

COUNTRY REPORT

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CHINA

16th CDNLAO Meeting, 2008

1. General Overview in FY2007

In FY 2007, the National Library of China (NLC) concentrates on the preparation for launching a new building of the Library, as well as for celebrating the Library's centennial anniversary, which falls on September 9, 2009. Delivering on the three development strategies of "librarians, our treasure", "science, our aid", and "service, our priority", the NLC further strengthens its influence and improves the quality of daily work and reader services. Every effort has been made to ensure the timely launch and quality construction of the new building and the National Digital Library of China Project. In the meantime, frequent exchanges with libraries overseas also help NLC explore new fields of collaboration with its counterparts around the world.

2. National Library

- Organizational structure

The NLC underwent an internal organizational restructuring by the end of 2007. The number of administrative divisions was cut from 14 to 9. To meet the new needs for future development, the Newspapers and Periodicals Department was dismissed, with its functions assigned to relevant departments. Two new departments, the Digital Resources Department and the Legislative Reference Service Department were established. Additionally, the former Acquisitions & Cataloguing Department was split into two, the Chinese Acquisitions & Cataloguing Department, and the Foreign Language Materials Acquisitions & Cataloguing Department. Meanwhile, the former NLC Branch Library and the Rare Books & Special Collections Department were merged to form the Ancient Books Library of NLC.

An overview of the organization structure of the NLC can be found at <http://www.nlc.gov.cn/en/aboutus/organization.htm>

- Manpower

As of the end of 2007, the NLC has a staff member of 1,330. Various forms of in-service training are available for the staff, including lectures, seminars and degree courses. In 2007, the NLC offered 100 sessions of lectures to its staff, with a high level attendance of 6,200 person-times. Lectures offered to department directors especially cater to their management needs, which include lectures on "Innovative Library Service Models", "Introduction to New Labour Law", and "Library Development in an International Scenario".

- Library users

In FY2007, the NLC received onsite readers of 3.26 million persons. New registration for readers' card reached 102,000, and the traffic of NLC's website (www.nlc.gov.cn) totalled 110 million.

- Collection

- 1) Total collection

As of the end of 2007, the NLC has a collection of 26,309,843 volumes/items.

2) Unique and rare collections

The subtotal for special collections has amounted to 2,275,568 volumes/items, including ancient rare books, new rare books, rare books in foreign languages, Chinese maps & atlases, maps & atlases in foreign languages, epigraphs & rubbings, monographs on epigraphs & rubbings, pictorial works of epigraphs, manuscripts, letters, documents in the languages of China's national minorities, deluxe editions, other special collections, materials in library science, Dunhuang & Turpan documents, other Chinese materials, publications of foreign governments, UN publications.

3) Digitized materials

As of the end of 2007, the capacity of self-constructed digital resources of NLC has reached 130TB, including Chinese modern documents, Min Guo (Republican Period, 1911-1949) documents, and Chinese ancient documents. (The amount of each type of self-constructed digital resources is shown in Table 1 as follows.)

Table 1 Self-constructed Digital Resources

Period	Type	Amount
Chinese Documents Modern	E-Books	257,000 titles (90,080,000 pages)
	Doctoral Dissertations	109,000 titles (13,820,000 pages)
	Chinese E-Newspapers	245 titles
	Music Pieces & Songs	515,000 pieces
	Audio-visual Materials	44,100 hours
	Digitized Multimedia Publications	1,300 pieces
	Online Lectures	368
Min Guo Documents (1911-1949)	Min Guo Books	8,434 titles (2,150,000 pages)
	Min Guo Periodicals	4,535 titles (86,000 issues/5,040,000 pages)
	Min Guo Laws	10,336 pieces (15,100,000 characters)
	New Year Pictures	607 titles (734 pieces)
Chinese Documents Ancient	Oracle Bone Images	6,075 titles (10,600 pieces)
	Oracle Bone Rubbing Images	5,273 titles (6,463 pieces)
	Dunhuang Materials	18,000 shots
	Stone Inscription Rubbings	24,000 titles (29,000 pieces)
	Chronicles	6,868 titles (3,350,000 pages)
	Full-text Images of Tangut Materials	14,000 pages
	Old Photos	7,310 titles (7,328 pieces)
Chinese Ancient Books	0.1 billion characters	
Web Information Navigation	There are 6281 items of web information navigation, including government information navigation, library navigation, E-newspapers and E-periodicals navigation, new country construction navigation, agriculture and forestry navigation, and so on.	

