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THE REPRESENTATIVE ROMANIAN JOURNALS IN THE FIELD OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

Abstract: The Journals (Serial publications) in any scientific field differ from other types of scientific publications (e.g. monographs) by the fact that they disseminate very quickly news, ideas, innovations, professional and scientific literature, in general; due to their predetermined and ongoing appearance, new issues are, usually, awaited for with great interest. Reviews that get to appear for several decades become true panoramas of the scientific field they represent. In this article, the authors present the most important current Romanian journals in the field of library: one of the most long-lasting and best known is Biblioteca [‘The Library’ Review], which has appeared for 70 uninterrupted years, just like its Serbian counterpart Bibliotekar [Librarian] – is this fate or just part of a similar process of development of the profession of librarian!? To both reviews: “Vivat, crescat, floreat”!

Keywords: library and information science; scientific and academic journals (România); periodical publications: evolution, actuality, dissemination.

The Journals, as Serial publications are, in all fields, particularly important in the valorisation of professional and scientific activities, in extending the news dissemination area, in archiving and transmitting to future generations specific cultural and scientific knowledge, in keeping contact with professional and

scientific communities, in supporting a profession and, in general, in supporting the professional and scientific field they represent.

This article presents the most representative current serial publications in the field of Library and Information Science in Romania. This includes: *Biblioteca* [*Library Review*], the oldest specialty publication in Romania (70 years of uninterrupted appearance); *Revista Română de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării* [*Romanian Journal of Library and Information Science*], edited by the National Society of Romanian Librarians; *Studii de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării* [*Library and Information Science Research*], edited by the University of Bucharest as a journal of the specialisation Information and Documentation Sciences; *Revista română de istorie a cărții* [*Romanian Review of Book History*], edited by the most important three libraries in Romania (Romanian Academy Library, Romanian National Library, Central University Library „Carol I” of Bucharest); *Informare și Documentare: activitate științifică și profesională* [*Information and Documentation: Scientific and Professional Activity*], edited by the National Library of Romania and targeting PhD students and researchers who wish to valorise or just disseminate their research from the previous year; *Revista Bibliotecii Naționale a României* [*Journal of the National Library of Romania*], edited by the National Library of Romania and aiming at supporting, through theory, examples, and good practices, the functions specific to this type of library and *Revista Bibliotecii Academiei Române* [*Journal of the Romanian Academy Library*], edited by the Romanian Academy Library and aiming at valorising and promoting the collections and activities of this library.



**Revista BIBLIOTECA [“The Library” Review]:
1948- . ISSN 1220-3386**

For 70 years, *Biblioteca* has been a partner of the Romanian librarians’ community – a true space of professional debates and of promotion of news and good practices in the field. Starting with July 1948, *Biblioteca* gathered libraries and librarians in a unique movement for the support and promotion of the Romanian cultural and scientific heritage, on one hand, and for the support of library professions in the Romanian space, on the other hand. Initially titled

Călăuza cetitorilor [*Readers’ Guide*] (July 1948), the journal aimed at introducing new editorial products to readers and librarians. It shortly became a journal for the librarians, hence the changing of its title into *Călăuza bibliotecarului*

[*Librarian's Guide*] in October 1928, a title kept until December 1964. Between January 1965 and December 1973, the review appeared as a monthly publication, *Revista bibliotecilor* [*Libraries' Review*]. Reforms in the field of culture affected it also: between January 1974 and December 1989, it appeared as *Biblioteca: buletin trimestrial de biblioteconomie/bibliologie* [*Library: A Quarterly of Library/Bibliology*], a supplement of *Îndrumătorul cultural* [*Cultural Guide*] (January 1974 – December 1979) and *Cîntarea României* [*Song to Romania*] (January 1980 – December 1989).

The year 1990 was a new start for the publication: it appeared as *Biblioteca: revistă de bibliologie și știința informării* (*Library: A Journal of Bibliology and Information Science*) under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture; starting with 2009, it is edited by the Romanian National Library and is considered the review of the Romanian National System of Libraries. *Biblioteca* is indexed in the following international data bases: EBSCO and PROQUEST.

The review has been a landmark of professional training due to the publishing of fundamental literature, to establishing a column of theory and practice in the field, and to actively supporting professional activities and continuous education in library. The publication contains articles regarding the organisation of librarian courses, the professions circumscribed to the profession of librarian, the duties of the different librarian professions, suggestions for the improvement of specific activities, etc. Its current columns are *Professional Landmarks*: library theory, scientific research; *Life of Libraries*: current activities of all types carried out by Romanian libraries (events, good practices models, projects); *Methodology*: as a rule, materials issued by the Romanian National Library which is a methodological coordinator); *Heritage*: presentation and valorisation of library collections and values; *Bibliological Meridian*: events, personalities in the field; *Gutenberg Galaxy*: debates, documentary syntheses, library calendar, reviews, varia.

