

COUNTRY REPORT

FOR THE 23rd CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES IN ASIA
AND OCEANIA (CDNLAO)

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Name of Country : **China**

Name of Library : **National Library of China**

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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

In 2014, the National Museum of Classic Books was completed and opened to the public freely. Built within the south building of the main library, it is the first museum for classic books in China, featuring functions including collection, exhibition, research and preservation of classic books as well as public education and recreation.

<http://www.nlc.gov.cn/nmcb/>

The establishment of the Museum was carried out along with the refurbishment of the south building of the main library. The refurbishment

began in 2012 and lasted nearly three years before service was resumed on September 9th, 2014. A number of aspects have been promoted in the renewed building: the total service area almost doubled; various self-service facilities being set up; Wi-Fi coverage reaching every corner; books available for loaning and the area of loaning rooms both increased dramatically; air conditioning, heating and lighting systems all reconstructed; natural lighting in public open areas improved.

Now all three areas of National Library of China are able to present dedicated services to the public: the south district of the main library, with more than 20 service-providing spots, is largely for professional users in need of foreign language publications and special collections, and for the exhibition service of National Museum of Classic Books; the north district of the main library provides average users with services including general Chinese books reading and lending, electronic materials and audio/video resources; the Ancient Books Library provides services pertaining general ancient books, rare books in foreign languages, local documents and genealogies as well as short-term exhibitions.

A Digital Library Exploring Zone was open to the public on the same day the south building was reopened. The zone was set up for showcasing the latest technologies and achievements of National Digital Library and making the visitors experience digital library services by furnishing a series of advanced and interactive facilities.

2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

The National Library of China is supportive of the legislative and related work of the government by providing reference services and has been devoted to establishing a digital library service system targeting government users. In 2014, NLC fulfilled 1,203 reference cases from the leading bodies of central government and the military and by accelerating the establishment of China Borderland Documents Research Center, it also provided document support for the central government.

The Library gathers information on hot topics and specific subjects and submits them to special government users, e.g. General Office of the CPC Central Committee, and has been providing on-site reference services at the venue during the sessions of NPC and CPPCC.

Moreover, a branch library was set up at the Ministry of Agriculture, which is by now the 15th of its kind in Ministries.

3. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

1483 library staff;
220,000 newly registered readers in one year;
3,679,000 visits to the library;
23,141,300 circulations of library collections;
1.18 billion hits on NLC websites.

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

In 2014, the NLC added around 579,000 titles of documents to its collections, raising the inventory items of the collections up to 33.45 million in total.

NLC emphasizes the documents collecting on subjects concerning hot topics, adding 8000 titles in 2014.

Digital materials also saw a remarkable increase, with 18.5TB materials newly collected from the Internet, the amount has totaled 997TB by the end of 2014. Moreover, the digitization of Chinese books, doctoral dissertations, Minguo publications, ancient documents and audio/video materials has also been furthered.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS

NLC got down to the integration and reorganization of resources in 2014. Based on beforehand study, NLC formulated an all-around plan for the-resources integration and reorganization aiming to realize the parallel multi-end publishing of resources, then upgraded systems including the publishing system of digital resources, Wenjin search system and mobile portal of NLC, and also reinforced the collection of meta-data for purchased Chinese databases. Until the end of 2014, the meta-data integrated by Wenjin search system has reached up to 280 million, and the average monthly page views more than 6 million, about twice the amount of that in last year.

The national database for the general investigation and register of Chinese ancient books was put into use and the construction of “Chinese Precious Classic Books Resource Library” was pushed forward as well.

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

The mobile reading platform, the website for mobile reading had established in 2013 jointly with 145 public libraries across China by now, provides e-books, e-journals, pictures, videos and featured resources of local libraries. The application of “National Digital Library of China” was upgraded, adding the new function—“Audio Books”. Together with the subway contractor, NLC then launched the “Subway Library” service, by virtue of which, users can read online e-books in the subway by scanning QR Codes printed in carriages. Moreover, it opened public service channel “NLC on Palm” on Wechat platform, provided the experiential learning courses ranging over 20 categories for teenagers, helping spread the splendid traditional culture to younger generations, and promoted the IPTV service which for now has covered 4 million households in Beijing. Meanwhile, NLC has also been pushing forward the social education services such as exhibitions, lectures, training and reading activities, and saw through the whole year up to 1908 various corresponding events, receiving in total 1.448 million of audiences.

NLC conducted the appraisal activity for the “9th Wenjin Literature Award” and extended the social influence of a series of service brands such as the Wenjin Lecture, National Library Lecture, Wenjin Reading Salon, Wenjin Classic Book Chanting, exhibitions on Intangible Cultural Heritage etc.

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

Since 2010, NLC has cooperated successively with China Academic Library & Information System (CALIS), representing the alliance of library systems of colleges and universities, with Beijing Academic Library & Information System (BALIS), representing local library alliance, and with National Science and Technology Library (NSTL), representing alliance of libraries in scientific research academies and institutes.

And the cooperation has evolved from the fundamental inter-library loan and document delivery to multiform and multi-dimensional modes, including resource integration, knowledge discovery, system linkage, unified reader certification, promotion collaboration, technical cooperation, management consensus, talent cultivation, scientific research etc.

By December of 2014, NLC has realized inter-library loan with more than 600 libraries among the 34 provinces, province-leveled municipalities and autonomous regions of China, as well as international sharing with over 500 libraries of 63 countries across the world.

8. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND PUBLISHERS IN YOUR COUNTRY

Since 2004, NCL has formed stable cooperation with more than 300 publishers all around China on “Wenjin Book Award”, which, the publications of 54 publishers, such as SDX Joint Publishing Company, Peking University Press and Guangxi Normal University Press, have been granted.