



# Swiss National Library 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Report 2019



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA  
**Swiss National Library NL**



Unveiling the stamp marking the 100th anniversary of Carl Spitteler's Nobel Prize in Literature



Designer Bea Würzler from Bern signing the Carl Spitteler stamp



Bärndütschi dialect chansons with deeper meanings by Noti Wümié, aka Benjamin „Toni“ Noti and Grégoire „Greis“ Vuilleumier



On Museum Night, the historic reading room became a racing track for drones



View of the exhibition „Martin Disler – Rituels oubliés“ at the CDN



„Chamanisme sibérien et musique d'ici en dialogue“ performance at the CDN

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<http://www.nb.admin.ch/annual-report>

## Key Figures

	2018	2019
<b>Swiss literary output</b>		
Books published in Switzerland	10 262	15 656 <sup>1</sup>
Non-commercial publications	5 425	5 914

### Collection

Collections holdings: publications (in million units)	4.75	4.81
Collections holdings – Prints and Drawings Department: Federal Archives of Historic Monuments (in million units, estimates)	1.2	1.2
Collections holdings – Prints and Drawings Department (excluding Federal Archives of Historic Monuments), individual collections	83	85
Swiss Literary Archives: archives and literary estates	392	408
Swiss National Sound Archives, number of audio carriers (incl. audio media in historical holdings and collections) <sup>2</sup>	approx. 500 000	approx. 505 000
Swiss National Sound Archives, historical holdings and collections (number of collections)	175	176

### Catalogues

Helveticat, total bibliographic records	1 796 232	1 832 595
HelveticArchives, total records	654 825	680 212
Swiss Poster Catalogue, total bibliographic records	89 977	91 607
Swiss Literary Archives, online inventories	227	247
Swiss National Sound Archives, total records (catalogued audio documents)	302 220	303 092

### User services

Active users	6 484	6 119
Individual loans (loaned documents)	65 382	76 972
Information retrievals	19 513	19 629
Number of visits to www.nb.admin.ch <sup>2</sup>	183 655	158 845
Number of visits to www.fonoteca.ch	2 009 533	2 010 474
Number of visitors at exhibitions, guided tours, events, training sessions	19 792	20 589

### Resources

Employees (full-time equivalents, annual average)	143.4	145.7
Operating expenses (in millions of CHF) <sup>3</sup>	36.2	36.5
Operating income (in millions of CHF)	0.8	0.8

1 Of these, over 6000 are published by Springer Verlag.

2 Estimate.

3 The decrease in expenses is due to delays to certain projects and resources not used following the release of earmarked reserves.

## Towards the future: the NL's strategy 2020–2028

The NL's strategy for the years 2020–2028 is aligned with the strategic priorities set out in the Federal Office of Culture's Culture Dispatch. It focuses on the challenges of digital transformation and the role of Switzerland's digital memory, incorporates the expectations of the players concerned, and takes a broad range of perspectives into account.

### A participatory process in which the NL concentrates on its strengths

In 2019 the NL, in agreement with the Directorate of the FOC, decided to develop its new strategy by means of an interactive, iterative process moderated by external parties. The aim was to enhance consistency and relevance by incorporating numerous outside perspectives as well as the hopes and expectations of our partners. Representatives of university and cantonal libraries, Bibliomedica, Bibliosuisse and the NL Commission, as well as representatives of all age groups and disciplines, attended themed workshops at which they worked together with NL staff from all levels of the hierarchy. The main focus of the discussions was the role of memory institutions today and the digital transformation.

Many areas that are among the NL's strengths were emphasised and will be at the heart of our activities in future: trust in the institution thanks to the reliability of its sources, the quality of its work, and the richness and breadth of its analogue and digital collections; preserving and securing the digital and digitised collection; large-scale archiving of Swiss websites; providing tools to allow the population to participate in expanding the collections; national coordination on issues of library science; access to the collections both on site at the NL and by facilitating digital availability; and cultural mediation with partners both established and new.

### The building context: strategic objectives for an initial period up to 2023

In addition to this input and an analysis of the key trends shaping the social, political and economic realities of the 21st century – such as digital transformation and globalisation – the NL also considered the building context within which it operates.

As mentioned in the 2018 report, a complete renovation of the NL has proven to be necessary. This major project will extend over a number of years (from 2023 to 2027/8) and will involve relocating the entire NL and FOC, including all the workplaces and infrastructure. Only the collections will remain in the two underground stacks. The NL and FOC will move for a number of years to the building currently occupied by the Federal Office of Information Technology at Monbijoustrasse 74, in Bern.

Consultations on renovation of the building have also commenced with the Federal Office of Construction and Logistics (FOCL). This major project for a library of the future to meet the needs and expectations of its users will require funding from Parliament. As far as possible, thinking on the vision for a museum quarter in Bern that is currently under development will be integrated into our project.

In view of the constraints imposed by our building situation, we decided to define a strategy for the period 2020–2028. However, our strategic objectives are limited to the years 2020–2023. Beyond that date, we will have to formulate new objectives that take account of the choices made regarding renovation of the future building which will, inevitably, have an impact on the achievement of our strategic objectives.

### A new strategy: continuity and some new priorities

Our mission is based on our existing legal mandate and remains unchanged:



Marie-Christine Doffey,  
Director

## **The Swiss National Library: sources from Switzerland for the world – accessible anywhere and to everyone**

Our vision is then subdivided into three main areas, each corresponding to a strategic objective.

### **Collecting today what is important for tomorrow**

Switzerland's cultural, political and social life is mirrored in a wide variety of publications, whose forms are changing rapidly with the digital transformation. The NL aims to acquire today the documents that will remain important tomorrow. As a reliable, durable and representative heritage institution, it is the global centre of reference for documents relating to Switzerland. Its collections reflect the nation's diversity. Alongside texts, images and audio documents in traditional formats, the NL welcomes selected other forms of publication. It swiftly integrates digital and analogue documents into its collections and databases, so that information producers can easily deliver their products.

### **Facilitating access to the collections and enabling the population to participate**

The NL serves the entire Swiss population. It encourages reflection on Switzerland and enables an appreciation and understanding of the nation's diversity. Its offering aims to encourage the broadest and most sophisticated participation possible in Switzerland's documentary heritage. Its content is easy to find and simple to use. It adds value to its collections by placing them in the relevant contexts.

A society lives from exchanges and encounters. The NL's collections and premises combine the analogue and digital worlds while creating space for inspiration and innovation. The NL's collections bring people together. Its premises and virtual spaces are venues for research, exchange, training, leisure and knowledge transfer. To foster an ongoing process of reflection on the nation's memory, it creates novel experiences and encourages new discoveries. The NL is at home throughout Switzerland: at its emblematic and easily accessible site in Bern, at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel and at the National Sound Archives in Lugano.

### **Developing the library of the future, promoting coordination and sharing knowledge**

The digital transformation is changing users' needs and opening up new ways of exploiting content. To meet the demands of our age, the NL enters into targeted partnerships and values flexibility. It develops new mediation offerings that make use of state-of-the-art technology and well-matched partnerships. It strengthens interactions with users and partner organisations. In so doing, it grasps the opportunities of the digital transformation and responds proactively to the needs and expectations arising from it. It actively involves users. In all its main areas of activity, it maintains and develops valuable relationships with actors both established and new. Switzerland's memory is founded on close cooperation between libraries, archives, museums and research institutions. The NL therefore supports effective national and international coordination among the various actors concerned.