For the National Society of Romanian Librarians, *Biblioteca* has been the main support of methodological activities contributing to the promotion of standards, guides, and unitary working methodologies for all libraries in the system. When access to foreign information was difficult (1970s-1980s), *Biblioteca* compensated by trying to promote as widely as possible translations from literature, conferences, and other professional events supporting the profession of librarian. It is important to mention that the National Society of Romanian Librarians sees this publication as an *agora* of all Romanian libraries, a professional and editorial space for librarians and libraries. It is also worth mentioning the cultural dimension of the journal. Romanian cultural and documentary heritage in library collections is presented to the large public. Important per-

sonalities of the time in history, letters, arts, etc. have signed reference articles published in this journal.

Biblioteca has lived for seven decades for and through Romanian libraries and librarians, supporting each other during both good and hard times of development for both the field and the journal. The journal has changed its format, periodicity and columns several times, but it kept being a standard for Romanian library journals; its presence in the professional community for such a long time has had much significance.



Revista Română de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării [RRBSI] [Romanian Journal of Library and Information Science]. 1997 - . ISSN 1841-1940

The Romanian Librarians' Association has always been concerned with supporting the library field and the professions in library and information. Annual general conferences and professional conferences have been followed by volumes of proceedings. Periodically, they organise workshops and debates that allow exchange of ideas and good practices. Hence, the rich editorial activity of the Romanian Libra-

rians' Association: conference proceedings, specialised guides, monographs, reference papers, *Tratatul Românesc de Biblioteconomie* [Romanian Treatise of Library], a vast work in three volumes, *Revista Română de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării*, etc.

Initially titled Buletin ABIR (Asociația Bibliotecarilor din Învățământ – România) [Bulletin of Romanian Education Librarians] aiming at promoting the activities of the Romanian Librarians' Association, it became *Revista Română de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării* in 2005, turning into a true international publication due to the content structure, editing, formatting, and management, getting to be one of the most prestigious library publications in Romania.

It is a quarterly, a free access publication, and it is published in English (to allow authors a wider space for dissemination of their scientific and professional papers). The journal is international not only in language, but also in its geographical distribution area and in its openness to foreign authors. Thus, *Revista Română de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării* – ISSN 2559-5490, ISSN-L 1841-1940, DOI <https://doi.org/10.26660/rrbsi> publishes original articles and studies in all sub-fields of Library and Information Science (there have also been thematic

issues of the journal). It also welcomes reviews, opinions, comments, syntheses of professional events mainly from the South- and East-European areas (where Romania also lies). Initially reviewed by the journal editors, the articles submitted for publication are now peer-reviewed like any other articles indexed in international data bases. *Revista Română de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării* uses the double blind peer review process.

Revista Română de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării is indexed in the following international data bases: EBSCO Library and Information Science Source (since 2010), CEEOL – Central and Eastern European Online Library (since 2005), ERIN PLUS – European Reference Index for Humanities and the Social Sciences, DOAJ – Directory of Open Access Journals, and IMAJ – Information Matrix for the Analysis of Journals.



Studii de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării [Library and Information Science Research]. 1995 - . ISSN 2392-8107

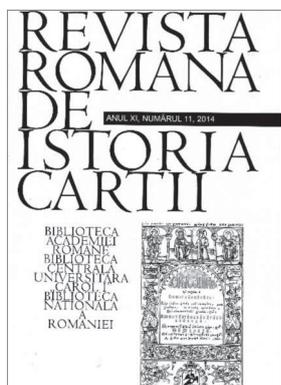
After the fall of Communism, they re-established, in 1990, the academic specialisation Library and Information Science at the University of Bucharest, to continue the activity started during the interwar period. Understanding the importance of an academic publication for the promotion of academic scientific research in the field, they started publishing, in 1995, *Studii de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării* as specialised annals.

Edited by the Department of Information and Documentation Sciences of the Faculty of Letters (University of Bucharest), it targets teachers, researchers, PhD students, undergraduate students, librarians, specialists in information and documentation, managers from information-documentation structures, as well as all those interested in the scientific aspects of books, documents, and information. If, during its first two years, it was printed in Romanian alone, the journal has, nowadays, its own site (<http://www.lisr.ro/>) and it is published in Romanian, English, and French, observing all international regulations regarding the editing of scientific publications.

Studii de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării (ISSN 2392-8107; ISSN-L 1453-5386) publishes mainly scientific papers and few professional papers. It accepts, after a reviewing process, original articles and studies, studies presented

at scientific conferences and events, presentations of research projects, etc. It is one of the most prestigious journals edited by the University of Bucharest.

