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Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Swiss National Library NL

Swiss National Library

Annual Report 2022





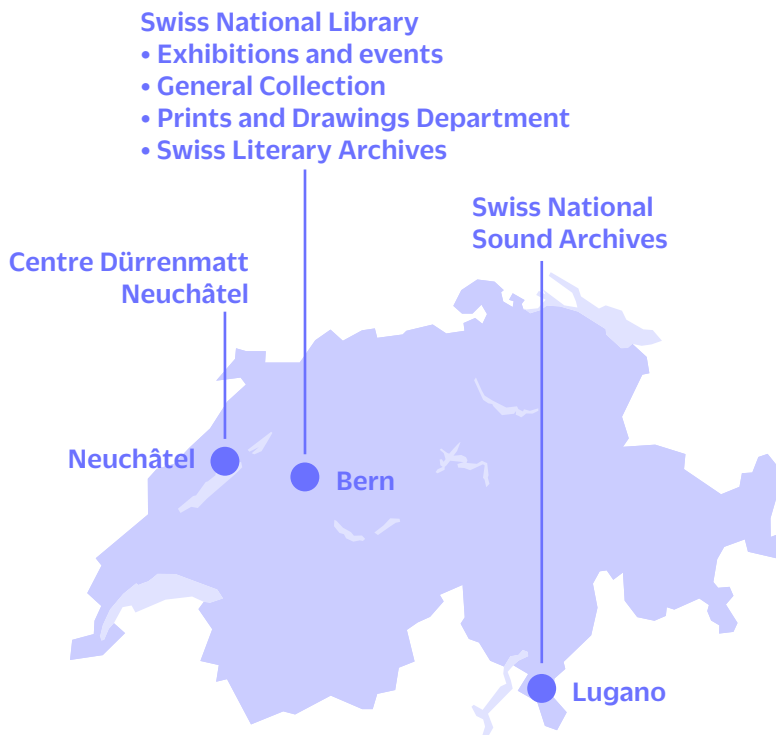
Snow.
The wonder in white



Snow. The wonder in white

The exhibition *Snow. The wonder in white* was held at the Swiss National Library in Bern from 4 March to 1 July 2022. The exhibition traced the history of snow and invited visitors to engage with the past, present and future of the wonder in white through a range of playful, scientific, poetic and artistic exhibits. The exhibition comprised four sections: 'Poetry', 'Play', 'Research' and 'Melt', an audio station featuring songs about snow, and hands-on activities. It raised awareness of the risks posed by climate change and encouraged people to think about 'The Big Melt'.

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2021 2022

Media Holdings

Physical collections ¹

General Collection holdings, publications <small>in million units</small>	
2.984	3.047

Prints and Drawings Department, holdings including special collections and Federal Archive for Monument Preservation <small>in million units *</small>	
1.779	1.758

Swiss Literary Archives <small>in million units *</small>	
1.454	1.494

Swiss National Sound Archives <small>number of audio carriers (including audio media in historical holdings and collections)</small>	
532,725	536,651

Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel <small>number of works</small>	
2,517	2,517

Digital collections

General Collection <small>number of archive packages</small>	
217,321	250,536

Swiss National Sound Archives <small>number of archive packages</small>	
95,232	100,697

Archive holdings

Swiss Literary Archives <small>archives and literary estates</small>	
422	430

Prints and Drawings Department <small>archive holdings (including special collections and Federal Archive for Monument Preservation)</small>	
275	291

User Services

Active users	
3,727	3,232

Individual loans	
50,036	51,078

Information retrievals	
17,150	16,592

Exhibitions, events, guided tours, training sessions <small>number of visitors</small>	
20,577	21,335

Digitalisation

General Collection <small>number of digitised pages of Helvetica collection</small>	
1,546,673	3,607,207

Swiss Literary Archives and Prints and Drawings Department <small>number of digitised documents</small>	
26,758	7,275

Swiss National Sound Archives <small>number of digitised audio files</small>	
57,852	59,580

www.nb.admin.ch <small>number of visits</small>	
164,701	148,794

www.fonoteca.ch <small>number of visits (including visits to the catalogue)</small>	
634,247	772,390

www.cdn.ch <small>number of visits</small>	
24,946	34,919

www.e-newspaperarchives.ch <small>number of visits</small>	
401,443	405,504

Catalogues

Helveticat (General Collection catalogue) <small>total bibliographic records</small>	
1,933,690	1,985,974

Swiss Poster Catalogue <small>total bibliographic records</small>	
94,872	97,203

HelveticArchives (catalogue of Swiss Literary Archives and Prints and Drawings Department, excluding posters) <small>total records</small>	
692,267	765,672

Swiss National Sound Archives <small>total records</small>	
313,632	317,904

Resources

Employees <small>full-time equivalents, annual average</small>	
149.9	151.8

Operating expenses <small>in CHF millions</small>	
35.843	36.804

Operating income <small>in CHF millions</small>	
0.873	0.744

Printed monographs acquired by the National Library

Monographs from the book market	
12,508	12,828

Non-commercial monographs	
5,142	4,448

¹ The result of the CatCount project is used as a basis on which to determine the size of the various collections.

* solid estimate (based on CatCount project)

**We are a place of
encounter and dialogue
and create space
for innovation
and inspiration.**

Damian Elsig, Director

Breaking new ground

Damian Elsig, Director

2022 was an eventful year for the Swiss National Library. The focus was on the call for tenders for the complete renovation of the main building at 15 Hallwylstrasse in Bern and the reorientation of this listed building to meet the requirements of a library of the future. Another priority was the establishment of the new Museumsquartier Bern as an important cultural and education complex – a development that the Swiss National Library is also involved in.



What does a library of the future look like? The Swiss National Library grappled with this question for two reasons in 2022. On the one hand, because the listed main building – a key example of ‘Neues Bauen’ from 1931 – at 15 Hallwylstrasse in Bern is due to undergo renovation, and on the other, to take this opportunity to create space for future offerings, whether digital, analogue or hybrid.

