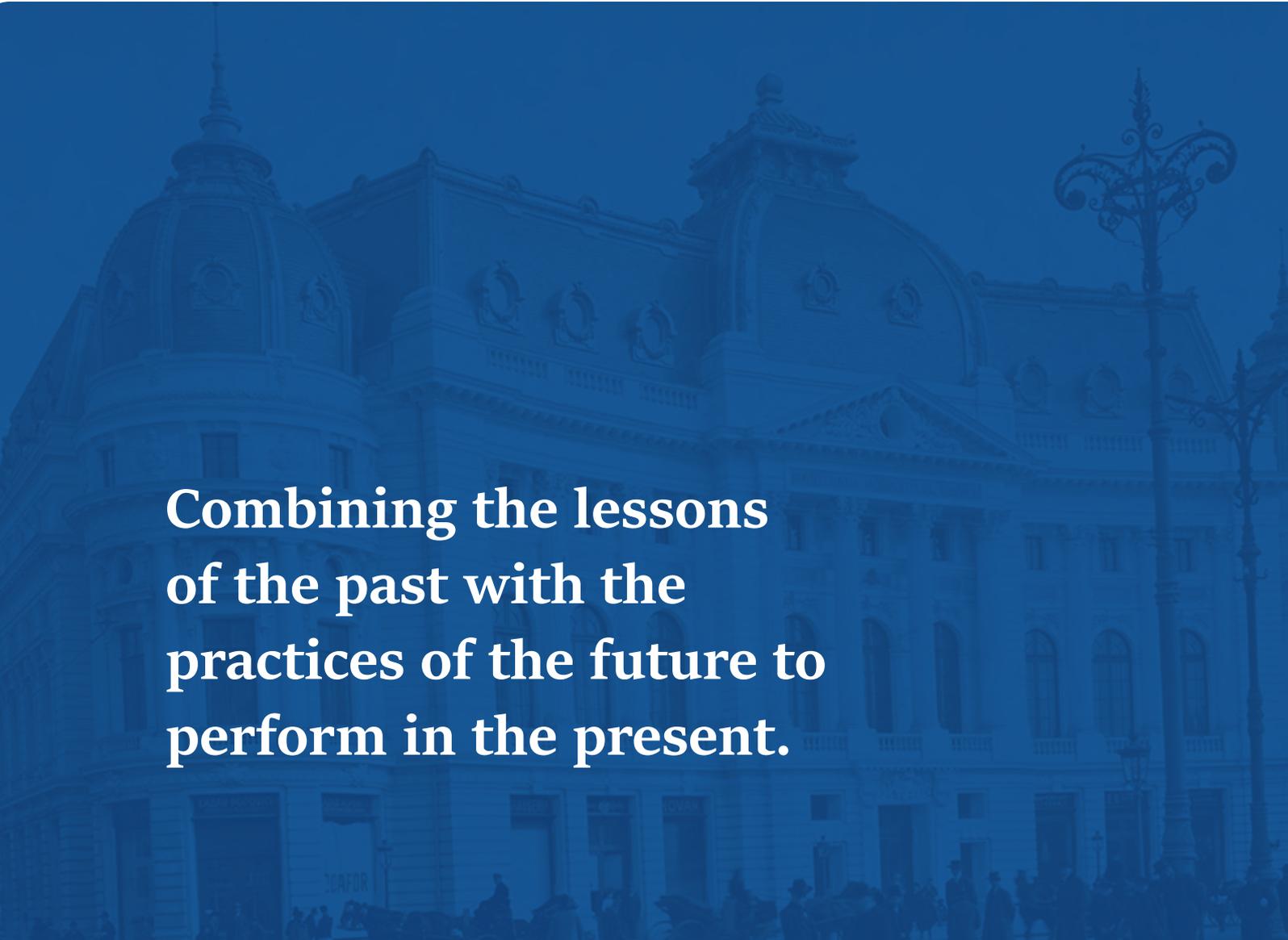




STRATEGIC
PLAN

2021 - 2025



**Combining the lessons
of the past with the
practices of the future to
perform in the present.**

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The strategy of the “Carol I” Central University Library was written with the confidence that the period it is aimed at will be one of reconstruction and return to normalcy, after the multifaceted crisis that affected the entire world since 2020. This crisis has highlighted the importance of resilience for institutions that are not limited to the goal of survival but intend to steadily grow and contribute to the progress of society. Our institution will have to demonstrate that it is capable of adapting and innovating, forming connections designed to provide stability regardless of the circumstances.

