
ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2021

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 Second Year Overshadowed by the Coronavirus Pandemic

Like the previous year, 2021 was overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic. During the legally prescribed lockdowns – from the beginning of the year to 7 February 2021, from 1 April to 2 and 3 May 2021, and then again from 22 November to 11 December 2021, the Library was forced to close all of its publicly accessible facilities to on-site user and visitor traffic. Although the number of visitors and readers developed favourably from spring 2021 onwards, the lockdown following towards the end of the year would curb this positive trend once again. In 2021, total attendance was 15 per cent higher than in 2020 but still about 70 per cent down when compared to 2019. The number of on-site readers declined by 55 per cent compared to 2019. For readers urgently requiring books for their academic work, a click-and-collect service was installed during lockdowns: upon prior registration, books could be collected at the Library's entrance portal. Moreover, all valid annual library tickets were prolonged free of charge for the duration of the lockdowns. In addition, the Library increased its offering of online formats of exhibitions, educational programmes, and trainings.

Exhibitions & Museums

Reopening of the Papyrus Museum

After eight months of reconstruction, our expanded Papyrus Museum opened its doors in May 2021 with its newly installed permanent exhibition. The museum presents itself in a contemporary ambience, with a new reception area, large scale wall illustrations, and a special light concept, as well as additional media stations and audio guides in German, English, and for deaf people. Further elements added include an experience space on ancient death cult and an expanded children's area for educational cultural programmes. A digital media desk provides visitors with information about the work of papyrologists, education and learning in antiquity, the languages and writing systems to be found on papyrus, and the magical Sator Square.

Exhibition 'The Danube. A Journey into the Past'

Postponed by one year, this exhibition, which opened at the State Hall in May 2021, showcased Europe's central artery, which connects as many as ten countries. A historical journey documented the Danube's untamed natural environment, which was feared over many centuries, and its regulation beginning in the

nineteenth century, which, through comprehensive channelization, transformed the river into one of the most important waterways of the Habsburg monarchy. A wealth of interesting objects from the Austrian National Library's holdings presented the Danube from its different aspects – as a dividing line and connecting element, as a dream location and inspiration for artists, as a natural environment worth protecting, and as a central traffic route. A special highlight was the reproduction of the so-called 'Pasetti map', which is over 44 metres long.

Exhibition Stefan Zweig

From June 2021 to September 2022, the Literature Museum presented its new temporary exhibition entitled Stefan Zweig, World Author'. On the one hand, the focus of the show was on Zweig as a cosmopolitan who undertook extensive journeys on almost all the continents – which was also reflected by his oeuvre; on the other hand, it concentrated on Zweig as an author of bestsellers whose international reputation still make him one of the most widely-read German speaking authors. His continuing relevance and fascination are attested to by numerous film versions, adaptations, and translations of his texts published between Europe and China. The exhibition was compiled in close collaboration with the Salzburg Stefan Zweig Centre and the Salzburg Literature Archive.

(2) 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 adopted as the *House of Austrian History* was integrated in the ANL in 2018.

Key facts and figures

	2021	2020
holdings (as of 31 December)	11 329 061	11 126 553
- analog	8 778 659	8 718 080
- born-digital	2 550 402	2 408 473
total acquisitions	184 193	199 885
- analog	42 395	30 782
- born-digital	141 820	169 103
digitized objects	3 173 687	3 158 409
newspapers and magazines (analog)	11.508	11 755
users of reading rooms	82 779	96 071
total of documents used	7 328	6 012
visitors to museums and exhibitions	200 314	174 179
visits to website (page views)	240 477 982	245 729 447
Staff (FTE)	299,62	296,63

(3) Outstanding New Acquisitions

Correspondence Ludwig Wittgenstein – Ben Richards

In 2021, the Austrian National Library successfully augmented its extensive holdings on Ludwig Wittgenstein, the most important Austrian philosopher of the twentieth century, through a spectacular

acquisition: it managed to obtain another family-owned part of the comprehensive correspondence between Ludwig Wittgenstein and Ben Richards (1924±–±1995), his closest friends during his final years. The compilation of letters ideally complements Wittgenstein's 150 letters to Ben Richards acquired in 1995, as it not only includes another 100 letters written by Wittgenstein but also replies penned by Richards. It is the most significant rediscovery of original documents in the context of Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889–1951) made during recent years. The letters cover the period between June 1946 and April 1951, with the last ones having been written only a few days before Wittgenstein's death.

Pre-Mortem Bequest of Marlene Streeruwitz's Literary Estate

In the year under report, it was also possible to acquire the comprehensive pre-mortem bequest of the literary estate of Austrian author Marlene Streeruwitz, born in Baden in 1950, for the Austrian National Library's Literary Archive. Documents contained in some 120 box files trace Marlene Streeruwitz's entire literary and journalistic work up to the present. With her novels, radio dramas, theatre plays, and essays, all of which stand out for their sharp criticism of language and society, the prize-winning author has become known far beyond Austria's borders. The documents comprise preliminary versions and research materials that make it possible to precisely follow the genesis of the author's works.

