

## NEPAL KAISER LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

For the 22ND Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania

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### 1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Nepal, a South Asian Himalayan country is one of least developed countries of Asia. The country is located between China (North) and India (South, East and West). It is divided into 5 development regions, 14 zones, 75 districts, 3,914 village development committees including 58 municipalities, one metropolitan city, and four sub metropolitan cities for administrative purpose. Nepal is well known for the highest mountain of the world, Mt. Everest (8,848 M.) and birth place of Gautama Buddha. Its present population is 26.5 million and total literacy rate is 65.9% according to Population Census, Central Bureau of Statistics (2011).

History of education in Nepal began with establishment of first school in 1853 and presently there are nine universities, more than 50,000 schools and more than 500 colleges around the country. Libraries were gradually established with development of educational system and with increasing awareness among public to expand their knowledge base. However, Nepal still lacks systematic development of libraries and use of libraries and information centers.

The developmental history of library in Nepal shows various ups and downs as well as dark period. After the establishment of democracy in Nepal followed by people's movement in 1990, people started exercising their fundamental rights, one was right to education. It was only after that the Ministry of Education of Nepal gave importance for the development and promotion of libraries and information system. It was then understood that a public library was one of the most important places for people to learn and expand their knowledge. Today, the Ministry of Education, Library Co-ordination Section is one of the most important sections in the ministry.

There are different categories of libraries in Nepal such as government, academic, community/public, and special libraries. Amidst many of such libraries in Nepal, the major national libraries under the purview of the Government of Nepal are Kaiser Library (KL) and Nepal National Library (NNL).

## **Kaiser Library: (Historical Background)**

Kaiser Shumsher Janga Bahadur Rana (1892-1964), a field marshal in the Royal Nepalese Army and third son of then Rana Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher Junga Bahadur Rana(1863-1929) left a most significant legacy in the form of his private library known as Kaiser Library. During his visit to Britain with his father in 1908, Kaiser Shumsher was very impressed by the libraries and museums of Britain. After he returned back, he developed his own private library, today popularly know as Kaiser Library. Kaiser was interested in collecting books, antiques, animal trophies, paintings and photographs since early age. The outcome is well demonstrated by the Kaiser Library which today not only stands as a library but a fusion of library and a small museum with both antique and valuable collections.

During Kaiser Shumsher's life time, the library was accessible only to his family members, notable Nepalese scholars and foreigners. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Prime Minister of India visited this library in 1952 and 1960. Perceval London and Sylvain Levi, well-known orientalist and scholars have used this library for their research work. This library remained private for many years even after the people's revolution of 1950. In 1964, Kaiser's wife, Krishna Chandra Devi Rana and their sons donated 32 ropanis of land including Kaiser Library within Kaiser Mahal premises to the government of Nepal. The library was made public at a special ceremony on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1969 and since then the library has been running under the Ministry of Education, Government of Nepal.

## **Introduction**

The Kaiser Library is situated inside the Kaiser Mahal (Palace) located centrally in the capital city, Kathmandu. The palace was the residence of Late Field Marshal Kaiser Shumsher Janga Bahadur Rana. The library itself is unique in terms of art, architecture, cultural heritage, photographs, and paintings mingled at one place in the form of beautiful blend of library with a small museum. Kaiser Library is one of the unique and oldest libraries in Nepal. The library has approximately 60,000 books, documents and pictures having historical importance. It has recently completed its digitization process of the rare 700++ manuscripts. Among them, "**Sushrusamita**" a manuscript aged 1134 years old, related to medical science was registered last June in UNESCO's "**Memory of the World**" fame. The Library is using Winisis Software for creating bibliographic records. The library is also testing to use KOHA, an open source software to create digital/ virtual library. Kaiser Library under the purview of Nepal Government has been working hand in hand with other libraries of Nepal and lends all its supports as and when necessary.

## **Nepal National Library (NNL)**

Nepal National Library was established as a public library on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 1957 under the Government of Nepal. The library is located at Harihar bhawan, Lalitpur, near to the capital city. Currently it has collections of more than 94,000 books and documents.

The library has also initiated to create digital library using Green Stone Digital Library (GSDL). Some of the data are still in the WIN/ISIS and Nepali Nux.

In addition, both Kaiser and Nepal National Libraries have been conducting Basic Library Management training programs in the rural areas of Nepal spreading awareness on the importance of reading culture and libraries. KL and NNL have also been actively participating in the annual Library Day celebration. The Library Day has been celebrated every consecutive years for last six years in the month of August/September.

## 2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

Kaiser Library and Nepal National Library are under the Ministry of Education, Government of Nepal. All the library activities are reported through the Planning and Monitoring Division, Ministry of Education. The budgetary and administrative rules, regulations and norms are based on the Government rules and regulations.

Both the libraries are playing active roles in close collaboration with professional organizations such as Nepal Library Association, Central Department of Library and Information Science, Tribhuvan University, Room to Read, READ Nepal, Nepal Community Library Association etc. to establish and promote operations of public libraries.

