

# THE LIBRARY

## IN 2023

ANNUAL REPORT



**GENEVA  
GRADUATE  
INSTITUTE**

KATHRYN  
AND SHELBY  
CULLOM DAVIS  
LIBRARY

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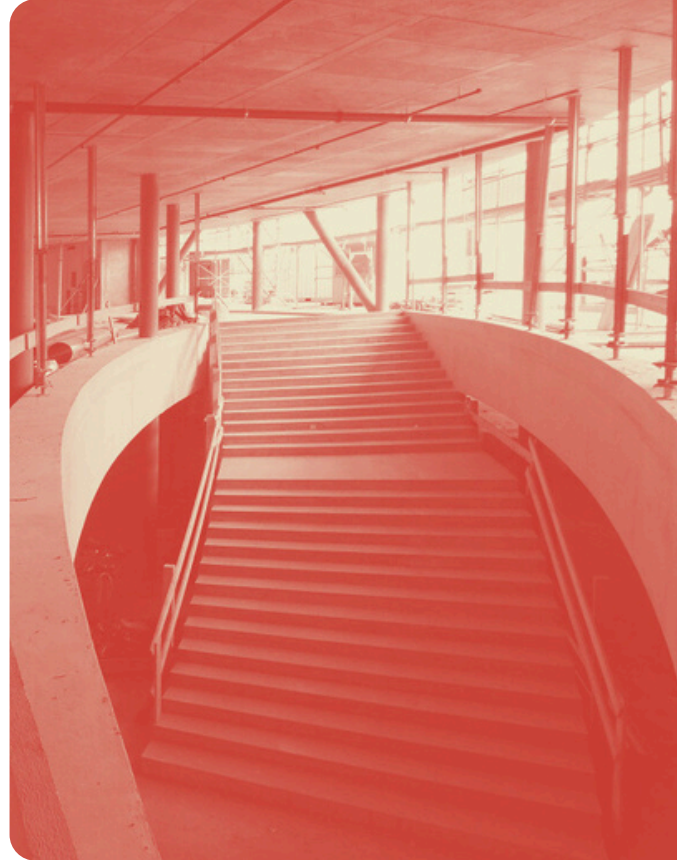
# HIGHLIGHTS

## The Library celebrates its 10th anniversary

On 9 September 2013, the Maison de la Paix was inaugurated, the heart of which is the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Library, named after a couple of alumni who earned their PhD in the 1930s.

This large space of 4,500 m<sup>2</sup> on two levels was designed to be a comfortable and quiet place to study. In keeping with the building's exterior, the 12,000 linear metres of shelving take on an unusual curved and split form to house a collection of some 320,000 physical documents.

Constantly evolving, the Library celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2023 with a small exhibition of photographs taken during its construction. Today, it remains an original labyrinth of knowledge, where the users are invited to wander and be surprised.



## IALL's 41st Annual Course

The Library and the ICRC Library, in collaboration with the UN Library & Archives Geneva, hosted the 41st annual course of International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) from 8 to 11 October 2023 at the Maison de la Paix.

Held in the heart of Geneva's international district, this edition focused on the areas of international law that have developed in connection with the work of the multilateral organisations based in Geneva, and offered a rich programme based on this unique setting and wealth of knowledge.

150 guests from all around the world attended this successful event.

<https://iall.org/conf2023/>

# WHAT'S NEW?



## Empowering MINT students: a new role for librarians

During the autumn semester, 3 librarians were asked to intervene in the Applied Research Foundations seminar, which is compulsory for all first year MINT students. The aim of this seminar is to provide the 270 students with the necessary methodological skills for their applied research project. The first session was on citation, plagiarism, Zotero and access to electronic resources, followed a few days later by an introduction to databases and data management.

