Romanian Scholar Enjoys Productive Spring

Romanian medical library director Ioana Robu tracked down hundreds of medical journals during her visit to Indiana University’s Indianapolis and Bloomington campuses from March 30 to April 11, 1997 and still had time to smell the flowers that were just beginning to bloom in yet another beautiful Indiana spring.

Robu, who heads the Biblioteca Centrala at the Universitatea de Medicina si Farmacie (UMF), Cluj-Napoca, Romania, was the recipient of the prestigious Cunningham Fellowship from the Medical Library Association. The fellowship, which has been given annually since 1972, is an award for a four-month program of observation and supervised work experience in medical libraries in the United States and Canada.

Robu, who arrived in the U.S. in February and left in May, chose to work on an Internet project with Rick Ralston of the Indiana University School of Medicine Ruth Lilly Medical Library (RLML). Together she and Ralston identified and annotated digitized medical journals on the World Wide Web. Over 350 individual or collective journal title sites on the web were bookmarked, downloaded electronically for hypertext markup language (html) coding, and linked to RLML’s homepage at http://www.medlib.iupui.edu/ejournals.html.

Following her return to Romania, Robu has continued to identify and evaluate medical journals on the Internet from Romania, Germany, France, and other Eastern European countries. She sends the Internet points of access or “URLs” for these journals to Ralston, who includes them on RLML’s homepage.

In the meantime, Ralston adds to the list of 400 sources already identified by Robu. He sends to the UMF Library the URLs for digitized medical journals that are, for the most part, not available in print in Romania. These sites will be linked to the UMF Library web page for easy access by medical faculty and students.

Robu’s two weeks in Indiana, while productive, were not all work. Staying in an apartment at the International House on the IUPUI Campus, Robu had time to enjoy the Indy 500 Race Track, McCormick’s Creek State Park, the Indianapolis Museum of Art and its grounds in full spring bloom, Queen Anne style homes in the historic neighborhoods, contra dancing, and more.

Robu also spent a full day in Bloomington touring the Main Library, the Lilly Library, and the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction.

Robu was accompanied by Ralston, Dana McDonald, head of RLML, and Carole Gall, director of information management at RLML. Robu also met with Dean of Libraries Suzanne Thorin and library staff member Harold Shaffer.

— Carole Gall
Ruth Lilly Medical Library