

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2010

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1. General overview of recent major developments.

In 2009 the NL continued to improve access to both the physical and digital collection. The new underground stacks were officially inaugurated in August 2009; Dame Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library gave the keynote address. An open day to celebrate the new storage areas attracted 2'500 visitors while a survey in September 2009 showed that 3 out of four people know about the NL. The Robert Walser Foundation deposited its holdings with the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA). During 2009 the NL approved a digitisation strategy that sets out its priorities from the present until 2015, opting for selective digitisation of items from the collection. On the environmental front, the NL signed a voluntary CO2 compensation contract with the climate protection organisation « myclimate ». An annual invoice is drawn up based on air miles flown and the money paid is used for project to protect the climate. In 2009, 86 tonnes were compensated (approximately 3000 CHF).

2. 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).

The goals set for 2009 were successfully achieved, and those for 2010 validated by the federal Office for Culture. The accent in 2010 is on continuing the digitization of the general collections, on converting the remaining card catalogues and beginning the digitization of the iconographic collections.

During 2010, the strategy 2012-2019 will be finalized.

3. Key facts and figures for 2008 (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc).

Holdings: General collection (in millions of units)	4.03
Holdings: Federal Archives of Historical Monuments,(in millions of units)	1.2
Fonds : Swiss Literary Archives	277
Staff (full time equivalents)	129.1
Operating expenditure (in millions of CHF)	35.9

4. New developments in creating and building digital collections.

The availability of documents in digital form is taking on ever greater significance in the name of increasing user convenience. During 2009, the NL approved a digitisation strategy that sets out its priorities from the present until 2015, opting for selective digitisation of items from the collection, since digitisation all holdings, in addition to being prohibitively expensive, would require the establishment of copyright in all cases, and thus demand tremendous effort. The focus is placed on those holdings that offer the greatest advantage to users when digitised: newspapers, photoportraits and other documents in great demand, as well as those which can no longer be physically lent in their original form. Wherever possible, digitisation projects are to be carried out in collaboration with partners and aim to offer free online access. When digitising newspapers, for instance, the NL works with the publishing house in possession of the relevant rights, which typically also takes on project management and is responsible for online access. This model was used in 2009 for the digitisation of four historical newspaper holdings: six years each of the *Express* and the *Impartial*, which were uploaded to the Internet in December, as well as the complete collections of the *Gazette de Lausanne* (1798-1998) and the *Nouveau Quotidien* (1991-1998), which went online in February 2010. In May 2010 work will start on the digitisation of the first German-language Swiss newspaper using this cooperative model, the *Schaffhauser Nachrichten*.

5. New developments in managing print collections.

The most important long-term conservation measure taken was the completion of the underground stacks west. After almost four years of building and installation, the new stacks went into service in the spring of 2009 and were officially inaugurated on 20 August. Four underground levels offer space for 83 kilometres of shelving and a home to all periodicals (monographs and special collections are in the underground stacks east). The climatic conditions and security systems in both areas meet the latest international standards. The security of staff and holdings alike is ensured by comprehensive security measures including fire and smoke detectors, fire doors, fire dampers and a sprinkler system. Staff working below ground are in permanent contact with the outside world by means of an emergency call system. The ideal conditions have won the two areas the considerable admiration of specialists. An optimal layout guarantees space for material until 2038

The security concept for the collections developed during the year under review notes that current standards have for the most part already been implemented in the NL, with work still to be done only in a handful of areas. The appropriate measures are being introduced on an ongoing basis, with access to the stacks, for instance, being massively restricted in comparison with the current situation.

6. New developments in providing access to collections.

The plan to establish an NL web portal to allow simultaneous searches in all the library's catalogues has been shelved in favour of integrating Helveticat (at the very least) into *swissbib*¹, the Swiss metacatalogue currently in development, as well as to allowing the major search engines to index the catalogues. Wherever possible catalogues and digitised documents are also made accessible by way of international networks such as are *WorldCat*, *The European Library* and *Europeana*.²

In the course of 2010, in-house use of holdings and infrastructure is to be made more attractive. As soon as the requisite renovations have been completed, the open access collection is to be made available in sections covering history, literature, art and architecture, and information and documentation, the four main study and research areas of NL users.

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

As reported in 2009, the NL developed the *Digicoord* (www.digicoord.ch) platform in cooperation with RERO, the Library Network of Western Switzerland to enable an overview of all digitisation projects. This enables all those interested to have access to the digitised holdings of Swiss libraries and archives through one site. The NL continues to cooperate with libraries and museums in the Swiss poster catalogue of digitised posters (www.nb.admin.ch/posters).

The NL cooperates with other Swiss institutions in the selection, harvesting and long-term preservation of web sites and other electronic publications. The NL is taking part in a national programme "E-lib.ch: Swiss Electronic library", a project funded by the Swiss University Conference (SUK/CUS) from 2008-2011 comprising a number of initiatives including the *Swissbib* project whose common aim is to provide fast and easy access to a wide range of different information resources (http://www.e-lib.ch/index_e.html).

The annual report is available from April 2010 on the NL website in four languages (www.nb.admin.ch).

Bern, April 19th 2010

¹ www.swissbib.ch

² www.worldcat.org, www.theeuropeanlibrary.org, www.europeana.eu.