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# Innovation

The opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence (AI) are widely discussed. National libraries are also exploring AI. In 2023, the Swiss National Library had the opportunity to work with an *Innovation Fellow* and experiment with different AI applications. The findings gained during the year under review are helping the National Library to speed up the cataloguing of its collection items and make them available to users.

National libraries all over the world are exploring artificial intelligence: for example the Conference of Directors of National Libraries looked at the strategic challenges posed by AI; the AI in Libraries Network Group of the Conference of European National Librarians is considering potential operational applications. The Swiss National Library is a member of both bodies and contributes actively as part of this networking group.

In 2023, the opportunity arose to work with an *Innovation Fellow* (employed on a temporary basis) experimenting with different AI applications: he analysed, for example, the extent to which the cataloguing of posters could be automated and thus accelerated through AI. A second study aimed to achieve automatic facial recognition in extensive image databases in the public domain. If necessary, depicted persons can be blurred out prior to placing an online order, if required for data protection reasons. The project for automated subject indexing of electronic dissertations is at an advanced stage. This solution has been piloted at the Swiss National Library and is undergoing further development. The results of the National Library's AI studies were presented at library conferences and at the event *TRANSFORM 2023: Künstliche Intelligenz im öffentlichen Sektor* (artificial intelligence in the public sector). The potential benefit for users is obvious: faster access to posters, historic photo collections and electronic dissertations.