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Collection

The main event of 2018 was the switch to a new library management system. Meanwhile, online cataloguing of “grey literature” continued and the NL acquired a secure workbench for the treatment of mould in newly arrived documents.

New library management system: the “NUBES” project

Following the contract award in 2017, the NL migrated to a new library management system in 2018. This project consumed large amounts of resources, with up to 40 people involved at certain times, and required extensive coordination in order to minimise the impact on users. The new system replaces Virtua, which had been in use since 2003. It consists of the Alma software and the Primo VE user interface, a solution offered by the company Ex Libris that is in operation around the world. NUBES is a long-term project. It was launched in 2015, with a WTO tender procedure taking place in 2016, and in 2017 implementation was planned with the supplier. It is scheduled for completion in mid-2019.

Processing of grey literature: VIVA

The VIVA project is complete. Computerised management of association publications has been implemented. This collection comprises printed publications from associations, institutions and companies that are not sold by the book trade. They are also known as “grey literature”.

In parallel, the collection, processing and archiving of these associations’ and companies’ websites began with a view to integrating them into the Web Archives Switzerland collection.

Acquisitions

The NL’s General Collection grew by 1.6% in 2018, in line with the average for the last ten years. With the exception of a 3% peak in 2011, the figure has always been between 1.5% and 2%. At the end of 2018, the General Collection comprised more than 4 750 000 units.

In all, the collections include more than three million monographs (essays, novels, manuals, biographies, etc.), almost a million periodicals and half a million graphic documents (posters, postcards, photographs, etc.). The remainder consist of audiovisual documents, sheet music and special media (CD-ROMs, etc.)

The Swiss Literary Archives now hold 392 literary estates and archives, around ten of which were added in 2018. The number of individual collections in the Prints and Drawings Department remained stable. Work in 2018 consisted primarily in cataloguing and optimising the conservation conditions of the existing holdings. The National Sound Archives now hold around 500 000 audio carriers and 175 historical fonds.

The NL collects not just printed matter but also digital material. The volume of the digital collection reached around 25 TB at the end of 2018 (2017: 21 TB). At the end of the year in review, digitally born publications accounted for more than 130 000 archive packages, around 20% more than in 2017 (more than 107 000). There are a further 42 577 archive packages containing digitised material (2017: 42 489). The project to migrate the e-Helvetica archiving system to the servers of the National Sound Archives is nearing completion.



The VIVA project catalogued a wide range of documentation on the life of Swiss associations and institutions



The main event of 2018 was the switch to a new library management system

Catalogues

As at 31 December 2018 Helveticat, the NL's main catalogue, comprised more than 1 790 000 bibliographic records, a stable progression of 2% compared with 2017. The Bibliography on Swiss History (BSH) grew by 3.3% and now comprises more than 117 000 records. The Swiss Poster Catalogue includes 89 977 records (+3.1% compared with 2017), while the HelveticArchives database grew by 15% and now includes more than 650 000 records. The National Sound Archives catalogue exceeded 300 000 records, with an increase of 2.9% year on year.

Preservation and conservation

Over 54 000 new acquisitions underwent conservation treatment during the year in review, an increase of 45% compared with 2017. Some 3 400 protective covers were manufactured, around the same number as in the previous year, while 283 publications were repaired (2017: 336).

One of the main tasks of the Stacks Management team during the year was to move some collections belonging to the National Sound Archives that had been kept temporarily at the NL in Bern to the new storage facility in Schlierbach. They consist primarily of vinyl discs and magnetic tapes, which are not lent out to the public. This move freed up space in the stacks that will in particular be used as a central store for photographs.

In 2017, the NL acquired a portable device for measuring the presence of mould in certain documents. In 2018 it acquired a secure workbench for treating the mould. Training on how to recognise and respond to the presence of mould was organised for all those who have regular contact with the collections. The problems arise chiefly with items that have not been stored correctly before being sent to the NL.

All works arriving at the NL are given a binding in order to conserve them. Most of this work is carried out by external partners. The NL reviewed the contracts for this task as part of a public tender process in 2018. It is now carried out by six providers, all based in Switzerland.



The NL acquired a secure workbench for the treatment of mould in documents



For conservation purposes, the NL binds all works as they arrive