

**Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania  
Annual meeting of 2018 – at the National Library of Myanmar (Naypyitaw),  
Myanmar**

**Annual report of the National Library of Korea**

Period covered by this report: calendar year 2017

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## **1. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT**

The National Library of Korea (NLK) belongs to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MSCT). In accordance with the Library Act legislated in 1963 and the enforcement ordinance of 1965, the NLK has been collecting legal deposits and preserving Korean publications. In 2016, the scope of legal deposit was expanded to include online materials. The National Library for Children and Young Adults (2006), the National Library of Korea Sejong (2013) and the National Library for the Disabled (2012) are the affiliated institutions of the NLK.

## **2. FACTS AND FIGURES**

The NLK was established on Oct 15, 1945. In May 1988, the library was relocated to the current location. In 2009, the Digital Library was opened to provide on & offline services for digital materials.

The NLK consists of 3 departments (Planning & Training Department, Library Services Department, Digital Library Department), 3 branch libraries (National

Library for Children and Young Adults, National Library for the Disabled, National Library of Korea Sejong) and 1 research center (Preservation and Research Center). The library operated with a total 2017 government appropriation of 95.4 billion KRW and 326 full time staff (63.5% of the staff are librarians). The library's collection reached a total of 11.26 million items as of the end of 2017. For materials of significance, the library has digitized 229 million pages of 895,620 books.

Korean Library Information System Network (KOLIS-NET), which has roughly 1,400 libraries participating in the system, provides 8,890,565 bibliographic data and 46,818,803 data held by the NLK. In 2017, the library welcomed 1.787 million onsite visitors in total and recorded 9.87 million visits on the NLK's website. The interlibrary loan service Chaekbada, in which 981 public libraries and university libraries participated, provided around 12,391 items in 2017.

### **3. A BRIEF GENERAL OVERVIEW ON RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **Improving the Reading Room Environment**

From 2017 to 2018, the NLK is carrying out remodeling work to improve old facilities of the Main Building. The library aims to relocate the service area for users and apply the Color System to emphasize the NLK's image and symbolic value as the leading library in Korea.

The NLK is carrying out work to integrate reading rooms on each floor and create a specific area for researchers. For improvement in services, the library will develop a service customized for researchers, build a research information service platform and test the program in the second half of 2018 to begin providing the service in 2019.

#### **Establishing the Medium and Long Term Strategic Plan for the Improvement of the Library**

In 2017, the NLK reviewed its Development Plan (2014 ~ 2018) and prepared the first draft for the establishment of the Five-Year Development Plan (2019-2023) to proactively respond to environmental changes in overall society.

The first draft of the plan was prepared by the Task Force of the Library and the Industry –University Cooperation of Pusan National University Research Group. The new development plan will be announced at the end of 2018.

#### **Securing High Quality Digital Contents and Strengthening Services**

Since 1995, to hand national collections down to future generations and provide related services, the library has been digitizing its collections. In 2017, by securing a large amount of budget, the NLK added digitized collections of old books, materials on modern Korean literature etc. to its digital collection.

Meanwhile, by expanding the function of Korean Newspaper Archive, a platform

for old newspapers, the library enabled users to search for newspaper without going through a separate authentication process. With strengthened search and visualization functions for limited searching, downloading and subject indexing, the platform is providing a total of 4.52 million articles of 74 titles.

### **Standardizing National Bibliographic Records and Increasing Their Use**

As an organization for the standardization of national bibliographic records, the NLK is exerting various efforts inside and outside of Korea to standardize national bibliographic records and share them in cooperation with other institutions. As of 2017, the library established 470 new subject headings and shared 227,725 standardized bibliographic data with domestic libraries through KOLIS-NET. On the other hand, the NLK operated the ISNI-Korea consortium with other relevant institutions in fields of academia, culture, art in Korea and assigned roughly 70,000 ISNI to creators and build the Authority Control Database through a standardized identification system. Furthermore, to expand the global sharing and accessibility of Korea's national bibliographic records, the NLK provided 300,000 data on books published in Korea through OCLC (Online Computer Library Center). Globally, the library has been providing around 330,000 authority data by participating in VIAF (Virtual International Authority File).

## **4. NEW IMPROVEMENTS IN BUILDING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS**

### **4.1 Strengthening the System for Collecting National Knowledge and Information Resources**

Through legal deposit, purchase, exchange, donation and production within the library, the NLK has collected 415,722 volumes of books, 39,673 items of non-book materials and 262,984 volumes of serials, contributing in expand the library's national collections. In accordance with the Library Act revised and implemented in 2016, the Library received 71,196 online resources as legal deposits.

In addition, through Online Archiving & Searching Internet Sources (OASIS), the web archiving system, the library has collected a total of 1,369,331 items (377,855 websites, 991,476 web resources) of online resources on national issues such as the 19<sup>th</sup> Presidential election, national disaster etc..

For academic materials, the NLK received a donation of 54,849 full-texts of academic papers from the National Research Foundation and 1,230,938 online resources of the science technology field, held by LG Sangnam Library and provided them on the library's website.

