

**ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2023****Name of Country: Austria****Name of Library: Austrian National Library (ANL) /**

Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (ÖNB)

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For the Austrian National Library, 2023 was marked by exciting exhibition presentations, the start of the implementation of the Strategic Goals 2023–2027 and a visitor record that exceeded the 900,000 mark for the first time. After the corona-related visitor declines of the last few years, the optimistic expectations for 2023 were thus exceeded.

**Exhibitions & Museums****Exhibition 'Fischer von Erlach and the Emperor's State Hall. 300 Years of Baroque Splendour'  
(January – March 2023)**

The State Hall, embedded in the impressive Baroque library building on Josefsplatz, is the Austrian National Library's historical centrepiece. Its designer, Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach, died 300 years ago, in 1723, the year in which the construction of the imperial library began. The Austrian National Library used both anniversaries as an occasion to remember the famous architect of the Baroque and his late masterpiece with an exhibition in the newly restored State Hall. The temporary exhibition traced the preliminary history and genesis of this total work of art in the Baroque style, as it presented remarkable original manuscripts, monumental engravings, plans, and sketches.

**Exhibition 'Of Gardens and People. Designed Nature, Art, and Landscape Architecture'  
(March – November 2023)**

Numerous personalities from the Habsburg family were passionately interested in the art of gardening, which is reflected by the Austrian National Library's ample holdings in this field. Its collection comprises hand-coloured prints, original drawings, garden plans, historical photographs, and rare

printed works on the history of garden design. Besides objects from the Austrian National Library, the exhibition could also resort to the comprehensive Archive of Austrian Landscape Architecture at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, which allowed us to also embrace the present and incorporate current ecological issues.

### **Exhibition 'NOW & EVERYTHING. Austrian Literature. The Last 50 Years'** (April 2023 – January 2024)

On the occasion of the Leipzig Book Fair 2023, which featured Austria as a guest country, the Austrian National Library's Literary Archive compiled a comprehensive show on contemporary Austrian literature entitled 'NOW & EVERYTHING. Austrian Literature. The Last 50 Years' at the German National Library's German Museum of Books and Writing. The exhibition presented important Austrian writers of the past fifty years, from Thomas Bernhard, Elfriede Jelinek, and Peter Handke to Friederike Mayröcker and Marlene Streeruwitz, tracing the geneses of their texts.

In the run-up to the exhibition, an international symposium entitled 'Crossing Borders. Austrian Literature 1973–2023' was held at the Leipzig University Library from 19 to 21 April 2023. Next to renowned literary theorists from the German speaking countries, authors like Doron Rabinovici and Sandra Gugić were among the speakers.

### **Temporary Exhibition: 'IMAGE POWER POLITICS. Yoichi Okamoto. Post-war Photography Icon'** (November 2023 – February 2024)

This exhibition at the State Hall was the first to give insight into the extensive photographic oeuvre of Yoichi Okamoto in the form of impressive images from post-war Austria and his time as official photographer of the White House. The Austrian National Library acquired the estate of the Japanese-American documentary photographer in 2019. Yoichi Okamoto came to Austria in 1945 as a member of the US allied forces and headed the photographic department of the United States Information Service in Austria from 1945 to 1954. Following his return to the USA, he served as official White House photographer to President Lyndon B. Johnson for several years.

### **Five Years of House of Austrian History and a New Venue**

On 10 November 2023, the House of Austrian History celebrated its fifth anniversary, offering five days of free admission in November 2023 and a daily programme of special events. Around the same time, Secretary of State Andrea Mayer and Federal Minister Dr Magnus Brunner announced a groundbreaking decision as to the new venue of the House of Austrian History in Vienna's MuseumsQuartier. In the immediate vicinity of other museums, a floor space three times as large will be made available to the House of Austrian History for its exhibitions from 2028 on.

### **Digitisation and Digital Preservation**

In 2023, work began on developing digitization guidelines for the entire organisation and implementing the international ISO 19264-1 standard. Expert workshops were held and quality improvements were achieved with the support of external scanning companies.

An environmental solution involving air humidification was implemented for the digitisation of climate-sensitive objects.

In 2023 the online newspaper portal ANNO (AustriaN Newspapers Online) celebrated its twentieth anniversary. Its holdings having meanwhile grown to 27 million pages, it is one of the central pillars of the Austrian National Library's digital library and is visited by several thousands of users daily. ANNO has come to be an indispensable research tool for historical studies.