The diversity of the challenges we face forces us to resort to a more creative type of management, which is the ideal antidote to stagnation and negativity. Among the elements of such a type of management is the ability to identify new types of resources and use them wisely and with determination.

Generating your own resources for the library should not be confused with pivoting to an autarkic model. On the contrary, it can be facilitated by building partnerships with other institutions in the country or abroad, that have similar visions and practices. Only in this way can we get out of possible institutional inertia that limits our possibilities for development.

Achieving resilience requires a lot of effort, coupled with creativity. Where through the rigid lens of conformity we only see obstacles, creativity offers a way in. Coordination of a dynamic team focused on identifying opportunities that can double the challenges, represents an important strategic goal for the next period.

The founders of the institution considered it a space for the dissemination and perpetuation of knowledge. Using tools adapted to the realities of the beginning of the 21st century, we must continue this mission. Research, sustainable development, and equal opportunities will be important elements in this process. Thus, “Carol I” Central University Library, which successfully survived the bombings during World War II and the destructions in the events of December 1989, shall overcome the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and represent an important pillar of the Romanian intellectual life.

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Associate Professor Mireille Rădoi Ph.D.
General Manager



**The century we live in
is the one that has given
reality to the virtual world**



In an ever-changing world, the “Carol I” Central University Library combines the lessons of the past with the practices of the future in order to perform in the present.

Today, there are many changes in society that involve a continuous adaptation of people to produce the best results in the fields in which they operate. The accelerated pace of technological development has led us to adopt a lifestyle connected to digital world while the new generations are living in an unprecedented symbiosis with the virtual universe. With these changes, new professions have emerged and they involve the acquisition of new skills.

Although everything around us is rapidly changing, the need for knowledge and information has remained constant.

“Carol I” Central University Library is a pillar of stability in the world of the current information vortex. The pressure on the accumulation of knowledge by mankind is transferred to the institutions that manage it. Although everything around is changing rapidly, or maybe that’s why the need for knowledge remains an anchor in everyone’s life. Those who benefit from the services of the library have continuously growing demands, and the institution is constantly faced with new challenges.

The evolution of the Internet, which offers countless, fast, and accessible resources, but also the ever-expanding development of databases has led to the emergence of generations that choose less the

classic study options. Research indicates that future users will be looking for a different mix of services, with the library having to adapt its spaces and way of working in order to become more attractive.

Last but not least, we must take into account the fact that the century we live in is the one that has given reality to the virtual world. The pandemic of recent years has dramatically accelerated the processes underlying the digital transformation of society. The road to information must be as short as possible, and users must be able to easily access the resources available in “Carol I” Central University Library, through high-performance computer systems.

The changes in the Romanian society put our institution in front of new challenges. The widespread development of information requires public organizations to be alert and work on new approaches to workflows, while libraries are obliged to generate new professional standards in connection with its use.

This strategy outlines the need and objectives of a new direction. We want our beneficiaries, but also those who work in the library, to believe that the future will be better.



We are concerned about the ways in which the “Carol I” Central University Library will be able to contribute to the process of instruction, education, and research, defining itself not only as a knowledge manager but also as a producer of knowledge.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many libraries in Europe have reinvented themselves and sought new services. Everyday realities push us towards a reorganization of the physical space and a constant concern of improving the library climate. Creating places to study and socialize, but also rethinking the way we relate to each other, professionally and emotionally, will generate an increase in the number of users in the library and its transformation into a favorite place to study and meet.

We want the student, the teacher, and the researcher to find in “Carol I” Central University Library an environment in which the desire to learn throughout all life is cultivated and which will be the basis for the development of exceptional educational and cultural activities.

MISSION

Through the power of ideas and the strength of promoted values, the “Carol I” Central University Library molds generations.

The mission of the library is to make a decisive contribution to the development of society by connecting to the best sources of knowledge. At the same time, being an elite cultural institution, with a rich historical heritage, “Carol I” Central University Library has the duty to transmit from generation to generation all the values accumulated over a century, thus connecting the past, present, and future.

VISION



The “Carol I” Central University Library aims to equally provide access to information and resources, so that the beneficiaries acquire various skills, to cultivate their interest in reading, creativity, and desire to learn throughout their lives.

The “Carol I” Central University Library directly supports the academic world in its mission to provide knowledge and cultivate values.

INSTITUTIONAL LANDMARKS



3 ADAPTING CONSTANTLY TO THE USER PROFILE

Through communication with users, we come to understand their individual requirements so that we can align our resources and services accordingly to support them unconditionally.

