



für Natur
MUSEUM FÜR
NATURKUNDE
BERLIN

2018

Annual report

MISSION

Discovering and describing life and earth – with people, through dialogue.

VISION

As an excellent research museum and innovative communication platform, we want to engage with and influence the scientific and societal discourse about the future of our planet – worldwide.

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**A strong signal
for nature**

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660 million euros

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The Museum in numbers

A strong signal for nature



660 million euros sends a strong signal! A signal that is receiving great recognition both nationally and internationally. With this unique and additional funding, we are able to implement the ambitious future plan for the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. We will develop our collection as a global cultural and scientific infrastructure, honoring its global heritage and enabling users from all over the world to use them digitally – easy and free of charge. This will help to develop solutions to the future challenges facing our society and planet. Over 600 researchers from all over the world are already actively working on our collection each year.

In particular we want to promote science-based decisions that benefit nature, and therefore reinforce our democratic culture. We will permanently develop the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin into an attractive communication forum and hub in the interplay of science, business, politics and society – a place where new forms of participation with the involvement of civil society are being developed, where scientific dialogue and communication is improving, and where excellent top-tier research into the natural world is conducted.

In 2018, we had 734,237 visitors to our exhibitions, and 96,817 interested members of the public took part in our structured or education programmes. This once more made us Germany's most visited natural history museum – by a comfortable margin. With the outstanding support from the federal government and the state of Berlin, we will succeed in further consolidating our pioneering role as a place that fosters dialogue about humankind's natural heritage and our responsibilities towards it.

The 660 million euros grant is a great responsibility; however, it also serves as a strong recognition of the outstanding work done by our staff. The museum's success rests on their tireless endeavour. We are very grateful to be able to work with such a committed and capable team. Our heartfelt thanks also goes to our Board of Trustees, our Scientific Advisory Board, our donors, and – last but not least – the members of the German Bundestag and the Berlin House of Representatives.

We hope you enjoy this report.



Prof. Johannes Vogel, Ph.D.
Director General
Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

Stephan Junker
Managing Director
Museum für Naturkunde Berlin



660 million euros for the development of the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

Over 10% of all the species described in the world are deposited here, unique and probably only comparable with the natural history collections in Paris, London, Washington and New York. The freshwater shrimp *Caridina clandestina* is a new addition to this diversity, christened and named by an interested Berlin radio audience!

The goals of the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin are to inspire people for nature, to learn with them and as an internationally visible scientific and cultural beacon for nature, to inspire debates about the future of the planet.

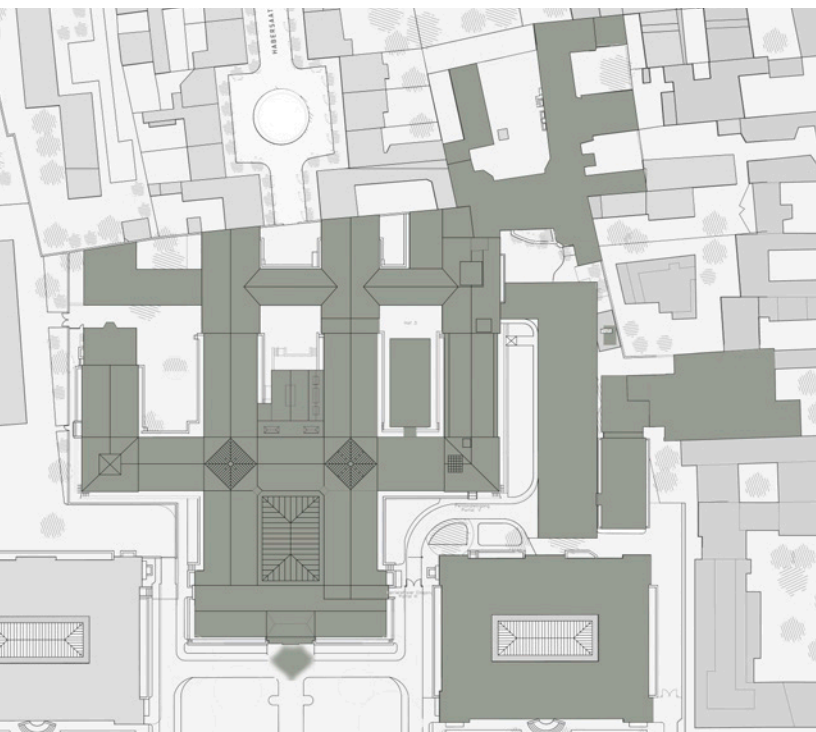
The realization of these goals is now within reach, and the shrimp above serves as a little example of our innovative approaches.

