

Joanneum Quarter Press

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The Styrian State Library

The Styrian State Library, Joanneum Quarter

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For the Styrian State Library, the opening of the Joanneum Quarter on November 26, 2011 also marks the beginning of a new era in its 200-year history: making the lender area publicly accessible, and the open-access set-up in the Visitors' Centre of the Joanneum Quarter represent a milestone in the development of the State Library. For the first time in many decades, after completion of the main building, the reading room and workshops, all the collections and all the employees of the institution will be gathered under one roof. Above all, it is the public – the library users – that now has at its disposal modern, up-to-date, practical and aesthetically attractive workstations.

The attractiveness of the new State Library has been greatly increased in various ways: the open-access set-up has been extended to five times its original surface area, with more than 30,000 volumes now freely accessible; the public area has been equipped with every possible technical tool (Internet workstations, WLAN, microfilm reading machines, photocopiers); above all the services on offer have been broadened to include audiovisual media (audio books, DVDs, CDs) as well as new thematic priorities (foreign-language literature, migration/integration, gender studies, Central Europe-TRIGON).

As usual – and even more so in the new building – advising the public lies at the heart of the library's endeavours. A special information desk will be staffed by experienced librarians at all opening hours (Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Well equipped and comfortable workstations already enable the public to conduct research in a pleasant and appealing ambiance in the generously equipped reference area, or to gather information on new fictional publications, on the varied fields of non-fiction books, and literature for children and teenagers. Naturally, the institution's core area – the Styriaca Collection – will likewise be strongly represented in the open-access zone.

The second basement floor of the newly created Joanneum Quarter houses the library's underground storage depot, designed for one million volumes. The gigantic facilities (2.370 m²) have already been installed. At present fine-tuning for the air-conditioning is being carried out. From January the equipping of this modern storage area will begin: 700,000 volumes are waiting in various external depots to be transferred, have to be cleaned, packed, transported and newly set up. Likewise, in the second half of 2012 around 200,000 exhibits from the special collections will have to be moved over into new vaults. Setting up the digitalisation and microfilm rooms will follow in February 2012, as will equipping the restoration and bookbinding workshops.

The re-building of the State Library will be complete by mid-2012: the Reading Room and the Magazines Room will be available as tranquil working zones. Of particular appeal to students are

the dissertation workstations, which only a few libraries possess. Given that to date more than 50% of readers at the State Library were children, youths and young adults, particular attention is paid to the needs of young readers by the setting up of dedicated children's and youths' reading rooms. While the State Library served for many years in the past as a lecture and communication centre (on numerous evenings the reading room was laboriously turned into a makeshift lecture room), in future a special exhibition and lecture hall will offer the chance for larger exhibitions and above all for undisturbed events of all kinds. Not least of all, after many decades of the most oppressive lack of space, the staff of the State Library will finally receive sufficient working areas equipped in a modern way.

Whilst all the items are being moved to the library's underground storage depot, regrettable inconvenience to the public will occur regarding access. From July 1, 2012, all media will once again be available as usual.

Timeline

- 1811 Founding of the Joanneum and so also the library
- 1819 Founding of the reading society associated with the library
- 1826 Setting up of the Styriaca Department
- 1852 Beginning of the exchange of writings on regional topics
- 1880 Introduction of a modern library organisation, first use of the name State Library
- 1893 Completion of the new building in Kalchberggasse 2
- 1896 Book inventory reaches 136.831 volumes
- 1945 The Styrian Bibliography and Styrian Newspaper Documentation are extended after the end of the Second World War,
- 1948 Book inventory reaches 340.092 volumes
- 1959 *Archduke Johann Exhibition* is realised
- 1964 State Exhibition *Graz as Capital City of Inner Austria* is realised
- 1972 Book inventory reaches 451.407 volumes
- 1976 State Exhibition *Literature in Styria* is realised
- 1984 Beginning of the microfilming (digitalisation added since 2005) of all Styrian newspapers (at present approx. 800 newspapers, approx. 10 million photographs, 1.5 million digital photographs)
- 1993 Introduction of computerised cataloguing and borrowing
- 1999 Joins the OPAC Group of State Libraries
- 2003 Inclusion in the KVK (= Karlsruher Virtueller Katalog or Karlsruhe Virtual Catalogue)
- 2005 Absorbs the Institut Français Library
- 2010 Construction begins on the Joanneum Quarter