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 14th century. Soon, each library had its own “bibliothecarius”, whose task was to protect the books from theft and damage. Due to the Ötztaler Wars in Europe and several other events, the university library declined during the 16th and 17th centuries. It was not until 1 January 2000, when the university library was put under the control of the rector of Vienna University, that the university library was fully integrated into the university's structure.

Vienna University Library consists of the main library and about 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.

Vienna University Library is continuously extending its range of electronic resources (online journals, databases, etc.) to ensure quick and direct access to international research publications. Copyright-free publications are digitised and also made available online.

Vienna University Library

Vienna University Library is the largest library in Austria, holding more than 7.6 million books. Whether historical texts or current research literature – Vienna University Library is the academic knowledge hub of Vienna University. It offers an extensive range of services to all university staff and students as well as to the general public.

Research Support

u:cris
The Current Research Information System (CRIS) of Vienna University Library provides researchers with an easy tool to document and present their academic output.

Open Access Office
Vienna University Library promotes unrestricted and free access to academic knowledge through publication services and funding for Open Access publishing.

u: scholar
With this institutional repository, Vienna University Library offers full text access to academic output generated by Vienna University to the general public.

Bibliometrics
The Bibliometrics and Publication Strategies unit provides researchers, institutes, faculties and other decision-makers with bibliometric data and advises in their assessment.

Phaidra
The university-wide repository with long-term archiving function makes it possible to store, document and archive data from research and teaching permanently.

AUSSDA
This data infrastructure for the social science community in Austria offers a variety of research support services, primarily data archiving and help with data re-use.

E-Theses
All theses and dissertations that have been positively assessed at the University of Vienna since 2008 are listed here. A large part of the writings is freely available online.

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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 • 7.6 million books • approx. 1 million licenced e-books • over 500 licenced databases • over 82,000 licenced e-journals

Our Services

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

Lending services
A large part of our holdings can be borrowed. To use our lending services, a library card (= u:card) is required. It can be obtained via the online portal u:space.

Electronic Resources
Members of Vienna University can access electronic resources from anywhere via u:access. Other users can access the extensive online portfolio at research computers on university premises.

Textbook collections
Students of Austrian universities and other educational institutions can borrow textbooks from multi-copy textbook collections.

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

Research support
The service „ubw:helpdesk and User Training“ offers support with scientific research and advice on using online journals and databases.

E-books on demand
Copyright-free books from the library’s holdings can be digitised and provided 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:

bibliothek.univie.ac.at/en/schulungen

Events

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

• Readings, book presentations and symposia offer contact to authors and scientists and provide insight into current topics.
• Panel discussions on socially relevant issues provide a platform for intellectual exchange between the university and the general public.
• Exhibitions, prepared in close co-operation with the research staff of Vienna University, present the library’s valuable holdings.

Information on current events:

bibliothek.univie.ac.at/events