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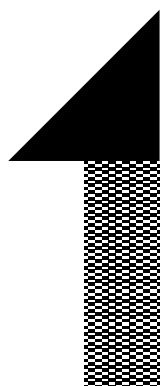






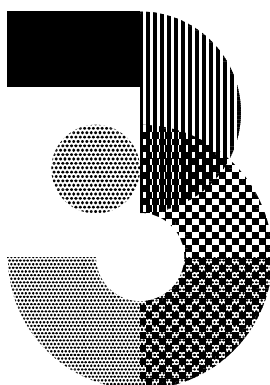
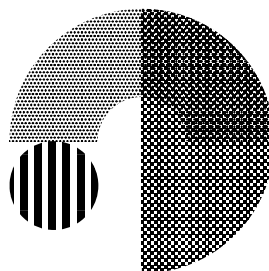


# CONTENTS



1. The BnL in transformation .....	8
Work programme 2022-2024 .....	8
Work programme 2025-2028 .....	10
Vision 2020-2030 .....	12
Strategic priorities .....	13
2024 in figures .....	14

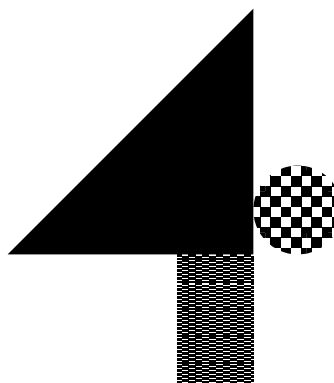
2. Active and loyal readers .....	16
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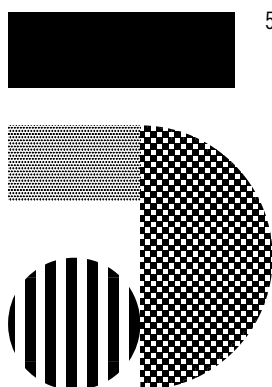
3. A look at our collections .....	18
Printed collections .....	18
Legal deposit .....	21
Notable acquisitions, donations and deposits .....	24
Binding and restoration of documents .....	48
Digital collections .....	49



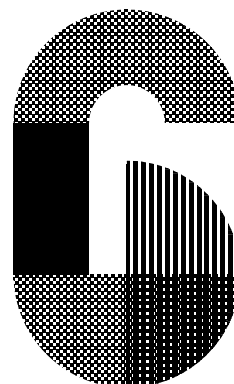
4. Digital innovation .....	58
Artificial intelligence.....	58
Web archive .....	59
Long-term digital preservation.....	60



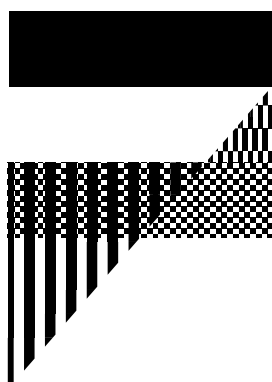
5. The BnL – beacon partner to libraries and actors in the book world.....	62
The bibnet.lu network of Luxembourg libraries.....	62
ISBN, ISMN, ISSN standardisation agency.....	64
Persistent identifiers: ARK and persist.lu.....	64
National and international collaborations .....	65



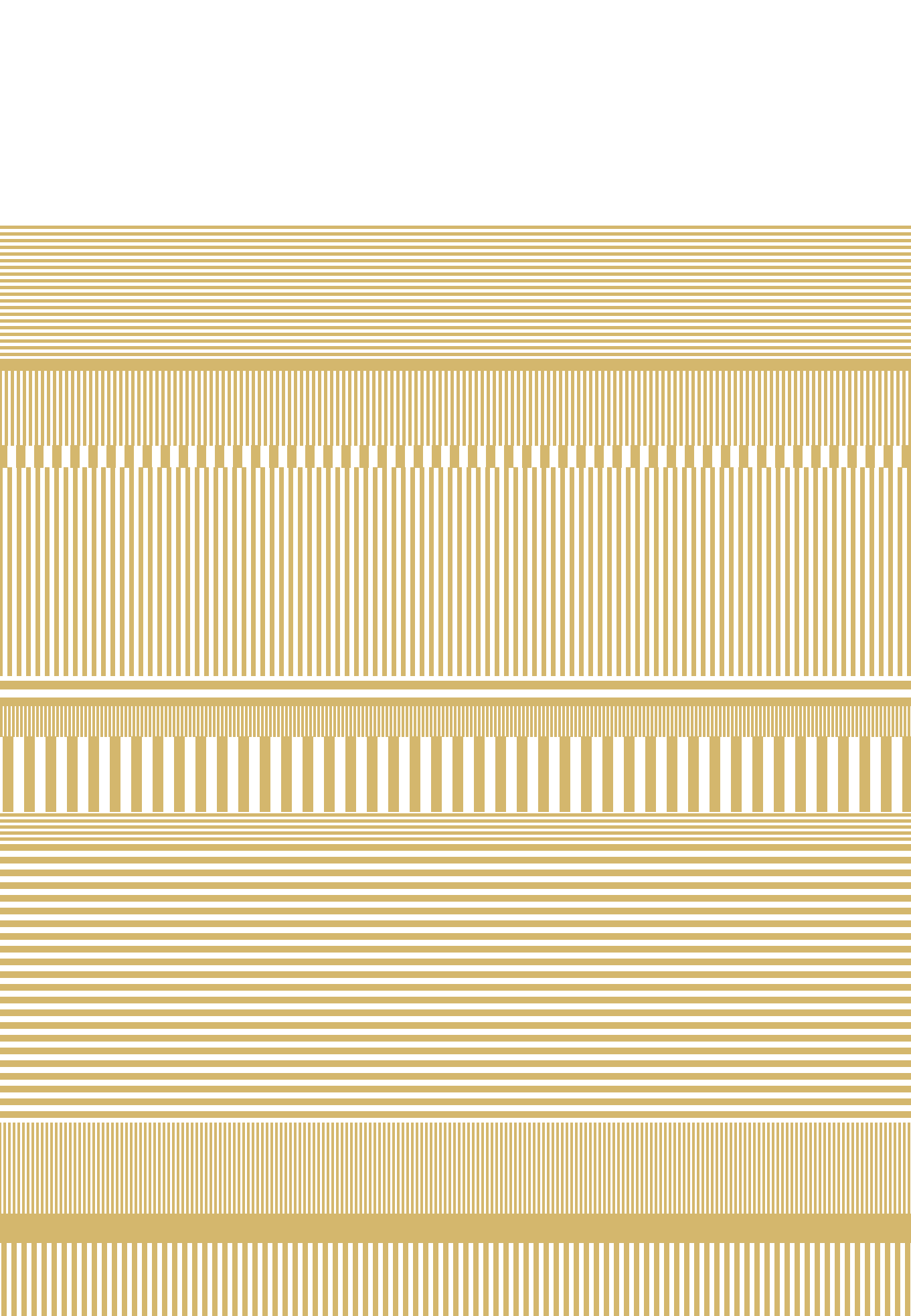
6. Cultural mediation and promotion of the collections .....	70
Call for donations .....	70
Communication campaign .....	71
Conferences and seminars .....	71
Exhibitions .....	75
To discover in the reading room .....	77
Publications .....	78
Presentations .....	82
Educational offers .....	83
The BnL on the web .....	84
The BnL in the media .....	84



7. Technical infrastructure maintenance .....	86
Human resources .....	88
Budget .....	91









# FOREWORD

Dear friends of the National Library,

The year 2024 was notable in many ways, not least for its focus on our missions related to heritage. In this context, the acquisition of the giant Bible of Saint Maximin, dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century, deserves particular attention. It is thanks to the joint efforts of the Ministry of Culture and the government that this exceptional medieval manuscript from the Echternach scriptorium school, previously held in a private collection, has now been added to our collections. With this acquisition, the BnL is further affirming its mission to preserve and pass on its written heritage.

Less spectacular at first glance, but just as important: more than half of the municipal authorities have accepted our offer to simplify the legal deposit process by installing specially designed collection boxes in town halls for physical documents subject to legal deposit. This system enables the BnL to ensure regular collection in order to preserve its documentary heritage more effectively. This measure of accountability in the face of heritage obligations is accompanied by training designed to raise awareness of the need to archive the country's written memory.

It is not just a question of preserving documents, but also of making them accessible. In this respect, the contract between the National Library and the Luxorr management company is remarkable. This contract will enable us to make out-of-print books available via our eluxemburgensia digitisation portal, while ensuring fair remuneration for publishers and authors. We are proud of this agreement, which demonstrates the partnership between libraries, publishers and authors, while affirming our commitment to creators.

The National Library continued its digital strategy in 2024. For the first time, e-books are available online at eluxemburgensia.lu. In addition, the web archives can now be consulted in the reading room using the SolrWayback search engine, enabling users to search for archived websites using keywords. The National Library has also developed an internal process for linking bibliographic records for physical documents to their digital equivalents. This is how we project ourselves into the future. We have also begun analysing the possibilities for automating the cataloguing of born-digital documents. If successful, we plan to roll out this solution in production in 2025 and add thousands of new electronic documents to our catalogue.

Finally, in 2024, as part of our 2020-2030 Vision, we set out an ambitious new work programme, marking a transition from a collection-centric strategy to a user-focused approach. Improvements for users, from registration to easier access to documents, are at the heart of this programme.

2024 has been a year of intense work, and we would like to thank our colleagues for their unwavering commitment, determination and creativity, which have brought us closer to our objectives. In this context, it should be noted that the BnL took part in the survey on staff satisfaction and management practices proposed by the CGPO [State Centre for Human Resources and Organisation Management] in collaboration with University College London (UCL), the University of Nottingham, Roskilde University and the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) to implement improvement measures by giving employees the opportunity to contribute actively to the development of the BnL. We warmly thank our teams for taking part in this survey, the results of which will shape the evolution and continuous improvement of the BnL.

Claude D. Conter & Carlo Blum

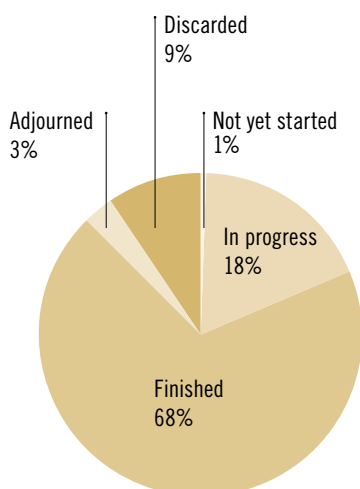


# THE BNL IN TRANSFORMATION

## WORK PROGRAMME 2022-2024

The development of the first work programme enabled BnL to gain valuable experience, improving its approach for the 2025-2028 programme. It has been necessary to increase the involvement of the teams and adapt the planning tools to better structure the work. Despite a strict initial timetable and certain limitations, BnL was able to adjust its methodology by developing its own forms and directly linking projects and strategic objectives.

Projects	138
Not yet started	1
In progress	25
Finished	95
Adjourned	4
Discarded	13



**A total of 95 projects could be completed whilst 25 are still underway.**





### **Self-service collection point**

An automatic collection point was set up on the forecourt of the library, accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, offering a flexible and efficient solution for retrieving reserved documents. This service works in a similar way to postal lockers and only requires a reader's card for access.

### **National bibliography**

In 2024, the National Bibliography of Luxembourg went online at [bnl.lu](https://bnl.lu). This portal, the fruit of several years' work and development, is available to researchers, students and anyone with a passion for Luxembourg culture. By documenting the evolution of intellectual production over the last 40 years, the National Bibliography is a valuable record of Luxembourg's cultural, economic, political and social history. The National Bibliography lists all publications, both printed and digital, published in Luxembourg as well as those published abroad relating to the Grand Duchy. It also includes publications by Luxembourg authors living abroad. The references are classified thematically and users can browse through the various subjects or search by title, author, year of publication or keywords.

### **Lecture notes by Luxembourg students from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries available online**

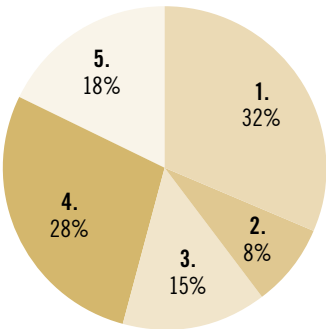
The BnL has put online 8 manuscripts containing the philosophy lecture notes of students at the former University of Louvain (Leuven). Initiated by the KU Leuven Faculty of Economics and Business, these intellectual treasures from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries offer a glimpse of the enthusiasm with which Luxembourg students took notes during their philosophy lessons, sometimes embellishing their writings with diagrams and illustrations.



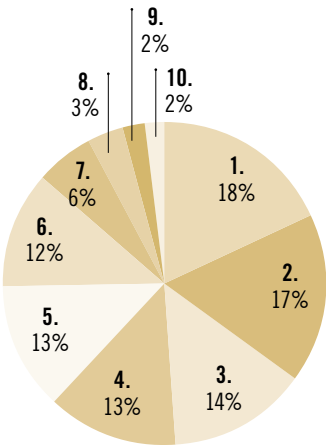
# WORK PROGRAMME 2025-2028

The 2025-2028 programme pays particular attention to users and aims to improve BnL's services while maintaining a balance between continuity and transformation. The result of a collaborative approach, this programme bears witness to the involvement of employees and to BnL's desire to evolve in step with its environment.

For the period 2025-2028, we have identified a total of 171 projects, including new initiatives as well as projects still underway.



Categories	171
1. Mission	54
2. Regulatory compliance	14
3. Service continuity	25
4. Improvements to existing facilities	48
5. Creation of a new solution	30



Nature	171
1. Collection management	31
2. IT deployment	29
3. Data management	24
4. Buildings and infrastructure	22
5. Digitisation	22
6. Customer relationship	20
7. Publication	10
8. Seminar	6
9. Exhibition	4
10. Human resources	3



A significant part of the projects is devoted to the development, enrichment, completion, management, conservation and preservation of manuscript, printed, digital and audiovisual collections. Legal deposit is rigorously applied and the BnL adds to its collections through acquisitions and donations. As a result, cultural and scientific promotion remains an integral part of every project. In addition, consolidating BnL's role as a research centre remains a priority.

As part of the national digitisation strategy, BnL is stepping up its efforts to make its heritage collections available. What's more, infrastructure improvements are becoming increasingly important, not least because automation, digitisation and robotisation are becoming an integral part of everyday life. The BnL is also committed to increasing its efficiency while improving working conditions for its staff and users.

## FLAGSHIP PROJECTS 2025-2028

- Enabling BnL users to load credit onto their reader card online
- Developing online help for [eluxemburgensia.lu](https://eluxemburgensia.lu)
- Implementing a solution for sending loans via pickup stations
- Analysing and developing diversity in the BnL's documentary policy
- Developing a unified platform for legal deposit
- Digitising monographs from the Luxembourgish Collection
- Organising an exhibition on peace movements in Luxembourg
- Publishing a monograph on *Pescatorea*
- Integrating the library card of the [bibnet.lu](https://bibnet.lu) libraries into mobile wallets
- Developing an automated inventory solution for reading room collections
- Organising the CENL General Assembly at the BnL in 2026
- Continuing the transformation to Open Access
- Setting up new digital libraries
- Planning the renewal of the Bicherbus fleet
- Replacing screens in carrels



## VISION 2020-2030

The National Library has the ambition of remaining the Grand Duchy's leading heritage library. Thanks to printed and digital legal deposit, through the development of Luxembourg's national bibliography and by making available high-performing library research tools, the BnL will be able to ensure easy and free access to heritage collections, whether manuscript, printed or digital. Following an acquisition policy adapted to the expectations of a society that is aware of conservation and of the valorisation of heritage, it will supplement its collections by acquiring handwritten, printed, digital, iconographic and multimedia documents, as well as by donations and legacies. It will apply the principles of curative and preventive conservation to all its collections.

In an international and dynamic context comprising research institutions, scientific organisations and research companies, the BnL wishes to evolve as a scientific and research library in order to better meet the needs of education as well as those of the academic and professional worlds. It intends to be, for all libraries and public research actors in Luxembourg, the preferred partner in the field of negotiation, management and bibliometrics of digital resources.

The BnL will act as head of the bibnet.lu network and as a national bibliographic agency and will, in accordance with national and international standards, provide reference cataloguing for sharing under open licence. As single-source provider of library services, it will manage the infrastructure and the technical facilities needed for the collective catalogue to operate. It will also ensure the adaptation of standards, offer professional training programmes and operate as a partner in the library ecosystem.

The BnL is always aware of the fundamental role it plays in a knowledge-based society, and consequently it will ensure easy and free access to its collections, both on site in suitably equipped reading rooms or online in accordance with the legal provisions in force. With this purpose, it will step up the process of automating its services to the public: registration, information and guidance for users, inventorying in the reading room and in the stacks, optimisation of the search for and the consultation of digital documents.

The BnL will strengthen its mission of promoting science, education and culture through an ambitious digitisation programme, by organising events, conferences, meetings, temporary exhibitions, publications and by offering research tools on site and online. In the context of a pluralistic society, it intends to raise awareness of the international aspects of Luxembourgish heritage, with the aim of contributing to the social cohesion of the different communities living in Luxembourg. Moreover, it will be a vector for heritage-related knowledge and for actors in the book field in Luxembourg.

In order to successfully complete these projects of adapting and modernising its missions, it is essential for all staff to be at the heart of these developments.



