

# CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIES

## ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2000 – AUGUST 2001 SWISS NATIONAL LIBRARY

### 0. Main Data

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***Swiss National Library in short (at the end of 2000) :***

Budget (including staff) SFr 16'606'300.-

Collections:

2'531'085 Monographs

553'177 Volumes of Periodicals

336'589 Graphical documents

51'071 Musical scores

9'845 Microfilms/CD-ROM

10'906 Audiovisual documents

Total 3'492'673 units

New acquisitions in 2000 65'129 units

Staff (1.1.2001) 105,2 full time positions

## **1. Management of the library (developments and improvements)**

In 2000, we submitted a dossier to the Department of the Interior proposing that the SNL change its status to become a foundation. This proposal was made following an thorough study of the current context within Switzerland and an analysis of the possibilities open to us concerning greater autonomy in our financial management in order to meet the requirements of our mandate. However, during a meeting held in May 2000 the Department has responded that while it admits that there is an imbalance between the SNL's tasks and the resources at its disposal, it is preferable that we maintain our current legal status as a federal entity for the present, considering that it corresponds best to our central task of preserving the country's literary heritage. In addition, the department wishes to see legal deposit introduced and will support the efforts made by the SNL to bring this about. As a result, the SNL will shelve the discussions about changing the institution's legal status for the present, and thanks the CENL partners for all the information they provided on their own situation in response to the questionnaire sent out.

The imbalance between resources and requirements remains and so to address this the SNL has reviewed its tariffs and plans to introduce charges in some areas that were cost-free hitherto.

## **2. Handling of electronic publications**

During 2000, SNL continued to work on the NEDLIB project, and in this context carried out experiments to harvest the .ch domain. A project e-publications Helvetica has begun, managed by the head of the National Bibliography, to set up the infrastructure for managing e-publications and preserving them for long-term use. The publishers associations have been contacted and an awareness-raising day about electronic publishing will take place in September 2001 at which over 200 publishers are expected.

### **3. Finance and funding**

See 1.

### **4. Legislation**

The SNL has begun to prepare a proposal to the Parliament concerning the introduction of legal deposit, to cover all forms of publications

### **5. Buildings and plant**

As in the past two years, the priority project at the SNL has been AVANTI, the renovation of the library building. The return was originally planned for the end of 2000 but some delays occurred with regard to the renovation of the exterior and so the staff could only move back to the building at the beginning of 2001. The new extended public area was re-opened on schedule on March 26<sup>th</sup> 2001. The official inauguration is still planned for June 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2001. After two years' 'exile' the staff are delighted to be able to return to the library. While there remain some areas in which improvements are required, the general level of renovation has been well received.

### **6. Staffing matters**

See 1.

### **7. Information Technology and networks**

As planned, the IT department of the SNL was transferred to one of the 7 new centres for IT that replace the 70+ IT departments in the federal administration. A special solution was proposed for the federal libraries' operational activities (including the SNL), involving co-operation with institutions outside the federal government. The SNL director was mandated to study co-operation between the federal libraries and the Réseau romand des bibliothèques (RERO) all of whom use the library systems developed by VTLIS Inc. The idea was to build a centre of excellence - CEPIB (Centre de prestations informatiques pour les bibliothèques) - around the know-how acquired in the different institutions over the years. Unfortunately there was some difficulty in reaching an agreement as the RERO management feared

losing their autonomy. However, a solution has been found and the planned co-operation will be set up during 2001. In preparation for this, the SNL has migrated from the HewlettPackard MPE operating system to UNIX. All partners hope to migrate to the VIRTUA product by VTLs Inc.

## **8. The digital library**

The Posters' database continues to grow, with over 600 posters catalogued by March 2001. A search is under way to find some sponsorship for this work. During 2001 it is planned to continue digitising the poster collection.

Various sectors of the library have been trying to start digitisation projects. In order to ensure a co-ordinated approach, a small group has been mandated to liaise with the various departments to produce an overall digitisation plan.

See also handling of electronic publications.

## **9. Legal deposit of materials**

Discussion still continues concerning the introduction of legal deposit but no decisions have yet been taken. One of the main points is to define the extent of legal deposit coverage that will be required.