For the complete renovation and refurbishment, the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics launched a competitive study commissioning process in February 2022 in order to identify a project proposal that meets the diverse requirements. The proposal has to cover both the refurbishment of the building and the use concept for the National Library of the future. In addition, action is needed in terms of the building’s structure, as highlighted by surveys on seismic



NATBIB

Visualisation of the project by Christ & Gantenbein /
Drees & Sommer Switzerland

and structural safety, which were conducted in 2018. Beyond the actual construction, the new building should be integrated into the newly-created Museumsquartier Bern as a cultural and education complex and synergies should be utilised.

Forward-looking space planning

In the spring of 2022, 32 general contractor teams applied in the prequalification phase. The broad-based assessment board, consisting of representatives from the federal government, canton and the City of Bern, the neighbourhood Association and external experts, then whittled these down to six. On the basis of specific project proposals, the six selected teams showed how they planned to tackle the renovation and expansion at the heart

of the existing building complex. Particular attention was paid to enhancing the high level of *Baukultur*. The bidders also had to address the future use concept of the National Library. The aim was to architecturally capture the vision of a forward-looking library that brings people together and provides space for inspiration and innovation. The planned complete renovation revolves around this reorientation of the Swiss National Library.

In December 2022, the assessment board came out in favour of the **NATBIB** project by Christ & Gantenbein / Drees & Sommer Switzerland. This team impressively managed to preserve the high quality of the existing building complex. At the same time, they will create the necessary spatial conditions for a contemporary and attractive library of the future. One

of the ways in which they will do so is by renovating the historic book tower to make it into an attractive space for public use.

The *NATBIB* project will be further developed by the project team in 2023. The construction work, including on the southern underground stacks, is scheduled to start in 2025. During the building work, the Swiss National Library will relocate to the 'Titanic' building at 74 Monbijoustrasse in Bern.

Growing together in the Museumsquartier Bern

In June 2021, the [Museumsquartier Bern](#) association was established with eleven members: Swiss Alpine Museum, Bernisches Historisches Museum, Gymnasium Kirchenfeld, Kunsthalle Bern, Museum of Communication, Natural History Museum Bern, Bern University of

Teacher Education, Swiss Shooting Museum Bern, Swiss National Library, Stadtarchiv Bern and the Yehudi Menuhin Forum. The institutions will gradually grow together in the initial phase until 2024, but will retain their individual identities. In 2022, the publicly-accessible museum garden was opened between the individual buildings and therefore offers a new urban space for Bern. In addition, a charter was drawn up containing a vision, mission and shared values, and was launched in December 2022. The Museumsquartier Bern aims to be a diverse experience space that will attract people from the local area and further afield.



Museumsquartier Bern

An experience space that will attract people from the local area and further afield

HelveticAll comprehensive catalogue

The new comprehensive catalogue, *HelveticAll*, which has been available online since March 2022, offers users direct access via a portal to the Swiss National Library's most important catalogues and databases. This new access makes it even easier to search for and order publications.

Until early 2022, the Swiss National Library provided access to its extensive collections via various catalogues and databases. For technical reasons, however, a search of all catalogues was not possible. In March 2022, the Swiss National Library made an important step forward in terms of accessibility by introducing the *HelveticAll* comprehensive catalogue, which makes it much easier for users to search for and order publications.

The new portal provides users with direct access to the Swiss National Library's most important catalogues and databases, such as *Helveticat*, *Catalogue of the Association Swiss Poster Collections*, *Bibliography of Swiss History Database*, *Swiss National Sound Archives Catalogue*, *HelveticArchives* (in part) and *e-Periodica*.

Users can access online content, order documents and display information from selected catalogues by clicking links. The existing catalogues are still accessible and have not been replaced by *HelveticAll*. Through the new comprehensive catalogue *HelveticAll*, the Swiss National Library has made access to its collections more user friendly and optimised joined-up research.



General Collection

In 2022, the Swiss National Library was involved in international efforts to develop standards in cataloguing. In the acquisition of collections and archives, it faced increasing pest problems, which is why it stepped up its prevention activities in this area. The *Innovation Fellowship* programme explored the potential of solutions using artificial intelligence. The collection has grown in the year under review and use of digital services has increased again.

Collection

The General Collection of the Swiss National Library comprised just under 3.2 million physical documents and 250,536 digital archive packages at the end of 2022. The figures are not comparable with those from previous years because all of the National Library's collections were re-categorised in a project to determine the level of cataloguing.

In June 2022, the Swiss National Library hosted the General Assembly of the Swiss book industry and publishers' association (SBVV) for the second time. This association represents the majority of book shops and publishing houses in German-speaking Switzerland. Cooperation was also stepped up with Livresuisse, the SBVV's counterpart from French-speaking Switzerland.

As there was no longer any real need on either side, the depositary agreement between the Swiss National Library and the OECD in the area of collection activities was terminated.

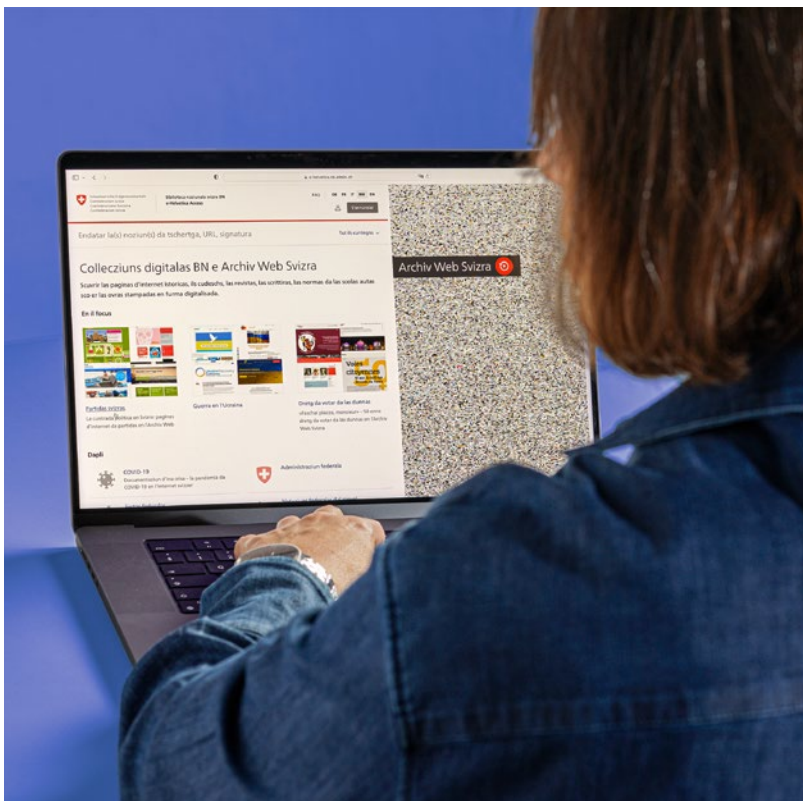
The collection of digitally born publications again saw significant growth. At the end of 2022, it comprised 250,536 archive packages, which is an increase of 13% (33,215 publications). In collaboration with the Swiss Library of Eastern Europe, a website collection was set up on the war in Ukraine on *Web Archive Switzerland*. The homepage to access the digital collections of [e-Helvetica](#) was overhauled and since late 2022 has also been available in Romansh.

