



Country Report of Bangladesh
23rd Conference of Directors of National Libraries
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National Library Building

The National Library of Bangladesh (NLB) is an apex body of Library System of the country. The spirit of the establishment of NLB as the Knowledge Contents National Provider in 1972 and the construction of its own building in the new born country's first Five Year Plan is embedded and tuned with the spirit of emergence of Bangladesh in 1971.

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:

The vision of the National Library of Bangladesh is to develop, maintain a comprehensive National Collection, to ascertain equitable access of all citizen to that National Collection in view of enhancing learning and research capability as well as increase the total competitive power of the nation as a whole in addition to collect and long term preserve the intellectual creative printed property specially related to culture and heritage. For this it has to be provided with new information technologies and other modern facilities as well as improved physical environment.

NLB recently implemented two major developments programs are-

- (1) The National Library Modernization project having two software one for providing Digital Library service and another software for providing integrated library system with OPAC (On-line Public Access Catalogue) from National Library.
- (2) Program on the capacity building of the existing manpower of National Library. Under that program already been 40 staffs trained up of use information technology.

NLB is the verge of introduced modern library systems and services including digital mode with implemented of open source Digital Library Software of Greenstone and KOHA software of customized in twin nature for NLB. All are set to commission integrated and online library services applying MARC-21 in NLB. This modernization program is financed by the government of Bangladesh and is being implemented by a consulting firm with the help of existing manpower of the NLB. These are the recent major breakthrough of NLB. This transformation journey from traditional to modern library systems and services including digital service has been generating corporate and individual visitors and seems to have put a positive nationwide impact on country's National Library systems and services of Bangladesh.

2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

National Library of Bangladesh is a government organization under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The national library implements comprehensive library development measures and as a legal deposit library, it plays a critical role in collecting and preserving the nation's documentary heritage.

3. KEY FACT AND FIGURES

Total collections	0.50 million
Total Number of Digitized Contents	0.16 million
Total Number of Copy right Collection	0.20 million
purchasing of books per year	BDT 0.40 million
Number of Yearly Users	6246
Number of Employees	63
Visitors (Jan 2014-Dec 2014)	2000
Memberships (Jan 2014-Dec 2014)	6000
Total Member of NLB	1,24389

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

National Library acknowledged for single depository and repository status to develop the copyright collection of indigenous literature by enforcing legal deposit regulations under the Copyright Law of the country. In the light of that deposition of new books to the National Library has been compulsory for participating in the Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy premises, which is the most prestigious and popular Book Fair of Bangladesh. The Fair has brought a tremendous positive effect to the copyright collection development of NLB.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS

In view of efficient knowledge management (K.M) more professionally and user friendly manner the national collection has recently brought under reorganization for the first time in the light of nature of knowledge materials.

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

For ascertaining easy access to the National Collection in traditional process, the total collection has been categorized into 24 clusters. The dual nature software has been installed for providing both integrated as well as digital service. National Library has been covered free Wi-Fi Internet service for its 10,000 Sq. feet areas.

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

The National Library is also custodian for collecting documents with other organizations like National Archives, National Museums, Public Library, Bangla Academy etc. It uses to maintain sound collaboration also with national/educational institutions. NLB participated to the special program organized by the A2I (Access to Information) program of the Prime Minister's office of Bangladesh. NLB also contributed to the National Web Portal of Bangladesh Government to make individual contents.

INTERNSHIP:

The NLB also extends Internship program for LIS Post Graduate /Diploma students of Universities on honorary basis for two to four weeks. Recently 25 Post Graduate/Diploma students were trained under professional internship program.

8. FUTURE PLAN

- To develop online public access (to bring the library repositories to the door steps of the people).
- Conversion of National Library from traditional system to Digital Library by 2021.
- To preserve the documents in scientific way.
- Capacity building and knowledge sharing.
- Strengthening of Global link.

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