Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania
Country Report from The National Library of Korea

Library Administration

(1) Library Organizational Structure

　 <Number of Libraries: 9,895(as of 2002. 12. 31)>

　　- Public Libraries: 462

　　- Academic Libraries:436

　　- School Libraries: 8,426

　　- Special/Private Libraries: 571

　 <Number of Library Councils/Association>

　　- Library Council: 4(public, academic, special, medical)

　　- Library Association: 1(Korean Library Association)

(2) New Libraries that are being built in 2002: 20

(3) The number of library visitors at national level: 184,727,000

Collection Profile

(1) Total volume of collection at the national level: 165,964,000

(2) Unique Collections/Rare Collections held by the National Library of Korea:

there are 800 titles in 3,500 volumes of rare books among 230,000 old books, of which some are designated as national treasures.

(3) Bibliographies and Indexes Published at the National Library: Korean National Bibliography published annually both in print-version and CD-ROM version and Monthly National Bibliography in print-version.

(4) National Databases: 9(full text) and 2(bibliographies and contents)

Infrastructure

(1) Dedicated Library Networks in the country: no dedicated library networks exist in Korea but most domestic libraries are connected to Internet.

(2) Connectivity at the National level-broadband cable, VSAT: Large size libraries only connected to the broadband cable.

Services

(1) Reference Services: done by email, fax, telephone, postal, etc.:

　 162,000 per year

(2) Photocopy Services: 900 per year

(3) National Bibliographic Services: provide both on online and offline (paper and CD-Rom)

(4) Reading Promotion: during summer and winter holidays most public libraries organize special reading programmes for primary and secondary school children supported by the National Library of Korea. Apart from this individual libraries run book clubs for their users.

(5) Information Literacy Programmes: Individual libraries

(6) Digital Library Services: It has become a trend that public libraries set up a digital information room supported financially by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. In 2001 144 public libraries completed building the digital information rooms that offer an access to Internet and electronic publications including full text databases.

(7) International Photocopy services: 70

(8) Publication Exchange services:
  - exchange partners: 285 institutions in 94 countries
  - volumes of materials exchanged: 20,000

(9) Special Services: a website for the visually impaired created by the National Library in January 2003 in order to search OPAC and other information. Daily connection to the website is around 90. Full text databases that are available for sighted people only and are being edited for those who use screen readers.

Training

(1) Number of Professional Librarians: 5,452(total 11,594)

(2) Number of Library schools (40 including 2 year colleges)

(3) Major training Initiatives: various IT courses including database management, website design and online information searches offered by the National Library of Korea. The number of trainees per year are about 500.

Copyright

(1) Number of Copyright/IPR Watchdogs or Associations: 1

(2) Major changes in the Copyright/IPR laws impacting libraries: newly revised Copyright Act enacted in 2000 prevents free flow of information between libraries by giving the right of transmission of data to the copyright holders. This means that ceased publications that was already digitized by a library should be photocopied when the library sends to those who need to replace the old one.