

## Annual report of the National Library of Korea

Period covered by this report 2015

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**Name of country:** Republic of Korea

**Name of library:** National Library of Korea

**Name(s) of National Librarian, Director-General and/or Director:**  
Dr. Lim, Wonsun

**Name of contact person for international liaison:** Jihye Song

**Mailing address:** 201 Banpo-daero Seocho-gu, Seoul 137-701, Korea

**Telephone:** +82-2-590-6328

**Fax:** +82-2-590-6329

**Website:** [www.nl.go.kr](http://www.nl.go.kr)

**Email address for international contacts:** [nlkpc@mail.nl.go.kr](mailto:nlkpc@mail.nl.go.kr)

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### 1. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT:

The National Library of Korea is affiliated to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. According to the Libraries Act, it implements comprehensive library development measures and plays a critical role in collecting and preserving the nation's documentary heritage as a legal deposit library since 1963. The NLK has cooperation network with other 89 Ministry libraries and government funded research institutes to provide the administrative information for their users.

### 2. FACTS AND FIGURES:

The NLK consists of 3 departments (Planning & Training, Library Service, Digital Library), 3 organizations (National Library for Children & Young Adults, National Library for Individuals with Disabilities, National Library of Korea, Sejong), 1 institute (Korea Research Institute for Library and Information), 18 divisions, and 1 team. The budget of the NLK for the year 2015 was US\$76.6 million and the total number of staff is 331. By November of 2015, the NLK's collection totaled 10,283,356 volumes/items and digitized holdings was 465,084 books, 129,939,637 pages and 974,385 sites of web

archiving. From January to November of 2015, over 1.56 million people used collections on site and 7.91 million online.

Category	2015	Others
Budget	US \$76.6 million	National budget 100%
Full-time Employees	331	Librarians: 63.4%
Visitors (Jan.-Nov.)	1,555,854	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly average : 141,441</li> <li>• Daily average : 5,186</li> </ul>

### 3. A BRIEF GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:

The National Library of Korea was founded on October 15, 1945. It was newly built in May 1988 and moved to where it is seated now. The National Library for Children and Young Adults, a branch library of the NLK, was newly opened in June 2006, and the Digital Library opened its doors in 2009, providing its service both online and onsite. In line with the transfer of central government ministries and institutions to Sejong City, the National Library of Korea, Sejong, the first regional branch of the NLK, opened on December 12, 2013. It is an 'Administrative Library' and provides administrative information service to public officials so that they can easily access and use information required for policy making and implementation. E-mail-based the "Table of Contents (TOC) E-Alert Service for journals" a user selected among 20,000 domestic and foreign journals has been offered to public officials. Moreover, the NLK offers administrative resources online and operates the Policy Information Service Network to share administrative information between the government and public institutions.

Meanwhile, as an effort to adapt to changes brought by technological advances, the NLK introduced a Dark Archive System to acquire online resources. Thanks to the system, 3,910,000 e-journal articles and 700,000 digital files including sound have been collected. The NLK initiated acquisition in the new field, online resources, and focus of the library service has now shifted to online from simply offline. For the disabled, cloud-based 'Korea Accessible Materials System (KOAMS)' is serviced, allowing 41,000 alternative format materials in libraries to be shared and searched easily..

In May 2015, the NLK held a series of cultural events to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment and achieving 10 million in its collection. The NLK became the first in Korea to house 10 million books 50 years after legal deposit took effect.

Starting from November this year, the NLK launched mobile application service 'e-library at home'. It is a user-customized service that enables an individual to manage his/her collection and take advantage of this service in daily life by linking his/her collection with national bibliography and full-text the NLK holds.

#### **4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN BUILDING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS:**

##### **4.1 Broadening of the Collection of National Knowledge and Information Resources**

In 2015, the NLK marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation and reaching 10 million items at the same time. On this occasion, the NLK has successfully built a cooperative network that aims to share resources with relevant institutes in order to vigorously respond to rapidly changing information environment. The library is working on forming a partnership with the National Archives of Korea in the government publications for digital file sharing and integrated collection while collaborating with the Korea Education Research Information Service (KERIS) to collect thesis in digital format. Such endeavors of the NLK has significantly contributed to increasing online materials. Especially in 2015, the NLK signed the MOU (Mar 23, 2015) with Seoul Broadcasting System (SBS Company) for long-term preservation of broadcasting and video materials as national cultural heritage and for provision of quality service. This MOU enabled the NLK to collect and preserve 300,000 videotapes and 8.6PB of digital files for service and dark archive.

In case of issues that gain much attention, materials relevant to those issues have been intensively collected through the 'Online Archiving and Searching Internet Sources (OASIS)'. In 2015, it collected a total of 978,058 online materials (website: 149,376, web resources: 845,730) regarding social issues of the nation, such as the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Korean Liberation, inter-Korean family reunions, and national disaster information such as Sinking of the Sewol Ferry.

