

BIBLIOTECA
NAȚIONALĂ
DE
CĂRȚI
A ROMÂNIEI

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ROMANIA





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OF ROMANIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Bucharest, April 2025

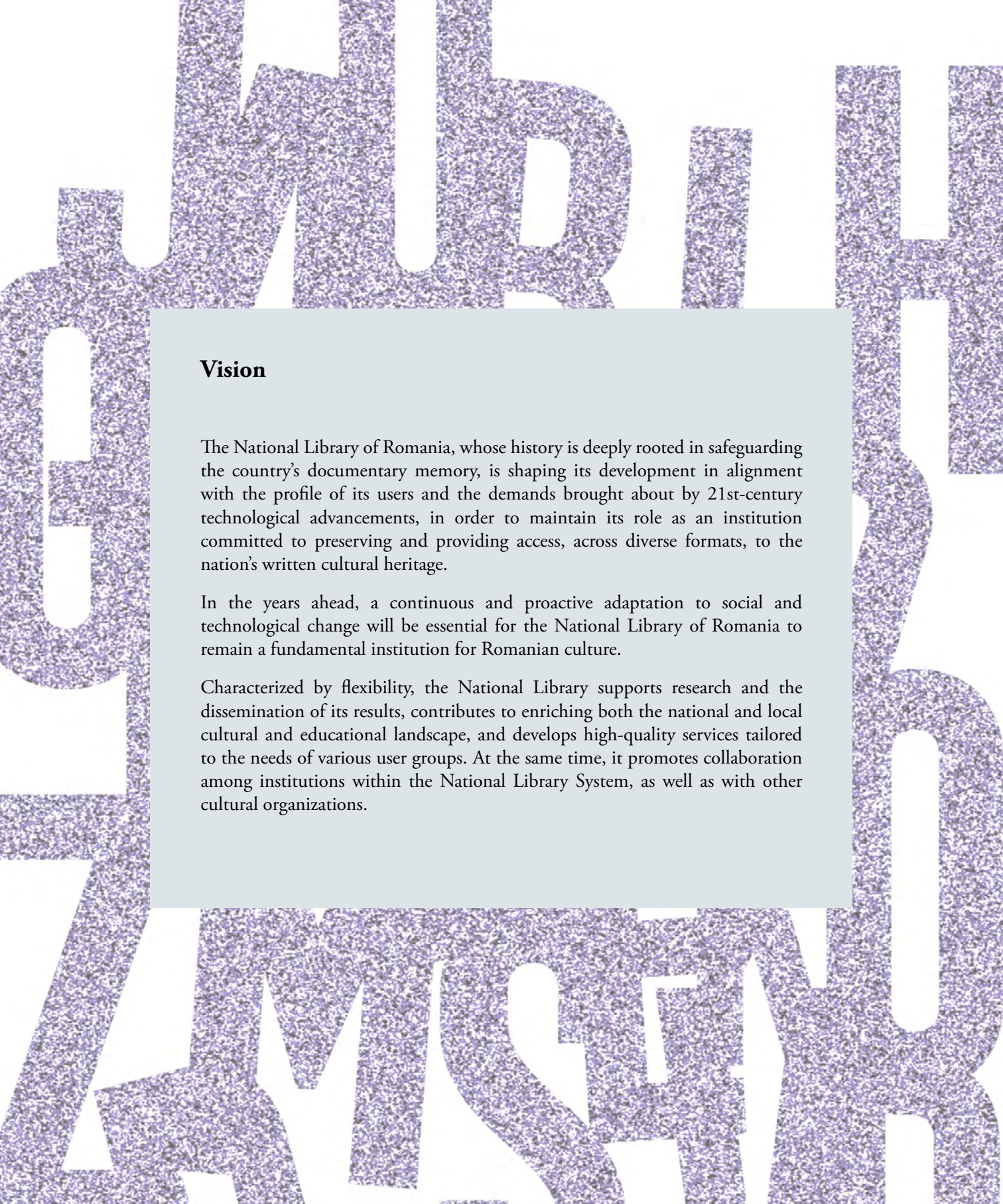
Mission

The National Library of Romania's mission is to develop, manage, preserve, research, provide access to, and promote the national documentary heritage in all its forms, with the goal of supporting information dissemination, study, research, and education. Through the Legal Deposit system, the National Library of Romania plays a vital role in safeguarding the country's editorial output.

