Swiss National Library
102nd Annual Report 2015
Interactive artists’ books: three-dimensional projections that visitors can manipulate using gestures, e.g. Dario Robbiani’s *Design your cake and eat it too* (1996).

Architectural guided tour of the NL.

The Gugelmann Galaxy: Mathias Bernhard drew on the Gugelmann Collection to create a heavenly galaxy that visitors can move around using a smartphone.
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## Key Figures

<table>
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<th>2014</th>
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<td>Individual loans (loaned documents)</td>
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<td>515 249</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of visitors at exhibitions, guided tours, events, training sessions</td>
<td>21 147</td>
<td>18 109</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Resources</strong></td>
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¹ Number of collections listed in the *Index of manuscript collections held in libraries and archives in Switzerland*
Digitisation, electronic archiving, open data – three areas in which libraries are helping to shape the digital future. The basis for that work is their collections, both on paper and digitally born. Access to them is ensured by the use of standardised metadata.

I am sometimes asked for how long libraries will continue to exist. My standard answer is: “As long as people have curiosity, they will want libraries. As long as a society wishes to progress, it will need libraries.” By way of counter-argument, people always point to the internet, where supposedly you can find all the information or entertainment you need. Who, they ask, still wants to read printed books, let alone visit institutions from which you can borrow them?

If we examine these arguments in depth, we see that far from replacing libraries, the internet actually makes use of them. Conversely, libraries use the internet. To speak of symbiosis would be an exaggeration, because both could live without the other. But the exchange between the two domains has created something new, and its potential has not yet been exhausted. It is the publicly financed libraries that will ensure the new material is preserved over time; the private actors of the internet can change what they do or stop altogether from one day to the next. Libraries are there to guarantee that everyone will also have access to digital cultural heritage.

Online is increasing; demand for print remains

A lot of publishing is now online. At the end of 2015, just under two million domain names were registered under the .ch domain.2 The collection of digitally born publications is the fastest-growing of all our collections – even though we only collect selectively. In 2008 – the first year in which we published figures for it – it comprised some 1400 publications. By the end of 2015 that had risen to almost 40,000 – many times the original number.

Compared with the almost three million printed books and nearly 900,000 volumes of newspapers and periodicals that number is still small, especially given that the collection of printed publications is continually growing. Over 12,000 new books were published in Switzerland in 2015, for example.3 Contrary to what might be expected, the figure is more or less stable over time. User demand for printed works remains strong. Surveys carried out by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office4 catalogued 44.5 million loans across all library categories in 2014, the majority of them involving printed documents. That is our experience, which we have to rely on due to the lack of differentiated data.

The physical collection guarantees the transmission of heritage

Why are so many printed items borrowed if the internet is awash with information?

One reason is undoubtedly that many people continue to prefer the printed version – of a book for example – over the electronic alternative. For as long as that remains the case, libraries should also offer printed works, provided they have the resources to do so. If they do not, they risk erecting new barriers to information. A second reason why printed publications are in such demand is that far from all of them are available electronically via the internet. Of the holdings in our General Collection, an impressive 12.1 million pages are available online; yet today, some ten years after we embarked on our digitisation programme, that is still no more than half a per cent of the total.

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3 See appendix to this Annual Report, available at http://www.nb.admin.ch/annual_report
4 http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/de/index/themen/16/02/02/data.html, retrieved on 19.2.2016
There is no replacement, then, for the physical collection – even if we regard it solely as an information storage medium. It is the only way of keeping the printed information accessible in its entirety. It is also the guarantee of its longevity: in comparison with electronic information, paper is relatively easy to preserve over time. A further aspect of physical collections is that they are often a cultural heritage that cannot simply be abandoned. Every book, every newspaper and every periodical is not just an information storage medium but an object which has meaning and value as such. A self-confident and self-aware society will not give up the ability to hand down at least one copy of every printed publication to succeeding generations.

Digitisation: opportunities and limits
That does not mean, however, that the works in these collections simply lie around until someone happens to come along and request one of them. The printed – or, to put it more generally – analogue collections, which in some cases have been built up over centuries, are one of the most important sources on which the internet draws. Manuscripts, incunabula, codices, books, newspapers, periodicals, images and sound recordings are being digitised and can be accessed at any time, anywhere the internet is available. They thus gain a public audience that they could never achieve as objects alone.

If libraries had more money, they would be able to place their documents online faster. Yet there is still no end in sight for digitisation in the foreseeable future. Complete digitisation is in any case at odds with the restrictions of copyright: protected works cannot be reproduced without the consent of the rights holder. The digital world is also less enduring than the analogue. Processes are improved, and expectations in terms of quality increase with them. We therefore have no guarantee that what was digitised yesterday will still be fit for purpose tomorrow. It is entirely possible that everything will periodically have to be digitised anew.

Libraries archive the internet
There is another reason why it is relatively difficult to preserve digitally born publications over time. Unlike digitised print products, they are not produced in accordance with uniform standards. That inevitably renders archiving difficult. As a result, digitally born information is in danger of disappearing irretrievably one day. In publishing almost exclusively in electronic form, the natural, technical and medical sciences run the risk of losing their history.

