

**robotron**<sup>®</sup>  
Software with *Culture*

## ***robotron\*Daphne***

Web-based  
Collection Management System



Statuette 'Daphne as drinking vessel'  
by Wenzel and Abraham Jamnitzer,  
Nuremberg between 1579 and 1586

Green Vault,  
Dresden State Art Collections

## ***robotron\*Daphne*** – The Collection Management System

The advantages of digital management of art and cultural objects, for example, the superior transparency of the data stock and an economic further processing of all available data are well known and undisputed. Less known or apparent, is that these advantages can only be utilised after the objects from the real world that are to be managed have been converted into a digital map. The software ***robotron\*Daphne*** pays special attention to this process of conversion – the metamorphosis of tangible pieces of art into digital data. Unfortunately, this is not about a creative act of poetry but rather difficult, disciplined, and last but not least, time consuming work. The road is long and the goal distant – the true distance becomes apparent when considering the fact that an effort of only 5 minutes per data record accrues to approximately 40 man-years when dealing with 1 million records. This is reason enough to take a rather critical look at the relationship between data recording and science, between data administration and artwork management, as well as between input and output.

Based on state-of-the-art technology and utilisation of the latest methods, which are in turn backed by comprehensive practical experience, Robotron – together with the Dresden State Art Collections – have developed a collection management system with an emphasis placed on effective data input on the one hand, and the support of all work activities that are common in museums or museum associations on the other hand.

Cover picture 'Daphne as drinking vessel' by courtesy of the Dresden State Art Collections  
© GreenVault, Dresden State Art Collections. Photo: Jürgen Karpinski

***robotron\*Daphne***

Web-based Collection Management System

**robotron\*Daphne** supports:

- Effective registering capabilities through intelligent standardisation
- Registration and management of objects to be inventoried on a single screen
- Variable subject-specific object descriptions
- Cost savings through web technology and a solution for museum associations

Saving time is the paramount priority. The understanding of language along with methodology of previous systems, the absence of a computer error tolerance, usually required extensive training and practice, and thereby, specialisation. This led to a two-class society regarding museums: users and non-users.

This resulted in a second priority developing **robotron\*Daphne**: the intuitive operation. The user does not learn by handling the application through the software, but rather **robotron\*Daphne** adapts to the requirements of the user.

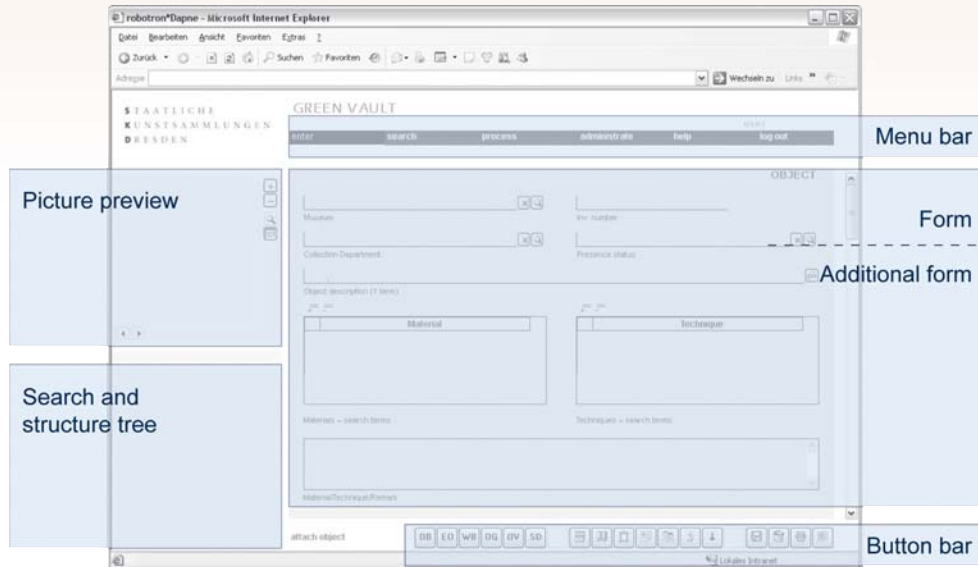
In this means, the data recording and management system **robotron\*Daphne** was developed from the user perspective and there for focuses on the act of metamorphosis.

