



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

ETH Zurich's Executive Board agreed the following strategy at its meeting on 11 November 2014:

ETH Zurich's Collections and Archives: Strategy 2015 to 2020

All ETH Zurich collections and archives contain collection objects and relevant artefacts that are particularly suitable for current scientific questions and scientific communication in public. Moreover, the collections and archives can take pride in the fact that a substantial proportion of the contents of these objects is recognized on an international level and belongs to Switzerland's national natural historical and cultural heritage. ETH Zurich's collections and archives thus have a role to play as reference collections for current research and teaching (research *in* collections) and in the history of science (research *about* collections).

The *Swiss Inventory of Cultural Property* lists the majority of ETH Zurich's collections and archives as collections of national importance.

The preservation and scientific development of this cultural heritage is part of ETH Zurich's strategic orientation and the services it performs at national level.

In their entirety, ETH Zurich's collections and archives form a high quality infrastructure and, in their uniqueness, reinforce the university's identity.

To ensure that the outstanding holdings of the collections and archives are preserved for generations to come, great efforts are constantly required to organize, to structure, to conserve and to present them. ETH Zurich provides the necessary human and financial resources for this.

ETH Zurich uses its collections and archives strategically as a science marketing instrument and renders the reference collections visible in the global scientific community in a way that befits their importance.

In the virtual sphere, this particularly means the following:

- The collections and archives are indexed and described as completely as possible in electronic catalogs in accordance with the respective relevant standards. The metadata is searchable and machine-readable via the Internet.
- The inclusion of the metadata relevant for the collection objects on ETH-Bibliothek's Knowledge Portal is guaranteed.
- The relevant holdings of the collections and archives are digitized.
- All digital collection objects are given a persistent identifier.
- The structure of the metadata and the interfaces available enable a dynamic linking of external services to its own digitized holdings and vice versa.
- Internationally established authority files are used in the description of the objects. Moreover, the objects are geo-referenced.

This has the following consequences for the physical sphere:

- The organisational structures for the administration and further development of the collections and archives and their curation and conservation are constantly optimized.
- The formation of new collections and archives at ETH Zurich, the acceptance of new (external) collections and archives, and the transfer to third parties takes place in accordance with transparent criteria and standards.
- In the interests of greater visibility, ETH Zurich's exhibition activities are coordinated and expanded.

ETH-Bibliothek coordinates the preservation and development of the collections and archives at ETH Zurich that are important from a cultural history perspective. It serves as ETH Zurich's competence centre for metadata management and digitization. The convergence of library, archive and museum in the digital age gives ETH-Bibliothek a key role in making the holdings of ETH Zurich's collections and archives accessible and mediating them.