The guiding thread of the vision draws from the motto of transformation of a library with a unique character taking up the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- We want to contribute to the advancement of research and scientific progress and to the enrichment of the social and cultural life of Luxembourg.
- We would like to position the BnL more firmly as a trusted partner in dialogue and as a facilitator of innovation in library science.
- We wish to guarantee free access to knowledge and culture and thus contribute to maintaining and the progress of democracy.
- It is through our status, the richness of our resources and our infrastructures and the expertise of our staff, that the BnL intends to remain the country's flagship library and will ensure a complete service - from collection and conservation to content production and knowledge dissemination.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

1. We ensure easy access to the collections and services and adapt them to new needs
2. We develop, enrich, complete, manage, conserve and preserve the manuscript, printed, digital and audiovisual collections
3. We digitise heritage collections
4. We ensure cultural, educational and scientific valorisation of the collections
5. We strengthen the culture of recognition, collaboration and training
6. We develop the BnL's digital transformation process
7. We promote the information sciences professions
8. We pursue strategic national and international partnerships
9. We draw up an infrastructure development plan

**The guiding thread of the vision draws from the motto of transformation of a library with a unique character taking up the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**



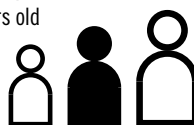
# 2024 in figures

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**Staff**  
116.45 full time  
equivalents

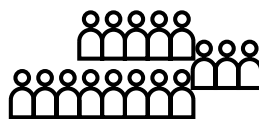
**Average age of BnL staff**  
42.3 years old



**93**

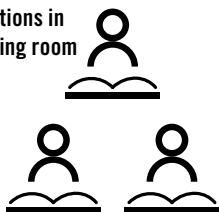
**Libraries  
participating in the  
bibnet.lu network**

**Annual funding**  
8,159,360

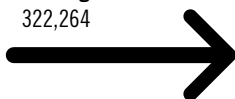


**Total registrations**  
40,781

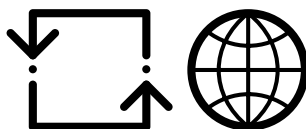
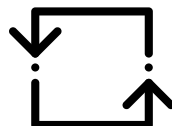
**Workstations in  
the reading room**  
470



**Admissions in the  
reading room**  
322,264



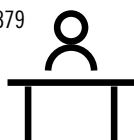
**Home loans**  
74,791



**Interlibrary loan requests**  
1,000



Carrel  
reservations  
14,379



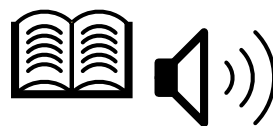
Electronic periodicals  
84,944



**832,428**

Scientific e-books

Audio books  
2,264



**20,433**

General interest e-books



Web archive  
467.5 TB

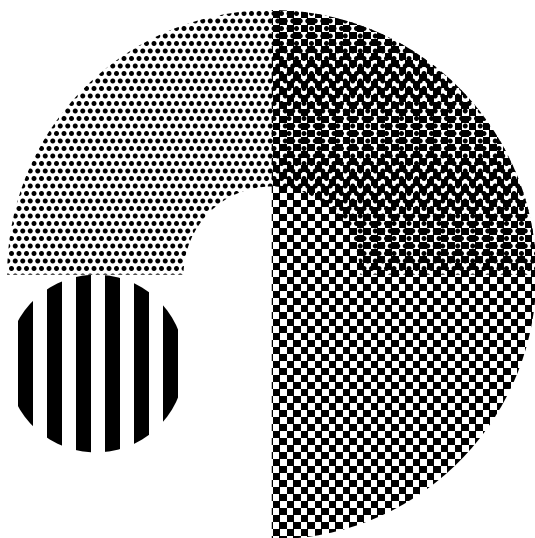
Bicherbus tours  
undertaken  
194



Bicherbus km  
covered  
21,898

**KM**





## ACTIVE AND LOYAL READERS

The BnL has 40,781 registered users. There were 322,264 visits to our reading room that very year. May was the busiest month, with an average of 1,483 admissions per day.

NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS AND VISITS		
Registrations	2024	Trend since 2023
Number of reader accounts at the BnL <sup>1</sup>	40,781	+ 9%
Number of Bicherbus reader accounts <sup>1</sup>	1,681	- 4%
Visits to the reading room <sup>2</sup>	2024	Trend since 2023
Total	322,264	+ 13%
Average per day	1,279	+ 59%
Peak in May	1,483	+ 22%

The reading room is equipped with computer workstations, relaxation islands and armchairs. There are also eleven carrels (group rooms), three audio booths and a music room. 470 seats of all types are currently available in the reading room.



The workspace which is reserved the most is the music room.

Scan the QR code to find out more about our premises.

NUMBER OF ROOM RESERVATIONS		
	2024	Trend since 2023
Carrels	14,379	+ 14%
Music Room	1,478	+ 6%
Audio booths	2,568	+ 27%
Total	18,425	+ 15%





A total of 74,791 home loans were made in 2024.

**The closed stacks logistics department prepared book reservations, sorted over 45,000 returns, and affixed over 18,000 call number labels to newly catalogued documents.**

NUMBER OF ON-SITE LOANS BY COLLECTION	2024	Trend since 2023
Luxembourgish Collection and special collections	5,538	- 9%
Non-Luxembourgish Collection	350	- 14%
Total reserved works	5,888	- 10%

NUMBER OF HOME LOANS	2024	Trend since 2023
Luxembourgish Collection <sup>3</sup>	4,129	+ 13%
Non-Luxembourgish Collection	21,142	- 2%
Media Centre <sup>4</sup>	7,084	+ 5%
Bicherbus	42,436	- 4%
Total documents loaned <sup>5</sup>	74,791	- 2%

NUMBER OF INTERLIBRARY LOAN REQUESTS	2024	Trend since 2023
Total	1,000	- 29% <sup>6</sup>

In response to growing demand from its users, since April 2024 the National Library has authorised the use of water bottles in its reading rooms, provided they are transparent and hold no more than 500 ml. This measure, considered exceptional given its rarity in heritage libraries, aims to improve the comfort and well-being of readers.

In July 2024, the BnL set up an automatic collection point in the forecourt of the library. This station allows users to retrieve their reserved documents. This service works in a similar way to postal lockers and only requires a valid reader card for access.

In November 2024, new computer workstations were installed in the reading room.

Additional signage has been installed on the ground floor of the reading room to draw readers' attention to the thematic selections on display.

1. Reader accounts with an expiry date after 01/01/2024 and a registration date before 31/12/2024.

2. New calculation method from January 2024: admissions are no longer halved. Undivided figure for admissions to reading rooms in 2023: 284,036 per year, 1,132 per day, daily peak in April 2023: 1,215.

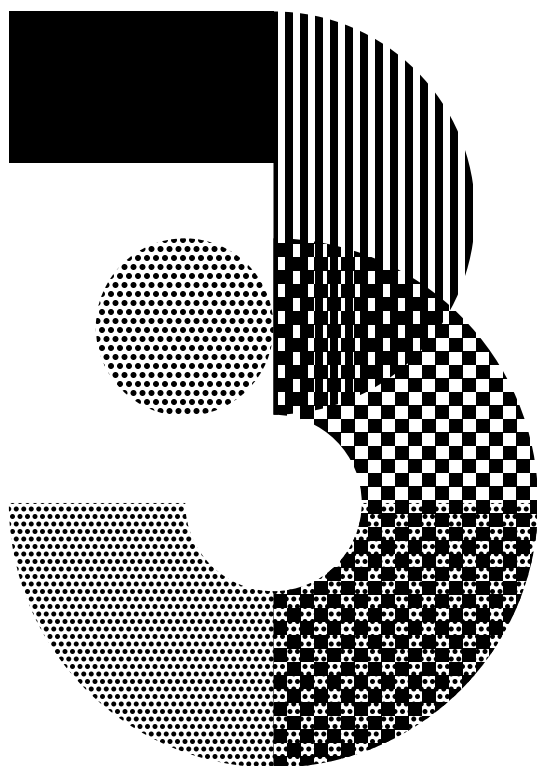
3. Including printed scores, Cedom monographs and periodicals.

4. Including Cedom music CDs.

5. Excluding interlibrary loan shipments.

6. This figure is lower because, since March 2023, Uni.lu has been handling its members' interlibrary loan requests itself.





# A LOOK AT OUR COLLECTIONS

As a heritage and scientific library, the BnL features a Luxembourgish Collection and a Non-Luxembourgish Collection of printed documents, in addition to its special collections. The latter makes up around  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the physical collections at the BnL and encompasses every field of knowledge.

With regard to the BnL's acquisitions policy, orders for documents placed with Luxembourgish suppliers have overtaken those placed with international partners. The result of this is that the BnL is a significant professional intermediary for publishers and libraries in Luxembourg.

## PRINTED COLLECTIONS

LUXEMBOURGISH COLLECTION	Number of titles at 31.12.2024	Trend since 2023 (titles)
Monographs	85,593	+ 2,152
Periodicals	5,477	+ 157
Dissertations and theses <sup>7</sup>	11,558	+ 565
NON-LUXEMBOURGISH COLLECTION	Number of titles at 31.12.2024	Trend since 2023 (titles)
Monographs <sup>8</sup>	448,609	+ 7,407
Periodicals <sup>9</sup>	2,781	+ 13
Sound documents: audiobooks	2,456	+ 1
Audiovisual documents	20,814	+ 648
Multimedia documents: language learning media	922	+ 1
Number of suggested acquisitions from readers	621	+ 33





SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	Number of titles at 31.12.2024	Trend since 2023 (titles)
<b>Manuscripts Collection</b>		
Manuscripts (6 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> centuries)	936	+ 3
<b>Rare Books Collection</b>		
Incunabula	184	-
Rare and precious printed works	370	-
Facsimile editions	170	-
Historical and artistic bindings	432	-
<b>Poster and postcard Collection</b>		
Historic and contemporary posters (material units)	53,521	+ 1,033
Historical and contemporary postcards (material units)	60,147	+ 710
<b>Collection of Cards, Maps, Atlases and Views</b>		
Maps & plans (atlases) (material units)	7,407	+ 94
<b>Cedom Music Collection</b>		
Sound documents: music <sup>10</sup>	4,806	+ 171
Printed scores	4,567	+ 221
Manuscript musical scores	3,987	+ 5
<b>Iconography Collection</b>		
Illustrated and art books	1,719	+ 9
Prints	3,876 <sup>11</sup>	+ 340
Iconography documents	3,357	+ 21
Historic portraits	1,189	+ 22
<b>BICHERBUS COLLECTION</b>	<b>Number of titles at 31.12.2024</b>	<b>Trend since 2023 (titles)</b>
Bicherbus Collection	44,948	-

7. Including works deposited in 2024 and awaiting cataloguing.

8. Not including back-catalogued documents.

9. Periodicals from international organisations are not included.

10. All types of media taken together (magnetic tapes, audio records or cassettes, compact discs).

11. Correction of the total following an inventory: 3,876 prints instead of 3,063.





## RESEARCH ON PROVENANCE OF THE BnL'S COLLECTIONS

As part of an agreement signed on 27 January 2021 between the State of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Israelite Consistory of Luxembourg, research on the provenance of works of art and other cultural property is being carried out in three Luxembourg institutions, including the BnL.

Researcher Marc Adam Kolakowski, from the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH), has been commissioned to carry out an in-depth study into the provenance of the BnL's collections. This approach is in line with the principles established at the Washington Conference of 3 December 1998 (Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art) and the Terezin Declaration of 30 June 2009. Documents identified as looted will be returned in accordance with these international agreements.

All BnL documents belonging to the Non-Luxembourgish Collection and published before 1945 have been analysed to identify marks of provenance, such as ex-libris, dedications, ownership inscriptions or stamps. More than 50,000 documents were examined between mid-September 2024 and the end of February 2025.

## INVENTORIES CARRIED OUT

After carrying out an inventory in 2023 of documents with a "D" call number (pocket format) stored in the closed stacks of the Non-Luxembourgish Collection, the BnL continued its inventory work with documents with a "C" call number. A total of 103,244 copies were processed between July and August 2024.



## LEGAL DEPOSIT

Legal deposit is an essential pillar in the preservation of a country's cultural and intellectual heritage. At the BnL, it plays a central role in the creation of the Luxembourgish Collection, guaranteeing the conservation and availability of works published in the Grand Duchy.

Established by law in 1958, legal deposit requires all authors, publishers and printers to deposit a copy of their printed or digital publications with the BnL. This obligation extends well beyond books and periodicals: it also covers posters, postcards, leaflets, musical scores, graphic works, calendars and many other types of documents. This legislative framework, which aims to preserve the nation's entire cultural output, reflects the importance attached to collective memory and access to information for future generations.

## NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

In October 2024, the BnL put the National Bibliography of Luxembourg online, accessible at [bn.bnl.lu](https://bn.bnl.lu). It lists all publications, both printed and digital, published in Luxembourg as well as those published abroad in connection with the Grand Duchy. It also includes publications by Luxembourg authors living abroad. The references are classified thematically and users can browse through the various subjects or search by title, author, year of publication or keywords. This portal can also be used to make reservation requests for documents available for home loan or for on-site consultation.

**Did you know that the first edition of the National Bibliography was published in 1946, covering the period from 10 September 1944 to 31 December 1945? Thereafter, it was published annually until 2005, when the BnL abandoned the paper version in favour of a continuously updated digital version.**

On the [bn.bnl.lu](https://bn.bnl.lu) portal, users can find documents published from 1985 to the present day. Publications prior to this date are gradually being added.



## PILOT PROJECT FOR THE LEGAL DEPOSIT OF MUNICIPAL PUBLICATIONS

In September 2025, the BnL launched a pilot project to facilitate the legal deposit of publications printed and published by municipal administrations. Specially designed boxes are made available to participating municipalities and are regularly collected by the BnL. Until now, it was up to the municipal authorities to send the documents themselves. At present, 54 municipalities and 33 ministries, State departments and services are taking part in the project, simplifying the process for local authorities.

Legal deposit requires publishers and public bodies to submit 1 to 4 copies, depending on the type of document, to the BnL to ensure that it is preserved for future generations. This obligation applies to all publications produced in Luxembourg, including books, periodicals, posters, postcards, leaflets, calendars and other printed and digital documents.







## LEGAL DEPOSIT OF PRINTED DOCUMENTS

	material units	titles
Monographs	+ 4,515	+ 1,241
Maps and plans	+ 49	+ 13
Historic and contemporary posters	+ 908	not available
Historical and contemporary postcards	+ 336	+ 200
Prints	+ 191	+ 191
Printed scores	-	+ 101

## DIGITAL LEGAL DEPOSIT

### Municipal publications: first put online at eluxemburgensia.lu

The publications of Luxembourg's municipal and State administrations form a fundamental part of the country's written heritage. In order to meet its legal obligations, in particular its mission to ensure that as many people as possible have access to its heritage collections, the BnL plans to put these publications online successively on its eluxemburgensia.lu platform. This measure concerns documents that are already accessible on local authority websites, in particular municipal bulletins and other information magazines.

Rumelange's municipal bulletin, *Rëmelenger Calepin*, has just been put online in 2024. The *Calepin* is the first publication submitted through digital legal deposit to make its debut on eluxemburgensia.lu.

To facilitate the transmission of digital documents, the BnL has set up file-sharing software, which makes it quick and easy to transfer publications released by publishers.

### Monographs: a significant increase

In 2024, 2,559 monographs (e-books, brochures, posters and leaflets) were added to the digital collection. The considerable increase in publications since 2022 (1,108 documents) is explained by reforms to the collection process and the growing adoption of digital format.

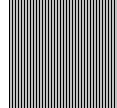
### Periodicals: rigorous monitoring

Newspapers, magazines and reports are an essential part of long-term digital preservation. At present, 1,315 periodical websites are regularly accessed to identify new editions that have been put online. In 2024, 123 new titles joined the collection. Since the start of systematic collection of periodicals in 2016, over 40,000 files have been archived manually, which is the equivalent of 280 GB of data.

### Newsletters: a source not to be underestimated

Newsletters, often perceived as ephemeral documents, are gradually replacing associations' and companies' information bulletins and brochures. Since 2016, the BnL has been working to expand this collection, which now includes 17.01 GB of informational messages from hundreds of Luxembourg organisations.





## **NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS, DONATIONS AND DEPOSITS**







## MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION

### THE GIANT BIBLE OF SAINT MAXIMIN

The BnL has just acquired one of the rarest thousand-year-old manuscripts, which will considerably enrich the country's cultural and historical heritage.

Written at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, this manuscript is one of the last surviving examples of its kind. In addition to its exceptional rarity, it stands out for its remarkable state of conservation. It was produced in close collaboration with the scriptorium of Echternach, one of the most influential intellectual and artistic centres of the early Middle Ages. At the time, Echternach was part of the Archbishopric of Trier and played a central role in the creation of high-quality illuminated manuscripts. This unique document represents a high point in the scriptorial culture of the Echternach school, whose influence extended far beyond the walls of the cloister.



### Materiality and monumentality

Weighing 18 kilos and measuring 80 cm wide and 55 cm high when opened, this Bible is an extraordinary example of medieval craftsmanship. The production of this parchment required the skins of more than 230 cows, testifying the enormous investment in resources and labour required to produce such a work.

### Evolution of the manuscript

Although the bulk of the text was written in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Bible was the subject of corrections and additions until the 16<sup>th</sup> century, particularly for liturgical use in the abbey of Saint Maximin. This manuscript reflects the work of at least 15 scribes over the course of five centuries.

