



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VIETNAM

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16TH CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL
LIBRARIES IN ASIA AND OCEANIA MEETING

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VIETNAM COUNTRY REPORT

Hanoi, September 2008

I. Library at the national level

1. Legal framework and administration

All libraries and information centres in Vietnam operate under the Ordinance on Libraries - the highest legislation on library and information services passed by the National Assembly of Vietnam in December 2001 and came into effect on 1st April 2001.

The Library Department is the advisory agency for the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism to make policies and enforce the regulations on library.

The National Library of Vietnam (NLV) is “The Central Library of the country”(defined in Library Ordinance - 4/2001). Its functions and responsibilities are to provide professional guidance on library for other libraries entirely the country such as cataloguing standards, continuing professional education and more.

Vietnamese Library Association established on 22nd October 2006 is the professional association for librarians in Vietnam.

2. Library systems

Vietnamese libraries are divided into five major systems

- Public Library System headed by the NLV consists of 64 city and provincial libraries, 582 district libraries and nearly 7,000 commune and village libraries.

Membership cards issued annually	495,649 cards
Annual visits	14,305,865 visits
Annual circulation	38,882,967 items

- Academic Library System: 353 libraries.
- School Library System: 17,459 libraries.
- Special Library System: 60 research libraries run by research institutes and 218 library and information centres under ministries and other governmental agencies.
- Military Library System: 2,740 libraries and reading rooms.

Apart from those government funded library systems, there exist thousands of communities and private libraries, reading rooms, book stacks operating in various forms such as international information centres, boat libraries, communal cultural post offices, border posts, books cafés, etc. entirely the country.

3. Professionalization/ Training/ Continuing Professional Education

There are over 25,000 library professionals. Bachelor of Library and Information Science remains the qualified degree qualification for Vietnamese library and information professionals although more and more are advancing their study to post-graduate levels.

Undergraduate programmes of library and information education are offered at the following universities:

- Hanoi University of Culture
- Social Sciences and Humanities College, Hanoi National University
- Social Sciences and Humanities College, Ho Chi Minh City National University
- Dong Do University
- Military University of Culture & Arts
- Can Tho University
- Ho Chi Minh City University of Culture
- Saigon University
- College of Archives
- Central College of Training teachers
- 63 Schools of Culture & Arts from 63 cities and provinces (training Intermediate level of Library and Information Science)

Hanoi University of Culture, Social Sciences and Humanities College of Hanoi National University and Social Sciences and Humanities College of Ho Chi Minh City National University also offer Master of Library and Information Science programmes. Of those, Hanoi University of Culture offers Ph.D Degree of Library and Information Science since early 2008.

Up to 2007, over 70 Vietnamese library and information lecturers and professionals were sent to New Zealand and the United States for Master's Degree and Ph.D education.

Several professional workshops were also held in the National Library of Vietnam and other major academic libraries and information centres with the participation of Vietnamese library and information professionals across the country.

4. Copyrights & Intellectual Property Rights

One of the most important developments in copyrights and intellectual properties legislations is the passage of Intellectual Properties Law by Vietnam's National Assembly on 29th November 2005. The Law will come into effect on 1st July 2006.

Currently, copyrights and intellectually properties in Vietnam are governed by the followings laws:

- Altered Publishing Law: effective on 1st July 2005
- Berne Convention on the protection of copyrights in literature, science and arts publications: effective on 26th October 2004
- Civil Code: effective in 1995

The Copyright Department under the Ministry of Culture and Information is responsible for the enforcement of copyrights legislations. Meanwhile, legislations on the

protection of intellectual properties such as trademarks, patents, etc. are enforced by the Intellectual Properties Department under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

5. Information Infrastructure

In 2007, the National Library of Vietnam completed the national project “Building the National Electronic/Digital Library in the National Library of Vietnam” which started in 2001. Most major public and academic libraries and information centres have been powered by Integrated Library Systems. Three most popular ILS software are locally developed ILIB, LIBOL and VEBRARY provided respectively by CMC Ltd., Tinh Van Ltd., and Lac Viet Ltd. Besides that, some libraries are applying VTLS library software provided by Thai company.

