

Zeitschrift: Annual report / Swiss National Library
Herausgeber: Swiss National Library
Band: 110 (2023)

Rubrik: General collection

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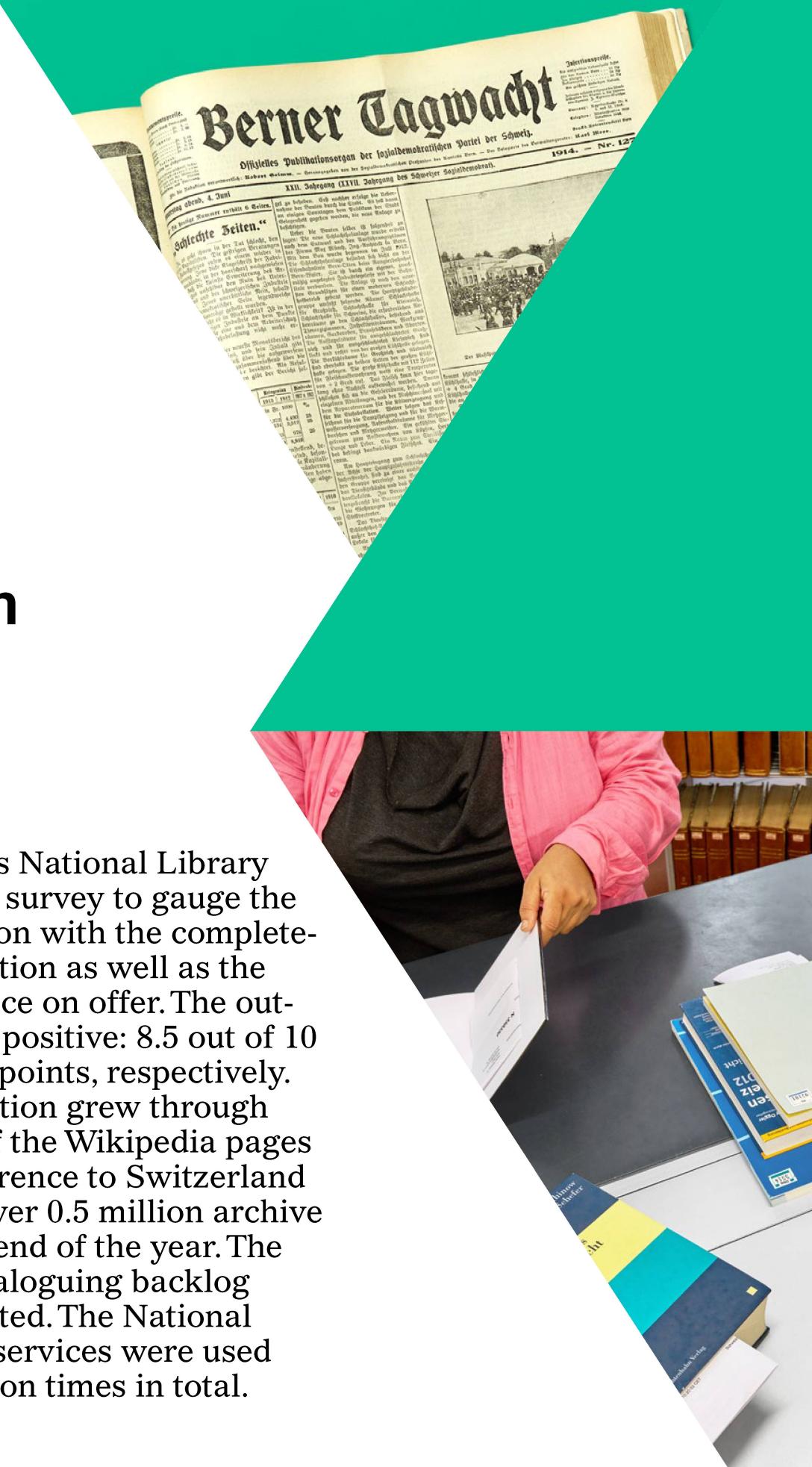
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General Collection

In 2023, the Swiss National Library conducted a user survey to gauge the level of satisfaction with the completeness of the collection as well as the services and advice on offer. The outcome was highly positive: 8.5 out of 10 and 9.3 out of 10 points, respectively. The digital collection grew through the integration of the Wikipedia pages containing a reference to Switzerland and comprised over 0.5 million archive packages by the end of the year. The longstanding cataloguing backlog was fully eliminated. The National Library's digital services were used more than 1 million times in total.

