

# CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIES

## ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 1999 – AUGUST 2000 SWISS NATIONAL LIBRARY

### 0. Main Data

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#### ***Swiss National Library in short (at the end of 1999) :***

Budget (including staff) SFr 18'407'119

Collections 2'493'064 Monographs

530'174 Volumes of Periodicals

334'894 Graphical documents

49'475 Musical scores

9'389 Microfilms/CD-ROM

10'548 Audiovisual documents

Total 3'472'738 units

New acquisitions in 1999 65'328 units

Staff (1.1.2000) 102,2 full time positions

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

In 1996, the SNL proposed a different management structure to the Department of the Interior, based on the concept of New Public Management, but at the time this request was considered to be premature. In 1999 however, in parallel with a global study on the reorganisation of the Federal Office of Culture, we were asked to put forward proposals aiming at a greater autonomy for our institution. Within this framework, we studied the most appropriate legal status of the library, using input from our CENL colleagues who generously replied to our questionnaire on the subject. Our conclusion is that the SNL should have its own legal status so that we may manage our development and take decisions more rapidly. This proposal was still being discussed in May 2000 .

In addition to this study, we re-analysed our strategy. Given that we cannot substantially increase our resources, either financial or in personnel, we decided to concentrate our efforts on our basic mission: the management of our cultural heritage. However, we also aim to continue work on an international level, building on contacts made until now, especially with other national libraries.

Within this context of a move towards greater autonomy, it is unfortunate (and fundamentally contradictory!) that during the same time, the government carried out a major reorganisation of computing at the federal level (NOVE-IT), grouping all computing into 7 departments, corresponding to the 7 ministries. As a result, at the end of 1999, the SNL Computing department was officially disbanded (although the staff will not be moved to

the new centralised offices until some time during 2000), The only application excluded from this centralisation is the management of our library system software, VTLS, for which it is planned to set up a centre of competence outside the federal structure, in co-operation with other federal libraries and the Swiss-French network of libraries (RERO). It is too early for us to measure the full effects of this reorganisation, and its implications for management and our move to greater autonomy.

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

In 1999, a working group was set up to analyse the handling of electronic publications in the SNL, both on-line and off-line. The group took into account results from other national efforts and from the NEDLIB project . The conclusions of the study propose that a selective approach to the acquisition of electronic publications be taken i.e. the SNL does not plan to harvest the entire WWW .ch domain but to apply the criteria already established to determine Helvetica and to establish the scientific value of any documents under consideration for inclusion. As far as possible, standard formats will be selected, and if multiple versions of a publication are available, the priority will be given to paper or microform. Chat fora, discussion lists, games, electronic mail are among the elements excluded.

During 2000 a small division will be set up to begin managing selected documents. The collection will begin with some electronic publications of the University of Ticino, which have been deposited with the SNL. An implementation plan will also be devised to take into account as far as possible the results of the NEDLIB project concerning storage and preservation. Electronic publications will be catalogued according to the SNL rules (moving to AACR), in USMARC and the records will be integrated in the national bibliography and HELVETICAT, the online catalogue. Access to the publications will depend on agreements reached with publishers.

## **3. Finance and funding**

See 1.

## **4. Legislation**

See 1.

## **5. Buildings and plant**

The priority project at SNL in 1999 and 2000 was and is AVANTI, the renovation of the library building, including preparation of the new reading rooms (contents, networking, infrastructure). See also the report for 1998-1999. We plan to move the staff back to the renovated building at the beginning of the year 2001 and re-open the rooms for the public in March 2001. The official ceremony will take place between 8th and 10th of June 2001.

We have begun to plan for the construction of another underground stack, as originally planned, and will be requesting funding in the near future. We hope to open them in 2005.

Work continued on the Dürrenmatt Centre in Neuchâtel, which will open in September 2000.

## **6. Staffing matters**

See 1.

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

At the beginning of 99, the computing infrastructure was migrated to a full TCP/IP network. The new environment for clients, servers and CD-ROM is Windows NT 4.0, Office 97 and MS-Exchange. The standard PC configuration for staff is: 17" screen, Pentium PC (90% of Pentium II, 200Mega Hertz), 64 MB RAM, with the following software: MS-Office 97, MS-Outlook 98, Cd-Manager to access the CD-ROM network, Netscape 4.06, EasyPac to access our catalogues, a wide selection of links to Swiss and foreign libraries via Telnet/Telnet3270 (in addition to Internet options), MacInDos, Acrobat, Ghostview, Snagit etc.

