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# General Collection



The Swiss National Library decided to acquire a share in the Swiss Library Service Platform Ltd (SLSP) to facilitate broader cooperation between SLSP and the patrimonial libraries. The national ISIL directory comprising the international standard identifier for libraries and related organisations was fully renewed and placed online.

## Collection

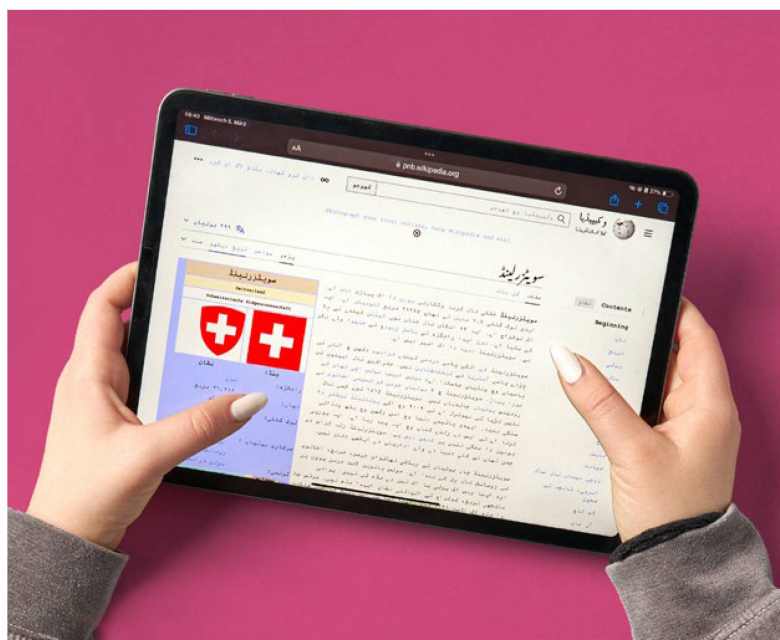
At the end of 2024, the General Collection had 3.1 million physical documents (2023: 3.2 million) and 557,078 digital archive packages (2023: 533,805). The reduction in the number of physical documents results from the extent of the collection corresponding to a linear-metre-based estimate, which the National Library was able to specify based on an optimisation of the periodical collection inventory.

The deposit interface *Deposit e-Helvetic* for small and independent publishers was developed further and a completeness and duplication check was introduced. An examination of the possibilities for automated research into Helvetica outside Switzerland was launched. The National Library uncovered about 5,000 new articles related to Switzerland in the **Wikipedia collection**. Furthermore, the available articles on Switzerland were collected in the approximately 300 available Wikipedia language versions. The Swiss book industry and publishers' association (SBVV), which represents German-speaking Switzerland, held its General Assembly for the fourth time, and the association for Western Switzerland, Livre Suisse, for the second time in the National Library.