Catalogues

At the end of 2022, *Helveticat*, the Swiss National Library's library catalogue, comprised 1,985,974 bibliographic records (2021: 1,933,690), an increase of 2.6%.

The *CatCount* project was completed. It determined the level of cataloguing of all of the Swiss National Library's collections. The six main collections are of a library, archival or documentary nature. For almost 100 years, cataloguing was stable but in the last 25 years it has experienced rapid digitalisation. The results are heterogeneous and show that cataloguing of some collections is complete, while for others it is insufficient. In the General Collection, monographs are fully catalogued, as is the digital collection. Work is currently under way to improve the situation with regard to the periodicals collection and the corporate publications collection.

The Swiss National Library is the only European library that



[e-Helvetica](#)
New Romansh page

is involved on the Board of the globally applicable *Resource Description and Access cataloguing standards*. As part of the Cataloguing Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, the Swiss National Library played a leading role in the complete revision of the *Statement of International Cataloguing Principles*. Together with the German National Library, the Austrian National Library and other partners, it defined practical application rules on the basis of worldwide standards. A lot of work was done on implementing different language versions and expanding the standards to non-library collections.

Preservation and conservation

In all, 48,713 new acquisitions underwent conservation treatment, an increase of just under 2.9% compared with 2021 (47,314).

The well-known issue of **integrated pest management** in libraries, archives and museums gained in importance. During the course of preparations for the move to the temporary site of the Swiss National Library, pests were discovered in the storage areas at the interim location and in newly-acquired holdings. As the introduction of pests into existing collections must be prevented at all costs, preventive pest control activities were stepped up.

Circulation

In 2022 the Swiss National Library had 2,017 active users of the General Collection, just under 20% fewer than in the previous year (2021: 2,415). The trend towards use of digital services which are available without enrolment continued. A total of 42,317 documents were



Integrated Pest Management

Pest control measures

loaned, which is in line with the previous year's figure (42,621).

Information retrieval

The number of information and research requests stood at 11,050, up nearly 19% from the previous year (2021: 9,000). The research and work stations for users were replaced. For this, the Swiss National Library uses Desktop as a Service technology, which consists of the machines on site and a server environment. Users can work directly on the server environment and access various information and software from the machines on site. This solution allows changes to be made centrally to the server environment.

Outreach

In the year under review, six digitised periodicals were put online on the *e-newspaperarchives.ch* platform operated by the Swiss

National Library, including *Le Franc-Montagnard*, the *Nationale suisse* and the *Bieler Tagblatt*. A number of existing titles were added to. At the end of 2022, *e-newspaperarchives.ch* provided access to 170 digitised newspaper titles (2021: 164), which equates to 11,514,096 pages (2021: 9,001,585). A total of 2,687,270 pages were put online in 2022 (2021: 931,388). 405,504 page visits were recorded, up from 401,343 in 2021.

The Swiss National Library put four periodicals on the platform *e-periodica.ch* operated by the ETH library Zurich, including three on the topic of music (2021: 15). A total of 910,978 pages were put online, which is a five-fold increase compared with 2021 (195,319). *e-periodica.ch* recorded 138,322 visits and 76,515 downloads.

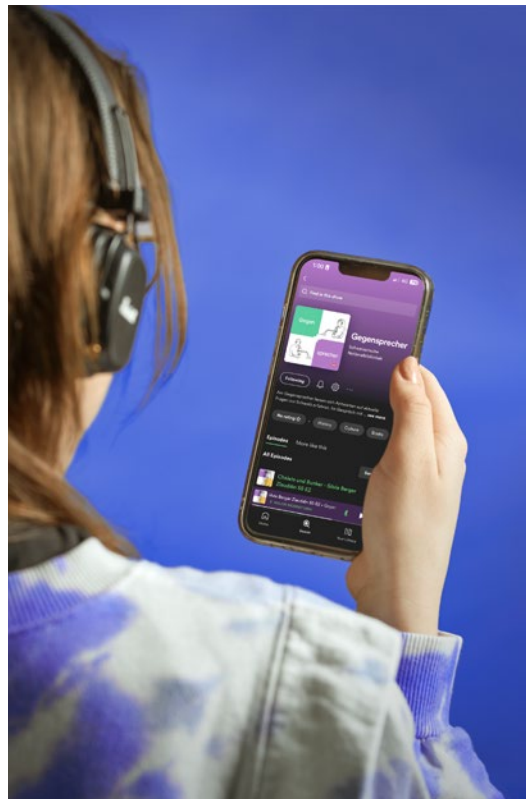
The Swiss National Library's website *nb.admin.ch* recorded 148,794 visits in 2022 (2021: 164,701). In all, the Swiss National Library's German-language Facebook page has 10,500 followers, the French-language page 9,108. There was a slight year-on-year increase on all pages. The Swiss National Library's German-language Twitter feed has 3,019 followers (2021: 2,900) and the French-language one 1,905 (2021: 1,900). The Swiss National Library's Instagram account has 3,206 followers (2021: 2,257).

The Swiss National Library launched the podcast **Gegensprecher** in 2021. For every exhibition in Bern, the podcast features four discussions with experts that delve deeper into the subject matter and have proved an attractive addition to the outreach activities.



