

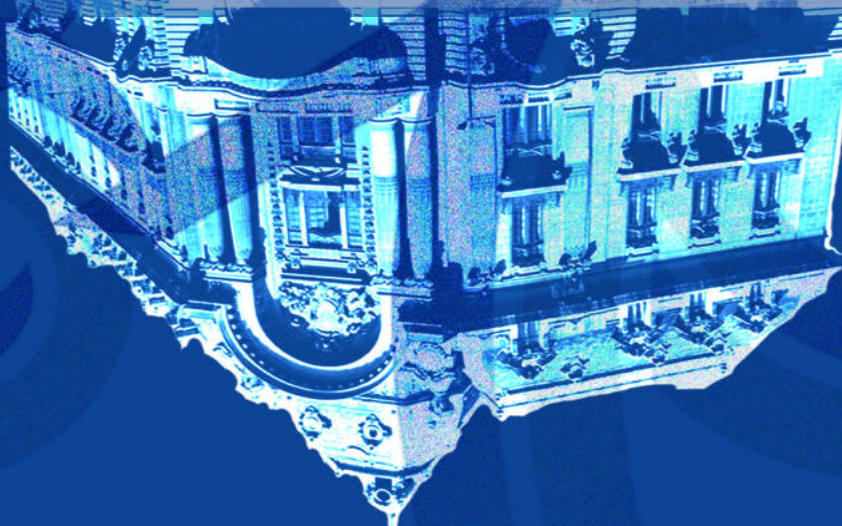
ANNUAL REPORT 2025

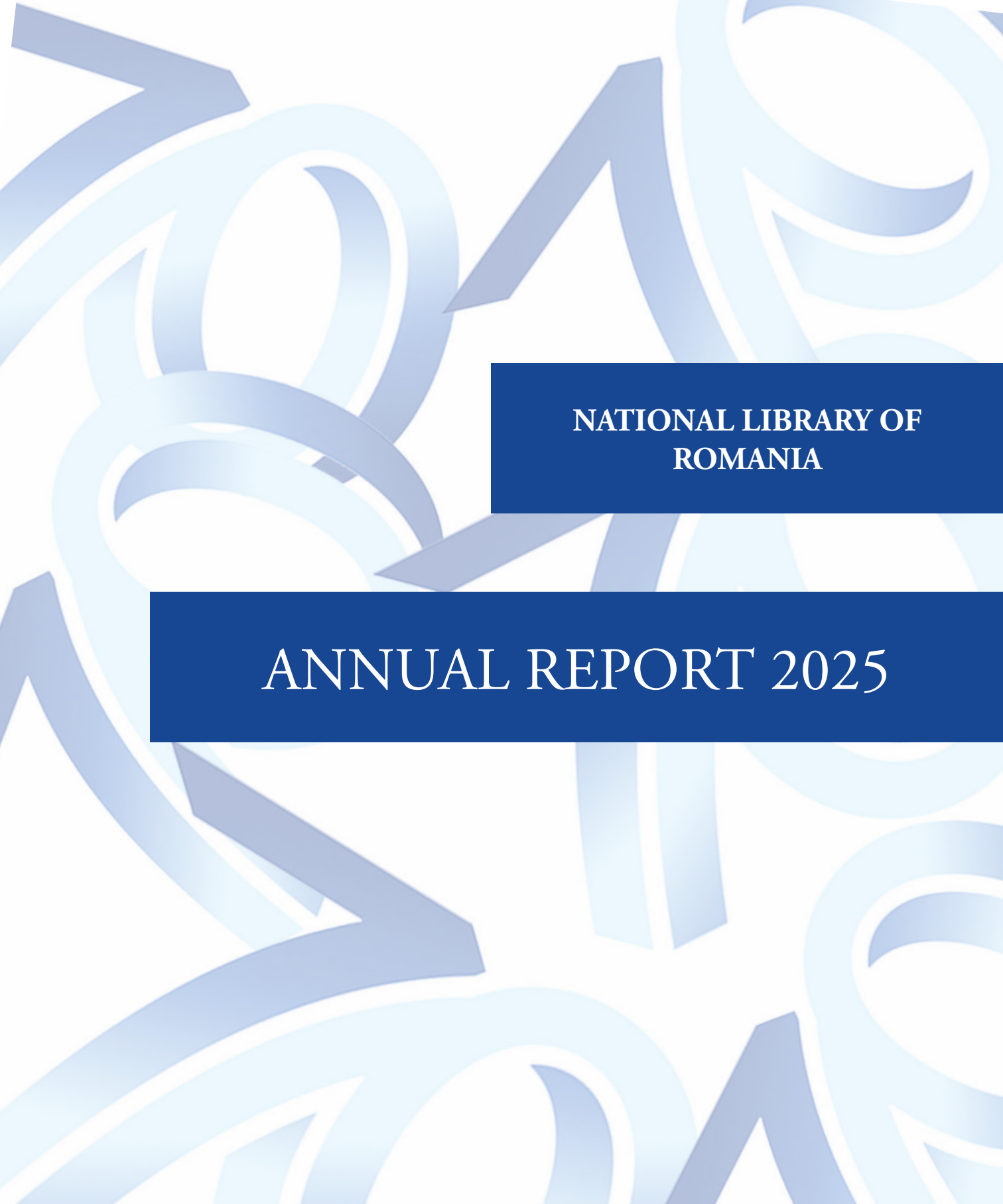
70

*years since the re-establishment
of the National Library of Romania*



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ROMANIA





NATIONAL LIBRARY OF
ROMANIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Mission

