Staff

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IMS is a Brazilian private non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to promote and develop cultural activities. It owns a rich archive of photography (with around 2 million images of authors like Mario Cravo Neto, Marcel Gautherot, Marc Ferrez, Otto Stupakoff, José Medeiros and many others), music, iconography, and literature.

It has cultural centers in the cities of Rio de Janeiro, Poços de Caldas and São Paulo, where it maintained a small gallery for years and in 2017 inaugurated a 9-storey-building at Avenida Paulista, in the heart of the metropolis. The first floor of the new IMS Paulista houses a free and open to the public library, specialized in photographic books.
Mission & goals

1) Contribute to the popularization of photography as a language.

2) Democratize the access to the photographic book (usually restricted to collectors and a specialized niche).

3) Encourage research in the photography field.

4) Preserve the memory and heritage that photographic books contain and represent.

5) Be an active and purposeful library by promoting events (such as lectures, round tables, study groups), book exhibitions, an annual prize + open call and other services to our consultants (digitization project, suggested readings, bibliographies of exhibitions on view, email alerts with recent acquisitions, etc).
Archive & collections

Entirely dedicated to photographic publications, with the capacity for up to 30,000 items, our archive includes everything from books, catalogs and periodicals of historic importance to recently printed photobooks, fanzines, subscribed magazines and other materials.

We have general works (bought and received as donations, always with the curatorship filter), as well as private collections of important names such as Stefania Bril, Thomaz Farkas, Iatã Cannabrava, Paulo Leite, Vania Toledo and the first comprehensive Steidl Library in the world.
Public

We welcome the general public as well as an specialized one, formed by national and international researchers (in loco and online). There’s no book lending, just local consultation.

As an open library, with no membership cards or access restrictions, some visitors come to work on their own things. On average, 1 out of every 15 people entering the library comes to consult our books.

Also, people are free to browse our shelves and take the books they want (rare ones are located in restricted access space).

Per month, around 1.100 books are consulted, out of an average of 1.900 visitors.

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