

2009 CDNLAO COUNTRY REPORT

The National Library of Korea

1. General Overview

Since its foundation in 1945, the National Library of Korea (NLK) has committed to collecting a wide range of national literatures. In 1963, the Library Act was enacted, and in 1965, the NLK adopted a legal deposit system to collect books or materials published in the nation. In 2008, 4.6 billion materials were collected, and as of the end of the same year, the NLK holds 7.04 million materials. During the year of 2008, the NLK opened its doors for 328 days and an average of 2,300 people have visited the library per day. And about 240 people have accessed the web site each day. Last year, the NLK produced many achievements as follows:

First, in December, the National Digital Library was completed three years after its start of constructions in December, 2005. The newly-built three-story library occupies a floor area of 38,014m², with five floors underground. Underground floors can reserve 12 million books on the bookshelf, and the number may increase to 20 million books when adding books from the deposit building. On December 29, 2008, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held. It was successfully taken place with Yu In chon, the Culture, Sports and Tourism Minister and a number of people engaged in publication industry and libraries. This new library is scheduled to be opened in May, this year. It plans to provide various portal services to users and it will also build a web archiving and a digital preservation system.

Second, the NLK established the IFLA-PAC Korea Center in November last year. Since 2006, the NLK has been preparing for its establishment. It has brought in experienced experts, developed preservation technology and built necessary facilities. And finally, it obtained an approval by IFLA-PAC International Focal Point in 2008. The Korea Center conducts many activities: translating and distributing IFLA-PAC newsletters and publication materials; supporting domestic preservation policies and technologies; conducting many preservation projects at home and abroad; and providing training and PR activities. It also serves as a bridge connecting IFLA-PAC Focal Point, regional centers in the world and domestic public organizations.

Third, the NLK formally launched a national inter-library loan system, called the *Sea of Book*. The project began in 2006, and completed in 2007. In 2008, the NLK organized a council for the inter-library loan system and set up rules for its

membership and lending codes. In April last year, 295 public libraries nationwide have joined the system. As of January 2009, 356 public libraries have participated in the system and in the future, university libraries and specialized libraries will join it.

Fourth, the Collaborative Digital Reference System called *Ask a Librarian* was built in April 2008, and it was put to a pilot test with 17 libraries across the country for 8 months. The system aims to remove information divide between city and rural area and to ensure information accessibility of people. It includes three services, Q&A, reference resource, and reading information. Reference resource provides many services such as pathfinder, online information resource, online dictionary and search engine. The NLK sent operational manual to all public libraries in the nation, and directly visited and trained librarians last year. As a result of the efforts, 217 libraries are expected to join the system in 2009.

Fifth, the NLK integrated 5 webzines which had been published by each division into one webzine, called *Now@Library* on January 30th, 2008. A total of 20 issues are being published a year. In this new webzine, five of them are incorporated: *KRILIZine*, *NLK Policy Information*, *World Library News*, *Dibrary*, and *Children and Young Adults Study, E-partner*. The online magazine is sent to people who want to read it through e-mails and librarians nationwide.

2. New Information Products

2.1 Digitized Materials

The NLK is building a full-text database for library materials that have a great value in academic setting or include important information. The project intends to reduce information gap between city and rural area and facilitate the use of information. Last year, as an aim of developing a specialized database, the NLK digitized 2.90 million pages of 8,239 books that mainly include information about Korea which is published in foreign languages. Currently, 106,466,657 pages of 379,585 books can be viewed at the NLK's website at www.nl.go.kr or the National Digital Library's website at www.dlibrary.go.kr. And 52,991,468 pages of 174,444 books are protected by copyrights, so they can be viewed on some designated PCs of libraries that sign on a copyright agreement with the NLK and Korea Reprographic and Transmission Rights Association.

