

**Country Report of the National Library of Korea**  
**The 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia**  
**and Oceania (CDNLAO)**

**1. General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library**

*Opening of Digital Library*

The National Digital Library of Korea opened on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2009 after 5 years of construction. On the occasion of the opening, an international conference was held under the theme of “libraries leading the global knowledge and information society”. President Claudia Lux of IFLA, directors of national libraries from other nations and many experts participated in the conference as speakers and were engaged in serious discussion for the development of libraries. For more details of the event and congratulatory messages for the digital library, please refer to the website of the national library (<http://www.nl.go.kr/conference/>)

The total cost of the digital library project is KRW 123.7 billion. The three-story building with five basement levels has its total floor area of 38,014 m<sup>2</sup>. Basement level 4 and 5 are for the repository of 12 million books. Basement level 1, 2, and 3 are open for library users, and 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> floors are office area. The digital library exists in both physical and virtual space (Information Commons, and Dibrary portal) and provides services connecting digital and analogue. The national library offers 160 million of information by linking the digital library and 1,250 libraries in Korea, and plans to link around 4,000 public and special libraries by 2012.

*National Bibliographic Center*

In a fast changing information environment, it is necessary to manage data collection, organization and standardization so as to build accurate, efficient, and reliable bibliographic data. To this end, a national bibliographic center was established in February 2010 and professional librarians are working for the center. The center is in

charge of managing bibliographic standard, drawing up national bibliography, and creating cataloging in publication (CIP) and cover & table of contents data.

### ***IFLA/PAC Korea Center***

IFLA/PAC Korea Center has been engaged in various activities to raise awareness of data preservation and promote cooperation targeting domestic libraries. In 2009, the issues of International Preservation News (No. 46, 47, 48) were distributed to 40 major libraries across the nation. In addition, Korean translation of International Preservation Issue No. 1 (IFLA Principles for the Care and Handling of Library Material) was also sent to 200 libraries. The center not only has IFLA/PAC publications but also has published and distributed “Periodical Paper fibre Analysis of NLK collection” written by Deposit Room of the national library to 200 libraries and related institutions for information sharing.

The national library has been visiting libraries across the nation and running 「workshop practice of data preservation for librarians」 since 2007. In 2009, two libraries in Jeju province were given a lecture on preservation and workshop practice of restoration.

### ***Korea Collections in Foreign Libraries***

The National Library of Korea has established Korea collections “Window on Korea” at leading libraries around the world to provide foreigners who are interested in Korea with Korea-related materials on various subjects in order to increase the understanding of Korean history and culture, and to enhance Korea's national image. The national library has provided support for other national libraries with interest in building Korea collections since 2007. As of 2009, collections were established in 9 nations including Vietnam.

### ***International Network for Korean Studies Librarians***

The website of International Network for Korean Studies Librarians, INKSLIB ([www.nl.go.kr/inkslib](http://www.nl.go.kr/inkslib)) was built by the national library of Korea in October 2009. It aims to provide a venue for exchanges for the development of libraries based on partnership with Korean studies librarians. The website has a database of the librarians

and introduces overseas projects of the national library. Trends in Overseas Korean Studies Libraries (TOKSLIB), a biannual report by Korean studies librarians in other nations, is also uploaded on the site so that the librarians share their knowledge and know-how.

### ***Cultural Partnership Initiative***

The initiative aims to promote Korean culture and cultural exchanges targeting Asian, African, and South American regions. As part of the initiative, “education and training program for librarians in Asia and Africa” was launched in 2006. On-the-job training and Korean language courses are given to 4 librarians from 4 nations for 6 months. As of 2009, 16 librarians from 11 nations, such as Indonesia and Mongolia, joined the program.

### ***Map & Geography Room***

Map & Geography room opened in November 2009 to serve as gateway to geographic information thereby helping researchers to conduct related surveys and studies. The 522-square-meter room has 9,000 books and 18,000 maps.

## **2. Note of the reporting library's relationship to the government, citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and other legislation which directly affects the library's operations.**

### ***Legislation on online material collection and legal deposit of digital file***

Laws on legal deposit were amended in 2009 after related system, laws and regulations at home and abroad were reviewed. Major amendment is that the scope of data collection has been expanded. The collection of online materials is stipulated in Article 20.2. The national library may request data, which is convertible to special materials for the disabled, in a digitized format (Article 20 Section 2). Under the laws, the national library is running a library data committee which examines major issues related to data selection, category and format. As such, the library is making every effort in building library collections and playing its role as national institution.

### **3. Key fact and figures**

As of December 2009, the national library has 7.54 million of publications including 6.07 million of books, 1.20 million of non-book publications, and 0.27 million of classics. New collections (0.49 million) were from legal deposit, purchase, donation, exchange, and publication by the national library. The national library opened for 330 days. The average number of visitors was 2,024 a day while 2.47 million users visited the website (around 68,000 users per day).

As for domestic public libraries, union catalog database increased 0.68 million. Table of contents and periodical index database rose 0.76 million and 0.063 million respectively. In regards to Korean old and rare collections, bibliographic database increased 3,300 to 420,000 while full-text rose 990 to 36,000. About 58,500 reference services were provided. Currently, 486 libraries join interlibrary loan. In 2009, the number of loan was 2,676.

Annually, 52 training courses have been provided for librarians. In total, 6,276 took the courses. Various cultural events, such as concerts, exhibitions, and workshops, were held as part of the effort to promote the library collections to users.