To continue systematically developing Switzerland's memory and conserve it for the long term, the NL assumes a coordinating role in the general interest of the country, acting as a reliable and dedicated partner. In certain selected areas, it also takes on a leadership role. The NL operates as part of a network with its international partners and shares its expertise. It also brings a Swiss perspective to the drafting of international standards in the sector.

The complete text of the strategy, which also includes the strategic objectives, can be viewed on our website <https://www.nb.admin.ch/snl/en/home/about-us/mandate/tasks.html>.

Marie-Christine Doffey  
Director

## Main Events – a Selection

### Von oben. Spelterinis Ballon und die Drohne

28.2.–28.6.2019

Eduard Schweizer (1852–1931) undertook some 570 balloon flights in Europe, Africa and the Middle East under the pseudonym Eduard Spelterini. They made him one of the world's most famous aviation pioneers.

The exhibition took Spelterini's photographs from the National Library's Department of Prints and Drawings as the starting point for a history of aerial photography in Switzerland. Originated by enterprising pioneers in the century before last, the medium has now been opened up to anyone with the advent of drones. Historical images, a virtual-reality balloon flight, photographs taken from aeroplanes and satellites as well as drone images enabled visitors to see the world from a different perspective.

### Museum Night. From above

22.3.2019

The theme of Museum Night 2019 was ascents and descents. Right on time and in wonderful spring weather, *luminéoles* – fantastic birds filled with light – drifted across Bundesplatz on their graceful wings. The air was filled with the sound of auto engines as 90 classic cars rumbled through the streets of the old town, while coaches drawn by two horses trundled through the park of the city's History Museum. The Swiss National Library staged a spectacular drone show.

### “Lieb mich von allen Sünden rein“

24.4.2019

A century ago, the writer Emmy Hennings spent almost two years living in Bern. While the city was only her temporary home, this period nevertheless marked a turning point in her life. Her artistic work still has great appeal today. A soirée celebrated the literary oeuvre of Emmy Hennings and placed it in the context of modern-day trends in literature. Heidi Maria Glössner, the “grande dame” of Swiss theatre and film, read from Hennings' poems and prose. The author Ariane von Graffenried, who received the Canton of Bern Prize for Literature for her most recent book “Babylon Park” (2017), presented some texts and talked about her relationship to Emmy Hennings.

### Swiss Reading-Aloud Day

22.5.2019

Swiss Reading-Aloud Day is an annual event across the nation that highlights the importance of reading aloud and the ways in which it inspires and brings communities together. To mark the event, the NL invited Noelia Berberat (@noeliavid) to read from J. K. Rowling's “Harry Potter” novels. The Instagrammer, who is known for her self-irony and quirky humour, attributes her vivid imagination and sensibility to her mother who, every evening, would read to her from children's books in Italian or make up her own stories before her daughter went to sleep. Noelia wants every child to grow up with good stories.



Image-recording technologies past and present



View of the exhibition gallery from above



The drone kept the exhibition in view the whole time



Late-night museum visitors at the entrance to the National Library

## Panel discussion on aerial images and democracy

20.6.2019

Since the turn of the millennium, photos and films taken using drones have not only been documenting wars but have also found their way into holiday albums and Instagram accounts around the world. They enable people to take spectacular images with little effort and prior knowledge, opening up entirely new perspectives in the process. But what does this democratisation of aerial imagery mean for our society? Where are drone images taken in Switzerland? How are they used? Who profits from them? Who needs to protect themselves, and what is the potential of these pilotless flying objects?

The panel discussion brought together Markus Höpflinger (Research Director, armasuisse), Max Jablonowski (Department of Social Anthropology, University of Zurich), Francisco Klauser (Director of the Institute of Geography, University of Neuchâtel) and Ina Neddermeyer (Head of the Art Department, Zeppelin Museum). It was moderated by Eliane Leiser of SRF 4 News.



Children had the chance to release balloons on Museum Night

## “Ediziuns e reediziuns grischunas – problems e propostas”

30.–31.8.2019

At a conference organised at the University of Fribourg by Matthias Grünert and Renzo Caduff from the University’s Romansh studies programme in association with Annetta Ganzoni from the Swiss Literary Archives, speakers from three generations discussed current publishing projects involving texts from Graubünden. The lively and constructive exchange dealt with publications of historical manuscripts and books, as well as new editions of poetry and prose from the 19th and 20th centuries. Author and linguist Dumenic Andry offered his own satirical take on the topic.

## Wikimedia CH invited to the National Sound Archives

25.–27.10.2019

The biggest event held at the Swiss National Sound Archives in 2019 was “GLAM on Tour” (25–27 October). To mark UNESCO World Day for Audiovisual Heritage on 27 October, the Archives issued an invitation to Wikimedia CH. Over three days of total immersion, the “Wikimedians” were given an introduction to the history of recording technology and an insight into the countless audio documents held by the Archives, which are an invaluable record of our cultural identity. This was an intensive and exciting weekend during which the Wikimedia members learnt about the cultural heritage in audio form preserved by the Archives through presentations, guided tours and guest lectures.



Bettina Gugger reading from “Ministerium der Liebe” in the National Library Director’s office

## “Zur Aktualität von Spittlers Texten. Komparatistische Perspektiven. Quelle actualité pour Spitteler? Perspectives comparatives”

31.10/1.11.2019

To mark 100 years since Carl Spitteler was awarded the Nobel Prize, Thomas Hunkeler, Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Fribourg, and Stefanie Leuenberger, head of the Spitteler anniversary programme project, offered a new reading of Spitteler's texts. The event formed part of the annual conference of the Swiss Society for General and Comparative Literary Studies (SGAVL). Bern-based author Beat Sterchi also presented his readings of Spitteler.

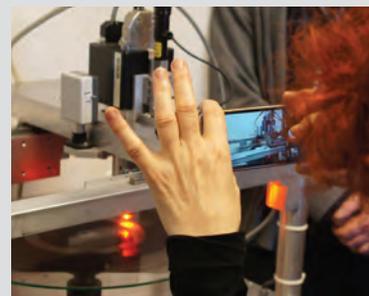


Instagrammer Noelia Berberat reading from Harry Potter

## “Briefe im Netzwerk / Lettres dans la toile”

7.–8.11.2019

This international colloquium in German and French analysed and presented correspondence networks and literary archives of the 20th century. The lectures focused on theoretical and methodological issues of network research as well as the correspondence of Blaise Cendrars, Jean Paulhan, Marcel Proust, Gustave Roud, the Geneva School, Heinrich Mann, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Rainer Maria Rilke and Siegfried Unseld. It was accompanied by a reading and a performance from the private correspondence of Le Corbusier.



GLAM on Tour. Wikimedia visits the National Sound Archives (photo: Miriam Bolliger Cavaglieri)

## “Jean Starobinski et Georges Poulet”

26.11.2019

Moderation and presentation: Stéphanie Cudré-Mauroux and Marta Sábado Novau. The 2019 meeting of the Cercle d'études Jean Starobinski took place in Belgium at the Université catholique de Louvain on 26 November. Its topic was “Jean Starobinski and Georges Poulet: a critical friendship”, and it featured talks by Bruno Clément, Stéphanie Cudré-Mauroux, Marta Sábado Novau, Pierre Schoentjes and Julien Zanetta. It was a collaboration between the Cercle d'études internationales Jean Starobinski (ALS) and the Institut des Civilisations, Arts et Lettres, Université catholique de Louvain.

