

About the Instituut voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis

The Institute of Netherlands History is a scholarly institute engaged in stimulating research into the history of the Netherlands. It produces a variety of publications that provide researchers with tools to unlock a gateway to the past:

- text editions of historical documents offer researchers 'ready-to-use' sources for their studies;
- research guides enable researchers to find their way through large and complex archival records and other historical material;
- commentaries on sources provide details of certain types of historical sources that are frequently consulted;
- the Repertorium of the History of the Netherlands provides the most comprehensive overview of literature ever written on Dutch history;
- The Biografisch Woordenboek van Nederland [Biographical Dictionary of the Netherlands] contains concise biographies of outstanding Dutch citizens who lived during the last 150 years;

The *Bijdragen en Mededelingen betreffende de Geschiedenis der Nederlanden* (Low Countries Historical Review, published in collaboration with the KNHG) is the only general professional journal that specialises in the history of the Netherlands and Belgium;

- The *Horizonreeks* is intended for a wide audience of people with an interest in history, offers a first introduction to important themes from our past.

ING publications are published in book format (in the series, *Rijks Geschiedkundige Publicatien*) or online. The books are available from bookshops. They can also be ordered directly from the institute. Online publications can be accessed free-of-charge through this website.

Research for most of the ING's publications is carried out within the institute, which now has fifty staff members. Other publications are, to a greater or lesser extent, the result of close collaboration with other organisations. The ING works closely with the Royal Netherlands Historical Society, universities, libraries, and archives. The institute is part of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

The Institute of Netherlands History (ING) promotes research into the history of the Netherlands by opening up historical sources and making them accessible, producing a scholarly journal, compiling reference books, and organising a variety of historically educational activities. In short: the ING provides a gateway to the past.

Position

The ING occupies a unique position with regard to historical and scholarly research into the history of the Netherlands. As an independent research institute of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NOW), the ING stands out for its high level of professionalism and continuity and the top level activities that it organises on a grand scale. To accomplish its goals, the ING works both for and with professional researchers in the Netherlands and abroad.

Goal and specialist field

The goal of the ING is to lay the foundation for current and future academic research in the field of Dutch history, covering all its different aspects and within an international context.

Intended audience

The ING is mainly geared towards scholars and researchers in the Netherlands and abroad who specialise in the field of history. The second target group consists of all those who are interested in approaching the history of the Netherlands from a scholarly perspective.

Strategy

The ING carries out its activities in consultation with its main user groups. The priorities of the research programme are based on discussions with researchers in the field. Researchers are invited to contribute to a vision of future scholarly research and the means needed to support this.

Resources

The ING facilitates historical research by disclosing historical sources, compiling reference works, and publishing a scholarly journal. In addition, it conducts a number of other professional activities on historical issues to further advance research.

Ambition

The ING wishes to be known for quality, innovation and influence

Quality that is expressed through the expertise of its professional staff members, the high standard of excellence achieved by its publications and activities, and the level of continuity maintained in its research.

Innovation that is evident from its attention to methods and techniques in which international standards and information technology play a key role. The ING also opens up new areas of historical and scientific research as a result of its publications and other activities.

The ING strives to exert *influence* on the content and themes of historical research. The ING raises awareness about the various resources that have been created, promotes their use, and makes them accessible through the institute.

The ING promotes research into the history of the Netherlands by making previously inaccessible historical source material available to the outside world and by carrying out other pioneering activities. Collaborating with other institutions plays a major role in this process.

Creating a broad infrastructure for historical research

By making historical sources of information, never before in print, more widely available, the ING acts as a 'go-between' for, on the one hand, archives, libraries and documentation depots - where the most prominent sources are to be found - and, on the other hand, researchers who need these materials for their studies. The text editions, research guides, and commentaries on sources created by the ING offer the researcher a useful entry point to archives that might otherwise remain unnoticed or hardly used, either because of the scope of the material or the fact that they are scattered over a wide area, and so on. Besides making historical material available, the ING provides historical researchers with helpful tools such as a bibliography, a biographical dictionary, and a general periodical called the *BMGN*. Publications such as these are essential for the history business. With all these activities, the ING has created a broad infrastructure that is not only useful to scholars, but to all serious researchers generally.

Collaborating with other organisations

ING staff members carry out most of the research for the institute's publications. The research is conducted in the form of projects within several general research programmes. In addition, the ING also works with other organisations in a number of different ways. Research for some of the projects is carried out, either in part or entirely, outside the sphere of the institute. The researchers involved are either linked to other organisations, such as universities or archives, or are otherwise employed on a consultancy basis. The ING also carries out commissioned research (for example, on behalf of government agencies), as long as the assignments correspond with the general aims of the institute.

Project proposals from outside the institute

The ING welcomes project proposals from outside the institute. In such cases, the first step required would be to contact the Director of the ING to establish whether the proposed initiative falls within the scope and capacity of the ING, the conditions that the project proposal should meet, and the format in which the project proposal should be submitted. The proposal would then need to be approved by the Board of the ING. In turn, the institute will vouch for the quality of work that is carried out under its auspices.