

COUNTRY REPORT to CDNL-AO 2012

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1. General Overview

1.1 Organizational Structure and Manpower

The National Library of Korea (NLK) is currently organized into 3 departments, 1 library, 1 research institute, and 1 center, including: the Planning and Training Department, the Library Service Department, the Digital Library Department, the National Library for Children and Young Adults (NLCY), the Korea Research Institute for Library and Information, the National Library Support Center for the Disabled. Under the departments, there are 11 divisions and 2 teams. The National Library has 309 full-time equivalent staff counting both librarians and administrative posts.

1.2 Budget

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 NLK budget provides KRW 54.7 billion (USD 48 million), and KRW 5.4 billion (USD 4.7 million) is allocated for development of library resources.

1.3 Library Collection

In 2011, the NLK acquired 458,000 items through legal deposit, purchase, and gift. As of the end of 2011, the library holds 8.46 million items including 6.84 million books, 1.35 million non-book materials, and 270 thousand units of old books.

1.4 Library Users

About 915 thousand users (avg. 2,841 people a day) patronized the NLK, and 4.5 million people (avg. 12 thousand people a day) visited the Library's website.

2. Relationship to Government

2.1 Establishment of the National Library for the Disabled

In May 2007, the NLK newly launched the National Library Support Center for the Disabled to establish standards and guidelines for the library services for people with disabilities. It also supervises library services for the disabled.

The Libraries Act amendments were made to enhance information accessibility for the vulnerable groups in February 2012; thus, the current National Library Support Center for the Disabled will be promoted to the National Library for the Disabled in August 2012.

The prospect National Library for the Disabled is expected to perform each of the following duties:

- Formulation and oversight of national library policies for the disabled
- Manufacture and distribution of reading materials, teaching aids, instructions for use, etc. for the disabled.
- Formulation of the standards and guidelines for library services for the disabled
- Education of expert staff in charge of information services for the disabled
- Research and development of information services and special equipment for the disabled
- Cooperation on information services with domestic and foreign libraries for the disabled

3. Key Facts and Figures

3.1 Construction of the National Library in Sejong

The National Library of Korea in Sejong is one of the branch libraries that have been built outside Seoul for the first time. Under the 2006 Master Plan for the Multifunctional Administrative City Construction, the new library has been decided to be built in Yeongi-gun, in which the new Sejong city will be situated.

The branch library construction has been initiated in 2011, and it is expected to be completed in June 2013. The construction cost is KRW 101.5 billion (USD 88 million). The new library building covers 21,076 m² with four floors above ground and two underground.

The National Library in Sejong is planned to collect the comprehensive government-produced materials; and it will operate specialized portals and interlibrary loan services. In addition, the library will house materials relocated from the main National Library in Seoul and become a regional repository center while serving as a cultural complex for the residents.

3.2 Book Donation Program, “Book the More”

The NLK’s book donation program titled “Book, the More” started with a purpose of accepting gift books and sending them to needy libraries.

As of 2011, the NLK received 108,835 books from 1,526 individuals and institutions. 17,447 out of 108,835 items were kept in the library collection, and the rest were donated to camp libraries, small libraries, and prison libraries.

3.3 Reinforcing Services for the Marginalized Groups

3.3.1 Library Services for the Disabled

The National Library Support Center for the Disabled produced 3,244 items of alternative format materials in 2011, and now it holds 10,710 pieces of alternative items. The library offered one-on-one customized services to 5,177 people with disabilities. For those who have difficulty in accessing libraries, since July 2011, the NLK has lent 2,969 books through free parcel services in cooperation with Korea Post.

3.3.2 Promotion of Reading for the Vulnerable Groups and Multicultural Families

The NLCY has run the “Reading Together with the Library”, an outreach reading program for underprivileged children. During this program, public librarians visit 135 orphanages and community child care centres (90 institutions in 2010) and read books to children. The NLCY has also operated the “Book Bundle Circulation” project by lending out a bundle of children’s books for 80 elementary schools in remote and rural areas.

For children from multicultural families, 130 picture books (Korean and Asian folk tales) were selected and adapted for animated storytelling DVDs. These picture books have been translated into 5 languages: Mongolian, Vietnamese, English, Chinese, and Thai, and then distributed to public libraries and multi-cultural family support centres. The storytelling content is available at www.nlcy.go.kr.

3.4 Opening of Window on KOREA

Since 2007, the NLK started to open a “Window on KOREA”, a resource room dedicated to Korea-related materials installed in other national or public libraries for the purpose of supporting Korean studies and Korean cultural activities taking place abroad.

As of 2010, the NLK launched 15 “Window on KOREA” at 15 countries. The NLK also provided KRW 60 million (USD 52,000) of funding for launching each resource room including purchasing library materials and equipment.

In 2011, the NLK supported installing 3 Korean resource rooms at Belgium, Spain, and Denmark.

3.5 Propelling the Establishment of IFLA NILP SIG

At WLIC 2010 in Gothenburg, Dr. Bong Hee Kim, Chair of the Presidential committee for Information and Library Policy, proposed organizing the National Information and Library Policy Special Interest Group (NILP SIG). A year later, on 18 August 2011, at WLIC 2011 in Puerto Rico, the NLK held an exploratory meeting concerning the establishment of the NILP SIG; and 128 participants supported holding the first SIG meeting. With the approval of the IFLA Professional Committee, the NLK will convene SIG meetings in 2012 and 2013.

