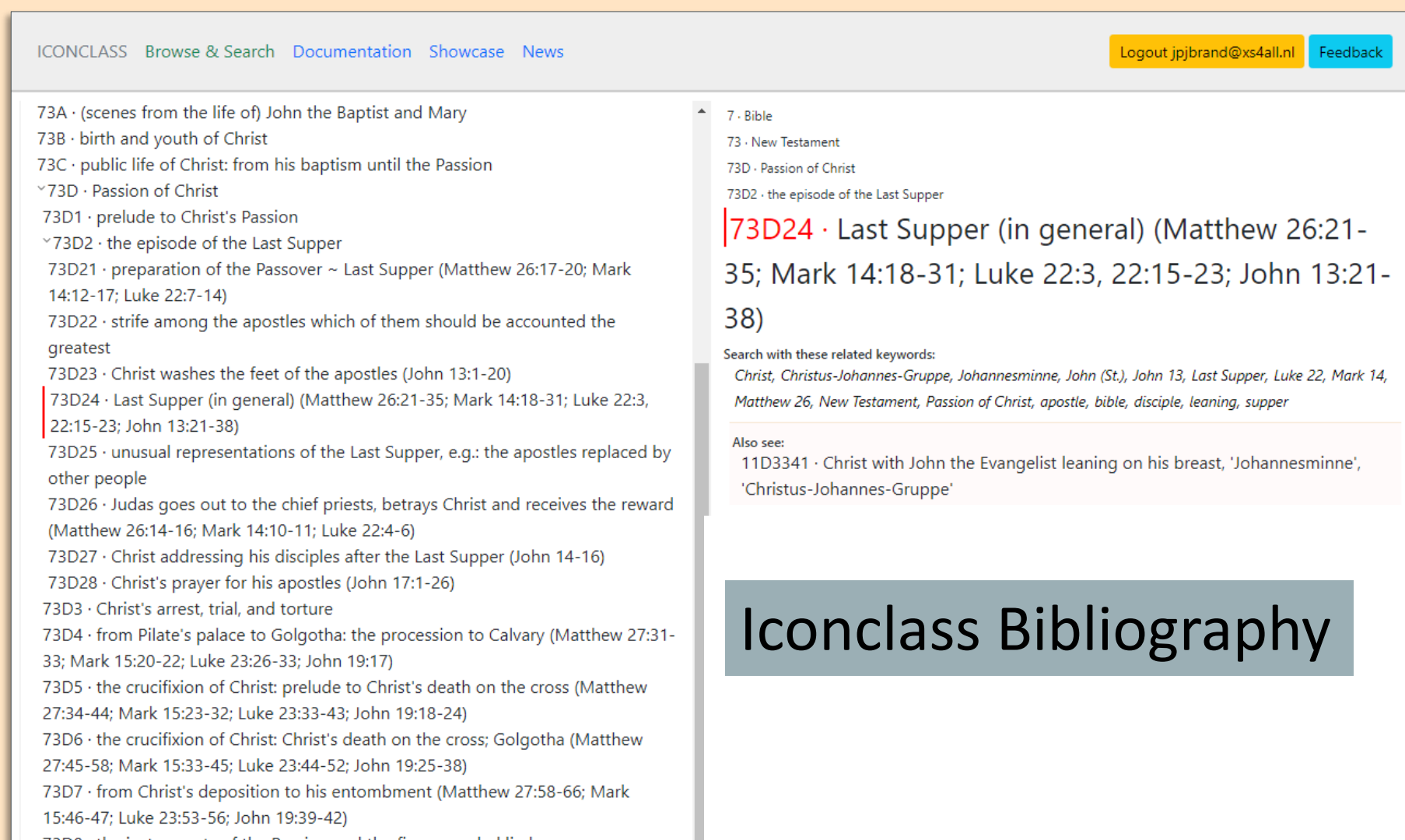


Illustrated Iconclass

Extensions and Applications

2022-2023

proposed by the
Henri van de Waal Foundation



Extension 1: Iconclass Bibliography

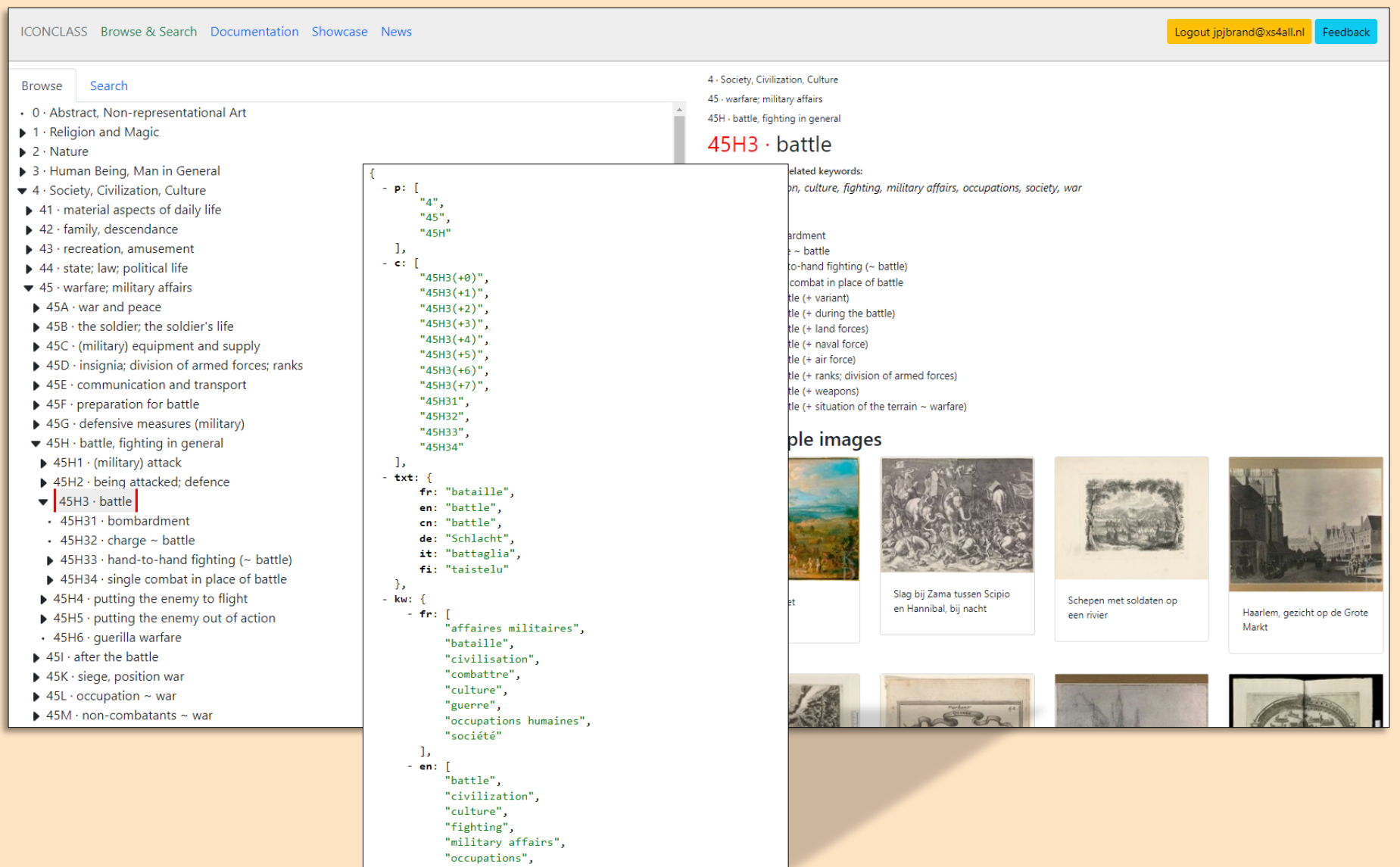
Iconclass concepts are metadata, linked to images in databases. Many of those images are also referenced in scholarly literature. Hence many Iconclass concepts are - indirectly - linked to articles and books.

The original Iconclass Bibliography files consisted of circa 50,000 references, which are now waiting to be added to the Iconclass Browser.

The Foundation aims to expand the original Bibliography by importing new references, submitted by heritage institutions with Iconclass concepts linked to items in their collections.

▶ 9 · Classical Mythology and Ancient History

That is a long-cherished wish, which could be realized with broader support from a consortium.



Extension 3: LOD support

Expand the Linked Open Data support.

