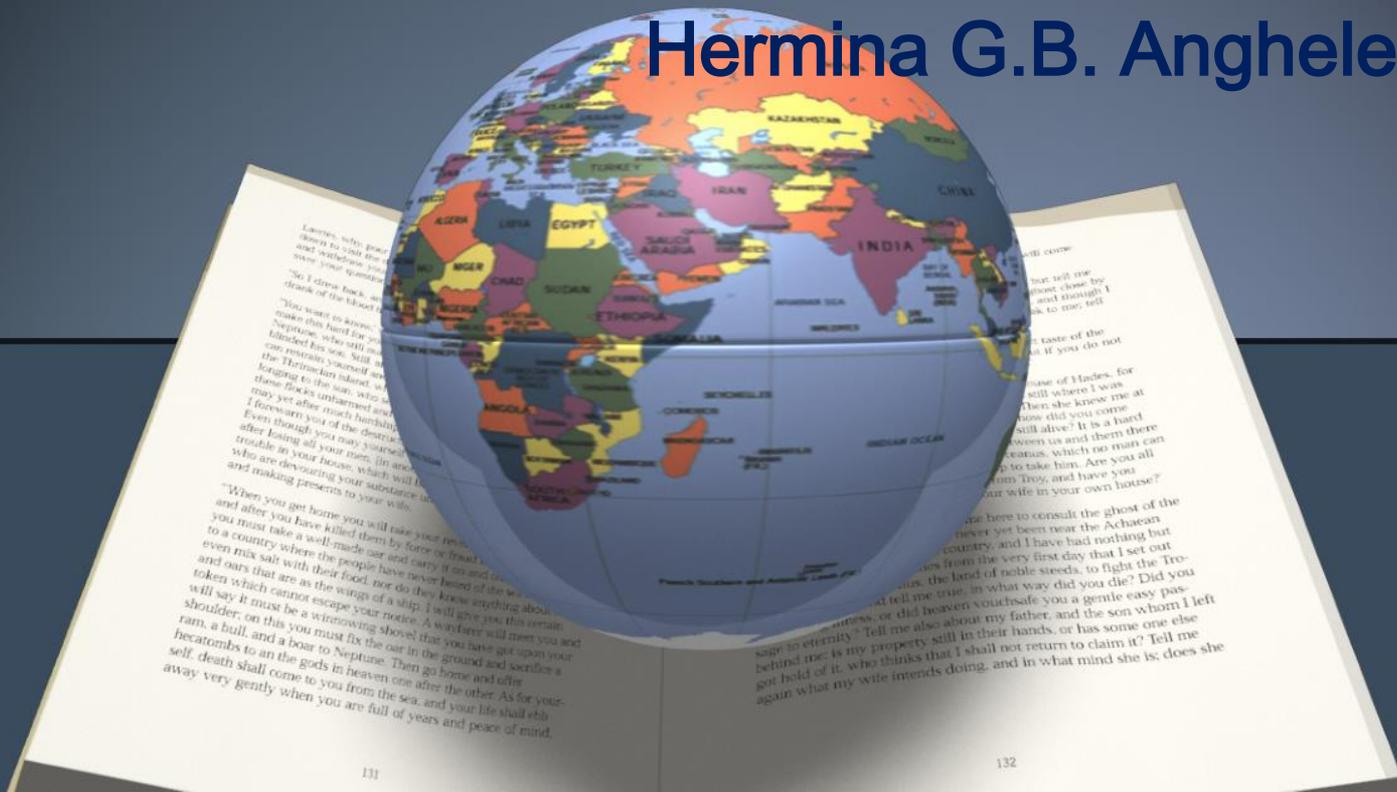


# Coming Out of the Cold War: from Censorship to Globalization in Romanian Libraries

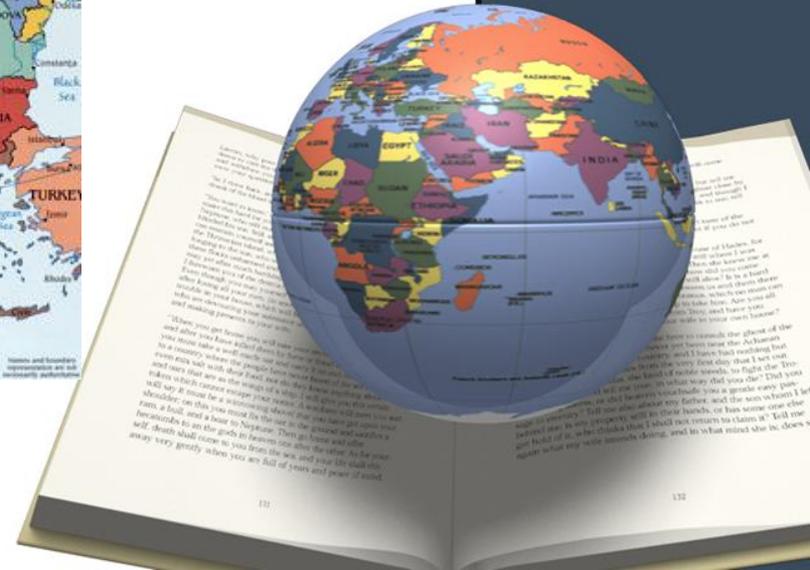
Hermina G.B. Anghelescu



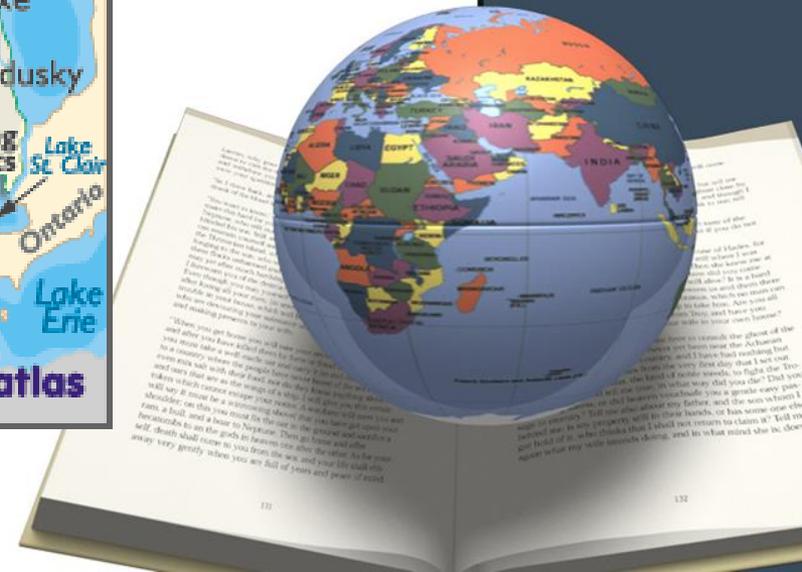


**A little bit...  
...about myself**

# Where I am coming from: Romania, Eastern Europe



# Where I live: Detroit, Michigan, USA



# Hermina G.B. Anghelescu, PhD

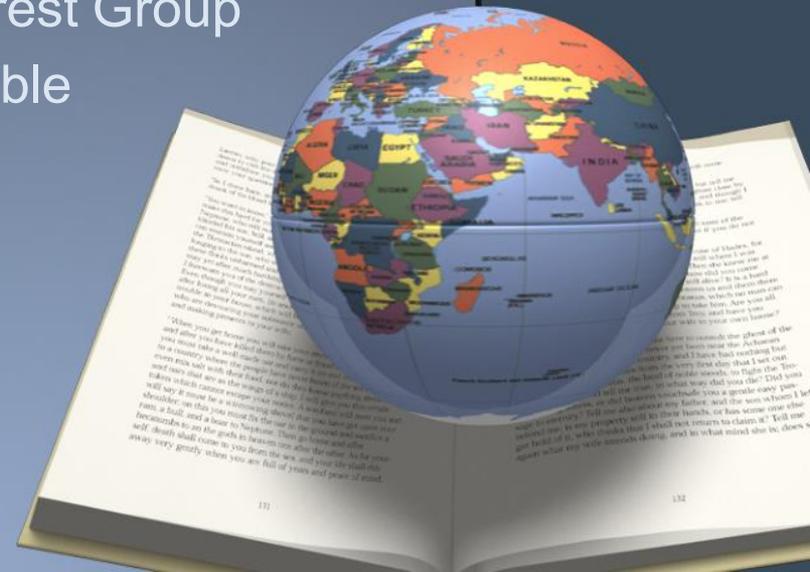
## Professor

School of Information Sciences  
Wayne State University  
Detroit, Michigan, USA  
Email: [ag7662@wayne.edu](mailto:ag7662@wayne.edu)

**Chair**, IFLA-Library History Special Interest Group

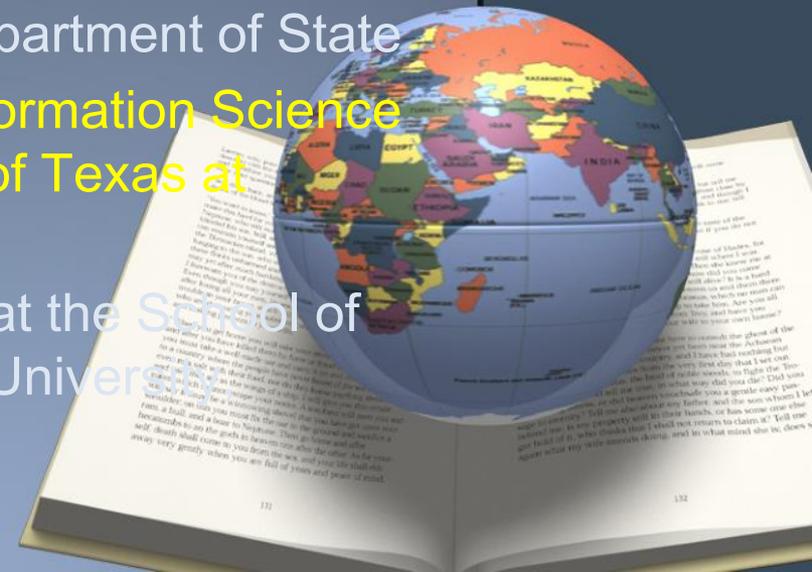
**Member**, ALA-Library History Round Table

**Member**, ALISE-Library History Special  
Interest Group



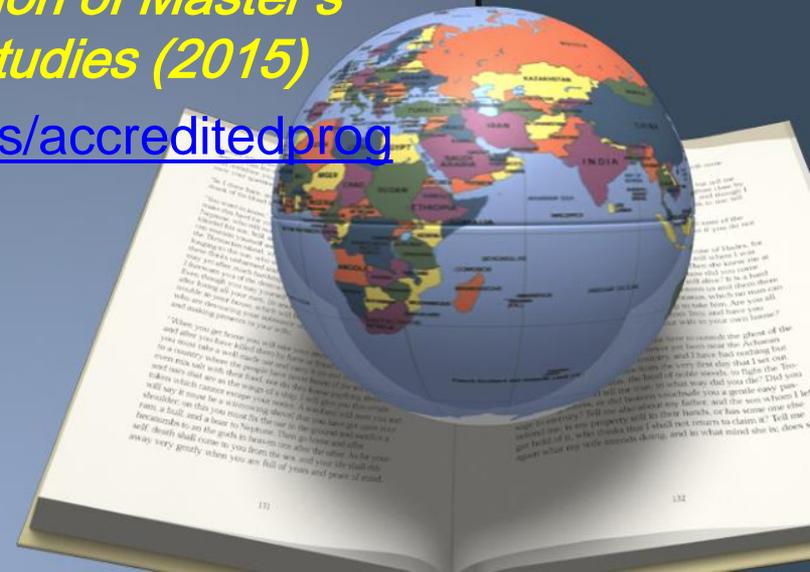
# Education & Profession

- I was born and I received the first part of my education in Romania
- I studied French and English at the University of Bucharest
- I worked as a librarian at the National Library of Romania (1979-1992)
- I came to the US in 1992 to continue my studies, under the Fulbright Program, US Department of State
- I received a Master's in Library & Information Science and a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin
- In 1999 I became a faculty member at the School of Information Sciences, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan



# Professional involvement

- **Accreditation work** at the Committee on Accreditation, American Library Association
  - <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/accreditation>
- ALA-COA accredits LIS schools in the US and Canada
  - 60 schools currently accredited
- Based on the ***Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies (2015)***
  - <http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/accreditedprograms/standards>



# What I do, in addition to teaching...

I have remained involved with libraries in Eastern Europe:  
Romania, Moldova, Serbia, Croatia

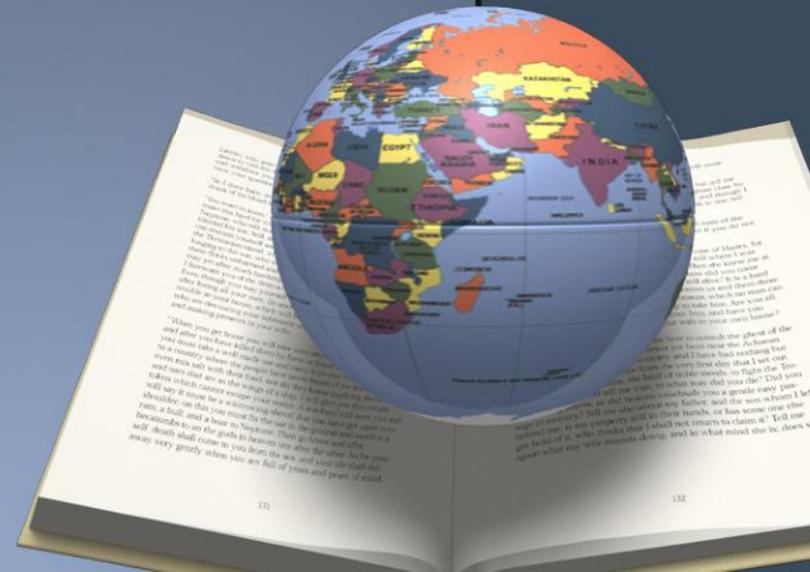
Not only as an observer, but also as a change agent:

I give workshops

I organize conferences

I serve as a consultant

I do research, I write, I publish...



# Major contributions

Consultant to the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**-5y grants:

28 million USD for **Romania**:

<http://www.biblionet.ro/despre.htm>

12 million USD for **Moldova**:

<http://www.novateca.md/en/>

**Goals** of the two programs:

bring computers for public access to public libraries

train public librarians

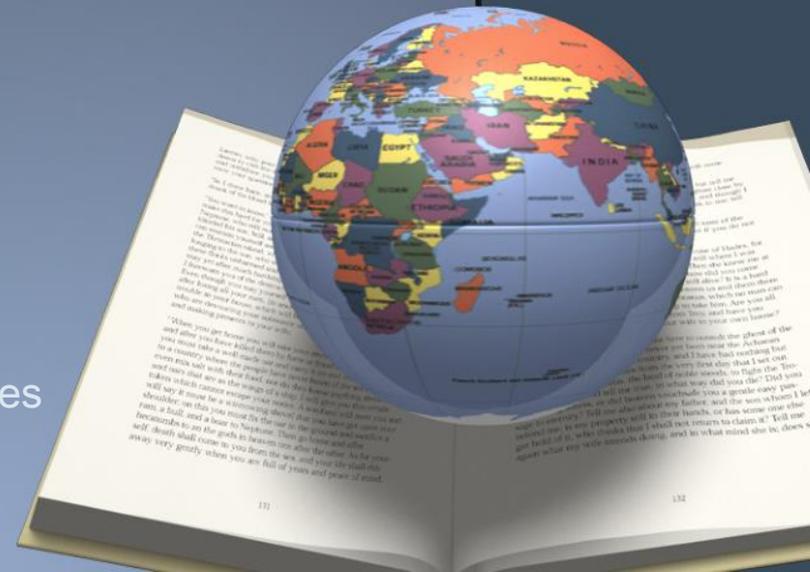
strengthen library associations

**Ultimate goal:**

provide free access to information

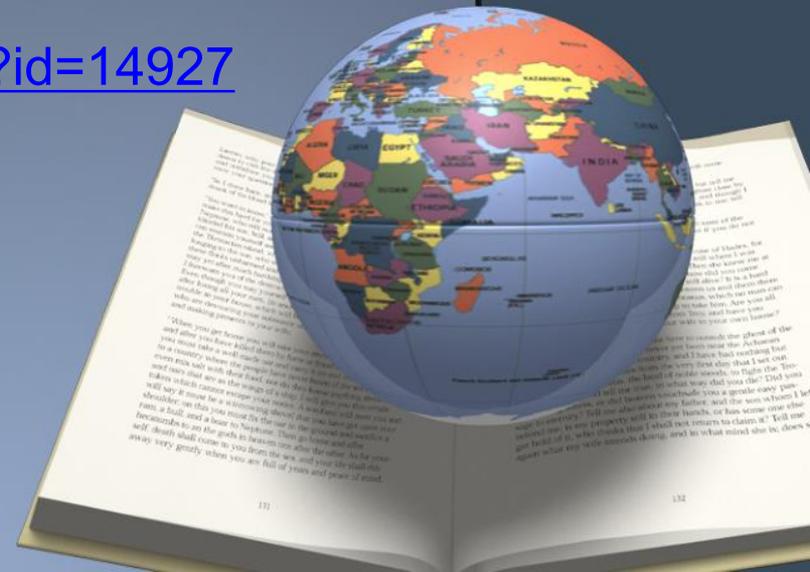
create an informed citizenry

foster democratic values in ex-communist countries



# Awards

- *Cultural Merit Order for the rank of Knight*, Presidency of Romania (2004)
- *First Rank Distinction*, Government of the Republic of Moldova (2014)
- <http://slis.wayne.edu/news.php?id=14927>

