

## **THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF KOREA**

### **I. The Year 2005: A General Overview**

#### **1) The National Library of Korea for Children and Young Adults**

On July 15, 2005, the National Library of Korea established the Project to Build the National Library for Children and Young Adults, which will serve as a central institute among public libraries which offer services to children and young adults. The tentative opening date for the library is the first half of 2006, and it will be housed in a four-story building with two basement levels which occupy a total floor space of 8,050 square meters. The building to be used previously contained the Thesis Library and is currently being remodeled to accommodate children and young adults. The library will serve the following functions:

- Setting a benchmark for providing library and information services to children and young adults
- Creating and implementing policies which encourage reading among children and young adults
- Laying the foundation for the operation of a research library for children and young adults
- Building a network for the development of libraries for children and young adults
- Developing programs to enhance the skills of children's librarians

#### **2) The National Library of Korea in 2010**

Marking the 60th anniversary of its founding on October 15, 2005, The National Library of Korea announced the *The National Library of Korea in 2010*, a set of strategies and future plans for becoming a world library. In this vision for the future, The National Library outlined four core values: 1) **Pride** in maintaining the nation's knowledge and information; 2) **Provision** of information distribution and services; 3) **Policy** and research for library and Information services; and 4) becoming a global **Portal**. With these four values in mind, the Library set out to become the:

- National center for the nation's knowledge and cultural heritage
- Center for the management of knowledge, information, and related services
- Research center for national library policy
- Global portal for cooperation of libraries at home and abroad

#### **3) Ground-breaking Ceremony for the National Digital Library**

The National Library of Korea held a ceremony on December 2005 to lay the foundation stone for the National Digital Library (NDL) and invited 400 guests from the library community, including the Minister of Culture and Tourism. Construction of the NDL began in 2002 and should be finished in 2008. Upon completion, the facility will be connected to the main building of the National Library of Korea. Upon opening, the NDL will serve as a major national information center, and will be equipped with cutting-edge technology which helps

people access information anywhere and anytime via a ubiquitous environment. The NDL will be housed in a five-story building with three basement levels, which include an audio-visual room, an academic database room, and a multimedia/online/electronic publications room. There will also be stacks with a capacity of 12 million volumes for books and non-book materials, and a control room for regulating temperature and humidity, and receiving materials. The NDL staff will engage in developing content, collecting online material, organizing databases by subject, hosting programs, preserving documents, and washing non-book materials.

#### 4) WLIC Seoul 2006

The successful bid to name Seoul, Korea as the venue for WLIC 2006 announced at the 65<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference held on August 27, 1999 in Bangkok, Thailand. Since then, the library community in South Korea has been under the direction of the Director-General of the National Library of Korea and President of the Korean Library Association, and all have been preparing for the WLIC 2006. On December 3, 2004 the WLIC National Organizing Committee was initiated and on February 11, 2005, the foundation WLIC 2006 Seoul NOC was established. The NOC has 97 committee members, including the president and six vice-presidents, who are all working hard for the success of the conference. In addition, the National Library of Korea has also formed a task force called the 2006 International Conference to support the NOC and host several conferences, including the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) on January 6, 2006. The following conferences and workshops will be held at the National Library of Korea:

#### □ Conferences and Workshops held at the NLK in 2006

Name	Date	Venue	No of Participants (est.)
The 33 <sup>rd</sup> CDNL	2006.8.23	International Conference Hall	120 Directors 100 Countries
The 4 <sup>th</sup> IFLA Meeting of Experts on International Cataloging Code	2006.8.16~18	International Conference Hall	100 Cataloguers 40 Countries
WLIC Satellite Meeting Resource Sharing, Reference & Collection Development	2006.8.16~18	Hall at the Children and Young Adult	100 Librarians 100 Countries
IFLA Workshop for Genealogy Section	2006. 8. 24	International Conference Hall	100 Genealogists
IFLA Workshop for Children and Young Adult Section	2006. 8. 24	Hall at the Children and Young Adult	100 Children and Young Adult Librarians

□ As of Dec. 2005 (university, school, and special libraries as Dec. 2004)

Type	National	Public		University	School	Special
		Government	Private			
11,820	1	514		438	10,297	570
		497	17			

## 2) Financial Support for Public Libraries' Acquisitions

The National Library of Korea has continued to provide financial support to public libraries nationwide to purchase library materials via the Ministry of Culture and Tourism since 2000.

## 3) Library Councils, Foundations, and Associations

A number of councils, foundations, associations have been founded to aid the South Korean libraries. For instance, the Library Promotion Council is attached to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The Korea Library and Culture Promotion Foundation was established in February 2006. The Korea Library Association (KLA) was founded in April 1955, under which are several councils serving cities, provinces, and regions, councils by library type (public, academic, school, and special libraries), and eleven professional committees.

## III. Collection Profile

### 1) Collection Expansion

The National Library of Korea has made every effort to acquire comprehensive collections of national heritage since its opening on October 15, 1945. After the government implemented the law requiring domestic publishers to provide the library with two specimen copies in 1965, the library began acquiring all domestic publications. In 2004, the library's holdings reached five million items, and the five-millionth book registered was entitled *Illustrated Book of Korean Customs (Hanguk Poksik Togam)*. This was a remarkable achievement for a library with a history of only sixty years.

