



Swiss National Library

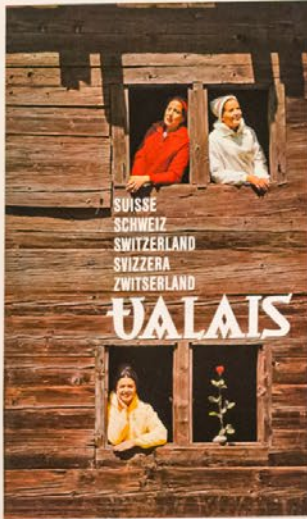
Annual Report 2023



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Swiss National Library NL



Chalet-Geschichten

Das Chalet in den Bergen ist eigentlich immer mehr als ein Holzhaus. In den hier zusammengefassten Geschichten lernen das Chalet eine ganz spezielle Rolle. Es steht symbolisch für die Schweiz als saarntales Land, das sich selbst in unruhigen Zeiten, im Gegensatz auf das Publikum der Zwischenkriegszeit und stand auf die Les Kultur. Und auch die internationalen Sanktionen aufgrund des Krieges in der Ökonomie drängen Sie in die historischen Wälder der touristischen Ferienhäuser.

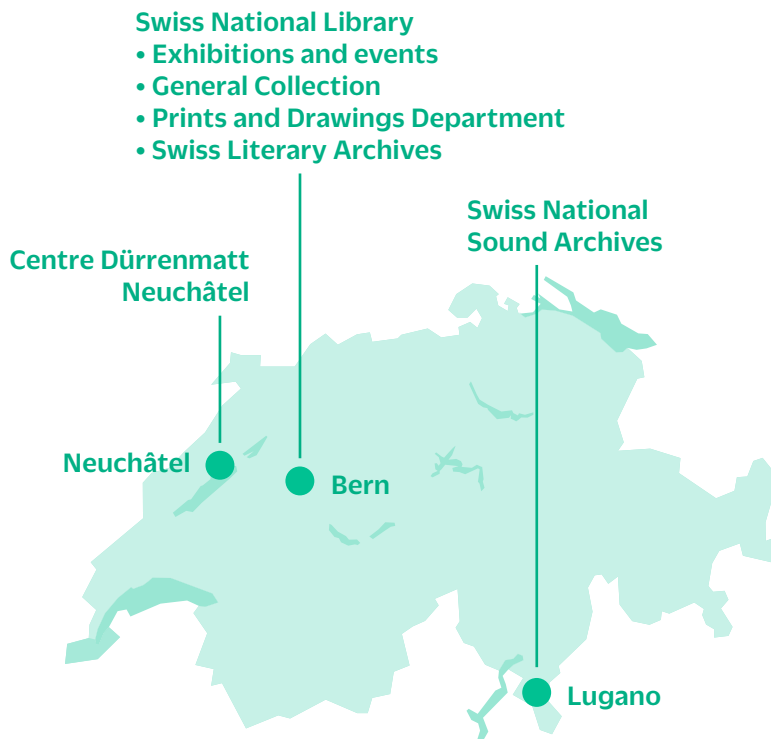


Chalet. Nostalgia, kitsch and Baukultur



Chalet. Nostalgia, kitsch and *Baukultur*
 Switzerland loves its chalets. But what exactly is a “chalet”? What is it that makes a wooden house into a chalet? Or is the chalet simply a symbol of longing for alpine nature, a myth in other words? The Swiss National Library provided a tongue-in-cheek, educational and entertaining interpretation at its exhibition from 10 March to 30 June 2023. Together with cooperation partner Gelbes Haus Flims, the Swiss National Library traced the path of the *Laubsäggeli*-style chalet as it became a popular export. It also presented current buildings that freely interpret the concept of a chalet.

5	Key figures	17	Prints and Drawings Department
		18	Collection
7	Building bridges	19	Outreach
7	2036 vision	20	User services
8	Complete renovation in Bern	21	Swiss Literary Archives
9	Città della Musica in Lugano	22	Collection
10	Innovation	22	Outreach
11	General Collection	24	User services
12	Collection	24	Networking
12	Catalogues	25	Swiss National Sound Archives
13	Preservation and conservation	26	Collection
13	Digitalisation	26	Outreach
14	Circulation	28	User services
14	Information retrieval	28	Networking
14	Outreach	29	Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel
15	Training	30	Outreach
15	IT	32	User services
16	National projects	32	Networking
16	Networking	33	Organization chart
		34	Thanks



Media Holdings

Physical collections ¹

General Collection holdings, publications in million units	
3,047	3.185

Prints and Drawings Department, holdings including special collections and Federal Archive for Monument Preservation in million units *	
1.758	1.712²

Swiss Literary Archives in million units *	
1.494	1.629

Swiss National Sound Archives number of audio carriers (including audio media in historical holdings and collections)	
536,651	541,529

Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel number of works	
2,517	2,518

Digital collections

General Collection number of archive packages	
250,536	533,805

Swiss National Sound Archives number of archive packages	
100,697	105,857

Archive holdings

Swiss Literary Archives archives and literary estates	
430	442

Prints and Drawings Department archive holdings (including special collections and Federal Archive for Monument Preservation)	
291	292

User Services

Active users	
3,232	3,255

Individual loans	
51,078	52,140

Information retrievals	
16,592	15,217

Exhibitions, events, guided tours, training sessions number of visitors	
21,335	25,559

Digitalisation

General Collection number of digitised pages of Helvetica collection	
3,607,207	801,570

Swiss Literary Archives and Prints and Drawings Department number of digitised documents	
7,275	260

Swiss National Sound Archives number of digitised audio files	
59,580	49,198

nb.admin.ch number of visits	
148,794	150,590

fonoteca.ch number of visits (including visits to the catalogue)	
772,390	720,000³

cdn.ch number of visits	
34,919	35,382

e-newspaperarchives.ch number of visits	
405,504	490,542

Catalogues

Helveticat (General Collection catalogue) total bibliographic records	
1,985,974	2,163,841

Swiss Poster Catalogue total bibliographic records	
97,203	104,841

HelveticArchives (catalogue of Swiss Literary Archives and Prints and Drawings Department, excluding posters) total records	
765,672	812,260

Swiss National Sound Archives total records	
317,904	323,217

Resources

Employees full-time equivalents, annual average	
151.8	151.1

Operating expenses in CHF millions	
36.804	37.843

Operating income in CHF millions	
0.744	0.709

Printed monographs acquired by the National Library

Monographs from the book market	
12,828	14,950

Non-commercial monographs	
4,448	3,755

* Solid estimate (based on CatCount project)

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

2 The reduction is due to optimisation measures in the storeroom. The size of the collection of the Prints and Drawings Department was calculated on the basis of the measured linear metres in the storeroom.