A management system was thereby created that does not distract from the actual tasks at hand in the museum or where its contents can only be maintained by a handful of specialists, but a software that is also used and expanded by all the staff members in their daily work.

## Time savings through a rational approach

### Geared towards user-friendliness

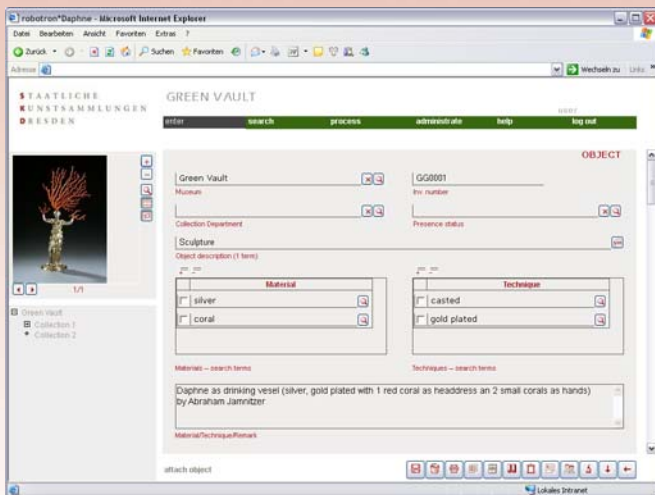
- The layout corresponds in clarity to human logic
  - It provides the greatest clarity of structure through a single scrollable form
  - Logically arranged topic areas allow processing in sequence
  - Additional processing steps can be added as special forms
- Restriction of possible data fields to approx. 30 effective entries  
only requested items need to be entered
  - Avoiding an accumulation of entries  
e. g. lending data is only entered at the time of the actual occurrence
  - Frugal yet intelligent standards control  
standardises only those elements that are useful in a search query
  - Copy and transfer functions that support a rational approach
  - Mass editing



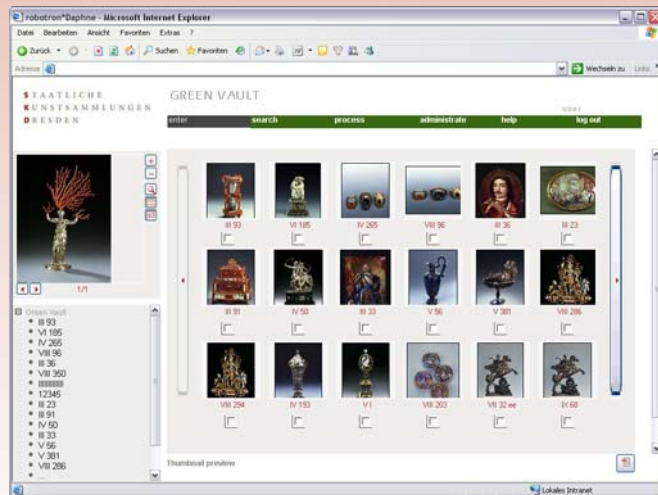
robotron\*Daphne – Design and user interface

**robotron\*Daphne**

Web-based Collection Management System



robotron\*Daphne – Object details



robotron\*Daphne – Light table with thumbnails

## Everyone is involved

- Because of the simplicity of handling, every staff member available can contribute without an additional special training
- Internet technology also enables external partners to be involved
- Further processing forms facilitate the co-operation between different departments
- All common work activities in the museum sector are supported

## Communicating instead of disciplining

The intelligent integration of the Standardised Keyword File (Schlagwortnormdatei/SWD) of the German National Library as the largest and most famous resource in the German-speaking area provides access to 1.3 million groups of terms. Own terms can be assigned to an existing auxiliary or superordinated term of the SWD. This makes the strict use of rigid thesauri obsolete in favour of a communication about logical groups of terms regarding their content.