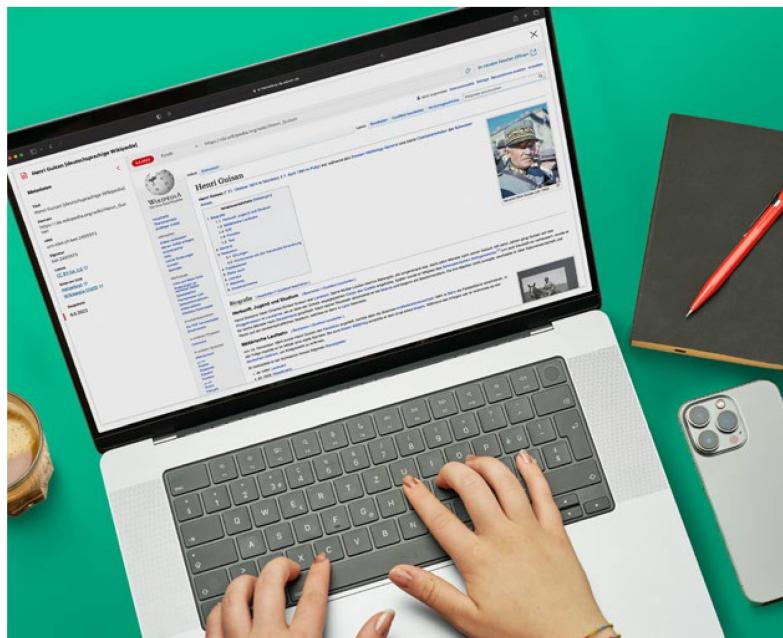


Collection

The National Library conducted a user survey in May 2023. It revealed a satisfaction level with the completeness of the collections of 8.5 out of 10 points (2019: 8.2).

At the end of 2023, the General Collection comprised 3.2 million physical documents (2022: just under 3.2 million) and 533,805 digital archive packages (2022: 250,536). The significant growth in the collection of original digital publications is due to the [Wikipedia in e-Helvetica](#) project. All Wikipedia articles in all the national languages with a reference to Switzerland were collected by 2023. The initial load was 131,114 articles.

The deposit interface *Deposit e-Helvetica* for small and independent publishers was expanded. It now receives e-periodicals as well as e-books. The Swiss National Library is responding to the digital publishing trend by offering this service.



Wikipedia in e-Helvetica

Articles with reference to Switzerland now integrated

The acquisitions guidelines were revised and updated. They will be published in 2024.

Catalogues

At the end of 2023, *Helveticat*, the library catalogue, comprised 2,163,841 bibliographic records (2022: 1,985,957). This equates to an extraordinary increase of 9 % (2022: 2.6 %).

The [cataloguing](#) backlog of about 11,000 documents due to the early introduction of the new library system and the COVID pandemic was eliminated. This was achieved through process optimisations and the implementation of a semi-automated cataloguing process.



Cataloguing

Backlog eliminated due to implementation of semi-automated cataloguing process



Berner Tagwacht

Accessible digitally at e-newspaperarchives.ch

The *Bibliography on Swiss History* was adapted to meet the requirement of online research and underwent a full classification renewal.

The Swiss National Library contributed to the renewal of the world's leading standard for library cataloguing, Resource Description and Access RDA, and participated in creating application rules for the entire German-speaking region. It is the first library in the German-speaking region and one of the first in the world to implement the updated standard in practical cataloguing.

Preservation and conservation

49,105 new acquisitions underwent conservation treatment (2022: 48,713). Measures for treating new acquisitions affected by pests were

intensified and training for library staff was designed and delivered.

Digitalisation

In order to improve search results, the segmentation (splitting up into individual pages and text components) of approximately 3.5 million digitised newspaper pages on the *e-newspaperarchives.ch* platform was again improved. In the year under review, ten digitised newspapers were put online on *e-newspaperarchives.ch*, nine of them are from Bern and one from the canton of Appenzell-Innerrhoden. Examples include *Berner Tagwacht* (1893–1997) and *Berner Wochenblatt* (1776–1833). In total, 801,570 pages were placed online (2022: 3,607,207). The fluctuation is due to the timing of the digital copies going online.



Circulation

The number of works in circulation remained stable.

Circulation

In 2023, the Swiss National Library had 1,874 active users of the General Collection, 7 % fewer than in the previous year (2022: 2,017). The trend towards use of digital services available without enrolment continued. The number of works in **circulation**, on the other hand, remained stable at 42,082 documents (2022: 42,621).

Information retrieval

The user survey conducted in 2023 gave a very high value for satisfaction with the services offered and information retrieval: 9.3 out of 10 points (2019: 9.2 points).

The number of information and research requests stood at 9,582 in 2023 (2022: 11,050).

