

COUNTRY REPORT 2015 – NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VIET NAM

FOR THE 23rd CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES IN ASIA
AND OCEANIA (CDNLAO)
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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- On April 18, 2015, the National Library of Viet Nam (NLV) had organized the Book Festival under the theme “*Book – the Cultural Interference*” with many activities as: book exhibition, round-table between authors and the public about their works; storytelling in Vietnamese and English contests; painting through book contest; art and crafts, literary work identity contest, displaying and selling books at special prices, etc. On this occasion, the NLV has mobilized book donation and financial support from business sector and individuals for the libraries with difficulties.

- On the occasion of the 69th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the 47th Anniversary of establishing the Association of Southeast Asian Nation – ASEAN, and 19 years since Viet Nam joined ASEAN, NLV held the exhibition titled “*ASEAN Cultural Space*” on August 28, 2014. There were about 1,000 typical materials were exhibited attracting thousands of visits.

- In 2014, the NLV has organized the review for 02 Ministerial level Science Researches: “*Improving digital library model at the NLV and City central libraries*”

and *“Enforcement of Copyright and Related rights in the Information - Library activity in Viet Nam: Situations and Solutions”*; continue to implement the project of developing national standard (TCVN) in library operation, accomplished TCVN 10670:2014: *“Library operation - Terminologies and definitions on Acquisition and Cataloging”*; successfully implement the project *“Enhancement of the Digital Capacity and Digital Preservation at the NLV”*.

- On August 29, 2014, the NLV held a workshop on *Enforcement of Copyright and Related rights in Library - Information activities in Viet Nam* in order to evaluate the enforcement of copyright, related rights in the information – library activity in Viet Nam.

- The NLV continued to keep good performance in professional assistance to libraries of the provinces and Laos; delivering 19,590 donated books to libraries and schools throughout the country, receiving and distributing 21,468 books in English sponsored by The Asia Foundation to 167 beneficiaries (2014).

2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

The National Library of Vietnam is the country’s central library, a governmental agency under the management of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and assigned with the mandates of collection and preservation of the nation’s documentary heritage; and acquisition, preservation, organization and provision of information resources for the society’s use. The National Library of Vietnam is legally incorporated and has its own seal and bank accounts.

3. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- In 2014, NLV organized and co-organized 12 exhibitions, display and introduction of materials and artifact. The most typical exhibition was *“ASEAN Cultural Space”* to be organized on the occasion of the 47th Anniversary of establishing the Association of Southeast Asian Nation – ASEAN, and 19 years since Viet Nam joined ASEAN. In April 2015, an ASEAN Book Corner was officially launched at the multilingual reading room, serving over 1,000 special materials which are from the NLV and supported from Embassies in Viet Nam, ASEAN National Libraries: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand and eBook collection IG Library includes over 40,000 e-books on the topics of Economics & Business Administration, Natural Science, Social Science, Religion, Languages, Asian Studies...

- **Materials and information resources:**

<http://thuvienquocgia.vn/gioi-thieu-chung/nguon-luc-thong-tin.html>

+ Printed resources: the total NLV collection is over 2.6 million copies.

+ Digital resources:

* Self-develop digital resources: 4,993,309 pages, equivalent of 33,493 titles/volumes, including the following collections: Sino – Nom books, Indochina books, Doctorial

theses, English books about Viet Nam, Books and Maps of Ha Noi, a part of collection of Books and Magazines in Vietnamese and foreign languages, and collection of microfilm, microfiche, collection of ancient classical dramas.

* Purchased online full-text documents:

Including databases: Keesing's, ProQuest, Wilson, European books, eBook IG Library, Sage Journals, Sage Research methods, Vietnam Journals Online-VJOL, CD, VCD, CD-ROM with total amount of over 3,000 titles.

Besides, the NLV has some digital collections which are served online on the library's website, such as the monthly/annually National Directory, training materials of SIDA Foundation, the ISO file of monthly directory data of NLV to be shared with other libraries.

- Organizational structure: NLV has 182 employees and labor contracts, in which there are 25 masters, 130 bachelors and 27 of other educational levels. The library has a Board of Directors, a Science Council and 13 functional Divisions.

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATION AND BUILDING COLLECTION

Through the operation of legal deposit, book exchanges, acquisition and receiving gifts, donation from institutions and individuals in Viet Nam and overseas, the library's resources have dramatically increased recently.