4) Audio-visual materials

As of the end of 2007, the NLC has collected 158,039 pieces/discs/boxes of audio-visual materials, including sound recordings, CDs, microgroove records, MP3, video recordings, LD, VCD, VHD, DVD etc.

5) National and special databases

I) Chronicles

The NLC has digitized 6,868 titles of chronicles. To offer convenience for readers, the NLC has converted scanned images to full-texts. Recently, 2,841 titles of chronicles have been converted into full-text and put on the Internet. The first 24 pages are available online for readers all over the world.

<http://res1.nlc.gov.cn:9080/chronic/index.htm>

II) Digital Oracle Bones and Rubbings

The NLC has collected 6,000 titles of oracle bones, and all of them have been digitized. The NLC has collected 30,000 titles of rubbings, 24,000 titles of which have been digitized. All of these data are available online for users all over the world.

<http://res2.nlc.gov.cn:9080/jiagu/index.htm>

III) Tangut Materials (1038AD—1227AD)

Most of the Tangut Materials collected in the NLC are the only existing copies, which are of great importance for the researchers. The NLC has been digitizing Tangut materials since 2002. Up to now, 14,000 pages of digital Tangut Materials are available online for users all over the world.

<http://res2.nlc.gov.cn:9080/wenxian/index.htm>

IV) International Dunhuang Project (IDP)

The NLC took part in International Dunhuang Project (IDP), and launched Chinese website of this project in 2002. Up to now, the NLC has digitized 18,000 shots of Dunhuang materials, which are available online for user all over the world.

<http://idp.nlc.gov.cn/>

V) New Year Pictures

New Year Pictures are very popular in China, which are loved by the Chinese people. The NLC has collected 4,000 pieces of New Year Pictures. Up to now, the Library has digitized 607 titles (734 pieces) of New Year Pictures, and has given an introduction to all of the pictures respectively, including the contents, background, features, and related knowledge. All of them are available online.

<http://res2.nlc.gov.cn:9080/nianhua/index.htm>

VI) Doctoral Dissertations

The NLC is a comprehensive research library and the depository of domestic dissertations. NLC has collected nearly 120,000 titles of doctoral dissertations. In order to preserve and make full use of the dissertations, the NLC has been digitizing dissertations since 2004. Up to now, the NLC has finished the digitization of 109,000 titles of dissertations (13,820,000 pages). The first 24 pages of each dissertation can be read online. <http://202.96.31.40:9080/doctor/index.htm>

VII) Min Guo (1911-1949) Documents

Because of severe acidification, Min Guo documents urgently require digitization. The NLC has digitized these documents, and up to now, we have digitized 8,434 titles of Min Guo books (2,150,000 pages), and 4535 titles of Min Guo periodicals (86,000 issues/5,040,000 pages). The first 24 pages of these materials can be read online. <http://202.96.31.40:9080/magazine/index.htm>

• Services

1) Reference; Lending, incl. interlibrary loan

In 2007, the NLC handles 296, 200 items of reference inquiries, and the circulation amount of books and periodicals (including interlibrary loan) reaches 14,215,122.

2) National bibliographic services

Established in October 1997, the Online Library Cataloguing Centre is a non-profit organization affiliated with the NLC. Adopting the structure of centre—sub-centre—member library, the Centre has realized scientific management and sustainable

development over the past decade. By the end of 2007, the Online Library Cataloguing Centre has a membership of 1068 libraries. The total amount of data download and upload in 2007 reaches 11,083,984.

3) Reading promotion

The third "NLC Wenjin Book Award" selection was launched on September 1, 2007. The Wenjin Book Award is a non-profit cultural event which aims to promote reading in the general public. All the books entered the final selection are Chinese edition books published by state-approved publishing houses from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006 (according to the publication date of the copyright page).

239 titles of books recommended by 73 publishing houses, and 354 titles recommended by readers, authors and critics entered the final selection, amounting to a total of 563 titles, 145 titles more compared with the previous year. Ten titles won the final award.