3 Solid estimate

**As a reliable, sustainable
and representative memory
institution, we are the global
reference point for sources
about Switzerland and form a
bridge from the past to
the future via the present.**

Damian Elsig, Director

Building bridges

Damian Elsig, Director



In 2023, the Swiss National Library made groundbreaking progress on two fronts: it developed a long-term vision from which it derived the strategic orientation from 2024. In addition, it progressed with the construction projects in Bern and Lugano. The main building in Bern is undergoing a complete renovation, whereas in Lugano the Città della Musica will be the headquarters of the Swiss National Sound Archives together with other representatives of the music scene.

The Swiss National Library can look back on an eventful year. It advanced its strategic institutional development and worked on extensive construction projects:

2036 vision

In 2023, the Management Committee of the Swiss National Library developed a long-term vision on which it based its strategic orientation from 2024. The new leitmotif *Living memory of Switzerland for everyone: address people, strengthen cooperation* captures the essence of the vision. Both aspects of living memory are fleshed out in the two action areas: *access and mediation* and *cooperative mandate fulfilment*.

The main strategic goals, which the National Library will implement incrementally by 2028 include the following:



NATBIB

Visualisation of the new National Library

- It uses the outsourcing to temporary premises while construction work is ongoing to develop and experiment with new outreach formats and design the operation in the renovated buildings.
- It assumes a leading role in selected joint projects of national significance in dialogue with its partner institutions.
- It commits to the Museumsquartier in Bern and Città della musica in Lugano in order to shape these new cultural and knowledge venues going forward in cooperation with its partner institutions.

The 2036 vision sets a course for the National Library to follow over the next decade. The 2024–28 strategic goals already provided

the basis for the 2024 operational goals, which we are working hard to achieve.

Complete renovation in Bern

In January 2023, the winning project **NATBIB** by Christ & Gantenbein/Drees & Sommer plus the five other entries were presented at a public exhibition in the Kornhausforum building in Bern. The project team, comprising the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics FOBL (contracting authority and project manager), the general planning team, the user representation National Library-Federal Office of Culture FOC and the operations team of the FOBL, worked intensively on the pre-project phase in 2023. The planning team converted the National Library's space allocation plan into a construction solution through an iterative process. An initial cost estimate will be provided by completion of the pre-project phase at the end of 2024.

During construction, the plan is to move the National Library to the *Titanic* building at Monbijoustrasse 74 in Bern. The dismantling work began in 2023 and the renovation will be completed by 2025.

The development of the Museumsquartier Bern also progressed in 2023; the project involves the amalgamation of 11 cultural and educational institutions, including the National Library. It is currently in the building phase. The individual buildings gradually converged in 2023. The museum garden in the middle of the area has become a popular meeting and recreation place. The Museumsquartier Bern is well on the way to becoming an attractive, diverse experience space for people from near and far.



Città della Musica
Visualisation

Città della Musica in Lugano

2023 was an eventful year for the Swiss National Sound Archives. The early part of the year was taken up with the move from Centro San Carlo in Lugano to the nearby Villa dei Professori.

Significant progress was made in 2023 regarding the future headquarters of the Swiss National Sound Archives: in March, Lugano City Council unanimously approved the construction of **Città della Musica** and in November an expert jury selected the winning project from the tender process initiated by the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana for its new headquarters in the Città della Musica, which will accommodate, besides the Swiss National Sound Archives and the Conservatory, the Orchestra della Svizzera italiana, the Barocchisti, the choir, Swiss Radio and Television and other actors from the music scene.

Innovation

The opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence (AI) are widely discussed. National libraries are also exploring AI. In 2023, the Swiss National Library had the opportunity to work with an *Innovation Fellow* and experiment with different AI applications. The findings gained during the year under review are helping the National Library to speed up the cataloguing of its collection items and make them available to users.

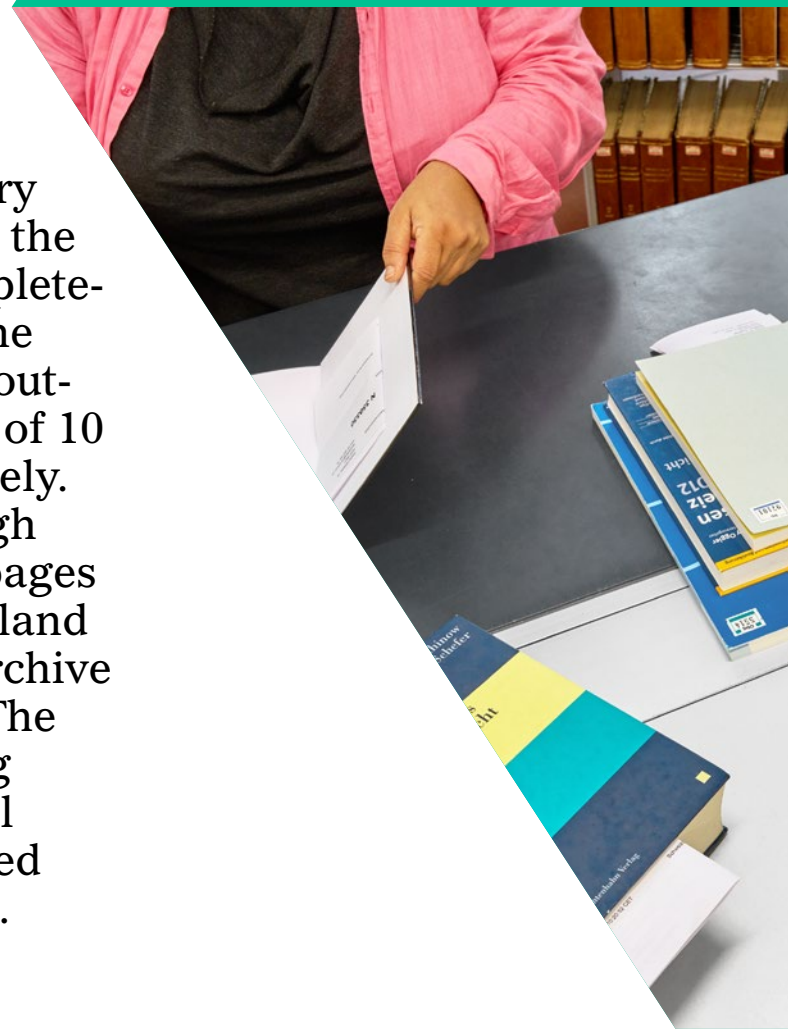
National libraries all over the world are exploring artificial intelligence: for example the Conference of Directors of National Libraries looked at the strategic challenges posed by AI; the AI in Libraries Network Group of the Conference of European National Librarians is considering potential operational applications. The Swiss National Library is a member of both bodies and contributes actively as part of this networking group.

