



Swiss National Library

105th Annual Report 2018



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Swiss National Library NL

Annual general meeting of the SBVV



On 14 May 2018, almost 170 people gathered at the NL for the annual general meeting of the SBVV.



From left to right: Stefan Schwerzmann (committee member), Thomas Kramer (President) and Dani Landolf (Secretary General).



Peter Felser presents some campaign ideas for the association, which brings together booksellers and publishers from German-speaking Switzerland.



Manuel Schär (Hep Verlag AG) during the audience Q&A session.



The annual general meeting of the SBVV took place for the first time at the NL.



The winners of the various awards presented by the SBVV in front of the NL.

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Key Figures

	2017	2018	+/- %
Swiss literary output			
Books published in Switzerland	9 073	10 262	+13.9%
Non-commercial publications	6 134	5 425	-11.6%
Collection			
Collections holdings: publications (in million units)	4.68	4.75	+1.6%
Collections holdings – Prints and Drawings Department: Federal Archives of Historic Monuments (in million units, estimates)	1.2	1.2	0.0%
Collections holdings – Prints and Drawings Department (excluding Federal Archives of Historic Monuments), individual collections	83	83	+0.5%
Swiss Literary Archives: archives and literary estates	381	392	+2.9%
Swiss National Sound Archives, number of audio carriers (incl. audio media in historical holdings and collections) ¹	293 819	approx. 500 000	+70,1%
Swiss National Sound Archives, historical holdings and collections (number of collections)	165	175	+6.1%
Catalogues			
Helveticat, total bibliographic records	1 760 459	1 796 232	+2%
HelveticArchives, total records	567 639	654 825	+15.3%
Swiss Poster Catalogue, total bibliographic records	87 235	89 977	+3.1%
Swiss Literary Archives, online inventories	202	227	+12.4%
Swiss National Sound Archives, total records (catalogued audio documents)	293 985	302 220	+2.9%
User services			
Active users	6 262	6 484	+3.5%
Individual loans (loaned documents)	71 626	65 382	-6.4%
Information retrievals	21 157	19 513	-7.8%
Number of visits to www.nb.admin.ch ²	473 524	n.a.	n.a.
Number of visits to www.fonoteca.ch	2 209 801	2 009 533	-9.0%
Number of visitors at exhibitions, guided tours, events, training sessions	17 843	19 792	+10.9%
Resources			
Employees (full-time equivalents, annual average)	145.6	143.4	-1.5%
Operating expenses (in millions of CHF) ³	37.1	36.2	-2.7%
Operating income (in millions of CHF)	0.9	0.8	-11.1%

¹ Estimate. In 2017, uncatalogued media were not counted.

² Owing to a problem compiling the statistics, this figure cannot be given for 2018.

³ The decrease in operating expenses is due to delays with certain projects, interruptions to use of the library management system, and resources not used following the release of earmarked reserves.

2018: a year of transition for the National Library

With a new library management system, a restructured website, attractive exhibitions, a new platform for digital periodicals, and additions to the analogue and digital collections, the National Library is constantly adapting to new challenges.

In 2018, the National Library (NL) acquired a new library management system from Ex Libris, a company that specialises in IT solutions for libraries. The system is outsourced in the form of “software as a service” hosted on a remote server in the cloud. Getting the new system up and running consumed a substantial amount of in-house resources over many months, which also caused some inconvenience to our users. The Primo VE user interface is still experiencing numerous teething problems which we are resolving with the supplier. One of the consequences of this project is a delay in processing new monographic and periodical acquisitions at the NL. Unless additional resources are made available, it will take a number of years to clear the backlog.

The launch of these new products is a major event in the Swiss library community. After the Library Am Guisanplatz, Renouvaud, the Vaud library network, and the Swiss National Library, in 2020 it will be the turn of the approximately 400 Swiss scientific libraries grouped together in SLS, the Swiss Library Service Platform, to migrate to these same systems, unlocking new future synergies at the national level.

Our completely restructured website www.nb.admin.ch now devotes greater attention to the collections, which are showcased and enhanced with illustrations and in-depth presentations.

Our extensive programme of exhibitions and events in Bern, Neuchâtel and Lugano proved highly popular with attendees. The exhibition “LSD. Ein Sorgenkind wird 75” not only attracted record numbers of visitors but also appealed to a very diverse audience interested in finding out about the major social and cultural changes in Switzerland and around the world brought about by the accidental discovery of LSD 75 years earlier by the Basel-based chemist Albert Hofmann.

At the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel, a look back at the year 1968 from a range of original perspectives linked to the career of Friedrich Dürrenmatt brought together a number of players both local and international.

Our increasingly digital collections are growing rapidly. In addition to Swiss literary output, both commercial and non-commercial, major new holdings were added to the collections of the Swiss Literary Archives, the Prints and Drawings Department and the Swiss National Sound Archives. Web Archive Switzerland marked 10 years since its inception. The number of digitised documents continues to grow, thanks to valuable partnerships. The NL launched the new platform for the historical and contemporary Swiss press in the form of www.e-newspaperarchives.ch, which lists more than 100 titles or 3.5 million pages. Long-term archiving of digital documents is a priority. Our specialists have been working hard to collate and archive the digital collections on a single server at the National Sound Archives by 2019. The next stage will be to design and implement a long-term archiving system.

Nevertheless, the NL faces certain difficulties. Owing to budget cuts we were obliged to close the NL on Saturdays. We are aware that this decision runs counter to the needs of some of our users, who made their feelings on the subject known, and to the practice of many libraries that are working to open their doors seven days a week. This difficult decision has caused a decline in the number of visits to the NL and the number of documents loaned out, but it allows us to retain our capacity to innovate.



Marie-Christine Doffey,
Director

Added to this are structural problems identified during a routine check carried out in summer 2017. Part of the building – the eight-storey “book tower” – no longer meets current standards with regard to earthquake resistance. Some areas had to be closed to the public and measures to shore up the affected sections were put in place by the Federal Office of Construction and Logistics, which is responsible for our building. Some sections of the Federal Office of Culture (FOC) that are based in the NL building will be relocated to the immediate vicinity and other moves, both internal and external, will take place in 2019. A complete renovation of the National Library is necessary. This major project will extend over a number of years (from 2022–2023 to around 2027) and will involve relocating the entire NL and FOC, specifically the public part of the library (reading rooms, circulation, exhibitions, etc.) including the Swiss Literary Archives and Prints and Drawings Department, together with all the workplaces and a large part of the infrastructure. However, the logistical challenge will be a new opportunity to adapt our building and its infrastructure to the needs of a national library in the 21st century.

