

**Information Sources in Librarianship, held by the “Lucian Blaga”
Central University Library, Cluj : a Special Bibliography
Author’s View**

*Ana Maria Căpălneanu
“Lucian Blaga” Central University Library*

Information professionals are increasingly recognising that information only has significant value when it is being used and its intrinsic value is only turned to the best account through circulation. It is also generally accepted that progress only occurs within an advanced information background, regardless of the field of activity or domain. Librarianship is likewise dependent on the information consistency, available for library specialists, and its thorough use.

Completely recognizing these assertions, and motivated by a strong need of information in librarianship, I have turned to the collections of “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, Cluj - my working place - to fulfil my intentions. The number of the identified monographic resources in librarianship and information science was surprisingly high and I considered that all those involved in this field - students, professors, librarians - should benefit by them. The selective subject bibliography in librarianship and information science - the result of five years of research - illustrates my intention to provide access for the public to the monographic resources on librarianship and information science, owned by the C.U.L., Cluj, resources that, in my opinion, are not known and used enough.

To accomplish such a research project, I “have dug” for the literature in this field available in the C.U.L. collections, and retrieved hundreds of volumes connected, one way or another, to my subject interest. After having operated, in the first level of selection, with subject and chronological criteria, the number of the volumes identified was very high. Afterwards, I have narrowed the research area - with the book in hand - by eliminating all the volumes that did not fit in the conception and inner structure of the bibliography. I had thus the privilege to directly investigate a very large number of works dealing with issues of librarianship, information science and other related domains, many of them highly valuable but, unfortunately, completely or almost completely unknown. It was an interesting and profitable experience, concerning not only the remarkable extension of the librarianship resources owned by

C.U.L. Cluj, but also the way in which they have been acquired for our collections.

Indeed, in our present economic situation, the financial resources available for collection development policy of the libraries are very scarce. At the same time, the editorial production in the field of librarianship and information science, on a national scale, is rather limited. As a consequence, the relation acquisitions/exchange and donations is highly unbalanced. The great majority of the identified titles have been either donated by some foreign information institutions or personalities, or sent to our library within the publication exchange relationship. Thus, the German books selected and included in the bibliography were donated by Mrs. Elisabeth Simon from the Deutsche Bibliotheksinstitut, Berlin, between 1999-2000 (works edited in the well-known series DBI-Materialien, or recently, EDBI-Materialien). Actually, these publications, offered to the public in free access on open shelves, are referred to as “the German donation”. At the same time, an important number of the English books come from British public and academic libraries (Perth and Kinross County Library – as a single example; many of them are still carrying a special cardboard pocket on the second cover or on the guard page, with the lending card of the book at the initial library). Many other titles are added to the librarianship collection, in exchange for our publications sent within the book exchange relationship. Under the present circumstances, the donations and book exchange seem to continue to function as an important and indispensable means of library collection development.

The students of librarianship of the “Babeş-Bolyai” University, Cluj, and the academic staff involved in teaching were identified as the first beneficiaries category of this information tool. The materials included in the bibliography consist of important information sources for all those who are studying to become information professionals. The selected documents were organized, within the bibliography, in close connection with the academic curricula. I consider that the basic principles and fundamental concepts of librarianship, library management, information processing and retrieval, automation of library functions, information systems and networks, Internet, etc., should be studied on the theoretical basis found in the monographic sources available within the university library, in addition to all the other sources, of different types (course notes, serial articles, synthesis, gray literature, etc.) or of different format (electronic documents, Internet, etc.). The aim of this bibliography is to make the library books in the C.U.L. collections

available in the most profitable way, to offer consistent bibliographic data so that they could be identified and retrieved as quickly and easily as possible.

Likewise, I expect that our colleague-librarians, involved in the process of continuing education or simply interested in keeping up with the progress in their field, will also benefit by the information sources indicated in the present bibliography.

The selection criteria used refer to the type of documents, the language and editing chronology. I processed primary monographic documents, such as anthologies, manuals, handbooks and guides, proceedings of different scientific manifestations, etc. published since the seventh decade up to the present, and owned by the "Lucian Blaga" C.U.L. I included older books on basic, fundamental aspects of librarianship, i.e. role and functions of libraries in a historical, social, and cultural background, user categories and their information needs, documents presenting library activities, library information services, etc., considering that the information they offer are perennial. Instead, I selected only recent titles in library automation, information technology, digital libraries and online information services, electronic networks and networking, etc.

A special section of the bibliography is dedicated to secondary documents on librarianship and information science, reference materials, such as: encyclopedias, lexicons, dictionaries, special bibliographies, catalogs, etc.

Concerning the language of the documents, I selected books in world wide used languages: English, French, German, Italian and Russian. A special attention was paid to Romanian, Hungarian and German – the three teaching languages of librarianship and information science at the "Babeş-Bolyai" University. To identify the titles of interest, I searched the traditional catalogs (systematic and alphabetic) and the library OPAC.

The bibliographic materials found to meet the selection criteria, were sorted in seven main classes: general problems and connected aspects; library management; library services and techniques; information management and bibliographic tools; reading; academic formation, staff training and continuing education; professional cooperation and library associations. The seven main classes were subdivided in accordance to the narrower domains pertaining to each of them.

Within each subdivision, the references were alphabetically arranged, by authors and titles. After the bibliographic data, each description includes the contents table of the book, as additional information with analytical value, similar to the method used in the secondary serials of the “contents review” type. When the title lists were too large and dense, I operated a selection of the chapter titles, keeping only the most suggestive ones. A special mention was made when the critical notes and bibliographical indexes were significantly consistent, since they represent data on additional information sources in the field.

The bibliographic descriptions were completed with the call numbers of the items. The absence of this information indicates the fact that the book is still being processed and is not yet circulating. The legal deposit materials were also included, despite their special, restricted circulation policy.

To offer as many access points as possible to the information within the bibliography, each bibliographic reference is accompanied by manifold descriptors, applied in accordance with the multiple aspects identified in the processed book. A similar role is assumed by the three alphabetic indexes, i.e. the author, subject and geographic ones, which complete the present bibliography. To simplify the use of the author index, I eliminated the author functions, such as ed., red., red. resp., etc., which can be found in the main descriptions within the bibliography.

In compiling this information tool, I used the ProCite bibliographic software and the whole work stands for the printed version of the *LIS* database that can be accessed online at the site of “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library. As this bibliography was started in earlier versions of ProCite, not all the diacritics could be observed in Romanian and, partially, in Hungarian. I deeply regret this inconvenience, but I believe the information displayed can still be accessed despite these circumstances.

The *LIS* database is an open database and will be completed in time with new entries. The view on the Romanian and foreign editorial contributions covering library and information science, held by Romanian library collections, will be, consequently, improved. I hope this bibliographic database and its printed version will be of assistance to the students, teaching staff and librarians, in their efforts to study, master and value the fundamentals of librarianship and to keep up with the latest developments in the field of information.