Libraries and archives are working to ensure that does not happen; the Swiss National Library is one of them. We are in constant dialogue with experts around the world with a view to advancing digital long-term archiving. In autumn 2016 we will be hosting one of the most prestigious international conferences in this field, iPRES2016. This is a good example of how supposed competitors – the internet and libraries – are in fact partners. It is the libraries – chief among them the national libraries – that have made it their task to preserve the internet (or at least parts of it) over time. At the Swiss National Library, for example, we and a large number of partners run Web Archive Switzerland, which archives websites of particular relevance to Switzerland.

The internet and libraries have for some time been exploiting each other’s potential in the dissemination and preservation of information. Encouraged by a new medium, libraries have once again in their five thousand year history reinvented themselves, without abandoning their traditions. They have engaged with the society for which they exist and adapted to meet its needs. Those needs include the preservation of memory – including memory of the internet in its current form.
Open data enable new kinds of linkages

In the future, libraries and the internet will no doubt also be working together to connect information in new ways, by means of linked open data. Libraries do not just place their content online; they also open their catalogues up to web crawlers. This has the effect of making public the data generated by libraries themselves: the metadata, such as author, title, publisher, place and topic of a publication. When these are standardised, they can be easily linked with data on the same author, publisher or topic at other institutions or even from private individuals.

Above and beyond making its content and metadata available free of charge, wherever possible the NL also encourages their re-use. For example, it is involved in the Swiss open government data portal,6 publishes attractive images on Wikimedia Commons, the media collection of Wikipedia,7 and supplied its data for the cultural data “hackathon”,8 an experimental event for software developers. It is part of the Metagrid project, which aims to achieve the interlinking of a wide spectrum of resources for the humanities.9 The Bibliography on Swiss History has recently been linked to the portal Rechtsquellen Online,10 the collection of Swiss law source materials.

The full potential of linked open data for research has yet to be established. Improved linking of source materials via metadata undoubtedly makes research easier. But it is entirely possible that it will throw up new questions and new methods, leading to completely new insights. The future is open. Libraries are helping to shape it.

One person who felt passionately about the role and future of libraries was former National Councillor Christiane Langenberger. She became President of the Swiss National Library Commission in 2008. Christiane Langenberger passed away on 16 August 2015. Under her leadership, a library charter for Switzerland was created.11 She was particularly concerned with the national coordination of library policy. We will remember her as its spiritus rector.

Marie-Christine Doffey
Director

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7 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Media_contributed_by_the_Swiss_National_Library
8 http://make.opendata.ch/wiki/event:2015-02
9 www.metagrid.ch
10 http://www.rechtsquellen-online.zh.ch/startseite/uebersicht
Main Events – a Selection

Année Dürrenmatt – (Re)discovering a Swiss figure of global importance
2015 saw the 25th anniversary of the death of Friedrich Dürrenmatt, while the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN) celebrated 15 years since its creation. To mark these two significant dates, the CDN opened its redesigned permanent exhibition. Numerous events took place throughout the year, with one high point being the CDN’s birthday on 19 September. On 13 December, the day before the actual anniversary of Dürrenmatt’s death, the CDN commemorated the artist with a concert by his daughter Ruth Dürrenmatt. It coincided with the first Salon Dürrenmatt, a new series of events in which aspects of Dürrenmatt’s work are discussed in relaxed surroundings.

The first Swiss Open Cultural Data Hackathon
27./28.2.2015
For the first time, Switzerland played host to a cultural data hackathon. Around a hundred software developers, data providers and researchers met at the NL to use the open data of cultural institutions for their own purposes, discuss their experiences and program together. “Hacking” the data revealed new interconnections, allowing them to be used for creative projects such as Mathias Bernhard’s Gugelmann Galaxy.

Literature in the archive: Anna Felder
11.3.2015
Anna Felder’s first work Tra dove piove e non piove was the subject for a multilingual soirée in the Swiss Literary Archives. Roberta Deambrosi presented the new edition of the book, published to mark 40 years since it first appeared. Anna Felder, Roberta Deambrosi and Françoise Delorme then talked about the German and French translations of the work.

Museum Night in Bern
20.3.2015
Until 10 p.m., Museum Night 2015 was given over entirely to children. A popular highlight of the programme was the children’s rock concert by Schtärneföifi in the reading room. An exclusive “hairdressing salon” offered young visitors the chance to wear sea creatures in their hair – as befitted the theme of the exhibition Der Regenbogenfisch (The Rainbow Fish). Here, children read from Marcus Pfister’s world-famous classic in eleven different languages. After 10 p.m. there was a chance for the adults to relax with a concert by Hot Club de Berne in the NL’s bistro. The Regenbogenfisch exhibition continued thereafter until 27 June 2015.