2.2 E-magazines & newsletters

The NLK integrated several webzines to *Now@Library* last year. This online magazine features newsletters and latest information about libraries. Integrated 5 webzines are *KRILIZine*, *NLK Policy information*, *World Library News*, *Dibrary*, *Children and Young Adults Study, E-Parter*. A total of 20 issues are published a year. Its first edition was published in January, 2008, and the latest of 22nd edition was published in March, this year. The webzine is posted at the NLK's homepage at

http://www.nl.go.kr/uni_wz/wz_past/list.php and it is distributed to libraries and subscribers across the nation via e-mails. Following is the introduction to each webzine: *KRILizine* was launched in August, 2008, and it updates information on libraries at home and abroad and library and information studies, analysis reports, and policy reports. The latest of 31st edition was published in February, this year. It continues to support library studies to facilitate and standardize the service and operation of library and advance the services to a global level. *NLK Policy Information* provides domestic and foreign policies to those who are interested in public officers' activities and government policies. *World Library News* was launched on October 7th, 2003, and it contains news on major libraries of each nation, activities of international organizations, and conferences and events that are related to libraries. *Dibrary* informs its services and updates its achievements, news, events and seminars related to the National Digital Library in the NLK. *Children and Youth Study, E-partner* contains information on children and young adults, reading activity, library and children's literature. Also, it features various contents, Theme & Review, Books & Articles, table of contents of periodicals, study achievements and others.

On the other hand, there are two important newsletters, *Doseogwan-gye(Library Circles)* and *Doseogwan-iyagi(Library Story)*. A total of 10 editions are published every year in paper or can be seen at the NLK's homepage. Monthly *Library Circles*, published by the NLK, serves to make the NLK be known to the public and share information on domestic and foreign libraries. It consists of World Libraries, Click Today's Library, Cultural Scenes, Column, Issues, and so on. *Library Story* is published by the National Library for Children and Young Adults. It updates information on children's libraries at home and abroad and children's literature, and it also introduces newly-published children's books.

2.3 Reports & research data

For two years, 2006 and 2007, more than 10 reports were published around three newly organized divisions: the Korea Research Institute for Library and Information, the National Library Support Center for the Disabled and the National Library for Children & Young Adults. They are as follows:

- *A Study on Building NLK's Branch and its Cooperation with Major Local Libraries.*
- *A Prospect of Recruiting and Instituting Subject Specialists.*
- *An Investigation on Collection Management of Public Libraries & a Study on the List of Basic Collection.*
- *Study on Preservation Technology for Non-Book Materials*
- *A Study on Collecting, Preserving and Using Newspapers*

- *A Study on Development of Alternative Format Materials to People with Disabilities*
- *A Study on Mid- and long-term Development Plan for Knowledge and Information Gap to Deaf People*
- *A Study on Developing Multi-cultural Service of Libraries*
- *A Study on Improving Classification System of Children's Library*
- *A Study on Developing a Basic Collection for Children's Library*
- *A Study on Developing Curriculum and System for Introducing Librarians for Children*
- *Facilitating Cooperation for Improving Public Libraries' Services to Children*

In addition, in an attempt to guide library service to the disabled, the *Guidelines for Library Services to People with Disabilities* and the *Manual for Library Services to People with Disabilities* were developed. These documents are to be distributed to over 600 public libraries across the nation. They will also be posted at the NLK's portal site for the disabled, which is scheduled to launch in May, this year.

2.4 Tutorials, courses & help files

The NLK has provided many training programs to librarians who work for the national and public libraries, universities and school and specialized libraries, across the nation. Last year, it provided self-driven training courses online (see <http://cyber.nl.go.kr>). 8 coursewares were delivered: Library Management Strategy, Managing Library Users, Collection Management, Preserving Library Materials, Basic Understanding of Reading Guidance, Understanding of Children's Literature, Reading Together, and Practical new-appointed Librarian Training. 12 rounds of courses were provided, and a total of 2,078 librarians completed the course. Each courseware comprises 28 lectures (14 hours). Cyber Education Center monitors each trainee and sends encouragement message to help learners finish the course to the end. From this year, 3 coursewares are supposed to be added to the program: DDC Classification, Library Cultural Events, and Library and Copyright.

The NLK provides a user guide service at its homepage to help users to use library more conveniently. To obtain general information on the library, users can visit the NLK's *Look around the Library* (<http://nl.go.kr/look/index.htm>). Here users can look for information on collections of each floor, and how to use books, and so on. The people with disabilities can also get necessary information, including facilities for the disabled and assistive equipments, opening hour, photocopying and mobile phone service, and so on. The photos of such facilities and assistive equipments can be previewed online. And those who use the library at night can also obtain information on how to use the night-time library__at the NLK's homepage

(<http://nl.go.kr/handicap/jangein.php>). When the digital library is open in the near future, web-based tutorial service will be provided.

