



Country Report

[Period Coverage: 1 January 2019 – 31 December 2019]

Name of Country	: Bhutan
Name of Library	: National Library and Archives of Bhutan
Name(s) of National Librarian,	: Sonam Yangden
Director-General and/or Director	Dr. Yonten Dargye, Director
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1 Facts and Figures

Sn	Item Description	Figures
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	i. Nu.17.263m ii. Nil
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	i.1 ii.21
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	i.15,200 volumes (338950 subtitles) ii. 3000 volumes
d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	i. 26000 ii. Digital website under construction
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	Not available

2 Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

The National Library & Archives of Bhutan (NLAB) was initially established in 1967 with the aim of safeguarding, preserving and promotion of literary heritage by Her Majesty the Late Royal Queen Mother, Azhi Phuntsho Choden Wangchuck. The NLAB, today, functions as a scriptural repository for the collection and preservation of ancient Bhutanese literature on religious and cultural heritage of Bhutan. The Library also endeavors to build a comprehensive collection of materials in foreign language on these subjects. The NLAB follows the legal deposit; the objective of which is to build a collection of the national literature.

NLAB consists of the Archives, Research, and the Library sections. The Library consists of two sections *Choekey* (classical religious language) Section and English/Foreign Language Section. The *Choekey* section consists of the bulk collection of Buddhist scriptures, rare collections of eminent Tibetan scholars of different sect/schools, books and manuscripts written in *Choekey* and *Dzongkha* (national language) scripts.

English/Foreign Language Section has a general collection of Bhutanese literature, history, religion, culture and traditions written in English language. The NLAB strives to maintain and develop its collections, to provide services as a public reference library, and to promote libraries in Bhutan.

Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services include:

1. In order to cater to the needs of the wide range of users, and also to ensure strengthening and promotion of knowledge and information-based society, the NLAB is in the process of establishing a nationwide e-library system network in Bhutan in collaboration with the Government of India. Establishment of an e-library network system in Bhutan anticipates in making the holdings of the NLAB accessible to a wide range of users besides motivating and enhancing readership. NLAB is in the process of digitalizing *Choekey* collections. Digitized copies of the *Choekey* collection will be accessible through the e-library network system.
2. The NLAB has implemented KOHA integrated Library Management System and users have access to Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) since 2017.
3. NLAB also plays a huge role on safeguarding and preserving cultural heritage and research output in the country. NLAB, with the generous help from the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP), South Korea, under the auspices of UNESCO, collaborated in establishing a Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) information system at the NLAB. This database is managed and fed with research data of culture heritage-related information

in the country, and is made accessible to the general public and preserve it for the future reference. The NLAB staff under takes field trips in collecting the data.

3 Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in your Country [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

1. In order to achieve the standardization of library management system in the country, and also as part of promoting and strengthening literary heritage, since 2017, the NLAB has started to conduct annual basic library management trainings, workshops and programs for library personnel in the country.
2. In 2020, the NLAB plans to conduct basic library management workshops for the library personnel of the Central Monastic Bodies in the country.
3. The NLAB works in close collaboration with all the government-owned, academic and public libraries and museums in the country. Since the passing of the Legal Deposit Act in 1999, the National Archives continues to store and manage the copies of material deposited under the provisions of that act.

4 International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

1. The Director General along with the two officials from the NLAB visited the National Library Board of Singapore on a study visit from 24-26 January 2018 upon the invitation of the National Library Board of Singapore and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.
2. Three representative of NLAB also attended the 27th session of the CDNLAO in Singapore in February 2019.
3. NLAB became an official member of International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) since November 2017. NLAB looks forward in collaborating with the National Libraries from other countries.
4. NLAB is in the process of establishing a nationwide e-library system network in Bhutan in collaboration with the Government of India.