Digitisation

A work from the Kleinmeister collection



Gegensprecher

The Swiss National Library's podcast

Helveticat, the catalogue of the General Collection, was accessed 379,317 times (2021: 347,385), while the figure for the *Swiss Poster Collections Union Catalogue* was 54,437 (2021: 46,472). *The Bibliography on Swiss History* was consulted 39,083 times (2021: 36,827). *HelveticArchives*, which mainly describes the holdings of the



Training

Bookbinding: an apprentice carrying out thread-stitching

Swiss Literary Archives and the Prints and Drawings Department, was consulted 48,471 times (2021: 118,706). The decline is due to a change in the analysis tool, which is now identical for all databases. The figure for the *e-Helvetic Access* portal to the digital collections was 25,810 (2021: 34,703).

A total of 9,300 people attended the Swiss National Library's exhibitions and events in Bern (2021: 9,879), while 579 took part in guided tours (2021: 456).

Training

The practical **training** of the first mediamatics apprentices got under way in August 2022 after they had completed the first year of external basic theoretical training. The apprenticeship as information and documentation specialist (Federal VET Diploma) was run in accordance with the new, revised training plan. In the autumn of 2022, the training manager at the Swiss National Library was elected senior expert for the information and documentation specialist apprenticeship (Federal VET Diploma). The evaluation of the requirements for the revised Federal VET Diploma in bookbinding led to the decision to continue to offer the training at the Swiss National Library.

IT

In the *digital long-term archive* project, the Swiss National Library procured the central component – the digital archive – as part of a WTO public tender. The contract was awarded to the company docu-team AG. The components of the Access system were put out for public tender. The new long-term archive is scheduled to be rolled out by 2025.



BiblioWeekend

Lenchens Geheimnis – an audio play
adapted from Michael Ende

National activities

In March 2022, the Swiss National Library took part in the first **Biblio-Weekend** organised by the national association of public libraries, Bibliosuisse. The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Libraries was held on 13 May 2022 on the theme of *the (economic) value of libraries* with the participation of the Swiss National Library.

Innovation

The Swiss National Library took part in the Federal Administration's *Innovation Fellowship* programme which aims to explore the potential of artificial intelligence. In three pilot projects, measures were developed which will be incorporated into operations.



Prints and Drawings Department

The collection of modern and contemporary prints was substantially expanded in 2022 through acquisitions and donations. Members of staff spent a great deal of time and effort finalising the archival processing of individual collections and archives. The in-demand collection of historical views of Switzerland from the Photoglob-Wehrli collection is now catalogued in detail. Outreach activities on the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments were carried out to mark the *European Heritage Days*.



Franz Gertsch (1930–2022)
Tabea, lithograph, 1981



Christian Scholz (*1951)
 Portrait of Michelle Gisin,
 silver gelatine print, 2020

Collection

A few days before his death, the first print by internationally renowned artist **Franz Gertsch** was acquired (*Tabea*, 1981). Other acquisitions concerned graphic works by Swiss artists such as Sylvia Hostettler, Rosina Kuhn, Zilla Leutenegger, Luigi Archetti, Ata Bozaci and Romain Crelier. Twenty photographs were added to the photographic portrait collection, which comprises 30,000 photos and has existed for 100 years: ten portraits by photographer Julieta Schildknecht (featuring, among others, Christa de Carouge, Ruth Dreifuss and Andreas Spillmann) and ten portraits by photographer **Christian Scholz** (featuring, among others, Doris Leuthard, Michelle Gisin and Tobia Bezzola).

Three extensive donations were received in 2022. From the **Atelier Fanal** in Basel, which was set up by Marie-Thérèse Vacossin (*1929) in 1966, the Prints and Drawings Department acquired the entire screen printing series of concrete art con-



Atelier Fanal
 Screen prints by Nelly Rudin (1928–2013)
 and Maya Stange (1926–2022)

nected to renowned Swiss and international artists. In addition, the Swiss National Library acquired the extensive work of Bernese artist Peter Stein (1922–2015) containing 400 abstract art prints. It also acquired a selection of 75 sheets from the complete works of Neuchâtel artist Marc Jurt (1955–2006), which reflect Jurt's life, oscillating between East and West.

After several years of work, processing of the extensive **Photoglob-Wehrli** image collection was completed in 2022. It is a comprehensive set containing around 37,000 black and white photographs from the archive of the largest Swiss postcard publisher, born of the merger in 1924 of Photoglob in Zurich and Wehrli in Kilchberg. A selection of 13,500 digital copies



Karl Walser

Stage design for *Leonce and Lena* (act three, scene three), lithograph, 1910



Photoglob-Wehrli

Lantern slides and photo prints from the Photoglob-Wehrli archive, early 20th century

is available to search for via the *HelveticArchives* website. Digitisation of the prints featuring views of places and landscapes in Switzerland was also completed.

Four larger archives and collections, each of which comprises some of the graphic works of individual artists as well as personal documents, were processed in their entirety. They were *Pilztafelwerk* by Lenzburg researcher and artist Hans Walty (1868–1948), which is also available in digital format; the archive of Bernese painter **Karl Walser** (1877–1943), which contains draft stage designs and costumes, as well as illustrations for literary texts; the complete collection of the diaries of Bernhard Luginbühl (1929–2011); and the archive of artist and architect Bryan C. Thurston (*1933), which contains sketchbooks and several thousand prints.

Outreach

During the *European Heritage Days* on the theme of *Leisure*, the Prints and Drawings Department together with the Federal Commission for Monument Preservation presented precious items from the collection of plans and photos, such as the watercolour original plans for the Kursaal in Interlaken by **Paul Bouvier**. It also explored the history of leisure facilities, such as theatres, hotels and spas. The Prints and Drawings Department took part in the *Archive on tour* programme to mark the centenary of the Association of Swiss Archivists and was heavily involved in collecting websites on Swiss artists for the *Web Archive Switzerland*. The *Visual treasures* section on the Swiss National Library's website featured articles on works by Daniel Spoerri, Andreas Züst, Bryan C. Thurston, Fiorenza Bassetti, Paul Bouvier and Karl Gerstner.