Adding a SPARQL query endpoint exposing all Iconclass data as a semantically searchable knowledge base. This will enable integration with initiatives like the Dutch NDE Termennetwerk <https://netwerkdigitaalerfgoed.nl/activiteiten/termennetwerk/> and open the gateway to standard integration with Museum management systems internationally.

11D3271 · Christ as Good Shepherd - DD - Christ beardless
 11D3271(+0) · Christ as Good Shepherd (+ variant)
 11D3271(+1) · Christ as Good Shepherd (+ Holy Trinity)
 11D3271(+2) · Christ as Good Shepherd (+ Mary)
 11D3271(+3) · Christ as Good Shepherd (+ angel(s))
 11D3271(+4) · Christ as Good Shepherd (+ devil(s))
 11D3271(+5) · Christ as Good Shepherd (+ donor(s), supplicant(s), whether or not with patron saint(s))

Kanzel — Kanzel — Der
Gute Hirte



Christus als guter Hirte

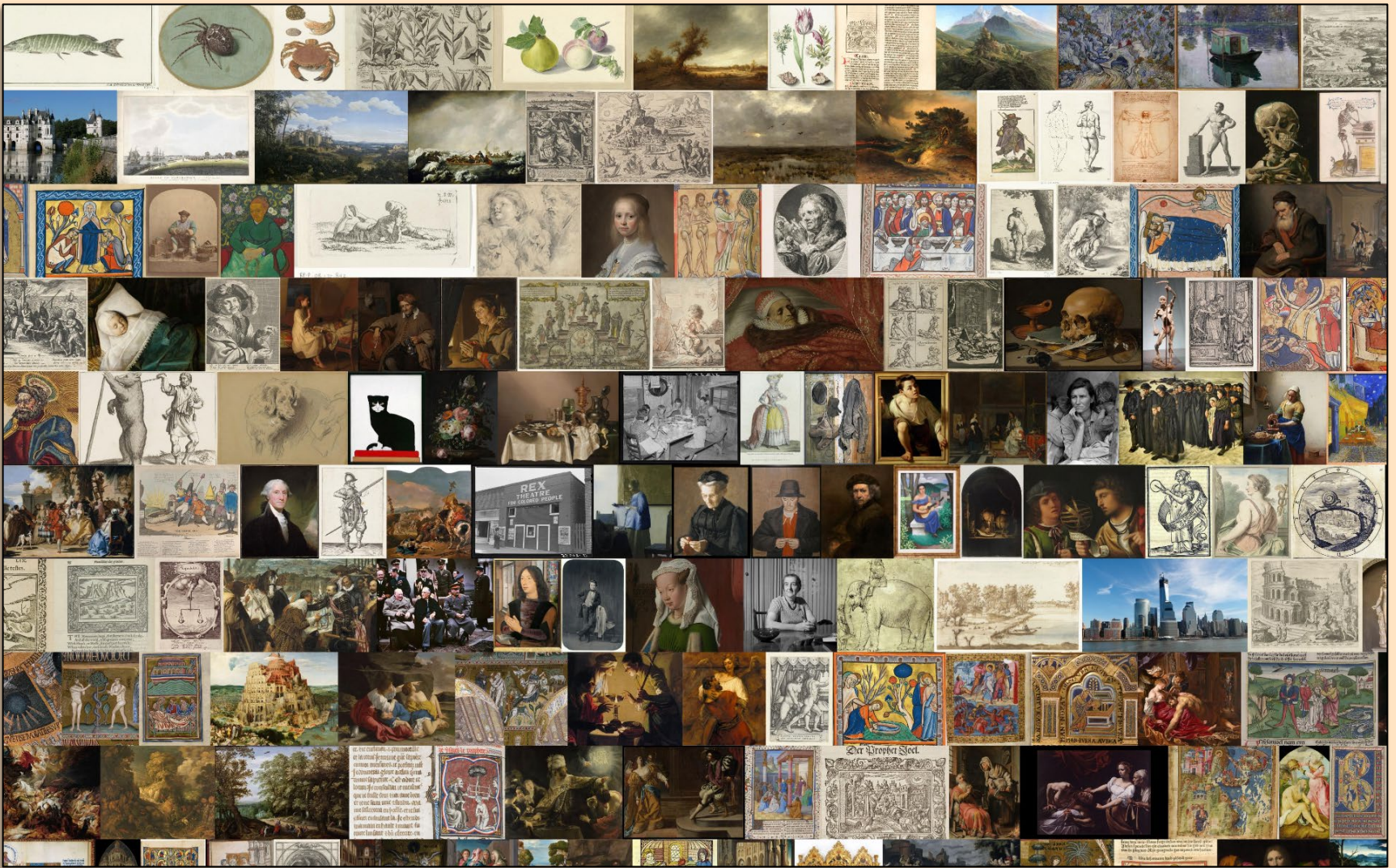


Title illustration



Christus als guter Hirte

Both types of resources are eligible for batch import in the Illustrated Iconclass, either with their own ready-made encoding, or after their proprietary vocabularies are brought in synch with Iconclass terminology.




