

THE LIBRARY

IN 2024

ANNUAL REPORT RAPPORT ANNUEL

GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE

KATHRYN
AND SHELBY
CULLOM DAVIS
LIBRARY



The background of the page is a photograph of a modern library. It features tall, curved bookshelves filled with books. Three people are visible: a woman in the foreground looking at a book, another woman behind her, and a man in the background looking towards the camera. The image has a blue and purple color overlay.

CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS

WHAT'S NEW?

FOCUS

IN FIGURES

PERSPECTIVES 2025

CONTACT

HIGHLIGHTS

IHEID Digital Hub, the Data Stewardship Project

This project, funded by Swiss Universities, aimed to compensate for the lack of data stewards within our academic departments, due to a limited budget, by increasing collaboration between groups of stakeholders (Research office, IT, Library, Research centres, Academic departments). Other goals included improving communication and awareness of open research data and research data management within our academic community, as well as providing training to upskill early-career researchers.

It was conducted jointly by the Library and the Tech Hub, with the assistance of a PhD candidate. The administration's Open Science Working Group – comprising representatives from the Library, IT, Tech Hub, and Research Office – is now meeting once per term to discuss strategic issues and service evolution. A dedicated public Webex space was created for internal communication on research data management, and a draft open data policy was prepared for discussion.

A survey on open science practices was conducted among research staff, with disappointing results. Sadly, the data champions network planned within departments was a failure for that reason, but collaboration and exchanges notably improved with the representatives of research centres, leading to the creation of Zenodo communities, participation in the Institute's Research Festival, the organisation of Open Research Cafés once per term, and the setup of an Open Science Corner in the new "village of centres".

On the training side, we participated in Love Data Week in 2024 (70 participants in 6 sessions), and developed an internal ECTS-credited course on open science and data management.

Open Science and Data: a Pilot Course

During the autumn semester of 2024, two librarians taught a course open to all students, with the support of academics. The course covered open access and data management issues, and included an introduction to R delivered by a PhD graduate from the Institute. It lasted for six weeks and granted two ECTS credits. These did not matter for graduation, but only counted as extra credits for eight highly motivated participants, rewarding their voluntary participation out of interest in the topic.

The course will be expanded in autumn 2025 for Master's and PhD students, and will, this time, grant the three credits necessary for it to potentially matter toward the degree.



HIGHLIGHTS

Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future of Multilateralism

Founded in 2024, the Centre for Digital Humanities and Multilateralism (CDHM) aspires to become a leading global hub for research and innovation at the intersection of multilateral history and digital humanities.

Based in Geneva, CDHM brings together scholars and archivists to explore how digital tools can transform the way we understand, preserve, and share the legacy of multilateralism.

A core objective of the Centre is to hasten the integration of the archives of multilateralism in Geneva within a carefully built network of archival institutions across the world – with a specific focus on building partnerships with archives from the Global South – so as to help the broader public understand the multiple dimensions of multilateralism as an instrument of diplomacy and cultural exchange.

The Library contributes actively to this mission by digitising both administrative and academic records, ensuring that institutional memory is preserved and made available for future generations. In collaboration with CERN and Zenodo, CDHM ensures the long-term preservation and open dissemination of these digital collections.

→ Learn more: <https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/cdhm>



HIGHLIGHTS

L'enfer à la Bibliothèque

Dans le cadre des rencontres interservices #MeetUs organisées par les ressources humaines de l'IHEID, la Bibliothèque s'est présentée dans son plus beau costume d'Halloween. Le 31 octobre, après une introduction plus traditionnelle, une quinzaine de collègues ont pu explorer les recoins de la salle de lecture sous la forme d'une chasse aux fantômes. Au programme, des jeux et des énigmes permettant d'en apprendre davantage sur les collections et services offerts, tout en s'amusant.

« Un super moment ! J'ai adoré cette découverte de la Bibliothèque ! Bravo à toute l'équipe pour cette magnifique organisation ! 🙌 »

Une participante



Expo : « Je suis d'où je vais »

La rencontre entre l'art du peintre italien Loris Agosti et les écrits du professeur en anthropologie Alessandro Monsutti a donné naissance à une exposition évocatrice, inaugurée à la Bibliothèque en mars 2024. Au cœur de cette installation, deux sculptures en papier mâché — une colonne de visages énigmatiques et un caillou — dialoguent silencieusement avec un poème visuel, encadré de bois, intitulé Lettre à la terre. « Je suis d'où je vais ». Cette déclaration d'un vieux montagnard afghan, formulée en réponse à l'ethnologue qui l'interrogeait sur son origine, résonne comme une vérité universelle, tissant un lien entre errance, identité et territoire.