In addition to its core mission, the National Library of Romania aspires to be:

- An exceptional environment for research, inspiration, learning, discovery, and leisure, aligned with contemporary developments in the field.
- A promoter of culture, offering a forum for public dialogue and exchange through major events that enrich the cultural, artistic, educational, scientific, and professional landscape at both local and national levels.
- A bridge between Romanian society and written culture, contributing creatively to its spiritual and intellectual enrichment.





Vision

The National Library of Romania, whose history is deeply rooted in safeguarding the country's documentary memory, is shaping its development in alignment with the profile of its users and the demands brought about by 21st-century technological advancements, in order to maintain its role as an institution committed to preserving and providing access, across diverse formats, to the nation's written cultural heritage.

In the years ahead, a continuous and proactive adaptation to social and technological change will be essential for the National Library of Romania to remain a fundamental institution for Romanian culture.

Characterized by flexibility, the National Library supports research and the dissemination of its results, contributes to enriching both the national and local cultural and educational landscape, and develops high-quality services tailored to the needs of various user groups. At the same time, it promotes collaboration among institutions within the National Library System, as well as with other cultural organizations.



Contact information

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Str. Gabriel Bethlen, nr. 1, Alba Iulia

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Phone: (021)3157063/3142434

E-mail: biblioteca@bibnat.ro

Development directions of the NLR in 2024

In 2024, institutional management focused on strengthening organizational capacity, enhancing the Library's image both nationally and internationally, fostering collaboration with prestigious organizations, and organizing cultural, educational, and professional events. In addition, it initiated programs and projects aligned with the specific functions and mission of the National Library of Romania, such as national bibliographic control and the recovery of written cultural heritage.

General Objectives:

- Developing, protecting, and promoting the written cultural heritage;
- Increasing public access to culture and encouraging active participation;
- Ensuring efficient administration and strengthening the institutional capacity of the National Library of Romania, including the optimization of human, financial, and logistical resources;
- Advancing digital transformation.

Specific Cultural and Professional Objectives:

- Organizing, processing, developing, and preserving the NLR collections in order to facilitate their use for information, research, education, and recreation;
- Integrating so-called "destructured collections" into the Library's active holdings;
- Achieving national bibliographic control by applying standards, implementing specific programs, and fulfilling its role as the Legal Deposit Agency;
- Creating value-added products and services by: registering publishers, completing and updating specialized databases such as CERom (Catalogue of Romanian Publishers), ISSN-Rom, the ROAD Catalogue, the SIP Catalogue, and the CIP-ISBN Catalogue; developing current national bibliography series, reference works, and custom bibliographies upon request; distributing publications from the National Publication Reserve.
- Ensuring access to collections through appropriate management carried out after the development, completion, processing, and organization of collections using specific methods, creating authorized access points, and communicating them both in conventional spaces and through digital media.
- Expanding collaboration networks with cultural institutions at the national and international levels;
- Establishing partnerships with other cultural and educational institutions to organize events dedicated to the target audience, as well as to attract new users.

Highlights 2024



National Culture Days

The National Library of Romania celebrated *National Culture Days* with a series of events mainly aimed at young people, held on January 15–16, 2024.

Professor Adrian Cioroianu posed the question “*What does national culture mean today?*” to an audience of over 200 high school students from Bucharest. The discussion explored several aspects of culture, including literature and authors, the evolution of music over time beyond clichés and stereotypes, as well as the current challenges faced by the cultural sector and the need to better understand our identity in contemporary society.

The celebration continued with a series of workshops centered around the exhibition *Eminescu: The Universality of Genius*, an initiative designed to foster young people’s connection with books and the great figures of Romanian literature.

