



“Ready to take off: Libraries’ commitment towards a sustainable, democratic and equitable society”

Library legislation towards the development of Romania library system

Library commitment towards democracy

Dragoş Adrian Neagu



Romania National Association
of Librarians and
Public Libraries

A brief look at the evolution of the library legislative system

- ▷ Decision no. 1542 of the Council of Ministers on the measures to be taken to improve the activity of libraries in the Romanian People's Republic (1951)
- ▷ Framework regulation for the organization and functioning of public libraries (1998)
- ▷ Library law (2002)
- ▷ Library law (modified in 2021, now in Parliament to be adopted)

Romania Library System

	Libraries
National Libraries	7
University Libraries	103
Public Libraries	2.354
School Libraries	6.928
Specialized Libraries	543
TOTAL	9.935

The number of volumes in the library collections 164.475.096

Some modified articles in law

A new library definition

- Library - an institution, or part of an institution, the principal purpose of which is to facilitate the use of information resources, services and facilities provided to meet the information, research, educational, cultural or recreational needs of its users.

Equal access

- Public libraries ensure equal access to information and documents necessary for information, permanent education and the development of the personality of users without distinction as to social or economic status, age, sex, political affiliation, religion or nationality.

Some new articles in law

New roles for public libraries

Public libraries primarily have the following roles:

a) local information center: they organize and make available to users information and collections of specific encyclopedic documents in all formats, databases and other types of resources, ensuring optimal access to knowledge and information, including community information services;

b) cultural center: they contribute to the cultural and artistic development of the community, to the shaping, support and preservation of its identity and cultural diversity, and to the preservation and promotion of local history.

c) educational center: they support formal, non-formal and informal education at all levels and lifelong learning, providing learning resources, learning facilities, information literacy and digital skills programs, vocational training programs.

d) local information and communication technology center: they provide access to hardware, software, communications networks and help to train citizens to integrate and become an active part of e-inclusion and e-government.

e) public social and leisure space;

For supporting specific roles and tasks, public libraries will be included as partners in government and local strategies in e-inclusion and e-government, culture, information provision, training and education.

Some new articles in law

Library autonomy

Public libraries have administrative and professional autonomy in relation with the funding authority, consisting of:

- (a) the right to rule outside any political, ideological or religious interference;
- (b) drawing up their own cultural programs and projects in accordance with national and international strategies;
- (c) the establishment and use of additional sources of revenue for the development of library services in accordance with the legal provisions in force;
- (d) the conclusion of protocols for cooperation with other libraries or cultural institutions at home and abroad;
- (e) participation in international specialized meetings or in library consortia and international associations in which they are members, paying fees and related taxes.

The change it started in 2019

Started by National Libraries Commission

First

Subcommittee
on Legislation,
Standards and
Rules – 5
specialists

Second

Discussions and
debates in the
National
Commission – 21
specialists

Third

Public
consultation at
the level of
professional
associations

Last

It was sent to
Parliament for
discussion and
adoption



11 Chapters

A new chapter on - Sanctions



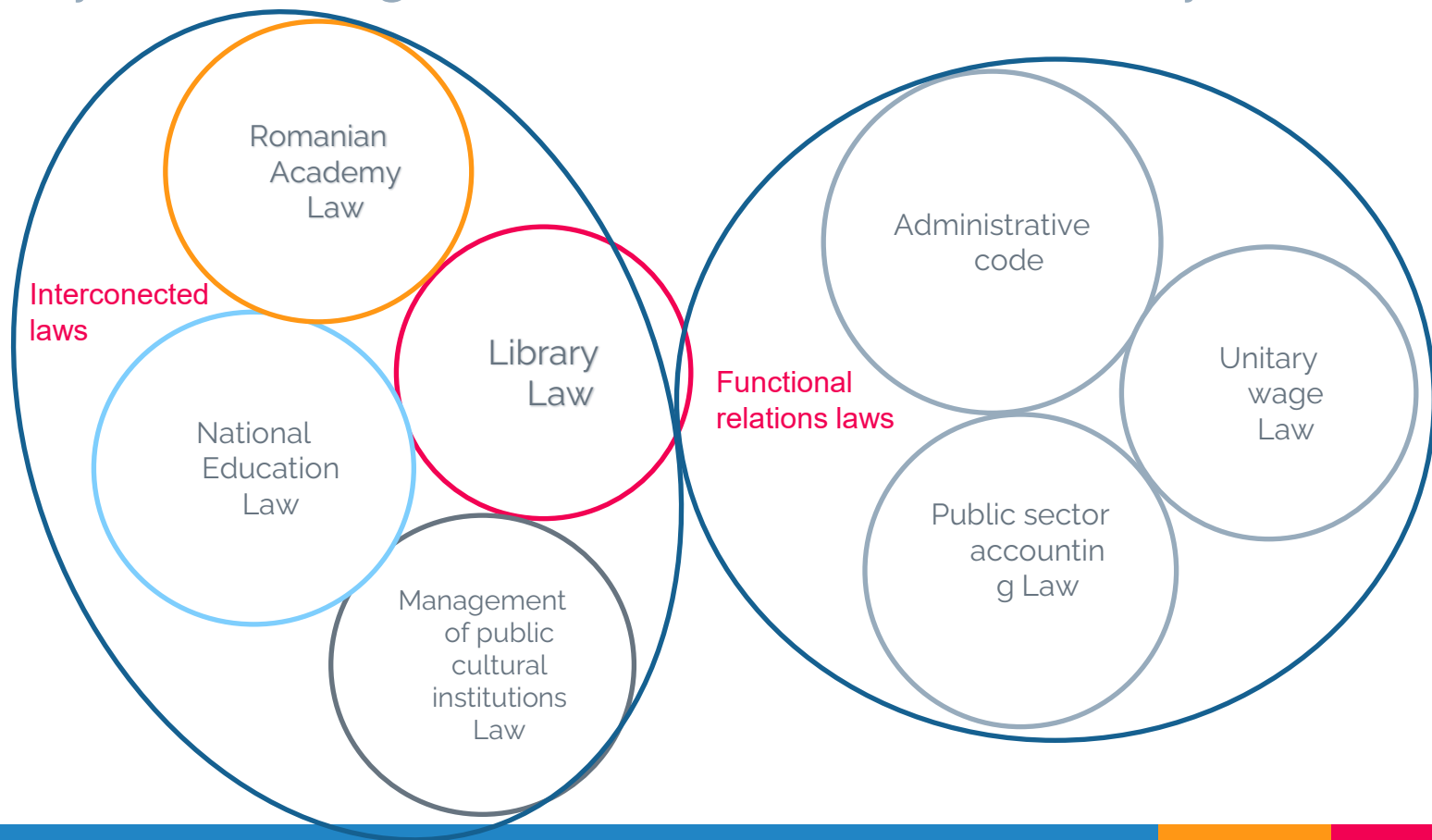
96 Articles



10 Annexes

Regarding the staff structure as well as the minimum facilities regarding libraries.

The system of legislative relations of the library law



Thank you!

Any questions?

You can find me at:

dragos@bjbraila.ro