

Austrian-U.S. Librarian Experience Opportunity 2020

Since 2018 the American Library Association (ALA) and Büchereiverband Österreichs (BVÖ, Austrian Library Association) are working together to enable Austrian librarians to visit libraries in the US.

The objective of these visits is to give Austrian librarians an idea of library science practices in the United States.

These visits are facilitated by the ALA at the request of Austrian librarians informed of the opportunity.

The ALA

- serves as initial point of contact in United States
- contacts the American libraries which interest the Austrian librarians wishing to visit the United States and secures commitment of a host library
- helps answering questions for both librarian and libraries

Language

For the Austrian librarians, a good command of English is necessary.

Costs

The costs of the visit, such as airfare (will be booked by BVÖ), housing and food (allowance depending on the location) are to a certain extent, covered by BVÖ. It would be desirable that the institutions of participants consider these visits as work days. The host library is not responsible for funding any part of the exchange visit.

Time frame

The participants will visit a library/libraries in the US for a length of approximately four weeks. The librarian remains dependent on his mother institution.

Process

The first contact is established through the BVÖ by the Austrian librarian interested in visiting a library in the US. The ALA has the responsibility to

- find out the field(s) in which the Austrian librarian is interested
- contact the libraries able to offer this possibility
- inform the Austrian candidate of the results of its inquiries
- once the Austrian librarian has come to a decision, he/she should contact the library direct which interests him and personally settle the various formalities with the institution.

The host library takes charge of

- organizing the work schedule of the visit by reaching an agreement of the expectation on both sides

- organizing in its institution the possibility for the Austrian visitor to see different aspects of the library science practices
- helping the candidate to find lodging options
- providing information on the basic living necessities such as health insurance

The Library in Austria

- guarantees the candidate his usual salary (including social and pension plan benefits) during the length of his/her stay for one month in the US.

On the spot, the Austrian librarian covers his current expenses (for example medical costs, leisure activities).

The participant will

- write blog posts which will be published on the website of BVÖ (in German)
- write a short report back to ALA and BVÖ (in English)
- write an article for the BVÖ-Journal Büchereiperspektiven (in German)
- deliver a presentation about the experience at a BVÖ/VÖB Conference in Austria (in German)
- ensure that the experience benefits a broader librarian public (e.g. by lectures, articles, contributions in discussions,...)

There is no legal claim for granting this scholarship. Decisions are made by a jury.

Deadline for applications: **26. March 2020**

Applications by mail to: Susanne List-Tretthahn, E-Mail: list-tretthahn@bvoe.at