Back to 2019

This annual report is the opportunity to come back to the key moments and accomplishments that made 2019. In September, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of EPFL federalization. On this occasion, the Library team welcomed several thousands of visitors during the School Open Days.

Throughout the year, the Library team continued its missions by serving the EPFL community and beyond. The provision of online and printed collections, user training or even the teaching and research support services remained at the heart of the Library activities.

More than ever, the Library took part in the EPFL fights to ensure excellence in research and teaching, by actively supporting EPFL Open Access Policy signature, or the negotiations with scientific publishers for a more open dissemination of science.
Key figures

1 day at the Library

68 requests at the online and on-site desks

17 opening hours from 7am until midnight

654 searches in BEAST, the Library catalog

3’396 document prints and scans

1 year at the Library

827’962 entries at the Library

2’657’650 subscribed journal article downloads

76’254 document loans

CHF 4’665’763 acquisition expenses
The Library team released a short 3-minute video presenting an overview of services and tools for EPFL researchers. The aim is to support them in the Open Science approach during the research process.

In February, EPFL has adopted its Open Access Policy clearly setting out the School position concerning scientific publication dissemination, following the Open Access principles. The Library was strongly involved in the policy development, and introduced its components to researchers during information sessions. The School has also provided an amendment to the publishing copyright transfer agreement to assist authors in their negotiations with publishers.

In 2019, the Library launched a satisfaction survey among EPFL researchers to collect their feedback on its services, in order to improve the offer and better meet the needs of its community.

Traditional services, as collections and working spaces, are well used by users, while the research support services are less used. This under-usage is mainly due to the lack of awareness of the services, and not by the fact that they are unsatisfactory.

In 2021, a satisfaction survey especially dedicated to students will be launched to complete this analysis.

Among the 4'741 targeted researchers, 8% completed the survey.

70% of respondents use the Library services (on-site and online) at least once a month.

Satisfaction rate

55% very satisfied

33% satisfied

In 2019, the Library has prepared and sent on a regular basis to the EPFL scientific community a newsletter about scholarly communication and Open Science. Among the addressed subjects: latest news, policies, training, infrastructures and services.

The Library is highly involved in the Open Science community, both at the institutional and at the national level. It takes actively part to different projects and working groups, as for example:

- the **EPFL Open Science Strategic committee**, that advises EPFL President and Management Board on the pragmatic implementation of Open Science initiatives on campus;
- the **Open Access Working Group (AKOA)**, appointed by the Swiss Library Network for Education and Research (SLINER) as official group of experts on the subject, under the auspices of swissuniversities;
- the **preparation of a national Open Research Data strategy**, under the coordination of swissuniversities (appointed by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation), expected to take effect in 2021;
- the **Open Science Delegation**, that advises the swissuniversities committee on Open Science issues. It acts as reference point for the higher education institutions in order to support and coordinate Open Science services and infrastructures in Switzerland.
The Library launched a call to EPFL researchers to build a Data Champions community. Some thirty volunteers have come forward to promote RDM good practices on the campus.

During the Love Data Week, the Library organized its fifth Noon Talk dedicated to Research Data licensing.

The Gold Open Access fund contributed to finance the publishing fees of 62 articles, 3 books, 2 data papers and 4 conference papers.

8 agreements with publishing houses have been renewed to reduce or to finance EPFL authors publishing charges.

A new practical tool, the RDM Fast Guides, have been created to provide a quick overview of RDM good practices. In parallel, new webpages have been published to promote the services and tools offered by the Library.

The repository collects 148'174 references with an Open Access rate of 40%. New members joined the Infoscience team to better support EPFL researchers.

The Gold Open Access fund contributed to finance the publishing fees of 62 articles, 3 books, 2 data papers and 4 conference papers.

The Gold Open Access support

Invested amount (CHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>142'809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>195'458</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>193'048</td>
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The repository collects 7745 new references (articles, theses...) and 2'859 new fulltexts.

5'851'754 downloads

365 requests submitted to publishsupport@epfl.ch

906 requests submitted to infoscience@epfl.ch
2,000 students took part in the welcome activities and discovered the Library between 6 and 13 September. Video games have been the main theme of the Welcome Week, with new presentations and a completely redesigned treasure hunt.

2019 participants
- 1,956 BA-MA students
- 271 PhD students
- 233 researchers

149 training hours
80 workshops, training and seminars
45 one-to-one personalized training, including some organized via Book a Librarian, the Library appointment platform.

New training
The Library has widened its training offer to meet the diverse needs of our users, in particular on code management:
- Software Carpentry #02, skills for basic coding
- Beyond Google: find scientific information with advanced tools in databases
- Introduction to LaTeX, skill development for document preparation

Rational Bibliographic new edition
A new version of the Rational Bibliographic, the bibliographic references formatting guide, has been published.

