**ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2020**

Name of Country: Austria

Name of Library: Austrian National Library (ANL) /

Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (ÖNB)

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1. **General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library:**

**The ANL in the Corona crises**

Like all cultural institutions, the Austrian National Library was also hit hard by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Both during the first lockdown in spring and during the two subsequent ones in late autumn and winter 2020, all public facilities, including reading rooms and museums, remained closed, and most events had to be cancelled. This resulted in a considerable decline in attendance figures: the number of readers on site went back by about 50 per cent compared to 2019, and that of exhibition and museum visitors declined by more than 70 per cent. Not only during but also outside lockdowns, work was reorganized as telework to be carried out from home as far as this was possible. In order to compensate for the severe losses in earnings, it proved necessary to switch to a short-time work scheme on a temporary basis, shorten opening hours of reading rooms over the summer months, and reduce the acquisition budget allocated to the purchase of objects for the collections.

However, 2020 had not only dark sides but also fired creativity and improved our digital services, from virtual cultural education and research helpdesks to online presentations.

As on-site visits were not possible during the lockdowns, our popular tours and trainings were made available as online formats. A free guided tour of the State Hall, making use of high-resolution Google street views of this total work of art from the Baroque period, met with keen interest. In this new type of virtual tour, the guide moves across views of the State Hall live. Interaction with the participants is enabled via the chat function. Two free webinars were conceived offering information and training: ‘Auf gut Klick’ [something like ‘Try Your Click’] is a live presentation of the new *ÖNB Digital* platform (onb.digital), and ‘First Come, First Search’ conveys basic knowledge on catalogue research for beginners.

**Exhibitions**

In 2020, the Austrian National Library opened one new exhibition at the Literature Museum, entitled *‘Utopias and Apocalypses. The Invention of the Future in Literature’*. It was devoted to visions of the future and end-of-the-world scenarios in literature. In addition to texts in the German language, such as by Ingeborg Bachmann, Erich Fried, Marlen Haushofer and Oswald Wiener, the show also presented a general focus on utopian world literature from the fifteenth century up to the present. An in-depth volume has appeared within the Profile series to accompany the exhibition. Due to the pandemic situation other planned exhibition openings had to be postponed to a later date.

**New storage facility**

A new 1,000 m2 storage facility was built in Lower Austria. The rental depot helps to secure one of the core tasks of the Austrian National Library in the future: collecting and archiving all publications published in Austria. A hot and cold storage area with a total of 5,400 running meters of floor space was set up for the different types of media. The rooms are equipped with the latest air conditioning and security technology.

1. **Note of the reporting library’s relationship to government, citation of legislation which sets out the library’s mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library’s operations**

The Austrian National Library acts as an autonomous legal body pursuant to the 2002 Federal Museums Act, by which it has been assigned the legal status of a scientific federal institution according to public law. This law was recently adopted as the *House of Austrian History* was integrated in the ANL in 2018.

Provisions regulating legal deposits of printed and electronic media to be delivered to the Austrian National Library are contained in the currently applicable version of the Media Act.

**Key facts and figures (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc.)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2020** | **2019** |
| holdings (as of 31 December) | 11,126,553 | 10,910,738 |
|  - analog | 8,718,080 | 8,671,368 |
|  - born-digital | 2,408,473 | 2,239,370 |
| total acquisitions | 199,885 | 153,962 |
|  - analog | 30,782 | 49,468 |
|  - born-digital | 169,103 | 104,494 |
| digitized objects | 3,158,409 | 3,026,043 |
| newspapers and magazines (analog) | 11,755 | 11,764 |
| users of reading rooms | 96,071 | 192,051 |
| total of documents used | 182,027 | 334,139 |
| visitors to museums and exhibitions | 174,179 | 686,415 |
| visits to website (page views) | 245,729,447 | 307,556,606 |
| Staff (FTE) | 296,63 | 308,93 |

1. **New developments in creating and building collections**

In spite of a reduced budget for acquisitions due to the coronavirus pandemic, it was possible to add several important acquisitions to the Austrian National Library’s collections in 2020: they include eleven issues of the newspaper ‘Tagebuch der wichtigsten Neuigkeiten’ [‘Diary of the Most Important News’], which appeared from 1787 to 1789, an absolute rarity of Josephinian literature on Vienna, as well as exciting photo volumes on the Viennese State Opera and Vienna by night – both of them related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Worth mentioning in the field of literature is the acquisition of parts of the estate of Alfred Kolleritsch (1931–2020), one of the most important Austrian writers of the post-war years, co-founder of the *Forum Stadtpark* association of artists in Graz, and editor of the periodical *manuskripte*. Moreover, it was possible to acquire the pre-death literary estate of the Vienna-based German writer Ludwig Fels (born 1946), as well as a comprehensive collection of texts and letters by the renowned Austrian architect and designer Josef Frank (1885–1967).

