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General overview - Strategic planning

In 2012, under the title „**Vision 2025. Knowledge for the World of Tomorrow**”, the Austrian National Library presented its long-term future vision. In doing so it clearly positioned itself in tomorrow’s knowledge society in which production, preserving, and spreading of knowledge will have undergone radical changes, and it is reflecting on its potential for further developments.

The main points are:

- By 2025 millions of books and other objects held in the archives of the Austrian National Library will have been digitised. Enormous holdings of books, pictures, posters, newspapers, maps and other objects will be made available to readers all over the world online in the next few years.
- For those digitised objects a full-text search is also being set up.
- At the same time the new, born digital media and web contents have to be archived for lasting use. In coming years digital publications such as e-books will be collected in increasing numbers and as a priority.
- The data holdings of the Austrian National Library will by 2025 be a part of the semantic web (web 3.0). An important point is the targeted enrichment of the digitised objects with extra information (so-called metadata), and their links with external resources such as geo-data.
- All metadata will by 2025 be made available free of charge and in unlimited quantity in a structured and standardised form.
- Scholarly projects of processing and editing of valuable originals such as bequests are in future to be linked with digitisation and carried out in the framework of research platforms in the internet, and there will be increased attention to the possibilities of crowd sourcing.
- The ANL will continue to be an open forum for meeting and communication. The greatest possible participation and interaction of all clients, not just of scholars, is the goal. They should find in front of them the best digital working conditions – whether they are physically in the Library or whether they are drawing on its contents from outside. In that way a direct integration of the expertise of the clients – “user generated content” – will be made possible.

2012 was the first year of implementation of the **five-year strategy concept (2012 – 16)** worked out in the previous year. Important partial goals were able to be implemented successfully in the first year, such as the digitisation of the music media, the most valuable music autographs of the Department of Music, a total of over 90,000 pages. In the framework of the new web 2.0 initiative of the ANL the ANL’s facebook debut was activated in August 2012 and continually new contents were added. The virtualisation of the in-house server included the selection, acquisition, and installation of a new virtual server platform for all central services through the ZID (Central IT Services).

Key facts and figures

The total number of visitors increased in 2012 to 524,409 which meant a growth of 1.6 % to 2011. In the museums and exhibitions there was an increase in visitors of 2.1%, while the number of reading room visitors increased by 1.2%.

In 2012 the home page of the ANL registered more than 2.75 million visits, equivalent to about 57 million page viewings.

Statistics

	2012	2011
holdings (31.12.2012)	10,229,611	7,883,246
total acquisitions	1,090,100	53,745
— of those, to books and periodicals	38,425	38,783
newspapers and magazines (constant subscriptions)	11,542	11,404
uses of reading rooms	277,871	274,686
total of documents used	476,406	462,227
— documents used in reading rooms	442,238	427,975
— documents borrowed (incl. interlibrary loans)	34,168	34,252
documents ordered by e-mail	12,718	12,496
interlibrary loans (fulfilled by ANL)	2,707	2,993
Scholarly research and information services	8,714	8,218
exhibitions	3	7
visitors (museums, exhibitions)	246,538	241,356
guided tours	1,490	1,596
hits of the website	57,766,920	62,087,251
online research in catalogues and databases	6,272,217	9,346,125
scans	420,000	187,117
staff total (equivalent to full-time)	325	315

Funding

As of 31.12.2012 the Austrian National Library shows a provisional yearly deficit of €1,022,358 (2011: €932,793,23), which is less than the budgeted deficit.

The yearly deficit is defrayed by the compulsory cover accumulated in previous years, so the Austrian National Library can produce a stable balance sheet in 2012.

The capital resources on paper on the reporting date of 31.12.2012 were €10,231,348 (2011: €11,253,707).

Sales revenue and other operational earnings were in all €3,311,176 (2011: €3,173,204), and the basic compensation from the Federal government was €23,028,000 (same as 2011).

In 2012 The Austrian National Library had total expenses of €27,747,674 (2011: €27,341,993), of which the following were the most significant:

Payments to staff €17,543,519

Operating costs €3,668,871

Expenses for expanding the value of collections €2,095,696.53 and

Depreciation €1,524,200

Library Services

As from May 2012 the ANL is open also on Sundays. Hence it is at the disposal of visitors seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Another important improvement is the introduction of a new automated ticketing system for checking all library entries.

With the opening of the new Ludwig Wittgenstein Research Reading Room in April 2012 a special reading room for qualified scholars was set up with special service conditions.

Digital Library

The Austrian National Library has since 2011 been digitising in the project **Austrian Books Online (ABO)**, in the framework of a public private partnership with the company Google, its entire non-copyrighted book holdings from the early 16th century to the second half of the 19th century. 110,000 volumes of the planned 600,000 volumes had been digitised by the end of 2012. More than 15 million digitised objects each year are processed by Google. Since April 2013 the digitised books are available also via a newly developed book viewer in the Digital Library of the Austrian National Library. Further projects of digitising the holdings concerned the portals **ANNO** (historical newspapers and magazines) and **ALEX** (historical legal texts); they were expanded and grew in 2012 by a total of 1.8 million pages. That means that by the end of 2012 about 11.7 million pages were available online through ANNO and ALEX.

In addition, in 2012 the digitisation of about 80,000 posters was completed, and the project of digitising historic postcards was begun in the Department of Maps.

Web@rchiv Österreich contains meanwhile more than a billion individual files and a saving capacity of more than 28 terabytes. In 2012 the at-domain crawl (with almost 1.2 million domains), which had been started in the previous year, was finished.

EU projects

The ANL collaborated in 2012 in a total of seven EU projects; again the main emphasis was on the pan-European portal Europeana:

- DM2E (digitised manuscripts to Europeana, <http://dm2e.eu/>)
- Europeana collections 1914 – 1918 (www.europeana-collections-1914-1918.eu)
- Europeana newspapers (www.europeana-newspapers.eu)
- Europeana v2.0 (<http://pro.europeana.eu/web/europeana-v2.0>)
- IMPACT (improving access to text, www.impact-project.eu)
- Project APARSEN (alliance permanent access to the records of science in Europe network, www.aparsen.eu)
- SCAPE (scalable preservation environments, www.scape-project.eu)

Exhibitions and events

In 2012 the ANL put on three new exhibitions: in the Hall of State „*Willkommen in Österreich. Eine sommerliche Reise in Bildern*“ (Welcome to Austria. A Summer Journey in Pictures) (11 May - 28 October 2012) and „*Geliebt, verlacht, vergöttert. Richard Wagner und die Wiener*“ (Loved, Laughed at, Adored. Richard Wagner and the Viennese) on the 200th anniversary of his birthday (23 November 2012 – 10 February 2013); and in the Papyrus Museum the presentation „*Gewebte Geschichte. Stoffe und Papyri aus dem spätantiken Ägypten*“ (Woven History. Materials and Papyri from Late Antique Egypt) (15 June 2012 – 1 January 2013).