In 2023, the opportunity arose to work with an *Innovation Fellow* (employed on a temporary basis) experimenting with different AI applications: he analysed, for example, the extent to which the cataloguing of posters could be automated and thus accelerated through AI. A second study aimed to achieve automatic facial recognition in extensive image databases in the public domain. If necessary, depicted persons can be blurred out prior to placing an online order, if required for data protection reasons. The project for automated subject indexing of electronic dissertations is at an advanced stage. This solution has been piloted at the Swiss National Library and is undergoing further development. The results of the National Library's AI studies were presented at library conferences and at the event *TRANSFORM 2023: Künstliche Intelligenz im öffentlichen Sektor* (artificial intelligence in the public sector). The potential benefit for users is obvious: faster access to posters, historic photo collections and electronic dissertations.



General Collection

In 2023, the Swiss National Library conducted a user survey to gauge the level of satisfaction with the completeness of the collection as well as the services and advice on offer. The outcome was highly positive: 8.5 out of 10 and 9.3 out of 10 points, respectively. The digital collection grew through the integration of the Wikipedia pages containing a reference to Switzerland and comprised over 0.5 million archive packages by the end of the year. The longstanding cataloguing backlog was fully eliminated. The National Library's digital services were used more than 1 million times in total.

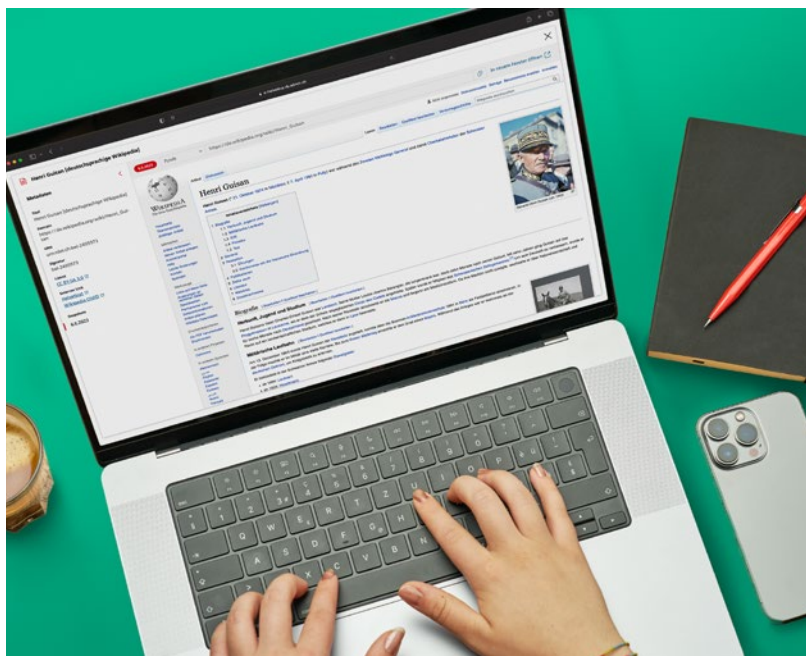


Collection

The National Library conducted a user survey in May 2023. It revealed a satisfaction level with the completeness of the collections of 8.5 out of 10 points (2019: 8.2).

At the end of 2023, the General Collection comprised 3.2 million physical documents (2022: just under 3.2 million) and 533,805 digital archive packages (2022: 250,536). The significant growth in the collection of original digital publications is due to the **Wikipedia in e-Helvetica** project. All Wikipedia articles in all the national languages with a reference to Switzerland were collected by 2023. The initial load was 131,114 articles.

The deposit interface *Deposit e-Helvetica* for small and independent publishers was expanded. It now receives e-periodicals as well as e-books. The Swiss National Library is responding to the digital publishing trend by offering this service.



Wikipedia in e-Helvetica

Articles with reference to Switzerland now integrated

The acquisitions guidelines were revised and updated. They will be published in 2024.

Catalogues

At the end of 2023, *Helveticat*, the library catalogue, comprised 2,163,841 bibliographic records (2022: 1,985,957). This equates to an extraordinary increase of 9 % (2022: 2.6 %).

The **cataloguing** backlog of about 11,000 documents due to the early introduction of the new library system and the COVID pandemic was eliminated. This was achieved through process optimisations and the implementation of a semi-automated cataloguing process.



Cataloguing

Backlog eliminated due to implementation of semi-automated cataloguing process



Berner Tagwacht

Accessible digitally at e-newspaperarchives.ch

The *Bibliography on Swiss History* was adapted to meet the requirement of online research and underwent a full classification renewal.

The Swiss National Library contributed to the renewal of the world's leading standard for library cataloguing, Resource Description and Access RDA, and participated in creating application rules for the entire German-speaking region. It is the first library in the German-speaking region and one of the first in the world to implement the updated standard in practical cataloguing.

Preservation and conservation

49,105 new acquisitions underwent conservation treatment (2022: 48,713). Measures for treating new acquisitions affected by pests were

intensified and training for library staff was designed and delivered.

Digitalisation

In order to improve search results, the segmentation (splitting up into individual pages and text components) of approximately 3.5 million digitised newspaper pages on the *e-newspaperarchives.ch* platform was again improved. In the year under review, ten digitised newspapers were put online on *e-newspaperarchives.ch*, nine of them are from Bern and one from the canton of Appenzell-Innerrhoden. Examples include **Berner Tagwacht** (1893–1997) and *Berner Wochenblatt* (1776–1833). In total, 801,570 pages were placed online (2022: 3,607,207). The fluctuation is due to the timing of the digital copies going online.



Circulation

The number of works in circulation remained stable.

Circulation

In 2023, the Swiss National Library had 1,874 active users of the General Collection, 7 % fewer than in the previous year (2022: 2,017). The trend towards use of digital services available without enrolment continued. The number of works in **circulation**, on the other hand, remained stable at 42,082 documents (2022: 42,621).

