

Thailand Country Report
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Bali, Indonesia

Name of Country: Thailand
Name of Library: National of Thailand
Name of Director: Mrs. Wilawan Supphansaen
Name of Contact Person: Ms. Nawarat Panyangam
Mrs. Supanee Sukarpchai
Email of Contact Person: navaratp@yahoo.com,
: osupanee@yahoo.com
Address: Samsen Road, Dusit District,
Bangkok 10300, Thailand
Telephone: +662 281 0263
Official Website: www.nlt.go.th
Official E-mail: director@nlt.go.th

1. General Overview

National Library was formerly known as “Vajirayan Royal Library” graciously established by King Chulalongkorn on October 12, 1905 by combining all three existing libraries, namely Mandira Dhamma Library, Vajirayan Library and Buddhasasana Sangha Library, altogether.

In 1915, by the royal command of King Vajiravudh, the Vajirayan Royal Library was then moved to the Thavaravattu Building in front of Wat Mahadhatu on the Pramane Ground side, presently restored to be known as “King Chulalongkorn Memorial Exhibition Building”.

In 1962 the Government was approved for the budget to construct the National Library Building located on Samsen Road and was debut for the opening on May 5, 1966. It is the five stores building in Thai architectural style constructed on the area of 7,000 sq.m. and is able to keep the full capacity of books of over 1,000,000 volumes. Inside the building contains reading rooms with capacity of more than 2,000 seats.

In 2001 the budget was allocated by the Government to construct the printing matters house building at Salaya Sub-district, Buddhamonthon District, Nakhon Pathom Province, where the 5 stores building was completed on the area of 6,000 sq.m. for housing the national printing matters.

In 2007 the National Library received the budget of 438,000,000 baht for the construction of a new 5 stores building on the back of the original building, designed by the Office of Architecture, Department of Fine Arts, with the idea to make it to be the modern national library that was declared open for service on October 3, 2011.

NLT's main missions are to collect, preserve and storage of nation's intellectual and cultural heritage materials in the forms of printed and non printed materials audio-visual materials and electronic media form Thailand and abroad, In present, NLT has all of materials stand more than 3,000,000 volumes.

2. Relationship to Government

National Library of Thailand is a member of organizational networks jointly with Bangkok Metropolitan Administration under the leadership of BMA Governor Mr. Sukhumbhand Boribatra and other 89 organizational members to jointly brainstorm and push Bangkok Metropolitan Administration to be elected by UNESCO as the World's Book City in 2013 as expected. The judge committee consists of representatives from International Publishers Association (IPA); International Booksellers Federation (IBF); International Federation of Library Association and Institution (IFLA) and UNESCO who jointly called for the meeting on June 27, 2011. What BMA and network members anticipate to be obtained from being named as the World's Book City is to upgrade the learning outside the systems and to develop the understanding of the people of Bangkok Metropolis, particularly for children and youths who will be grown to be adults in the future. In addition, the reading culture is expected to be created by pushing the people of Bangkok Metropolis to pay more attention to the increasing of reading areas that the cooperation of such specific agencies and other institutions as educational institutes must be provided; the service mechanism of Library such as the extension of time for services must be made in order to access the daily life of the people who mostly need to read books after their routine working hours or the extension of reading time to Saturday and Sunday which is the National Library's policy. It also managed to extend the service area by adding the building area to 5 stores with additional 5,000 seats for book reading as well as to extend the service schedule from 9 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. from Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday with such basic services as providing services on searching for information through computer system and online library cards and internet, books of all fields of subjects, journals and newspapers both present and past volumes, audio-visual materials, searching for writing letters and inscriptions, rare books and Chinese printing materials, including Korean book corner.

3. Key Facts and Figures

National Library of Thailand has major plans and projects to complete as follows:

1. Project to develop the information technology on arts and cultural inheritance for providing service to the public through e-service. This project had been commenced for service since 2011 with the budget of 2,800,000

baht as the special service for providing information technology in relation with ISBN, CIP, ISSN numbers and printing notice in the form of servicing and electronic service (e-service). The public need not to contact the National Library for special services but can accept services through online system which shall give the public more convenience and speed.

