

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIES

ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1996 - AUGUST 1997

SWISS NATIONAL LIBRARY

Introduction

Director's address:

Dr. J.-F. Jauslin
Schweizerische Landesbibliothek
Hallwylstrasse 15
CH - 3003 BERN
Tel. 41+31+322.89.01
Fax 41+42+322.84.63
eMail Jean-Frederic.Jauslin@slb.admin.ch

Swiss National Library in short (at the end of 1996) :

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Budget | Sfrs 17'273'800 | |
| Collections | 2'382'578 | Monographs |
| | 450'169 | Volumes of Periodicals |
| | 327'792 | Graphical documents |
| | 43'343 | Musical scores |
| | 8'444 | Microfilms/CD-ROM |
| | 9'274 | Audiovisual documents |
| | 44'906 | Other documents |
| Total | 3' 266'506 | units |
| New acquisitions in 1996 | 59'948 | units |
| Staff (1.1.1997) | 103,2 | full time positions |

The Swiss National Library in politics

1996 was the end of our first phase of the reorganisation that we started four years before. Unfortunately, because of lack of resources and staff, we were not able to achieve all the goals defined at the beginning of the project. But we are proud of the many improvements we were able to make. The Swiss National Library is now in a situation which is good enough to plan further activities. Many services are now offered to the public, our collections have references in our computerised catalogues and the team is ready to step into the 3rd millennium.

In 1996, it was intended to introduce New Public Management (NPM) techniques in the Swiss National Library. The SNL prepared a concept formulating the advantages of these new opportunities. Unfortunately, in June 1996, we learned that our project would not be part of the first phase starting in January 1998, because of political reasons. We are still convinced that these techniques would best suit the SNL and permit us to work optimally.

Building

Work has continued on the construction of underground stacks, which was begun in March 1994. The building (7 floors) will be ready in time (May 1997) enabling us to move our current collections (3 million items) before the end of September 1997.

At the end of 1996, Parliament has accepted our second phase of construction which aims to adapt our current facilities. The work will begin in Autumn 1997. The work, costing an estimated Sfrs. 35 million, should last three years, i.e. until the middle of the year 2000. All the SNL staff will be disrupted during this time. We plan to keep a maximum of activities and services available to our public, but it is inevitable that there be much inconvenience to all concerned, both staff and users.

Automation, data processing, retroconversion

The first phase of our **data conversion** is over. The Author file (from the beginning of our collections, say 1848, until today, around 1'100,000 records) has now been converted. During 1996 we merged the new production (around 90,000 items) entered since October 1993, date of the introduction of our cataloguing system, with the converted data. Substantial efforts to clean up the data were necessary after the merge of the two databases in order to offer a correct access to the end-user.

We introduced further modules of our **automation** system VTLS by the end of 1996. The main project was to migrate the Swiss Union Catalogue of Periodicals, running on the SIBIL system, to VTLS.

Furthermore, we plan to introduce, before end of Summer 1997, a fully automated circulation system in order to maintain a good level of services during the transformation of the main building. We will then offer possibilities to the end-users to get their documentation without having to come to the SNL building.

In Winter 1996, we started to convert the Swiss Union Catalogue (6 million records on cards). The first phase, which should be finished before Summer 1996, was to microfilm the entire catalogue. This step has two reasons. First of all, we need to have a security copy of this catalogue before starting our building transformation. Secondly, during these transformations, we cannot guarantee an access to the cards. The staff will then have to work provisionally on

microfilms until we will have digitised this information. We plan to achieve this step before the end of 1998.

Conservation, Preservation

We have continued our tests of **mass deacidification** in co-operation with the Swiss Federal Archives. Our most recent tests have been definitively accepted. The equipment we plan to use (same supplier as the Deutsche Bibliothek) will be managed by a private company. However, financial restrictions mean that we do not expect to have an operational system before the end of 1998. The project has been transmitted to the Parliament in February 1997. A final decision for this Sfrs13 million project should be taken by the end of 1997.

In the **audiovisual** field, the association MEMORIAV (created in December 1995 and bringing the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, the National Sound Archives, the Swiss Film Archives, the Federal Office for Communications, the Federal Archives and the SNL together) keeps on going with its work trying to save parts of audiovisual material in great danger. The number of members has increased to 34 institutions, proving that the interest in that question is very high in the country. We intend to create a network of skills in the country in order to improve the information exchange on that topic and to prevent the loss of more audiovisual material. The federal government should recognise MEMORIAV officially during 1997 and support it financially from 1998.

Public relations

Numerous exhibitions and events have taken place at the SNL during this time. Our annual report gives more details about these events.

Co-operation on the national level

The implementation of a **national information network** is still very difficult but a couple of important steps have been achieved during 1996. First of all, the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich has decided to stop developing its own library system (ETHICS) and to acquire and install a commercial solution before end of 1998. Most of the university libraries in the German part of Switzerland intend to follow this choice. A call for proposals has been published in March 1997. The deadline for presenting offers is set at the end of April 1997.

In parallel, we are still working on a first step of sharing data. 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. This product, made with the help of the British Library and a commercial company, will contain more than 5 million records and should be ready before Summer 1997.

Another important step has been realised with the INS project (Informationsnetz Schweiz - Swiss Information Network), developed by a spin-off company of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. The project provides a WWW interface to the major networks (ETHICS, RERO) plus the SNL and the scanned card catalogue of the Zentralbibliothek Zurich. The first stage enables the user to send one search simultaneously to these different catalogues.

In addition, the Swiss Library Association has started a project which aims to re-evaluate the principles on which cataloguing and indexing are based. The first results from this working

group, in which the SNL is taking an active part, have been presented at the end of 1996. Many ideas and suggestions have been developed to reduce cataloguing costs and to accelerate the procedure. The Swiss Library Association should decide which direction should be pursued.

Co-operation on the international level

The Swiss National Library has remained active in COBRA+ and participates, or intend to participate, in multiple European projects (CANAL/LS, NEDLIB, MALVINE).

In March 1997, the Swiss National Librarian accepted to chair one of the two Task Groups of COBRA+, replacing the former chair, Pat Donlon, who had unfortunately to leave her position for health reasons. One of the main accents of this group could be focused on multilingual aspects.