Information retrieval

The user survey conducted in 2023 gave a very high value for satisfaction with the services offered and information retrieval: 9.3 out of 10 points (2019: 9.2 points).

The number of information and research requests stood at 9,582 in 2023 (2022: 11,050).

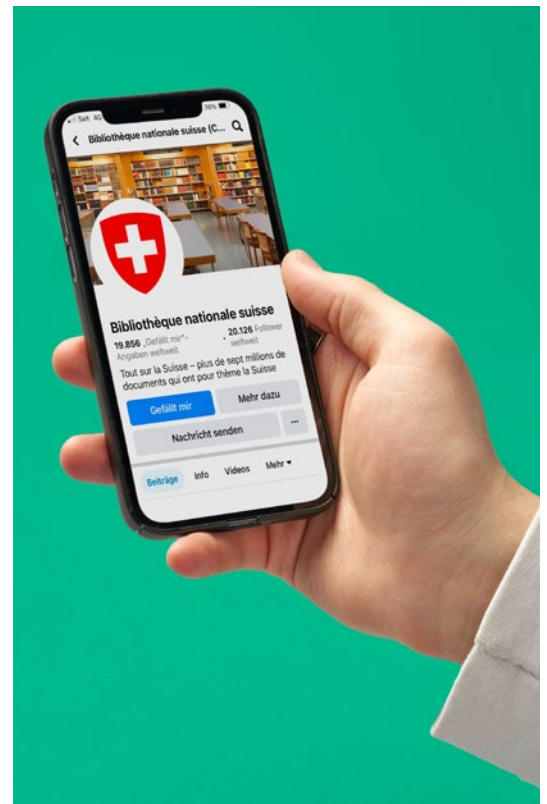
Outreach

At the end of 2023, *e-newspaper-archives.ch* offered access to 180 digitised newspaper titles (2022: 170), which equates to 11,935,471 pages (2022: 11,514,096). 490,542

page visits were recorded (2022: 405,504), an increase of 21 %.

The Swiss National Library put one periodical on the topic of music on the platform *e-periodica.ch* operated by the ETH library Zurich. *e-periodica.ch* recorded 122,467 visits (2022: 138,322) and 81,166 downloads (2022: 76,515).

The website *nb.admin.ch* recorded 150,590 visits in 2023 (2022: 148,794). On **Facebook**, the Swiss National Library had 20,308 followers on its German, French and Italian-language pages (2022: 19,608). On X, formerly Twitter, its German, French and Italian-language feeds had 5,510 followers (2022: 4,924); on Instagram, there were 7,322 followers (2022: 3,206), more than twice as many as in the previous year.



Facebook

20,308 people follow the Swiss National Library

Helveticat, the catalogue of the General Collection, was accessed 388,159 times (2022: 379,317), while the figure for the *Swiss Poster Collections Union Catalogue* was 89,949 (2022: 54,437), which equates to a 65 % increase. The *Bibliography on Swiss History* was consulted 41,098 times (2022: 39,083). *HelveticArchives*, which describes the holdings of the Swiss Literary Archives and

the Prints and Drawings Department, was consulted 55,034 times (2022: 48,471). The figure for the *e-HelveticAccess* portal to the digital collections was 27,162 (2022: 25,810). The comprehensive catalogue *HelveticAll* launched in 2022 was consulted by 67,419 persons.

The National Library's digital services were used more than 1 million times in total in 2023.

In Bern, 9,363 people attended exhibitions and events on site (2022: 9,300), while 821 took part in guided tours (2022: 456).

Training

The Swiss National Library contributed to creating the papers for the *individual practical work* for the final examinations for information and documentation specialists. The review of the quality of the **mediamatics training** offered by the National Library conducted by the *Mittelschul- und Berufsbildungsamt* (secondary school and Vocational Educational Training (VET) Office) was positive. The training in bookbinding was adapted to match the revised Federal VET Diploma.

IT

All the procurements in the *digital long-term archive* project were completed. Specifically, contracts were awarded for the following components: *Pre-Ingest* (system for the acquisition and processing of digital collection items), *Access* (outreach system, user interface) and infrastructure for the two systems mentioned above. The digital archive, the core system of the long-term archive, was procured in 2022 and developed to an adequate level for testing in 2023. The new digital long-term archive is scheduled to go live in 2025.



Mediamatics training
Snapshot of a working day

National projects

The Swiss National Library and Swiss Library Service Platform SLSP developed the *Recherche Patrimoniale* platform together to provide the public with comprehensive and straightforward access to the collections of the involved libraries. The SLSP operates *Recherche Patrimoniale* and applies SLSP standards to data processing and presentation.

The Swiss Conference of Cantonal Libraries is an intercantonal symposium dedicated to coordination among patrimonial libraries. The expert conference at the Swiss National Library in the autumn focused on the theme of different approaches to long-term archiving.

Networking

In June, the Swiss National Library hosted the General Assembly of the Swiss book industry and publishers' association (SBVV) for the third time and that of LivreSuisse in July, for the first time. These two events enabled 180 representatives of German-speaking and western Switzerland's publishing houses, bookshops and book distributors to gain an impression of the Swiss publishing landscape.



Prints and Drawings Department

There was again major growth in modern and contemporary prints as well as the portrait collection during the year under review. The archive of wood-cutter Emil Zbinden was enlarged through a donation, his graphic prints are now fully catalogued. Besides activities related to the anniversary of the 1848 Federal Constitution, outreach mainly involved the unique mushroom illustrations by Hans E. Walty plus the birthday of poster designer Claude Kuhn.