Annual meeting of EURIG
14.4.2015
The European RDA Interest Group (EURIG) is working to develop the new RDA cataloguing standard and adapt it to European conditions thereby promoting its use in Europe. The NL was chosen as the venue for its 2015 annual meeting, which was attended by 27 delegates from 18 countries.
29th Annual Meeting of the Conference of European National Librarians
18./19.5.2015
The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) was organised by the NL and held in Bern. On the day before the meeting, participants visited the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel. The conference itself, attended by the directors of national libraries from more than 30 European countries, took place on the two subsequent days in the Swiss Parliament building. Founded in 1987, the CENL is the most important organisation for collaboration between Europe’s national libraries.

Metagrid Kick-off
19.6.2015
The web service Metagrid aims to automatically link humanities resources from various databases relating to a person, place, institution or other entity. A project of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, it is implemented by the Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland with the support of the Historical Dictionary of Switzerland. The NL, which is a partner in the project, hosted the kick-off event.

Blick nach Süden: Italienbilder in der deutschsprachigen Literatur der Schweiz seit 1861 (Looking south: images of Italy in German-language Swiss literature since 1861)
3./4.9.2015
The Blick nach Süden conference marked the end of a research project by the Swiss Literary Archives and the Department of German at the University of Basel. Its topic was the contrasting images of Italy in German-language Swiss literature, from “earthly paradise” to “country of political upheavals”. A public soirée entitled Italien liegt in der Schweiz (Italy is in Switzerland) took place on the first evening. A discussion with the authors Dante Andrea Franzetti and Franco Supino, whose parents emigrated to Switzerland from Italy, introduced the topic to a wider audience.

European Heritage Days 2015: The Federal Archives of Historic Monuments open their doors to the public
12.9.2015
To mark 100 years of the Federal Commission for Monument Preservation (FCMP), the Prints and Drawings Department offered guided tours of the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments (FAHM). Architecture historians presented a selection of valuable original documents including plans, sketches, watercolours and photographs from the early days of the FCMP.

Time passes quickly on Long Sunday
18.10.2015
Every few years the NL organises a large-scale event for a wide audience which also includes a chance to look behind the scenes. On Long Sunday, invited guests explained how they created new works in, or thanks to, the NL. Simon Jäggi, the singer of the band Kummerbuben, revealed how he researched old Swiss songs in the NL, re-used them and is now interpreting them for
a contemporary audience. Wilfried Meichtry offered an insight into the genesis of his biography of Mani Matter, which drew on the resources of the SLA. An interactive presentation offered animated, three-dimensional images of artists’ books. Also on display was Gugelmann Galaxy, which was created at the cultural data hackathon in February. Leading the packed programme for children was Yakari. A section of the underground stacks was also opened up exclusively for the day.

**Paperworks – Literary and cultural practices using scissors, glue and paper**  
19./20.11.2015  
A conference at the Swiss Literary Archives was devoted to the subject of paper, a material whose demise has often been predicted in the digital age. *Paperworks* discussed the persistence of paper and examined the material’s special quality with particular reference to the process of writing literature. At the soirée *Bern ist mein Ursprung des Konkreten*, Eugen Gomringer talked about his development of concrete poetry, a literary practice on paper.

**Starobinski & Barthes: Meeting of the Cercle d’études internationales Jean Starobinski**  
25.11.2015  
The 2015 annual meeting of the *Cercle d’études internationales Jean Starobinski* took place at the University of Fribourg and looked at the topic of *Starobinski & Barthes*. Tiphaine Samoyault, Roland Barthes’s biographer, shed light on Barthes’s intellectual relationship to friends in Switzerland, including Albert Béguin, Jean Starobinski and Jean Rousset. She revealed that mutual critical examination formed an important part of that friendship.

**The Photobook and its Authors**  
Following *Unikat – Unicum*, the exhibition *The Photobook and its Authors* was devoted to another form of artists’ books. It presented photobooks from Swiss authors, photographers and publishers from 1990 onwards. On 27 November, experts from academia and practice gathered for a colloquium to discuss photobooks. As in the previous year, the exhibition and colloquium took place as part of the “Artists and Books (1880–2015). Switzerland as a Cultural Platform” research project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.

**Library Science Talk: Repositories: looking back and looking forward**  
1.12.2015  
Wolfram Horstmann, Director of the Göttingen State and University Library, gave a lecture on the history and future of repositories – document servers for the use and long-term archiving of electronic publications. The Library Science Talks have been held regularly in German-speaking Switzerland at the NL since 1998. From 2016 they will move to the Zurich Central Library. The second venue in Switzerland remains CERN in Geneva.
Notable Acquisitions

Monographs

Pre-1900


Tableau général des officiers, sous-officiers et soldats des régiments suisses licenciés en 1830, qui ont été admis à la pension de retraite ou au traitement de réforme: en exécution du traité conclu à Lucerne, le 22 avril 1831, entre la France et la Suisse, Paris, Ministère de la guerre, 1832.


Post-1900


Prints and Drawings Department

Archives and collections

DOMUS ANTIQUA HELVETICA: Founded in 1984, the Swiss association of owners of historical homes promotes the preservation of properties that are of historical and heritage value and their maintenance as living buildings. The association's archive was donated to the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments.

