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**THE VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE LIBRARY:
VARIETY AT WORK
By Wendy Bartlett**

The Vienna International Centre (VIC) Library serves all of the UN organizations at the VIC and the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Seibersdorf and Monaco Laboratories. The IAEA and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization are the largest agencies at the VIC. Others include the UN Drug Control Program, the UN Office of Legal Affairs International Trade Law Branch and Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the Office of Outer Space Affairs (OOSA), the UN Office in Vienna (UNOV) and smaller groups of UNESCO, UNCSDHA and UNHCR.

All UN organizations recruit staff from all of their member states. At present the 32 VIC Library staff represent 17 different nationalities. This cultural diversity creates a very stimulating working environment and a particular need to communicate clearly both verbally and in writing. The working language of the IAEA is English, but even American English differs from English English and Australian English!

The subject areas in which we work are as various as the organization names listed above may suggest. Apart from all aspects of nuclear science, we also work

in the industrial development field which includes economics, technologies and legal issues. Economic information about countries of the world, both very current and historical, is a major interest of our UNIDO users. Other topics covered include outer space affairs and technologies; trade law; drug abuse, control and criminal aspects; peace-keeping and disarmament and many aspects of social conditions and issues around the world. Of course, as almost everywhere, environmental science and technology, sustainable development, and related international issues are also of great interest to many of our user groups.

To serve these information needs we currently subscribe to 3900 journal titles, and we have 97,000 monographs, 650,000 technical reports in microfiche and hard-copy, 1.19 million documents (largely documents of the UN and its specialized agencies), and 700 videorecordings. All of this does not meet all of the needs of our users, and so inter-library loans are also a major activity of this library. As somewhat of an English-language outpost in the middle of Europe, we rely very much on our fellow UN organization libraries, such as FAO in Rome and WHO in Geneva for interlibrary loan transactions,

as well as document delivery agencies like the British Library Document Supply Centre. We also enjoy good inter-library loan relations with several libraries here in Vienna and the rest of Austria, especially the university libraries.

In order to identify relevant information not held in our Library, we, like most other modern libraries, subscribe to many database vendors such as DIALOG, ESA/IRS, Questel, FT Profile, and ECHO, and we also subscribe to CD-ROM titles including NTIS and Computer Select. In co-operation with the Computing Section of the IAEA, we have implemented the first stage of what we hope will be a VIC-wide CD-ROM network.

Our co-operative activity also extends to close liaison with several smaller libraries throughout the VIC. UNDCP and UNCITRAL, for example, have their own collections, and we work closely with their librarians to co-ordinate service to users and selection of materials. In fact, for many of these libraries we do all of the ordering and processing of materials as well. We also have colleagues at the Seibersdorf and Monaco Laboratories with whom we liaise closely to provide the best service to our remote users.

We also enjoy good and stimulating co-operative activities with other information-oriented groups at the VIC including, for example, the producers of the AGRIS and INIS databases.

Our contact with the local Viennese community, beyond interlibrary loan activity, extends to

providing access to use the collection for post-graduate students who would not find the materials elsewhere in Vienna, and, to some limited extent, to interaction with our library colleagues. For example, every two years we have a class of Library and Information Science students from the Austrian National Library who tour our Library. We, in turn, send groups of our Library staff for a general tour of the National Library or for discussions with particular sections on particular issues.

So variety is a major contributor to the stimulation, challenge, interest and fun of working in the VIC Library. Auf wiedersehen.

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