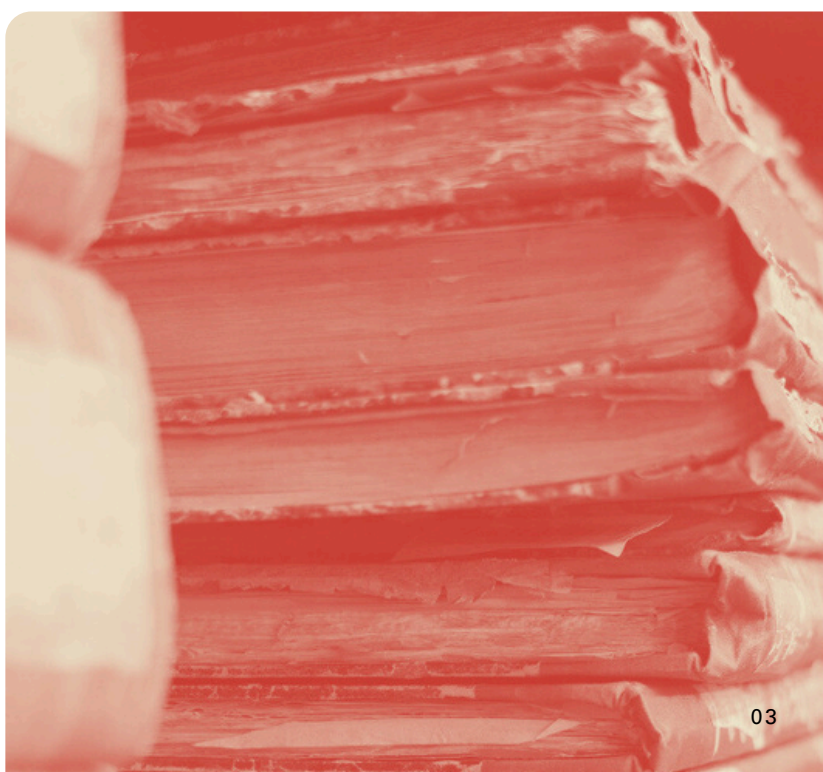
These presentations were very much appreciated, by both the students and the professors in charge of the course. They will be repeated in 2024, but in a single session for scheduling reasons. This will allow us to reach a larger number of students and to provide them with essential tools for their studies and future careers. It is also a sign of the professors' recognition of the librarians' expertise.

## Discovering the archives

In September 2023, the Library offered students an unprecedented opportunity to discover the Archives. During a 30-minute tour led by our new archivist, they were privileged to gain access to hidden corners where rare collections reside. Among these treasures is Kofi Annan's student file.

15 participants enjoyed this experience, which will become an annual tradition at the beginning of each academic year.

<https://libguides.graduateinstitute.ch/archives>



# WHAT'S NEW?

## Meet Shelby

In 2023, the Library welcomed a new colleague, who is available 24/7 and always smiling. SHELBY is a chatbot eager to direct online users to relevant electronic resources, web pages, FAQs or research guides.

However, SHELBY is not an artificial intelligence capable of evolving through learning from its mistakes. It only understands basic questions and keywords, and, if it cannot answer, it recommends the "Save Time, Ask a Librarian service", where a human librarian provides assistance.

Last year, SHELBY helped 170 people in this way. Why not give it a try?

<https://graduateinstitute.libanswers.com/>



## Rest and relax

In April 2023, a relaxation area was inaugurated for Library users in the reading room with the support of the Fab and the Facility Management service. Influenced by Swedish minimalism and Mediterranean style, the space offers armchairs, deckchairs, cushions and acoustic concentration cells arranged around a real, cryogenically frozen tree. The wall is still decorated with a xylograph on Japanese paper of undergrowth by the famous Swiss artist Franz Gertsch. Now all you have to do is... relax.



# FOCUS

## Open Access: research more open than ever before

By Catherine Brendow

### A good harvest

Read & publish agreements cover article processing charges in hybrid (partly open) and sometimes Gold (fully open) journals. In 2023, the Geneva Graduate Institute had such agreements with 7 publishers: Cambridge University Press, Elsevier, Oxford University Press, Sage, Springer, Taylor & Francis and Wiley.

Our professors, researchers, PhD and even some Master's students have benefited with a total of 66 articles covered. For the publication of 36 more articles, they benefited as co-authors from the Read & Publish agreements signed by other universities the corresponding author belonged to.

### Hopes not fulfilled

The vast majority of these articles were published in so-called "hybrid journals", i.e. journals that are essentially subscription journals, but offer researchers the option of publishing their articles open-access. This requires them to benefit from R&P agreements or find funding to pay publication fees. Most funders and many librarians object to hybrid journals, which they see as just another way for publishers to unduly increase their profits, and which perpetuate inequality between researchers based solely on funding.

Another reason for disappointment is cost. R&P agreements have not been able to limit cost increases, making financial sustainability an issue. Negotiations with publishers are tough, leading to temporary no deal situations.