The poster is for a recital event titled "Ce mai înseamnă astăzi cultura națională?" (What does national culture mean today?). It is organized by the National Library of Romania (Biblioteca Națională a României) and the American Cultural Center in Bucharest (Centrul Cultural American București). The event is a recital by the Teatrul Muzical Ambasadorii, featuring Prof. univ. dr. Adrian Cioroianu. It is part of the Zilele Culturii Naționale (National Culture Days) at the National Library of Romania. The event is scheduled for Monday, January 16, 2024, from 12:00 to 14:00, in the Aula Ministerului Culturii. The poster includes logos for the National Library of Romania, the American Cultural Center, and the Teatrul Muzical Ambasadorii. It also lists social media handles and a website for the event, and mentions sponsors like TV Cultural, Radio Trinitas, and ASMA.

BIBLIOTECA NAȚIONALĂ ROMÂNIEI

AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER BUCUREȘTI

TEATRUL MUZICAL AMBASADORII

Recital
Teatrul Muzical Ambasadorii

■

Ce mai înseamnă astăzi cultura națională?

Prof. univ. dr. Adrian Cioroianu

■

Zilele Culturii Naționale
la Biblioteca Națională a României

Mărti 16 ianuarie 2024
12.00 - 14.00
Aula Ministerului Culturii
Intrarea prin Biblioteca Națională a României

www.bibnat.ro
@bibotecanationala.ro
@BibNatRo
www.facebook.com/ACBucharast/

Sponsor: ASMA

TV CULTURAL Radio TRINITAS

Conference *What are we reading?* National Reading Day

To mark National Reading Day, the National Library of Romania posed an open-ended question to its guests – cultural figures involved in the world of books – as well as to the general public. The central theme and guiding question of the event was: *What are we reading?* This initiative continues last year's theme, when we asked ourselves: *Why do we read?*

In front of a large and engaged young audience, the discussion featured Luana Schidu (translator and editorial director at Curtea Veche Publishing), Vasile Ernu (novelist, essayist, and public intellectual), and Alexandra Rusu (writer, editor, and publicist).

As readers, we rely on writers to give us something to read. In this spirit, the exhibition *My Library During the Pandemic: Books About the Pandemic Published in Romania between 2020–2023* was inaugurated. The exhibition is the result of an extensive thematic and bibliographic research project, reflecting the systemic and social transformations of recent years.



Exhibition *My Library from the Pandemic: Books about the Pandemic Published in Romania between 2020 and 2023*

Between February 16 and April 30, 2024, the National Library of Romania organized the exhibition *My Library from the Pandemic: Books about the Pandemic Published in Romania between 2020 and 2023*. The exhibition is the result of quantitative and content-based research on Romanian book production during that period, focused on the topic of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With over 6.9 million victims worldwide, the COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on the global economy and everyday life, forcing people into both physical and social isolation. The fears, obsessions, and hopes of Romanians during this time are explored from multiple perspectives in the 467 works dedicated to the topic and published in this period.

The books cover a wide range of styles and subjects, from literature – including novels, short stories, memoirs, diaries, and poetry – to scientific works in fields such as medicine, psychology, sociology, culture, politics, and mass communication. The collection also includes survival guides and personal development books.



International Cooperation – Visit of the Director of the National Library of Albania



On March 14, 2024, Piro Misha, Director of the National Library of Albania, paid an official visit to the National Library of Romania. The meeting provided an opportunity for meaningful discussions on the current activities of both institutions, as well as their strategic plans for future development. On this occasion, the groundwork was laid for a broader partnership between the two national libraries, to be formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

As part of the ongoing BNaR conference series, Piro Misha was invited to deliver a lecture on Romanian-Albanian cultural relations, in a discussion moderated by Nicoleta Rahme, Acting Director of the Collections and Library Services Department. The conference focused on two main directions.

