

# **LIBRARY AND LEARNING RESOURCES**

## **Factual information**

### **Library**

General description of the university library, its management, location, facilities, available collections and resources.

The USAMV Library in Iasi ranks as one of the central university libraries of the city, being organized under university leadership. The Library has a scientific and encyclopedic profile.

The main objective of the USAMV Library in Iasi is to support the process of modern education and research carried out primarily by members of the academic field: students, teaching staff, researchers, etc. as well as any other external users.

Within the larger context of state education reform this mission has always depended, and still does, on the development and modernizing of specific services, such as the introduction of new computer technologies, designed to narrow the gap in compatibility and cooperation at a local, national and international level. Its ultimate scope is to meet in best conditions the needs of the information consumer. Bases on these principles, the library's modernising and development program (2007-2009) has been listed as a top priority in the University's Strategic Development Plan.

The library offers unlimited access to all of its collections enabling at the same time indirect access, by means of its departments, to resources made available by other libraries. By doing so the Library offers precious teaching and learning resources covering a wide range of disciplines for all of the university's faculties and specializations.

### **Management of the Library (ex. Library Scientific Council)**

The Library functions according to a specific Regulation approved by the Senate of the university and supervised by the Library's Chief of Department. The Chief of the Library Department is appointed with the approval of the university's Rector.

The Library is managed, according to standard personnel diagram for university libraries, by a Chief of Department. According to law, the USAMV Library receives a budgetary fund of 8% from the university's annual budget.

The Chief of Department is assisted in the acquisition process by a Library Scientific Council in which all the specializations and faculties are represented by an appointed professor.

At the proposal of the Scientific Council, the Senate consequently decides on the annual funds destined for the extension, renewal of the Library's collections. All the other funds appointed for the Library's activities are previously approved by the Senate.

Within the limits of the funds granted by the University, the library performs the following activities: acquisition of new books, subscription to internal and external titles (books and serials), internal and external exchange of publications published by university teaching/researching staff and research institutions.

**The main sections of the Library are:**

1. Library Management and Marketing Department.
2. Library Statistics and Records Department.
3. Management of Book Collections Department.
4. Internal & External Exchange and Loan Department
5. Periodicals Department ( print + online).
6. Cataloging Department.
7. Classification and Indexing Department.
8. Editorial Department.
9. Interlibrary Loan Department.

The Library carries out all of its main specific activities and services with the help of the specialized library software Liberty3, among which we mention here: Acquisition, Cataloging, Classification, Circulation (loan and reservations services), statistic reports and the management of serials, interlibrary loan, e-mail alerts.

The central library comprises all of the subsidiary department libraries established at each discipline within the university's faculties. There are 45 such department libraries located at the specialized disciplines of each faculty and 6 more hosted by various departments of the university administration.

The timetable of the library is set by the chief of department ( as a consequence of requirements of the academic schedule - examination period, holidays, the number of staff etc. ) and approved by the Senate.

**The library offers the following services to all of its users ( free of charge) :**

1. Non-stop access to the OPAC (Online Personal Access Catalogue)
2. Online reservation service & e-mail alerts.

3. Online access to a personal user account on the Liberty3 soft.
4. Home loan of documents.
5. International and internal interlibrary loan.
6. Access to all of the reading rooms (ground floor, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)
7. Free shelf access to the reading room collections.
8. Free access to the internet and the electronic resources of the library.
9. Assistance in identifying the publications/ resources in the traditional catalogues as well as in the online database.
10. Specialized bibliographic assistance.
11. Training readers in using the resources of the Library.

#### **Charged Services:**

1. Copies from the library's collections.
2. Printing of copyright free electronic documents.
3. Translations.
4. Lamination & binding.

#### **The Central Library**

The Library supports educational, scientific and research processes at the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, offering plenty of resources for all of its faculties.