Collection

A collection of 80 works was acquired including many first prints by largely forgotten Bernese artist **Hans Eggimann** (1872–1929), an exponent of the Magic Realism movement during the 1920s. Works by contemporary artists were acquired in the art market, as represented by the 2020 series *Apotheke (A)* featuring four cyanotypes by Daniela Keiser (*1963) or the *Murmeli* works of 2023 in coloured pencil by **Christian Denzler** (*1966). There were some notable additions to the portrait collection: besides some graphic individual portraits (e.g. Jean Tinguely and Luciano Castelli), over 100 photographic portraits were added to the collection. They were taken by Basel photographer Beat Presser (*1952) (incl. Clown Dimitri, Bruno Ganz), Zurich photographer Christian Scholz (*1951) (portrait series by Markus Raetz, 2007) and **Fiorenza Bassetti** (*1948) from Ticino. 90 copies spanning



Hans Eggimann
Mein Atelier, etching, 1917



Fiorenza Bassetti
Portrait of Anita Spinelli (1908–2010),
photograph, 2007

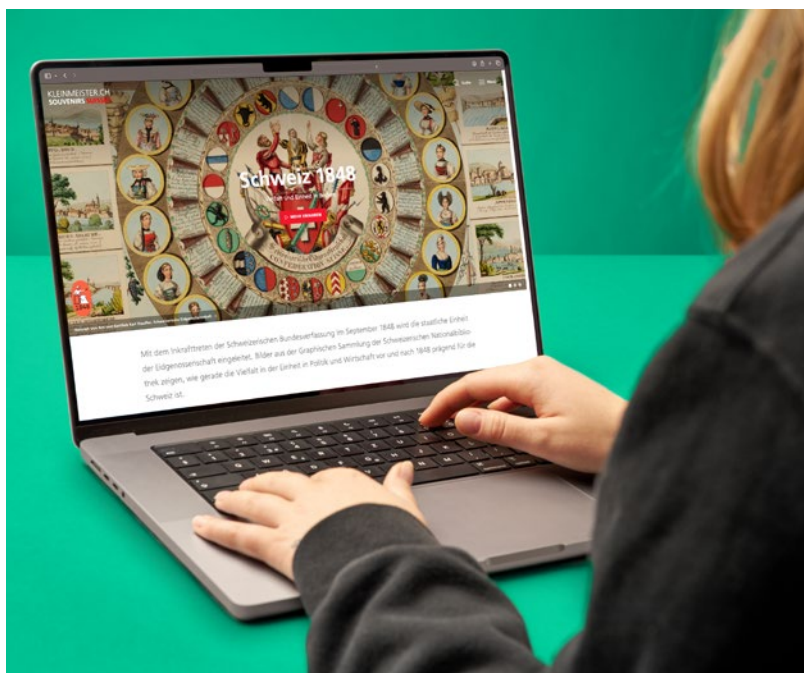


Christian Denzler
Murmeli, coloured pencil on paper, 2023

four decades of portrait photography (incl. Mario Botta, Manon, Anita Spinelli) were donated.

There were several acquisitions from Bern gallery Art+Vision, which has been a strong advocate over the past 50 years for contemporary wood engraving as a significant printing technique actively pursued by many artists in Switzerland (e.g. Francine Simonin (1936–2020), **René Fehr-Biscioni** (*1958), Peter Wullmann (1941–2016)). The Prints and Drawings Department has the archive of one of Switzerland's most famous wood engravers, Emil Zbinden (1908–1991). Zbinden's prints numbering over 2,000 were reordered, catalogued and thus made accessible.

Repeated donations by poster production companies APG/SGA and Goldbach Neo are in the *Swiss Poster Collections Union Catalogue*, which also includes 5,500 posters from the collections of Lausanne History Museum.

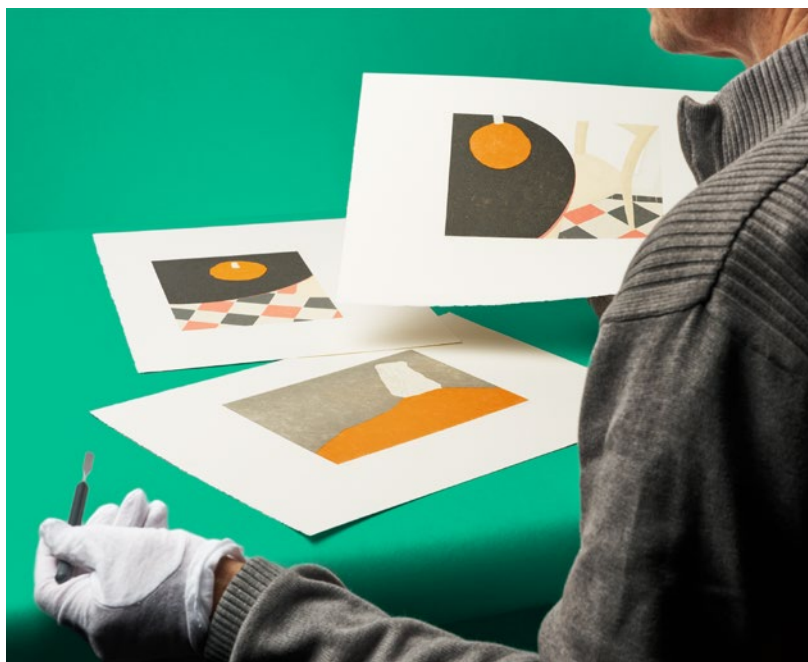


Virtual window

Switzerland 1848: Diversity and unity in pictures at kleinmeister.ch

Outreach

In the 175th year of the Swiss Federal Constitution, a **virtual window** featured on the website kleinmeister.ch with a view of the year 1848. Prints of politics and persons, architecture and caricature were brought together under the title *1848. Einheit und Vielfalt in Bildern* (1848. Unity and diversity in pictures). The window was also displayed at the *Offene Bundesmeile* celebration (1/2 July 2023), organised by the Confederation to mark the 175th anniversary of the Federal Constitution.



René Fehr-Biscioni

Heute gibt's Suppe, wood engraving, 2004



Hans E. Walty

Mushroom drawings, watercolour illustrations,
ca. 1925–1930

The *Pilztafelwerk* by **Hans E. Walty** (1868–1948) from Lenzburg was presented to the public via several channels in 2023: the 382 watercolours of domestic mushrooms painted in bold colours were fully digitised and placed on Wikimedia Commons. Walty's *Pilztafeln* (mushroom illustrations) plus accompanying textbook form the basis of a, still to be published in its entirety, *Pilztafelwerk*, or guide to mushrooms, which would have proved highly popular in Switzerland. Museum Burghalde in Lenzburg exhibited some of these works for the first time with the title *Herausragende Pilze. Die Aquarelle von Hans E. Walty (Marvellous mushrooms. The watercolours of Hans E. Walty)* from 3 September to 26 November 2023.

To mark the 75th birthday of poster designer Claude Kuhn (*1948) from Bern, an extensive

selection of his work was exhibited in a public room. In parallel, the Prints and Drawings Department organised a talk whereby Claude Kuhn explained his early printed work plus some completed and uncompleted posters.

User services

The number of information and research requests was identical to the previous year at 745. They again related to all the collection areas and, in particular, documents from the Federal Archive for Monument Preservation, the graphic holdings as well as reproductions of posters and photographs. The number of visitors on site was higher than the previous year at 125 (2022: 116).

