

## CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES (CDNL)

### EDINBURGH

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COUNTRY NAME: SWITZERLAND

LIBRARY NAME: SWISS NATIONAL LIBRARY

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#### General information

Following the successful inauguration of the refurbished library building in 2001 (see last year's report), the Swiss National Library (SNL) has completed the final phase of its extensive reorganisation programme RAMSES, which started in 1990 and covered all aspects of library management, automation, new storage facilities (underground stacks), deacidification and national and international co-ordination. The main challenges for the next years will be the preparation of a proposal for further storage areas and the management of our digital heritage. In autumn 2001 the SNL organised a conference aimed at raising publishers' awareness in the field of electronic publishing. This was the first colloquium of its kind in Switzerland and enabled publishers to learn about the challenges of digital preservation, the complexities of rights management and the potential role of the national library in this area. E-Helvetica, a project to manage electronic publications, both online and offline, has begun and will work on the capture and long-term preservation of digitally born publications in Switzerland, building on the results of the NEDLIB project and in discussion with colleagues in Switzerland (Federal Archives) and elsewhere, especially the Die Deutsche Bibliothek in Germany and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in the Netherlands.

A new strategic plan for 2002 – 2005 is being defined. In addition to increased autonomy for the library, the main areas of change will be:

- - reinforcing the library's image in Switzerland and abroad
- - maintaining the quality of our collections
- - reviewing our user services
- - adapting our technology
- - improving the management structure

#### Legal deposit

The SNL is mandated to collect Helvetica i.e. it 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. However, there is currently no legal deposit at a national level in Switzerland though it does exist in some cantons. The SNL has been mandated by the Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs to prepare a proposal to the Parliament concerning the introduction of legal deposit, to cover all forms of publications. The introduction of such legislation will not take place before 2006 at the earliest.

### **National and international co-operation**

It remains very difficult to co-ordinate work at a national level.

Some specific national and international topics follow:

- a) Work still continues in the area of improving access to distributed posters collections. Over 6'000 digitised posters are accessible at <http://www.snl.ch/posters> and a national collection policy is under discussion.
- b) The future of the national union list of serials is less certain. A major study of the service and its future was carried out in 2001 and proposed that Swiss libraries should join find a solution at an international level, for example the Zeitschriftendatenbank (ZDB) in Germany rather than attempt to continue on a national scale. The feasibility of this approach is being studied in 2002.
- c) The SNL is taking an active part in a national commission to set up a co-ordinated policy for the management of Switzerland's cultural heritage (MEMOCOM).
- d) The SNL remains active in COBRA+ a Forum of the CENL (<http://www.bl.uk/about/cooperation/gabriel.html>). The prototype for multilingual access to subjects (MACS) has been successfully tested and the SNL is co-ordinating further development of the system which should become operational in autumn 2002. The prototype is still available for testing at: <http://infolab.kub.nl/prj/macs> .
- e) The SNL continues European co-operation with the Accompanying measure TEL (The European Library) (<http://www.europeanlibrary.org> ) and the project LEAF ([www.leaf-eu.org](http://www.leaf-eu.org) )

Bern, May 29<sup>th</sup> 2002