



## **Safety Measures and Disaster Prevention for Museums, Archives and Libraries**

A New Offering for Cultural Institutions in German-Speaking Countries

**The Pilot Project »SiLK – SicherheitsLeitfaden Kulturgut« (Safety  
Guide for Cultural Assets) is Online: [www.konferenz-kultur.de](http://www.konferenz-kultur.de)**

Cultural treasures in museums, archives and libraries are continually threatened by damage and in some cases by irretrievable destruction. Awareness of this has become particularly acute through disastrous events of the past few years, including the fire at the Duchess Anna Amalia Library in Weimar in 2004 and the collapse of the building housing the Historical Archive of the City of Cologne in 2009. However, subtle dangers that arise from unfavorable environmental influences or incorrect usage can also have devastating effects on objects.

The Konferenz Nationaler Kultureinrichtungen (Conference of National Cultural Institutions) is confronting these vulnerabilities with the introduction of SiLK, a digital safety guide for cultural assets. It is the first German-language tool for consultation and advice about safety-related questions available to cultural organizations, etc., free of charge. SiLK makes interactive risk analysis possible with recommendations for care and treatment, in addition to offering comprehensive information. Topics covering fire, theft, flooding, pests, pollutants and light are currently accessible – preceded by a section on general safety management. Topics on vandalism, damages or loss due to accidents, wear, climate, storms, earthquakes and acts of violence will follow in 2011. For the further development and enhancement of SiLK, we look forward to your comments, criticism and suggestions for improvement.

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The Konferenz Nationaler Kultureinrichtungen is comprised of 23 cultural institutions considered to be of German national importance located in the former East Germany.