Studii de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării is an open access journal, i.e., its contents are available free of charge for both users and their institutions. This journal is indexed in the following international data bases: LISA – Library and Information Science Abstracts (ProQuest – CSA Social Sciences); EBSCOhost – Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts with Full Text; CEEOL – Central and Eastern European Online Library; RePEc – Research Papers in Economics; DOAJ – Directory of Open Access Journals.



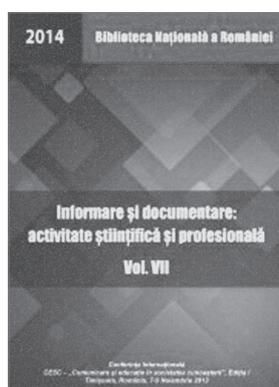
Revista română de istorie a cărții [Romanian Review of Book History]. 2004 - . ISSN 1584-7896

Traditionally, libraries are linked to heritage and its valorisation. The greatest pride of a library is special collections. Each library tends to be worth it, to make a statement through its values.

Revista Română de Istorie a Cărții is the editorial product of three large Romanian libraries: the Romanian National Library, the “Carol I” Central University Library in Bucharest, and the Romanian Academy Library. *Revista Română de Istorie a Cărții*

was started in 2004 aiming at promoting the Romanian documentary heritage and specialised research both domestically and abroad. The publication is known among professionals due to the high quality of the papers published, to the exceptional graphical aspect (it looks very much like an album), to the novelty of its contents, and to the valorisation of the documents. Romanian and foreign researchers in the field of books and related fields publish original studies regarding the documentary heritage of the libraries (incunabula, old and bibliophile books, manuscripts, correspondence, ex-librissen, photographs, maps, prints, old periodicals, historical archives, etc.). The journal valorises and presents, to both scientific and professional communities, rare documents from library collections, novel funds or funds not enough studied; thus, Romanian documentary heritage is promoted both domestically and abroad, and so is Romanian scientific research in the field of book history. It is equally a library and a cultural journal.

Revista Română de Istorie a Cărții (ISSN 1584-7896) appears annually and it is indexed in the following data bases: EBSCO and PROQUEST. It is published in Romanian, English and French and is available online on the site of the Romanian National Library (<http://www.bibnat.ro/Revista-Romana-de-Istorie-a-Cartii-s249-ro.htm>). The journal is highly demanded within the international exchange of publications.



Informare și documentare: activitate științifică și profesională [*Information and Documentation: Scientific and Professional Activity*]. 2007 - . ISSN 2065-1058

In 2007, the Romanian National Library started publishing *Informare și documentare: activitate științifică și profesională*, a research journal for undergraduates, Master students, PhD students, teachers, and researchers in socio-human fields. Initially, it was a monograph, a collective volume gathering papers presented at professional meetings of the Romanian National Library, which explains the sub-title of the journal: “scientific and professional activity”. Later, Master students, PhD students, documentary professionals, and specialised librarians asked for a journal in which to publish their research results and, thus, create a scientific forum for both students and specialists. Nowadays, it is mainly a journal for PhD students and a means to disseminate professional conference proceedings. It appears annually. Due to its editorial policy, it is a bridge between the professional environment and the academic environment, providing students with an opportunity to publish and become part of a professional and scientific community, thus gaining visibility, and providing teachers and specialists with an opportunity to promote their studies and research.

Informare și documentare: activitate științifică și profesională (ISSN 2065-1058) is available on the site of the Romanian National Library <http://www.bibnat.ro/Informare-si-documentare-s251-ro.htm> and it is indexed in the following data bases: EBSCO and PROQUEST.



Revista Bibliotecii Naționale a României [Journal of the Romanian National Library]. 1994 - . ISSN 1224-0184

It is a tradition for national libraries to edit their own journals in which to promote their activities and valorise their cultural heritage. The Romanian National Library is no exception. *Revista Bibliotecii Naționale a României* was started in 1995 aiming at promoting the institution and its collections, services, and history, as well as activities and inter-cultural events significant at national and international levels.

It is also used to support the methodological function of the Romanian National Library allowing it to coordinate and guide the libraries in the national library system and to provide them with examples of good practices, guides, handbooks, methodologies and specific working standards. Like *Revista Română de Istorie a Cărții* edited by the Romanian National Library, *Revista Bibliotecii Naționale a României* is also a library and cultural journal that is edited under very special graphic conditions similar to those of an art album.