1. **New developments in access services**

Having launched its portal ***ÖNB Digital***, the Austrian National Library now offers uniform access to its entire digital media across holdings for the first time. Copyright-free books, photographs, prints, postcards, papyri, manuscripts, and numerous other objects are only a click away. The essential advantage of this new platform is that all object groups can be searched by entering a single search term: for example, the German term ‘Seuche’ (i.e. ‘plague’ in German), overused in 2020, delivers 260 hits, from medical handbooks to prints about the spreading of the plague to series of photographs on fighting back epidemics by the US occupying forces. The list of search results can then be narrowed down using a number of filters, such as media type, language, and date; those seeking inspiration, however, will be offered alternating compilations on various themes under ‘Discover’.

1. **Digital library developments e.g. collections/digitization/IT systems**

The projects **ANNO (AustriaN Newspapers Online**, anno.onb.ac.at**)** and **ALEX (historical legal and law texts**, alex.onb.ac.at**)** were continued in 2020, with about half a million pages added, so that by the end of 2020 as many as 23 million pages from the period between 1568 and 1950 had been made accessible. In addition, 30 historically relevant Austrian exile newspapers and journals from 1938–1945 were digitized in the context of ANNO. These media, published with major difficulties, grant direct insight into the period between Austria’s ‘annexation’ to Germany and the end of the Second World War.
In the context of a priority project, thirty **exile newspapers and journals** from the holdings of the Austrian National Library issued between 1938 and 1945 have been digitized and made available at the digital newspaper reading room ANNO. From ‘Arbeiter Zeitung’ and ‘Der Sozialist’ to ‘Die Nation’ and ‘Nouvelles d’Autriche’, these Austrian printed media, published under enormous difficulties, offer immediate insights from the perspective of emigrants between Austria’s ‘annexation’ and the end of the Second World War. 33,500 pages of Austrian contemporary history are now accessible to researchers and all those interested as a relevant source – free of charge and full-text searchable.

Following the scheduled completion of our priority project **ABO (Austrian Books Online)**, which was conducted in cooperation with Google, in 2018, the project is now continued on a reduced scale on the basis of the advancing year-limit for copyright-free texts (140 years after appearance).

Furthermore, the digitization of posters, pictures, and photographic material was continued in the year under report, as was the digitization of important holdings for the purpose of data protection.

In the sphere of **Web Archive Austria (Webarchiv Österreich,** webarchiv.onb.ac.at**)**, which already comprises more than four billion objects, launching an event crawl on the coronavirus crisis in March 2020 suggested itself: encompassing 28,000 individual pages, it is the hitherto largest of its kind, documenting that the ‘coronavirus’ event interfered with all areas of society and is reflected on the Austrian web in its entirety.

1. **Research**

The EU project *Open Digital Libraries for Creative Users* started in 2020, while two other EU projects, *Enriching Europeana* (2018–2020) and *Time Machine* (2019–2020), were concluded successfully. The EU project *News Eye* (2018–2021) was continued.

After four years, the *FWF*-funded research project *Günther Anders – Media Aesthetics and Intellectual Networks* ended in 2020; it had been devoted to the indexing, critical assessment, edition, and contextualization of the writings on media aesthetics from the estate of this philosopher and writer, as well as his correspondence with numerous international intellectuals.

In addition, the Austrian National Library was involved in 19 joint projects conducted in collaboration with the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Vienna, dealing with various academic disciplines, primarily codicology and papyrology.

The House of Austrian History organized a number of public panel discussions on topical issues, such as ‘Climate Crisis – Climate Chance?’ (in cooperation with the daily newspaper ‘Wiener Zeitung’) and ‘The Economy as a Motor – War, Aftermath and Dawn of a New Era’, the latter of which was held seventy-five years after the end of the Second World War (in cooperation with ÖBB Holding). A two-day symposium looked into the subject of ‘Curating and Educating – Models of Networked Work’, a theme central to the work of museums.