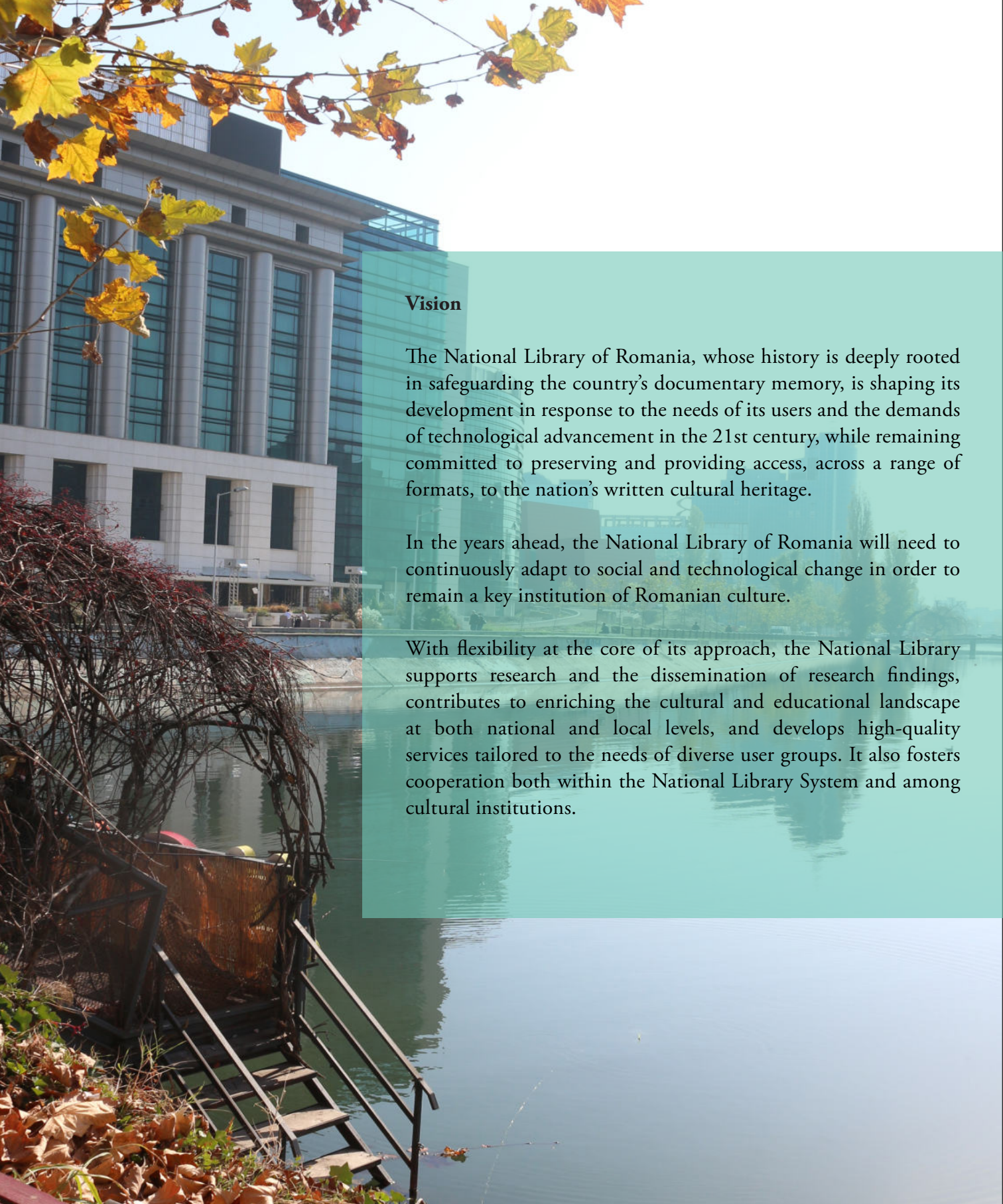
The mission of the National Library of Romania is to develop, organize, preserve, and promote the national documentary heritage, supporting information provision, learning, research, and education through a wide range of outreach activities.

