

Gerald Leitner

Austria

*BVÖ, Büchereiverband Österreichs
(Austrian Library Association)*

Education:

Gerald Leitner studied German Language and Literature and History at the University of Vienna. He also holds a certificate in LIS.

Professional experience:

Gerald Leitner worked for Austrian newspapers and magazines, and was a lecturer at the College for Information and Knowledge Management in Eisenstadt. He was responsible for the education of librarians in public libraries in Austria and was involved in many EU-funded projects.

Since 1998, he is Secretary General of the Austrian Library Association.

Gerald Leitner was President of EBLIDA from 2005 to 2012 (two terms) and as from 2012, he is Member of EBLIDA's Executive Committee and Chair of Task force on E-books.

Since 2011, he is chair of IFLA MLAS (Management of Library Association Section) and IFLA Governing Board member

He has published numerous articles and books about library management and copyright. Besides his activities in the field of library and information science, Gerald Leitner's personal interests lie in the relation between politics and literature. He is also President of the Austrian society for political education, and has published numerous books in this field.

Prizes:

He won the Austrian national award for education and vocational training for adults, and the Bruno Kreisky award for political books.

He is the initiator and organizer of Austria's biggest reading campaign 'Austria reads. Meeting Point Library', which has been awarded with the Austrian State Award for Public Relations 2008.

It was the first time that this award, assigned by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Economics, whose list of awardees from the last 25 years reads like the "Who is Who" of Austria's biggest companies, has been given to an educational institution. – A sensational success for the libraries. And it demonstrates that libraries are able to compete with the campaigns of large enterprises and industrial companies and shows: Libraries have an enormous potential!

Languages: German and English