

The Literary Society Karlsruhe has known a continual growth of membership since its foundation in the year 1924. Exceeding 6,500 members, it is the largest literary association of today's German-speaking world.

The work of the Literary Society consists mainly in its function as responsible body for the Museum of Literature on the Upper Rhine as well as for the Literature Library on the Upper Rhine, both situated in the Prinz-Max-Palais, a late nineteenth-century building where Prince Max of Baden used to reside.

The main exhibition of the museum gives insight into the development of the literary field in the area of the Upper Rhine, enriched by temporary displays concentrating on different literary subjects such as authors, literary epochs or specific literary and artistic works. Free audio guides in German and French language are available at the museum's entrance.

The affiliated Library is accessible on demand and offers a vast collection of primary and secondary sources concerning literature that has a connection to the Upper Rhine. Important legacies archived in the library are those of Joseph Victor von Scheffel, Max Barth and Ernst Feuerstein as well as part of the correspondence of the Stahlberg publishing house. In 2006 the Literary Society acquired an important collection concerning the poet Johann Peter Hebel from the collector Karl Fritz (Schöpfheim), assembling over 700 exhibits.

Since 1928, the Literary Society awards the best accomplishments in German language and literature of every year's final secondary-school exams with the so-called „Scheffel-Preis“ (named after the above mentioned writer Joseph Victor von Scheffel). Parallely, workshops and seminars for school classes are concipated to awaken an early interest in literature.

Furthermore, the Literary Society organizes readings by contemporary authors and edits a semi-annual magazine for literature called *allmende*, offering a platform for contemporary literature and literary debate.