## Paul Nizon at the NL

4.12.2019

The writer Paul Nizon celebrated his 90th birthday on 19 December 2019. To mark the occasion, Quarto devoted its 47th issue to his fascinating life and extensive oeuvre. It also presented his archive, which was delivered to the SLA in a number of consignments and has now been catalogued in a detailed online directory. In an event that Paul Nizon himself attended and took part in, Reto Sorg, Silvia Henke and Pino Dietiker honoured his life and work. It was accompanied by the vernissage of the Quarto issue.



Beat Sterchi reading at the Spitteler evening

## Notable Acquisitions

### Monographs

#### Pre-1900

*Album des Rheins*, Ill. F. HIRCHENHEIN und J. L. RÜDISÜHLI, Mainz, Verlags-Eigenthum der Buch- und Kunsthandlung von D. Kapp, [1860?].

GÉLIEU, *Jonas de*, *Der neuere Bienenzüchter oder die Verbindung der Nuttschen Art mit der früher gepflegten Methode der Bienenzucht*, Mülhausen, Druck und Verlag von J.P. Rissler, 1842.

LEUTHOLD, Hans Felix, *Souvenir de Zurich et de ses environs*, Zurich, H. F. Leuthold, Editeur, [1830?].

SNELL, Anna, *Aline ou la chaumière suisse*, Rouen, Mégard et Cie, libraires-éditeurs, 1890.

ZUNDEL, H., *Neues illustriertes schweizerisches Kochbuch für die bürgerliche Küche wie den feineren Tisch*, Zürich, Druck und Verlag von Friedrich Schulthess, 1876.

#### Post-1900

BRÉVOT, Béatrice, GRANGIER-DURANDARD, Catherine, *La vie a quelque chose du vide entre chaque battement d'ailes de papillon*, Lyon, Atelier Chalopin, 2019.

BRUN, Albi, *Merk- und denkwürdige Fortbewegungsmittel*, Chur, Eigenverlag Albi Brun, 2018.

HOFMANN, Hans, *Hornussen*, Bern, Stämpfli Verlag, 2019.

PFENNINGER, Prolitheus, *Wenn das Leben ruft*, Baden, edition b, 2019.

*Fête des vigneronns 2019*, 2 vols., Vevey, Confrérie des vigneronns, 2019.

HÄFELIN, Ulrich, HALLER, Walter, KELLER, Helen, THURNHERR, Daniela, *Schweizerisches Bundesstaatsrecht*, Georgian translation: Giorgi JIMSHELADZE, Tbilissi, National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, 2019.



*La vie a quelque chose du vide entre chaque battement d'ailes de papillon*, 2019



*Album des Rheins*, ca. 1860



*Schweizerisches Bundesstaatsrecht*, Georgian translation, 2019

## Prints and Drawings Department

LANDRY, Stéphan: artist's archive.

The archives of Stéphan Landry (1960, Yverdon-les-Bains – 2010, Lausanne) contain the entirety of his sketchbooks and preparatory drawings for his artist's books, from his early days as an artist, the various notebooks and sketches preceding the famous artist's books produced in Rome as well as documentation in the form of invitation cards and exhibition catalogues.

LUGINBÜHL, Bernhard: partial archive.

The gift comprises a collection of 287 artist's books published by Bernard Luginbühl in the form of diaries in various formats; 100 artist posters; and Luginbühl's artist correspondence, comprising ten federal files and six boxes.

STAUFFER, Doris: partial archive.

The addition to the archive of Serge and Doris Stauffer documents the life and work of Doris Stauffer. She was a photographer who taught at the Zurich School of Arts and Crafts and later at the F+F school, and was a co-founder of the women's liberation movement in Zurich. The partial archive of Doris Stauffer, the wife of Serge Stauffer whose archive was acquired by the Prints and Drawings Department in 2013, documents her oeuvre, which in all its many and varied facets has profoundly influenced the life and work of many young female artists.

WELTI, Albert: complete graphic prints.

Dr. h.c. Eberhard W. Kornfeld donated to the Prints and Drawings Department a collection of graphic prints by Albert Welte (1862–1912) comprising 108 sheets. Welte's graphic prints are among the most important in the form in Switzerland. Today, Albert Welte is best known for his mural "The Cantonal Assembly" in the Council of States chamber of the Federal Parliament building, which he painted together with Wilhelm Balmer.

DODELL, Benjamin: edition.

Benjamin Dodell, Bern. Artist's editions (chiefly works on paper) with Swiss artists of the Generation 1980 plus, since 2013.

HAUS AM GERN: editions.

All editions, including special editions, produced by the independent artist's book publisher since 2001.

VEXER: artist's book publisher, St. Gallen. Illustrative selection from the programme of artist's and special editions as well as one-off publications, consisting of ten artist's books by various Swiss figures produced since the early 1990s.

HAURI, Christoph: collection of artist's books. *Grosses Malbuch*, 2003, *Box mit 19 Hefen*, 2003/2004 and other issues: *Kannen Fangen – Ein Skizzenbuch*, 2003; *Vasen Blumen Heft*, 2017; *Das Zeichnen gehorcht dem Schmetterlingsflug im Magen*, 2008; *Alle Wege führen in einen tiefer gelegenen Himmel*, 2013; *Begehr nach Ungefundenem*, 2016.

HUBER, Thomas: "Rede über die Sintflut" (Talk on the Great Flood) by Thomas Huber, 1981–1982, are two leporellos hand-made by the artist. They comprise the "ideas" and the plastic elements that formed the basis for the painting of the same name, one of Thomas Huber's early important works.

SCHWARTZ, Daniel: *Theatrum Alpinum*.

16 black and white photos of Swiss glaciers as vintage silver gelatin prints (2014–2016). Ed. no. 1 / 2 (2018/2019). Photographic series based on Daniel Dollfuss-Ausset: Collection of 28 Daguerreotypes constituting the oldest heliographic reproductions of the Alps, reproduced as photographs and accompanied by extracts from the material for the 1893 Study of the Glaciers.



The unassuming cover of Christoph Hauri's *Grosses Malbuch*, unique artist's book, 2003



Christoph Hauri, *Grosses Malbuch*, unique artist's book, 2003



Christoph Hauri, *Grosses Malbuch*, unique artist's book, 2003



A glimpse inside the Storrer box (photo: Barbara Basting)

## Swiss Literary Archives

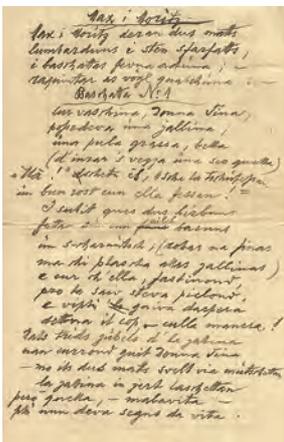
**LA DOGANA:** The publishing house La Dogana, which was founded in Geneva in 1981, donated its archives to the SLA. They include documentation of its publications related to poetry: collections in French and other languages, cycles of poems, essays, rhythmic prose and even *Lieder*. There are dossiers on the authors published (including Jean-Christophe Bailly, Yves Bonnefoy, Philippe Jaccottet and Jean Starobinski) and the translations produced: Anna Akhmatova, Dante, Emily Dickinson, Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, John Keats, Wulf Kirsten, Giacomo Leopardi, Ossip E. Mandelstam, Rainer Maria Rilke. The gift also includes the documentation relating to the administration and commercialisation of the works.



