Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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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 2008-2009

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 2008, the first MPM period came to an end, with excellent results in terms of achieving performance goals (for details, see Annual report 2008, available at http://www.nb.admin.ch).

The costs for the first three MPM years amount to CHF 91.8 million; under the financial framework of the MPM CHF 87.9 million had been projected. The additional expenditures are the consequence of internal cost allocation across all the federal departments.

The next performance mandate period will run from 2009-2011 with the following major goals: Online access in all forms will be expanded; the remaining card catalogues will be converted into online catalogues; the backlog in digitising will be gradually reduced, while the electronic *Helvetica Collection* will be built up, and a general access point to all digital documents developed. Services for the NL's priority users – experts and students of all areas of Swiss history, literature, art and architecture, as well as information and documentation specialists – will be extended.

2. E-publications

In collecting printed Helvetica (documents published in Switzerland, about Switzerland or by Swiss authors), the NL aims for complete coverage, despite the lack of legal deposit at a national level. This is achieved through agreements with publishers' associations and through paid acquisitions. However, in the field of born-digital media, the NL does not aspire to completeness as this would not be feasible given the enormous amounts of data available and the difficulty to define Helvetica in a networked world. Instead, it aims to achieve a representative selection, made in cooperation with publishers, cantonal and university libraries, and individual departments of the federal administration. In addition, electronic documents concerning prominent one-off events are preserved, as in 2008 with the selection of websites related to the European Football Championship *Euro08*.

The electronic documents are automatically fed into the electronic long-term archiving system. The launch of this electronic collection in 2008 reflects successful outcome of the e-Helvetica Project that began in 2000 and that has ensured that the NL has achieved a leading position in Switzerland in the field of secure archiving of electronic publications. The NL's reputation is conformed by the fact that the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce, which has especially high demands for security and long-term preservation, also depends on the NL to archive its online edition.

3. Conservation

The most important condition for the long-term preservation of documents of all kinds is storage at a constant temperature and humidity. An ideal climate is provided by both underground stacks of the NL. The first is now full; the second was finished in the year under review and will be put into operation in 2009.

Following the assessment of the state of conservation of the general collection in 2007, in the year under review the collection of the Swiss Literary Archives was analysed. In 2009 the prints and drawings collection will be reviewed. Priorities for conservation measures will be determined on the basis of the overall evaluation.

4. Digitization

The NL made a big step forward in digitisation, especially in the field of newspaper digitisation. In Western Switzerland, a general agreement has been made with *Presse Suisse* to encourage publishers to digitise newspapers and make them freely available online. The NL is taking part in a number of newspaper digitisation projects in which the publisher and a cantonal or local library are also partners. The first of these was the *Journal de Genève* (www.letempsarchives.ch) which is available online free-of-charge since December 2008. The publisher *Le Temps* was responsible for project management and the other library project partner was the Bibliothèque de Genève. In addition to financial support, the NL made its expert knowledge and experience available, and supplied around a third of the volumes to be digitised. Agreements for the digitisation of the *Gazette de Lausanne* and the *Nouveau Quotidien* as well as the Neuchâtel newspapers *L'Express* and *L'Impartial* have been signed during the year under review and scanning has begun. Discussions are under way with a number of German-language newspapers
A scanner enabling electronic copies of documents to be created is now available for public use in the NL.

5. Exhibitions
Topor – Enzyklopädie des Körpers ('Topor – Encyclopaedia of the Body')
15 March 2008–11 May 2008
The focus of this exhibition at the *Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel* (CDN) was the black humour of the French cartoonist and his often disturbing depiction of the human body.

Paul Flora – Königsdramen ('Paul Flora – Royal Dramas')
18 May 2008–31 August 2008
In this exhibition in the CDN, the cartoons of the Austrian artist caricature the contemporary way of dealing with Austria's glorious imperial past.

To the Edge of the World: Homage to Annemarie Schwarzenbach to mark the 100th anniversary of her birth
23 May 2008
The Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) honoured the writer and photographer in three ways. They presented previously unpublished travel photographs in a virtual exhibition. Approximately 2'500 photos from Schwarzenbach's estate could be viewed in the NL's new archival database *HelveticArchives*. On Schwarzenbach's birthday itself the literary critic Klara Obermüller gave a public testimonial lecture honouring the life and work of the writer and photographer.

Prag 1968 – 40 Jahre Prager Frühling ('Prague 1968 – 40 Years of Prague Spring')
14 September 2008–19 October 2008
The exhibition of the CDN was dedicated to the 'political' Dürrenmatt. It presented Felix Philipp Ingold's Bohemica Collection and the reception of Dürrenmatt's theatre in Czechoslovakia. On 13 September a roundtable discussion took place with Pavel Kohout, Jiří Gruša and František Černý; all three are important figures of the Prague Spring.

In the Beginning is the Word. Encyclopaedias in Switzerland
7 November 2008–29 March 2009
Using the example of the *Historical Dictionary of Switzerland* (HDS), one of the largest encyclopaedia projects in the country, this exhibition poses questions concerning the production of encyclopaedias and the way in which they work. Starting from the HDS article about Ruth Dreifuss, links are made to other articles which make up part of the life history of the former Federal Councillor: Endingen (as her place of origin), Canton Geneva (her place of residence), Judaism, Women's Movement, Old Age Insurance, Christiane Brunner and Francis Matthey. The exhibition documents the keywords and articles and makes visible the way they are developed.

6. National and International partnerships

As a first step towards the coordination of digitisation projects, the NL developed the *Digicoord* (www.digicoord.ch) platform in cooperation with RERO, the Library Network of Western Switzerland. The system went live in May 2008. Based on a wiki structure, it allows libraries and archives in Switzerland to register their digitisation projects and services with the dual goal of preventing duplication of effort and promoting digitisation activities and their coordination. A documentation section and forum for exchange of experience support the successful implementation of digitisation projects. For the first time, it enables all those interested to have access to the digitised holdings of Swiss libraries and archives through one site. The NL cooperates with libraries and museums in the Swiss poster catalogue of digitised posters (www.nb.admin.ch/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 is taking 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 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). Special emphasis is placed on the SwissBib project, a metacatalogue of Swiss university libraries and the Swiss National Library (http://www.swissbib.org/wiki/Welcome).

The NL has continued its cooperation with a wide range of national libraries and other institutions for example, The European Library (www.theeuropeanlibrary.org), IFLA (www.ifla.org), IADA (International Association of Archive, Book and Paper Conservators) and KOOP-LITERA, a portal for German-language literature and archival collections.(http://www.onb.ac.at/koop-litera/)

7. Key figures

Holdings: General collection (in millions of units)	3.97
Holdings: Federal Archives of Historical Monuments,(in millions of units)	1.2
Fonds : Swiss Literary Archives	240
Staff (full time equivalents)	125.4
Operating expenditure (in millions of CHF)	32.0