

SUMMARY

In the complex political and cultural reality of Switzerland, the preservation of the audiovisual heritage (films, photographs, sound and video recordings) has been organised as a network of the different existing institutions, which have holdings of national importance. Starting in 1995, Memoriav has launched already 90 projects of restoration, preservation and digitisation of audiovisual documents with partner institutions in the whole country.

The statutes of Memoriav mention 6 main tasks of the association: establish an overview of the audiovisual heritage of Switzerland, take appropriate measures to preserve the holdings, build up a network of the institutions with archival responsibility for audiovisual materials, observe the development of technologies and taking care of an optimal use of the financial resources.

These tasks are particularly complex because the audiovisual heritage is still not considered as of the same value as the other parts of the mobile cultural heritage. Therefore communication with different target groups, archive and library professionals, politicians, the federal administration and also a larger public is necessary to develop the network. With courses on different levels the knowledge about audiovisual archiving has to be improved in the archive, library and museum community. Finally, Memoriav is looking also for the users of audiovisual documents in contact with organisations in the field of education and with universities.