Chasper Po's passport

**MATHIEU, Julie (1905–1942):** Julie Claire Mathieu edited the culture sections of the weekly newspaper *Sie* and the *Neue Zeitung* in Munich. This small collection comprises correspondence that is of interest for literary history research into the latter years of the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich period. It includes an exchange of letters with Carl Zuckmayer as well as letters from Thomas Mann and Erich Kästner.

**NOLL, Peter (1926–1982):** Peter Noll, who was Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Zurich from 1969, achieved fame as an author with his *In the Face of Death*, which was edited posthumously by his friend Max Frisch in 1984. The gift includes typescripts of early, in some cases unpublished literary works, correspondence from the later years of his life with figures including Max Frisch, Niklaus Meienberg and Siegfried Unseld, as well as an annotated typescript of Max Frisch's *Blaubart*.



Dialect version *Max i Moritz in pled da Sent* (1920) by Chasper Po

**PO, Chasper (1856–1936):** The emigrant from Sent in Graubünden comes from the tradition of humorous writers from the Lower Engadin. His literary oeuvre chiefly comprises satirical and ironic poems and rhymes, while his translations include the dialect version *Max i Moritz in pled da Sent* (1920). Now the manuscripts, letters and other personal documents of the Romansh author from two family sources – one in Genoa and the other in Sent – have been brought together into a small literary estate in the SLA.

**SEGMÜLLER, Daniel; SEILER, Ruth:** collection of international correspondence of concrete literature and Constructivist art between 1948 and 1992 with a particular focus on Josef Albers; letters to and from Eugen Gomringer, including Friedrich Achleitner, Max Bill, Antonio Calderara, Ernst Jandl, Helmut Heissenbüttel, Dieter Roth, Gerhard Rühm and Daniel Spoerri.

**STORRER, Florianna (1902–1997) and Willy (1895–1930):** The literary estate of the anthroposophical writer, sometime secretary to Rudolf Steiner, commentator and publisher Willy Storrer also includes documents on Florianna Storrer's work as editor of the culture section of the Basel-based *National-Zeitung*. The core of the combined literary estate consists of the pair's correspondence with authors such as Jakob Bührer, Hermann Hesse, Heinrich Mann, Hans Reinhart, Jakob Schaffner, Anemarie Schwarzenbach and Robert Walser.

## Swiss National Sound Archives

THÉVOZ, Michel: The Michel Thévoz holdings include the majority of the documents (manuscript notes, typescripts) linked to the editing and publication of the works (e.g. *L'Art Brut*, Skira, 1975), *Manifeste pour une mort douce* (with Roland Jaccard, Grasset, 1992). Thévoz's work as Professor of Art History at the University of Lausanne and as exhibition curator, as well as his relationships with artists and writers, are also documented. The correspondence includes in particular exchanges with Roland Barthes, Jacques Chessex, Jean Dubuffet, Roland Jaccard, Gustave Roud and Jean Starobinski.

WEHRLI, Peter K. (\*1939):

The archive includes drafts, manuscripts, galley proofs, various book editions and translations on Wehrli's work in progress (since 1968), the "Katalog von Allem"; also extensive private and professional correspondence with national and international publishers and writers, especially with former Dadaists and representatives of American Beat Poetry.

FURER, Arthur: the complete published and unpublished recordings of compositions by the Swiss musician Arthur Furer from the Furer holdings of the Burgerbibliothek Bern, comprising some 200 audio media (acetate discs, audio tapes, LPs, cassettes, CDs, DATs).

TURICAPHON: This exceptionally rich collection comprises 6500 audio tapes and 200 LPs. It includes all the masters of the recording productions from Turicaphon, one of the most important Swiss labels, founded in Zurich in 1930.

BRANDT, Jean-Daniel: fonds consisting of almost 700 audio media (audio tapes, LPs, cassettes, CDs, DATs) covering Jean-Daniel Brandt's entire career as an audio technician and recording producer.

ZYTGLOGGE: the fonds of the Zytglogge Verlag, a publisher established in Bern in 1965 that later also operated as a recording label. It includes around 1400 audio media (LPs, CDs, cassettes, DVDs and VHS cassettes) from the Zytglogge holdings of the Burgerbibliothek Bern.



The literary estate of Chasper Po



Dictabelts are embossed audio media of which the Archives hold numerous examples (photo. Miriam Bolliger Cavaglieri)

## General Collection

The General Collection's activities and results were primarily shaped by three factors: work on the new library management system, the impact of the building situation, and alignment with the new strategy that comes into force in 2020.

### New library management system

The combination of the ALMA management system developed by ExLibris and the PRIMO VE user interface to administer and manage the holdings of the NL's General Collection builds on a solution that is used worldwide. A halt to production lasting several weeks during the previous year due to a migration as well as substantial software problems with the reminder process for managing the collection of periodicals and newspapers meant that almost all services were involved in consolidation work and clearing the backlog in integrating newly acquired publications. Some elements of the latter will continue into 2020. A number of software problems are still being resolved.

### Building situation

The removal of services from the "book tower" in 2019 for reasons of structural safety led to a partial reconfiguration of the public areas, the transfer of collections to the stacks, and increased density of workstations in the office area. All members of staff were affected in one way or another.

### Alignment of activities with the new strategy

As part of work to develop the new strategy, particular attention was devoted to activities relevant to its implementation. These included a redesign of *e-Helvetica Access*, the system for accessing digital documents. For the first time, a crowdsourcing exercise was carried out, whereby private individuals helped to improve the results of newspaper digitisation. The exhibition *Von oben. Spelterinis Ballon und die Drohne* took the NL's collections as the basis for a virtual-reality balloon ride experience.

### Acquisitions

The NL's General Collection grew by 1.5% in 2019, and comprised 4 826 802 units at the end of the year. The slight decline compared with the 2018 figure of 1.6% was due to the halt in production lasting several weeks caused by the introduction of the new library system.

The collection as a whole consists of analogue and digitally born publications and comprises almost 3.1 million monographs (essays, novels, handbooks, biographies), around 1 million periodicals and half a million graphic documents (graphic prints, posters, photographs, etc.). There are also other types of materials such as music scores, maps, microforms, etc. The collection of digitally born documents grew at above-average speed, expanding by 15.2% to 149 726 archive packages at the end of 2019 (2018: 130 025), with a total volume of 37.8 TB. It remains relatively small, however, in comparison with an analogue collection that has been built up over nearly 125 years.

All acquisition activities were extensively affected by the introduction of the new library management system, which was swiftly and efficiently implemented in the *Monograph Acquisitions* unit. The *Serials* unit was kept busy right through to September dealing with the backlogs linked to the changeover to the new library system. Reminder letters for subscriptions and issues not received were sent out again for the first time in July. Some technical software problems with the dispatch of reminders for periodical and newspaper issues not received led to process delays. The system operator was therefore instructed to make improvements. The search for a satisfactory solution is still ongoing. Following the discontinuation of *The Keepers Registry*, the British platform that monitors the long-term archiving of journals, the NL terminated its membership of the forum and halted



Thuner Tagblatt, 31.12.1999



Réveil anarchiste, 01.05.1960

deliveries of metadata. It is not participating in the fee-based transitional solution, as the work and costs involved outweigh the benefits.