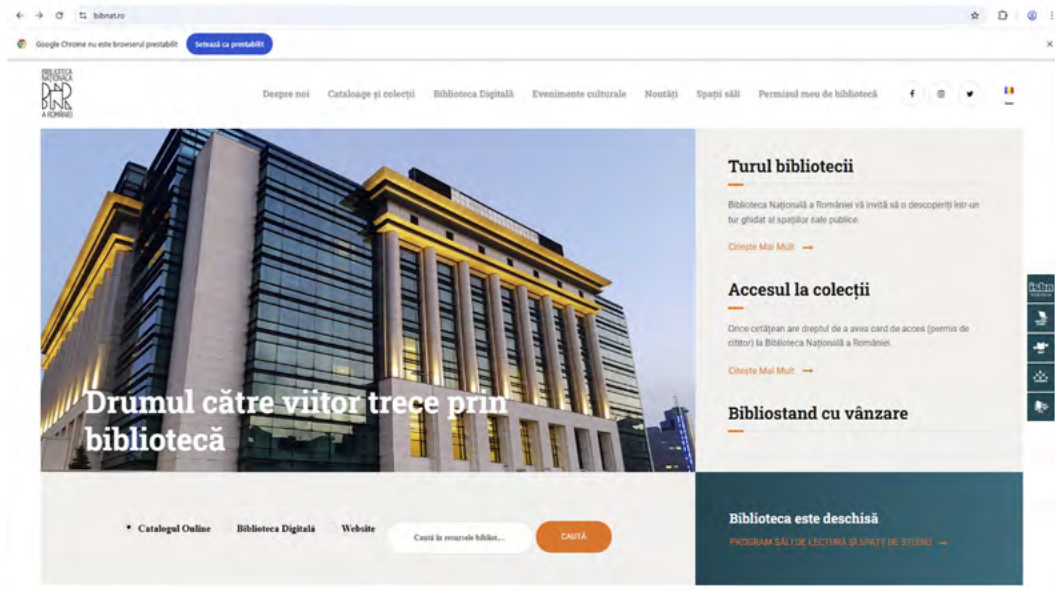
The lecture unfolded along two thematic lines. First, Mr. Misha provided a comprehensive overview of the history and evolution of the National Library of Albania, highlighting both the institution's achievements and the challenges it has faced over time. Then, the presentation shifted to the Romanian cultural context, tracing the broader development of Albanian national identity and emphasizing the significant role played by prominent Albanian figures active in Romania during the national awakening.

The Launch of the Updated Version of the National Library of Romania's Website

In March 2024, the National Library of Romania launched an updated version of its official website, *www.bibnat.ro*, aligned with the latest information technology standards and designed to offer a simplified, user-friendly experience for searching and accessing information.

With a more intuitive interface, modern design, and reorganized content, the new website provides users with enhanced functionality and valuable resources. A key innovation is the introduction of a digital access card system, with fee payments processed through *Ghișeul.ro*. In addition, several types of requests can now be submitted online via predefined forms.

Whether you're looking to learn more about the National Library of Romania, explore our services, search the catalogues, browse the digital library, or attend an event, all the information you need is just a few clicks away.



International conference *Romanian Photography: Local Perspectives and European Trends* – Second Edition

Born out of a fruitful partnership between the National Library of Romania and the “G. Oprescu” Institute of Art History of the Romanian Academy, the second edition of the international conference *Romanian Photography: Local Perspectives and European Trends*, held on July 3, 2024, brought together a remarkable audience and was a resounding success among both scholars and the general public. Presentations by esteemed guests from Romania and abroad

explored a wide range of themes and offered insightful analyses of photography as vital historical document, reflecting twentieth-century narratives from Romania and neighboring countries.

Adding depth to the event was an evocative exhibition of documentary photography, featuring the compelling work of Florin Andreescu. This was beautifully complemented by a display of vintage photographic equipment, crafted between 1950 and 1990, from the collection of engineer Mihai Muscelanu and other passionate private collectors. Together, these exhibits invited visitors to step back in time and explore the evolution of photographic art and technology.



Release of the Updated ISBD Version in Romanian

Fulfilling its legally mandated methodological role, the National Library of Romania has undertaken and completed a key editorial project for the entire Romanian library community: the Romanian edition of the latest update of ISBD (*International Standard Bibliographic Description*), the primary international standard for cataloging documentary resources.

For over half a century, libraries around the world have been united not only by shared principles and values, but also by a common commitment to systematic and methodological advancement. To ensure seamless access to information for users across diverse geographic regions, the harmonization of bibliographic records is essential and this is precisely the purpose of the ISBD.

The new edition serves as an indispensable tool for creating accurate, coherent, and internationally standardized bibliographic descriptions across a wide range of documentary materials. Its translation into Romanian marks a major methodological milestone, providing invaluable support to cataloging professionals throughout the country.