### 2) National Database

The National Library of Korea has set up several databases, including the "National Library Catalogue," "National Union Catalogue," "Table of Contents," and "Full Text of Books." So far 2.3 million entries have been added to the National Library Catalogue. A catalogue for new arrivals is created after they are processed at the Library. The National Union Catalogue has accumulated 4,500,000 entries of bibliographic information and 17,390,000 entries of collection information created by the National Library of Korea, all public libraries, and government libraries since 1997. The National database of the Table of Contents encompassed 1,091,000 books from 2000 to 2004, with 72,000 added in 2005. The national database for article indexes and abstracts included 365,000 records from 2003 to 2004, with 125,000 added in 2005. "Full Text of Books," started in 1995, encompassed 322,000 books by 2004, with 150,000 books added in 2005. In 2003, a union catalogue for the visually impaired was created from information received from libraries throughout South Korea, and spans 110,000 records organized via the standardized Machine Readable Cataloguing format. This catalogue was established with the aim of avoiding duplication of materials for the visually impaired and

to expand upon current services. For university students with visual impairments, 2,276 textbooks were digitized from 2003 to 2004, and 709 more textbooks were added in 2005. According to the *Comprehensive Plan for Library Information*, the National Library of Korea invested 51.4 billion Korean Won from 2002 to 2004 to expand its digital content and develop related databases and information systems. In addition, the library formed an Online Digital Resource Collection Team and Review Committee to preserve contemporary digital resources deemed to be of value for the next generation. By the end of 2005, 43,739 web-based items appearing in 2,581 homepages were collected through the efforts of this team.

### 3) Unique and Rare Collections

The National Library of Korea holds 260,000 volumes of old and rare books, documents, and maps. Of these, 867 are rare books consisting of 3,171 volumes published before the seventeenth century. Among these, 12 titles consisting of 42 volumes have been designated either "National Treasures," "Treasures," or "Seoul Municipal Tangible Treasures." The *Sipch'ilsach'ŏnkogŭmt'ongyo*, designated a National Treasure, was published in the third year of the reign of King Taejong (1403) and is the first example of metal-type printing which used the *kyemi* script in the Chosŏn period. The *Sŏkbosangiŏl*, designated a Treasure, was printed in 1449 during the reign of King Sejong and describes the family lineage and biography of Shakyamuni; it is an essential resource for the study of metal-type printing and Korean phonetics. To extend the circulation of these old and rare books, the library has converted them into microfilm. Since 2001, 96,000 old books have digitized and offered via "Full Text of Books" through the Internet.

### 4) Bibliographies and Indexes Published

The *Korean National Bibliography* is produced in DVD format annually and the *Korean National Bibliography Weekly* is available through the library's online service at <http://www.nl.go.kr>.

## IV. Services

### 1) National Bibliographic Services

The National Union Catalogue is available through the Korean Library Information System Network (KOLIS-NET), the national cataloging system, and the National Library of Korea's Homepage, <http://www.nl.go.kr/kolisnet/index.php>. The Full Text Database of valuable materials housed at the National Library is available at the National Electronic Library's homepage, <http://www.dlibrary.go.kr>, and the National Library of Korea's homepage, <http://www.nl.go.kr>. The Union Catalogue and the Full Text Database for the visually impaired are available through a dedicated website for the visually impaired at <http://www.sigak.nl.go.kr> and the National Library of Korea's homepage at <http://www.nl.go.kr>.

### 2) Reference Services

The National Library provides reference services to those who visit the library in person, or through telephone, correspondence, E-mail, and fax. Our staff provides these services after consulting general books published home and abroad, reference books, periodicals, the Web DB, and the Full Text Database. To enhance reference services more adaptable to the rapidly changing Internet environment, the National Library's homepage had paid more attention to

web-based digital reference services. The Public Service Division provided services 190,105 in 2005. This comes to 577 consulting services per day, and 176 digital reference services, 10,018 Internet services related to knowledge searches, and 320 pathfinder searches made on behalf of users.

### **3) Digital Library Services**

In addition to providing virtual digital library services, the library also has a Digital Multimedia Center, which provides those who visit the library in person with online and offline materials such as CD-ROMs, DVDs, audio and video tapes, audio and video CDs, access to the Internet, the Academic Web DB, electronic journals, and VOD services. In 2005, the number of visitors to the center reached 219,591, or about 677 per day.

### **4) Literacy and Reading Promotions**

The National Library of Korea has pursued varying activities to promote reading to foster an atmosphere where reading becomes a lifestyle, increase the number of active readers among the South Korean population, and minimize information gaps. After partnering with some reading-promotion agencies, the National Library began supporting various reading competitions which include a literary competition and running cultural reading programs such as reading camps and field trips to cultural sites. To encourage children and young adults to find pleasure in reading and engage in lifetime reading, the library supports reading classes which take place at public libraries across the country during summer and winter vacations. To further encourage the habit of reading, various reading programs are held during the Month of Reading every September. In addition, the library makes efforts to find and award those who have contributed to the promotion of reading and creating environments conducive to reading. The library publishes and distributes the references *Research on Fact-finding for Reading* and *Annual Report for Reading Promotion*, which contain information about major reading activities and reading promotion policies, to libraries and agencies engaged in the promotion of reading.