4) Information literacy programs

From May 27 to June 2, 2007, the NLC held a Library Services Promotion Week with the theme of "library: the home for a reading society". To mark the launching of the event, the first session for "Library Service Promotion in Universities", and the first lecture of "Educators' Forum" were held during the Week. In addition, the Library invited experts to offer over 10 lectures, including lectures on serving youth not yet of age and on journal publication. Meanwhile, three exhibitions were also staged during this Promotion Week.

5) Acquisition, donation and exchange

In year 2007, the total amount for materials acquisition, donation and exchange at the NLC reached 1,370,035.

6) Digital library

In 2007, the NLC paid more attention to digital resource services, and put more efforts on digital resource services. As of the end of 2007, there have been 127 outsourced databases, including 55 Chinese databases and 72 databases in foreign languages. In these databases, there have been 13,000 titles of Chinese periodicals, 14,000 titles of periodical in foreign languages, 193,000 titles of Chinese books (418,000 volumes), 338,000 titles of rare books in foreign languages, 1,086 titles of Chinese newspapers, 681 titles of newspapers in foreign languages, 1,708,000 Chinese dissertations, 32,000 dissertations in foreign languages, 1,608,000 Chinese conference papers, and 6,279 titles of conference papers in foreign languages. NLC has also enlarged the access scope of outsourced databases. About 30 databases can be remotely accessed through proxy server, including 338,000 titles of rare books in foreign languages, E-journal databases, such as Emerald, SAGE, EBSCOhost, Wiley, OUP, etc., Credo Reference, China: Trade, Politics & Culture; 193,000 titles of E-books (418,000 items) can be remotely available through reader's cards, and 18 databases, such as Dragon Source E-Magazines, can be available by remote access accounts.

According to the regulations of copyright protection, some digital resources with copyright protection can only be accessed in the intranet of the NLC, including E-journals and E-newspapers in Chinese and foreign languages, with a total of 28,000 titles, about 3,350,000 full-text doctoral dissertations, master dissertations, and conference papers in Chinese and foreign languages, 62 online lectures, 1,072 video digitization programs, and so on.

In addition, the NLC has sent thousands of titles of E-books to county-level libraries, providing services for the local mass, and launched short message service, resources navigation service, and so on, so as to provide new information communication channels for readers. The NLC virtual reference desk, online reading, online exhibitions and online lectures are highly praised and well received by the readers.

- Projects

1) Seminars, workshops, etc.

On January 17 and 18, 2007, Conference of Directors of Centres of IFLA-PAC Asia Region & Preservation Meeting among China, Japan and Korea was held in the NLC. Christiane Baryla (Director of International Centre of IFLA-PAC, from National Library of France), Ms. Yukiko Saito (Director of the Centre of IFLA-PAC Asia Region, Chief of the Books Management Section of the Collections Department of National Diet Library), Ms. Naoko Kobayashi (assistant chief of the Preservation Section of the Collections Department of National Diet Library), Seon Myung Soon (director of Public Service Division of National Library of Korea), and HYUN Hye-won (conservator of National Library of Korea) were invited. Dr. Chen Li, Deputy Director of NLC held the meeting and Dr. Zhan Furui, Director of NLC met with the foreign participants.

2) Physical facilities

The NLC Phase & National Digital Library of China Project was officially approved in November, 2001. The construction started on December 28, 2004. The total area is 80538 m² and the total investment reaches RMB 732.22 million yuan. The construction is composed of two parts: the main building and the underground garage on the western side. The main building has 3 floors underground and 5 floors above ground with the height of 27m. It contains stack rooms, reading rooms, the preserving and exhibition room for *Siku Quanshu (Complete Library of the Four Branches of Literature)*, academic exchange areas and the digital library project. The mechanic parking system is implemented in the underground garage and there are over 400 stalls.

- Affiliations, cooperation, membership (local and foreign)

The NLC is a member of Library Society of China, ISSN and IFLA. It has also joined the International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) in 2007.

3. Library at the national level

- Number of library councils, associations, foundations, etc.

