

Press release, 4 December 2020 (embargo)

swisscovery heralds a new era for libraries

The national library platform swisscovery will be launched on 7 December 2020. swisscovery gives users access to the full range of scientific resources from 470 libraries in Switzerland. This national collaboration between libraries to form a shared library platform is the first of its kind in the world. swisscovery is run by Swiss Library Service Platform (SLSP).

As of 7 December 2020, users of academic libraries will have access to more than 40 million books, periodicals, journals and non-book materials and over three million digital articles via a single platform. This has been made possible by a collaboration between 470 libraries in Switzerland to create the shared digital library platform *swisscovery*.

swisscovery makes research and loans easier and more efficient. Every book, every journal and every article has one single entry in the *swisscovery* database. This allows users to see at a glance which libraries have the book they are looking for and they can then use the new shared courier service to get the book delivered affordably to the library of their choice, where they can later return it. The majority of the 470 affiliated libraries offer this service to users – some of them even provide it for free.

‘*swisscovery* heralds a new era for Swiss libraries and their users,’ says Thomas Marty, Managing Director of Swiss Library Service Platform (SLSP), which runs *swisscovery*. ‘This close network of libraries puts Switzerland in a globally leading position. In no other country do libraries work together so closely.’

swisscovery replaces previous library networks and search platforms. Users need to complete a one-time registration for *swisscovery*, even if they already have an account with one of the affiliated libraries. ‘A small amount of effort for a big pay-off,’ says Jürgen Küssow, Vice Director of SLSP. ‘*swisscovery* harmonises search portals, user accounts, fees and loan periods for users across all 470 affiliated libraries.’

And *swisscovery* has even more potential in store. For example, SLSP is considering extending the shared library platform to other libraries. ‘Currently, only academic libraries are affiliated with *swisscovery*,’ explains Küssow. ‘We would like to develop our service so that public libraries can also be included in future.’

For more information:

Thomas Marty, Director of SLSP, tel.: +41 (0)44 510 16 50
thomas.marty@slsp.ch

Jürgen Küssow, Vice Director of SLSP, tel.: +41 (0)44 291 96 51
juergen.kuessow@slsp.ch

SLSP AG www.slsp.ch/en

National library platform www.swisscovery.slsp.ch

The **Swiss Library Service Platform (SLSP)** was initiated in 2015 as a project of 15 libraries under the motto ‘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 funding programme P-5 “Scientific information”. This resulted in the formation of the not-for-profit company SLSP Ltd., which now acts as a service provider running the national library platform swisscovery with a current total of 470 connected libraries. Contributions from the participating libraries go towards the ongoing operation and improvement of the shared library platform swisscovery and the associated services.