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Collection

The NL now catalogues the names of authors in the combined authority file (GND). This is a further prerequisite for networking our databases with other information sources.

“Viva” project

The “Viva” project, which addresses the future management of association publications, moved from the concept phase to the realisation phase during the year in review. This will involve the development of processes from receipt through cataloguing to physical or electronic archiving, together with detailed rules on acquisition, cataloguing and preservation.

The project covers printed publications from associations, institutions and companies that are not commercially available through the book trade. Examples include activity reports, bylaws and brochures. Once the project is complete, the websites of the associations, institutions and companies will also be collected and incorporated into Web Archive Switzerland.

Acquisitions

The General Collection of the NL – the library holdings in the narrower sense – contained 4 505 046 units at the end of 2015 (2014: 4 436 219). The largest component is the 2 972 661 monographs, followed by the 878 006 volumes of journals and 484 653 prints, photographs and cards. The strongest growth was in online publications; these increased by around ten per cent year-on-year to 45 291 units (archive packages). The General Collection also contains sheet music (81 709), audiovisual documents (20 813) and publications on various storage media (20 916). The monographs and serials also include publications for the visually impaired in Braille. Since 1 January 2015 this part of the collection has been managed by the Swiss Library for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Print Disabled under the terms of a cooperation agreement.¹³

At the end of 2015 the Swiss Literary Archives contained 353 (341)¹⁴ archives and literary estates. The Prints and Drawings Department contained 80 individual collections, while the associated Federal Archives of Historic Monuments held some 1.2 million individual documents.¹⁵

Important aids to acquisition include the ISBN¹⁶ for monographs and the ISSN¹⁷ for serials. The latter marked 40 years since its creation in 2015. The NL has been responsible for issuing ISSNs in Switzerland since 1995.

Catalogues

Helveticat, the catalogue of printed and electronic library holdings, comprised 1 653 752 bibliographic records at the end of 2015 (2014: 1 616 879), the *Bibliography on Swiss History* (BSH) 104 450 (99 185) and the Swiss Poster Catalogue 80 105 (77 170). The HelveticArchives archive database comprised 446 371 records (370 099). As in previous years, the strong growth of just under 21% reflects the increased cataloguing of the archive holdings. Collection level descriptions have now been added for all special collections.

Helveticat, the BSH and the Poster Catalogue are operated using the software Virtua. Its user interface had to be replaced for technical reasons, and this caused difficulties for some users. They had to get used to the new search method, and the tool also experienced some teething troubles. Once these had been resolved, the advantages of the new interface came to the fore, including the option for a faceted search, permalinks and a user-friendly version for mobile devices.



The collection of the Swiss Heritage Society demonstrates the challenges of conserving photographs. Top: wooden box with large-format slides, photo: NL, Doris Amacher



Approximately 500 slide boxes, around 10 000 35-mm slides, photo: NL, Doris Amacher

¹³ See Annual Report 2014, p. 13.

¹⁴ Holdings listed in the *Index of manuscript collections*. There is a time delay in the inclusion of new acquisitions.

¹⁵ For notable acquisitions see p. 9ff.

¹⁶ International Standard Book Number

¹⁷ International Standard Serial Number



Suspension files containing around 6000 photos, negatives, postcards, copies and other material, photo: NL, Doris Amacher

Great progress was made in networking the library holdings, thanks to the standardisation of cataloguing and collaboration with related institutions on specialist matters.

The GND was introduced for formal indexing of the library holdings in mid-2015; it has been used for subject indexing since 2013. The NL is actively involved in further development of the GND, creating between 600 and 700 new authority files each month. They are indexed in accordance with the RDA¹⁸ regulations, which the NL is also involved in developing and adapting to European conditions. For this reason, the European interest group EURIG held its 2015 annual meeting at the NL.

Authority files and permalinks allow the NL's content to be linked to external databases. Via Helveticat and the BSH, the NL is participating in the Metagrid project.¹⁹ The BSH is now also linked to the Law Sources Foundation.²⁰ The *Rechtsquellen Online*²¹ portal links directly to the relevant bibliographical entries in the BSH.

Preservation and conservation

In all, 38 203 new acquisitions underwent conservation treatment during 2015 (2014: 44 976), 3758 protective covers were manufactured (3762) and 329 publications were repaired (278).

The mass paper deacidification process was completed at the NL in 2014. ISO Standard ISO/TC 46/SC 10 on the effectiveness of deacidification processes was adopted in 2015. The NL contributed its experience to the development of this standard, and the international working group met this year at the NL.

While the deacidification standard is new, internationally recognised standards for the preservation of analogue photographs have existed since the 1990s. The NL holds some 1.5 million photographs, spread among its various collections. Conserving them is a priority for the next few years. A study compiled during the year in review offers a detailed overview of the current standards. It forms the basis for developing a process that is appropriate to the NL's collections and practicable with the available resources.

Digital Collection

As in the previous year, the digital collection roughly doubled in size. The amount of storage space occupied rose from 5.3 TB to 10.0 TB. In all, 80 016 publications²² were available at the end of 2015 (2014: 54 070). Approximately half of these are digitally born publications, many of them websites. The remainder are digitised versions of printed works, predominantly monographs.

The spectrum of the collection is continually being broadened. Since 2015, technical refinements have enabled large websites to be collected as well. The number of archived websites also rose during the year, thanks to the introduction of partially automated quality control, which enabled the processing time from collection to archiving of a website to be shortened. The web platform *e-Helveticat Deposit* was also built up; from early 2016, this should allow self-publishers and small publishers to submit their e-books.



Section of a glass slide, black and white, hand coloured, between 1906 and 1945, photo: NL, Christine Keller

18 Resource Description and Access

19 See p. 7 and www.metagrid.ch.

20 www.ssrq-sds-fds.ch

21 www.rechtsquellen-online.zh.ch

22 Items excluding bibliographic records.