

Book Review

Tratat de biblioteconomie [Library Science Treatise]

Tratat de biblioteconomie. Coord. gen.: Mircea Regneală. București: Asociația Bibliotecarilor din România, 2013-2017. ISBN 978-606-93535-0-9

Vol. 1: *Biblioteconomie generală* [Fundamentals of Library Science]. Coord.: Mircea Regneală. 2013. 473 p.

Vol. 2. *Managementul colecțiilor și serviciilor de bibliotecă* [Management of Library Collections and Services]. Coord.: Mircea Regneală. Part. 1: 2014. 621 p.; Part 2: 2016, 587 p.

Vol. 3. *Direcții moderne în biblioteconomia contemporană* [Modern Trends in Contemporary Library Science]. Coord: Mircea Regneală, Ionel Enache. 2017. 582 p.

The works of synthesis are essential for a field of activity in a continuous change, as the library science of today. Some years ago, professor Mircea Regneală started to coordinate the elaboration of *Tratat de biblioteconomie* (Library Science Treatise), edited under the care of the Romanian Library Association. The three volumes of the *Treatise* were published between 2013 and 2017. It is for the first time in the Romanian LIS literature when such an amount of specialized information is brought together, in a single source: this is the first library science treatise published in our country, therefore it has become shortly a reference for all Romanian librarians and information science specialists. It is also worth mentioning this is not a definitive edition, meaning this work will continue to be improved.

In the *Foreword* of the first volume, Mircea Regneală emphasizes the idea that elaborating such a fundamental work was a matter of course, after more than twenty years of continuous development of Romanian library science. The *Treatise* involved an important number of authors with expertise in the field. The editor underlines that library science could not be studied without taking into consideration the emergence of writing and books that stimulated the foundation of libraries. Librarians as professionals were trained rather late, in the middle of the 19th century. Before that moment, people who worked in libraries were either men of letters or had other professions. In this perspective, the first volume is divided in three parts. Chapter 1 is a compendium about writing and the history of books and libraries worldwide and in the country. The second chapter presents general notions connected with library science and its development, personalities in the field, and international organizations. In the last chapter, the evolution of Romanian library science from the beginning to the end of World War II, during the communist era (from the point of view of library-related legislation) and the post-communist era (legislation, education, LIS literature, library associations) is covered.

Each section of the work is followed by a bibliography including important titles of books and articles used and recommended by authors. Library science terminology is explained in detail, so the *Treatise* is useful for a large category of librarians, either at the beginning of their career or in need of up-to-date information. There are a lot of examples of good practice worldwide,

illustrating fundamental changes in the field. One can better understand the modern librarian's role in empowering users to find and select information, especially in the electronic environment. There are also presented in detail some important works, published starting with the end of the 19th century, underlining the idea of development in mentalities connected to libraries and library science.

The first part of the second volume was published in 2014. The main topics here are cataloguing (the most consistent chapter), the role of modern libraries, with emphasis on their mission in the contemporary society, library automation, as the most important change in the middle of the 20th century, and the contemporary collection development process, including all types of documents, either traditional or modern. International up-to-date standards are discussed, mentioning in detail all operating procedures.

In the second part of the second volume (2016), topics as document processing, bibliographic control standards, catalogue systems in different types of libraries, preservation and restoration, circulation department, information products and services, library users, evaluation and statistics in the library are approached.

The third volume of the *Treatise*, recently published, deals with the subjects as library management, information and documentation policies, marketing, library services, means of promoting libraries, digital library, library 2.0, bibliometrics and scientometrics.

All three volumes of the *Treatise* form a very consistent information source, useful in all types of libraries. Thus, Romanian Library Association made a praiseworthy endeavour in order to provide our LIS professionals with up-to-date information helping them to gain new knowledge and to improve their activities.

Corina Apostoleanu