This mission is underpinned by a set of core values reflected in all its activities: accessibility, sustainability, innovation, and cooperation.

The 2024–2029 Strategic Plan is built around three main pillars:

- **Memory** – acquiring, preserving, and ensuring access to its collections;
- **Knowledge** – providing reliable, evidence-based research, analysis, and information that fosters critical thinking among users;
- **Creativity** – promoting and fostering cultural values across generations by encouraging and, where possible, supporting and hosting a wide range of cultural producers.





Vision

The National Library of Romania, whose history is deeply rooted in safeguarding the country's documentary memory, is shaping its development in response to the needs of its users and the demands of technological advancement in the 21st century, while remaining committed to preserving and providing access, across a range of formats, to the nation's written cultural heritage.

In the years ahead, the National Library of Romania will need to continuously adapt to social and technological change in order to remain a key institution of Romanian culture.

With flexibility at the core of its approach, the National Library supports research and the dissemination of research findings, contributes to enriching the cultural and educational landscape at both national and local levels, and develops high-quality services tailored to the needs of diverse user groups. It also fosters cooperation both within the National Library System and among cultural institutions.

Contact information

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Development directions of the NLR in 2025

In 2025, the institution's management focused on restructuring departments and services in line with the new Organizational and Operational Regulations approved on 15 June 2024. Key priorities also included strengthening the institution's visibility and profile at both national and international levels, building strategic partnerships, and implementing dedicated programmes and projects in areas such as national bibliographic control, the preservation and promotion of written cultural heritage, community development, and supporting education nationwide.

General objectives:

- to develop, preserve, and promote the written cultural heritage;
- to increase public access to and participation in culture;
- to cooperate with national libraries throughout Europe;
- to build cultural partnerships;
- to support education nationwide.

Specific Cultural and Professional Objectives:

- to develop, manage, organize, and preserve collections of books, serial publications, other library materials, and databases, ensuring access to information for research, education, and leisure;
- to ensure national bibliographic control through the application of professional standards, the implementation of specialized programmes, and the fulfillment of the institution's role as the Legal Deposit Agency;
- to create value-added products and services by registering publishers and maintaining and updating specialized databases, including CERom (Catalogue of Romanian Publishers), ISSN-Rom, ROAD Catalogue, SIP Catalogue, and CIP-ISBN Catalogue; compiling the National Current Bibliography; providing reference and bibliographic services upon request; and distributing publications from the National Publication Reserve;
- to ensure effective access to collections by developing, acquiring, processing, and organizing them in accordance with specialized methods and standards; establishing authorized access points; and making collections accessible both in physical spaces and through digital platforms;
- to expand and strengthen networks of cooperation and partnerships with cultural institutions at both national and international levels;
- to support the activities of the National Commission of Libraries in Romania.



