

Romanian and Universal Medicine in Old Collections. A View of the Digital World in the Central Library of the "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy- Bucharest

Authors: Dr. Gheorghe Buluță*, Crina Mihăilescu*, Dr. Octavia-Luciana Madge**

Affiliation:

* The Central Library of the "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy – Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania

**Library and Information Science Department, Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania

Presenting author: Dr. Octavia-Luciana Madge

Abstract

The "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy was founded in 1857. The first library book collections date from that time and include foreign old books from the incunabulum period to 1800, Romanian old books from 1508 to 1830, foreign and Romanian modern books from the mid-19th century to the present. These collections include well-known authors in the history of the universal medicine (Albinus, Altomare, Bartholin, Bartholomaeus Anglicus, Celsus, Erasmus, Hippocrates, Malpighi, Vesalius, etc.) and these volumes provide an important documentary basis for studying the history of medicine. The library has proposed to organize and develop two programmes of scientific recovery of these collections, namely: *Bibliophile Values of Foreign Book Centuries 15th to 18th* and *Representative Pages in the History of Romanian Medicine*.

The first programme is based on a collection of 600 volumes of foreign rare books since 1481 to 1800, and the other by establishing a collection entitled *Carol Davila. The History of Romanian and Universal Medicine. The History of Romanian Medical Education*. It is the work of Carol Davila, the founder of the Romanian school of medicine, the main Romanian and foreign authors of medical literature who are used in the education process and documents certifying the continuity of the Romanian education in medicine. The collection has 5,000 titles.

The librarians in charge of these collections of old books have selected these books from the general collection of the library, catalogued them in a comprehensive bibliographical description of the specific characteristics of each copy, a preparatory stage of the process of digitization for a virtual library - *Bibliotheca Historia Medica*.

The digitization programme is phased so that interested users can access on the Internet these valuable works by the end of 2010.