Digitization and Online Communication of Regional Cultural Content in Harghita County Library Romania

Kelemen Katalin
Librarian
Kájoni János Library of Harghita County, Romania

06 06 2018 / 2018. 05.16
General aspects, according to a study accomplished in 2007 by the **National Library of Romania**:

- The information infrastructure and the level of digitization depends on the budget of each library and on the institutional management. Most county libraries use different integrated library software.

- There are a reduced number of IT specialists in the libraries.

- There are disparities between libraries in terms of information and organization, financial, material and human resources.

- There are several projects concerning the digitization and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation in different institutions – in the public libraries and the libraries from the educational system too.
At national level in 2008 the Ministry of Culture and Cults initiated a public policy for digitization and preservation of the cultural heritage.

The National Library of Romania is involved in the definition and substantiation of this public policy, and the implementation of the Digital Library of Romania in compliance with the recommendations of the European Commission.

„The constitution of the Digital Library of Romania as component of the European Digital Library aims the preservation of the national cultural heritage existing in the Romanian National Library System.”

(Source: Elena Târziman: Digitization and online communication of library documents, european and national perspectives)

The website of the National Library of Romania
http://www.bibnat.ro/Biblioteca-Digitala-s89-ro.htm
The projects of the National Library of Romania:

The National Digital Library

The National Library of Romania has made the steps for the integration its collections in The European Digital Library and the implementation of the specific standards.

Also The National Library of Romania has adopted all the requested standards of interoperability, which are compatible with The European Digital Library (EDL).

The National Digital Library comprises the digital collections created by the digitization of documents in the special collections of the National Library of Romania, organized by themes or by events.
The National Digital Library currently includes several collections, for examples:

The historical archive, which totals 2,379 resources, historical documents.

The collections of the Batthyaneum Branch: 265 documents, comprising manuscripts and incunabula;

The Batthyaneum Library from Alba Iulia was founded at the end of the 18th century. The library is famous all over the world for its manuscripts, rare books and the sacred art collection.
The project “Medievalia – fundamental texts of medieval Romanian culture”

The project aims to digitize 60 manuscript volumes regarding the old Romanian literature from the XV – XVIII centuries.
The digital library of the “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library Cluj
http://dspace.bcucluj.ro/

The digital library of the “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library from Cluj-Napoca comprises books, manuscripts, serial publications and iconographic material held in its collections.

In the digital library are selected publications that are relevant for the history of Cluj-Napoca and Transylvania.
The Kájoni János Library of Harghita County is the greatest public Library of Harghita County, Romania.

The city of Miercurea Ciuc is the county town of Harghita County. Harghita County is situated in the central area of Romania, it lies in the region called Székely Land/Seklerland, a Hungarian-speaking ethno-cultural region, in eastern Transylvania (center of Romania). It is populated in majority by 300 thousand Hungarian-speaking people (named Seklers).

The Kájoni János Library of Harghita County is maintained by the Harghita County Council. The institution aims to be a constant part of the everyday life of the local community by organizing a variety of programs and workshops.
The facilities of the library are based on the collections of **190,000** items, providing both physical and digital access (books, periodicals, audiovisual, electronic and other special documents).

Its main purpose is to preserve the local, regional cultural values, the cultural heritage and to make these values available for a large public.

According to the official data the town **Miercurea Ciuc has 38966 inhabitants, 82% Hungarians, 17 % Romanians**. The collections of the library mirrors the inhabitants’ ethnic division.
Since 2009 the Kájoni János Library has initiated several projects.

These projects aim the developing of the **online services**.

The website of the library:  
http://konyvtar.hargitamegye.ro/hu
The library holds a separate area for special collections and publications, particularly valuable items and publications concerning local history and knowledge, some of them regarded as rarities.

**The values of the local knowledge collection:**

- The issues published by the local printing houses working in Seklerland before 1945, the works of local authors.
- The issues printed in a local printing house founded by Kájoni János /Joannes Kajoni / in 1675
- Manuscripts written in Seklerland or dealing with this region.
Regional-local library collections, preservation of the regional cultural heritage

By the digitization of printed materials which are considered precious from the point of view of regional history the library can help the regional researches as well as the informations about the area. In the preservation of local cultural heritage digitization gets an important role. It can assure the protection of original, damaged documents.

