

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ROMANIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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Bucharest, April 2024



Mission

The National Library of Romania's mission is to develop, manage, preserve, research, make accessible and promote, in multiple forms, the national documentary heritage in order to support information, study, research and education.

Furthermore, the National Library of Romania aims to be:

- An exceptional environment for research / documentation, inspiration, learning, discovery and leisure, in line with the latest trends in the field;
- A promoter of culture, providing a meeting place and an arena for public opinion, by organizing large-scale events, aimed at diversifying the local and national cultural, artistic, educational, scientific and professional offer;
- A bridge between Romanian society and written culture, contributing creatively to its spiritual enrichment.

Vision

The National Library of Romania, whose history is traditionally linked to the preservation of the country's documentary memory, projects its development in accordance with the user's needs and demands raised by the technological evolution of the 21st century.

Characterized by its flexibility, the National Library of Romania supports research and promotes its results, participates in the diversification of the national and local cultural-educational offer, develops quality services, perfectly adapted to the needs of different categories of users, while encouraging collaboration between the institutions that compose the National Library System, as well as between cultural institutions.



Contact information

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Development directions of the NLR in 2023

- Building and developing the collections of documents of the National Library of Romania;
- Promoting the documentary heritage of the National Library of Romania through projects, activities and events carried out both on its own behalf and in collaboration with other cultural/educational institutions;
- Cultural and scientific use and promotion of documents from the Special Collections category through research reports, studies, monographs, and communications presented at conferences in the country and abroad, or through participation in national and international projects.



Specific objectives pursued during 2023

1. Efficient collection management: enriching, developing, organizing, bibliographic processing and preservation of current and heritage collections;
2. Ensuring easy access to the Library's collections and adapting services to meet user requirements;
3. Ensuring the national bibliographic control by applying at national level the standardized identification system of bibliographic resources (ISBN, ISSN, ISMN), the CIP program, by organizing the Legal Deposit of documents and editing the National Bibliography;
4. Developing nationally relevant products and working tools: specific bibliographical

products; Collective Catalog of Foreign Books and Periodicals in Romanian Libraries; Catalog of Romanian Infodocumentary Structures (CASIDRO);

5. Optimizing integrated library systems, management and creation of digital resources
6. Managing so-called "destructured collections" by starting a pilot project aimed at integrating them into the Library's active collections and making them available to the public;
7. Researching and promoting the collections through events, projects, activities and scientific publications;
8. Ensuring the visibility of the NLR's work and collections, both online and in the media;
9. Planning and implementing of the cultural and professional agenda of the NLR.

Highlights from 2023

Conference "Why do we read?"

"Why do we read?" was the central question posed to five prominent personalities from the Romanian cultural scene on the occasion of the National Day of Culture.

In front of a large and youthful audience, the guests of the National Library of Romania advocated for reading from the perspective of their own experiences. They spoke about those formative books that opened new horizons for them and sparked their passion for reading.



Cărți – Biblioteci – Bibliotecari

Tratatul de biblioteconomie
Prezentarea editiei a 2-a
Coordonator prof. Univ. Emerit dr. Mircea Regneala

20 aprilie 2023, ora 12.00,
sediul BNaR



Conference

"Books – Libraries – Librarians"

In the context of celebrating World Book and Copyright Day and National Librarian's Day, on April 20, 2023, the National Library of Romania invited the public to a relevant librarians, information, and knowledge in contemporary society.

During this event, the 2nd edition of a major publishing product, unique at national level, addressed to all those who work with books, was launched.

"Tratat de biblioteconomie" is a comprehensive work coordinated by Prof. Mircea Regneală, structured in five volumes, produced with the contribution of 36 specialists from all over the country, some of them employees of the National Library of Romania.



Education Fair "Your Vocation"

The 24th edition of the Education Fair "Your Vocation" took place from May 5 to 12, 2023, on the ground floor of the National Library of Romania. Over 70 universities and high schools from Bucharest presented their educational offer to thousands of young people attending the event. Organized by Proedus, in collaboration with the Bucharest School Inspectorate and the National Library of Romania, this fair aimed to provide young people with the opportunity to explore the study programs offered by the exhibitors, learn about scholarships, establish direct contact with teachers and potential future colleagues, ask questions directly at the source, and make informed decisions about their careers.





