

AUSTRIA

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 - 2004

In addition to its construction projects, significant projects undertaken by the Austrian National Library in 2003 have been the digitisation of materials, the start of the long-term preservation project and the conclusion **of provenance research** concerning illegal acquisitions during the National Socialist period (1938-1945).

An important initiative has been taken to improve the current **security** situation. An outside company has been hired to evaluate all aspects of security in the library. Based on this evaluation, over the next few years the necessary measures will be implemented, based on a list of priorities.

The Austrian National Library concluded the year 2003 with a balance sheet profit. The balance sheet total was 12,641,000 euros (2002 = 11,503,000). As of 31.12.2003, the interim annual accounts for ANL showed a positive cash flow and an annual profit of 2,296,000 euros (2002 = 2,154,000). This profit will be carried forward to finance needed future investments.

Under the current general concept for **catalogue digitisation**, all the catalogues of the ANL will be converted to Internet-based databases by the end of 2005. In the year under review, significant steps were taken to achieve this goal. The conversion of the author catalogue for 1930-91 from an image-based KatZoom catalogue to an Aleph database was completed in 2003. This means that all ANL's print materials from 1500 to the present can now be researched in online databases over the Internet. In the Map Department a major project was initiated in spring 2003 to re-catalogue all historical maps in the Aleph library system. The project will be completed by 2005.

In 2003, special priority was given to the **digitisation of materials**. A general digitisation concept for the next few years was developed by the digitisation department. With the ANNO (**AustriaN Newspapers Online**) digitisation project, ANL launched the first major project for the digitisation of historical newspapers in the world in 2003. The virtual reading room on the ANL Web site was opened in August (<http://anno.onb.ac.at/>). It contains now over 1,5 Mio digital pages of newspapers and has already received a considerable number of hits.

Like many other libraries around the world, the ANL must tackle the complex and costly problem of **long-term preservation** of electronic media. In 2003, a general concept for the long-term preservation of digital resources was developed by a newly established project group. This concept is to be implemented and tested in 2004 and taken over as standard ANL practice in 2005.

The upwards trend in **visitor numbers** seen in 2002 continued in 2003. This applied both to the number of library users as well as to visitors to the exhibitions and museums. There was a remarkable increase of nearly 90% in the number of virtual visitors to the ANL Web site.

In December 2003, after careful, extensive research, ANL was able to complete its provenance report based on the Act on the Restitution of Artworks of 1998. ANL submitted the report to the committee on **Provenance Research**. An important part of the report are the lists of unlawful acquisitions (totalling more than 25,000 items) from the National Socialist period which are still held at the ANL.

This year's summer exhibition in the Grand Hall was devoted to the long and colourful history of the two Central European cities of **Prague and Vienna**. The ANL also took up the theme of Bible Year on two occasions. The first occasion was the presentation early in the year of ancient manuscripts from the Holy Scriptures from Egypt entitled "**A Book Changes the World**" in the Papyrus Museum. The second Bible exhibition entitled "**In the Beginning Was the Word. Lustre and Splendour of Illuminated Bibles**" in the Grand Hall from November 2003 focused on the impressive beauty of mediaeval book illustrations.

In what is currently the largest **construction project** at the ANL – remodelling of the Palais Mollard (Herrengasse 9) – construction is essentially on schedule. The project is therefore likely to be completed on target in 2005. The project was significantly expanded with the inclusion of the International Esperanto Museum / Planned Language Collection which – in addition to the music collection and the globe museum – will now also be moved into the renovated building.