Bucharest Harp Festival

Born from a partnership between the National Library of Romania and the Romanian Harpists Association, the 4th edition of the *Bucharest Harp Festival* — held from July 17 to 19, 2024 — brought together artists from Romania and abroad, along with devoted music lovers, in a refined celebration of harmony and artistry.

Throughout the festival, harp enthusiasts had the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops tailored to different levels of expertise, led by renowned harpists from Italy and Romania. The event also featured an exhibition of rare musical scores from the National Library of Romania's collection.

Bridging the realms of music and visual art, students from the “Nicolae Tonitza” High School of Fine Arts presented *Visual Harmonies*, a captivating collection of paintings that poetically explored the intimate dialogue between sound and color.

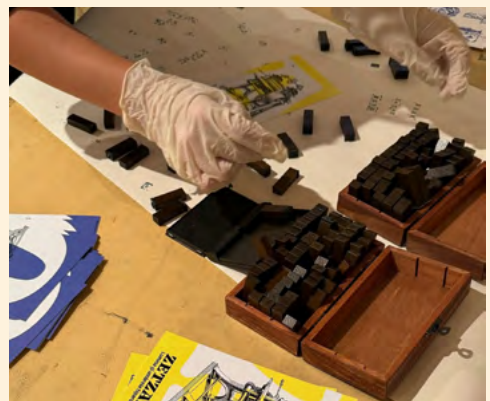


ZETZAR: Light and Shadows of Printing

ZETZAR: Light and Shadows of Printing is a unique initiative that elegantly brings together the history of Romanian printing technology and the expressive creativity of printed paper. The project was initiated by the National Library of Romania and developed in partnership with Local Design Circle, the George Coșbuc Municipal Cultural Center in Bistrița, and *Infinitesimal* magazine.

Conceived as a multidisciplinary endeavor, the project aims to promote reading and foster an appreciation for written culture, viewing the book not merely as a vehicle for text but as a crafted object of artistic value. It encourages creativity and seeks to highlight the professional fields of graphic and editorial design, inspiring young people to pursue careers in these areas.

Through the collaboration of experts in graphic arts, fine arts, publishing, librarianship, and research, exhibitions were presented at the National Library of Romania and later at the Cultural Center in Bistrița. These exhibitions featured a carefully curated selection of obsolete printing machines, tools, and artifacts, displayed alongside books, publications, and graphic design objects, all complemented by creative installations by contemporary artists. Together, these elements reveal the complexity and rich potential of a specialized field that underpins our entire written cultural heritage. The project was co-financed by AFCN (The National Cultural Fund Administration).



The 27th Edition of the National Library of Romania Days



The National Library of Romania Days is a distinguished annual event, firmly established as a platform to celebrate the most significant achievements of the previous year while also facilitating meaningful dialogue among representatives of libraries across the country. The 27th edition, held from November 11 to 12, 2024, offered a comprehensive program comprising conferences, workshops, exhibitions, and book launches, among them:

The Bibliopublica Conference, organized in partnership with ANBPR, was held under the title *The Public Library Network – A Dynamic Infrastructure Supporting Sustainable Development Priorities*. The event brought together leading figures in librarianship, national and international experts, as well as representatives from civil society and the private sector, fostering rich discussions on the future of public libraries.

A significant highlight was the launch of Volume III of the album *Ex-libris in the Collections of the National Library of Romania*, accompanied by its eponymous exhibition. The program also included the inauguration of two additional exhibitions: *Fakeless*, focused on media literacy, and *Behind the Shelf: In Search of the Libraries of Tomorrow*. Both exhibitions aimed to emphasize the cultural, educational, and innovative roles of libraries, thereby reinforcing their essential connection to the communities they serve and highlighting their dynamic presence in contemporary society.



