



Marie-Christine Doffey, May 2011

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2010-2011

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).

On 31 December 2010, the second MPM period came to term for evaluation. The results can already be seen in terms of goals achieved. All five primary goals and all eight impact goals were achieved. Three high level goals were achieved, eight impact goals were achieved and of the fourteen service level goals, ten were achieved, two were partially completed and two not achieved. In a survey carried out in 2010, users gave the NL giving it an average score of 8.5 (out of 10) in terms of satisfaction.

The strategy 2012 – 2015 and the mandate for the same period have been defined and will be submitted for approval to the Federal government during 2011

2. E-publications

The Collection of Digitally Born Documents doubled during the year in review. At the end of 2009 it comprised 3899 units, occupying a total of 136GB of storage space, which by the end of 2010 had increased to 403GB or 9724 units.

In absolute terms this is a small collection. This is due in part to its relative youth, as well as to legal and financial strictures that oblige us to be selective in our electronic acquisitions.

The collection comprises 44% commercial publications, 19% dissertations, 12% official publications and 25% websites, which are collected in the Web Archive Switzerland. This last now includes collections with websites of relevance to the social sciences and literary studies alongside the collection of sites relevant for Swiss studies.

It cannot be stressed enough that a range of partners is indispensable to the construction and expansion of the electronic collection. Such partners include publishing houses as well as cantonal, university and special libraries.

The year in review saw the development of a prototype for the consultation of all electronic collections, both digitally born and digitised from analogue media. Access for users is planned for 2011, with many digital publications in the collections available for free online consultation. Access to publications subject to copyright restrictions, when not entirely blocked, will only be possible onsite at the NL.

Digital and analogue collections cannot be completely segregated. Between these two types are publications appearing simultaneously in printed and online form and for which collections guidelines are currently in development.

3. Conservation

During 2010, a total of 37 113 documents with a combined weight of 34.2 tons were deacidified (2009: 38 548 documents weighing 34.6 tons).

For the past ten years the NL has deacidified its paper documents by means of the papersave swiss process it helped to develop. The plant, which opened with federal financing in 2000 on the grounds of the Nitrochemie company in Wimmis, is run as a private enterprise. The federal government guaranteed credit funding for the first ten years to both the Swiss Federal Archives and the NL, allowing each institution to have some 35 tons of paper deacidified each year and ensuring basic utilisation of the plant.

Over the past ten years the NL has had a total of 1.1 million documents deacidified, or a total weight of 385 tons. The documents treated mainly comprised books printed between 1930 and 1980 and capable of mass processing. 100 tons of documents on acid paper remain in the collection.

Tests must be carried out to determine whether deacidification is appropriate as a conservation method for these, and if so, what form of treatment is indicated.

The underground stacks west, opened in 2009, have experienced no problems, with climate conditions remaining within predetermined tolerance values.

A survey of the collections involved the assessment of a large number of photographs, and the NL accordingly held a meeting of restorers to discuss "Photo conservation and restoration". The presentations and discussions led to some new ideas about dealing with the medium. The survey of all collections was completed in 2010, and assessment is to follow in 2011.

4. Digitization

In digitisation, the focus has been on the history of education, currently an active topic in historical studies. Six periodicals constituting relevant sources are now available online via the SEALS (retro.seals.ch) platform. . The digitised poster collection now contains around 52000 digitised images, available at www.nb.admin.ch/poster, swissbib (www.swissbib.ch) and via The European Library

A selection of 76 historic books have also been digitised to contribute to the Reading Europe virtual exhibition held by The European Library.

The HelveticArchives catalogue now comprises – and makes available for use – 5900 photo portraits. Where copyright allows, catalogue entries will very soon be supplemented with preview images. At the end of 2010, HelveticArchives comprised 48 706 entries on documents in the Prints and Drawings Department (2009: 40 747).

In collaboration with European libraries, the NL's Helveticat catalogue now includes the E-Books on Demand service, enabling a potential of 100'000 out of copyright books to be digitized on demand. Subsequently, the digitized material will be made freely available online via the access system currently in development.

