

Guidelines for Collecting by the Swiss National Museum

1. The collections constitute an essential basis for the activities, exhibitions and projects of the Swiss National Museum.
2. The collections are maintained, catalogued, researched and made public in conformity with the Swiss National Museums legal mandate. All activities are intended to satisfy the Swiss National Museums mandate as a cultural institution while also providing visitors with information in an appealing and contemporary manner.
3. Objects and object groups collected are portable items of significance to the history of culture, and were either created or used in Switzerland, or have some form of relationship to Switzerland. The collections are added to strategically and are growing to this day.
4. The collections are maintained in accordance with the guidelines of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the European Confederation of Conservator Organisations (ECCO), as well as with the use of the latest technology.
5. Collection holdings are managed by conservators at the Collections Centre in line with preventive-conservation measures, passive or object-handling standards, and active or minimal-intervention standards.
6. Objects are continuously registered and documented and are available via the database. The aim is to provide comprehensive scientific documentation.
7. Scientific research work is carried out in collaboration with other museums and scholarly institutions as well as with specialist colleges and universities in Switzerland and abroad. Research results are made public. Interdisciplinary exchange is undertaken both nationally and internationally.
8. Collection holdings are made accessible to both specialists and a broad public by way of a wide range of media (such as databases, publications and exhibitions). Libraries, special study collections, and other facilities of the Swiss National Museum offer public services.
9. We cultivate bodies which aim to promote museums, and seek appropriate contacts with public institutions as well as with private individuals.