### Artistic splendour

The decoration of this manuscript bears witness to a refined visual hierarchy. The ornate initials are one of the highlights of this work. Drawn in red ink and surrounded by geometric or plant motifs, they are veritable miniature works of art. The letters are decorated with foliage and interlacing, in particular the split letters, typical of the art of the period, which are reminiscent of those in the Echternach Bible commissioned by Abbot Régimbert. The layout elements reveal a constant concern for clarity and elegance. Medieval manuscripts followed strict rules for the composition of the text, and this Bible is no exception.

Another fascinating aspect of the decoration is the spectacular frontispiece pages. The first page (f. 1v) features a frame painted in red, blue and yellow, intended to hold the rubric of the Book of Genesis, while the page on f. 5v displays ten bands of colour in two columns. This play of colours evokes the production of a generation earlier than that of this Bible, in particular the Epternacian production of the Nuremberg Codex aureus.







### **Return to its homeland**

This medieval manuscript has travelled through almost a thousand years of history, passing from monastic hands to the most prestigious private collections. It was first kept at the Abbey of Saint Maximin in Trier, where it was used for five centuries as a lectionary for the major liturgical feasts.

Its exceptional journey was marked by several major events, in particular when the abbey was suppressed in 1802, leading to the dispersal of its library. This Bible has miraculously escaped the looting and destruction that decimated so many other manuscripts from this period.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it became part of the legendary collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps (London), one of the greatest bibliophiles of his time. Phillipps' ex-libris, as well as those of many other owners, can still be seen in the manuscript, testifying to its passage through numerous private collections.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Bible was offered for sale at Sotheby's in 1946, but its exceptional value put it beyond the reach of many institutional buyers. It was subsequently bought by several private collectors.

In 2024, the BnL was finally able to acquire this priceless treasure after lengthy negotiations, bringing it back almost a thousand years after its creation to the region where it was originally produced.

Its acquisition by the BnL is a unique opportunity to enrich Luxembourg's national heritage and ensure its preservation for future generations.



**It is very rare for a manuscript to return to its “birthplace” almost a thousand years after it was written, and it is even rarer for its progress over such a long period to be retraced year after year. The giant Bible is a unique example.**

Claude D. Conter, Director of the BnL



**The giant Bible  
on YouTube**

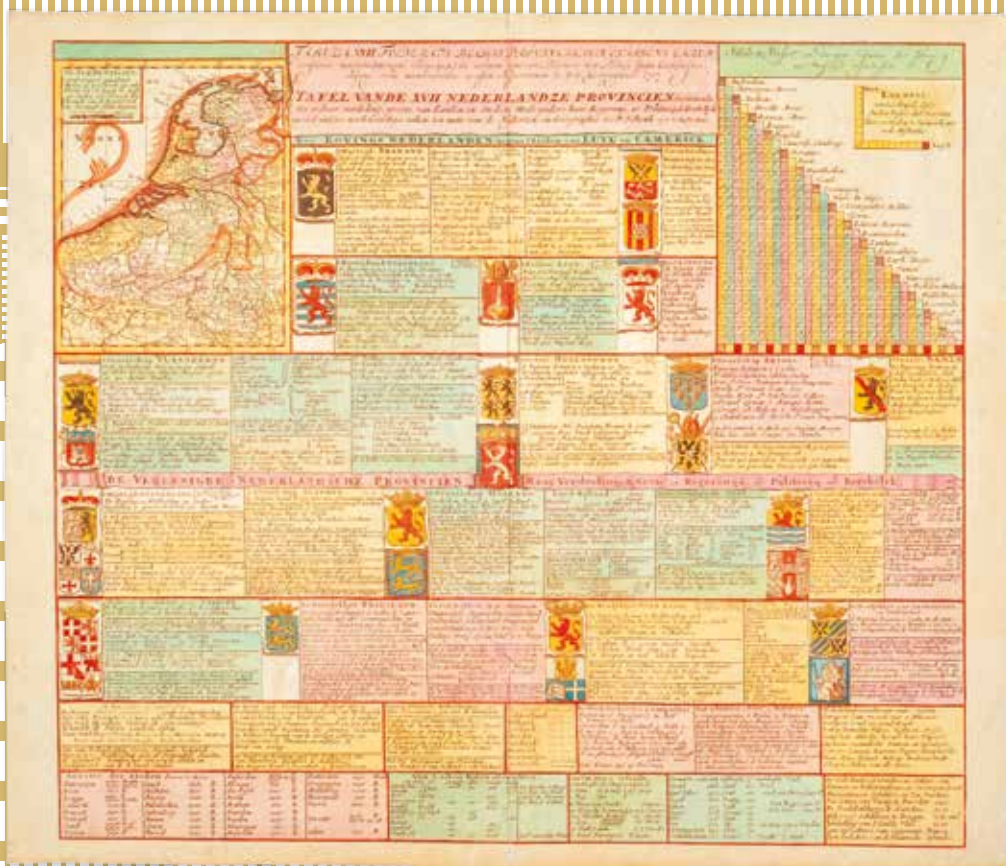








## COLLECTION OF CARDS, PLANS, ATLASES AND VIEWS



***Tafel vande XVII Nederlandze Provincien, Vertonende der zelve verdeling, grootte van Landen en Steden, [...], copper engraving published by Peter Schenk, 1707, 48 x 55 cm.***

This is a rare, coloured map showing the seventeen provinces of the Low Countries in the shape of the “Leo Belgicus” (“Belgian Lion”) (cp. Henricus A. M. van der Heijden, *Leo Belgicus. An illustrated and annotated carto-bibliography*, Alphen aan den Rijn, 2006, no. 31). The Duchy of Luxembourg lies beneath the lion’s front paws. In the legend relating to the Duchy, below that of Brabant and to the left of that of Liège, it is specified that the territory is divided into two districts, German and Walloon. And that seven counties (Schleiden, St-Jean, Chiny, Rochefort, Salm, Vianden and Durbuy) would form part of them, whereas the county of Durbuy has been part of the county of Luxembourg for a long time and it is not clear what Schenk means by the county of St-Jean, possibly the seigneurie of Mont St-Jean (Dudelange).





**Plan de Luxembourg Ville Forte  
Capitale Du Duché de même nom,  
[Plan of Luxembourg, the fortified  
capital city of the Duchy of the  
same name], [...], copper engraving  
published in Paris by G(uillaume)  
Danet, 1734, ca. 45 x 54 cm.**

The coloured map (cp. Emile van der Vekene, *Les plans de la ville et forteresse de Luxembourg*, Luxembourg, 1996, no. 30.14) is almost identical to the one by Jean Crépy (circa 1730; no. 30.13). It faces east, meaning that the modern districts of Kirchberg and Cents are at the top. The 33 numbers and six letters explained in the legend ("RENVU") on the right refer mainly to various elements of the fortress, such as the cofferdam (barrage; no. 19), built in 1728, in the valley of the Pétrusse, between the old town and what is now the Bourbon plateau. The Bock castle is curiously referred to on the map as "Château de Munster".



**Half-length portrait,  
of Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen (1792-1854),  
Queen of Bavaria from 1825 to 1848.**

The sixth child of Frederick Ist, Duke of Saxe-Hildburghausen (1763-1834) and Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz (1769-1818), she was a member of the Albertine branch of the House of Wettin, a royal and princely dynasty of German origin. The present portrait, acquired in March 2024, was designed and carried out in the so-called "royal" format (69 x 50 cm) by the lithographic printers Ferdinand Piloty and Loehle, publishers at the Royal Bavarian Pinakothek, around 1840. The elder sister of Luise of Saxe-Hildburghausen (1792-1825), Duchess Consort of Nassau, Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen was the aunt of Adolphe of Nassau-Weilburg (1817-1905), the future Grand Duke of Luxembourg from his accession to the Grand Ducal dignity in 1890 until his death at the age of 88 in 1905.



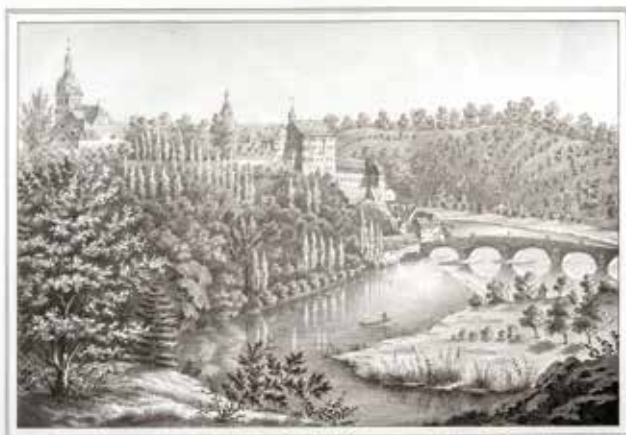
**Half-length portrait of Princess Adelheid of Anhalt-Dessau (1833-1916) aged around 9, acquired in February 2024.**

The lithograph, based on a painting by the famous Dessau court portraitist Johann Heinrich Beck (1788-1875), was produced and printed around 1842 in the studio of Franz Seraph Hanfstaengl (1804-1877) in Dresden. Hanfstaengl, still best known today for his photographic portraits of contemporary public figures such as Franz Liszt (circa 1858) and Elisabeth of Wittelsbach (circa 1854), nicknamed “Sissi”, demonstrates his remarkable artistic talents here. The representation of the subject’s childhood is admirably brought out, both in her gestures and expressions, making this lithograph a work of great interest from both an artistic and printing history point of view. As the wife of Adolphe of Nassau-Weilburg, Princess Adelheid was Grand Duchess of Luxembourg for 14 years until the latter’s death in 1905.



**View of the Baroque castle of Weilburg on the River Lahn**

The ancestral seat of the House of Nassau-Weilburg, which has provided the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg with its sovereigns since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The lithograph shown here, which gives the viewer a perspective of Weilburg from the south, was published around 1830 in the lithographic studio of the court art dealer and prolific publisher Johann Velten (1807-1883) from Karlsruhe. Acquired in September 2023, this extremely rare print was carefully restored in February 2024. The sheet measures approximately 18 x 26 cm.



*Weilburg*





### Copper engraving

Engraving by the Luxembourger Richard Collin (1626-1698) inspired by Abraham van Diepenbeeck, depicting the two holy missionaries Willibrord, known as the Apostle to the Frisians and founder of the monastery of Echternach, and Boniface, known as the Apostle to the Germans.

The two saints, represented in their bishop's finery (of Utrecht and Mainz), hold a monstrance together in the centre of the image. In his left hand, Willibrord is holding a crozier resting on a wine barrel, and in front of him water is gushing up from the ground, a reference to two of his miracles recounted by Alcuin in the first book of his *Vita s. Willibrordi* in prose. In front of Boniface, a putto is piercing a book with a sword, a reminder of the destruction of a pagan sanctuary by the Saint and the fact, that an Evangeliary protected him from the fighting strength. The image is framed by a topographical view with two churches and a cloud above the saints from which putti look down on the scene.

At the bottom, we read a brief description of the image and a tribute to the patron Guilielmus Cygnaeus, most likely Willem de Zwaan (1610-1673), whose coat of arms can be seen in the centre below the monstrance.

This engraving can be read as a union of faith across territorial divisions: behind Willibrord, the Low Countries and the Dutch Republic, with the North Sea in the distance; behind Boniface, the Alps, pars pro toto for the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, united by the monstrance of faith.



## POSTER AND POSTCARD COLLECTION

### Nuit au château de Vianden, 14 août 1949 [Night at Vianden castle 14 August 1949]

Poster created by the artist Louis Bassing, who was born on 12 February 1907 in Vianden and died on 25 February 1944 in the Hinzert concentration camp. He was posthumously awarded the Croix de l'Ordre de la Résistance [Cross of the Order of the Resistance] 1940-1944. Dimensions: 73 x 52 cm.



### Nuit des Vedettes 28/02/1960 [Night of the Stars 28/02/1960], Ausstellungshalle Limpertsberg

A party bringing together a number of German soloists, the orchestra of NWDR (Nordwestdeutscher Rundfunk) from Hamburg and Luxembourg musician Camillo Felgen. Organised by Vélo-Sport, Dommeldange, this poster reports on local life and its seasonal festivities. Dimensions: 84 x 59 cm.





**Foire Benelux Anvers, du 23 septembre au 9 octobre 1949**  
**[Benelux Fair Antwerp, from 23 September to 9 October 1949]**

In the spirit of European reconstruction after the Second World War, this fair aimed to showcase the full range of products from Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, well before the Benelux Economic Union was established in 1958. The fair covered an area of around 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> and included a restaurant. Dimensions: 97 x 61 cm.





### ***Deiwelselter* Postcard**

Postcard published by Franz Bourscheid in Diekirch and printed by *Kunstanstalt Rosenblatt* in Frankfurt. The card, sent in 1921 to Tavannes (Switzerland), features relief printing, enhancing the colourful image of the *Deiwelselter* in Diekirch, as well as the flowers embellishing the card. It is thought that the site of the altar was originally a burial ground and that the *Deiwelselter* has existed for 4,000 years. It was rebuilt in its current form in 1892.

### **Rindschleiden postcard**

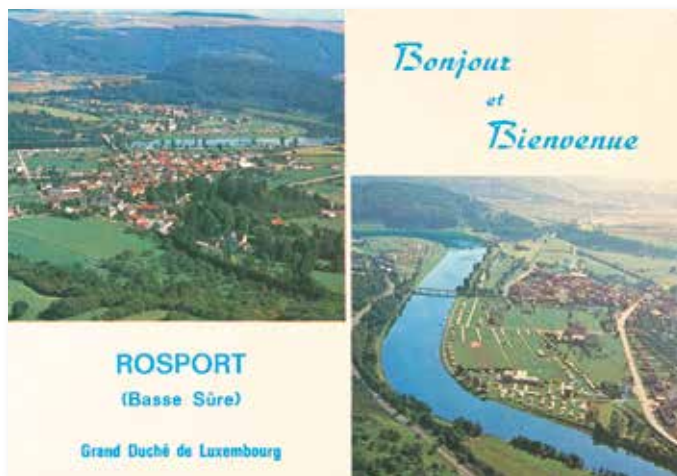
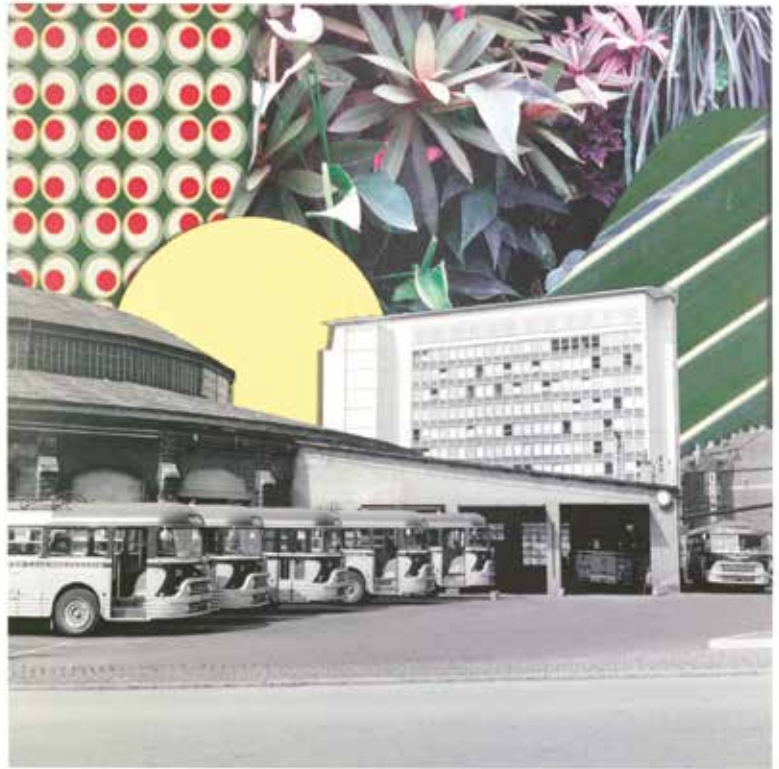
This postcard, whose date of publication is unknown, shows the beautiful 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century frescoes and the altar of the Romanesque church in Rindschleiden, a monument listed by the National Institute for Architectural Heritage (INPA). Card no. 70 was produced by master photographer Philippe Heirand, who had his studio in Mersch until 1979. Heirand was also president and general secretary of the Federation of Professional Photographers of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for a number of years.





### Postcard by Yannick Tossing

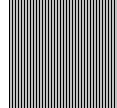
This postcard features a photograph of the Rotondes next to the Luxembourg Railway Station, taken by Édouard Kutter in 1960 and transformed into a collage by Yannick Tossing. It was published by the Rotondes for the “Les voyeuses” exhibition held in summer 2024. Yannick Tossing is one of twelve Luxembourg and international artists who have worked on photographs by Édouard Kutter, Pol Aschman, Romain Urhausen, Theo Mey and Tony Krier to present the historic images of the Rotondes from a different angle.



### Postcard from the Rosport Tourist Office

This tourist postcard features two magnificent aerial views of the village of Rosport, promoting leisure activities on the banks of the Lower Sûre. Distributed by the Rosport Tourist Office, founded in 1933, and printed by I.P.S. (Industrial Photographic Service) Luxembourg, it was probably published between 1973 and 1980. Thanks to its location and its campsites, in the 1970s Rosport saw a considerable increase in the number of holidaymakers from, amongst others, the Netherlands, Belgium and the Grand Duchy.