2. Project to develop the ancient document database which shall be started in the fiscal year of 2012 with the budget of 400,000 baht as the development project for importing ancient document information consisting of Thai style books, palm leaves, inscriptions into database being re-developed to be varied from database of books by scanning and recording information from 300,000 sheets of original ancient documents. The researchers can search for and study these ancient documents without reading from the original volumes as it is the way to preserve the old and valuable documents to be sustained as the pride and treasures of the nation.

3. The project to honor the 84th Birthday Anniversary of Dhammikaraja (The King with quality of Dhamma) and religion, arts and music, is planned to be commenced in the fiscal year of 2012 as the project to compile, collect information, knowledge's on music and record them in the music library in the forms of alphabetical letters, still and moving pictures, for examples, the music and songs composed by King Rama IX, historical pictures of music composing teachers, musical notes and information from DVD, CD Rom and video visuals, etc. The public can search for and study from musical database all for 24 hours everyday from website: www.kingramamusic.org

Future Plan

1. Personnel development project in all dimensions for the preparedness as a host in CONSAL Conference hosted by National Library in 2013 and 2014 and for the preparedness as a host in the 16th CONSAL Conference in 2015.

2. The preparedness for entering into the sustainable lifelong learning society under the National Economics and Social Development Plan, Vol.11 (2012-2016). The public are given opportunity to be benefited from the library's sources of knowledge at young ages, enable them to access the information and library services at full potential by blending the local knowledge and advanced technologies together for use as the commercial benefit.

4. Infrastructures

Duties and Responsibilities

1. To provide, collect and conserve the books, intellectual property, knowledge, artistic works and culture of the nation in the form of writing letters, ancient documents and inscriptions, newspapers, printing media, audio-visual materials, and electronic media produced locally and internationally.

2. To study, analyze, research, proceed on the technical knowledge for Library Science, Information Science and Information Technology to meet the international standard as well as to provide training to personnel of those working units and educational institutions inside and outside the country.

3. To provide services on reading, studying, investigation and research to the public as the sources of lifelong learning and at their pleasure.

4. As the center for coordinating the National Technical for Information Technological System.

5. As the information center for international journal of Thailand and of Southeast Asia, a center for providing the international standard numbers for books and journals, a center for providing the bibliography descriptions of books published in Thailand and as a center for the exchange and the loan of printed matters locally and internationally.

6. As the national printing materials warehouse and as a center of the United Nations' printing materials.

7. To work together with or provide support to other concerned or assigned working units.

National Library's Structure consists of:

- General administrative office
- Information Resources Development Group
- Information Resources Service Group
- Library Research and Development Group
- Manuscripts and Inscriptions Group
- King Rama IX Music Library and Princess Sirindhorn Music Library
- National Library at Lard Krabang Chalerm Phra Kiat
- One national library in Bangkok area and 10 others in the provincial areas

5. New Developments in Creating and Building Collection

Collections in 2012

The National Library of Thailand has the oldest and largest collection of ancient manuscripts: stone inscriptions, Thai traditional books, and palm leave texts as well as modern library materials namely:

Total volume of collection	2,943,909 items
Unique and rare collections -Rare books -Manuscripts	163,607 volumes 357,068 items
Secondary publications -Indexes -Bibliographies	179,503 items 351,424 items

Digitized materials -Rare books -Manuscripts -Microfilms	101,374 images 34,841 images 243,658 images
Depository collections -Books -Periodicals -Newspapers	355,175 items 392,970 items 764,278 items
National and special databases	11 databases

Visitorship of the National Library of Thailand in 2011

- Foreign visitors 2,248 persons
- Local visitors 7,650 persons
- Readers 226,820 persons

6. New Developments in Managing Collection

National Library provides special services varied from other types of libraries as follows:

1. Special services such as the provision of International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN), International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSN), Cataloging in Publication (CIP) and Printing Notice Services as required by Printing Notice Act 2007.