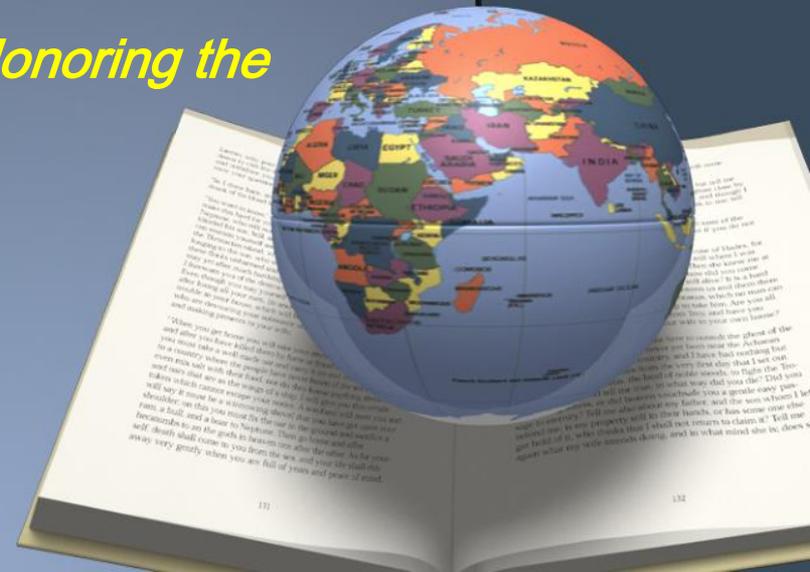


# Publishing activity

Co-editor of two volumes published by the Library of Congress, Center for the Book:

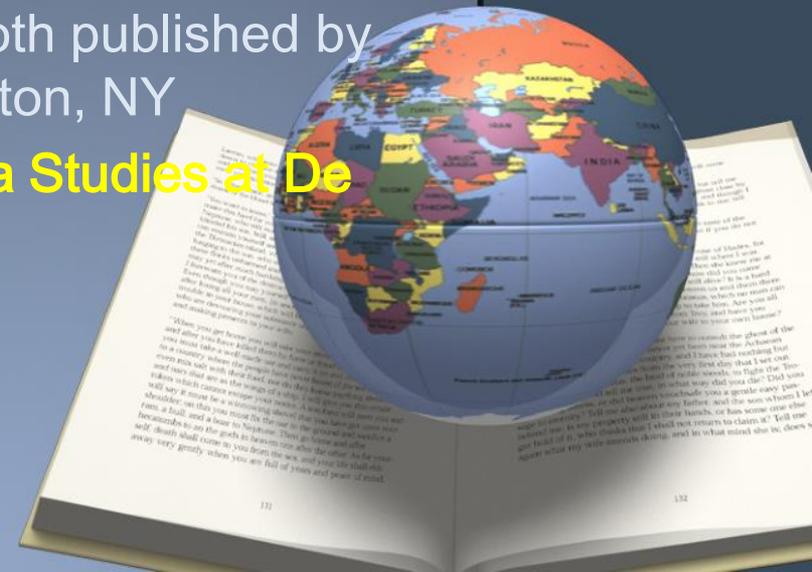
*Books, Libraries, Reading & Publishing in the Cold War (2001)*

*Libraries & Culture: Historical Essays Honoring the Legacy of Donald G. Davis, Jr. (2006)*



# Editorial boards

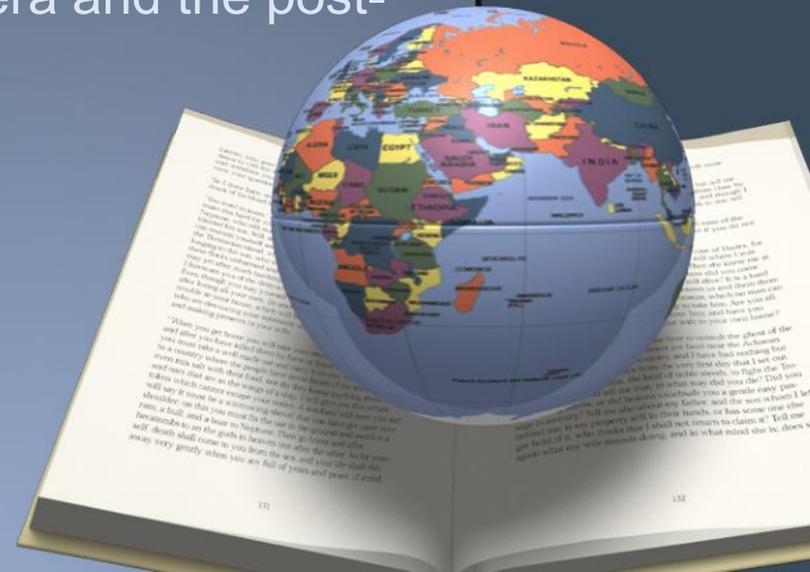
- ***ABHB: Annual Bibliography of the History of Printed Book and Libraries***, published by IFLA
- *Library Trends*, published by the Johns Hopkins University Press
- ***Libraries: Culture, History, and Society***, published by Penn State University Press
- *Library & Archival Security* and *Slavic & East European Information Resources*, both published by Haworth Information Press, Bringhamton, NY
- **Library, Information Science & Media Studies at De Gruyter Open**, published by IFLA



# My scholarly profile

## Library History

- with focus on Central and Eastern Europe (the ex-communist bloc)
- with concentration on the Cold War era and the post-communist period



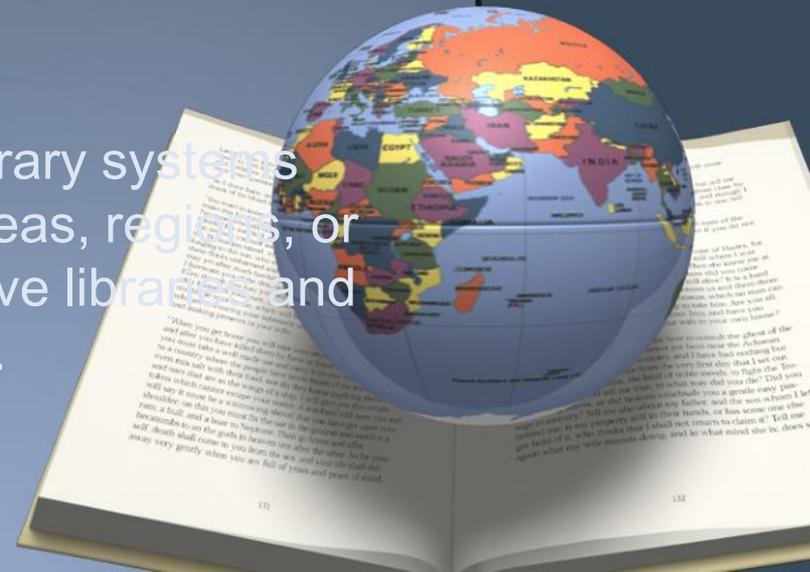


# Library History

as part of the field of  
**International &  
Comparative  
Librarianship**

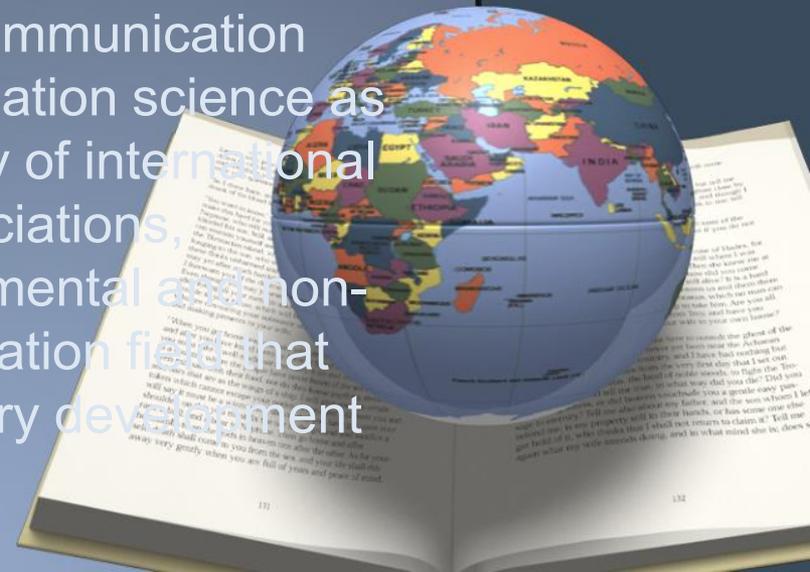
# International & Comparative Librarianship (1)

- **International librarianship** focuses on the role of information in society, and the methods of its acquisition, processing, retrieval, and dissemination across national boundaries by means of international library cooperation through the formulation and development of common standards, policies, and practices.
- **Comparative librarianship** studies library systems within the context of geographical areas, regions, or individual countries in order to improve libraries and library services throughout the world.



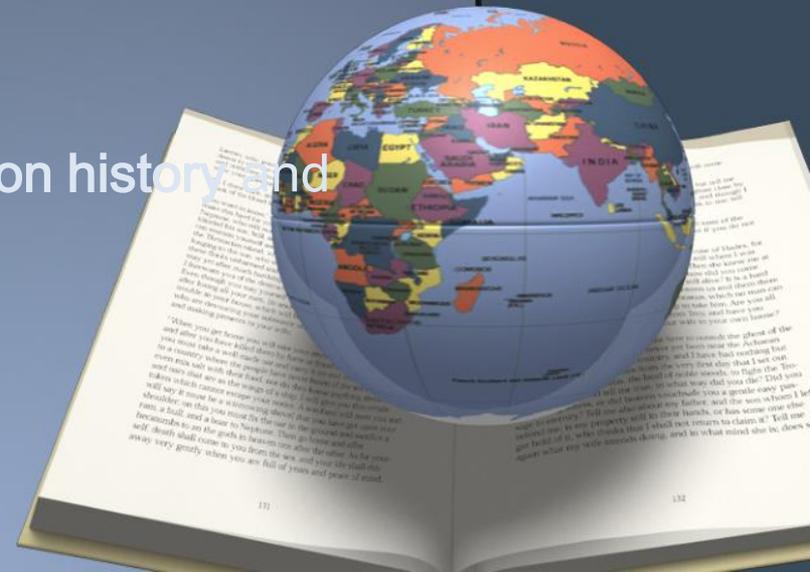
# International & Comparative Librarianship (2)

- I&CL provides a comparison of library and information systems and services worldwide by placing them within various socio-economic, educational, and cultural contexts.
- It addresses the investigation of fundamental concepts concerning international communication and cooperation in library and information science as a global profession through the study of international professional organizations and associations, international programs, inter-governmental and non-governmental agencies in the information field that are working together to achieve library development throughout the world.



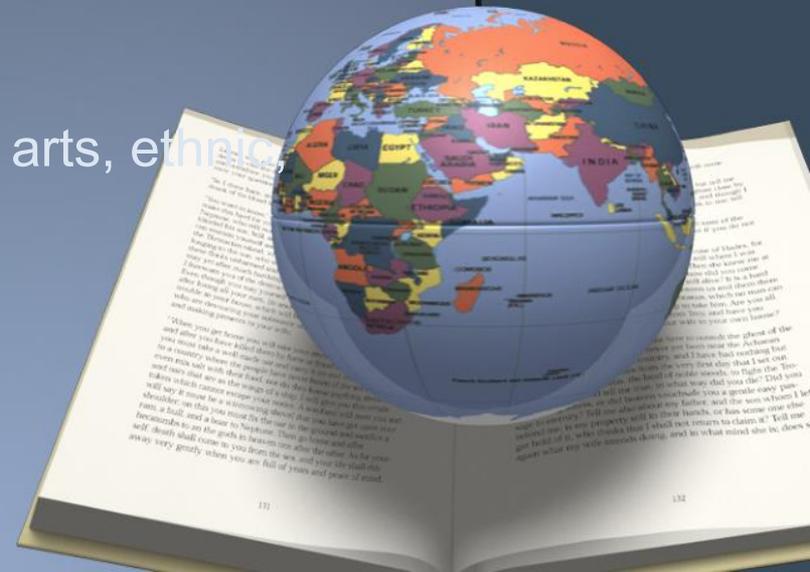
# Library History

- Studies the importance and understanding of the past and of the library profession's theoretical foundations contribution to the successful provision of library services in the present and future.
- Focuses on the historical development of libraries and information agencies and their role in societies and cultures.
- Oftentimes associated with information history and history of documentation.



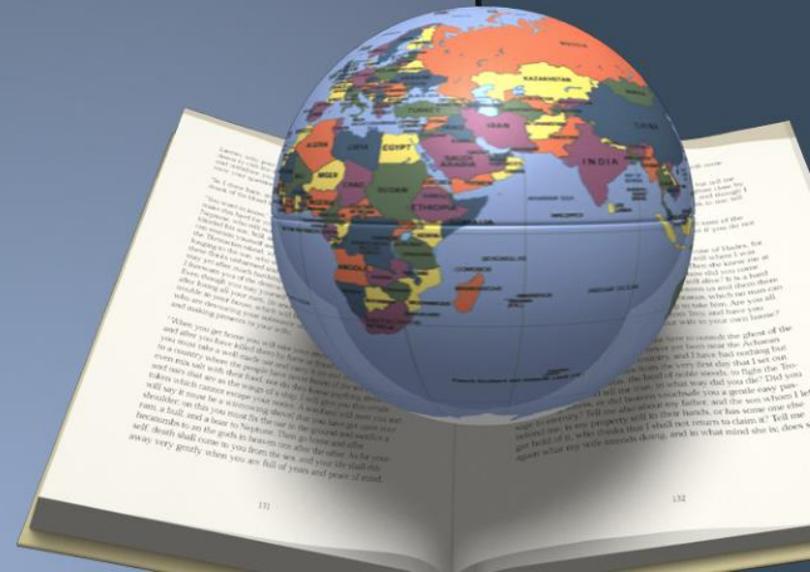
# A complex field

- International and comparative librarianship is a complex field
- Knowledge of:
  - Library systems in general
  - History
  - Geo-political systems
  - Social sciences
  - Foreign languages
  - Cultural issues (cultural history, arts, ethnology, culinary)
- Curiosity, investigative nature
- “Taste” for travel and exploration



# A rewarding field

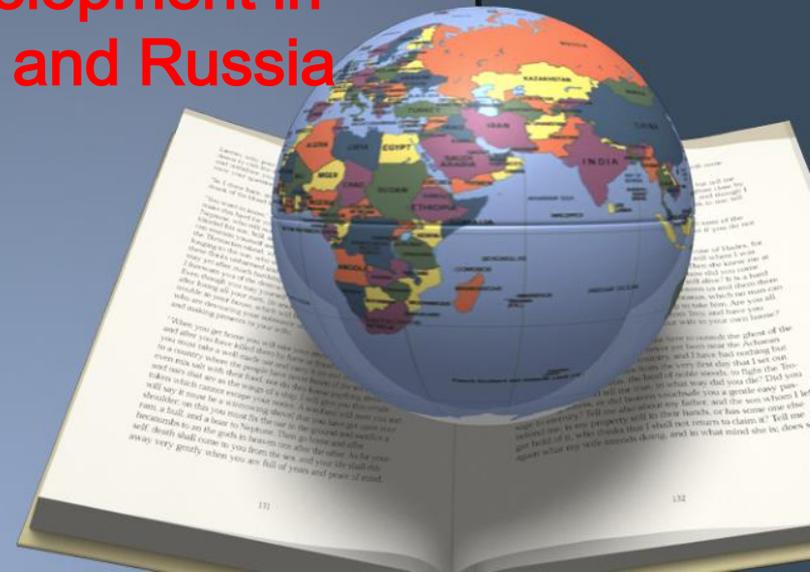
- Not only for **scholarly fulfillment** but also on the personal level
- Lifetime **professional friendships**
- Communion of views
- Exchange of ideas
- Common interests



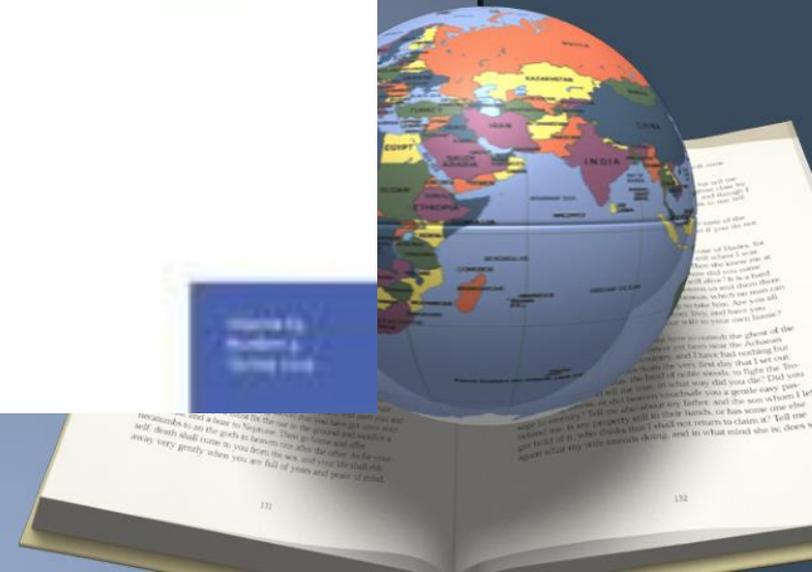
# 25 Years after the Fall of Communism

Special-themed commemorative issue (2 vols.)  
of *Library Trends* (2014-2015) dedicated to:

**Libraries in a Post-Communist World:  
A Quarter of a Century of Development in  
Central and Eastern Europe and Russia**



# Libraries in a Post-Communist World





**A little bit...  
...of history**

# WWII

- Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact/ Nazi German-Soviet Pact of Non-Aggression, 1939
- A written guarantee of non-belligerence
- The pact delineated the spheres of interest between the two powers
- The treaty included a **secret protocol** that divided territories of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, and **Romania** into German and Soviet “**spheres of influence**,” anticipating "territorial and political rearrangements" of these countries.
- Germany invaded Poland on 1 Sept 1939
- Beginning of WWII