As of the end of 2007, the individual members of Library Society of China (LSC) were 9,768 and the group members were 215. Eight branches were set up, including special libraries branch association, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) libraries branch association, party school libraries committee, military school libraries committee, labour union libraries committee, and Youth League school libraries committee, medical library committee and middle and elementary school library committee. In the 30 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities), library societies at provincial level were set up (except for Taiwan and Hainan). And all prefectures (leagues and autonomous prefectures) and some counties set up correspondent library societies with the amount of 300 in all.

- Number of public libraries, incl. mobile and community libraries

At the end of 2007, there were 2,798 public libraries at or above the county level in China. Among them were 2,414 public libraries at the county level and 84 children libraries. 50,190 librarians worked for these public libraries. The construction area of public buildings was 7,250,000 m² with 524,000 seats for reading and 44,607 terminals in the electronic reading rooms.

- Number of special libraries

In recent years, in order to adjust to the new networked, digitized and IT-based environment, special libraries have moved fast toward the construction of resources network and union service. Some new library and information service institutions that are inter-regional, trans-professional and trans-sectored have been set up and are

different from traditional library service system, for example National Science and Technology Library (NSTL), which is led by the Ministry of Science and Technology and jointly established by Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Education. The member libraries of NSTL include Library and Information Centre of CAS, Engineering and Technology Library, Library of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Library of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and so on. In 2006, CAS integrated institutional library and information centres into National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences, with its headquarter in Beijing and branch libraries in Lanzhou, Chengdu and Wuhan as legal persons. Special branch libraries were also built with the intellectual and technical support of various institutions and colleges. Characterized as special and professional, these library and information service institutes are leading the way of the development of special libraries all over the country.

- Number of university libraries

In 2007, there were all together 2,321 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), among which 1908 were Regular HEIs and the other 413 were HEIs for adults. All these institutions established libraries and branch libraries of their schools and departments. The total number of faculty and student readers was over 27 million. According to a survey of 300 HEIs libraries in July, 2007, the collection of paper documents was above 253 million items. The formal members of staff of 302 HEIs libraries were over 15,400. 300 libraries' buildings were expanded to 5,240,000m². The buildings that were under construction covered a floor space of almost 1,800,000m² in the 300 libraries. According to a sample survey of 297 HEIs libraries, the acquisition funds were RMB 1.09 billion yuan.

- School libraries

According to statistics collected so far, in 2006, China has 34, 1600 primary schools, with over 13,000 school libraries; and 92, 570 middle schools which establish over 60,000 school libraries.

4. Infrastructure

- Library network

The NLC adopts Ethernet technology in the construction of its library network. Wireless network has covered the buildings of Phase II site of the NLC, and relevant wireless network construction is under way at the other two sites of NLC, namely, the Phase I site of the NLC and the Ancient Books Library of NLC.

- Telecommunication facilities

The broadband networks at NLC include bandwidth ranging from 150M to 2000M, connecting to the Internet through different links and network service suppliers.

5. Preservation

- Activities, incl. digital preservation

The NLC has been engaging in the pilot project of web information collection and archive since 2003. Up to now, the NLC has archived more than 20,000 government websites, 245 titles of Chinese E-newspapers, and the web information of 18 special subjects, including Chinese studies, Olympic Games, and so on.

- Reprography, photography and microphotography

The NLC completed the production of 1,346,547 rolls/pieces of microform documents, including 88,338 rolls of microfilm and 1,258,209 pieces of microfiche.

- Disaster preparedness

A digital resources disaster preparedness centre has been planned in the China National Digital Library Project. Selection of the centre's location is now under way.

6. Education and training

- Presence of library schools (degree and non-degree) and courses

As of the end of December, 2006, there are 48 colleges and libraries offering major courses of Library Science, among which 3 are junior college education centres, 28 undergraduate education centres and 40 research centres for master students and 9 for doctorate students. Besides, there are 5 first level disciplines having the right to confer doctorate degrees and 2 colleges have established research centres that admit post-doctorate students.

Further education courses are also available at 15 universities/colleges' Library Science Department. Among them, 15 offer courses for advanced studies, 8 set up correspondence education for undergraduate studies, and 3 establish internet education. Some also offer night school classes, adult education courses and courses for the students who pass the self-study exam and other forms of further education.

So far, the education of Library Science in China has developed into a comprehensive, professional and multi-level system that covers both the undergraduate and graduate levels, which indicate a good momentum for further development.