User services

At 745, the number of information and research requests was slightly below the levels of previous years (2021: 775). The collection areas most in demand were monument preservation and photography. The number of visitors on site was higher than the previous year (116 versus 91 in 2021). Some 80 original documents were loaned for ten exhibitions. Particularly worthy of mention are the loans of historical photo documents for the travelling exhibition on the beginnings of photography in Switzerland (*Dal Vero* at the MASI Lugano, *D'après nature* at the Photo Elysée Lausanne), the loan of works by minor masters to the Kornhausforum Bern, and the loan of the Mey-



Paul Bouvier (1847–1940)

Kursaal d'Interlaken, Salle de Théâtre et de Concerts,
pencil drawing with watercolour, 1909

denbauer camera to the House of Brandenburg-Prussian history in Potsdam.

The digitised images in the public domain on Wikimedia Commons (WMC) were accessed 13.5 million times, which is at a similarly high level to the previous year (2021: 15.9 million.). The media available on WMC (15,742 files at the end of 2022) are mainly from the Prints and Drawings Department and will be expanded in 2023 to include the collections digitised in 2022.



Swiss Literary Archives

A reading was held to honour Reto Hänni, one of the most radical writers in the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) and winner of the Swiss Grand Award for Literature in 2022. Workshops were also held to determine the research potential of the estate of scholar Jonas Fränkel. The evening events on Birgit Kempker and Donata Berra and the commemorative event in honour of Mani Matter were highlights in the SLA's annual programme. The issue of *Quarto* on writer, artist and prostitute Grisélidis Réal attracted a great deal of attention.





Reto Hänni and Fritz Hauser
Reading and concert

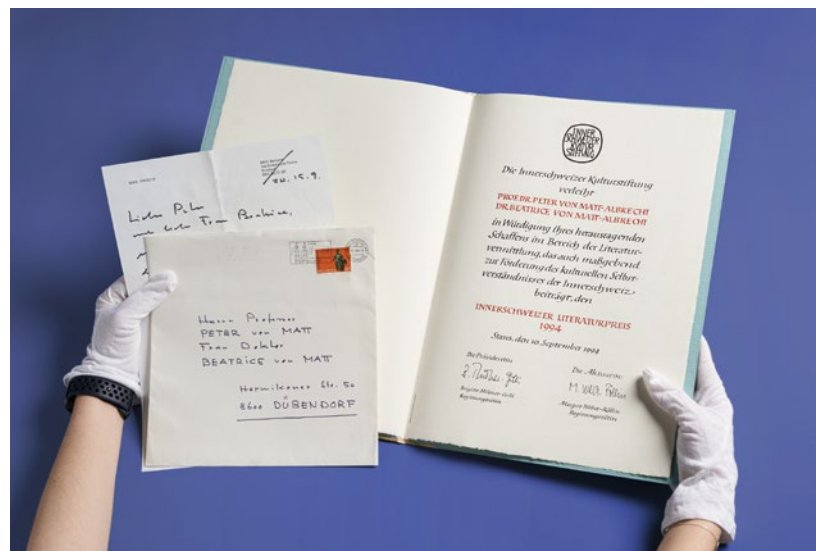


Quarto on Grisélidis Réal
Book launch with Nancy Huston (left)
and Coraly Zahonero

Collection

The acquisition of the archive of literary critic and German scholar, **Beatrice von Matt**, and German scholar **Peter von Matt** was completed in 2022. Besides the preliminary studies on their works, readings and collections, the holdings also comprise their presentations, talks, reviews and correspondence. The SLA collection was also expanded with the holdings of priest and writer William Wolfensberger (1889–1918), the exiled author Irmgard von Faber du Faur (1894–1955), the Berlin-based writer, journalist and director Fritz H. Dinkelmann, and writer Hansjörg Schertenleib, who is active in Ireland, Switzerland and the United States.

Other key new acquisitions were recorded in all of Switzerland's national languages. The SLA acquired the literary archive of Romansh author Leta Semadeni, who writes in both Romansh and German. The acquired fonds include draft poems, workbooks, various versions of



Beatrice and Peter von Matt

Document and correspondence from the archive of Beatrice and Peter von Matt

novels, press documentation, open letters, awards and individual illustrations and collages. The Italian language holdings were expanded with the acquisition of the literary estate of writer Plinio Martini (1923–1979) from the Maggia Valley in Ticino. Meanwhile, the collection of documents and manuscripts of French-speaking travel writer [Isabelle Eberhardt](#) (1877–1904) were discovered, and their full significance is yet to be understood.

In 2022, cataloguing in all four of Switzerland's national languages was completed: the estate of S. Corinna Bille in French, the inventory on Peter Linsel in Romansh, the estate of Plinio Martini in Italian, and the dual holdings of married couple Floriana and Willy Storrer-Madelung in German. In addition, the inventory of the photo archive of Yvonne Böhler was made available online.

Outreach

The SLA released a publication in German on the Ringvorlesung lecture series [Dürrenmatt von A bis Z](#) (2020/21) subtitled *Eine Fibel*

zum Werk ('a primer on his work'). This marks the launch of a lecture series for junior researchers on the *Zukünfte der Philologien*. For the centenary of the birth of Friedrich Dürrenmatt, experts from various disciplines combed through Dürrenmatt's literary and visual oeuvre from A to Z, picking up on the central concepts of his thought and works.

The correspondence of Belgian and French critics Georges Poulet and Jean-Pierre Richard was pub-



[Isabelle Eberhardt](#)

A wallet from the Isabelle Eberhardt collection

[Dürrenmatt von A bis Z](#)
Publication *Dürrenmatt von A bis Z*.
Eine Fibel zum Werk, 2022



Donata Berra

Serata letteraria: 'E dopo il ponte /
s'aprono a miglia i piani ...'

lished by Slatkine-Verlag. The correspondence, released by the SLA in 2022, spans a period of almost forty years. It is much more than just a testimony to a lively friendship between intellectuals, but rather a dialogue on a key period in the literary history of France, Europe and the United States – the age of 'New Criticism'. The original letters are kept at the SLA in the Georges Poulet fonds.

As part of a literary soirée, poet and translator **Donata Berra** and poet and cultural journalist Yari Bernasconi read and commented on each other's works. The discussion looked at the specific features of the works, the different writing practices, as well as the connections and links between the two writers.