5. Exhibitions and events

"How did you do that?" Colloquium on Hugo Loetscher 21.–23.1.2010

Writer Hugo Loetscher roamed across topics, perspectives and genres. The Fourth International Meeting of the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) and the Society for the Study of Swiss-German Literature (G.E.D.I.) saw researchers from Europe and the USA discuss literary aspects of Loetscher's work and set it in the context of other disciplines such as journalism, photography and history.

Swiss Appeal: Switzerland in Travel Guides 12.3.–27.6.2010

The Swiss National Library (NL) holds a large collection of travel guides to Switzerland in all major languages, books that formed the centerpiece of the Swiss Appeal exhibition. Some 200 travel guides were laid out through the exhibition space in two routes across Switzerland: west to east, and north to south. The exhibition was also the subject of the NL's booth at the Salon du livre held in Geneva from 28 April to 2 May, while at the Museumsnacht Bern of 19 March the NL presented further aspects of Switzerland as a tourist destination, an event that included a reading by Matthias Zschokke and a concert by Trummer.

Jon Semadeni: A celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birth 29.5.2010

On 30 May 2010 Jon Semadeni would have turned 100 – an occasion to celebrate the politically committed writer, theatre director and radio playwright, actor and cabaret artist, and the meeting in Lavin provided a venue for participants to read, hear and comment on Semadeni's oeuvre posthumously by way of lectures, eyewitness reports, radio and film documentation, and the staging of one of his comedies. Held in Rumantsch, the homage was organised by the Lia Rumantscha and the SLA and supported by regional and cantonal organisations.

Autobiography and Autofiction: Summer Academy 30.5.–4.6.2010

Contemporary discussions of autobiography generally hold that every literary self-presentation comprises fictional elements. Coined by Serge Doubrovsky, the term "autofiction" has been applied by specialists to the study of literary texts that more or less openly mingle fictional and factual narrative elements in recounting their author's life. At the Swiss Literary Archives's Fourth Summer Academy at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel, such theoretical considerations furnished the bedrock for an investigation and discussion of exemplary texts and text fragments, each displaying its own, often eccentric conception of the appropriate literary treatment of biography.

Günter Grass: Bestiarium 4.6.–12.9.2010

The Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel devoted an exhibition to Nobel Prize winner Günter Grass, encompassing the main milestones of his creative life and tracing his work as a visual artist in connection with the development of his major novels. Grass's encounters with Dürrenmatt were documented in text and photographic records.

Freunde – Friends – d'Fründe: Karl Gerstner – Daniel Spoerri 18.6.2010

Some years ago, Karl Gerstner and Daniel Spoerri donated their archives to the NL's Prints and Drawings Department (PDD), and the two artists were honoured this past year with celebratory lectures by Susanne Bieri and Elisabeth Bronfen on the occasion of their joint 80th birthday. In lieu of a classic drinks reception, a bazaar was created along the lines of one of Daniel Spoerri's events, at which guests were invited to trade the canapés they'd won in a raffle. Gerstner and Spoerri, who have enjoyed a close friendship for years, are at the heart of a network of colleagues whose work has had a major influence on the art of the second half of the 20th century.

Archives of Place 14.10.2010

In the course of its research project "Archives of Place", by means of which the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) set out to prepare a model concept for a photographic archive of spatial development, the ZHdK has managed to formulate the criteria for such an archive documenting spatial change, criteria which have in turn influenced the new collection concept of the NL's PDD. The colloquium presented both the ZHdK research project and the PDD's new collection concept.

The Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel celebrates its tenth anniversary

At a ceremony attended by Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, Jean-Frédéric Jauslin and Marie-Christine Doffey, and an open house, held on 25 and 26 September, respectively, the CDN celebrated its tenth anniversary and inaugurated the Dürrenmatt Year 2010–2011. The celebratory programme includes an exhibition in honour of the jubilee year entitled *L'esprit Dürrenmatt: Photoportraits*, a special exhibition dedicated to Mario Botta: *Architecture and Memory*, and a host of special events.