To mark the national women's strike day on 14 June 2019, *Web Archive Switzerland* added 23 websites on the strike to the collection. There was also a collecting campaign related to the national elections in 2019, with additions being made to *Web Archive Switzerland*, the collection of association publications and the NL's poster collection.

## Catalogues

On 31 December 2019 *Helveticat*, the NL's library catalogue, comprised 1 840 782 bibliographic records, an increase of 2.5% year on year (2018: 2%), and a testament to the impressive efforts made to reduce the backlog in cataloguing. The *Bibliography on Swiss History BSH* grew by 3.6% and comprised 121 522 records at the end of 2019. The union catalogue of the *Swiss Poster Collection*, which has been built up in cooperation with partner institutions, contained 91 607 records, an increase of 1.8% compared with the previous year. The *HelveticArchives* database grew by 8.4% and comprised 709 889 records at the end of the year. The online catalogue of the Swiss National Sound Archives grew by 0.3%, to 303 098 records.

Operation of the library management system also commenced in *Catalogues*. Alphabetic Cataloguing worked systematically through the substantial backlog resulting from the migration; work to clear it completely is still ongoing. Further developments were made to the search options in OPAC, and towards the correct display of facets on the homepages of the Swiss national bibliography *The Swiss Book* and the *Bibliography on Swiss History*. Training courses on the use of the *integrated authority file GND* across the library for the *Swiss Literary Archives* and the *Prints and Drawings Department* were organised with a view to advancing the standardised use of authority files (names of persons, entities, etc.). The external partner *Répertoire International des Sources Musicales RISM* also received training on using the GND. The NL continued its work on refining rules and standards within international cataloguing bodies, and oversaw the successful incorporation of Swiss requirements, for example on handling multilingualism.

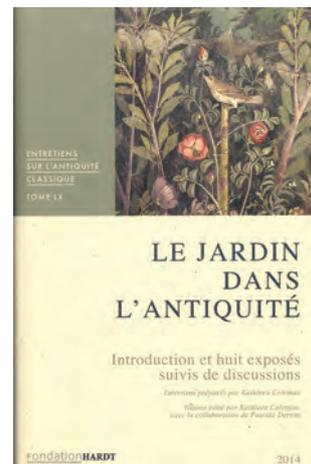
## Preservation and conservation

Almost 53 000 new acquisitions underwent conservation treatment, a reduction of 2.9% compared with 2018. Some 3207 protective covers were made, around 6.1% fewer than in the previous year. The backlogs resulting from the introduction of the new library management system had an impact on the holdings that required binding, both internally and externally, with fewer items being processed than in the previous year. Additionally, 361 publications required repairs, a rise of 27.6% compared with 2018.

The approach to processing mass deliveries from publishers was changed: they are labelled, allocated a reference code, moved to their definitive location in the stacks and not catalogued until later, using a partially automated process.

A large number of items were sent for conservation treatment outside the library. They mostly comprised glass negatives which were prepared for digitisation, and items from two newly acquired estates in the Swiss Literary Archives that required treatment for mould. The COPHOT project, which was intended to improve the conservation of the collected photographs in the form of cool and cold storage, was abandoned after completion of the project phase. The specific requirements for the cool and cold storage will need to be dealt with as part of long-term building planning.

Regular analyses indicate that occupancy of the stacks has reached 50% of the capacity limit. According to the most recent forecasts and assuming that at some point the entire stacks area is given over to the NL, the capacity limit is expected to be reached in 2040.



Entretiens sur l'antiquité classique  
vol. 60, 2014



The user interface of the e-*Helveticat* Access catalogue  
(photo: Kai Jauslin, NEXTENSION GmbH)



Title page of the *Album des Rheins*, ca. 1860

*e-Helvetica*, the NL's long-term archiving system, was migrated to the infrastructure of the *Swiss National Sound Archives* in Lugano, in a first step towards merging it with the digital audio archive. Preparatory work on the project to replace the current digital long-term archive and merge the digital audio archive with *e-Helvetica* subsequently commenced.

## Circulation

In 2019 the NL had 4716 active users. The new library management system counts these in a different way from its predecessor, with every user who has accessed the Primo VE search interface at least once being included. Consequently, the figure is not comparable with the previous year. The number of documents borrowed rose for the first time in many years, by a pleasing 18%, to 67 012 (2018: 56 615).

## Information retrieval

The figures remained stable year on year, with more than 11 000 information and research requests and just under 3000 bibliographical searches.

The building situation required a reorganisation and streamlining of the reference works in the large reading room, in order to make space for the Literary Archives reading room in the NL's main reading room. A number of structural measures were also required, such as setting up a supervisor's desk, providing access to the Literary Archives reading room via the main corridor, and closing the glass doors between the General Collection reading room and the new Literary Archives reading room.

## Outreach

### Digitised content

*e-newspaperarchives.ch*, the platform for digitised newspapers, recorded just under 215 000 visits, a rise of 41% compared with the previous year. The *International Image Operability Framework iif*, which is important for image display, was implemented as standard on *e-newspaperarchives* in April 2019. A crowdsourcing operation was successfully carried out in November, during which some 130 interested volunteers corrected 72 408 lines from digitised newspaper articles to mark the 60th anniversary of the rejection of votes for women. Newspapers from the cantons of Jura and Bern have now been added to the platform. Other titles include the *Engadiner Post* and historical newspapers on the subject of anarchism. Successful partnerships were also launched with *Tamedia* and the *NZZ* to digitise the *Tribune de Genève*, *La Suisse* and the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*.

Digitised materials from the literary estate of Carl Spitteler were uploaded to *e-manuscripta.ch*, the platform for digitised manuscript sources from Swiss libraries and archives. In addition, 5000 posters and more than 1500 graphic works were digitised. In all, 8.2% of the NL's collections have been digitised and made available online.

### Website and social media

Following its redesign in 2018, the NL's website ([www.nb.admin.ch](http://www.nb.admin.ch)) continues to be updated regularly. In social media, the NL is active on *Facebook*, *Twitter* and *Instagram*. It also maintains a *YouTube* channel on which it posts videos on relevant topics and its exhibitions. In all, the NL's German-language Facebook page has almost 11 000 followers and the French-language page more than 9000. The NL's German *Twitter* feed has just under 2500 followers and the French-language version almost 1700. Since it was launched in 2018, the multilingual Instagram feed has accumulated just over 600 subscribers, and this figure continues to grow.



Illustration in the *Album des Rheins*, ca. 1860

## Catalogues

The *Helveticat*, *Swiss Poster Collection* and *Bibliography on Swiss History* catalogues were accessed 400 000 times in 2019. Owing to the changeover to the new library management system, the figures are not comparable with those for the previous year. Queries to *HelveticArchives*, the archive management system that catalogues the holdings of the Swiss Literary Archives, the NL's Prints and Drawings Department and the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel, totalled just under 200 000, an increase of 10% compared with the previous year. The *e-Helvetic Access* catalogue was accessed 310 000 times.

September saw the publication of the 2013 extract from the *Bibliography on Swiss History* in PDF format, comprising over 6500 bibliographic records on topics relating to Switzerland's history.

*e-Helvetic Access*, the user interface for consulting the digitally born collections, was completely overhauled. It now consists of a standardised search interface for integrated searches across all the library's digital collections. It allows searches in library metadata and the entire full text for *Web Archive Switzerland* and all other publications. One especially worthwhile addition is screenshots of the homepages of the archived websites, which are shown in the results list along with the results themselves in context.

