

**Name of country:** ROMANIA

**Name of library or equivalent national-level organization:** THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ROMANIA

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### **Management of the library**

The National Library of Romania has the mission to identify, collect, organize, research, develop, preserve and promote the national heritage and the *Românica* collection of printed and other types of documents published abroad, referring to Romania, Romanian people and Romanian culture, works of Romanian authors published in any language, Romanian language publications of foreign authors published abroad. Organize Legal Deposit, the main documentary source regarding knowledge of Romanian culture and civilization. NLR provides quality access to its collections, for the contemporary generation, as well as for the future ones, with the purpose of research, study or informing.

In the first part of the year, the National Library focused on the activities of moving to and rearranging its collections in the new storage spaces and reading rooms, while observing the principles of modern librarianship. It ought to be emphasized that, throughout this period, the patrimony flow, i.e. the library-publisher relations and performing all activities related to the legal deposit was not interrupted. The relations with the publishing companies were maintained and developed within normal parameters by providing ISBN and ISSN codes for all publications printed in Romania and by performing the cataloguing-in-publication (CIP).

As part of its patrimonial mission, the National Library managed to continue without interruption the reception and distribution of documents subject to the legal deposit activity.

The library collection development policy was fulfilled through purchasing and donations. The international exchange relations with major libraries located abroad were maintained and developed, documents were processed, stored and integrated to the document flow, documents belonging to special collections were managed, integrated to the document flow and restored, etc.

## Funding

In 2012, the National Library benefited from two types of funding, namely:

a) from January 1st to February 7th, 2012, funding was provided exclusively from the state budget;

b) from February, 7th to December 31st, 2012, double funding: subsidy from the state budget and own revenues

a) For the first period (January 1st to February 7th, 2012), the National Library was approved a final budget totaling 676 000 RON (approx. Eur 160 000), broken down as follows:

- for "staff expenses" = 610 040 RON (approx. Eur 142 000) (90.24% of total allocation);
- for "goods and services" = 65 960 RON (approx. Eur 15 500) (9.76% of total allocation).

b) Starting with February, 2012, the National Library changed to double funding (subsidy from the state budget + own revenue). At the end of the reported period, the allocated budget totaled 11 477 000 RON approx. Eur 2 670 000), broken down as follows:

- own revenue = 325 000 RON (approx. Eur 76 000);
- subsidy from the state budget = 11 152 000 RON (approx. Eur 2 600 000).

## Buildings

The major event of 2012 was the inauguration of the new premises of the National Library of Romania and its official reopening to the public. At the same time, the institution developed its library services and now provides new opportunities for information access and leisure due to the facilities available throughout the new building.

Designed to meet both the specific functions of a national library and the cultural- and leisure-related ones, the new premises has numerous reading rooms and storage facilities; spaces destined to documents belonging to its special collections; laboratories for restoring old and rare documents; multifunctional and training areas; conference rooms; exhibition spaces, etc. Integrated to a unified architectural framework, all these have led to the shaping of one of the most modern national library buildings in Europe.

Along with the endeavours towards constituting and developing its collections in the new premises, new areas were designed and fitted out, i.e. the restoration laboratories and the

training rooms; a new reading room for children and young people; an office destined to promote the American culture, etc. The collections were also organized (approximately 10,000 books and 280,388 periodicals), 55 computers were set up so the library users should be able to access the library information, the furniture was arranged. In order to be of assistance to its users beginning with April 23rd, an information desk was designed and accommodated – users can find information on the library areas, collections and services; a catalogue area was designed, where users can search (in the traditional or electronic catalogues) for the documents they are interested in; the device issuing – from the first day the library opened in the new premises – free of charge reader cards was installed; technical conditions were created so that users could connect to wireless internet in the open areas at the ground floor, mezzanine and first floor (this is also available to the library employees in their workspaces). The moving of the National Library to its new premises and, later, the official opening of its new modern headquarters represent the most important chapter in its history, promoting the institution as Romania's main source of preservation and dissemination of the Romanian written heritage.

### **Staffing matters**

The dynamic of staff in 2012 had an extent similar to the previous years, which was reflected in a relatively constant decline in the number of employees, particularly as a result of applying personnel policies required by the law, consisting of a natural decrease in staff numbers due to retirement. As a result, the number of positions filled as of December, 31st, 2012 decreased to 228, while the organization chart did not undergo any changes during the year.

The training activities in 2012 were focused on the achievement of the goal of continuous professional training. 27 of the employees attended a total of 6 training programs in various fields. Arrangements were made and the necessary documents were purchased for the certification of the first module of the Conservator of Cultural Materials course organized by NLR; the first module of the trainer practitioner course for 30 employees was completed.

### **Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing**

Through a complex series of events revolving around concepts – library, culture, knowledge, research, book, education – the National Library involved, from April 23rd to 27th,

2012, the whole range of libraries part of the Romanian library system, for a unique time of celebration – the inauguration of its new premises. On this occasion, a special programme entitled A Perspective on Culture - the National Library was offered, which comprehensively presented to the public the activities and mission of the institution, the areas of correspondence between the mission of the national library and of other types of libraries (public, specialized, school, or research libraries) or info-documentation institutions, such as museums, archives, cultural centres, etc. Thus, on April 23, when the National Librarian Day and International Day of Books and Copyright are celebrated, the discussions focused on defining the concept of national library and the National Library's biography and specificity within the European family of national libraries; April 24th was dedicated to the public libraries and their status of agora, formative and informative spaces in the 21st century society; April, 25th, to school libraries and their role in formal and non-formal education; April 26th, to specialized libraries and the importance the documentary research has during any relevant academic approach; the last day, April 27th, was set apart for discussing the status and importance of old and rare document collections in libraries, archives, museums, etc. The facilities provided by the new premises of the National Library enabled the institution to capitalise effectively on its librarianship, cultural, professional and academic potential, to be more visible in the media and to have a better representation in the Romanian society.

The cultural agenda of the institution, which aims to support, promote and popularise the written national heritage as well as the receptivity to intercultural activities, was enriched and extended. The institutional message was sent through all forms of artistic expression, from music and dance to theatre and film, visual art exhibitions, series of readings, debates, etc. The cultural events celebrating the official opening to the public of the National Library in its new premises; the institution taking part in events such as The Researchers' Night and The Nocturne of Libraries; or the reopening, after 100 years, of the exhibition entitled Museum that intends to promote the museum assets of the Batthyaneum Library were representative in this respect. It is also worth mentioning that, in 2012, Neagu Djuvara, the prominent historian and philosopher of history, continued the donation he had started in 2011, offering to the NLR some of his author's manuscripts, pieces of correspondence, reading notes and other documents from his personal archive.

The academic agenda of the institution stated its mission to assist the professions of the librarianship field, to promote the specificity of the national library institution, to support its methodological function. The academic and professional interests resulted in the institution taking part in various academic events, in numerous studies and articles being published in specialized publications, and in its being a partner in different academic projects. The library specialists' participation in the development of the Librarians' Occupational Standard - higher education (validated in November 2012, which became a reference document setting out the position, competence and tasks of librarians having a graduate degree), as well as The Methodological Week at the National Library illustrate these concerns.

### **Library co-operation**

The collaborations and professional partnerships with institutions from Romania and abroad continued in 2012 and enabled the library's involvement in projects such as Balkan Itineraries, a project of recovering the francophone collections of the Balkan area.