2.5 Bibliographies and Databases

Since the NLK has compiled bibliography on published books every year since 1966 and issued the "List of Korean Publications," in a bid to help domestic and foreign libraries and research organizations to easily look for books and obtain bibliography information.

In 2005, the NLK changed the name of the catalogue to "The Korean National Bibliography," and also changed publication method to DVD. *The Korean National Bibliography, 2007* issued in 2008 includes a wide range of bibliography information on 2,230,478 published materials that were deposited to the NLK from 1945 to 2007. In addition, its bibliography sources include KOLIS-NET (5,824), KERIS (96,842), STIMA (1,435) and the Book Trade Promotion (22,095). Data entries of mentioned materials amount to a total of 2,356,674.

The Korean Library Information System (KOLIS-NET) DB is to help users to easily look for books or materials in the public libraries and libraries of governmental administrative organizations, and obtain books from libraries nearest to the users. Last year, 6 billion bibliographic records were added to the DB, and now, a total of 26.4 million data entries can be viewed at www.nl.go.kr/kolisnet. Currently, 580 libraries and organizations participate in the system.

78 thousand Article Index and Abstract Information DBs were built in 2008 and about 7.3 billion of articles and abstracts were registered in the DB. This DB service can be used at the NLK's website. MARC data, bibliography information and full-text are provided. And as for the full-text service, the NLK makes efforts to integrate as many full-text DBs as possible.

In addition, a full-text DB for the visually impaired, which began in 2003, has been established. The disabled can listen to the voice spoken by a screen-reading program. This DB focuses on the textbooks used in universities. In 2008, 105,920 pages of 286 books were stored. The service can be used at the National Digital Library's homepage for people with special needs (sigak.nl.go.kr/dl).

A total of 10,000 records, which were received from 17 libraries for the blinds, were added to a General Catalogue DB for the blind in 2008. The DB can be used at the KOLIS-NET or NDL's homepage for the disabled. DB data are collected from libraries for the blinds across the nation. Thus, the disabled who have difficulty in travelling can search for books and materials through the DB and obtain them from a library nearest to them.

3. New Information Services

3.1 Reference

The Collaborative Digital Reference Service (CDRS) system has been planned since 2006, and it was finally completed in 2008. The CDRS is based on the cooperation of libraries nationwide, and it aims to remove information divide between city and rural area and to ensure accessibility to information. It is now provided as another name *Ask a Librarian*. Its homepage (<http://www.nl.go.kr/ask/>) features Q&A, reference information resources including pathfinder, online resource, online dictionary, and reading information involving suggested reading, book review, and offline reading group, etc.

For a full-fledged running of system, it was put to a test by 17 local libraries for 8 months from May to December, last year. At that time, a total of 390 questions and answers were asked and given. System operation manual was prepared and distributed, and about 630 librarians from 16 local libraries received on-site training at their workplace. Also, to enhance the recognition of the system, system logo and signature were developed, and posters and leaflets were distributed to libraries nationwide. In November last year, additional 217 libraries have responded in the survey that they would participate in the system. Thus, the scope of participation is expected to extend further.

3.2 Lending, incl. interlibrary loan

The NLK formally launched the National Interlibrary Loan Service, called the *Sea of Book* in April last year (<http://nl.go.kr/nill/>). Currently, 295 public libraries and the NLK are joining the program. It is initiated from one report submitted to the then-President, Roh Moo-hyun, which discussed how to develop public library system and improve services. In 2007, system development was completed, and a council for the inter-library loan system was organized and inter-lending rules were established. Books are delivered to the requesting library through a door-to-door service, and the delivery fee is responsible by the requesting library or user. Lending period of book is 14 days, and the period can be extended for 7 days only once.

As of January 2009, 365 libraries participate in the program. Until now, the NLK responded to 118 inter-loan requests. The scope of program will be extended in a step by step approach. In April this year, it will include universities and in the further future, special libraries.