Marie-Christine Doffey
Director

Main Events – a Selection

Parkett. 101 Contemporary Art Books

2.3.–29.6.2018

This exhibition presented, for the first time, all 101 issues of the art magazine *Parkett*, a Swiss publication that gained a global reputation. It was also a chance for visitors to look back at the history of contemporary art from 1984 to 2017. In addition to every issue of the magazine, the exhibition showed a selection of works created exclusively for the Parkett publishing house by artists such as Andy Warhol, Bruce Nauman and Pipilotti Rist. These were complemented by information on the history of *Parkett* and the changes in the art press since the 1980s. Conceived in close collaboration with the publishers, the exhibition was accompanied by the digitisation of every issue of *Parkett*; these are now freely available online at www.e-periodica.ch.



The exhibition also presented works created exclusively for the Parkett publishing house

Museum Night: “Kultur retour”

16.3.2018

The 2018 Museum Night in Bern revolved around the European Year of Cultural Heritage. In an exciting treasure hunt through the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments, visitors of all ages discovered historical photographs and got to the heart of our cultural heritage. Other highlights of the event included concerts by Tim & Puma Mimi, guided tours of the NL's historical buildings, and the puppet show *Wilhelm Kasperli Tell*.



Museum Night: the duo Tim & Puma Mimi performing in the NL reading room

Annual meeting and conference of the European DDC Users Group

26.–27.4.2018

Almost fifty people from eleven countries attended the meeting of the European DDC Users Group, which is dedicated to the topic-based Dewey Decimal Classification system. Issues discussed include the value of the system, automatic classification, and use of the standard by the NL.

Annual general meeting of the SBVV

14.5.2018

The annual general meeting of the SBVV was held for the first time at the NL and brought together some 170 participants, who had the chance to take two guided tours of the stacks. There was also a small exhibition of around 60 books including the first volume sent to the NL for conservation by each of the participating publishers.

Netzwerke: Korrespondenzen

17.05.2018

The second workshop on this topic organised by the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) brought together researchers and specialists in both archives and literary correspondence from France and Switzerland. It focused primarily on analysing writers' correspondence networks and the ways in which they sometimes served to affirm and consolidate literary groupings. Examining a number of specific cases including Flaubert, Proust, Hesse, Robert Walser and Georges Borgeaud, the workshop considered the main issues involved in the networks of communication between writers. Important questions were also raised concerning the shift towards digital communication and its future impact on exchanges of letters.



A special atmosphere in front of the NL, with classic cars from the Oldtimer Club Bern shuttling between the various locations taking part in Museum Night



Literally an interface archive:
Niklaus Meienberg, "Dialog
auf einem Papier-Tischtuch",
Restaurant Kropf, Zurich, 1992

Visit from the University of Florence

4.–5.6.2018

A group of students from the "Università degli studi" in Florence led by Mauro Guerrini (Ordinary Professor of Library Science) visited the NL. After a general introduction, the group looked at issues of indexing (rules, processes for electronic resources, standardised data), networking our data with external databases, and our cooperation with other libraries in the area of cataloguing.

International workshop: the future of philology in a changing media world

5.–7.7.2018

This workshop on archives as interfaces ("Schnittstelle Archiv") was organised in association with Uwe Wirth, Professor of German Literature and Cultural Theory at the Justus-Liebig University, Giessen, and Thomas Strässle from the Bern University of the Arts. The image of the interface as "apparatus, support and process" reveals remarkable parallels with the technical and social context of archival processes, such as digitising texts and making them available online, around which a real consensus has emerged among researchers under the umbrella of "digital humanities". Representatives of universities and archives in Switzerland, Germany and Austria all spoke on the topic.

LSD. Ein Sorgenkind wird 75

7.9.2018–11.1.2019

Albert Hofmann's best-selling book *LSD, mein Sorgenkind* served as the starting point for this exhibition on the eventful history of LSD. In 1943 Hofmann, a Swiss chemist, discovered the drug's hallucinogenic effects after taking it himself. LSD has influenced literature, art, music and society like no other chemical product. In an irony of history, the first partial ban on LSD in Switzerland dates back to 1968, a year that is famous for very different reasons! The exhibition also looked at the current uses – both illegal and medical – of a substance that one day could still go from "enfant terrible" to child prodigy. A number of the objects on display, both from the NL's collections and on loan, were being shown to the public for the first time. The exhibition attracted a record number of visitors.



Accompanying the exhibition
"LSD. Ein Sorgenkind wird 75",
the book by chemist Albert
Hofmann was presented
in a number of editions and
languages

Federico Hindermann, Tra caos, cristallo

13.9.2018

The SLA devoted the literary soirée *Tra caos, cristallo* to the poet and intellectual Federico Hindermann (1921–2012), whose work is currently the subject of various research and publication projects. The anthology *Sempre altrove*, published by Marcos y Marcos in Milan in 2018, is an important aid to understanding Hindermann's poetic oeuvre and includes around a third of the poems published between 1971 and 2012. Notable figures attending the event included the poet and literary critic Fabio Pusterla, editor of the poetry series *Le Ali* and author of the introduction to the anthology published as part of the series, and literature researcher Matteo M. Pedroni, who edited it.

Eros des Briefeschreibens: Friederike Kretzen, Matthias Zschokke, Robert Walser

19.10.2018

To mark the publication of the new, three-volume "Bern edition" of the correspondence of Robert Walser (Suhrkamp), writers Friederike Kretzen and Matthias Zschokke talked to Ulrich Weber from the SLA about their correspondence practice and the literary quality of Walser's letters.

Vernissage of Quarto no. 45: Rundreise am Lago Maggiore

14.11.2018

Issue 45 of *Quarto. The Journal of the Swiss Literary Archives* is devoted to literature with a connection to Lake Maggiore. At the vernissage, Daniel Rothenbühler offered an appreciation of the publication, actor Graziella Rossi read from the texts of a literary collage, and Michael Wiederstein (Zurich) talked to Corinna Jäger-Trees from the SLA about Monte Verità, the refuge for a number of generations of the marginalised. The issue was also presented in Ascona at the Casa Serodine in association with the Ascona Museums and the Fondazione Monte Verità (18.10.2018).



Federico Hindermann soirée:
Annetta Ganzoni (SLA),
Fabio Pusterla and Matteo Pedroni

The Cercle Starobinski in Quebec

16.11.2018

In 2018, for the first time, the meeting of the *Cercle d'études Jean Starobinski* took place across the Atlantic in Quebec, thanks to a collaboration with the Université de Laval (Institut d'études anciennes et médiévales / Groupe de recherche sur l'Antiquité). Amid the first snow squalls of the Canadian winter and with the temperature dropping below minus 25 outside, Pierre-Olivier Méthot, Stéphanie Cudré-Mauroux, Anne-France Morand, Guillaume Pinson, François Dumont and Aldo Trucchio each took their places at the podium. The theme for the study day was *Jean Starobinski: between the languages of science and aesthetics*. The various speakers' contributions can be found in the 2019 *Bulletin du Cercle*.