In agreement with the State of Berlin, the Budget Committee of the Bundestag has set the future course of the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. It will allow us to develop an overall concept for the development of a research and communication forum at the centre of the German capital. This also serves to underpin the outstanding scientific environment in and around Berlin.

The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin has undergone fundamental change over the past decade. By consistently developing into an integrated research museum with cutting-edge research, a globally unique collection and innovative science communication, it has put itself on the path to becoming a modern natural history museum. Our governing body and the scientific advisory committee are supporting this development constructively. Over the next few years, the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin will develop into an open and integrated research museum focusing on biodiversity, evolution, science and society. In doing so, the museum continues to realise its original 1880th vision, making the entire collection and the knowledge associated with our collection accessible to scientific and societal stakeholders.

We want to break down the ‘walls’ between collection, research, industry and the wider public, while at the same time creating spaces for lively democratic discourse.

This requires a building that, at the same time, promotes cutting-edge research, collection development and scientific communication – economically, functionally and sustainably. The substantial financial contribution will make it possible to develop a science campus for Nature and Society in cooperation with the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the Leibniz Association and other national and international partners. The ‘Zukunftsplan – Conceptual and Structural Development Perspectives for the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin’ is the blueprint for this.



Science campus

The additional funding will enable us:

to preserve the internationally unique, valuable collection as a national, cultural and global heritage and thus to deliver on our scientific, cultural and social responsibility;

to further develop our collection as a modern information and research infrastructure and to make them digitally accessible worldwide,

to strive for an international leadership role in the research on major environmental issues and global challenges in the field of natural resources for Germany and Europe,

to make the collection and the research contents easily accessible for visitors and thus not only to inspire society, but to allow them to get engaged and to participate in our work even more than before

to experiment with new forms of participation and exhibition formats in order to stimulate the debates about the future of the planet and to develop our exhibition into one of the most visited in Europe.

Good for Berlin! Our cooperation with the Berliner Sparkasse



The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin is – just like the Berliner Sparkasse – an institution for all Berliners. On the occasion of its 200th birthday in 2018, the Berliner Sparkasse donated one million euros to the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. In addition, both partners entered into a deeper cooperation from 2019 to 2024. The aim of the cooperation is to foster a stronger dialogue between science and society.

Like the Berliner Sparkasse, the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin has developed with the capital and thus, the slogan of the Berliner Sparkasse 'Gut für Berlin' (Good for Berlin) also chimes with the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. In their respective areas, the Sparkasse and the museum stand for responsibility and sustainable action for society. Both institutions come from the tradition of the Enlightenment.

With the founding of the Berliner Sparkasse 200 years ago, Berliners were able to save money for the first time and thus gain a piece of independence, while the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin was created in the spirit of the Humboldt brothers in order to provide citizens with access to knowledge. Both institutions are relevant and prominently represented in the cityscape and have repeatedly managed to reinvent themselves in relation to social, economic and scientific developments.

A first great success of the joint cooperation was the Children's Festival on 22 October 2018 in front of and in the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. Some 12,400 visitors came in a single day. Little explorers were able to roam the museum in a playful and fun way.