Extension 5: Add your own images, annotate those of others

Both institutional users and individual researchers should be able to tag their own image collections, using IIF functionality.

They should be able to tag their images in the Iconclass environment and enrich the Iconclass encoding done by others by annotating them with supplemental codes.

7 · Bible
73 · New Testament
73C · public life of Christ: from his baptism until the Passion
73C4 · miracles of Christ ~ healing the sick
73C45 · Christ healing lepers
73C452 · Christ sends ten lepers to the priest (Luke 17:11-19) ✓
Search with these related keywords:
Christ, Luke 17, New Testament, adult, bible, healing, leprosy, miracle, priest, ten
Add more detail:
73C4521 · one leper, a Samaritan, sent to the priest by Christ, returns and kneels before him
73C452(+0) · Christ sends ten lepers to the priest (Luke 17:11-19) (+ variant)
73C452(+1) · Christ sends ten lepers to the priest (Luke 17:11-19) (+ Holy Trinity)
73C452(+2) · Christ sends ten lepers to the priest (Luke 17:11-19) (+ Mary)
73C452(+3) · Christ sends ten lepers to the priest (Luke 17:11-19) (+ angel(s))
73C452(+4) · Christ sends ten lepers to the priest (Luke 17:11-19) (+ devil(s))
73C452(+5) · Christ sends ten lepers to the priest (Luke 17:11-19) (+ donor(s), suppliant(s), whether or not with patron saint(s))

23 sample images

Extension 6: expanded Clipboard function

When working with Iconclass, it is very practical to embed the image you are indexing in the browser window and be able to transfer notations to a specialized clipboard.

It should also be possible to return the content of the clipboard to the host database.

Interfaces for consortium member database formats should be made available. IIF functionality should support this type of exchanges.

ICONCLASS Browse & Search Documentation Showcase News
Logout jpjbrand@xs4all.nl Feedback

Browse [Search](#)

- 0 · Abstract, Non-representational Art
- ▶ 1 · Religion and Magic
 - 10 · (symbolic) representations ~ creation, cosmos, cosmogony, universe, and life (in the broadest sense)
 - ▶ 11 · Christian religion
 - ▶ 11A · Deity, God (in general) ~ Christian religion
 - ▶ 11B · the Holy Trinity, 'Trinitas coelestis'; Father, Son and Holy Ghost ~ Christian religion
 - ▶ 11C · God the Father
 - ▶ 11D · Christ
 - ▶ 11E · the Holy Ghost
 - ▶ 11F · the Virgin Mary
 - ▶ 11F1 · symbols and p
 - ▶ 11F2 · Mary (without
 - ▶ 11F3 · Mary (without
 - ▶ 11F4 · Madonna: i.e. I
 - ▶ 11F41 · Madonna: M
 - ▶ 11F42 · Madonna: M

11F422 · Mary sitting or enthroned, the Christ-child on her knee (Christ-child to Mary's left)

Search with these related keywords:
Christ-child, Christian religion, Madonna (Mary with Christ-child), Mary (Virgin), knee, lap, left (opposite to right), religion, right (opposite to left), sitting, supernatural, throne


This is what you searched for:

Must have ▶ 11F422 Mary sitting or enthroned, the Christ-child on her knee (Christ-child to Mary's left)

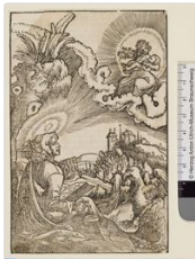
ICONCLASS in English ▾

We found your search most often combined with:

