Vienna University Library

is the largest library in Austria, holding over 7 million books. Vienna University Library is the academic information centre of Vienna University, whether you need historic texts or current research literature.

We are offering an extensive range of services to all university staff and students as well as to the general public.

Vienna University Library consists of the main library and 40 special libraries. Its holdings reflect the diversity of the academic subjects taught at Vienna University, and they are extended according to the university's research activities, teaching programmes and study requirements.

Our range of electronic resources (online journals, databases, etc.) is continuously being extended to ensure quick and direct access to international research publications. Copyright-free publications are being digitised and also made available over the Internet.

Welcome to Vienna University Library

The history of Vienna University Library has always been linked closely to that of Vienna University - starting with the foundation of the university in the year 1365, which made it possible to establish a university library in the German-speaking area. The so-called "university libraries" in Vienna were split into a number of faculties, and each faculty had its own "bibliothecarius", whose task was to protect the books from theft. Over the last remains of the university library, whose last books had been merged into the holdings of the Imperial library, were chained to the shelves ("libri catenati"), and borrowing them was possible only in very special circumstances.

Due to the personal and political changes that occurred during the 16th and 17th centuries, the university library experienced a decline, and the monopoly of the Jesuits on the university library, whose last books had been merged into the Imperial library, was broken. This was not changed until 1 January 2000, when the university library was put under the control of the rector of Vienna University.

Research Support

u:cris providing researchers of the University of Vienna with an easy tool to document and present their academic output

Open Access Office providing general support, publication services and funding for Open Access at the University of Vienna

u:scholar making scholarly content freely available with Vienna University's Institutional Repository

Bibliometrics and Publication Strategies supplying researchers at the University of Vienna with bibliometric data and assisting in its interpretation

Phaidra building a reliable long-term archive for digital data and resources at the University of Vienna
**Dates and facts**

- **1365**: Vienna University and the Vienna University Library are founded.
- **1884**: The main library opens in the new building on Vienna's Ringstrasse.
- **1989**: The online catalogue is introduced.
- **Today**: 7.4 million books, 400,000 e-books (licensed), 45,000 online journals (licensed), 600 databases (licensed), 120,000 registered users, 6.6 million loans (2016).

**Our Services**

**Reading areas**
The reading areas can be used to access all our holdings free of charge. Books that cannot be borrowed can also be accessed in the reading areas.

**Lending services**
A large number of our holdings can be borrowed. To use our lending services, a library card is required, which is available in the main library and many special libraries.

**Textbook collections**
Students of Austrian universities and colleges can borrow textbooks from our multi-copy textbook collections.

**Inter-library loans**
Books that are not available at any library in Vienna can be ordered through our inter-library loans service (for a fee).

**Support**
Our service „ubw:helpdesk and User Training“ supports you in your scientific research and offers advice on using online journals and databases.

**E-books on demand:**
We digitise copyright-free books and offer them in electronic form (for a fee).

**Training courses**

Vienna University Library offers introductory and subject-specific training courses to increase users’ information competence and thus their ability to access, select, evaluate and use information.

Information on current courses can be found at [bibliothek.univie.ac.at/schulungen](http://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/schulungen)

**Frequent events**

Vienna University Library is a frequent host to all kinds of events:

- Exhibitions, prepared in close co-operation with the research staff of Vienna University, present our valuable holdings.
- Panel discussions on socially relevant topics provide an intellectual exchange between the university and the general public.
- Readings, book presentations and symposiums offer contact to authors and scientists and provide insight into current topics.

Information on current events can be found at: [bibliothek.univie.ac.at/events](http://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/events)