We say 'Thank you!' The Berliner Sparkasse board presents a one million euro donation to the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin during their 200 year anniversary event. In addition, the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin directors received a symbolic 'dinosaur bone', but do not take it personally.

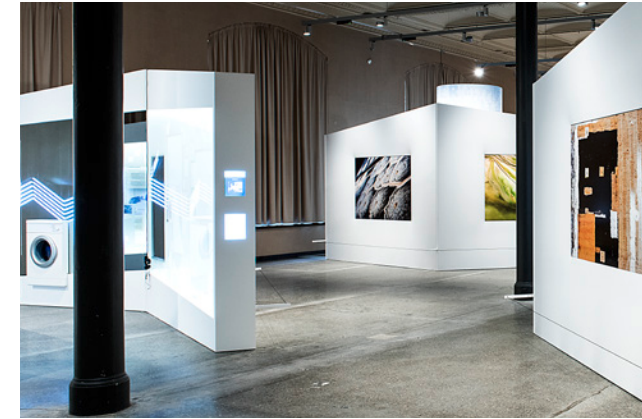
Science Audit by the Scientific Advisory Board

On 29 and 30 January 2018, the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin was audited by its Scientific Advisory Board. In addition to the evaluation, the audit is the essential assessment of the quality of the scientific achievements of Leibniz Association institutions.

The Scientific Advisory Board of the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin consists of nationally and internationally recognised experts in relevant disciplines who advise the museum's management on programmatic and scientific issues. In order to form an opinion on the museum's research, infrastructure and transfer services, the members of the Scientific Advisory Board received a detailed report. The audit was then carried out on the basis of this report. The inspection consisted mainly of short lectures and one poster/theme session per research area and lectures given by the museum management.

The Scientific Advisory Board acknowledged the scientific work and innovative approaches of the museum and confirmed its overall direction. It congratulated the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin on its very high productivity, as evidenced by – among other things – publications in high-ranking scientific journals, the very successful acquisition of competitive third-party funds and the growing numbers of visitors. The museum received advice on some structural consolidations, which have been implemented in the meantime. In conclusion, the Scientific Advisory Board strongly supports the museum's ambition to develop from an integrated research museum into an open and integrated research museum.

ARTEFACTS: Society, science and politics re-imagined



How will we deal with our planet in the future?
How does our everyday life affect the climate?
These questions and their answers are the focus of an extraordinary exhibition at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. ARTEFACTS is a cooperation with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the American photographer J Henry Fair, financed by the Aktionsplan Leibniz-Forschungsmuseen (Leibniz Action Plan of Research Museums) of the Bundestag, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the State of Berlin and the other Länder.

They are reminiscent of abstract art and puzzle and amaze any visitor. However, at a closer look, massive human interference on the environment becomes visible – e.g. through coal mining or fracking. On the other hand, and in addition to the photographs, visitors can immerse themselves in the science around pressing environmental issues.

The exhibition focuses on the science around environmental issues. To ease access to these complex issues, ARTEFACTS is building a bridge between art (ART) and science (FACTS). On the one hand, twenty breathtaking aerial photographs are on show.

The exhibition is divided into five sections, where visitors can find everyday objects to ponder their impact. A meat counter of a somewhat different kind, for example, shows the visitor how much CO₂ the respective types of meat cause or how much manure is produced by the animals. The cooperation partners are united by the desire to stimulate discussions and a dialogue about nature and the environment amongst visitors. The beautiful images create a new approach to environmental issues. What can I do myself? For the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin it is important that society, science and politics meet as equals and engage in dialogue.



