

Swiss National Library 108th Annual Report 2021



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Swiss National Library NL



Meat is many things at once: it is a foodstuff on our plates, a consumer good in the butcher's shop and a raw material in the slaughterhouse. But animals on the farm have a long artistic and literary tradition. In *Meat – An exhibition on the inner life*, the NL looked at the role of a substance that is at once living entity, commodity and gourmet temptation.



Wurst
Faire des saucisses
Insaccare
Far longias



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A look inside the library of Jonas Fränkel (1879–1965): in 2021, the Swiss Literary Archives acquired the estate of Jonas Fränkel, Jewish scholar and patron of Carl Spitteler. The estate contains many of Spitteler's manuscripts bequeathed to Fränkel by the poet, important literary correspondence and key documents on Fränkel's editorial and journalistic work.

Key figures

	2020	2021
Swiss literary output		
Books published in Switzerland	12 791	12 508
Non-commercial publications	4 552 ¹	5 142

Collection

Units

General Collection holdings: publications (in million units)	4.88	4.94
Prints and Drawings Department, Federal Archive for Monument Preservation (in million units, estimates)	1.2	1.2
Swiss National Sound Archives, number of audio carriers (incl. audio media in historical holdings and collections)	525 929	532 725

Archive holdings

Swiss Literary Archives, archives and literary estates	405	411
Prints and Drawings Department, individual collections	87	101

Catalogues

Helveticat (General Collection catalogue), total bibliographic records	1 888 151	1 933 690
HelveticArchives, total bibliographic records	592 095 ²	642 722
Swiss Poster Catalogue, total bibliographic records	92 741	94 872
Swiss Literary Archives, online inventories	263	278
Swiss National Sound Archives, total bibliographic records	308 783	313 632

User services

Active users	4 552	3 727
Individual loans (loaned documents)	55 623 ³	48 642
Information retrievals	19 875	17 150
Number of visits to www.nb.admin.ch	157 408	164 701
Number of visits to www.fonoteca.ch	n.a. ⁴	634 247 ⁵
Number of visitors at exhibitions, events, guided tours, training sessions	8 430	20 577

Resources

Employees (full-time equivalents, annual average)	146.1	149.9
Operating expenses (in CHF millions)	35.6	35.8
Operating income (in CHF millions)	0.65	0.87

Additional tables and statistics can be found at: www.nb.admin.ch/annual-report

1 Prior-year figure amended.

2 Amended following a subsequent audit.

3 Amended following a subsequent audit of the General Collection.

4 The prior-year figure referred to page views.

5 Including visits to the catalogue site of the Swiss National Sound Archives

100 Years of Friedrich Dürrenmatt



Damian Elsig, Director
(Photo: Robert Hofer)

In 2021, the Swiss National Library celebrated the centenary of the birth of writer and painter Friedrich Dürrenmatt, used the continued challenge of coronavirus restrictions as an opportunity to develop new digital cultural offerings, and got a new director. Damian Elsig took over the helm from Marie-Christine Doffey, and with his team plans to turn the memory institution into a library of the future.

International network strengthened with Dürrenmatt centenary

2021 was a special year for the Swiss National Library as 5 January 2021 marked 100 years since the birth of Friedrich Dürrenmatt – reason enough for a special Dürrenmatt programme. Following extensive renovation work in 2020, the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel reopened its doors in March 2021 with the new permanent exhibition *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – writer and painter* on his life and his illustrative and literary work. It also presented two special exhibitions in 2021: *Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Switzerland – fictions and metaphors* and *Friedrich Dürrenmatt and the world*. The first looked at how he viewed, wrote about and presented Switzerland in his works and talks, while the second traced the writer and painter's travels across the globe.

The Swiss National Sound Archives used the centenary as an opportunity to release a phonography on Friedrich Dürrenmatt with over 200 recordings of readings, lectures and interviews.

The Swiss Literary Archives (SLA), which manages and preserves Dürrenmatt's literary estate, published the *Stoffe-Projekt* in association with the Diogenes Verlag in the spring of 2021. The attractive edition, lavishly illustrated with facsimiles, explores Dürrenmatt's autobiographical work. A freely accessible online presentation of the 30,000 digitised manuscripts from Dürrenmatt's 20-year writing process accompanied the five-volume book edition. An array of previously unpublished texts was therefore accessible to the public for the first time, allowing a fresh and comprehensive look at his work. To coincide with this publication, in the summer the NL presented *Stoffe. Eine Projektion zu Friedrich Dürrenmatts Spätwerk* in Bern, which allowed visitors to immerse themselves in the extensive material. The SLA also organised the international conference *Wirklichkeit als Fiktion – Fiktion als Wirklichkeit* at the end of the year, with a diverse cultural fringe programme.

The Dürrenmatt centenary was utilised by all institutions belonging to the NL as a chance to build local, national and international links and to share their holdings and knowledge with interested parties in Switzerland and abroad.

Coronavirus pandemic utilised to develop digital offerings

Once again, 2021 was a year shaped by the coronavirus pandemic, resulting in closures, cancellations, postponements and events being moved online. Despite these challenges, the library's services and the cultural offerings on site and in digital form remained accessible and usable and were in high demand. The NL used the opportunity to push ahead with the digital transformation, including of cultural offerings. For example, 2021 saw the launch of the *Library Live Talks* on Instagram which explore the exhibition themes, and the podcast *Gegensprecher* featuring interviews with experts on the NL's exhibitions. Events over several days, such as the academic conference on Friedrich Dürrenmatt with streaming and an on-site programme, were also organised successfully. The digital formats developed during the pandemic complement the existing on-site cultural offerings and allow interested audiences from beyond the Bern area to take part remotely.

Change of director: Marie-Christine Doffey hands over to Damian Elsig

Marie-Christine Doffey headed up the NL for over fifteen years – from 2005 to 2021. This was a period that was shaped by one overriding trend: the ongoing and ever more rapid digitalisation of society and libraries. This period saw an increasing tendency for the analogue and the digital to merge, and this trend continues to play a key role in the NL's strategic direction.

Thanks to Marie-Christine Doffey and NL staff, the NL was able to maintain its position as Switzerland's most important memory institution in this dynamic environment. Through the integration of the Swiss National Sound Archives, Ms Doffey also played a part in the preservation of Switzerland's cultural sound heritage. Additionally, she was heavily involved in the international community of national libraries.

