New Art-Historical Resource on the Web

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bildGRID - a new Open Access laboratory for the AI-supported study of image content.

bildGRID (https://bildgrid.org/) is now open in a soft launch. It is the sister site of the Iconclass Browser (https://iconclass.org), and it brings together image collections with structured, well-organized subject access. Collections may cover different genres, periods and places, but they share one thing: their subject matter is described and encoded with Iconclass, so that what one scholar has recorded can be built on by the next.

The site now opens with four collections:

- Adages and Emblems: a searchable edition of Erasmus' Adagiorum chiliades and Parabolae, linked to the Collectanea of 1500, to the Loci Communes and to more than 1,200 emblems. Artificial Intelligence produces suggestions for links between emblems on the one hand and adages and parabolae on the other. After editorial assessment they can be added to the corpus.

- Manuscript Illumination Catalogue: 413 illuminated manuscripts, mainly from the Koninklijke Bibliotheek and the Museum of the Book, with 11,460 miniatures, historiated initials and borders indexed by subject. A fresh new presentation of the dataset of the original Illuminated Manuscripts website of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek

- Dutch Printers' Devices: 1,948 devices of printers and booksellers in the Northern Netherlands, 15th–17th century. A presentation with new functionalities, e.g. links to the CERL Thesaurus, of the original catalogue of Peter van Huisstede & Hans Brandhorst (De Graaf, 1999).

- Emblem Books: emblem books, from Corrozet (1540) to Cats (1632), are processed emblem-by-emblem. AI transcribes the texts and produces suggestions for the links to adages and parabolae and for Iconclass notations. Here too suggestions are human-supervised. The site will gradually expand as more emblem books are subjected to our "Emblem analysis app".

bildGRID is thus a place for the publication of datasets as well as for experiments with Artificial Intelligence in the analysis of image content.

bildGRID was created by Etienne Posthumus and Hans Brandhorst. Comments are very welcome, as are proposals for new collections from Iconclass Consortium members: info@iconclass.org

Reference:

WWW: New Art-Historical Resource on the Web. In: ArtHist.net, Nov 20, 2026 (accessed Nov 20, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/57165>.