

# Amsterdam collections / Amsterdam connections

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A single startpoint to query a multitude of heritage collections on Amsterdam history in a meaningful way - that is the main goal of the Adamlink Project[1]. To accomplish this, we work together with heritage institutions to find structural ways to publish their data as RDF.

Combining these RDF datasets will not automatically result in a meaningful superset. Ontologies and vocabularies need to be aligned. For geography, persons and events, many institutions use an in-house thesaurus, while mappings to external thesauri like GeoNames, Wikidata or RKDartists are needed to make connections between datasets. We try to make these mappings.

When concepts are not described in external thesauri, it's difficult to make connections. Streets and buildings are unambiguously identified by the BAG[2], but when these streets or buildings no longer exist, common identifiers are seldom to be found. We create 'reference data' - like a streetregistry[3] that also contains former streets.

Also, we collect names for these concepts - something the BAG does not. So we know 'Trippenhuys' refers to BAG building 0363100012171636. And 'Rijks Museum' might refer, from 1817 to 1885 at least, to the same building[4]. Dozens of spellingvariants for individual streets helped us to pinpoint 80 percent of the Amsterdam addresses in the Kamp Vught administration (with spellings like 'N Amstell' for the nowadays Churchill-laan) within the hour. In this way, our data and APIs can be used as a standardization service.

Connecting heritage collections to datasets elsewhere opens up new possibilities. The Ecartico set holds artists denominations, so you can search for silverwork by Catholic masters. Wikidata is a universe in itself, helping you to find works by members of *Arti et Amicitiae*. Or works depicting buildings built by a son of David Vinckboons.

On DHBenelux, we will show you where[5] and how to run queries like these. We will also show you some sample applications[6] built on top of the data.

While working with the data, you will find not all is perfect. Sometimes even within a single collection, one term is used for different concepts: 'Gijsbrecht van Aemstel' could refer to Gijsbrecht II or III, while IV would be the one immortalized by Vondel. Data can be modelled differently across institutions - squatters houses are seen as buildings by some, as organisations by others. And most metadata is not modelled at all. In many cases we could only link data by searching for named entities in metadata textfields.

Imperfections like these might not have come to light were the data queried separately. In the long run, we hope the project in this way contributes to the improvement of the metadata *within* the institutions as well.

[1] [blogadamlink.nl/het-project/](http://blogadamlink.nl/het-project/)

[2] [Basisadministratie Adressen en Gebouwen](#)

[3] [Adamlink referentiedata - straten](#)

[4] [adamlink.nl/geo/building/trippenhuis/170](http://adamlink.nl/geo/building/trippenhuis/170)

[5] [data.adamlink.nl/AdamNet/all/services/endpoint](http://data.adamlink.nl/AdamNet/all/services/endpoint)

[6] [lab.adamlink.nl/](http://lab.adamlink.nl/)