

The National Library of Romania Report for 2007

Name of Country: Romania

Name of Library: The National Library of Romania

Name of Chief Executive: Dr. Elena Tîrziman

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2008

The activity of the National Library of Romania in 2007 was marked by a complex of social, technological, economical, politic and cultural factors. Actually, these describe the general context of the last years. Amongst the most visible social events it is worth mentioning: the rapid development rhythm of the informational society; the awareness of the needs of permanent education; diversification of the types of library users. The technological context was marked, among others, by: the rapid evolution of the technology of information and communication; the raised impact of electronic and digital documents and the impact of mass-media. The category of economic factors includes: the continuation of the economic reform; the low level of budgetary grants; the exponential increase of the maintenance costs; the dependency on the external financial politics. Among the politic and legal factors there can be pointed out: the interest for aligning the Romanian legislation to the one of the European Union; the inefficiency of the Law of sponsoring. Among the most important components of the cultural environment there can be mentioned: spreading of the globalization phenomenon and of its consequences; the development of multiculturalism, in parallel with the need of preservation and promoting the cultural identity. Unlike most of the libraries in the European area, the NLR was further on marked by a severe discrepancy between its mission, functions, role and strategic importance and the financial resources assigned for updating and completing its collections, for turning to an informational system for the activities, products and services offered to the users, for increasing the areas for depositing and exhibiting the documents, for lecture and communication of collections, for professional training of the personnel.

Special achievements in 2007

I. Modernizing and redesigning several reading rooms and repositories

II. Bilateral international agreements with:

The National Library of Hungary

The National Library of the Republic of Moldavia

III. Acquiring the online database Emerald Management – Extra 95 FullText

IV. A new organisational chart and a new Functioning Statute

These documents aimed at:

- settling an institutional structure which allows further development, according to the 2008-2012 Strategy of the National Library of Romania and considering the functioning in normal parameters in the new headquarters of the National Library of Romania, which is under construction;
- leveraging the specific functions of national library and of public library, at the general organization level;

-founding new structures, which should allow the fulfillment of all functions of the NLR, according to the Law of libraries, and successful participation at important European projects;
-rehabilitation of the repositories and reorganizing the collections (whereas the acute lack of space caused severe dysfunctions within this department), by establishing a new department: Repositories. Bookbindery;
-increasing the capacity of valuating the NLR collections, products and services, through the reorganization of the department Publishing House of the National Library.

Problems of the NLR in 2007

- I.** The lack of a modern integrated library system
- II.** The lack of repository spaces and working areas
- III.** Lack of personnel
- IV.** The very late approval of the budget for independent endowments

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