***Fiels am Stuerm, Copper engraving, edition 1/1, 2023.***

This major work by the artist Danielle Grosbusch was transferred to the BnL as a legal deposit in early 2024.

The Luxembourgish artist-engraver used a combination of intaglio techniques - etching, mezzotint, chiselling on a backdrop and monotype - to create this unexpected view of Luxembourg City.

## ICONOGRAPHY COLLECTION



© Danielle Grosbusch



## COLLECTION OF THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES AND BOOKS IN LUXEMBOURG

The BnL was able to acquire the private collection of ex-libris of Mr Jo Kohn (1946-2016), one of the greatest collectors of Luxembourg and foreign ex-libris in the Grand Duchy.







## EPHEMERA COLLECTION

Old Maxim Pasta advertisement, undated, 25 x 34 cm.

The Crescentini family company founded the Maxim pasta factory in Esch/Alzette, rue du Canal, in 1922, where it has been operating for over a century. Right from the start, Maxim pasta was made with durum wheat semolina and the "Mavi" speciality with fresh eggs is made using traditional methods. The pasta was recognised as equivalent to the best Italian products and won the gold medal in the food group at the National Exhibition in Esch/Alzette in September 1923, and the Grand Prix in 1933.



## CEDOM MUSIC COLLECTION

Cedom has been able to enrich its archive holdings of Luxembourgish composers and musical communities through seven transfers for the following archival collections:

- Julien Hoffmann Collection
- Gast Waltzing Collection
- PIWA Collection
- Franz Peter Holler - Renée Bisdorff Collection
- Fanfare Hamm Collection
- Grand-Ducal Choral Hollerich Collection
- The Outsiders and Syndicate of Sound Collection

In 2024, a number of historical inventories of music archives were made available on [www.a-z.lu](http://www.a-z.lu) in the form of lists containing, among other things, the title of the work, the authors/composers/arrangers, the date of production and the format. These include the following collections:

- Théodore Decker Collection
- Paul Sontag Collection
- Alfred Kowalsky Collection



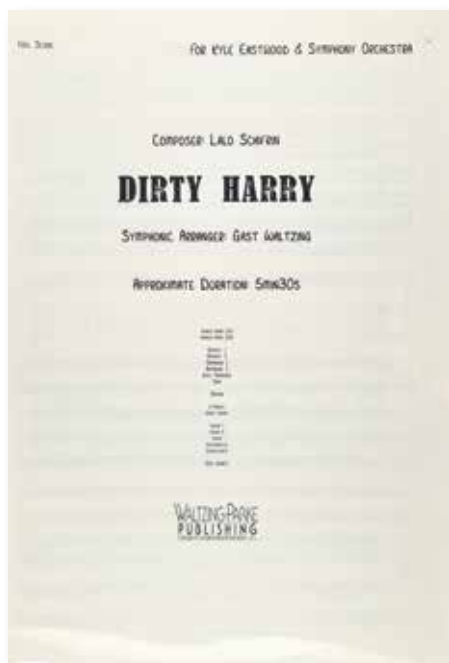
### Julien Hoffmann Collection

Julien Hoffmann (1924-2007) was a music teacher, composer, choir director, organist and arranger. He was responsible for teaching music at a number of secondary schools and at the Conservatoire of the city of Luxembourg. He was also choir director of the choral societies of Gasperich, Howald, Walferdange and "Sang a Klang" in Pfaffenthal. In 1966, he founded the Jong Letzeburg choir, one of the first mixed choirs in Luxembourg. The Julien Hoffmann Collection bears witness to his many compositions and arrangements, but also contains hitherto unknown correspondence, photos and collectables by Hoffmann.

**Jong Letzeburg: *Tanz der Geister. D'Pierle vum Daa. Cheveux au vent. Heureux. Si tous les gars.* Conductor: Julien Hoffmann. [Luxembourg:] Luxembourg Sound [1969].**

Single album by *Jong Letzeburg* released by Edy Noël's label Luxembourg Sound.





### Gast Waltzing Collection

The donation of the Gast Waltzing Collection, a jazz trumpet teacher, conductor and composer, has enabled Cedom to make its mark in the field of jazz and film music. In 2016, Angélique Kidjo and Gast Waltzing won a Grammy at the Grammy Awards at the Staples Centre in Los Angeles in the World Music category for the album “Angélique Kidjo sings with the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra”. Waltzing is sought after for his symphonic arrangements, which have enabled him to work with renowned artists such as Amy McDonald and Kyle Eastwood, son of the famous actor. This first deposit of the Gast Waltzing Collection consists primarily of scores, both printed and in born-digital format, and sound recordings of Gast Waltzing’s musical activities.

**Gast Waltzing (Arr.): *Dirty Harry. Full Score. For Kyle Eastwood and Symphony Orchestra.* Waltzing Parké Publishing.**

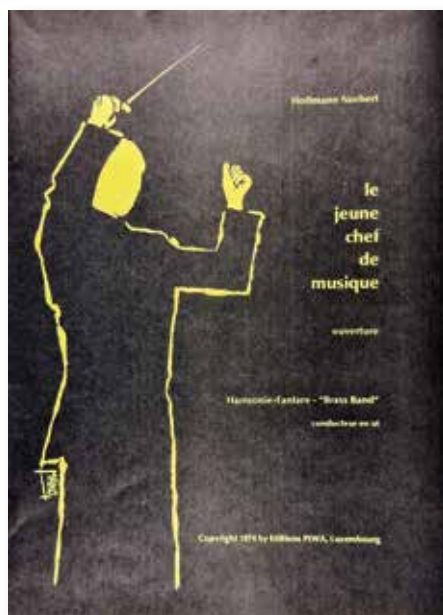
***Vun tuten a bloesen...versti mir am meeschten.***  
Advertising sticker by PIWA Music Studio.



### PIWA Collection

The PIWA Collection documents the activities of three generations of managers of “Music Studio PIWA”, founded in 1950, and of the PIWA publishing house. The music shop specialises in Luxembourg’s many wind and brass bands. The publishing house gave Luxembourg composers the means to publish at a good price. In 1991, PIWA also bought the business of “Musek Wolf”, a traditional music store in Luxembourg. The cessation of trading and publishing activities resulted in a donation to the Cedom. The PIWA Collection contains scores published by the publishing house, correspondence, administrative documents, advertising gadgets, sound recordings, etc. The collection is the first to be entrusted to the Cedom by a music shop and publisher which will complement its collections with the commercial aspect of music.

**Norbert Hoffmann: *Le jeune chef de musique. Ouverture. Harmonie-fanfare-brass band.* Conducteur en ut. [Norbert Hoffmann: The Young Music Director. Overture. Harmony, fanfare, brass band. Conductor in C]. Luxembourg: Published by PIWA © 1974.**  
One of the many PIWA publications.





### Franz Peter Holler – Renée Bisdorff Collection

For the first time in its history, the Cedom is receiving the collection of a music therapist, Franz Peter Holler (1915-1995), born near Freiburg im Breisgau. After the Second World War, he decided to settle in Wasserbillig. He wrote songs for radio and music for television commercials but also worked in the field of music therapy for private families with disabled children. His *Rhythmisch Handübungen* are the result of many years' work with children with restricted mobility. In the 1970s, Holler asked Renée Bisdorff to assist him with certain music therapy sessions.

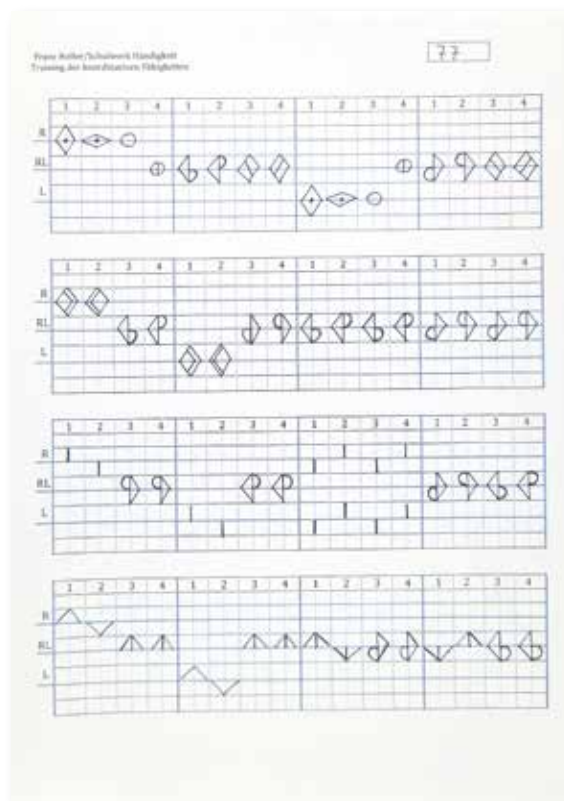
The Franz Peter Holler - Renée Bisdorff Collection contains the *Rhythmisch Handübungen* music therapy method developed over time, biographical documents on Franz Peter Holler, a little-known figure in Luxembourg, and scores composed by Holler and Bisdorff.



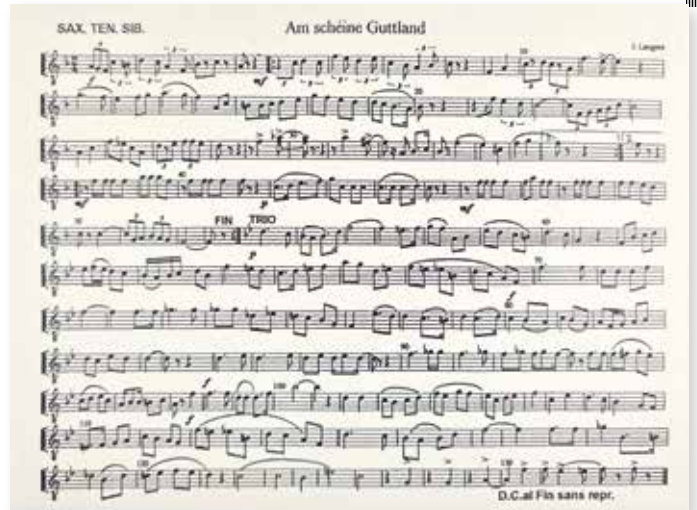
Franz Peter Holler. Photo from: Franz Holler: *Du gudde Wéngchen: letzebuerger Wäildidder*. S.l.: [s.n.], 2001, p. 1.

### Franz Holler: *[Rhythmisch Handübungen]. Schulwerk Händigkeit. Training der koordinativen Fähigkeiten. [Exercice] 77.*

A unique score: Each symbol represents a specific hand gesture.







### Fanfare Hamm Collection

Hamm's brass band was founded in 1912. After it was dissolved during the Covid-19 pandemic, the collection was divided between the Municipal Archives of the City of Luxembourg and the Cedom, which recovered the music documents. These archives include six linear metres of material, including original works and arrangements by Luxembourg composers. These scores, which reflect the richness and diversity of the Luxembourg music scene, are an invaluable resource for researchers and music lovers alike.

J. Langers: *Am schéine Guttland*. Sax. Ten. Sib.

Paul Albrecht: *Introduction et Polonaise p. 2 Pistons. Cors II miB.* [manuscript].

The first verifiable performance of this piece took place on 19 July 1910 during a military concert on the Place d'Armes. At the bottom are two stamps: that of the Fanfare Hamm and that of the composer himself.







## Grand-Ducal Choral Hollerich Collection

Founded in 1848, the Grand-Ducal Choral Society of Hollerich has spanned almost two centuries of history, making a lasting mark on musical life in Luxembourg. Dissolved during the Covid-19 pandemic, its precious archive was divided between the Municipal Archives of the City of Luxembourg and the Cedom, the latter having recovered the music documents.

Nearly twenty linear metres of material have been donated, including an exceptional selection of works and arrangements by Luxembourg composers, covering a period from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A particularly remarkable aspect of this collection is the importance given to the work of Mathieu Lamberty (1901-1981), music teacher and former director of the choir since 1934 for over forty years, whose contributions bear witness to his influence on the artistic development of the ensemble.

**S. H. Eyssen [comp.]; arr. Mathieu Lamberty: *La petite Marie*.**

A large part of the Grand-Ducal Choral Hollerich Collection includes compositions and arrangements by its former director Mathieu Lamberty.

## The Outsiders & Syndicate of Sound Collection

The addition of The Outsiders & Syndicate of Sound Collection has enabled Cedom to extend its collection to include popular music. Although the collection consists of just one box of archives, it closes an important gap in the history of Luxembourg popular music.

The Outsiders, founded in 1962, were Luxembourg's first rock band, enjoying national and international success and organising the legendary *Bal des Copains*. In 1970, they released their fourth album with the songs *Such sweet sorrow / Music*, the scores of which have been deposited with Cedom. As it is not customary in popular music to note down pieces on paper, these documents are an absolute rarity.



**The Outsiders: *Such Sweet Sorrow*. Elec Guitar 1.**





Urbain Meyers: *Impromptu en si mineur pour piano*.  
[*Impromptu in B minor for piano*].  
Esch-sur-Alzette, 6 September 1954.

Raphaël Biondi (music) and Robert Alain (lyrics) :  
*Viens danser au clair de lune*. Paris: Editions Micro, 1954.  
BnL, Cedom, ALM 5768.

One of this year's greatest rediscoveries: Robert Finet (1917-1991), alias Robert Alain, was a neighbour of Luxembourg composer Victor Fenigstein (1924-2022). Alain wrote song lyrics that his wife, singer Monette Auvray (1921-2017), a radio presenter, recorded on disc.

### Collection of printed or handwritten scores

Urbain Meyers (1908-1956) was a mathematics teacher at the Lycée Hubert Clément in Esch-sur-Alzette. A music lover and gifted pianist, he made his stage debut in 1939 with a collaborative composition of the play *Cendrillon*. His best-known compositions *Concerto for piano and orchestra in C# minor* (1953) and *Impromptu in B minor for piano* (1954) were deposited with the Cedom.





## Collection of audio documents



### Georges Sadeler: *Outburst*. [Buchbach]: Symphonic Dimensions Publishing, 2024. BnL, Cedom, ALMD 768.

*Outburst* by composer Georges Sadeler - published by Symphonic Dimensions Publishing in June 2024 for wind orchestra and in December 2024 for brass band - is an extraordinary work that demands the full talent of the orchestra. The work was awarded first prize at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Winds Composition Contest Saxony, organised by the Dresdner Bläserphilharmonie e.V. in conjunction with the SHE LIVES association.



### Francis of Delirium: *Lighthouse*.

Francis of Delirium's album *Lighthouse* was released on 22 March 2024. The Francis of Delirium group won an award at the second edition of the Lëtzebuerger Musekspräis at the Philharmonie. The group was awarded the prize in the "Op der Bün - amplified music" category.





## **BINDING AND RESTORATION OF DOCUMENTS**

Binding is a means of protection for documents. In the case of periodicals, it makes it possible to collect together individual fascicles in a lasting fashion, preventing them from becoming scattered whilst also protecting them against impacts and light.

The BnL outsources the binding of periodicals. In 2024, it used a Luxembourg company and a Belgian company. The number and total volume of orders increased slightly compared with 2023: in 2024, 6 orders were placed for a total of 535 volumes.

Since October 2018, the BnL undertakes simple restoration of contemporary documents in-house, from repairing torn pages to making new covers with gilding. The documents mainly come from the Non-Luxembourgish Collection. They are detected during projects in the collections, during cataloguing or during loan operations. When a document reserved by a reader is found to be damaged, it is repaired as a priority, often that same day, before being passed on to the next reader.

In 2024, 1,998 documents were restored, of which 1,056 required more extensive work (e.g. making a new spine, glued or stitched bindings, or new covers). This is double the figure for 2023. This increase has been made possible by the addition of a second binder to the team in December 2023.

Restoration is a vital task in order to ensure the preservation of heritage items and long-term access to documents which are sadly often worn and in a critical condition.

### **Books in exchange for a donation to support the restoration of documents**

On 13-14 December 2024, visitors to the National Library were given the opportunity to acquire books of which the BnL had surplus copies, in return for a small donation towards the restoration of historical documents. The campaign was a great success, and thanks to the donations received, the BnL will be able to restore some historic posters.

Once restored, the posters are ready to be digitised. After that, they are included in the catalogue and metadata is added. If necessary, the copyrights are also clarified before the document is published on the [eluxemburgensia.lu](https://eluxemburgensia.lu) portal.

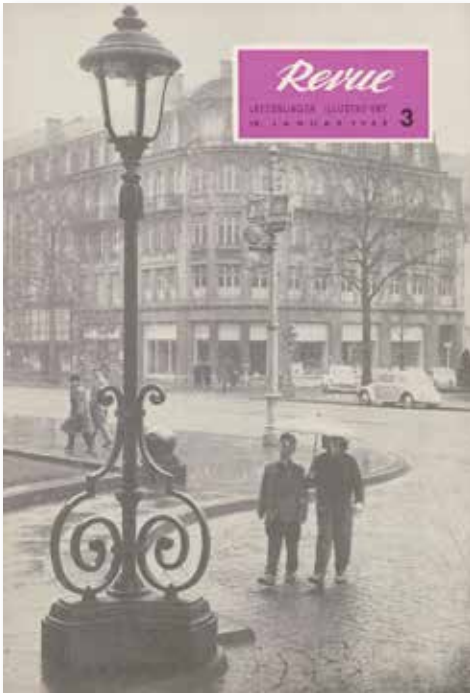
## **PREVENTIVE CONSERVATION**

In 2024, the BnL set up a programme to monitor the presence of paper silverfish (*Ctenolepisma longicaudatum*) in several of its premises.



## DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

The [eluxemburgensia.lu](https://eluxemburgensia.lu) portal allows the user to freely access the full text of the documents digitised by the BnL. Mass digitisation and placing items online makes the national written heritage more visible and more accessible to an international public, whilst ensuring optimal conservation of the delicate originals due to their age and/or their frequent use. It also ensures that knowledge is shared and enables everyone to exercise their right to information.



## NEW DIGITISED RESOURCES

### revue – De Magazin fir Lëtzebuerg

In April 2024, the BnL put online the historical editions of the iconic weekly magazine *revue – De Magazin fir Lëtzebuerg* from 1945 to 2020, equivalent to 443,424 digitised pages.

Created on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1945 by Emile Probst, the magazine then called *Revue. Letzeburger Illustre'ert* is much more than just a periodical. It is a true witness to Luxembourg's history, recounting key events over the decades. Edited by Hubert Féjean and printed by Bourg-Bourger, this publication has quickly established itself as essential reading for everyone, thanks to its local, national and international news, practical advice and entertaining articles. In 1948, Katrin C. Martin, journalist and author, became editor-in-chief of the revue. She was one of the first women to hold such a position in the Luxembourg press.

Since its inception, *revue* has captured the hearts of its readers by showcasing leading journalists and artists. The visual aspect was a central element of its commercial strategy. The revue worked with renowned photographers such as Pol Aschman, Tony Krier, Jean Weyrich and Jochen Herling to illustrate articles by Luxembourg authors Nic Weber, Michel Raus, Rolph Ketter and Evy Friedrich.

Comic strips also had a prominent place, and it was thanks to Pe'l Schlechter's *De Bim an de Jopi*, *Edelmut und Roselinde* and Gab Weis' *Mil's Abenteuer*, not forgetting the legendary adventures of *Superjhem* by Lucien Czuga and Roger Leiner, that the ninth art took off in Luxembourg. Carlo Schneider's biting caricatures continue to enliven the pages of revue to this day.



# Revue

+ TELE-  
WOCHE

34

letzeburger  
illustre'ert  
24. August 1968

Die große REVUE-Serie



ROBERT KENNEDY:

GANGSTER  
DRÄNGEN  
ZUR MACHT

## John Grün

der stärkste  
Mann der Welt



Jeder 2. Luxemburger liest *Revue* Luxemburger Wochenmagazin / Preis 12 F/Nr.

Printed by Bourg-Bourgen

Sarah Stephan, Head of the Luxembourgish Periodicals Collection, published the article *Die Revue als Spiegelbild der Luxemburger Gesellschaft* in the supplement *Warte-Perspectives* of the *Luxemburger Wort*. The article is published on the BnL website.





### Lecture notes from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries

In March 2024, the BnL put 8 precious manuscripts online containing the philosophy lecture notes of students at the former University of Leuven. Initiated by the KU Leuven Faculty of Economics and Business, in anticipation of the university's 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025, these intellectual treasures from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries offer a glimpse of the enthusiasm with which Luxembourg students took notes during their philosophy lectures, sometimes embellishing their writings with diagrams and illustrations.



### First manuscript transcribed with AI technology

In July 2024, the BnL announced the digitisation and text recognition (Optical Character Recognition) of the three-part manuscript *Myn wedervaren* (My experiences, i.e. autobiography) by the Luxembourger Louis Joseph Zelle (8 June 1826 - 5 August 1899). The manuscript can now be consulted free of charge on [eluxemburgensia.lu](http://eluxemburgensia.lu)

This document occupies a special place in the vast literature on the soldiers and officers of the Dutch colonial army. Not only is it detailed and written from an officer's point of view, it also provides a critical perspective on the Dutch colonial period. Zelle's memoirs are also an important source for the cultural life of 19<sup>th</sup> century Luxembourg.

While the BnL generally uses text recognition for printed documents such as periodicals and books, this operation is much more complex for handwritten works and is therefore not a common practice. Zelle's manuscript, digitised by the BnL, has been converted into digital text for the first time using the AI-based Transkribus programme. Transkribus uses machine learning to recognise handwritten texts. This technology makes it possible not only to digitise historical manuscripts, but also to transcribe them, making them more accessible and usable for the public. In addition, a full-text search in the document is also made possible.

By using Transkribus, the BnL has been able to ensure that Louis Joseph Zelle's texts have been deciphered with a high degree of accuracy. The programme constantly learns from the corrections made by experts, improving its recognition rate for specific manuscripts and historical writing styles.

Jeff Schmitz, seconded German teacher (2022-2023), tested a text recognition model from Transkribus and then carried out recognition of the handwritten text, including corrections. In addition to this philological work, staff from the IT and cataloguing department were involved in the implementation.

Jeff Schmitz, former employee of the Luxembourgish Collection, published the article *Louis Joseph Zelle im Dienste der Luxemburger Künste* in the supplement *Warte-Perspectives of the Luxemburger Wort*. The article is available on the BnL website.





### ***Melusina Press and Rëmelenger Calepin***

In December 2024, two new sets of content collected via digital legal deposit were put online.

*Melusina Press* is an initiative of the Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences of the University of Luxembourg. This publishing house is redefining academic publishing practices in Luxembourg by offering open access content in digital, printed or even raw data formats. Among the themes explored are: Luxembourgish linguistics, museology, LGBTQ+ issues, the impact of the Covid-19 crisis, psychology and educational sciences.

These publications, ranging from monographs to collective works and university theses, illustrate *Melusina Press*' commitment to making research accessible to all.

The *Rëmelenger Calepin*, the town of Rumelange's municipal bulletin, was founded in 1976 under the impetus of Mayor André Zirves. The editions from 2016 to 2024 have been collected as part of the digital legal deposit and are now available online, while the paper editions (1976-2024) can still be consulted on site at the BnL.

With this online publication, the BnL is pursuing its objective of enriching Luxembourg's collective memory by making local publications accessible, whether printed or digital. In compliance with its legal obligations, the BnL plans to gradually add other digital municipal publications, thereby facilitating public access to this essential written heritage, whether digitised by the BnL or born-digital. For born-digital documents, the search functions are somewhat reduced.

**A major project to automate the processing of digital legal deposit was launched in 2024, and by 2025 it will be possible to offer a fast and efficient solution for making documents accessible on a-z.lu and eluxemburgensia.lu.**







TOTAL PAGES VIEWED ON ELUXEMBURGENSIA.LU	2024	Trend since 2023
Periodicals (as full text)	2,798,299	+ 42%
Monographs (as full text)	67,784	+ 92%
Historic postcards	8,565	- 26%
Manuscripts	11,550	+ 399%
Posters	37	- 46%
Total	2,886,235	+ 22%

TOTAL TITLES ON ELUXEMBURGENSIA.LU	At 31.12.2024	Trend since 2023
Periodicals Titles	86	+ 2
Monographs Titles	520	+ 10
Historic postcards Objects	17,421	-
Manuscripts Titles	26	+ 5
Posters Objects	782	-



## SIGNATURE OF A LICENCE TO PUT OUT-OF-COMMERCE WORKS ONLINE

The National Library of Luxembourg (BnL) and Luxorr (Luxembourg Organization for Reproduction Rights) have signed a landmark pilot licence for the online publication of “out-of-commerce” works.

This innovative scheme forms part of the strategy for preserving and sharing Luxembourg’s cultural heritage, as outlined in the BnL’s *Vision 2030*, while guaranteeing fair compensation for creators and respect for their rights.

A work is considered out-of-commerce when it is no longer accessible to the public through the usual commercial channels, whatever the format. This agreement also covers works that have never been commercially exploited, such as publications by public institutions and associations.

This “extended effect” pilot licence, the first of its kind in Luxembourg, represents a major step forward in making our heritage available to the public. Its legal basis is the Law of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, transposing the European Directive on copyright in the digital single market (2019/790). An “extended effect” licence covers potentially unknown rights holders or those who are not yet represented by Luxorr, thereby addressing a historic challenge: the often impossible identification of rights holders for heritage collections.

## SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BNL AND THE FNR TO DEFINE THE FUTURE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COLLECTION

This agreement validates the financing by the Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR, Luxembourg National Research Fund) of a study project aimed at defining the future *National Scientific Collection* and its implementation at the BnL. The *National Scientific Collection* aims to create an exhaustive collection of Luxembourg scientific publications, by identifying and cataloguing these resources, with complete bibliographic descriptions, assigning standardised identifiers, ensuring the long-term archiving of documents and guaranteeing the most open access possible to these resources.

## DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS ACQUIRED UNDER ACCESS LICENCE AGREEMENTS

Since 2002, the BnL is managing the acquisition, administration and promotion of digital resources for its many partners, including:

- the eleven public libraries in the ebooks.lu project
- the University of Luxembourg and the LCEL, Luxembourg Centre of European Law, which results from the integration, on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, of the Max Planck Institute for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law (MPI)
- LIST (Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology)
- LIH (Luxembourg Institute of Health)
- the Ministry of the Civil Service and the Governmental Library bibgov.lu
- IFEN (Institut de formation de l'éducation nationale – National Educational Training Institute)
- LISER (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research)
- Read-y, a digital library for leisure reading accessible to all secondary school students for the SCRIPT (Department for the Coordination of Educational and Technological Research and Innovation)





DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS ACQUIRED UNDER LICENCE AGREEMENT	At 31.12.2024	Trend since 2023
Electronic periodicals	84,944	+ 4%
Scientific e-books	832,428	- 8%
Databases	322	+ 1%
e-books (ebooks.lu)	20,433	- 81% <sup>12</sup>
Audio books (ebooks.lu)	2,264	+ 30%
Videos on demand	24,463	+ 11%
Sound recordings (Naxos)	252,407	not available

To access licensed digital resources via a-z.lu, users must identify themselves with their reader's card. Each successful identification generates a session cookie stored in the user's browser. This cookie allows access to any digital resource for the duration of its validity, which is limited to 24 hours. In 2024, there were 249,697 successful authentications on a-z.lu. This figure is 16% up on 2023.

The most frequently consulted digital resources were the scientific journals *Nature* (Nature Publishing Group), *International Journal of Public Sector Management* (Emerald), *Journal of Cleaner Production* (Science Direct, Elsevier) and *Polymer-Plastics Technology and Engineering* (Taylor and Francis).

The most popular scientific databases were *Beckonline*, *Science Direct*, *IEEE* (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) and *Springer*.

The daily newspaper most frequently consulted online was *Le Monde*, followed by *Le Figaro*.

The BnL has also noted an increase in consultations of "press" resources compared with 2023.

12. Sharp fall due to change in provider of German e-books with a smaller range.



**ebooks.lu**

The ebooks.lu (www.ebooks.lu) programme, offered by eleven public libraries, the BnL and its mobile library, has sustained an increased level of consultations. Users currently have access to 107,713 e-books in French, German or English. It is free to use.

In 2024, ebooks.lu updated its documentary offering thanks to a partnership with the German platform Onleihe. Unlike the previous provider, Ciando, which was deactivated in July, Onleihe offers an app with intuitive navigation, similar to that already available for English-language e-books *Libby by Overdrive*. These two applications guarantee an easier and more enjoyable lending and reading experience.

The BnL, in collaboration with the Conseil supérieur des bibliothèques-(Higher Council of Libraries), has redesigned the ebooks.lu website to provide users with clear information and easy-to-follow advice. Promotional leaflets in French, German and English were also made available by partner libraries.

The most frequently borrowed books were:

**In English:**  
Brianna Wiest, *101 Essays That Will Change the Way You Think* and Mark Manson, *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F\*ck: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life* (unabridged).

**In French:**  
Marie Vareille, *La dernière allumette* and Harry Whittaker/Lucinda Riley, *Atlas: l'histoire de Pa Salt*.

**In German:**  
Sebastian Fitzek, *Der erste letzte Tag* and Martin Suter, *Melody*.

NUMBER OF E-BOOKS DOWNLOADED	2024	Trend since 2023
In French	3,889	+ 38%
In German	2,994	- 60% <sup>12</sup>
In English	16,796	+ 7%
Total	23,679	- 9%

NUMBER OF AUDIO BOOKS DOWNLOADED	2024	Trend since 2023
In French	801	+ 13%
In English or German	15,736	+ 22%
Total	16,537	+ 21%

The *Libby* app from Overdrive provides direct access to e-books offered by BnL and its partners (except those in French). The app is free, particularly practical and easy to use.





### Read-y

*Read-y* is a read-for-pleasure library for students in public or private secondary schools. It was launched by the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth and the BnL. Over 22,960 e-books and audio books, mainly in English, German and French, are available online. The initiative aims to encourage a love of reading amongst young people, free from financial constraints.

The two most borrowed books were: *Shatter me* by Tahereh Mafi and *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* by J.K. Rowling.

READ-Y: NUMBER OF DOWNLOADS	2024	Trend since 2023
E-books	19,020	- 7%
Audio books	95	- 30%
Total	19,115	- 7%

### MéNuLu – Digital Media Library of Luxembourg

The BnL, the Lëtzebuerg City Bibliothèque (municipal library) and the Media Library at the Centre national de l'audiovisuel (National Audiovisual Centre) have come together to establish a shared VOD (video-on-demand) service. Thanks to this cooperation, users registered with at least one of the three partner libraries in the project have access to the Kanopy, Filmfriend and Tënk platforms, offering programmes in all genres - documentaries, series, fiction films, films for children and music. Access to the platforms is free and comes via a-z.lu.

In June 2024, five new Luxembourg libraries joined MéNuLu: Escher Bibliothéik, Mierscher Lieshaus, Ettelbrécker Bibliothéik, Bibliothèque municipale de Differdange and Bibliothèque publique régionale de Dudelange.

Viewing in hours	2024	Trend since 2023
Filmfriend	1,579	+ 9%
Kanopy	2,800	+ 128%

### Bibgov.lu

The digital governmental library provides ministry departments and the State administrations with specialist digital resources, thereby answering the need for professional documentation and continuous training of officials. Bibgov.lu currently offers 11 specialist databases, 2 online reviews and 2 international press databases, *Europresse* and *Genios*.





# DIGITAL INNOVATION

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

### **eluxemburgensia.lu chatbot: growing interest**

The chatbot on the [eluxemburgensia.lu](https://eluxemburgensia.lu) portal, launched in 2023, continues to attract interest from the public and BnL's partners. Able to understand French, German and English, it helps Internet users to explore Luxembourg's history and provides well-supported answers based on historical press articles.

Thanks to a technology used by ChatGPT, the artificial intelligence conversational agent developed by OpenAI, the BnL's experts have indexed the digitised Luxembourgish documents and prepared a high-performance database that enables semantic searches to be carried out.

In 2024, the chatbot was presented to experts from the ITM (Inspectorate of Labour and Mines), the SIP (Information and Press service), members of ALBAD (Association of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists), researchers from the University of Luxembourg, professors and students from the University of Grenoble and the AI team from Clarivate/Exlibris.



## WEB ARCHIVE

The National Library is responsible for archiving the Luxembourg web as part of its mission to preserve the country's digital heritage. To achieve this objective, it regularly organises extensive harvesting campaigns as well as more targeted collections.

In December 2024, BnL rolled out a new interface and search engine (SolrWayback), enabling users to explore archived sites by keyword, without having to enter a specific URL.

The portal also offers improved data visualisation (in the form of instantly generated graphs, for example) and advanced filtering options, to make it easier to find the content you are looking for. Users can refine their search by image, file type, language and year, offering researchers, historians and the curious more alternatives.

In collaboration with the ANLux (National Archives), the SIP and the Ministry of State, the BnL continued archiving the social networking accounts (X, Instagram, LinkedIn) of the members of the government. As automated archiving by web crawlers is becoming increasingly difficult and these networks are less and less accessible, the same process as for legal deposit has been applied: the ministers, with the help of their collaborators, export the data from their profiles and transfer it to the ANLux and the BnL. This year, the campaign was extended to departmental profiles and once again produced good results in terms of deposits and collaboration.

**AI in libraries optimises documentary services while relying on the knowledge of professionals.**





## **LONG-TERM** **DIGITAL PRESERVATION**

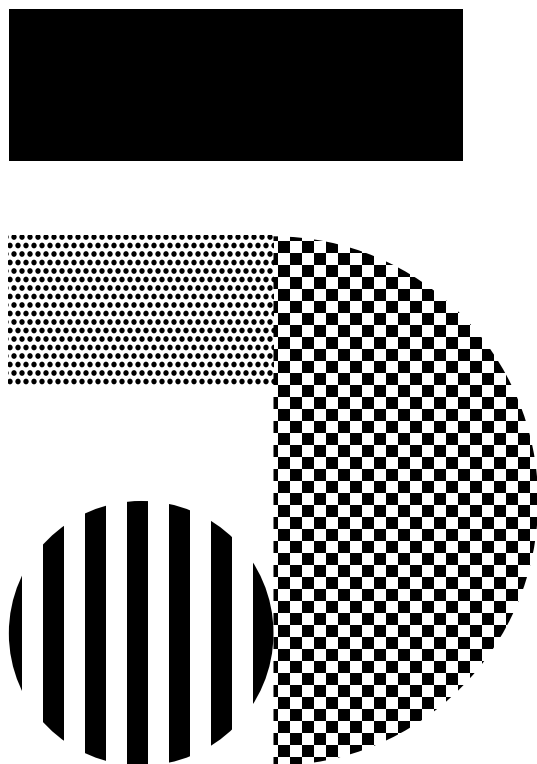
The main aim of digital preservation is to ensure that digital content lasts. In this way, it guarantees that future generations will have access to complete and exhaustive documentation. For this reason, the BnL has devoted much of its digital preservation efforts over the past year to improving the availability of digitised and born-digital collections, including harmonising and synchronising metadata between the different management systems (library management system, digital preservation system) and user interfaces (a-z.lu, eluxemburgensia.lu). This collaborative approach will ensure a fluid and consistent user experience, as well as compatibility between the printed and digital collections.