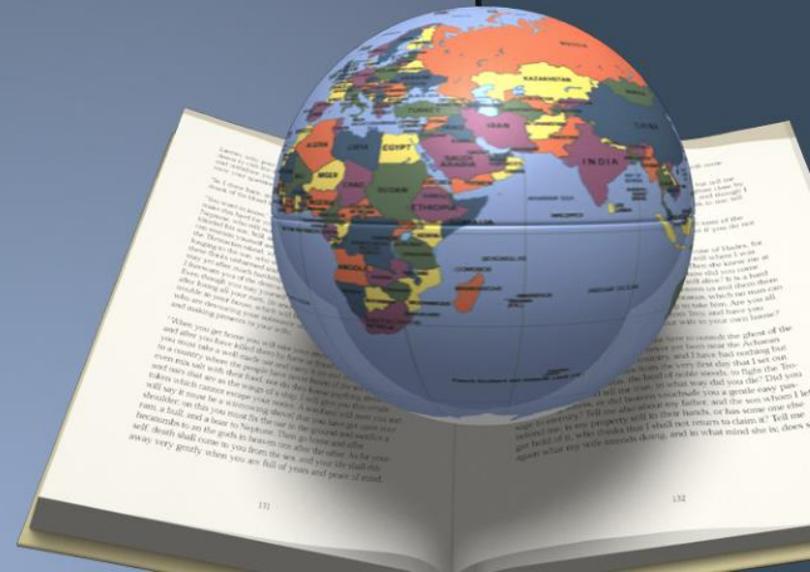
# Aftermath of WWII

- The **Yalta Conference** (the Crimea conference) held from February 4 to 11, 1945
- World War II meeting of the heads of government of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union for the purpose of discussing **Europe's postwar reorganization**
- **USSR was given the right to control Eastern Europe**
- This led to the **Cold War** because it made the West feel that the USSR was given a free hand to **expand communism**



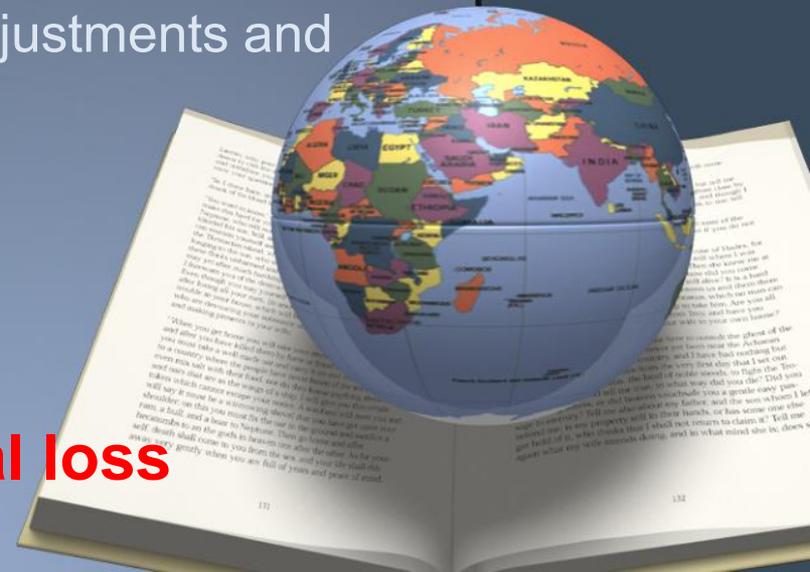
# Aftermath of WWII

- **Warsaw Pact** (Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance) was a defense treaty signed in Warsaw in 1955 among the Soviet Union and seven Soviet satellite states as a reaction of W Germany's joining NATO
- Warsaw Pact was established as a balance of military power to NATO



# Aftermath of WWII

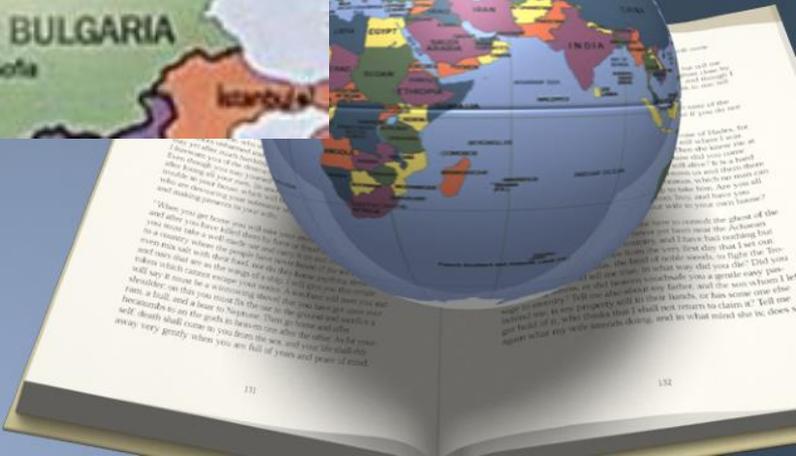
- Paris Peace Conference (held from 29 July to 15 October 1946)
- Paris Peace Treaties, 10 Feb 1947
- The treaties allowed Italy, **Romania**, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Finland to resume their responsibilities as sovereign states in international affairs and to qualify for membership in the United Nations
- The settlement included **territorial** adjustments and border changes...
  - USSR–**Romania**
  - Bulgaria–**Romania**
  - Hungary–**Romania**
  - **Romania takes a territorial loss**





**A little bit...  
...of geography**

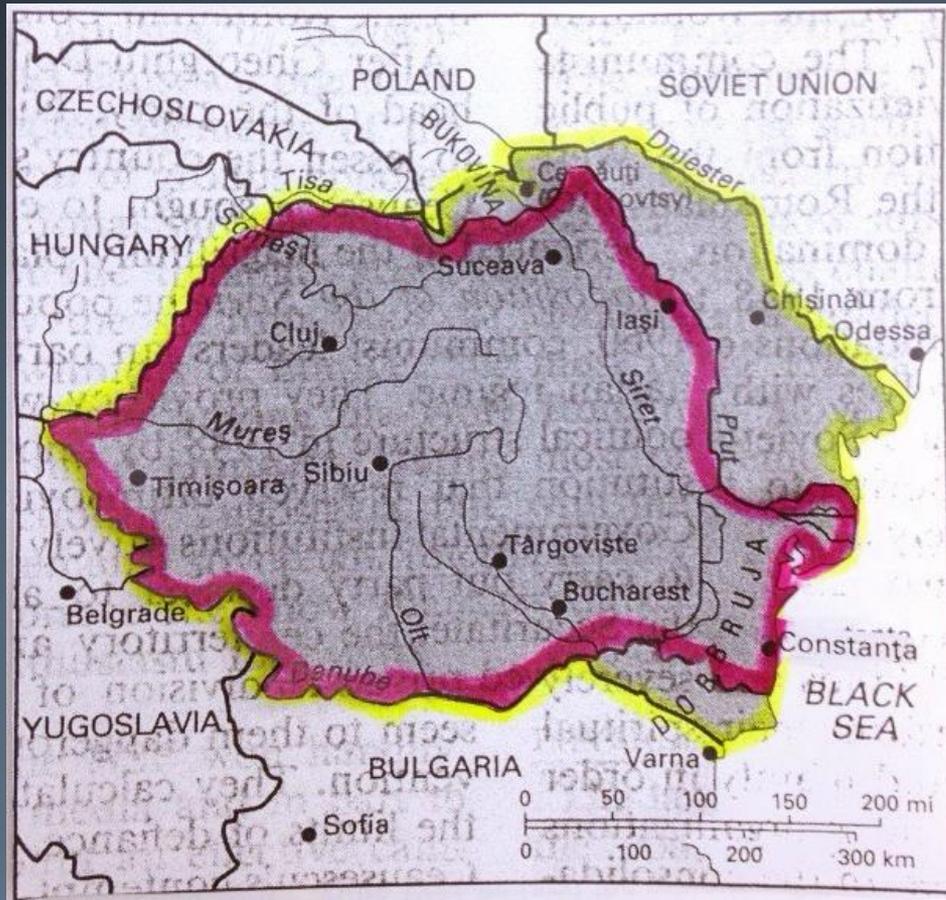
# The Eastern Bloc



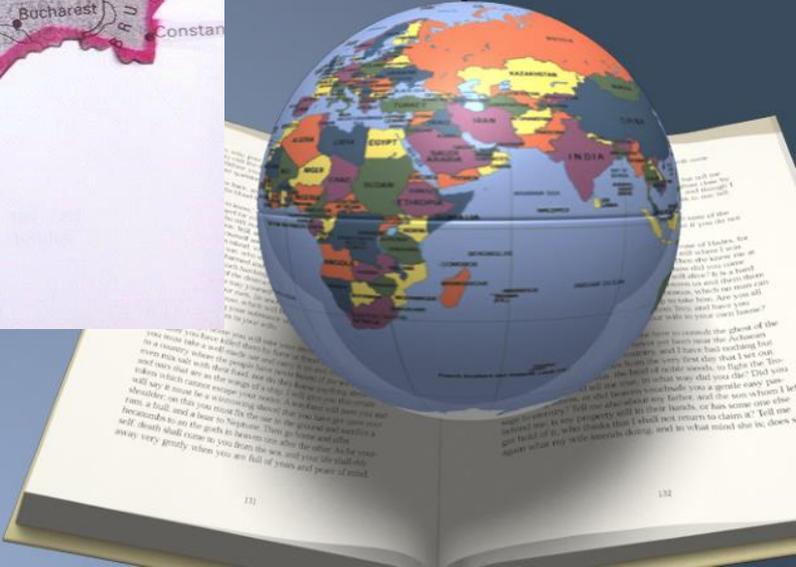
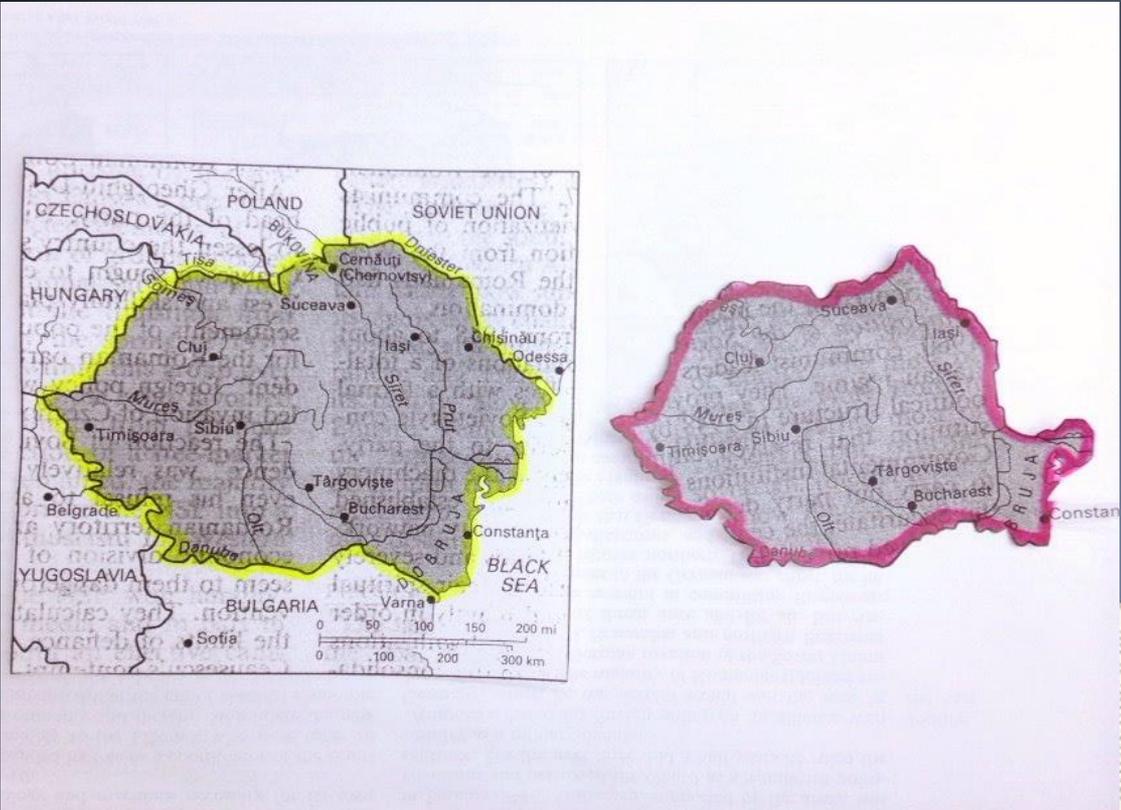




# Greater Romania (WWI-WWII)



# Romania's Territorial Loss

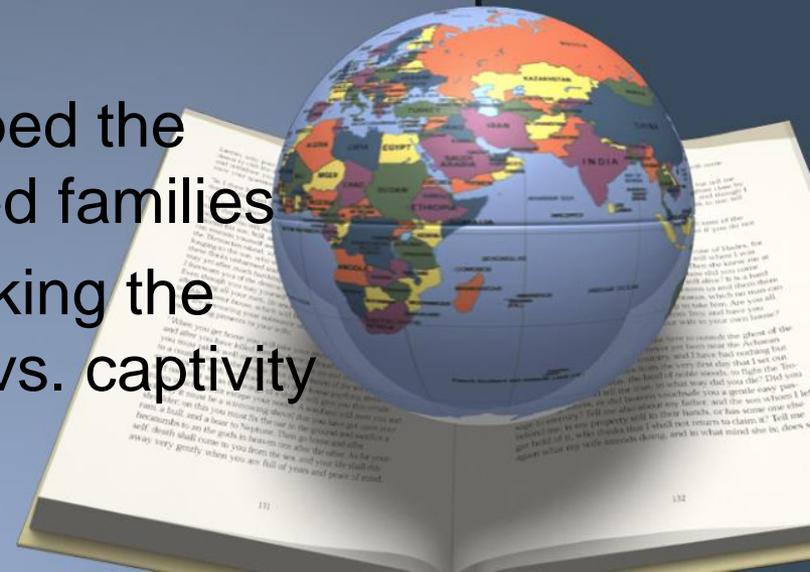




**A little bit...  
...of politics**

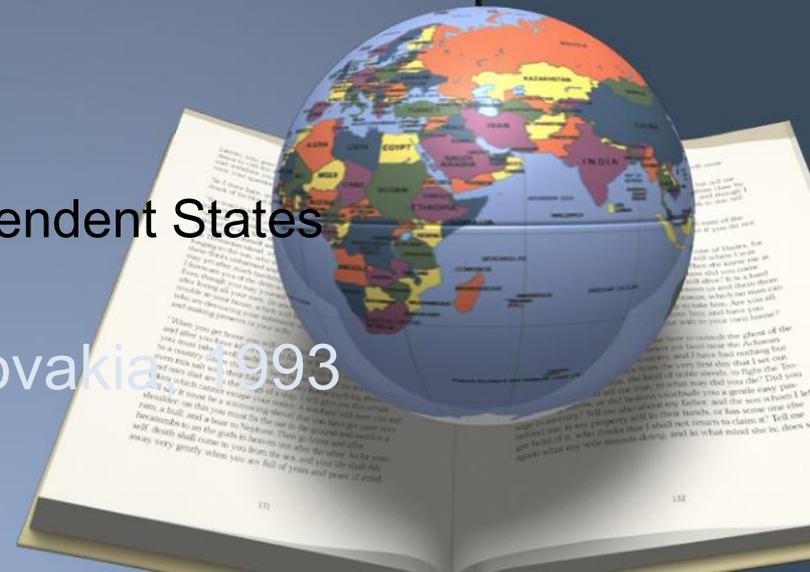
# The Cold War (1945-1989)

- A battle between two “Superpowers”
  - USSR and its allies
  - USA and its allies
- Started at the end of WWII
- Marked the set off of **Communism**  
**in the Eastern/Soviet bloc=Moscow satellite nations**
- Building of the Berlin Wall, 1961
  - a physical barrier that stopped the movement of people, divided families
  - a psychological barrier marking the East/West divide, freedom vs. captivity



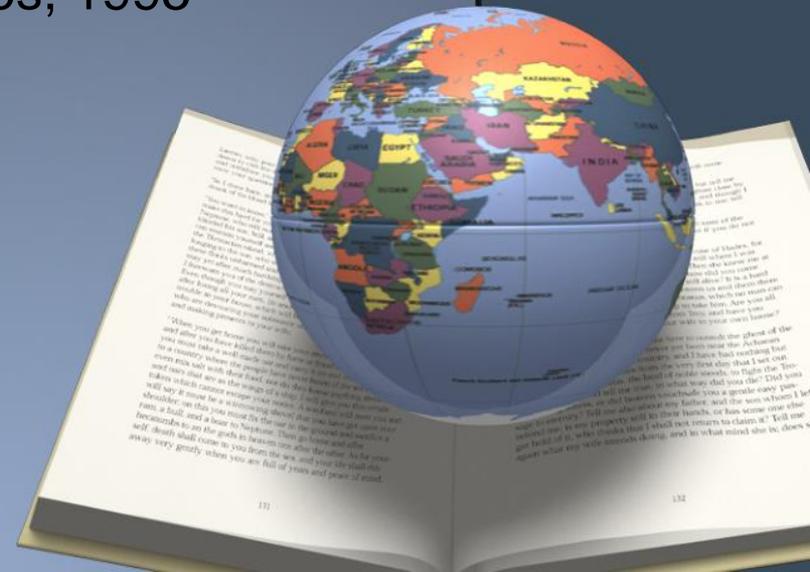
# Aftermath of the Cold War

- The Cold War ended in 1989
  - Fall of the Berlin Wall
  - Prague Velvet Revolution
  - Romania Bloody “Revolution”
- **Geo-Political reconfiguration:**
- Reunification of Germany, 1990
- Fall of USSR in 1991
  - Breakaway of Soviet Republics
  - Russia=Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
- Split (dissolution) of Czechoslovakia, 1993



