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CENL

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Name of Country: **Austria**
Name of Library : **Austrian National Library.**
Name of Chief Executive: **Dr. Johanna Rachinger**

Management

The Austrian National Library (ANL) managed to conclude its fourth year after the introduction of full legal responsibility successfully and implemented a number of important strategic targets. In 2005 the focus was on completing and opening the new venue in the Palais Mollard and on finishing the catalogue digitalisation project on schedule.

The aspect of scientific research at the ANL received a major impetus through the foundation of the **Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for the History and Theory of Biography**. Apart from the Austrian National Library, the Institute closely cooperates with the University of Vienna, the Jewish Museum of the City of Vienna, and the International Thomas Bernhard Society. The new Institute, started its activities in May 2005 and will present the findings of its scholarly research in publications, symposiums, and exhibitions. The research programme comprises a historical and systematic treatment of the literary genre of biography, as well as four individual biographies of important personalities that have so far been dealt with only insufficiently: Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Eugenie Schwarzwald, Thomas Bernhard, and Ernst Jandl. It is the intention of the ANL, that within this cooperation with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute the important literary estates in the Austrian Literary Archives can be processed on a high scientific level.

Handling of electronic publications and formats

In 2005 the Austrian National Library became a full member of *The European Library (TEL)*, thus taking a further decisive step towards making its digital catalogues and holdings accessible within a European network. *The European Library* (<http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/>) is the new internet portal of Europe's national libraries. TEL resulted from a project of the same name conducted by the European Union and coordinated by the British Library; since mid 2005 it has also incorporated the national libraries' former internet portal, "Gabriel". Via TEL, users can conduct a central search in the electronic catalogues of the 15 member libraries on the one hand, and have direct access to their digital holdings on the other. Currently, the Austrian National Library is concerned with meeting the technological prerequisites in order to gradually make accessible all of its catalogues and a large part of its digital collections via TEL to a global public. As the central portal of the digital holdings of European national libraries, The European Library will also be the basis for a joint "European Digital Library", whose compilation is currently being prepared by the EU Commission within the framework of its "i2010"

Funding

Thanks to subsidies granted for necessary investments in security, the Austrian National Library closed with a positive balance sheet also in its fourth year of full legal responsibility. The annual statement of accounts was established according to the new balancing guidelines for federal museums, and last year's figures were adapted to the new scheme for the sake of comparison.

Turnover and other operating income totalled 2,099,503.61 euros, with basic funding supplied by the Federal Government amounting to 20,778,000 euros. In 2005, expenditure totalled 22,746,799.83 euros (with the main items being labour costs of 13,163,700.69 euros, operational costs of 2,723,968.15 euros, outlay for enlarging the collections' assets of 2,408,996.56 euros, and depreciation of fixed assets of 1,378,838.86 euros. In 2005, the financial results totalled 228,737.56 euros. Investments in amortisable fixed assets rose to 3,540,728.73 euros; besides regular maintenance costs, they mainly comprised construction and equipment costs for the Mollard Palace and investment in

security and fire protection measures. By 31 December 2005, the annual accounts of the Austrian National Library showed an annual net profit of 359,441.34 euros with a positive cash flow. The profit will be added to the reserve used to cover necessary future investments. Hence, in 2005 the book value of equity capital 9,102,484 euros.

Buildings

With the completion and festive opening of its new venue in the **Palais Mollard**, the Austrian National Library concluded a major building project successfully, after a construction period of two and a half years. It may well be considered the most significant extension since the construction of the Burggarten underground depository in 1992. The Music Collection opened its reading hall on the new site on 14 November 2005, following three Musical Salons that had already been held in the new event facilities on the second floor. The Globe Museum and the Esperanto Museum opened their newly designed exhibition halls to the general public on 1 December 2005.

The Picture Archives' general refurbishment required the transfer of its entire collection in March/April 2005. The newly created storage facilities in the attic storey had already been completed, so that they were ready for the collection to move in. Construction works are well under way and are expected to be completed by autumn 2006.

Staffing matters

The total number of employees – calculated in equivalents of fulltime work – by the end of the year 2005 was 285.

The staff development showed a continuation of the trend from earlier years: beside the slow but constant decrease in the number of civil servants there is a continuous rise in the number of employees.

A new Section for Legal Services, reporting directly to the Director General , was set up, as well as a Security Management.

