

Zeitschrift: Annual report / Swiss National Library
Herausgeber: Swiss National Library
Band: 107 (2020)

Rubrik: Swiss National Sound Archives

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Swiss National Sound Archives

2020 saw a large number of virtual initiatives. The National Sound Archives were involved in projects including the *International Year of Sound 2020*, the *World Day for Audiovisual Heritage* and *Cultura in movimento 2020*, presented them extensively on their website, and opened up access to a wide selection of audio documents from their own collection.

Collection

In all, 800 new recordings were acquired in 2020 (2019: 976) and 5746 new bibliographic records were added to the catalogue (2019: 5937). The number of visits to the website *fonoteca.ch* also remained very high, at over 2 million.

Outreach

In 2020 the Swiss National Sound Archives opened up access to their collections via a range of collaborations: for exhibitions at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (*Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Caricatures*), the Bourbaki Panorama Lucerne, the Swiss National Library in Bern (*Sharing. On Libraries and Beyond*), the Museo delle Culture Lugano (*Kakemono. Five Centuries of Japanese Paintings. The Perino Collection*) and the Lucerne History Museum (*50 Jahre Frauenstimmrecht Luzern*), for radio productions by RTS (*Catastrophe aérienne du Malabar*) and RSI (*250 anni Beethoven* and *Giornata della musica svizzera*) as well as for teaching projects with the Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana (SUPSI) in Locarno and the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts.

User Services

Public interest in the National Sound Archives' collections grew markedly in 2020, as the figures confirm. The database was accessed over 18 million times (2019: 15 million). In total, 56 institutions in Switzerland have one or more audiovisual workstations that can be used to access the National Sound Archives database. A new one was added in the Ethnographic Museum Neuchâtel in 2020. They were used to listen to 199 172 audio documents during the year (2019: 44 477).



World Day for Audiovisual Heritage in the National Sound Archives (Helvetia audiovisualis). Illustration by Ralph Kaiser