GACHNANG, Johannes: The publisher, exhibition organiser and former head of the Kunsthalle Bern maintained an extensive correspondence with the artists he promoted. The Prints and Drawings Department received from the Galerie Michael Neff the rich correspondence, primarily conducted via picture postcards, between Gachnang and Günther Förg. The archive now contains the correspondence of both parties. Václav Pozárek donated the Gachnang – Pozárek correspondence as well as various other documents.

GEKIÈRE, Madeleine (1919–2014): The archive of the Swiss artist, who lived in New York from 1940, contains works from the period 1950–2014. They include artists’ books, 30 small-format sketchbooks, 15 sketchbook objects and around 1000 drawings in various formats and techniques, together with 9 children’s books illustrated by the artist. (gift)

Editions, artists’ books, plates and drawings

BIEFERMANN, Johann Jakob, [Vie de la Ville de Lucerne]. Coloured outline etching, ca. 1796.

LOCHER, Jean Emmanuel, DINKEL, Markus, Recueil de portraits et costumes suisses les plus élégants; usités dans les 22 cantons accompagné d’un supplément; exécutés par le célèbre peintre et dessinateur Locher. Publié par J. P. Lamy, à Berne et Bâle, ca. 1820.
LORY, Gabriel “Fils”, [Ansicht der Alp Rosenlau mit Blick auf die Wellhorn und die Wetertorn]. Pencil and watercolour, ca. 1822.
Swiss Literary Archives

BURGER, Hermann (1942–1989): The Burger collection of Kurt Theodor Oehler, Burger’s friend from his youth, comprises work manuscripts, lectures, reviews, diary records, photographs, video and audio cassettes, lecture notes, journalistic works and personal items. The extensive collection of Burger’s letters, copies and drafts of letters as well as numerous letters to Burger includes, inter alia, his correspondence with Oehler.

CORNU, Charles (1927–2012): Numerous sets of letters and magazine articles on his work. (gift)

Urs ENGELE Editor publishers’ archive (1992–2011): The publishers’ archive of Urs Engeler Editor comprises a relatively complete collection of documents from the publishing activities spanning all the production processes for the entire fifteen-year period (1995–2010), including previous work on the journal Zwischen den Zeilen (1992–2011). The archive is from the EDP era in paper form, predominantly e-mail and text file printouts, but also includes handwritten documents and letters, photo prints, drafts, designs, models and newspaper cuttings.

HESSE, Hermann (1877–1962): 82 letters / postcards / picture postcards and 46 accompanying items (some letters and accompanying items with watercolours and/or dedications added) from the years 1937–1962 from Hermann Hesse to Trude Eisenmann. (gift of Ursula Looser, the daughter of Trude Eisenmann)

HOHL, Ludwig (1904–1980): The Ludwig Hohl holdings from the literary estate of Hanny Fries centre around several hundred letters from Hohl to his artist friend from the period 1940 to 1960, as well as a few originals and copies of work manuscripts and the author’s personal documents. There is also extensive documentation on Hohl compiled by Fries.

ILG, Paul (1875–1957): Manuscripts and letters. (gift of Margrith Wipf-Fornaro)

KÄGI, Markus (1955–1990): Kägi’s literary estate is preserved in its entirety. It illustrates the activities of the writer and theatre author in the form of numerous versions and notes on the individual works, and also contains Kägi’s extensive correspondence with Swiss authors and intellectuals.

KNUCHEL, Eduard Fritz (1891–1966): The collection complements the remainder of E. F. Knuchel’s autograph collection already in the SLA and comprises numerous letters and manuscripts from authors, all or part of whose holdings are already in the SLA; they include Cuno Amiet, Erika Burkart, Heinrich Federer, Hermann Hesse, Cécile Lauber, Hugo Marti, Gonzague de Reynold, Rainer Maria Rilke, J. R. von Salis, Carl Spitteler, Joseph Victor Widmann, Albert J. Welti and others. The collection also contains other letters from individuals whose documents are likewise held in various literary estates and archives, such as Carl J. Burckhardt, Max Frisch, Else Lasker-Schüler, Thomas Mann, Erika Mann and Charles-Ferdinand Ramuz.

MANN, Golo (1909–1994): Typewriter. (gift of the ETH Library, Thomas Mann Archive)

MERZ, Klaus (*1945): 57 original title vignettes for the publications of Klaus Merz. (gift of Heinz Egger)

MUSCHG, Adolf (*1934): Transfer of the works and documents from after 1999. The second part of the Adolf Muschg archive contains both the literary documents from after 1999 and the correspondence and documentation from the same period.
NAGEL, Renate: The private archive of the publisher Renate Nagel from the years 1983–1998 documents her activities as head of the Nagel & Kimche publishing house. It includes correspondence with authors, documents on the founding of the publishing house, speeches, diaries and trade fair memos, programme presentations, documents on representatives’ conferences and press activities, photos, model agreements and calculations, data on inventory management, extensive documentation on the history of the firm as well as its complete production. There are also two files with documents on the Benziger Verlag publishing house as well as parts of the publishing production overseen by Renate Nagel. (gift)

PEER, Oscar (1928–2013): The literary estate of Oscar Peer comprises manuscripts, typescripts and galley proofs of his literary works, notes, diaries, his correspondence, a collection of reviews, photographs from various periods of his life, audiovisual productions, some personal documents and objects, and digital copies of various works. (gift)

SCHEIDEGGER, Joseph (1929–2012): The collection mainly documents Joseph Scheidegger’s collaboration with various authors on radio and television projects in the form of typescripts and correspondence.
The NL now catalogues the names of authors in the combined authority file (GND). This is a further prerequisite for networking our databases with other information sources.