6. Future directions

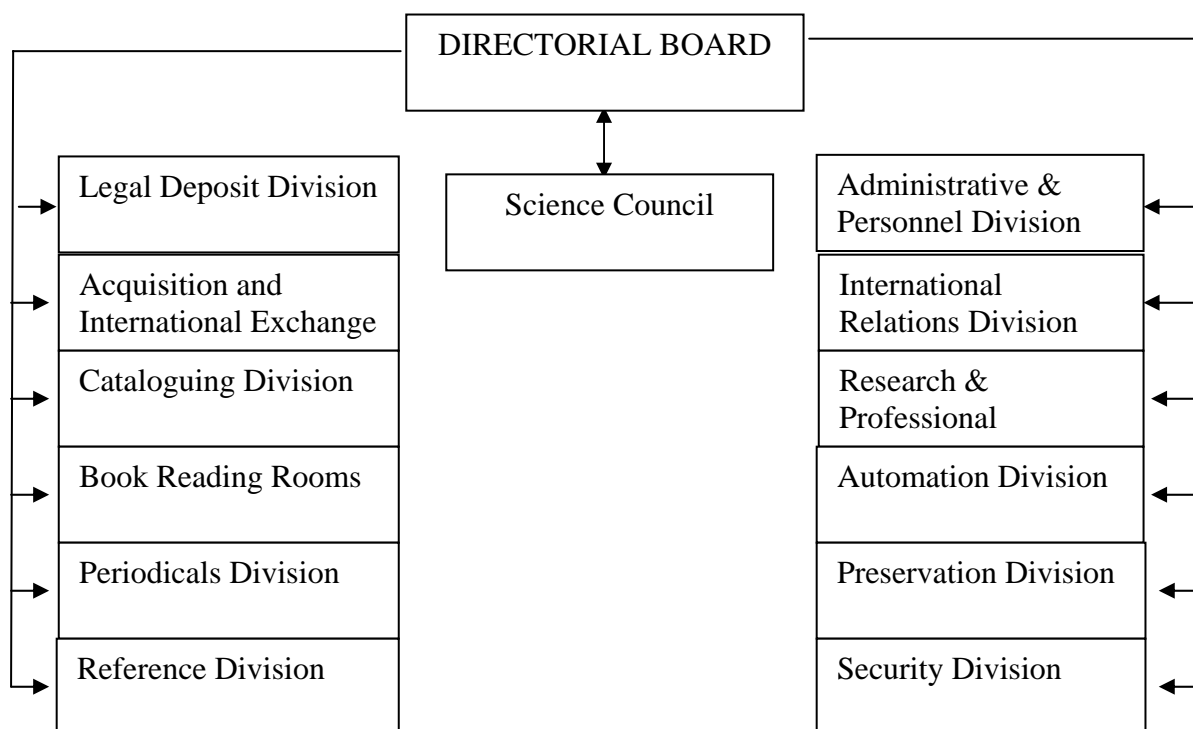
Vietnam advocates those policies to develop widely and strongly the library systems entirely the country, particularly libraries in remote, mountainous and rural areas to meet the higher demands of people.

Vietnam prioritizes the development of modern libraries, encourages the implementation of information technology, promotes the digitization in libraries.

Vietnam libraries are gearing towards to apply library international standards with a view to integrating into regional as well as global libraries.

II. National Library of Vietnam

1. Organisational Structure



The National Library of Vietnam enjoys departmental status under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. It has a staff of 187 employees of which 150 staff members are librarians(01 Doctor, 17 Masters and 132 Undergraduates).

2. Collections

The NLV is the largest library in the nation with over 1.2 million items housed on approximately 6 miles of bookshelves. These number rose 24,729 more titles (140,276 items) in 2007. The NLV's collections consist

