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Collection

Development and adaptation of the RDA (Resource Description and Access) rules to the European environment is now complete. RDA has been introduced in Helveticat and the Bibliography on Swiss History.

Acquisitions

In 2016, the NL's General Collection recorded growth of 1.9% compared with 2015 and contains 4 588 885 units at the end of 2016. That figure includes 898 188 volumes of journals and 487 053 prints, photographs and cards. The NL holds 84 319 items of sheet music, 20 966 audio-visual media and 21 130 miscellaneous electronic data storage media. Once again, the strongest growth is in digital documents: the collection grew by 67.8% to 75 999 digitally born publications in the long-term archive, compared with 45 291 (archive packages) in 2015.

The Swiss Literary Archives acquired 16 new literary estates and archives, bringing the total to 369.

The Swiss National Sound Archives received 8 new collections; bringing the total to 175.

After a lengthy preparatory phase, the NL was able to incorporate the printed standards publications of the Swiss Association for Standardization (SNV) into its collection. The holdings comprise documents from between 1938 and 2005 that have been appropriately conditioned and stored in the underground stacks. Metadata were already present, allowing the 15 837 bibliographic records to be created automatically in Helveticat, making them available and searchable directly. The electronic standards collection is now being continually supplemented. At the end of 2016, e-Helveticat already contained over 30 000 standards.

Web Archive Switzerland was also expanded further in 2016. Swiss websites related to the summer Olympic Games in Brazil were collected as part of event harvesting.

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad celebrated its 100th birthday in 2016, and the NL took the opportunity to write to more than 700 associations of Swiss people abroad. However, few publications were received in response. This is probably because the Federal Archives already archive many of these publications, and associations are increasingly publishing their information online.

The "Viva" project is now in the implementation phase. A trial period of several months to assess the practical operation of an integrated working process for the collection of association publications lasts until the end of February 2017. If the results are positive, the project will be implemented in 2017.

The NL is increasingly having to devote its resources to its actual statutory mandate. For this reason, it has terminated the deposit agreement with the Swiss Association for Student History, which has been in place since 1986, with effect from the end of 2017.

Catalogues

Helveticat, the NL's library catalogue, comprised 1 707 996 bibliographic records at the end of 2016 (2015: 1 653 752), the Bibliography on Swiss History (BSH) 109 354 (2015: 104 450) and the Swiss Poster Catalogue 84 252 (2015: 80 105). HelveticArchives grew by 15.6% to 515 935 records (2015: 446 371). The National Sound Archives catalogue comprised 290 024 records on audio carriers; one carrier may contain more than one audio document.

Further development of the RDA (Resource Description and Access) rules and their adaptation to the European environment were successfully completed in 2016. Helveticat and the Bibliography on Swiss History have now been brought into line with the new rules. The BSH's bibliographic records have also been linked to the legal sources portal Rechtsquellen Online¹⁰.



Colour changes (fading, colour casts): Photograph of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's house in Neuchâtel, photographer unknown



Vinegar syndrome (shrinkage of the cellulose acetate negative): Photograph of Leopold Ružička (1887–1976), Professor of Chemistry at ETH Zurich, Nobel Prize winner 1939, photographer unknown

The Metagrid¹¹ project went into operation in June 2016. Metagrid is a project of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences for the online networking of humanities resources. Names of individuals from the NL's databases that already have a GND number are now linked to the corresponding data in Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland and the Historical Dictionary of Switzerland.

The experimental use of automatic subject indexing to complement manual subject indexing proved a success. Approximately 400 000 of the 1.1 million titles in Helveticat published between 1950 and 2016 were supplied with a total of 1.6 million German, French and English keywords by automatically incorporating data from other catalogues. This leads to improved search results for queries in those languages. In addition, around 230 000 DDC (Dewey Decimal Classification) classes were added. These are offered in German, French, Italian and English in the catalogue. Periodicals and music scores were not included in the process, as the error rate is too high.

The library management system will need to be replaced by the start of 2018. As a result, the Helveticat library catalogue will be given a new user interface. The WTO tender was issued in the middle of 2016.

Preservation and Conservation

In all, 37 889 new acquisitions on paper underwent conservation treatment during 2016 (2015: 38 203), 4009 protective covers were manufactured (2015: 3758) and 288 publications were repaired (2015: 329).

Across its various collections, the NL holds almost 1.5 million analogue photographic documents. Conserving them is currently a top priority. The CPHOT (COnservation PHOTographies) project was therefore launched at the end of 2016. The international standards in this area are complex. The NL has decided to adopt a pragmatic approach based on the *Published Document – Guide for the storage and exhibition of archival materials*, issued in 2012 by the British Standards Institution. The next step during 2017 will be to obtain an overview of the holdings. Photographs are found in all of the NL's collections.

Digital Collection

The digital component of the General Collection grew by one third, and the amount of storage space occupied rose from 10.0 TB to 15.0 TB. At the end of 2016, 110 868 publications¹² were available (2015: 80 016). Of these, around 42 000 are digitised versions and 24 000 websites. The remainder are other digitally born publications such as e-books, e-journals and e-dissertations.

The web platform e-Helveticat Deposit went live successfully in March 2016. It enables self-publishers and small publishers to submit their e-books directly to the NL via the internet. The NL expects the number of self-published e-books to increase in the coming years. Currently only monographs can be submitted; from 2017, however, the plan is to allow websites to be added to the NL's collection via this platform.

The NL first considered replacing the various storage locations for digital content with a central store, or repository, back in 2014. The project was put back due to the integration of the Swiss National Sound Archives. The NL is now examining the feasibility of a joint solution for the data from the NL and the Sound Archives.

¹¹ www.metagrid.ch

¹² Items without bibliographic records