

MARIA CARMEN NADIA PETRE
Romanian Academy Library, Bucharest

National Retrospective Bibliography – a reflection of the Romanian cultural heritage

Annotation. The paper presents a short history of the National Retrospective Bibliography of the Romanian book, highlighting its role and evolution from its establishment to the present. Thus, are mentioned aspects related to the foundation of the National Retrospective Bibliography, a fundamental work for the culture of the Romanian people, as part of Ioan Bianu's plan, conceived and approved in 1895 by the Romanian Academy. Next, Bianu's plan is presented in few details, specifying the periods in which the work was divided, as follows: Old Romanian Bibliography: 1508–1830, Modern Romanian Bibliography: 1831–1918 and Retrospective Romanian Bibliography: 1919–1952. A short presentation of Ioan Bianu's career is made also.

The *National Retrospective Bibliography* is an expression of the Romanian cultural heritage, having a significant role in fulfilling a historical mission: through the printed word it brought to the consciousness of the Romanians the idea of fulfilment of the greatest goal of December 1, 1918 – the unification of Transilvania, Basarabia, and Bucovina with the Romanian Kingdom.

Keywords: national bibliography; retrospective bibliography; modern bibliography; Romanian bibliography; Romanian Academy Library; cultural heritage.

Introduction. At the European level, the first national bibliographies were established in the early 19th century and played an important role in representing the identity of the nations, many of the bibliographic works trying to congregate the written cultural evidence of a nation.

At national level, at the end of the 19th century, the intellectuals of that time drew attention to the need to develop a national bibliography. Due to the fact that the Library of the Romanian Academy was holding approximately 85 % of the total national fund of publications, including in its collections the main bibliographic sources that define the field of excellence of Romanian creativity, it was decided that this was the most appropriate institution to develop the retrospective national bibliography.

Short history of the national retrospective bibliography. In order to understand the definition of the retrospective national bibliography, its genesis and evolution in the Romanian space, as well as the role of the Romanian Academy and the Library of the Romanian Academy in accomplishing this fundamental work for the history and culture of the Romanian people, we will make some brief clarifications.

In an attempt to define the retrospective national bibliographies, we can say that they polarize the effort of informational construction of all publications published and circulated in a country, since the beginning of their reproduction in printed format.

The genesis of Romanian bibliographies. The first formats of bibliographies comprise lists, inventories, catalogues or repertoires of books, having a predominant character of evidence and registration of books. Regarding the genesis of bibliographies, in the history of Romanian culture and civilization, we find a synchronous evolution with the European one. Among the incipient forms of bibliographies, we can mention the library catalogues, printing houses and bookstores [20, 94].

In the Romanian space, the collections of the scholars Grigore Ureche (Moldavian chronicler who wrote on Moldavian history, 1590–1647), Miron Costin (Romanian political figure and chronicler, 1633–1691), Dimitrie Cantemir (Moldavian prince, statesman, and man of letters, seen as one of the most significant early Enlightenment figure, 1674–1723), Constantin Brâncoveanu (voievod of Țara Românească, 1654–1714) represent the oldest and most representative libraries since the start of the social wisdom's hoarding. In the medieval time, in the Romanian countries (historical regions Țara Românească, Moldova and Transylvania), there were mainly libraries of monasteries, dioceses and local voivodes. Among the libraries of the monasteries, we can mention the well-known: Cozia, Bistrița and Hurez [16, 65].

Library catalogues. Among the preserved library catalogues in our country, we can mention: the catalogue of the steward Constantin Cantacuzino from Mărgineni; the catalogue from Hurez Library of Constantin Brâncoveanu; the catalogues of the Library of the Mavrocordat family from Văcărești; the catalogue of the Academy Library; the catalogue of the Library of Saint Sava College.

Constantin Brâncoveanu's Hurez Library is considered the symbol of a true "cultural monarchy" [15, 398] and was discovered by the historian and politician Alexandru Odobescu (1834–1895) and examined by Nicolae Iorga (Romanian historian, literary critic, politician – prime minister, 1871–1940). Hurez Library's catalogue was dated 1865 and contained 425 volumes (manuscripts and prints) in Greek, Latin, Italian, Arabic and Georgian languages. Each work has its transcription, in original, containing the name of the author, the full title, place of printing and the year of publication [11, 158].