Museum für Naturkunde Berlin – Leibniz-Institut für Evolutions- und Biodiversitätsforschung

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Science Programme 1

Evolution and Geoprocesses

Acting Head: PD Dr. Lutz Hecht
Deputy Heads: PD Dr. Frieder Mayer /
Prof. Dr. Kai Wünnemann
Secretariat: Rita Schmidt / Friederike Schwarz

- › Impact and Meteorite Research
- › Diversity Dynamics
- › Evolutionary Morphology
- › Microevolution

Science Programme 2

Collection Development and Biodiversity Discovery

Head: Dr. Christiane Quaiser
Deputy Heads: PD Dr. Michael Ohl /
Dr. Thomas von Rintelen
Secretariat: Petra Ebber

- › Biodiversity Discovery
- › Collection Development

Science Programme 3

Digital World and Information Science

Head: Dr. Jana Hoffmann
Secretariat: Ute Scheich
IT services

- › Biodiversity Informatics
- › Science Data Management

Science Programme 4

Museum and Society

Head: Dr. Katrin Vohland
Deputy Head: Uwe Moldrzyk
Secretariat: Monika Neumann

- › Education and Exhibition
- › Science in Society
- › Humanities of Nature

Science Theme I

“ DYNAMICS OF NATURE ”

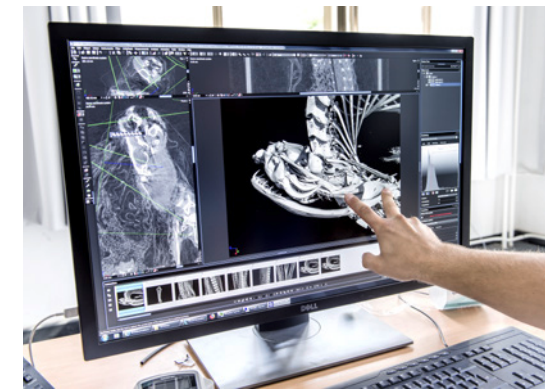
Science Theme II

“ NATURE AND SOCIETY ”



Fixed on a turntable and softly padded on bubble wrap, *Diademodon* waits for the researchers of the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin to discover even more secrets from its bones – 230 million years after this ancient relative of mammals died out.

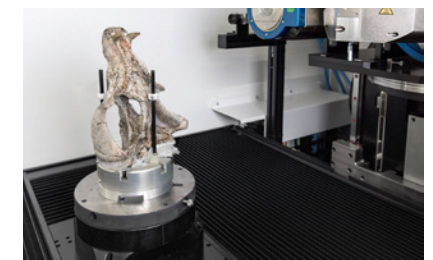
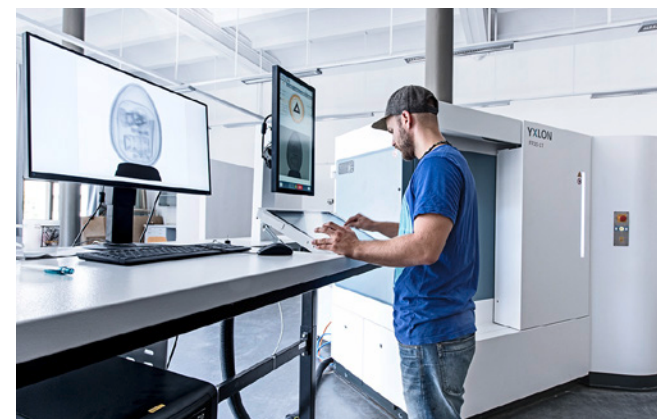
The collection of the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin is a unique natural and cultural asset and an outstanding, internationally used research infrastructure. Long-term ecological changes and processes, such as species loss and climate change, can be studied in the collection with the help of objects from the biological and geological past. State-of-the-art computer tomography offers science completely new possibilities, because detailed, three-dimensional insights into the smallest structures are possible without destroying the objects. In addition, this technology enables unique discoveries to be quickly archived and, at the same time, be made available to science and society worldwide.



Through the secure and long-term storage, digitalisation and preservation of physical evidence and information, numerous data are made available as a knowledge base for in-depth research.

