

**Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania
Annual meeting of 2016 – at the National Library of New Zealand, Wellington NZ**

Annual report of the National Library of Viet Nam

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1. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

The National Library of Viet Nam 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; to compile and publish National Bibliography and the General Bibliography of Viet Nam; to conduct scientific and technological research projects in library - information field; to organize professionally further training courses and provide professional guidance to librarians throughout the country; to cooperate with domestic and foreign libraries in the field of library and information sciences.

Key legislations which set out the library's mandate and directly effect the library operations:

- In 1976, Prime Minister signed the Decision No. 401-TTg on functions, duties and rights of the National Library of Viet Nam. This is the highest-ranking official document determining completely functions and duties of the Library, in which for the first time the responsibility of delivering information about culture and art was regulated for the NLV.
- Library Ordinance No. 31/2000/PL-UBTVQH10 by the Standing Committee of National Assembly dated December 28, 2000 and Decree No.72/2002/NĐ-CP dated August 6, 2002 of the Government on implementation of the Library Ordinance, regulated functions, mission and rights of the NLV.
- Decree No. 2638/2008/NĐ-CP dated June 11, 2008 by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam on assigning functions, mission, rights and organizational structure of the NLV.

- Decree No. 888/QĐ-BVHTTDL dated March 28, 2014 of the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam on regulating functions, mission, rights and organizational structure of the NLV.

Major Legal Deposit legislation:

- In 1922, the Governor-General of Indochina signed the Decree on implementing legal deposit of cultural products over Indochina and establishing the Legal Deposit Department. This Department had the function to collect books, newspapers, journals and maps published in the whole Indochina.
- In 1946, President Ho Chi Minh signed the Decree on legal deposit of Vietnamese cultural products. According to the decree, all Publishing and Printing Houses must submit new publications to the National Library.
- In 1976, Minister of Culture issued the Circular number 83-VHTT/VP give instructions to implement the regulations on deposit of cultural publication, which regulated that Publishing Houses and Printing Institutions must submit 05 copies each print publication to the NLV.
- In 1993, the National Assembly passed the Publishing Law, regulating that Publishing Houses and the Institutions which have the permission to publish materials must submit **04** copies each publication to the National Library; in the case that the total print number is less than 300 copies, they submit 2 copies to the NLV. This number of legal deposit materials then changed to **05** copies each publication in the new Publishing Law number 30/2004/QH11 since 2004, and to **03** copies each publication in the revised Publishing Law number 19/2012/QH13 since 2012.

2. FACTS AND FIGURES

2.1. Key milestones

- The Central Public Library of Indochina was the original name of the NLV when it was established on November 29, 1917. On September 1, 1919, the library was officially open to the public. In 1935, the Central Public Library of Indochina was renamed into Pierre Pasquier Library. In 1947, the name of the Library was changed into The Centre Library of Ha Noi. In 1958, the Library officially took the name the National Library of Viet Nam pursuant to the Decision of the Minister of Culture.
- In 1986, the NLV started to apply Information Technology to the library activity by creating databases and catalogue on the computer and for the first time compiling National Bibliography of Viet Nam. In 1993, the NLV's database started to be served in reading rooms. In 1994, the NLV created wide area network (WAN) connecting the NLV with provincial and municipality libraries.
- During 1996 - 2002, the NLV implemented the project to renovate the Library with major renovation of the old buildings and construction of 2 new buildings.
- Since 2000, the NLV became an official member of IFLA, CONSAL, CDNL and its Regional Section For Asia and Oceania, the CDNL-AO, RFBNN, WDL. This has help broaden professional relations between the NLV and the world library community.

- In 2000, the National Assembly Standing Committee passed Library Ordinance, identifying the NLV as the central library of the whole country.
- In December 2001, the NLV started the project of building electronic library, promoting the application of Information Technology in not only the NLV but public libraries in Viet Nam as well. Under this project, the integrated library software ILIB, developed by a Vietnamese company, was selected for the NLV and the major of provincial libraries in Viet Nam.
- In 2006, the Ministry of Culture and Information (now is the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism-MoCST) assigned the NLV the project to establish a Preservation Center at the NLV.
- Since 2006-2009, the NLV has successfully hosted CONSAL XIV EB meetings and its General Conference, and the 17th CDNL-AO meeting in Viet Nam.
- In 2008, the NLV officially launched the Electronic Library at the NLV.
- In 2012, the Government and the MoCST have invested the project “Strengthening the capacity of Digital Library and Digital Preservation at the NLV”;
- In 2012, the NLV successfully hosted the RFBNN annual meeting in Ha Noi.
- In 2014, the Government and the MoCST have approved the project: “Upgrading, Renovating the NLV towards Tradition-Modern-Digital Library”.

2.2. General administration and human resources

- Operating budget:

Total operating budget of the NLV in 2015 is about 1.3 million USD. In which, proportion of budget received from Government accounts for 2/3, proportion received from external sources accounts for 1/3.

- Human resources:

Currently, the NLV has 175 civil servants, officials and employees, in which there are 23 masters, 120 bachelors and 32 of other educational levels, 70% are female. The library has a Director, two Deputy Directors, a Science Council and 13 functional Divisions.

