THE VIATIONALPES PROJECT
Valorizing an exceptional cultural heritage: the illustration of traveling in the Alps

Project: http://www.unil.ch/viationalpes
Database: http://www.unil.ch/viationalpesimages

World Library and Information Congress, Milan 2009: "Libraries create futures: Building on cultural heritage"
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The Project
A veritable national treasure, the travel literature — consisting of both texts and images — conserved in the country's public libraries constitutes an exceptional documentary resource for the humanities and the social sciences. It is, moreover, a source of interest and pleasure for the general public too.

The aim of our project is to assemble and study the alpine iconography produced in travel literature between 1540 and 1860 ca.

Up to now, more than 10,000 illustrations of the Alps have been inventoried by the VIATIONALPES team, and more than 1,000 have already been digitalized, indexed and made available to the public through the RIVES database.

RIVES
http://www.unil.ch/viationalpesimages

AN OPEN ACCESS KNOWLEDGE BASE FOR RARE TRAVEL ILLUSTRATIONS
IMAGES TEXTS + hyperlinks to the digitalized version of the relevant rare book
hyperlink to biographic and bibliographic information

A VALUABLE TEACHING TOOL
RIVES, a platform shared by a number of different research teams, will soon contain documentation of other geographic regions.

Swiss libraries collaborating in the digitalization of both images and texts

"Source of the Rhône and glacier of La Furca"
Albanus Bucantium Jean-François, Views from France to Italy through the Lepontine Alps, London, 1600,
Bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire de Lausanne, cote: KC 399

Caption: "The three transparent sources rise at the back of the AAC, at the back of which stand the small shelters or huts, as represented in the drawing. The author having taken the vine from the top of a small plateau, or flat surface, which commands the extensive glacier of La Furca, and icy wall, from where issues a part of the Rhône, as described. On the right stands the mountain which bears its name, and on the left the basin of the Glarner."