During the year under review, just under 7,300 pictures from the Prints and Drawings Department in the public domain were uploaded to the Wikimedia Commons (WMC) platform (total number of National Library pictures on the WMC: 23,000). The development in the number of hits versus the prior year was very positive at 16.8 million (2022: 13.5 million). The number of visitors to the *kleinmeister.ch* website also rose, due in particular to the new virtual windows looking onto the *Schweizer Chalet* and the 175th anniversary celebration of the Federal Constitution (*175 Jahre Bundesverfassung*).



Swiss Literary Archives

The Swiss Literary Archives examined the interrelationship of literature and film in 2023 and held an exhibition, film screenings, lectures, workshops and a conference on the topic. In cooperation with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, the biggest research project yet supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF was initiated into the estate of scholar Jonas Fränkel. Büchner prize winner Lukas Bärfuss and author Christina Viragh gave their archives to the Literary Archives.



Collection

Author **Lukas Bärfuss** (*1971) gave his entire archive to the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA). Author Christina Viragh (*1953) entrusted her literary holding to the SLA. The SLA gained small, fine holdings from cult women's literature figure Lore Berger (1921–1943) and lyricist **Tresa Rüthers-Seeli** (*1931) from

Surselva. Other major acquisitions were the collection of publisher Marie-Luise Ammann Flammersfeld (*1949) with her own works, the archive of periodical *Drehpunkt* and the two literary archives of its founder Rolf Bussmann and Martin Zingg. In addition to that came the estate of Charles Racine (1927–1995), the archive of Martin Stadler from Uri (*1944), other collections of Albert Vigoleis Thelen (1903–1989), Doris Hürzeler (*1947) and Charlot Strasser (1884–1950) as well as the letters from Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926) to Agnes Brumof.



Lukas Bärfuss

Signing a contract in the Swiss National Library

Outreach

The exhibition *Writing the silver screen. From literature to cinema and vice versa* featured ten talks in cooperation with Lichtspiel Bern and Kino Rex in Bern. The main SLA research focus in 2023 *Literature and Film* was also the title given to an edition of periodical *Quarto* on unrealised films in the four literatures of Switzerland.



Tresa Rüthers-Seeli

Notebook from the Tresa Rüthers-Seeli archive



Hildegard Keller and Charles Lewinsky
Event with the film-maker and author



Franz Hohler and Nadeschkin
Talk and exhibition of work

The conference entitled *Bewegte Literaturgeschichte. Autorschaft, Text und Archiv in Dokumentarfilm und Biopic* (Eventful literary history. Authorship, text and archive in documentary film and biopic) broadened and deepened the SLA theme of 2023 with contributions on documentaries and biopics. This was where the theory and practice of film-making converged, leading to some lively debate among film-makers and film scholars. Outstanding specific instances of Swiss film featuring Bernard Comment (*1960), **Charles Lewinsky** (*1946), **Hildegard Keller** (*1960),

Klaus Merz (*1945) and Plinio Martini (1923–1979) were shown and discussed over several evenings. These evening sessions provided an insight into the diversity of the tradition of Swiss film from the early 20th century up to the current scene.

Highlights of the year included the tribute for and with **Franz Hohler** (*1943) with comedian **Nadeschkin** (Nadja Sieger, *1968) in the National Library reading room and the vernissage for the latest edition of Rilke's Duino Elegies in Villa Morillon. There was a reading at the event in the presence of the editor and publisher.

Conference publication (in German) **Wirklichkeit als Fiktion. Fiktion als Wirklichkeit. Neue Perspektiven auf Friedrich Dürrenmatt** (Truth as fiction. Fiction as truth. New perspectives on Friedrich Dürrenmatt) featuring 30 articles and interviews



Wirklichkeit als Fiktion. Fiktion als Wirklichkeit.
New perspectives regarding Friedrich Dürrenmatt

from anniversary year 2021 and including many of Dürrenmatt's artworks came out at the end of 2023 and offers groundbreaking approaches to Dürrenmatt.

User services

The number of users of the SLA reading room rose in 2023 to 1,583 (2022: 1,038), while information retrievals amounted to 4,282 (2022: 3,771). A total of 1,623 holdings were consulted (2022: 1,155).

Networking

The SLA secured the cooperation of Switzerland's literary archives in the KOOP-LITERA national association at the annual meeting in the National Library. The nature of the coming together of the SLA institutions was demonstrated in the cooperation with the Swiss universities on the study day for Alice Ceresa with the Italian Studies departments of the universities of Bern and Zurich and in new workshops and interactive tours developed for the University of Zurich and which are still offered. The annual conference with the theme *100 years of Duino Elegies* was organised in Sierre in cooperation with the Rilke society. The research project **Cryptophilology. Jonas Fränkel's "underground" science** in the political and historical context together with the professorship of literature and cultural history at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich was fully approved at its first submission. Doctoral and postdoctoral students started work in October on the library, Fränkel's philology and co-authorship, as well as the critical exchange and archive-related awareness of Fränkel with Nobel Prize winner Carl Spitteler, the cataloguing of



Cryptophilology. Jonas Fränkel's "underground" science

The research project team at work

the estate and library, for which fund raising was also conducted successfully, proceeded in parallel. In Bern, the project was based in Walter Benjamin Kolleg. The initial results of the SNSF project *Lectures Jean Bollack* with the University of Fribourg and the University of Osnabrück in the new series *Bollackiana 01: Lire Jean Bollack lesen* shows that academic cooperation on internationally significant estates and development of burgeoning archivists and university academics have long since stopped being isolated instances.



Swiss National Sound Archives

The Swiss National Sound Archives acquired some prominent collections in 2023, for example that of Swiss musician Rudi Tüscher (Hotcha). Public interest in the National Sound Archives' collection remains very high, with 850,000 database requests recorded.



Collection

A total of 1,020 new recordings was acquired (2022: 936) and 5,467 new bibliographic records were added to the catalogue (2022: 4,424). Worthy of special mention is the acquisition of the Hotcha collection from Biel city library. It includes all the music cassettes of Swiss label Calypso Now, which was founded by Swiss musician Rudi Tüscher (Hotcha) in 1983 in Biel.