Following a transition phase, during which deputy director Elena Balzardi was acting director, Damian Elsig took over the management of the NL in August 2021. He previously headed up the Valais Media Library from 2009 to 2021 and will now continue the development of the NL to become the library of the future. Crucial to this will be aligning the analogue and digital services at the three sites in Bern, Lugano and Neuchâtel with the future needs of the Swiss population. The focus is on people. The NL aims to provide the people of Switzerland with easy and modern access to the country's cultural heritage. Together with other cultural and educational institutions, it will be a place of engagement, encounter and dialogue. Welcome to the NL – the library of Switzerland.

Damian Elsig

Director

General Collection

Use of the digital offerings increased, while use of on-site services was impacted by coronavirus measures. An initial milestone was reached in the replacement of the digital long-term archive.

Collection

The General Collection of the Swiss National Library (NL) comprised some 4.94 million units at the end of 2021 (2020: 4.88 million). The growth remained moderate due to pandemic-induced postponements and reorganisation of publishing programmes.

The NL's deposit agreement with the Swiss Association for Student History, which was terminated in 2017, was physically implemented in 2021 and the collection temporarily stored in the NL was finally handed over. Since 2021, the Swiss Association of Writers of Serbia has once again been transferring the monographs of its members to the NL after a lengthy hiatus.

The collection of digitally born publications again saw significant growth. At the end of 2021, it comprised 209,430 publications, an increase of 27,113. A part of this growth comes from websites of Swiss artists who were identified in cooperation with the *SIKART Lexicon on Art in Switzerland*. The collection of websites of Swiss parties, which has existed since 2016, was completed and now contains some 300 domains. In addition, the event collections on the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo and on the events and celebrations to mark 50 years of women's suffrage in Switzerland were completed. The collection of websites on COVID-19 topics was continued and currently contains some 180 domains.

Catalogues

At the end of 2021, *Helveticat*, the NL's library catalogue, comprised 1,933,690 bibliographic records (2020: 1,888,151), an increase of 2.4%.

In association with the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland in Fribourg, an online tool was developed in 2021 which allows integration of the old subject catalogue into the online catalogue *Helveticat*. From 1898 to 1998, new entries were catalogued according to subject on cards using UDK decimal classification. In 1999/2000 they were put on microfilm and scanned. The scans were then made available for searches in their own database. This knowledge base, which has been continually developed since 1898, has now been integrated into *Helveticat*: of 1.297 million scanned cards, 1.129 million were automatically allocated to data sets in *Helveticat*. The accuracy rate of allocation to cards is 94.12%, which is very high. The remaining 168,000 cards are being manually allocated in *Helveticat*.

The static PDF edition of the *Bibliography of Swiss History (BSH)* has been published without an index since 2020. The listed publications on Swiss history are still ordered thematically. Doing without the index led to significant time savings, so it was possible to publish two report years (2015 and 2016) in 2021. The database remains the principal edition of the BSH. It contains the complete records and offers convenient search options.

Owing to the previous changeover to the new library management system and the coronavirus restrictions, there was a backlog of over 10,000 documents in alphabetical cataloguing. To ensure that these documents could still be correctly conserved in the stacks in a timely manner, an accelerated integration process was developed. For documents with ISBN numbers, the bibliographic data were imported (semi-)automatically from other library catalogues and automatically signed. This method was used for documents that were not displayed in *The Swiss Book* and for publishers with a very large number of publications (e.g. *Springer*, Cham). The imported data do not correspond to the NL's conventional indexing standard, for example, the search entries may be lacking a link to the GND (Integrated Authority File). However, the data can be processed automatically with rules



Zaveštanja: zbornik književnih radova, 2021



Web Archive Switzerland: web collection on coronavirus

in Alma so that they meet the requirements of the RDA rules and are interoperable with the NL's other bibliographic data.

Since January 2021, monographic online publications (e-books) have been displayed in the national bibliography of Switzerland, *The Swiss Book*. A facet was also set up in the online edition to enable users to search for online publications. These are displayed in the issues together with the print publications, classified according to DDC groups.

Preservation and conservation

In all, 47,314 new acquisitions underwent conservation treatment, a decline of over 5% compared with 2020 (50,161).

Newly acquired collections and archives are cleaned, categorised and indexed before they are definitively brought into the stacks. To prevent the introduction of pests, items are kept in a quarantine room for a certain period. As they have to be pest-free before they are brought into the stacks, they were inspected, cleaned and arranged in a complex process at the future interim site on Monbijoustrasse in Bern.

The lift in the eastern stack room was closed for servicing for several weeks. To be able to deliver orders and to house new acquisitions, an emergency goods lift was fitted for the bottom four floors of the seven-floor underground stacks. The transportation of orders and new acquisitions to and from the remaining three upper floors was done manually by stack room staff during this phase.

Circulation

In 2021 the NL had 2,415 active users of the General Collection, 26% fewer than in the previous year (2020: 3,268). The number of documents borrowed fell by 27% to 42,621 (2020: 58,471). Some 1,132 microfilms were consulted, which is 46% fewer than in the previous year (2020: 2,078). This decline can be attributed to the closure of the reading rooms and circulation desks due to the pandemic, and the fact that people needed to show a COVID certificate to access the library.

Information retrieval

The number of information and research requests stood at over 9,000, down 25% versus the previous year (2020: 12,000). Additionally, 2,237 in-depth searches were conducted for users, a decline of 20% compared to the previous year (2020: 2,805). In connection with the NL's two exhibitions (*Meat – An exhibition on the inner life* and *Vote Now! On the right to have a say*), in-depth searches were conducted on the topic of food and on the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage. During the pandemic-induced closures, users received information by post or as digital scans.

Outreach

In the year under review, 20 digitised periodicals were put online on the *e-newspaperarchives.ch* platform operated by the NL, including 11 titles from the Misoix, the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* from its beginnings (1780) to 1914 and the *Journal du Jura*. In addition, the Neuchâtel newspapers *Express*, *L'Impartial* and *ArcInfo*, which had previously been presented on a separate platform, were also integrated. At the end of 2021, *e-newspaperarchives.ch* provided access to 164 digitised newspaper titles (2020: 144), which equates to 9,001,585 pages (2020: 6,534,153). A total of



Extract from *The Swiss Book*, issue 17, 2021



Goods lift in the stack room
(Photo: Simon Lässer, FOBL)



Neue Zürcher Zeitung
dated 29.6.1914



L'Impartial dated 30.12.2017

931,388 pages were put online in 2021. 401,343 page visits were recorded, up from 341,928 in 2020, an increase of 17%.

