



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 2014 General Conference – Varna-Albena, Bulgaria

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Subject	Progress Report: Dokumentationsarchiv Funk / Documentary Archive Radio Communications		
Society		Country:	Austria
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Progress Report: Dokumentationsarchiv Funk / Documentary Archive Radio Communications

Reference: IARU Region 1, 2011 Regional Conference, Sun City, Paper number: SC11_C3_25

“In recognition of the Vienna *Documentary Archive Radio Communication*’s long standing record of collecting, preserving, investigating, researching and publishing in breath and depth, all kinds of documentation relevant to the history and development of amateur radio ...

(1) Mandates the *Archive*...

(a) To establish contacts with and between the national member organisations’ archivists and historians, to improve communication in all relevant matters, and to coordinate joint efforts to be at the service of the ham community;

(b) to become a Clearing House, keeping archives, making available and administer all kinds of documentation and archivalia, by means of a central library, reference source of printed and virtual publications, information databases, etc., – for immediate utilization by IARU, its member organisations, and the public at large;

(c) To hold in trust estates, donations, individual collections etc. of historical importance whenever neither IARU nor a member organization is in a position to keep or maintain such material.

(2) Invites all member organisations to support the project by submitting applicable materials, such as documents relating to the organisation’s history and activities, complimentary archive copies of their past and present publications, periodicals, etc.;

(3) Allowing for the start-up, establishment of an appropriate infrastructure, and maintaining the project, assists financially with an annual contribution of 3 000 CHF; and calls upon its member organisations to make an allowance of their own;

(4) Entitles its Austrian member organization, ÖeVSV, one of the *Archive*’s founding members and trustee, to survey the designated use of all donations, and to submit, upon request, progress reports to IARU’s relevant bodies.”

General

The *Archive* started immediately to provide both the necessary space and infrastruc-

ture to accommodate and duly file all new arrivals, and, as a first and firm step, to collect and systematically re-deploy all already existing archivalia. This initial process is now completed.

There is ample space available at the *Archive's* premises in the outskirts of Vienna, and expansion is only subject to available funds for room rent, racks, containers for archivalia, furniture, etc.

Likewise, the extend and intensity of filing, researching, documenting and publishing the *Archive's* wealth and treasures depend on its capacity to recruit full timers, and not to rely on volunteers only.

Ad 1/a

Our appeal to establish a working group of the national IARU organisations' archivists and historians met no response at all – either because such persons do not exist, or those concerned did not bother to nominate them. (This is symptomatic for the general attitude towards all aspects of preserving and chronicle the history of amateur radio – understandable when the priorities are to just keep the ship afloat, but deplorable in view of our responsibility to pass on the tradition to future generations.)

Ad 1/b

For the *Archive's* achievements so far, we suggest you consult our web site www.dokufunk.org, even though it presents just a fraction of archival contents. Anyway, we are proud to say that we lived and live up to expectations and claim to be in the top rank, worldwide, of comparable institutions.

A few examples to illustrate the *Archive's* activities:

- The *QSL Collection* currently preserves nine million cards, with about 250.000 new arrivals p.a.
- Entrusted by the *YASME Foundation*, the *Archive* maintains the *Lloyd & Iris Colvin's Collection* of 750 000 cards for roughly one million contacts - probably the world's largest individual collection.
- On file are about 100 ham-related *bulletins and periodicals* (of a total of 250), hardcopy and virtual (250 000 index lines, approximately 100 000 pages scanned so far);
- The *Archive's* library is fully researchable on the web site;
- There is a huge amount of *archivalia of all kinds*: documents (hardcopy and virtual), audio, photo and video content...;
- *Databases* for Austria, Germany (1920 - 1945, GDR), Switzerland and special collections (IOTA, Scouting, celebrities...) currently include 750 000 key words;
- The *Archive* provides a multi-media-equipped *reading room* for local studies and public access to 14 000+ items on its *web appearance* www.dokufunk.org

Ad 1/c

The *Archive* currently cares for approximately 750 amateur radio-related estates, donations, dedications, etc., (of a total of 1 500), almost entirely provided by individual donors themselves. Regrettably there is only little support from national IARU or-

ganisations, to encourage their members to dedicate their private collection, now or at a later stage.

So far the *Archive* does not keep substantial corpora of archival material provided by IARU member organisations.

Ad 2

Complimentary copies of national magazines (hardcopy and/or virtual, sometimes also a set of former issues) and some other applicable material (CD's, publications...) are provided only from the IARU member organisations and publishers in Austria, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the USA. It is unfortunate that so few organisations have followed the *Archive's* appeal for support.

Ad 3

The *YASME Foundation* awarded a nonrecurring grant of \$4 000 for the continued maintenance of the *Lloyd & Iris Colvin's Collection*.

The *Archive* receives annual financial contributions from USKA, Switzerland (1 000 CHF, to maintain the Swiss Database); ÖeVSV, Austria, Vienna branch (ca. 600 €); UBA, Belgium (250 €); DARC, Germany, 2 local branches (80 €). It is needless to say that, in addition to the IARU contribution of 3 000 CHF p.a., a total of just 1 600 € does not even cover the minimum requirements to maintain the *Archive*. It is unlikely that the *Archive's* Board will continue much longer to grant a substantial subsidy to the *IARU Project*. Unless financial support will be raised considerably, some activities may be curtailed. Input matches output.

Ad 4

ÖeVSV's delegates to the *Archive's* Board have unrestricted access to the books and accounts. They have and exercise their voting power in all decisions of the Board.

Vienna, 08 September 2014

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Curator

Appendix: Pictorial presentation of *Dokumentationsarchiv Funk*



Documentary Archive Radio Communications



QSL Museum (partial view)



YASME/Colvin Collection (partial view)



Documentation racks (partial view)





QSL Archive (1 room of 4)



Archive Periodicals

Archive Paper Clippings



Library (Partial view)



Media Section / Studio



Server/Storage



Sample Database



www.dokufunk.org



Book scanner



Repro



Data input



Office



Everything that you find here would not be available had we not kept it.
Two generations of people today share an immediate memory.
From the third generation of mankind, we only have memories of memories