

# Collection

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## Collection



Before conservation:  
spine, posters



The Swiss National Library's new underground stacks west are open for business. A comprehensive security concept has also been developed to safeguard the collections. – Data in the NL's various catalogues are to be better cross-referenced.

### Acquisitions

During the year under review, Switzerland saw 11 105 new publications (2008: 11 126). The Helvetica collection<sup>8</sup> received 59 072 new items (2008: 60 456) and at the end of the year comprised 4 033 569 documents (2008: 3 973 885). There are an additional 1.2 million documents in the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments<sup>9</sup> and 345 archives and estates (2008: 307)<sup>10</sup>, of which 277 (2008: 240)<sup>11</sup> are to be found in the Swiss Literary Archives. The collection of born digital electronic documents grew over the course of the year from 1406 to 3899.

The general collection was enhanced with two remarkable donations: 127 items from the former parliamentary library published prior to 1900, and 137 maps from the library of the Federal Office of Justice and the Federal Office of Police. Thanks to decades-old agreements with publishers' associations, the NL receives new titles by Swiss publishers, as a rule free of charge. An exception is sheet music, which the NL purchases at a discount. The rates of these discounts were renegotiated during the year under review with most music publishers, freeing up a portion of the acquisition budget for other purposes.

### Catalogues

At the end of 2009, the *Helveticat* catalogue held 1 449 269 records (2008: 1 415 565).<sup>12</sup> The entire current production of books has already been listed in *Helveticat*, along with some 8000 ongoing periodicals (end 2008: approx. 5000).

The *HelveticArchives* database contained 88 294 records at the end of the year under review (2008: 69 004). New entries include around 6000 photoportraits and an equal number of photographs from the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments.

The 'NB Datenbanken' project is studying ways to optimise the integration and standardisation of data on the NL's various catalogue platforms, namely *Helveticat*, *HelveticArchives*, *Biblio* and the Swiss Poster Catalogue. The aim is improved data exchange and standardised authority files, the latter in particular would increase the user friendliness of the various tools. Realistic proposals for implementation are expected in 2010.

International standardisation of authority files is the objective of the *Virtual International Authority File* (VIAF),<sup>13</sup> which aims to assemble national authority files as a concordance in a common database. The authority files of participating libraries are linked to one another automatically. VIAF was spearheaded by the Library of Congress, the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek and the Bibliothèque nationale de France, in collaboration with the *Online Computer Library Center* (OCLC). The NL joined in 2009. At present the database contains only names of persons. Corporate names and geographical designations will be integrated in the future.

<sup>8</sup> Printed matter, CD-ROMs and diskettes, microfilm and microfiche, audio media, videos.

<sup>9</sup> An area of the NL's Prints and Drawings Department.

<sup>10</sup> Correction of the Annual Report 2008, in which musical estates belonging among the holdings of the SLA were erroneously counted twice.

<sup>11</sup> Number of collections listed in the *Index of manuscript collections held in libraries and archives in Switzerland*. Existing collections are listed successively here as well.

<sup>12</sup> The deviation from the number of records published in the 2008 Annual Report is attributable to the adoption of new statistical principles.

<sup>13</sup> [www.viaf.org](http://www.viaf.org).

## Preservation and Conservation

Over the course of the year, 44 473 new titles underwent conservation treatment (2008: 50 432), 4326 protective covers were manufactured (2008: 4445), and 850 books were repaired (2008: 942). A total of 38 548 documents with a combined weight of 34.6 tons were deacidified (2008: 38 473 documents weighing 34.5 tons).

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 about 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.

The survey of the state of the collection continued, and in 2009 the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments, part of the Prints and Drawings Department, were analysed. The survey is due to be completed in 2010.

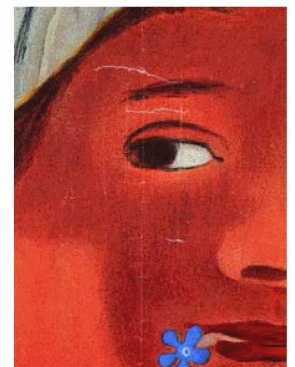
The paper conservation department began a trial run at the end of the year, offering third parties consultancy services, in some cases for a fee. Provided demand is sufficient and the legal framework favourable, it will be permanently established.

## Collection of Digitally Born Documents

The collection of digitally born documents<sup>14</sup> was enhanced with 2493 additional publications and at the end of 2009 contained some 11 million files comprising a total of 136 gigabytes (2008: 1406 publications, 15 300 files, 7.91 GB). Of particular note is the archiving of the online edition of the *Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce*. Its daily editions comprise around 1500 entries, each of which the NL archives and stores long-term along with its legally valid signature. The collection of national information websites is being further expanded in collaboration with the Swiss cantonal libraries. Development of an instrument for user searches in the electronic collection is proceeding on schedule, and is due to be operational at the end of 2010.



After conservation:  
spine, posters



<sup>14</sup> Excluding originally analogue documents subsequently digitised.