The international workshop *Riskante Einsätze* was dedicated to the opening lines in the works of Robert Walser. It looked at how new forms are tried out, justified and motivated in the first sentences of a literary work.

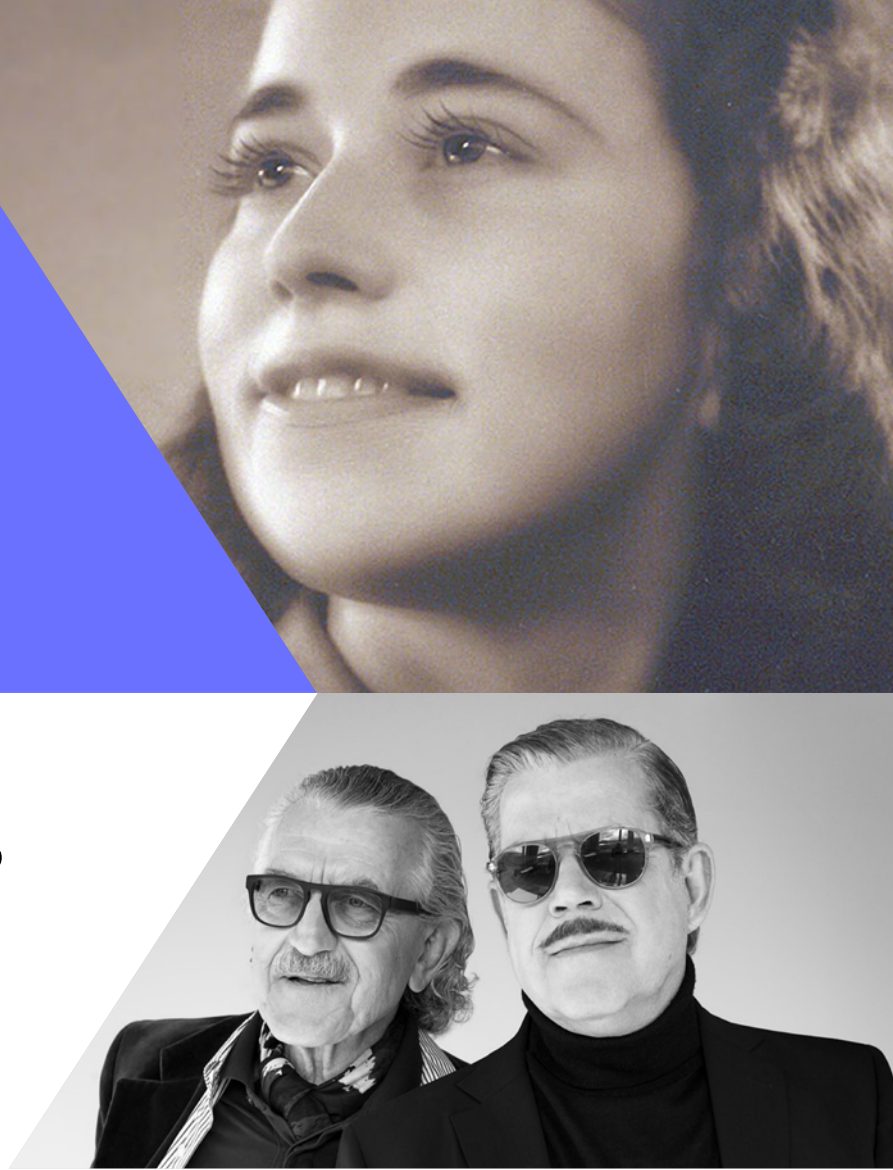
User services

The number of users of the SLA reading room rose in 2022 to 1,038 (2021: 894), while information retrievals amounted to 3,771 (2021: 4,057). A total of 1,155 holdings were consulted.

Networking

The third workshop in the *Zukünfte der Philologien* series was held at the Swiss National Library in May 2022 on the theme *Vor der Öffentlichkeit*, including a crypto workshop on Jonas Fränkel at the Haus der Universität Bern, in collaboration with the departments of literature and cultural studies at the University of Giessen and ETH Zurich. The workshop included contributions from Alexander Honold (University of Basel), Andreas Kilcher (ETH Zurich), Steffen Martus (Humboldt University Berlin), Joanna Nowotny (SLA), Stephan Kammer (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich), Tobias Amslinger (Max Frisch Archive Zurich), Ulrich Weber (SLA), Julian Schütt (CH Media Zurich), Magnus Wieland (SLA), Fredi Lerch/Dominik Müller (Spiteler Netzwerk Bern & Genf), Bénédicte Vauthier (University of Bern) and Uwe Wirth (University of Giessen).

Swiss National Sound Archives



Once again in 2022, the Swiss National Sound Archives worked to preserve and mediate Switzerland's audio heritage in collaboration with various institutions. It acquired important collections, such as those of jazz historian Christian Steulet and those of the Bern music festival *Taktlos*. The Swiss National Sound Archives also relocated in December 2022 from its headquarters in the Centro San Carlo in Lugano to its new home in the immediate vicinity.

Collection

A total of 936 new recordings were acquired in 2022 (2021: 1,132) and 4,424 new bibliographic records were added to the catalogue (2021: 7,378). Particularly worthy of mention are the acquisition of the collection of jazz historian Christian Steulet, and those of the Bern music festival *Taktlos*. The Steulet collection comprises the audio media that Vaud-born Steulet collected as part of his research. The *Taktlos* Bern collection consists of some 600 concerts from the famous festival of contemporary music that were performed between 1980 and 2006.

Outreach

In 2022, the Swiss National Sound Archives opened up access to its collections through a range of collaborations: it lent items to the exhibition *Snow. The wonder in white* at the Swiss National Library; to the exhibition **Sagenhafter Alpenraum** at the Forum Schweizer Geschichte Schwyz and

the National Museum Zurich; to the exhibition *Rund um Biel. Die Schweizerischen Landesausstellungen* at the Neues Museum Biel; to the exhibition **Musighanneli: Die Volksmusik-Sammlerin Hanny Christen** at the Museum.BL; to the exhibition *Von Fideln und Meistergeigen* at the Swiss School of Violin Making in Brienz; and to the permanent exhibitions at the Swiss Open-Air Museum in Ballenberg and the Dichter:innen- und Stadtmuseum Liestal. The Swiss National Sound Archives also contributed to radio productions by RTS Radio Télévision Suisse (several segments for the programme *Histoire Vivante* to mark 100 years of radio) and to the research project on *The history of the Salon Orchestra Engadin* by the Institute of Cultural Research



Sagenhafter Alpenraum

An exhibition featuring loans from the National Sound Archives



Musighanneli: Die Volksmusik-Sammlerin Hanny Christen

The National Sound Archives supported this exhibition with loans from its collections.



