Open Science – what's in it for a Humanities and Cultural Heritage Library?

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1: To begin: some facts & figures on ZB Zürich

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- Largest humanities library in Switzerland: about 6.5 Mio media, 8 Mio CHF acquisitions budget (print/licenses 50:50), 850 workplaces

- Foundation est. 1914 by a popular vote of city and canton of Zurich

- Twofold mission: central University Library and public academic library, successor of the former prestigious municipal library. One of the main archives of the literary and cultural history of Zurich since middle-ages

- During 20th c., expansion of the University: significant growth of acquisitions at ZB as its corollary, accumulation of small libraries at UZH

- Organizational consolidation of UZH libraries from 2022 on. Joint mission of UB Zürich and ZB Zürich: serve the UZH stakeholders with a unified and balanced service-portfolio across disciplines and use possible synergies to obtain the best results through a sustainable deployment of resources

2: The Swiss library landscape

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- University system mainly under the rule of the federal states i.e. cantons
- Exception: ETH Domain depending directly on the Swiss Confederation
- No equivalent to the non-university research domain in Germany
- National funding for the university sector began only about 2000
- Legal basis for cooperation between the Confederation and the cantons in the field of Higher Education and Research created 2007, ren. 2015
- Since 2013 several funding schemes for digital infrastructures and for facilitating access to scientific information. Question: How the transition from innovation projects towards sustainable services does take place?
- Infrastructure issues more and more become preoccupation of Rectors and Administrators because of large investment needs.

3: National Open Access & Open Science Strategy

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- 2019: Rectors of Swiss HEIs and Swiss National Science Foundation adopt a National OA Strategy & Action Plan: 100% OA from publicly funded research by affiliated Swiss researchers until 2024

- „Mixed policy": support but no formal adoption of Coalition S conventions; differentiated approach to Green OA; transformative „big deals"; discussions about quality criteria in Gold OA publishing

- 2021: National Open Research Data Strategy & Action Plan as first step of an overall Open Science Policy for Swiss HEIs. Implementation phases 2022-2024 and 2025-2028 aiming infrastructures, tools, skills.

- Relationship with EU: iniatives like EOSC under political pressure

4: ZB strategy 2021-2024: research partnership in focus

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- *Overarching all single strategic priorities*: building the close cooperation with UZH University library for a homogenous service landscape

- *1st pillar of ZB priorities 2024:* empowering users with digital literacy skills and capabilities through trainings and guidance by the library

- *2nd pillar of ZB priorities 2024:* easing access and use of the library's information offer by means of intuitive, ergonomic and intelligent tools and making the library experience more comfortable and seamless

- *3rd pillar of ZB priorities 2024:* outreaching to the research community in HSS disciplines by partnering with scholars through tailored services and supporting the standards of digital scholarship

5: Open Science policy UZH and the role of the libraries

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- no formal directive of the University's Management Board, rather a bottom-up initiative of researchers subscribing to OS practices

- facilitating the openness of research results through building appropriate infrastructures

- putting openness at the center of the reputation and acknowledgement system including career tracks and research evaluation processes

- fostering publication culture in accordance with Open Access guidelines

- making Open Science methods and skills part of academic teaching

- role of the libraries: building/operating repositories & archiving facilities, hosting OA journals, curating metadata, offering OS coaching & teaching

6: Collections for research: delivering digitized content at ZB Zürich

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- Empowering Open Science in the Humanities means providing sources in open, interoperable and reusable digital formats

- Since 2013, a major and representative selection of our cultural heritage collections has been converted and presented on the Swiss cooperative platforms for digitized content from libraries & archives

- Enrichment of the shared platforms e-rara.ch and e-manuscripta.ch with innovative features and tools: OCR-enabled search, transcription kit for handwritten sources, automated handwritten text recognition

- Next step within scope of ZB strategy 2024: connecting ZB digital objects to international cross-domain platforms for cultural heritage and/or to specialized aggregation platforms for disciplinary research

7: Citizen Science @ ZB Zürich

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- Open up our collections for lay researchers in a series of Citizen Science engagements covering the strategy period until 2024

- With the advent of mass digitization of cultural heritage objects, CS is an effective way to connect intellectually curious people with collections

- «Social» elements are important: opportunities for lay researchers to gather, get in touch with the institution, meet curators & fellow researchers

- Instead of simple crowd-sourcing, establish true interaction with our research material and create a personal experience generating further engagements

- A more mature form of CS: librarians and citizens jointly define scope of research and questions to be investigated, which determines choice of items for digitization

8: Grants and fellowships from the library

- As a library, we want to support early career researchers when they decide to work on our collections and seek innovative ways of exploring

