

INTRODUCTION

The book may be seen as a symbol, a miracle or a product. It used to represent and still represents the most important element of the spiritual connection between generations, between different professions, between education and multicultural systems. The book is the oldest economic model developed by libraries, an investment in a product which gives benefit to as many people as possible.

In 2012, The Library of Congress (Washington, D.C., U.S.A.) had the initiative of organizing an annual meeting which would disseminate the vision of library leaders on the importance of the book. The meeting would gather all the categories involved in the book industry: writers, publishers, editors, professors, librarians. The goal was to create a platform for discussions on how to promote the book as a crucial element for culture and education enhancement. The power of information and its dissemination was discussed within the first edition, while keeping the book as a central element in all debates.

After this first edition, the *Summit of the book* was organized yearly in different locations throughout the world: Singapore (2013), France (2014), Egypt (2015) and Ireland (2016).

The event had a powerful international impact and in 2017 the 6th summit was hosted in Brasov (Romania) at the “Transilvania” University. The event was organized in collaboration with the Public Library and it took place in the University Aula between 16 and 17 October 2017.

The collaboration between professionals, the sharing of knowledge, the skills and experiences related to the book, all presented in a multinational and multicultural environment, created a great opportunity for future projects. Key experts presented their best practices and their expertise in the history, technology, knowledge support and book dissemination.

The internationality of the two-day event offered the opportunity to share information on various aspects of the book, as experts from eight countries were present. The summit gathered 35 papers throughout its four sections. The international speakers of the event were:

- John van Oudenaren, director of the World Digital Library – Library of Congress (U.S.A.);
- Ismail Serageldin, director of the Library of Alexandria and of the World Digital Library Executive Council (Egypt);
- Joumana Boustany, associate professor at Paris Descartes University (France);
- Manolis Koukourakis, director of Crete University Library (Greece);
- Jerald Cavanagh, Senior librarian at Limerick Institute of Technology (Ireland);
- Pdraig Kirby, Senior librarian at Limerick Institute of Technology (Ireland);
- Tereza Kechoyan, Professor, Public Administration Academy of the Republic of Armenia, Yerevan (Armenia).

All submissions for the Subsequent publication were subjected to a double-blind peer review process. Of all 35 papers presented, only 18 were approved for publication. Our editorial team would like to acknowledge the special support of Cultural Service of the American Embassy from Bucharest. Last but not least, we would like to thank the local Organizing Committee.

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