« Nous ne sommes pas définis par l'endroit où nous sommes venus au monde, par un lieu d'origine présumé, mais par la manière dont nous nous déplaçons d'un point à un autre, entre la naissance et la mort, par notre horizon. La vie en action, la vie comme voyage. »

Alessandro Monsutti

→ Interview with Professor Alessandro Monsutti

<https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/communications/news/je-suis-dou-je-va>

WHAT'S NEW?

Quality and the Library

In a competitive global academic environment, quality is fundamental to the Institute's mission of excellence. A robust quality assurance system promotes the efficient use of resources and ensures accountability to public authorities and society. Aligned with the Institute's core values as set out in its Charter, this system is essential for maintaining institutional accreditation in Switzerland — a requirement for federal funding and university status.

The Institute's quality assurance framework is structured around European standards and incorporates strategic planning, governance and the continuous evaluation of teaching, research and services. Created in 2024, the Quality Committee and Working Group coordinate and implement quality initiatives across the institution.

Within this framework, the Library plays an active role. Committed to professionalism and high standards, it supports students through its collections and services. The team contributes to institutional quality efforts by participating in the Quality Assurance Working Group, collecting annual statistics, and developing student-focused surveys. These activities demonstrate our commitment to continuous improvement and to maintaining the Institute's high standards.

→ Learn more: <https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/discover-institute/quality-at-the-institute/quality-institute>



WHAT'S NEW?



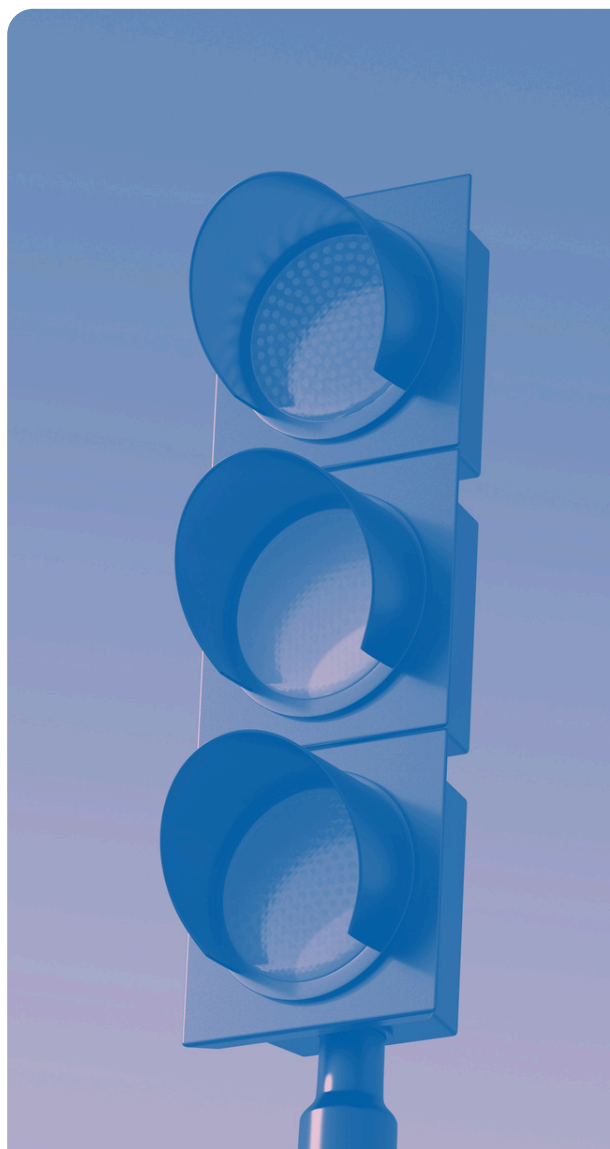
Réinventer l'apprentissage avec Konvink

Notre bibliothèque accueille, pour la quatrième année consécutive, une apprentie. Arrivée en août, Mégane entame un parcours de trois ans afin de se former au métier, avec pour objectif l'obtention du titre d'agente en information documentaire (AID). Cette expérience prend une dimension inédite en raison de l'introduction de Konvink, nouvel outil de formation. Déployée dans le monde de l'apprentissage suisse, cette plateforme définit, à travers des mandats pratiques, les compétences à acquérir semestre après semestre. Konvink permet un suivi et une évaluation plus homogènes, tout en renforçant les capacités méthodologiques des élèves dans la gestion autonome de leur travail.

Directive

Avec l'aide de la juriste de l'Institut, une nouvelle directive encadrant l'utilisation de la Bibliothèque a été officialisée et publiée en mai 2024. Cette réglementation précise les modalités d'accès aux ressources, services et locaux, tout en établissant clairement les droits et obligations des personnes concernées.