In 2008, the NLK was asked by 22 libraries in 11 foreign countries to photocopy and send required documents. And the NLK made 13 requests to 7 libraries in 4 countries. Among them, 41 inter-loan service requests were completed.

3.3 National bibliographic services

The *Korean National Bibliography, 2007* issued in 2008 contains 23.6 billions of

bibliography information. It provides various search functions to facilitate easier and quicker search such as categorized material search, operator search, re-search in result of search. Users can download bibliographical data in both KS code and UFT-8 (unicode), and can view screen menu in English.

Bibliography of deposited books has been printed out every month until 1984, but in 2004, it started to be published every week online in the name of *Weekly Deposit*. The bibliography information can be found at the NLK's website. In the editions of *Weekly Deposit* that were issued throughout the year of 2008, a total of 198,568 entries have been registered for 47 weeks.

3.4 Reading promotion

The National Library for Children & Young Adults (NLCYA) promotes various reading programs to help children and teens to read more books. Several important projects include developing good reading programs, book review contests, and support program operating manual development/supply.

In 2007, the NLCYA worked with the Korea National University of Arts to develop two reading and culture programs called “reading playground” and “1318 bookworms’ library occupation”. Last year, 30 school libraries were selected to join the program. Participating schools actively participated in the program through many events, including book exhibition, reading quiz contest, and reading and discussion. Parents and teachers also have participated in those events with a great interests and have enhanced their awareness of reading.

The NLCYA also promotes reading programs for the children in a marginalized class. The program showed that children can develop social communication skills, have interest in reading and improve their learning abilities through those programs. The result attracted much attention of other libraries, so participating schools have increased from 16 schools in 2007 to 30 schools in 2008.

3.5 Information literacy programs

As a special project of twice-a-month regular program named “Getting to Know NLK,” an information literacy program was provided to seniors aged 60 or more, September 2008. The program focused on helping seniors to search library materials that they want, including using full-text DB. It saw a great success in significantly improving searching skills of seniors. When the National Digital Library opens in May this year, web-tutorial service will be provided. And the NDL will teach library visitors to use h/w and s/w and studio, and provide web-based information literacy programs.


Last year, the NLK provided 5 information literacy courses-Library s/w application, multimedia application, and digital equipment application- for librarians, in an aim to upgrade their computer skills in the web 2.0 environment. A total of 239 librarians

completed those courses last year.

3.6 Acquisition, donation and exchange

Last year, the NLK has collected 93,859 books through legal deposit 617,192, and purchase 17,263 books. And many foreign library materials were collected through exchange or deposit. The collected items include books (3,910), periodicals (561), and non-book materials (2,149). Among them are governmental reports, academic materials, statistics report and periodicals of international organizations. The NLK receives a book exchange list from foreign countries and selects books that meet the regulations specified by the NLK.

3.7 Digital library

The NLK provides a digital library service, where users can access a digital full-text DB without any charge (<http://www.dlibrary.go.kr>). As of March 2009, 606 libraries use the service, and digitized full-text amounts to 109 million pages. In the year 2008, 3.31 million pages were added. In December last year, the National Digital Library which had been planned since 2000, has completed its construction and is scheduled to be opened in May, this year. So, the NDL will integrate the existing digital library service into one 'Dibrary' portal service (). The dibrary portal service will not be limited to digitizing existing books or library materials, but it will include online digital contents and allow users to search them. This year, dibrary service has a goal of increasing the number of digital contents to 100 million. Also, the system will adopt integrated search methods, including Open API search, harvesting search, etc. Digital contents will include journals, dissertations, museum information, policies, patents and important academic and professional information. It plans to organize a "Council for Sharing Digital Resource" to facilitate information sharing, and it sets the goal of 5,000 sites to collaborate with.

In addition, the National Digital Library runs a project which collects and preserves digital resources, in an aim to collect and transmit intellectual and cultural heritage of this generation to following generations. As of December 2008, 366,662 online contents have been collected. In October the same year, it joined the International Internet Preservation Consortium to build an international cooperation with other member countries for web-archiving. Last year, the National Assembly proposed "Revised Library Act," in order to establish a legal foundation to collect digital contents, and the Act cleared the plenary session of the Assembly in March, this year.