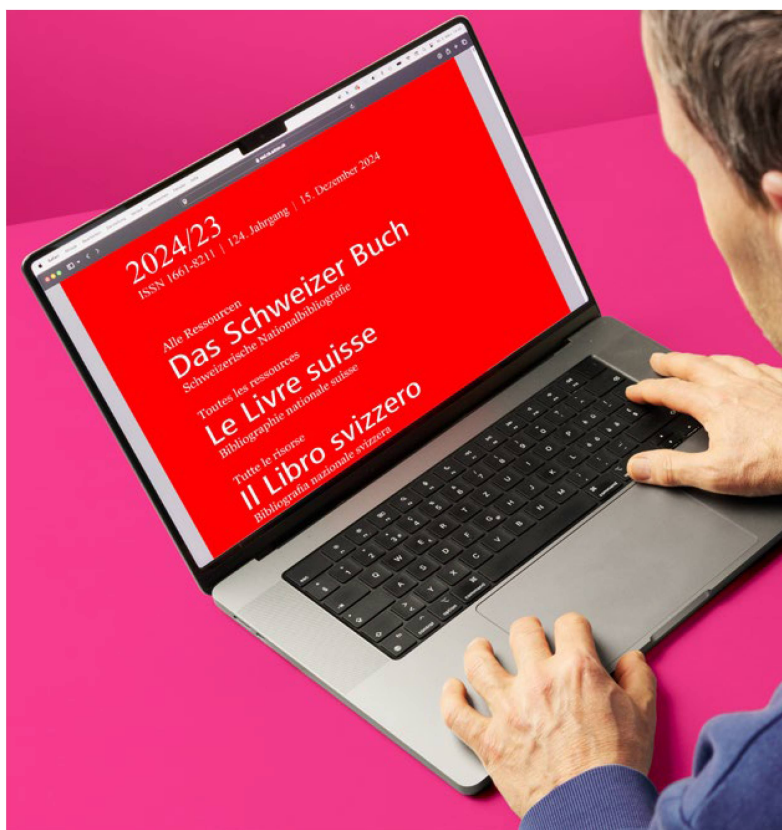
## Catalogues

At the end of 2024, *Helveticat*, the library catalogue, comprised 2,214,821 bibliographic records (2023: 2,163,841). That corresponds to an increase of 2.4 % (2023: 9 %) and means that the cataloguing backlogs that occurred during the pandemic have now been eliminated.

The cataloguing frequency for new acquisitions remained stable and no backlog accumulated. Since 2024, the **National Bibliography of Switzerland** *The Swiss Book* has comprised four series with different publication frequencies: issue numbers 1–15 and 17–23 come out fortnightly and list all resources, issue number 16 covers musical scores, issue number 24 lists doctoral dissertations and 25 is a special issue. The 2019 and 2020 reporting years of the *Bibliography of Swiss History* were published and their classification scheme was updated.



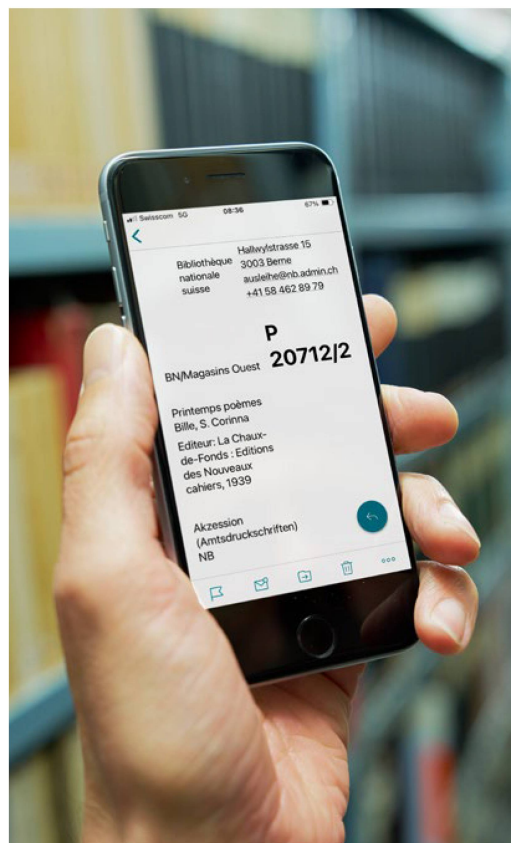
**Wikipedia collection**  
Swiss articles in other languages



**National Bibliography of Switzerland**  
*The Swiss Book*

### Preservation and conservation

In 2024, the National Library provided conservation treatment to 46,314 new acquisitions (2023: 49,105). Mandates to external binderies for 2024–2027 were assigned by WTO tender, with an option for a two-year extension. In order to create space, the National Library optimised the storage of its newspaper and periodical holdings and reduced the growth reserve from ten to five years. Smartphones were procured to **manage orders digitally** and enhance efficiency. The long-term check of the holdings deacidified until 2014 confirmed the effectiveness of the measure.



**Manage orders digitally**  
New smartphones make that possible

### Circulation

In 2024, the National Library had 1,477 active users of its General Collection (2023: 1,874), which equates to a fall of 21 %. Meanwhile the upward trend in the use of digital services continued. The number of works in circulation was only slightly down at 41,261 items on loan, equivalent to a 1.5 % decline (2023: 42,082).



## Information retrieval

The number of information and research requests came to 8,925, which corresponds to a reduction of 7 % (2023: 9,582). Employees underwent training with Procap Switzerland to better understand the needs of users with a disability.

## Outreach

At the end of 2024, *e-newspaperarchives.ch* offered access to 190 digitised newspaper titles (2023: 180), which equates to 12,680,113 pages (2023: 11,935,471). There were 512,037 page visits recorded (2023: 490,542), an increase of 4.5 %.