Moreover, the NLK signed MOU with National Research Foundation of Korea on April 20, 2015 in order to share DB the NRF holds and service academic resources. Thanks to this MOU, 360,000 full-text of academic papers and 1,100,000 bibliography data are available on the website, allowing the public to easily access to research and academic papers and libraries to collect and preserve national knowledge in a systematic manner.

Meanwhile, acquisition of national information was significantly enhanced by increasing collections in Modern Literature Center (Oct. 31, 2014) through the NLK's endeavors to collect Korea-related materials published at home and abroad, rare Korean modern literature resources and private collections. The NLK has exerted its utmost effort into collecting every single book, even those published prior to 1965 when the legal deposit system was not in place, through launching book donation campaigns. It has asked the public to donate books through such as 'Adding My Book to 10 Million Items', one of events held to celebrate reaching 10 million items.

##### **4.2 Collection/Processing/Production of High Quality Digital Contents**

The NLK has digitized its holdings since 1995 to permanently preserve national documentary, pass down them to the next generation and

provide convenient online service to users. In 2015, 40,000 books -mostly modern literature- were digitized, a 4-fold increase compared to the previous year. Starting from 1995, 465,084 items or 129,939,637 pages (as of 2015) of old and rare books and music scores have been successfully digitized. 150,000 books that are permitted to use or whose copyright is expired are available online anytime and anywhere. For 300,000 that are protected by copyright, they are provided to 1,756 institutes at home and abroad that signed an agreement with the NLK to increase user's access to information and strengthen national information and knowledge.

From July 2014, a sophisticated robot scanner and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) S/W were introduced in digital library to facilitate digitization and quickly meet online service demands and material preservation, laying a foundation for text searching. The NLK has continuously strengthened its digitization capability.

As the NLK website (<http://www.nl.go.kr>) and the Dibrary portal (<http://www.dibrary.net>) were integrated in March 2015, the NLK changed its digital collection website that formerly introduced digital holdings by subjects and types and created 'Digital Stack', 'Book, Person and the World', 'web resources' and 'World Libraries' categories. The new website offers digital curation service, utilizing web resources and library holdings. The 'Digital Stack' curate digital collection with high values and provides digital collection with different 8 themes including 'First Issue of Magazine', 'Korean *Ddakjibon* (printed novels in old days)' and 'Korea's Greatest Figures' and 'Revisit the Spirit of Korean Classical Scholars'. 4 new themes will be added to the collection this year, including 'Korea's Key Economic Policy', and 'Korea-related Foreign Materials Published Prior to 1945'. This Digital Collection Service can play a role as a conduit of knowledge by offering quality and filtered digital information by themes out of the "sea of information".

#### **4.3 Standardization of Bibliographic Information**

The National Library of Korea revised the 'Korean Machine Readable Cataloging (KORMARC) - Integrated Format for Bibliographic Data ' by reflecting international cataloging trends in order to standardize national bibliography and KORMARC – Authority Control Format is being revised. Moreover, the NLK translated RDA and created RDA-Korean version as an effort to keep up with international trends in cataloguing rules.

As a representative library in Korea, the NLK has established quality national bibliographic data, creating 276,000 bibliographic data and 23,000 name authority data in KORMARC format while adding 132,000 online records in MODS format in 2015.

The NLK has exerted its effort into fostering international cooperation in the bibliographic field. The NLK signed an agreement for Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) to share the authority data globally, providing 220,000 name authority data, and joined International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI) to strengthen cooperation with relevant institutes in Korea. Moreover, a pilot project for romanizing Korean bibliography is underway to share and open bibliographic data the NLK holds.

#### **4.4 Research Support through the Building of Periodical Indexing and Information on TOC**

The NLK provides database of periodical indexing and information on table of contents (TOC) of the materials with high academic value among its serials and government publications. In addition, it supports study of researchers by upgrading the search function for general magazines and journals. The NLK has built and offered 932,507 periodical indexing and 788,465 TOC up to now.

### **5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS:**

#### **5.1. Modern Literature Information Center**

Modern Literature Information Center opened on October 31, 2014 to systematically collect, organize, preserve and provide modern literary works to the next generation. By building a Modern Literature Union Catalog system, the center aims to establish digitized full-text DB of modern literature that is in danger of losing information while strengthening a cooperative network with other literary houses to provide catalog of modern literature they hold. Meanwhile, the center exerts its effort into taking stock of holdings housed in institutes nationwide and creating an evaluation system and index to measure preservation value of modern literature holdings objectively. To enhance library service and facilitate study on modern literature, the NLK has published various academic books including 'Annotated Korean Modern Literature I'. In addition, transforming the existing literature center into a Larchivium style by combining the functions of a library, archive and museum is currently underway, which will not only provide archive holdings on modern literature to the public but also support researchers in the modern literature area by providing space for their study and exhibition area.