Outreach

In 2023, the Swiss National Sound Archives opened up access to its collections through a range of collaborations: it lent items to the **Multilingual Switzerland** exhibition in the National Museum Zurich; to the exhibition *The alps in legend* in the Museum of History Lucerne; to the major event *Offene Bundesmeile* in Bern, dedicated by the Federal Chancellery to the 175-year anniversary of the Federal Constitution; to the *grenzenlos lüpfig. Volksmusik in Graubünden* exhibition in the Rhätisches/Rhaetian Museum in Chur and to the permanent exhibi-

tions at MuMode Musée suisse de la mode in Yverdon-les-Bains and the Musée des Traditions et des Barques du Léman in Saint-Gingolph.

The National Sound Archives presented RSI Radiotelevisione svizzera with a number of audio documents and thus contributed to various radio productions (different contributions in the series *Radio Monteceneri, 90 anni insieme*).

From 16 to 18 June 2023, the National Sound Archives was guest of honour at Passionvinyl festival in Mézières (FR). From 21 to 24 September, it also had a stand at the Eidgenössisches Volksmusikfest, a musical event of national significance held in Bellinzona with over 80,000 visitors. The National Sound Archives visited the *Archivi viventi. Revival, Restituzione, Roberto Leydi* conference, organised by the Centre for Dialectology and Ethnography and the Swiss Society for Ethnomusicology from 17 to 19 November because of the Roberto Leydi archive stored there. From 25 to 27 November, it also



Multilingual Switzerland

A look at the exhibition



Julien-François Zbinden
Composer and jazz pianist



Francesco Chiesa
The author at work



Raphaël Scacchi
Author of the novel
Arancione vendemmia



Alice Rivaz
Photographed by her mother Ida-Marie Golay, 1936/37

hosted *GLAM on Tour* in Lugano, an event under the theme *Swiss National Sound Archives* organised in cooperation with Wikimedia CH.

In the year under review, the Swiss National Sound Archives also published various articles on its website about some of its most important holdings, for example on the pianist and composer from Vaud **Julien-François Zbinden** (1917–2021), the classical pianist from Basel Edwin Fischer (1886–1960) or Lucerne composer Mani Planzer (1939–1997).

It also published audio collections of key Swiss cultural figures on its website, such as Genevan author **Alice Rivaz** (1901–1998) and Ticino author **Francesco Chiesa** (1871–1973). An exclusive interview with Ticino author **Raphaël Scacchi** (*1992) and scholar Stefano Boumya (*1993) on Scacchi's novel *Arancione vendemmia* was also published on the website.



The sound machine of the month
Studer A820 magnetic tape recorder

Finally, the Swiss National Sound Archives shared brief video clips of historical audiovisual machines and devices under the title **The sound machine of the month** on its YouTube channel.

User services

Public interest in the National Sound Archives' collection remains very high, with 850,000 database requests recorded in 2023 (2022: 772,390). Three new audio stations in Basel University Library were added to the 58 institutions in Switzerland with audiovisual workstations for accessing the National Sound Archives' database. These workstations were used to listen to 154,207 audio documents in the year under review (2022: 139,855).

Networking

The Swiss National Sound Archives strengthened its national and international networks by participating in various conferences and congresses. In June, it participated in the annual conference of the Audio Engineering Society (AES) in Culpeper (VA, US); in July in a meeting of the Audiovisual Resources working group (AG-AV) in Frankfurt and in September in the annual conference of the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) in Istanbul. In Culpeper, the Swiss National Sound Archives conducted a workshop on restoring digital audio tapes; at the IASA conference it chaired the meeting of the education and training committee and then presented the institution and its operations to the attendees. The conferences were attended by audiovisual experts from all over the world.



Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

The Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN) had a defining year in 2023 as it was nominated for the *European Museum of the Year Award 2024*. Three exhibitions and numerous events were organised during the year. A three-year exchange project with Berlin University of the Arts began in the spring. The CDN now also offers virtual tours to make Dürrenmatt's work more accessible. In 2023, the CDN received broad acclaim among visitors and the media.





Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Game

A look at the temporary exhibition



Friedrich Dürrenmatt's Sistine Chapel

A look at the temporary exhibition

Outreach

The CDN presented three exhibitions in 2023: **Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Game**. The exhibition with works by Friedrich Dürrenmatt (1921–1990), Valérie Favre (*1959), Jacques Chessex (1934–2009), Guy Debord (1931–1994), Hannes Binder (*1947) and Benjamin Gottwald (*1987) displayed different facets of games as presented by Dürrenmatt and placed his works in relation to those of other artists. The exhibition **Friedrich Dürrenmatt's Sistine Chapel** explored the wall paintings done by the author and painter in the toilet of his house in Neuchâtel. This work was combined with other paintings and

drawings by Dürrenmatt as well as **virtual tours**. The third exhibition, **Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Rebels**, showed a panorama of the rebel figures created by the writer and painter: from failing heroes to angry gods and Amazons to unequal couples. All the exhibitions included an event programme, a *cahier* (publication) by the CDN and an episode of the Friedrich Dürrenmatt podcast.

In 2023, the CDN also launched a new series of events at a rate of one per month: *CDN en famille*. In parallel to a tour for adults, there was a visit and creative workshop for children.

In 2023, the CDN cooperated with the *MUS-E©* programme

designed to bring schoolchildren closer to art, the objective being to implement this international programme in an academic upper secondary school in western Switzerland for the first time. The CDN hosted an event where works by Friedrich Dürrenmatt were accompanied by music. The CDN was both host and attendee at the *MUS-E©* annual conference.

The play *Pour Václav Havel* by Omar Porras (*1963) based on a text by Friedrich Dürrenmatt was performed twelve times in 2023. It is about the resumption of the play originally performed in 2021 in Dürrenmatt's study to mark his 100th anniversary.

The project, also initiated in 2021, *Dürrenmatt – Sciascia 100* was continued in 2023 with the publication of the picture book *Fritz & Nanà – Die beiden Visionäre Friedrich Dürrenmatt und Leonardo Sciascia* (in French, German and Italian) published by Carthusia-Verlag.



Virtual tours

Exploring Friedrich Dürrenmatt's work



Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Rebels

A look at the temporary exhibition



Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Rebels
Vernissage of the temporary exhibition

In 2023, the third and last volume of the publication *Wege und Umwege mit Friedrich Dürrenmatt. Das bildnerische und literarische Werk im Dialog (in French and German)* came out. The work was published by the CDN in cooperation with publishers Steidl and Diogenes.

Virtual tours were introduced in 2023 in order to make Friedrich Dürrenmatt's work accessible to all irrespective of location. The tours are in German, French, Italian and English and allow visitors to immerse themselves in the permanent exhibition as well as in special exhibitions held at the CDN in the past.

