

**Changes in access to collections and data:  
impact and coping strategies of collection and data departments  
with regard to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).**

Douwe Zeldenrust  
Collection Manager

Meertens Instituut, Humanities Cluster, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

### **Introduction**

Access to collections and data is one of the most fundamental starting point for every humanities researcher. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May of 2018 access to information has changed dramatically in the European Union with the coming of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Before that date personal privacy and data protection were legislated and enforced through a patchwork of individual member state laws and independent supervisors. These laws have been harmonized and are replaced by one set of data protection rules for all organisations operating in the EU, wherever they are based (Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, 2019). This poster is about the GDPR and access to collections and data.

### **Impact and issues**

The GDPR emphasizes the individual's rights to understand and control how their data are used. The impact of the GDPR for researchers and other users includes:

1. Ability to use data;
2. ability to transfer data to and from third parties;
3. requirements in storing data.

It also affects the collection and data departments of institutes, universities and museums (Tjalsma, 2018). And while the GDPR is already ratified, in many cases it still needs to be translated to local guidelines and rulings. Moreover, most collections contain legacy data and the question on how to make all collections meet with the new regulations, usually with limited manpower, is a challenge. This poster will address the following issues:

1. How will the GDPR affect the ability to access the collections and data.
2. How do collection and data departments cope with the new regulations.
3. What is the impact of the GDPR on research.

### **Administrators and users**

This poster is presented by the chair of the Humanities Cluster working group 'Collections and GDPR' of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW, 2019). This group focusses on: 1) legacy collections and data and 2) on data in current (research) projects that will become part of the collections. The working group consists of the Data Protection Officer of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the legal adviser of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and the collection and data managers of the institutes involved (the International Institute for Social History, the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Meertens Instituut). These institutes house substantial digital and analogue collections and they are partners in various European and national infrastructure projects such as: CLARIN and PARTHENOS.

With this poster the working group would like to inform a larger community within the Benelux countries of our ongoing activities regarding the GDPR and collections and data. At the presentation we will welcome any level of researcher, research data manager and collection manager, at any stage in their career, working within digital humanities or cultural heritage institutes who want to expand their own knowledge. Those who have already worked with the GDPR are warmly welcome to come and to share their experiences.

**Resources:**

Tjalsma, H. (2018). Gevolgen nieuwe AVG voor data-archieven. *Edata & Research*, 12(3), 4.

**Websites:**

<https://www.knaw.nl/en/institutes/> (accessed 22 April 2019).

<https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/en> (accessed 22 April 2019).