

# AUSTRIA

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY

DR JOHANNA RACHINGER — CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

2002 was the ANL's first year since its conversion into a fully legal autonomous academic institution under public law by virtue of the Federal Museum Law 2002 (BGBl. I, 14/2002). Since 1st January 2002 the ANL is directly answerable to a specially appointed board of trustees, to which it must report every quarter year. The Library is now obliged to observe the standards of accounting demanded of a normal commercial enterprise. The required accounting know-how and the necessary technical infrastructure, including an original system of salary calculation, were build up from scratch. An increase of 100% in the purchasing budget as compared with the previous year deserves special mention.

### CORPORATE DESIGN

Beginning in 2001 a thoroughgoing transformation of the complete corporate design of the ANL has been carried out. A precondition for that was the formulation of a new **mission statement**. In cooperation with a leading Viennese graphics office a new updated logo was chosen and in keeping with that all important printed materials of the Library were redesigned: letter paper, business cards, information folders for all the Departments and areas for visitors, briefcases, invitation samples, the ANL newsletter, and so on. A second stage was the conversion of the guidance system.

### ORGANISATION

The most important organisational changes in 2002 took place in the section on marketing, public information and sponsorship, in the main section dealing with personnel, finance and accounting (earlier known as central services), the main section on extension and development of construction, and in the establishment of a staff centre for digitalisation. Important staff positions in the institution that had not been occupied for a lengthy period were given new appointments.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES TO READERS

The evening hours of opening in the area of the Heldenplatz (OPAC, main reading room, and large format reading room) were extended from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., a measure aimed at meeting the needs of people in employment.

All of the reading positions at the back of the main reading room were supplied with electric leads so that use of private laptops now presents no problems.

A further groundbreaking measure in the service area is the conversion of the Austrian Bibliography into an online version accessible by internet (<http://bibliographie.onb.ac.at/biblio/>). Preparations for that were finished in autumn of 2002, and with the appearance of booklet 2003.1 row A of the Austrian Bibliography can be reached only online.

**Digitalisation of all holdings catalogues of the ANL by the year 2005** was fixed as the most important goal in the area of availability of holdings. A detailed chronology and content plan has been established and sees the step-by-step realisation of the transformation of all extant card catalogues (principally in the Departments of Autographs, of Music, of Portraits and of Maps) into databases, beginning with 2002.

At the moment the ANL is working on an overall plan of digitalisation of objects over the next few years. First of all there will be a concentration on the areas of picture digitalisation and the digitalisation of old newspaper holdings.

Very urgent attention will also be given by the ANL to the complex of problems involved with **long term archiving of electronic media** – a problem common to all comparable national libraries. A working group was set up and presented a first draft in the spring of 2003. In addition to the development of suitable hardware the main emphasis is on the conversion of offline media and on the area of electronic university texts.

## **SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

At present the ANL is working on a total of four **EU projects**:

- LEAF (Linking and Exploring Authority Files)
- REGNET (Cultural Heritage in Regional Networks)
- TNT (Trusted Network for Online Trading)
- Rinascimento virtuale / Digitale Palimpsestforschung (digital research on palimpsests).

Apart from that a number of projects are underway that are promoted by the country, for example the collection of incunabula holdings in Austria and the creation of a digital picture archive on Austrian contemporary history.

## **CULTURAL EVENTS**

The high points of this year's exhibitions were the main exhibition "**Forbidden from View**". Erotica from two millennia" (Hall of State, 17<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> October) that achieved a new record number of visitors, the photo exhibition "**Focus Point**". The Photo Collection of the Austrian National Library" (Hall of State, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2002 – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2003), and "**Oranien**". 500 Years of a Dynasty" (AURUM, 1st February – 19th March).

Just as in the previous year, the ANL participated this year in the "**Long Night of the Museums**" on 5-6<sup>th</sup> October. The ANL with its four museum institutions (Hall of State, Department of Papyri, Department of Globes, and Esperanto Museum) achieved the highest number of visitors (over 12,000) among all of the museums involved.

Readings by authors and presentation of books has long been a regular part of the performances arranged by the ANL. The setting up of the "**ANL Literary Salon**" now offers for the first time an established organisational framework for that. The plan is that six times a year contemporary authors will be given a chance to present their new works within the ANL setting.

## **ADDRESS:**

Josefsplatz 1  
A-1015 Vienna  
AUSTRIA

Tel: + 43 1 53410;  
Fax: + 43 1 53410 / 280

Email: [onb@onb.ac.at](mailto:onb@onb.ac.at)

URL: [www.onb.ac.at](http://www.onb.ac.at)