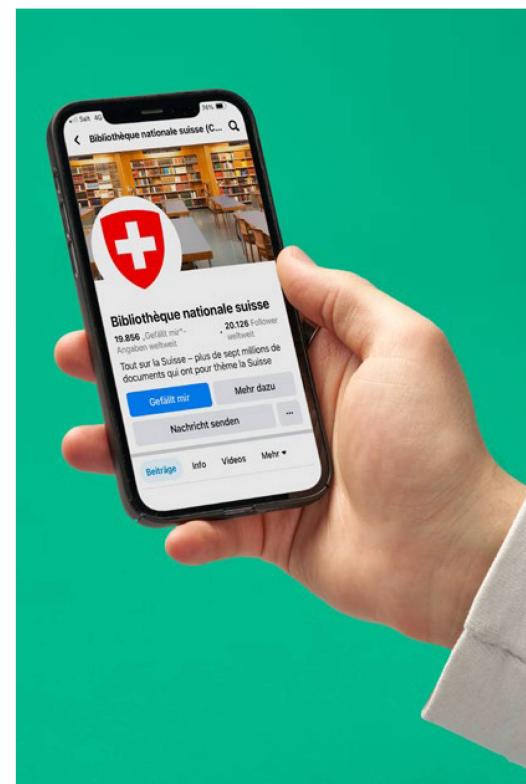
Outreach

At the end of 2023, *e-newspaper-archives.ch* offered access to 180 digitised newspaper titles (2022: 170), which equates to 11,935,471 pages (2022: 11,514,096). 490,542

page visits were recorded (2022: 405,504), an increase of 21 %.

The Swiss National Library put one periodical on the topic of music on the platform *e-periodica.ch* operated by the ETH library Zurich. *e-periodica.ch* recorded 122,467 visits (2022: 138,322) and 81,166 downloads (2022: 76,515).

The website *nb.admin.ch* recorded 150,590 visits in 2023 (2022: 148,794). On **Facebook**, the Swiss National Library had 20,308 followers on its German, French and Italian-language pages (2022: 19,608). On X, formerly Twitter, its German, French and Italian-language feeds had 5,510 followers (2022: 4,924); on Instagram, there were 7,322 followers (2022: 3,206), more than twice as many as in the previous year.



Facebook

20,308 people follow the Swiss National Library

HelveticaCat, the catalogue of the General Collection, was accessed 388,159 times (2022: 379,317), while the figure for the Swiss *Poster Collections Union Catalogue* was 89,949 (2022: 54,437), which equates to a 65 % increase. The *Bibliography on Swiss History* was consulted 41,098 times (2022: 39,083). *HelveticaArchives*, which describes the holdings of the Swiss Literary Archives and

the Prints and Drawings Department, was consulted 55,034 times (2022: 48,471). The figure for the *e-Helvetica Access* portal to the digital collections was 27,162 (2022: 25,810). The comprehensive catalogue *HelveticaAll* launched in 2022 was consulted by 67,419 persons.

The National Library's digital services were used more than 1 million times in total in 2023.

In Bern, 9,363 people attended exhibitions and events on site (2022: 9,300), while 821 took part in guided tours (2022: 456).

Training

The Swiss National Library contributed to creating the papers for the *individual practical work* for the final examinations for information and documentation specialists. The review of the quality of the **mediamatics training** offered by the National Library conducted by the *Mittelschul- und Berufsbildungsamt* (secondary school and Vocational Educational Training (VET) Office) was positive. The training in bookbinding was adapted to match the revised Federal VET Diploma.

IT

All the procurements in the *digital long-term archive* project were completed. Specifically, contracts were awarded for the following components: *Pre-Ingest* (system for the acquisition and processing of digital collection items), *Access* (outreach system, user interface) and infrastructure for the two systems mentioned above. The digital archive, the core system of the long-term archive, was procured in 2022 and developed to an adequate level for testing in 2023. The new digital long-term archive is scheduled to go live in 2025.



Mediamatics training
Snapshot of a working day

National projects

The Swiss National Library and Swiss Library Service Platform SLSP developed the *Recherche Patrimoniale* platform together to provide the public with comprehensive and straightforward access to the collections of the involved libraries. The SLSP operates *Recherche Patrimoniale* and applies SLSP standards to data processing and presentation.

The Swiss Conference of Cantonal Libraries is an intercantonal symposium dedicated to coordination among patrimonial libraries. The expert conference at the Swiss National Library in the autumn focused on the theme of different approaches to long-term archiving.

Networking

In June, the Swiss National Library hosted the General Assembly of the Swiss book industry and publishers' association (SBVV) for the third time and that of LivreSuisse in July, for the first time. These two events enabled 180 representatives of German-speaking and western Switzerland's publishing houses, bookshops and book distributors to gain an impression of the Swiss publishing landscape.