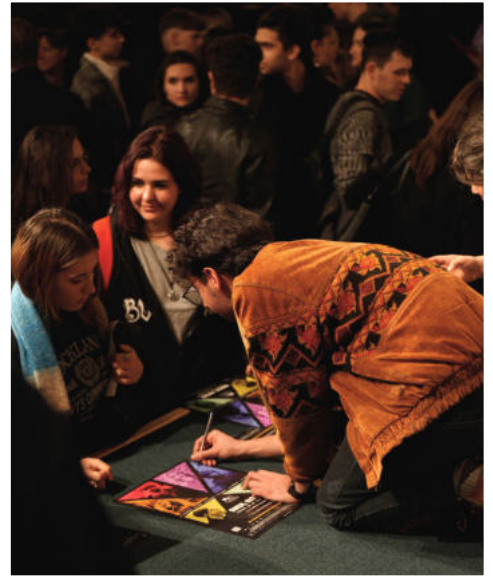
Highlights 2025

National Culture Day Engages Young Audiences at the National Library of Romania

The National Library of Romania has established a meaningful tradition of celebrating National Culture Day with young audiences by organizing events that explore important and timely topics from an interdisciplinary and engaging perspective.

This year's edition, titled *Film, Culture, and National History*, featured a screening of *The New Year That Never Came*, followed by an insightful discussion with members of the film's production team. The conversation offered participants a unique opportunity to reflect deeply on Romania's recent history and the significant events of December 1989.

In the presence of over 370 students from several high schools, members of the film's team who were present at the event engaged in an open dialogue with the audience, responding to questions about the challenges faced by the actors, the lessons learned throughout the project, and the research methods used in the making of the film. The discussion also addressed sources of information from the socialist era, the books commonly found in libraries during that period, the role of film as a tool for reflection, and the ways in which cultural institutions can contribute to a better understanding of recent history.





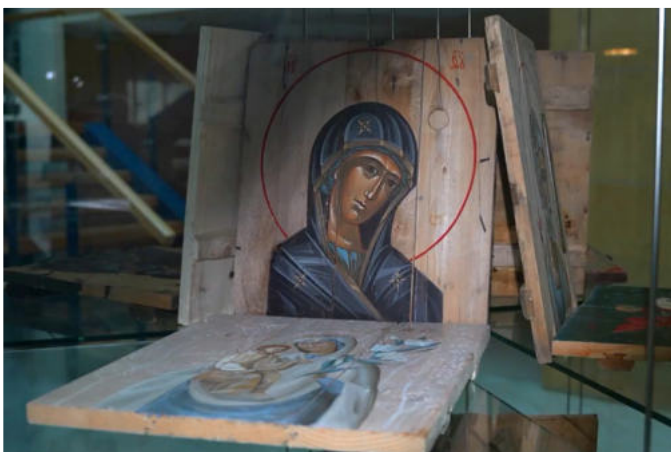
Icons on Ammunition Boxes Exhibition

The National Library of Romania, in collaboration with the Embassy of Ukraine in Bucharest, organized the *Icons on Ammunition Boxes* exhibition from 19 February to 30 April, 2025. The exhibition was a unique artistic project by Ukrainian artists Sonya Atlantova and Oleksandr Klymenko, bringing together sacred iconography and the lived experience of war.



The works were created on wooden ammunition boxes brought back from the front lines in eastern Ukraine, transforming objects associated with conflict into vessels for spiritual and artistic expression.

The exhibition presents a powerful visual and spiritual statement, transforming materials associated with war and destruction into images of faith, hope, and renewal. The boxes that once contained lethal ammunition are repurposed as canvases for sacred art, creating a powerful symbol of the transformation of death into life.



Alongside the icons created by the Ukrainian artists, the exhibition also featured a selection of books from the collections of the National Library of Romania on Ukrainian culture and history.

Film, Books and Migration

As part of the Romanian Parliament's designation of 2025 as the National Year of the Child, the event *Film, Books and Migration*, held on 25 March 2025, gave the National Library of Romania an opportunity to raise public awareness of parental migration in search of better opportunities and its psychological impact on children left behind. The event also highlighted the global scale of this issue and its far-reaching consequences for society as a whole.

