

Annex 2

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Legal Information System (RIS)

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Federal Chancellery of Austria
Brigitte Barotanyi



Legal Information System (RIS)

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- German abbreviation for “RechtsInformationsSystem” (legal information system)
- service for citizens, business and administration
- electronic database operated by the Federal Chancellery; available on the Internet since 1997
- information platform on the current law in the Republic of Austria
- publication of the Federal Law Gazettes
- Free of charge
- <http://www.ris.bka.gv.at>



History of RIS

- 1983: decision within the Federal Chancellery to build up the RIS, first concepts
- 1986: beginning of data input
first contents: law of the civil servants
- First technical platform: IBM host system
- Access first only for BKA internal; later for the whole administration (Intranet)
- Some parts of the RIS contents were made available for public by RDB (private company) and (the former) Official Printing Office (1991)
- June 1997: public access via Internet; and Intranet (for the administration) version
- 2008: Large Relaunch



- 2008: RIS Relaunch
 - data management in XML
 - New modern layout according to international accessibility standards (eg WAI)
 - representation of tables and graphics
 - better readable fonts (new font Verdana instead of Courier)
 - representation of the documents in 3 file formats (HTML, PDF, RTF)
 - Easy and advanced search functions
 - better highlighting of search phrases within the text
 - create current version of legal act for any date



Applications

- 39 different databases
- Individual search forms for each application
- General search like Google for citizens (available from August)
- Accessible to people with disabilities (WAI-A according to WCAG 1.0)
- No complicated query language



Applications

- Availability of three different file formats (RTF, PDF and HTML)
- High performance search with MS SQL Server 2008
- All documents are public, the decisions of the courts are anonymous
- Online help and comprehensive manuals for each application



Applications

- Supported browsers:
IE 6.0 upwards, Firefox 3.0 upwards and Opera 10.x
- Contact points for questions (technical & content)
- No complicated query language
- Developed with Microsoft .NET 3.5
- Free of charge
- Possible access with mobile devices (e.g. Smart phones)



Applications

- It's possible to set external hyperlinks to each RIS document
- Hyperlinks to external web sites (e.g. Parliament, Regional Governments)
- About 90 important Federal Laws are translated into English
<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Englische-Rv/>
- Catalog of Hyperlinks to e.g. Austrian ministries, EU bodies, law relevant web sites



Overview Databases

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- Federal Law Gazettes (authentic since 2004)
- Draft bills, Government bills
- Federal Law
- State Law
- State Law Gazettes
- Municipal Law
- Jurisdiction
- other databases



Federal Law Gazettes DIGITAL AUSTRIA

- Collection of justice laws (1780 – 1848)
external Link to the Austrian Nat. Library
- Law Gazettes (1849 – 1940)
external Link to the Austrian Nat. Library
- German Imperial Law Gazette (1938 – 1945)
external Link to the Austrian Nat. Library
- Federal Law Gazettes (1945 – 2003)
- Federal Law Gazettes (authentic since 2004)



- consolidated versions
(incorporation of amendments)
- historic time layers
- not authentic



- consolidated versions for each State:
 - Burgenland
 - Carinthia
 - Lower Austria
 - Upper Austria
 - Salzburg
 - Styria
 - Tyrol
 - Vorarlberg
 - Vienna



- not authentic in contrast to Federal Law Gazettes
- State Law Gazettes of seven States:
 - Burgenland
 - Carinthia
 - Upper Austria
 - Salzburg
 - Styria
 - Tyrol
 - Vorarlberg
 - Vienna (*external Link to Vienna City Administration*)



- only selected documents are available
- consolidated versions for some municipalities of:
 - Carinthia
 - Lower Austria
 - Salzburg
 - Styria
 - Vienna



- Jurisdiction of:
 - Constitutional Court
 - Administrative Court
 - Supreme Court and district courts, courts of 1st instance, courts of appeal
- Decisions of:
 - Independent Administrative Tribunals
 - Independent Federal Asylum Board
 - Independent Financial Tribunal (*external Link*)
 - Environmental Tribunal
 - Federal Communications Board
 - Procurement Review Authorities
 - Appeals Tribunal and Supreme Disciplinary Commission
 - Data Protection Commission
 - Supervisory Tribunal for Employees' Representation



Other databases

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- Selected edicts (decrees) of the federal ministries
- Selected Austrian federal laws in English translation
- Link to EUR-Lex (European Union Law Database)



Authentic version of the Gazette

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- Some additional information of each Gazette e.g. title, date of publication, number of Gazette
- Electronic signature (XML file)
- Some Gazettes are composed of several documents (e.g. annexes)
- Several file formats (PDF, HTML, RTF, signed version)



Number of RIS documents

Selection of RIS applications:

- Federal Law Gazettes (authentic)
5.200 documents
- Federal Law Gazettes (not authentic)
32.800 documents
- Federal Law – consolidated version
297.000 documents
- Jurisdiction of the 3 high courts in Austria
598.000 documents (decisions)



Access of RIS documents per month

Selection of RIS applications:

- Federal Law Gazettes (authentic)
265.000 document accesses
- Federal Law Gazettes (not authentic)
134.000 document accesses
- Federal Law – consolidated version
37.842.345 document accesses
- Jurisdiction of the 3 high courts in Austria
2.340.000 document accesses



Statistical Data

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Total data size of all RIS-applications

- about 50 GB