“Viva” project
The “Viva” project, which addresses the future management of association publications, moved from the concept phase to the realisation phase during the year in review. This will involve the development of processes from receipt through cataloguing to physical or electronic archiving, together with detailed rules on acquisition, cataloguing and preservation.

The project covers printed publications from associations, institutions and companies that are not commercially available through the book trade. Examples include activity reports, bylaws and brochures. Once the project is complete, the websites of the associations, institutions and companies will also be collected and incorporated into Web Archive Switzerland.

Acquisitions
The General Collection of the NL – the library holdings in the narrower sense – contained 4,505,046 units at the end of 2015 (2014: 4,436,219). The largest component is the 2,972,661 monographs, followed by the 878,006 volumes of journals and 484,653 prints, photographs and cards. The strongest growth was in online publications; these increased by around ten per cent year-on-year to 45,291 units (archive packages). The General Collection also contains sheet music (81,709), audiovisual documents (20,813) and publications on various storage media (20,916). The monographs and serials also include publications for the visually impaired in Braille. Since 1 January 2015 this part of the collection has been managed by the Swiss Library for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Print Disabled under the terms of a cooperation agreement.13

At the end of 2015 the Swiss Literary Archives contained 353 (341)14 archives and literary estates. The Prints and Drawings Department contained 80 individual collections, while the associated Federal Archives of Historic Monuments held some 1.2 million individual documents.15

Important aids to acquisition include the ISBN16 for monographs and the ISSN17 for serials. The latter marked 40 years since its creation in 2015. The NL has been responsible for issuing ISSNs in Switzerland since 1995.

Catalogues
Helveticat, the catalogue of printed and electronic library holdings, comprised 1,653,752 bibliographic records at the end of 2015 (2014: 1,616,879), the Bibliography on Swiss History (BSH) 104,450 (99,185) and the Swiss Poster Catalogue 80,105 (77,170). The HelveticArchives archive database comprised 446,371 records (370,099). As in previous years, the strong growth of just under 21% reflects the increased cataloguing of the archive holdings. Collection level descriptions have now been added for all special collections.

Helveticat, the BSH and the Poster Catalogue are operated using the software Virtua. Its user interface had to be replaced for technical reasons, and this caused difficulties for some users. They had to get used to the new search method, and the tool also experienced some teething troubles. Once these had been resolved, the advantages of the new interface came to the fore, including the option for a faceted search, permalinks and a user-friendly version for mobile devices.
Great progress was made in networking the library holdings, thanks to the standardisation of cataloguing and collaboration with related institutions on specialist matters.

The GND was introduced for formal indexing of the library holdings in mid-2015; it has been used for subject indexing since 2013. The NL is actively involved in further development of the GND, creating between 600 and 700 new authority files each month. They are indexed in accordance with the RDA\textsuperscript{18} regulations, which the NL is also involved in developing and adapting to European conditions. For this reason, the European interest group EURIG held its 2015 annual meeting at the NL.

Authority files and permalinks allow the NL’s content to be linked to external databases. Via Helveticat and the BSH, the NL is participating in the Metagrid project.\textsuperscript{19} The BSH is now also linked to the Law Sources Foundation.\textsuperscript{20} The Rechtsquellen Online\textsuperscript{21} portal links directly to the relevant bibliographical entries in the BSH.

**Preservation and conservation**

In all, 38,203 new acquisitions underwent conservation treatment during 2015 (2014: 44,976), 3,758 protective covers were manufactured (3,762) and 329 publications were repaired (278).

The mass paper deacidification process was completed at the NL in 2014. ISO Standard ISO/TC 46/SC 10 on the effectiveness of deacidification processes was adopted in 2015. The NL contributed its experience to the development of this standard, and the international working group met this year at the NL.

While the deacidification standard is new, internationally recognised standards for the preservation of analogue photographs have existed since the 1990s. The NL holds some 1.5 million photographs, spread among its various collections. Conserving them is a priority for the next few years. A study compiled during the year in review offers a detailed overview of the current standards. It forms the basis for developing a process that is appropriate to the NL’s collections and practicable with the available resources.

**Digital Collection**

As in the previous year, the digital collection roughly doubled in size. The amount of storage space occupied rose from 5.3 TB to 10.0 TB. In all, 80,016 publications\textsuperscript{22} were available at the end of 2015 (2014: 54,070). Approximately half of these are digitally born publications, many of them websites. The remainder are digitised versions of printed works, predominantly monographs.