The event opened with a screening of *Clara*, a moving story about labour migration and its impact on family relationships, focusing on the fragile bond between a mother working abroad and her son, who is left in the care of his grandfather.

The screening was followed by a discussion on the emotional consequences of migration, drawing on research and publications on the subject. The discussion featured the film's producers, members of the cast, migrants from and to Romania, and representatives of civil society.





Completion of the Consolidation and Restoration Works at the Omnia Library

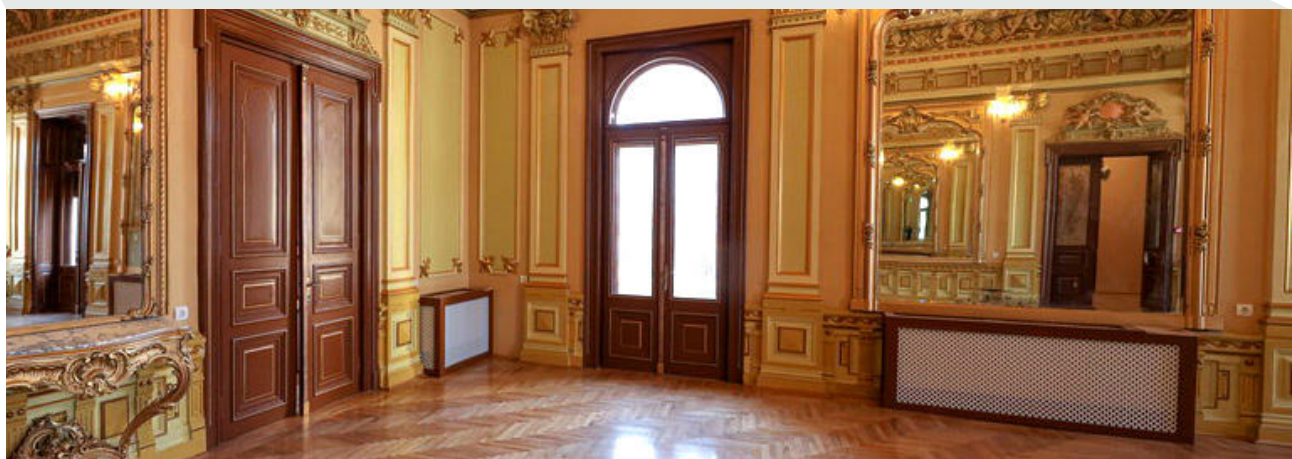
The consolidation and restoration works at the Omnia Library building, the Craiova branch of the National Library of Romania, were completed in the first half of 2025.

The project, financed through a framework loan agreement between Romania and the Council of Europe Development Bank and implemented under the coordination of the Project Management Unit within the Ministry of Culture, is of major significance for Romania's national cultural

heritage, while also representing an important cultural asset for the local community.

The building was restored in accordance with high conservation standards, with due regard for its historical value and for the artistic details that define its character, including stained glass windows, wall decorations, woodwork, metal fittings, ornamental ceilings, and sculpted elements. In addition to these visible features, essential structural, thermal, electrical, and sanitary works were also carried out, using materials compatible with the building's status as a listed historic monument.

The Omnia Library will be reopened to the public following the completion of the handover, refurbishment, and equipping of the premises by the National Library of Romania.





MIHAIL SEBASTIAN ECOURI INTERBELICE

EXPOZIȚIE - 29 MAI - 20 Iunie 2025
DEZBATERE ȘI VERNISAJ - 29 MAI 2025, ORA 16:00



Mihail Sebastian. Interwar Echoes

As 2025 marked 80 years since Romanian writer Mihail Sebastian's untimely death, the National Library of Romania organised a multidisciplinary cultural event inviting audiences to reflect on one of the most defining and yet turbulent periods in the history of Romania and Europe. In a time marked by the erosion of democratic values and the rise of extremism, this event was conceived as an exercise of cultural remembrance and critical reflection while underscoring the importance of engaging with the past in order to better understand the challenges of the present and help prevent history from repeating itself.

