

Library of the Astronomical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic

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It is the oldest astronomical library in Bohemia. Its activity started in the year **1751**, as a reference library of the **Jesuits College Observatory**—called **Klementinum**. However, the Jesuits Order was forbidden in the year 1773 and the library collections were transferred to **”Observatorium Regium Pragense.”** The Observatorium began international publication exchange in the year **1841**.

After the formation of the Czechoslovakian State in **1918**, the library collections became property of the **State Observatory of Czechoslovakia**.

In **1954** the State Observatory was incorporated into the newly created Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and renamed **”Astronomical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences”** and was moved with its library to an observatory at **Ondřejov**, which had been originally a private observatory of **Josef Jan Frič**. The library of the Astronomical Institute was enriched by books of Frič and also by legacy of Frič’s friend Professor **Vojtěch Šafařík**.

The present library has the statutes of an institute research library. By its nature it is a depositary library for the staff of the Astronomical Institute. However, it loans also publications by inter-library lending and by international loan. The library is connected to Internet and will participate on the project **LINCA—Library Information Network of Czech Academy of Sciences** which will interconnect libraries of all institutes of the Academy.

Nowadays the book stock contains **88.439** units which are classically catalogued. Recent book acquisitions are catalogued under the **TINLIB software**. This year the library old catalogues are being converted into electronic form. The library collaborates with other institutions with similar thematical fields not only in Czech Republic, but also with many libraries abroad. At present we exchange publications with about **400** institutions abroad.

Library publishes following series:

- Preprints
- Time and Latitude Circulars
- Publications of basic reseach
- History series "Scripta Astronomica."

In the series "Scripta Astronomica", a two volumes "**Catalogue of old prints**" was published by **Miroslav Jarolím** in **1986, 1995**. A Bibliographic description of **253** titles of old prints published before and including the year **1800** are presented in the Catalogue (in Czech, with English abstracts).