

## **COUNTRY UPDATE: VIETNAM**

**April 2011 – April 2012**

### **I. Library Administration:**

#### **1. Library organizational structure:**

##### ***1.1. Public Libraries:***

This system is headed by the NLV and consists of 63 city and provincial libraries, 626 district libraries, 2016 commune/ precinct/ town libraries, 9.828 reading rooms in villages/ hamlets and 46 private libraries.

Public libraries operate under the general administration of People's Committees of all levels. Besides, the Service of Culture, Sports and Tourism of all levels are responsible for professional activities of those Libraries. In addition, while city/provincial libraries receive professional guidance and supports from the NLV; City and provincial libraries will have the responsibility to support District and commune libraries in term of collection enhancement and professional activities.

The National Library of Vietnam (NLV) is independent with other libraries in terms of funding and administration. It operates under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. The NLV has the strongest professional influence over the other libraries in the country. It is also Vietnam's biggest library, the national bibliography publisher and the sole national legal depository agency which acquires and houses the most sufficient collection of materials published in Vietnam and Indochina since 1917. Total number of NLV's staff: 178 staff, 136 of them have been trained for library and information, the others have graduated from different disciplines.

##### ***1.2. Special Libraries:***

This system operates under Ministry of relevant Ministries and other governmental agencies. There are 63 city/provincial Institute for Information and Science Technology throughout the country and about 300 Library and Information Centers.

Special Libraries are established principally to served the demands of officials, public employees, members of such organizations and units.

##### ***1.3. School Libraries:***

There are 24,686 school libraries (SL) throughout the country run by each individual primary, secondary and high school. At present, the Ministry of Education and Training is the higher administrative organization looking for the operation of this library system.

Libraries of schools are established to serve the demands of officials, teachers and learners within such schools and educational institutions, and may serve other subjects according to such libraries' regulations. This library system however has not yet worked very strong in Vietnam now. According to statistics by Education Publishing House (the body that was responsible for SL previously), there are only 13,000 out of 24,686 SL meet the national standard for a school library; and about 43% of 26,000 staff of SL are professional staff for library activity; the rest are teacher-librarians.

#### **1.4. Academic Libraries:**

The Academic Library System in Vietnam operates under the Ministry of Education and Training. This System consists of over 353 Libraries and Information Centers which are established to serve the demands of officials, teachers and learners within such colleges/universities, and may serve other subjects according to such libraries' regulations. This library system worked quite strong and achieve innovations during the last few years. There are two Consortiums of this system:

- + Consortiums of University in the North Vietnam (NALA)
- + Consortiums of University in the South Vietnam (VILASA)

#### **1.5. Government Libraries:**

There is a Library of Congress of Vietnam and about 30 libraries of all Ministries and governmental bodies are operating in Vietnam now.

Apart from those government funded library systems, there exist thousands of communities and private libraries, reading rooms, book stacks operating in various forms such as 8000 communal cultural post offices, 8000 book stacks on legislation, international information centers, boat libraries, books cafés, etc. entirely the country.

### **2. New libraries that are being or planned to be built:**

Private Libraries (46), Family Library and Libraries in Religion Institutes.

### **3. Visitorship and membership in the Public Library system:**

Membership cards issued annually 373,259 cards

(NLV: 17,246 cards; City/Provincial Libraries: 219,501)

cards; Commune/ precinct/ town libraries: 136,962 cards)

Annual visits 21,567,542 visits

(NLV: 310,629 visits, City/Provincial Libraries: 9,343,152 visits; Commune/ precinct/ town libraries: 11,766,132 visits)

Annual circulation 61,935,152 items

(NLV: 601,072 items, City/Provincial Libraries: 33,943,705 items; Commune/ precinct/ town libraries: 25,952,790 items)

#### **4. Achievements and Innovations in libraries:**

*\* Seminars, workshops, conferences, professional activities:*

- In November 2011, the Vietnamese Library Association organized the Congress of Vietnamese Library Association term II in Hanoi with the participation of over 200 delegates representing the entire members of the Association working at all library systems in every part of Vietnam. The congress has elected a VLA Executive Committee term 2011-2016 of 39 members, a Standing Committee of 13 members and an Inspection Committee of 7 members. Mr. Pham The Khang was elected President of the VLA, Ms. Phan Thi Kim Dung was elected Vice President and General Secretary of the VLA.