4. New and on-going Projects

4.1 Seminars, workshops, etc.

4.1.1 Seminar

The NLK held 9 seminars last year to help librarians to improve their professional capacities and enhance library services through research and discussion. Seminar contents are as follows:

- March: *Role and Challenge of the Korea Research Institute for Library and Information for Developing Korean Libraries*
- April: *Anti-discrimination against People with Disabilities Act and Library Services for the Disabled*
- May: *Standards for Library and Information, and Archives & Records Management*
- June: *Information Service Revolution! The Library Cooperation Network Leads it.*
- July: *Developing plans of How to Foster Subject Specialists*
- August: *Fostering Librarians for Small Libraries and Building its Network*
- September: *Legal tasks to enhance the cooperation between libraries and publishers*
- November: *Developing Plans of How to Encourage Reading in an Information Society; Developing Plans of How to Efficiently Classify Children's Materials*

4.1.2 International symposium and conference

The National Library for Children & Young Adults holds international symposium every year to share service experiences and knowledge with foreign libraries and children's libraries, and brings forward domestic library services to an international level. Last year, the NLCYA held an international symposium to honor its second anniversary, from June 26th to 27th. Under the theme of 'Challenge and Task of Children & Young Adults Libraries in the 21 Century,' many people have attended the seminar, including Igrid Bon, chair of IFLA's Libraries for Children and Young Adult Section, 4 foreign speakers from 4 foreign countries and 200 or more library-related personnel. Also, in September the same year, it held a joint conference with Germany and discussed the "New Direction of Library Service for Children and Teens." 148 people had attended the event.

4.2 Local, regional and international

4.2.1 Establishing IFLA-PAC Korea Center

The NLK has prepared for establishing a regional IFLA-PAC Korea Center since 2006, in order to secure its foundation as a Korea's representative preservation library, to participate in the worldwide preservation network, to raise the awareness of the importance of preserving cultural heritage and to support domestic preservation study and research. Such efforts include experts, facilities and technology study.

In August last year, Christiane Baryla, the Programme Director of the International

Focal Point and Sung, Nam Gi, the Chief Executive of the NLK discussed the establishment of the center in the 74th WLIC in 2008. And finally, the NLK was allowed to have a PAC national center in November. The PAC Korea Center translates and distributes IFLA-PAC newsletters and publications to domestic libraries, supports preservation policy and technology, works with foreign countries to conduct preservation projects, provide training, education and PR activities in relation to preservation, and serves as a liaison between the IFLA-PAC international center, regional centers and domestic organizations. The PAC Korea center continues to support many preservation activities by providing training programs, and to actively engage in PR activities to increase awareness to preservation.

4.3 Physical facilities

4.3.1 Establishing the National Digital Library

The building was located within the NLK's premise, with three stories on the ground and five stories underground, with the floor area of 38,014m². Its construction took 1,100 days from December 2005 to December, 2008 and 123.7 billion won (about 100 million dollars) was invested into the construction. B4 and B5 floors are for book preservation which has the capacity of 12 million books. B1 - B3 are spaces for users and first to third floors on the ground are office rooms. On the B3 floor, there are a lobby, a multi-language information room, an exhibition room, and a hall, and on the B2 floor, there are a digital cluster space, digital group learning spaces, ubiquitous multiplex, media studios, and a center for the disabled. The B1 floor is connected to the main building of the NLK, and there is also a digital book cafe which is expected to attract many visitors when the building opens in May, this year.

4.3.2 Launching the "Service Point for People with Disabilities"

The NLK launched the "Service Point for People with Disabilities" in December last year, in a bid to facilitate accessibility by the disabled and to help the disabled to use library more conveniently. There are a person-to-person reading room, a multi-media room, an information search room, a seminar room and a reading room. It serves to set a model for the library for the disabled and to show what the services for the handicapped should be like. It will also provide training and counseling programs and fund local governments to purchase assistive equipments. This service will be opened in April this year, and it will customize services according to the needs of people with disabilities, for example reading books or materials to the blind person-to-person, providing alternative materials and assistive equipments, and screen explaining, etc. Also, it will coordinate and supervise all the NLK's services for people with special needs.