The Editorial Project *Ex-libris in the Collections of the National Library of Romania*



Ex-libris in the Collections of the National Library of Romania, a project whose foundations were laid nearly 25 years ago, was resumed this year with financial support from the National Cultural Fund Administration (AFCN). As a valuable bibliophilic artifact situated at the intersection of visual arts and the written word, the *ex-libris* – a mark of ownership in personal or public libraries – deserves focused scholarly attention. In this context, the initiative undertaken by the National Library of Romania gains particular significance, as it establishes a rigorous scholarly methodology and introduces a specialized cataloguing system dedicated exclusively to *ex-libris* studies within the field of librarianship.

Now in its third volume, the album published in 2024 elegantly presents a curated selection of *ex-libris* from the collections of the National Library of Romania, focusing on the letters D through F. This publication marks an important continuation of the series initiated in 2001–2002 with the release of the first two volumes. Produced to exceptional graphic standards, the album faithfully reproduces each *ex-libris* at its original scale. For the first time, the volume also includes a section featuring *ex-libris* discovered in 2024 on books from the "destructured collections" of the National Library of Romania, as part of *the National Memory* project.

The launch of the album was accompanied by the opening of its eponymous exhibition, which featured not only a selection of the most emblematic *ex-libris* but also a collection of drawings created by children who participated in workshops promoting the *ex-libris* as a cherished element of bibliophilic heritage.

Continuation of *the National Memory – Recovery of the Written Cultural Heritage of the National Library of Romania Project*

Now entering its third year, the *National Memory – Recovery of the Written Cultural Heritage of the National Library of Romania* project has received a dedicated budget allocation to support targeted activities aimed at restoring disorganized collections and making them publicly accessible once again. These collections, which had been stored for extended periods under suboptimal conditions in various locations across Bucharest and the country – until their consolidation following the National Library's relocation to its current headquarters – require a meticulous, multi-stage process. This includes decontamination, dust removal, detailed inspection, inventorying, cataloguing, and full bibliographic processing.

The financial resources allocated for the project in 2024 were prudently invested in acquiring essential equipment and materials to ensure personnel safety, thorough cleaning and disinfection of spaces and objects, as well as the careful handling, packaging, transportation, and storage of document collections. In addition, specialized services were contracted to conduct detailed analyses, manage transportation logistics, and carry out sterilization treatments using ionizing radiation. The outcomes of these efforts became evident within a short timeframe: fifty analytical tests were conducted on samples collected from twenty-seven storage facilities, and documents from two repositories were meticulously sorted. The materials were then dusted, weighed, labeled, and packed into 5,300 boxes, which were then transported to IRASM for comprehensive decontamination.