Study day: Jean-Marc Lovay, Laisser parler les monstres minoritaires

30.11.2018

This was the first study day on the important oeuvre of Jean-Marc Lovay, which was initially published by Gallimard but has always had a reputation for being inaccessible. The event was organised in Fribourg in association with the university's French department. It brought together researchers from a range of countries (Switzerland, France, Belgium), who all shed new light on various little-known aspects of this body of work: its links to counter-culture, the obsession with ecological disaster, writing on mourning, and the use of unexpected genres such as the "radiophonic" pieces or magazines. The day ended with a round-table discussion moderated by Fabien Dubosson at which three authors – Jérôme Meizoz, Frédéric Wandelère and Julien Maret – discussed their relationship with Lovay's work.



An evening on the topic of
correspondence, with figures
including Friederike Kretzen
and Matthias Zschokke

Gioco e impegno dello "scriba". L'opera di Giovanni Orelli – Nuove ricerche e prospettive

6.–7.12.2018

Giovanni Orelli (1928–2016) was one of the most eclectic and productive writers in the Italian language in Switzerland. He explored numerous literary genres and combined his extensive culture with innovative contemporary trends and with playful and satirical approaches, all the while retaining a strong political commitment.

Speakers representing a number of generations from Switzerland and Italy examined numerous aspects of his work. Manuscripts of Orelli's first novel, *L'anno della valanga* (1965), as well as objects and photographs testifying to the writer's life, were exhibited at the NL.

Notable Acquisitions

Monographs

Pre-1900

HARDMEYER, Jakob, *Trinkspruch am Erinnerungsabend an den 83er Mai bei Herrn Oberst Vögeli-Bodmer, den 3. Mai 1890*, Schweiz, J. Hardmeyer-Jenny, 1890.

Le Suisse bienfaisant, ou le précepteur: comédie en trois actes et en prose, Europe, 1788.

SAINT-ALBIN, Albert, *À travers les salles d'armes*, Paris, à la Librairie illustrée, 1887.

Souvenirs de Berne et de ses environs, Berne, Haller, 1850.

Souvenir suisse. Rigi, Zurich, H. Müller & Comp., 1875?



Hardmeyer, Jakob, *Trinkspruch*, 1890



Szönye, Piroška, *Heidi & Friends*, 2018



Pugin, Jacques, *La montagne s'ombre*, 2018

Post-1900

AUDERSET, Patrick, EITEL Florian, GIGASE Marc, KRÄMER Daniel, LEIMGRUBER Matthieu, MAZBOURI Malik, PERRENOUD Marc, VALLOTTON François (Hg.), *Der Landesstreik 1918. Krisen, Konflikte, Kontroversen / La Grève générale de 1918. Crises, conflits, controverses*. In: *Traverse: Zeitschrift für Geschichte = Revue d'histoire*, 2/2018, Zürich/ Lausanne, Chronos; Éditions d'En bas et Association pour l'étude de l'histoire du mouvement ouvrier, 2018.

COLLET POFFET, Francine & CRELIER, Patricia, *Conversations en mille-feuille*, Chevenez, Éditions du goudron et des plumes, 2017.

PUGIN, Jacques, *La montagne s'ombre, Montrouge*, Jacques Pugin, 2018.

SELLIER, Marie & LOUIS, Catherine, *Les yeux de Bianca*, Le Mont-sur-Lausanne, Loisirs et pédagogie, 2018.

SIMMEN, René, *Koch:Lust:Kunst. Eine Collage über, von und mit Meret Oppenheim*, Biel, edition clandestin, 2018.

SZÖNYE, Piroška, *Heidi & Friends: das KochKunstPhilosophiePoesieBuch*, Chur, Piroška Szönye, 2018.

Tre quaderni in ottavo Miscellanea n. 1, 3 vols, Vacallo, edizioni Hic et nunc, 2017.

– Vol. 1: GIVONE, Sergio, *Cognoscere per formas*.

GABAI, Samuele, *Come presenze incise*.

– Vol. 2: CERIANI, Marco, *Y e inverno*.

GABAI, Samuele, *Per inciso*.

– Vol. 3: PUSTERLA, Fabio, *Due poesie*.

GABAI, Samuele, *Come presenze*.

Prints and Drawings Department

CHRISTIAN GROGG/JOHANNES GACHNANG: original library furniture along with the complete 74-volume editions of the works of Johannes Gachnang. Artist and publisher Johannes Gachnang was director of the Kunsthalle Bern between 1974 and 1982.

EDITION MULTIPLE, BERN: acquisition of the entire collection. Edition Multiple was established in 1993 at the Café des Pyrénées in Bern. Each year over a 25-year period it published one or two artist's editions, essentially involving practitioners living or working in Bern. A non-profit organisation, it aimed to publish artistic media in a range of techniques (engraving, lithography, screen printing, objects, etc.). It ceased operation in 2018.

EDIZIONI PERIFERIA, LUCERNE: complementing the existing collection:
– Roman Signer, Stromboli, 1997, EA; Ex e.a. 1/5
– Dieter Roth, Anneaux, 2006, Ex 1/15
– Balthasar Burkhard: Nature morte; Ex. 12/37, Lucerne 2010
– Urs Lüthi: Espaces, Ex. 2/400, signed. Aluminium sculpture in two parts (bookends), 4/9, Lucerne 2011.

BOABOOKS, GENEVA: acquisition of ten complementary editions. Whether hand-made or produced industrially, the works published by Boabooks present an exemplary

process of research. Created in collaboration with artists actively involved in revitalising the contemporary artist's book, they adopt a critical and experimental approach. Boabooks are a complex intersection of disciplines. Using a mixture of contemporary and traditional printing techniques, they open up countless possibilities in the various stages of designing and producing artist's books.

LES HALLES ESPACE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN, PORRENTRUUY: acquisition of eight complementary editions. In parallel with the exhibitions, the artists invited to appear at les halles create a special work: an original art edition in the form of a multiple with a limited print run.

These works, in the form of photographs, lithographs, objects, videos, etc., make up the "éditions (les halles)".

BENJAMIN DODELL: Benjamin Dodell has been publishing artist's editions since 2013, mainly graphic works on paper with Swiss artists from the post-1980 generation. Dodell has succeeded in making graphic prints and publishing attractive once again for young artists. New and unexpected printmaking techniques have often been used.

With these acquisitions, the Prints and Drawings Department strengthens its position as a centre of research into the production of artist's editions in Switzerland.



Johannes Gachnang,
original library furniture



Peter Clemens Brand,
many words, 2013,
Editions Benjamin Dodell



Urs Lüthi, *Serre-livres (Bookends)*,
2011



Jürg Acklin
(photo: Sabine Wunderlin)

Swiss Literary Archives

ACKLIN, Jürg (*1945): The archives of Jürg Acklin contain a large number of typescripts and handwritten notes on his principal novels (in particular *Der Känguruhmann*, *Der Vater* and *Vertrauen ist gut*) as well as writings in a wide range of genres: conferences, editorials and other journalistic texts. A smaller section of the archives, consisting of private and professional correspondence, includes letters from Adolf Muschg, Klaus Merz, Thomas Hürlimann and others.