In 2014, the NLV has acquired depository of 20,030 titles (59,381 copies); doctoral theses: 1,499; Special publications: 587 titles (1,761 copies); Periodicals (newspapers, magazines, newsletter): 46,514 issues (1,113 titles and 228,935 copies in which there are 49 newspapers and magazines published in foreign languages. For acquisition source via purchase, exchange, donate, the total amount was 22,737 copies (11,217 titles), including 18,936 Vietnamese books and 3,801 foreign language books; 3,344 issues (204 titles) of magazines, newspapers including 56 titles in Vietnamese and 148 titles in foreign languages; 89 CDs; 195 doctoral theses in digital format; 05 online full-text databases: Keesings, ProQuest, EBM Center, Spring Images, SAGE Premier.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTION

- Technical processing:

+ Books, doctoral theses: Completed technical process for 26,632 titles, including 20,030 titles of books, 486 special publications and 6,116 titles of foreign language books; 1,499 Doctorial theses.

+ Periodicals: Completed technical process for 47,789 magazines, newspapers, including: Vietnamese: 45,001 issues; foreign languages: 2,797 issues.

+ Completed retrospective treatment for resistance war's stacks: 3,708 records; Repository of documentations, pictures, photos, maps of Indochina: 995 records; Completing 2013 National Bibliography; Monthly National Directories (from January

to November, 2014). Implementation on computer for 7,816 records of abstract's journal article put into a database to serve users. Effective coordination with publishers, bookstores across the country to develop 3,294 bibliographic data records for a forthcoming book.

- Preservation, Conservation of materials have achieved many good results for example: renovation, binding 4,897 books; binding 3,642 newspapers and magazines; restoring 87,130 pages of documents; microfilming 2,552 meters; copying – printing 100,780 pages; reproduction of 02 ancient books for displaying at exhibitions. Coordinate implementation of the project for restoration – reproduction the original, precious documentations of President Ho Chi Minh at the President Palace's relic site, the reproductive program for geographic documents of Bac Ninh Province...

- Digitization, data processing were promoted, as a result, 164,957 pages of books, newspapers, magazines in microform were digitized in 2014; digital processed for 2,390,977 pages of newspapers, doctoral theses. Converted 1,000 CDs / DVDs to ISO format to serve readers. Converted 30,000 of notation theses in digital format to the new notation which helps the searching of users and storing of documents.

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

In 2014, the NLV opened 336 days, issued 16,705 membership cards, total access of readers on-site and off-site (online access) were 2,741,598 visits (equivalent of 8,160 visits/day). Circulated documents reached 1,052,883 (average of 3134 visits / day).

Regularly organizing 50 training classes "Guiding readers use the library"; meet 3,363 online inquiries via the website of NLV; building 13 bibliographies to provide for the exhibitions and meet the demands of individuals and institutions.

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

The National Library of Viet nam is independent with other libraries in terms of funding and administration. It has the strongest professional influence over the other libraries in the country. It is also Vietnam's biggest library, the national bibliography publisher and the sole national legal depository agency which acquires and houses the most sufficient collection of materials published in Vietnam and Indochina since 1917. In the relationship with other libraries in Viet Nam, it has the task to conduct scientific research in the field of library and information science, apply scientific and technological advances to professional activities, and give advise and provide professional instructions for librarians all over the country through various channels such as compiling professional guides, providing continuing education and training, organizing conferences and workshops on librarianship assigned by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. The NLV also has the function to promote international cooperation in the library section through participating in international library

associations, developing and implementing projects to seek donations of materials, library equipments from foreign libraries and organizations; through organizing sponsored conferences, professional experience sharing workshops, and documentary exhibitions in compliance with regulations.

Public libraries operate under the general administration of People's Committees of all levels. Besides, the Service of Culture, Sports and Tourism of all levels are responsible for professional activities of those libraries. In addition, while city/provincial libraries receive professional guidance and supports from the NLV; city and provincial libraries will have the responsibility to support district and commune libraries in term of collection enhancement and professional activities.

The Academic Library and School Libraries operate under the management of the Ministry of Education and Training.

Special Library system operates under Ministry of the relevant Ministries and other governmental agencies.

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

The National Library of Viet Nam is the national bibliography publisher and the sole national legal depository agency. It provides CIP data to all publishers free of charge.

The National Library of Viet Nam cooperates with Publishers to organize many reading promotion activities such as hold talks between authors and the public, introduce new books, donate books to libraries in remoted areas and libraries with difficulties, organize the Book Festival.

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