3 COOPERATION AND CREATIVITY

We are committed to working together with cultural and educational institutions, as well as with any other partners interested in supporting and developing the educational process, understanding that gathering good resources and ideas is the key to achieving truly relevant results. We are advocates of cooperation, and certainly not of competition in the current cultural landscape.

We are convinced that only through creative management, respecting the institutional frameworks, can offer solutions adapted to the realities of today.

3 INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

Out of the continuous desire to adapt to the new requirements of the users, the staff of “Carol I” Central University Library must have at the heart of all actions the continuous desire to become better by participating in research projects, implementing innovative solutions, continuous improvement, as well as connecting to international professional networks.

3 COMMUNITY

The community generated around the “Carol I” Central University Library represents more than the sum of its readers. This reality adds value to our institution, transforming it into a benchmark of the Romanian intellectual life.

“Carol I” Central University Library is a place of study, but also a place of meetings and debates, as well as sharing the joy of the artistic acts.

3

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“Carol I” Central University Library assumes development objectives in harmony with the protection of the environment by implementing flows and activities that save resources.

3

EQUITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

“Carol I” Central University Library offers a friendly environment to all those who benefit from its services so that the institution is an open space in which everyone’s rights are respected, regardless of gender, ethnicity, nationality, race, religion, or social status.

3

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The Central University Library “Carol I” supports unrestricted access to information by protecting the right of every user to privacy, ensuring the necessary resources without censorship or discrimination based on intellectual preferences.

3

RESPONSIBILITY AND RESILIENCE

The pandemic has proved that the world can change radically in a very short time. People’s responsibility and solidarity represented the main tools we had to deal with crises. “Carol I” Central University Library is a reliable partner in a wide network of social development, being also a support for the return of society to normality.



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS.

The current management team, taking note of the challenges and constraints that the Romanian society and the whole world are going through, assumes the following directions and strategic priorities that will guide the activities of the institution.



CREATING COMMUNITIES CENTERED ON EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

The “Carol I” Central University Library should become a meeting place for education, research, development, innovation, and dialogue between people who share the same values, but also between people who disagree with various things, thus becoming a platform for social progress.



CONTINUOUS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The “Carol I” Central University Library should become a modern institution that adapts and ensures that it can meet the requirements of the social environment of operation, both as a whole and appropriate to each beneficiary.



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The “Carol I” Central University Library should become a historic space where education, culture, and digital technologies perfectly combine to facilitate access to information and knowledge.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



1ST PRIORITY: CREATING COMMUNITIES CENTERED ON EDUCATION AND SCIENCE



1. Developing cultural, educational, and scientific activities aimed at completing the knowledge process and attracting new users and new types of audience.
2. Developing partnerships with civil society organizations in order to identify and adequately meet current information needs.
3. The library is open for the organization of cultural, educational, and scientific events whose main purpose is the development of new communities.
4. Supporting and facilitating the creation of networks of people whose interests converge in order to develop knowledge.
5. Developing specialized software facilities and applications dedicated to supporting and encouraging reading with the aim of increasing social inclusion. “Inclusion by reading!”
6. Diversification of services as a result of the identification and application of new research directions in the information sciences.
7. Identifying partnerships through which professional organizations can have access to specialized funds and use selective documentary resources, depending on their topics of interest.
8. Initiation and active participation in national and international research projects and programs.

2ND PRIORITY: CONTINUOUS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



1. Constantly increasing the attractiveness of the “Carol I” Central University Library as a modern institution that offers users a favorable place for creation, learning, research, innovation, and collaboration.
2. Maintaining, adapting, and developing the library spaces and constantly improving the services.
3. Developing dynamic research services and products, sustainably adapted to technological evolution, information needs, and user requirements.
4. Developing info-documentary resources and their organization, preservation, and accessibility, in accordance with university teaching, research, and innovation activities.
5. Purchasing new resources in accordance with user requests, but also with new trends in social developments.
6. Efficiently managing the material and human resources available to “Carol I” Central University Library, in order to ensure the optimal development of activities.
7. Collaborating with similar institutions or organizations, in order to promote the efficient sharing of the results obtained and all available resources, and to fulfill its mission.
8. Encouraging selective waste collection and new book production from recycled paper.
9. Identifying as many educational units as possible to which the reconditioned and no longer in use book fund of the “Carol I” Central University Library can be redirected.
10. Administrative adaptation of the premises of the “Carol” Central University Library for energy efficiency.
11. Raising awareness of the importance of saving and reusing resources.

