Swiss Library Service Platform (SLSP)

Swiss Library Service Platform (SLSP) runs the national library platform swisscovery in collaboration with a current total of 470 libraries in Switzerland. The swisscovery platform makes current scientific resources in Switzerland easily accessible and simple to find for users. SLSP is a not-for-profit organisation. Contributions from the affiliated libraries go towards the ongoing operation and improvement of the shared library platform swisscovery and the associated services.

History
The Swiss Library Service Platform (SLSP) project was initiated in 2015 by 15 libraries as a service ‘by libraries, for libraries’. The aim was to create a national, digital platform that brought together all the scientific information in Switzerland. The SLSP project was co-financed by swissuniversities as part of the P-5: Scientific information programme. This resulted in the formation of the not-for-profit SLSP AG, which now acts as a service provider running the national library platform swisscovery.

By creating swisscovery, SLSP is replacing all previous networks and research platforms operated by academic libraries. By the platform launch on 7 December 2020, 470 libraries had already joined swisscovery, giving it access to over 40 million books, periodicals, journals and non-book materials and over three million digital articles.

In January 2020, the office of the Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries also became part of SLSP. This office obtains licences for scientific resources (digital journals, ebooks and databases) and covers other services such as licence negotiations with providers.

Services for libraries
The operation of the online library platform swisscovery is the main service provided by SLSP. Affiliated libraries can make all their scientific resources easily accessible to all users via swisscovery. In addition to SLSP’s basic services, such as the shared library system, first- and second-level support, the administration of local data and library staff training, libraries can also take advantage of optional services such as the shared courier (SLSP courier). The list of SLSP services for libraries can be found on the SLSP website.

Milestones
2015 The SLSP project is initiated by 15 libraries to verify the feasibility of a national library platform
2017 Swiss Library Service Platform SLSP AG is founded
2018-2020 Building and testing of the national library platform swisscovery
01/2020 The Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries is integrated into SLSP
12/2020 swisscovery is launched for customers of the affiliated libraries

Mission
With swisscovery, SLSP is offering a major innovative step forward in the digital development of libraries. By providing easily accessible, simple-to-find information, it contributes to scientific progress and new discoveries. Through the office of the Consortium, SLSP is also supporting efforts towards a national open-access strategy.

Key figures
Founding of SLSP AG 2017
Employees 38
Affiliated libraries 470

Shareholders
The shareholders are the 15 founding institutions. They have invested financially in establishing the national library platform:
- Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH)
- ETH Zurich
- Fachhochschule Ostschweiz
- University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO)
- University of Basel
- University of Bern
- Università della Svizzera italiana
- University of Fribourg
- University of Geneva
- University of St.Gallen
- University of Zurich
- ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences
- Zentral- und Hochschulbibliothek Luzern
- Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)
- Zentralbibliothek Zürich

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