## Reproductions

Around 11 000 photographs were digitised in 2019 (2018: 8000). The number of photocopies rose to 30 000, exceeding the previous year's figure of 26 000.

## Cultural offerings

A total of 7632 people attended cultural events at the NL in Bern, significantly less than 2018, which was an exceptional year thanks to the exhibition *LSD. A Problem Child*. The exhibition *Von oben. Spelsterinis Ballon und die Drohne* took the NL's collections as the starting point for a virtual-reality balloon flight.



Exhibition visitors were able to take a virtual-reality balloon ride using special glasses



Photographing with drones

# Prints and Drawings Department

Information and research requests to the Prints and Drawings Department exceeded the 1000 threshold in 2019, with the building situation making access simpler for users. The collections were enhanced by the acquisition of the partial archive of *Bernhard Luginbühl*.

## Building situation

For structural safety reasons, the Prints and Drawings Department was transferred from the former book tower to the ground floor of the National Library in 2019. This move required great effort and affected operating procedures in the Prints and Drawings Department in a number of ways. It made access easier for users. Some collections had to be moved into the underground stacks, which makes them somewhat more difficult to use but is also good for the documents' long-term preservation owing to the ideal climate conditions.

## Collection

The Prints and Drawings Department welcomed a number of significant new acquisitions in 2019, including the archive of *Doris Stauffer*, the partial archive of *Bernhard Luginbühl* consisting of a collection of some 300 artist's books in the form of diaries, the artist's archive of *Stéphan Landry* and the entire graphic works of *Albert Welte*.

Comprehensive processing of the archive of *Daniel Spoerri* moved into the realisation phase. Priorities were set, cataloguing is progressing according to plan, conservation measures have been implemented, and possible further deliveries have been discussed.

Work on the collection of graphic views of Switzerland continued, with support from the *Graphica Helvetica* foundation. By the end of 2019, two-thirds of the approximately 26 650 graphic views had been inspected and sorted, and the valuable sheets – 7633 in total – had been catalogued. In addition, some 1500 prints were digitised, imported into the *HelveticArchives* database and uploaded to *Wikimedia Commons*. The revised catalogue of individual sheets from the Gugelmann Collection was also completed. The extremely valuable 1600 graphic works from the *Rudolf and Annemarie Gugelmann Collection* have now been catalogued to a uniform standard and are up to date, along with the albums, portfolios and oil paintings, and all are accessible online. The collection has been in the NL since 1980.

## User services

With 1012 information and research requests to the Prints and Drawings Department, the key 1000 threshold was exceeded for the first time (2018: 952). The breakdown across the various subject and collection areas changed only slightly: the most heavily used subjects are *views of places*, *art* and *historic monuments* as well as, among the collection areas, *photography*, *Federal Archives of Historic Monuments* and *graphic works*. A report on 150 years of the postcard in the TV programme *Kulturplatz* discussed the holdings of picture postcards as well as ways of using and adding to them.



An artistically designed menu card from Albert Welte's *Druckgrafisches Gesamtwerk*



A print from Albert Welte's *Druckgrafisches Gesamtwerk*



The print "Ex Libris Franz Rose-Doehlau" from Albert Welte's *Druckgrafisches Gesamtwerk*

## Swiss Literary Archives

The Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) kicked off the year with the lyricist and performer Nora Gomringer and jazz percussionist Baby Sommer in a homage to Nora's father Eugen Gomringer, marking the handover of his archive of concrete poetry and Constructivist art. The SNSF project *Lectures de Jean Bollack* in the SLA, in association with the University of Fribourg and an international research group from Switzerland and Germany (University of Osnabrück) comprising four doctoral students of classical philology and German studies, gathered pace. The drafting group on the cataloguing rules for literary archives from the Staatsbibliothek Berlin, the Austrian National Library, Vienna and the SLA drew up the rules for cataloguing using authority files in archives and libraries (replacing the RNA); they were approved by the standards committee of the German National Library (DNB).

### Collection

The acquisition of the Segmüller/Seiler Collection and the archive of P.K. Wehrli significantly strengthened the SLA's focus on avant-gardes in the second half of the 20th century. An important and previously unknown collection of letters by Annemarie Schwarzenbach entered the SLA in the literary estate of Willy Storrer. The literary estate of criminal law professor and author Peter Noll, best known for his *In the Face of Death*, was shipped back from the US by his daughters and handed over to the SLA. The SLA was also gifted a further publisher's archive, that of La Dogana. Among Romansh literature, the literary estate of Chasper Po was gathered together from various provenances and brought to the Archives.

The Swiss Literary Archives lost one of their leading scholars, with the death of Jean Starobinski (1920–2019). The second part of his academic library was transferred to the SLA shortly after he passed way, and is now being catalogued.

The SLA received six archives and literary estates, including a publisher's archive and three collections, with five fonds as gifts. The number of online inventories rose by 8.8% in 2019, to 247 (2018: 227).

### Outreach

At a spring soirée, the Bern-based performer Ariane von Graffenried delved into the archive of Emmy Hennings, appropriating texts by the author and *diseuse* of Cabaret Voltaire, who a century ago spent almost two years living in Bern at a turning point in her life. The dialect poet and expert Beat Sterchi appeared at a commented autumn reading in which he essayed a dissection of the supposedly high poetry of Carl Spitteler, discovering a humorous side and dialect overtones in the Nobel Prize winner.

Quarto no. 46 was devoted to Jean-Marc Lovay. It was presented to the public at a launch in Geneva. Quarto no. 47 honoured the life and work of Paul Nizon on the occasion of his 90th birthday. It was presented in Paris, where he now lives, and in his home city of Bern, with both occasions being attended by the author himself. The volume is also the publication accompanying an exhibition in Aarau presenting Nizon as art critic and writer on art. Marking the 100th anniversary of Carl Spitteler's Nobel Prize accolade, the SLA's bulletin *Passim* devoted an issue to the topic of *literary awards* and produced a volume on the SLA's *cooperations*. The collected volume of *Rilke's Correspondence* (accompanying the eponymous conference in 2017), containing essays from international research, was edited by Irmgard Wirtz and Alexander Honold and published in autumn by Wallstein (Göttingen) and Chronos (Zurich).

### User services

The number of active users rose by 9%, from 864 (2018) to 943 (2019). There was a slight drop in information and research requests, which fell from 4006 (2018) to 3949 (2019).



Cover of *Passim* on cooperations



Nora Gomringer evening with Günther "Baby" Sommer

## Swiss National Sound Archives



Günther Giovannoni, the new head of the Sound Archives, with Marie-Christine Doffey, Director of the NL, and retired head of the Sound Archives Pio Pellizzari (photo: Miriam Bolliger Cavaglieri)

The most significant change at the National Sound Archives was the appointment of a new head to succeed Pio Pellizzari, who retired at the end of February after more than twenty years in his post. The incumbent since 1 March 2019 is Günther Giovannoni, whose term of office promises both continuity and new projects for the future.

### Some figures

Some 976 new recordings were acquired in 2019 (2018: 1136), and 5937 new bibliographic records were added to the catalogue (2018: 8308).

Visits to the website [www.fonoteca.ch](http://www.fonoteca.ch) remained very high, with more than 2 million page views.