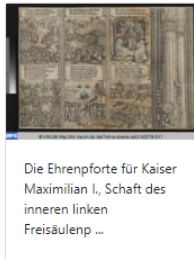
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3 Human Being, Man in General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 31A2422 head turned to the right <input type="checkbox"/> 31A235 sitting figure <input type="checkbox"/> 31D112 child <input type="checkbox"/> 31A2331 kneeling on both knees <input type="checkbox"/> 33A41 gifts being accepted <input type="checkbox"/> 31AA2352 sitting on an elevation - AA - female human figure <input type="checkbox"/> 31A233 kneeling figure <input type="checkbox"/> 31A2523 hands against each other <input type="checkbox"/> 31A25221 hands folded with fingers knit <input type="checkbox"/> 31D14(+51) adult man (+ standing) <input type="checkbox"/> 31A2516(+933) arm or hand held in front of the body (+ holding something) 							



Thronende Madonna



Evangelist Johannes



Die Ehrenpfote für Kaiser Maximilian I., Schaft des inneren linken Freisäulenp ...

Extension 7: Visualisation of co-occurrences

Datasets with Iconclass codes are potential treasure troves of information about *co-occurrences*.

The images found by a search through one concept are almost always also described with the help of other concepts. Those "*co-occurring concepts*" can contain a lot of useful information and are a potentially rich source for "*knowledge discovery*" for researchers.

Experience has already been gained in offering *co-occurrences*, but there is a lot of room for experimentation and improvement, also through visualisation.

ICONCLASS Bild-Browser

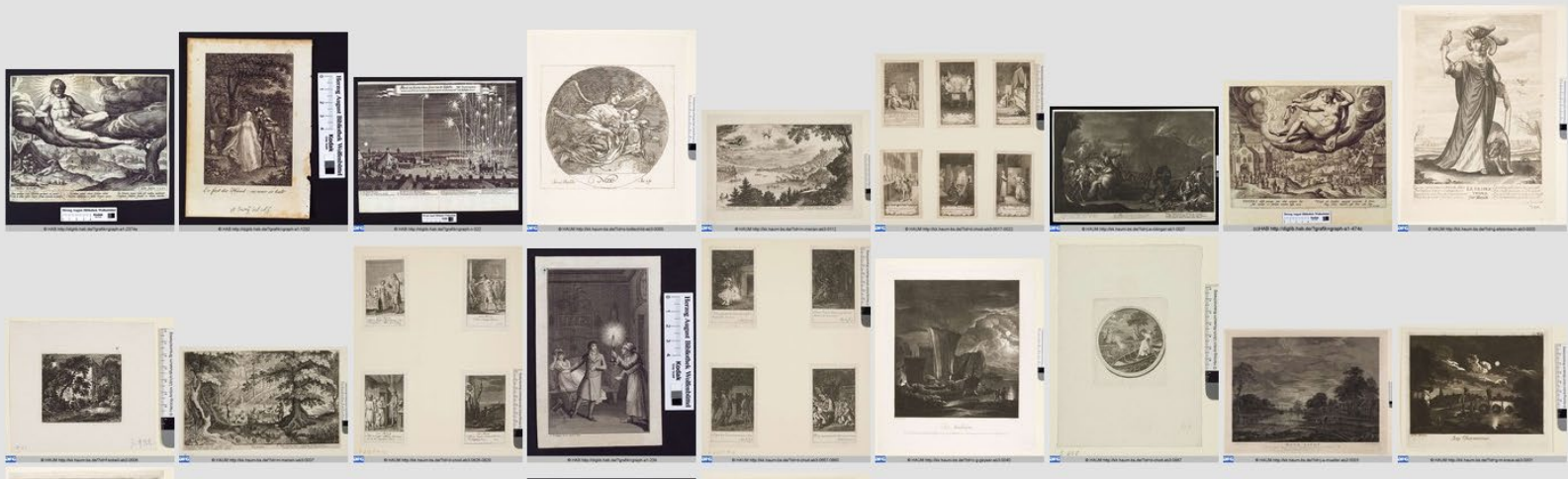
Deutsch Français Italiano Portugese

- Top
- 2 · Nature
- 23 · time

23R · day and night

- 23R1 · day of 24 hours, natural day
- 23R2 · day from sunrise to sunset
- 23R3 · the 24 hours of day and night

