

## **Annual Report September 1994 - August 1995 - Swiss National Library**

### **Reorganisation of the National Library**

During this period, we started our third year of reorganisation. Ten main projects are under way and are proceeding at different speeds. We have continued our efforts in the area of methodology, and have concentrated in particular on planning.

A working group made up of management staff from the library has defined a strategy for 1995-1997 and identified 4 main goals for the library. Around 60 general objectives will enable these goals to be reached. To fulfil these objectives, we have identified activities we will undertake in the coming months and years.

### **Automation**

In October 1994, we opened the OPAC to the public, both in-house and externally via Internet.

We also provided the first Swiss records for the ISSN centre in Paris. These records are now extracted from our database regularly and converted into ISDS format.

### **Building**

Work has continued on the construction of underground stacks, which was begun in March 1994. A hole 30 metres deep has been excavated for the planned 70 km of shelving. Excavation was completed in summer 1995, and the first layer of concrete was laid on September 7th 1995. The building should be ready in time for us to move our current collections at the beginning of 1997.

We are preparing the second phase of construction which aims to adapt our current facilities. Parliament should reach a decision on the project in February 1996, and if the decision is favourable, work could then begin in Summer 1997.

### **Other Specific Projects**

The first phase of our **data conversion** is almost over. Almost all the Author file (from 1848 until today, around 900,000 records) has now been converted. The remainder of the records (around 450,000) will be loaded into the database by the end of this year. We currently have two databases, one for the retroconverted data, and one for current cataloguing. A study is under way to evaluate the most economic way to clean up some of the data and then merge the two databases.

We have continued our tests of **mass deacidification** in co-operation with the Swiss Federal Archives. Our most recent tests have been very encouraging. The equipment we plan to use will be managed by a private company: we have recently put this out to tender. However, financial restrictions mean that we do not expect to have an operational system before the end of 1998.

In the **audiovisual** field we have two projects under way. First of all, it has been decided that the National Sound Archives, currently based in Lugano, should extend its activities to the premises of the Swiss National Library. This extension concerns public access in particular.

Secondly, we have continued our awareness campaign entitled "Un pays perd sa memoire" (A country is losing its memory). An association composed of institutions which are involved in audiovisual conservation should be formed by Autumn 1995.

## **Co-operation on the National Level**

The parliament asked us formally to take on a specific role of national co-ordination. Having chosen our system, we intend now to introduce a **national network based on heterogeneous systems**. A first report was presented to the Swiss government in Autumn 1994, and included an estimated budget of 100 million Swiss francs (90 million of which was for data conversion, cleaning, merging etc.) The Swiss German university libraries' reactions have been unenthusiastic, as they consider the project too expensive and fear that it would involve budgetary restrictions for them. However, the smaller Swiss libraries have shown more interest in the suggestions made. As a first step to sharing data however, the two largest library networks in the country have agreed to co-operate with the Swiss National Library to create a CD-ROM using data from these different sources.

## **Co-operation on the International Level**

The Swiss National Library has remained active in task group 3 of COBRA. A proposal to create national information centres was greeted with interest but unfortunately no EU member was available to act as project leader. However, we are continuing to develop our own national information centre 'IZ Helvetica'.

We are taking an active part in the EU project CANAL/LS. As part of the project, we will carry out a study into multilingual requirements of library users in co-operation with the Cantonal and University Library of Fribourg.

We also agreed to take part in the MULIS project, submitted to the Commission in June 1995. From January 1995, we have set up the ISSN centre for Switzerland at the Swiss National Library. As mentioned above, new data is sent regularly to the ISSN centre in Paris.