According to its editorial policy, it was established that it be divided equally between three thematic areas: news in library and information science; conservation, restoration, and valorisation of the collections of documents, particularly heritage ones; and inter-disciplinarity (cultural anthropology and the history of mentalities, art, fiction, historiography, etc.). During 2008-2017, the thematic field conservation, restoration, and valorisation of the collections of documents was present in the Romanian and even European space due to the publication *Revista Română de Conservare și Restaurare a Cărții* (*Romanian Journal of Book Conservation and Restoration*), which was meant to continue the publication *Probleme de patologie a cărții* [*Book Pathology Issues*] (1964-1995), a collection of documents developed by the Laboratory of Book Pathology and Restoration (currently the National Center for Document Pathology and Restoration). This latter publication gathered studies by researchers from Bucharest and Romania in the field of conservation, restoration, and pathology of documents, providing theoretical and practical aspects, results of investigations, methodological and documenting aspects, newsfeeds from national and international congresses, from professional meetings, and from workshops, and interviews with personalities in the field. In 2018, the journal ceased to be published for objective reasons, and its thematic contents is directed towards *Revista Bibliotecii Naționale a României*.

Most studies and articles come from specialists of the Romanian National Library that is also the main subject of the studies and research; however, they accept scientific and cultural studies from both Romania and abroad, that circumscribe to the thematic of the journal.

Revista Bibliotecii Naționale a României (ISSN 1224-0184) is available on the site of the Romanian National Library (<http://www.bibnat.ro/Revista-Bibliotecii-Nationale-a-Romaniei-s248-ro.htm>) and it is indexed in the following international data bases: EBSCO and Proquest.



Revista Bibliotecii Academiei Române [Journal of the Romanian Academy Library]. 2016 - . ISSN-L: 2501-9457

In 2016, the Romanian Academy celebrated 150 years of existence. On that occasion, the Romanian Academy Library launched its own journal. *Revista Bibliotecii Academiei Române* is a publication of scientific research aiming at valorising and promoting the collections of the Romanian Academy Library in the context of national and world heritage. It accepts for publication interdisciplinary scientific studies on

history, history of art and philosophy, sociology, anthropology, theory of literature, geography, economics, legal science, information science, communication, etc. Thus, the publication aims at individualising in the editorial context of Romanian library.

Revista Bibliotecii Academiei Române (ISSN: 2559-5210, ISSN-L: 2501-9457) appears biannually. It is written in Romanian and is available free of charge on the site of the institution (<http://revista.biblacad.ro/>, <http://revista.biblacad.ro/numar-curent/>).

Conclusions

A professional community validates itself through the importance of its activities for the society (place and social status of a profession) and through the way it manages to promote and valorise its specificity. The academic and scientific journals play a decisive role in supporting professions, institutions and specific professional communities. It is worth mentioning the interest of

large libraries, professional associations, and academic scientific communities in editing high-quality journals and in ensuring a steady pace of issues and the largest diffusion possible both in print and digital format. Even small libraries such as county libraries edit bulletins that they share among interested professional communities.

Literature promoted through specialised publications play an important role in continuous education supporting or completing institutionalised professional training. Publishing guides, procedures, methodologies, the theory and practice of a certain library field or sub-field helps professionals in information keep in touch with the news in the field, with each other, and solve professional issues. It is extremely important that libraries that have valuable heritage documents valorise them in the most diverse forms to promote local, regional, or national heritage as widely as possible. Specialised publications are a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and scientific heritage of an institution, region, or nation; moreover, they also disseminate good practices for research, conservation, and valorisation of these specific funds.

The journals presented in this article are representative for the Romanian library and have a significant visibility nationally and internationally. All these journals observe the requirements of scientific publications, have scientific committees gathering names that are representative for the field from both Romania and abroad, which adds prestige and credibility within scientific and professional communities.

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РЕПРЕЗЕНТАТИВНИ РУМУНСКИ ЧАСОПИСИ У ОБЛАСТИ БИБЛИОТЕЧКО-ИНФОРМАЦИОНИХ НАУКА

Сажетак: Часописи (серијске публикације) у било којој научној области разликују се од других типова научних публикација (на пример, монографских) по томе што веома брзо дисеминују вести, идеје, иновације, стручну и научну литературу. Због њиховог унапред одређеног и сталног присуства, нови бројеви се обично очекују са великим интересовањем. Часописи који се појављују већ неколико деценија постају праве панораме научне области коју представљају. У овом чланку ауторке представљају најважније актуелне румунске часописе у области библиотекарства. Један од најстаријих и најпознатијих је *Biblioteca*, који излази непрекидно 70 година, баш као и његов српски парњак *Библиошекар* - је ли ово судбина или само део сличног процеса развоја библиотечке професије!? За оба часописа важи: «Vivat, crescat, floreat»!

Кључне речи: библиотечко-информационе науке, научни и академски часописи (Румунија), периодичне публикације, еволуција, садашњост, дисеминација.

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