## **10. Acquisitions**

The acquisitions budget was cut by 6'000 Swiss francs in 2000, at the same time as the library began to organise the extension of its collection to electronic publications and participation in consortial licences. As a result, fewer items of bibliophilic interest or for the special collections have been acquired.

## **11. Conservation / preservation of collections**

The centre for deacidification at Wimmis was officially inaugurated on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2000. Deacidification of the SNL collections and those of the Federal Archives had already begun in Spring 2000. By the end of December 2000, nearly 60'000 documents had been deacidified. Under the terms of the 10 year contract with Nitrochemie AG, the company running the plant, the SNL can deacidify 40 tonnes of documents per year, and there are 1'500 tonnes of such material. The federal parliament has provided financing for the first five years of this contractual period. We calculate that after 10 years we will have deacidified just a quarter of the amount we need. However for the present we are not making plans beyond this period, as we are sure that the technology will evolve in the next years.

Since 1995, the library has been setting up and updating its catastrophe plan. In Summer 2000 the library worked with the Bern Fire Service on a practical

exercise on saving documents from fire and water damage. Over 30 staff took part in the exercise which was filmed and is available for consultation.

## **12. Services to readers**

The Reader services section has been completely re-modelled and extended during the two years' renovation work. There are four floors (previously only one) with the following services:

Level 1 (ground floor): Main reading room, Information room with catalogues and search station, circulation control, multimedia room, children's corner, copying areas

Level 2: open access newspapers and serials, study areas, Library science collection

Level 3: open access Helvetica collection, study areas, study carrels, rooms for group work, Gallery

Level 4: Swiss Literary Archives' reading room, Special collections consultation area, study areas, rooms for group work.

## **13. Cultural Events, Exhibitions**

The Dürrenmatt Centre in Neuchâtel was officially opened on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2000. Colleagues from the CENL and from the cultural, political and financial fields in Switzerland attended the festivities. Since its opening, the Centre has been very successful in attracting visitors with an average of 100 people per day.

SNL continues to organise the Library Science Talks in cooperation with the CERN library in Geneva and the Association of International Librarians and Information Specialists (AILIS). The programme is available at:

[http://www.snl.ch/f/fuehr/b\\_lst.htm](http://www.snl.ch/f/fuehr/b_lst.htm)

## **14. Library Co-operation**

### ***on the national level***

SNL is working on a prototype offering a central index to 4 de-centralised audio-visual collections in Switzerland: MEMOBASE (<http://www.memoriav.ch>)

The data is extracted from the participants' own databases and converted to Dublin Core. The collections include VOCS from the SNL and the RSR (Swiss-French radio service), a series of digitised sound recordings of interviews with Swiss authors and 'Daily life throughout the ages' a photograph collection from the Valais centre for Sound and Image.

SNL has joined the Swiss university libraries Consortium for electronic publications <http://lib.consortium.ch/>

### ***on the international level***

SNL continues to remain active in COBRA+

NEDLIB (<http://www.konbib.nl/nedlib>) and MALVINE (<http://www.malvine.org/>) finished at the end of 2000 and in January 2001 respectively, but we are continuing our European co-operation with the Accompanying measure TEL (The European Library) (<http://www.bl.uk/tel/>) and the project LEAF ([www.leaf-eu.org](http://www.leaf-eu.org))

Following the successful development of the MACS prototype, the 4 partner libraries (SNL, Die Deutsche Bibliothek, la Bibliothèque nationale de France, the British Library) have agreed to freeze development of the MACS system in order to take time for further tests and to draw up an organization/ cooperation model, as well as specifications for scaling up the database. At the same time the members of the MACS group will continue putting links into the prototype database (under supervision of MK). The aim is to create about 5 000 links of equivalent terms (RAMEAU/LCSH/SWD), based on the list of 50 000 RAMEAU/LCSH equivalents, until the end of 2001. Interested parties may have a guest access to the system to test it.

The SNL and the Deutsche Bibliothek have signed an agreement to work in close co-operation with one another in various fields, including subject indexing and classification.

## **15. Major celebrations**

The official inauguration of the renovated building will take place on June 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2001. There will be presentations and discussion on libraries and architecture, a preview of the exhibition 'Building for Books' and an evening celebration. Guests will also be given guided tours of the library.