194 available, page: 1 2

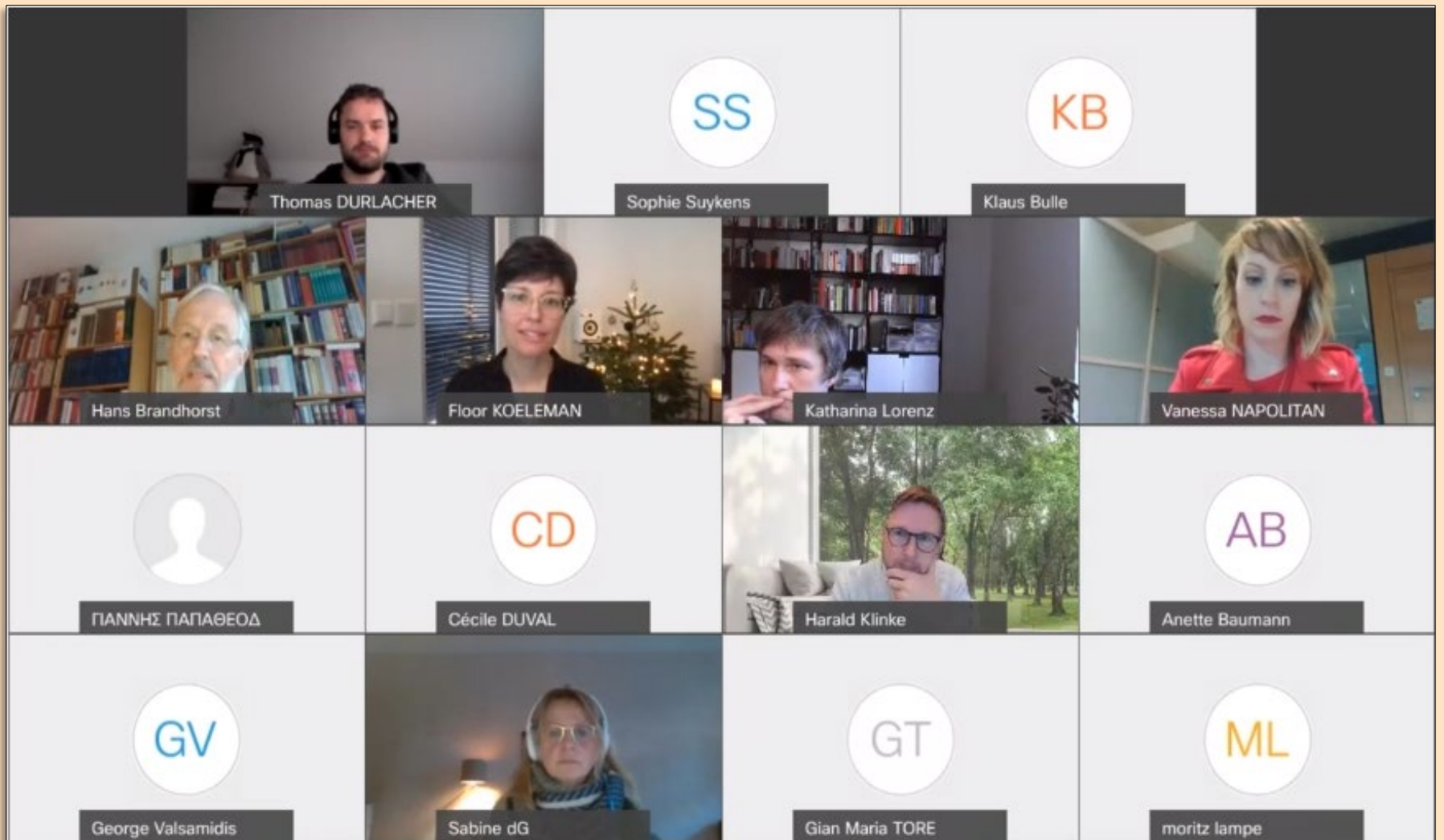


Extension 8: Locally installed Browser

Many heritage institutions use Iconclass to unlock the contents of their image collections, but do not make optimal use of the retrieval power that Iconclass offers.

They may have invested a lot in indexing their collections, but do not offer the collected information in an optimized manner - for example via the multilingual keywords - to their end users.

An optimized retrieval module, based on the existing *Harvester of Iconclass Metadata* application, would therefore be a welcome addition to the Iconclass tool box.



Extension 9: Building a community

Add a forum section to the Iconclass Browser website where registered users may discuss aspects of the Iconclass system, discuss iconographic and terminological issues, start collaborative projects, and build a community.