Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA

Swiss Federal Office of Culture FOC

Swiss National Library NL

Marie-Christine Doffey, April 2015

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL for 2014

SNL Mission statement
 The Swiss National Library 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.

Name of country: **Switzerland**
Name of library: **Swiss National Library (NL)**
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1. Note of the reporting library's relationship to government, and citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations.

Since January 1st 2006, the NL has had the status of a new public management entity and is run according to a performance mandate and global budget (MPM). Within this, it retains its dual mandate: collecting documents and preserving for the future; but also making them available to the public. This is reflected in the two product groups of the NL: collections and user services. In contrast with other national libraries, part of the NL's mandate is to allow users to borrow material for home use (with some restrictions).

Encouraging participation in cultural heritage, social cohesion, and creation and innovation, are the three areas of action defined by the Federal Council in the Culture Dispatch in 2014. These have been transposed into the terms of the NL's mandate, and incorporated into the NL's revised strategy to 2019 with the following four key action areas:

1. Preserving records of the present for the future.
2. Making the NL's content easy to find and simple to use.
3. Supporting researchers in their work.
4. Fostering debate about Switzerland.

The NL's collections will soon encompass sound storage media as well as text and image documents. In November 2014, when approving the Culture Dispatch, the Federal Council decided to incorporate the Swiss National Sound Archives into the Swiss National Library from 1st January 2016. The Sound Archives will remain in Lugano once the integration is complete. Lugano will thus become the NL's third location, in addition to its headquarters in Bern and the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel.

2. Key facts and figures for 2014 (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc).

Holdings: General collection (in millions of units)	4.44
Holdings: Federal Archives of Historical Monuments,(in millions of units)	1.2
Fonds : Swiss Literary Archives	341
Staff (full time equivalents)	126
Operating expenditure (in millions of CHF)	36.1

3. Developments in creating and building digital collections.

The NL plans to replace the current large number of storage locations for its digital collections with a central repository that can incorporate digital items from the NL as soon as possible. The WTO tender is currently being prepared.

The NL aims to make both metadata and content available digitally. Since 2009 the digitisation principles have been laid down in guidelines which were revised in 2014. One fundamental change is that in future high-resolution files will also be archived, allowing for a wider range of potential uses. At the same time, the NL is bringing its digital archiving practice into line with that of other memory institutions.

External platforms that receive materials from the NL include swisspressarchives.ch for newspapers and retro.seals.ch for journals. The former now also contains newspapers from the canton of St. Gallen, from which eight titles from the 19th century were made accessible, as well as La Sentinelle (1890–1971), from the canton of Neuchâtel. Accessing of newspapers digitised by the NL rose more than fivefold compared with the previous year (2013: 15 114; 2014: 83 549). .

Monographs can be accessed via the NL's in-house tool e-Helvetica and there is an interface to the online catalogue Helveticat. A total of 1200 art books published prior to 1902 are now available, and the images from them are published on Wikimedia Commons.

At the end of 2014, some 11 million pages from the NL's collections were publicly accessible on NL or third-party platforms (2013: 9.5 million). They come from 5811 monographs, 6951 volumes of journals and 6610 volumes of newspapers. In terms of volumes, 0.51 per cent of the General Collection has been digitized.

4. Managing print collections.

The NL continues to collect Helvetica on all storage media, guaranteeing their long-term preservation in their original form and their ongoing readability. In 2014, the paper deacidification programme started in 2000 was completed. This enabled the NL to at least quadruple the lifespan of the documents treated.

The NL's collection remit also includes publications for the visually impaired in Braille. A new agreement with the SBS Swiss Library for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Print Disabled will enable these to be managed better in future. As of 1 January 2015, the SBS looks after this part of the collection on the NL's behalf. The SBS catalogues, preserves and lends them out. The NL retains ownership of the publications for the blind in its collection, but the items themselves are transferred to the SBS.

5. Developments in access to content

Globally accessible content requires standardised, high-quality metadata. The NL catalogues in accordance with international standards. Since 2013, subject indexing has been carried out using the new combined authority file. A new subject cataloguing concept has been drawn up to enable digitally born documents to be indexed as well, without more staff being required.

The next few years will see the replacement of the library system and, with it, the user interface. In future, the aim will be to make bibliographic data available primarily via an appropriate metacatalogue. In the interests of wider availability and easier access, a separate NL user interface will no longer be provided. This will require the introduction of a new library system, scheduled for 2017. The aim is to enable not only the metadata but also the actual documents and their content to be easily located on site and, where the law permits, online.

In terms of content, the focus is on Swiss personalities and places, as well as events of importance to Switzerland. As with the library catalogue, the emphasis in terms of dissemination channels is on third-party platforms, which typically have greater reach and address other groups than the NL's own platforms.

The NL presents a selection of documents in historical and cultural contexts, on site and online, aiming to combine familiar forms of presentation with new ones. Events and major exhibitions, both at headquarters in Bern and in the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel, will remain important for a wider audience. The exhibition Under Propaganda Fire. Switzerland and the First World War, a joint presentation with the Museum of Communication during 2014, offers an initial taste of the new methodology guiding cultural outreach activities. Documents not on show in the exhibition itself were regularly published on Facebook. In future, this extension into the virtual realm will be increased, enabling those who are unwilling or unable to travel to benefit.

In line with one of the NL's strategic goals – to make documents available to the largest possible number of users – the NL hired two "Wikipedians in Residence" in cooperation with the Wikimedia Switzerland association. They placed the first freely usable images from the Prints and Drawings Department online. By the end of the year, 784 images were available on Wikimedia Commons. Pages containing images from the NL were accessed a total of 475 154 times, a reflection of Wikipedia's vast reach.

6. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national / international collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums).

One of the NL's central concerns is supporting research in the humanities and maintaining close contacts with the relevant academic communities, with an emphasis on literary studies, historical sciences and visual studies. The NL is currently networking the Bibliography on Swiss History with platforms that deliver added value for researchers, such as the Historical Dictionary of Switzerland and Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland.

In literary studies, and for the appraisal of the image collections, the NL enters into research partnerships with universities and memory institutions. One current example is the Swiss National Science Foundation project on artists' books, which is being carried out by the NL's Prints and Drawings Department together with the University of Lausanne.

The NL also supports the a project using the digital archive of Le Temps contains four million newspaper articles from 200 years, including every issue of its predecessor publications Journal de Genève, Gazette de Lausanne and Le Nouveau Quotidien, digitized by the NL in cooperation with Le Temps and the Bibliothèque de Genève. Frédéric Kaplan, Professor at the Digital Humanities Laboratory (DHLAB) of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, is leading a project designed to create an

information system from this material. The aim is to use an automated process to identify all the units described in the archive, such as places, people and things, and classify them unambiguously based on Wikipedia and other sources.

International partnerships continue to play a major role in the NL's activities: the NL's director was acting President of the CDNL until the 2014 elections, then was elected as Vice-Chair, and is also a Vice-Chair of the CENL 2011-2015. An NL staff member is serving a second term (2013-2015) on IFLA's Governing Board and Professional Committee, another is a member of the IFLA National Libraries Section Standing Committee and chairs the IFLA Committee on Standards. In 2014, the Réseau francophone numérique (www.rfnum.org) and Koop-Litera International (www.onb.ac.at/koop-litera/), the network of competence for literary estates, met at the NL in Bern. In addition, the VTLS Users' Group Meeting for Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) took place at the NL in September. It was attended by some ninety people from twenty different nations.

The annual report is available from May 2015 on the NL website in four languages www.nb.admin.ch .