#### **5.2. Increased Access to Multimedia Information**

To provide integrated access to multimedia data such as videos, images and e-learning VOD files, the NLK established Multimedia On Demand (MOD) system and created the computing environment where One Source Multi Use (OSMU) is available. This system allows patrons to directly search and read digitized multimedia files without a loan process. The NLK also provides 'Catalog of Video Collection by Subjects' to enhance access to informative video resources and offers documentaries, lectures, talk shows, debate programs and other videos by subjects.

#### **5.3. Enhanced Library Service for the Disabled**

The NLK improves literacy ability of people with visual, hearing, and developmental disabilities by providing various library services. Services for the disabled include 'Literature Trip' program, a free postal loan service called 'Chaeknarae Service' (involving 557 libraries) and provision of assistive devices. To enhance access to information by patrons with disabilities, the NLK produces 3,000 alternative materials annually such as DAISY, e-Braille, e-music score, windowing (video with sign language), descriptive video service (video with audio interpreting) and captioning (video with subtitles). All of NLK produced materials in accessible formats are available through 'Direct

Rapid Easy Accessible Material Service(DREAM)' system anytime and anywhere. In addition, as part of effort to enhance access to e-books, the NLK established e-book Accessibility Production Guidelines and Accessibility Authentication Standard to create e-book accessibility standard for the disabled. The NLK implemented authentication process to check whether e-books produced meet this standard.

## **6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SERVICES:**

### **6.1 Collaboration with Domestic Publishers**

As an effort to improve 'Bibliographic Information Distribution Support System', an integrated system in which libraries and publishers can conveniently use ISBN, ISSN, CIP and legal deposit, the NLK conducted a survey of 5,000 publishers on 'Publishers and Distributors' Awareness in Legal Deposit'. The survey was intended to seek solutions to improve legal deposit system. Legal deposit rate went up as a result of promoting legal deposit system to publishers that newly joined in ISBN institution. Newly published materials have been collected timely by strengthening cooperation with publishers and distributors. In addition, the NLK was able to acquire 1,222 indigenous books with support from regional libraries. In October 2015, the NLK participated in 'Seoul International Book Fair (Oct. 7 -11)' with more than local and international 500 publishers and magazines and promoted legal deposit as a way to raise publisher's awareness of legal deposit system.

Despite a rapid increase of e-book, there have been issues with using a print book ISBN for e-book due to lack of knowledge on ISBN. However, thanks to NLK's continuous business negotiation with publishers and distributors and promotion, participation rate for e-book ISBN increased dramatically, granting 220,899 ISBNs in 2014 and 136,471 in 2015 (as of Sept.). Besides, the NLK provided information of domestic publishers that grant ISBN (31,434 institutes in 2014) to be supportive in producing Publishers' International ISBN Directory. The NLK has continuously maintained a cooperative relationship with international organizations.

In 2014 (as of Dec.), *Cataloging in Publication* (CIP) application by publishers totaled 46,319, a 47% increase compared with the same period of the previous year. As of November 2015, 38,005 catalogs have been newly added, similar to that of 2014, and these standards catalogs and CIPs have been provided to public libraries nationwide. As a part of effort to increase publishers' recognition and further participation in the system, the NLK hosted CIP Workshop in March and conducted surveys of public libraries on CIP.

## **7. NOTES ON YOUR COLLABORATION WITH OTHER LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS IN YOUR COUNTRY:**

The National Library of Korea has distributed the Korea Library Automation System, a standard library automation system, to public libraries, small libraries and libraries for the people with disability across the country to

connect all systems and create a national integrated catalog system called the Korean Library Information System Network. The network has helped share holding information of each library and has been utilized to provide inter-library loan services called 'Chaekbada (Sea of Books)' among member libraries. The NLK also operates the Collaborative Digital Reference Service (CDRS) in cooperation with 452 public libraries across the nation and 'Ask a Librarian' service.

#### **8. NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:**

The National Library of Korea has signed MOU with 17 libraries in 16 countries such as the U.K., France and Russia, and with 1 International Organization. Business exchange and cooperation have been regularly and actively performed to promote development of the NLK and its counterparts. In 2015, the 18th Business Exchanges with the National Diet Library and the National Library of China were successfully held in Korea and China respectively. Also, the NLK successfully completed its 4-year term as the Chair of the National Information and Library Policy Special Interest Group (NILP) of the IFLA since 2012 and handed it over to the next Chair, the National Library of South Africa.

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