SNL uses the VTLS software (Catalogue, Circulation, OPAC). Access to the catalogues (HELVETICAT and the Union list of serials) is possible via WWW, a client (EasyPac) or Telnet. For more details see <http://www.snl.ch>

In 1999 the SNL migrated to VTLS99

During 2000 the VTLS system will be moved from its current HP environment to UNIX. This is done in preparation for the creation of the Centre of competence (see 1.) .

Also during 2000, the CD-ROM environment will be moved to MS terminal Server / Citrix Metaframe.

As part of the preparations for the return to the renovated building (AVANTI) the old subject card catalogue has been scanned, and will be made available during 2000.

During 1999, the Computing department had (like many others) to carry out work to ensure that the library computing environment was 2000 compatible. The latest version of software from the library's suppliers was installed and tested and changes made to the networking environment. Several local developments under MS-Access 2.0 had to be re-written: address management for the Secretariat was converted to Outlook, a new system for the address management of the Swiss Union List of Serials and the repertoire of Manuscripts in Swiss libraries and archives was mandated, and the management of staff activity reports was transferred to a commercial product. No problems occurred over the New Year!

Other developments in 1999-2000 were the definition of output requirements from the Union list of serials (development carried out by VTLS Inc.) and the analysis of statistical data.

During 2000-2001 four national specialised bibliographies will be automated using VTLS99 and will thus be accessible online for the first time: Bibliographie des lettres romandes, Bibliographie der Schweizergeschichte/Bibliographie de l'histoire suisse; Bibliographia Scientiae Helvetica; Bibliographie zur deutschsprachigen Schweizliteratur.

A prototype National Union Catalogue of Posters was set up using VTLS99 (see below, the Digital Library, 8)

From Summer 1999, the SNL hosts and manages the Swiss Library Association's ILL servers.

## **8. The digital library**

A project has started to test the feasibility of a National Union catalogue of Posters: partners include libraries and museums. The first stage of the project is a prototype catalogue containing 1'500 digitised posters and their descriptions. MEMORIAV, the Association for the preservation of the audiovisual heritage of Switzerland (<http://www.memoriav.ch>) has funded a part-time cataloguer in 1999 and 2000, and has covered the costs of digitising 1'500 posters from the SNL collection, using as a basis the Ectachromes or slides previously prepared for a print publication. The test set of posters represents prize-winning Swiss posters from 1941 to 1998. By the end of 1999, around 200 posters had been catalogued and all 1'500 posters digitised. Work on cataloguing will continue in 2000, with the help of colleagues from the participating institutions. The prototype will serve as a showcase in our search for sponsors to support the development of the union catalogue.

A multimedia application, based on the book 'Die Physiker' written by the famous swiss author, is in preparation for the new Dürrenmatt Centre in Neuchâtel.

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

Discussion still continues concerning the introduction of legal deposit but no decisions have yet been taken.

## **10. Acquisitions**

12'000 documents will be acquired for the new open access area. They have to be chosen and added to the collection in addition to normal work. A special budget was allocated for their acquisition and to pay for an additional temporary member of staff. The normal acquisitions budget however was cut by 5'000 Fr. in 1999 and more cuts took place in 2000. Since added expenses are expected for subscriptions to electronic services within the planned national consortium, selection criteria will need to be more restrictive this year.

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

Preparation continued in the mass deacidification programme. This required some adaptation to the VTLS system to work with the data required for the management of the workflow. The centre for deacidification at Wimmis will be officially inaugurated on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2000. The actual treatment of documents has already begun in May 2000.

A publicity campaign has been carried out to inform potential users of this service in other libraries and archives in Switzerland and abroad (except in Germany because an agreement with the company delivering the system).

## **12. Services to readers**

From June 1999 to the end of February 2000, 289 'Books on demand' (around 60'000 pages in all) were produced using the Docutech system. Of these 201 were for the SNL (to complete its collection of Helvetica) and 80 for end-users following the introduction of this service to users in November 1999.

### 13. Cultural Events, Exhibitions

We continue to organise exhibitions outside the SNL itself during the closure of the main building.

The exhibition '*Gallimard et la Suisse – un siècle d'affinités littéraires*' which was organised jointly by Gallimard and the SNL took place first of all the Salon du Livre in Geneva in April 1999, then in Fribourg in July, Neuchâtel in August-September and finally in Lausanne in October-November, with great success each time. In 2000 the exhibition could be seen first of all in Bern (Kornhaus), and in Paris in May at the Centre culturel suisse.