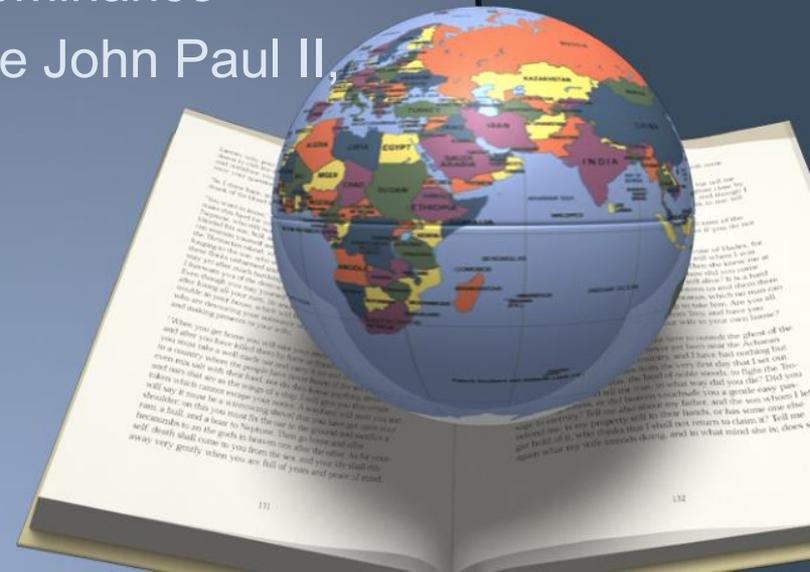
# Aftermath of the Cold War

- In the Balkan Peninsula:
- Breakaway of Yugoslavia, 1991
- Ethnic cleansing wars
  - Bosnia
    - Independence, 1992
    - NATO airstrikes Bosnian Serbs, 1995
  - Kosovo
    - NATO bombing, 1999
    - Independence, 2008



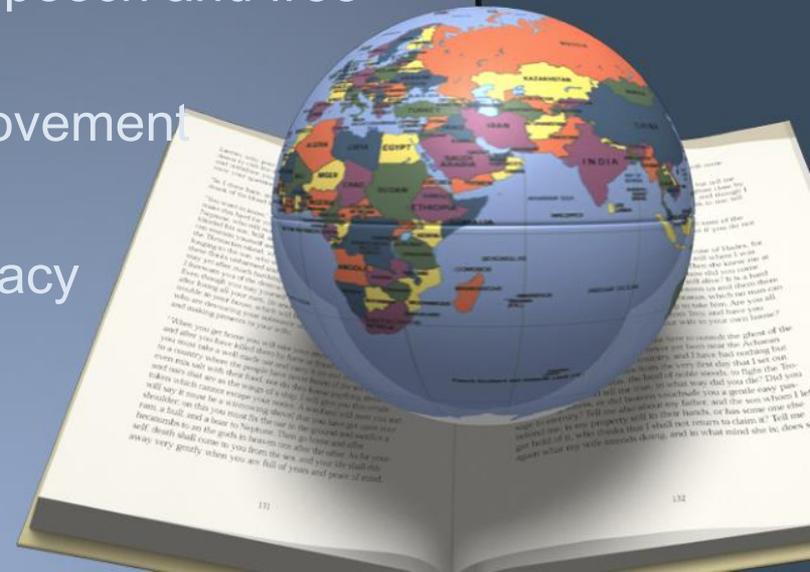
# Poland: Solidarnost, 1980

- Nationalism and Solidarity
- 1989, amid strikes, protests, and poor economy, the Polish Communist Party agreed to free elections
- Solidarity, a new political party, won a landslide victory
- Poland breaks away from USSR's dominance
- Archbishop of Cracow becomes Pope John Paul II, 1979



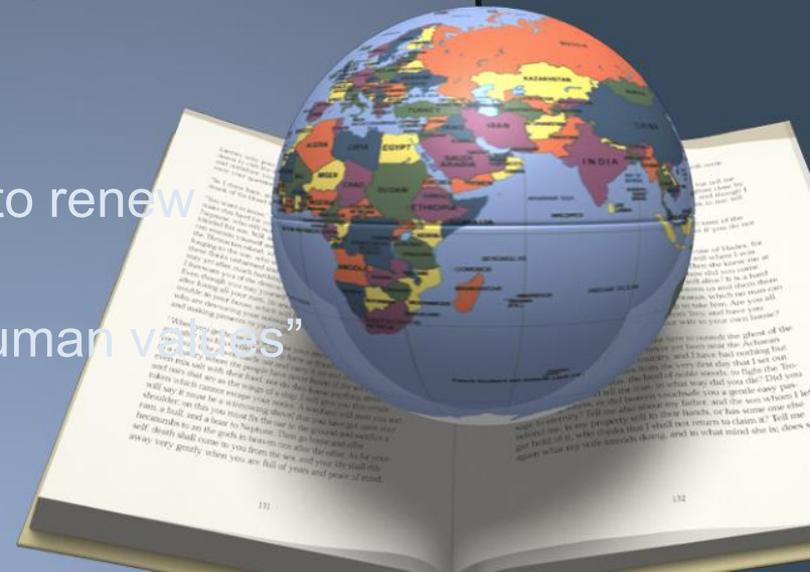
# URSS: Glasnost (Openness), 1986

- Gorbachev denounced Stalin
- Gorbachev allowed open criticism of the state, encouraging debate
- Newspapers and media became less censored
- The academic world was allowed (in fact ordered) to correct Soviet history
- Gorbachev encouraged freedom of speech and free elections
- All these led to Baltic nationalistic movement
  - Baltic States demand autonomy
- Erosion of Soviet power and supremacy



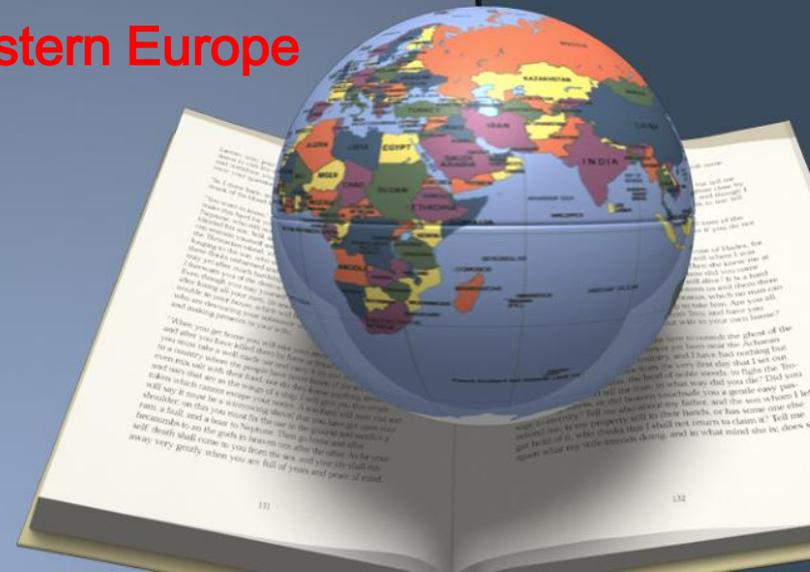
# URSS: Perestroika (Reform/Restructuring)

- Gorbachev denounced Stalin's centralized and controlled economy
- Gorbachev promoted economic reform, encouraged free market economy
- Gorbachev reaffirmed his commitment to one ideology (**communism**)
- Gorbachev admitted USSR was wrong to invade
  - Hungary, 1956
  - Czechoslovakia, 1968
- Gorbachev announced his intention to renew détente with the USA
- Gorbachev emphasized “common human values” with Americans



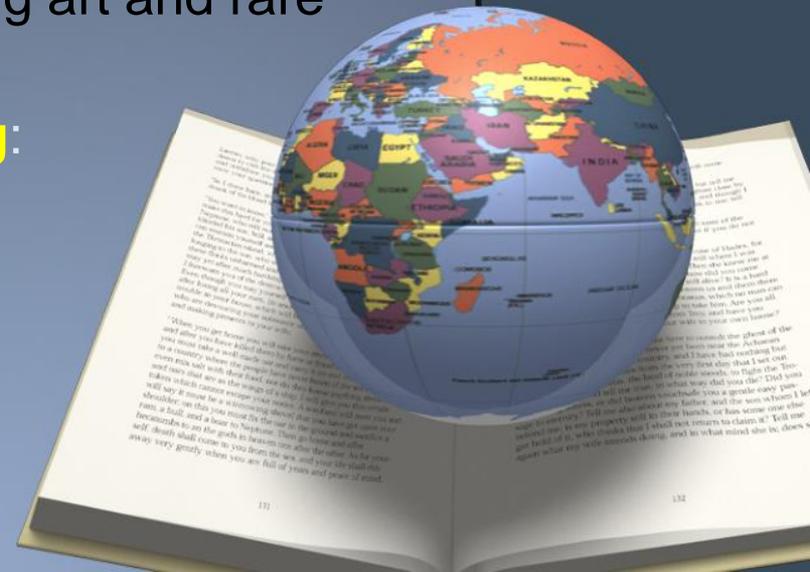
# East-West Relationships

- Gorbachev sought to reduce East-West tensions
- Gorbachev pledged to respect political choices of peoples of Central and Eastern Europe
- USSR would allow satellite states to choose their own way of government
- USSR would no longer send in Red Army troops to crush rebellions
- USSR **loosened Soviet control in Eastern Europe**



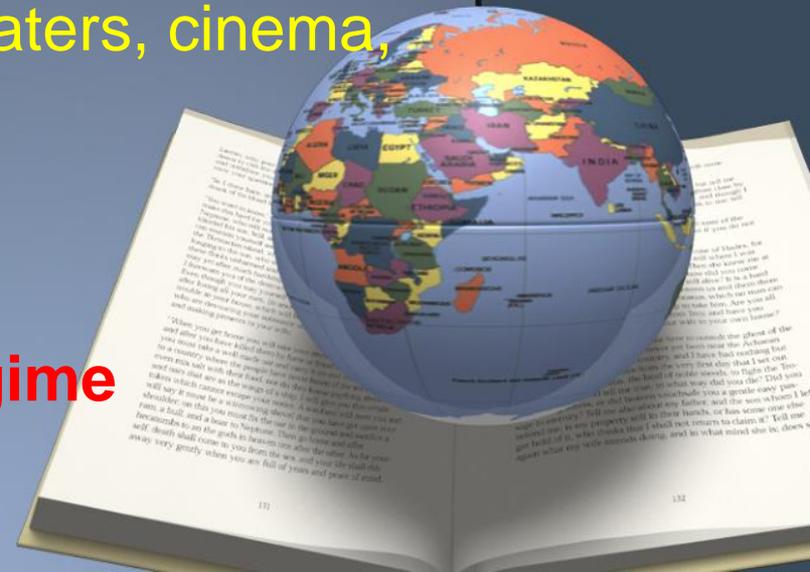
# Communism

- “**Dictatorship of the proletariat**”/working class
- **Single-party** (Communist Party) **rule/no opposition**
- In reality:
  - dictatorship of the Communist Party and its leaders
- Government-owned ... **everything**:
  - Nationalization/confiscation of private property: factories, land, buildings, including art and rare book collections
- Government-controlled ... **everything**:
  - Political arena
  - Economic activities
  - Social life
  - Cultural stage



# Culture during the Communist regime

- Government funding and control of
  - Schools, universities
  - Publishing houses
  - Press (newspapers, magazines)
  - Media (TV, Radio)
  - Entertainment industry (theaters, cinema, film, music)
  - Communication systems
  - Libraries
  - **Totalitarian/dictatorial regime**



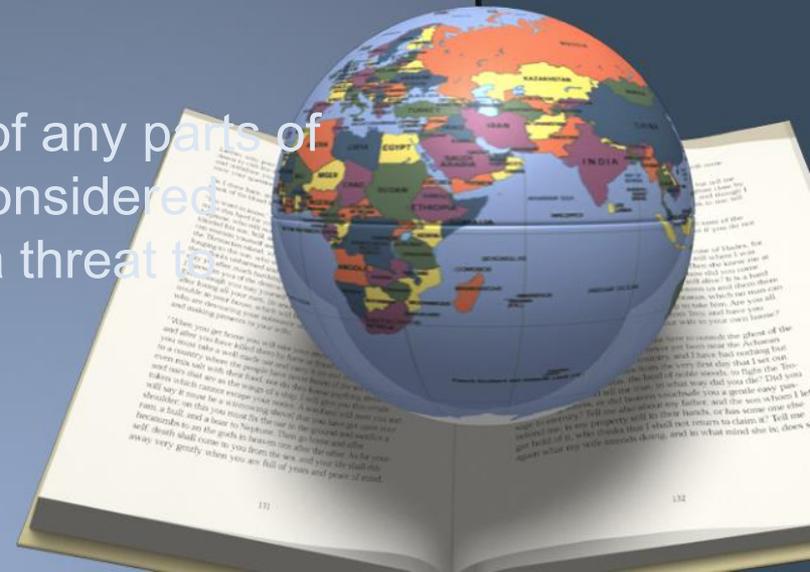
# Culture during the Communist regime

- Education was state-sponsored
- The state determined the curriculum which promoted the communist cause
- All cultural institutions used for
  - political propaganda
  - mass indoctrination
  - promotion of anti-Western views
  - intellectual activity considered harmful and dangerous
  - brainwashing
- Gov't control exercised through **Censorship**



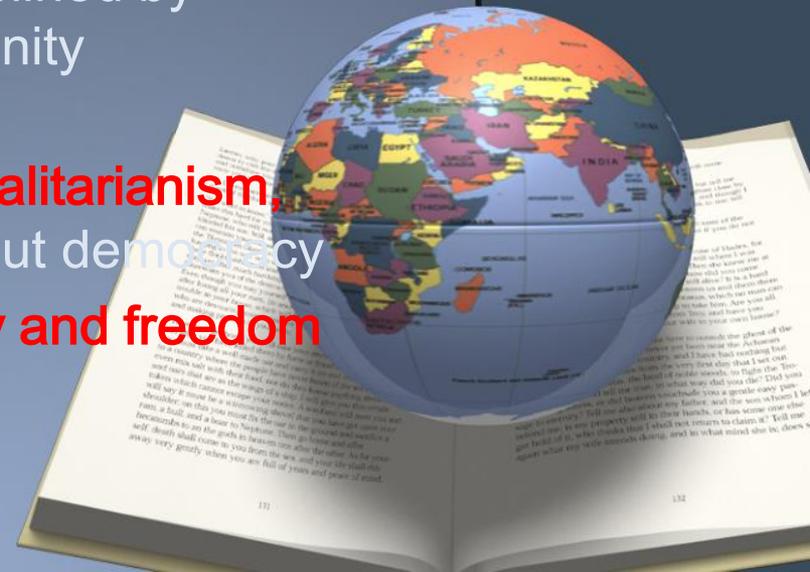
# What is Censorship?

- The act of **controlling** the generation of and the access to information either by
  - **removing content**
  - **modifying content, or**
  - **banning access to content altogether**
- The act of **suppression** or **prohibition** of any parts of books, films, news, art, etc. that are considered obscene, politically unacceptable, or a threat to security



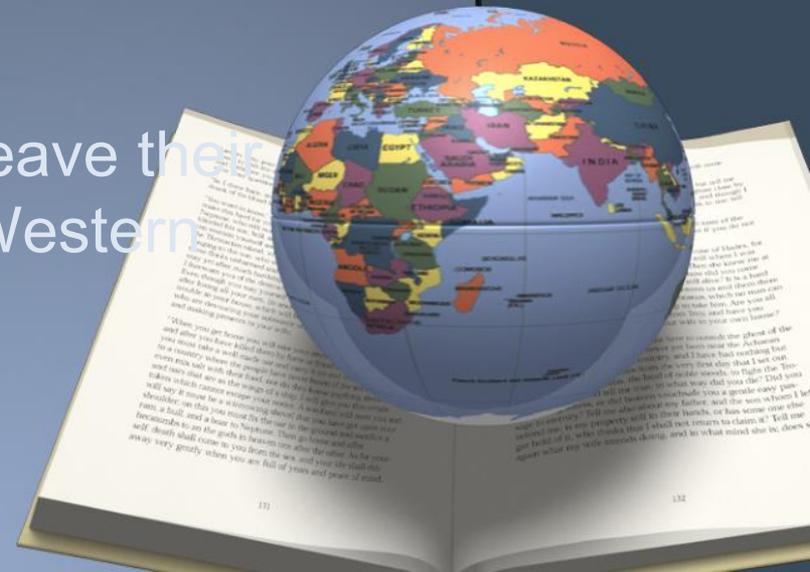
# What is Censorship?

- The act of **suppression** of
  - **speech**
  - **public communication, or**
  - **any other type of information**
- on the basis that such material is considered objectionable, harmful, sensitive, politically incorrect, or "inconvenient" as determined by government authorities or by community consensus
- **Censorship**, term associated with **totalitarianism, dictatorship**, communism, anything but democracy
- **Censorship = opposite of democracy and freedom**



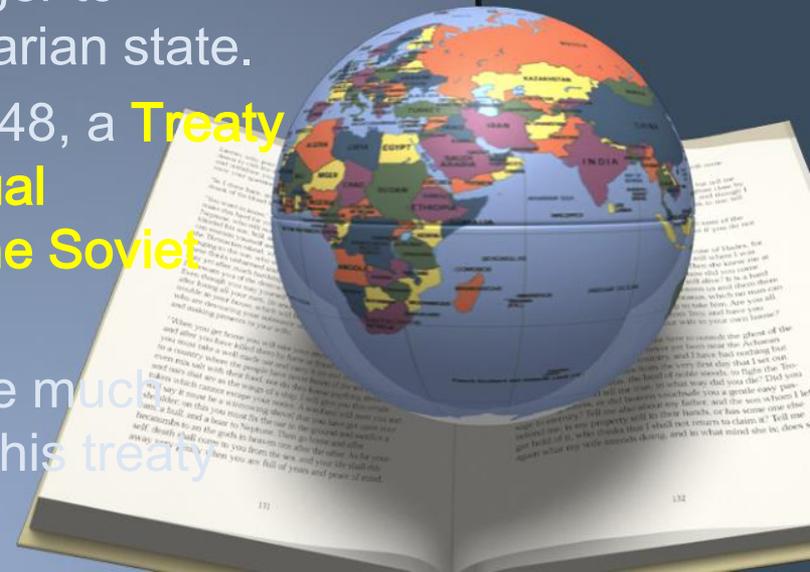
# Back to History...