3RD PRIORITY: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



1. Developing the digital collections of the “Carol I” Central University Library, in accordance with the study and research interests of users.
2. Implementing complex integrated software solutions to meet current challenges.
3. Increasing the institution’s visibility in the online environment in an attempt to establish a sustained dialogue with user groups.
4. Continuous improvement of the IT infrastructure, to integrate the latest technologies and support the library in fulfilling its complex mission.
5. Facilitating access to the resources of the “Carol I” Central University Library, through new technologies.
6. Scanning collections that include old, rare, bibliophile documents in order to preserve the original copies, by accessing them in digital format.
7. Developing programs through which “Carol I” Central University Library becomes a center for learning and development of digital skills.

“CAROL I” CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - A SYMBOL OF ROMANIAN HISTORY





On the 3rd of May 1891, in a letter addressed to the President of the Council of Ministers, a document that can be considered a true founding act, King Carol I declared “his desire to set up an establishment for the good of the university youth from all the faculties throughout the country, endowed with a library always open”. In 1895, he inaugurated the University Foundation, which, in addition to awarding scholarships and encouraging prizes to students, had the noble mission of contributing to the formation of a true intellectual elite.

On May 9, 1914, Carol I planned to equip the new wing of the building with an elegant and modern 500-seat amphitheatre for hosting scientific meetings and conferences in order to allow self-financing. The University Foundation amphitheater will be established as a reference point in the spiritual universe of Bucharest, hosting events attended by cultural personalities of Romania as follows: Nicolae Iorga, Simion Mehedinți, Vasile Pârvan, Mircea

Djuvara, Nae Ionescu, Alice Voinescu, Tudor Vianu, Dan Bota, Șerban Cioculescu, Mircea Eliade, Petre Comarnescu, Mircea Vulcănescu, Constantin Noica, or Mihail Sebastian.

Over time, the prestige of the Foundation and the future Central University Library will be strengthened by the illustrious names of writers, university professors, prominent exponents of cultural life, who worked in “Carol I” Central University Library such as G. Dem Teodorescu, Ștefan Octavian Iosif, Alexandru Tzigara-Samurçaș, Mircea Florian, Constantin Rădulescu Motru or Mircea Tomescu.

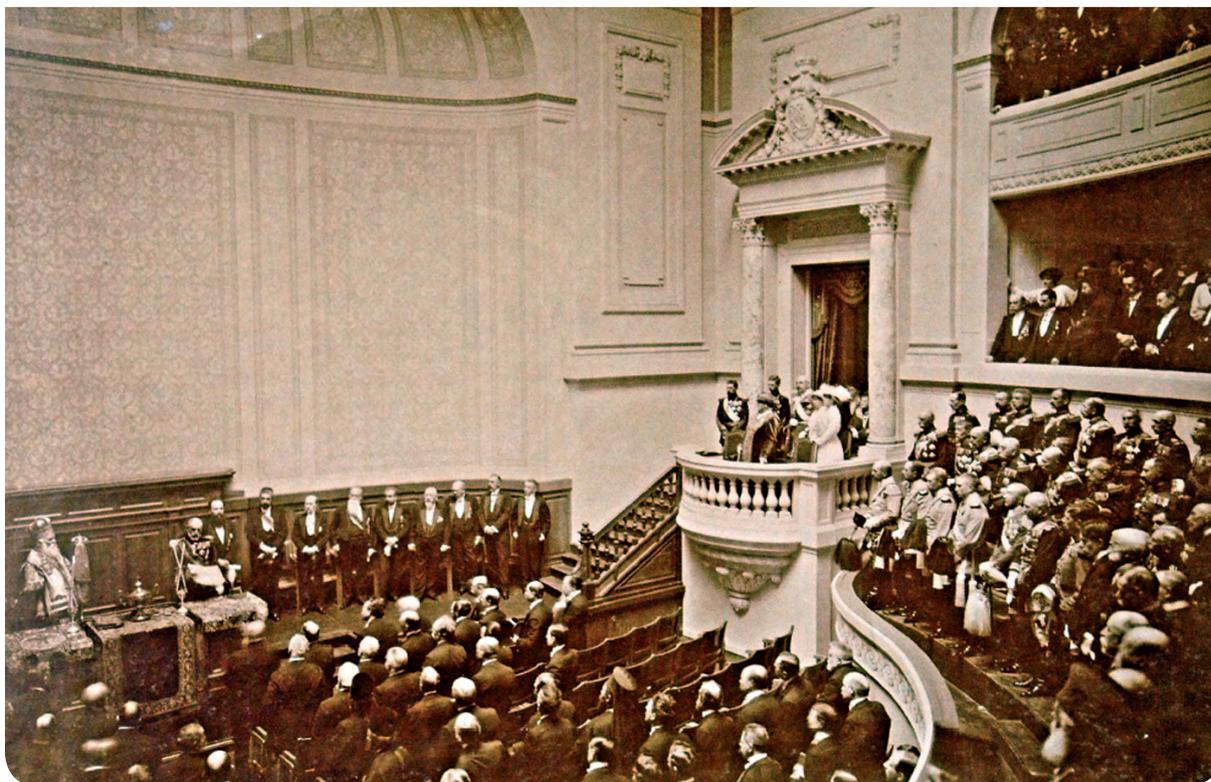
Half a century later, the Library of the University Foundation is assigned the status of „C.I. Parhon” Central Library of the University in Bucharest, and after 1963 the institution gradually becomes the most complex university library in the country. The publications fund acquires an encyclopedic structure, providing a multidisciplinary basis for deepening university studies and research.