→ <https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/sites/internet/files/2025-10/Directive-utilisation-bibliotheque-2025-VF.pdf>



WHAT'S NEW?



Digital Collections

In October 2015, we launched a digital library featuring hundreds of historical books, archives, manuscripts, photographs, and audio recordings from the Geneva Graduate Institute's collections. In 2023, the library was expanded to include oral history recordings. This service provides free access to rare resources, with a focus on international relations.

In 2024, the site's layout was completely redesigned. This update allows users to seamlessly explore various collections and discover remarkable items, such as the papers of Boris Souvarine and the International Geneva holdings, enhanced by high-definition photographs and illustrations.

→ <https://digitalcollections.graduateinstitute.ch/>

Making LibGuides More Engaging

The Library continues to refine its electronic research guides, ensuring a more intuitive and engaging user experience:

- The A-Z list of databases now features a clearer layout with logos and color coding, making navigation easier.
→ <https://libguides.graduateinstitute.ch/az/databases>
- The French copyright guide – which recorded over 9,000 visits in 2024 – has been standardised to improve readability across its tabs.
→ <https://libguides.graduateinstitute.ch/droit-dauteur>
- The Archives & Special Collections guide now provides a clearer overview of the Institute's diverse archival collections, accessible to researchers upon request.
→ <https://libguides.graduateinstitute.ch/archives>

Library / LibGuides / Home

Guides and Tools

Subjects

All Guides

Showing 10 Subjects

Academic Writing

Collections

Copyright and Data Privacy

How to Search

International Law

FOCUS

L'International Open Access Week 2024 vue depuis l'IHEID

L'Open Access Week 2024 s'est tenue pendant les vacances scolaires d'automne en Suisse romande, période de faible affluence à l'IHEID. Moins de chercheur·euses et d'étudiant·es étaient présent·es, ce qui a limité la participation aux événements organisés localement.

Une dynamique nationale bénéfique

La collaboration avec d'autres institutions suisses a permis d'élargir l'audience grâce à des conférences en ligne souvent complémentaires. À l'IHEID, trois présentations en anglais ont été proposées sur ORCID, la publication en Open Access et les licences Creative Commons. En parallèle, un espace dédié à l'Open Science a été inauguré, agrémenté d'affiches créées en collaboration de l'Université de Genève. Ces contenus sont également disponibles sur Zenodo et seront enrichis régulièrement.

Vers une politique Open Access

Un moment fort de la semaine a été une réunion stratégique réunissant la Bibliothèque, les responsables de nos départements académiques et le directeur de la recherche. L'objectif : discuter de l'élaboration d'une politique Open Access, encore absente à l'Institut. Une présentation du paysage suisse sur le sujet avec un témoignage de l'Université de Lausanne ont nourri les échanges.

Des avancées concrètes

Plusieurs consensus ont émergé : accès plus ouvert aux thèses de doctorat, obligation de dépôt des postprints ou accepted manuscripts (AAM) à la Bibliothèque, et soutien accru aux chercheur·euses pour mieux aligner leurs publications avec les exigences du Fonds national suisse.

En bref

Cette semaine a permis de réunir les parties prenantes et de relancer un dossier longtemps en suspens. La Bibliothèque espère poursuivre sur cette lancée en participant en 2025 à la prochaine Love Data Week, agendée malheureusement une fois encore pendant les vacances universitaires.

→ Basé sur l'article

Brendow, Catherine, et Guillaume Pasquier. 2025.

« L' International Open Access Week 2024 Vue Depuis l'IHEID ». Revue électronique Suisse De Science De l'information (RESSI), n° 25 (mars). <https://doi.org/10.55790/journals/ressi.2025.e1863>



IN FIGURES

Collections

- 299 928 items in the print collection
- 10 336 loans
- 1775 interlibrary loans
- 33 230 accesses to ebooks
- 454 139 electronic articles consulted
- 253 loans of recording equipment
- 956 documents added to the institutional repository
- 73 articles published in open access through Read & Publish agreements
- 18,130 reviewed documents during inventory

Public

- 184 267 entries
- 1170 participants in 105 tours, conferences or workshops
- 43 084 visits to the Library's website
- 335 566 searches in our catalogue swisscovery
- 102 133 consultations of our 36 online guides
- 2996 questions to the information desk
- 6299 bubbles reservations
- 421 requests for access to the archives and special collections

