THE AUSTRIAN LIBRARY NETWORK - OVERVIEW AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

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TOWARDS THE FUTURE – EUROPEAN CONSORTIA AND THE NEXT GENERATION LIBRARY SYSTEMS
KOBV-WORKSHOP
11. SEPTEMBER 2013
The Austrian Library Network: A short history

• No clear founding date, but some milestones
  – 1974 Central planning office founded
  – 1978 Development of first software product for circulation used by more than one library
  – 1984 First central catalogue of journals („Österreichische Zeitschriftendatenbank“)
  – 1987 BIBOS 2: Library management system based on central catalogue aims integrated library system

• Procurement process 1997 ended up with Aleph 500
  – Operational January 11 1999
  – Functional base of almost all services

• Increase in functionality and members

• Lots of cooperation beyond just Aleph
The Austrian Library Network: Participants

- 67 voting members of the General Assembly
  - representing 86 single institutions

- Starting with core of
  - Austrian National Library
  - 18 (now 21) Universities
  - Austrian Academy of Sciences
  - Verbund für Bildung und Kultur (Education of teachers)

- Additional members are from different types of scientific libraries
  - Research
  - Administrative
  - Governmental
The Austrian Library Network: Organisation

• Based on the law about the Central Office: „Die Österreichische Bibliothekenverbund und Service Gesellschaft m.b.H.“ (OBVSG)
  – Defined services for member institutions by law
  – Membership is voluntary for over 10 years now

• OBVSG
  – Independent of any member of the network
  – Represents the network
  – Provides and develops services
  – Tries to watch innovative trends and technologies
  – Rather strong position as an executive body

• General assembly
  – Every member represented, voting weight according to its „size“
  – Defined working groups (especially for strategic discussions)
  – Strategic decisions
  – OBVSG can veto decisions under defined circumstances

• Periodic meetings of system librarians/administrators and local system responsibles

• Homogeneity is a big surplus for the cooperation within the network
The Austrian Library Network: Data architecture [1] – Central system

- **Z39.50-Quellen**
  - Partnerverbünde in DE
- **Datenbezug Deutsche Nationalbibliothek**
- **BIB – Titeldaten**
- **ITM – Exemplardaten**
- **HOL - Zeitschriftenbestände**

Diagram:
- **HOL**
- **BIB**
- **ITM**
- **Aleph 500 Zentrales System**
- **Fremd-daten**
- **Norm-daten**
- **ZDB-daten**

- **HOL**
- **BIB**
- **ITM**

**Fremd-daten**

**Norm-daten**

**ZDB-daten**

**Z39.50-Quellen**

Partnerverbünde in DE

BIB – Titeldaten
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**Aleph 500**

Große Bibliotheken

**Aleph-Sharing**

Kleine Bibl. OBVSG

**Alephino**

Kleine Bibl. extern

**Lokalsysteme**

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**Online-Datenaustausch (Replikation)**

**Aleph 500** [Große Bibliotheken]

**Aleph-Sharing** [Kleine Bibl. OBVSG]

**Alephino** [Kleine Bibl. extern]
The Austrian Library Network: Funding

- No central budgets for the whole network anymore
- OBVSG gets an amount of 1,72 Mio € per year for defined basic services
  - Amount stayed the same for 12 years now; was never changed
- University Libraries get their budget from the university
- Universities negotiate contracts with the ministry for periods of three years
- Contrary to DFG in Germany infrastructure is not funded by research promotion agencies in Austria
- Every project has to be discussed and economically evaluated before realisation
- „Help yourself, so helps you god“
Main Step within the near future

- Full procurement on EU-level for the replacement of Aleph 500 is in preparation
  - Open for cloud solutions and classical architectures
  - Flexible procedure chosen („Verhandlungsverfahren mit vorheriger Bekanntmachung“)
  - OBVSG and a number of network members as official clients
  - Aim: replacement for Aleph 500 with all necessary functionalities

- Decision of the General Assembly to advice members for further providing their staff for examination of the offered systems

- Preparations nearly finished, Publication planned within the 4th quarter of 2013