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Swiss National Sound Archives

Günther Giovannoni, the new head of the Sound Archives, with Marie-Christine Doffey, Director of the NL, and retired head of the Sound Archives Pio Pellizzari
(photo: Miriam Bolliger Cavaglieri)

The most significant change at the National Sound Archives was the appointment of a new head to succeed Pio Pellizzari, who retired at the end of February after more than twenty years in his post. The incumbent since 1 March 2019 is Günther Giovannoni, whose term of office promises both continuity and new projects for the future.

Some figures

Some 976 new recordings were acquired in 2019 (2018: 1136), and 5937 new bibliographic records were added to the catalogue (2018: 8308).

Visits to the website www.fonoteca.ch remained very high, with more than 2 million page views.

The following figures demonstrate the level of public interest in our collections: the database was accessed almost 15 million times (2018: 18 million). In total, 56 institutions in Switzerland have one or more audiovisual workstations available, which were used to listen to 44 477 audio documents in 2019 (2018: 32 370).

Collection

In all, 12 new fonds and collections were acquired. They include those of the recording labels *Turicaphon* in Riedikon (ZH) and *Zytglogge* in Basel as well as the important audio media archives of the composer Arthur Furer and the sound technician and producer Jean-Daniel Brandt.

Thousands of new audio documents are added to the Sound Archives' collections every year
(photo: Miriam Bolliger Cavaglieri)

Outreach

The Sound Archives' collection outreach activities took a variety of forms: collaboration on exhibitions with the Nidwaldner Museum Stans (*Jäger, Tiere, Wilderer. Handwerk und Legenden in Nidwalden*), the Fondazione Sasso San Gottardo in Airolo (*Kalter Krieg – Gotthardmanöver, Warschauer Pakt und 99 Luftballons*), the Swiss National Museum, Zurich (*Joggeli, Pitschi, Globi, beliebte Schweizer Bilderbücher*), the Médiathèque Valais in Martigny (*La Suisse Magazine. Max Kettel. Les reportages de 1926 à 1960*) and the "Le Commun" exhibition space in Geneva (*Nous, saisonniers, saisonnières… Genève, 1931–2019*); the Archives also worked on productions with RTS and RSI. On 15–16 June the Archives were a guest at the second edition of the *Salon du Vinyle de la Glâne* at the Musée du papier peint in Mézières (FR). On the weekend of 25–27 October, the Archives invited members of Wikimedia CH to visit and learn about their activities and the treasures of the audio archives.