In order to expand the research infrastructure, the museum and the company YXLON International have entered into a cooperation. The aim is to further develop the current analysis procedures and workflows of 3D X-ray technology and to adapt them to the challenges of natural history collections. YXLON loans the Museum a high-performance computer tomograph for research purposes. The device makes it possible to examine much larger objects than before, such as the complete skull of the *Diademodon*. Situated adjacent to *T. rex* Tristan Otto, staff working in the CT lab can also talk to museum visitors about their work.

Live digitisation meets computer tomography



Global Summit of Research Museums



In November 2018 the first 'Global Summit of Research Museums' was held at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. Representatives from research museums of all disciplines, such as the ethnography, natural sciences, the humanities, the arts and technology, from 24 countries and five continents came together for an exchange. Museums are an integral part of science and society and act as conveners, mediators and innovators in supporting democracy, human rights and the global knowledge society. In a joint final declaration, the representatives of the 109 institutions present committed themselves to further strengthening the global knowledge and collection network of research museums and to expanding cross-border digital networking and cooperation.

The Aktionsplan Leibniz-Forschungsmuseen (Leibniz Action Plan of Research Museums) funded by the Federal Government and the Länder, supported the Global Summit, giving the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin the opportunity to assemble a diverse and strong international community of research museum.

The Aktionsplan also allowed the museum to fund the special exhibition ARTEFACTS (see p. 14) and lecture series such as 'Wissenschaft im Sauriersaal' (Science in the Dinosaur Hall) and 'Wissenschaft, natürlich!' (Science, of course!), as well as a major event on the global sustainability goals (SDGs). In total, a very diverse set of target groups were introduced to current and socio-politically relevant topics. We also started constructing a strategic visitor research centre. This 'Experimental Field', a new meeting place for science and museum visitors in the exhibition area, will allow us and scientific partners from the Max Planck Society to test a wide range of ways to conduct scientific dialogue and participation. A further highlight of the Aktionsplan was an international conference on collections preservation research.





audit berufundfamilie

audit berufundfamilie (audit workandfamily) – is a cumbersome term. What is it about? “We want to further improve our attractiveness as an employer, increase the job satisfaction of our employees and increase loyalty to the research museum.” says Managing Director Stephan Junker.

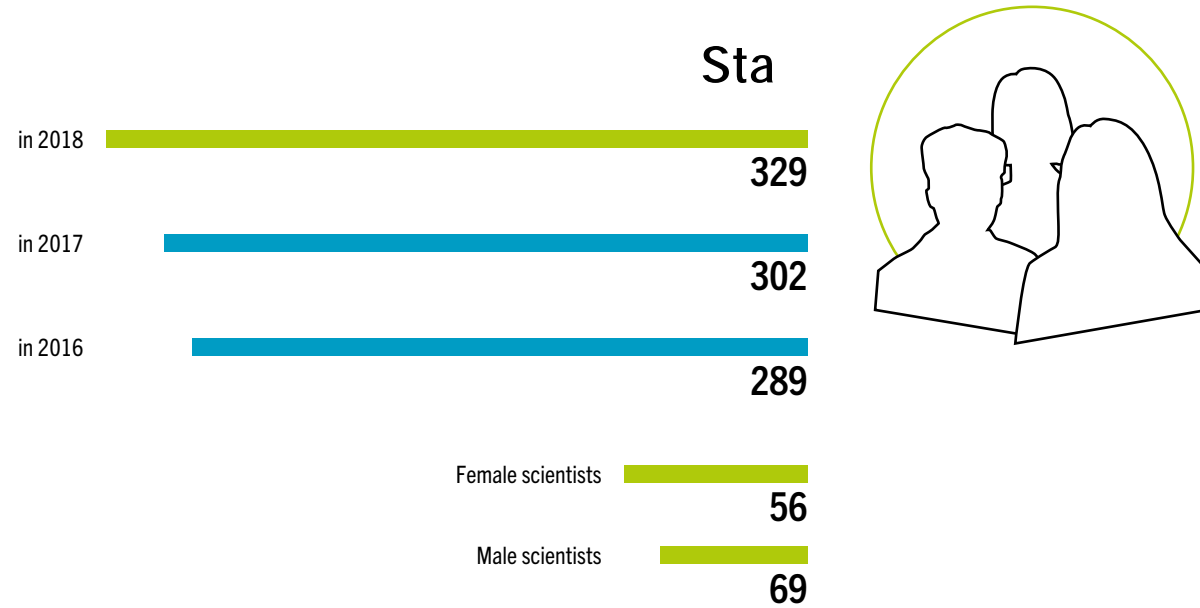
The museum has therefore been successfully certified by the independent audit berufundfamilie. As confirmation of the commitment and successful completion, the certificate was awarded in person by Dr. Franziska Giey, Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