Recently extended and modernized, the library functions in a newly refurbished space spanning on four levels with a space covering 1.350 square meters. It comprises 3 reading rooms with 140 seats available for users and a Multimedia & Internet Room with 36 Pcs.

To ensure comfortable reading conditions the new extended library provides 176 seats for readers, including 40 ones equipped with computers.

The library's semi-basement level hosts the Registration and Loan Office. Both the main book stock and the periodicals stock are located here.

The ground floor is home to the largest reading room of the library, comprising 76 seats in the area displaying some of the Romanian specialized collections and 24 seats available for study in the Rotonda. This sections of the library hosts significant collections of of specialized dictionaries, encyclopedias and any other specialized publications, all of whcih is published in foreign languaes. The users cand find here publications published mostly in French, English,

Italian or German. The qualified staff at the front-desk makes sure that every assistance is provided to the user, helping him/ her find the right resources.

The first floor hosts collections of Romanian and foreign periodicals, providing 30 seats for the users, 4 of which are also equipped with computers, thus enabling quick access to the library's database and any other significant electronic resources.

The Multimedia & Internet Room, situated at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, provides 46 seats, with 36 computers and 10 seats for individual study. The users can access here the library's database and all of its online subscriptions to online and electronic resources.

In the new reading rooms available for the library's users, the collections with open shelf access are ordered according to the Universal Decimal Classification System. Apart from its traditional resources, the Library offers increasing amounts of information on CD-ROMs and access through the Internet to full text databases, primarily electronic journals. Consequently, the Library has become an important centre for the dissemination of scientific information.

Another important section of the book fund owned by the USAMV Library is represented by the special collections. Some pieces from the patrimony book fund hosted by the library's archives (comprising publications in French, German, Russian) are on public display, in secure window cabinets from the main reading room located at the ground floor. Among the oldest publications we mention here specialized books, dictionaries and encyclopedias printed abroad starting with the XVIIIth century.

#### **Acquisition budget for the last four years:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Local currency</b>
2006	110.000 Ron
2007	210.000 Ron
2008	380.000 Ron
2009	185.000 Ron

## **Staff**

### **1. Library Staff**

#### **Number of full-time employees**

There are eleven full-time employees working at the central library, nine of whom are qualified librarians holding a postgraduate degree in information & documentation science. At the end of 2009 there were:

- 6 positions for librarians with higher education studies, 1st degree rank.
- 1 position for a librarian with secondary education, 1st degree rank.
- 1 position for a librarian with higher education studies, 2nd degree rank.
- 1 position for a librarian with higher education studies, 3rd degree rank.
- 2 positions in maintenance staff
- 7 vacancies

Year	Total no. of positions
2007	11
2008	10
2009	9

The employees working at the central library have always been involved in various professional activities destined to develop and extend their qualifications so as to provide better services for its users. In past few years, however, an intensified program including multiple activities granted them with the opportunity to were involved. Among these we mention here attendance to national and international conferences and professional workshops.

The administrators of the subsidiary department libraries (51) are listed as associated collaborators of the central library.

## 2. External Staff

The technical support staff and the IT support staff in charge of software maintenance and various network disfunctions count as external staff (12 persons).

### Number of journals/ periodicals and books received yearly:

Year	Periodicals (romanian /foreign)	Books (romanian /foreign)	Donations (books+ periodicals)	Total
2006	295 volumes	631	347	1273
2007	334 volumes	1438	932	2704
2008	300 volumes	1142	689	2131

2009	250 volumes	658	451	1359
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**Number of seats for students in the reading rooms : 176**

**Library timetable:**

	Working days	Weekend
<b>Monday-Friday</b>		
<b>Academic year</b>	<b>8.00-16.00</b>	-
<b>Examination period</b>	<b>8.00-20.00</b>	<b>8.00-20.00</b>
<b>Holidays</b>	<b>8.00-16.00</b>	-

**Number of volumes lent by library users per academic year:**

Year	Number
2006	35.016
2007	280.977
2008*	24.389
2009*	8.108

\*the library was closed for about a quarter of the academic year due to construction and consolidation. As a result the book fund was transferred and the access to these resources reduced.

