

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL for 2010

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Name of library: Swiss National Library (NL)  
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### 1. General overview of recent major developments.

The NL's collections held a total of approximately 5.3 million documents at the end of 2010. The most significant single addition was the library of Genevan cultural studies expert Jean Starobinski, comprising roughly 40 000 volumes and acquired by the NL for the Swiss Literary Archives as a gift from the Fondation Hans Wilsdorf. .

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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).

On 31 December 2010, the second MPM period came to term for evaluation. The results can already be seen in terms of goals achieved. All five primary goals and all eight impact goals were achieved. Three high level goals were achieved, eight impact goals were achieved and of the fourteen service level goals, ten were achieved, two were partially completed and two not achieved. In a survey carried out in 2010, users gave the NL giving it an average score of 8.5 (out of 10) in terms of satisfaction.

The strategy 2012 – 2015 and the mandate for the same period have been defined and will be submitted for approval to the Federal government during 2011.

### 3. Key facts and figures for 2010 (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc).

Holdings: General collection (in millions of units)	4.10
Holdings: Federal Archives of Historical Monuments,(in millions of units)	1.2
Fonds : Swiss Literary Archives	295
Staff (full time equivalents)	128.1
Operating expenditure (in millions of CHF)	37.3

#### **4. New developments in creating and building digital collections.**

Together with other libraries and publishing houses, the NL is developing its electronic collection, which at the end of 2010 comprised some 10 000 publications, nearly double the holdings in 2009. Copyright protection permitting, these publications will be made available during the course of this year.

The digitisation of the collection proceeds, focussing on the history of education, currently an active topic in historical studies. Six periodicals constituting relevant sources are now available online via the *SEALS*<sup>1</sup> platform, while some 3000 posters<sup>2</sup> and a selection of historic books have also been digitized during the year in review. The latter project was undertaken to contribute to a virtual exhibition held by The European Library, the online platform of Europe's national libraries. Entitled *Reading Europe*, the exhibition features 76 volumes from the NL.

The *HelveticArchives* catalogue now comprises – and makes available for use – 5900 photo portraits. Where copyright allows, catalogue entries will very soon be supplemented with preview images. At year's end, *HelveticArchives* comprised 48 706 entries on documents in the prints and Drawings Department (2009: 40 747). For its part, the Swiss Poster Collection comprised 56 072 records in 2010 (2009: 54 473) and their associated digitized images.

#### **5. New developments in managing print collections.**

For the past ten years the NL has deacidified its paper documents by means of the papersave swiss process it helped to develop. The plant, which opened with federal financing in 2000 on the grounds of the Nitrochemie company in Wimmis, is run as a private enterprise. The federal government guaranteed credit funding for the first ten years to both the Swiss Federal Archives and the NL, allowing each institution to have some 35 tons of paper deacidified each year and ensuring basic utilisation of the plant.

Over the past ten years the NL has had a total of 1.1 million documents deacidified, or a total weight of 385 tons. The documents treated mainly comprised books printed between 1930 and 1980 and capable of mass processing. 100 tons of documents on acid paper remain in the collection. Tests must be carried out to determine whether deacidification is appropriate as a conservation method for these, and if so, what form of treatment is indicated.

The underground stacks west, opened in 2009, have experienced no problems, with climate conditions remaining within predetermined tolerance values.

The survey of the collections involved the assessment of a large number of photographs, and the NL accordingly held a meeting of restorers to discuss "Photo conservation and restoration". The presentations and discussions led to some new ideas about dealing with the medium. The survey of all collections was completed in 2010, and assessment is to follow in 2011.

#### **6. New developments in providing access to collections.**

In late 2010 the redesigned public areas were inaugurated. Heavily used areas (such as individual work booths) were enlarged, the open stacks were organised by thematic focus (history, literature, art and architecture, and information and documentation, the four main study and research areas of NL users), and building signage was markedly improved.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://retro.seals.ch>

<sup>2</sup> [www.nb.admin.ch/posters](http://www.nb.admin.ch/posters)

In collaboration with European libraries, the NL's Helveticat catalogue now includes the E-Books on Demand service, enabling a potential of 100'000 out of copyright books to be digitized on demand. Subsequently, the digitized material will be made freely available online via the access system currently in development.

The NL's online library catalogue *Helveticat* now lists all of the approximately 10 000 currently published serial titles.

## **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*<sup>3</sup> ) 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.

The NL cooperates with other Swiss institutions in the selection, harvesting and long-term preservation of web sites and other electronic publications. The NL continues to take 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](http://www.e-lib.ch/index_e.html)).

In September Koop-Litera Schweiz was founded, on the initiative of the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA), with the aim of developing and coordinating a network of Swiss literary archives. Koop-Litera Schweiz, which unites the SLA with the Max Frisch Archive, the Robert Walser Archive, the Zurich Central Library and the library of the University of Basel, is an arm of Koop-Litera International, the specialist network of German-language literary archives.

In its campaign to ensure the future of Switzerland's libraries, the library commission this year published the *Charter of Swiss Libraries*<sup>4</sup>, which analyses the role of libraries in the information society and sets out guidelines for their future. The paper has been widely discussed by experts and included in the political process.

The annual report is available from April 2011 on the NL website in four languages ([www.nb.admin.ch](http://www.nb.admin.ch)).

Bern, April 14<sup>th</sup> 2011

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<sup>3</sup> [www.digicoord.ch](http://www.digicoord.ch)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nb.admin.ch/org/organisation/03172/03205/index.html?lang=de>