- NLV organized 1 training workshop “Conservation of documents: Preventive measures and treatment restoration” in collaboration with the National Library of France-BnF (with the participation of the IFLA-PAC Director and a preservation expert from the BnF) (April 2011), 1 training workshop on “Network management and exploitation of information sources”, 2 training courses on “Enhancement of reader service provision for Books for Asia recipient libraries in Vietnam” in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city (May 2011 and March 2012).

- Library Department held for the first time a workshop about operations of Ministry/ Department Libraries with the participation of 70 people (August 2011), the seminar “Building and sharing digital local history information resources for preservation of the heritage and social economic development” (November 2011).

- Ho Chi Minh City General Sciences Library organized a training workshop about Improvement of service provision skills for librarians of public libraries serving children.

- The union of university libraries in the North of Vietnam organized a training course on DDC and Dspace software. The union of university libraries in the South of Vietnam held a

seminar on “Information services and sharing digital sources” at the library of the Science-Technology University of Ho Chi Minh City.

- Faculty of Information – Library, Hanoi University of Social Sciences and Humanity organized a scientific seminar on “The cause of Information – Library in Vietnam: Renovation and International integration” (October, 2011).

- Phu Yen provincial library launched a mobile library with the total investment of over 10,000 US\$. The library is equipped with more than 5,000 books and has 8-10 volunteers providing guidances to the public while it moves around the public sites of Tuy Hoa district. Among them, 1 volunteer having the foreign language ability will support foreigners to access to the tourism information of the province.

- Ho Chi Minh General Sciences Library launched the Han-Nom Reading Room at the GSL and a Green Library outside Ho Chi Minh city. This is a satellite library of the GSL having such services as Reading area with 1,500 books on Culture, Fine Arts, general sciences, toys,...; Multimedia area with computers and internet connection; Projection room with more than 500 best films of the world; CD-Rom Box, etc. The Green Library was built by social fund raising.

- Some professional activities have been strengthen during the year 2011 and early 2012 including the movement of building users-friendly libraries, developing libraries serving people and officers of the remoted areas and island districts, the life-long learning week under the theme “Life long learning: key for the success”; movement of libraries serving tourism at Centre provincial/ cities; development of family libraries and private libraries.

**\* Social and cultural events:**

- NLV organized the Reading Festival 2012 with the theme “Books-Knowledge: Origination of Success”. 10 activities of the festival have been held at the same time, creating a bustling atmosphere attracted audience, pupils, students, book lovers attended. The festival has received active contribution and support from agencies, domestic and foreign departments. Some ten thousands of books have been sponsored and delivered to school libraries and libraries with difficulty during the festival day.

- Vietnamese library Association in cooperation with the NLV organized a seminar about the role of IFLA and RSCAO and how Vietnamese library can be involed, current issues of cataloguing and digital libraries in December 2011 with the participation of Dr. Dan Dorner, Chair of the IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania, VLA executive board members and leaders of libraries in Hanoi and surrounding provinces.

- NLV held a seminars and book presentation on “100<sup>th</sup> year of Uncle Ho's going abroad to seek national salvation”.

- A series of book exhibitions were held at the National Library of Vietnam such as book exhibition in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Uncle Ho's going abroad to seek national salvation; book exhibition on “*Ha Long Bay and Sea, Islands of Vietnam*”; “65<sup>th</sup> year of the National Assembly of Vietnam”; “*Reading book festival and the friendly environment*”.

- NLV and GSL have organized successfully the Readers Conference 2011.

**\* *Projects, cooperation programs:***

- On November 11, 2011, The Ministry of Information and Communication launched the expanded project “Improvement of computer usage and public Internet access ability in Viet Nam”. The project has a total value of USD 50.5 million, of which over 33.6 million by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and Microsoft Corporation funds. The project will be implemented at 400 public libraries and 1,500 cultural post offices across 40 provinces nationwide over five years (2011 to 2016). At present, a report of training need assessment has been prepared and the NLV is compiling training materials for the project, in the area of Service provision.