The platform for digitised journals *e-periodica.ch* operated by ETH library Zurich and supplied by the National Library among others counted 125,956 visits (2023: 122,467) and 83,430 downloads (2023: 81,166).

The website *nb.admin.ch* was visited 169,110 times in 2024 (2023: 150,590), which corresponds to a 12 % increase. In total, 20,413 persons (2023: 20,308) followed the National Library on its German and French-speaking Facebook pages at the end of 2024. On X (formerly Twitter) its German, French and Italian-language feeds had 5,298 followers (2023: 5,510) and 7,842 on Instagram (2023: 7,322).

*Helveticat*, the catalogue of the General Collection, was accessed

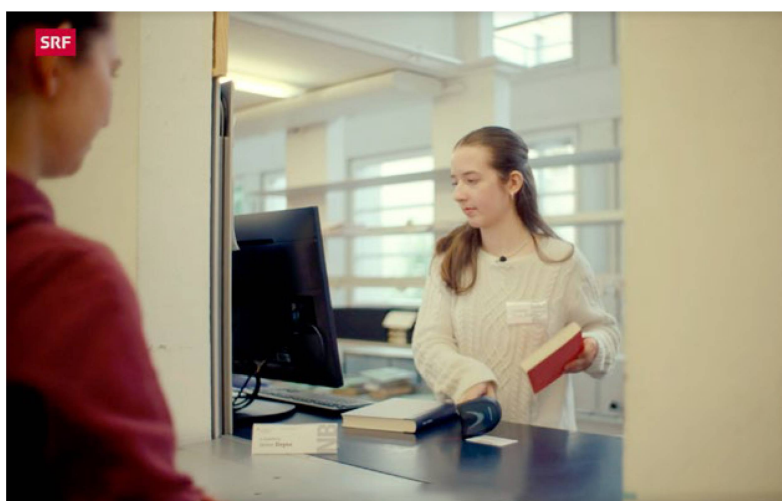
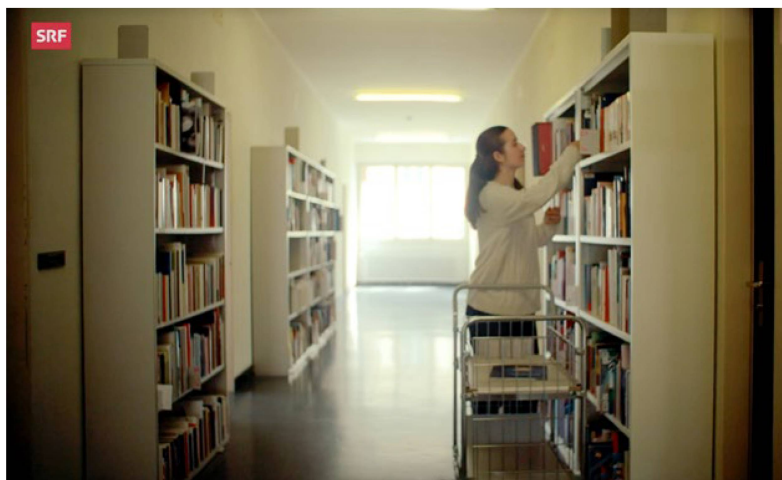
362,891 times (2023: 388,159); while the figure for the *Swiss Poster Collections Union Catalogue* was 77,087 (2023: 89,949). The *Bibliography of Swiss History* was consulted 28,712 times (2023: 41,098). *HelveticArchives*, which describes the holdings of the Swiss Literary Archives and the Prints and Drawings Department, was consulted 64,790 times (2023: 55,034). The figure for the *e-HelveticAccess* portal to the digital collections was 32,703 (2023: 27,162). The comprehensive catalogue *HelveticAll* was consulted by 58,437 persons (2023: 67,419).

In Bern, 9,695 people attended exhibitions and **events** on site (2023: 9,363), while 929 took part in guided tours (2023: 821).



## Events

Vibrant museum night



### Berufsbilder aus der Schweiz

Apprentice information and documentation specialist at work in the National Library

### Training

The National Library supported the vocational school in running the cross-company course *Archive cataloguing and research* with training on working with the private archive. An apprentice was profiled for the series on acquiring professional experience **Berufsbilder aus der Schweiz** by Swiss Radio and Television.

