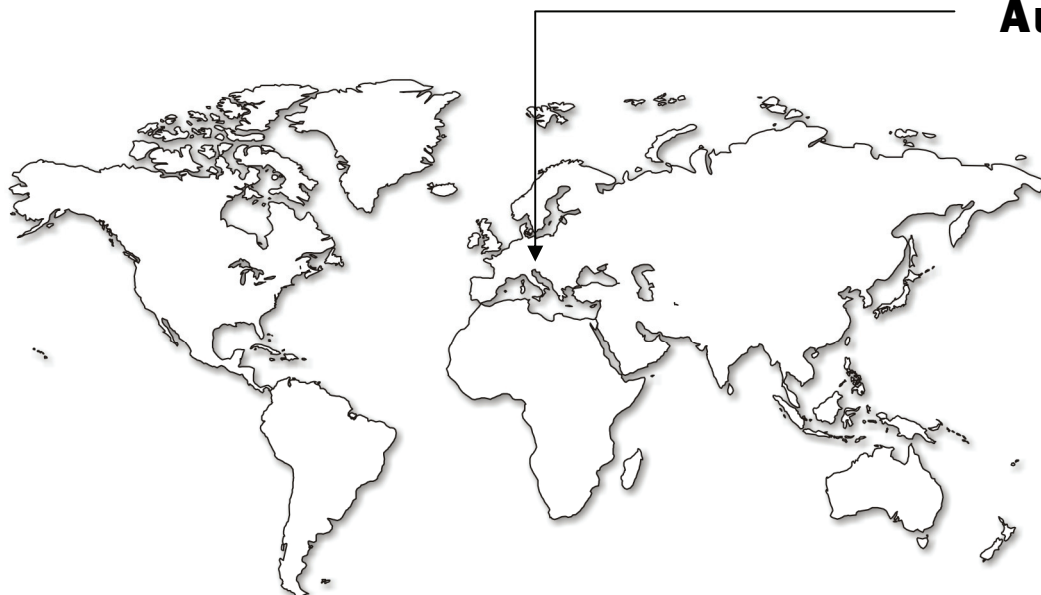# Austria

Responding institution:

Vereinigung Österreichischer Bibliotekarinnen und Bibliotekare (VÖB)

Austria is responding to the World Report for the second time, having previously contributed in 2003 with a lapse in 2005. The response refers to the activities in 81 research libraries (including 60 government-funded research libraries and 21 university libraries). There is no indication of the number of public libraries.

In March 2005, online penetration for Austria was estimated at 56.6%. Internet access in libraries is very healthy, being estimated at 81-100% for all library types. (In 2003 the estimate was 61-80% for public libraries.) The respondent has indicated that both local content and local languages are very well covered on the Internet. The 2007 *CIA World Factbook* sets the literacy rate at 98%.

Access to the Internet is free of charge in university libraries. (The respondent is uncertain about the situation for the other library types; the 2003 response indicated that Internet access is free for all library types.) The state and/or other library authorities have in some cases made extra funding available for Internet access in the library system over the last two years.

The library association in Austria is to some degree in favour of Internet filtering. Accordingly, the use of filtering software is to some degree widespread in the country's libraries for the protection of children,

national security and protection against crime. (This is similar to the 2003 response.)

Regarding the special areas of focus, the respondent has indicated that libraries in Austria are not troubled by anti-terror legislation. No incidents of the violation of intellectual freedom have been indicated by the respondent.

Based on the report alone, the situation regarding intellectual freedom in the country appears to be good. Concerns about human rights and the violation of intellectual freedom are, however, noted by third-party sources.

Libraries have not been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/Aids, or to provide HIV/Aids information to members of the community who are unable to read. There are also no special programmes for promoting women's literacy or women's access to information – from the high literacy rate one could assume that women's literacy is not an issue in Austria.

Austria's librarians do not have a special code of ethics, but both the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have been adopted since the response to the 2005 report.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Austria and the respondent does not feel that if such legislation were to be passed it would impact on user privacy. No opinion is offered on the effect of keeping user records.

Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years

According to the respondent there have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom. Third-party sources, however, do note a number of concerns on the matter.

According to Amnesty International, Austria failed to comply with a ruling by the United Nations Human Rights Committee – new laws on asylum and police powers contravened human rights standards and could threaten the work of human rights defenders (http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/aut-summary-eng). An ARTICLE 19 press release dated 22 March 2007 also expressed concern, urging the UN Committee to address defamation laws and other free speech concerns in the country. On 26 March, the UN Committee began its audit of Austria's compliance with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (the main UN human rights treaty). ARTICLE 19 also expressed concern about the lack of pluralism in the media (http://www.article19.org/pdfs/publications/austria-foe-submission.pdf).

Other concerns can be noted at the following URLs:

- http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int/tkp197/view.asp?item =2&portal=hbkm&action=html&highlight=&session id=9154919&skin=hudoc-pr-en

- http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/28203/

- http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/73053/

- http://www.edri.org/edrigram/number3.17/DPA

- http://www.quintessenz.at/cgi-bin/index?id= 000100003194

HIV/Aids awareness

Libraries have not been involved in programmes promoting HIV/Aids awareness, or programmes providing HIV/Aids information to members of the community who cannot read. No reasons have been offered.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries in Austria have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy, or in special programmes to promote women's access to specific topics (e.g. social information, the economy, education, health and family planning).

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has been adopted since the response to the 2005 report.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The IFLA Glasgow Declaration has been adopted since the response to the 2005 report.

Ethics

The Austrian library community has not adopted a code of ethics and does not intend to do so within the next two years.

Main indicators

Country name:	Austria
Population:	8 199 783 (July 2007 est.)
Main language:	German (official nationwide) 88.6%, Turkish 2.3%, Serbian 2.2%, Croatian (official in Burgenland) 1.6%, other (includes Slovene, official in Carinthia, and Hungarian, official in Burgenland) 5.3% (2001 census)
Literacy:	98%
Literacy reported by respondent:	No data provided

Population figures, language and literacy are from the
CIA World Factbook, 2007 edition
(https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html).

Austria

Libraries and Internet access

Austria contributed to the World Report series in 2003. The following section compares data and answers from 2007 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from the respondent's estimates, where possible.

Library services

Estimated number of public libraries*:	No data provided
Estimated number of school libraries:	No data provided
Estimated number of university libraries:	21
Estimated number of government-funded research libraries:	60
Source of these numbers:	http://www.uibk.ac.at/ub/obib.html

Internet access

Population online**:	4 650 000 Internet users as of March 2005 (56.6%) (2003: 45.29%)
Percentage of public libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100% (2003: 61-80%)
Percentage of school libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
Percentage of university libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
Percentage of government-funded research libraries offering Internet access to users:	81-100%
In your estimate, how much local content*** is available on the Internet:	Very much
To what degree is content on the Internet available in local languages:	Very much
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree
Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree – for the protection of children; national security and to prevent crime (2003: Yes, to a certain degree, with the motivation of protecting children)
Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in university libraries – information available only for university libraries, unknown for other libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system of your country in the last two years:	Yes, in some cases

* Public library service points, including branch libraries.
** Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats (www.Internetworldstats.com).
*** Local content is defined as content that originates in the country.