The NL put 15 periodicals on the platform *e-periodica.ch* operated by the ETH library Zurich, including several on the topic of the Swiss abroad (e.g. *Revue économique franco-suisse*, *Helvetia*, magazine of the *Swiss Society of New Zealand*) and magazines relating to women's history (e.g. *Zeitschrift für Krankenpflege* and *Schweizer Frauen-Zeitung*). A total of 195,319 pages were put online. No figures on user services are available for the year under review.

Some 1,190 public domain images were uploaded to *WikiCommons*. The NL's images recorded a total of 15.9 million page views (2020: 12.4 million).

Some 1,190 documents containing 3,239 pages from Hermann Hesse's estate, which is held in the Swiss Literary Archives, were integrated in the *e-manuscripta.ch* platform, operated by Swiss libraries and archives. The pages were consulted 127,172 times in 2021 (2020: 92,641).

The NL's website *nb.admin.ch* recorded 164,701 visits. In all, the NL's German-language Facebook page has almost 10,400 followers and the French-language page a little over 9,000. The NL's German Twitter feed has over 2,900 followers and the French-language version just under 1,900. With 2,257 subscribers, the multilingual Instagram channel again doubled the number of users compared with a year earlier. The NL posted monthly updates on its social media on newly archived websites in the Web Archive Switzerland. By providing information on new content in its collection, it participates in *#WebArchiveWednesday*, which was launched in 2019 by the International Internet Preservation Consortium.

Helveticat, the catalogue of the General Collection, was accessed 347,385 times (2020: 413,601). while the figure for the *Swiss Poster Collections Union Catalogue* was 46,472 (2020: 27,937). *The Bibliography of Swiss History* was consulted 36,827 times (2020: 25,830). *HelveticArchives*, which mainly describes the holdings of the Swiss Literary Archives and the Prints and Drawings Department, was consulted 118,706 times (2020: 217,913). The figure for the *e-Helveticat Access* portal to the digital collections was 34,703 (2020: 25,258).

A total of 6,802 people attended the NL's exhibitions and events in Bern (2020: 6,757). The online events were also well attended, attracting 2,655 participants, while 456 people took part in guided tours.

Training

The NL has offered an apprenticeship in mediamatics since August 2021.

IT

The Federal Council assigned central ICT resources to address the delayed operation of the long-term archive project. The procurement of the central components of the future long-term digital archive were put out for public tender on *simap.ch* and evaluation of the bids submitted was almost complete at the end of 2021.

As a way of promoting innovation and the digital transformation, the NL developed a lab environment, which will be made available to technically experienced staff. It will be used to test ideas for their technical feasibility in the sense of a proof of concept, to test software in terms of its suitability for use at the NL, and to produce scripts to facilitate work processes.

As part of information security, backups created in the *e-Helveticat* environment were thoroughly tested to ensure that they could be restored in the event of a crash. The tests covered backed-up archive data, databases, search indexes, and the use and consistency of various backups. The tests produced positive results.

Construction work

With a view to the temporary relocation of the NL due to renovation work in late 2024, work was done on planning the relocation. The total renovation of the National Library project, which is being led by the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics FOBL, was launched in the autumn of 2021. It involves a full renovation and optimisation of the premises at 15 Hallwylstrasse in order to meet the needs of a modern library in the future.

Museumsquartier Bern

The *Museumsquartier Bern association* was set up in June 2021 with 11 members, including the NL. The association got to work immediately. The set-up phase between 2021 and 2024 will involve developing joint content formats and clarifying structural issues.

National coordination

NL staff participated in the activities of the national library association *Bibliosuisse* and were involved on the Board and in various commissions. Particularly worth mentioning is the commission on library statistics. Following extensive conceptual work, this commission reached a milestone in March 2021 with the first survey of revised library statistics. The Federal Statistical Office then published the new 2020 library statistics in December 2021.

Library law

In the context of digitalisation, issues relating to copyright and data protection in libraries and cultural memory institutions have become much more relevant. The NL took account of this situation by increasing the number of staff in the Copyright & Data Protection Department, which was set up in 2020, and renaming it the Library Law Department in 2021. The expansion and reorganisation of the department meant that most of the smaller and larger library-specific legal issues could be handled by NL specialists, who are familiar both with the relevant issues and with the particularities of the institution.



Il Mesolcinese dated 1.12.1989



Museumsquartier Bern: summer party (Photo: Sally De Kunst)

Prints and Drawings Department

A number of important archives and collections were catalogued in 2021, and new ones have been added. The fragile glass negatives of the Wehrli photo collection were digitised. Meanwhile, the new web article series *Visual treasures* showcases well-known and lesser-known works from the collection. The holdings of the Prints and Drawings Department were also included in international exhibitions, exhibitions at the Swiss National Library and to mark *European Heritage Days*.

Collection

Shortly after the 90th birthday of artist Daniel Spoerri (b.1930), all parts of the archive held in the Prints and Drawings Department were conclusively recorded and made accessible in the *HelveticArchives* online catalogue. This work relates to the impressive event documentation and photographic records and Spoerri's art collection within the largest artist archive at the NL. Spoerri's archival legacy is therefore accessible in its entirety for research purposes. During the course of Spoerri's 90th anniversary year, the Prints and Drawings Department granted extensive loans to two major exhibitions of Spoerri's work, taking place at both the Kunstforum in Vienna (24.3.–27.6.2021) and the Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain in Nice (16.10.2021–27.3.2022).

The donation of the complete collection of diaries, notebooks and correspondence belonging to artist Bernhard Luginbühl (1929–2011) is probably one of the most remarkable new acquisitions of recent years. Luginbühl documented his work and private life in a highly idiosyncratic style in nocturnal ramblings. The 325 books have highly individual bindings (e.g. metal or leather) and different cover designs.

Existing archives, such as those of Doris Stauffer, Carla Neis, Johannes Gachnang (correspondence with Elisabeth Kübler), Bryan Cyril Thurston and Andreas Züst were also expanded through small donations. Within the Federal Archive for Monument Preservation (FAMP), the ICOMOS inventory was supplemented with documents for the 'Swiss Historic Hotel' award.