- Before WWII, most countries in Central and Eastern Europe were monarchies ruled by a King (all were related through marriages)
- 1945—end of WWII
- Communist takeover
- Monarchies abolished
- Kings forced to abdicate and leave their country (all went into exile to Western Europe)



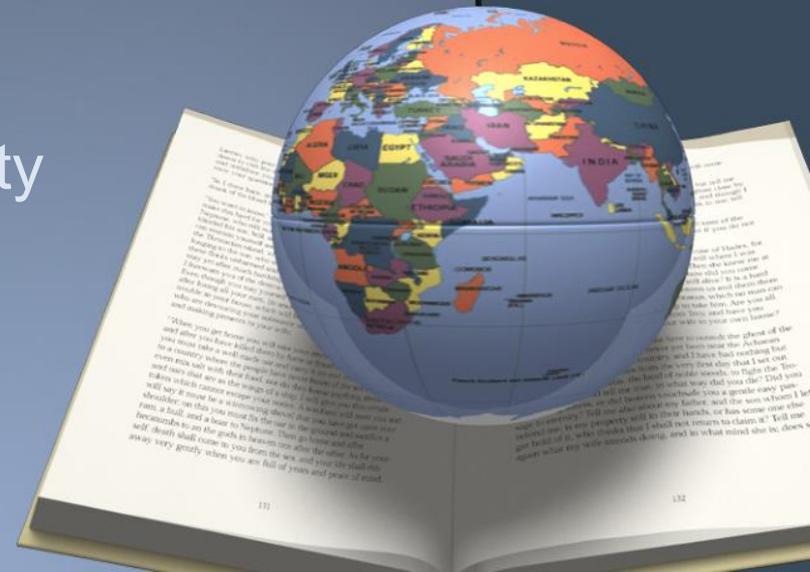
# Communist Romania's Case

- 1945—Communist takeover
- 30 Dec 1947—King Michael forced to abdicate
- 30 Dec 1947—(same day) the Romanian People's Republic was declared
- The official takeover of the country by the communist regime
- The communist government was eager to establish the foundation of the totalitarian state.
- As a first step, on 4th of February 1948, a **Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Romania and the Soviet Union** was signed
- The Soviet Union's influence became much stronger in Romania's territory after this treaty



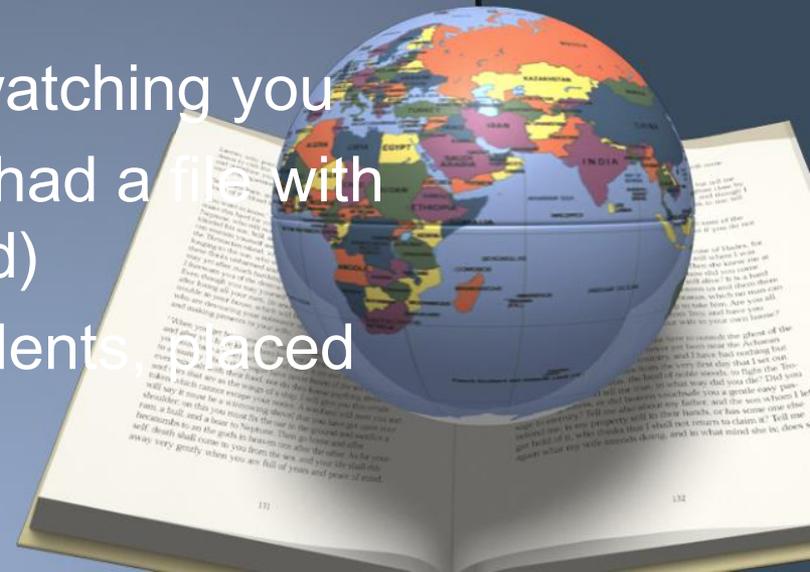
# Communist Romania's Case

- As communism became widespread in Romania, backed up by the Soviet Union, there was a strong censorship throughout
  - political
  - economic,
  - social, and
  - cultural
- sectors in the Romanian society
- **Censorship was everywhere!**



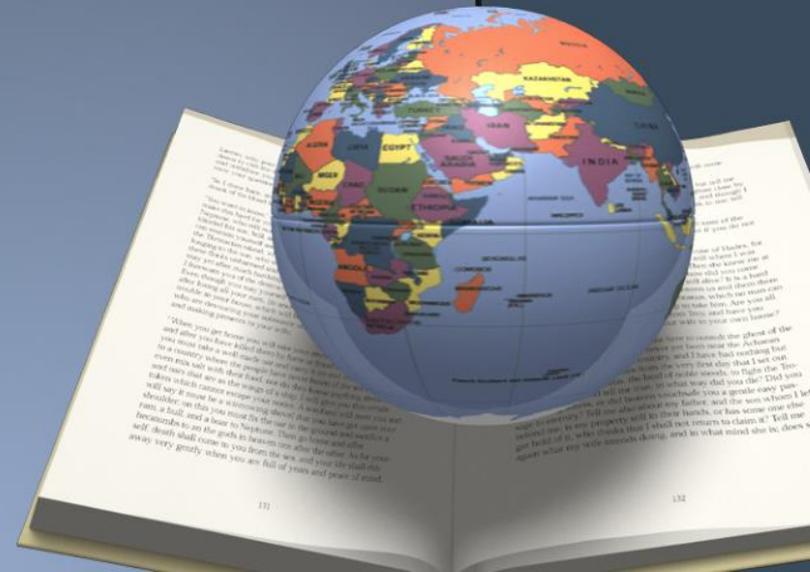
# Communist Romania's Case

- **Censorship was everywhere!**
- Even at home, where if you had a typewriter, the law required you to register it with the police
- The police could track you if you typed any anti-government material, like flyers
- People were not allowed to meet with foreigners
- **Secret police was everywhere**, watching you
- Many people were followed and had a file with the secret police (myself included)
- Many intellectuals became dissidents, placed under house arrest



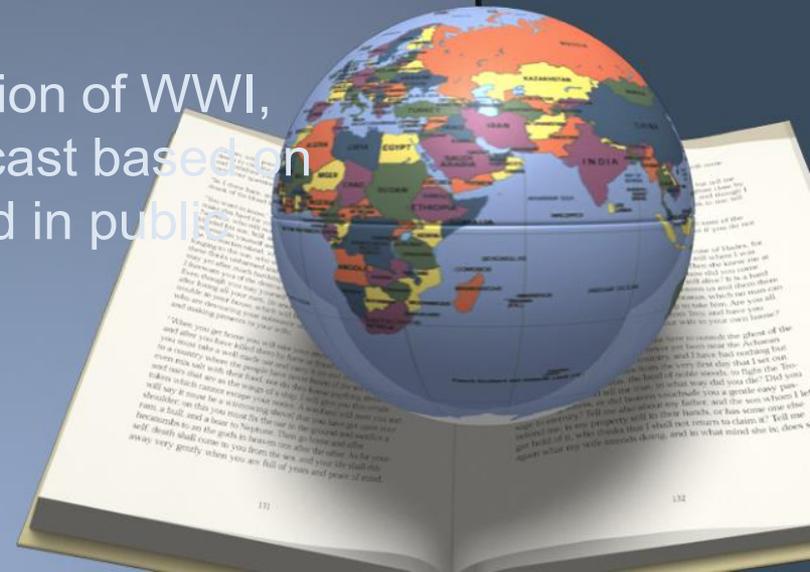
# Censorship in the cultural sector

- Visual, decorative arts
- Performing arts
- Media
- TV
- News
- Publishing industry
- Libraries
- Associative life
- Religious life



# Art

- All types of decorative art (paintings, sculptures, statues that used to be situated in public places) representing members of the royal house and dignitaries from the time of the monarchy were removed.
- Some were placed in storage, some physically destroyed
- Currently, for the centennial celebration of WWI, (2018) some of these statues are recast based on photographs. Replicas will be placed in public squares.



# Public art: Statue of King Carol I on horseback

During communism:  
Central University Library  
Bucharest

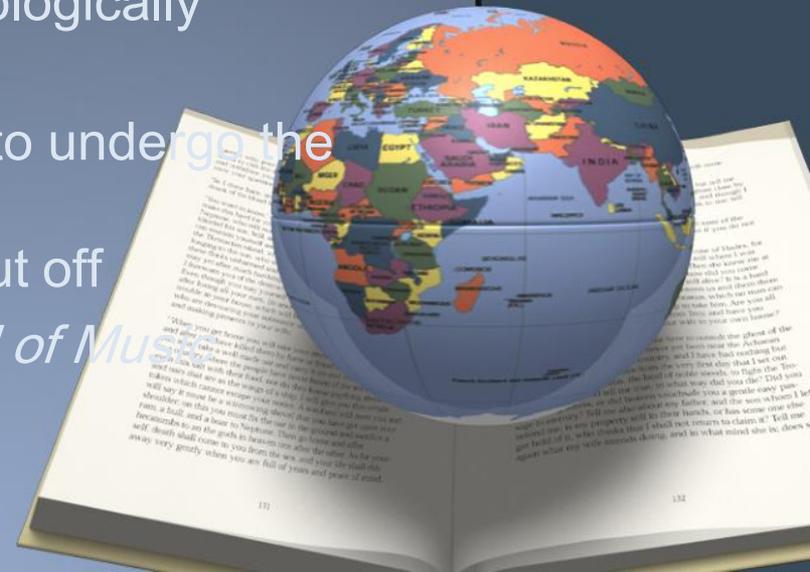


Pre- and post-communism:  
King Carol I University  
Library, Bucharest



# Performing arts: theater, film

- Before being staged, **all performances** had to receive the censors' approval
- Texts and scripts were scrutinized and “harmful” content removed/purged
- Plays having authors from the Eastern bloc were favored
- Movies produced in “sister” countries were welcomed because they had already been ideologically examined in their country of origin
- Movies from Western countries had to undergo the censors' examination, and “harmful” paragraphs/scenes were removed/cut off
- Ex: church marriage scene in *Sound of Music*



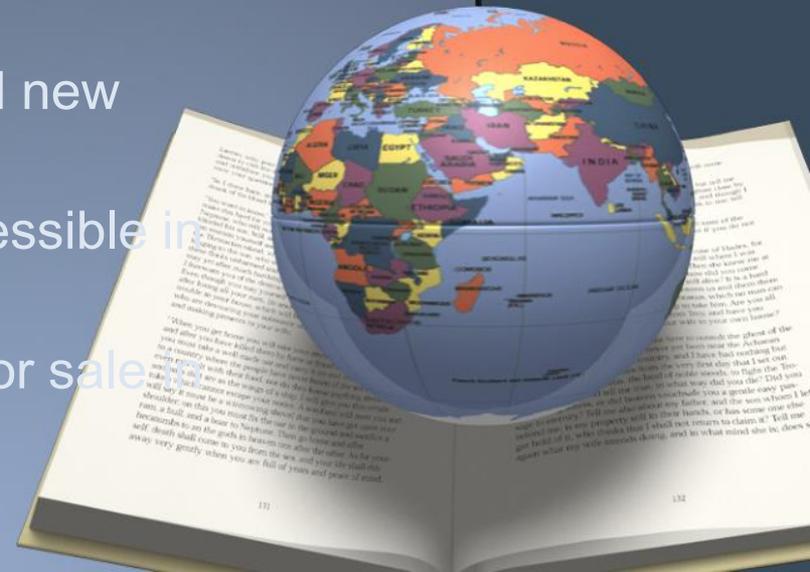
# TV

- One state TV station to broadcast all over the country
- From 19:00 to 22:00
- The broadcast would start with 1 hour news focusing on party life and “achievements” from the industry and agriculture
- Some cultural news were included
- A one-hour show praising the great leaders’ accomplishments followed
- The program would end with the replay of the news
- On weekends a movie from the communist bloc was the “treat”



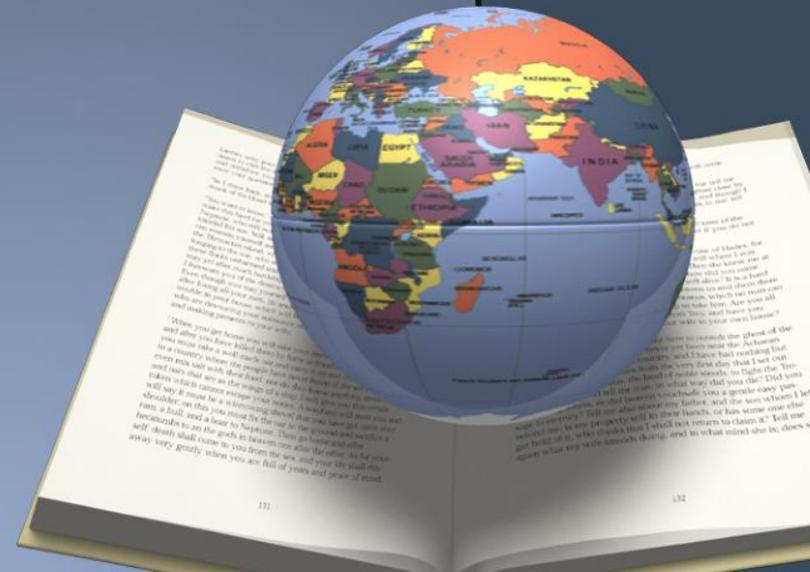
# Religion

- Communism promoted **atheism**
- Only a few religions were declared acceptable by the communist government
- Romanians are 86.5% Orthodox, 4.5% Roman-Catholic, 3.2% Reformed, 2% Pentecostal
- However, church going was not encouraged
- Many churches were demolished, mainly in Bucharest, the capital city, under the pretext of urban modernization
- Others were obscured/placed behind new communist-type buildings
- **Religious books** were not easily accessible in libraries
- **Religious books** were not available for sale in bookstores



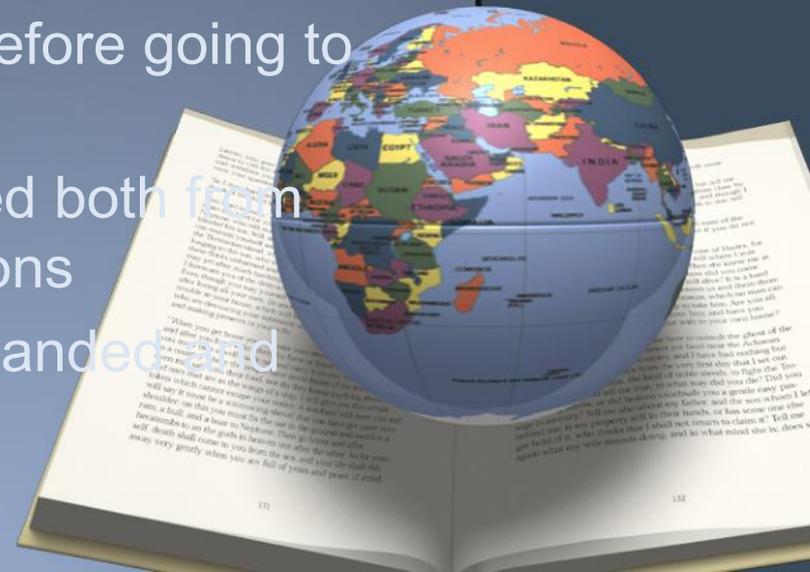
# Professional associations

- Non-existent
- People were not allowed to congregate/get together
- The communist government feared conspiracy and potential anti-government complots



# Publishing industry

- During the communist regime there were only 16 approved and government-funded publishing houses
- All had an **in-house censor**, overseen by another level of censorship/ideological control at the Ministry of Culture level
- Socialist Culture and Education Council was the official name of the Ministry of Culture
- **All manuscripts** were scrutinized before going to press, even poetry
- Noncompliant content was removed both from original writings and from translations
- Noncompliant authors were reprimanded and sometimes banned/black listed





# Libraries in Eastern Europe: Commonalities and the **Soviet Model**

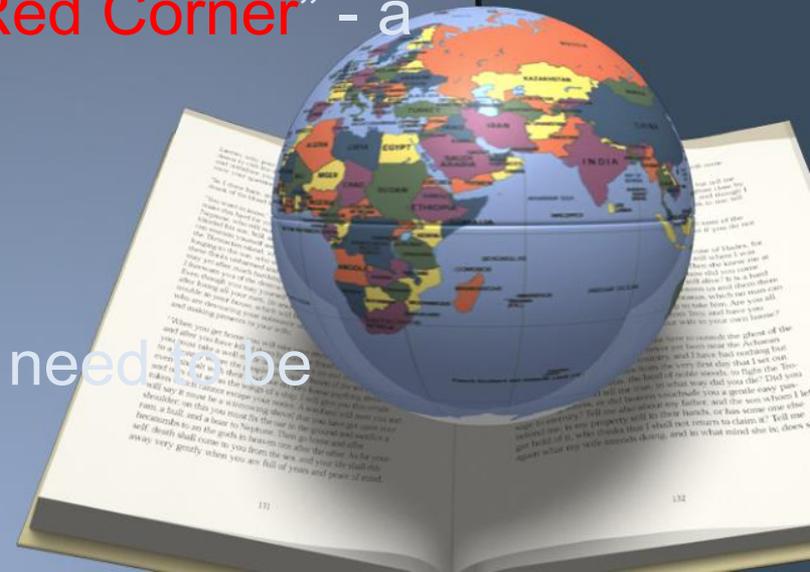
# Library mission under communism

- **Libraries as promoters of political education** to make citizens identify with and support the Communist Party policies and doctrine
- Libraries shape citizens' ideology and political identity
- Libraries were used as **tools for communist propaganda and mass indoctrination**
- Massive collections of works by the three “thinkers” of communism and socialism
  - **Marx, Engels, Lenin**
- I saw this in Cuba as recently as last year!
- Entire shelves of books bound in **red cloth**
- Libraries became repositories (storages) of books
- Library usage extremely low



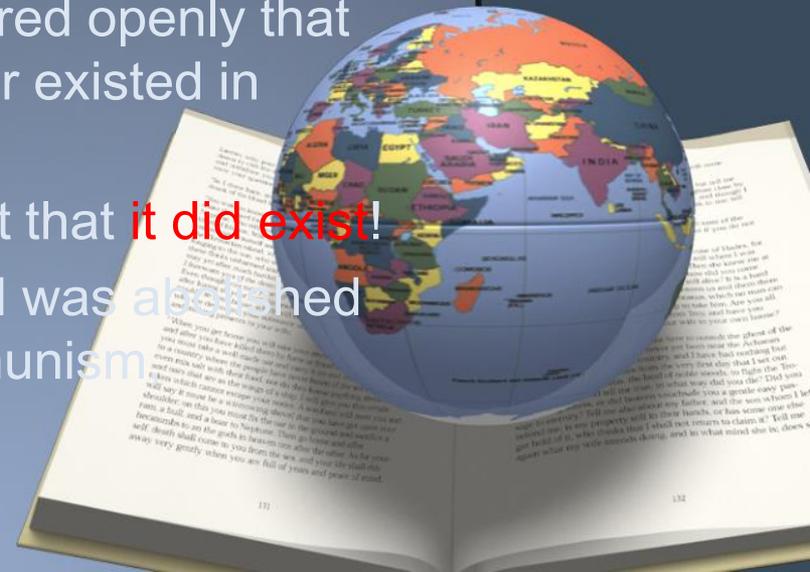
# However...