## 3. KEY FACT AND FIGURES

### KAISER LIBRARY:

**Total Collection:** 60,000 books and documentations.

#### Six Main Sections:

- i) **Kaiser Collections** (Old Books, special collection, manuscript collection, maps, and old photos)
- ii) **New Collections** (English and Nepali section)
- iii) **Children and UNESCO**
- iv) **Periodicals Collections**
- v) **Administration and accounting**
- vi) **Technical section**

**Total staff:** 20 (managed under leadership of chief librarian, four technical assistants and supporting staffs.)

### NEPAL NATIONAL LIBRARY:

**Total Collection:** 94, 000 books and documents

**NL Eight sections:** Nepali, English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Administration and accounting, Children Journals & periodicals and Micrographic section.

**Total staff:** 23 (directed by a senior librarian and assisted by a bibliographic officer and a library officer)

NNL is also the National Centre for ISSN since 2009. At the end of the January, 2013 around 340 ISSN has been distributed to the Nepalese serial publications.

## 4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

Due to the Financial and Human Resources constrains, the library has not made significant changes in creating and building its collections but the library has initiated to collect digital copies of its books and the documents. This initiation will help to build the digital library and increase the visibility of the library. Kaiser Library has recently completed the digitization process of the rare 700++ manuscripts. The library is also trying to use KOHA, an Open Source Software to create its Digital Library. Some of the data are in Unicode. The library is using CCTV system for security of library materials, and plans in near future to arrange bar codes. NNL has started to create a digital library using GSDL Open Source Software. The responses of the users are also encouraging. The library has

also requested the Ministry to provide minimum budget for 24 hour power back up system along with advanced scanner and additional server.

## **5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS**

The recently digitized 700++ manuscripts shall be uploaded in the library's webpage and connected to the other electronic e-resources. The library shall also try to digitize its wide collection of books and other resources. The library plans to use bar codes in future to manage its resources electronically.

## **6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS**

KL/ NNL users can access its Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) any time any place through its official website. Free Wi-Fi is available within the library premises. KL has been using Winisis database to make its system/ database user friendly while surfing online through Online Public Access Catalogue. The library is using Unicode for the users to access the details and information in Nepali language. The library is trying to shift to KOHA system to run its database. In NNL digital library and ISSN forms can also be retrieved at any time. In near future, NNL is going to create its institutional repository of publications and rare documents.

## **7. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND OTHER NATIONAL COLLECTING INSTITUTIONS (LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS)**

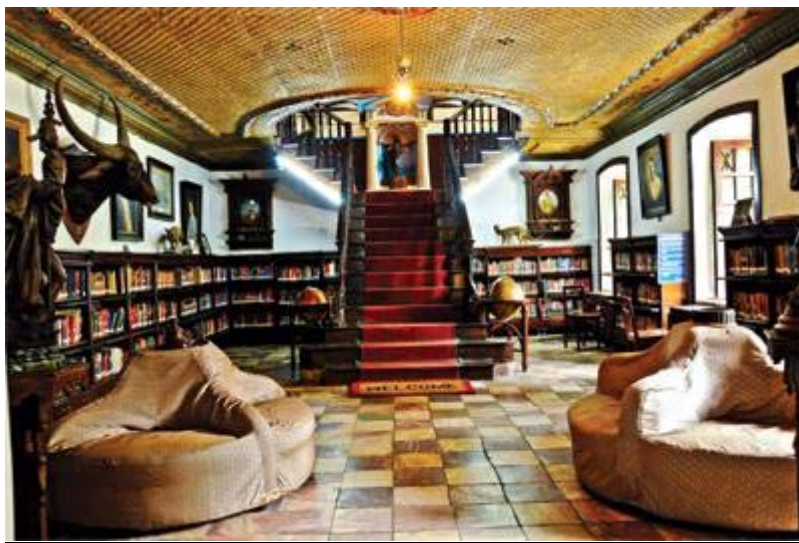
Both the libraries have close relations with other libraries such as National Library, Dillihi Raman Kalyani Regmi Library, Tribhuvan University Central Library, Madan Puraskar Library and other organizations such as Room to Read, Read Nepal dedicated to the development of Public and Academic libraries across the country.

KL and NNL also collect books and other reading materials from donors and distribute them to schools as well as other public libraries across the country as per their needs and interests. The libraries (KL and NNL), as the national libraries of the country, under the ministry hold close relation with all national archives and national museums in the country.

## **8. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND PUBLISHER IN YOUR COUNTRY/REGION**

There is a good relationship between libraries and publishers. Many publishers have donated their publications to various libraries such as Kaiser Library, Nepal National Library, Tribhuwan University Library and many more. The publishers are also helping to organize various activities related to the library. However, due to The Law of The Legal Depository act in Nepal, the publishers are not liable to submit their publication to the depository library.

## Glimpse of Kaiser Library





Kaiser Mahal, Building of Kaiser Library, Kathmandu



National Library Building, Harihar Bhabwan, Lalitpur