In 2018, following successful recertification, the second period of implementation of the audits objectives began – and once again a large number of employees took part in the newly formed working groups.

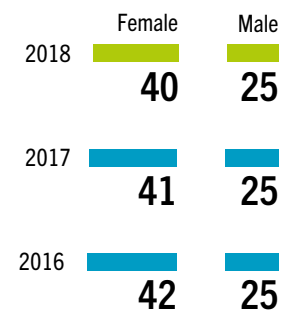
Numerous new measures were successfully implemented, including, for example, the introduction of ‘individually perceived workload and possible relief measures’ in the annual staff appraisals. In order to promote the compatibility of work and family or address different phases of life, the contract periods in temporary projects are extended (to the maximum period permitted by law) if parental or nursing leave is taken.

Museum runners were established and the team took part in the IKK Berlin Company Run in May 2018, some spinal exercise classes and yoga courses were introduced, and a football group established. Further important measures will continue in the next audit year. The audit berufundfamilie is a strong statement, particularly in view of the implementation of the Zukunftsplan (see p. 6) and the upcoming challenges of change facing all employees.

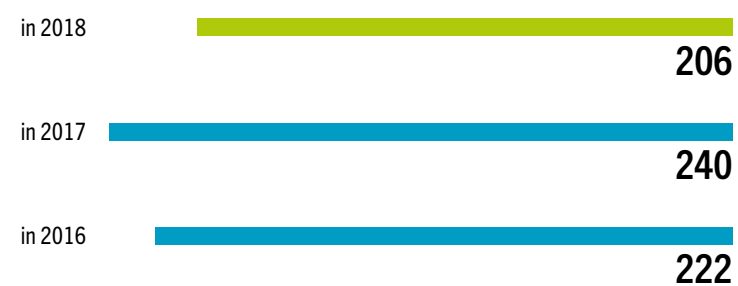
The Museum in numbers



PhD students



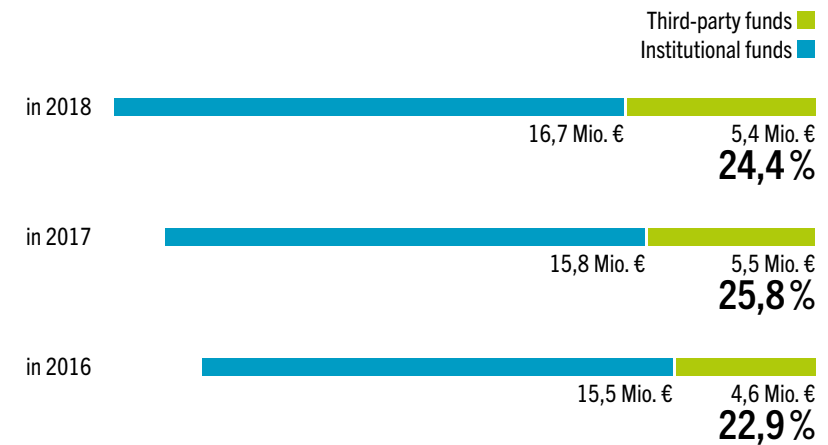
Publications



peer-reviewed, including SCIE listed (formerly ISI)