The beginning of the bibliography is closely related to the first library catalogues, because they represent the lists of the books structured on different criteria, in order to reflect the book collection, to inform, communicate and capitalize on the collections of publications.

Bookstore catalogues. The origin of Romanian bibliographies is in correlation and direct connection with most library catalogues containing important elements of bibliographic communication.

Nicolae Georgescu-Tistu (1894–1974), in the Romanian Literary Bibliography, carried out an analytical research of the libraries catalogues, several being reported: Catalogue for the books for sale at the Romanian Bookstore in Iași (1840); Catalogue of Romanian, church, historical, moral books and novels in the George Ioanid bookstore (Bucharest, 1847); The catalogue of the Socec Bookstore arranged in alphabetical order according to the names of the authors (Bucharest, 1868); Catalogue of the Alcalay Bookstore and Publishing House (Bucharest, 1914) [12, 65–82].

We identified these catalogues as being the first forms of the reporting bibliography, which over time became an important source of information for retrospective bibliographies. At the same time, they meet the characteristics of bibliographies: they indicate the published books, their descriptions fall within methodological norms; they adopt criteria for organisation of the publications that are used even today, respectively alphabetical, systematic, and chronological.

Printing houses' catalogues. Among the similarities between the printing houses' catalogues and the bibliographies, we can enumerate the information about the book production,

the exhaustiveness of the printed works in different fields, the critical comments and assessment of the significance for the works.

The catalogue of books in Eliad's printing house (1847) [12, 64] reveals both the books that were and will be printed, with a detailed description of author, title, pages and price.

The first Romanian bibliographic works Among the first Romanian bibliographic works, we can mention:

- *Dissertation about the Romanian printing houses in Transilvania and the neighbouring countries, from their beginning to our times* (*Disertație despre tipografiile românești în Transilvania și învecinatele țări de la începutul lor până în vremurile noastre*) (Sibiu, Georgie de Clozius Printing House, 1838, 10 pages + 100 p.) The work belongs to Vasile Popp (1789–1842), “who creates the first sketch of the general bibliography of the Romanian culture [...] which later contributed to the development of the real bibliographies.”
- *Romanian bibliographic annals. Chronological repertoire 1550–1865* (*Anale bibliografice române. Repertoriu cronologic 1550–1865*) (Bucharest, Imprimeria Statului, 1865, 120 p.) and the second edition: *Romanian chronological bibliography 1550–1873* (*Bibliografia cronologică română*) (Bucharest, Imprimeria Statului, 1873, XX + 164 p.), made by Dimitrie Iarcu (1817–1879), with the purpose of signalling and capitalizing the Romanian book production from 1550 till 1873, in a bibliographic work containing 3.000 titles, organized chronologically and systematized within ten thematic groups.
- *Three years of Romanian literature. Bibliographic index of books published in Romania or by Romanians in 1874, 1875 and 1876, preceded by biographical sketches of Romanian writers in Macedonia* (*Trei ani din literatura română. Indice bibliografic al cărților publicate românește în România sau de români în anii 1874, 1875 și 1876, precedat de schițele biografice ale literaților români din Macedonia*) (Bucharest, New Printing House of Romanian Laboratories, 1877, 32 p.) and revised edition: *Six years of Romanian literature. General catalogue of Romanian books published in the Country or Abroad from January 1, 1874 to the last, July 1879* (*Șase ani de Literatură Română. Catalog general de cărțile române publicate în Țară sau Străinătate de la 1 ianuarie 1874 până la ultima, iulie 1879*) (Bucharest, 1879, 76 p.), prepared by Gheorghe Popescu. These are marking the creation of signalitic, selective and recommendation bibliographies on the Romanian literature.
- *The bibliography of Romanian periodicals and those published in foreign languages in Romania or by Romanians abroad: 1817–1887* (*Bibliografia publicațiilor periodice românești și a celor publicate în limbi străine în România sau de români în străinătate: 1817–1887*) (Bucharest, 1889, 161 p.), compiled by Alexandru Pop, is a bibliography of Romanian periodicals.