- The number of libraries increased tremendously
- Libraries with political collections were established in every factory to disseminate the communist ideology
- Librarians' mission was to bring books to the workplace - **trade union libraries**
- Every institution had at least a "**Red Corner**" - a few shelves with political books
- Were they used?
- No!
- **Library statistics** from this period need to be interpreted with caution!



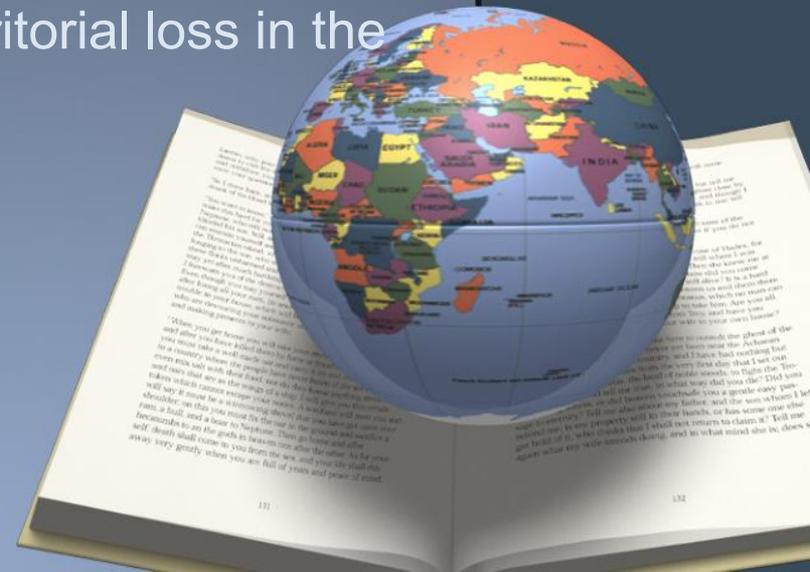
# Lists of banned books

- Beginning in 1944 the communist government compiled and distributed to libraries lists of forbidden titles along with lists of forbidden writers.
- Some **8,000 titles** were ordered to be removed from library collections
- In 1954 a **special department** was created to perform ideological verification of book content, of newspaper articles, of the media in general, including TV and radio - **Department of the Press and Printed Matters**
- In 1977 the communist regime declared openly that the institution of censorship no longer existed in Romania
- So, this is a public acknowledgement that **it did exist!**
- However, it continued to operate and was **abolished** in libraries only after the fall of communism beginning in 1990



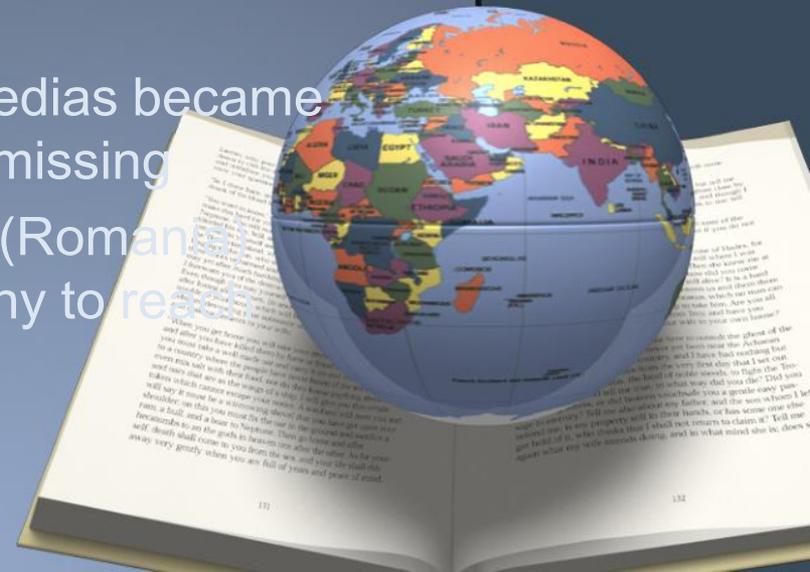
# Banned topics

- Everything dealing with the monarchy forced into exile
- History books that contained chapters about the monarchy and Romanian nobility
- Books that contained chapters about the pre WWII political parties and prominent political figures
- Books about the pre WWII economic situation in Romania
- Books that discussed Romania's territorial loss in the aftermath of WWII
- Books with pro-Western views
- Religious works
- And many, many more...



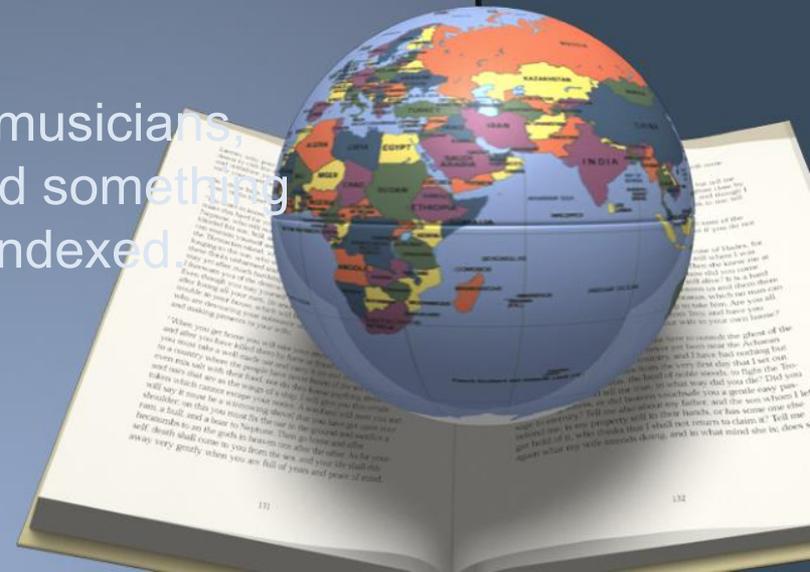
# Foreign books banned too

- All books presenting Romania in an unfavorable light had to be removed
- When boxes of foreign books reached Romania from international exchange partners they were inspected and then sent to destination, usually a major library in Romania
- Books that did not meet the censors' criteria were retained
- Entire sets of multi-volume encyclopedias became mutilated with the C and R volumes missing
- Articles in the C (Ceausescu) and R (Romania) volumes were negative and not worthy to reach library users



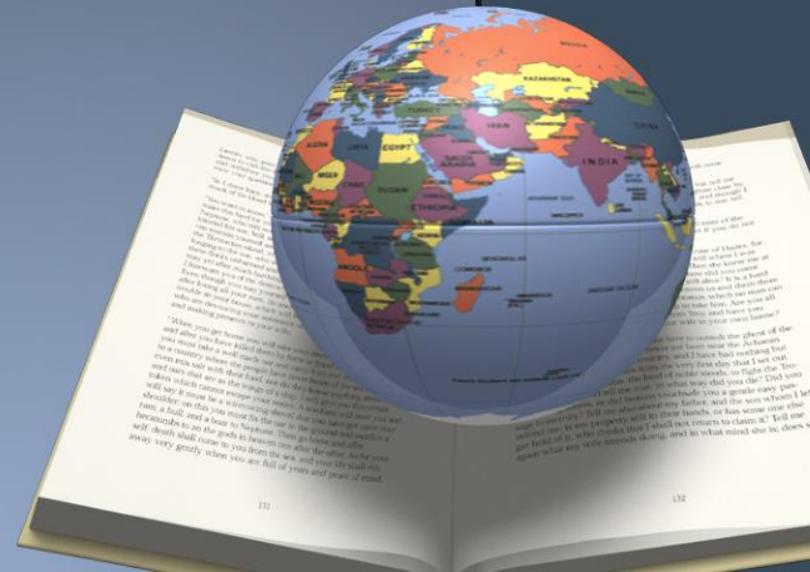
# Banned authors

- Romanian authors and book illustrators who went into exile after the communist takeover
- Foreign authors who did not write favorably about Romania
- Romanian authors with pro-Western views
- Romanian authors whose views and writings did not meet communist ideological requirements
- Similarly, there were lists of banned musicians, painters, actors... everyone who said something against the communist leaders was indexed.



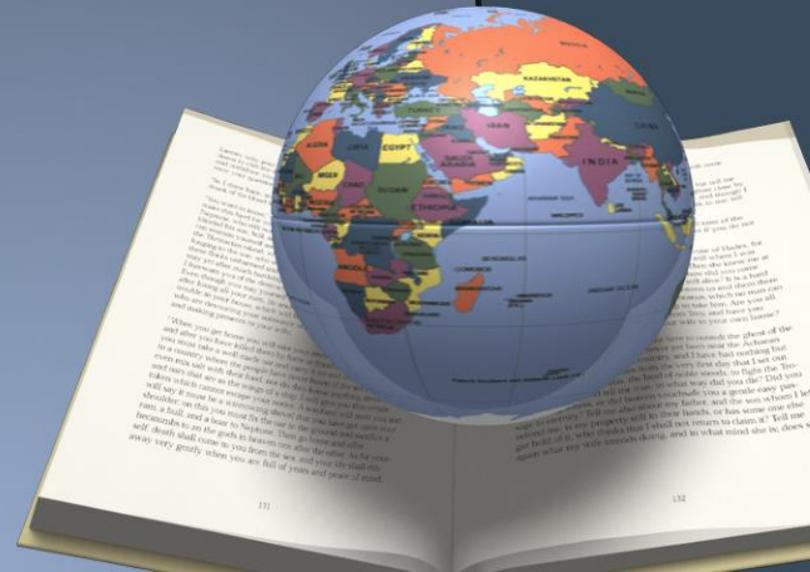
# Instead...

- Massive collections of political literature
- Communist Party documents
- Translations of Soviet literature
- Translations of Eastern bloc authors



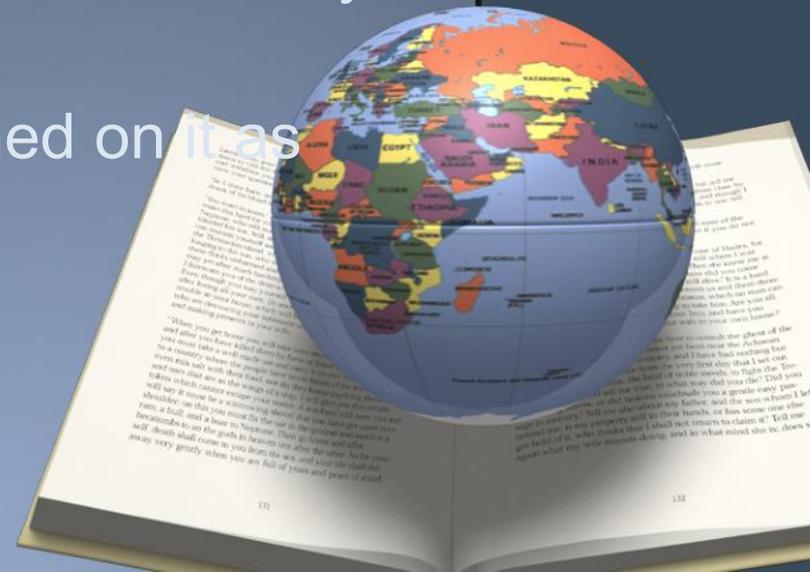
# What happened to the books that were removed?

- Some “zealous” librarians physically destroyed them, to wipe out all traces of their existence.
- Some “smarter” librarians did remove them from the shelves, but placed them in a secure location and kept and saved those books.
- Some “even smarter” ones left one copy on the shelf and put a second one in storage.



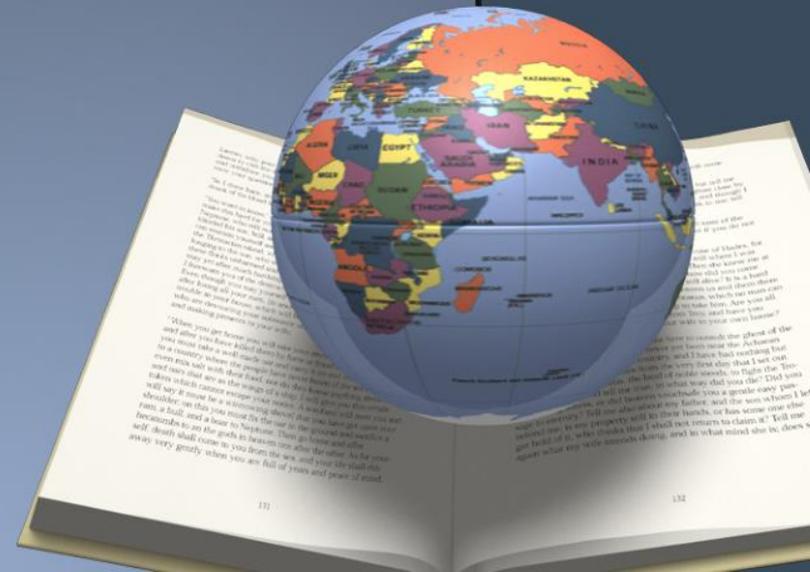
# “S” Collections

- Collections of banned books were known as “S” collections, with “S” standing for Special/Secret
- Libraries maintained separate card catalogs of “S” collections / banned books
- These catalogs were for librarians’ use only, not for the public
- Each card had the “S” mentioned on it as did the book itself



# To summarize: Early-pre WWII Development Traditional

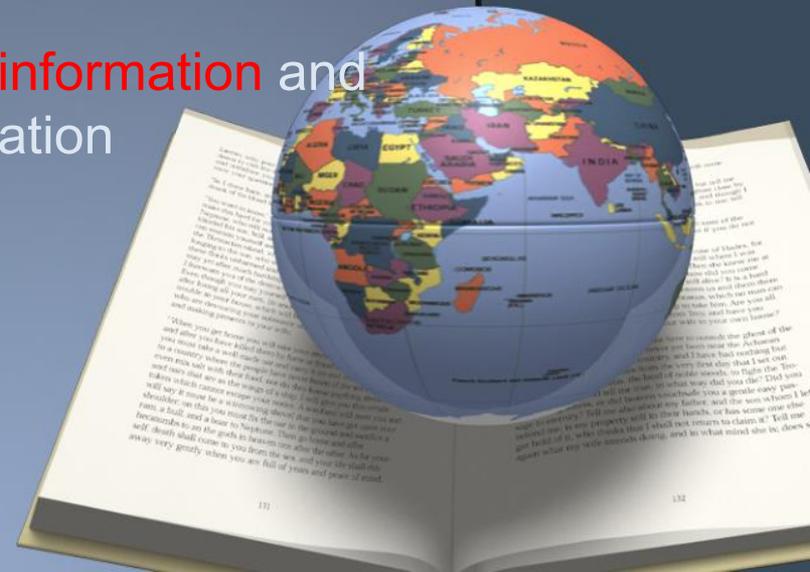
- Monastic libraries / Church libraries
  - Monasteries were places where scribes copied manuscripts
  - Monasteries were the first printing centers
- 19<sup>th</sup> century--
- In rural areas : School libraries (with collections opened to the public too)
- In urban areas : Public libraries
- University libraries
- Library of the Academy of Sciences
- National libraries



# Recap:

## The communist period/ The Soviet model

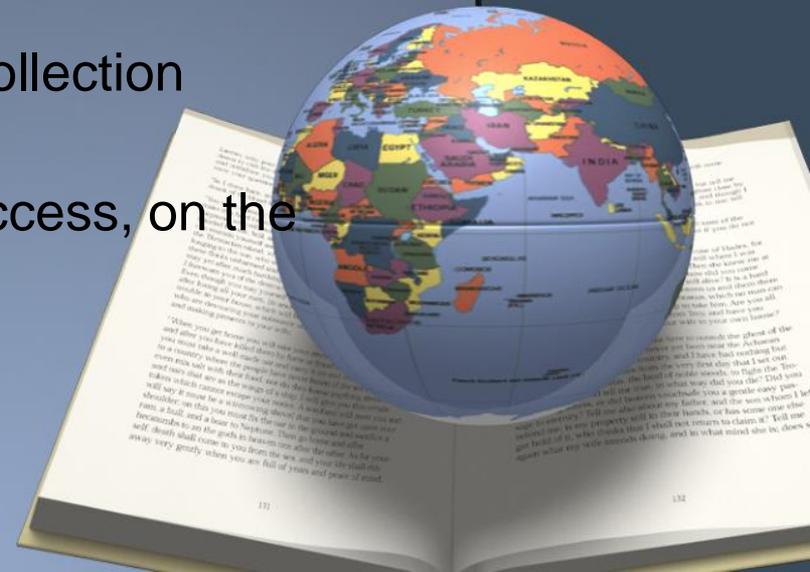
- Libraries served as **propaganda tools for mass indoctrination** to spread Marxist ideology
- **Severe censorship and government control**
  - in the publishing industry
  - in library collection development
  - in information dissemination
- **Librarians acted as filters/barriers to information** and not as facilitators to access to information



# Recap:

## The communist period/ The Soviet model/ Communist Legacy

- **Poor infrastructure**
  - libraries occupied old buildings inadequate for library operations
  - dated collections
  - closed stacks
- **LIS education**
  - very traditional, focused on the collection (cataloging and bibliography)
  - Not at all focused on providing access, on the user's needs
  - Discontinued in the mid-'70s
- **No library association**





