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In addition, according to Michel Chevallier, the canton of Geneva media officer responsible for e-voting, "the government also wants to introduce the electronic collection of signatures for initiatives and referenda, as part of its efforts to promote electronic options for exercising people's rights."

The project launched by the canton of Neuchâtel addresses precisely this objective. Polling booths have traditionally been an ideal place for political parties to collect sig-

natures for their initiatives, but this has proved increasingly difficult since more and more people are now casting their votes by mail (in Geneva, only five percent of voters now go in person to the polling booth). Here, too, the Internet could offer an ideal solution: all in all, a veritable boon for direct democracy!

The legal basis for pilot projects will be in place until 2004, after which the government will rule definitively. So, while not exactly

round the corner, electronic voting is not too far off!

Isabelle Eichenberger 

The government pilot projects:

<http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/egov/ve/index.html>

Translated from German.

swissinfo / SRI NEWS

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swissmusic – the best of Swiss music on the Internet

With its four linguistic regions, Switzerland offers a huge diversity of music. "swissmusic" is an English-language site devoted, as the name implies, to Swiss music. And it contains a new and exclusive anthology of the Swiss pop and rock scene.

"swissmusic" (<http://swissmusic.swissinfo.org>) offers surfers a complete cross-section of the best Swiss musical productions free of charge, from the national anthem to the latest Stephan Eicher hit. It covers all musical styles: rock, pop, classical, jazz, folk music etc.

The well-researched sections of the new www.swissinfo.org music site are aimed at specialists as well as the general public. A number of links provide visitors with easy access to other sites dedicated to Swiss music.

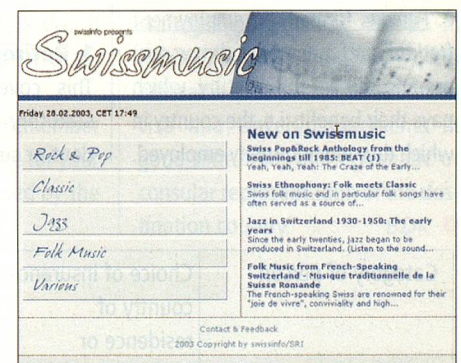
"Best of new releases" is for all those who want to keep up with the latest music. Here you will find a selection of recently-released Swiss albums and singles. The "Anthology" gives you

the opportunity to rediscover some golden oldies.

30 years of Swiss pop-rock: new on the Internet

Alongside the history of jazz, folk and classical music, "swissmusic" offers an exclusive anthology of Swiss pop and rock. Over 100 tracks, more than half of which have never been released previously on CD, trace the development of this musical genre from the hugely popular rock 'n' roll of the 1950s to the major pop and rock hits of the 1980s.

The anthology, produced by swissinfo/Swiss Radio International (SRI) and the SUISA Foundation for Music, is also available as a 5-CD boxed set entitled "Swiss Pop & Rock" (issued by SUISADISC/distributor: SoundService).



swissmusic: meet the big names of Swiss music on the Web.

Information

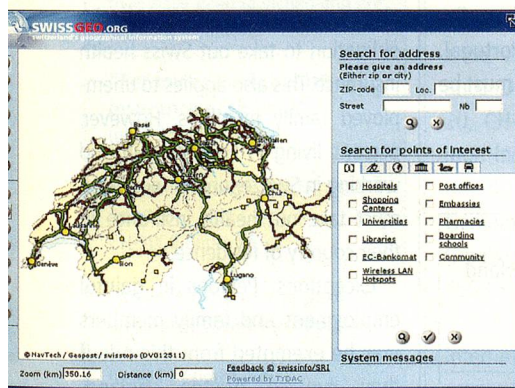
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