The spectrum of the collection is continually being broadened. Since 2015, technical refinements have enabled large websites to be collected as well. The number of archived websites also rose during the year, thanks to the introduction of partially automated quality control, which enabled the processing time from collection to archiving of a website to be shortened. The web platform e-Helvetica Deposit was also built up; from early 2016, this should allow self-publishers and small publishers to submit their e-books.

18 Resource Description and Access
19 See p. 7 and www.metagrid.ch.
20 www.ssq-ads-fds.ch
21 www.rechtsquellen-online.zh.ch
22 Items excluding bibliographic records.
User Services

Some 2500 images from the Gugelmann collection are available on Wikimedia Commons. Following a relaunch, the Swiss Press Online portal is now easier to use.

Circulation

The number of active users rose for the second year in succession. In total, 6247 people used the NL’s collections on site during the year in review (2014: 5679). Also on site, the library’s circulation service recorded 4735 different users during the year (4305), the Prints and Drawings Department (PDD) 601 (548) and the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) 911 (826). Despite the increase in user numbers, the number of items lent out fell from 76 121 to 69 605. This trend can be seen in the library among both loans of original documents (2014: 66 149; 2015: 60 019) and microfilms (2014: 6655; 2015: 6179). The decline in the SLA from 2326 to 2162 archive boxes lent out is a reflection not of reduced demand but of more efficient processes. In the PDD, loans increased from 991 to 1248 units. The figure is almost double that in 2013.

User cards have been adapted to comply with the Bibliopass standard. This makes it easier for those registered with the NL to use the libraries affiliated to Bibliopass.

Information Retrieval

For the first time in some years, information and research requests rose once again, to a total of 20 075 (2014: 17 941, 2013: 17 933). The increase affected all areas. In addition to the increase in the Prints and Drawings Department and the Swiss Literary Archives, this was mainly due to two technical changes. Firstly, many users required an explanation of the new user interface of the catalogues. Secondly, anyone wishing to use the WLAN must now request a personal password.

A new offering was introduced in the form of full access to the Swissdox database, which allows users to access articles from the Swiss press free of charge.

Outreach

Digitised content

The collaboration with the Wikimedia Switzerland association which began in 2014 was continued. At the end of 2015, 3741 images were online on Wikimedia Commons,23 all in high resolution. The largest group are some 2500 images from the Gugelmann collection of “Schweizer Kleinmeister”. Wikipedia articles containing images from the NL were accessed around 1.3 million times, compared with just under 0.5 million times in 2014.

Following a relaunch, the Swiss Press Online portal24 is now easier to use. At the end of the year, thirty newspaper titles were available. There is now a “Switzerland” section for multi-regional titles. Zug became the latest canton represented in 2015. A total of 17 titles were placed online during the year in review, including Die Tat (1935–1976) and the Neuchâtel newspaper L’Esr (1906 to today). In the absence of a very well known new title, accesses fell from 83 549 to 59 295. Some 53 titles from the NL are available on retro.seals.ch,25 the national platform for digitised periodicals, representing 15% of the platform’s entire content. Eleven of the titles were added during the year in review. The most important, and the one for which demand is highest, is Nebelspalter, the first 100 years (1875–1974) of which are available. One of the most beautiful is Cratschla: Informationen aus dem Schweizer Nationalpark (1992–2013). More recent years of both titles are to follow.

23 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Media_contributed_by_the_Swiss_National_Library
24 www.swisspressarchives.ch
25 http://retro.seals.ch
Sprachspiegel is available from 1945 to the present, though the most recent 24 months are blocked from online consultation. In all, 22,118 (or around 5.7 per thousand) of our 3,850,667 volumes of books, newspapers and periodicals were available online at the end of 2015. That corresponds to around 12.1 million pages (2015: 11.2 million).

Website and social media
Visits to the website www.nb.admin.ch fell from 527,204 to 515,249. The NL’s German Twitter feed had 1282 followers at the end of 2015 (2014: 984), while the French feed had 996 (797). The number of Facebook fans remained stable, at a little over 10,000 (German) and 8000 (French). The NL reaches over 4000 people (German) and 3000 (French) unpaid per month (2014: approximately 7000 each).

Catalogues
For the first time in a number of years, reliable usage figures are available for the library catalogues running on Virtua (Helveticat, Poster Catalogue, Periodicals Catalogue and Bibliography on Swiss History) in 2015. A total of 571,216 visits were recorded during the year. Research requests to the HelveticArchives archive database rose from 133,514 to 146,583.

Reproductions
In 2015, 2681 photographs (2014: 4991), 26,293 (37,422) copies and 152 (148) e-books on demand were produced on behalf of customers. The large fluctuations in the numbers in this area are normal. For some time, the NL has been experimenting with the production of three-dimensional data. The first visible result was a three-dimensional projection of artists’ books during Long Sunday,26 which visitors could view from all sides using hand movements.