### **Research and Digital Humanities**

In the web portal 'Women in Motion 1848–1938' ([fraueninbewegung.onb.ac.at](http://fraueninbewegung.onb.ac.at)), Ariadne, our women and gender-specific knowledge portal, lends visibility to the history of the feminist movement in the Habsburg Monarchy and Austria. In 2023 the focus was placed on Slavic-speaking activists and educational institutions for girls and women in Southeastern Europe. Almost 700 personalities and 400 associations have now been identified and are accessible online with their documents for research and interested users.

For the implementation of an internal service for text recognition (Optical Character Recognition OCR), preliminary surveys on the degree of coverage and quality of full texts were carried out. In the future, new and better full texts will be successively created in coordination with our departments.

The ÖNB Labs are the platform for the scholarly and creative use of the Austrian National Library's digital data holdings. In 2023, the ÖNB Labs' data offering was expanded, and the website was redesigned.

Our sustainable infrastructure for digital editions was established as a central point of contact for digital edition projects on sources from the ÖNB.

### **Library Services**

As new benefits for our readers, a 'Late Night' and a 'Late Week' were organised for the first time in 2023 and held in January and June respectively. On these special days, the Library opened its doors until midnight, with a supporting programme ranging from yoga sessions to succinct training units. These extended opening hours during the universities' two major exam weeks were very well received.

The Centre for Information and Media Literacy (CIM), which opened in 2022, became fully operational in the summer term of 2023. In the first half of 2023, 61 events attracting 1,250 participants took place. New additions in the winter term of 2023 aside from the meanwhile established programme included research strategies with regard to special holdings, a workshop for writing (pre)academic papers, intellectual property rights for users, and the adaptation of the app-based rally 'Abookalypse' for adults. The offering for schools has been expanded as well. As part of a modular programme, tailor-made training courses are now offered that are adapted to curriculum or project content, from fake news to AI.

## **Sustainable Library**

In 2023, the Austrian National Library continued to pursue its goals towards sustainable and climate-friendly library operations. Together with other federal museums and in cooperation with the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, a greenhouse gas balancing tool for museums and libraries was developed with the aim of determining the extent of the climate-damaging emissions produced by these institutions, developing a climate protection strategy and achieving a significant reduction in emissions in the long run. This encompasses, for example, the compilation of a climate protection roadmap including all climate-relevant aspects, such as the expansion of additional photovoltaic systems, the optimisation of heating and ventilation technology, etc. A dedicated Sustainability Steering Group has also been installed.

## **Collections and Acquisitions**

As part of the Strategic Goals 2023–2027, the Austrian National Library's collection guidelines are being evaluated and revised. In the future, digital publications and social developments will be given greater consideration within the collection guidelines.

One of the most important new acquisitions this year was the correspondence compiled by Moritz Benedikt and his son, Ernst Benedikt, comprising about 540 items. Journalist Moritz Benedikt, who came from a Jewish upper middle class family, was the long-time editor of the daily 'Neue Freie Presse'. He helped the newspaper achieve its leading position in fin-de-siècle Vienna, and at the same time he was the target of countless verbal attacks and hostilities from Karl Kraus. The collection, which dates back to the nineteenth century, illustrates above all the wide-ranging international contacts of father and son Benedikt. Among the correspondents were such personalities as Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach, Mark Twain, Theodor Herzl, Gerhart Hauptmann, Arthur Schnitzler, Rainer Maria Rilke, and George Bernard Shaw, as well as politicians like Klemens Wenzel Prince of Metternich, the women's rights activist Marianne Hainisch, Winston Churchill, and many others. The Austrian National Library's Literary Archive has held Ernst Benedikt's literary estate since 2012, which is now ideally complemented by the collection of letters.

## Key facts and figures

	2023	2022
<b>holdings (as of 31 December)</b>	<b>11 913 726</b>	<b>11 681 252</b>
- analog	9 041 300	8 957 144
- Born-digital/Digital	2 872 426	2 724 108
<b>total acquisitions</b>	<b>246 335</b>	<b>217 453</b>
- analog	47 955	44 808
- Born-Digital	198 380	172 645
<b>digitized objects</b>	<b>3 416 015</b>	<b>3 268 602</b>
<b>newspapers and magazines (analog)</b>	<b>9 399</b>	<b>10 709</b>
<b>users of reading rooms</b>	<b>185 047</b>	<b>149 915</b>
<b>total of documents used</b>	<b>288 908</b>	<b>234 962</b>
<b>visitors to museums and exhibitions</b>	<b>722 300</b>	<b>273 969</b>
<b>visits to website (page views)</b>	<b>198 795 822</b>	<b>228 265 725</b>
<b>Staff (FTE)</b>	<b>329,71</b>	<b>304,25</b>