Writings by Pierre Imhasly

ARCHE ARCHIVES (Hamburg fonds, around 1950–2005): Following the death of Peter Schifferli, book publisher Regine Vitali and reader Elisabeth Raabe maintained Arche's operations in Germany until 2008, when they were taken over by the publisher W1-Media GmbH in Hamburg. In 2018, W1-Media donated the historical holdings to the SLA to complement the existing collection of Peter Schifferli. The holdings are a major addition to the SLA; they include extensive correspondence, both general and with specific authors (originals and copies), and dossiers for published titles.

BERRA, Donata (*1947): complete literary estate covering both the genesis of the works and their critical reception, translations and studies on them. Also includes exchanges of texts and correspondence with authors, photographs and audiovisual recordings. The holdings also document the author's activities within writers' associations, committees and literary and editorial boards.



Gian Pedretti
(photo: Werner Gadliger)

BÖSCHENSTEIN, Bernhard (1931–2019): The archives of the Germanist and comparative literature specialist comprise manuscripts and printed matter relating to his teaching and his lengthy career as a conference speaker; learned correspondence that is as intense as it is eclectic and also includes numerous writers; a selection of biographical documents; dossiers relating to his long-standing activities within literary and philological associations such as the Société genevoise d'études allemandes and the Hölderlin-Gesellschaft; and finally a collection of his published works and a selection of works from his academic library.

GOMRINGER, Eugen (*1925): The SLA acquired the archives of the man regarded as the inventor of concrete poetry. His literary estate documents his most important creative periods, including his childhood in Zurich and studies in Bern, and the various stages of his career, from the Schweizerischer Werkbund to the Hochschule für Gestaltung Ulm, with Max Bill, and then as artistic director of the company Rosenthal in Selb. One interesting feature of this ensemble is the documentation on the international dissemination of experimental poetry, from South America (Eugen Gomringer was born in Bolivia) to Japan. A large number of catalogues and reprints also bear witness to Gomringer's extensive work as a mediator.

Swiss National Sound Archives

IMHASLY, Pierre (1939–2017): archives containing drafts, manuscripts, various collected materials and prints relating to his extensive historical work *Rhone Saga*; private and professional correspondence with publishers and fellow writers, including Maurice Chappaz whom Imhasly translated into German; photos and biographical documents such as certificates and official deeds; also posters, audiovisual documents, extensive research documentation and part of the author's library comprising copies with dedications and annotations.

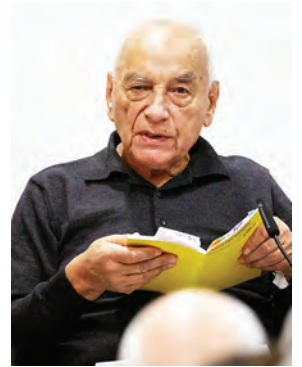
PEDRETTI, Gian (*1926): The artist and writer Gian Pedretti donated his notes, original drawings of the Val Bever, manuscripts of his prose works (both published and unpublished), travel notes, poems, correspondence – notably with Kurt Marti, Rainer Weiss, Hans Saner and the philologist and Germanist Christiaan Hart-Nibbrig – as well as biographical documents linked to his life in the Upper Engadin and that of his wife Erica Pedretti.

VOÉLIN, Pierre (*1949): very complete literary estate comprising all the writer's archives, with manuscripts of all his works, unpublished material, fragments of his critical writings, extensive correspondence and unpublished notebooks that accompanied his writing from the beginnings of his career. Much of it has already been classified: the author himself drew up precise descriptive lists that will be invaluable when it comes to cataloguing.

TONHALLE ARCHIV: all the live and studio symphonic music recordings made by the Tonhalle Orchestra in Zurich between 1960 and 2014. The holdings comprise more than 1500 audio media (magnetic tapes, cassettes, CDs, DATs and MODs).

STUBETE AM SEE: a festival of Swiss popular music which has been held every second year in Zurich since 2008. The National Sound Archives hold the hard disks containing all the concert recordings from the first edition onwards. This mixed collection is administered in association with the Lucerne School of Music.

“GEORGE MATHYS” fonds: holdings comprising almost 2500 audiovisual media (mainly audio cassettes and VHS tapes) and recordings of the most important events in the Swiss jazz world over the last fifty years.



Eugen Gomringer



Pierre Voélin
(photo: Frédéric Wandelère)



Stubete am See

Collection



The VIVA project catalogued a wide range of documentation on the life of Swiss associations and institutions

The main event of 2018 was the switch to a new library management system. Meanwhile, online cataloguing of “grey literature” continued and the NL acquired a secure workbench for the treatment of mould in newly arrived documents.

New library management system: the “NUBES” project

Following the contract award in 2017, the NL migrated to a new library management system in 2018. This project consumed large amounts of resources, with up to 40 people involved at certain times, and required extensive coordination in order to minimise the impact on users. The new system replaces Virtua, which had been in use since 2003. It consists of the Alma software and the Primo VE user interface, a solution offered by the company Ex Libris that is in operation around the world. NUBES is a long-term project. It was launched in 2015, with a WTO tender procedure taking place in 2016, and in 2017 implementation was planned with the supplier. It is scheduled for completion in mid-2019.

Processing of grey literature: VIVA

The VIVA project is complete. Computerised management of association publications has been implemented. This collection comprises printed publications from associations, institutions and companies that are not sold by the book trade. They are also known as “grey literature”.

In parallel, the collection, processing and archiving of these associations’ and companies’ websites began with a view to integrating them into the Web Archives Switzerland collection.

Acquisitions

The NL’s General Collection grew by 1.6% in 2018, in line with the average for the last ten years. With the exception of a 3% peak in 2011, the figure has always been between 1.5% and 2%. At the end of 2018, the General Collection comprised more than 4 750 000 units.

In all, the collections include more than three million monographs (essays, novels, manuals, biographies, etc.), almost a million periodicals and half a million graphic documents (posters, postcards, photographs, etc.). The remainder consist of audiovisual documents, sheet music and special media (CD-ROMs, etc.)

The Swiss Literary Archives now hold 392 literary estates and archives, around ten of which were added in 2018. The number of individual collections in the Prints and Drawings Department remained stable. Work in 2018 consisted primarily in cataloguing and optimising the conservation conditions of the existing holdings. The National Sound Archives now hold around 500 000 audio carriers and 175 historical fonds.

