

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2008

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

Management

There was a major organisational renovation in 2008 through the fusion of the *Department of Manuscripts, Autographs and Closed Collections* with the *Department of Incunabula, Old and Rare Books* to form the new *Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books*. We expect to achieve definite synergic effects both in the specialist processing of information and in services to the clients.

The internal revision of 2008 was devoted to the topic of permanent borrowings. As well, 2008 saw the start of a project to elaborate an integrative overall concept on the introduction of information management in the Austrian National Library.

Funding

The € 1.7 million rise in the basic compensation payment from the federal government, having become a reality in 2008, allowed the ANL to achieve, among other things, the start of a cutting-edge project of archiving web publications produced in Austria.

The annual balance sheet as of 31st December, 2008, shows a positive cash flow and an annual net income of € 526,055.41 (in 2007: € 244,209.72). That will be placed in a financial security fund to cover future necessary investments. Those figures mean that the book-entry equity of € 9,795,309.67 (2007) has been increased to €10,321,365.08 in 2008.

Buildings

The biggest building project, started in spring 2008, was the general renovation of the Department of Maps, which will be completed by the end of 2009.

By extending the attic area over the Department's precincts at Josefsplatz we shall achieve not only a significant enlargement of the storage area, but also create an area with optimal conservation conditions for the Department's new acquisitions to be expected in the next thirty years. In the framework of the renovation the reading room of the Department of Maps is being modernised and fitted out with a modern technical infrastructure.

Digital Library

In 2008 the Austrian National Library started the project of web archiving to secure permanent archiving of Austrian web publications. In future the top-level domain „.at“ will be gathered by automated means (about 800,000 domains), as well as online contents of special Austrian themes and major events. In 2008 two web crawls were carried out by topic on the European Football Championships and the elections to the National Assembly. A total of more than 25 million files with a volume of over 330 GB was collected and archived. In this context an agreement was reached with the Austrian Federal Data Centre on saving of external files.

The Austrian National Library has been cooperating for some years within the framework of the EU projects EDL and TEL devoted to preparation of a pan-European digital library portal. Under the title *Europeana-Connect* the ANL will be coordinating a central project to further develop that idea in 2009.

Our in-house projects to digitise the holdings in the section newspapers and magazines (project ANNO), historic law texts (project ALEX), papyri, incunabula, and sound recordings, were continued according to plan. A new addition to that was the digitising of opera and theater programs, ex libris, and election posters.

In the framework of the project *IV-Scan* more than 600,000 articles and essays from collective works have meanwhile been processed and can be searched for individually in the library system.

Legal deposit of materials

The amendment to the law on the media, which was agreed to on the initiative of the ANL and came into force in march 2009, will create the necessary legal framework for an extension of the duty to deliver printed materials to online media, along international lines.

Cultural events, exhibitions

Particularly satisfactory is the clear increase in numbers of visitors in the museum areas of the Austrian National Library: a rise of 7.6% over 2007.

In 2008 the ANL put on a total of six exhibitions. In the Hall of State there were shown – apart from a presentation of manuscript reproductions in honour of the Year of Intercultural Dialogue – the exhibitions *Zur Erinnerung an schönere Zeiten. Bilder aus der versunkenen Welt des jüdischen Sammlers Raoul Korty* (29th February – 13th April 2008) (In Memory of Happier Times. Pictures From the Vanished Age of the Jewish Collector Raoul Korty); *Blutige Geschichten. Ein kulturhistorischer Streifzug durch die Welt der Verbrechen* (8th May – 2nd November 2008) (Bloody Stories. A Cultural Historical Trip Through the World of Crime); and as a prelude to the Haydn year in 2009 *Joseph Haydn – Gott erhalte. Schicksal einer Hymne* (28th November 2008 – 1st February 2009) (Joseph Haydn. Gott erhalte. The Fate of an Anthem).

In the Papyrus Museum could be seen the presentation *Spätantike Bibliotheken. Leben und Lesen in ägyptischen Klöstern* (18th April – 14th November 2008) (Libraries of Late Antiquity. Life and Letters in Egyptian Monasteries).

The Picture Archive put on an interesting display in the Anzenberg Gallery of the historic photographs of Ferdinand Schmutzer from the years 1897 – 1928.

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