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ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2013-2014

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. Cataloguing and E-publications

The "Viva" project was launched at the end of 2012. Extending over a number of years, its aim is to bring the NL's collection of associations' publications, which contains over 45 000 corporate entities, into the electronic age. The first concrete decision was taken in 2013. In future, each institution's website will be collected as well, reflecting the fact that many entities publish additionally or exclusively in electronic form. The websites are being integrated into the Web Archive Switzerland. With the inclusion of electronic publications, the collection is now a hybrid. One of the next questions that the "Viva" project will address is how a fonds of this type can be catalogued and made accessible.

Expansion of the collection of digital publications continues through cooperation. The cantonal and university libraries, official bodies and publishers were joined for the first time in 2013 by a distributor. Based in Lucerne, mbassador creates electronic versions of printed books from many Swiss publishers and distributes them through a variety of platforms. Subject to the consent of the publisher concerned, mbassador will also supply these digital books to the NL's digital archive.

At the end of 2013 the digital collection comprised 2.4 TB of data (2012: 1.6 TB). A total of 30,524 publications were available, some two thirds of them consisting of digitally born publications such as websites, dissertations, periodicals and monographs. The remainder are digitised versions of printed works. Although the latter are freely accessible (this being a condition for digitisation by the NL), copyright restrictions apply to the former. Depending on the agreement with the legal owners, online publications are also freely available via the Internet or may only be consulted at special access points in the NL or partner institutions.

3. Conservation

Because the NL is a lending library as well as an archive library, it has to devote considerable resources to the long-term conservation of its publications. Finding methods among the many available that are both appropriate to the various documents and economically justifiable is essential.

The end of the mass paper deacidification process is in sight. Just 22,116 documents with a total weight of 19.8 tons were deacidified (2012: 31,690 documents, 33.2 tons). Most of the material that was suitable for mass deacidification has now been treated, and the programme will be completed in 2014. The suitability of the remaining fonds for deacidification will mostly have to be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

A final decision has been taken that the volumes of newspapers will not be deacidified. The main reason for this was that it does not reduce the brittleness of the paper. In future, the vast majority of the information contained

in the newspapers will be preserved and safeguarded independently of technology by means of digitisation and simultaneous microfilming. Access will be provided electronically, thereby protecting the fragile original volumes.

4. Digitization

The digital platforms were expanded to include a range of new titles. The Valais newspaper *Nouvelliste* and its associated titles *Journal et Feuille d'Avis du Valais* and *Le Rhône* can now be accessed free of charge at www.swisspressarchives.ch thanks to a partnership with the publisher and the *Mediathèque Valais*. This website is now available in a version optimised for mobile devices. After five years' work, every issue of *L'Express* and *L'Impartial* is available online using the publisher's site application (www.lexpressarchives.ch). The periodicals platform *retro.seals.ch* now includes four titles on women's history, including *Die Frau in der Schweiz*, and one on the history of education. A total of 142 digitised monographs were uploaded to *e-Helvetica* during the year.

5. National and International partnerships

National and international partnerships continue to play a major role in the NL's activities: the NL's director is acting President of the CDNL until the 2014 elections, and a Vice-Chair of the CENL 2001-2015. The NL continues to be active in IFLA. An NL staff member is serving a second term (2013-2015) on IFLA's Governing Board and Professional Committee, another is a member of the IFLA National Libraries Section Standing Committee and chairs the IFLA Committee on Standards. In 2014, the Réseau francophone numérique (www.rfnum.org) and Koop-Litera International (www.onb.ac.at/koop-litera/), the network of competence for literary estates, will be meeting at the NL in Bern.

At the national level, the NL is a member of two working groups of BIS the Swiss Library Association (www.bis.ch). Formed under the aegis of BIS, the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Libraries deals with issues of library policy and carries out cross-institutional projects. The NL is taking the lead in two of these projects: the cooperative digitisation of newspapers and the development of an application for tablets and smartphones that enables historical postcards of Switzerland to be viewed and sent. The aim of the latter is to show how the collections of national heritage libraries can be exploited using modern technology. Meanwhile the Swiss National Library Commission is active at the political level. Despite its name, it does not only represent the interests of the NL; rather, its work is concerned with the national coordination of library policy. At present it is working on a project commissioned by the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education to establish a joint portal for libraries and archives.

The long-term strategies for Switzerland's academic libraries are being developed by the Conference of Swiss University Libraries (KUB). The NL is linked to the research community via its membership of the KUB and by the research projects of the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) and the Prints and Drawings Department (PDD). The most striking example in the year under review is the SLA's inclusion in the Marbach-Weimar-Wolfenbüttel research network of literary archives.

The future of websites as cultural heritage depends on the success of efforts to archive them for the long term. This is one of the issues being addressed by the International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC). The NL holds the Steering Committee Vice-Chair in 2014.

6. Key figures

Holdings: General collection (in millions of units)	4.37
Holdings: Federal Archives of Historical Monuments,(in millions of units)	1.2
Fonds : Swiss Literary Archives	326
Staff (full time equivalents)	123.6
Operating expenditure (in millions of CHF)	35.5

The annual report is available from May 2014 on the NL website in four languages (www.nb.admin.ch). 2014 marks the publication of the 100th annual report presented by the NL since its foundation in 1895 (some years were combined). To celebrate this anniversary all the NL's annual reports have been digitised and put online at <http://retro.seals.ch>. This platform for digitised Swiss journals is operated by the ETH Library, with the NL as a partner.