The NL collects not just printed matter but also digital material. The volume of the digital collection reached around 25 TB at the end of 2018 (2017: 21 TB). At the end of the year in review, digitally born publications accounted for more than 130 000 archive packages, around 20% more than in 2017 (more than 107 000). There are a further 42 577 archive packages containing digitised material (2017: 42 489). The project to migrate the e-Helvetica archiving system to the servers of the National Sound Archives is nearing completion.



The main event of 2018 was the switch to a new library management system

Catalogues

As at 31 December 2018 Helveticat, the NL's main catalogue, comprised more than 1 790 000 bibliographic records, a stable progression of 2% compared with 2017. The Bibliography on Swiss History (BSH) grew by 3.3% and now comprises more than 117 000 records. The Swiss Poster Catalogue includes 89 977 records (+3.1% compared with 2017), while the HelveticArchives database grew by 15% and now includes more than 650 000 records. The National Sound Archives catalogue exceeded 300 000 records, with an increase of 2.9% year on year.

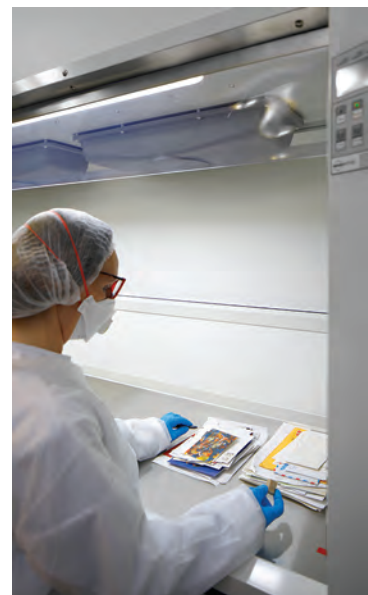
Preservation and conservation

Over 54 000 new acquisitions underwent conservation treatment during the year in review, an increase of 45% compared with 2017. Some 3 400 protective covers were manufactured, around the same number as in the previous year, while 283 publications were repaired (2017: 336).

One of the main tasks of the Stacks Management team during the year was to move some collections belonging to the National Sound Archives that had been kept temporarily at the NL in Bern to the new storage facility in Schlierbach. They consist primarily of vinyl discs and magnetic tapes, which are not lent out to the public. This move freed up space in the stacks that will in particular be used as a central store for photographs.

In 2017, the NL acquired a portable device for measuring the presence of mould in certain documents. In 2018 it acquired a secure workbench for treating the mould. Training on how to recognise and respond to the presence of mould was organised for all those who have regular contact with the collections. The problems arise chiefly with items that have not been stored correctly before being sent to the NL.

All works arriving at the NL are given a binding in order to conserve them. Most of this work is carried out by external partners. The NL reviewed the contracts for this task as part of a public tender process in 2018. It is now carried out by six providers, all based in Switzerland.



The NL acquired a secure workbench for the treatment of mould in documents



For conservation purposes, the NL binds all works as they arrive

User Services

In 2018 the main change experienced by users was the relocation of the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) reading room. The Swiss Press Online archives migrated to a new and more powerful platform. The canton of Zurich joined e-newspaperarchives.ch, as did a number of trade union publications.

Circulation

The number of users remained relatively stable, at 6484 in 2018 compared with 6262 in 2017. The number of documents borrowed continues to fall – a corollary of the growth in documents available online – from more than 70 000 in 2017 to a little over 65 000 in 2018. At 3160, the number of SLA documents consulted remained stable compared with 2017, after rising for several years. The SLA's most important holdings have been catalogued and consultation has now levelled out. Meanwhile the number of documents consulted in the Prints and Drawings Department (PDD) continues to rise, increasing to 1825 compared with 1659 in 2017. Optimisation of cataloguing within the PDD is making the collection more accessible.

Information retrieval

The number of information and research requests on site declined slightly, to 11 000 (2017: 12 700) compared with a peak of 14 400 in 2016. This may be partly due to the closure of the NL on Saturdays. By contrast, the number of remote requests (research enquiries) continued to rise in 2018, reaching a total of almost 3000.

The access restrictions linked to structural problems in the “book tower” had organisational consequences in 2018. The Swiss Literary Archives reading room, which is located on the fourth floor of this part of the building, was transferred to the main reading room, with six workstations reserved for SLA users.

The public information service launched a new range for secondary school pupils, including a list of 66 possible school-leaving exam essay topics. Contacts were established with the nearby Kirchenfeld grammar school and the French grammar school in Biel. Students who were interested visited the NL and conducted some research. In all, half a dozen people chose to work on one of the proposed topics. Among the titles suggested, which reflect the broad scope of the NL's collections, are “climate change and melting glaciers”, “the travels of Annemarie Schwarzenbach seen through her photographs”, “Knie, a Swiss circus dynasty”, and “stolen childhood: the issue of contract children in Switzerland (19th–21st centuries) – testimonies, suffering and the issue of moral reparations”. This measure will be continued in 2019 and 2020, with increased efforts to promote it.

Outreach

Digitised content

The NL digitised just over 3500 photographs and images from its collections and uploaded them to Wikimedia Commons. More than 14 000 images from the NL are now available on this free-access platform.

The Swiss Press Online archives migrated to a more powerful platform. The free-access site is now called www.e-newspaperarchives.ch (e-npa.ch). The canton of Zurich joined the platform for the first time in 2018, with three historical periodicals. The press archives of 14 Swiss cantons are now available on e-npa.ch or on other specific cantonal platforms that can also be accessed via e-npa.ch.

A thematic collection of around ten trade-union journals and newspapers, including *La Lutte syndicale* and *Die Gewerkschaft*, was added to the platform.



The Swiss Press Online archives migrated to a more powerful platform



Lenin's borrowing slips from the NL were made available on e-manuscripta

At the end of 2018, e-npa.ch comprised 102 titles totalling 3.5 million digitised pages and recorded more than 150 000 visits, compared with 92 000 in 2017.

The Swiss library journal *Arbido* was added to e-periodica online to accompany the annual meeting of the Swiss libraries, while Lenin's borrowing slips from the NL were made available on e-manuscripta.

At the end of 2018 almost 31 000 volumes from the NL collection were online, corresponding to 0.77% of the more than 4 million books and periodicals held in the library's stacks. Almost 18.9 million pages had been digitised, compared with 16.3 million in 2017.

The NL's photographic studio acquired a drone, which will be used in particular to showcase the collections during themed exhibitions.

Website and social media

The NL's website (www.nb.admin.ch) was completely overhauled and restructured to focus attention more on the library's collections. The graphic design is unchanged, to comply with the requirements of the Confederation, but the content is now presented in a new and more appealing way.

The NL set up a multilingual Instagram account in September 2018. It had around 200 subscribers at the end of the year and had published some 50 posts.

The average monthly number of Facebook users reached stands at around 8000 for the German page and 7000 for the French (4000 and 2000 respectively in 2017). This success is particularly due to interest in posts linked to the exhibition *LSD. Ein Sorgenkind wird 75*. In total, the NL's Facebook pages have more than 10 000 subscribers to the German version and more than 9000 for the French.