Cultural outreach for schoolchildren and students aged between five and 18 continued in 2023 with more workshops.

User services

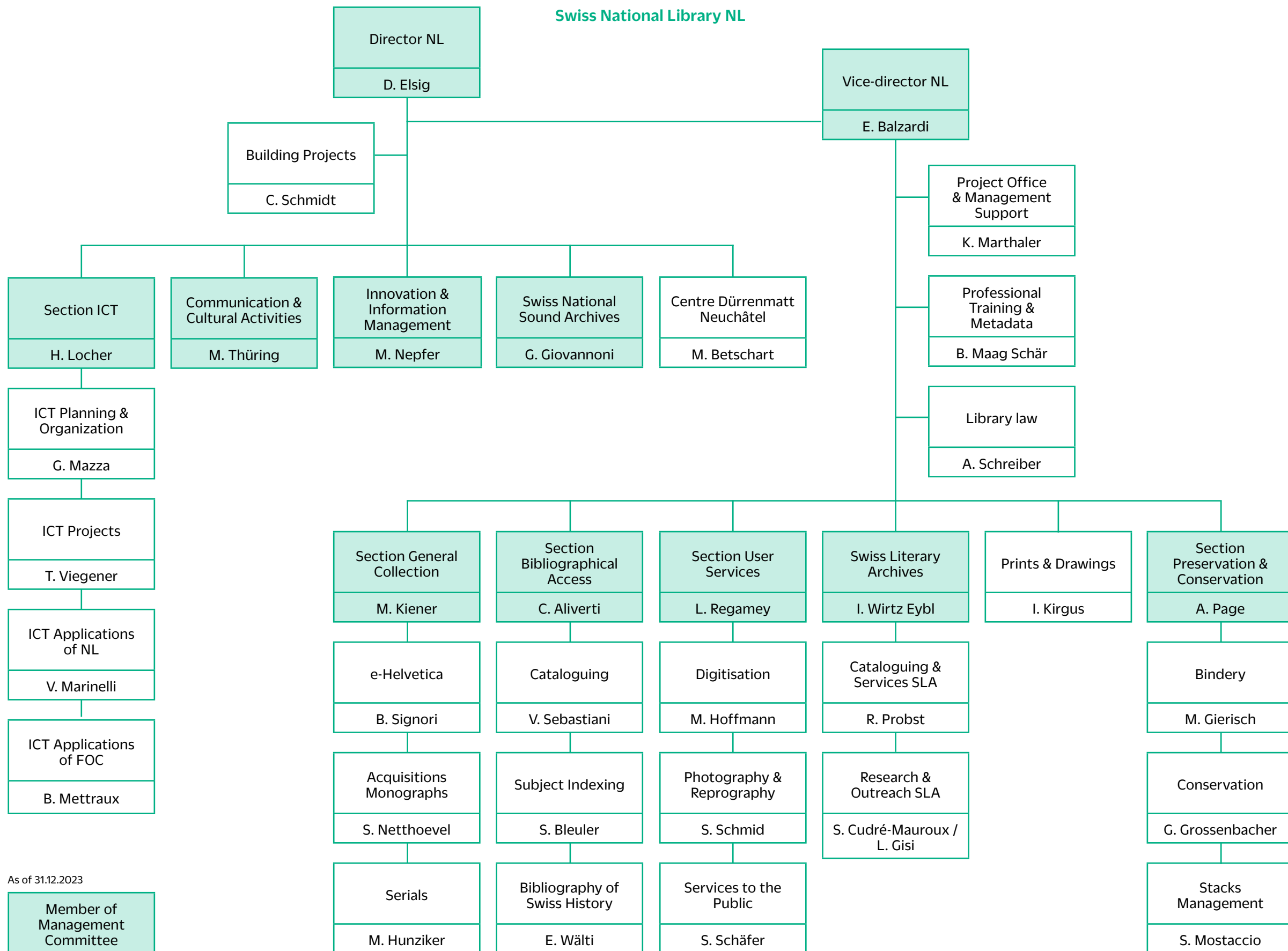
The CDN welcomed 14,517 visitors in 2023 (2022: 11,107), which is a very good utilisation rate. Over the course of the year, the CDN organised 71 public events (2022: 26), 178 guided tours (2022: 164) and 44 school workshops (2022: 36).

Networking

In 2023, the CDN initiated cooperation with Berlin University of the Arts, the foundation WhiteSpaceBlackBox, the Académie de Meuron and *MUS-E©*. It continued cooperation with cultural institutions in the region, especially with the festival *Les Jardins musicaux* and the associations Association Danse Neuchâtel (ADN), Tandem au Musée (TaM) and Les Lundis des Mots.

2023 marked the start of a three-year exchange project between the CDN and Berlin University of the Arts (UdK), in which the foundation WhiteSpaceBlackBox and the Académie de Meuron, school for the visual arts, both based in Neuchâtel, are involved. In May, students from the UdK came to Neuchâtel to study the work of Friedrich Dürrenmatt and create art projects related to the work of the author and painter.

In December, the CDN was nominated for the renowned *EMYA – European Museum of the Year Award 2024*, which is awarded by the European Museum Forum. The award is for museums that have newly opened or recently been renovated. The nomination of the CDN came after the renovation work performed in 2021 on the occasion of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's 100th anniversary.



As of 31.12.2023

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26 Swiss National Museum

27 top left: Laurent Dubois,
 in: Bibliothèque cantonale et
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 top right: excerpt from a film by
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 bottom left: Stefano Boumya
 bottom right: Ida-Marie Golay,
 in: Swiss Literary Archives

28 Gabriele Franzoso,
 Swiss National Sound Archives

Captions cover

top left: exhibition
*Writing the silver
 screen: from litera-
 ture to cinema and
 vice versa*

top right: exhibi-
 tion *Friedrich Dür-
 renmatt's Sistine
 Chapel* at Centre
 Dürrenmatt Neu-
 châtel

bottom: *Museum
 night: concert
 Dezmond Dez and
 Tommy Vercetti*



Writing the silver screen:
from literature to cinema and vice versa



Writing the silver screen: from literature to cinema and vice versa

There has always been a passionate relationship between literature and cinema. The innovative medium of film has fascinated writers since its invention at the start of the 20th century. The exhibition from 31 August 2023 to 12 January 2024 provides an overview of these turbulent interrelations based on documents from the Swiss Literary Archives of the Swiss National Library.