An exposition devoted to Blaise Cendrars, organised with the Präsidiäldépartement of the town of Zurich from September to December 1999 was also well received.

In addition two exhibitions originally prepared for the Frankfurt Book Fair in 1998 were put on display in the Kornhaus Bern in February and March 1999: *Lieber Herr und Freund – Schweizer Autorinnen und Autoren und ihre deutschen Verleger* and *Portrait Schweizer Autorinnen und Autoren fotografiert von Felix von Murault*.

The book published for the exhibition *Lieber Herr und Freund* was awarded a prize in 1999 for being one of the most beautiful Swiss books published (*Geehrter Herr – lieber Freund. Schweizer Literatur in deutschen Verlagen*).

As mentioned in the report for 1998, the success of the revised exhibition *The Sister Republics – Switzerland and the United States from 1776 to the Present* meant that we planned a touring exhibition, which began in September 1999 at the Chicago Public Library. The next venues are the Free Library in Philadelphia and the Carter Library in Atlanta, with perhaps stops in similar institutions in Boston and Los Angeles. The management of the exhibition has been taken over by the Commission for the Coordination of Switzerland's visibility abroad.

From April to June 1999, the exhibition *Konstruktion* took place at the Kunsthalle Palazzo Liestal, displaying portfolios and drawings from the following artists: Jürg Moser, Karim Nouredin, Vaclav Pozarek and Gaudenz Signorell.

Finally, during May 1999, the display windows of one of Bern's biggest department stores, Loeb, were the scene of an exhibition prepared by Mario

Botta around Friedrich Dürrenmatt: *Minotaurus* aiming at informing the public about the Dürrenmatt Centre.

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 (ALLIS). 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***

The feasibility study about the national name authority file came to the conclusion that under current circumstances such a file, while highly desirable, is in fact unfeasible. The participants in the study did recommend that libraries use the authority files of the SNL as a basis for their work, but without an organisational structure or the willingness to invest in harmonisation, the practical applications of this remain minimal.

In the field of ILL on the other hand, cooperation using the new software environment is growing within the French-speaking area of Switzerland. During 2000 an effort will be made to encourage the German-speaking areas to become more involved.

New proposals concerning raised tariffs for ILL are currently causing much debate, and there is in some areas a push to move towards direct ordering by the users within cooperative groups which will undoubtedly have an effect on ILL. The SNL has joined one such initiative: BibliOpass (<http://www.bibliopass.ch>) which is operational since April 2000 and allows the user to borrow documents from the partner libraries, though not all members allow direct ordering.

Cooperation within the AV world is increasing: MEMORIAV (<http://www.memoriav.ch>) continues to grow and an interesting test involving access to the AV collections of several institutions has begun, with results expected during 2000.

The proposed consortium among Swiss libraries for the licensing of electronic publications has funding difficulties: the success of a request for national funding is still in the balance, and on it depends the developments of this cooperative effort.

We are planning to introduce the ISIL code for Switzerland and assign the codes to Swiss libraries

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



The Swiss National Library continues to remain active in COBRA+ and to participate in NEDLIB (<http://www.konbib.nl/nedlib>) and MALVINE (<http://www.malvine.org/>).

Following the successful feasibility study into linking three Subject Heading Languages (LCSH, RAMEAU and SWD/RSWK), the four partner libraries (SNL, British Library, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Die Deutsche Bibliothek) signed a convention in August 1999 in which they agreed to finance a prototype system: MACS, Multilingual Access to Subjects.

A call for tender was launched to targeted suppliers, and a information day was held at the seat of the CENL (Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Den Haag) in November 1999. The proposals were analysed in December – January and work began on the prototype in February. Development is planned to take 6 months so we hope to be able to demonstrate the system to the CENL in September 2000.

The final report of the group is available at : <http://www.bl.uk/gabriel/cobra/finrap3.html>

The project page is at: <http://infolab.kub.nl/prj/macs>

A consortium comprising Index Data (Denmark) and Tilburg University Library (Netherlands) is carrying out the development.

This project is interesting not only for its content, but also because it is the first time that a project is being financed directly by partner libraries within the structure of the CENL.

## **15. Major celebrations**

No special comments

## **16. Other**

Jean-Frédéric Jauslin, May 31st 2000