"Codex Aureus", the first item of the Romanian documentary heritage inscribed in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register

By acceptance of the multinational nomination dossier "The illuminated manuscripts of Charlemagne's Court", the first item of documentary heritage from Romania is inscribed in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

This nomination includes items of documentary heritage held in libraries in Austria, France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Romania. The Romanian part of the dossier contains a fragment of the manuscript known as the "Codex Aureus", a Latin Gospel, written and painted with gold and vegetal colors in 810, at the order of Charles the Great, held in the collections of the National Library of Romania, Batthyaneum Library branch in Alba Iulia.

Codex Aureus





International cooperation – visit of the Director of the National Library of Serbia

On 29-31 May 2023, Mr. Vladimir Pištalo, Director of the National Library of Serbia, responded to our invitation to visit National Library of Romania in order to develop cooperation between the two national libraries. During the meeting, topics related to library infrastructure, storage facilities and promotion of written cultural heritage were discussed.

On this occasion, Mr. Vladimir Pištalo gave a lecture on Nikola Tesla in the Atrium of the National Library of Romania, as the author of

the best-selling novel "Tesla: A Portrait Between the Masks", inspired by the life and work of the famous inventor. The event was hosted and moderated by Prof. Univ. Dr. Adrian Cioroianu.

1.119.735.

APPLICATOR FOR TRANSMITTING ELECTRICAL ENERGY

APPLICATOR FILLED FOR IN. 1.119.735. REPRODUCED MAY 1, 1901.

Patented Dec. 5, 1901.

SPHERICAL METAL PLATES

TERMINAL

WIRE

SUPPORT

SHIFTABLE SOURCE OF CURRENT

His patent was the basis of Tesla's many high voltage transmitting experiments at Colorado Springs during which he made the basis of the construction of the famous "Wardenclyffe Tower", which was intended to become a transmitting station for wireless electrical power.

Conferință

Tesla, portret între măști

Vladimir Pištalo

Director, Biblioteca Națională a Serbiei

Adrian Cioroianu

Director General, Biblioteca Națională a României

Luni, 29 mai, ora 16:00,
Biblioteca Națională a României
Atrium

International Conference "Romanian Photography. Local perspectives and European trends"

The National Library of Romania, in collaboration with the "G. Oprescu" Institute of Art History of the Romanian Academy organized the International Conference "Romanian Photography. Local Perspectives and European Trends", on 8 June 2023. During the conference, researchers from Romania and abroad (Germany, Great Britain and the Czech Republic) presented papers on subjects related to the history of Romanian and European photography, aiming to raise public awareness and increase the interest in this field.

The conference was accompanied by the launch of the photography exhibition "Kaleidoscope", featuring works by photographers active in Romania from the second half of the



19th century to the present days, preserved in the special collections of the Romanian National Library. The selection paid particular attention to press photography, illustrated by Iosif Berman, W. Weiss and Emanuel Tâncală, as well as to the works of Romanian photographic pioneers such as Carol Szathmari, Franz Duschek and Franz Mandy.





***"Biblioteca": journal of bibliography
and information science – 75 years
of uninterrupted publication***

"Biblioteca": journal of bibliography and information science is one of the landmarks of Romanian librarianship. Founded in 1948 and published continuously since then, the journal is addressed to professionals working in all types of libraries and other documentary institutions. Over time, the journal has changed its format, periodicity, and columns, but it has consistently remained a benchmark among Romanian specialized publications, serving as a witness to the field's evolution.

Since March 2009, when the task of editing the journal was entrusted to an editorial committee run by the National Library of Romania, the journal has expanded its range of topics and international visibility. To celebrate this important milestone – 75 years of uninterrupted existence – the editorial team decided to publish an anniversary issue.

Exhibition "The Art of Japanese Engraving in the Edo Period"

With the exhibition "The Art of Japanese Engraving in the Edo Period", the National Library of Romania offered the public an incursion into the fascinating world of Japanese woodblock prints, presenting the creations of prominent masters of the ukiyo-e artistic movement: Hokusai, Utamaro, Andō Hiroshige, Kunisada, Kuniyoshi and Yoshitoshi. Visitors had the opportunity to admire reproductions of valuable works preserved in the Special Collections Department of the National Library of Romania. These works depict portraits of Kabuki theater actors, courtesans from the famous Yoshiwara district, warriors or heroes from well-known Japanese legends, as well as other classic themes of the genre, from everyday life and travel scenes to landscapes, flowers and birds.