The NL's Twitter account had more than 2200 followers (2017: 1882) in German and more than 1500 in French (2017: 1374).

The NL's publication activities focused more on highlighting the richness of its collections. Many images from the site www.kleinmeister.ch – *Souvenirs suisses* were posted directly on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. A number of videos were made on a variety of subjects, and can be viewed on the NL's YouTube channel.

Catalogues

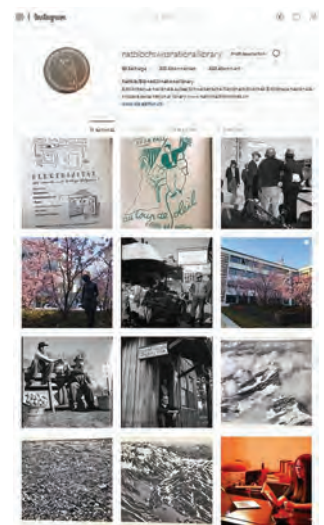
The Helveticat, Swiss Poster Catalogue and Bibliography on Swiss History databases recorded over 570 000 visits in 2018 compared with around 423 000 in 2017, a rise of more than 30%. Queries to HelveticArchives, the catalogue of the collections of the Prints and Drawings Department, Swiss Literary Archives and CDN, declined slightly, falling 5% to almost 182 000. The e-Helveticat catalogue recorded more than 850 000 visits in 2018, compared with more than 240 000 the previous year.

Reproductions

The number of photographs reproduced by the NL rose in 2018. The trend from year to year depends on the projects that are in progress. More than 8000 photographs were digitised in 2018 (2017: less than 4000). The number of photocopies made fell by almost 30% compared with 2017, to approximately 26 000. Orders for e-books on demand rose to 96 (2017: 76).

Cultural offerings

More than 10 600 people attended cultural events at the NL in Bern, compared with more than 9600 in 2017. This increase is largely due to the success of the exhibition *LSD. Ein Sorgenkind wird 75*. The Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel received almost 9000 visitors, compared with just over 8000 in 2017.



The NL opened its Instagram account in October 2018



Some ten trade union newspapers were made available online

2018 was very much a year of consolidation compared with 2017. Almost all the acquisitions made in 2017 have been catalogued, classified and made available to the public.

Collection

The archives of Christian Baumgartner (1855–1942), the watercolourist and major figure in the Swiss landscape tradition, that were acquired in 2017 have now been processed. His work places him clearly within the tradition of Schweizer Kleinmeister, and is a significant addition to the NL's collection. The entirety of the Gugelmann Collection has also been processed. In parallel with this, the site *kleinmeister.ch – Souvenirs suisses* is developing its offering. New virtual showcases on the themes of transport, water and harvests have been created. The gallery comprised almost 230 images at the end of 2018.

The archives of the Federal Inventory of Historical Traffic Routes in Switzerland (IVS), which were also acquired in 2017, were fully classified, catalogued and placed online. The IVS is a federal inventory within the meaning of Article 5 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage. It was updated between 1984 and 2003 and mainly covers routes of national importance that still have a visible historical substance (around 3750 km). The particular value of these archives lies in their photographic documentation of changes in the landscape. They are the largest collection of images of roads, paths, works of art and route maps in Switzerland. With the invaluable help of an external specialist in historical transport routes who is a former member of IVS staff, the extensive collection comprising some 30 linear metres of documents was processed and classified within the space of a year.

Digitisation of the Zinggeler Collection of 15 000 photographs taken in the cantons of Graubünden and Ticino between 1900 and 1940 was also completed, with the results being placed online. These fascinating images of daily life in times gone by can be viewed via the catalogue www.helveticaarchives.ch.

User services

The number of on-site users fell to 455 in 2018 (2017: 516), but information and research requests recorded a further rise, to 952 (2017: 823).



J-E Desvernois, Lausanne, around 1820 (www.kleinmeister.ch)



Scene of everyday life in Breil-Brigels (GR) around 1905, by Rudolf Zinggeler

Swiss Literary Archives

A number of important acquisitions were added to the collection of the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) in 2018. Research also played a central role in the SLA's activities, with the organisation of a number of colloquia, workshops and multilingual international congresses, the results of which have been published (see "Main Events" section).

Collection and user services

The ALS acquired 10 collections, literary estates and archives. Some of these acquisitions are of exceptional artistic quality, such as the important archives of Eugen Gomringer, pioneer of concrete poetry, the literary estate of the author of the *Rhone Saga* Pierre Imhasly, and the archives of the artist and writer Gian Pedretti.

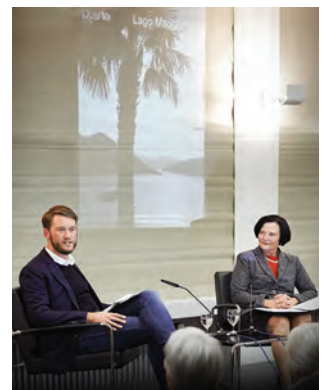
The number of online inventories rose by 12.4%, to 227 (2017: 202). The number of users fell by 20.7% compared with the exceptional year of 2017, due largely to the reduction in the number of opening days (2018: 864, 2017: 1089). Information and research requests also declined by 11.2%, but remained high at 4006 (2017: 4509).

Outreach

The 7th volume of the collection *Sommerakademie Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel* was published in 2018 by Wallstein (Göttingen) and Chronos (Zurich); entitled *Avantgarden und Avantgardismus – Programme und Praktiken emphatischer kultureller Innovation*,⁴ it was edited by Andreas Mauz, Ulrich Weber and Magnus Wieland. The contributions in this volume examine how progressive literary currents saw themselves and how they were influenced by the historical context, in an approach that combines theory, the history of ideas, and an examination of specific cases.



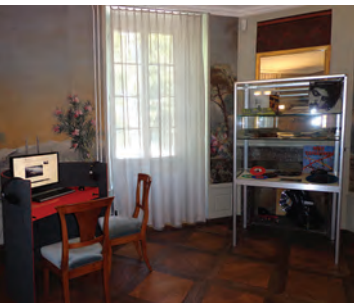
This 7th volume looks at how progressive literary currents saw themselves



Vernissage of *Quarto* no. 45, with an image of the journal's cover in the background

⁴ Only published in German.

Swiss National Sound Archives



A National Sound Archives audiovisual workstation and some items from the collection displayed at the "Salon du vinyle"

In 2018, the Swiss National Sound Archives (FN) fulfilled their mandate to safeguard Switzerland's audio heritage, devoting much energy to conserving and highlighting a large number of holdings of national importance, such as those of the Tonhalle Orchestra, Zurich.