2024 also marked a new stage in the governance of digital preservation efforts. A first version of a collection policy dedicated to digital content has been drawn up, which will be followed by a digital preservation policy and a policy for persistent identifiers. These policies will establish clear guidelines for the management, preservation and long-term accessibility of digital resources, in line with the library's strategic priorities.









# THE BNL— BEACON PARTNER TO LIBRARIES AND ACTORS IN THE BOOK WORLD

## THE BIBNET.LU NETWORK OF LUXEMBOURGISH LIBRARIES

The bibnet.lu network has 93 members, including 5 new ones in 2024: Bicherthéik Schengen, Lycée International School Michel Lucius (LML), École Nationale de Santé du Luxembourg (LTPS), Focus and Formida, for two departures (primary and secondary cycle of the European Schools of Luxembourg).

MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK	2024
NATIONAL LIBRARY AND BICHERBUS	2
UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG (LLC)	1
PUBLIC AND ASSOCIATION LIBRARIES	13
EDUCATION & TRAINING	48
Secondary education	32
Higher education & lifelong learning	16
SPECIALIST LIBRARIES	27
Cultural & other institutes/Administrations/Public bodies	21
Association libraries	6
DIGITAL SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBER LIBRARIES IN THE BIBNET.LU NETWORK	93





CATALOGUE, USERS, LOANS, TRAINING	2024	Trend compared to 2023
COLLECTIVE CATALOGUE		
Total of bibliographic notices	1,651,515	+ 10%
Total copies	3,044,430	+ 13,120 <sup>13</sup>
USERS		
Registered users	133,588	+ 6%
New registrations	40,139	+ 32%
LOANS AND ACTIVE BORROWERS		
Home loans	423,533	+ 3%
Active borrowers	30,627	- 2%
TRAINING (IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INAP)		
Training courses	26	+4
Participants	251	+89

13. This very low figure is explained by the removal of around 58,000 copies from the two libraries that left the network.



# ISBN, ISMN, ISSN STANDARDISATION AGENCY

The BnL fulfils a function as the national agency for ISBN (International Standard Book Number), the national agency for ISMN (International Standard Music Number) and the national agency for ISSN (International Standard Serial Number). These agencies are tasked with assigning an identification number to Luxembourgish publications and to ensure checks on these, in consultation with the international bodies. They contribute to greater visibility of Luxembourgish publications, by facilitating their referencing in non-Luxembourgish databases.

The BnL also fulfils a function as the registration agency for ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier). The ISNI is a global standard number which makes it possible to identify natural and legal persons active in the creation and distribution of intellectual content. It is defined in standard ISO 27729.

Requests for ISBN, ISMN or ISSN identification numbers can be submitted online via [MyGuichet.lu](#).

LUXEMBOURGISH ISBN AGENCY	At 31.12.2024	Assignments in 2024
Number of unique ISBN and sequences of numbers assigned	3,098	+ 166
LUXEMBOURGISH ISMN AGENCY		
Number of unique ISMN and sequences of numbers assigned	26	+ 2
LUXEMBOURGISH ISSN AGENCY		
Number of ISSN attributed	747	+ 226

# PERSISTENT IDENTIFIERS: ARK AND PERSIST.LU

Over the last few years, the assignment of persistent ARK (Archival Resource Key) identifiers has become standard practice at the National Library. Currently, various materials such as born-digital publications, bibliographic records, authority records and certain web pages or access policies are likely to receive ARKs.

In 2024, the BnL continued to assign persistent identifiers with a “persist.lu” permalink to digitised content and to all digital publications. Thanks to the use of cutting-edge tools, a new version of persist.lu has been developed. It offers enhanced functionality for users.

At the same time, the National Library has undertaken the considerable task of replacing its old references on various platforms with ARKs.



## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

### National collaborations

The BnL is a member of and provides the secretariat for the CSB (Conseil supérieur des bibliothèques – Higher Council of Libraries). It is also a member of the Conseil national du livre (National Book Council). It is also a member of the associations ALBAD (Association luxembourgeoise des Bibliothécaires, Archivistes et Documentalistes - Luxembourg Association of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists), Jonk BAD (Cercle des étudiants luxembourgeois en bibliothéconomie, archivistique et documentation - Circle of Luxembourgish Students of Library, Archive and Documentation Sciences) and VLA (Association des archivistes luxembourgeois - Luxembourg Association of Archivists). Since 2022, the BnL has been a member of the Advisory Board of the C2DH (Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History).

On 22 July 2024, the Director of the National Library, Claude D. Conter, and the Director of the National archives of Luxembourg, Josée Kirps, signed an agreement concerning the retention schedule for the documents and archives of the BnL. In this way, the BnL is meeting a legal obligation, as in fact the law of 17 August 2018 on archiving makes it compulsory for all ministries and State administrations to draw up retention schedules.





In 2024, the BnL and Luxorr (Luxembourg Organization for Reproduction Rights) signed a historic pilot licence to put “out-of-commerce” works online.

In 2024, the BnL signed an agreement with the National Research Fund (FNR) concerning a study project led by the BnL, the aim of which is to define the “National Scientific Collection” and its implementation at the BnL.

**More information on these two projects can be found in the “Digital collections” section.**

In order to ensure compliance with the legal provisions relating to legal deposit, as well as to simplify, harmonise and rationalise the collection, conservation, preservation and digitisation of all documents published by ministries and administrations as well as by communal bodies, and in application of the administrative procedure governing legal deposit that the BnL introduced in 2022, the National Library of Luxembourg has launched a project to facilitate the legal deposit of printed publications issued by municipal and State administrations.

Five new Luxembourg libraries joined MéNuLu, the Luxembourg Digital Media Library, in 2024. These are: Escher Bibliothéik, Mierscher Lieshaus, Ettelbrécker Bibliothéik, Bibliothèque municipale de Differdange and Bibliothèque publique régionale de Dudelange. Launched in April 2022 by the Lëtzebuerg City Bibliothèque, the National Library of Luxembourg and the Media Library of the Centre national de l'audiovisuel, MéNuLu is a video-on-demand (VOD) and music streaming service with more than 20,000 audiovisual documents and 7 million music titles from three streaming platforms: Kanopy, filmfriend and Divercities.

Under an agreement signed on 27 January 2021 between the State of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Israelite Consistory of Luxembourg, research into the provenance of works of art and other cultural property was carried out in three Luxembourg institutions, including the BnL. Researcher Marc Adam Kolakowski, from the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C<sup>2</sup>DH), has been commissioned to carry out an in-depth study into the provenance of the BnL's collections. More than 30,000 documents were examined between mid-September 2024 and the end of February 2025.

From 2 to 17 November 2024, the BnL took part in the Salon du CAL (Cercle Artistique de Luxembourg) where it exhibited a series of works from its Iconography Collection in the BnL Art Lounge. The head of the Iconography Collection also offered a guided tour.

In 2024, the BnL collaborated with the Fonds culturel national – National Culture Fund (Focuna), through which interested parties were able to make the donations that the BnL called on for the preservation of the giant Bible of Saint Maximin, acquired in 2024.



## International cooperation

The BnL's multiple missions have led it to collaborate with numerous institutions and international partners.

The BnL is a member of the Board of Directors of the ALTO (Structured Layout and Text Object) group and of the Executive Board of Directors of the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC), with Roxana Maurer now Director for Research, Good Practice Sub-Committee Chair. The BnL is also a member of the IGeLU working group for the Alma/Primo consortia. It participates in the following organisations: CDNL (Conference of Directors of National Libraries), CENL (Conference of European National Librarians), CERL (Consortium of European Research Libraries), EBLIDA (European Bureau of Library Information and Documentation), ICOLC (International Coalition of Library Consortia), IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), IGeLU (The International Group of ExLibris Users), IIPC (International Internet Preservation Coalition), LIBER (Ligue des bibliothèques européennes de recherche - League of European Research Libraries), OPF (Open Preservation Foundation) and RFN (Réseau francophone numérique - Digital Francophone network).

In 2024, the BnL also played a very important role in the Digital Preservation Awards, through Roxana Maurer, president of the jury. Not only did she introduce the awards ceremony, but she also played an active role throughout the judges' deliberations and the selection of the winners, providing an independent check on the process and helping to resolve any disputes or conflicts of interest.

The BnL attended the Annual General Meeting of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) from 16 to 18 June 2024 in Warsaw. This year's conference focused on the subject of digital legal deposit. Carlo Blum, Deputy Director of the BnL, gave a presentation on digital legal deposit practices at the BnL. The BnL has also actively participated in the CENL AI community to develop a new questionnaire on AI practices in libraries and has attended the online seminars.





The BnL is a member of the technical experts working group, which oversees the development and maintenance of the specifications, software and servers supporting the ARKs-in-the-Open / ARK Alliance community infrastructure.

BnL staff took an active part in conferences and seminars with our partners abroad. The head of the IT Division participated in the “Artificial intelligence, generative AI: what concrete contributions to content management” conference at the Salon Documentation, the trade fair for information management and document processes, in Paris in March 2024. The BnL was also represented at the conference “Next-Gen Bibliothek: Eine KI-Reise” by librarians from universities of applied sciences, organised by the Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz.

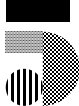
At the ABI-Technik award ceremony at BiblioCon in Hamburg in June 2024, the National Library was awarded a special acknowledgement from the jury in the presence of the Deputy Director of the BnL.

The Director of the BnL is a member of the Scientific Council of the National and University Library of Strasbourg and attends its meetings twice a year. In 2024, the Director of the BnL was also appointed to the Scientific Committee of the Bachelor's degree in Information Science at the Geneva School of Business Administration.

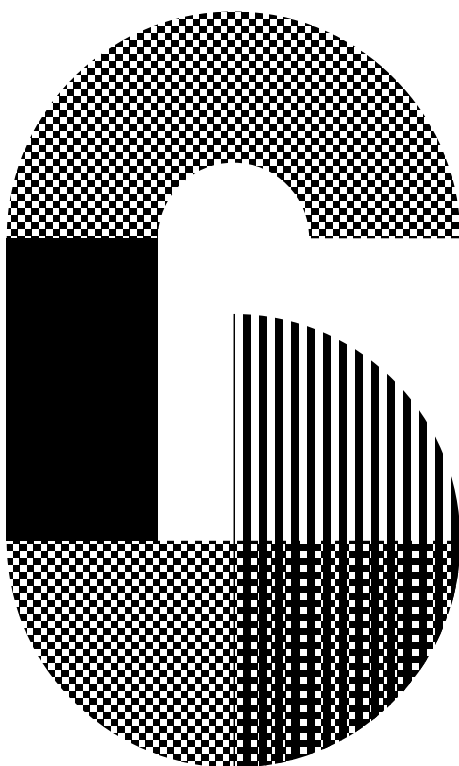
As part of the implementation of the Ephemera Collection, the BnL has maintained close contact with the National Library of France (BnF) in order to benefit from its experience and expertise in this field. The exchange gave BnL staff the opportunity to discuss in detail with their French colleagues about the working method, the functioning and the structuring of the BnF's collection of ephemera documents, while responding to the BnL's questions and needs.

As part of its ongoing good relations with libraries and professional bodies in the Greater Region, in April 2024 the BnL organised an educational visit to the Wissenschaftliche Bibliothek der Stadt Trier. On 21 June 2024, the BnL hosted the GENIE conference for archivists from the Grand Est region, which has a growing number of Luxembourg members, including the BnL and the National Archives of Luxembourg.









# CULTURAL MEDIATION AND PROMOTION OF THE COLLECTIONS

In addition to its tasks of collecting and preserving the national written heritage, the BnL is committed to promoting its collections through cultural mediation activities: exhibitions, conferences, seminars, publications, training courses for the general public and communication campaigns.

## CALL FOR DONATIONS

From November 2024 to March 2025, the BnL has launched a call for donations in order to preserve and enhance a thousand-year-old manuscript that it has just acquired. This is a giant 11<sup>th</sup> century Bible containing the Old and New Testaments, written in close collaboration with the Echternach scriptorium, one of the greatest intellectual and artistic centres of the early Middle Ages. By preserving this national treasure at the BnL, the library is ensuring its preservation for future generations and giving Luxembourg back one of the most striking witnesses from its past.

**See the chapter on “Notable acquisitions, donations and deposits” to find out more about the giant Bible of Saint Maximin.**

A multilingual website, [patrimoine.bnl.lu](https://patrimoine.bnl.lu), has been set up to provide the public with the best possible information regarding the donation process via [focuna.lu](https://focuna.lu) and the special features of this medieval manuscript.

In addition, a major advertising campaign including themed videos, leaflets, advertisements and posters was rolled out over a period of more than 5 months in collaboration with the graphic design agencies Cropmark and Brainplug.



**Access to themed videos**



## **COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN**

In January 2024, BnL updated its invitation mailing list. An explanatory note, including an option to unsubscribe, was sent by post. Recipients had two months in which to inform BnL of their decision: to continue receiving invitations by post, to opt for email invitations, or to unsubscribe.

## **CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS**

The BnL invited visitors to 37 events on various subjects related to its collections. It also invited the Minister of Culture, Eric Thill, to a press conference on the giant Bible of Saint Maximin.





## 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER

31.01.2024 Conference by Yves Steichen: *I can assure you, the true charm of this world resides in this garden – vu Gäert am Kino*. In collaboration with Luga (Luxembourg Urban Garden) and the Centre national de l'audiovisuel.

03.02.2024 Office hours with the management of the National Library: *What you've always wanted to ask us*.

08.-09.02.2024 Study days: « *Ce siècle d'étranges extrémités* ». *Enquête sur la production anti-philosophique du 18<sup>e</sup> siècle : l'exemple de François-Xavier de Feller*.

15.02.2024 Round table discussion by Albena Petrovic: *My Opera World* with Marianne Chauvin, Corinne Kohl-Crouzet, Naama Liany, Marie Trussart and Albena Petrovic.

21.02.2024 Round table discussion: *Immanuel Kant feiert 300 Jahre* with Dietmar Heidemann, Margit Ruffing, Sabrina Bauer and Nora Schleich. In collaboration with the University of Luxembourg, the Deutsche Kant-Gesellschaft and ErwuesseBildung.

27.02.2024 General public workshop: *Experience history with eluxemburgensia.lu*.

08.03.2024 Conference by Tom Battin: *The green transition takes place – on the roof of our planet*. In collaboration with the Grand-Ducal Institute, Science Section.

14.-15.03.2024 Study days: *Littérature et musique au Luxembourg*. Organised by the Luxembourg Society of General and Comparative Literature.

16.03.2024 General public workshop: *Discover a-z.lu and improve your skills*.

20.03.2024 Conference by Pascale Engel de Abreu: *Mental Gesundheit bei Kanner a Jugendlecher an der Friemännerbréngung*. In collaboration with the Lycée technique pour professions éducatives et sociales and the Ombudsman fir Kanner a Jugendlecher.

27.03.2024 General public workshop: *From paper to screen: mastering the ebooks.lu offering*.

13.04.2024 Exhibition opening: *Ars Heraldica – die Welt der Wappen*. Curator: Pit Péporté. In collaboration with the Fondation Loutsch-Weydert. In conjunction with Catherine Lorent's *Insigna* exhibition in the reading room.





## 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER

07.05.2024 Round table discussion: *Literatur hoch 3* with Daniela Strigl (Austria), Hubert Winkels (Germany) and Jérôme Jaminet (Luxembourg).

24.05.2024 Study day: *Assises sectorielles – bibliothèques* organised by the Ministry of Culture.

27.05.2024 Conference by Tom Zago: *Patrona Patriae – E Parcours d'uerch 400 Joer gedréckte Kulturgutt*.

06.06.2024 Lecture and round table *Les héros de Contem: Retour sur 30 ans de Festival International de la Bande Dessinée* avec e.a. Benoît Majerus (Centre for Contemporary and Digital History - C2DH at the University of Luxembourg) and Gérard Floener (RTL). In collaboration with the International Comics Festival.

11.06.2024 Concert: *100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Julien Hoffmann's birth*. In collaboration with the Comité Alstad a.s.b.l. and the City of Luxembourg at the Cercle Cité.

15.06.2024 General public workshop: *Discover a-z.lu and improve your skills*.

17.06.2024 Official presentation of honorary distinctions by the Ministry of Culture.

19.06.2024 Concert: *De Litty 6: Rock- a Popmusek zu Lëtzebuerg* with Georges Urwald (BnL), the Litty Coverband (Anna Felke, Andrea Galleti, Laurent Kohn, Nadja Prange, Apollo Munyanshongore, Benoît Martiny) and Georges Majerus.

21.06.2024 GENIE study day organised by the archivists of the Grand Est Region: *Réseaux sociaux et Web : archiver le présent « permanent »*.

29.06.2024 Office hours with the management of the National Library: *What you've always wanted to ask us*.

03.07.2024 Round table discussion: *Une Europe de la défense dans un monde polarisé*. In collaboration with the Saint-Yves Conference and the European Commission Representation in Luxembourg.

