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Titel: Map Librarianship and the WWW - Developments in Switzerland

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Ort: Graz

Jahr: 1998

PURL: https://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?514854618_0008|log34

Map Librarianship and the WWW
- Developments in Switzerland

by THOMAS KLÖTI

Libraries, archives and documentation centres constitute an important link between the products of the map manufacturers and their users. The Map Librarian Team, established by the Association of Swiss Librarians (Vereinigung Schweizerischer Bibliothekare) became operational in 1980. Within the team, a lively exchange of experiences is cultivated on the one hand, and on the other, topics are taken up and projects realised.

The actual impetus for the following intensive occupation with the topic „digital maps", which is currently taking place within the Swiss map librarian system, came from Barcelona. The 8th Conference of the Groupe des cartothécaires de LIBER in 1992 directed a Swiss organisation committee (ETH Library Zürich, Central Library Zürich, Municipal and University Library Berne) to organise the next conference. With the preparation of the conference, the theme of which was to be „Digital Maps in Libraries" we trod on new ground. As the members of the organisation committee did not, in first instance, have recourse to personal experience, we moved away from libraries and informed ourselves instead about existing projects and products. During our investigations we came into contact with competent specialists from the fields of science, civil administration, as well as commercial suppliers. Further information was gleaned from specialist literature.

An unpublished survey of SIK-GIS proved to be particularly valuable. On 16 November 1993 we carried out, albeit within the bounds of the team, a workshop entitled „Digital Maps", at the ETH Library in Zürich. This resulted in an exchange of ideas and experiences. What the new medium was capable of was presented in a demonstration session. Another product of these preparations was the index *Digitale Karten in der Schweiz - Produkte, Datensätze und Anwendersysteme*, compiled by Jürg Bühler and Thomas Klöti and which has been in great demand since. The 9th Conference of the Groupe des cartothécaires de LIBER, took place from 26 - 30 September 1994 at the ETH in Zürich and provided the opportunity for an European exchange of ideas and experiences. Along with its theme „Mapcuratorship in

transition: computerized forms of maps, a new environment", new develop-ments (digital maps, geographic information systems, etc.) were presented and offered for discussion. The proceedings of this conference were published in *LIBER Quarterly*, Vol. 5 (1995), No. 3.

Following this stimulating conference, some of the ideas could be put into practice. The desire to utilise actively the facilities offered by Internet was one of the focal points. Through the Homepage of the Map Librarian Team on the World Wide Web (URL: <http://www.stub.unibe.ch/stub/ryhiner/ bbs/bbs-hp.html>) an attractive research aid could be made available to users of Swiss map collections. On this page information is provided regarding the goals of the team, whilst the membership list provides information regarding contact persons. Also on this page are details of conferences, exhibitions and publications. For example, the above mentioned index *Digitale Karten in der Schweiz - Produkte, Datensätze und Anwen-dersysteme*, which constitutes a building block to a metadatabase for digital maps and other related data, can be electronically called up. Furthermore, the journal *Cartographica Helvetica*, which is published by the Map History Team of the Swiss Association for Cartography (Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Kartographie), is presented and, in particular, a table of contents and summaries of the newest editions in English are available. From the homepage it is possible to connect to other participants of library and map library systems.

Happily, Swiss libraries are well represented on the Internet. As the computer was used for and is being used primarily for the bibliographical indexing of maps in on-line catalogues, this means that the catalogue data can now also usually be called up on the Internet. Some libraries also present their special or map collections on the Internet. There are also some „pioneers" who are offering digital maps which are recorded on computer discs or CD-ROMs, on publically accessible computers. At the present time, consideration is being given to the idea of feeding digital maps into the network (with local access), as well as to the idea of making geographic information systems accessible.