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**Department Subsidiary Libraries**

The collections of the specialist subsidiary libraries are hosted in special rooms organized by each faculty. Their book fund is recorded in the central library's funds and the publications available are used by both the teaching staff and the students involved in various research/diploma projects and workgroups. Each year, the central library performs a global inventory, thus verifying the records from the subsidiary libraries. Their timetable is the following : Mon.-Fri. 8.00-18.00.

## **Editorial activity**

The Library's Editorial Department In 2009, the Library's editorial activity consisted of :

- 112 reports
- 29 statistical reports
- 1 annual bibliography regarding the publications that entered the USAMV Library Iasi .
- 4 papers presented at international seminars.
- 1 article published in the ISI-quoted journal *Airbiology*.
- Journal of Applied Research in Library Sciences, ISSN 1844-2234, a project initiated and managed by the USAMV Library Iasi.
- marketing products : flyers, posters, information sheets, etc.

## **IT resources and services**

The IT-supported services provided by the library present users with wide access to the internet, free access or/and subscribed online databases, online versions of periodicals, reports, video files, CDs, DVDs and digitized publications/documents. They can access the above mentioned resources in the Multimedia & Internet Room opened at the 2nd floor ( with 36 seats equipped with PCs available for users). The users in possession of a library membership card can use the facilities at disposal in the Multimedia Room, i.e: to consult, copy, download and print all the necessary information.

The updated sound and wireless systems ensure a modern environment for study as well as for entertainment related activities.

## **International cooperation**

### **1. International cooperation in the exchange of scientific publications**

The USAMV Library cooperates with university libraries and research stations from all over the world, having as the main objective the exchange of various scientific publications, either in print or electronic format. As a result there are several partnership agreements between the USAMV Library and their respective partners of exchange ( 29 international partners) . Within such partnership relations, the library sends out constantly the most recent publications

edited by members of the university and teaching/research staff.

## **2. International cooperation in professional training**

The USAMV Library Iasi is a founder member of the Balkan Libraries Union (BLU). The general aim of BLU is to assist libraries in Balkan in forming a functional network able to ensure the preservation of the Balkan cultural heritage, to improve access to collections in Balkan libraries and to provide more efficient library information services in the Balkans.

The cooperation consists of regular meetings, seminars, working groups, publications aiming to improve professional skills and support special projects and development schemes. In order to promote a close contact and cooperation between its members the union also supports exchange visits between partner libraries and universities.

As a member of this organization the library has already taken part in international conferences, engaging itself in the development of future projects concerning various fields of documentation and library science. The USAMV Library chief of Department has been already elected vice-president in the executive committee of the union. In 2010 the USAMV Library plans to host one of the regular meetings of the board.

### **Temporary difficulties encountered during this time of crisis:**

- the lack of personnel
- the lack of an employee in charge of system-related problems.
- accidental dysfunction of the internet and electric networks.
- lack of professional equipment for the maintenance of intensely visited areas.
- some delays in the payment of invoices for publications purchased from contract funds

### **Plans for the future**

As of 2010, the Library aims to extend the encyclopedic profile of the collections, to expand its range of scientific activities and to reaffirm its cultural dimension by setting up a special program addressing the community, including: speeches and conferences, meetings with local personalities, book launches, exhibitions, cultural meetings. By doing so the library will provide multiple opportunities for its main target users and not only, to engage in cultural and scientific activities.

The library also aims at developing a special program of user training in information

retrieval and library services orientation. The program's scope is to train an independent library user.

Determined to persevere in its efforts to meet with the requirements of constant change in the field of information retrieval and dissemination as well as with the needs of its users, the USAMV Library remains faithful to its main objective of supporting both top quality education and research.