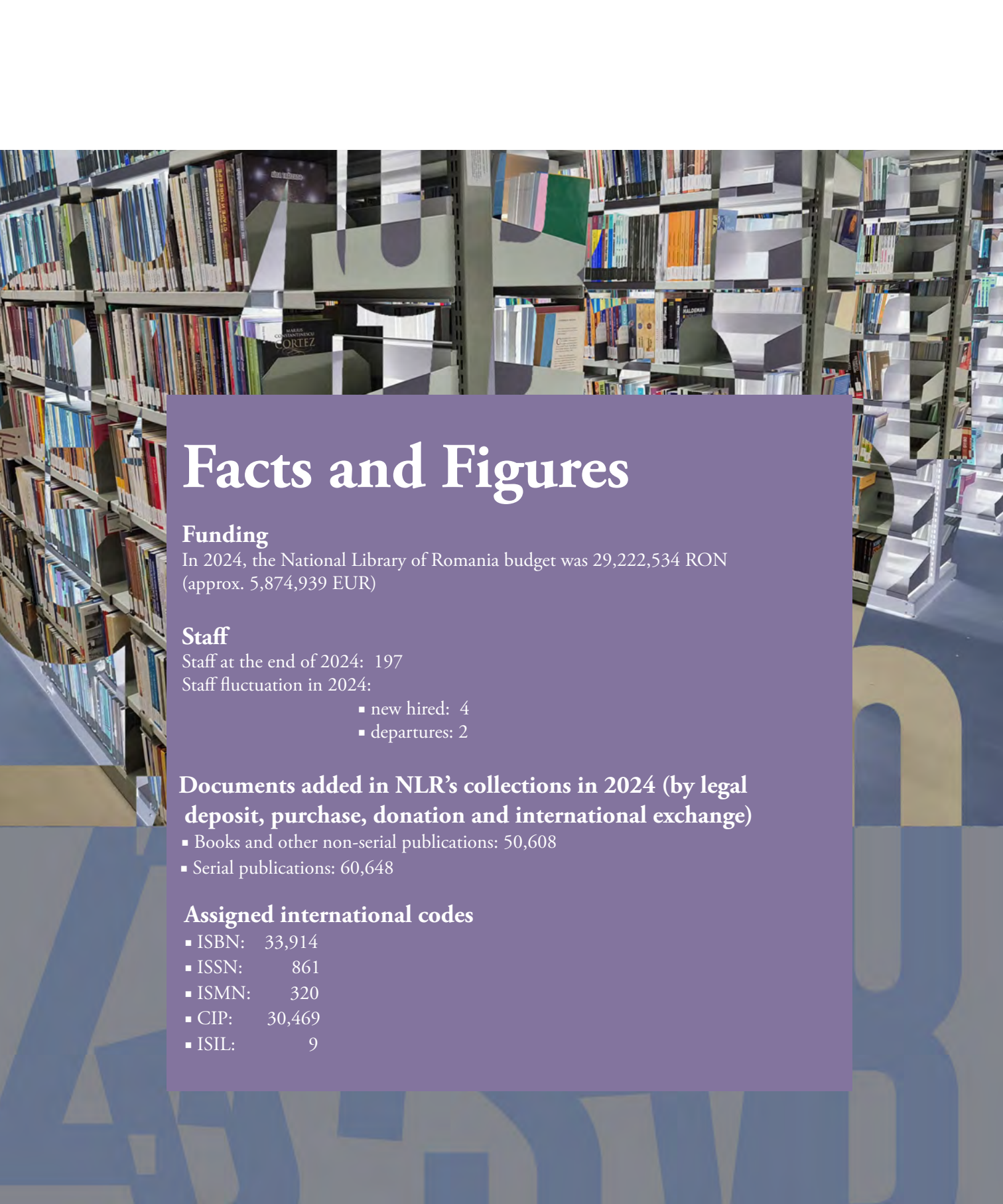
"Codex Aureus" on Display in the Aula Magna



After nearly half a century, the original *Codex Aureus* — a priceless Carolingian manuscript and the first documentary heritage item from Romania included in UNESCO’s “Memory of the World” Register — was on public display between December 17 and 21, giving visitors a rare chance to admire this cultural treasure in the spectacular Aula Magna of the Batthyaneum Library, the Alba Iulia branch of the National Library of Romania.

In 2024, the Batthyaneum Library was nominated for restoration under the “Cultural Foundations” project, run by the Ministry of Culture, which aims to save historic monuments and cultural buildings.

With this event, the National Library of Romania aimed to celebrate two important milestones: the inclusion of the famous *Codex Aureus* in the UNESCO Register, and the progress made by the Batthyaneum Library in restoring its historic building and bringing it back to the heart of Alba Iulia's cultural life.



Facts and Figures

Funding

In 2024, the National Library of Romania budget was 29,222,534 RON (approx. 5,874,939 EUR)

Staff

Staff at the end of 2024: 197

Staff fluctuation in 2024:

- new hired: 4
- departures: 2

Documents added in NLR's collections in 2024 (by legal deposit, purchase, donation and international exchange)

- Books and other non-serial publications: 50,608
- Serial publications: 60,648

Assigned international codes

- ISBN: 33,914
- ISSN: 861
- ISMN: 320
- CIP: 30,469
- ISIL: 9



Users in 2024

▪ New users registered:	4,811
▪ Active users:	20,894
▪ Total registered users:	125,912
▪ Total number of users and visitors in 2024:	133,030
▪ Website visitors:	175,000
▪ Website accesses:	1,700,000
▪ Online catalogue sessions:	824,833
▪ Digital library sessions:	59,367

Cultural and professional events*

- Events organised exclusively by the Library: 22
- Events organised in collaboration with other institutions: 109
- Virtual exhibitions: 4
- Additionally, NLR employees were involved in various research projects, resulting in the publication of 13 articles in National Library of Romania journals or in other publications, as well as numerous participations in national and international conferences.