The following figures demonstrate the level of public interest in our collections: the database was accessed almost 15 million times (2018: 18 million). In total, 56 institutions in Switzerland have one or more audiovisual workstations available, which were used to listen to 44 477 audio documents in 2019 (2018: 32 370).

### Collection

In all, 12 new fonds and collections were acquired. They include those of the recording labels *Turicaphon* in Riedikon (ZH) and *Zytglogge* in Basel as well as the important audio media archives of the composer Arthur Furer and the sound technician and producer Jean-Daniel Brandt.



Thousands of new audio documents are added to the Sound Archives' collections every year (photo: Miriam Bolliger Cavaglieri)

### Outreach

The Sound Archives' collection outreach activities took a variety of forms: collaboration on exhibitions with the Nidwaldner Museum Stans (*Jäger, Tiere, Wilderer. Handwerk und Legenden in Nidwalden*), the Fondazione Sasso San Gottardo in Aiolo (*Kalter Krieg – Gotthardmanöver, Warschauer Pakt und 99 Luftballons*), the Swiss National Museum, Zurich (*Joggeli, Pitschi, Globi, beliebte Schweizer Bilderbücher*), the Médiathèque Valais in Martigny (*La Suisse Magazine. Max Kettel. Les reportages de 1926 à 1960*) and the “Le Commun” exhibition space in Geneva (*Nous, saisonniers, saisonnières... Genève, 1931–2019*); the Archives also worked on productions with RTS and RSI. On 15–16 June the Archives were a guest at the second edition of the *Salon du Vinyle de la Glâne* at the Musée du papier peint in Mézières (FR). On the weekend of 25–27 October, the Archives invited members of Wikimedia CH to visit and learn about their activities and the treasures of the audio archives.

## Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

During an especially productive year, the CDN took as its starting point the figure of Friedrich Dürrenmatt (1921–1990), with an exploration of both typically Swiss words and expressions and the symbolism of meals and Greek myths for the writer and painter. Adapted into film, dance, slam and music, Dürrenmatt’s literary and pictorial oeuvre continues to inspire the artists of today, as the museum’s diverse programme attests.

The CDN presented four temporary exhibitions in 2019: *Kokoschka – Dürrenmatt: Le mythe comme parabole*, devoted to two great artists and writers; *Helvétismes – Spécialités linguistiques*, a light-hearted and participatory exhibition devoted to linguistic characteristics specific to Switzerland; *Martin Disler – Rituels oubliés*, dedicated to a Swiss painter, draughtsman and sculptor of the 20th century with an enduring passion for writing; and finally *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Le grand festin*, which explored various aspects of the topic of food in the life and work of the writer and painter.

Among the most successful events of the year were the contemporary flamenco performance *Los laberintos de Dürrenmatt*, as part of the *Hiver de danses*, and a Chukchi shamanic ceremony organised during the *Printemps culturel*. Some twenty events were staged during the year, including a number of *Salons Dürrenmatt*, discussions that brought together specialists, contemporary witnesses and audiences, a performance entitled *Dürrenmatt en slam* as part of Neuchâtel’s anti-racism action week, tours during the European Heritage Days, and activities marking Museum Night and International Museum Day.

Numerous partnerships were developed, with institutions such as the Kunsthaus Zürich, associations including Visarte, Les Lundis des Mots and the Italian community in Switzerland, and with cultural players in the region: the Jardins Musicaux, the Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain and the Espace Nicolas Schilling et Galerie. Thanks to a partnership with the Forum Helveticum and the Forum pour le bilinguisme, the trilingual travelling exhibition *Helvétismes* moved on to St. Gallen and will be shown in various Swiss cities until 2021.

The CDN organised two *Texte-Image* seminars on topics related to the work of Dürrenmatt. Two *Cahiers du CDN* were also published, the first containing a text by François Loeb recalling his memories of Friedrich Dürrenmatt, the second linked to the exhibition *Le grand festin*.

Activities designed especially for children were introduced, notably during the exhibition on Martin Disler, who had himself put together a collection for pupils of a school in Le Landeron. For the start of the new school year, the CDN also stepped up its cultural mediation programme, launching six new creative workshops for primary and secondary school children. Looking ahead to the centenary of Friedrich Dürrenmatt’s birth in 2021, this initiative reflects the CDN’s desire to open the institution up further to the new generations.

It was an excellent year for the CDN, with exhibitions and events proving very popular with audiences, positive developments in cultural mediation, and widespread media coverage of its activities, which sometimes attracted international attention. The CDN welcomed 12 300 visitors in 2019, one of the highest figures since its creation.



View of the exhibition “Helvétismes – Spécialités linguistiques” at the CDN (14.4.–21.7.2019)



View of the exhibition “Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Le grand festin” at the CDN (2.11.2019–22.03.2020)



“Los Laberintos de Dürrenmatt” contemporary flamenco performance (30–31.3.2019)

## Budget and Expenditures

in millions of CHF	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Difference Bud19–Act19	Diff. Act19/ Bud19 in %
Staff expenses	21.4	21.6	21.9	0.3	-1.4%
Material expenses	14.8	15.5	14.6	-0.9	-5.8%
<b>Operating expenses</b>	36.2	37.1	36.5	-0.6	-1.6%
Operating income	0.8	1.0	0.8	-0.2	-20.0%
Funding requirement (federal funds)	35.4	36.1	35.7	-0.4	-1.1%
Self-financing level	2%	3%	2%		

Operating expenses rose by CHF 0.3 million compared with 2018, and were CHF 0.6 million below budget. Of this figure, +CHF 0.3 million were accounted for by staff expenses, less material expenses which were CHF 0.9 million below budget.

Operating income was the same as in 2018 and CHF 0.2 million below budget.

# Commission and Management Board

As of 31 December 2019

## Swiss National Library Commission<sup>4</sup>

Chair:

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Former member of the Council of States, chair of the public transport information service LITRA

**Diego Hättenschwiler**

Wikipedian and scientific librarian

**Christian Koller**

Director of the Swiss Social Archives, Titular Professor of Modern History at the University of Zurich

**Isabelle Kratz**

Director of the ETHL library

**Eliane Kurmann**

Research assistant at infoclio.ch, doctoral student in the History Department of the University of Zurich

**Jacques Scherrer**

Former General Secretary of the Association Suisse des Diffuseurs, Editeurs et Libraires ASDEL

**Gabi Schneider**

Project manager of the "Scientific information: access, processing and safeguarding" programme

