

The Austrian biographical dictionary - The different types of presentation

The „Austrian Biographical Dictionary 1815-1950“ has appeared in traditional print-version since 1954 and at the moment comprises 61 issues with more than 17,000 articles from „A“ to „Strat“.

In 2003, the online-edition of the dictionary was started in cooperation with the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press and the Institute for Information Systems and Computer Media at the University of Technology in Graz. At first, this version included only the index of all published biographies; in 2004 it was expanded to encompass the PDFs of the printed articles. In July 2009, this version – with the exception of the two last issues of the dictionary – was made freely available in the internet. A new and improved edition (that transforms the PDF-files into XML-structured data), called „Premiumversion“, will start at the end of 2010. This service will be available for a fee and will offer full-text search, revised and updated entries of the earlier issues, and completely new articles.

This new project is supported by the new information system „e-OeBL“: this database offers, besides many other technical features, the possibility of generating XML-files from text modules and datasets directly out of the data-system and transferring them to the publisher. Moreover one has the option of creating at anytime different versions of the records, which then reflect different levels of information.

Another type of presentation is the „Intranet“. This website contains information from our own database and includes – in addition to all published articles – selected and reviewed records of different kinds from the biographical compilation of our institute. Access to the dataset content can be provided on different levels, beginning with access only to the dates of birth and death and going up through the total amount of available information; automatic access to the total database content is not foreseen. You can use the „Intranet“ currently only within the network of the Austrian Academy of Sciences; but for our co-operation partners and for other research institutions we plan to provide open access by registration.