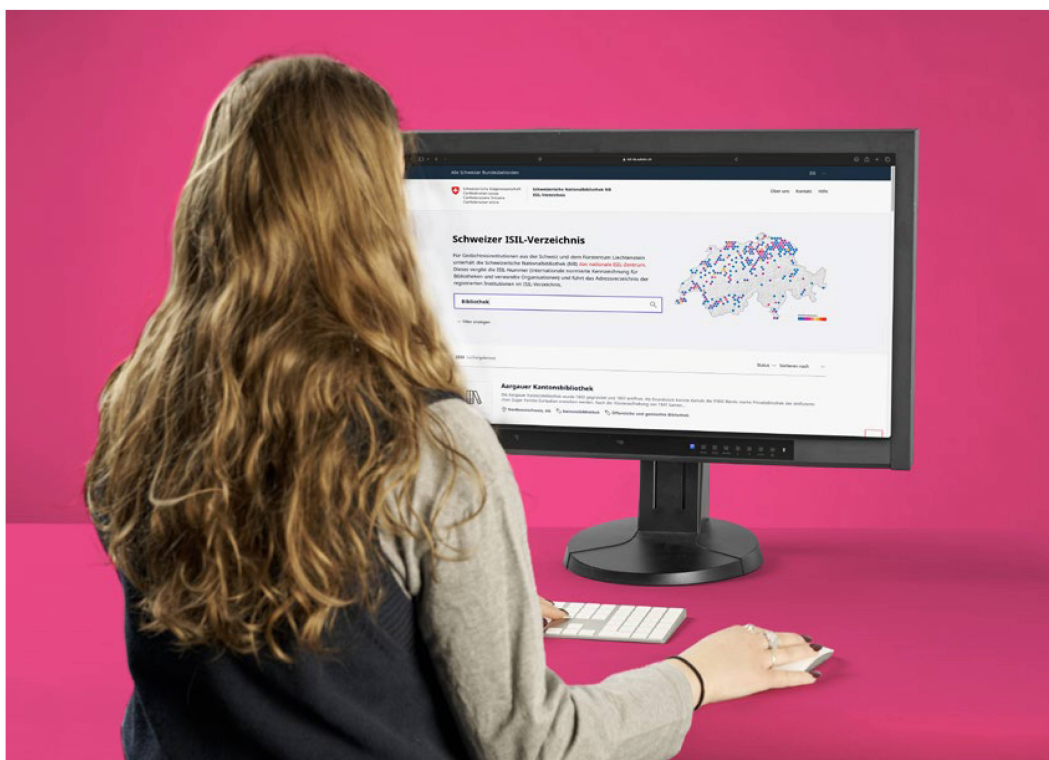
### IT

All the procurements in the *digital long-term archive* project were completed and contracts 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 both systems. The digital archive, the actual core system of the long-term archive was tested and the input started for the digital publications.

The **ISIL directory** for the management of the international identifier for libraries and related organisations was fundamentally redesigned and presented to the public for use with a new user interface.

*e-newspaperarchives.ch* has newspapers digitised by the Swiss National Library and its partners. Following the WTO tender for the platform, which was won by the current provider, DL Consulting Ltd., the new platform was developed and released for operation.

The WTO tender for the replacement of *HelveticArchives*, the catalogue for the Swiss Literary Archives and the Prints and Drawings Department, was unsuccessful; there were no valid bids submitted. A new tender process is planned for 2026.



### ISIL directory

With new user interface

From October, users were no longer able to access the protected library offers, due to problems with the external platform provider. A robust employee response enabled a solution to be identified.

### National cooperation

The National Library became a shareholder of the Swiss Library Service Platform (SLSP), the service provider for academic libraries in Switzerland. The aim of the shareholding is to develop SLSP services for patrimonial libraries.

### Networking

2024 saw the launch of the research funded *Real Versus Digital (ReVer-Di)* international project, which examines sustainability optimisation in view of growing digital holdings in national libraries. The project is to develop recommendations for an optimal infrastructure mix, which is economically sustainable, improves access to collections and reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The project applies the *Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment (LCSA)* approach to analyse the infrastructures of the national libraries in Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The national research partner is Bern University of Applied Sciences and the project term is three years.