Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA

Swiss Federal Office of Culture FOC

Swiss National Library NL

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2015

SNL Mission statement
 The Swiss National Library is responsible for collecting and making available to the public, now and in the future, Helvetica i.e. documents (in all formats, printed or digital) published in Switzerland or produced elsewhere by Swiss authors or concerning Switzerland / Swiss people.

1.   Mandate

Since January 1st 2006, the NL has had the status of a new public management entity and is run according to a performance mandate and global budget (MPM). Within this, it retains its dual mandate: collecting documents and preserving for the future; but also making them available to the public. This is reflected in the two product groups of the NL: *collections* and *user services*. In contrast with other national libraries, part of the NL's mandate is to allow users to borrow material for home use (with some restrictions).

2.   Analogue collection

The NL continues to collect Helvetica on all storage media, guaranteeing their long-term preservation in their original form and their ongoing readability. Although online publishing is growing, over 12 000 new books were published in Switzerland in 2015[1]. Contrary to what might be expected, this figure is more or less stable over time. User demand for printed works remains strong. Surveys carried out by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office counted 44.5 million loans across all library categories in 2014[2], the majority of them involving printed documents.

3.   Digital collection

The collection of digitally born publications is the fastest-growing of all the NL's collections – even though collection is carried out selectively. As in the previous year, the digital collection roughly doubled in size. The amount of storage space occupied rose from 5.3 TB to 10.0 TB. In all, 80 016 publications were available at the end of 2015 (2014: 54 070). Approximately half of these are digitally born publications, many of them websites.

The remainder are digitised versions of printed works, predominantly monographs. The spectrum of the collection is continually being broadened. Since 2015, technical refinements have enabled large websites to be collected as well. The number of archived websites also rose during the year, thanks to the introduction of partially automated quality control, which enabled the processing time from collection to archiving of a website to be shortened. The web platform *e-Helvetica Deposit* was also built up; from early 2016, this should allow self-publishers and small publishers to submit their e-books.

4.   Innovation in access to content and new approaches to the collection

Above and beyond making its content and metadata available free of charge, wherever possible the NL also encourages their re-use. For example, it is involved in the Swiss open government data portal[3], publishes attractive images on Wikimedia Commons[4], the media collection of Wikipedia, and supplied its data for the cultural data "hackathon", an experimental event for software developers, described below. It is part of the Metagrid[5] project, which aims to

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[1] See appendix to the Annual Report, available at http://www.nb.admin.ch/annual report
[2] http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/de/index/themen/16/02/02/data.html, retrieved on 19.2.2016
[3] https://opendata.swiss/en/organization/schweizerische-nationalbibliothek-nb
[4] https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Media_contributed_by_the_Swiss_National_Library
[5] www.metagrid.ch

interlink a wide spectrum of resources for the humanities. The Bibliography on Swiss History has recently been linked to the portal Rechtsquellen Online[6], the collection of Swiss law source materials.

The First Swiss Open Cultural Data Hackathon which took place on 27 / 28 February 2015 at the NL was a great success: some 100 software developers, artists, designers, researchers, Wikipedians, and members of the heritage sector gathered to re-use more than 30 open data sets. The data and content provided by over 20 different institutions, including the NL, was re-used in a wide range of fields: for research purposes in the Digital Humanities and related areas, for the transmission of free knowledge in the context of Wikipedia/Wikimedia, for a variety of web-apps, and for artistic remixes. The hackathon was also an excellent means for heritage institutions to enter into dialogue with software developers, researchers, Wikipedians, and to put cultural data and digitized collections to wider use. And, last but not least, the hackathon was about sharing know-how, insights, software code, and techniques in an open-minded and playful environment among participants of varying backgrounds.

One outcome of the day was the Gugelmann Galaxy, "Schweizer Kleinmeister – An Unexpected Journey[7]" showing a large image collection in an interactive 3D-visualisation: Some 2300 prints and drawings by the "Schweizer Kleinmeister" (Swiss 18th century masters) from the NL's Gugelmann Collection form a cloud in the virtual space. The images are grouped according to specific parameters that are automatically calculated by image analysis and based on metadata. The goal is to provide a fast and intuitive access to the entire collection. Based on the criterion of analysis chosen (e.g. techniques or image features) the images are projected onto 3D space, where they can be explored.

In 2015 the NL held a day-long Sunday event: invited guests explained how they created new works in, or thanks to, the NL. Simon Jäggi, the singer of the band Kummerbuben, revealed how he researched old Swiss songs in the NL, re-used them and is now interpreting them for a contemporary audience. Wilfried Meichtry offered an insight into the genesis of his biography of Mani Matter, which drew on the resources of the SLA.
For some time, the NL has been experimenting with the production of three-dimensional data. The first visible result was a three-dimensional projection of artists' books during the Sunday opening day, which visitors could view from all sides using hand movements[8]. Also on display was the Gugelmann Galaxy, which was created at the cultural data hackathon in February. A web app for mobile devices was also developed for that day, offering an insight into the various collections.

Postcards provide a glimpse of Switzerland as it used to be. The NL has coordinated the project to develop the "Swiss Postcard" app which allows users discover Swiss towns from 1900. It is available cost free for smartphones and tablets running on iOS or Android. "Swiss Postcard" presents a selection of postcards from the collections of cantonal libraries and the NL. When the app is launched it displays postcards of nearby towns. Users can also browse a map of Switzerland or search for a specific place. They can share cards via social networks or send them by email or MMS, or can even have them printed and sent by post as real postcards.

"Swiss Postcard" was released in early 2015, showing views from 1,000 municipalities; new postcards are added regularly. The app was developed by Haute Ecole d'Ingénierie et de Gestion du Canton de Vaud on behalf of the Swiss Conference of Cantonal libraries. Following *Unikat – Unicum,* the exhibition *The Photobook and its Authors* was devoted to another form of artists' books. It presented photobooks from Swiss authors, photographers and publishers from 1990 onwards. On 27 November, experts from academia and practice gathered for a colloquium to discuss photobooks. As in the previous year, the exhibition and colloquium took place as part of the "Artists and Books (1880–2015). Switzerland as a Cultural Platform" research project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.

5. International partnerships
The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) was organised by the NL and held in Bern. On the day before the meeting, participants visited the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel. The conference itself, attended by the directors of national libraries from more than 30 European countries, took place on the two subsequent days in the Swiss Parliament building.

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[6] http://www.rechtsquellen-online.zh.ch/startseite/uebersicht
[7] http://make.opendata.ch/wiki/project:schweizer_kleinmeister:an_unexpected_journey
[8] Accessible online at http://nationalbibliothek.ch/3d/

The European RDA Interest Group (EURIG) is working to develop the new RDA[9] cataloguing standard and adapt it to European conditions thereby promoting its use in Europe. The NL was chosen as the venue for its 2015 annual meeting, which was attended by 27 delegates from 18 countries

International partnerships continue to play a major role in the NL's activities: the NL's director was acting President of the CDNL until the 2014 elections, then was elected as Vice-Chair, and is also a Vice-Chair of the CENL 2011-2015.

Key figures

Holdings: General collection (in millions of units)	4.50
Holdings: Federal Archives of Historical Monuments,(in millions of units)	1.2
Fonds : Swiss Literary Archives	353
Staff (full time equivalents)	126
Operating expenditure (in millions of CHF)	36.2

The annual report is available on the NL website in four languages (www.nb.admin.ch).

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[9] Resource Description and Access