We can see that the Romanian bibliographies were established and progressed through the contributions of scholars who, through thorough research, have identified bibliographic information relevant for the history of culture and civilization, addressing almost all methodologies for creation of bibliographic works, of course, with the shortcomings existing at that time.

International cooperation in the field of bibliography. In 1895, the International Institute of Bibliography was established in Brussels, at the initiative of the Belgian lawyers Paul Otlet (1868–1944) and Henri Lafontaine (1854–1943), with the aim of writing a repertoire on files, about everything that was printed in the 15th century, on all subjects and in all countries, bibliography which was tailored to use the Dewey classification. At that time, standards for bibliographic description were not yet developed, and there were no international standards in place to standardize bibliographic descriptions and classification principles.

Despite this impediment, the limited possibilities of communication and the lack of evidence of international publications, although it seemed utopian, the plan materialized by sum-

ming up between 1895–1900 approximate 17,000,000 files at the International Institute of Bibliography.

The idea of universal bibliography was followed in the Romanian space by Alexandru Sadi Ionescu (1873–1926). He was a librarian at the Library of the Romanian Academy and he collaborated with Paul Otlet and Henri Lafontaine, producing the first Romanian translation of the universal decimal tables as well as several bibliographies and contributions to the Universal Bibliographic Repertory, being an active collaborator to this great bibliographic work.

Romanian Academy and the bibliography. The Romanian Academy marked a fundamental milestone in the evolution of bibliographies, because it constituted their scientific level and established the coordinates of an axiological framework of Romanian bibliographies. The bibliography was therefore approached from a double perspective: theoretical – by designing a scientific plan and pragmatic – by operationalizing specific methods and techniques.

The Library of the Romanian Academy was founded on August 6, 1867, one year after the establishment of the Romanian Academic Society. From the very beginning, it had the mission to collect and preserve in its collections the national deposit of manuscripts and prints illustrating the Romanian history and culture. At that moment in time, they were considering “the transformation in time of the library into a powerful scientific documentation centre for all those called to study the past and the present life of the Romanian people”. The Library of the Romanian Academy is an encyclopaedic library, modelled on the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, but the inventory of all Romanian manuscripts and prints was made using the Romanian Academy’s own criteria, namely: ethnic, language and territorial. The Library of the Romanian Academy has been the beneficiary of the Law on Legal Deposit since 1885, and since 1901 it has received the status of a national library. Since 1954 it has had the status of a research centre, a quality which was re-certified in 2007 [23].

Currently, the library’s patrimony encompasses approximately 14 million library units, being one of the oldest, largest and most valuable libraries in our country. In 2017, the Library of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest celebrated 150 years of existence [22, 29–33; 24].

As stipulated in Ioan Bianu’s extensive plan, developed and approved in 1895, the Library of the Romanian Academy has the national assignment, recognized by law, to elaborate the Romanian Retrospective Bibliography. This work is intended to be exhaustive, by including as much as possible the entire heritage of Romanian printing from 1919–1952, with reference to books, and it continues and complements the national plan with the Old Romanian Bibliography (*Bibliografia românească veche*) (1508–1830) and the Modern Romanian Bibliography (*Bibliografia românească modernă*) (1831–1918), the three creating a large work, fundamental for the culture of the Romanian people.

The retrospective national bibliography represents a real treasure of the national printed patrimony. Its beginning date is marked by the publication in our country of the first book – The Liturgy of Macarie (*Liturghierul lui Macarie*) 1508 and ends with the year 1952, after this date, the National Library of Romania starting to compile the current National Bibliography [17].

Ioan Bianu’s Plan of the bibliography of the national culture. In 1895, the Romanian Academy elaborated the Plan of the Romanian Culture’s General Bibliography, this period being considered the age of the great bibliographers, among which we can mention: Ioan Bianu (1856–1935), Nerva Hodoş (1869–1913), Alexandru Sadi-Ionescu (1873–1926). The Library of the Academy was owning in 1891 a total of 40,436 volumes, due to the advantages of the Law of legal deposit and the numerous donations, most of the books referring to the old Romanian culture. However, in order to become useful for the researchers, the books had to be organized,

and at that time, the “foreign models” were the only offering the standards of general bibliographies [25, 75].

