

MARIANA LUCIA NESFANTU

The Romanian National Library Centre for Pathology and Restoration of Documents – Perspectives and Development Needs

Abstract

The National Centre for Pathology and Restoration of Documents (NCPRD) was founded in 2009, with the mission to coordinate document-related preservation, conservation and restoration nationwide.

The Romanian National Library NCPRD has legal responsibility for the following tasks:

- preparation and issuance of the methodologies and regulations for preservation and restoration activities, for the restoration laboratories operating in the country and for expert assistance activities in accordance with national and international rules;
- training and advanced training of the restorers from the National Information and Documentation System in Romania;
- development and implementation of the program of preservation and conservation/restoration of documents from the National Library's heritage;
- the restoration of heritage documents (old books and bibliophile, manuscripts, maps, prints etc.);
- tracking and analyzing the implementation of the library indicators and procedures for specific activities

Starting from the necessity for preservation and restoration of documents and of the legal framework in which the NCPRD of the Romanian National Library operates, the author outlines the development prospects of the NCPRD, for example:

- initiation of projects with national coverage and identification of national and European cooperation partnerships;

- realisation of a study of the level of the conservation activities throughout the libraries of the national network;
- preparation of a program to identify the valuable collections in libraries and other institutions in the country and to assess their conservation needs;
- design and implementation of a preservation program for documents in the National Library of Romania and expanding the program to the national level;
- initiating or participating in research projects which have as objectives:
 - modern techniques of investigating documents and their material components;
 - mechanisms of gradual deterioration over time of some component materials, cleaning methods, new restoration techniques, etc.;
- gain knowledge useful in the restoration of special documents (photographs, parchment, tracing paper, fabric, etc.) and in the application of spectacular restoration techniques (e.g. paper splitting);
- construction of a computerized database that provides attractive and easy accessibility of information/documentation at all levels;
- inform and raise the awareness of the public user on the importance of the activities of preservation/restoration;
- identify financial resources and funding sources.

The NCPRD will have to consider for the future the configuration of an increased user-awareness program on the conservation and restoration of heritage documents, which could include very interesting and useful structural components.

The publication especially stresses the needs for research in training – models throughout the text.