Cultural offerings
A total of 9387 people visited an exhibition or attended an event, guided tour or course at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN; 2014: 10,772); the figure for the NL was 8722 (10,375). The CDN celebrated the Année Dürrenmatt.27 Bern hosted two major events – Museums Night and the Sunday open day entitled “Langer Sonntag – Kurze Weile” (Time passes quickly on Long Sunday) – which attracted visitors who do not otherwise come to the NL. A web app for mobile devices was developed for Long Sunday, offering an insight into the various collections.28

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26 See below and p. 7.
27 See p. 6 and p. 19.
28 http://nationalbibliothek.ch, in the App Store and on Google Play
Prints and Drawings Department

There are now collection level descriptions for all the holdings in HelveticArchives. The Gugelmann collection and the Daniel Spoerri archive are being catalogued in detail. An exhibition and a colloquium explore the photobook as artists’ book.

Artists’ books

The second exhibition and colloquium within the research project “Artists and Books (1880–2015). Switzerland as a Cultural Platform” were devoted to the photobook.29 The project is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. It is being conducted by the University of Lausanne and the Prints and Drawings Department (PDD), and is scheduled for completion at the end of 2016. The results will then be documented in a publication. The in-depth research has also prompted the NL to expand its collection area of artists’ books with the acquisition of unique editions, zines and photobooks.

Collection

Important new acquisitions in the PDD include not just the artists’ books but also the archive of the Domus Antiqua Helvetica association and the artist Madeleine Gekiere as well as works by the Schweizer Kleinmeister.30 The latter were acquired thanks to the Stiftung Graphica Helvetica, which also awards a three-year research grant for cataloguing of the Kleinmeister collection. Although few concrete results are available as yet, this project has already met with considerable interest in the specialist community. Switzerland’s prints and drawings collections that include Schweizer Kleinmeister have come together in a working group headed by the PDD. Interest in this characteristic art of the late 18th and early 19th centuries has also spread to universities, which are including them in their research and teaching.

In addition to cataloguing, the NL is also digitising and valorising the albums, portfolios and panoramas of the Rudolf and Annemarie Gugelmann collection, one of the most important collections of Schweizer Kleinmeister, again with support from the Stiftung Graphica Helvetica. Some 2500 individual works have already been digitised and have been available in HelveticArchives and on Wikimedia Commons since the start of 2015.31 A further important holding that is available on both platforms is the approximately 1350 photos from the Max van Berchem collection, depicting places and buildings in the period around 1900.32

The second major cataloguing project launched in 2015 aims to make the artists’ archive of Daniel Spoerri ready for use.

The holdings of the PDD and the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments have been catalogued with collection level descriptions since 2014; by the end of 2015 these had also been extended to the special collections. This means that the entire breadth of the PDD is described in the NL, at least in summary form. Regrettably, the condition of the special collections means they cannot be made available for use for the time being.

User Services

Progress in cataloguing is having an impact on user services. The number of active users rose from 548 to 601, the number of units lent out from 991 to 1248. Information and research requests rose only marginally, to 953 compared with 937 in the previous year. These figures reflect use on site. The strong presence on Wikimedia Commons allows for broad online usage.33

29 See p. 8.
30 For notable acquisitions see p. 10.
31 https://www.helveticarchives.ch/detail.aspx?id=160780
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:CH-NB-Colllection_Gugelmann
32 https://www.helveticarchives.ch/parametersuche.aspx?DeskriptorId=200579
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:CH-NB-Max_van_Berchem
33 On the use of the NL’s Wikipedia content, see p. 15.
In addition to significant new acquisitions, the Hermann Burger and Emmy Hennings edition projects as well as two conferences were the main features of the year. A calendar for the 2016 anniversary year contains photographic presentations showcasing the breadth of the collection.

Collection
The list of new acquisitions34 contains the archive of an important publishing house (Urs Engeler Editor) and the private archive of an important publisher, Renate Nagel. Other highlights include the literary estates of Markus Kägi and Joseph Scheidegger and the gift of the literary estate of Oscar Peer. There have also been significant additions to existing archives and literary estates, including the second part of the Adolf Muschg archive, Ludwig Hohl’s correspondence from the literary estate of Hanny Fries, and Kurt Theodor Oehler’s collection on Hermann Burger.

The Index of manuscript collections held in libraries and archives in Switzerland included 353 literary estates and archives from the SLA, twelve more than a year earlier. Cataloguing is supported by public funding, the Society for the Swiss Literary Archives and the Christoph Geiser Stiftung, which provide grants for this purpose. There were 150 online inventories at the end of 2015 (2014: 131).

User Services
The number of active users rose from 826 to 911, while user requests for information and research increased from 3366 to 3508. The number of archive boxes lent out fell from 2326 to 2162 – a sign not of declining interest, but rather of more efficient administration.

Literary soirées for a wider audience, in some cases as the evening programme for a research event, also formed part of the outreach offering in 2015. In the Beide Seiten – Autoren und Wissenschaftler im Gespräch series, the Paperworks conference examined "literary practices with scissors, glue and paper". The guest author was Eugen Gomringer. In association with the University of Basel, the research project "Blick nach Süden: Italienbilder in der deutschsprachigen Literatur der Schweiz seit 1861" (Looking south: images of Italy in German-language Swiss literature since 1861) closed with a conference. One outcome of this project is the volume In und um Italien with texts by Heinrich Federer. Klaus Merz offered his thoughts on the final authorised version at a soirée with editor Markus Bundi marking completion of the edition of Merz’s works.