The Prints and Drawings Department recorded some important new acquisitions. With the support of the *Graphica Helvetica* foundation, sheets by Heinrich Thomann (*Sand-alp contre le glacier du Spiz-Alp – canton Glarus*, 1780), Gabriel Lory the Younger (*Vue de la cascade de Pisevache*, 1820) and Alexandre Calame (*Die Schwarzalp mit dem Well- und Wetterhorn*, 1850) were acquired and integrated in the Gugelmann collection. In addition, the Prints and Drawings Department acquired two paintings from the Gugelmann family's estate by the Bernese painter Franz Nikolaus König (*Ansichten von Bern*, both circa 1810). Homage was paid to contemporary graphic design with the acquisition of works by Bern's Wolfgang Zät (11 graphic prints from the period 2010–2021) and a monotype by Zurich's Zilla Leutenegger (*Harter Lockdown*, 2021).

Some 70 acquisitions and donations of artist's books, editions and special editions were realised in the year under review, including a representative set of signed 'picture books' by Lucerne-born artist Rolf Winnewisser (b. 1949). Two artist's books by Zurich-based Marlyse Brunner (b. 1946) were produced on recycled paper from the GDR. The work of Russian-French artist Serge Chamchinov (*The Tunnel*, 2021), designed in the form of a leporello fold, was produced to explore Friedrich Dürrenmatt's oeuvre. As the first part of an extensive donation, the Prints and Drawings Department received over 40 elaborate book works by Ticino artist Fiorenza Bassetti (b. 1948). This acquisition will soon be extended to include her famous photo portraits. More than 1,100 editions were added to the poster collection. In particular, these include the poster campaigns of the Federal Office of Public Health in response to the coronavirus pandemic, and the artist's posters that were produced as an initiative and art project by Hans-Ulrich



Daniel Spoerri: Photographs from the assemblage *Gebauchpinselt* from the series *Pièges à mots* (*Wortfallen*), c. 1966



Bernhard Luginbühl: Two diaries (c. 1975 and 1992) and *Das Knochenlied*



Fiorenza Bassetti: artist's book, comprising 10 watercolours and envelope, c. 1980

Obrist on the pressing environmental and social issues of our time in 2019/2020 (*It's urgent*, LUMA project).

Following completion of the cataloguing of the Spoerri archive, other extensive archives have also been processed in their entirety: that of the Bernese artist Ernst Linck, who was primarily known as a mural and glass painter between 1900 and 1930, which comprises some 550 prints and drawings, as well as a photography and correspondence section; and that of Siegfried Kuhn, which in particular comprises photographs from the close and wider circle of artist Bernhard Luginbühl. Research can now also be carried out sheet by sheet on *Pilztafelwerk* by Lenzburg researcher and artist Hans Walty (1868–1948).

The extensive collection of printed graphic views of Switzerland (17th to 19th centuries) has been catalogued in its entirety and is now largely accessible on Wikimedia Commons. Here, too, the Prints and Drawings Department was able to benefit from financial support from the *Graphica Helvetica* for scientific staff. The cataloguing of the glass negatives from the Wehrli photo collection, which were digitised in 2021, and were taken for what was and still is Switzerland's largest postcard publishing company (now Photoglob AG), is now largely complete. The more than 13,000 photographs of Swiss rural and urban scenes from the period from 1905 to 1932 will be available online from 2022.

Outreach

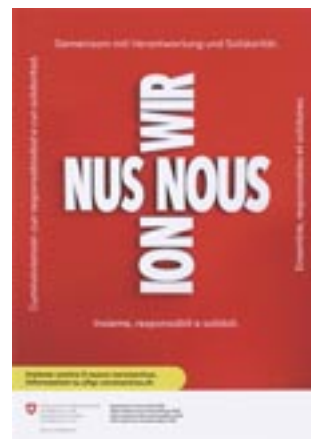
To raise the profile of its archive and collections, the Prints and Drawings Department launched the *Visual treasures* series, which can be accessed on the NL's website. The series has so far included articles by staff on works from the archives by Daniel Spoerri, Rudolf Fechter, Doris Stauffer and Ernst Linck. The theme of the 2021 *European Heritage Days* was *gewusst wie (making and skills)*. To mark the centenary of the death of Albrecht Meydenbauer (1834–1921) who developed a method of survey photography for buildings and topography around 1860, the Prints and Drawings Department exhibited one of two known surviving Meydenbauer cameras, as well as the survey photographs taken with them and some associated rare text documents. The exhibition was complemented by the advisory services of the NL's Conservation & Restoration Department on handling historical documents. An article was published in the leading photogrammetry journal on the valuable Meydenbauer cameras.

User services

At 775, the number of information and research requests was well below the levels of previous years. The collection areas most in demand were the Federal Archive for Monument Preservation (2021: 230, 2020: 231), photography (2021: 322, 2020: 319) and prints and drawings (2021: 223, 2020: 236). The number of visitors on site was slightly higher than the previous year, but still well below pre-pandemic levels. Fortunately, loans of originals from the Prints and Drawings Department were in high demand for external exhibitions in 2021: the previous years' figures were exceeded both in terms of the number of exhibitions served and the number of documents loaned.



Serge Chamchinov: Leporello fold on the short story *The Tunnel* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, 2021



Federal Office of Public Health: *Gemeinsam gegen das neue Corona-Virus*, poster, 2020



Survey camera built by Albrecht Meydenbauer, close-up of lens, 1898

Swiss Literary Archives



Quarto on author Alice Ceresa

The Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) significantly expanded its collection in 2021, adding the estates of scholar Jonas Fränkel and writer Jürg Laederach, the archive of writer and artist Birgit Kempker and the photo archive of Yvonne Böhler. The SLA also celebrated its 30th anniversary with the publication of *Trouvaillen, Trouvailles, Trouvaille, Truvaglias* on its fonds and collections. In addition, events were organised and publications released to mark the centenary of the birth of Friedrich Dürrenmatt (1921–90).

Collection

The SLA recorded some significant new acquisitions in 2021, including the estate of Jonas Fränkel (1879–1965), Jewish scholar and patron of Carl Spitteler. The estate comprises many of Spitteler's manuscripts, bequeathed to Fränkel by the poet, important literary correspondence and key documents on Fränkel's editorial and journalistic work. The SLA also acquired the estate of writer Jürg Laederach (1945–2018) and the archive of writer, essayist, author of audio works, and video and installation artist Birgit Kempker (b. 1956), therefore expanding its collection to include experimental literature from Switzerland. It received the photo archive of Yvonne Böhler (b. 1941) as a gift. This archive contains photos of authors from the Swiss literary scene since the 1970s, thereby documenting the faces of Switzerland's four literatures over a period of more than fifty years. As such, it is the ideal complement to the SLA's literary holdings. Additionally, the SLA added the library of Franco Beltrametti (1937–95) – one of the most important Swiss authors of the Beat Generation – to its collection. This supplements his estate, which is already held in the SLA, with rare books on Beat Culture.

