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ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2009-2010

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).

The goals set for 2009 were successfully achieved, and those for 2010 validated by the federal Office for Culture. The accent in 2010 is on continuing the digitization of the general collections, on converting the remaining card catalogues and beginning the digitization of the iconographic collections.

During 2010, the strategy 2012-2019 will be finalized.

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

The collection of digitally born documents was enhanced with 2493 additional publications and at the end of 2009 contained some 11 million files comprising a total of 136 gigabytes (2008: 1406 publications, 15 300 files, 7.91 GB). Of particular note is the archiving of the online edition of the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce. Its daily editions comprise around 1500 entries, each of which the NL archives and stores long-term along with its legally valid signature. The collection of national information websites is being further expanded in collaboration with the Swiss cantonal libraries. Development of an instrument for user searches in the electronic collection is proceeding on schedule, and is due to be operational at the end of 2010.

3. Conservation

The most important long-term conservation measure taken was the completion of the underground stacks west. After almost four years of building and installation, the new stacks went into service in the spring of 2009 and were officially inaugurated on 20 August. Four underground levels offer space for 83 kilometres of shelving and a home to all periodicals (monographs and special collections are in the underground stacks east). The climatic conditions and security systems in both areas meet the latest international standards. The security of staff and holdings alike is ensured by comprehensive security measures including fire and smoke detectors, fire doors, fire dampers and a sprinkler system. Staff working below ground are in permanent contact with the outside world by means of an emergency call system. The ideal conditions have won the two areas the considerable admiration of specialists. An optimal layout guarantees space for material until 2038.

The security concept for the collections developed during the year under review notes that current standards have for the most part already been implemented in the NL, with work still to be done only in a handful of areas. The appropriate measures are being introduced on an ongoing basis, with access to the stacks, for instance, being massively restricted in comparison with the current situation.

4. Digitization

The availability of documents in digital form is taking on ever greater significance in the name of increasing user convenience. During 2009, the NL approved a digitisation strategy that sets out its priorities from the present until 2015, opting for selective digitisation of items from the collection, since digitisation all holdings, in addition to being prohibitively expensive, would require the establishment of copyright in all cases, and thus demand tremendous effort. The focus is placed on those holdings that offer the greatest advantage to users when digitised: newspapers, photoportraits and other documents in great demand, as well as those which can no longer be physically lent in their original form. Wherever possible, digitisation projects are to be carried out in collaboration with partners and aim to offer free online access. When digitising newspapers, for instance, the NL works with the publishing house in possession of the relevant rights, which typically also takes on project management and is responsible for online access. This model was used in 2009 for the digitisation of four historical newspaper holdings: six years each of the *Express* and the *Impartial*, which were uploaded to the Internet in December, as well as the complete collections of the *Gazette de Lausanne* (1798-1998) and the *Nouveau Quotidien* (1991-1998), which went online in February 2010.

Since June 2010, the NL is offering digitisation on request service for out of copyright books. This new paid service is known as "eBooks on Demand" (EOD). The NL already lists more than 100,000 books available for digitisation, which can be provided as a PDF to customers via email or on CD. Works that may be digitised are marked in the online catalogue Helveticat (www.nb.admin.ch/helveticat) with the EOD symbol, which serves as a link to the order form. Submitting a form triggers an invoice; once this is paid, the reader receives the eBook. On request, for a small supplement, a paperback may also be supplied.

"eBooks on Demand" is a project of the NL and over 20 other libraries in ten European countries.

5. Exhibitions and events

Anekdote – Biographie – Kanon 19.–21.03.2009

At the request of the University of Bern, the Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg and the Swiss Literary Archives, researchers from Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland presented their work on biography at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel. The topics addressed included the role played by biography and anecdote in the reception of Shakespeare, Luther, van Gogh and Kierkegaard, among others; self-fashioning by artists and writers; and the use of fictional biographies in works of literature.

Bern Museums' Night: Dem Wort eine Bühne 20.3.2009

Lexicons were the centerpiece not only of *In the beginning is the word*, the NL's exhibition at the time, but also of the library's participation in Museums' Night. Pedro Lenz read from his *Kleinen Lexikon der Provinzliteratur* ("Little lexicon of provincial literature"). The artists' group *Bern ist überall* ("Bern is everywhere") also took to the stage at the NL. Tours of the library were led by an actor playing "Herr Brockhaus", after the classic German encyclopaedia. Children were invited to play *Trivial Pursuit*, and were welcomed into "Chinderland" with a songs performed by Ueli Schmezer.

