E-lib.ch
The Vision of a Swiss Digital Library

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Electronic Resources & Libraries, Atlanta, 23 February 2007
Switzerland lies at the heart of Europe

7.4 million people live in Switzerland

Switzerland has four official languages:
- German (64%)
- French (20.4%)
- Italian (6.5%)
- Romansh (1%)

This original own work is part of the "Europe location" map series created by David Liuzzo.
Higher Education in Switzerland

12 official higher education institutions

- 10 cantonal universities
  - German- and French-speaking, one Italian-speaking

- 2 federal institutes of technology:
  - ETH Zürich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
  - Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne

8 universities of applied sciences

- provide applied professional science-based education
ETH Zürich

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

- 13,000 students
- Science and technology university in the city of Zürich
- Founded in 1855 by the Swiss Confederation as Federal Polytechnical School
- The ETH is regularly ranked among the top universities in the world.
The ETH Libraries are the largest library in Switzerland

- The main library of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
- Swiss center for information on science and technology (document delivery services etc.)
The ETH Libraries hold more than 6.7 million items including:

- Maps
- Old prints
- Audiovisual materials
- 30,500 electronic journals
- Databases
- And many other electronic documents
The vision of E-lib.ch is

- To build up a Swiss digital library for all academic information resources
- To facilitate access to all forms of information
  - Printed articles, books, electronic full-texts, e-journals, e-books, e-pics, video-sequences etc.
- To offer multitudinous search and service functions
E-lib.ch will be offering

- A central national portal for Switzerland with a single point of access to all kinds of scientific information resources
- One simple and structured search user-interface which allows easy and fast search and navigation
- Personalized service functions „MyLibrary“
E-lib.ch will be offering

- Single-Sign-on solutions with access from anywhere and at any time
- One-stop-shopping with direct access to electronic resources as well as document-delivery-services, ILL etc.
The Structure of E-Lib.ch

- Portals and metasearch
- Digitization of content
- Repositories
- Information literacy
- Long-term preservation
- Acquisition of content
- Centres of excellence

E-lib.ch is the roof with:
- 7 supporting pilars on a baseplate
- Clustering of the projects

Technical infrastructure
Projects (1)

1 Portals and metasearch

- One central point of access
- Subject-based portals such as „Maps of Switzerland“, „Swiss Repositories“

2 Digitization

- Digitization of reference works and catalogues
- Digitization of manuscripts and rare books
Projects (2)

3 Repositories

- Cross-linking of all Swiss academic repositories
- Built-up of one central Swiss repository

4 Information literacy

- E-learning platform with tutorials and blended learning content
- Standards and building kits for teaching e-learning and media skills
Projects (3)

5 Long-term preservation
- Development of strategies and guidelines for the preservation of access to digital information in Switzerland

6 Acquisition of content
- Acquisition of national licenses of backfiles for electronic resources

7 Centers of excellence
- Development of a national center of competence
  - For metadata
  - For open-access publication
  - For international cooperation
National program

- Sponsored by the Swiss University Conference SUK
- In Cooperation with the Rector’s Conference of the Swiss Universities CRUS and the Conference of the Swiss University Libraries KUB
- ETH-Library is the coordinator
Timetable

- **Four year national program: 2008 - 2011**
- **Total cost: 10 million USD**
- **Experience of other successful national projects (2005-2008)**
  - Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries
    - a) Licenses (databases and electronic journals)
    - b) E-Archiving-project (accessibility of Electronic contents in universities and long-term preservation of digital objects)
END ROAD WORK THANK YOU