

## **Important information**

### **19th century holdings currently not available for use**

#### **Borrowing of media from the 19<sup>th</sup> century currently not possible**

For the time being, books and periodicals published between 1800 and 1930 are not available for use, as in some cases arsenic compounds were used.

#### **How can I identify an affected medium?**

Arsenic can be found in green dyes of all shades. Therefore, books with greenish bindings, book cuts, title labels, mirrors, or endpapers, without professional inspection, are generally suspicious. Leather bindings are excluded from this rule.

Arsenic was mainly used in green dyes between 1800 and 1920. Arsenic was banned as early as 1878 and 1887. However, it is known that one company continued to produce arsenic-containing dyes until 1930.

Arsenic can be detected, for example, by X-ray fluorescence or by means of microchemical testing. In these tests, neither the media are destroyed nor is the arsenic released.

#### **What could possibly cause health hazards?**

The suspected volumes with green cuttings should not be handled with bare hands and the fingers should not be moistened with the tongue to turn the pages.

Also, the dust of the corresponding volumes could possibly contain arsenic and should therefore not be inhaled.

Furthermore, touching the volumes could also get arsenic in your eyes.

#### **What measures has the ZHB taken?**

Extensive measures have already been initiated to check the media from this period and to remove suspicious books and journals from the collection for further examination.

As a purely precautionary measure, books from this period cannot be used until further notice.