- Legacies and trusts ZB received during its history enable us to award grants or subsidies to young scientists in the Digital Humanities

- With Willy Bretscher Fonds, we can help to follow the new publishing models in Open Access

- With Willy Bretscher Fellowships, we welcome scientists in residence (junior and senior alike) who wish to study ZB collections on the 20th c. with a digital scholarship approach and publish results under OS standard
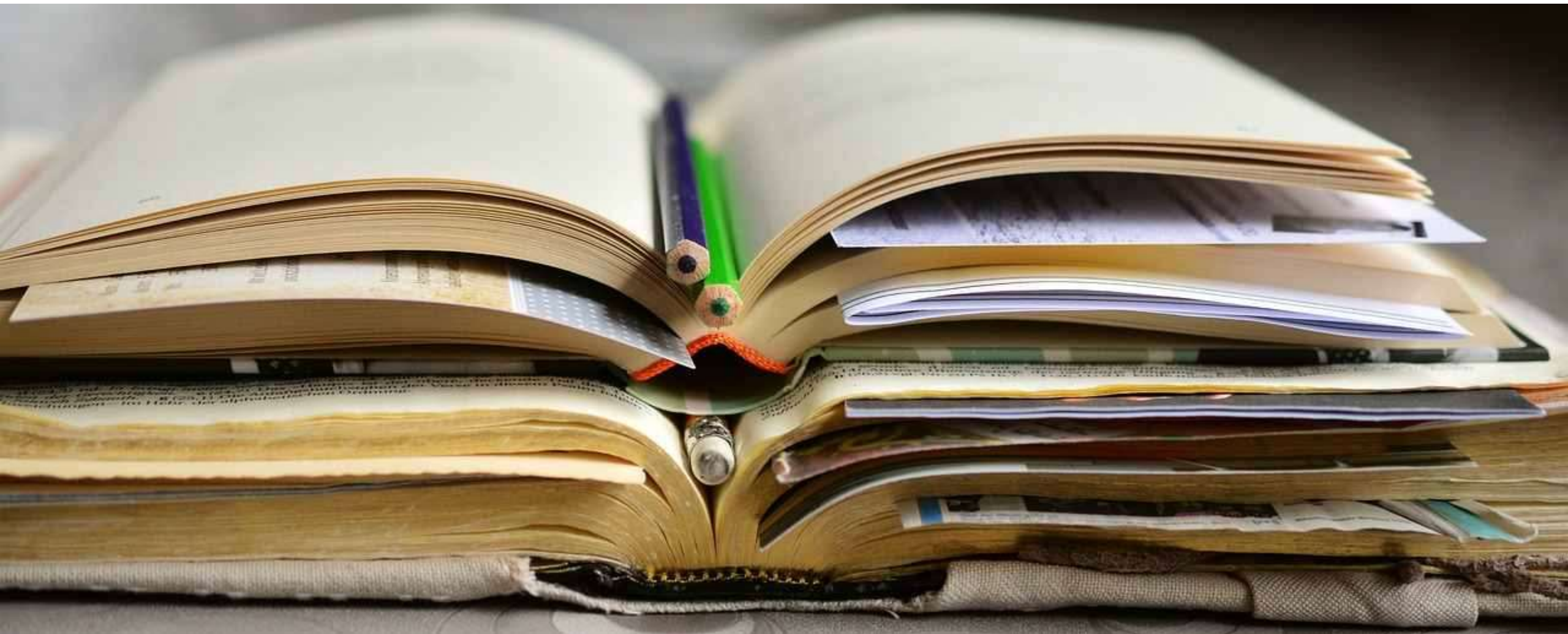
9: Exploring the wealth of digital sources: which preconditions are needed for the „digital turn"?

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- The challenge to go faster with converting our collections: pushing forward digital production calls for supplementary funding and careful prioritization of research-relevant parts of the collection

- Early contact with researchers preparing an application for research grants gives a chance to fill in demands for digitization of source corpora

- But: structural gap in grant schemes of public funding programs for the humanities when digitization of sources is a pre-condition for research