***"The Ukrainian Bookshelf", part of
the international project
"Books without Borders"***

As part of the broader refugees in Romania, the National Library of Romania inaugurated "the Ukrainian Bookshelf" on September 20, 2023, an initiative supported by the Ukrainian Embassy in Bucharest, as part of the international cultural project "Books without Borders".



The event was attended by representatives of diplomatic missions, the Ministry of Culture, as well as Ukrainian citizens – future users of our library. The shelf contains about 120 books representative of Ukrainian culture and literature, featuring both classic and contemporary authors, well-known in Ukraine and translated into several languages.

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

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The "National Memory" project, an ambitious and necessary initiative set to span several years, was launched in 2022 and continued in 2023, a year in which a series of concrete actions took shape.

Carried out in partnership with the Free Miorița Association, with the support of the IRASM Technical Research Centre and Fan Courier, the pilot project aims to recover the publications that are part of so-called "destructured collections" of the National Library of Romania. These are collections that, since the institution's re-establishment in 1955 and until the 2000s, have grown in volume, but remaining uninventoried and unorganized on the shelves, due to various financial and logistical constraints. The recovery of these collections, which had been kept in unsuitable conditions in multiple warehouses across Bucharest and the country until 2012, when they were reunited under the same roof, requires a complex decontamination, verification, inventory and bibliographic



processing, with the ultimate goal to integrating them into the active collections and making them accessible to the public.

The press conference held on September 26, in the presence of the Minister of Culture, aimed to raise awareness among the general public, mass-media and especially of the decision-makers about the urgent need to recover those collections, in order to secure financial resources dedicated to the project and to encourage the community involvement through the volunteer program.



International Colloquium "Dimitrie Cantemir and South-East Europe"

On the occasion of the 350th anniversary of Dimitrie Cantemir's birth and the 300th commemoration of his death, the National Library of Romania, in partnership with the Institute of South-East European Studies of the Romanian Academy and the DAR Development Association,

organized a series of events dedicated to Dimitrie Cantemir and to the period in which he lived.

Using the occasion of this double anniversary to research and highlight the influence of Dimitrie Cantemir on the development of Romanian and South-East European culture, the National Library of Romania hosted the international colloquium "Dimitrie Cantemir and South-East Europe", on 5-6 October 2023. The event featured the participation of leading specialists in the field, from Romania and abroad.

The conference was accompanied by the opening of the exhibition "Dimitrie Cantemir 300", containing first editions and images from the works of the great scholar preserved as part of the collections of the National Library of Romania. The exhibition also included an important collection of paintings, artifacts and weapons from the Dimitrie Cantemir's era, brought from the Republic of Moldova.



Exhibition "A Continuous Celebration – Paris, on the Map of the Artistic Quests of Romanian Painters"

Many works of Romanian fine art, created during the early twentieth century, bear witness to the irresistible attraction that the French culture and landscapes have aroused in Romanian artists.

The exhibition "A Continuous Celebration – Paris on the Map of Romanian Painters' Artistic Pursuits," inaugurated on October 27, 2023, presents a curated visual exploration of Paris as interpreted through the post-impressionist lens of thirteen distinguished Romanian painters.

The works reproduced in the exhibition are part of the Special Collections Department of the National Library of Romania, and are signed by well known artist as Ion Valentin Anestin, Leon Biju, Elena Pick Brătescu Moiescu, Catul Bogdan, Ștefan Dimitrescu, Viorel Huși, Gheorghe Ionescu-Sin, Iosif Iser, Sabina Negulescu-Florian, Ion Petre Orleanu, Rudolf Schweitzer-Cumpăna, Constantin Petrescu-Dragoe and Theodor Pallady.



Steps towards the Reintroduction of the *"Ion. I.C. Brătianu"* Cultural Establishment in the Bucharest cultural circuit

A true jewel of interwar architecture, inspired by old Romanian styles combined with Oriental, Byzantine, and Renaissance elements, the group of buildings known as the "Ion I.C. Brătianu" Cultural Establishment, constructed between 1910 and 1912 in central Bucharest, is considered an emblematic monument for the history and culture of our country.

According to its Constitutive Act, the purpose of the "Ion I.C. Brătianu" Cultural Establishment was to "help national culture flourish by supporting cultural research and distinguished young scholars."

On December 20, 2023, the Project Management Unit of the Ministry of Culture signed a contract for the preparation of the Documentation for the Approval of Intervention Works (D.A.L.I.) related to the consolidation and rehabilitation of the "Ion I.C. Brătianu" Cultural Establishment.