The project's focus point was *Mihail Sebastian: Interwar Echoes* exhibition, a multimedia installation bringing together documentary comics, animation, and an original musical score inspired by the life and work of Mihail Sebastian. Developed in partnership with the Civic Diaspora Association in Berlin and the State Jewish Theatre in Bucharest, the cultural installation also featured a reconstruction of the writer's study room – the space where Sebastian wrote much of his well-known Diary. Through its immersive scenography and contemporary visual language, the exhibition offered visitors an engaging exploration of the intellectual, cultural, and political world of interwar Romania.

The exhibition opened on 29 May 2025 and was accompanied by a public panel discussion exploring the parallels between interwar and contemporary Romania. Bringing together scholars, artists, and cultural practitioners, the discussion created a space for interdisciplinary dialogue on memory, identity, democratic values, and civic responsibility.



Celebrating 70 Years Since the Re-establishment of the National Library of Romania



On 26 June 2025, the National Library of Romania marked the 70th anniversary of its re-establishment with a major event dedicated to recalling the most significant milestones in the history and development of this institution, which is fundamental to Romanian culture.

The event brought together representatives of cultural institutions, members of the academic community, writers, long-standing collaborators of the National Library, and other distinguished guests. In their remarks, the speakers highlighted the National Library of Romania's role, mission, and contribution to the country's cultural and educational landscape.

A highlight of the programme was the opening of the documentary exhibition *Breviar 70: A History of the National Library of Romania*, conceived as a retrospective of the institution's historical development and an opportunity to reflect on the key stages of its evolution.

The anniversary programme concluded with *Libraries in Dialogue*, a professional forum dedicated to the exchange of ideas and best practices. Discussions focused on enhancing cooperation and further developing the National Library of Romania's partnerships with libraries across the country.



Breviar 70: A History of the National Library of Romania

Held from June to October 2025, the exhibition *Breviar 70: A History of the National Library of Romania* traced the defining moments, major transformations, and enduring values that have shaped the identity of the National Library over seven decades of continuous activity, while also highlighting key milestones dating back to its original establishment in 1859.

The exhibition narrative opened with the history of the Central State Library, followed by its dissolution and subsequent re-establishment in 1955 under the name *Central State Library*, a defining moment in the history of the present-day National Library of Romania. Particular attention was given to the development of the Library's collections, especially the Special Collections, which preserve a significant part of Romania's written cultural heritage.

A dedicated section focused on the Batthyaneum Library, the Alba Iulia branch of the National Library of Romania, presented as the custodian of manuscripts and rare works of exceptional historical and cultural value. Among its treasures, the *Codex Aureus* occupied a central place, serving as a symbol of cultural continuity and of the European heritage safeguarded by the National Library.



The exhibition also explored the less visible yet essential functions that underpin the Library's work, including the Legal Deposit system, the Romanian National ISBN, ISSN and ISMN Agency, the international partnerships developed over several decades, and the networks for exchange and cooperation that have integrated the National Library of Romania into the global library community. It also documented the Library's relocation to its current headquarters, a pivotal moment that transformed both its relationship with the public and its role within the urban landscape.

The exhibition concluded by turning to the present and the future, presenting several major projects currently underway. Among these, the *National Memory* project was highlighted as one of the Library's most significant strategic initiatives.



The Score of a Life: George Enescu in Rare Documents

As part of the **George Enescu International Festival**, one of the world's leading classical music festivals, the National Library of Romania presented the exhibition *The Score of a Life: George Enescu in Rare Documents* from 26 August to 19 September 2025.

Conceived by the National Library of Romania as a tribute to George Enescu, the exhibition reflects the Library's role as custodian of the nation's cultural memory. It highlights George Enescu's international stature as a composer and his contribution to bringing Romanian music to the world's foremost concert stages. Visitors were invited to explore a unique selection of original scores, manuscripts, and photographs illustrating both Enescu's artistic legacy and his enduring international significance.

The exhibition featured a remarkable collection of scores representing the breadth of Enescu's musical output, including the piano reduction of *Ce dipe*, bearing the composer's handwritten dedication to the conductor Alfred Alessandrescu. It also offered a more intimate perspective on Enescu's life through a selection of previously unpublished letters and photographs, providing visitors with a rare glimpse into the man behind the music.