Yvette Z'Graggen

A homage to the Genevan writer, shown here in 1941



Yello

Winners of the Swiss Grand Award for Music 2022



Toni Halter

Audio collection on the Graubünden writer

Graubünden and the Department of Music at the University of Basel.

On 2 March 2022, the Swiss National Sound Archives was a guest on the television programme *Il Quotidiano* on RSI Radiotelevisione Svizzera. The extensive report presented the Swiss Federal Sound Archives through an on-site visit and interviews with staff members. On 3 and 4 November 2022, it took part in the *Swiss Open Cultural Data Hackathon*, which took place on the campus of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI) in Mendrisio.

In the year under review, the Swiss National Sound Archives also published various articles on its website on some of its most important collections, such as on the major Genevan jazz saxophonist George Robert, on the Ticinese

composer Carlo Florindo Semini, and on the Widder Bar in Zurich (recordings of jazz evenings hosted at the historic venue in the 1980s).

It also published audio collections of key Swiss figures on its website, such as classic pianist Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli, Genevan writer **Yvette Z'Graggen**, famous Zurich duo **Yello** (winners of the Swiss Grand Award for Music in 2022), jazz musician George Robert, Graubünden writer **Toni Halter** and famous Bernese songwriter Mani Matter. Also worth



Anna Felder

Interview with the ticinese writer



Sound machine of the month

Recordophone from Autophon AG
from the late 1940s

These workstations were used to listen to 139,855 audio documents in the year under review (2021: 183,109).

mentioning is the online publication of an in-depth interview with Ticinese writer [Anna Felder](#), which was granted exclusively to the Swiss National Sound Archives.

Finally, in autumn 2022, the Swiss National Sound Archives launched the section the [sound machine of the month](#) on its YouTube channel, which showcases historical audiovisual machines and devices.

User services

Public interest in the National Sound Archives' collection remains very high, with 772,390 database requests recorded in 2022 (2021: 634,247). The Swiss School of Violin Making in Brienz was added to the 58 institutions in Switzerland with one or more audiovisual workstations that can be used to access the National Sound Archives database.

Networking

The Swiss National Sound Archives strengthened its national and international networks by participating in various conferences and congresses in 2022. Particularly noteworthy is its participation in the annual conference of the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives 2022 (IASA) in Mexico City in September. At the IASA conference, the Swiss National Sound Archive chaired the meetings of the Training & Education Committee and presented the institution and its activities. The four-day conference was attended by experts from the audiovisual field from all over the world.



Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

The Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN) can look back on a pleasing year with three exhibitions and 26 events that proved popular with both the public and the media. The offerings that were launched to mark the centenary of the birth of Friedrich Dürrenmatt in 2021 went down so well that some of them, such as access to Dürrenmatt's study on Saturdays, have become permanent. Publications, podcasts and videos also allowed the CDN to reach audiences beyond the museum.





Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Caricatures
Temporary exhibition

Outreach

The CDN presented three exhibitions in 2022. First there was **Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Caricatures**, which concluded the exhibition series on humour in the works from the CDN's collection. It was also shown at partner museums in Germany, France and Switzerland. It was followed by **Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Playwright's Arsenal**, which explored the way in which Dürrenmatt combined his love of painting and writing in the theatre. And finally, the exhibition **Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Le Jeu** pre-



Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Playwright's Arsenal
Opening of the temporary exhibition: a performance by Juliette Vernerey and Simon Bonvin

sented the many aspects of play in Dürrenmatt's work by comparing it with the works of artists Valérie Favre, Jacques Chessex, Guy Debord, Hannes Binder and Benjamin Gottwald. All the exhibitions were accompanied by an event programme, publication and an episode of the *Friedrich Dürrenmatt* podcast. The travelling exhibition *Helvetismen – Sprachspezialitäten* continued and was shown at a secondary school in La Chaux-de-Fonds and at the Musée Grütli in 2022.

The CDN staged a number of performances in the year under review, including *Conversation entre deux promeneurs solitaires* as part of a *Salon Dürrenmatt* on Rousseau and Dürrenmatt, the musical *Le Minotaure* adapted from the work by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, and the staged reading *Artistes suisses à procès*. *Promenade audiovisuelle avec Friedrich Dürrenmatt et Plinio Martini*: a fictional encounter between two icons of Swiss culture. In addition, CDN staged two concerts on its terrace on Swiss National

Day: an event by Jardins musicaux and a jazz concert.

In December 2022, the CDN organised a discussion enhanced with multimedia content in conjunction with the *Salon Dürrenmatt – A dialogue between image and text*. Participants in the discussion included German ambassador to Switzerland S.E. Michael Flügger, artist Valérie Favre, publishers Philipp Keel and Gerhard Steidl, professor Régine Bonnefoit and experts from the CDN. The discussion took place to mark the publication of the third and final volume of *Wege und Umwege mit Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Das bildnerische und literarische Werk im Dialog*, a publication by the CDN in collaboration with the publishers Steidl and Diogenes. This publication offers a comprehensive overview of Dürrenmatt's work and extraordinary expressive power for the first time.

Throughout the year under review, the CDN also offered a

number of projects outside of the museum: the travelling exhibition *L'Épidémie virale en Afrique du Sud de Dürrenmatt en images* was presented at the town hall in Neuchâtel as part of the anti-racism week. In collaboration with Passion Cinéma, the CDN organised a screening at the Festival du Sud of the film *Hyènes* by Djibril Diop Mambéty, which is based on Dürrenmatt's *The Visit*. The event *Eine Reise zu Dürrenmatt*, held on the train from Bern to Neuchâtel featuring Gusti Pollak as tour guide, took place 11 times in 2022. The series to mark the dual centenary of Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Leonardo Sciascia continued in 2022 with events at the Istituto Svizzero di Roma, the



Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Le Jeu

Opening of the temporary exhibition: (from left to right) Madeleine Betschart (CDN), Thomas Facchinetti (Ville de Neuchâtel), Carine Bachmann (Federal Office of Culture) and Damian Elsig (Swiss National Library)



Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Le Jeu
Temporary exhibition

University of Bern, the Biblioteca cantonale di Bellinzona, the Teatro Foce in Lugano and the cantonal school in Enge, Zurich. The Swiss National Sound Archives contributed audio documents and a video to the centenary series.