Zotero duty period
Dr Zotero, the EPFL Library specialist for Zotero, the free reference management software, put her surgical gown. Dr Zotero went around the campus, looking for students who needed help in citing sources and managing their bibliography.

New students’ welcome days
2’000 students took part in the welcome activities and discovered the Library between 6 and 13 September. Video games have been the main theme of the Welcome Week, with new presentations and a completely redesigned treasure hunt.
Launch of the digital library PLUME

The Library owns a collection of about 600 precious books, published between the 15th and 19th centuries, illustrating the history and philosophy of science. Thanks to the gradual digitalization of the books, the Library has launched a digital platform to share these resources widely. Thousands of images can now be freely consulted and downloaded on plume.epfl.ch.

Negotiations with major scientific publishers

In the context of the national Open Access strategy, the Library is closely involved in the negotiations started in 2019 by swissuniversities with the publishers Elsevier, Springer Nature and Wiley. The Library has also created a dedicated webpage to inform its community about the negotiation evolutions and about alternative solutions to access papers in case of restrictions due to possible no-deals.

New ebooks

The Library has considerably enriched its ebook offer in 2019, with more than 80 new collections in the different EPFL research fields. It has also implemented a new acquisition model called Patron Driven Acquisition allowing ebook consultation and rental before triggering a purchase.

Journal loans

Along with the Science and Society journal collection, the Architecture and Mathematics journal collections are more easily accessible: all NEBIS network users can now borrow them.

Geodata

In collaboration with the ENAC faculty, the Library simplifies the access to geodata related to Switzerland. In particular the GeoVITe service allows EPFL members to download geodata from Swisstopo by selecting the type of data (national maps, digital elevation models, territory models and orthophotos), as well as scale, format and year.

420 new theses in Infoscience

The Library preserves and disseminates all EPFL theses, since the first one published in 1920. More than 420 full-text theses have been added this year to the institutional repository Infoscience.
New furniture

To meet the diverse needs of its users, the Library acquired new equipment to provide space both for individual or group study.

New gaming station

Since 2017, the Library provides its users with a video-game collection. The ZERO GRAVITY station is the result of a collaboration between the Library and the student association Robopoly. The station provides two gaming computers, clearly separated from other computers dedicated to work.

Internal lifelong learning

56 events:
- 23 conferences
- 22 external training sessions
- 7 internal training sessions
- 4 study trips

All 47 employees of the Library took part to one or more training events, either on-site or online.

Study trips

The Library has organized 4 study trips in 2019. The aim is to allow Library staff to visit academic and scientific libraries to exchange with colleagues and establish new collaborations. This in order to offer to our respective users cutting-edge services that meet their ever-changing needs. In practice, it means selecting a few institutions according to their field of excellence and establish a program based on well-defined subjects. These trips take place over 2-3 days, in small groups.

Heures de l’apéro

6 Heures de l’apéro (peer-to-peer training in the work space) have been organized and brought together 183 participants:
- EPFL Open Access Policy
- Peer education
- Open Science
- Standards
- Understanding scientific publication through gamification
- Records management

- University of Cambridge 8 participants
- TU Delft 2 participants
- TIB Hannover 6 participants
- DTU Lyngby 8 participants
Events and communication

Conferences

On April 8th, during the Printemps de la Poésie
De la Poésie aux Étoiles
with Jean-Pierre Luminet, astrophysicist, lecturer, author and poet

June 3rd–6th, during the exhibition We choose to go to the moon
- Les missions Apollo et le retour sur la Lune
  with Chloé Carrière, Space@yourService
- Les 50 ans de l’Homme sur la Lune
  with Claude Nicollier, astronaut and Professor Emeritus
- Trouss noir et premières images
  with Pascale Jablonka, Professor Emeritus
- Demandez la Lune!
  with Georges Meylan, Professor Emeritus

Exhibitions

June 1st – August 20th
To celebrate Apollo 11 moon landing 50th anniversary
We choose to go to the moon

August 28th – November 10th
On the occasion of Open Days organized to celebrate the 50th anniversary of EPFL federalization
50 ans de thèses EPFL

Movie screening

March 11th
Paywall: The Business of Scholarship

June 4th
Films documentaires made in EPFL

Online community

6’552 followers on @EPFLibrary accounts on social media*

204’073 views on video and stories published by the Library on Youtube and social media*, which 50’000 on Instagram stories.

* cumulative on December 31, 2019

New website

The Library launched its new website. Former websites library.epfl.ch, citation.epfl.ch and researchdata.epfl.ch are now merged in one single website: epfl.ch/campus/library

258’569 visits on the website
2020 projects

- Creation of ACOUA, the archiving tool for EPFL research data.
- Migration to ALMA, the forthcoming Library System Management (LSM), and the new Library network SLSP.
- Continued negotiations with scientific publishers to support Open Access.
- Creation of new webpages and tools for Publishing Support.
- Realization of a new Library tour, and organization of activities and events for the 10th anniversary of the Library.