

Size of the V&A collections at 31 March 2017

(1) How many items are there in the V&A collections?

At 31 March 2017 there were **2,331,917** items in the Museum's collections:

- **1,243,906** museum objects and works of art
- **1,087,080** library items (books and periodicals)
- **931** archival collections measuring an estimated 931 cubic meters (e.g. manuscripts, letters, business papers and paper based items)

(2) How many collection items are on display?

The V&A Display Collections consist of **247,474** museum objects and works of art. The display collections are defined as those which are suitable for long-term gallery display. Suitability for long term display is determined by an item's sensitivity to light, so textiles, books, drawings, prints, photographs and archives are not considered suitable for longer term display.

There were **60,124** collection items on display (23.3% of the Display Collections) in V&A galleries and the Museum of Childhood at 31 March 2017.

In addition to the V&A galleries, the Museum has a continually changing programme of exhibitions and displays, and a national and international loans and touring exhibitions schedule which provides world-wide access to additional items from the V&A collections. Between April 2016 and March 2017, 11,798 items were on display in UK and international venues. These include 8,000 objects from the Wedgwood Collection on loan to the Wedgwood Museum.

(3) How do the public access V&A collections which are not on display?

The V&A collections are available to everyone. Collections not on display are available to view by appointment. For those not able to visit in person, information about items in the collection can be found online through 'Search the Collections', 'Search the Archives' and the Library catalogue.