(4) New developments in library services

In 2021 the ANL started with the planning and installation of a generous training centre in the basement area on Heldenplatz. The facilities will offer generous spatial resources for the long-term development of our information and training program. The new seminar rooms will be integrated into the existing concept and be furnished with state-of-the-art IT infrastructure for on-site and online formats, a room reservation tool, and variably deployable equipment. At the same time, the basement library area built in 1992, including the large-formats reading room and book issue desk, will undergo major renovation. Construction work began in autumn 2021 as planned; the opening of the basement library area and training centre is scheduled for autumn 2022. The highly popular training programme for pupils, university students, and an interested public will be substantially upgraded from 2022 on.

(5) Digital library developments

Vision 2035

As early as 2012, the Austrian National Library introduced its first long-term concept for the future entitled 'Vision 2025: Knowledge for Tomorrow's World'. In continuation to its initial strategy, the Library presented its Vision 2035: Opening up Spaces to the public in October 2021. It defines four central lines of development that will lead the Library on its way into the future:

- Collecting and enabling access
- Learning and inspiring
- Researching and developing
- Networking and collaborating

They provide the foundation for the Library's concrete strategic goals established for a five-year periods, the current ones of which are being implemented for the years 2023–2027.

Digitization and Catalogues / Strategic Goals 2017–2021

In the year under report, the five-year strategic period 2017–2021 came to an end. It turned out that all of the goals set in the various areas of operation could be achieved, so that the course for the future had been set successfully. As to IT applications, it was possible to implement an important step of consolidation by bringing the holdings of all departments together so that they can be administered in a uniform electronic data processing system. In addition, a central storage infrastructure for digital holdings was installed and expanded. The central digital repository provides an important basis for various search and display interfaces. Switching from the previous library administration system ALEPH to the cloud-based system

ALMA was a far-reaching and effective measure, even if its outer visibility may be negligible. The consistent improvement and expansion of metadata encompassed the registration of dependent ('hidden') maps in codices and historical printed works and the improved accessibility of serialised works in the Department of Music and the Map Department. The project Austrian Books Online (ABO), a public-private partnership with Google aimed at the digitisation of the entire copyright-free holdings of printed works, was successfully completed in terms of the core goals and will now be continued on a reduced scale according to the advancing year limits for copyright-free texts. The initiatives ANNO (AustriaN Newspapers Online) and ALEX (historical legal and law texts) were successfully continued similar to previous years, with approx. one million pages added annually. Moreover, the two online portals underwent a relaunch and now present themselves in modern and clearly structured layouts. The newly created portal ÖNB Digital makes it possible for users to search across holdings in digitized and born-digital materials while being regularly fed with new content. In a second expansion stage, such new functionalities as thematic entries and full-text search were integrated. By means of an internally developed platform, the first crowdsourcing campaign supporting the indexing of holdings from the Picture Archive was conducted under the title of Austria from Above. In addition to making digitised media accessible via various platforms, the Austrian National Library went one step further by installing a Laboratory. The ÖNB Labs (labs.onb.ac.at) enable the digital humanities research community to work with metadata and selected digitised collections of the Austrian National Library. For all planned digital editions based on Austrian National Library source material, sustainable infrastructure (edition.onb.ac.at) that is constantly improved and expanded by additional edition projects has been installed as a framework.

(6) Research

In 2021, the Literary Archive launched its research project 'Peter Handke Notebooks, Digital Edition'. In a three-year joint international project (2021–2024) funded by FWF and DFG, a digital edition of the Austrian Nobel laureate's notebooks will be compiled. In collaboration with the Austrian National Library's Department of Research and Development and the Marbach German Literature Archive, twenty-two notebooks from the period between 1976 and 1979 will be digitised and made freely accessible. The notebooks are an important work complex of Handke's oeuvre that has largely remained unpublished to date. A new collaborative project of the Papyrus Department and the Austrian Academy of Sciences is entitled Nutrition and the Cost of Living in a Changing World: Late Antique and Early Arabic Egypt. The project will examine the prices and price development for food and the cost of living in late antique and early Arabic Egypt (4–8 CE) based on thousands of papyrus documents. The project Papyri of the Early Arab Period Online: Digitization and Online Catalogue of Unpublished Documents – Phase IV, funded by the A. W. Mellon Foundation, was successfully completed. Moreover, the Literary Archive organised the online symposium 'The Future of Archives – Archives of the Future' as the 4th International Meeting of Literature Archives and Related Institutions' from 27 to 29 January, with 160 participants attending virtually. The focus was on so-called born-digital materials and the challenges, chances, and perspectives these digitally derived formats will mean for archives in the future.