### Diamond is the new Gold

Funders and European universities are therefore beginning to look towards diamond journals, which are journals with no subscription or publication fees, usually funded by universities, libraries, learned societies, research funders, and sometimes by bits and bobs. Could diamond journals be the future of academic publishing?

In 2023, 16 articles authored by Graduate Institute researchers were published in diamond journals. The Graduate Institute has its own diamond journal, *International Development Policy*. But in Western Europe, these journals currently remain a fragile niche sector.

It is uncertain whether these efforts will be sufficient to build an alternative to profit-driven academic publishing, especially if the "publish or perish" culture persists, and if the way researchers are evaluated does not change.

<https://libraryblog.graduateinstitute.ch/2023/06/09/open-access-and-heid-research-the-2022-harvest/>

# IN FIGURES



## PUBLIC

- 175 629 entries
- 1413 participants in 95 tours, conferences or workshops
- 81 140 visits to the Library's website
- 347 545 searches in our catalogue swisscovery
- 106 905 consultations of our 35 online guides

## SERVICES

- 11 562 loans
- 2053 interlibrary loans
- 23 575 accesses to ebooks
- 252 637 electronic articles consulted
- 162 loans of recording equipment
- 242 suggestions for acquisitions accepted
- 1914 questions to the information desk
- 68 professors helped to enter their academic output into the Current Research Information System, Converis
- 7253 bubbles reservations
- 102 requests for access to the archives and special collections

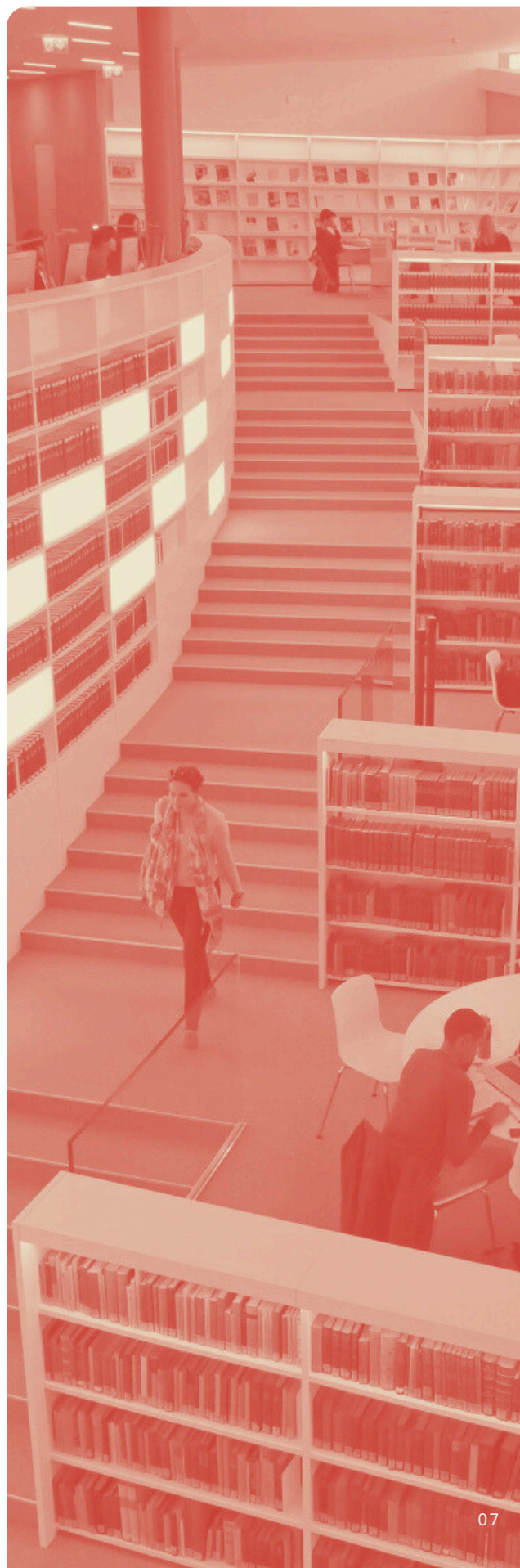
# IN FIGURES

## COLLECTIONS

- 2207 new print titles
- 1399 new ebook titles
- 1361 documents added to the institutional repository
- 65 articles published in open access through Read & Publish agreements

## THE LIBRARY

- 306 days open
- 90 hours per week
- 17 staff members
- 9 students working at the reception desk
- 32 training courses attended by librarians





# CONTACT

## SAVE TIME, ASK A LIBRARIAN

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