The BnL works closely with the Grand-Ducal Institute, making its premises and infrastructure available for conferences and other events.





## 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER

23.09.2024 General public workshop: *Experience history with eluxemburgensia.lu*.

26.09.2024 Conference by Rémi Mathis: *De Diderot à Wikipédia – la transformation de l'accès à la connaissance*. In collaboration with Wikimédia Luxembourg.

17.10.2024 Conference-debate by Anabela Mota Ribeiro and Alfredo Cunha: *Les Visages de la démocratie*. In collaboration with the Nationalmuseum Föschmaart.

23.10.2024 Debate: *Fridden als Missioun vun der europäescher an internationaler Politik* with Jean-Claude Juncker and Jean Asselborn. Moderated by Mohamed Hamdi and Claude D. Conter.

24.-25.10.2024 Study days: *Friedensvorstellungen in/aus Luxemburg*. Organised with the historian Mohamed Hamdi.

26.10.2024 General public workshop: *Discover a-z.lu and improve your skills*.

05.11.2024 Presentation: *Wie kritt de Buchpräis? Entdeckt d'Shortlescht an der Kategorie Sachbuch* by Claude D. Conter and Kim Krier at CAW (Culture@Walfer).

06.11.2024 Conference by Nicolas Ruffini-Ronzani: *Autopsie d'un scriptorium – le parchemin dans la production documentaire et livresque de l'abbaye d'Orval au Moyen Âge*.

16.-17.11.2024 Book fair: *La BnL aux Walfer Bicherdeeg*.

19.11.2024 Conference by Paul Schmit: « *Mon cœur dit oui, mais ma tête dit non.* » *Une Décision difficile mais nécessaire : l'exil luxembourgeois de 1940*. In collaboration with Éditions Guy Binsfeld.

23.11.2024 Office hours with the management of the National Library: *What you've always wanted to ask us*.

29.-30.11.2024 Study days: *Verfasserlexikon der Luxemburger Autoren – VLLUX*.

07.12.2024 Exhibition opening: *Cloîtres, connaisseurs et collectionneurs – Les bibliothèques luxembourgeoises entre le 16<sup>e</sup> et le 19<sup>e</sup> siècle*. Curator: Max Schmitz. Presentation and display of the giant Bible of Saint Maximin.

13.-14.12.2024 Special event: *Restockez vos bibliothèques!*



## EXHIBITIONS

The BnL invited the public to two temporary exhibitions: *Ars Heraldica – Le monde des armoiries* and *Cloîtres, connaisseurs et collectionneurs – Les bibliothèques luxembourgeoises entre le 16<sup>e</sup> et le 19<sup>e</sup> siècle*.

### 15.04.2024-12.10.2024 *Ars Heraldica – Le monde des armoiries*

The aim of the exhibition was to guide visitors through the decoding of coats of arms. Coats of arms have been part of Western culture for over 800 years. Like other symbols, they are an expression of personal, family and social identity. Coats of arms originated with the nobility but have been used in a wide variety of contexts over the centuries. Today, they serve as emblems for sports clubs, municipal authorities and breweries. Yet the representations of coats of arms often seem mysterious and their symbolism remains obscure to many.

The exhibition was based on precious manuscripts from the collection of Dr Jean-Claude Loutsch, donated to the National Library in 2021. This collection gave an insight into this very particular form of self-representation, not only for Luxembourg but also for neighbouring countries.



The exhibition curator, Pit Péporté, offered six guided tours to the public, held on 27 April, 4 June, 27 June, 13 July (two sessions) and 23 July 2024. In addition, there were eight guided tours organised for various associations.

On 11 October 2024, the Heir Couple visited the *Ars Heraldica* exhibition. A series of photographs of the visit can be viewed on the [monarchie.lu](http://monarchie.lu) website.



Virtual visit  
of the exhibition







**09.12.2024-17.03.2025 Cloîtres, connaisseurs et collectionneurs – Les bibliothèques luxembourgeoises entre le 16<sup>e</sup> et le 19<sup>e</sup> siècle**

This exhibition was a real journey through time, offering a detailed overview of Luxembourg's libraries from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It explored documentary history from a new angle, through masterpieces from the special collections of the National Library of Luxembourg.

The exhibition highlighted the diversity of historical libraries, ranging from monastic and ecclesiastical collections to the private libraries of figures such as Pierre Roberti (c. \*1566-†1636) or Peter Ernst von Mansfeld (\*1517-†1604). The tour also highlighted the influence of notable persons such as Jean-Baptiste Halle (\*1748-†1824) and Dominique-Constantin Munchen (\*1763-†1818), whose efforts shaped the country's documentary history.

Particular attention was paid to printed books, which are often relegated to second place by manuscripts, which are seen as more spectacular.

Max Schmitz, curator of the exhibition, offered 6 guided tours for the general public. They took place on 28 December 2024, 10 January, 23 January, 7 February, 15 February and 6 March 2025.



Virtual tour  
of the exhibition



## TO DISCOVER IN THE READING ROOM

The BnL has also put on display in its reading room a selection of paintings from the *Insignia* series by Luxembourg artist Catherine Lorent. This series offered a contemporary perspective on heraldry.

Library staff displayed documents from the Special Collections and the Non-Luxembourg Collection in the display cases on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors of the reading room.

### In the display cases on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor

- 18<sup>th</sup> century marbled paper – Tom Zago
- Wiesbaden: Views of the city and its surroundings – Pia Jank
- Jong-Letzeburs Taktgeber. 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Julien Hoffmann – Marlène Duhr
- Postcards – Liz Jost, Philippe Majeres
- Between music, political commitment and multiple sclerosis. 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Victor Fenigstein – Marlène Duhr
- The trades of yesteryear – Liz Jost, Philippe Majeres

### In the display cases on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

- The world of comics – Marc Fritz, Lucie Guibal
- Egyptology – Julia Schelling
- Month of Photography – Nadine Esslingen
- In the spotlight: a journey through the world of the performing arts – Christine Bentz
- The world of Moby Dick – Lucie Guibal, Julia Schelling
- Prints – Stefanie Zutter

### Themed selections in the discovery area

- 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Marco Polo – Lucie Guibal, Julia Schelling
- Masks – Nadine Esslingen
- Humour – Corinne Wiltgen
- Heraldry – Stefanie Zutter
- Labour Day and trade union movements – Tania Mousel
- Olympic Games – Corinne Wiltgen
- The First World War – Stéphanie Kovacs
- Law and literature – Yorick Schmit, Nora Humbert
- Empathy and tolerance – Corinne Wiltgen
- Fall of the Berlin Wall: 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary – Stéphanie Kovacs
- Novels of the year – Literary collections managers



# PUBLICATIONS

The BnL has published a number of works related to its exhibitions, missions and collections.

## De Litty 6: Rock- a Popmusek zu Lëtzebuerg

The Litty 6 is a true journey in sound. It looks at rock and pop music in Luxembourg, its historical context, its emergence from the figureheads of American rock, and traces the key moments in its development, presenting the different styles of amplified music and highlighting the artists who have left their mark on the history of music in Luxembourg.

This brand new publication brings the *Les Carnets didactiques du Cedom* collection to a close, marking the completion of a series that stands out for its multidisciplinary approach, covering music in Luxembourg from cabaret and musical theatre through classical music to jazz and rock-pop. With the release of *Litty 6*, the collection now reaches a total of eight volumes, each designed to provide teachers and students with valuable teaching tools.

A free concert presenting *Litty 6* was held on 19 June 2024 with artists Georges Urwald, Anna Felke, Andrea Galletti, Laurent Kohn, Nadja Prange, Apollo Munyanshongore and Benoit Martiny.





# ARS HERALDICA

DIE WELT  
DER WAPPEN  
LE MONDE  
DES ARMOIRIES



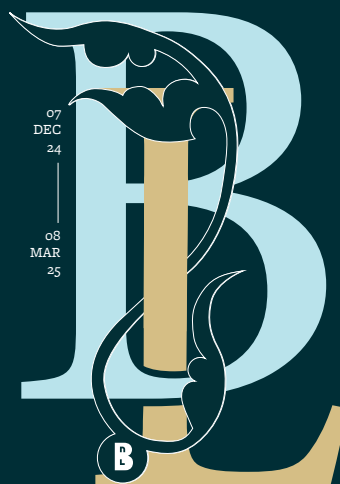
## Ars Heraldica – Le monde des armoiries

Information brochure in German and French, accompanying the exhibition of the same name. It can be downloaded free of charge from the BnL website.

## Cloîtres, connaisseurs et collectionneurs – Les bibliothèques luxembourgeoises entre le 16<sup>e</sup> et le 19<sup>e</sup> siècle

Information brochure in German and French, accompanying the exhibition of the same name. It can be downloaded free of charge from the BnL website.

## Cloîtres, connaisseurs et collectionneurs



Les bibliothèques luxembourgeoises  
entre le 16<sup>e</sup> et le 19<sup>e</sup> siècle



## Articles by BnL staff in national and international publications

Marc Biver "Stability Constants of Tetravalent Germanium Complexes in Aqueous Solution: Small Organic Oxygen and Nitrogen Donor Ligands" in *Inorganic chemistry*, 2024-02, Vol.63 (5), pp. 2470-2485.

Claude D. Conter „Eine Ehrenstelle unter den geistigen Zentren des Reiches“ - die Landesbibliothek Luxemburg während des Zweiten Weltkrieges" in *Verboten, beschlagnahmt, geraubt. NS-Bibliothekspolitik und -praxis in Europa / Banned, Confiscated, Looted. Nazi Library Policy and Practice in Europe* (= *Bibliothek und Wissenschaft* 56), 2024, pp. 127-147.

Luc Deitz "Charles E. Fantazzi (1930-2029)", in *The Catholic Historical Review* 110 (2024), pp. 104-105.

Luc Deitz Co-edition of the work "Cornelius Loos, De vera et falsa magia (1592). Editio princeps (lateinisch - deutsch)." - Nach Vorarbeiten von Othon Scholer aus dem Nachlass herausgegeben von Luc Deitz, Gunther Franz und Rita Voltmer (= *Trierer Hexenprozesse. Quellen und Darstellungen*; Bd. 10), Trier, Paulinus Verlag, 2024, 622 p.

Stéphanie Kovacs Contributions to the publication: «Turbulences - Zesummen an Europa - Magyarország - Luxemburg: 100 éves diplomáciai és konzuli kapcsolat / Hungary - Luxembourg : 100 ans de relations diplomatiques et consulaires», Imprimerie Ossa, Niederanven, 2024, 112 p.

Kim Krier „Der Garten als Nahrungslieferant - Ratschläge für den Obst- und Gemüseanbau in Luxemburg“ in *All you can eat : l'homme et son alimentation = der Mensch und seine Nahrung = humans and their food / Lëtzebuerg City Museum ; [Texts : Mohamed Hamdi; photos : Christof Weber]*, Luxembourg, 2024, pp. 57-72.

Jean-Marie Reding „Die luxemburgische Bibliothekslandschaft 1940-1944“ in *Verboten, beschlagnahmt, geraubt. NS-Bibliothekspolitik und -praxis in Europa / Banned, Confiscated, Looted. Nazi Library Policy and Practice in Europe* (= *Bibliothek und Wissenschaft* 56), 2024, pp. 149-166.

Julia Schelling « Rubi Antiqua and AGORHA: L'impact et les enjeux des humanités numériques » in *Rubi antiqua, Scavi, Collezioni, Musei, Fama e fortuna delle antichità di Ruvo nell'Europa ottocentesca*, Edipuglia (2024) pp. 141-146.

Max Schmitz « L'ancien duché de Luxembourg dans le *Voyage historique et pittoresque* de Paquet-Syphorien », in *Bulletin trimestriel de l'Institut archéologique du Luxembourg* 100/1-2 (2024), pp. 45-55

Max Schmitz « Satire *Romanciers* d'Édouard Guerber », in *De Cliärrwer Kanton* 45/3 (2023), pp. 105-106.

Max Schmitz „Adam Reiners' Drama *Hermenegild*“, in *De Cliärrwer Kanton* 46/1 (2024), pp. 85-97.

Max Schmitz « La trilogie enfin achevée. L'article inédit *Tommy* (vers 1940) de Nicolas Ries », in *De Cliärrwer Kanton* 46/2 (2024), pp. 15-20.

Max Schmitz „Das Ösling im Gesamtwerk des Einwanderers Hary Godefroid (\*1877-†1942)“, in *De Cliärrwer Kanton* 46/édition spéciale (2024), pp. 87-99.

Max Schmitz « *Le Boxeur impénitent. Roman* (vers 1940) de Nicolas Ries (1876-1941) », in *nos cahiers* 45/1 (2024), pp. 71-119.

Luc Schneider (2024), "On Terms and Types", in *New Directions in Term Logic*, George Englebrechtsen (ed.), London, College Publications.

## Articles published on the BnL website

18.01.2024 Yorick Schmit „*Die Autolinie ist die Linie der Zeit*. Batty Weber, Charles Bernhoeft und der Siegeszug der Automobilität“.

08.02.2024 Adrien Pascoud « Un ex-jésuite contre les Lumières. François-Xavier de Feller (1735-1802) ».

11.02.2024 Tom Zago « Fantômes éphémères – Sur les traces d'un dominotier luxembourgeois du 18<sup>e</sup> siècle ».



01.03.2024 Marlène Duhr „*Jong-Letzeburgs* Taktgeber. Julien Hoffmann zum 100. Geburtstag“.

14.03.2024 Stéphanie Kovacs « L'amitié franco-luxembourgeoise mise à l'honneur – Visite de la Grande-Duchesse Charlotte à Thionville le 15 février 1920 ».

18.04.2024 Kim Krier „Für Handwerk, Gewerbe und Nation. Die Ausstellung für das Handwerk und Klein Gewerbe in Luxemburg von 1904“.

09.05.2024 Stéphanie Kovacs « Retour sur les premières élections européennes en 1979 – Le Luxembourg vote, la Loterie nationale fait campagne ».

16.05.2024 Philippe Majeres « Le témoignage d'une lettre manuscrite de 1921 – Regard nuancé sur un chef militaire controversé de la Grande Guerre ».

27.05.2024 Pit Péporté, Thomas Falmagne « Les armoiries perdues de Charles Quint : quand les ornements extérieurs deviennent témoins de l'époque ».

13.06.2024 Claude D. Conter „Tour de Frantz – Zu einer humoristischen Sonderbeilage des *Gukuk*“ (1924).

26.06.2024 Pit Péporté „Von Ritterschilden zur Nationalflagge – Die Wandlung des roten Löwen“.

04.07.2024 Stefanie Zutter „Olympiade und Kunst. Jean Jacobys Ikonografie des Sports“.

25.07.2024 Jean-Marie Reding „Zur Anzahl der Inkunabeln in der Nationalbibliothek“.

14.08.2024 Claude D. Conter “The Touristic Gentrification of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Luxembourg Hidden Realities and Artistic Perceptions in a Photo Collection from 1880”.

02.09.2024 Marlène Duhr „Zwischen Musik, politischem Engagement und Multipler Sklerose. Zum 100. Geburtstag von Victor Fenigstein“.

26.09.2024 Yorick Schmit „...*dem wahren Kino in Luxemburg den Weg bereiten*. Anfänge einer luxemburgischen Filmkultur in Evy Friedrichs Magazin *Le Film Luxembourgeois* (1927-1934)“.

17.10.2024 Stéphanie Kovacs « 1859 : début de l'épopée du rail au Luxembourg – Sur l'inauguration et la mise en service du Guillaume-Luxembourg ».

05.11.2024 Luc Deitz “A Journey of a Thousand Years: The giant Bible of Saint Maximin”.

05.11.2024 Thomas Falmagne « Un texte à découvrir : La Bible géante de Saint-Maximin ».

05.11.2024 Max Schmitz „Das Skriptorium Echternach“.

14.11.2024 Max Schmitz „Geheimschrift und Geheimnisse eines Apothekers. Über eine Trouvaille aus der Redemptoristenbibliothek“.

