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ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2007-2008

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. Strategy

The strategy for the years 2007 – 2011 contains three main activities for the future in the sometimes conflicting areas of collection and use. The implementation of these activities started in 2007 with the following :

- Users' requirements were defined by means of a web-based survey. The intention is to respond to these requirements as far as possible in the years ahead, among other means by the digitization of relevant documents.
- The assembly of electronic collections has begun: publishers can now upload their electronic publications into the long-term archive and, for the first time, the websites of the political parties for the federal elections were archived.
- The conceptual principles for the Centre for Paper Conservation were developed. It is anticipated that from 2009 onwards the NL will be able to advise related institutions both in Switzerland and abroad on the conservation of their collections.

2. The Collection

In 2007, Swiss publishers published 11,410 titles (2006: 11,875). The normal growth of the Helvetica Collection was 58,405 items (2006: 59,718). However, as a result of the incorporation of approximately 1.2 million documents from the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments (EAD), the total collections jumped from about 3.9 million documents at the end of 2006 to approximately 5.1 million at the end of 2007. To this must be added 229 archives and bequests for the Swiss Literary Archives, 66 for the Prints and Drawings Department and 47 musical archives.

In 2006, a list of the rare items in the NL's collections was established (*Helvetica rara*). In 2007, special conservation measures were taken in order to provide particular protection to these documents and regulations about their circulation were modified.

The NL's collection contains approximately one million corporate publications. Written guide-lines for these were compiled in 2007; these permit the collection of corporate publications to be more coordinated with the cantonal libraries and archives than previously. In undertaking this work, the NL is seeking to achieve a collection of corporate publications which is as representative as possible. The online cataloguing of the corporate publications is at the planning stage but can only be put into effect if the NL receives additional funding.

3. Building

The NL will occupy the new underground stacks in 2009. In the year under review the equipment required for the stacks was identified and different areas allocated for future use.

4. Cataloguing

In contrast to the number of new acquisitions and the state of conservation of the collection, accessibility to the collection is only partially satisfactory. While monographs, periodicals, posters and the acquisitions made by the Swiss Literary Archives since 1991 are well catalogued, association journals, for instance, and large parts of the prints and drawings collection are only catalogued at a summary level and can therefore only be accessed with difficulty. Whether cataloguing can be completed to the extent necessary and in the required depth depends on whether we can obtain the resources for the task. The technical requirements for cataloguing a wide range of document types were completed during the year under review.

The archive data-base *HelveticArchives* was set up in addition to the existing general library database *Helveticat*. The NL's collections of photographs will be catalogued in this in the near future. In the long term the intention is that *HelveticArchives* should include all the NL's archive collections.

5. E-publications

The development of the electronic collection made a major step forward within the 'e-Helveticat' project. It has been possible since 2007 to download documents automatically into the long term archiving system. At the end of the year, the collection included about 700 documents which fell into the following four categories – commercial publications, dissertations and postdoctoral theses, websites relating to Switzerland and official publications. On the occasion of the federal parliamentary elections, the election web-sites of the parties were collected for the first time. The NL is working throughout Switzerland with a wide range of partners with regard to the development of the electronic collection – university libraries, publishers and local authorities.

Two events were held to develop the collection in cooperation with university libraries (for electronic dissertations) and with cantonal libraries (for web-sites). So far, it is not possible to consult electronic documents at the NL. Faced with the imminent loss of digital documents, priority is being placed on their collection and preservation. It will be a few years before today's electronic publications will be of interest for historical research; time therefore remains for the development of user access.

During the year, the NL's audio documents (with a few exceptions) were handed over to the National Sound Archives in Lugano; the National Sound Archives will catalogue and digitize them in the coming years.

6. Conservation

The Centre for Paper Conservation, which was defined as one of the main items of the 2007 – 2011 strategy, is also due to start operations in 2009. The concept for its activities was developed in 2007. Based on the idea of a *National Preservation Office* as it is known for example in the English-speaking countries, the Centre for Paper Conservation is intended to make the skills of the NL in this area available to other Swiss institutions. The NL will provide consultancy services, for example on the subject of the deacidification of paper; however, the concrete implementation of such measures will be left to private companies as the intention is not to compete with them.

7. User services

In its 2007 – 2011 strategy, the NL has undertaken to bring its services even more into line with the requirements of its main users. The 'User 07' project enabled us to identify their wishes. A far-ranging on-line survey, which was conducted in the Spring of 2007 by the KONSO Institute of Consumer and Social Analyses, outlined the direction in which the NL must develop its services. Users are basically satisfied with the current services; however, they also wish for the cataloguing of periodicals at article level, the expansion of catalogue entries by additional information such as lists of contents, the digitization of newspapers and periodicals, comprehensive information on contents and new offers as well as the ability of providing additional feed-back. The way in which the NL is able to meet these requirements in a concrete manner will be defined in the follow-up 'Service-Plus' project which was started at the end of 2007. Users are, in general, satisfied with the services currently provided by the NL. In the on-line survey mentioned above, the NL was given a rating of 5.1 out of 6. The advisory services came out particularly well, with a rating of 5.4 (the target mark in the 2006 – 2008 objectives is 4.5). The topicality, completeness (target 4.3) and availability of the collections (target 4.5) each scored 4.9, which are considered to be satisfactory ratings.