The National Library of Romania aims to honor the donor's intentions by returning this building to the public following consolidation, restoration, and modernization efforts, preserving its original library function. Furthermore, the "Ion I.C. Brătianu" Cultural Establishment will serve as a venue for conferences and exhibitions, with the goal of sparking public interest in rare and precious books, graphic works, old Romanian periodicals, photographs, maps, and manuscripts.

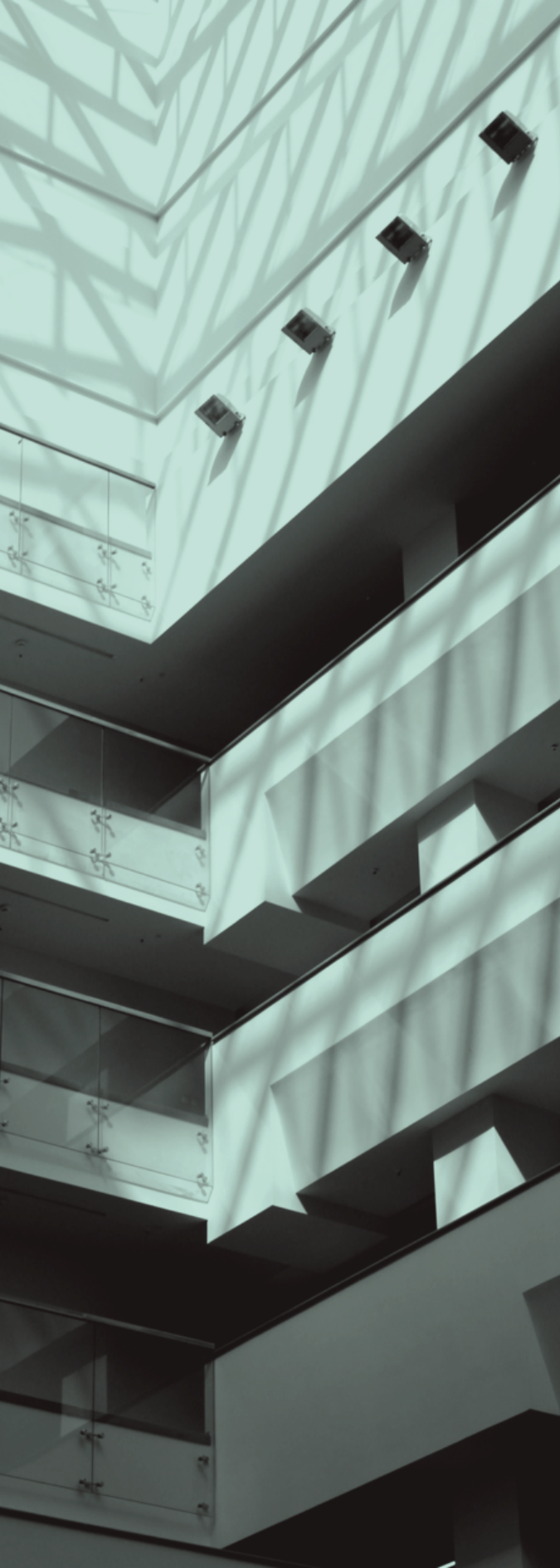
Facts and Figures

Documents added in NLR's collections in 2023 (by legal deposit, purchase, donation and international exchange)

Books and other non-serials publications:
59,299 bibliographical units

Serial publications:
49,499 bibliographical units





Funding

In 2023, the National Library of Romania budget was 26,180,924 RON (approx. 5,262,920 EUR)

Staff

Staff at the end of 2023 – 196

Staff fluctuation in 2023:

- new hired – 16
- departures – 12

Assigned international codes

ISBN – 34,517

ISSN – 1,270

ISMN – 425

CIP – 27,962

ISIL – 54

Users in 2023

- New users registered: 5,949
- Active users: 20,387
- Total registered users: 119,749
- Total number of users and visitors: 140,866
- Website visitors: 121,547
- Online catalogue sessions: 18,077
- Digital library sessions: 17,293
- Number of posts on all social media channels: 573

Cultural and professional events

- Events organised exclusively by the Library: 27
- Events organised in collaboration with other institutions: 78
- Workshops and other events for children and young people: 112
- Virtual exhibitions: 1
- Additionally, NLR employees were involved in various research projects, resulting in the publication of 32 articles in NLR journals or in other publications, as well as numerous participations in national and international conferences.