The 37th ISBN International Annual General Meeting was held in the national library of Korea from 10 to 11 September 2009 co-hosted by Korea ISBN Center and International ISBN Agency with the participation of 40 experts from 23 nations in Asia, Europe, and America. The meeting focused on the interoperability of ISBN so as to respond to fast changing digital publication environment. In particular, ISBN Experts Invitation Seminar was also held during the period under the theme of "ISBN in the digital publishing environment and the future of publishing industry". The seminar gave participants an opportunity to discuss the development of ISBN and future of publishing industry.

#### **4. New developments in creating and building collections**

##### ***Collection, Donation, Exchange***

New collections of the national library in 2009 were from legal deposit (424,936), purchase (32,455), donation (23,141), and publication by the library (3,946). The collections also included publications (3,561), periodicals (2,205 from 816 categories), and non-book (4,043) from international exchanges and deposition, ranging from publications by governments, academia and international organizations to statistics, publication information, and library-related materials of other nations.

##### ***Full-text Database***

As for the library's collections which have academic or information values, full-text database has been built to narrow the information gap among regions and utilize information since 1998. As of December 2009, the database has been established for 390,000 publications (110 million pages), which meets 20% of the library target (1,979,710 in total). The database with copyright termination or permission to use (150,000) is for free for visitors to the websites of the national library (<http://www.nl.go.kr>) or national digital library (<http://www.dlibrary.go.kr>).

##### ***Web Archiving***

Online Archiving & Searching Internet Sources or OASIS project has been underway since January 2004 as part of the efforts to collect digitalized cultural heritage of the current generation and hand it down to future generations. Primary collection target is limited to domestic websites covering online resources by the central government, university publications, meeting materials, electronic data, and other digital resources which are donated, recommended or have become issues. In addition, sources are selectively chosen for online data by local or government investment institutions, educational materials, annual reports, publications for children, renowned literature, online newspapers, websites with research values, and educational comics, games, videos and animation.

The national library joined IIPC to promote international cooperation for web archiving on October 2008. In May 2009, the library participated in IIPC general assembly to share web-archiving knowledge and promote OASIS project to other members. As of December 2009, 430,000 online digital resources have been collected. Visitors to its website (<http://www.oasis.go.kr>) have an access to 52,292 resources which have permission to use.

## **5. New developments in managing collections**


### *Digital Collection Management System*

Digital collection management system was developed in 2008 to collect, organize, store, preserve tangible/intangible digital resources, provide related service and manage copyright. Sources include not only e-book, e-journal and other existing digital information but also web- and user-created contents. Collection and content metadata is managed based on Dublin Core Collection Description Application Profile (DC CD AP) and Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS) respectively.

The national library is comprehensively reviewing existing service system operation and digital resource management and is working on measures for better management as the digital library will mark one year anniversary this May. The library plans to 1) redesign the process for the collection type of online digital data (text, image, voice, video) 2) enhance the process so as to make various ways of collection (collection of a large number of or single resource) possible, and 3) improve the way of permanent preservation.

## **6. New developments in providing access to collections**

### *Access to Digital Resource*

Dibrary(: <http://www.dibrary.net>) was launched along with the opening of the Digital Library in May 2009 to give users an easy access to various kinds of data online. As Dibrary provides full-text database of the national library collections, digital contents purchased/subscribed by the library and 160 million digital contents from

1,250 institutions at home and abroad, it serves as integrated access point of digital content with academic values.

#### ***Mobile Library (Library data search service & Application for smartphones)***

The national library is working on new services which enable users to search and use data in a mobile environment. Selected digital information with no copyright issues will be provided in search service so that users freely use the data through mobile devices. Under the application linking national inter-library loan system, GPS, and maps, if users submit their locations (home, office or school), the location of public libraries closest to them will be provided. In data search, users will be given information on the location of the nearest library in which the data is available. Inter-library loan service is to be provided in a mobile environment. Currently the national library is working on a service for iPhone and plans to develop an application for Android system.

#### ***Library Materials Access for the Disabled***

The national library opened an accessible room for the disabled on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The room, equipped with assistive devices for various types of disability, has materials in raised letters or sign language. As for the materials without any assistive tools, staff members provide reading service to the visually handicapped and sign language to those who with hearing problems.

In November 2009, the national library announced measures to improve services for the handicapped and came up with strategies to increase their information accessibility. Under the newly amended law, materials for legal deposit which are specially converted or made for the disabled may be submitted in digital file. The amendment serves as a turning point in the production and distribution of alternative materials. After “government notification on digital file format” on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2010, the law took effect.

### **7. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums)**

The national library has been in cooperation with public, university, special, and school libraries. The library and related academic institutions/associations has co-hosted academic conferences and workshops on a regular basis. Workshop and policy seminar were held under the theme of the advancement of public libraries in November 2009. The library established Korean Association for Preservation of Old Book (KAPOB) for union catalog of Korean classics. Currently, 51 domestic and 32 foreign institutions are in cooperation with the national library for Korean Old Rare Collection Information System(KORCIS). The national library is also running a consultative body, in which domestic library research institutions participate, so as to take a realistic and hands-on approach in conducting policy studies.

For digital resource sharing, the library seeks cooperation with Korea Reprographic and Transmission Rights Association (KRTRA), Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information (KISTI), Korea Education & Research Information Service (KERIS) based on the agreements with them.