

**35th CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES
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COUNTRY REPORT SWITZERLAND

Name of Country: Switzerland

Name of Library: Swiss National Library

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2008

National developments and cooperation in digitization and preservation of e-publications.

Switzerland is a federal country and as a result, there is no official infrastructure (or national funding) for a national digitization plan or coordination at a national level. However, Swiss libraries are working together to share knowledge, expertise, to avoid duplication in digitization and to find partnerships outside the library sector. One example of this is the digitization of the Journal de Genève: the Swiss newspaper publisher Le Temps, the Bibliothèque de Genève and the Swiss National Library have agreed on a public-private partnership to digitize the complete collection of the Journal de Genève (1826-1998). This is a first attempt at creating partnerships outside the classic publicly funded arena and has so far proved a success, with the first part of the collection planned to be online by Autumn 2008. In all, the collection contains just over five hundred thousand pages. Talks are under way to extend this other Swiss-French newspapers, and to a Swiss-German paper. A convention between the Swiss National Library, RERO (the Swiss-French network of university libraries) and Presse Suisse (the newspaper association in the French-speaking part of Switzerland) has been signed to formalize cooperation and establish best practices.

Also in cooperation with RERO, the National Library has set up an information platform in which libraries can find information on digitization practices and techniques, share experiences and contribute information about their own activities in order to find partnerships and avoid duplication of effort (www.digicoord.ch). Further digitization coordination and activities will be carried out within the national innovation and cooperation project "E-lib.ch: Swiss Electronic Library" funded by the Swiss University Consortium (SUK/CUS) during the period 2008-2011 (www.e-lib.ch).

Close cooperation with other Swiss libraries is also a goal within the national Library's e-Helvetica project (www.e-helvetica.admin.ch). The NL is working throughout Switzerland with a wide range of partners – university libraries, publishers, cantonal libraries and local authorities. In 2008, two events were held to develop the collection in cooperation with university libraries (for electronic dissertations) and with cantonal libraries (for web-sites). Since 2007 it is possible to download documents automatically into the National Library's long term archiving system. At the end of the year, the collection included about 700 documents which fell into the following four categories – commercial publications, dissertations and postdoctoral theses, websites relating to Switzerland and official publications. On the occasion of the federal parliamentary elections, the election web-sites of the parties were collected for the first time.

The Swiss National Library's annual report is available online at
<http://www.nb.admin.ch/slb/org/01549/01970/index.html?lang=en>

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