Collection

Ten new audio estates and collections were acquired. Among the most notable are the holdings of the Tonhalle Archives Zurich, the important collection of George Mathys relating to jazz music in French-speaking Switzerland, and all the recordings made to date at the *Stubete am See* festival of Swiss popular music in Zurich.

The FN's collaboration with the Lucerne School of Music was particularly important in the management of the mixed collection of the archives of the Schaffhausen Jazz Festival, a major event devoted to Swiss jazz.

Outreach

The FN presented its collections on a number of occasions. Exhibitions were staged in collaboration with the Nidwaldner Museum in Stans, the Rätisches Museum in Chur and the Swiss National Museum, Zurich. The FN also collaborated on productions by RTS and RSI; finally, on 16 and 17 June, they were the guest of honour of the *1^{er} Salon du Vinyle de la Glâne*, which was held at the Musée du papier peint in Mézières (FR).

Enhancement of audio documents begins with a high-quality digitisation. The new NOA system has been introduced, which allows a number of sources to be digitised in parallel and provides improved control of the quality of the audio stream.



The FN's collection includes a large number of CDs

Some figures

More than 1130 new recordings were acquired in 2018 (compared with almost 1000 in 2017) and more than 8300 bibliographic records were added to the catalogue. Visits to the FN website www.fonoteca.ch remained very high, with more than 2 million page views.

Public interest in the collections is reflected in the figures: the database was accessed almost 18 million times in 2018, compared with 14 million in 2017. The number of institutions in Switzerland with at least one FN audiovisual workstation remained at 56; they were used to listen to more than 32 370 audio documents in 2018 (2017: 31 866).



The FN also collects historical media, such as 8-track tapes

Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

Friedrich Dürrenmatt often drew on Greek myths for his work. Within his family, he liked to invent stories with his children; in his public life he was also prepared to take a stand, as in 1968. In 2018, the CDN highlighted these various facets of Dürrenmatt's life and invited other artists and personalities to discuss them.

For all ages

Four temporary exhibitions were held last year: *Friedrich et Ruth Dürrenmatt – Tel père, telle fille?* considered the multidisciplinary work of Ruth Dürrenmatt; *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – 1968. Mouvement étudiant, Théâtre de Bâle, Printemps de Prague* looked at Dürrenmatt's politics; *Jean-Pierre Zaugg – Arte Facta* paid homage to an artist and scenographer who was a key figure in the Neuchâtel cultural scene; and *Kokoschka – Dürrenmatt: Le mythe comme parabole* explored two artists and writers who drew inspiration from mythology to discuss their own times.

There was a particular focus on children and schools in 2018. The exhibition *Friedrich et Ruth Dürrenmatt* presented a story written by Friedrich Dürrenmatt together with his children and was accompanied by a reissue of the book. Creative workshops were added to the existing cultural mediation programme. A performance inspired by the Dürrenmatt family's tale proved very popular with school groups and families.

Dürrenmatt in history

Another principal element of the events programme was a commemoration of 50 years since the Prague Spring, which was attended by the ambassadors of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic in Switzerland as well as the Union of Czech and Slovak Associations in Switzerland. The exhibition *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – 1968* led to a number of partnerships. Several institutions in Neuchâtel had already arranged events to mark 50 years since May 1968, and the CDN launched a joint communications initiative that resulted in a programme and a website.

Other artists

The CDN continued its policy of exhibiting artists other than Friedrich Dürrenmatt. Jean-Pierre Zaugg (1928–2012), whose late work explores the relationship between text and image, also had a distant relationship with the Ermitage where the CDN is located. A partnership was established with the Neuchâtel Museum of Ethnography, which organised an exhibition on his career as a scenographer.

Kokoschka – Dürrenmatt included a mediation project carried out by art history students from the University of Neuchâtel under the guidance of their professor, Régine Bonnefoit, who was entrusted with curating the exhibition. The CDN also collaborated with the Kunsthau Zürich, which was presenting an Oskar Kokoschka retrospective at the same time, on a series of events in the two museums.

In 2018, the CDN published five works in the *Cahiers du CDN* series, including two new translations of texts by Friedrich Dürrenmatt: *Vallon de l'Ermitage* and *Midas ou l'écran noir*.

Overall, 2018 was a very positive year for the CDN in terms of visitor numbers, media coverage and audience diversity. The expansion of the programme for children delivered very good results, encouraging the CDN to pursue this avenue further. In all, 26 events – concerts, discussions, performances and guided tours – took place in 2018, with the CDN attracting almost 9000 visitors.



Friedrich Dürrenmatt's daughter Ruth Dürrenmatt presented her work in dialogue with her father's



Creative workshops were added to the existing cultural mediation programme



Kokoschka – Dürrenmatt: two artists who drew on mythology to speak of their own times

Budget and Expenditures

in millions of CHF	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Difference Bud18–Act18	Diff. Act18/ Bud18 in %
Staff expenses	21.6	22.1	21.4	0.7	-3.2%
Material expenses	15.5	16.8	14.8	-2.0	-11.9%
Operating expenses	37.1	38.9	36.2	-2.7	-6.9%
Operating income	0.9	1.0	0.8	-0.2	-20.0%
Funding requirement (federal funds)	36.2	37.9	35.4	-2.5	-6.6%
Self-financing level	2%	3%	2%		

Operating expenses fell by CHF 0.9 million compared with 2017, and were CHF 2.7 million below budget. CHF 0.7 million of this figure relates to staff expenses and CHF 2 million to material expenses. This difference is due partly to the release of reserves (CHF 0.8 million) and partly to postponements of some ongoing projects. New reserves totalling CHF 0.6 million were created.

Operating income came in CHF 0.1 million lower than in 2017, and CHF 0.2 million below budget.

Commission and Management Board

As of 31 December 2018

Swiss National Library Commission⁵

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Director of the ETHL library