REFERENCES

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Figure 1: New Challenges

With the wider distribution of integrated systems and on-line public access library
catalogues (OPACs) new challenges arise. The 9th Conference of the European
Mapcurators, which took place in September 1994 at the ETH Zürich, had as its
topic „Mapcuratorship in transition: computerized forms of maps, a new
environment." Digital maps are becoming a new area of work.
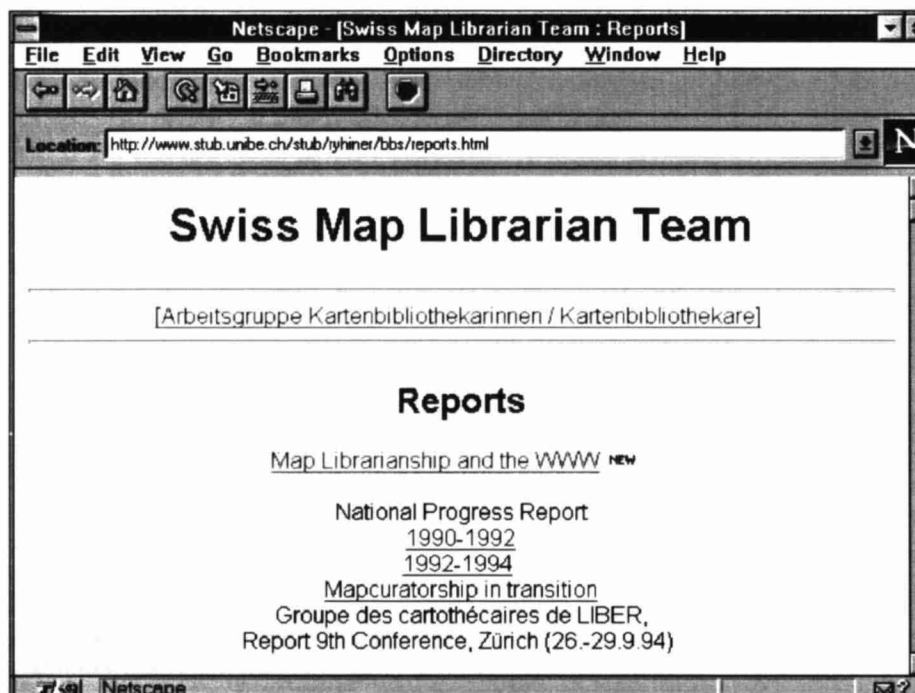
Swiss Map Librarian Team, Reports:
<http://www.stub.unibe.ch/stub/ryhiner/bbs/reports.html>

Figure 2: The Swiss Library of Maps

Access is via the network „SWITCH": The calling up of the various catalogues, such as the Swiss Naional Library (Schweizerische Landesbibliothek), ETHICS Library Cooperation (ETHICS-Verbund) and the Swiss-German Library Association (Deutschschweizer Bibliotheksverbund DSV) is carried out via „telnet" or „tn3270".
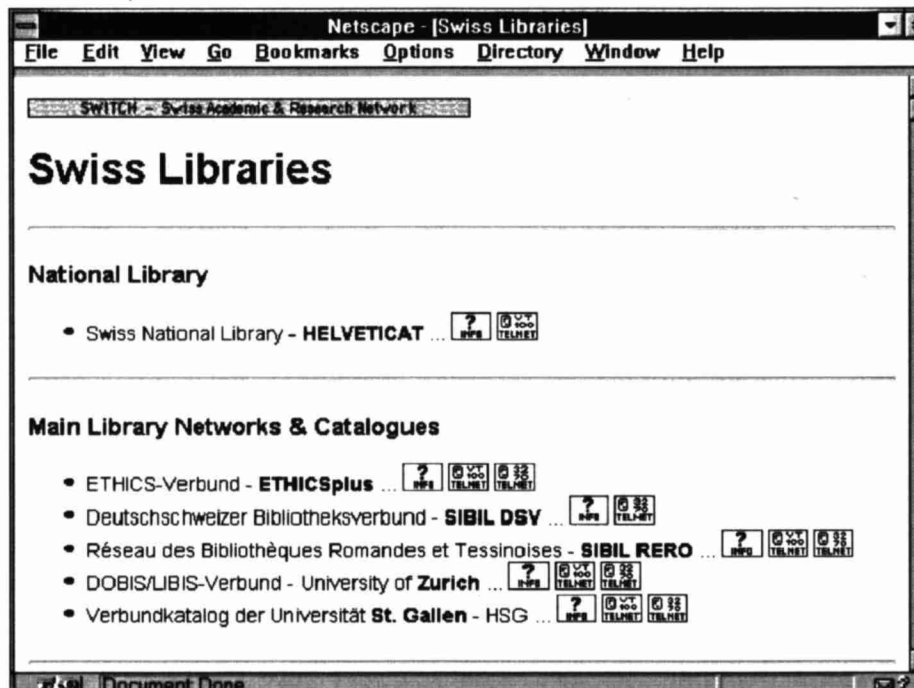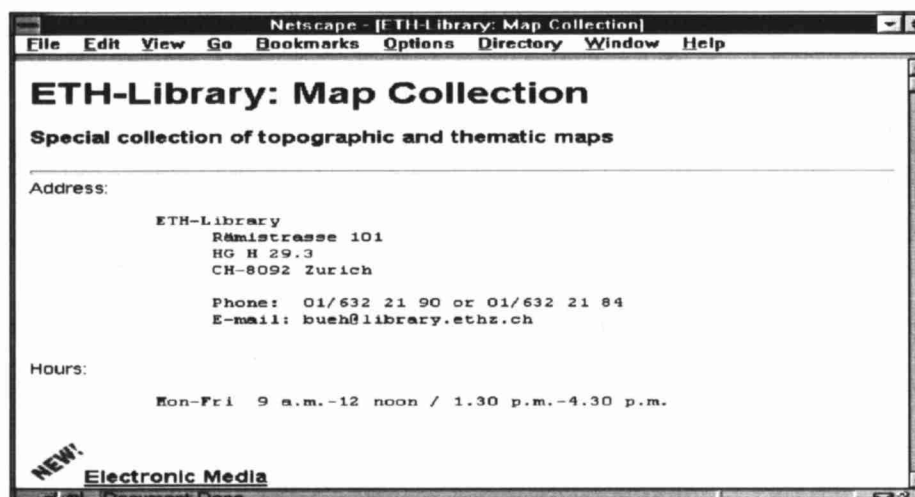