# The Fall of Communism



Fall of the Berlin Wall

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Fall of the Berlin Wall

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Fall of the Berlin Wall

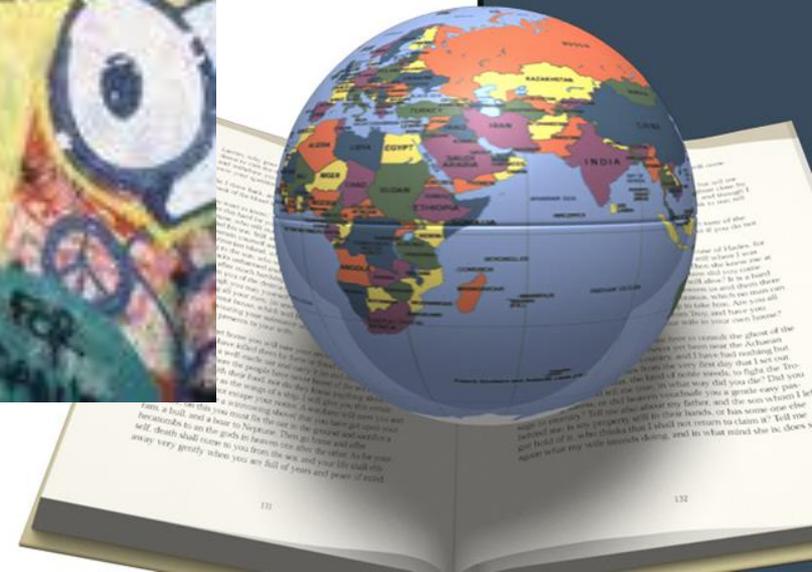


Fall of the Berlin Wall

# Libraries as War Casualties

Czechoslovakia: the Velvet Revolution (no incident)

Romania: the Bloody Revolution



# Romania



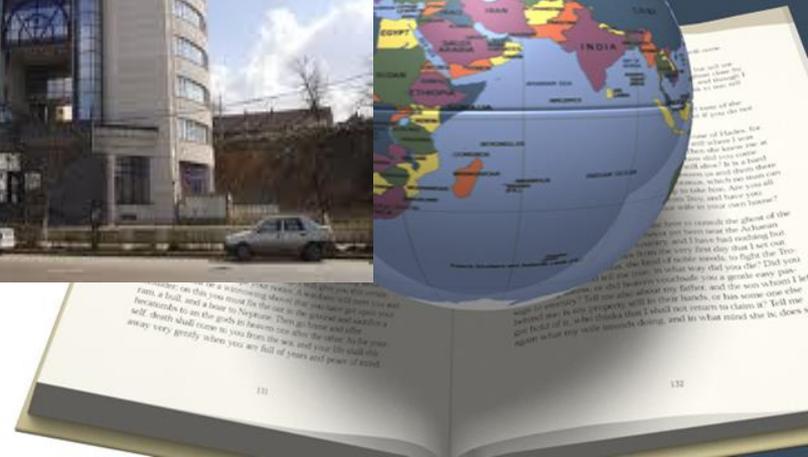
# Central University Library Bucharest



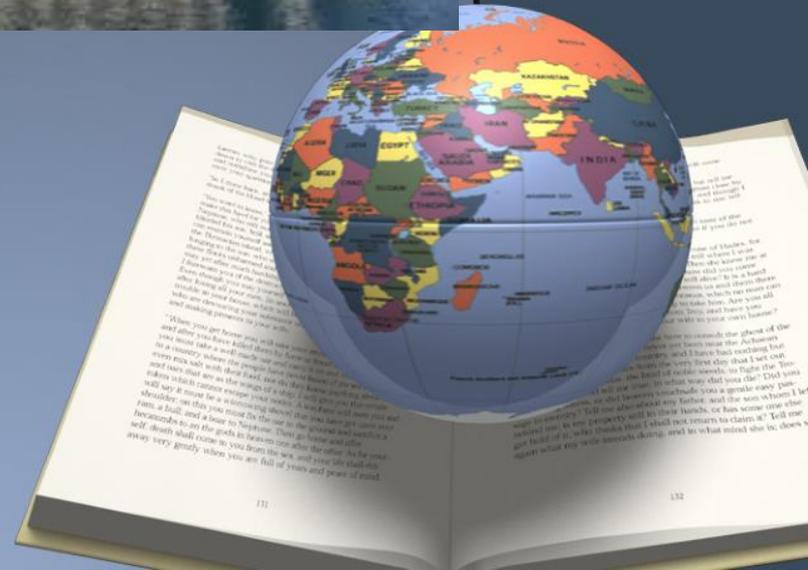
# Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina



# New buildings: U Timisoara; Cluj, Baia Mare



# A new National Library

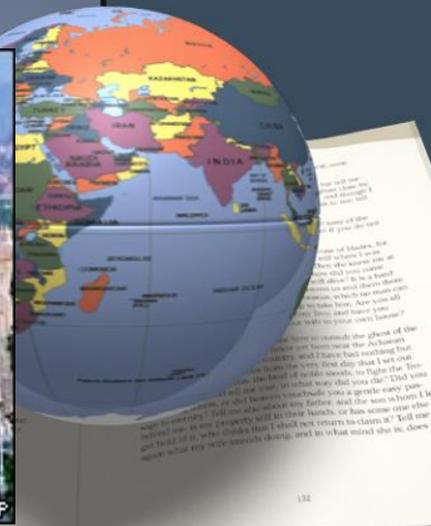


# National Libraries

Romania, Bucharest

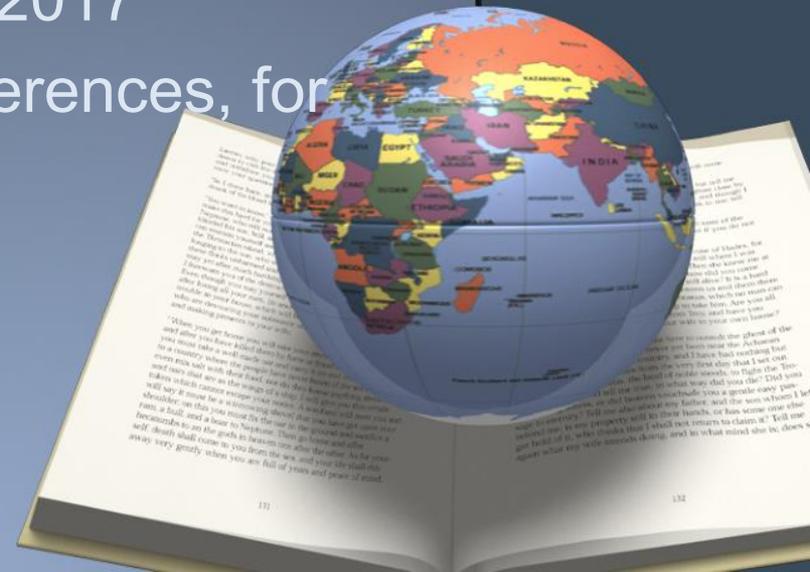


Bosnia & Herzegovina, Sarajevo



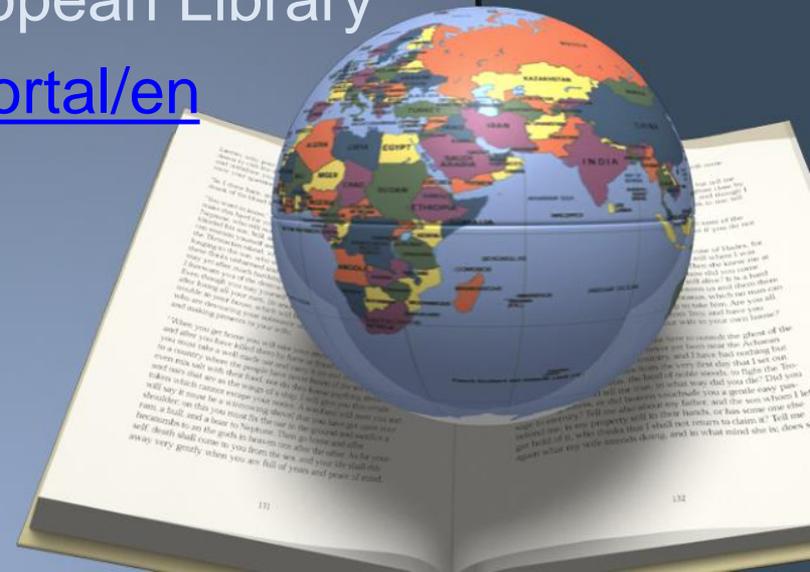
# The Post-Communist period Libraries enter a new era

- Abolishment of censorship
- Opening & reorganization of collections
- Trade union libraries closed
- Library associations established
  - Romania joins IFLA
- Library legislation: 2002; 2012; 2017
- Librarians travel abroad to conferences, for professional exchanges



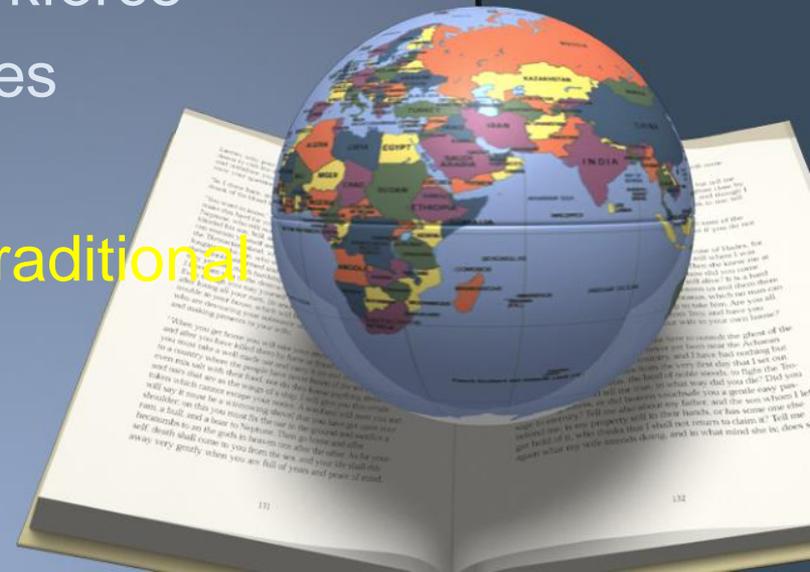
# The Post-Communist period Libraries enter a new era

- Advent of the Internet
- More information available online
- Digitization projects
  - Local, not coordinated
- New services, face-to-face and virtual
- Romanian libraries join the European Library
  - <https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en>



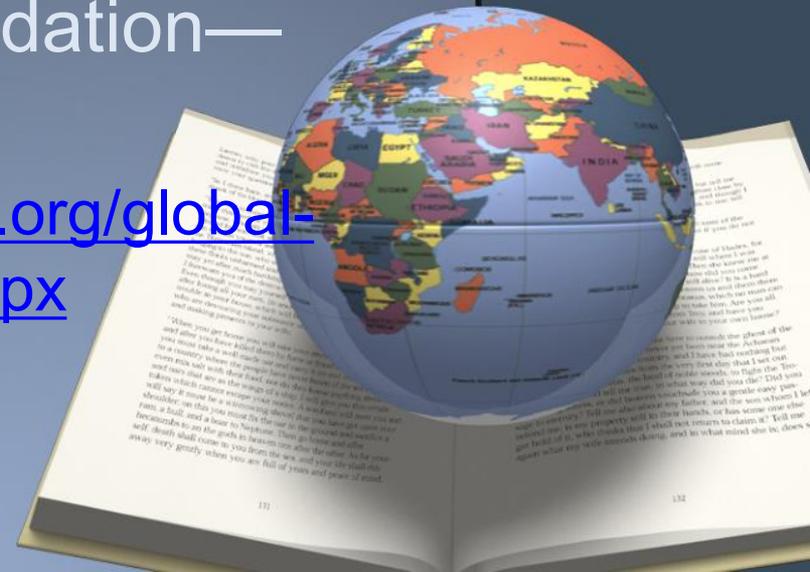
# The Post-Communist period: Challenges

- Decentralization
  - Public libraries placed under the local authority
- Inflation, insufficient funding
- Many libraries closed
- Lack of adequately trained workforce
- Lack of purposefully built locales
- LIS education reinstated
  - Needs modernization; still traditional
- World economic crisis, 2007



# International Aid

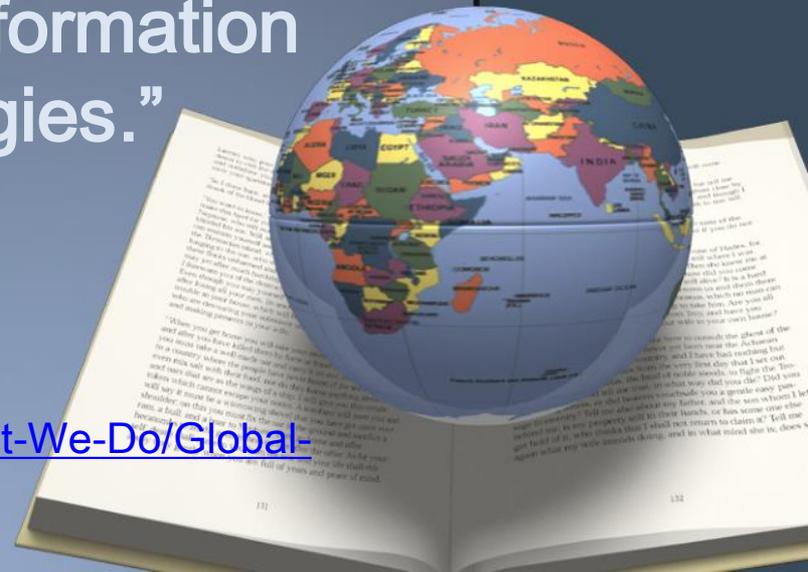
- Foreign help from Western countries
  - W Europe
  - USA
  - Japan
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—  
Global Libraries Program:
  - <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/global-libraries/Pages/overview.aspx>



# Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Global Libraries Program--Goal

- “to improve the lives of 1 billion **‘information-poor’** people by 2030 while positioning the world’s 320,000 **public libraries** as critical community assets and providers of information through relevant technologies.”

- Source: <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/What-We-Do/Global-Development/Global-Libraries>



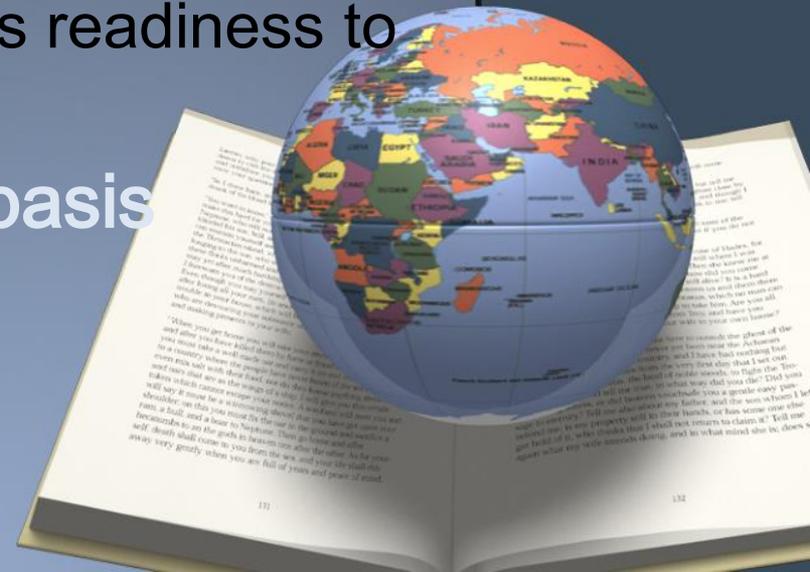
# Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Global Libraries Program--EE

- 4 countries in Central and Eastern Europe:
  - Poland
  - Ukraine
  - Bulgaria
  - Romania
- Selection criteria:
  - country size
  - well established public library network
  - library infrastructure
  - government support for libraries
  - work force (librarians)



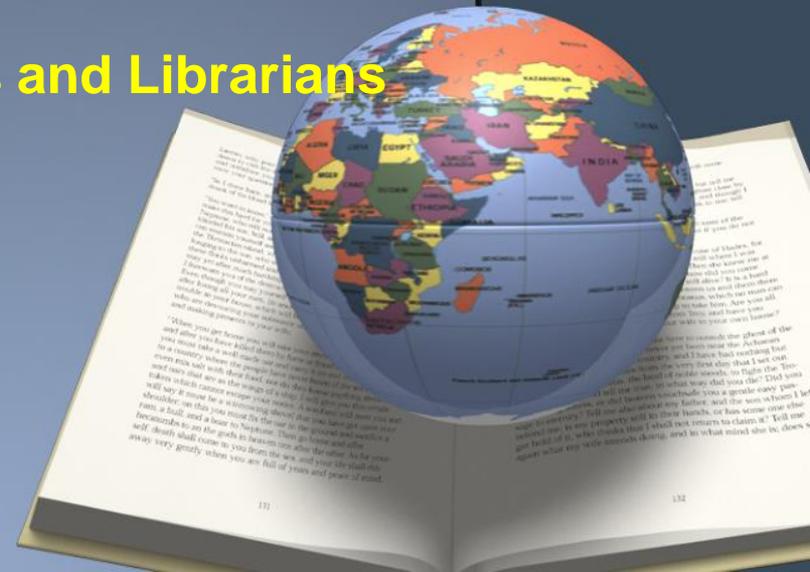
# The Process: Country assessment

- **BMGF** contacted me based on my scholarly profile, IFLA involvement
  - to serve as a consultant/country expert
  - to conduct a country assessment
  - to provide statistical data hard to obtain
  - to demonstrate the country's readiness to be part of the GL program
- **Worked on a confidential basis**
  - 2005-2007