The SLA also made important progress in cataloguing, with three large holdings being accessible online since 2021: that of the oldest living author in the SLA, Eugen Gomringer (b. 1925), the entire estate of Nobel laureate Carl Spitteler and the estate of Genevan scholar Jean Starobinski.



Event on the virtual exhibition on Jean Starobinski. *Relations critiques*

Outreach

2021 was the Friedrich Dürrenmatt centenary year. To mark the occasion, the SLA published an attractive edition, lavishly illustrated with facsimiles, on his autobiographical *Stoffe-Projekt* in association with the Diogenes Verlag. The five-volume edition is accompanied by a freely accessible online presentation of a total of 30,000 digitised manuscripts from Dürrenmatt's 20-year writing process. An array of previously unpublished texts is therefore accessible to the public for the first time, allowing a fresh and comprehensive look at his work. This marked the completion of a longstanding research project. To mark Dürrenmatt's 100th birthday, the SLA also organised the international conference *Wirklichkeit als Fiktion – Fiktion als Wirklichkeit* at the National Library. The over 30 lectures and plenary sessions by Elisabeth Bronfen, Andreas Kilcher, Peter von Matt, Monika Schmitz-Emans, Andreas Urs Sommer and many others highlighted new ways of approaching Dürrenmatt's work, shed light on the material, media and transdisciplinary aspects of his oeuvre, and opened up new ways of engaging with the work in future. A cultural fringe programme with workshops by authors and translators and an orchestra rehearsal by the ensemble *Proton* brought Dürrenmatt's work to life through text and sound. The conference was organised with the support of the Bürgergemeinde Bern, the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel, the Charlotte Kerr Dürrenmatt-Stiftung, the Oertli Foundation, the Robert Walser Centre, the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Stiftung Pro scientia et arte and the University of Bern.

To mark the 100th birthday of Jean Starobinski (1920–2019), at the end of 2020, the virtual exhibition *Jean Starobinski. Relations critiques*, which was developed in close collaboration

between the SLA and the EPFL+ECAL Lab, was made available online. The exhibition illustrates the current relevance of the Genevan writer and world-renowned critic. The final version of the exhibition was presented at the Maison Rousseau & Littérature in Geneva in late 2021 and was addressed in the *Bulletin du Cercle d'études Jean Starobinski*.

To coincide with the acquisition of the estate of Jonas Fränkel, a series of workshops was launched on the Jewish scholar's legacy. An event was held in spring 2021 entitled *Zu Jonas Fränkels Nachlass mit dem Kryptonachlass Carl Spitteler* and in the autumn on *Fränkel, der Philologe*. The series, which was organised in association with the Walter Benjamin Kolleg at the University of Bern and the ETH Zurich, sparked an international debate and encouraged dialogue with the Spitteler network, literary societies and philologists at the Universities of Basel, Zurich, Lausanne and Geneva. It is to be pursued in 2022.

The international colloquium *Jean Bollack. Lectures d'un lecteur – Kritik des Verstehens* was a highlight of the SNSF project with the University of Fribourg, the University of Osnabrück and the University of Lausanne. It was held at the National Library and at the University of Fribourg and included a play about Bollack's work as a translator and playwright performed by the STOA theatre group.

In terms of publications, the book *Trouvaillen, Trouvailles, Trouvaille, Truvaglias*, which was released in four languages to mark the SLA's 30th birthday, is worthy of mention. It highlights the diversity of the SLA's collection, its research projects, and its collaborations and partnerships. The book features photos and descriptions of many of its fonds and collections, along with explanations by the SLA's curators. The articles have been published in the Bern newspaper *Der Bund* in recent years.

The SLA also dedicated a *Quarto* to author Alice Ceresa (1923-2001). The SLA magazine was handed out to the public in her home city of Rome in the spring of 2021.

The first issue of the SLA's bulletin *Passim* in 2021 placed a theoretical discussion on archive fever in a practical context, and the second explored the diversity of the SLA's notebook holdings.

User services

The number of users of the SLA rose in 2021 to 894 (2020: 829), while information retrievals amounted to 4,057 (2020: 3,257).

Networking

In 2021, the SLA ran a national archiving conference at the National Library on the theme of *Digital data in archives* with speakers and participants from the following partner institutions: the German Literature Archives, the Swiss Institute for Art Research SIK-ISEA, the Robert Walser Archives, the Thomas Mann Archives at ETH Zurich, Zurich central library, the Joyce Foundation Zurich and the Basel University Library.



Publication *Trouvaillen, Trouvailles, Trouvaille, Truvaglias*, 2021



Wirklichkeit als Fiktion – Fiktion als Wirklichkeit: international conference to mark the centenary of the birth of Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Swiss National Sound Archives



Lugano municipal council chamber
(Photo: administrative archives of
the city of Lugano)

Once again in 2021, the Swiss National Sound Archives worked to preserve and mediate Switzerland's audio heritage in collaboration with various institutions. For example, together with the administrative archives of the city of Lugano and the *Memoriav* association, it launched a project to safeguard audio recordings of meetings of the Lugano municipal council between 1962 and 2003. It also acquired important collections, such as those of the Swiss band *More Experience* and Zurich's *Widder Bar*. In addition, to mark the centenary of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's birth, it released a phonography on the Swiss writer and painter.

Collection

Some 1,132 new recordings were acquired in 2021 (2020: 800) and 7,378 new bibliographic records were added to the catalogue (2020: 5,746). Extensive use was made of www.fonoteca.ch, with the site recording 634,247 views in 2021.

The digitisation of recordings of the Lugano municipal council meetings from the period 1962 to 2003 is a significant cooperation project. The Swiss National Sound Archives launched the project in 2021 with the Lugano administrative archives and the *Memoriav* association to safeguard and upgrade the audio recordings. The project involves the digitisation of over 400 magnetic tapes held in the administrative archives over a period of four years. The public can already listen to some of these recordings in the digital catalogue of the Swiss National Sound Archives, and therefore discover a valuable piece of historical heritage, which provides an important insight into the history and political life of the city of Lugano.

