

ANUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

Name of Country : Austria
Name of Library (please print) : Austrian National Library (ANL)
Name of Chief Executive (please print) : Dr. Johanna Rachinger

Management

The most important organisational renewal in 2007 was the setting up of the new main department „Digital Library“. That meant that the future-oriented development towards new areas of digitalisation of the Library was mirrored in the organisation as well.

On the issues of health management, risk management, and internal review, working groups were set up in 2007.

Funding

In 2007 the Austrian National Library completed its sixth year as an institution with full legal rights. As of the end of the year, 31.12.2007, the ANL shows a surplus balance of EUR 244,209.72 (in 2006: EUR 448,615.81) with a positive cash flow. That surplus will be placed in an account providing financial security for essential future investments. That means that the book-entry net assets have increased from EUR 9,551,099.95 (2006) to EUR 9,795,309.67 in 2007.

Buildings

Among the building and renovation projects for 2007 special emphasis must be given to the planning and submission for an overall restoration of the Map Department with the extension of an attic storeroom; as well, rehabilitation of the rooms of the Central Computer Services and of the section Supra-Regional Bibliographic Services. The gradual improvement of lighting was carried on this year in the offices on the second floor at the Heldenplatz.

Among the most interesting futuristic constructions of the Austrian National Library is the project „Literature Museum“ in the former archives of the Imperial Chambers in Johannesgasse in the 1st District (Bezirk). The plan foresees a constant exhibition accompanied by short-term exhibitions on specific topics. The Austrian Literature Museum will offer a selection of Austrian literature in the context of the various specific socio-historical frameworks.

With regard to the building project on a book storeroom at the Heldenplatz, meant to create the storage area that will be necessary by 2010, there was further planning and an attempt to persuade financial sources to contribute, but the outcome is not yet guaranteed.

Digital Library

In the implementation of the five-year plan "Digital Library“, laid out in 2006, important first steps of conversion were taken in 2007.

The project to digitalise 140 Bible incunabula meant that the Austrian National Library entered the area of digitalisation of sensitive old documents. The digitalisation itself will be done externally, by use of a special scanner at the University of Graz, the online presentation will be done using the software DigiTool.

Projects that were continued according to plan were ANNO (a large project to digitalise texts from historic daily newspapers and periodicals) and ALEX (on historic legal texts). In this work more than a million pages are made accessible in the web each year. Just these online services have a daily virtual visitor number of about 1,000.

In the project , started already in 2006, to digitalise 8,000 of the already published papyri from the Papyrus Department, 2007 saw OPAC made freely available to the public.

There was also further work on the project to provide protective digitalisation for the endangered analogous tape recordings under the leadership of the archive for folksongs. Digitalisation of over 800 recorded hours of tapes and music cassettes was carried out in the Austrian Mediathek.

The Austrian National Library will start the project „**Austrian Webarchive**“ in January of 2008. The aim of the project is the collection, long-term archiving, and making accessible of Austrian website publications. We foresee that apart from the „at“ domain, which will be approached once or twice a year in its entirety using an automated crawl, other websites with other domains that have reference to Austria or particular events, such as elections or the European Football Championship, will be documented in an event-based manner. On top of that, special websites, such as those of daily newspapers, will be selectively collected in short intervals.

Legal deposit of materials

The task of long-term preservation of Austria's cultural heritage can be realised in a consistent manner only by an extension of legal deposit to online media as well. In 2005, at the instigation of the Austrian National Library, the Office of the Chancellor, media section, set up a working group with representatives of industry and the Chancellor's Office to work out a similar law on the obligation to supply copy appropriate for online media. The proposed amendment to the media law worked out in 2007 will be handed over for appraisal in 2008, and will become law on 1.1.2009.

Cultural events, exhibitions

The summer exhibition of 2007 in the Hall of State was devoted to a topic largely unknown to the public, the „homage ceremonies“ to the royal house of Habsburg. Those were congratulatory ceremonies, often with elaborate displays of artisan skills, on special occasions such as birthdays or weddings or anniversaries, mostly in the last decades of the Danube Monarchy. A large collection of such materials is conserved in the former Imperial Fideicommiss Library, housed today in the Picture Department.

The Papyrus Department of the Austrian National Library showed in 2007 the exhibition „Between Magic and Science. Doctors and Healing in Papyri from Egypt“.

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