

Austria

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A. DIGITISATION AND ONLINE ACCESSIBILITY

A1. Progress on the systematic gathering of information about current and planned digitisation of books, journals, newspapers, photographs, museum objects, archival documents, audiovisual material and the availability of overviews of such digitisation in order to prevent duplication of efforts and promote collaboration and synergies at European level.

The website <<http://www.digital-heritage.at/>>, an inventory of best practice projects and initiatives in Austria, was updated end of 2006 and since then new best practice projects were added only at irregularly intervals. A comprehensive investigation is planned during the second half of 2008.

A2. Progress on the development of quantitative targets for the digitisation of analogue material in archives, libraries and museums, indicating the expected increase in digitised material which could form part of the European Digital Library and the budgets allocated by public authorities.

In 2007 and 2008 there was no federal budget dedicated for digitisation efforts and therefore digitisation activities were at a very low level. Earlier activities were based on a temporary budget lines. Austria does support the European Digital Library initiative and it undertakes efforts to find funding for 2009 and the following years for setting up digitisation initiatives and projects in Austria.

A3. Progress on partnerships between cultural institutions and the private sector in order to create new ways of funding digitisation of cultural material.

In February 2008 an "Internet Offensive ÖSTERREICH" was initiated by Austrian industries. The Internet Offensive will be a platform for dialog between industry and public institutions about Internet applications. This dialog could be a starting point for partnerships between cultural institutions and the private sector.

The University of Innsbruck is initiator and coordinator of the successful project "eBooks on Demand". EOD is a European service network which is run by 14 libraries in 9 European countries. The service makes available books in digital format on request of a user.

A4. Progress on the set-up and sustaining of large scale digitisation facilities.

In 2007 there was no federal budget for digitisation efforts and therefore no activities for large scale digitisation facilities were planned (see A2).

A5. Progress of cultural institutions, as well as publishers and other rightholders to make their digitised material searchable through the European Digital Library. Describe in particular the progress on the application of common digitisation criteria by cultural institutions and, where relevant, private companies, in order to achieve interoperability with the European Digital Library and to facilitate cross-language searchability.

Standardisation is not based on any national initiative in Austria, but standards basing on international initiatives are recommended. The standards are optional and aim to stimulate interoperability. Results of the European MINERVA Working Groups in particular, as well as other relevant international standards, are supported.

A6. Progress on mechanisms to facilitate the use of orphan works.

Austrian Copyright Law has no special rules for orphan works. There aren't any explicit intentions either to implement such special rules. But if the Commission intends to publish a guideline, Austria would be interested.

A6a. How are cultural institutions dealing with this problem?

Austrian cultural institutions handle orphan works in the same way as out-of-print works (see A6b).

A6b. Progress on mechanisms to facilitate the use of works that are out of print or out of distribution.

Art. 42 section 7 of the Austrian Copyright Law (*Urheberrechtsgesetz*) contains already an exclusion concerning the right of reproduction of works out of print and works which are published ("veröffentlicht") but not distributed in a sufficient number ("erschienen"), which allows the reproduction of these works to public institutions, if they do so without commercial intention. This enables the digitisation of these works, but does not allow online-distribution of these digital copies, it allows onsite-access only.

A6c. Progress on the availability of lists of known orphan works and works in the public domain.

There are no such lists.

A6d. Progress on the identification of barriers in your legislation to the online accessibility and subsequent use of cultural material that is in the public domain – and the steps taken to remove them.

In a working group with members from the media industries and libraries an amendment of the media law about the legal deposit of online publications was discussed and drafted. The draft goes under consultation in February 2008. Depending from the results of the consultation the law making process will be started.

B. DIGITAL PRESERVATION

B1. Progress on national strategies for the long-term preservation of and access to digital material. Describe the organisational approach, indicating the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved as well as the allocated resources. Describe the specific action plans outlining the objectives and a time-table for the specific targets to be met.

Austria's leading archive, the Austrian state archive, is currently implementing a long-term preservation project. The project includes the conception and implementation of the software-solution of the digital long-term preservation for administration information. The development and the operations will be executed with a private partner. The concept of the digital long-time-archive is based on the OAIS-Model (ISO norm Nr. 14721.2003). Further standards of the preservation are e.g. METS, TRAC as

well as the results of the PLANETS-team of preservation. A working group, for the preservation project, will be formed in parallel in the Austrian state archive which occupies itself continuously with the matters of preservation of digital information. This group will work based on recommendations of the PLANETS working group. It is planned to find the constellation of the working group within the next few months. The location of the digital long-term archive (hardware) will be the ZAS (a high-security-computer centre of the republic of Austria).

The procurement of the digital long-time-archive starts in spring 2008. The end is expected for winter 2008/spring 2009. At best the commissioning of the long-term archive could happen at the end of 2009. After the start, it is planned to offer the service to other organizational units (eg. the Austrian National Library) too.

B2. Progress on exchange of information with other Member States on your strategies and action plans.

Within the next few month it is planned to reinforce the cooperation with the NESTOR - initiative of the Federal Republic of Germany.

B3. Progress on legal provisions for multiple copying and migration of digital cultural material by public institutions for preservation purposes.

See item A6d.

B4. Progress on policies and procedures for the deposit of born-digital material. Please note how you are taking into account developments in other Member States in order to prevent a wide divergence in depositing arrangements.

The Austrian National Library as well as other research institutes are partners in the important research projects working on interoperability in a distributed European Library: Projects BRICKS <<http://www.brickscommunity.org/>> and DELOS <<http://www.delos.info/>>.

B5. Progress on legal provisions for the preservation of web-content by mandated institutions.

When the amendment of the media law about the legal deposit of online publications has become law (see item A6d) the Austrian National Library will be authorized for harvesting the web.