19.11.2024 Liz Jost, Philippe Majeres « Les métiers d'antan au Luxembourg – entre artisanat, mémoire et patrimoine ».

**The BnL's collection managers regularly post their picks and reading lists on [bnl.lu](https://bnl.lu). In 2024, 16 reading lists were put online.**



# PRESENTATIONS

In 2024, BnL staff took part in various seminars and conferences to present the results of their work and exchange views with national and international experts:

03.-04.02.2024 Fosdem Meeting (Free and Open Source Software Developers' European Meeting) in Brussels – Loïc Warin

19.-20.02.2024 Seminar "Collections as Data" in Brussels – Carlo Blum and Patrick Peiffer

03.-06.03.2024 "Electronic Resources and Libraries" Conference in Austin, USA – Teresa Fernandez Olaiola

14.03.2024 ExLibris presentation: RAPIDO in Brussels – Michel Donven

13.-15.03.2024 Littérature et musique au Luxembourg. Study days of the Société luxembourgeoise de littérature générale et comparée – Françoise Molitor, Marlène Duhr, Elisabet Wirtz-Lemmel, Yorick Schmit

19.-20.03.2024 "Nachhaltige Archivierung, Erschließung, Bereitstellung dynamischer Daten aus sozialen Medien - Twitter und danach" in Frankfurt – Ben Els, László Tóth

19.-20.03.2024 Plenary conference at the Documentation fair "Intelligence artificielle, IA générative : quels apports concrets à la gestion de contenus ?" Artificial intelligence, generative AI: what are the concrete benefits for content management? in Paris – Yves Maurer

12.-17.04.2024 ICOLC Conference in Anaheim, USA – Marie-Sophie Werz

24.-26.04.2024 Impresso 2: Workshop and consortium meeting in Lausanne – Carlo Blum

24.-26.04.2024 IIPC (International Internet Preservation Consortium) conference in Paris – Ben Els, Yves Maurer, László Tóth

03.-06.06.2024 BiblioCon in Hamburg – Carlo Blum

10.- 11.06.2024 Preservica International User Group meeting 2024 in Oxford – Roxana Maurer

13.06.2024 "Arc-en-ciel" concert by Kammerata Luxembourg in Luxembourg – Elisabet Wirtz-Lemmel

16.-18.06.2024 Annual Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) in Warsaw – Kim Krier, Claude D. Conter, Carlo Blum

19.-21.06.2024 KOOP Litera international 2024 in Luxembourg/Mersch – Françoise Molitor, Marlène Duhr, Joé Fellens, Patrick Steffen, Elisabet Wirtz-Lemmel

26.06.2024 25<sup>th</sup> General assembly of ISSN, remote meeting – Sarah Stephan

09.-12.09.2024 IGeLU 2024 Conference in Copenhagen – Florence Buhler, Michel Donven, Teresa Fernandez Olaiola, Christel Kayser, Pascale Staes, Annick Stein

16.-20.09.2024 iPRES (International Conference on Digital Preservation) 2024 in Ghent – Roxana Maurer

17.10.2024 Frankfurter Buchmesse in Frankfurt – Juliane Rattay-Schulze, Marie-Sophie Werz

24.-25.10.2024 Study days Friedensvorstellungen in/ aus Luxemburg – Stéphanie Kovacs, Stefanie Zutter

29.10.2024 Working visit to the BnF in Paris in the context of the setting up of the BnL Ephemera Collection – Claude D. Conter, Daphné Boehles, Martine Mathay, Lynn Marx

29.-30.10.2024 "Impresso2 Workshop: Beyond Boundaries – Data Labs for Historical Media Archives" at the University of Luxembourg – Ralph Marschall

31.10.2024 Conference "Next-Gen Bibliothek: Eine KI-Reise" at the Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz in Windisch – Carlo Blum

02.-17.11.2024 Salon du CAL in Luxembourg – Stefanie Zutter

06.-07.11.2024 e-D-A-CH-L Conference in Frankfurt – Yves Maurer, Ben Els, Yorick Schmit

19.11.2024 HIVI Final Conference: Online Virality. Past, Present, Future in Luxembourg/Belval – Ben Els

27.11.2024 euroCRIS Strategic Membership Meeting at INRAE in Paris – Patrick Peiffer



## EDUCATIONAL OFFERS

### TRAINING AND GUIDED TOURS

13 different secondary schools, including the Lycée des Arts et Métiers, the Lycée Technique du Centre, the Lycée Josy Barthel, the École privée Fieldgen, the Lycée Aline-Mayrisch, the Lycée du Nord, the Lycée de Garçons de Luxembourg, the Lycée technique de Lallange, the École internationale Differdange & Esch-sur-Alzette, the Lycée classique d'Echternach, the École européenne Luxembourg-Kirchberg, the Nordstad Lycée and the Lycée Michel Rodange took part in training and guided visits that introduced pupils to the functioning of the BnL. 32 activities were organised for school classes, including 16 introductions to documentary research using the a-z.lu tool.

82 guided tours for the general public took place. They were offered in Luxembourgish, German, French and English. The BnL also ran a-z.lu and luxemburgensia.lu workshops.

### PRESENCE AT FAIRS

The BnL and the Bicherbus took part in the “Walfer Bicherdeeg” book fair held from 14 to 16 November 2024. The afternoon of 14 November was reserved for secondary school classes. The BnL also took part in the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Month of Archives, coordinated by the National Archives of Luxembourg.

### INFORMATION MATERIAL AND TUTORIALS

The BnL has recently published two new leaflets. The first gives the reader a complete overview of the digital resources available at the library, from scientific articles and specialist databases to periodicals digitised by the BnL itself. The second is devoted to the ebooks.lu service, developed in collaboration with more than a dozen partner libraries. It clearly and concisely sets out the essential steps for taking advantage of this free offer.

BnL has also extended its range of tutorials *a-z.lu in practice*.

#### New tutorials on YouTube:

1. How to view my active requests and loans?
2. How to carry out an advanced search?
3. How to access digital resources?
4. How to save your favorites and search queries?
5. How to access the MéNuLu streaming services?





## THE BNL ON THE WEB

### WEBSITE

The BnL website [www.bnl.lu](http://www.bnl.lu) recorded a total of 326,409 views. Internet users can find out more about the library, how it works and how to make the most of its services. They can also access analysis and information articles (“Documents in the spotlight”) written by BnL staff. The online shop offers a selection of publications (exhibition catalogues and reference works) available for purchase. The site works on all media and meets the accessibility criteria set by Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament.

It is interesting to note that the “Registration” page remains the most consulted, recording 27,510 views in 2024.

The site is available in French, Luxembourgish, German and English. The statistical breakdown of reading languages is based on the browser setting used by the Internet user, which also explains the absence of Luxembourgish.

English	44.7%
French	26.6%
German	23%
Other	8.8%

In June 2024, the BnL integrated the information from the [persist.lu](http://persist.lu) website into its main website, to offer users a more fluid and consistent experience. This integration enables centralised access and a unified presentation of information.

## THE BNL IN THE MEDIA



Cedom introduces itself on radio 100.7



Cedom on RTL TV



The giant Bible on RTL TV



The giant Bible on [science.lu](http://science.lu)



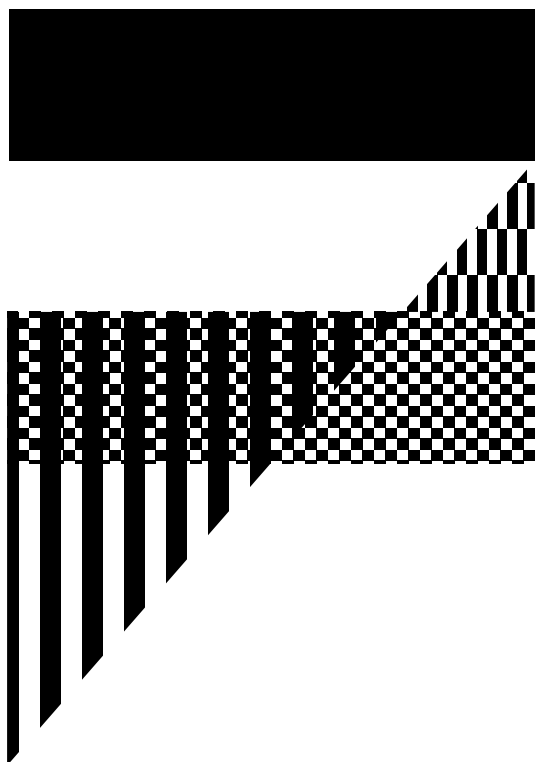
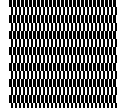
## SOCIAL NETWORKS

The BnL is active on the main social networks, where it not only shares news and events, but also showcases its collections. This is done through thematic studies of documents from the special collections, favourites selected by the collection managers, and thematic reading lists. The BnL also shares digitised documents that highlight Luxembourg's rich past (photos, postcards, posters, periodicals), with links to current events and contemporary subjects. Once again this year, the BnL has expanded its audience on social networks, reaching a total of 11,437 subscribers on its various platforms, compared with 10,976 in 2023.

The BnL has also optimised its visual identity on social networks by refining its graphic charter. This new charter establishes a harmonised colour palette and specific typography, while giving each type of publication a distinct visual signature. The aim is to increase the immediate recognition of content and improve user engagement. The formats now standardised include job advertisements, institutional announcements, quotes, events and the highlighting of digitised content.







# A RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATION

## TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

In April 2024, the BnL began working with Boulangerie Fischer, the new operator of its culinary café.

This cooperation means that visitors can enjoy a selection of fresh products in a friendly setting.

In 2024, the BnL's technical department completed several infrastructure optimisation projects, including the migration to new car park management software. It also coordinated a number of other projects, including: the rearrangement of BnL's café in preparation for the change of operator, repair work following a leak in the reading room and the reorganisation of the MITO storage area and of the quarantine room.

The CMS that manages the digital signage in the public areas (screens in the lobby, conference area and reading room) has also been updated to provide users with clearer guidance and more fluid distribution of information in real time.

The BnL's distribution and warehousing department handles the full management of incoming and outgoing post, including receipt and sending of letters, parcels, journals and periodicals. It also handles the internal collection of shipments, the distribution of incoming parcels and the traceability of all shipments. In 2024, BnL handled an average of 461 kg of postal mail per month. It mailed 3,384 letters.

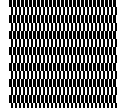
The distribution and warehousing department is also responsible for collecting donations and bequests accepted by the BnL, which require a trip to the donor's home. In 2024, 4.4 tonnes of documents were received per month, with 1,151 km travelled to collect donations.





**The BnL ensures  
efficient and  
sustainable  
management of its  
infrastructure,  
staff and  
budget.**





## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

As at 31 December 2024, the BnL had 116.45 FTE (full-time equivalent) staff, corresponding to 138 physical people.

Aware of our training mission, we offer one apprentice post to train as a Gestionnaire qualifié DAP en logistique and we have taken on 12 students for 8 to 15 hours per week to help the various departments of the BnL.

As the BnL works on particular projects requiring staff with specific knowledge for a given period, it was supported in 2024 by 6 experts. In addition, it has called on assistance from external service providers for cleaning, security, services to the public and digitisation (34 people).

The average age of BnL employees is 42.3 years old, while the average length of service is 12.8 years.

## **SURVEY ON EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

In 2024, the BnL took part in the survey on staff satisfaction and management practices proposed by the State Centre for Human Resources and Organisation Management (CGPO) in collaboration with University College London (UCL), the University of Nottingham, Roskilde University and the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER).

This survey was carried out on the basis of two surveys with the support of organisational unit coordinators. The results of these surveys enabled BnL to implement improvement measures by giving employees the opportunity to actively contribute to the development of the administration. The aim of this comparative analysis was to identify strengths and areas for development, as well as to provide systematic data for decision-making on human resources management practices within the organisation.

At the BnL, 113 people responded to the survey, corresponding to a response rate of 82%. The survey collected data on agents' attitudes, such as job satisfaction and organisational commitment. It also examined their perceptions of human resources management practices in their organisation, such as leadership, change management and organisational communication.

88% of the participants from the BnL said they were satisfied with their work, 78% were proud of it, 73% felt happy when they were working intensively and 70% were even prepared to take on extra tasks that were not really expected of them in their job.

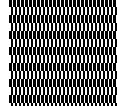
With regard to the organisational commitment of staff, i.e. their desire to remain in the organisation and their motivation to serve the public, 83% of the participants from the BnL gave a positive assessment (compared with 64% in the other participating organisations).

**The BnL achieved the highest positivity rate of all the participating organisations.**



ORGANISATION CHART		
	Division	Departments/Units
Management		
		Executive secretariat
	General administration	
		Human resources department
		Accounting department
		Print and digital acquisitions department
		Technical department
		Reprographics department
		Personal data department
		Public relations
	Services to the public	
		Reference services
		Reception and library/media centre loans department
		Interlibrary loans department
	Luxembourgish Collection	
		Books and brochures department
		Periodicals and ISSN agency department
		Posters and Postcards Collection
		Legal deposit and ISBN agency department
		National bibliography department
		Digital curating department
		Digitisation department
	Non-Luxembourgish Collection	
		Subject experts
		Cataloguing department
		Foreign periodicals department
	Free access collections management	
		Reading Room





ORGANISATION CHART		
	Division	Departments/Units
	Special collections	
		Manuscripts Collection
		Rare Books Collection
		Collection of Cards, Maps, Atlases and Views
		Cedom Music Collection
		Media Centre
		Iconography Collection
		Collection of the History of Libraries and Books in Luxembourg
	Logistics and preservation	
		Binding and restoration
		Closed stacks logistics department
		Distribution and warehousing department
	IT and digital innovation	
		Library service
		Digital collections service
		IT infrastructure development and maintenance
	National library network bibnet.lu	
		Metadata (cataloguing, indexing and authority) department
		Library network supervision and training department
		Mobile library department
	Digital publications acquisitions and management	
		Licences and financing department
		Metadata and statistics department
		National digital publications management department



## BUDGET

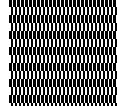
The BnL benefited from funding of €8,159,360 from its parent ministry, the Ministry of Culture. Added to this is funding for utilities costs (water, heating and electricity) of €633,939. The BnL has generated revenue totalling €513,266. The analysis of the 2024 implemented budget revealed a pleasing result: the costs of infrastructure and operations totalled close on 27.9%, while expenditures relating to its legal missions totalled 68.42%. Amongst the operating costs, the costs of cleaning and security make up 21.4% of the total budget and are therefore the most significant items.

Given our mission as a heritage library, the BnL commits a considerable sum to acquiring documents supplementing its special collections; thus we spent €571,214 on maps, posters, postcards, ephemera, music scores, imprints, art books, etc. In view of our mission as a research library, the BnL endeavours to maintain collections that are high-quality and up to date, including those in the Non-Luxembourgish Collection, foreign periodicals, the media library, the Bicherbus mobile library and its digital resources (scientific e-books, databases, e-journals, etc.). The total spent on supplementing these collections was €2,707,941. The BnL is therefore investing 32% of its budget in acquisitions for the library, the Media library and the heritage collections.

The BnL aims to be a reliable partner to the book sector in Luxembourg. In fact, we pursue an acquisitions policy favouring publishers and bookshops in Luxembourg such as Alinéa, Bicherhaischen, Diderich, Ernster, Promoculture, um Fieldgen and Zimmer. A total of 4,228 orders were placed with Luxembourg suppliers, while 2,673 orders were placed with international suppliers. Invoices from Luxembourg suppliers totalled €148,132, while those from international suppliers amounted to €212,199. The budget for digital services for the research sector in Luxembourg is €877,758.

BnL is continuing its ambitious programme of mass digitisation and free online access to books and newspapers, in compliance with current regulations. 23% of the BnL's budget is devoted to digitisation. Expenditure on promoting these collections, including the cost of publications, exhibitions, seminars, study days and events, as well as awareness-raising and information campaigns, represents only 8% of the budget, i.e. €735,823.





INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATION		Value in % of total
<b>Administration and training</b>		
Continuing education	738.75€	
Travel and subsistence expenses (Lux. + foreign)	38,003.53€	
Office expenses	10,886.78€	
National membership fees	420.00€	
International membership fees	59,063.02€	
Third party service	177.20€	
Bank charges	4,880.85€	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>114,170.13€</b>	1.35%
<b>Building and vehicles</b>		
Building-cleaning (incl. cleaning products)	426,820.43€	5.06%
Building - maintenance and repairs	205,176.56€	
Building - municipal taxes	11,362.93€	
Building - surveillance	903,241.95€	10.71%
Building - underground car park maintenance	225,910.72€	
Vehicles - insurance maintenance	698.87€	
Vehicles - fuel maintenance	13,110.80€	
Vehicles - maintenance and repairs	25,209.78€	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,811,532.04€</b>	21.48%
<b>Operating costs</b>		
Postage and telecommunications	44,508.42€	
Acquisition and maintenance of small tools and low-value special equipment (Technical service and Photolab)	21,129.68€	
Public services	33,539.56€	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>99,177.66€</b>	1.18%
<b>IT</b>		
Costs of IT experts and studies	60,501.66€	
Re-licensing/Software maintenance	136,747.31€	
Software acquisition/development	6,815.65€	
Maintenance of IT equipment	8,222.33€	
Computer Server - Hardware maintenance	116,553.36€	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>328,840.31€</b>	3.90%
<b>Total infrastructure and operations</b>	<b>2,353,720.14€</b>	<b>27.90%</b>



BNL'S REMIT		Value in % of total
<b>Library and Heritage</b>		
Acquisition of library and media library	2,101,506.63€	
Acquisition of heritage collections	571,214.53€	
Bibnet.lu network	21,365.37€	
Copyright and related rights	13,854.51€	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,707,941.04€</b>	32.10%
<b>Archiving and Logistics</b>		
Conservation / Restoration	283,048.35€	
Binding costs	34,732.48€	
Logistics and Preservation	60,833.03€	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>378,613.86€</b>	4.49%
<b>Experts and Digitisation</b>		
Cost of experts and studies	1,071,459.00€	
Digital library	877,758.73€	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,949,217.73€</b>	23.11%
<b>Promotion</b>		
Publication costs	47,280.69€	
Advertising, awareness-raising and information costs	376,152.03€	
Exhibitions	248,064.91€	
Conferences, seminars, training courses and study days: organisation costs	64,325.38€	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>735,823.01€</b>	8.72%
<b>Total BnL remit</b>	<b>5,771,595.64€</b>	<b>68.42%</b>
EXPENSES 2024 (excluding consumption costs)	<b>8,435,114.48€</b>	
EXPENSES 2024: consumption costs (water, electricity, heating)	<b>443,156.76€</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>8,878,271.24€</b>	



**We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the staff of the BnL for their commitment and professionalism throughout the year. We would also like to express our gratitude to our partners both in Luxembourg and abroad, whose support and cooperation have been essential to the success of our missions.**









**Bibliothèque nationale  
du Luxembourg**

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