Notable acquisitions in the year under review were the collections of the Swiss band *More Experience* and Zurich's *Widder Bar*, as well as Jean-Georges Pertin's record collection. The *More Experience* collection contains all recordings by the world's best-known Jimi Hendrix cover band. The recordings from 1989 onwards also include those made with the bassist (Noel Redding) and drummer (Buddy Miles) of Hendrix. The collection comprises some 200 audio media and complements the collection of *More Experience* concert posters, which the band donated to the NL's Prints and Drawings Department.

The *Widder Bar* collection comprises unique recordings of jazz concerts that took place in the historic bar in Zurich. The recordings were made by Arnold Burri, who organised the musical events *Jazz in der Widder-Bar* in the 1980s. The collection comprises some 300 CD-Rs with recordings of leading Swiss and international jazz musicians.

The immense record collection of Jean-Georges Pertin from Carouge, which the Swiss National Sound Archives acquired from the Musée de Carouge in 2021, comprises 1,500 LPs, 850 CDs and around 500 shellac records.

Outreach

In 2021, the Swiss National Sound Archives opened up access to its collections through a range of collaborations: with the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel for the permanent exhibition and event *Dürrenmatt Sciascia 100* to mark the centenaries of Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Leonardo Sciascia; with the Swiss National Library for the exhibitions *Meat – An exhibition on the inner life* and *Vote now! On the right to have a say*; with the Galerie Litar for the exhibition *Adelheid Duvanels Himmel*; with the Fondation Martin Bodmer for its permanent exhibition; for radio productions by SRF (*Internierung der Bourbaki-Armee in der Schweiz*), RTS (*Piero Coppola*) and the documentary films by the Uetendorf film team (*Das Reduit. Geschichte von 1939 bis 1945*). The Swiss National Sound Archives was also a guest on the RSI programmes to mark *Swiss Music Day* on 16 September 2021.



The Jimi Hendrix cover band
More Experience (Photo: *More Experience*)



Stephan Eicher
(Photo: Wikimedia)

In 2021, the Swiss National Sound Archives published various articles on its website on key holdings from its collections. Some of the topics covered included Lugano city council meetings; Piero Coppola, the pioneer of the classic record; Hanny Christen, the custodian of Swiss folk music; Pierre Dudan, the cabaret singer and Walter Furrer, the composer.

It also published audio collections of key Swiss figures on its website: singer Caterina Valente, conductor Charles Dutoit, composer Igor Stravinsky, author Giorgio Orelli, writer and painter Friedrich Dürrenmatt, composer Rudolf Kelterborn, musician Stephan Eicher, jazz bassist Isla Eckinger and the band More Experience.

Of particular significance were the outreach activities by the Swiss National Sound Archives on Swiss writer and painter Friedrich Dürrenmatt and on Sicilian author Leonardo Sciascia. The year 2021 was not only the centenary of Dürrenmatt's birth (1921–90), but also that of Sciascia (1921–89). The Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel organised an event with various guests to mark the occasion in October 2021. The Swiss National Sound Archives produced a clip for the event featuring audio documents on both figures from its archives and the archives of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation SRG SSR. It also released a phonography on Friedrich Dürrenmatt with over 200 recordings of readings, lectures and interviews.

User services

Public interest in the National Sound Archives' collection grew markedly in 2021, with the database being accessed nearly 26 million times (2020: 18 million). The Roothus Gonten Foundation and the Swiss Historical Lexicon in Bern were added to the 56 institutions in Switzerland with one or more audiovisual workstations that can be used to access the National Sound Archives database. These workstations were used to listen to 183,109 audio documents during the year (2020: 199,172).

Networking

The Swiss National Sound Archives played host to the 2021 annual congress of the Germany/Switzerland branch of the *International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives – IASA*. The event was held online and was used by the Swiss National Sound Archives as an opportunity to present the institution and its activities to a specialist audience and to network. The two-day congress was attended by around a hundred participants.



Friedrich Dürrenmatt (Photo: Monique Jacot, Swiss Literary Archives)



Giorgio Orelli (Photo: Yvonne Böhler, Swiss Literary Archives)



Piero Coppola with Sergej Prokofiev (Photo: P. Coppola collection, BCU Lausanne)

Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel



A look at the CDN's permanent exhibition



From the permanent exhibition at the CDN



From the exhibition *Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Switzerland – Fictions and metaphors*

In 2021, the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN) celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Friedrich Dürrenmatt (1921–90). The centenary programme, featuring exhibitions and events, proved popular with audiences and the media. The CDN successfully highlighted the lesser-known facets of the writer and painter. In 2021, the museum also opened up private areas of Dürrenmatt's former home to the public, such as his study, and added a podcast and video series to its offering.

Painter and writer Friedrich Dürrenmatt would have turned 100 in 2021. To mark this event, the CDN opened a new permanent exhibition featuring an open storage area and offered a broad programme of events, which was well received by the public. The aim of the centenary programme was to convey the complementarity of Dürrenmatt's visual works and his literary oeuvre through exhibitions, events and publications.

In view of the centenary, the CDN already carried out major renovation work in 2020 in order to integrate previously inaccessible private areas of Dürrenmatt's home – his study, his studio (now a room used for cultural outreach) and his library – into the museum. The opening of the study was such a hit with the public that CDN has kept it open to visitors on Saturdays. In addition, in the outside area, his swimming pool was converted into an open-air stage for events.

Outreach

The CDN's goal is not only to showcase as many of Dürrenmatt's works as possible, but also to convey the artistic diversity of his work. The updated permanent exhibition, which opened in March 2021 entitled *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Writer and painter* focuses on the dialogue between his literary and visual works. An open storage area, which combines exhibition space with a storage area, was integrated into the museum. The new hanging not only allows more works to be exhibited, but also allows the various techniques that Dürrenmatt used to be presented. The new permanent exhibition looks at the interplay between text and image and provides a lot of additional information about his works thanks to new interactive installations. All these elements make Dürrenmatt's oeuvre accessible to a wider public.

The CDN also put on two special exhibitions to mark the centenary in 2021: *Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Switzerland – Fictions and metaphors* and *Friedrich Dürrenmatt and the world*. The first looked at how Dürrenmatt viewed, wrote about and depicted Switzerland in his writing, artworks and lectures, while the second traced his travels around the globe.

