

Gerald Leitner

Since 1998 Gerald Leitner is Chief Executive of the Austrian Library Association responsible for managing all services, as well as strategic and operational processes for the association and its Vienna office, which is staffed by a team of 15. The Austrian Library Association has 2800 member libraries and represents their interests nationally and internationally, while also providing a range of services.

Gerald Leitner studied literature and history at the University of Vienna. After his studies he worked as journalist, chief editor of the Austrian Library magazine and head of training for public librarians in Austria.

In senior positions at international organisations (e.g. President of the European Library Association, EBLIDA) and in Austria's culture, science and educational sectors he acquired comprehensive knowledge nationally as well as internationally.

In addition to his activities as SG of the Austrian Library Association he is giving lectures at several universities with the aim to pass on his expertise and knowledge, and to be inspired by the questions of students. It has been a priority not to lose touch with younger generations; to understand their needs, ideas and aspirations.

Gerald Leitner is editor of numerous publications on cultural management, library development and science, copyright laws and literature promotion in German and English. Several of these are also published in French, Italian, Dutch and Spanish. He has given numerous presentations at national and international conferences in more than 30 countries.

He received several high awards, e.g. the Austrian State Award for Public Relations for the concept, creation and organisation of "Austria reads. Meeting point library" - Austria's largest literary festival.

With extensive professional training, more than 25 years of work experience in the library field, and his international activities Gerald Leitner has an in-depth knowledge of the global library scene.