From the point of view of the periods of development of the political and cultural life of the Romanian people, it was decided that the national bibliography should be divided into:

- the retrospective national bibliography including: *Old Romanian bibliography (Bibliografia Românească Veche)*: 1508–1830]; *Modern Romanian bibliography (Bibliografia Românească Modernă)*: 1831–1918; *Contemporary Romanian bibliography (Bibliografia Românească Contemporană)*: 1919–1952;
- the current national bibliography, which is represented by the *Romanian National Bibliography* from 1953 until today.

From the point of view of the responsibilities in the elaboration of these works, the retrospective National Bibliography is developed by the Library of the Romanian Academy and for the current national bibliography the National Library of Romania is in charge.

The personality who created the bibliological school of the Romanian Academy and laid the foundations for a true scientific bibliographic movement, was the philologist Ioan Bianu (1856–1935), who led the Library of the Romanian Academy between 1884–1935. A graduate of the Faculty of Letters in Bucharest, he worked first as a custodian at the Central Library of the University, while he was still a student, then in 1879 he was promoted by Alexandru Odobescu (1834–1895) at the Academic Society in the position of “librarian writer” [6, 265]. He dedicated his entire existence to books and the rigors imposed by the consciousness of a job well done, remaining faithful to the Library of the Academy, which he served for 53 years. Within the Romanian Academy, he fulfilled the several functions during his career: full member (1902), secretary (1927) and president during 1929–1932 [13; 14].

In 1894, at the request of the Romanian Academy, Ioan Bianu elaborated the “Plan of the national bibliography”. It was presented for approval in the assembly of the Romanian Academy on February 28, 1895. The plan of the general bibliography of Romanian culture, prepared and proposed by Ioan Bianu recommended the method consisting in the bibliography of the collection in the national library and supplementing it with descriptions of publications in other libraries. At that time, the Library of the Romanian Academy being the holder of the vast majority of the national fund of publications, was the only institution that could have accomplished this task [1, 56].

Bianu’s plan regarding the National Bibliography of the Romanian book [1, 227], divided this work in several periods, as follows:

Old Romanian Bibliography (Bibliografia românească veche) – was developed by Ioan Bianu and Nerva Hodoş in 4 volumes and contains books published in the country or abroad, provided they are written in Romanian or by Romanians in other languages, during 1508–1830 [2–5].

This complex work, which has great scientific importance, is completed with numerous historical-literary notes, references, information and observations on the existence of copies in the country, with special graphic reproductions of fragments from the texts of the processed bibliographic works, dedications, prefaces, epilogues, title pages and illustrations. The works are described chronologically, and at the end of each volume, they are placed in an alphabetical index¹.

Modern Romanian Bibliography (Bibliografia Românească Modernă) – is the chronological continuation of the Old Romanian Bibliography and includes all books printed on Ro-

1 See, for ex.: [18].

manian territory, all books in Romanian, regardless of author and place of publication and all books of Romanian authors, regardless of language and place published in the period 1831–1918 [7–10].

The bibliography is made according to ISBD(M) norms, mainly based on the book fund of the Academy Library and is structured alphabetically, by author and titles².

Retrospective Romanian Bibliography (Bibliografia Românească Retrospectivă) – represents the chronological continuation of the Modern Romanian Bibliography and includes all books printed on Romanian territory, by Romanian authors, all books in Romanian, regardless of author and place of publication and all books by Romanian authors, regardless of language and the place where they appeared, between 1919–1952.

This work is currently ongoing, being processed according to UNIMARC norms (Universal MARC format) and can be accessed through the online catalogue of the Library of the Romanian Academy (OPAC) in the BIB database, part of the general RAL database, at: http://aleph23.biblacad.ro:8991/F?func=find-b-o&local_base=bib. The registration of bibliographic descriptions is made in the computerized system Aleph 500, the access to information being much easier, no longer existing barriers of time and space. At present, the following letters have been already systematized: A, B, C, D, E, K.

Both the Old Romanian Bibliography and the Modern Romanian Bibliography are also available online, through the SIMBNR (Sistem Integrat pentru Managementul Bibliografiei Naționale Retrospective) application (Integrated System for the Management of the National Retrospective Bibliography), which ensures integrated access to digital copies of documents and can be consulted at: https://biblacad.ro/eng_brc.html [21].