8. Digitization

The Swiss newspaper publisher Le Temps, the Bibliothèque de Genève and the NL have agreed on a public-private partnership to digitize the complete collection of the *Journal de Genève* (1826-1998). This is a first attempt at creating partnerships outside the classic publicly funded arena and has so far proved a success, with the first part of the collection planned to be online by Autumn 2008. In all, the collection contains just over five hundred thousand pages. Talks are under way to extend this other Swiss-French newspapers, and to a Swiss-German paper. A convention between the Swiss National Library, the RERO libraries and Presse Suisse, the newspaper association in the French-speaking part of Switzerland has been signed to formalize cooperation and establish best practices.

Also in cooperation with RERO, the NL has set up an information platform in which libraries can find information on digitization practices and techniques, share experiences and contribute information about their own activities in order to find partnerships and avoid duplication of effort (www.digicoord.ch). Further digitization co-ordination and activities will be carried out within the national innovation and cooperation project "E-lib.ch: Swiss Electronic Library" funded by the Swiss University Consortium (SUK/CUS) during the period 2008-2011.

9. Exhibitions

Virtual exhibition

Annemarie Schwarzenbach would have celebrated her 100th birthday on 23rd May 2008. She became known in the nineteen thirties as a travel writer and photographer. An online exhibition presents three of her journeys: to the South of the US, to Persia, Afghanistan and India, and to Africa.
http://ead.nb.admin.ch/web/as/as_voyages.html

Dürrenmatts Mythen

10.2. – 30.4.2007

Exhibition of drawings from the collection of Charlotte Kerr Dürrenmatt in the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel.

Excellences, Exzellenzen

28.3.2007 – 5.5.2007

An exhibition of photos of the *Ecole cantonale d'art de Lausanne* (ECAL) with portraits of the ambassadors of foreign countries to Switzerland. Photographers: Thomas Adank, Florian Joye.

Am Rande der Sprache/A la limite de la langue

19.5. – 2.9.2007

Exhibition of the Annette & Peter Nobel Press Art collection in the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel.

Das neue Bild der Schweiz/La Suisse – portrait urbain

20.6. – 1.9.2007

An exhibition of the ETH Studio Basel – Institut Stadt der Gegenwart (*City of the Future*) on the genesis and reception of the publication *Die Schweiz – Ein städtebauliches Portrait* (2005).

9ème Forum international de la Reliure d'Art

13.10.2007

Exhibition of unusual book bindings and the NL's Conservation service as part of the forum. Participants from Switzerland, France and Canada.

Pavel Schmidt, f.k. – Kafka drawings

19.10.2007 – 20.1.2008

First exhibition of Schmidt's Kafka cycle in Switzerland; held in the CDN.

Tell in Focus - Posters from the Swiss National Library

16.11.2007 – 30.3.2008

The collection of posters numbering about 40,000 items belonging to the NL was introduced to the public for the first time by means of a selection of about 100 posters on the Tell myth.

10. National and International partnerships

In addition to the national partnerships established in the field of digitization and e-publications indicated above, the NL is active in the Swiss e-lib project and has recently taken the Chair of the Conference of University Libraries in Switzerland.

At the international level, cooperation with a number of outside institutions became more intense – and with it the number of requests from corresponding specialist bodies. In response to this development the Swiss Literary Archives have recently created for the first time a number of discussion groups which they are using to participate in research at an international level; the *Kafka verschrieben* symposium provided authors and scientists alike with the opportunity to exchange ideas.

The new *European Dewey Users' Group* was formed last year in the NL. In addition the NL remains an active partner in TEL, concluded its work in the EDLproject and is participating in the FUMAGAB project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to assist national libraries from Eastern Europe to become full partners in TEL.

11. Key figures

Key figures

	2006	2007	+/- %
Swiss literary output			
Books published in Switzerland	11,875	11,410	-3.9%
Non-commercial publications	6,116	6,096	-0.3%
Collection			
Collections status: Publications in million units	3.85	3.91	+1.5%
Collections status: Prints and Drawings Department: Federal Archives of Historical Monuments, Documents in million units (estimate)	n.a.	1.2	
Records in Helvetica	1,481,058	1,519,724	+2.6%
Swiss Literary Archives, number of collections	215	229	+6.5%
Swiss Literary Archives, number of on-line inventories	34	43	+26.5%
User services			
Registered users	19,694	6,264	-68.2%
Individual loans (documents loaned to users)	83,031	77,636	-6.5%
Information retrievals	20,937	18,698	-10.7%
Number of enquiries to online-catalogues	n.a.	216,231	
Number of visits (unique hosts) to www.nb.admin.ch	205,603	290,821	+41.4%
Visits to exhibitions, public events, guided tours, training sessions (NL Bern, CDN, other locations)	20,535	19,356	-5.7%
Resources			
Employees (full time equivalents)	120.1	123.7	+3.0%
Operating expenditure (million CHF)	21.7	31.5	+45.2%
Operating income (million CHF)	0.3	0.3	0.0%
Investments (million CHF)	0.2	0.0	-100.0%
Swiss National Sound Archives subsidy (million CHF)	1.300	1.287	-1.0%