## The computer as a service provider

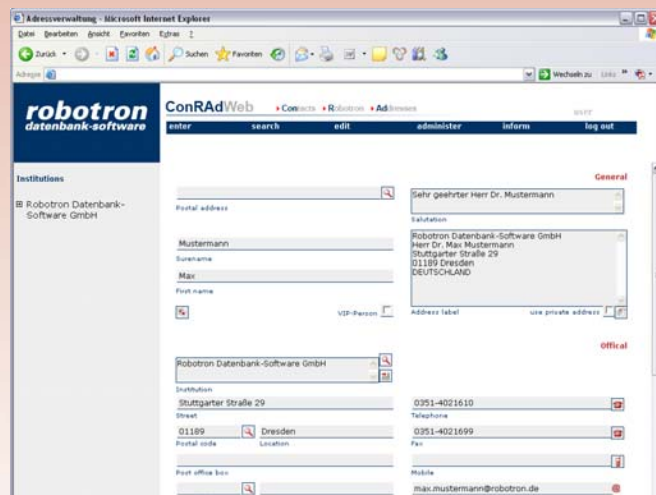
- To provide programmable conveniences was of greatest importance
- Light table
- Research datasets
- Freely selectable search lists
- Custom research data records
- Integrated address management
- Object-specific to-do list
- Support of project-specific activities

## Cosmopolitanism

The use of intelligent unicode technology on the database level enables the multilingual use of the system at any point.

## Self-learning reference lists

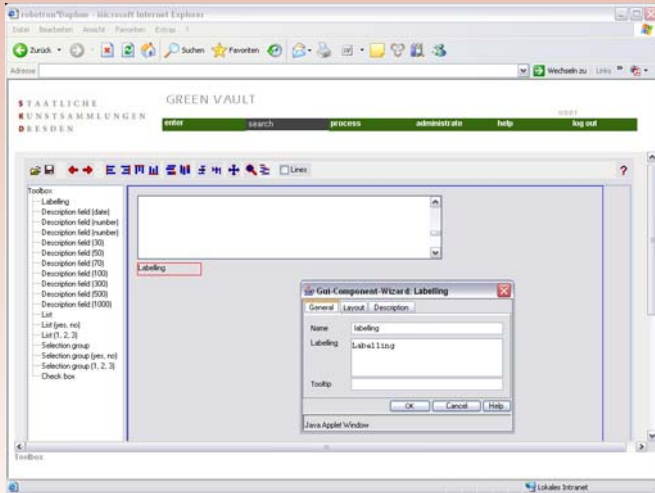
All reference lists of standardised entries are either self-learning or can be maintained by the users themselves in an editorial screen.



robotron\*Daphne – Address administration

## Individuality and co-operation in a museum association

- One shared basic data record for all associated buildings or collections
- Special data records allow individually required fields
- Individual layout per museum within the association



robotron\*Daphne – Toolbox

## Compatibility instead of hermetical systems

**robotron\*Daphne** was developed for daily use. The optimal utilisation of the computer leads to minimisation and facilitation of the daily human work.

The management system only requires a few relational allocation tables, in which the standardised written form significantly facilitates the data transfer to other systems.

## Static data records – Dynamic research

A 'tool set' that can be easily used, enables privileged users to add their own research data record to the basic data set. Future tasks are, thereby, already supported today.

## Internet – Broad public access

The information on selected objects of interest for the general public can be researched and displayed on the internet. For this purpose, these objects must be released by authorised staff members per mouse click via **robotron\*Daphne**.

**robotron**  
**datenbank-software**

**ORACLE** CERTIFIED ADVANTAGE  
PARTNER

Robotron Datenbank-Software GmbH  
Stuttgarter Straße 29  
D-01189 Dresden  
GERMANY

Phone: +49 (0) 351/4 02 16-0  
Fax: +49 (0) 351/4 02 16-99  
E-Mail: rds@robotron.de

[www.robotron.de](http://www.robotron.de)

Robotron Schweiz GmbH  
Täferenstrasse 4  
CH-5405 Baden-Dättwil  
SWITZERLAND

E-Mail: rds@robotron.ch  
[www.robotron.ch](http://www.robotron.ch)

Robotron Database Solutions s.r.o.  
Kodaňská 46  
100 10 Praha 10  
CZECH REPUBLIC

Fax: +42 (0) 2 6715 4079  
E-Mail: rds@robotron.cz

[www.robotron.cz](http://www.robotron.cz)