Numerous events were held to mark the centenary in 2021, with creative artists from various sectors invited to take inspiration from Dürrenmatt's work. The play *Pour Václav Havel* by Omar Porras was a highlight of the centenary programme. The director presented his adaptation of Dürrenmatt's 1990 speech in the writer and painter's study. All seven performances were sold out.

In September 2021, the open-air stage on the site of the former swimming pool was inaugurated with performances of Dürrenmatt's play *Le Procès pour l'ombre de l'âne* in a stage production by Guy Delafontaine. In addition to the six performances for the public, special events were also held for schools, which were attended by over 700 students.

The artist Maurice Mboa illustrated *Die Virusepidemie in Südafrika* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt. This resulted in an exhibition and a publication, which was produced by the Université populaire africaine (UPAF) in Geneva in collaboration with the CDN.

Olivia Pedrolí composed *Mathilde*, a musical adaptation of a story by Dürrenmatt, which was exhibited in the CDN as an audiovisual installation and performed as part of a concert.

Meanwhile, dancers and choreographers Filbert Tologo and Ivan Larson Ndengue were inspired by Dürrenmatt's *Minotaurus* to create a performance, which they staged in collaboration with the Association Danse Neuchâtel.

In the autumn of 2021, the Association de soutien du Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel, the Botanic Garden, the BelErmitage local association and the CDN organised an event to celebrate the opening of the new walking trail and the publication of the guidebook *Spaziergänge in Neuchâtel – Auf den Spuren Friedrich Dürrenmatts* (*Walks in Neuchâtel – in the footsteps of Friedrich Dürrenmatt*).

To mark the centenary, the CDN also released the three-volume bilingual publication *Wege und Umwege mit Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Das bildnerische und literarische Werk im Dialog* (edited by Madeleine Betschart and Pierre Bühler) in association with the publishers Steidl und Diogenes. This publication offers a comprehensive overview of Dürrenmatt's work and extraordinary expressive power for the first time.

In addition, in 2021 the CDN launched a podcast and video series on Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

The new cultural outreach centre offers workshops in German, French or both for primary schools and lower and upper secondary schools. In the workshops, students study a selection of Dürrenmatt's works. They can discover his pictures, illustrations and texts, and then tell their own stories using words and images.

User services

The CDN welcomed 13,221 visitors in 2021. Considering the coronavirus restrictions, this figure is very encouraging as the museum was closed entirely until 2 March 2021, capacity limits had to be put in place for the CDN and its events throughout the year under review, and in some cases access to the public had to be restricted using other measures.

In 2021, the CDN ran 13 events and four stage productions with a total of 32 performances, several of which were sold out. There was also high demand for guided tours (167) and school workshops (48).

Networking

The centenary was an opportunity to step up cooperation with a range of different partners. Particularly worthy of mention are the theatres TPR and Passage, the Jardins musicaux and the University of Neuchâtel. The collaboration with international partners, such as the Istituto Svizzero di Roma in honour of Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Leonardo Sciascia will be pursued in 2022.

In addition to the partnerships mentioned, the centenary also gave rise to various international collaborative projects with societies, universities, embassies, consulates and other institutions. For example, the Swiss General Consulate in Barcelona staged a three-day series of exhibitions in collaboration with the CDN, as well as a panel discussion, a series of films and various talks.



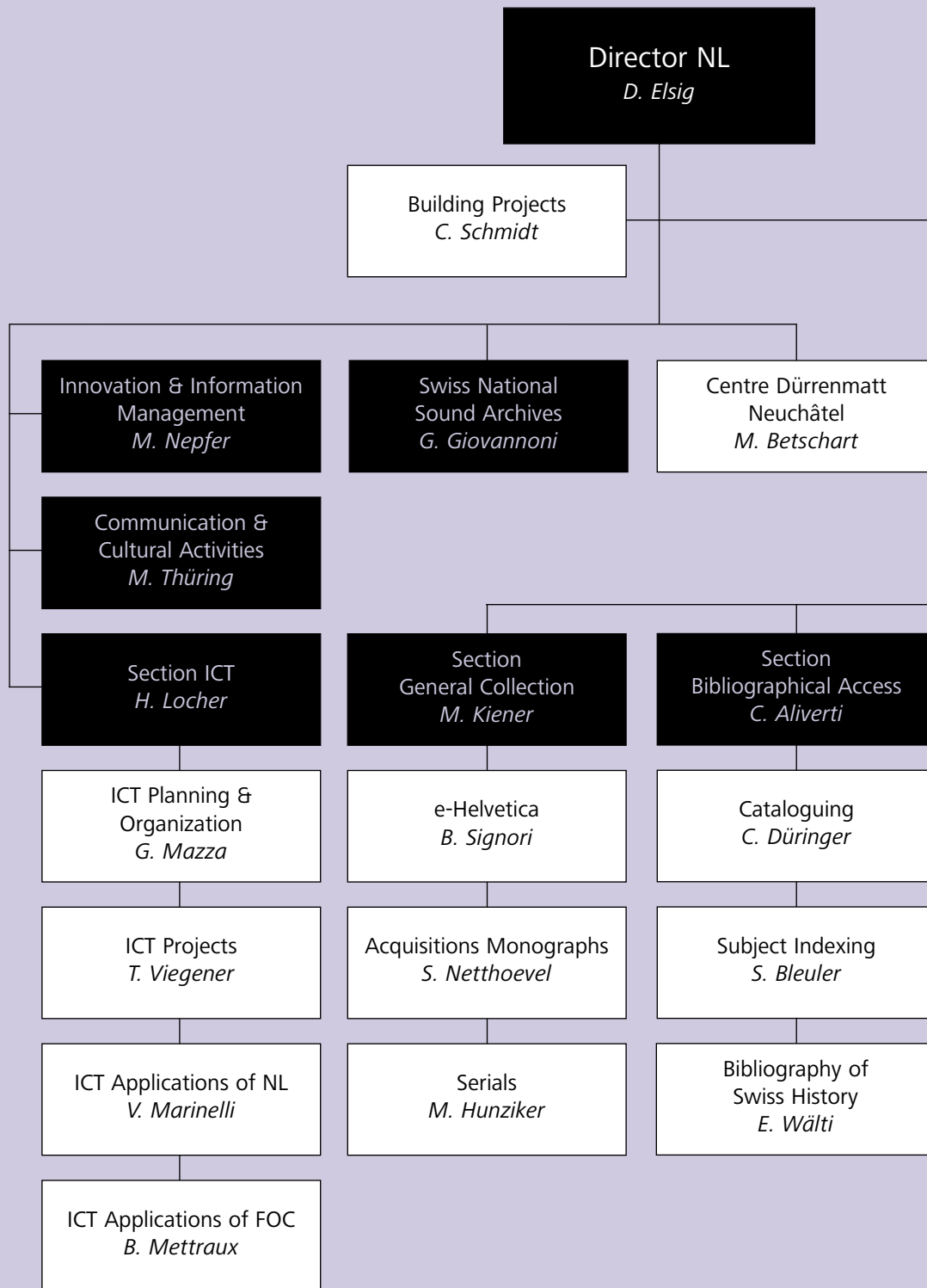
From the exhibition on Maurice Mboa: illustrations to accompany *Die Virusepidemie in Südafrika* (text by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, 1989)



The former swimming pool is now used as a venue for events.

