

## **The Museum Volkenkunde (National Museum of Ethnology) in Leiden, The Netherlands, has opted for a Blu-ray Digital Archive from DISC Archiving Systems.**



In common with most museums, The Museum Volkenkunde in Leiden, The Netherlands, handles an enormous amount of digital records that require storing indefinitely. This requires a storage solution that offers vast and durable storage capacity in combination with extreme reliability and low operational costs.

The museum currently has more than 100,000 high resolution digital files including audio (interviews & sound fragments), video files of exhibitions and other digital documents in its collection. It is anticipated that the volume of digital material will grow rapidly over the coming years as more records are preserved. These records are available through their website where it is possible to view digital pieces from the collection.

The collection's digital records are indexed and their contents can be searched by the museum's information system (TMS). The internal architecture is network based which the DISC archive solutions integrates seamless with.

The selected archiving solution of DISC provides a long term solution with very low power consumption (approx. 95% lower than hard disk based archiving systems), which reduces the museums environmental impact and reduces future costs. Based on 50GB Blu-ray optical media, which is designed for 50 year life, the solution further minimises future costs by drastically reducing the frequency of data migrations, which had to be done every 5 years with a hard disk/tape based solution.

The museum's investment is future proofed with the ability to scale from the installed 5TB to 35TB with current technology and also being able to upgrade to future technology without migrating the data or replacing the library. Hence DISC can meet both the future capacity and budgetary requirements. With this solution The Museum Volkenkunde has solved the competing demands of preserving historical records whilst allowing scholars and members of the public access to their heritage.

## About the Museum

The National Museum of Ethnology manages collections of world renown, brought together by a series of illustrious collectors.



The collection history is closely connected with the Kingdom of the Netherlands. King William I (1772-1843) dispatched scholars to overseas regions to collect materials and information for Dutch museums. In 1816, the Royal Cabinet of Chinese Rarities was created. In 1821, this gave rise to the Royal Cabinet of Rarities in The Hague.

Curiosities of every manner were added to the Cabinet over the course of the years, but the ethnographic collection remained the most important, especially once the Japanese collections of J. Cock Blomhoff and J.R. van Overmeer Fisscher were purchased in 1826 and 1832 and added to by P.F. Siebold in 1837. The ethnographic collections formed the basis for the Ethnographic Museum in Leiden (1837), later to become the National Museum of Ethnology.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, the collections were expanded greatly. In the first decade of the twentieth century, the collection pertaining to Indonesia increased substantially. The museum also managed to acquire valuable collections from the South Pacific, Africa (including Benin bronzes), America (including a special collection of Peruvian pottery), from Tibet and from Siberia.



The most important acquisition in this period, however, was the transfer of those objects from the National Museum of Antiquities, that fell outside of the period of classical antiquity. The collection of antiquities from America found its way to the museum as well.

After World War II, the collections from New Guinea, Greenland and other places were acquired. The National Museum of Ethnology became a museum of an international calibre, with famous, well-documented collections.

For further information:  
[www.volkenkunde.nl](http://www.volkenkunde.nl)