

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2022

Name of Country: Austria

Name of Library: Austrian National Library (ANL) /

Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (ÖNB)

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After two years overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic, the Austrian National Library was able to return to regular library and museum operations in 2022. Visitor numbers in the reading rooms and museum facilities are showing a clear upward trend and are approaching pre-pandemic levels. With a whole series of interesting exhibitions were also able to resume in full.

Exhibitions & Museums

Exhibition 'The Emperor's Most Beautiful Animals. Pictures from the Habsburg Collections'

From March 2022, a colourful show at the State Hall presented a selection of the most magnificent animal studies commissioned by the imperial family, which have survived in large numbers in the Austrian National Library's collections. The exhibition 'The Emperor's Most Beautiful Animals. Pictures from the Habsburg Collections' also traced the history of the imperial menageries at a time when exotic animals were considered prestigious objects owned by the higher aristocracy, and of the gruesome tradition of animal baiting. The show also looked back on important Austrian research expeditions held on the emperor's behalf, particularly the ones to the Brazilian rainforest, a region practically unknown in those days.

Exhibition 'Crescent Moon above the Nile: How Byzantine Egypt Turned Arabian'

The exhibition 'Crescent Moon above the Nile: How Byzantine Egypt Turned Arabian', which was opened at the Papyrus Museum in June, was devoted to an extremely interesting and globally influential epoch in Egypt, namely the transition from Greco-Byzantine to Arab-Islamic supremacy in North Africa in the seventh century AD. It is especially from this epoch that the Papyrus Collection conserves a comprehensive collection of original documents mainly in the Arabic language, as well as

in Coptic and Greek. In recent years it was possible to scientifically examine a large part of these important historical sources in the context of an extensive research project. The original and true-to-life documents dating from the period in question grant detailed insights into contemporary processes of cultural transformation.

Exhibition ‘Ingeborg Bachmann. An Homage’

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Ingeborg Bachmann, the Literature Museum honoured her as one of the most important and mesmerizing Austrian writers of recent history. The Austrian National Library has preserved her literary estate, which entered the Library through a donation made by her two siblings, since 1978. Bachmann has left behind a diverse oeuvre: poems from her youth, which established her fame; novellas, novels, and fragments of novels; audio plays, libretti, and essays, as well as such journalistic work as her contributions to the Rot-Weiß-Rot radio network, which designate her as a critical contemporary. The show also traced her charismatic personality as a sensitive and fragile artist who to this day has lost nothing of her fascination.

Strategic Goals 2023–2027

With its five-year strategic concepts, the Austrian National Library directs its continuous development and adaptation to changing conditions in terms of media technology and society. Building upon its *Vision 2035: Opening up Spaces*, which was announced in 2021, the strategic goals for the period 2023–2027 were drawn up and presented to the public in the year under report.

The projects and measures, all of which are closely interconnected, are based on four central lines of development defined in our strategic paper *Vision 2035*:

- new access to the historical collections,
- new forms of learning and creative exchange,
- new ways for research, and
- increased networking with other institutions.

Digitisation and Digital Preservation

In 2022, *ANNO* (AustriaN Newspapers Online) and *ALEX*, the online portal for historical Austrian legal and law texts, were continuously complemented according to a dynamic priority list. By the end of the year 2022, *ANNO* had grown to more than 26 million pages covering the period from 1568 to 1952. In the meantime, our Digital Reading Room comprises more than 1,500 newspaper and magazine titles amounting to 1.9 million issues.

Within the framework of our digitization for preservation policy, such precious manuscripts as the Giant Bible of Admont and the Book of Hours of Empress Eleanor, the wife of Frederick III, were digitised, as were further Jesuit Chronicles in continuation of the process begun the previous year. The digitisation project of Emperor Charles VI's music collection ('Carolina online'), which had been launched in 2020, could be completed thanks to the support of Österreichische Lotterien.

The ongoing extension of *Webarchiv Österreich* (webarchiv.onb.ac.at) was continued. A comprehensive domain crawl for the Austrian domain *.at, the domains *.wien and *.tirol, as well as numerous websites of generic domains, was carried out. In addition to the ongoing archiving of the media and politics collection and the biannual crawling of the collection 'woman/gender', crawls were run in the context of the election for Federal President and the Tyrolean state government election. The Austrian web archives currently comprise approximately 218 terabytes of roughly 2.6 million domains.