The application is an extremely useful bibliographic tool in finding information; it uses database systems and multimedia techniques, the requested bibliographic information being found through a search engine and a graphical interface. In the case of the *Modern Romanian Bibliography*, the associated database contains textual information, unlike the *Old Romanian Bibliography*, to which the access is made through image files [18].

Conclusions. The bibliography transmits information from the past and the present, towards the future, establishes links between different cultures, realizes a multidisciplinary dialogue and gives added value to the information by transforming it into knowledge.

By configuring the framework for development of the bibliographies at a scientific level the Romanian Academy marked a fundamental milestone in their evolution.

After reviewing the course of Romanian bibliographies over time, starting from the Middle Ages and until today, by analysing their genesis and evolution, we can see that the first formats of bibliographies were simple lists of books, then catalogues of libraries, printing houses and bookstores, while in the medieval era the collections of scholars and the libraries of monasteries played an important role. The bibliography as tool thus becomes a fundamental scientific work for the history and culture of a nation, and today, the bibliographies can be consulted through databases, the access to information being made much easier, with no barriers of time and space.

The Library of the Romanian Academy has taken the responsibility of elaborating this fundamental work of retrospective research of the Romanian culture heritage and remains the privileged place where are gathered the resources that define the field of excellence of the Romanian creativity.

² See, for ex.: [20].

The function of elaboration and editing of the National Retrospective Bibliography is stipulated in the Law on Libraries (Law no. 334/3002, art. 16, point b), this representing one of the aspects that gives the Library of the Romanian Academy the status of national library.

The National Retrospective Bibliography has contributed and continues to contribute fundamentally to the definition of the national and cultural identity of the Romanian nation, reflecting both the reality of political, social, cultural, economic life and the contribution of Romanian culture to the universal cultural heritage expression of the Romanian cultural heritage.

LITERATURE

1. BAICULESCU, George. *Biblioteca Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1867–1967: cartea centenarului*. București: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1968. 327 p.
2. BIANU, Ioan, HODOȘ, Nerva. *Bibliografia românească veche*. București: Stabilementul grafic J. V. Socec, 1903. T. 1, 1508–1716. 571 p.
3. BIANU, Ioan, HODOȘ, Nerva. *Bibliografia românească veche*. București: Socec, 1910. T. 2, 1718–1808. 571 p.
4. BIANU, Ioan, HODOȘ, Nerva, SIMONESCU, Dan. *Bibliografia românească veche*. București: Socec, 1912–1936. T. 3, fasc. 1–8, 1809–1830. 777 p.
5. BIANU, Ioan, SIMONESCU, Dan. *Adăogiri și îndreptări*. București: Socec, 1944. T. 4. 375 p.
6. BIANU, Ioan. Visuri, gânduri și planuri: dinaintea cu o jumătate de secol pentru organizarea bibliotecilor, arhivelor și muzeelor țării. *Revista arhivelor*, 1928–1929, nr. 5, p. 265–268.
7. *Bibliografia românească modernă (1831–1918)*. București: Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1984. Vol. 1, A–C. XXXI, 910 p.
8. *Bibliografia românească modernă (1831–1918)*. București: Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1986. Vol. 2, D–K. XXIV, 894 p.
9. *Bibliografia românească modernă (1831–1918)*. București: Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1989. Vol. 3, L–Q. XXIII, 1111 p. ISBN 973-29-0020-2.
10. *Bibliografia românească modernă (1831–1918)*. București: Editura Academiei Române, 1996. Vol. 4, R–Z. XXI, 871 p. ISBN 973-27-0501-9.
11. DIMA-DRĂGAN, Corneliu. *Ex libris: bibliologie și bibliofilie*. București: Litera, 1973. 398 p.
12. GEORGESCU-TISTU, Nicolae. *Bibliografia literară română*. București: Imprimeriile Naționale, 1932. 254 p.
13. *Ioan Bianu* [interactive] [accessed on 2020-02-20]. Available online: https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ioan_Bianu.
14. *Ioan Bianu* [interactive] [accessed on 2021-05-07]. Available online: http://enciclopediaromaniei.ro/wiki/Ioan_Bianu.
15. IORGA, Nicolae. *Istoria românilor*. București: Tipografia Datina Românească, 1938. Vol. 6, Monarhii. 518 p.
16. IORGA, Nicolae. Vechile biblioteci românești sau ce se cetia odinioară în țările noastre. *Floarea darurilor*, 1907, nr. 1, p. 65–82.
17. *Liturghierul lui Macarie* [interactive] [accessed on 2021-04-16]. Available online: [https://biblacad.ro/bnr/brypag.php?vidT=1&&cod=BRV%20-%20Vol.%20I&&perioada=1508-1716&&titlu=Liturghier%20\(Macarie\)&&val=1&&loc=T%C3%A2rgovi%C5%9Fte%20\(?\)&&primulAn=1508&&limba=slavone%C5%9Fte&&nr=1&&page=0&&limit=20](https://biblacad.ro/bnr/brypag.php?vidT=1&&cod=BRV%20-%20Vol.%20I&&perioada=1508-1716&&titlu=Liturghier%20(Macarie)&&val=1&&loc=T%C3%A2rgovi%C5%9Fte%20(?)&&primulAn=1508&&limba=slavone%C5%9Fte&&nr=1&&page=0&&limit=20).
18. *Modern Romanian Bibliography* [interactive] [accessed on 2021-04-15]. Available online: <https://biblacad.ro/bnr/brm.php>.
19. *Modern Romanian Bibliography* – text file [interactive] [accessed on 2021-04-16]. Available online: <https://biblacad.ro/bnr/brmautori.php?aut=c&page=2340&&limit=20>.
20. NICULESCU, Zenovia. *Universul bibliografic: sisteme și structuri compoziționale*. București: Editura Universității București, 2017. 534 p. ISBN 978-606-16-0854-6.