- Books Collections is the major collections of over 1 million items.
- Periodicals Collection comprises 10,000 titles of Vietnamese and foreign newspapers and magazines.
- The Indochina Collection of the NLV(publications published before 1954) comprising 53,901 volumes on Indochina in French language is the greatest collection in the region.
- Sino-Nom Collection is one of the NLV's collections of rare materials. It is made up by about 6,000 written manuscripts and manually printed for hundreds years ago in the old Vietnamese language called Nom, which was derived from Chinese scripts.
- Doctoral Thesis Collection consists of 14,000 doctoral theses written by Vietnamese citizens at Vietnamese and foreign institutions since 1954.
- Audio-visual materials are nearly 2,000 items of CDs, VCDs and tapes.
- Digitized materials are made up of over 1.2 millions pages.
- Databases include
 - Book Database: 320,000 records of Vietnamese books published since 1917 and books in Latin languages acquired by the NLV since 1980.
 - Doctoral Thesis Database: 13,762 records of doctoral theses written by Vietnamese citizens at Vietnamese and foreign institutions since 1954.
 - Newspaper & Magazine Database: 6,272 records of Vietnamese and foreign newspapers and magazines published from 1954 to present.
 - Research Database: 1,718 records of periodical titles published in Indochina before 1954 and those published in Saigon before April 1975.
 - Abstract Database: 55,000 records of abstracts from 60 periodical titles from 2004 to 2007.

3. Services

Every year, the National Library of Vietnam issues over 30,000 membership cards to its users of which students represent 60%. Being the most popular library of the country, the NLV usually receives about 2,000 visits per day. For the last year (2007), the

NLV provided its services with 1,197,828 circulation of items for 686,689 circulation of customers.

- **Reference Services:** The NLV provides reference and information searching services such as press clipping, subject bibliographies, etc. Charges are decided upon agreement between the NLV and Customers.

- **Lending & Interlibrary Loan Services** are provided with no charge to whom on request.

- **National Bibliographic Services**

National Bibliographies are compiled and published monthly and annually by the National Library of Vietnam and available to all Vietnamese libraries both in paper and electronic versions on the NLV's Website. The electronic versions are in *.iso format being ready for import into UNESCO's CDS ISIS library software, which is quite popular in Vietnamese public libraries. Bibliographic records in MARC21 format are also available for download in the National Library of Vietnam's online catalogue.

A large number of bibliographies and indexes are compiled in Vietnam on various subjects and disciplines. Public libraries focus on indexing local information while other libraries pay attention to users' needs. However, few bibliographies and indexes are published or available on the Internet.

- **Digital Libraries**

Digital libraries are still in pilot in Vietnam. Some of digital library initiatives under construction in the NLV are listed below:

- *Vietnamese Doctoral Theses*

Full-text of Vietnamese doctoral theses are being digitized and available to users of the National Library of Vietnam, with the total pages of approximately 1,1 millions pages.

- *CONSAL Digitization Project*

As part of the regional project initiated by the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians, the National Library of Vietnam has already digitized 338 books on Vietnam in English to contribute to the project's shared database.

- *VALEASE Project*

Under the VALEASE Project ran by the French Embassy in Vietnam, the National Library of Vietnam has been provided with modern equipment to digitize rare and precious materials stocked at the National Library of Vietnam with a view to preserving the heritage of ancient writings in Vietnam. The project has digitized 80,000 pages of Indochina materials(published before 1954).

- *Sino-Nom Digitized Project* sponsored by the Nom Protection Association(The U.S) has already digitized 20,000 pages of Nom written materials.

Other digital library projects are also in progress in major academic libraries such as Ho Chi Minh City University of Natural Sciences Library (using Greenstone Digital Library open source software) and National University of Hanoi's Library and Information Centre (E-books Project).

- DDC Translation

The translation of the Dewey Decimal Classification Abridge Edition 14 was completed in June 2006 under OCLC's authorization and funds from the Atlantic Philanthropies - an American NGO. The Vietnamese version is printed and applied in August 2006. The NLV has taken the first and foremost responsibilities for training in using DDC Abridge Edition 14 in all libraries since then.

4. International and regional relations

The National Library of Vietnam has maintained relations with 122 libraries in 32 countries worldwide. It must be named some of the major projects established between The NLV and others such as the English Books Program sponsored by the Asia Foundation(The U.S); Sino-Nom Digitized Project of Nom Protection Association(The U.S); Microfilm Project of Washington University; Valease Project(France); Dynamic Korea Library(Korea); and the Chinese Books Program(China).

In 2009, the NLV will host Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania Meeting (CDNLAO) parallel to the 14th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL XIV).