

2006 National Report—China

National Library of China

Through years of development and accumulation, China has formed a Library System with Chinese characteristic possessing comparatively complete library types (including the national library, public library, university library, specialized library and libraries of primary and middle school and enterprise), rich literature collection, various service modes and a considerable size that is growing steadily.

In 2006, the library field has been developing with the spirits of self-discipline, self-help, self-improvement in consistence with efforts of constructing a harmonious society in China, committed to standardization of management and construction of legal environment, and actively participated in the formulation and implementation of the "Regulations on the Protection of the Right of Communication through Information Network ". In accordance with the Internet Convention, the Regulations summarized the experiences of protecting information network transmission rights in China. The Regulations is beneficial to satisfying the public requirements of using copyrighted works, and will balance the interests of copyright holder, copyright user and internet service provider. The library field has also established the " the Construction Standards for Public Libraries" and " College Library Guidance on Collective Procurement of Literatures ", integrated social strengths to assist vulnerable groups, implemented the first "Volunteer Action on Training Curators of Primary-level Libraries" in Hunan, Shanxi, Heilongjiang and other provinces, and exerted the industry's advantages in match with the efforts of government and community to promote " Reading for All People", initiating promotion activities for "April 23, the World Reading Day" to expand the library influences.

I. National Library of China

In 2006, the National Library of China continued to focus on providing good public services and protecting civil basic cultural rights and interests, further improved the website of the National Library, added special columns or pages to service the countryside, enterprises, and library field; By the principle of constantly improving services, NLC increased digital resources and services, such as the introduction of the "Sinology Resources Bank," " Library Collections of Chinese New Year Pictures", "Old Photos Collection" and other digital resources services, and opened the "NLC Online Reference Desk".

National Library of China is responsible for national librarian training programs and research of Library Science. In 2006, the Information Science Open Library, the nation's first academic-oriented library with open social access was established and offered a good platform for information intelligence community to exchange intelligent information. NLC organized domestic library experts to participate in "Volunteer Action on Training Curators of Primary-level Libraries", introduced the "NLC Western Assistance Scheme", which will serve the western part of China, and started up the "World Library Curators Forum".

The official collections of the National Library are 302,341 species and 747,124 volumes (items). By the end of 2006, the total collections had reached 25.8 million volumes (items). In 2006, NLC accepted 3,905,361 readers with an annual literature circulation of 18,026,417 volumes, issued 114,773 reader cards, and enjoyed an online click rate of

160.159 million. In addition, NLC also offered public services in forms of lectures, exhibitions and other forms, and gave 257 lectures with total person-time of 30, 666.

The phase-II project of National Library and the National Digital Library Project under construction cover nearly 80,000 square meters, with designed collection capacity of 12 to 14 million volumes and daily receiving capacity of 6,000-8,000 readers. The National Digital Library project constructed in the same period will greatly expand the library's services space and make the library an online knowledge center and information services base without the limitations of time and space. The Project is expected to complete in October 2007, and put into use in 2008.

II. Public Libraries

By 2005, there were a total of 2,761 public libraries on and above county-level employing 49,051 people. The total construction area is 6.612 million square meters, including 1.657 million square meters of reference stacks and 1.482 million square meters of reading room. The total documents collection is 455 million copies (documents), the total reader visits are 229 million person-times, and the total literature circulation is 198 million volumes.

In 2005, public libraries nationwide organized 245,500 times of service activities attracting 25.44 million readers.

III. College Libraries

According to the statistics of "The College Library Fact Database of Ministry of Education" in 2004, there are more than 1,450 colleges and universities in the Mainland (including occupational schools and higher vocational colleges) which contains 150 universities under direct administration of the Ministry of Education. There are over hundred Libraries of 211 universities (preferentially supported by state), nearly 700 libraries of general universities, and over 600 College Libraries. In addition, there are 105 colleges and universities in the regions of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan (14 in Hong Kong, 6 in Macao, and 85 in Taiwan).

According to incomplete statistics, the total number of employees in university libraries is around 55,000, including about 11,000 working in Libraries of 211 universities, 30,000 in libraries of general universities and 15,000 in libraries of occupational schools and higher vocational colleges.

By the end of 2004, the total number of readers in mainland colleges is about 80 millions which contains 23 million in 211 universities, 45 million in general universities and 12 million in colleges.

It is estimated that there are a total of about 975.99 million volumes of literature (only paper publications in Chinese and foreign language) in mainland universities. It is 86 volumes per capita in 211 universities and 95 volumes per capita in general universities. The libraries with an average literature collection exceeding one million volumes are in Beijing, Tianjin, Hubei; and the libraries with an average literature collection of over 800,000 volumes are in Shanghai, Sichuan, Heilongjiang, Shanxi, Chongqing, Shandong, and Liaoning.

IV. Specialized Libraries

The specialized library system mainly includes libraries of science academies, industrial research institutes and national defense system, governmental libraries, hospital libraries and mass media libraries and mainly store literature related to a certain subject or research scope.

The specialized library offers literature and technical information services mainly for its own industry or institutes and most specialized libraries are also available to the public. The librarians of these libraries are people who are familiar with specialized knowledge in some subjects.

There are around 8000 to 9000 specialized libraries with literature collection of 1.06 billion volumes in different research systems, employing about 89 thousand people, including 96 libraries in the intelligence and information system of Chinese Academy of Science with literature collection of 35 million volumes and over 1,400 employees, and including 20 libraries in the intelligence and information system of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences with literature collection of 5 million volumes and over 300 employees.

More over, there are also around 600 thousand libraries in primary and high schools in China with a total literature collection of 2.765 billion volumes and a total floor-space of 28.95 million square meters. Also, there are 60 thousand libraries in enterprises, among which, the libraries of Labor Unions has 12 thousand libraries with literature collection of 190 million volumes.

V. National Library Organization: Library Society of China

Library Society of China, a global library research organization, is an affiliate of China Association for Science & Technology and a member of International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) which are an A-grade adversary organ of UNESCO. There are 19 Chinese scholars with library background working for professional committees of IFLA at present.