The most important test that “Carol I” Central University Library underwent happened at the end of 1989. The proximity of the Central Committee buildings belonging to the Romanian Communist Party and that of the 5th Directorate of the State Security Department makes it, unfortunately, a target in the fire of the anti-communist Revolution. The devastating fire led to the disappearance of over

500.000 volumes, of which 12.000 bibliophile books, 52 documents from Eminescu's library, numerous ex-libris, old maps, and almost 3.700 manuscripts belonging to great personalities of Romanian culture such as Mihai Eminescu, Titu Maiorescu, Ion Luca Caragiale, George Coșbuc, Lucian Blaga or Mircea Eliade.

After 1990, an extensive process of reconstruction and restoration of document collections began. UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor calls on all

governments, organizations and political institutions to participate in the reconstruction and modernization of the library. After more than a decade, the new Central University Library in Bucharest is reopening. At the end of 2005, during the 110th anniversary event of the inauguration of the "Carol I" University Foundation, His Majesty, King Michael, was present as guest of honor, and a year later, in 2006, the Central University Library of Bucharest changed its name into "Carol I" Central University Library.



“CAROL I” CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - A CULTURAL BUILDING IN THE HEART OF BUCHAREST





The “Carol I” Central University Library is a complex institution, consisting of the headquarters, the pedagogical section “I. C. Petrescu” and 17 branch libraries, located on the premises of the University of Bucharest. Three buildings with special architectural value make up the headquarters, integrating together with the Foundation Palace, the building of the former Banca Dacia and Boema Building, with entrances on Boteanu and C. A. Rosetti streets and also on Calea Victoriei.

In the university world of Bucharest, “Carol I” Central University Library provides the documentary and information base necessary for the educational process, both in terms of in-depth study and also to research; it capitalizes and communicates documents and information sources, facilitates quick access to various categories of resources, both from its own and external collections, and organizes a complex system of services for various categories of users.

The “Carol I” Central University Library is the first large university library in Romania to introduce an integrated computer system. Connecting the national and international academic databases ensures synchronization with contemporary knowledge trends, providing users outstanding potential for study and research. Furthermore, starting in 2021, the Central University Library ‘Carol I’ became the first library in the country to be integrated into the national online payment platform Ghișeul.ro.

Last but not least, the “Carol I” Central University Library promotes research in the field of library and information science, participates in national and international activities of professional analysis and synthesis, and initiates and develops programs and actions of training and continuing education in the field of bibliology and information science.





Few Romanian public cultural organizations have such a tormented history and such a complex identity as “Carol I” Central University Library. This institution managed to survive for 13 decades that sometimes were shaken by dramatic events, and today it represents at the same time an educational center, an encyclopedic library, and a cultural landmark for Bucharest. The users have the opportunity of consulting over 2 million books and accessing international databases; the events organized here (conferences, concerts, art exhibitions, etc.) are enriching the intellectual life of the city.

A library is essential for the harmonious development of future generations, being an investment that becomes fruitful in the medium and long term. Simultaneously, it also has the duty of brightening and dynamizing the daily life of the community to which it belongs. This strategy guarantees that our institution will remain a vibrant and seductive space, in which the 7 arts create a united front against the daily agitated urban atmosphere.

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