

Dr. Monika Knofler
Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien

The challenges for Austrian University Museums and Collections within the University Law 2002

The implementation of the University Law 2002 has, since 2004, fundamentally changed the legal as well as the economic situation of the Austrian Universities. For the University Museums and Collections, these changes bring challenges and dangers, as up to now their mission within the Universities has not been clearly defined. Many of them have been affected by the changes, not only from a legal point of view, but also in their position within the universities.

Which are the major changes which have affected University Collections?

- The autonomy of universities

The relationship between state and universities was re-defined to implement the Bologna declaration of 1999. The influence of the state is now reduced to the legal framework and the legal supervision and control. Within this framework universities can define their own organisation. The obligation of the basic funding remains with the Federal Government, the framework of the university autonomy is the performance contract, together with a three years guaranteed global budget. The autonomy requires an efficient and solely responsible university management.

- The implementation of new management

This consists of the board, determined by both the senate and the ministry, the senate elected by the university staff and the rector, who is appointed by the board after recommendations from the senate which are not binding. The power of decision is now within the rector as the highest superior of the entire university personnel.

In all Austrian Universities the rectors were newly appointed. In some cases the former rector was approved, in others the whole management was replaced, with both Austrian and foreign candidates.

- The introduction of the SAP system

The former accounting system has been replaced by SAP, which enables precise analyses of costs. All beside the global budget regenerated income is now included. This is prepared by the so called "Teilrechtsfähigkeit" principle, whereby all income remains within the institution and can be used without any restrictions for publications, collection, acquisitions of art works etc. Since 2004 it depends on the respective Rectors, but basically the expected income has to be declared in the budget of the museum/collection and can only be used in accordance with the allocated budget.

There are very few Austrian University Museums/Collections which are in the position to achieve additional income through reproduction and loan fees or fundraising events. This possibility is mainly restricted to collections which have their own premises and museum structures.

- Bologna Process

The purpose of the restructure of European universities since the Bologna declaration 1999 is to create a common European university space. "Management in stead of administration" are the key words of this European trend. Critical voices also talk about an "economizing" of universities.

Public Universities in Austria

Due to the small size of Austria with only 8.3 Million inhabitants, the overview of the Universities is done rapidly, as they are mostly limited to the main cities: Vienna, Graz, Linz, Salzburg and Innsbruck. The exceptions are Leoben and Krems. In total there are 23 public universities and 8 private ones. The following list gives you an overview of the Austrian University Museums/Collections, which is surely not complete. In preparing for this conference I started my research of the collections through the internet, personal contacts and during some courier trips, which have enabled me to visit a fair number. But from the example of the University of Vienna which owns approximately 150 collections, I am convinced that there are many more hidden collections in the universities of Innsbruck, Graz and

Salzburg. It is a desideratum that this conference will be the starting point of a survey of all the collections and that the initiative of the University of Vienna will be followed by other universities. As a first step, our Chair Cornelia Weber, has installed a special platform within the context of her website.

Public Universities in Austria

Graz

Karl-Franzens-University
University of Technology
Medical University

Innsbruck

Leopold-Franzens-University
Medical University

Leoben

Montan University

Linz

Art University

Salzburg

Paris-Lodron-University

Vienna

Academy of Fine Arts
Medical University Vienna
University of Applied Arts
University of Technology
University Vienna
University of Veterinary Medicine

Private Universities

Catholic-Theological Private University, Linz
Anton-Bruckner Private University, Linz
New Design University, Private University, St. Pölten
Paracelsus Private Medical University, Salzburg
PEF Private Management University, Vienna
Sigmund Freud Private University, Vienna
UMIT – Private University for Health, Medical Information and Technology, Vienna
Webster University Vienna

Austrian University Museums/Collections (without the University Vienna)

GRAZ

Karl-Franzens-University

Botanic Garden
Collection of Originals and Casts
Hans Gross Criminal Museum
Herbarium
Physics Collection