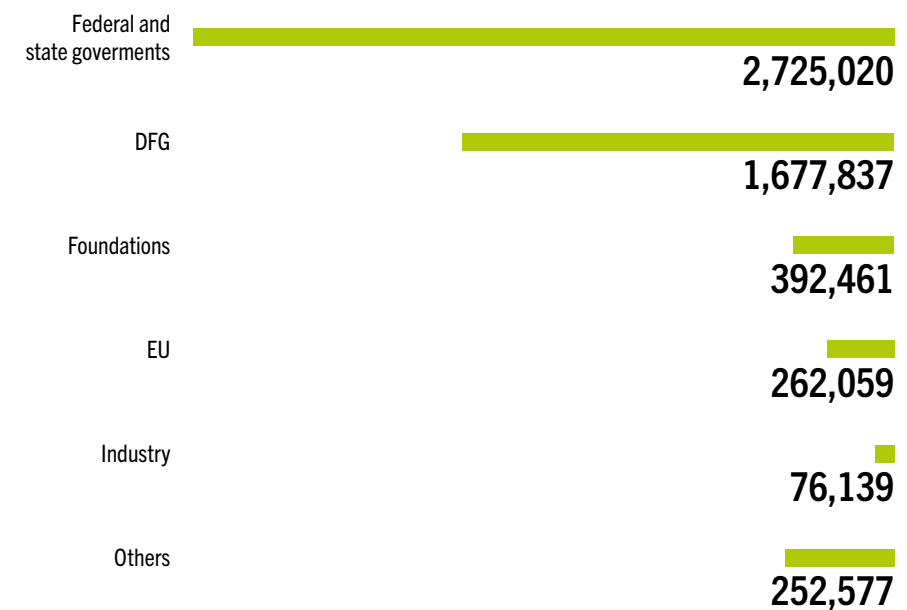
Institutional funding in relation to third-party funding

(excluding financing of construction work)

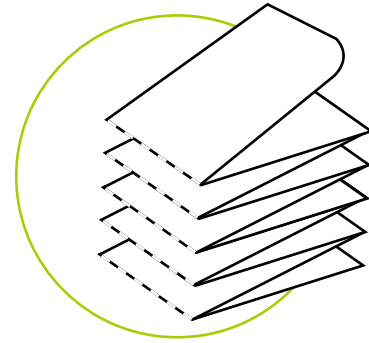


Third-party funding figures by sponsors

in 2018



Visitors to the exhibitions

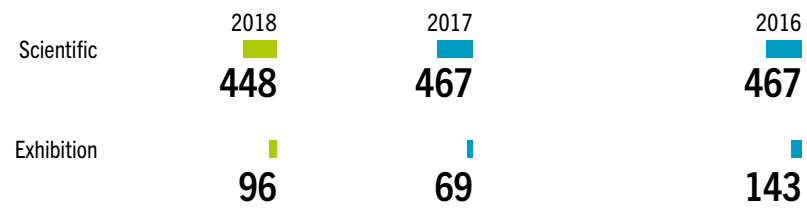


Visitors of the education programmes

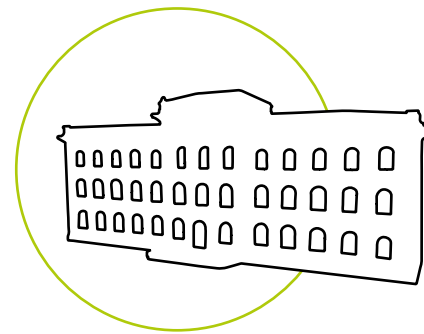
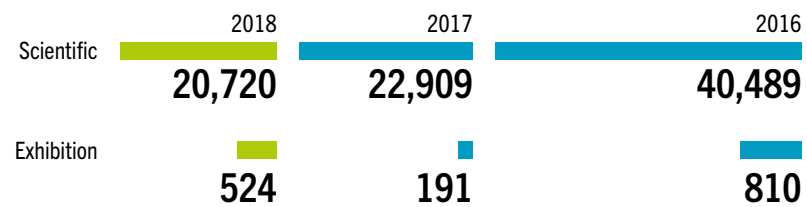