The exhibition experience was further enriched by an audio programme of archival recordings featuring works composed, conducted, or performed by George Enescu, creating an immersive setting that brought his artistic legacy vividly to life.



***MusicalFest*: Classical Music Festival for Children and Young People**

From 8 to 10 October 2025, the National Library of Romania hosted the fourth edition of *MusicalFest*, the Classical Music Festival for Children and Young People. Organised in partnership with the National University of Music Bucharest and the National University of Arts Bucharest, the festival has become an established event in the National Library of Romania's cultural agenda, reaffirming its commitment to nurturing young talent and promoting music education.

Since its inception, *MusicalFest* has aspired to be more than a music festival. It has provided a genuine platform for young performers, offering children and emerging musicians the opportunity to perform before a specialist audiences, comprising some of Romania's leading musicologists and distinguished figures from the country's musical community.

This year's programme featured performances by students from specialist music schools and music-focused high schools, showcasing both the high standards and the remarkable potential of Romania's music education system. At the same time, the festival sought to inspire pupils from general education schools to engage with music, demonstrating its power as a universal language and an essential part of a well-rounded education.

A distinctive feature of *MusicalFest* is its collaboration with students from the National University of Arts Bucharest. Continuing this tradition, students from the visual arts programme accompanied the performances by creating original works in pencil, ink, and watercolour, adding a unique visual dimension to the festival and enriching the audience's experience.



The Saving Books: Treatments, Prevention, Conservation Project: A Significant Step Towards Strengthening European Cooperation in Safeguarding Written Heritage

From 26 to 29 November 2025, the National Library of Romania hosted the professional workshop *Saving Books: Treatments, Prevention, Conservation*, organised as part of a collaborative project with the National Library of France, made possible through the Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant awarded to the National Library of Romania by the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL). The event brought together approximately 50 conservators, librarians, and preservation specialists from the National Library of Romania and leading cultural institutions from across the country.

Led by two specialists from the Conservation Department of the National Library of France, the programme combined theoretical presentations, case studies, and practical workshops, providing participants with hands-on tools for developing preventive conservation strategies and implementing appropriate interventions for written heritage collections. The activities included visits to storage facilities and practical exercises focusing on unprocessed collections, one of the major conservation challenges faced by the National Library of Romania. These sessions enabled participants to examine real cases of deterioration and test stabilisation techniques.



The two conservation specialists from the National Library of France also conducted a comprehensive assessment of the storage conditions and the state of preservation of the National Library of Romania's collections, with particular emphasis on unprocessed collections. The assessment will result in a report containing recommendations and practical solutions aimed at improving conservation measures and strengthening the long-term preservation of written heritage.

Facts and Figures

Funding

In 2025, the National Library of Romania spent a budget of 30,909,976 RON (approx. 6,062,500 EUR)

Staff

Staff at the end of 2025: 189

Staff fluctuation in 2025:

- New hired – 2
- Departures – 10

Documents included in NLR's collections in 2025 (by legal deposit, purchase, donation and international exchange)

- Books and other non-serial publications: 46,918 bibliographical units
- Serial publications: 77,460 bibliographical units

Assigned codes

- ISBN: 36,672
- ISSN: 1,026
- ISMN: 366
- CIP: 30,850

Users in 2025

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Active users: | 21,237 |
| • Total number of on-site users and visitors: | 228,738 |
| • Website visitors: | 588,000 |
| • Online catalogue sessions: | 98,000 |
| • Number of visits to NLR's social media channels: | 1,356,829 |

Cultural and professional events

- Cultural and professional events organised exclusively by the Library: 19
- Cultural and professional events organised in collaboration with other institutions: 69
- Workshops and other events for children and young people: 239
- Virtual exhibitions: 2



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de ani de la reînființarea
Bibliotecii Naționale a României

26 iunie 2025

11:00 - Deschiderea oficială, Aula Ministerului Culturii

13:00 - Vernisaj expoziție „Breviar 70. O istorie a Bibliotecii Naționale a României”, Sala Euforia

14:00 - Întâlnire profesională „Bibliotecii în dialog”, Sala Mircea Eliade