A study on national library and information policies has been undertaken, and the results will be presented at the NILP SIG meeting to be held in 2012 Helsinki WLIC.

3.6 Training Program for Children’s Librarians from 10 ASEAN Member Countries

Every year since 2010, the NLCY has offered training programs to 20 children's librarians from 10 ASEAN member states; and it has helped build cooperative network and improve library service quality for children.

In 2011, from 15 September to 1 October, the NLCY invited 20 children's librarians from 10 countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. During the program those invited librarians had attended lectures regarding understanding and development of children's collection, management of children's library, and planning and operation of reading programs. They were also given tours to related institutions and joined other activities.

4. New Developments in Creating and Building Collection

4.1 Web archiving

Since 2010, the NLK has collected electronic resources in earnest both open online materials (e.g. websites, online publications) and licensed digital resources (e.g. eBooks, e-Journals).

Examples of open electronic materials include: websites, research papers, periodicals, policy documents, statistics and other publications that are made public on the web. The NLK is particularly interested in content related to social issues like local festivals, general elections, and construction of the multifunctional administrative city.

During 2011 the library collected and archived 128,822 web pages and 5,012 websites. As of the end of 2011, the total number of digital items is 718,399.

Meanwhile, whether it is worth keeping is a main concern in selecting licensed electronic resources; thus, primarily eBooks and e-Journals have been acquired. As of 2011, the NLK collected 7,593 eBooks, 160,569 articles, 37,122 image files, 59 audio books, 215 files of e-learning materials.

5. New Developments in Managing Collection

The NLK Collections Development Policy Statements were issued in December 2010. The detailed guidelines on collection development by type, format and subject were formulated based upon these statements in 2011. Furthermore the NLK will use the detailed guidelines as managerial principles to ensure consistency in acquisition plans of the National Bibliography and collections development.

The NLK posted its Collections Development Policy Statements on its website (<http://www.nl.go.kr>) and distributed them to other libraries and related institutions. In 2012, the NLK will keep reviewing and updating the policy statements particularly the section of online and copied materials to enhance effectiveness in management

6. New Developments in Providing Access

6.1 Employing Authority Data to Produce Quick and Accurate Search Results

To give users diverse access points, foreign name authority data has been created since 2000. Since the second half of 2010, the scope of authority data has been expanded into Korean author names. The current 200,000 name authority records have helped provide clear identification of authors and enable users to get all titles of a distinct author. To standardize authority data for libraries, the NLK will draw up a technical guideline of the NLK authority data in 2012 by reviewing AACR2, the Library of Congress Authority MARC records and name descriptions of the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF).

7. Collaborations with Other Institutions and Professional Associations

7.1 Inter-library Cooperation Network

The NLK has built and operated Inter-library Cooperation Network across the nation to increase efficiencies in circulation and management of library materials as well as meet users' needs for quality library services. As part of that effort the NLK has distributed KOrea Library Automation System (KOLAS) --a standardized library automation system - to public libraries, small libraries and libraries for people with disabilities.

The KOLAS has enabled libraries to build the Korean Library Information System Network (KOLIS-NET), a national catalogue of library collections. Thanks to the system, inter-library loan service among member libraries and "Ask a Librarian" as part of the Collaborative Digital Reference Service (CDRS) have been facilitated.

7.2 International Cooperation Activities

7.2.1 Cooperation with International Organization and Participation in International Conferences

The NLK became a member of IFLA in 1979. Since then the NLK participates in WLIC for information exchange and international cooperation every year.

In 2011, the NLK hosted a CDNL-AO meeting in Seoul.

Since 2008, the NLK has joined the International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) as a full member to share knowledge of web archiving. The NLK participated in 2011 General Assembly of IIPC at The Hague, the Netherlands.

The NLK also serves as ISBN/ISSN Korea Center, and makes contributions toward improving quality of bibliographic information and ensuring reliability of bibliographic control

7.2.2 Exchange with Libraries Abroad

Since 1963 when the NLK first established ties with other national libraries, the NLK has signed MOUs with 16 national or public libraries from 15 countries and conducted library materials exchange with 297 libraries and various institutions from 99 countries.

Since 1997, the NLK has carried out a biennial librarian invitation program with the National Library of China and Japan, and held seminars on specific subjects sharing diverse experience and information.

In 2011, the NLK sent its librarian to U.S. Mortensen Center for one month to have the librarian receive professional development training. Meanwhile the NLK invited a librarian from the National Library of China to give training for three months.

Since 2006, the NLK has invited four librarians from South East and Eastern European countries each year as part of Cultural Partnership Initiative led by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. Through the program, the librarians have an opportunity to learn overall library work process and the Korean language and culture. In 2011, librarians from Vietnam, Iran, Indonesia and Pakistan participated in this CPI program.

8. Education and Training

8.1 Professional Librarian Training Program

In 2011, the NLK operated 61 professional training courses, and 8,345 librarians from all types of libraries completed the courses.

The NLK has strived to develop practical professional development programs on demand for librarians. For the first time in 2011, the NLK visited camp libraries and prison libraries to offer library management training courses; the librarians lack of professional development opportunity were able to get training comfortably.

Also, the NLK's online distance learning system (<http://edu.nl.go.kr>) has been renewed this year to provide more convenient experience to users.