The cooperation between the SLA and the Cologne Centre for eHumanities on the editio princeps of Hermann Burger’s first novel Lokalbericht was extended for a further half-year by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Extensive work was carried out on the five-volume annotated study edition of the works of Emmy Hennings, the first volume of which is published in 2016. A double issue of Quarto, the journal of the Swiss Literary Archives, was devoted to Peter Bichsel on his 80th birthday; it was presented to him at a soirée attended by the authors of the issue. The SLA presented its friends – and itself – with a gift in the form of schreiben – écrire – scrivere – scriver, a two-week calendar with photographic presentations for the year 2016 – the year in which the SLA celebrates its 25th birthday.
2015 was dominated by *L’Année Dürrenmatt – A la (re)découverte d’un Suisse universel* ((Re)discovering a Swiss figure of global importance), which marked the 25th anniversary of Friedrich Dürrenmatt’s death and fifteen years of the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN). The CDN received 9387 visitors during the year.

An extensive programme at the CDN and other locations highlighted the various facets of Friedrich Dürrenmatt, the cosmopolitan Swiss writer and painter.

After an absence of one and a half years, the exhibition *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – écrivain et peintre* was reinstalled and complemented with some rarely shown works. *Friedrich Dürrenmatt à Neuchâtel* examined the links between the writer and painter and his adopted home town, in particular with a previously unpublished film of testimonies. It was followed by a contemporary art exhibition *Sebastien Verdon – Ciels* on the topic of the cosmos, a key theme in Dürrenmatt’s work.

Celebrations were held in September to mark fifteen years of the CDN, in the presence of Mario Botta and featuring the première of the creation *Ad Astra* composed by Oliver Waespi and played by the Nouvel ensemble contemporain. December saw the commemoration of twenty-five years since Dürrenmatt’s death with a concert by his daughter Ruth Dürrenmatt and the inauguration of the *Salon Dürrenmatt*.

Numerous events took place, notably including guided tours, a round table as part of the Printemps Culturel with Mahmoud Hosseini Zad, who has translated Friedrich Dürrenmatt into Persian, concerts, conferences in partnership with the Jardin Botanique and the Société neuchâteloise d’astronomie, a literary walk in the footsteps of Dürrenmatt in the Biel area and a small exhibition at the Musée d’art et d’histoire in Neuchâtel.

Another high point of the year was the collaboration between the CDN and the magazine *Du* on a lavishly illustrated edition devoted to Friedrich Dürrenmatt supported by the Charlotte Kerr Dürrenmatt-Stiftung.

The CDN also collaborated in various events at other venues, including a study day at the Fondation Bodmer in Cologny, a soirée entitled *Dürrenmatt l’africain* with the Université populaire africaine, previews of the film *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – une histoire d’amour* by Sabine Gisiger in Neuchâtel and La Chaux-de-Fonds, and a stage reading at the Theater(uri) in Altdorf. The events proved highly popular with audiences, demonstrating that Dürrenmatt’s work remains as powerful as ever twenty-five years after his death. *L’Année Dürrenmatt* also received excellent coverage in the national media, and was reported in the Italian and German press.

The CDN received 9387 visitors, a good attendance for the year. Prominent among them were Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter and his counterparts from Germany, Austria and Liechtenstein.

The year was one of taking stock for the CDN, but also of deliberations that have led to innovative new channels of development. They include a project which will provide a synoptic view of the biography, work and influence of Dürrenmatt around the world.
Finances

Budget and Expenditures 2014/2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual 2014</th>
<th>Budget 2015</th>
<th>Actual 2015</th>
<th>Difference Act15–Bud15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff expenses</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material expenses</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>-1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating income</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding requirement (federal funds)</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-financing level</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Subsidy to Swiss National Sound Archives</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With increased expenditures of around CHF 100,000, the funding requirement was virtually the same as in the previous year, and CHF 0.4 million below budget. At an average of 126.0 full time equivalents for the year as a whole, headcount was the same as in 2014. Staff expenses were around CHF 0.8 million over budget. This additional expense was more than compensated for by a reduction of CHF 1.2 million in material expenses.

Funding Requirement by Product 2013-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquisitions</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalogues</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation and Conservation</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Retrieval</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>36.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While the costs for acquisitions, circulation and information retrieval remained practically unchanged, expenditure on preservation and conservation declined, while expenditure on catalogues increased. This reflects a shift of priorities. With the mass deacidification of paper documents now complete, the funds freed up are being used to catalogue holdings that have previously been poorly accessible, primarily in the Prints and Drawings Department.
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As of 31 December 2015

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Cover pages: More than 1700 people made their way to the NL on 18 October 2015 for Long Sunday.

Perfect for children: the Lupine puppet theatre and Yakari were a hit with our youngest visitors.

The band “Kummerbuben” from Bern drew inspiration for some of their songs from the National Library.

Director Marie-Christine Doffey talks to chef Simon Apothéloz about “verjus”, a special juice that Apothéloz discovered in the Médiathèque Valais.