



# THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALDIVES IN 2010

cdnlao2011

Introduction /legislation/key facts and  
figures/collection development, management and  
access/collaboration

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AN OVERVIEW

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The National Library of Maldives has experienced a recent wave of development. Some of the highlights include a newly approved organization structure leading to the change of part time staff to full time staff, inauguration of a nation-wide reading campaign and relocation of the library to a new building. All these developments are indebted to our recently elected Director General who has brought forth his experience in leadership and management to the Library field in the Maldives.

In the climate of development and modernization that has prevailed since 1978 the library was named “The National Library” by His Excellency President Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom on 1st June 1982. As of 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1990 the National Library functioned under the President’s Office. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1993 it was taken under the care of the then Ministry of Information and Culture. Several name changes took place for the Ministry. The Ministry was later renamed as the Ministry of Information and Arts and then Ministry of Legal Reform, Information and Arts. The National Library now functions under the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture and is headed by a Director General. This change was brought about on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2008 with the appointing of our new President His Excellency President Mr. Mohamed Nasheed.

The library provides Public Library Service cum National Library Service. Public Library service aims to provide information, recreation and support research as well as equal opportunity for education and books for all. National Library services aims to acquire and preserve publications concerning the country and maintain national literature. Adult collections are housed in the main building and children’s services are provided at the separate Children’s Multimedia Library.

| MONTH in 2010    | ACTIVITY/EVENT  |
|------------------|---|
| March            | Opening of the New Children's Multimedia Library, an appropriate building for Children's library services.  |
| May              | Inauguration of the "Institute of Library and Information Services" where courses accredited from Level 1 to 3 from the Maldives Qualification framework will be carried out. |
| May              | For the first time, a nomination was sent forth to the Astrid Lindgren award.   |
| June             | To provide a better quality service a new organization structure was developed and completed.   |
| July             | A staff club called "National Library Recreation Club" was inaugurated to develop a common work ethic and carry out entertaining activities for the National Library staff.   |
| July             | Celebration of Library Anniversary on the 12 <sup>th</sup> of July as well as library week with the Faculty of Arts.  |
| August-September | National Library relocation process   |
| October          | National Library was temporarily relocated to the Museum Building A and opened to the public on 10.10.10 at 10:10.  |
| October          | Opening of the Statistics Corner in collaboration with the Department of National Planning  |
| October          | Renaming of the American corner to American Center  |
| November         | Opening of a Chinese Center giving access to resources about Chinese language, history and culture.   |
| November-project | A Maldivian Greenstone Network was established and training provided for Koha and Greenstone software   |

## 2. LIBRARY LEGISLATION

The National Library under the Legal Deposit Act 1/2006 is legally obliged provide to the general public:

- I. Items published in Maldives and by Maldivians both locally and abroad
- II. Collect these items and preserve them
- III. Develop readership in society
- IV. Overlook the development of Public libraries
- V. Manage the workings of the Legal Deposit Committee

The government mandate given to the National Library includes:

- I. Collect books and other materials, and provide access to the general public, thereby creating interest and developing readership.
- II. As enacted in the Legal Deposit Act 1/2006, collect, preserve and give access to materials published in and about Maldives.
- III. Collect materials published about Maldives internationally
- IV. Collate and publish the National Bibliography
- V. Library registration and standardization
- VI. Provide expertise and training to other Libraries
- VII. Provide mobile library services throughout Maldives

## 3. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Opening Hours:

Normal 08:00-21:00 (Saturday-Thursday)

Ramazaan 09:00-15:00 (Saturday- Thursday)

Services:

Reference and referral services

Photocopying

Internet

Membership

Special Day celebrations

Library orientation and User Education programs

Number of Staff: 51

| SERVICES       | NATIONAL LIBRARY | CHILDREN'S MULTIMEDIA LIBRARY |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Books Borrowed | 7349             | 13289                         |
| New Members    | 576              | Not available                 |
| Internet Use   | 779              | Not available                 |
| Library Visits | 57,818           | 14,866                        |

Note: Library closed in September 2010 for relocation and opened on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

Internet service discontinued from September-December due to relocation process.

#### COLLECTION

| ITEMS AVAILABLE | No.    |
|-----------------|--------|
| Books           | 92,074 |
| Newspapers      | 7928   |
| Magazines       | 2369   |
| Leaflets        | 317    |
| Bulletin        | 250    |
| Project Files   | 7      |
| Newsletter      | 18     |
| Gazettes        | 611    |

#### 4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

The National Library has previously divided its collection into Reference, Academic, Fiction and Non-Fiction. Each section has a unique label and was separately arranged. During the relocation process it was decided to collate the whole collection according to subject as there were many of the same and similar books in different locations of the library.

#### 5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS

The National Library currently has Liberty3 as its Library management system software; plans are underway to upgrade the software to the latest version of Liberty 4.2.

#### 6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

The National Library has received funds to acquire a server which will pave the way to give access to the Online Liberty3 OPAC allowing for online searching of the Library catalogue.

## 7. COLLABORATION

The National library has planned and is implementing the following collaborative projects

- I. Maldives Library Association: Implementing of Koha free open source software to create online catalogues ultimately leading to a Maldivian Union Catalogue.
- II. Maldivian Greenstone Network (which includes Maldives National University, Maldives Library Association, Department of Heritage, National Center for Information Technology): Establishment of a Digital Library with access to digital collections of Local magazines and newspapers.
- III. National Museum: Reading Campaign 2011-2012: Reading for Social Development where the target is creating awareness of our history, culture and heritage and the importance of information literacy.
- IV. Colleges and Institutes: Create a Memorandum of Understanding where students from these institutions can utilize the library.
- V. Department of National Planning: a statistics corner is available with print and audiovisual resources provided by the department
- VI. Ministry of Islamic Affairs: an Islamic corner is available with print resources provided by the Ministry.

## THE YEAR 2010 IN PICTURES