21. *Old Romanian Bibliography* [interactive] [accessed on 2021-04-15]. Available online: <https://biblacad.ro/bnr/brv.php>.
22. PETRE, Maria Carmen Nadia. Biblioteca Academiei Române – scurt istoric. *Academica*, 2017, nr. 9, p. 29–33. ISSN 1220-5737.
23. *Romanian Academy Library* [interactive] [accessed on 2021-04-15]. Available online: <https://biblacad.ro/prezgen-ro.html>.
24. *Romanian Academy Library* [interactive] [accessed on 2021-04-15]. Available online: <https://biblacad.ro/>.
25. THEODORESCU, Barbu. *Istoria bibliografiei române*. București: Biblioteca Documentară, 1945. 272 p.

MARIA CARMEN NADIA PETRE

Rumunijos akademijos biblioteka, Bukareštas

Nacionalinė retrospektyvioji bibliografija – Rumunijos kultūros paveldo atspindys

Santrauka

Straipsnyje pristatoma trumpa Rumunijos knygos Nacionalinės retrospektyviosios bibliografijos istorija, išryškinant jos vaidmenį ir raidą nuo atsiradimo iki šių dienų. Nagrinėjamas Nacionalinės retrospektyviosios bibliografijos steigimas – šis esminis Rumunijos kultūrai darbas buvo patvirtintas 1895 m. Rumunijos akademijos kaip Ioano Bianu parengto bibliografijos plano dalis. Detaliau pristatomas Bianu planas, aptariant jame išskirtus laikotarpius: Senoji Rumunijos bibliografija (1508–1830), Modernioji Rumunijos bibliografija (1831–1918) ir Retrospektyvioji Rumunijos bibliografija (1919–1952). Taip pat glaustai pristatoma Ioano Bianu veikla.

Nacionalinė retrospektyvioji bibliografija – tai Rumunijos kultūros paveldo atspindys. Ji vaidina svarbų vaidmenį, atliekant istorinę misiją: spausdintu žodžiu ji įdiegė rumunų sąmonei mintį įgyvendinti didžiausią 1918 m. gruodžio 1 d. tikslą – sujungti Transilvaniją, Besarabiją ir Bukoviną su Rumunijos valstybe.

Esminiai žodžiai: nacionalinė bibliografija; retrospektyvioji bibliografija; modernioji bibliografija; rumunų bibliografija; Rumunijos akademijos biblioteka; kultūros paveldas.

Įteikta 2021 m. birželį