

COUNTRY REPORT

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

9 – 12 June 2015 Bangkok, Thailand

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1. General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library.

The National Library of Thailand was moved to new location on Samsen road and officially declared open on May 5, 1966 which was main missions to collect, preserve and store the nation's intellectual and cultural heritage materials in the forms of printed and non printed materials, audio-visual materials and electronic media acquired from Thailand and abroad. At present, the National Library of Thailand has all of materials stand more than 3,000,000 volumes. In 2009, the Ministry of Culture allotted budget to the National Library to build a new building in the National Library compound. The library additional space had increased to more than 10,000 square meters. For the convenience of users, all the library services and offices are moved to the new building which includes the Information Resources Development Group, Manuscript and Inscription Group, Manuscript Collection, Rare Book Collection, the Thesis and Dissertation. The new intranet system is being installed within the new building for the use of public and library staffs. The users who walk in the National Library could access to World Wide Web with free WIFI. Nowadays, there are 11 national library branches located in the provinces.

2. Relationship to government

- National Library (NLT) of Thailand does not have a National Library Act although legal deposit is in the Press Act A.D. 2007. The Act enabled NLT to be the national organization empowered to undertake all library functions including national union catalogue, legal deposit of published works in Thailand, the issuance of ISBN and ISSN numbers for all Thailand publications, the comprehensive public and community libraries services nationwide and the extensive powers of the nation's National Library functions.
- National Library of Thailand supports and promotes the King Vajiravudh Memorial Hall improvement project. Since the building was constructed in B.E. 2520, the internal and external parts are in decline and the technology for services are out-of-date. Fortunately, the Bureau of the Budget, the Crown Property Bureau, and

the Government Savings Bank, are in cooperation to renovate and develop this building and internal system services with a budget of 20,000,000 Baht in the year 2013. This project is going on well on phase II with the budget from The King Vajiravudh Foundation.

- Continuing on well of the project to renovate the main building of the National Library with the budget of 260,000,000 Baht from The Ministry of Culture in the third year 2014 – 2016.
- In 2015, the Ministry of Culture allotted budget to the National Library to renovate:
 - 1) National Library Branch, Lat Krabang with a budget of 9,863,000 Baht.
 - 2) Damrong Rajanubhab Library with a budget of 780,000 Baht.
 - 3) Thavaravathu Building with a budget of 10,638,000 Baht.

3. Key facts and figures

The figures of National Library in 2014 are as follows:

- Total operating budget: 126,109,400 Baht (USD 3,821,497)
- Total number of staff : 163 persons (government officials, permanent and temporary employees)
- Total volume of resources: 4,548,646 items
- Visitorship of the National Library of Thailand in April 2014 to March 2015
 - Foreign visitors 10,811 persons
 - Local visitors 26,120 persons
 - Website visitors 104,591 persons
 - Readers 306,055 persons
- NLT received 11,105 titles under legal deposit from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

4. New developments in Creating and Building Collections

- In 2013 the National Library have started the National Library Development for Life Time Knowledge Resources Project (Central and provincial library). Under the concept of ‘Full Library Full Knowledge Full Happiness’. The objectives is to improving library acquisitions both in central and provincial, to be an important learning resources for Thai citizen and ready to serve an excellent service and support Thai citizen’s reading with reading promotion activities. To indicate importance of reading, we try to instill children and young people to read and grow up to be a valuable asset of our country.
- The project of ancient document network investigation and support. The project aims to investigate, preserve, register and store ancient documents, while also provide trainings regarding proper implementation and treatment of ancient documents for the participants such as, Buddhist ecclesiastical monks, citizens, library staffs and also Fine Arts Department staffs around the areas. The activities consist of ancient documents investigation, preservation, registration and storage, comprise of 4,697 documents. The event also offers knowledge development support activities of ancient documents network, providing ancient document treatment trainings to 222 participants at the provincial Library.

5. New Developments in Managing Collections

- The National Library had advanced its creation and service of digital information called D-Library. The system is used to input digital information which will later harness for data exchange and transfer among libraries around the globe. Storing, preserving and publicizing national inherited cultures and knowledge in a form of digital information can be used in a long-term appearance. The information is reachable, fast, convenient and usable immediately through the Internet.

D – Library is started to be available in the National Library via National Library website, beginning from September, 2014, starting with the following sources of information:

- Documents, manuals, knowledge, library news, annual reports
- Rare Collection of manuscript, rare book, rare newspaper and journal
- Fine Arts Collection

6. New Developments in Providing Access to collections

- Continuing of cooperation with MOU between Fine Arts Department (National Library) & Thailand Knowledge Park (TK Park) for sharing digital collection and information technology to provide service nationwide.
- Continuing of cooperation with MOU between Fine Arts Department (National Library) & Huachiew Chalermprakiet University for digitization of Chinese Newspapers published in Thailand.

7. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other National collecting institutions (Libraries, Archives and Museums)

- **Read and Play Happiness for All projects**

This project was held by National Library together with Office of performing Arts, Office of National Museum and Office of Traditional Arts. The objectives are to strengthening and encouraging Thai citizen to read and generate both knowledge and entertainment from reading in the same time in accordance with national reading policy. This project has been held every 2 months since 7 August 2014 at exhibition area in front of National Library.

8. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and publishers in your country.

- Ministry of Cultural will collaborate with The Publishers and Booksellers Association of Thailand (PUBAT), International Publishers Association (IPA) and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration to organize the 30th International Publishers Congress during March 24 – 26 at Inter Continental Bangkok, Bangkok Thailand.
- Many publishers have continually donated a number of books to encourage **the Read and Play Happiness for All projects.**