Giovanni Orelli. *Il sogno di Wallacek – Wallacek's Traum* 06.05.2009

Orelli's *Il sogno di Wallacek* (1991) appeared in German translation in 2008 as *Wallacek's Traum*. The author was on hand to read from his own work at the bilingual event held at Zentrum Paul Klee.

«Ich schweige nicht!» Exhibition dedicated to the work of Carl Albert Loosli 15.5.–30.8.2008

Mounted by the Carl-Albert-Loosli Society, the exhibition demonstrated the author and philosopher's role in Swiss literature. Central to the show were documents from Loosli's papers at the Swiss Literary Archives, which celebrated the writer in a monographic issue of its journal *Quarto* to mark the occasion.

Pier Paolo Pasolini: Who is me 14.06. – 06.09.2009

The exhibition at the Centre Dürrenmatt presented the life and work of Pier Paolo Pasolini, film-maker, writer, thinker and provocateur, in all of its variety and complexity. It was mounted in collaboration with Zurich's Museum Strauhof and was also to be seen at the Literaturhaus Berlin.

Underground stacks west inaugural ceremony 20.8.2009

Some 200 invited guests from Switzerland and Europe attended the ceremony inaugurating the NL's second underground stacks. Like their counterpart, the new stacks also provide optimal conditions for the conservation and storage of documents on paper. The keynote address was made by Dame Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library.

[Image *Magazineröffnung_09_VIP_024. Légende*] Inauguration of underground stacks west, Dame Lynne Brindley

Jacques Chessex: «De ratures en figures» 26.8.2009

Jacques Chessex, one of the key figures in contemporary Swiss French literature, died suddenly at the age of 75 on 9 October 2009. One of his last public appearances took place at the Swiss National Library, where at the invitation of the Swiss Literary Archives he lectured on the function of striking through and erasing in the process of writing, and called for a rhetoric of deletion.

Open days 29./30.8.2009

While for security reasons the National Library's stacks are as a rule off limits to the public, over the course of two days the inauguration of the stacks west offered those interested a chance to descend into the library's underworld. A film, a series of mini-presentations and brief demonstrations rounded out the display of the National Library's work, and the treasures it houses.

Schreiben und Streichen 04.–05.09.2009

What is the role of striking through in the evolution of a work of literature? Together with the Department of German at the University of Basel and with the support of the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Swiss Literary Archives convened an international colloquium on this rarely addressed topic at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel.

Ulrich Meister: Works on Paper 10.10.–12.12.2009

In pictures, texts and drawings, Ulrich Meister subjects unlikely objects to an investigation of their polysemous presence. The Swiss National Library's print and drawing collections have been acquiring Meister's works on paper since 1995, a selection of which were shown in the exhibition. Schaffhausen's Museum zu Allerheiligen showed Meister's paintings during the same period.

Franz Hohler: «Live and on record – Läbig und ygmacht!» 18.11.2009

Franz Hohler displayed visual and audio works created by himself and others at the final event of the *IMVOCs* (*Images et Voix de la Culture Suisse*) project. *IMVOCs* recorded and digitised films, videos and sound documents pertaining to Swiss authors from all regions of the country. The project had been carried out under the aegis of the Memoriav Association.

Cercle d'études internationales Jean Starobinski 19.11.2009

Each autumn, scholars researching the work of Jean Starobinski meet at the University of Geneva. The group, initiated in 2007 by the Swiss Literary Archives, has been publishing its own bulletin since 2008. In the year under review, cultural studies expert Tzvetan Todorov spoke about the relationship between criticism and ethics in Starobinski's thought, and French author Gérard Macé presented his new book, a documentation of his encounters with Starobinski.

Peter Bichsel: *Über Gott und die Welt. Texte zur Religion* 25.11.2009

Over the course of decades, Bichsel has repeatedly addressed religious topics. His latest volume, showcased in the presence of the author, contains previously unpublished work and offers an initial glimpse at the many facets of Bichsel's engagement with God, resolutely viewed from a secular perspective.

Paul Nizon: *Ein Leben in Journalen* 12.12.2009

Paul Nizon, who turned 80 in December of 2009, has used his journals to give literary form to the last five decades of his life and writing. Since 1996, drafts of this work have been housed in the Swiss Literary Archives together with the entirety of his personal archives. The Swiss Literary Archives and the Robert Walser-Zentrum organised a discussion of *Leben in Journalen* on the occasion of its publication.

6. National and International partnerships

As reported in 2009, the NL developed the *Digicoord* (www.digicoord.ch) 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 (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 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).

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)	4.03
Holdings: Federal Archives of Historical Monuments, (in millions of units)	1.2
Fonds : Swiss Literary Archives	277
Staff (full time equivalents)	129.1
Operating expenditure (in millions of CHF)	35.9

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