



How OPTI digitized Bucharest Bar Association's 50,000 books Library

CASE STUDY

Industry: Legal Tech

Client: Bucharest Bar Association, România

Year: 2021



The Bucharest Bar Association, which manages a 50,000-books library and more than ten thousand lawyers, faced the significant challenge of modernizing its outdated, paper-based system.

This library was not only an important resource for over 10,000 lawyers but also served the general public. The traditional system of cataloging and loan management was inefficient, time-consuming, and inaccessible remotely.

OPTI was brought in to digitize the entire library, ensuring the new system was efficient, accessible, and integrated with existing platforms.





CHALLENGES

Before the digitization project, the Bucharest Bar Association's library faced several significant challenges such as:



The library's cataloging and administrative processes were entirely paper-based, making them susceptible to errors.



The library staff was overwhelmed with managing loan processes and had few resources to allocate for additional tasks, such as data entry or system updates.



Lawyers and other users had no ability to search the book catalog or reserve books remotely.



OPTI had to select and extend an open-source library management solution to meet the specific needs of the Bar Association.



SOLUTION

A six steps digitization strategy was implemented to overcome the facing challenges:

- ✓ **The internal processes were examined** to identify deficiencies and opportunities for improvement.
- ✓ **The OPTI team selected PhpMyBibl by PMB Services France as the base software** due to its flexibility and suitability for library management.
- ✓ **The capabilities of the open-source software were extended** by developing a loan management module from scratch.
- ✓ **The new system was integrated with the Bar Association's existing ERP system**, facilitating the issuance of permits and the management of borrower behavior.
- ✓ **The library catalog was integrated with the Bar Association's official website**, allowing users to search for and reserve books remotely.
- ✓ **OPTI provided support in digitizing the existing catalog**, starting with the most frequently borrowed books and gradually expanding to the entire collection.



RESULTS

The project, which spanned over two years, successfully transformed the Bucharest Bar Association's Library into a modern, digitized resource. OPTI still ensures the maintenance of the solution as of 2024.



Consultation and smart planning

OPTI worked closely with the library staff and end-users to ensure the system met all practical needs, leading to a solution that was both user-friendly and effective.



Periodical publications management

The new system handled the complexities of managing periodicals like magazines and law reviews, ensuring compliance with Romanian library regulations.



Remote access to books and reservations

Lawyers and other users can now search the library catalog and reserve books from any location via the integrated website.



Assistance with transcription

OPTI facilitated the transcription that was bolstered by API integration with the Central University Library of Bucharest.



User roles and access restrictions

The system was designed with tailored access rights and roles. Administrators, librarians, and the general public can interact with the system appropriately.



Effective book management

Using PMB, OPTI ensured that books, authors, and topics were effectively managed, with necessary reports and catalogs readily available.



Loan management and API integrations

The integration of the loan management module with the ERP system and the Bar Association's website.



ERP integration for permits and sanctions

The software was integrated with the official ERP of the Bucharest Bar to validate the access of lawyers to the Library.

TECHNOLOGIES

PHP, MySQL, memcache, SOAP, JSON REST APIs, Android and iOS.



TESTIMONIAL

"OPTI were our partners for digitizing our law library of approximately 50.000 books in all its aspects. I appreciated their involvement and constant creative suggestions, their excellent communication and skills. I commend OPTI for meeting deadlines and specifications and for their professionalism."

Cici Dafin, Chief Librarian

CONTACT US

Direct	Socials
 office@opti-software.com	 opti-software
 +(40) 774 453 302	 optisoftit
 www.opti-software.com	 opti-systems
Str. Dr. Ioan Nanu Muscel 4, Bucharest, Romania	

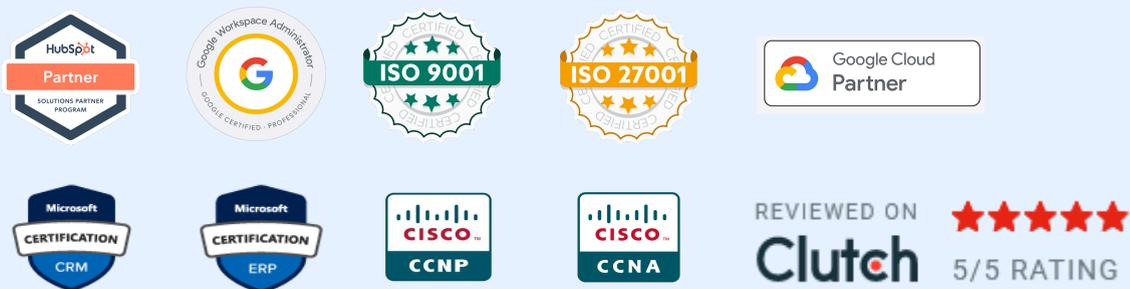
OPTI

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT, AUTOMATION AND DATA MIGRATION

Software company developing products and cutting costs by automations and data migrations. Founded in 2005, with extensive expertise in retail, medical, publishing, and gaming industries.

The OPTI team includes senior analysts and programmers, is ISO 9001 and ISO 27001 certified, HubSpot Solution Partner, Google Cloud Partner and certified in other technological stacks.

CERTIFICATIONS



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