

Country Report
CDNLAO Meeting in Nyapitaw, Myanmar

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1. General Overview

The National Library of Laos was opened officially in 1956. It provides knowledge, literature, magazines and newspapers to the readers. It used to be under the Department of Fine Art in the Ministry of Education. Now National Library was under the direction of Department of Publishing and was under the Ministry of Information Culture and Tourism.

The work of the library is the duty of the entire public of the country as well as requiring the participation of relevant ministries, sections and organizations, in order to provide places where people can read and gather professional data to contribute to the development of human resources.

2. Relationship to Government

The Government and the Ministry of Information Culture and Tourism have appointed the National Library to cooperate with all sectors to organize a library development project, and to promote this project in order to attract assistance from international and neighbouring countries the ASEAN network. The Government have encouraged and supported fund to purchase books, magazines, newspapers and etc... . Ministry of Education and Sport have permitted to open curriculum library science and information technology in faculty social science and geography at National University. It is new step of wide open for library work in society and this is importance to develop of human resources. This curriculum is to open bachelor degree and received 30 students to study library science and information technology.

3. Key Facts and Figures

The Lao Government's policy is to develop the human resources library infrastructure in order to promote information literacy within the country and quality services in the library sector. The National Library is responsible for building of public libraries in every provinces of the country and to develop its reading promotion program. At the National Library, we are not yet able to physically expand our premises, so we have focused on improving the quality of our services.

We developed an IT training room for training staff from Ministries within the Lao Government. We also renovated the Indochina collection, which was at the same time digitally scanned, including photographs of Laos from the French colonial period. We continued and improve the second phase of the Digital Library of Lao Manuscripts project, which made almost 12,000 primary manuscript sources (approximately 500,000 digital images) from Laos available via the Internet. Further research was also undertaken on the Annotated Catalogue of Tai Nuea Manuscripts, We have also prepared fresh plans for a new National Library building.

4. Infrastructures

The National library of Laos has started the construction of the new building since 2013 and launching on 29 December 2016. The new building, which is located in Vientiane Capital street no. 13 South, is being built on an area of 11,875 square meters. The construction of the 4 storey building.



The National Library is the center for local library networks throughout the country. We were established Lao Association Library Center (LALIC) for connecting together in libraries and to make Union Catalog.

5. New Developments in Creating and Building Collection

The National Library has responsible to provide and administration rules from the Department of Printing and Library under the Ministry of Information Culture and Tourism. So the Reading Promotion Project development cooperation with the Ministry of Education to build more 8,000 school libraries.

ISBN

The develop books publication acts as the national agency and below are the volume of new applications received

New applications	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	122	127	233	203	191	138	135	123	172

6. New Developments in Managing Collection

We have new collection in the National Library is bellow :

- ASEAN books Collection.
- English and Thai books collection donated by Asia Foundation.
- Thai books collection donated by Princess Sirinthorn of Thailand.
- Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Gemany Collection.
- Indochina books Collection.
- Manuscripts Collection.
- Vietnamese books Collection.
- Music instruments Collection.
- Books binding Collection.

7. New Developments in Providing Access

Librarians and Information professional are educated in all forms of published information, print, non-print and electronic, in the use of computers, automated technical and information system, and networks in principles of section, organization and use of information.

Therefore information professional provide services in such as traditional library setting as, academic, research library, public library, school library media centers, special or technical libraries, industry, the government or medical library and other specialized collections. The following background reading will be helpful to persons interested in the library information professional.

8. Collaborations with Other Institutions and Professional Associations

- Lao Library Association published newsletter each year 300 volumes, distributed for all libraries Lao Library Association made Directory of Professional Librarians and a Directory of members.
- LLA had conducted roadshows and delivered talks on the role LLA, librarianship as a career and professional development opportunities to government librarians, school librarians.
- LLA had organized local areas for surveying libraries and helped them for improving libraries is better.

- LLA organized meeting for sharing knowledge and experience together with members and we also conducted study visits to public libraries.
- Reading festivals are organized annually in October, in collaboration with many partners.
- The national Library has also published children's books for distribution to schools. We are collaborating on establishing manuals and guidelines for librarians and we have two ways of disseminating information to the public.

9. Education and Training

The National library of Laos has a mission to improve the quantity and the quality of librarians by developing a library training program, organizing library, building library training facilities and conducting evaluation and accreditation of library training program.

- 2016 we had organized training for staff library in public library is under topic "Build strong for public library and reading promotion" and training on cataloguing.
- 2017 we had training about PMB database version 4.0 for librarians in the National Library another libraries.
- 2017 we had established 15 school libraries and training for teacher in school about method of library used.
- Each year organized children's activities on 1st June and International Literacy Day on 8 September.
- On March 2018 we had organized Books festival at the National Library.