### **4.2 Securing and Creating High Quality Digital Contents**

By securing a bigger budget in 2017, the NLK digitized 266,000 books, roughly twice as much as in 2016. The materials that have been digitized include old books, materials on modern Korean literature, PhD dissertation etc.. As of the

end of December, the library has digitized 223 million pages of 895,000 books. Additionally, as the library expanded and reorganized the functions of Korean Newspaper Archive (<http://www.nl.go.kr/newspaper>), which provides searching service for old newspaper articles published before 1950, users can search full-texts of 74 titles 4.53 million articles starting from March 2018.

In the mean time, the library has selected valuable documentary heritage resources among its collection of full-texts to newly create a total of 6 digital library web contents of 151 titles such as the 'Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea'. The library also held a special exhibition titled 'Jokbo (the genealogy), finding my roots' (June 27 - Aug 27, 2017), which provides a glimpse of the history of Korean families from the traditional to the contemporary.

## **5. NEW IMPROVEMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS**

### **5.1 Improving Service for Users and Reorganizing Library Space**

Along with replacing old facilities of the Main Building since 2017 (until 2019), the NLK has also been improving services for users.

First of all, the library is turning the inside and outside of reading rooms into a comfortable and user-friendly place. In an effort to provide one-stop-service for users, the first and second floor will be turned into an area for welcoming users and a community area while the third and fourth floor will offer a reading area where reference services will be provided.

Secondly, the library is building a research information service platform, developing services customized for researchers by establishing a research information room for users conducting research using the library collection.

### **5.2. Expanding Service for the Disabled and Reinforcing Access to Information**

The NLK has been contributing in reducing the information gap for disabled people by supporting public libraries' reading programs for the disabled and implementing the 'Literary Trip for the Disabled', 'Chaeknarae' (a free postal loan service with 735 participant institutions) and the project for providing reading tools for the visually impaired, the hearing impaired, those with developmental disability and the physically challenged.

In addition, to reinforce access to information for people with disabilities, the library has been creating and distributing around 7,200 titles of DAISY materials (digital audio book), electronic braille books, electronic braille music and Korean videos in sign language on an annual basis. The books are available anywhere anytime on the website of the National Library for the Disabled and the application 'DREAM' ([dream.nl.go.kr](http://dream.nl.go.kr)). To enhance access to e-books for the disabled, the NLK also created and presented Accessible-EPUB for the first time.

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

For the sharing and utilization of ISBN data, the NLK applied ONIX to the 'Bibliographic Information Distribution System' and enabled individuals and organizations to utilize data freely by providing ISBN data via OpenAPI. The library has been continuing discussions with publishers and distributors to link the library's bibliographic data and the Publication Distribution Information System, developed by the publishing industry.

The ISSN Korea Centre newly assigned ISSNs to 721 titles of materials in 2017 and the total number has reached 20,852. In cooperation with the ISSN International Centre, the library is participating in the Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources (ROAD), which is being implemented by the ISSN International Centre.

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

The NLK has been distributing a standard collection management system to public libraries and small libraries and running KOLIS-NET since 2000 to share bibliographic data of libraries across the country. KOLIS-NET is a system for building and sharing bibliographic data of public libraries and reading rooms of administrative branches in Korea. As of 2017, 1,468 libraries are participating in the system.

The library is also running Collaborative Digital Reference Service (CDRS) where 506 public libraries are participating and 'Ask a Librarian Service'.

For the collection of legal deposits of government publications, the library has collected and provided 43,000 digital files of full-text R&D reports in cooperation with Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information (KISTI).

## **8. NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

### **8.1 Attending International Conferences**

The NLK attended the 83rd World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) and the 44th Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL). The NLK also held IFLA Global Vision Workshop Korea and submitted the results report in 2017.

The library has also been regularly attending related international conferences, such as the Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) and International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) to grasp recent global trends and strengthen its expertise.

### **8.2 Holding Work Exchange Seminars with Overseas Libraries**

The NLK held the 20th Korea-Japan National Library Work Exchange in September in Seoul and the 20th Korea-China National Library Work Exchange in November in Beijing. Through the work exchange seminars, the libraries shared their policies and experience and exchanged opinions in regards with national libraries' strategic plan, service for children and young adults, the current status and utilization of national digital information resource etc..

### **8.3 Implementing the China-Japan-Korea Digital Library Initiative (CJKDLI) Project**

With the National Library of China and the National Diet Library Japan, the NLK implemented CJKDLI and established 'CJK Digital Library' portal (a tentative name, <http://cjkdli.asia>).

The portal is a result of the project committee's efforts towards a common goal, based on the 2010 CJK Digital Library project agreement. The portal will be officially launched in 2018 and provide 278 old and rare books (63 titles) including books published in the countries.

### **8.4 Cooperating with Overseas Librarians**

To strengthen Korean studies librarians' expertise, the NLK held the 10th Overseas Korean Studies Librarian Workshop, which consists of various lectures related to Koreanology in October with 17 librarians from 12 countries.

From June to October, the library ran the Education and Training Program for Overseas Librarians as a part of Cultural Partnership Initiative led by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea. Through the program, the four invited librarians from the national libraries of Uzbekistan, Mongolia, the Philippines and Vietnam had the opportunity to share cultural experiences and communicate with various Korean experts.

Moreover, to improve library services for children and deepen expertise of librarians, the National Library for Children and Young Adults implemented the Training Project for ASEAN Children's Librarians in November, and 20 librarians from 10 Asian countries participated in the project.