Loans

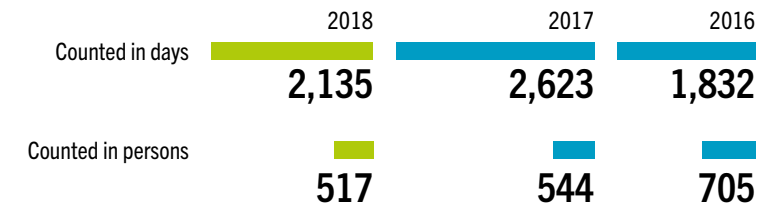
Loan processes



Loaned specimens

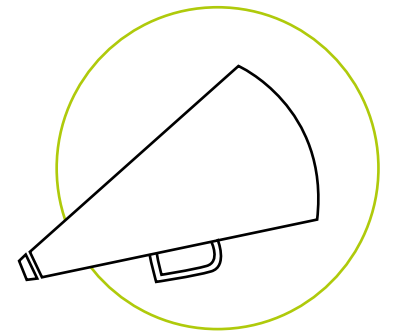
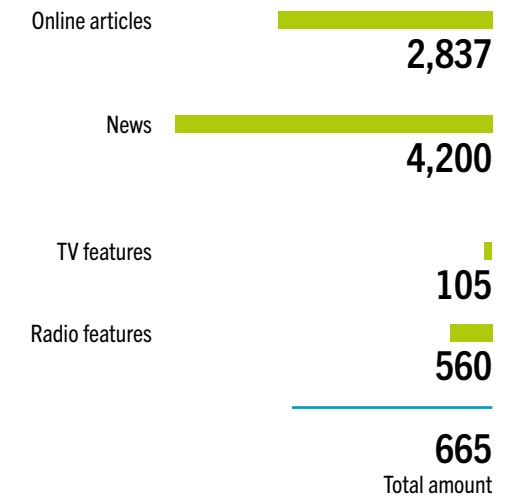


Visiting scientists



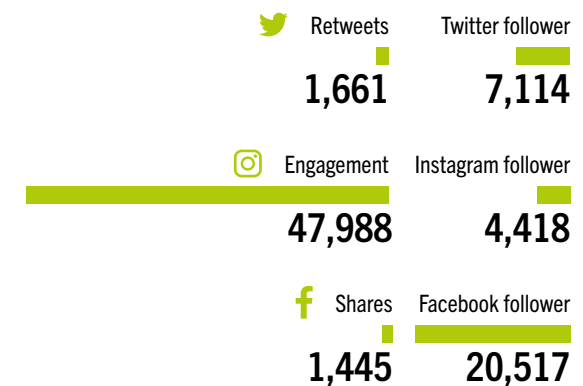
Press coverage

in 2018



Social media

in 2018





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The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin is a member of the Leibniz Association. The Leibniz Association connects 95 independent research institutions that range in focus from the natural, engineering and environmental sciences via economics, spatial and social sciences to the humanities. Leibniz Institutes address issues of social, economic and ecological relevance. They conduct knowledge-driven and applied basic research, maintain scientific infrastructure and provide research-based services.

The Leibniz Association identifies focus areas for knowledge transfer to policy-makers, academia, business and the public. Leibniz institutions collaborate intensively with universities – in the form of ‘Leibniz ScienceCampi’ (thematic partnerships between university and non-university research institutes), for example – as well as with industry and other partners at home and abroad.

They are subject to an independent evaluation procedure that is unparalleled in its transparency. Due to the importance of the institutions for the country as a whole, they are funded jointly by the Federation and the Länder, employing some 20,000 individuals, including 10,000 researchers. The entire budget of all the institutes is approximately 1,9 billion Euros.

Further information is available at
www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/en

IMPRINT

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