Swiss Libraries: <http://www.switch.ch/libraries/>

Figure 3: The Virtual Library of Maps

Libraries, archives and documentation centres constitute an important link between the products of map manufacturers and their users. With the establishment of „virtual map libraries" new possibilities and opportunities are created for this mediating function.

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Netscape - [ETH-Library: Map Collection]
File   Edit   View   Go   Bookmarks   Options   Directory   Window   Help
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ETH-Library: Map Collection

Special collection of topographic and thematic maps

Address:

> ETH-Library
>   Rämistrasse 101
>   HG H 29.3
>   CH-8092 Zurich
>
>   Phone: 01/632 21 90 or 01/632 21 84
>   E-mail: bueh@library.ethz.ch

Hours:

>   Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-12 noon / 1.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m.

NEW! Electronic Media

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Document Done
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ETH-Library, Map Collection:
<http://ezinfo.ethz.ch/ETH/LIB/EZ_LIB/kartene.html>

Figure 4: The Ryhiner Project


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Netscape - [The Ryhiner Project]
File   Edit   View   Go   Bookmarks   Options   Directory   Window   Help
Location: http://www.stub.unibe.ch/stub/ryhiner/ryhiner.html
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The Ryhiner Project

[Deutsche Version] [Introduction] [Content] [Staff] [More useful links]

Map collections as memories of the world

The Ryhiner map collection is one of the most valuable and outstanding collections of the world. It consists of more than 15,000 maps, charts, plans and views from the 16th to the 18th century, covering the whole globe. Together with the 20,000 manuscript maps of the State Archives, the Canton of Berne owns not only a local, but a worldwide geographical memory. It's our duty to preserve this cultural heritage and make it accessible. Work on this project will last for four and a half years (1993-1997) and include conservation, microfilming and creation of a generally accessible catalogue.

For more information about the project, send email to kloeti@stub.unibe.ch (Dr. Thomas Klöti), Municipal and University Library Berne.

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Document Done
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Municipal and University Library, Berne: The Ryhiner Collection Homepage
<http://www.stub.unibe.ch/stub/ryhiner/ryhiner.html>

Figure 5: The Dial-in on-line catalogue

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━━        WTN3270: Session Ryhiner Collection to host as3.afibs.ch      ▼ ♦
 Session   Edit  Commands  Settings   Help
DEUTSCHSCHWEIZER BIBLIOTHEKSUERBUND                         ECR-PRINC PRODCICS
--------------------------------------                      26.11.96 11.06
MAIN MENU
         0     Information, help, libraries

         1     Combined keywords      (Boolean search)
         2     Authors
         3     Corporate authors
         4     Titles
         5     Subjects
         6     MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)
         7     Local descriptors and classifications
         8     Anonymous titles
         9     Place of publication   (only books and maps before 1830)
        10     Deutsch abfragen

SWISS UNION CATALOGUE OF FOREIGN SERIALS (UZ)    -> see under 8 first
        11     Serials in Swiss libraries (incl. combined keywords)

Type one of the above numbers, then press <ENTER>.

At any time: h : help    b : previous step    m : main menu    e : end
 ---> ▮

                                              IBM-3270-2-E  11.26.07
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Municipal and University Library Berne, Ryhiner Collection: The dial-in on-line catalogue <tn3270://as3.afibs.ch/>

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