PERSPECTIVES 2025

Reading Room

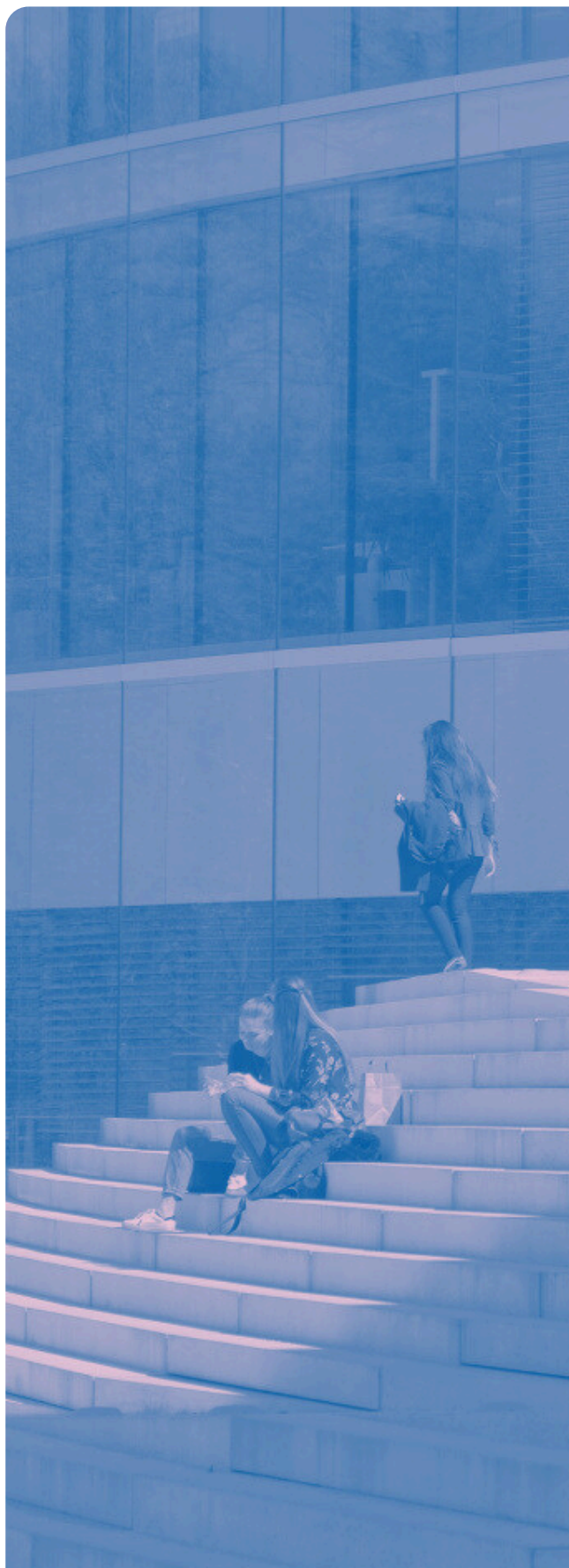
- Anticipating the busy May-June 2025 exam period by more efficiently limiting access to the university community — with support from the security service — to ensure our students can consistently find space to study.

Collections

- Continuing in January 2025 the inventory of social science call numbers 320–327 (approximately 35,000 documents).
- Digitising all the Institute's theses since 1928 and making them available on our institutional repository.
- Publishing the approximately 500 Applied Research Projects (ARPs) online and integrate them into the institutional repository.
- Assigning DOIs to open-access publications from research centres and academic departments at the Institute to guarantee their permanent identification and retrieval.

Archives

- Digitising 500 boxes of administrative archives, representing over 1 million pages on the history of the Institute from its foundation in 1927 to the 2008 merger.



PERSPECTIVES 2025

Open Science

- Encouraging open research practices at the Institute through our participation in community events (Love Data Week in February, Research Festival in May, Open Access Week in October).
- Training future researchers through an expanded 3-credit course on Scholarly Communications, Open Science, and Data Management during the Fall semester.

Further Education

- Introduction à l'intelligence artificielle et à ses applications aux archives (IHEID)
- L'art de prompter : COPILOT PRO (IHEID)
- Booster sa recherche documentaire à l'aide des IA génératives (UNIGE)
- Tackling Publishing Monopolies through Consortial Negotiations. The Role of the Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries in Making Open Access a Reality (UZH)
- AI tools in libraries: concepts, risks, good practices and tools (AILIS)

Partnerships

- Responding to AGBD request by contributing an article to Hors-Texte, its bulletin.
- Sending a staff member to the London School of Economics (LSE) Library for job shadowing with the Open Research Working Group, with financial support from Movetia — the national agency for promoting exchange and mobility in education
- Taking part in the 54th LIBER Annual Conference, to be held from 2 to 4 July in Lausanne



CONTACT

SAVE TIME, ASK A LIBRARIAN

The Geneva Graduate Institute Library
Case postale 1176
1211 Genève 1
Suisse
Desk: T. +41 22 908 58 88
library@graduateinstitute.ch
graduateinstitute.ch/library
libraryblog.graduateinstitute.ch