Once again in 2022, the CDN focused on cultural outreach activities in schools throughout Switzer-

land and offered workshops in German, French or both. After a visit to the museum, the activities were held in Dürrenmatt's former studio, which has been specially adapted for schoolchildren and students aged between five and 18.

User services

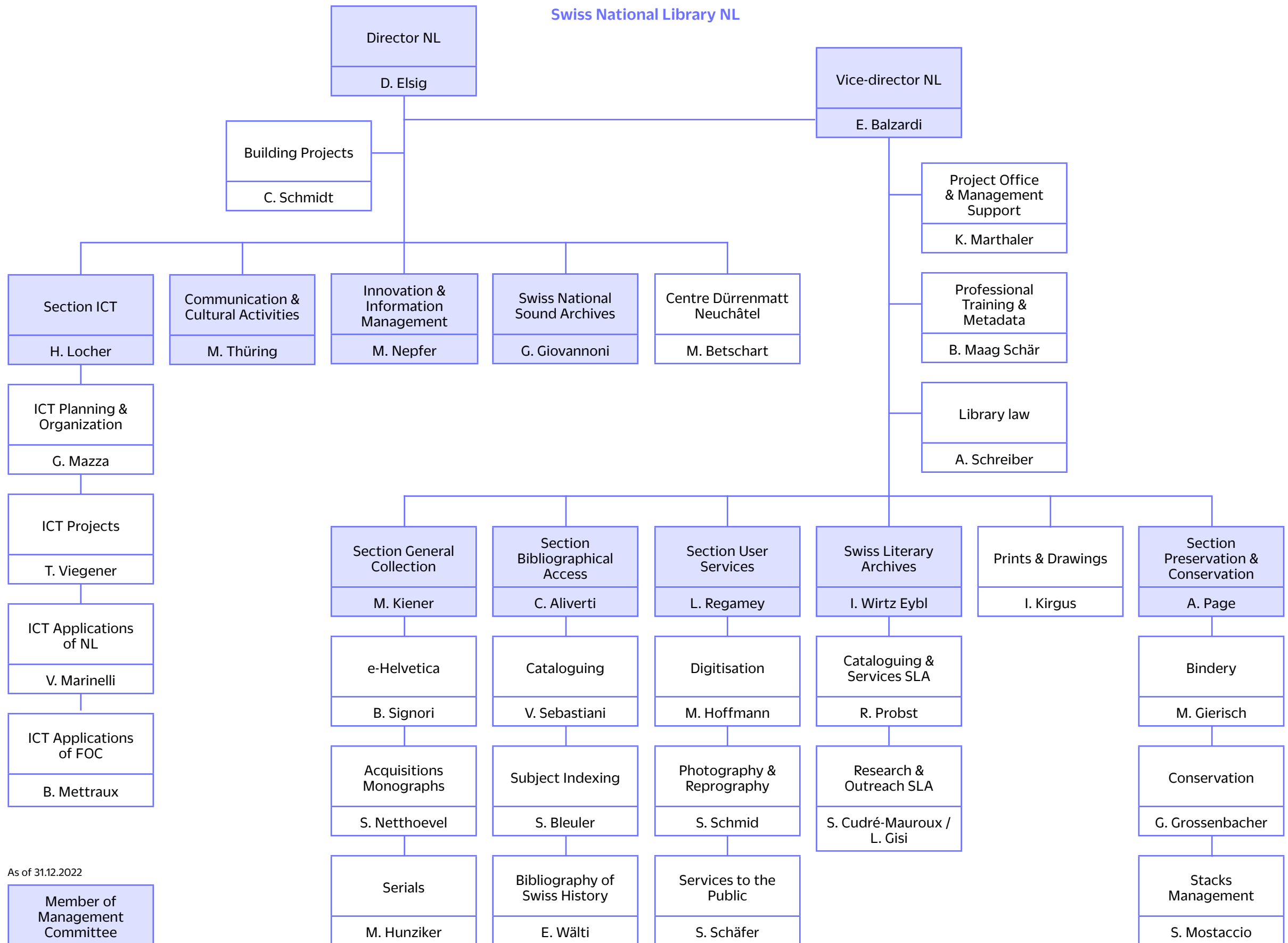
The CDN welcomed 11,107 visitors in 2022 (2021: 13,221), which is a very good average. Over the course of the year, the CDN organised 26 public events (2021: 21), 164 guided tours (2021: 167) and 36 school workshops (2021: 48).

Networking

In 2022, the CDN continued its collaboration with cultural institutions in the region, in particular with the Bibliothèque publique et universitaire de Neuchâtel and the Les Jardins musicaux festival, and with associations such as Passion Cinéma, Visarte and Musique au chœur. It also initiated new partnerships, e.g. with the Festival du Sud and the Istituto Svizzero di Roma.



Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Writer and painter
Permanent exhibition



As of 31.12.2022

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Cover

top: Open storage area at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

centre: Exhibition *Snow. The wonder in white*

bottom: *Museum night*: Noti Wümié concert (Benjamin 'Toni' Noti and Grégoire 'Greis' Vuilleumier)



Writing.
Pen, keyboard, voice recognition



Writing.

Pen, keyboard, voice recognition

From voice recognition and autocorrect to copy and paste, new writing techniques have taken over our everyday lives and are rapidly transforming the way we write. In its exhibition *Writing. Pen, keyboard, voice recognition* (which ran from 16 September 2022 to 13 January 2023), the Swiss National Library explored the relationship between the written word and writing techniques. On the one hand, it took a look back at the quill, typewriter and biro. On the other, it looked to the future and allowed visitors to write using a specially-developed artificial intelligence program.

