

Some aspects concerning the education, training and continuous development of the librarians and information specialists in Romania. The case of the professionals from the Central Library of the “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy - Bucharest

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Introduction

- education, training and continuous development programmes for the librarians in Romania
 - the contents of these programmes
 - the professionals from the Central Library of the “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy– Bucharest
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The Profession's Evolution

- a more numerous and more diverse public
 - the librarians need a complex of abilities better adapted to the new requirements.
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The Profession's Evolution

- the librarian
 - a specialist in information science
 - a good psychologist
 - a pedagogue
 - a “social assistant”
 - a co-worker of the researcher and/or of the professor
 - a manager
 - His/her tasks diversified and specialized.
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The Profession's Evolution

- The profession became more feminine.
 - The collections, the information supports, the services, the public, the environment, everything has changed in libraries.
 - Libraries have crossed a “silent revolution” and a very complex one.
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The Profession's Evolution

- the automation
 - the idea of “virtual library”
 - the distance communications
 - the unlimited access
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The initial education and the continuous development in library and information science in Romania

1. the speciality higher education;
 2. the services offered by the authorized professional training providers;
 3. the approaches of the professional associations, and
 4. the international actions of professional co-operation.
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1. The Speciality Higher Education

The Past Situation (1924-1990)

- 1924 – at the University of Bucharest (First Library Science School: book history, library science, bibliography, cataloguing)
 - 1932 – at the University in Cluj-Napoca (Library Science School: bibliography, library science, history of book and writing).
 - The Ph.D. in Library Science: 1968 - the University of Bucharest
 - Along the years – many changes + interruptions
 - 7 decades of speciality education:
 - different forms of study and
 - different teaching methods.
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1. The Speciality Higher Education

The Present Situation (1990 -)

Library Science Education at the University of Bucharest

- 1990 - a distinct department at the Faculty of Letters, the University of Bucharest
- 1990-2000 - Library Science Programmes at other Universities too (Brasov, Cluj-Napoca, Oradea, Sibiu, Targoviste).

Library Science Programmes at different Universities in Romania

- At the “Transilvania” University in Braşov, there is a specialization in Library Science and Museology.
- At the “Babeş-Bolyai” University in Cluj-Napoca it functions a specialization in Library and Archive Science, and the programme can be studied in Romanian, Hungarian and German.
- At the University in Oradea, the Philology Section trains also professionals in Library Science.
- The College of the “Lucian Blaga” University from Sibiu includes also in its curriculum a specialization in Library and Archive Science.
- The “Valahia” University in Târgovişte includes a Library and Archive Science programme at the Economic and Administration College.

Library Science Education at the University of Bucharest

- 1990 - a new structure
 - the requirements of a profound interdisciplinary specialization
 - the imperatives of a solid general culture.
 - Link: the previous Romanian experiences + those from other countries.
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Library Science Education at the University of Bucharest

The Undergraduate Programme (3 years full time)

- **the relation between the traditional disciplines**
(Library Science, Bibliography, History of Book and Libraries etc.) **and the modern ones** (Information Science, Management of the Infodocumentary Structures, Information Technology, Marketing in Libraries, Information Users, Information Retrieval etc.)
- **the relation between the disciplines of general culture**
(Romanian Literature, World Culture and Civilization, World Literature, Reading Psychology, Romanian Language etc.) **and the speciality ones** (Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing, Collection Development and Document Communication, Reference Services, Documentation, Library Legislation etc.)

The LIS Department at the University of Bucharest

- Master Programme
 - Postgraduate Programme
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The Master Programme

“Information Management in the Contemporary Society”

- For graduates with qualities, abilities and vocation for the research of the information transfer processes

 - In the Curriculum:
 - Cultural Models and Library Structures in the Romanian Space
 - Information Management
 - Information and Communication Technology
 - Contemporary Theories in Collection Development
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The Postgraduate Programme

- For graduates from other fields who work or want to work in the information and documentation field.
 - 2 semesters (3 convocations of one week)
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The Postgraduate Programme

- The curriculum includes disciplines such as:
 - Collection Development
 - Library Legislation
 - Cataloguing and Indexing
 - Library Automation
 - Management in Infodocumentary Structures
 - Documentation
 - Marketing in Libraries
 - Bibliographic Systems
 - Archive Science
 - Practice in Library
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LIS Education in Romania

- In its current form the speciality higher education is structured on the requirements of the library institutions in which the future graduates will work.
 - the continuation of training at the workplace
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2. Services offered by the authorized professional training providers

- The staff newly hired in public libraries who didn't graduate from an education form must attend a qualification programme after which he/she will receive a qualification certificate nationally recognized.
 - the Centre of Professional Training in Culture
 - It functions under the co-ordination of the Ministry of Culture.
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The Centre of Professional Training in Culture

- the workforce standard
 - “the European Competences Reference System for the Information and Documentation Professionals”
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The Centre of Professional Training in Culture

- The Centre's Programme:
 - Library Management
 - Communication
 - Collection Development
 - Document Conservation
 - Legislation
 - Cultural Actions
 - Collections and Acquisitions
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The Professional Associations in Romania

- ANBPR (the National Association of the Public Librarians and Libraries in Romania)
 - ABIR (the Association of the Librarians in Education - Romania)
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3. The Approaches in the Field of the Professional Associations

- different continuous professional training courses for the librarians
- a series of scientific activities (workshops, conferences etc.)