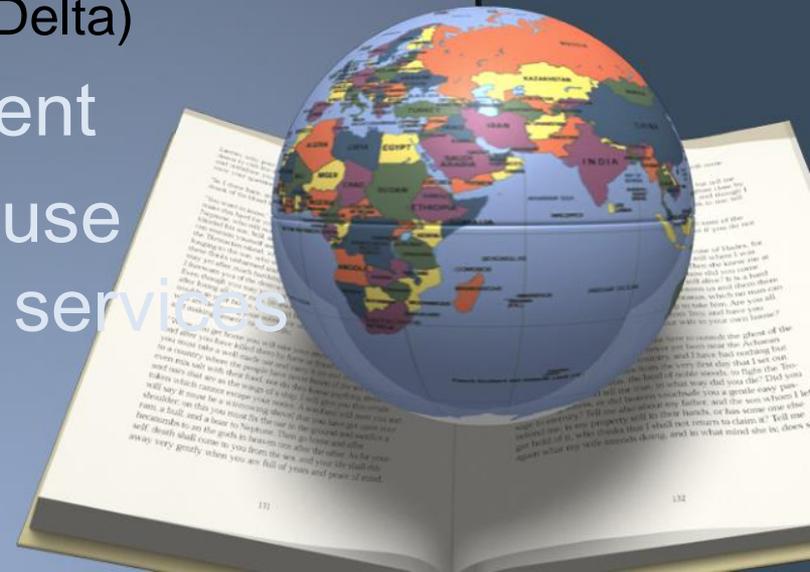
# The Process: Phase I—Pilot 2007-2008

- **Biblionet**
- Pilot/trial: \$1.4 million
- US entity to administer the program and the money
  - IREX—a Washington-based NGO: [www.irex.org](http://www.irex.org)
- Local partners selected
  - **Association of Public Libraries and Librarians**
  - Ministry of Culture
  - Ministry of Telecommunications
  - Local authorities (mayors)



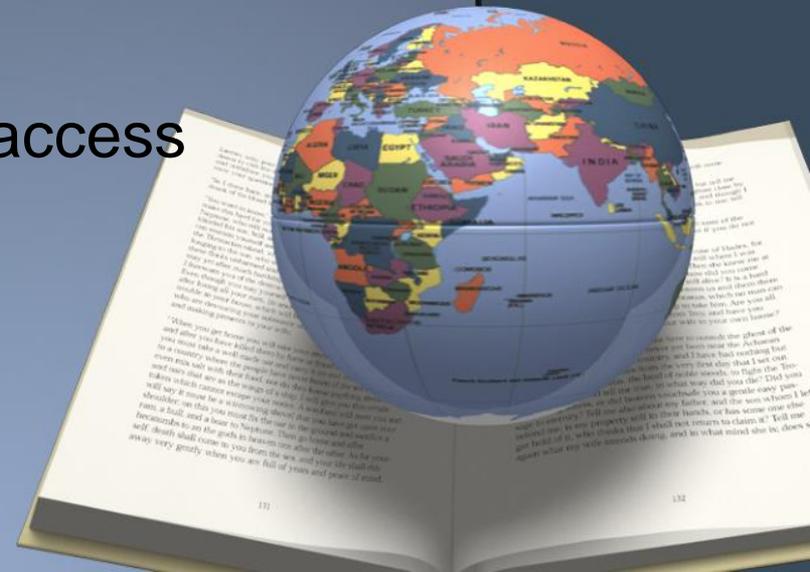
# The Process: Phase I—Pilot 2007-2008

- **10 libraries** selected
  - Various types of public libraries
    - County (Romania has 40 counties)
    - Smaller towns
  - In various regions
  - High unemployment
  - Abandoned children
  - Geographically remote (Danube Delta)
- Libraries received equipment
- Librarians were trained to use technology and to provide services
- **Success!**



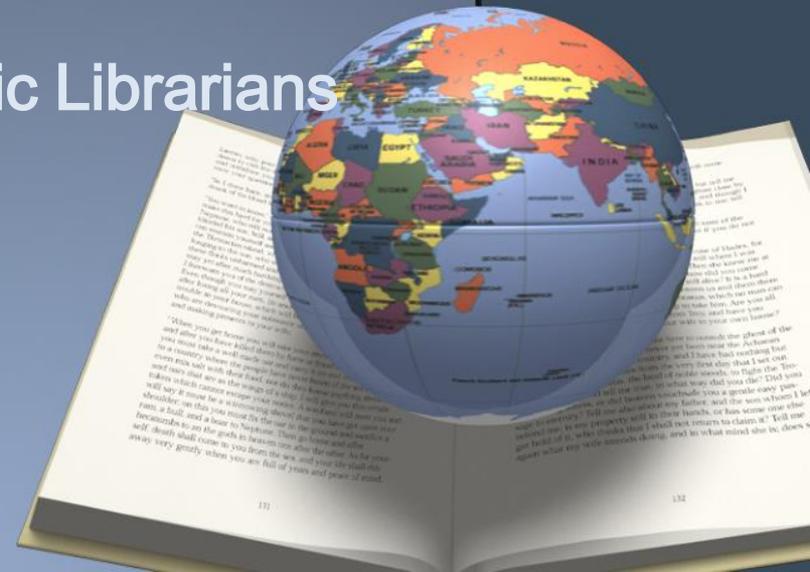
# The Process: Phase II Rollout at national level

- A **5-year plan** (2008-2013)
- Beginning of the economic crisis
- \$26 million on an annual basis (initially \$50 mil)
- Libraries had to compete to be selected
- Libraries had to meet certain **criteria**:
  - clean facilities
  - secure facilities
  - designated space for public access
  - librarians on duty
  - fast Internet connection



# The Process: Phase II Rollout at the national level

- **60% (2,280) public libraries equipped**
  - 4, 6, 10, 20 PCs + peripherals (webcam, printer/scanner, etc.)
  - 11 laptops for the 40 county libraries (mobile training lab/regional training hub)
- **600,000 first-time Internet users**
- **4,200 public librarians trained**
- **professionalization** of the Public Librarians and Library Association
  - grant writing
  - bi-annual conferences
  - staff, study tours



# Major outcomes

- Reduced the urban-rural digital divide
  - Fostered digital / information literacy
  - Contributed to family connections
  - Assisted population with job seeking
  - Introduced new services in public libraries
  - Increased librarians' professionalism and visibility in their community
  - Training sessions for library users
  - Re-opened a number of libraries
- Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/epale/en/blog/biblionet-global-libraries-romania>
  - Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddu7joXsZA&feature=youtu.be&t=49>



# The Process: Phase III

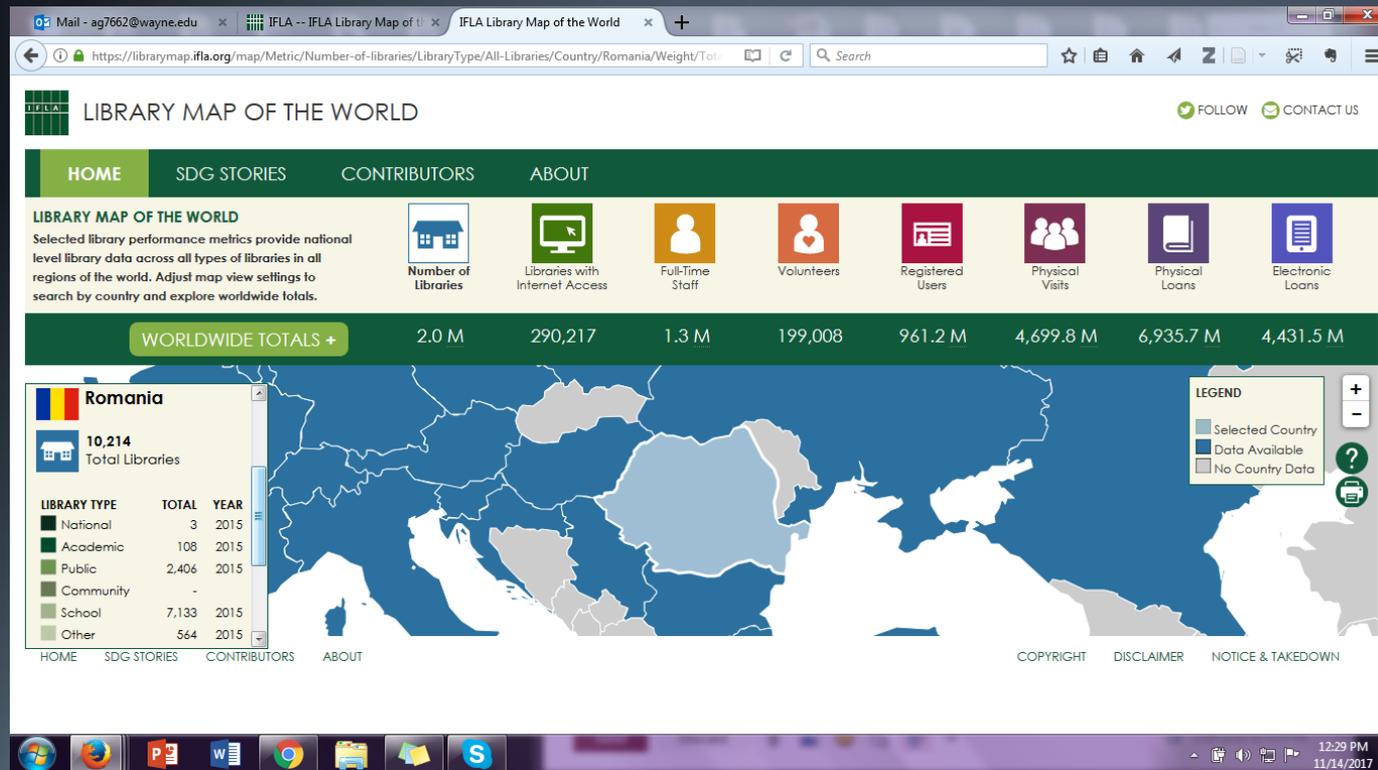
- Decreasing prices of equipment allowed for the **extension** of the program (2013-2015)
- Sources:
- <https://ec.europa.eu/epale/en/blog/biblionet-global-libraries-romania>
- <https://irexgl.wordpress.com/tag/romania/>
- <https://www.ifla.org/past-wlic/2011/124-baran-en.pdf>
- [https://www.ecdl.ro/en/article/ecdl-joines-biblionet-and-reaches-village-libraries-in-romania\\_117.html](https://www.ecdl.ro/en/article/ecdl-joines-biblionet-and-reaches-village-libraries-in-romania_117.html)



# Romania today

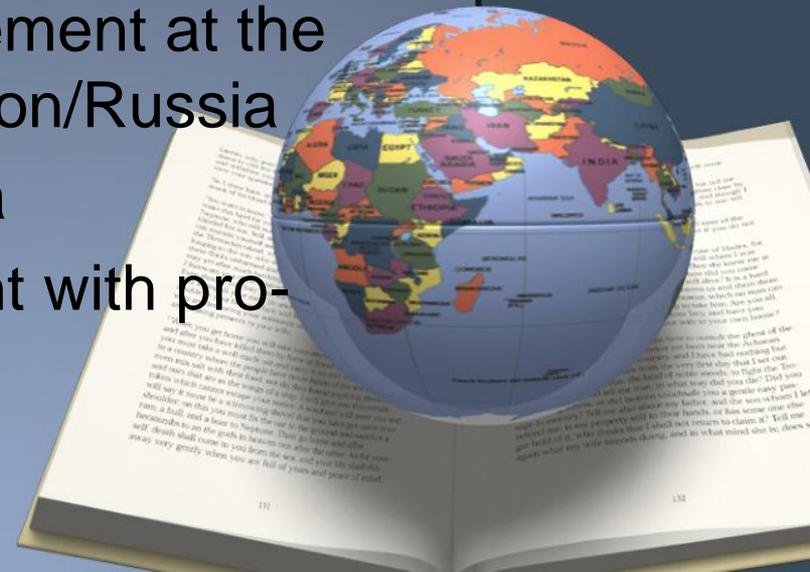
## IFLA Library map of the world

Source: <https://librarymap.ifla.org/map/Metric/Number-of-libraries/LibraryType/All-Libraries/Country/Romania/Weight/Totals-by-Country>



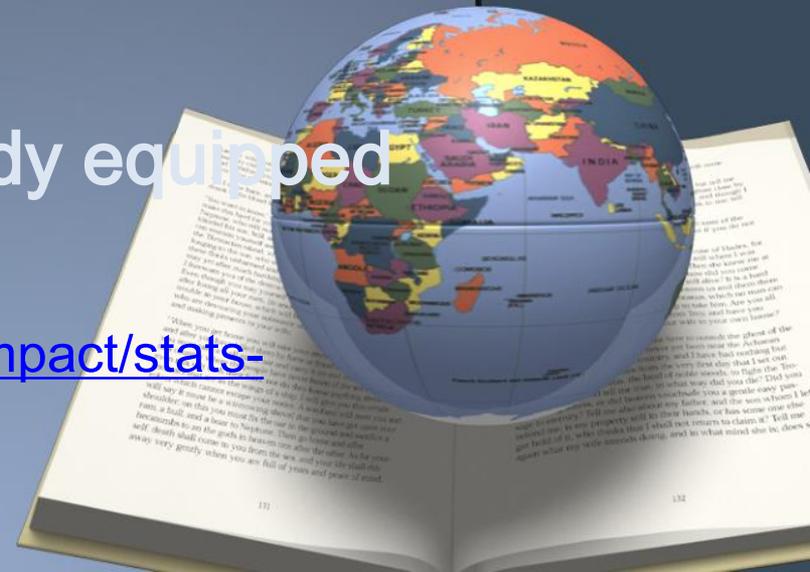
# Redo in the Republic of Moldova

- 2011 BMGF meeting of 12 experts in Washington, DC (myself included)
- Experts suggested countries based on the BMGF criteria
- 2012 Moldova was selected
  - **My plea:**
  - Strategic geo-political placement at the border of the European Union/Russia
  - Historical ties with Romania
  - Neo-communist government with pro-Western orientation



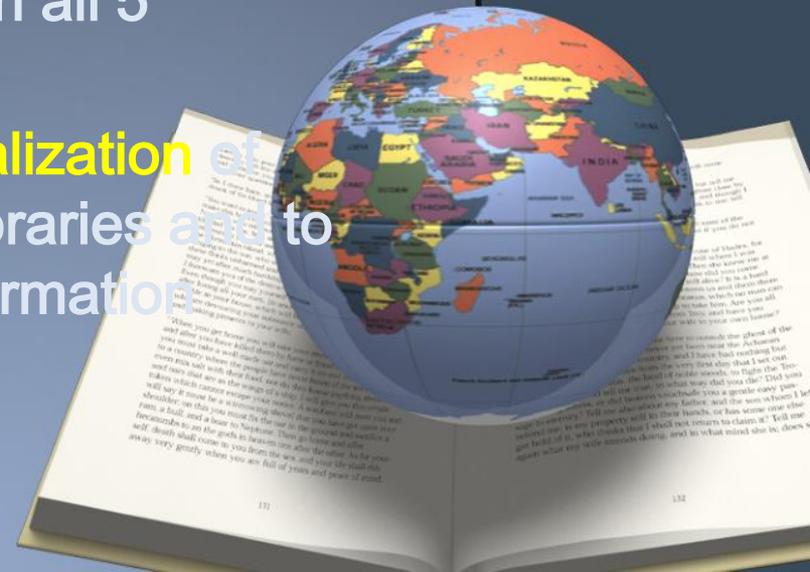
# Redo in the Republic of Moldova

- **Novateca**
  - 2013-2014 pilot; 5-year project: 2014-2019
- **\$12 million**
  - last chunk of BMGF money; GL program closes
- **Moldova has 1,343 public libraries**
- **So far:**
- **1,000 (75%) libraries already equipped**
- **1,500+ trained librarians**
- Source: <http://www.novateca.md/en/impact/stats-reports/novateca-overview>



# In brief...

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation generous support through the Global Libraries Program represented an **infusion of funding** to public libraries in the 5 countries of Central and Eastern Europe at a time of worldwide financial crisis, when many libraries would have closed their doors
- The program laid the foundations for the **modernization of public libraries** in all 5 beneficiary countries
- The program supported the **globalization** of Central and Eastern European libraries and to the **internationalization** of the information circuit
- **Mission accomplished!**





# Resources

# Web Resources for fun

## Chronological and Thematic Studies on the History of Information and Media:

<http://www.historyofinformation.com/>

libraries

book history, illustration, binding, booktrade...

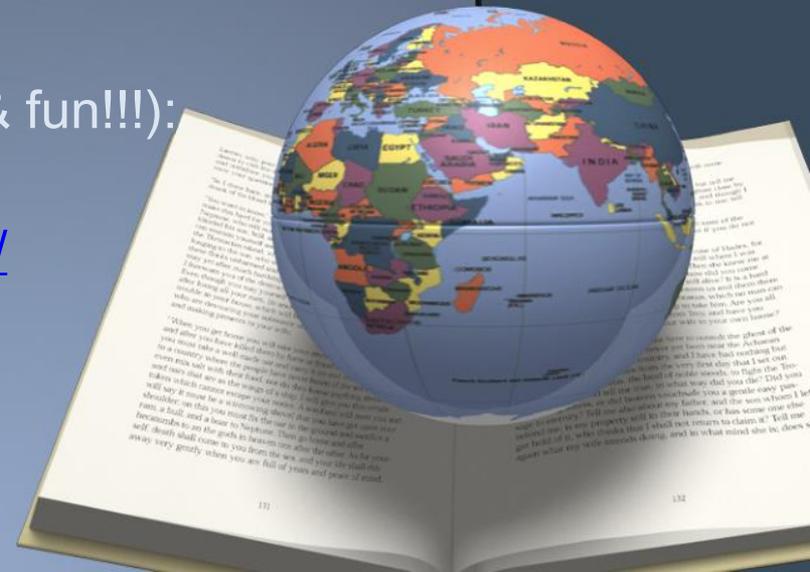
## Library History Timeline:

<http://libraryhistory.pbworks.com/w/page/16964637/FrontPage>

## The Library History Buff (plenty of info & fun!!!):

<http://www.libraryhistorybuff.org/>

<http://libraryhistorybuff.blogspot.com/>





**Q & A**

**Thank you**  
**for listening to this**  
**marathon**  
**presentation!**

**Hermina Anghelescu**

[ag7662@wayne.edu](mailto:ag7662@wayne.edu)