**Marie-Jeanne Urech**

Writer

**Stefano Vassere**

Director of the cantonal libraries and the Sistema bibliotecario ticinese

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**Miriam Kiener**

Head of Section General Collection

**Hans Ulrich Locher**

Head of Section ICT

**Nando Luginbühl**

Head of Section Marketing and Communication

**Matthias Nepfer**

Head of Innovation and Information Management

**André Page**

Head of Section Preservation and Conservation

**Günther Giovannoni**

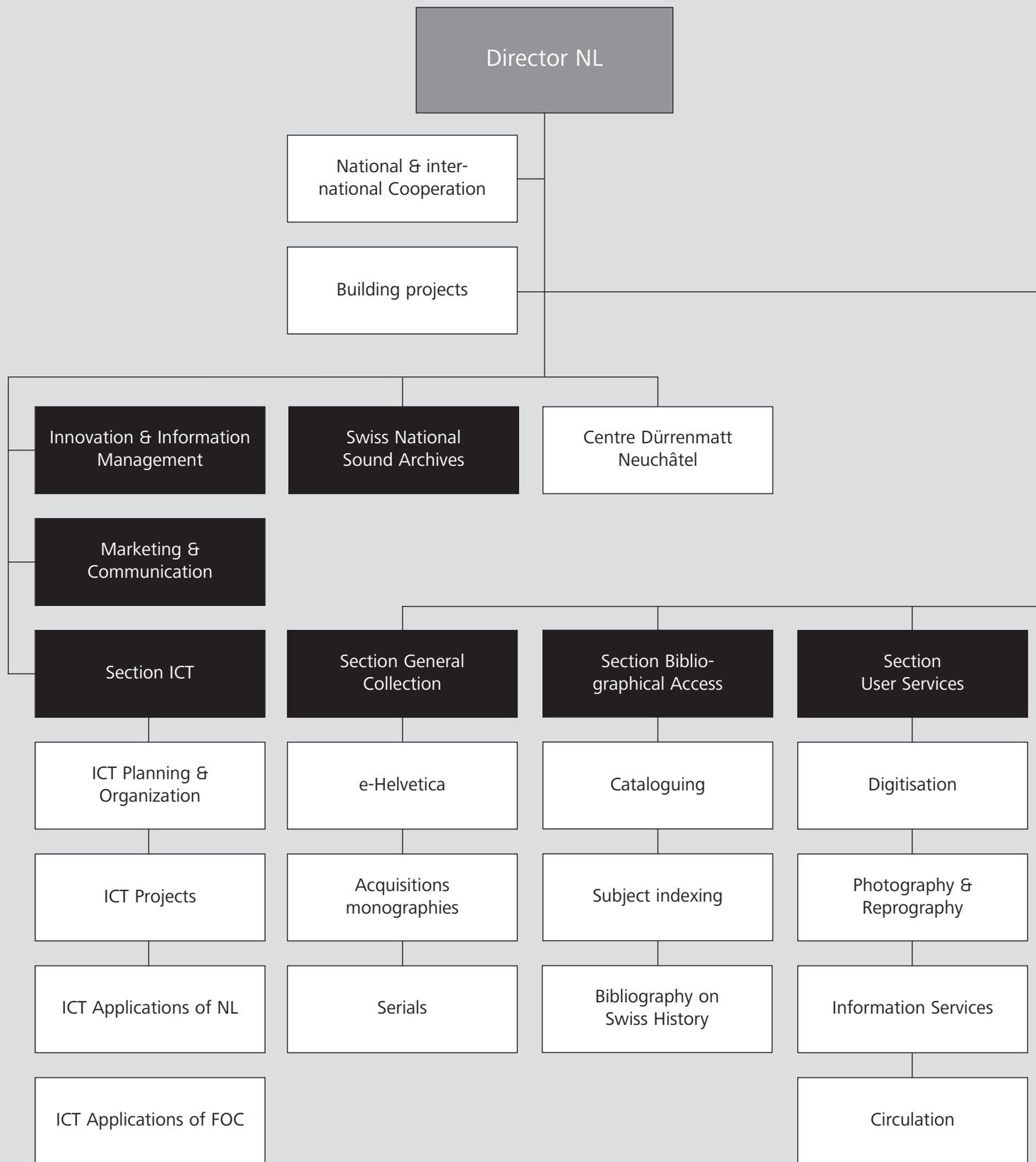
Head of Section Swiss National Sound Archives

**Liliane Regamey**

Head of Section User Services

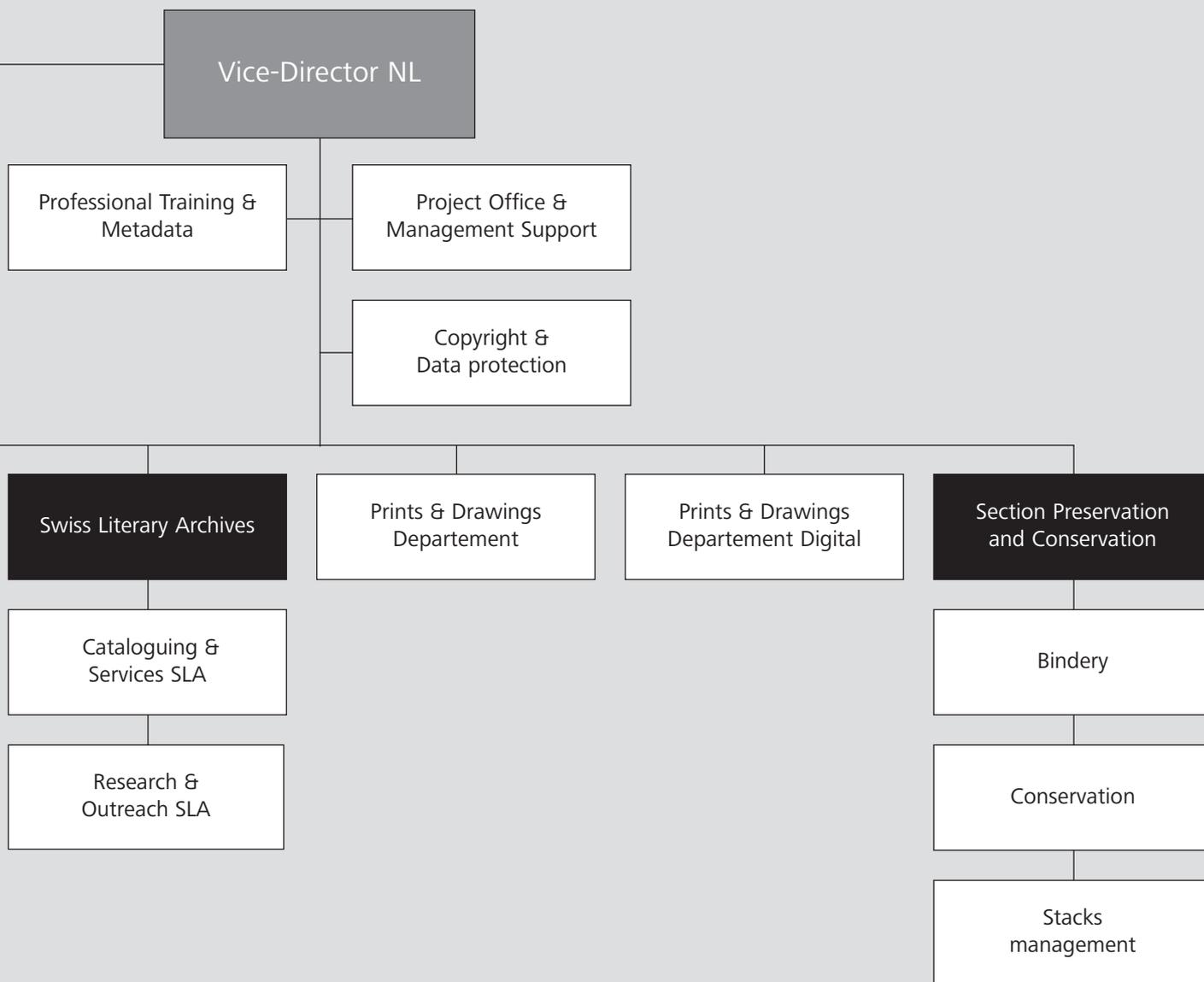
**Irmgard Wirtz Eybl**

Head of Section Swiss Literary Archives



# Organization chart Swiss National Library

As of 31 December 2019



Member of Management Committee

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