University of Music and Performance

Institute of Music-Ethnology

University of Technology

Institute of Experimental Physics

Medical University

Institute of Forensic Medicine

INNSBRUCK

Leopold-Franzens-University

Alpine Garden Patscherkofel
„Archiv für Baukunst“
Art Collection
Botanical Garden
Brenner Archiv
Museum of Casts and Collection of Originals
Physics Collection

Medical University
Anatomical Museum

LEOBEN

University of Mining, Metallurgy and Materials
Mineralogical and Petrological Collection

LINZ

Art University Linz
Collections of the Art University Linz

SALZBURG

Paris-Lodron-University
Archaeological Collections
Botanical Garden
Derra de Moroda, Dance Archives
University Library

University Mozarteum
Collections

VIENNA

Academy of Fine Arts
Picture Gallery
Graphic Collection

University of Applied Arts
Collections

University of Economy
Advertising Archive

University of Music and Performance
Vazquez Collection of Historical Instruments

University of Soil Cultivation
Botanical Garden

University of Technology
University Archive

University Vienna – not listed (see Claudia Feigl's paper)

Medical University

Forensic Medicine Museum
Medical History Museum – Josephinum
Collection of the International Nitze-Leiter Research Society of Endoscopy
Ethnomedical Collection
Collection of Anaesthesia and Intensive Medicine

University of Veterinary Medicine

Botanical Garden

“Narrenturm”

Federal Museum of Pathological Anatomy

Kind of Collections

Arts	15
Botany	14
History	13
Medicine	7
Archaeology	4
Ethnography	4
Pharmacy	3
Musicology	2
Numismatic	2
Anthropology	2
Prae-history	2
Zoology	2
Astronomy	1
Chemistry	1
Criminal	1
Dance	1
Egyptology	1
Ethnology	1
History of Science	1
Mathematics	1
Mineralogie/ Petrographie	1
Palaeontology	1
Physics	1

Function

It is a general phenomenon, that the initial objectives which led to the foundation of most of the University collections are no longer applicable, as most of them are not used any more for teaching. This concerns mainly the sciences, rather less the humanities. Beside the art and anatomical collections and the Crime Museum in Graz very view of the others are open to the public. Very view are still used for courses and research, but even one of these like the Archaeological Collection Vienna, has been without a curator since spring.

The main challenge of the new university law will be to re-establish the collections within the curricula and re-define their *raison d'être*. The wish for this tighter link comes definitely from the curators, but until now has not been expressed by the teaching bodies, which sometimes are not even aware of the quantity and quality of the different collections

The re-integration of the collections is vital for their survival in times when cost factors govern decisions. Universities are not only losing their history of the sciences, but also significant funds. The responsibilities for heritage has to be enforced and conveyed to management and finally to the government.

In the last four years since the implementation of the new law and the restructure of the universities the situation of the collections has been very difficult and the survival of some of them is still not secure. It is evident that many changes, like new structures, a sufficient budget, up-to-date

presentation, public relations etc. are necessary and sometimes overdue, to make them attractive both for students and visitors.

But there are also challenges for both the universities and the collection, to use them as public relation tools, windows to the public and bridges from the past to the present. The major change in the attitude towards the university has to come from the top management and the government. That's why an international conference like this one, the UMAC network and a national platform is vital to insure the survival of many of the University collections in Austria.

University collections are the visual memory of the heritage and the development of sciences of all universities. Their neglect or denial means the neglect and denial of their own history.

Needs

There is the need for a budget, the need for collection guidelines and the need for clearly defined job descriptions for curators. At the moment it depends entire on the head of the department or the policy of the respective university, if the work dedicated to the collection is applicable for ECTS point. In some collections there are appointed curators, in others all work linked with the collections has to be done outside the office hours.

Future Actions

- Create a databank of all Austrian University Museums/Collections
- Create a platform
- Increase public awareness through media, exhibitions etc.
- Increase the significance of university collections
- Increase the responsibility for heritage