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## Collection



Documents of the European Football Championship *Euro08* from the collection of association publications



*HelveticArchives*, the new archive database, was first made available online in May and is continually updated. – The electronic collection is starting to grow. – The International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is gaining in significance for Swiss periodicals and is being assigned systematically and more quickly.

### Acquisitions

In 2008 Swiss publishers released 11'126 titles (2007: 11'410). The Helvetica Collection on traditional media<sup>5</sup> increased by about 59'050 units (2007: 58'405). At the end of the year it contained 3'973'856 titles (2007: 3'912'848). Additionally 1.2 million units are held by the Federal Archives of Historical Monuments in the Prints and Drawings Department. Furthermore, the NL holds 354 archives and literary estates (2007: 342); of these 240 are in the Swiss Literary Archives (2007: 229). This year statistics for electronic documents were established for the first time. At the end of 2008 the collection contained 1'406 electronic publications.

The new collection guidelines – introduced in 2007 – for the publications of associations enable more systematic and less laborious acquisitions. In addition to collecting these organisations' publications, the collection also documents especially significant events during the report year, e.g., the European Football Championship *Euro08*.

The ISSN Centre Switzerland was reorganized in 2008 with the aim of making the ISSN better known and simplifying the assignment of the number. Forty-eight hours after the submission of an online application form a publisher can already find the ISSN of its publication in Helveticat. In the future the NL will systematically assign an ISSN to all new acquisitions of Swiss periodicals, even when the publisher has not applied for one. This will increase and secure the legitimacy and use of the ISSN standard and Helveticat will increase in importance. Due to the concentration on its core competencies the ISSN Centre will no longer provide barcodes to commercial firms. In the future, however, publishers will be able to take care of this themselves by following online instructions.

### Catalogues

Besides the Helveticat catalogue, since May 2008 the NL operates the online archival database *HelveticArchives*. While Helveticat lists publications of the general collection, *HelveticArchives* makes the archived documents of the Swiss Literary Archives and the Prints and Drawings Department searchable online. The first of the holdings to be made available in this way was a selection of photographs by Annemarie Schwarzenbach. At the end of 2008 *HelveticArchives* contained 69'004 records.

Helveticat held 1'554'483 records (2007: 1'519'724) at the end of 2008. During the year, 33'972 (2007: 38'136) catalogue records were created and of these 16'503 (2007: 16'658) were assigned subject headings. Today, all new acquisitions are catalogued according to the latest standards as they are received. Entries for items not previously catalogued according to today's standards are revised as required, thus ensuring that search results for users are continuously improving.

The maintenance of authority data for the names of persons serves the same goal. This ensures that authors can be unequivocally identified. A further benefit easing effort for users is the integration of periodicals in Helveticat. Priority has been given to titles currently being published whose issues are managed in Helveticat. Up to the end of 2008 approximately 5'000 of these had been included in the online catalogue.



## Preservation and Conservation

In 2008 50'432 new publications were processed (2007: 35'721), 4'445 protective covers were made (2007: 4'834) and 942 books repaired (2007: 806). External bookbinders produced 31'707 bindings (2007: 24'980). 38'473 documents weighing a total of 34.5 tons were deacidified (2007: 51'091 documents; 39.0 tons). In 2008 the total number of deacidified documents exceeded one million.

Following the assessment of the state of conservation of the general collection in 2007, in the year under review the collection of the Swiss Literary Archives was analysed. In 2009 the prints and drawings collection will be reviewed. Priorities for conservation measures will be determined on the basis of the overall evaluation.

The most important condition for the long-term preservation of documents of all kinds is storage at a constant temperature and humidity. An ideal climate is provided by both underground stacks of the NL. The first is now full; the second was finalized in the year under review and will be put into operation in 2009.

Through a 'Centre for Paper Conservation' (CPC) the NL's competencies in paper conservation are also to be made available to other institutions. Work began in 2008 on a business plan to clarify the presentation and use of such services.

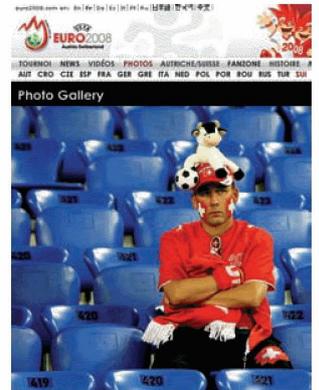
## Electronic Collection

At the end of 2008 the electronic collection contained 1'406 publications. This corresponds to 15'300 individual files or 7.91 gigabytes. If the electronic publications were to be converted to paper, this would equal approximately 395'000 double-sided printed A4-pages.<sup>6</sup> The documents are automatically fed into the electronic long-term archiving system.

Contrary to the way it approaches printed media, the NL does not aspire to completeness when collecting electronic publications as this would not be feasible given the enormous amounts of data. Instead, it aims for a representative selection, made in cooperation with publishers, cantonal and university libraries, and individual departments of the federal administration. Just as in the collection of association publications, documents concerning prominent one-off events complement the systematic collection of material. Therefore, selected websites related to the European Football Championship *Euro08* were harvested in 2008.

The launch of the electronic collection in 2008 is a successful result of the e-Helvetica project that began in 2000 and that has ensured that the NL has achieved a leading position in Switzerland in the field of secure archiving of electronic publications. In fact the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce, which has especially high demands for security and long-term preservation, also depends on the NL to archive its online edition.

Once the long-term archiving and delivery of publications have been ensured, the next stage will be to work on developing access for users. In addition to enabling searches for electronically generated documents, this interface should also enable the retrieval of printed documents that have been retrospectively digitised. The interface is expected to be available in 2010.



Euro08-Websites from the electronic collection



<sup>6</sup> 20k bytes data size per double page