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Country Report
[Period Coverage: 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023]

Name of Country : China
Name of Library : National Library of China
Name(s) of National Librarian, Director-General and/or Director : CHEN Ying (Acting)
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1 Facts and Figures

Sn	Item Description	Figures
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	Funds from financial allocation: 612.0097 million RMB Self-raised funds: 147.339 million RMB
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	Total number of employees: 1361 Number of staff with bachelor's degree or above:1322 Number of staff with college degree or below:39
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	Physical collections:44.235million volumes (pieces) Digital resources:2756.77TB
d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	On-site visitors:4.0952 million Clicks on the website:1.177 billion
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	11.269 thousand pieces (including interlibrary loan and international loan)

2 Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

In 2023, the National Library of China (NLC) continued to implement its development strategies of "Smart Transformation," "Quality Enhancement," and "Open for Cooperation," driving innovation across various fields of work.

The NLC actively promoted the inclusion of new types of resources into its collection system. The "China Memory" project collected approximately 255 hours of oral history and audio-visual materials during the year. It also organized and implemented a project to archive the oral traditions of ethnic groups with small populations, building a resource database for their oral traditions. Additionally, it continued to record the work of representative inheritors of intangible cultural heritage.

The NLC strongly supported national legislative decision-making and scientific and technological innovation. The "NLC Law Library" was completed and opened, offering specialized legal documents and knowledge services to national legislative bodies, legal research institutions, and the public. The NLC continued to leverage its Science Evaluation Center and Intellectual Property Information Service Center to provide literature and consulting services for scientific research, education, and innovation. Furthermore, the NLC Intellectual Property Information Service Center was selected as a preparatory institution for the World Intellectual Property Organization's Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC).

The NLC took innovative measures to promote and guide nationwide reading in China. It extended its opening hours, launching a "Night Reading" mode. A new version of its bilingual Chinese-English website was launched, offering readers access to over 100,000 e-books published in recent years. Nearly 12.5873 million volumes of literature were circulated throughout the year, and 2,315 online and offline public exhibitions, lectures, training sessions, and performances were held. The 18th "Wenjin Book Award" was also organized, further consolidating the benefits of reading promotion services like "Metro-Library," "NLC Open Course," and the elderly-oriented "Care for the Seniors" lectures. The "Children Read in Seasons" project was launched, with quarterly recommended reading lists for children of different ages. The services of the "China Digital Library for the Visual Impairment" website were also upgraded.

The NLC also made efforts to inherit and promote fine traditional Chinese culture. The "Chinese Ancient Books Resource Database" made 103,000 ancient books and a special collection of digital resources accessible globally without login requirements and was selected as a featured case for the *Collection of Practice Cases of "Jointly Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace"* of the 2023 World Internet Conference. The "Ancient Book Protection Lectures in Universities" initiative was launched, and the first Ancient Book Conservation Talent Development Forum was held. Fifteen institutions were approved for the establishment of Ancient Book Restoration Training Centers. The NLC also advanced the construction of the "Yongle Encyclopedia Research Center" and organized the "Forum on Yongle Encyclopedia" for the Ming Dynasty Culture Forum 2023. The "Compilation of Hundred Classics on Chinese Traditional Culture" project published 70 books, and cultural promotion was conducted through

thematic exhibitions, campus lectures, academic forums, and reading clubs. The first volume of the *Chinese Canon of Medicine*, titled "Regimen," was officially released, including 74 classic works on health-nurturing. The China National Museum of Classic Books (NMCB) hosted 18 special exhibitions, including "Four Discoveries of Ancient Chinese Documents at the Beginning of the 20th Century." The "36 Nights at the NMCB" summer extended hours event was also held. The NLC introduced immersive theatrical performances such as "Eternal Thoughts of Yongle Encyclopedia" and interactive VR documentaries like "Journey to Ancient Books," as well as over 100 cultural and creative products.

3 Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in your Country [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

In 2023, the NLC actively utilized various cooperation platforms to deepen exchanges and collaboration with the Chinese library community and other institutions, creating greater synergy for advancing its mission.

It continued to lead the "National Smart Library System Construction" project, developing a smart service platform for ancient books and collaborating with national collection institutions to build digitized ancient book resources. The NLC released the "High-definition Image Database of Yongle Encyclopedia," the "Repository of the Catalogue of National Rare Books in China," and the "Repository for Local Literature of the Minguo Period (1912-1949)." A smart Q&A system was launched, and research was conducted on empowering this system with large language models. Additionally, systems for literature donations, the collection and release of open-access resources, and an audio-visual knowledge service platform were completed.

The NLC actively engaged in professional and academic exchanges. It supported the Library Society of China (LSC) in successfully hosting the 2023 Chinese Library Annual Conference and based on the revised International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) *Public Library Manifesto*, unveiled the newly revised *Chinese Library Service Manifesto*, incorporating concepts like diverse services, inclusivity, and sustainable development. In line with the development needs of librarianship, the Chinese National Standard *Public Library Service Standard* was also revised and released. The "Document Sharing and Borrowing Project" continued, in collaboration with 17 provincial libraries in China, enabling approximately 2.36 million volumes from the NLC's collection to serve readers nationwide. The 18th China National Conference of Provincial, Autonomous Region and Municipal Library Directors and the 4th China Children's Reading Development Forum were organized.

The NLC partnered with various institutions to organize reading promotion activities. On World Book and Copyright Day (April 23rd), it teamed up with 11 libraries nationwide to release a series of short videos titled "Library Directors Introduce You to the Classics," and launched an immersive live reading event, "Read with You for an Hour," which led to over 2.58 billion views on social media for the "National Reading Season" topic. In collaboration with the First Historical Archives of China, the Dunhuang Research Academy, and the Gansu Jiandu (ancient bamboo and wooden slips) Museum, the NLC hosted the "Four Discoveries of Ancient Chinese Documents at the

Beginning of the 20th Century" exhibition, the largest-ever public display of artifacts related to these discoveries. The "Journey to Ancient Books" VR experience was launched to promote the integration of exhibitions and new cultural formats, providing a multi-dimensional viewing experience. This exhibition attracted more than 132,000 visitors and garnered over 3,300 media reports. After its closure, the exhibition toured other locations, including the Gansu Jiandu Museum and the Shenzhen Museum.

4 International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

In 2023, the NLC adhered to coordination, openness, and sharing principles, actively expanding exchanges and cooperation with domestic and international library and information service institutions, and uniting efforts to advance its mission.

The NLC organized professional participation in nine international exchange events, including the 88th IFLA World Library and Information Congress, the 1st Sino-Russian Library Forum, the 29th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO), the IFLA Asia-Oceania Regional Division online business meeting, and the 5th China-Arab Library and Information Science Professionals Conference. NLC Delegations were also sent to France, South Korea, Vietnam, and Belgium for exchanges.

The NLC continued to promote the development of the Silk Road International Library Alliance (SRILA). The "Silk Road Digital Library" project was selected as a featured case for the *Collection of Practice Cases of "Jointly Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace"* of the 2023 World Internet Conference. The NLC also collaborated with the China Ministry of Culture and Tourism to invite representatives from the SRILA member institutions to attend the first "Liangzhu Forum."

The NLC continued to fulfill its role as the IFLA Preservation and Conservation (PAC) China Center and the IFLA Chinese Language Center, jointly organizing and recommending outstanding professionals to participate in IFLA-related works. 6 personnel were elected to positions in IFLA, bringing the total to 14 personnel from the NLC who had served in various units of IFLA.