- NLV continues implementing its projects, such as: (i) Cataloguing in publications (CIP), (ii) Project to translate the full version of DDC22 into Vietnamese, sponsored by the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Atlantic Foundation;

- NLV continued to become partner of International organizations in receiving and distributing books to Vietnamese libraries such as Books for Asia program with 40,000 English books donation to over 100 libraries in Vietnam every year (from The Asia Foundation), book donation program from Embassy of India, Korea, Poland, Mexico, Canada, Latrobe University (Australia), Wallonie Bruxelles Delegation in Hanoi;

- NLV continued the project of Building collections for 10 commune libraries in Vietnam since 2006 with LEAF-VN. For the 2011-2012 period, through the NLV, the ten commune libraries will be sponsored over \$10,000 to purchase core books and newspapers.

- IFLA adopted the project of the Vietnamese Library Association on “Building a powerful Vietnamese Library Association” worth 7000eur.

**II. Collection:**

<b>1. Total volume of collection at the Public library:</b>	<b>25,165,370 volumes</b>
- NLV:	1,500,000 volumes
- City and provincial libraries:	9,136,764 volumes

- District libraries 6,429,646 volumes
- Commune/ precinct/ town libraries 2,964,160 volumes
- Reading rooms in villages/ hamlets 5,134,800 volumes

**Total number of new publications acquired in 2010:**

- Books: 1,113,336 volumes
- Newspapers and Magazines: 9,765 volumes

Reading

**2. Depository collection:**

About 330,000 volumes stored at the National Library of Vietnam.

**3. Unique/rare collection:**

The old Han-Nom collection and Doctoral Theses collection.

**4. Secondary publication (bibliographies, index, etc.):**

National Bibliography, Topic/ Special Subject Bibliography, 300 Information Periodicals, Local History Bibliography, 63 publications of local history information published monthly by provincial libraries, hundreds of e-newsletter.

**5. National and/or special databases:**

Databases of Department of Science and Information Technology of over 500,000 records.

Databases of the NLV: (i) Bibliographic database of over 400,000 records; (ii) Full text database of Han-Nom collection, (iii) Doctoral Theses collection; (iv) Indochine Collection, (v) English Books about Vietnam, (vi) Books & Map about Hanoi.

**6. The National Library of Vietnam Information Resources:**

The legal depository collections in Vietnam average 18,000-20,000 volumes each year from 60 publishing houses.

*The total collection of the NLV is over 2.0 million volumes. In which:*

- Monographs : 1,400,000 volumes
- Foreign languages: 89,318 volumes  
(Except books in French)
- Indochinese collection: 67,800 volumes
- Rare books : 5,265 vols. (includes 910 vols. of manuscript)
- Doctoral thesis: 14,924 titles

- Periodicals: 8,677 titles (includes 1,713 Vietnamese titles)
- Microfilms: 220 titles

***National Bibliographic Databases:***

- SACH Database: 361,152 records of Vietnamese books published since 1917 and books in Latin languages acquired by the NLV since 1980
- LA Database: 16,470 records of doctoral thesis by Vietnamese citizens
- JM Database: 6,272 records of Vietnamese and foreign newspapers and magazines published from 1954 to present
- NCUU Database: 1,718 records of periodical titles published in Indochina before 1954 and those published in Saigon before April 1975.
- Press clipping Database: 58,000 records of abstract of 60 titles of national and special periodical and newspaper.
- Other Databases: 3,607 records

***Full text Databases:***

- Doctoral Thesis of Vietnamese people: (i) Full text database: over 1,812,000 pages appropriate 9,356 volumes; (ii) Abstract database comprises 172,002 pages (6,402 volumes)
- English books about Vietnam: 92,520 pages (appropriate 338 volumes)
- Indochinese Collection: about 130,000 pages (appropriate 1,150 volumes)
- Han-Nom Collection: 185,000 pages (appropriate 1,258 volumes)
- Books & Map about Hanoi comprises of old Han-Nom books, Maps, books and periodicals before and after 1954, Theses about Hanoi.
- CD collections: >1,000

