

**CENL**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07**

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

**Management**

In 2006 the Austrian National Library successfully completed its first five years as an institution with full legal autonomy. All of the most important strategic goals set for that period were able to be fulfilled. 2006 was characterised by further strategic planning for the coming years, especially in the fields of digitalisation of the library, security and conservation of holdings, and building and rehabilitation projects.

**Funding**

The basic payment in lieu made by the federal government was €20,778,800 in 2006, just as it had been in the previous year. Proceeds from turnover and other operational profits amounted to €2,559,854.76 (in 2005 €2,099,503.61), total expenditures in 2006 were €23,035,349.88 (in 2005 €22,746,799.83), of which the major expenses were for the staff, €13,569,262.02, operational costs were €3,078,873.89, costs of expanding the assets of the collections were €2,301,162.82, and depreciation was €1,299,271.79.

The annual balance as at 31.12.2006 gave, with a positive cash flow, a surplus of €448,615.81 (in 2005 €359,441.34). That was assigned to provide security for the financing of necessary future investments.

## **Buildings**

By the end of 2006 the overall rehabilitation of the Picture Archive had been carried out according to plan. In the course of that project it was especially the public spaces that were expanded. A new research room with a service desk for research on the pictorial material database was set up, as well as two study rooms for use of the drawings, printed graphics, and books of the fideicommiss library, and a free access library with the relevant specialist literature.

The rehabilitation project includes setting up additional magazine rooms in the attic for the most valuable collections items in the picture archives – done according to the most up-to-date security and climatic control measures – and the rehabilitation of the historic rooms of the fideicommiss library, with partial restoration of the original structure.

Further important building projects were the setting up of a security depot in the underground warehouse at the Burggarten, which is being used i.a. as a storehouse for the incunabula; the rehabilitation of the areas devoted to numismatics and „Friedrich's kitchen“; the rehabilitation of the Restoration Institute; and several other smaller measures.

A feasibility study into the project to establish a book repository at the Heldenplatz was set up.

## **Staffing matters**

The trend in the development of the personnel during recent years was continued. Simultaneously with a constant drop in the number of civil servants and staff on contract the proportion of employees has risen. The total number of personnel stayed at 286 – calculated as the equivalent of full-time work – almost unchanged from the previous year (by head 329, in 2005 it was 324).

For all staff members descriptions of the workplace conditions were put in place, and they will be the basis of a legally binding salary structure.

## **Information technology and networks**

On the European level the Austrian National Library is involved in definitive projects and initiatives for the implementation of the i2010 Digital Libraries Strategy. From 2005 the ANL has been a full member of The European Library (TEL).

In the framework of the EU project EDL (European Digital Library Project) the ANL guides the work package „Developing the European Digital Library“ and is responsible for the participation of all involved stakeholders (archives, libraries, museums, research projects, etc.) in the process of preparing the European Digital Library, and in the working out of a roadmap for digitalising of European national libraries. In November 2006 and January 2007 the first workshops on „Developing the European Digital Library“ took place.

In the framework of CENL the ANL is guiding the so-called „content“ workgroup, which aims to coordinate the digitalisation of the European national libraries as a leadup to a common European digital library.

The projects EDLnet and TELplus, which are expected to begin in spring of 2007 and in which the ANL is taking part, are also concerned with building up the European Digital Library.

The ANL is also participating in the huge research projects BRICKS and DELOS, which are concerned with i.a. questions of interoperability of the various branches of a European Digital Library. In the field of long-term digital archiving the ANL took part in the recently completed project reUSE and is currently guiding a subproject of the „integrated project“ PLANETS, in which leading European national libraries, state archives, and research institutes are working together to build up a sectionalised European service for digital archiving.

## **The digital library**

The establishment of an amplex strategy of digitalisation for the coming years was among the most important steps taken in 2006. As well, concepts were worked out by three workgroups on the topics „optimalisation of catalogues“, „digitalisation of holdings“, and „long-term archiving“. In addition, specialised workgroups worked on the areas of „digitalisation of audiovisual media“, „making incunabula accessible“, „IV

scanning“ and „digitalisation of papyri“. Those various concepts were then coordinated and evaluated from the budgetary point of view.

The main points of that new strategy concept are:

### **1. Improvement of catalogues**

The ANL is aiming at having by 2011 an electronic search engine that includes all of its holdings (catalogues, databases, complete texts...). That demands the use of search engine technology.

