

AUSTRIA

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

In 2006 the Austrian National Library successfully completed its first five years as an institution with full legal autonomy. All of the most important strategic goals set for that period were able to be fulfilled. 2006 was characterised by further strategic planning for the coming years, especially in the fields of digital library, security and conservation of holdings, and building and rehabilitation projects.

The annual balance as at 31 December 2006 gave, with a positive cash flow, a surplus of 448,615.81 Euro (in 2005 359,441.34 Euro). That was assigned to provide security for the financing of necessary future investments.

BUILDINGS

By the end of 2006 the overall rehabilitation of the Picture Archive had been carried out according to plan. In the course of that project it was especially the public spaces that were expanded. A new research room with a service desk for research on the pictorial material database was set up, as well as two study rooms for use of the drawings, printed graphics, and books of the fideicommiss library, and a free access library with the relevant specialist literature.

The rehabilitation project includes setting up additional magazine rooms in the attic for the most valuable collections items in the picture archives - done according to the most up-to-date security and climatic control measures - and the rehabilitation of the historic rooms of the fideicommiss library, with partial restoration of the original structure.

Further important building projects were the setting up of a security depot in the underground warehouse at the Burggarten, which is being used as a storehouse for the incunabula; the rehabilitation of the areas devoted to numismatics and "Friedrich's kitchen"; the rehabilitation of the Restoration Institute; and several other smaller measures.

A feasibility study into the project to establish a book repository at the Heldenplatz was set up.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

The establishment of an amplex strategy of digitalisation for the coming years was among the most important steps taken in 2006. As well, concepts were worked out by three workgroups on the topics "optimalisation of catalogues", "digitalisation of holdings", and "long-term archiving". In addition, specialised workgroups worked on the areas of "digitalisation of audiovisual media", "making incunabula accessible", "IV scanning" and "digitalisation of papyri". Those various concepts were then coordinated and evaluated from the budgetary point of view.

On the basis of the positive experiences of the newspaper www-portal ANNO (<http://anno.onb.ac.at/>) and the portal on legal history ALEX (<http://alex.onb.ac.at/>), the ANL has given itself the ambitious goal of disposing ten million pages in the "Digital Reading Room" by the year 2011. "Historic Austria" is the content area most involved in that. The plan is to digitalise not only newspapers, magazines, first editions, and legal texts, but also pictorial holdings on a huge scale.

Apart from that, the following individual projects are planned in the field of digitalisation:

- **Incunabula project:** the Austrian National Library owns one of the world's most important collections of incunabula, and it has only partially been made accessible. In the coming five years an online incunabula database on the total holdings will be built, and a representative partial holding - 143 bibles - will be digitised and made accessible as a pilot project.
- **Audiovisual media project:** on the basis of a profound opening up, development, and cataloguing of analogous audiovisual holdings, a gradual digitalisation of audiovisual holdings is aimed at as a precondition for lasting conservation as well as a user-friendly service. A first proposal for the digitalisation of the oldest historical sound recordings was realised in 2006. The project will be continued in steps over the coming years.
- **Papyrus project:** the Papyrus Department of the Austrian National Library, with over 180,000 papyri and parchments is one of the world's biggest. The aim of the project, launched in 2006, is the digitalisation of the approximately 8,000 papyri already made accessible in a scholarly manner (parchments, ostraca, and wooden tablets) in an online database (Aleph) by 2010.
- **Digital table of contents:** the project IVSCAN, launched in 2006, offers for the first time on a grand scale access to dependent scholarly literature. Each year about 14,000 scholarly collections of essays, festschriften, etc, arranged by author and title of the individual articles in the library system Aleph, were made accessible (200,000 items a year). Retrospective work on publications up to 1990 is being carried out, and should be finished by 2010.

CULTURAL EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS

With more than 191,000 visitors in 2006 the ANL reached a new record in its museum establishments. The Globe Department, recently set up in the Palais Mollard, and the Esperanto Museum were able to almost double their visitor numbers compared with the average of previous years. In The Hall of State an increase of 16% was registered compared with the number of visitors in 2005. Two exhibitions were staged: "The art of cooking and dining culture. Culinary reports from the Austrian National Library" - a journey in cultural history through some centuries of eating and cooking traditions in Europe - and "Christ is born. Ornamental publications on Christmas". The Papyrus Museum could also increase its number of visitors by 6.5%.

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