2. Providing services relating to ancient documents and rare books, as a unit to collect, store, conserve the original ancient documents, entering into database and searching for these information from these documents for reading services.

3. Providing services on journals and preceding volumes of newspapers.

4. Providing services on full volume thesis.

5. Providing services on Chinese book database.

6. Providing services on music information.

7. Providing services on Korean printing materials.

8. Providing services on other types of rare books not found in other libraries, national printing material storehouse for keeping rare and dead books such as Government's printing materials, cremation memorial books, local books and newspapers, etc.

7. New Developments in Providing Access

National Library of Thailand has prepared the important body of knowledge of specific working units and agencies and publicized through the website as follows:

- Handbooks for the survey, procurement, compilation of information technological resources, inscribing ancient documents.
- Knowledge on rare books conservation.
- Knowledge on printing materials storehouse management.
- Handbook for conserving original documents with microfilm.
- Handbook for the survey, procurement, compilation of information technological resources, ancient documents and palm leaf scriptures as well as Thai style books.
- Service providing techniques for printing media information technological resources.
- Information technological resources on music, printing media and audio-visual media: Handbook for the survey, procurement and compilation.
- Body of knowledge on the conservation of musical information technological resources.
- Handbook for the selection, procurement and compilation of National Library's information technological resources.
- Searching aid handbook: Classical music bibliography.

Preparation of musical body of knowledge as follows:

- Musical terms for compiling all terms being used in the music, starting from Thai classical music, producing combined media for use in the terminology, for instances, the sound to illustrate the musical playing or video visual showing actions in playing music, etc.
- Musical theory, to compile all theoretical information on music for promoting the musical study of the youths and general public, musical profiles of all types of music, for examples, Thai classical music, western and eastern style music, etc.

8. Collaborations with Other Institutions and Professional

National Library has carried out the projects and activities for the preparedness of entering into the Asian Community on the personnel and technical development in support of exporting information to Asian Community as follows:

1. English program for the development of the National Library's personnel with the objective to prepare its personnel to be ready to be involved in the Asian Community, to develop the English skill for communication purpose and to adapt the image of the organization to match with the international standard. The target group is the personnel of National Library of Thailand, The Fine Arts Department.

2. Preparation of bibliography and outlined contents of English books concerning Thailand with the objective to compile information and knowledge relating to Thailand published in English to be made in the forms of bibliography and outlined contents for publicizing toward the Asian Community and foreign countries in English and Thai languages.

3. Preparation of bibliography and outlined contents of books concerning the Asian Community with the objective to compile information and knowledge relating to countries in Asian Community published in Thai to be made in the forms of bibliography and outlined contents for publicizing towards the Asian Community and foreign countries in Thai and English languages.

9. Education and Training

In the past year the National Library has been successful for its tasks with the number of 305,600 service recipients, 134,200 for website service recipients. It has planned to organize the activities according to the assigned tasks as follows:

1. Project on studying the techniques and how to preserve the information resources at National Library of Australia.

2. Exhibition to honor His Majesty the King as “The King of Jazz” on the occasion of 84th Birthday Anniversary on the 5th of December 2011 which has been organized during March 24 - December 30, 2011.

3. Collected Assay Conference for 2011 organized in cooperation with the National Chronicle Hall of Thailand having 40 Government officials to attend.

4. Project to study, coordinate the cooperation on ancient documents with neighboring countries : Malaysia, for the fiscal year of 2012.

5. To join in the training of 2011 curriculum : Training Project for ASEAN Children’s Librarians in Korea.

6. Fine Arts Open House Project introducing the tasks of the Fine Arts Department and its working units to mass media.

7. Books Publishing

- Medical Science Royal Textbook No.3 in the reign of King Rama V.

- Knowledge on Thai style books conservation.

- Royal Charity surname from the reign of King Rama VII to the present reign.

8. Project to develop the information technology system for arts and cultural inheritance in order to develop the printing notice (The Press Act 2007) for the public, application of ISBN, ISSN and CIP numbers.