5 Major events

5.1 Exhibition

The NLK operates exhibition halls as a cultural complex. Last year, 11 exhibitions were held in the main library, and 6 exhibitions in the National Library for Children & Young Adults.

Among 6 exhibitions were five special exhibitions including "Textbook and Reference Book of Law Schools in the Daehan Empire." Those exhibitions contributed to developing cultural sensitivity of people and improving reading culture. And the NLK separately held 6 exhibitions in Old & Rare Collections, including "Antique Maps of Dokdo, our Land." The NLK also hosted exhibitions overseas, including "Antique Korean Maps, Since 1600," which was joined by the Korean Cultural Center U.K., "Korean Printing Culture : from its Origin to the 19th Century" in the National Library of Tunisia. Especially, a copy of *Jikji*, the first book published using metal printing method a great appreciation and interest from foreigners.

The NLCYA worked with the Embassy of Canada to Korea to host "Anne of Green Gables" exhibition to celebrate Anne Shirley's 100th birthday. 35 pieces of crafts in relation to Anne and Canadian books for children were displayed. It was a great success and had attracted 9,847 visitors.

5.2 Concert

The NLK staged 5 concerts including 'Spring Library Concert,' last year. Especially, the concert for commemorating the "60th anniversary of founding Korean Government' featured an exciting repertory of hopeful and cheerful tunes. Seoul Pops Orchestra and many singers had joined the concert, including Go Hye-wook (vocalist), Rose Jang (poppera singer) and Shin Hyung-won (singer), etc.

5.3 To-be-held international conferences

Celebrating the launch of the National Digital library in May 2009, an international conference on libraries leading the global knowledge and information society is scheduled. And the 37th ISBN Annual General Meeting and the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative(DCMI) meeting will be held in September and October, respectively, in Seoul.

6. "National Libraries Global"

Applying "Dibrary Portal" model in the NLK

Major national libraries in the world seek to build an integrative search environment, such as WDL project by the Library of Congress and the UNESCO. The NLK started to provide an integrative search functions by integrating digital libraries of major academic institutions since 1997. For the past 10 years, 100 million pages were stored in the DB. In the near future, 'Dibrary' portal will officially launch to provide an integrated search service for domestic and foreign digital libraries.

Overviews of Dibrary Portal Services

- Participation objects: 450 academic institutions at home and 800 OAI sites abroad
- Search methods: integrated search (Distributed search + harvesting search)
- Launching date: May 2009
- Types of contents: academic journals, dissertations, images of museum and art gallery, and policy reports, etc.

The existing digital library focused on digitizing holding materials in the NLK and providing remote service, especially to those that are rare and historically important.

However, Instead of simply focusing on digitizing materials, Dibrary portal will also focus on integrating digital contents online and helping users to search and access to them.

Today, Europeana in Europe also extends its collection to include digitized items from national libraries, museum and archives. Thus, Global Gateway in the Asia-Oceania needs to broaden its range around national libraries.

Here, the NLK makes some suggestions by applying Korea's Dibrary portal model:

1. The national library of each nation should collaborate with organizations that own digitized information and build an integrated search environment, in order to secure a large amount of qualitative digital contents. The integrated environment should include libraries, museums, art galleries, governmental organizations, local governments, private organizations and others.
2. For facilitating the easy search of digital contents, national libraries should establish an open API environment. And they should promote a collaborating methods to integrate digital contents with other national libraries, if necessary.
3. To successfully build an integrated search environment, each national library should cooperate with each other for standardizing the format of digital contents.
4. Each national library should serve as a digital archive to ensure the permanent preservation of digital contents and provide an integrated search environment. And it should try to build a legal foundation for secure digitalized cultural heritages, safely and permanently.

For the past 2000 years, a library played a very important role as an information center. However, it is now struggling to defend its turf against the power of gargantuan capital and network and fast-growing private portal such as Google. However, a crisis is an opportunity. Now, it is the right time to apply and adapt a long-standing traditions and experiences of libraries, i.e. collecting, organizing and taking advantages of qualitative information that libraries inherited for centuries, to today's digital environment.