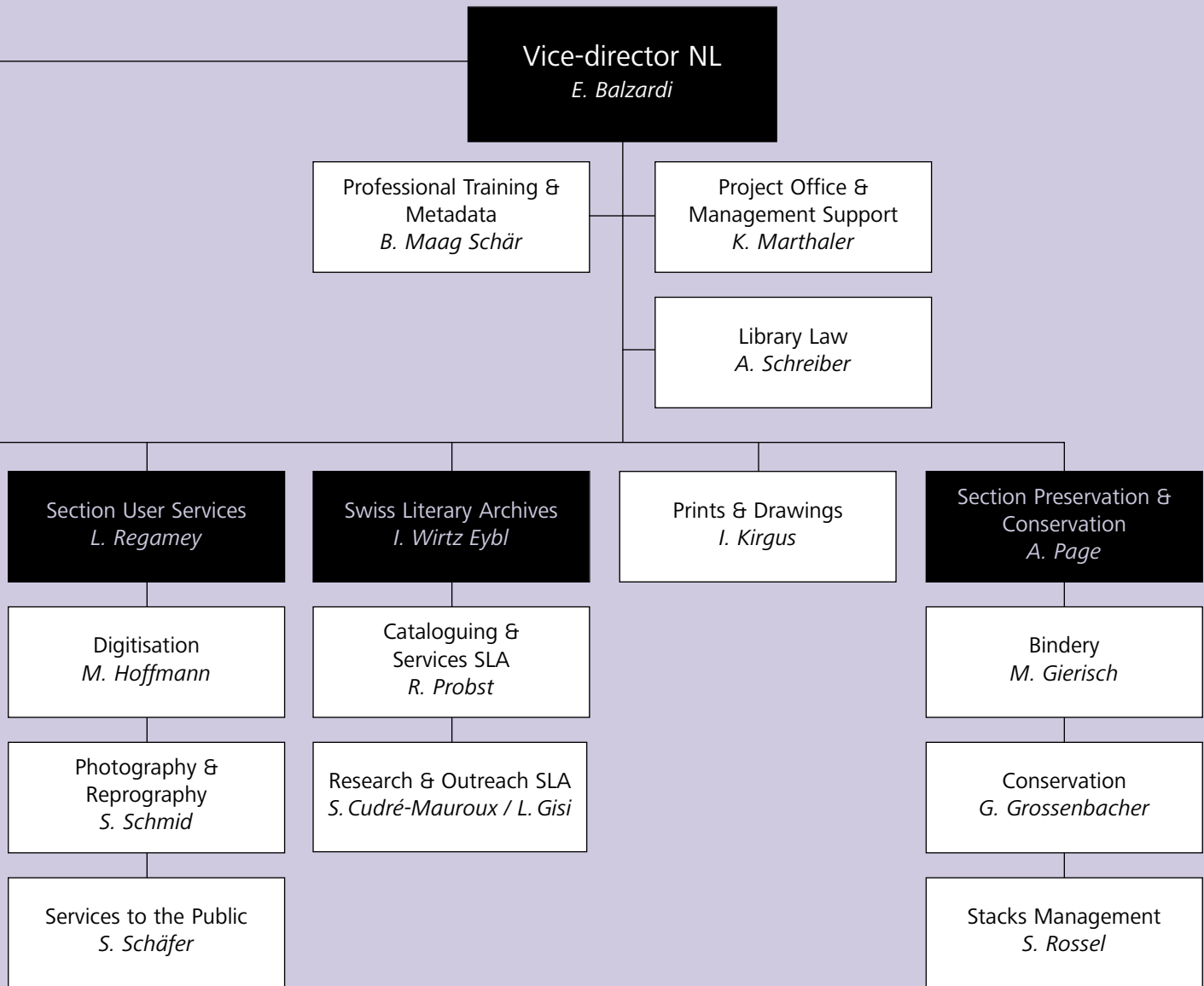


Wege und Umwege mit Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Das bildnerische und literarische Werk im Dialog, 2021



Organization chart Swiss National Library NL

As of 31 December 2021



Member of Management Committee

Budget and Expenditures

in CHF millions	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Difference Bud21–Act21	Diff. Act21/ Bud21 in %
Staff expenses	22.3	22.8	22.8	0.0	0.0%
Material expenses	13.3	14.5	13.0	-1.5	-10.3%
Operating expenses	35.6	37.7	35.8	-1.9	-5.0%
Operating income	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.2	28.6%
Funding requirement (federal funds)	34.9	37.0	34.9	-2.1	-5.7%
Self-financing level	2%	2%	3%		

Operating expenses in 2021 rose by CHF 0.2 million compared with 2020. Meanwhile, operating income also increased by CHF 0.2 million, causing the funding requirement to even out at CHF 34.9 million.

By contrast, the difference between the budget and actual figures for 2021 is relatively high (CHF 1.9 million). At CHF 1.4 million, IT costs make up the lion's share of this difference. This is due to the delay in the digital long-term archive project versus the original schedule.

Thanks

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 Repubblica e Cantone Ticino
 Society for the Swiss Literary Archives
 Stiftung Graphica Helvetica
 Stiftung Pro scientia et arte
 Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)



To mark the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage in Switzerland, the NL exhibition *Vote now! On the right to have a say* explored political and cultural participation in the country and looked at those who could not or still cannot vote, or who choose not to: women, foreign nationals, under 18s, those under guardianship and those who abstain. The exhibition tuned the spotlight on writer Alice Ceresa, author Mariella Mehr and artist Doris Stauffer – three Swiss women who made their voices heard despite all the obstacles placed in their way.



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