### **5) Interlibrary Loan and Exchange Services**

To facilitate the international exchange of information, the National Library offers international photocopy services for libraries and information institutions abroad and also provides services for domestic users who ask for materials not available at the library. In addition to these photocopy services, the library also provides bibliographic information services for materials published in South Korea and answers questions regarding Korea and the Korean people. In 2005, the National Library provided photocopy services 108 times to 21 libraries and institutions in 11 countries. The National Library is an exchange partner with 284 institutions

2005	94	284	20,367	8,900
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## V. Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

South Korea enacted the first Copyright Act in 1987, and the Copyright Act currently used was revised in May 2003. Article 28 of the Copyright Act deals with the circulation, reproduction, and transmission of digital materials at a library. According to the Copyright Act, the library's digitized Full Text Database can be used within the buildings of other libraries. The Copyright Commission for Deliberation and Conciliation was established under the Copyright Act of July 1, 1987. The commission functions in various capacities, such as deliberating on the copyright system, managing the copyright dispute settlement system, and the protection of copyrights. The commission's webpage can be reached at <http://www.copyright.or.kr/copy/index.asp>. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Korea Reprographic and Transmission Rights Center can also take administrative measures to settle copyright disputes. The ministry's website regarding copyright issues can be found at <http://www.mct.go.kr> and the center at <http://www.copycle.or.kr>.

## VI. Professionalization, Training, and Continuing Professional Education

The National Library of Korea has offered librarian education and training courses for library staff throughout South Korea since 1983. According to the Law for Education and Training of Civil Service Employees, the library has been designated a specialized education and training agency in 1997. To fulfill its educational duties, the library has two lecture halls, two IT training labs, seven discussion rooms, one sickroom, and one lounge. Between when it first began offering courses in 1983 and 2005, the library has trained a total of 16,152 librarians, which consist of 3,811 who took general professional training, 10,623 who took elective professional training, and 1,718 who took miscellaneous training. In 2005, 1,674 librarians were enrolled in 33 courses, which were offered through 36 terms; the courses included "Management of Library Users" and "Library and Copyrights." In 1991, the library's Cultural School was opened for the general public, allowing people to enroll in "Reading Guidance," a course designed to teach how to guide children to read. This school operates in the spring and fall. A total of 5,316 people were enrolled in courses offered over 26 terms from 1991 to 2005. In addition to celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 2005, the National Library of Korea offered a specialized reading program entitled "Opening the World of Books with Authors" to the general public from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM every Thursday from March to November.

## VII. Infrastructure

### 1) Library Buildings

In 2005, the National Library of Korea contributed 27.4 billion Korean Won to local governments for the construction of twenty-seven new public libraries throughout South Korea. The library aims to increase the number of public libraries nationwide to 750 by 2011, or one library per 60,000 people. In 2006, the library will contribute 32.2 billion Korean Won to local governments to help build 56 libraries.

### 2) National and Regional Connectivity

Thanks to the installation of high-speed information and telecommunications networks since the late-1990s, more Koreans can easily access a plethora of information regarding such fields as science, education, administration, industry, and finance at any time and place.

According to Articles 41-45 of the Library and Reading Promotion Act, the Public Library Cooperation Network was formed in 1997 with the National Library of Korea as its central organization. The National Library is responsible for running the network by supporting and promoting cooperation among libraries. Every year the National Library conducts research on the Public Library Cooperation Network through 16 representative regional libraries which collect facts about public libraries throughout the country.

According to the research results in 2005, cooperative library projects were carried out at 514 public libraries. Further details include:

- 385 public libraries use the Korea Library Automation System II (KOLAS II), one standard software platform for library information, developed in 2000 by The National Library of Korea and distributed to public libraries across the country.
- 247 public libraries use the Korea Library Information Network (KOLIS-NET) for shared cataloguing
- To maximize user accessibility to information and enhance cooperation between public libraries, *Public Libraries Statistics* was published and a designated staff system implemented to respond to questions from public libraries across the country. In addition, the Library Cooperation Promotion Workshop was held
- In 2006, the National Library of Korea's homepage, <http://www.nl.go.kr>, became a hub for the Public Library Cooperation Network to promote cooperation among 514 public libraries

## VIII. Conclusion

During the past few years, the library environment has changed greatly due to the Internet. Many libraries are pursuing the goal of a ubiquitous library, making every effort to help users access library resources and information anytime and anywhere via cutting-edge technology. The Korean Government also invests financial resources in public library building projects and aims to complete 750 libraries by 2011. In addition, the government supports building small libraries readily accessible by local residents. To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the nation's library policies, responsibility for formulating library policy was transferred from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to the National Library of Korea at the end of 2004. Hence, the library has come to play a pivotal role as a core national institution.