Information technology and networks

In 2005 the ANL reached one of its major strategic goals, namely to make all the catalogues of its holdings accessible in a digital database that may be searched online. The entire project, which was started in 2002, comprised numerous individual subprojects, such as the transformation into Aleph of the authors' catalogue of 1930–1991 plus the corresponding keyword catalogue. In addition, the project included a large retro-cataloguing project of all the historical maps in the Cartographic Collection, the digitalisation of the various catalogues of the Music Collection, which have been accessible in Aleph within a uniform music OPAC since November, as well as the digitalisation of individual catalogues of the Picture Archives and their integration into the Gideon database. The task also included further projects of the Collection of Manuscripts, Autographs and Bequests, the Collection of Broadsheets, Posters and Ex Libris, and the Collection of Planned Languages. The migration of the place-of-publication and literary genre catalogues of the Collection of Incunabula and Old and Precious Books into Aleph will be completed by 2006, as will be the installation of a separate Aleph union catalogue named "HANNA" for bequest materials, which is going to replace the bequest and autograph catalogue.

The digital library

Digitalisation within the so-called **ANNO** (AustriaN Newspapers Online) project of historical newspapers and legal statutes was continued according to schedule. The Austrian National Library would like to thank its cooperating partners for making available their holdings for scanning. Besides historical legal texts, the scanning project also included 100 early printed works in Esperanto and 450 first editions of Austrian literature, which will be made accessible to the general public in 2006. Moreover, scanning of the comprehensive broadsheet collection devoted to the Revolution of 1848 and of the portraits preserved in the Picture Archives was started.

Meanwhile, the Austrian National Library's virtual reading room is used by more than 700 readers daily (Monday to Sunday).

The digitalisation of objects is planned to be extended further and in the future will also include **sound carriers** on the one hand and **papyri** on the other. The "Audio-Visual Media" working group, which was established in March 2005, presented its final report on the digitalisation of all sound carriers (primarily those of the Music Collection, the Austrian Literature Archives, and the Folk Song Archives) in September. Digitalisation will comprise more than 22,000 objects altogether and will be carried out step by step, according to priority, by specialised institutions.

A detailed scheme for the digitalisation of the Papyrus Collection was set up as well. As a first step, digitalisation will comprise some 8,000 papyri that have already been researched and published. Their digitalisation will be carried out in the Library's Reproduction Department, where it will be possible to scan and catalogue some 1,500 objects a year.

Long term preservation

Following a test period with the Digitool Software (supplied by the Exlibris company), version No. 3 was installed and has been used successfully since the summer of 2005. This new software tool registers all of the electronic offline and online media entering the Library, including the in-house digital data, insofar as it is meant for long-term preservation.

The subject of long-term recording of electronic media was discussed in a one-day symposium held at the ANL on 9 March 2005. The symposium was organised in collaboration with the Austrian UNESCO Commission, following the adoption of the UNESCO Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Cultural Heritage in October 2003. The main topic dealt with an initiative for concerted national action among libraries, museums, and archives. A resolution comprising six central points was adopted subsequent to the conference.

Legal deposit of materials

It is one of the ANL's primary concerns to introduce a legal obligation for online publications to be offered and delivered to the ANL, as it also exists for

printed works and offline media. Upon the ANL's initiative, a working group was installed by the Federal Chancellery to prepare an appropriate amendment to the Media Act. Two round tables were organised with representatives of the publishing houses concerned. The ANL pointed out its ideas about an obligatory tender of online media and also presented its scheme with regard to their long-term preservation.

Acquisitions

In 2005 the total number of acquisitions was 248.388 including 56.615 items printed materials. The number was extraordinary high because of the acquisition of a major picture archive with more than 120.000 items.

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

With its exhibition *The Young Republic. Everyday Life in Austria 1945 – 1955* (Great Hall, 27 April – 31 October 2005) the ANL took up the subject of the national Memorial Year 2005 and presented a selection of photographs of post-war Austria from the rich holdings of the Picture Archives. Subsequently this exhibition was also shown in Budapest.

By presenting the different scores for Mozart's *Requiem* (*Mozart. The Requiem. The Original Score*, Great Hall, 23 November 2005 – 29 January 2006), the ANL anticipated and introduced the Mozart Year 2006.

The Papyrus Museum continued its exhibition series with two further displays: *Women's Liberation on the Nile – Women's Lives and Women's Rights in Papyri* (15 July – 18 November 2005) and *The Faces of Mummies. Ancient Portraits and New Paintings by Ahmed Nawar* (29 November 2005 – 28 April 2006).

An exhibition was held in cooperation with the Jewish Museum: *Elias Canetti. Taking the Century by the Throat* (Jüdisches Museum, 24 July – 25 September 2005), and a Bible exhibition was presented at Schloss Wilten in Innsbruck (*A Book That Changed the World*, 19 September – 18 November 2005).

Organisation chart

→ attached extra