- ZB is by-passing the structural gap in funding by its own supplementary digitization fund in order to allow research projects to start without delay
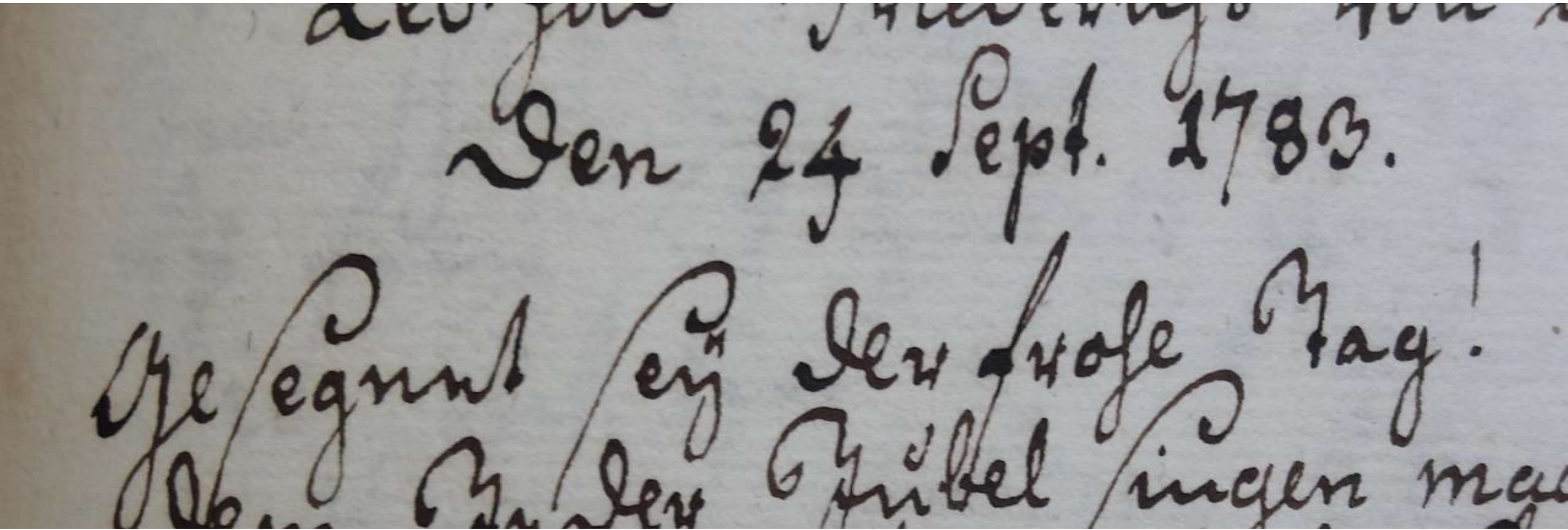
10: Partnering with the Google library program

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- As we inevitably fall short of converting all the relevant items in the collection by our own means, ZB joined a consortium of Swiss University Libraries partnering with the Google Books library initiative

- The libraries of Basle, Berne, Lucerne and Zurich will provide Google with their complete yet deduplicated monograph holdings from 1700 to 1900

- Processing at Google Munich digitization facility scheduled for 2022-2023 (delayed due to COVID19 restrictions)

- About 250'000 items in total, of which approx. 80'000-90'000 from ZBZ

- Catalog entries in swisscovery will be linked to the digital object on Google Books. Links to titles already in the Google index will be supplied.

- Unrestricted access to full range of monographs -1900

11: Partnering with Digital Editions

- Digital Editions as an important and flourishing branch of Digital Humanities in text based disciplines

- Often long term projects which recently switched to digital research environments and genuine online presentation beyond print layout schemes

- ZB is digital content and metadata partner with several UZH edition projects which build on the library's collections. Interoperability with VRE is crucial.

- UZH Library and ZB will operate from 2022 on a central Service hub for digital editions and textual analytics which will offer design support, tool coordina-tion and network acitivities to interconnect digital edition working groups

12: A margin for experimentation: the ZBLab

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- Established 2019, the ZBLab has a twofold mission:
  - *be effective within the Library*: building competences in data librarianship, exploring new data-based paths of library workflows, incentivise collaboration for designing innovative digital products ...
  - *outreach to the users and esp. stakeholders in the research domain*: developing prototypes to work smoothly with digital objects, open dialogues on researchers' needs, advertise experimentation formats for analyzing library data in new ways ...
- Current initiatives include development of a ZB-customized IIIF viewer integrated with ZB digitization platforms and a linked data platform for the archives of the Bauhaus theorist and teacher Johannes Itten (collaboration with the Art History Institute of UZH with Prof. Weddigen)
- Supporting the «wikiversum» with open culture data: connecting with the Open GLAM community and contributing rich library metadata to Wikidata

In a nutshell: our vision of Open Science in a Humanities & Cultural Heritage Library …

To sum it up …

We have decided to follow the open GLAM approach consequently: open up our cultural heritage collections for digital scholarship in ways that lift existing barriers to access, to work with and to reuse digital content in an adaptive and interconnected manner across platforms and ecosystems.

… time for discussion!