The biggest section of that project of setting up a total search engine by 2011 is to bring together all the still separate catalogues of printed matter from the years of publication 1501–1929, 1930–1991 and from 1992 in a unified printed matter catalogue. A major aspect of that is both a structural adjustment and an extensive standardisation of the content. The new overall catalogue is to be standardised, free of duplicate copies, borrowable, and compatible with project TEL.

### **2. Digitalisation of holdings**

On the basis of the positive experiences of the newspaper portal ANNO and the portal on legal history ALEX, the ANL has given itself the ambitious goal of disposing ten million pages in the „Digital Reading Room“ by the year 2011. „Historic Austria“ is the content area most involved in that. The plan is to digitalise not only newspapers, magazines, first editions, and legal texts, but also pictorial holdings on a huge scale.

Apart from that, the following individual projects are planned in the field of digitalisation:

- **Incunabula project** – The Austrian National Library owns one of the world's most important collections of incunabula, and it has only partially been made accessible. In the coming five years an online incunabula database on the total holdings will be built, and a representative partial holding – 143 bibles – will be digitalised and made accessible as a pilot project.
- **Audiovisual media project** – On the basis of a profound opening up, development, and cataloguing of analogous audiovisual holdings, a gradual digitalisation of audiovisual holdings is aimed at as a precondition for a lasting

conservation as well as a user-friendly service. A first proposal for the digitalisation of the oldest historical sound recordings was realised in 2006. The project will be continued in steps over the coming years.

- **Papyrus project** – The Papyrus Department of the Austrian National Library, with over 180,000 papyri and parchments is one of the world's biggest. The aim of the project, launched in 2006, is the digitalisation of the approximately 8,000 papyri already made accessible in a scholarly manner (parchments, ostraca, and wooden tablets) in an online database (Aleph) by 2010.
- **Project digital table of contents** – The project IVSCAN, launched in 2006, offers for the first time on a grand scale access to dependent scholarly literature. Each year about 14,000 scholarly collections of essays, festschriften, etc., arranged by author and title of the individual articles in the library system Aleph, were made accessible (200,000 items a year). Retrospective work on publications up to 1990 is being carried out, and should be finished by 2010.

### **3. Long term preservation**

The major steps to fulfilling this new task were laid down organisationally by the setting up of a new department, and technically by the acquisition and further development of a relevant archiving software (DigiTool).

The concrete goals of the plan of development for the next five years are:

- linked with the amendment to the Law on Media, the delivery of online publications (2008)
- archiving of online media on the basis of the expected amendment to the Law on Media
- Realisation of web archiving on the basis of a feasibility study
- Long-term archiving of digital material produced by the ANL itself.

### **Legal deposit of materials**

In the framework of the workgroup on an amendment to the Law on Media, aimed at expanding the obligation to deliver material to include online media, a workgroup initiated by the ANL and guided by the Office of the Federal Chancellor, further

discussions took place. A comprehensive catalogue of questions from representatives of the media publishers was answered by the ANL. It is expected that there will be agreement by 2007.

## Acquisitions

The total number of items of the Austrian National Library made available in 2006 was 91,706, of which 51,284 were printed material. 35,646 objects came in as library property according to the Law of Media (obligatory delivery).

Some examples of the acquisition for the collections:

Department of Manuscripts, Autographs and Closed Estates: prayer book of Emperor Friedrich III. (1448 – 1493)

Map Department: Coronelli, Vincenzo. [globe of the earth]. Map of the globe in 12 segments, 1 leaf of horizon ring [Venice] 1697

Music Department: Richard Strauss: autographed sketchbook on „Daphne“.Mus.Hs. 43530

Closed estate of Paul Kont (1920-2000)

Picture Archive: Photo closed estate of the Schnitzler family.

## Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

With more than 191,000 visitors in 2006 the ANL reached a new record in its museum establishments. The Globe Department, recently set up in the Palais Mollard, and the Esperanto Museum were able to almost double their visitor numbers compared with the average of previous years. In The Hall of State an increase of 16% was registered compared with the number of visitors in 2005. There two exhibitions were staged: **„The art of cooking and dining culture. Culinary reports from the Austrian National Library“** – a journey in cultural history through some centuries of eating and cooking traditions in Europe – and **„Christ is born. Ornamental publications on Christmas“**. The Department of Papyri could also increase its number of visitors by 6.5%.