The activity of the Section Medical Libraries of ABIR

- The Central Library of the “Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca:
 - specialization courses for the information specialists in the medical academic libraries (the new aspects of information and documentation in the biomedical sciences)
- The Central Library of the “Transilvania” University in Braşov:
 - the International Library Science Conference “BIBLIO Braşov”.

The activity of the Section Medical Libraries of ABIR

- issues approached:
 - the rationalization, modernization and diversification of the services provided for the users
 - a tradition of scientific collaboration at national level:
 - documentation visits
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The activity of the Section Medical Libraries of ABIR

■ Projects:

- “Who’s Who in the Universities of Medicine and Pharmacy in Romania”
 - “the Handbook of Medical Information and Documentation”,
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4. The International Actions of Professional Co-operation

- after 1990: the participation of the Romanian librarians in different international reunions
 - These participations had an important role in the training of the Romanian medical librarians who came in contact in this way with the modern management of the foreign medical libraries.
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The International Actions of Professional Co-operation

- the Seminars of Medical Informatics organized in France by CIDMEF (Conférence Internationale de Doyens des Facultés de Medicine Expression Française)
 - the bilateral professional meetings with librarians specialized in the medical field from England, Denmark, Norway and the Republic of Moldavia.
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The International Actions of Professional Co-operation

- An important professional moment for the medical librarians in Romania was the organization in 2006 in Cluj-Napoca of the 10th EAHIL Conference.

The Central Library of the “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy – Bucharest

- The largest medical library in Romania
 - Established in 1857
 - Reading rooms and collections at every faculty (General Medicine, Dental Medicine, Pharmacy)
 - 80 branch libraries that are at the level of the university departments, chairs and clinics spread all over Bucharest
 - The active users of the library are approximately 11,000 (students, teaching staff, researchers, physicians).
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The Librarians from the Central Library of the “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy – Bucharest

- The staff of the library is formed by 41 specialists.
 - Most of the librarians in this institution graduated from faculty and continued their education through different master, postgraduate and Ph.D. programmes, but perfected their professional standard through practice in library.
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The Librarians from the Central Library of the “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy – Bucharest

- the newly hired librarians work successively for a period of 3-6 months in all the library's departments
 - the monthly professional meeting
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The medical librarians

- professional skills recognized by the current standards
 - emphasis in the training and professional development on elements that will enable them:
 - to support the information, education and research approach at the level of the medical community,
 - to implement the projects initiated in collaboration with other similar libraries,
 - to accomplish their tasks within the co-operation actions and partnerships started, and
 - to assist the users in retrieving the information with the help of the new information and communication technologies.
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The medical librarians

- a good library science culture,
- an adequate culture of the biomedical sciences field,
- the assimilation and use of an adequate language for the diverse categories of medical documents and literature,
- the assimilation of techniques specific to the information and documentation in the biomedical sciences field,

The medical librarians

- the continuous improvement of the knowledge and practices in using the new information and communication technologies with a view to accessing in an efficient way useful and valuable information for the users,
 - the improvement of the linguistic capacities with a view to knowing as many as possible languages of international circulation and of the specific biomedical language.
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The Central Library of the “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy – Bucharest

- a Scientific Symposium: “The Library in the Medical Higher Education, Tradition and Modernity”
 - the results of the research approaches
 - papers accepted to be published by the Romanian specialized journals
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The Central Library of the “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy – Bucharest

- the works published by the librarians
 - access to the Mobility Programme Leonardo da Vinci - collaboration with the Academic Libraries in Exeter (England) and Bergen (Norway)
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Projects

- “Free Medical Access for Documentation, Information and Training/ Liber Acces Medical pentru Documentare, Informare și Formare (LAMEDIF)”.
 - a co-operation project for setting up a consortium of the Romanian medical libraries
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Projects

- “RoBiblioMed” (the indexing of the Romanian medical journals)
 - A project in co-operation with the other medical libraries in Romania, and with the Section Medical Libraries of ABIR
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Conclusions

- At present, in Romania: a complete and diverse range of LIS programmes at all levels.
 - The programmes' contents focus on the knowledge and abilities which the librarians and information specialists must get nowadays for an efficient activity in support of their users.
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Conclusions

- At the Central Library of the “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy – Bucharest it is encouraged the educational and academic research approach and the professionals from this institution, on the basis of their initial education and continuous development in LIS wish to become true professionals as the European and world standards require and especially in the context of the implementation and efficient use of the new information and communication technologies.
 - The general trend:
 - user orientation
 - the development of information services and products that will meet the users' information needs.
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Comments and Questions

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