Emmy Hennings and Hugo Ball 20.10.2010

Among the significant holdings kept by the SLA on deposit for the Robert Walser Foundation is the double literary estate of Emmy Hennings (1885–1948) and her husband Hugo Ball (1886–1927). On the occasion of the completion of the archive's inventory the SLA held a soirée at which these treasures were displayed, and Christian Uetz paid his respects to the two artists, who belong to the founders of Dadaism, with a performance in their honour.

More than Illustrations: Images as Sources for Swiss History 27.10.2010

In addition to texts, images also afford us access to the worlds of the past, and can do more than simply enhance other means of transmission: they can contradict them as well. And yet images have long been neglected as historiographic sources. At a lecture held on the occasion of UNESCO's World Day for Audiovisual Heri-

tage, Swiss historian Thomas Maissen offered a glimpse at the use of Swiss visual material for contemporary historical research and education.

Ceremony marks donation of Jean Starobinski's library 18.11.2010

Acting in the name of the SLA, the NL had sought a contribution to the purchase price – before receiving Jean Starobinski's entire library as a donation on the part of the Fondation Hans Wilsdorf. The actual handover of the library was held on the renowned cultural studies expert's 90th birthday, at which event Claude Reichler paid tribute to one of Switzerland's most significant scholarly libraries and Pierre Mottu, President of the Board of the Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, explained the thinking behind the extraordinary gift. Speeches of thanks were held in the name of the Swiss federal government by Stéphanie Cudré-Mauroux, Marie-Christine Doffey and Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter.

"A distance de loge": a colloquium dedicated to Jean Starobinski 19.–20.11.2010

The fourth meeting of the Cercle d'études internationales Jean Starobinski, run jointly by the SLA and the University of Geneva, honoured Jean Starobinski on the occasion of his 90th birthday with a conference held in Bern and Geneva. Devoted to Starobinski's formulation "A distance de loge", which designates a moment in the hermeneutic circle distinguished by overhead panoramic vision following or preceding a period of intimate participation, the colloquium considered the variations on the related critical position as reflected in Starobinski's thinking about interpretation and in his work as an interpreter, as well as in the other social sciences.

6. National and International partnerships

As reported in 2009, the NL developed the Digicoord) platform in cooperation with RERO, the Library Network of Western Switzerland to enable an overview of all digitisation projects. This enables all those interested to have access to the digitised holdings of Swiss libraries and archives through one site. The NL continues to cooperate with libraries and museums in the Swiss poster catalogue of digitised posters.

The NL cooperates with other Swiss institutions in the selection, harvesting and long-term preservation of web sites and other electronic publications. The NL continues to take part in a national programme "E-lib.ch: Swiss Electronic library", a project funded by the Swiss University Conference (SUK/CUS) from 2008-2011 comprising a number of initiatives including the Swissbib project whose common aim is to provide fast and easy access to a wide range of different information resources (http://www.e-lib.ch/index_e.html).

In September Koop-Litera Schweiz was founded, on the initiative of the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA), with the aim of developing and coordinating a network of Swiss literary archives. Koop-Litera Schweiz, which unites the SLA with the Max Frisch Archive, the Robert Walser Archive, the Zurich Central Library and the library of the University of Basel, is an arm of Koop-Litera International, the specialist network of German-language literary archives.

In its campaign to ensure the future of Switzerland's libraries, the library commission this year published the Charter of Swiss Libraries, which analyses the role of libraries in the information society and sets out guidelines for their future. The paper has been widely discussed by experts and included in the political process.

The annual report is available from April 2011 on the NL website in four languages (www.nb.admin.ch).

7. Key figures

Holdings: General collection (in millions of units)	4.10
Holdings: Federal Archives of Historical Monuments, (in millions of units)	1.2
Fonds : Swiss Literary Archives	295
Staff (full time equivalents)	128.1
Operating expenditure (in millions of CHF)	37.3

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