Report of National Library of China

1. General Information of National Library of China in 2002

In 2002, the National Library of China had the total collection of 23.7 million volumes (items) by increasing 612,710 volumes (items). By focusing on the supplement of the collection, the library claimed for the missing issues of the book of 919 items with 4020 volumes, the Chinese journal of 260 items with 2632 volumes, and the Chinese newspaper of 29 items. Further more, more than 2,600 rubbings, 119 volumes of "Si Xi Zang" block printed in South Song Dynasty and an amount of rare books and manuscripts block printed in Jin Dynasty were acquired.

The NLC paid much attention to the digital work of the oracle bone inscriptions, Dun Huang documents, Xi Xia documents, and rubbings from stone inscriptions, local history and the journals published in Republic of China. The library has digitized 2.8 million shots of journals in Republic of China, 4,000 pages of Xi xia documents, 8,000 page rubbings, and 2 million pages of local history.

In 2002, the Library received 4,977,212 users with 13636 users daily having an increase of 9.72% compared with that of 2001. The circulated volumes were 28,399,000 with 3.47% decrease compared to that of 2001. The inquiry requests from users were 230,000 with an increase of 53% compared with that of 2001. There were 250,000,000 hits on the library homepage through Internet with 80% increase compared with that of 2001.

Readers' service infrastructure has been improved. Besides the formal document service, the Library organized more than 200 cultural lectures and exhibitions such as "600 anniversary of Yongle Dadian", "The Mystery Xi Xia Kingdom", "Exhibition of Achievement on the Compilation of Rare Books.

The Library established and enacted "Temporary Statute of Electronic Resources Management in the National Library of China", "Temporary Statute of Automation Equipment Management in the National Library of China". The Library also edited and issued "Statute of Supervision and Assessment of the Professional Work of the National Library of China", and "Policy of Collection Acquisition of the National Library of China".

With one-year preparation, Aleph500 library integrated system was put into use and strongly improved the Library's basic professional work and service for readers.

In 2002, the Library organized the "Intellectual Property Forum of the China Digital Library Project", and established the "Law Instruction Committee of the China Digital Library Project" and the "Standard Instruction Committee of the China Digital Library Project", which laid a foundation of the solution to the intellectual property problem of the China Digital Library Project. As of the end of 2002, allying members of China Digital Library have reached 111.

On July 8-11, 2002, the Library organized the Beijing International Exhibition of Digital Info-Service & Technology and Digital Library—IT Opportunities and Challenges in the New Millennium that was sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, PRC. Totally 113 international enterprises and 25 libraries, archives and museums participated in the exhibition. More than 400 experts in the field of digital library, info-service, and the other related areas from 12 countries and regions presented in the conference.

In December 2002, the premier's meeting of the PRC State Council formally authorized the feasibility report of the National Library of China Phase II & National Digital Library of China Project, which indicated that the project has run into action.

The Library took charge of the National Center of the National Cultural Information Resource

Sharing Project supported by the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Finance, P.R.C. in 2002. The project plans to set up over 30 provincial centers and over 5000 grass root service stations.

The Library organized and implemented the China Rare Book Recompilation Project as one of National key cultural projects this year.

2. Main Working Points in 2003

1). According to the newly edited "Acquisition Rules of the National Library of China", the Library will keep on further enforcing the construction of resources and the claim for the missing publications, attaching importance to the acquisition of electronic publications, online publications, rare books and manuscripts. The Library will continue the digital project of special collections, discuss and implement the acquisition, catalogue, and preservation of online resources.

2). The Library will further optimize the functions of Aleph500 system. According to the requirement, the Library will organize the second exploitation, improve the bibliography database, accelerate the link between the collection and the bibliography database, realize the authorities control in the catalogue process, and complete the design and implementation of the Library intranet security policy.

3). The Library will strengthen the construction of the professional regulation and system, clear up, edit, compile and optimize the professional documents and systems in the succeeding years, compile the "Collection of the Professional Files of NLC", enhance the research of fundamental professional work, and begin to compile the "Rules of the Professional Work of NLC".

4). The Library will pay attention to the protection and preservation of the collection. The Library will process to restore the rare books in emergence, make the cases for Dun Huang manuscript, continue to produce the microfilms of the books in the Republic of China and the ancient local history, and implement the supervision and research of the collection preservation.

5). The Library will implement the National Library of China Phase II & National Digital Library of China Project. In 2002, the Library will set up the management system of "National Library of China Phase II & National Digital Library of China Project", recruit the architecture designing plan, finish the biding for the designing and project plans, and try to start working in 2003. The National Digital Library of China will finish the requirement report this year.

3. General Information of Chinese Libraries in 2002

Due to the lack of statistics in 2002, now only the general information of all kinds of libraries in China and China Society for Library Science in 2001 is available.

1). Public Library System

As of the end of 2001, there were 2,696 public libraries and 48,579 staffs. The total area of libraries was 5,617,000 m^2. The total materials were 4,213 million volumes, including 3,760 million volume collections. The libraries totally received 2,080 million users. The lending volumes were 98.29 million. The budget for the acquisition of collection reached 3,600 million RMB.

By the end of 2001, the public library system offered 51,164 kinds of activities for readers attracting 19.98 million participants. All the public libraries offered the consulting services by using the collections to response 2,076,000 inquiry requests from users, search on 139,700 special subjects for users, and compile 9,300 items of edited materials.

2). CAS (China Academy of Science) Library System

By the end of 2001, there were 127 libraries belonging to CAS system. The total volumes were 37,210,000 including 7,710,000 volumes of books and 20,950,000 volumes of journals. The volume of circulation reached 3,681,000 being composed of 16,000 volumes through interlibrary loan and

26,000 volumes by international exchange. Subject consulting services were 17,000. The document indexes were 61,000. Processing data were 794,000.

3). University and College Library System

As of the end of 2001, there were 1,300 university and college libraries and 50,000 staffs. The total volumes were 600 million.

In addition, there were about 80,000 libraries for enterprises.

4). China Society for Library Science

The predecessor of the society is the Library Association of China founded in 1925. In 1927, the Association became one of the founders of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). After that, China presented IFLA Conference in the following years. After P.R China was found, the research for the library science developed very fast. In 1978 Beijing Library (renamed as the National Library of China now) first proposed to re-establish the China Society for Library Science. On July 9, 1979 the conference of the establishment of the China Society for Library Science as well as the first meeting for members was held in Taiyuan of Shanxi Province. In August of the same year the society joined to the China Association for Science and Technology. The China Society for Library Science restored its status of the national association member in the IFLA in May 1981 and sent representatives to the conference every year.

By the end of 2002, the China Society for Library Science has held 6 members' meetings. The 6th meeting committee was formed with 128 directors including 44 standing executives. The three working committees (Academic Research Committee, Editing and Translation Committee, Library Cooperation and Communication Committee) and some professional committees were set up under the jurisdiction of the council in response to organizing various research and communication activities.

At present there are 30 provincial associations except Taiwan and Haiaan. There are also branches in the system of scientific research, army, labor union, hospital and school. The society has 8,731 individual members and 138 institutional members.

4.General Information about Library Law in China

In the early of 2001, according to the suggestion of Standing Committee of the National People's Congress the Ministry of Culture started the establishment of the constitution of "Library Law of People's Republic of China". In 2002, after being asked for the suggestion from the library community, the draft was approved by the Ministry of Culture and reported to the law working committee of the National People's Congress.

In 2002, the established local laws and rules are as follow:

"Beijing Library Rules" (2002.7)

"Public Library Management Statute of Henan Province" (2002.9)

"High School Library Rules (edited)" (2002.2)