2.3. Collections

Statistics about NLV’s materials and information resources: <http://nlv.gov.vn/ef/en/information-resources.html>

- Physical items: over 2.5 million copies in total.
- Digital resources:
 - + Self-develop digital resources: 4,995,000 pages, equivalent of 33,493 titles/volumes, including such collections as Doctoral Theses, Indochina Books, Books and Maps about Ha Noi, Sino–Nom Books, Tapes, CD- ROMs, and English Books about Viet Nam.
 - + Purchased online full-text documents: Including databases of Keesing’s, ProQuest, Wilson, European books (EBM Center), Springer Images, Education Collection IG Publishing, Sage Premier, Sage Research methods, Sage Journal, Cambridge Journal online, National Geographic Magazine Archives, EBRARY, Viet Nam Journals Online-VJOL... Besides, the

NLV has some digital collections which are served online via 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 in Viet Nam.

2.4. Reading services and other activities

- The NLV currently has 10 reading rooms which open 7 days a week, from 8am until 8pm. It offers both open stack reading service and on request reading service; however, it hasn't provided lending service yet because of limited copies and over crowded users.
- During the year, the NLV has opened 333 days, issued 13,070 membership cards, received 2,523,677 turns (equivalent to 7,587 turns a day) of visitors to reading rooms & website, circulated 791,342 turns of materials (equivalent to 2,376 turns a day), organized 40 training classes for library users, met 3,393 information requests via the NLV's website, compiled 20 subject bibliographies and promoted exploration of online databases.
- Other major services include multimedia materials reading and internet access; targeted information searching, press clipping, photocopying and scanning; compiling subject/local history & selected bibliographies; organization of book display, book exhibition at home and abroad, holding book talks; organization of conferences, workshops, professional training courses and tutorials for readers and librarians nation wide; provision of professional advice in building new library, setting up computer network, software installation, hardware maintenance, cataloguing of library materials, conservation and restoration of materials, on request professional training, etc. to libraries across the country.
- As the biggest library of the country, the NLV also provides regular information publications as National Bibliography, Vietnamese Library Journal, Subjects Index, Key Words and many other technical instruction books.

3. A BRIEF GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:

- Organize and co-organize with embassies in Ha Noi in 16 exhibitions of books, painting and photos to celebrate major events of the country and promote culture exchange.
- Conduct and complete two Ministerial-level science research: *"Enforcement of Copyright and Related rights in the Information - Library activity in Viet Nam: Situations and Solutions"* & *"Renovation of the organizational management models and modes of operation of Vietnamese libraries"*; two NLV-level science researches about *"Enhancing the efficiency of collecting Vietnamese publications and materials about Viet Nam"* & *"The workflow for building digital collections at the NLV"*; continued to implement the project of developing the national standards (TCVN): *"Library operation-Terminologies and definitions on organization of material storage & preservation of materials"* and *"Library operation-Terminologies and definitions on Library Products and Services"*.
- Organize the Book Festival themed *"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, call donation of books for libraries in remote areas, etc.
- Continue to promote programs of socializing the library activities in order to advocate agencies, organizations and individuals to donate books for the people living in remote areas

with 15,469 books being handed over to those libraries. Giving attention and supports to city/provincial libraries in professional guidance, training staff, organize conferences, workshops and training courses.

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN BUILDING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS:

- Collection Development:

+ Through legal deposit source: acquired depository of 23,646 book titles (57,466 copies); Doctorial Theses: 2,394 titles; special publications: 846 titles (2,502 copies); periodicals (newspapers, magazines, newsletters): 49,478 issues (1,163 titles and 229,954 copies).

+ Through purchase, exchange, and receive donation: 18,016 copies (12,286 titles), including 13,689 Vietnamese books and 4,327 foreign language books; 2,129 issues (206 titles) of magazines, newspapers; 94 CDs; 301 Doctorial Theses in digital format; 04 online full-text databases: ProQuest, EBM Center, Springer Images, SAGE Premier. Besides, the NLV has also received and distributed 17,063 English books sponsored by The Asia Foundation to 178 recipient libraries throughout Viet Nam.

- Technical processing: completed technical processing for 26,850 titles of domestic publications, including 20,009 tiles of Vietnamese books, 846 special publications and 5,995 abstracts, 3.691 titles of foreign language books, 2,011 Doctorial Theses; 49,478 issues of magazines, newspapers. Continue to cooperate with publishing houses and book stores in assigning the CIP data.

- Preservation, Conservation of materials: conservation and binding 3,465 books; 3,486 newspapers and magazines; restoring 98,929 pages; microfilming 1,650 meters; copying – printing 25,000 pages; rearrangement of the microform collection,...

- IT application: digitized 103,556 pages of books, 29,589 pages of newspapers, magazines; do microfilm, microfiche 41,537 pages; replication processing of 301 Doctorial Theses in foreign languages; converted 3,000 CDs/DVDs to ISO format to serve readers.

5. NOTES ON YOUR COLLABORATION WITH OTHER LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS IN YOUR COUNTRY:

- 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 Viet Nam'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 Viet Nam 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.... 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 international conferences, professional experience sharing workshops, and co-organize documentary exhibitions domestic and overseas.

6. NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

In the year 2015, the NLV has renewed the MoU with Tsukuba University, Japan; signed two new MoU with National Library and Archives of Iran and National Library and Archives of Egypt. Under these MoU, cooperation activities will be promoted in the fields of material exchange, staff exchange and organization of joint seminars, workshops, conferences, exhibitions... Especially, a photo exhibition about Iran and the Diplomatic relation between Iran and Viet Nam has been organized successfully at the NLV right after the MoU has been signed. Another materials exhibition about Egypt is also planning for the year 2016 at the NLV.