In 2022, the long-term archiving system *LIBSAFE 2022* was successfully implemented in collaboration with Österreichischer Bibliothekenverbund und Service GmbH (OBVSG).

Research and Digital Humanities

It belongs to the core tasks of the ONB Labs (labs.onb.ac.at) to offer data-based services for research and make digital holdings available for creative use. Within the framework of the EU-funded project 'Open Digital Libraries for Creative Users' (ODL), artists were invited to apply for a web residency in spring. Two digital art projects were funded and accompanied during their realization processes. The results are on view at the ONB Labs Artspace.

With the participation of the Austrian National Library's Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books, the multiyear EU-funded joint project 'ARITHMETIC – German Arithmetical Treatises in Manuscripts of the Late Middle Ages (1400–1522)' was launched in 2022. It deals with the development of the mathematical discipline of arithmetic in the Middle Ages and early modern period. The Austrian National Library holds some of the most important relevant text documents in the form of manuscripts and early prints. It is the goal of the project to implement a digital edition in combination with a computer-assisted analysis of the corpus.

The Department of Papyri, holding more than 80,000 relevant items, preserves the world's largest collection of early Arabic documents. The digitisation, indexing, and edition project 'Papyri of the Early Arab Period Online. Digitisation and Online Catalogue of Unpublished Documents' pursues the goal of making unpublished texts containing important information on the early Arab Empire accessible on the Austrian National Library's website. With the completion of phase V (term: October 2022 to September 2024), the project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, will finish as planned.

In the context of the temporary exhibition 'Crescent Moon above the Nile: How Byzantine Egypt Turned Arabian', an international symposium entitled 'From Emperor to Caliph: How Byzantine Egypt Turned Arabian' was held at the Papyrus Museum on 26 and 27 September 2022.

Library Services

Opening of the Centre for Information and Media Competence

The transformation of the former microform user area into a modern Centre for Information and Media Competence meant an essential and pioneering step towards a teaching library. Five state-of-the-art seminar rooms were presented to an interested public during a three-day opening programme from 18

to 20 October 2022. As a vital knowledge centre, the Austrian National Library will continue to offer its users and readers a varied programme of trainings and workshops for them to become familiar with a critical and efficient handling of new media and get to know new tools and online services.

For our Heldenplatz venue, one major focal point in 2022 was the refurbishment of the user area in the basement: the entire part open to the public was gutted, equipped with state-of-the-art utilities, and furnished according to today's requirements.

Sustainable Library

A value producer and driving force, the Austrian National Library has set the goal for itself to also act as a forerunner when it comes to sustainability. It therefore seeks to reduce its carbon footprint and minimise greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible while fulfilling its legal mandate at the same time. In 2021 a comprehensive sustainability strategy was developed that intends to firmly root these efforts towards more sustainability as an organisational goal. The reduction of emissions was to be consistently pursued through a multitude of measures taken in the period under report and will be continued in subsequent years.

Collections and Acquisitions

After efforts of many years, the Austrian National Library, with the support of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport (BMKOES), successfully acquired one of the most important literary estates of German-language authors of the twentieth century. Thomas Bernhard's literary estate comprises his complete published and unpublished works, as well as all surviving correspondence. The relevant holdings amount to roughly 30,000 pages of handwritten text, manually corrected typescripts, and corrected galley proofs. Correspondences comprise correspondence with family and publishers, as well as letters from individuals and institutions.

In July 2022 it was possible to take over one of the most extensive and important archives on the Esperanto language and international Esperanto movement: the archives of the Universal Esperanto Association (Universala Esperanto-Asocio, UEA), founded in Geneva in 1908. The donation comprises a wealth of documents including collections of manuscripts, posters, photographs, and audio-visual media. This will enable the Austrian National Library to conduct major historical socio-cultural and philological research projects on the Esperanto language.

Key facts and figures

	2022	2021
holdings (as of 31 December)	11 681 252	11 329 061
- analog	8 957 144	8 778 659
- Born-digital/Digital	2 724 108	2 550 402
total acquisitions	217 453	184 193
- analog	44 808	42 395
- Born-Digital	172 645	141 798
digitized objects	3 268 602	3 173 687
newspapers and magazines (analog)	10 709	11 508
users of reading rooms	149 915	82 799
total of documents used	234 962	180 410
visitors to museums and exhibitions	273 969	200 314
visits to website (page views)	228 265 725	240 477 982
Staff (FTE)	304,25	299,62