

Fact sheet about the usage of the SWITCH edu-ID in the swisscovery context

(V1.1, 20201104, eduid@switch.ch)

On 7. December 2020 the new library platform “swisscovery” will be launched. The involved libraries and networks are informing their users from beginning of November about time schedule and potential implications. Access to “swisscovery” is exclusively granted through SWITCH edu-ID, which is why we’d like to point out a few facts about SWITCH edu-ID:

The SWITCH edu-ID account is personal and valid for life.

- Each member of a higher education institution needs only one single SWITCH edu-ID account.
- This account can be used for services of higher education institutions, of libraries and of third parties.
- The SWITCH edu-ID account of a user, used for university services so far, is the same account that is required for swisscovery.

We strongly advise against creating more than one SWITCH edu-ID account!

- This would contradict the Terms of Use and would lead to expensive merging activities in data bases of services.

In order to register to swisscovery you need a SWITCH edu-ID account.

- The registration for swisscovery requires a SWITCH edu-ID account.
- Users without a SWITCH edu-ID account are asked to create one.
- When registering for swisscovery, users must give their consent to the transfer of personal and affiliation data towards swisscovery. This data is required by swisscovery.
- Once successfully registered, users can start using swisscovery from 7.12.2020 on.

A word about deletions.

- Requests for cancellation of access to swisscovery should be made through the responsible library or SLSP. The SWITCH edu-ID account can then no longer be used for access to swisscovery, but is still available to the user for other purposes.
- Users can request the deletion of their own SWITCH edu-ID account at SWITCH. This deletion then affects all purposes of use. It should also be noted that SWITCH cannot carry out any deletions as long as there is an active relationship with a university (affiliation stored in the user's SWITCH edu-ID account).

The service description describes these points in more detail: <https://www.switch.ch/edu-id/about/terms/>