The primarily digitalized documents of the collections are:

The documents concerning Transylvania and Seklerland, printed in the 18-19th centuries (local monographs, historical and historicultural works), 20th century works in the case of which the copyright has already expired.
Most of the documents in the collections of the Kájoni János Library of Harghita county which can be digitized are written in Hungarian.
The library is in partnership with the National Széchényi Library from Budapest, Hungary.

The process of digitizing library documents has begun in 2009, in the frame of a project called The Digital Memory of Székelyföld /Seklerland/, founded by the Szülőföld Alap (Hungary).
The digitized documents from the library collections are accessibles on the website of the library [www.konyvtar.hargitamegye.ro](http://www.konyvtar.hargitamegye.ro) on the ELECTRONIC LIBRARY.

List of digital items on the website of the Hungarian Electronic Library:
The digitized documents from the collections of the library are accessible online on the **National Széchényi Library website**, on the following links:

**The Hungarian Electronic Library**

Magyar Elektronikus Könyvtár  
[http://mek.oszk.hu/](http://mek.oszk.hu/)

**The Electronic Periodicals Archive & Database (EPA)** - another online database of the Hungarian Electronic Library (MEK)  
[http://epa.oszk.hu/](http://epa.oszk.hu/)
The interface of a digital document in the Hunarian Electronic Library from the digital collections of the library:
Totally digitalized: 445 items/books, more than 74.000 pages.

**Online accessible documents**
on the **Hungarian Electronic Library**: 316 items
on the **Electronic Periodicals Archive & Database (EPA)**: 14 titles, 78 volumes (16,775 pages).
Local-regional periodicals from the 1880-1945 period.

**The Library of the Haáz Rezső Museum, Odorhei**, Harghita County has also digital library collections, accessibles on the Hungarian Electronic Library: actually 464 items.
Hungary’s national library, the National Széchényi Library co-operates with the Europeana and endeavours to integrate its digital collections in the European Digital Library (EDL). Thanks to this collaboration the actually digitized 240 documents of the Kájoni János Library can be reached in the EDL collections.
The technical background of the digitizing activity:

The library obtained the necessary technical equipment thanks to a project in 2009.  
(Scanner: Plustek OptiBook 3600, OCR software: ABBYY Fine Reader 10)

The Harghita County Council assured the financial support to get a high-quality scanner in December 2017. 
Book Eye 4 V2 Professional scanner suitable for digitization projects that require high quality.
Professional trainings in the field of digitization in library:

In 2010 the specialists of the National Széchényi Library Institution held instruction in the Kájoni János County Library, 12 Hungarian librarians from Romania got acquainted with the bases of digitalization.
Online communication of local-regional knowledge content - project of the Harghita County Library

Besides the digitization of collections representing values of local-regional knowledge the library is also interested in assuring the online service of local-regional contents.
Database of local-regional knowledge content of Harghita County
The dictionary entries of the database present the cultural heritage of the area and its settlements, the built heritage, the monuments, the ethnography, the traditions, its cultural history, its touristic and natural values.

http://helyismeret.konyvtar.hargitamegye.ro/
Database of personalities from Hargita county – informations concerning biographical, bibliographical data, photos, portraits.

http://szemelyisegek.konyvtar.hargitamegye.ro/
Building the local-regional database is a long process.

The aim of the online databases is to help the local researches by the information service. Besides this it completes the educational and teaching activity of schools.

The programs organized by the library/in the library serve the discovery of the cultural and natural values of the region.
In 2018 the library published a set of bookmarks presenting the short biography and the portrait of the Outstanding Personalities of Harghita County. The aim was the popularization of the databases. The QR code on the bookmarks makes available the wanted information by means of smart-phone too.
Thank you for your attention!

Kelemen Katalin

Organization:

Kájoni János Library of Harghita County, Romania

http://konyvtar.hargitamegye.ro/hu

Contact: Phone number: +40 720544093

kelemen.katalin@yahoo.co.uk

katakelemen62@gmail.com