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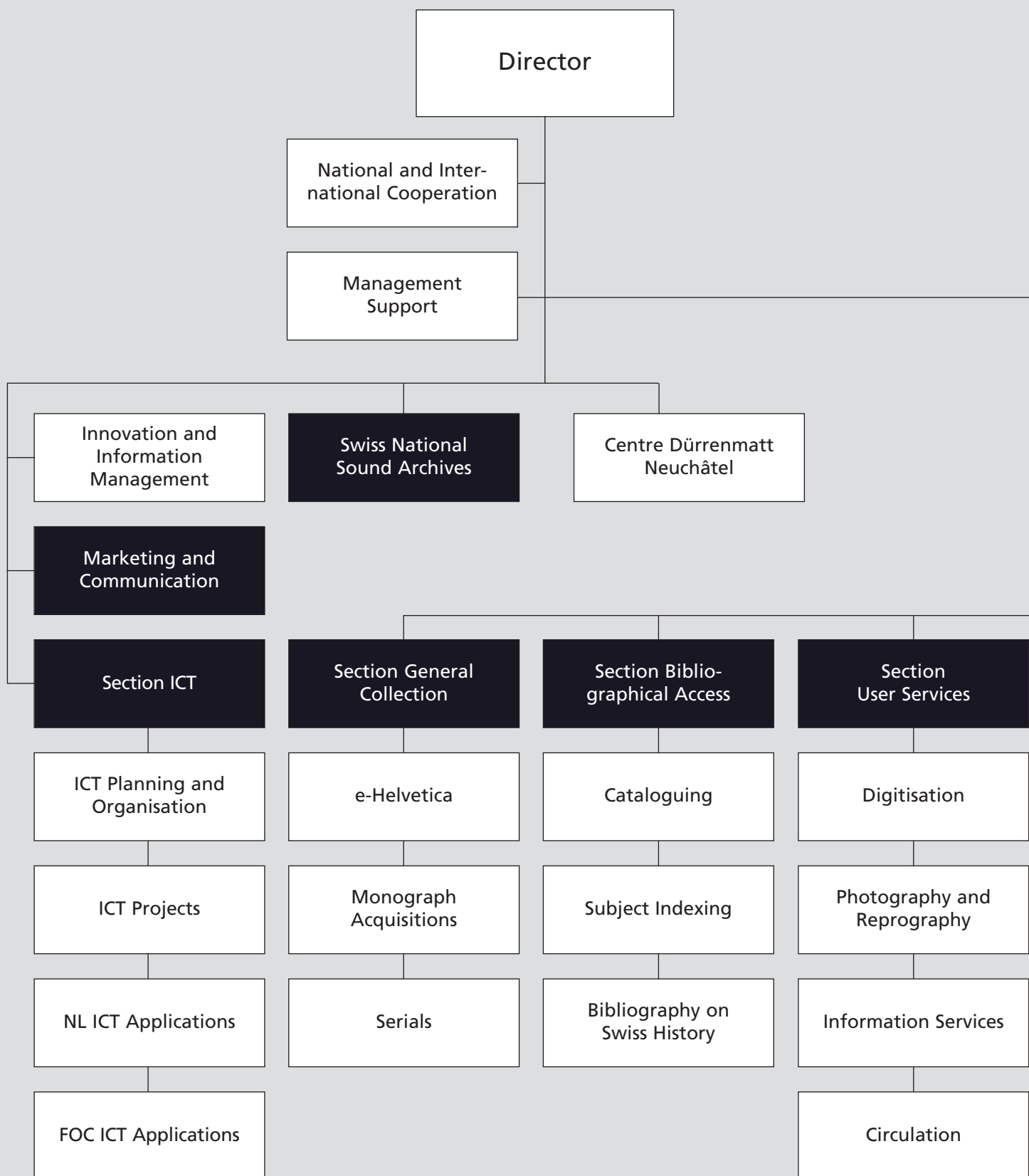
Head of Section Swiss National Sound Archives

Liliane Regamey

Head of Section User Services

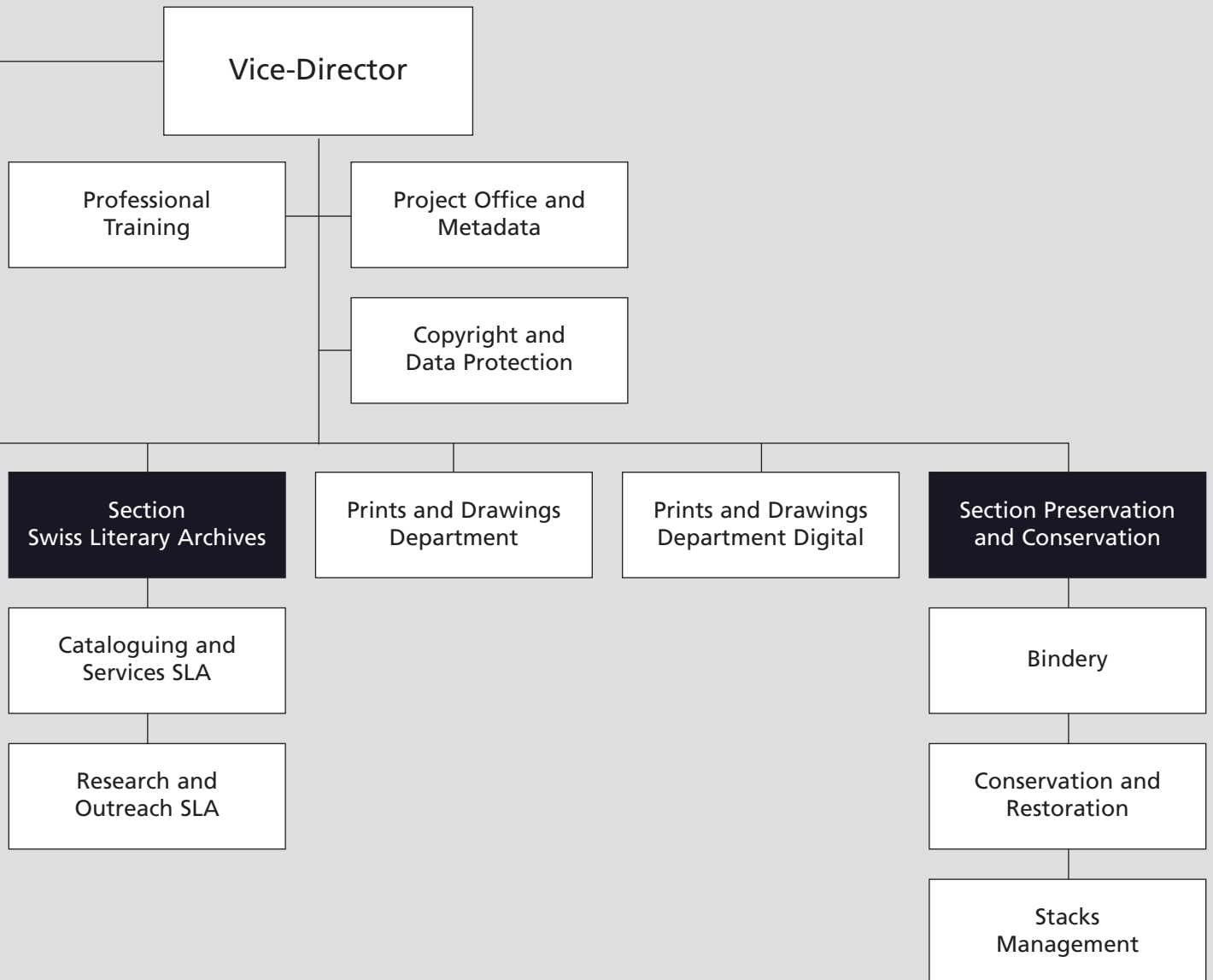
Irmgard Wirtz Eybl

Head of Section Swiss Literary Archives



Swiss National Library organisation chart

As of 31 December 2018



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