**III. Infrastructure:**

**1) Digital library networks: Includes**

- The network of Public library system led by the NLV and link to 63 provincial libraries throughout Vietnam (INTRANET)
- The Vietnam Information for Science and Technology advance (VISTA)
- The Information for Science and Technology for rural and remote areas (e-library for rural areas)
- The Rural and Agricultural Information (Agro Viet)
- The Medical and

- The Vietnam Trade Network (VITRANET)
- Those networks have contributed a lot for providing timely and practical information on science and technology for people throughout the country.

## **2) Connectivity at the national level:**

Since 1994, provincial libraries are linked with the National Library to form library Intranet but Internet achieved mass adoption since 2000.

## **IV. Services**

### **1) Reference:**

The NLV has opened a regular class on using the library for new registered members since 2009.

### **2) Selective dissemination of information:**

Big City/ Provincial libraries including the National Library of Vietnam has provided this service in form of compiling bibliography of special subjects and doing press clipping for leaders and key scholars of the city/province.

### **3) National bibliography & union catalog:**

The National bibliography is compiled, published and distributed by the National Library. While the annual national bibliography is still published in printed format, the monthly national bibliography is no longer published in printed format but is put on the NLV website now.

Regarding union catalogues, the new feature is that the Library and Information Center of the National University in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city have cooperated to develop a joint database: the online journals of the National University.

### **4) Reading promotion:**

This activity has been organized for a long time in Vietnam in different ways. However, since the year 2006, the National Library of Vietnam started to officially organize the Reading Festival Day in a large scale and make it become an annual reading promotion activity of the Library in celebration of the World Book and Copy Right Day April 23<sup>rd</sup> with many activities like story-telling, children painting competition, introducing famous books, seminars by famous authors, etc. The festival Day often draws about some hundred to a thousand readers coming to participate in. This activity has then expanded to other city/ provincial libraries in Vietnam.

### **5) Information literacy movement:**



Information Literacy has become a part of the training program in college and universities in Vietnam at present. Big libraries has opened classes on equipping readers with knowledge about information literacy to guide them to the most effectively information exploitation.

**6) Rural library development:**

Rural libraries are established by local communities. Every year, about some hundred new rural libraries and 30 family libraries are established. In addition, many private libraries that serve the local communities have also been established. This system however has not worked very effectively and sustain ably.

**7) e-Library:**

The IT Project entitled "Electronic Library" has been successfully finished making a substantial change in the library activities. The Project includes the change in library software, reader card issue, Website design, bar-code application and security equipment for open stacks. 34 Cities/ Provincial libraries are beneficiaries of this project.

Academic libraries and special libraries of medium scale have also been automated in all activities of the library.

**8) Interlibrary loan, exchange and grant:**

Inter-library loan and Exchange services are not very popular in Vietnam.

Books Exchange with other libraries within Vietnam are done only in big libraries. International Exchange is implemented by very big libraries. At present the National Library of Vietnam has been maintaining the books exchange relationship with over 80 libraries of 30 countries in the world.

**9) Special services (e.g. mobiles, disadvantaged)**

City/provincial and district libraries are allocated budget for building the collection for rotating. Books and newspapers are regularly rotated to lower level libraries in the system by staff of City/provincial and district libraries. Especially, at present there are 2 mobile vans equipped with books shelves and computers with internet connection to serve this activity (City/Provincial library in Ho Chi Minh city and Yen Bali province).

Services for visually impaired people are carried out in several provincial libraries.

**VI. Education and training**

Bachelor of Library and Information Science remains the qualified degree qualification for Vietnamese library and information professionals although more and more are advancing

their study to post-graduate levels. Undergraduate programmers of library and information education are offered at about 20 colleges and universities in Vietnam. The followings are major universities that offer library and information training from Bachelor, Master to Doctor Degree:

- Hanoi University of Culture  
Offer Bachelor/ Master and Doctor Training (new)
  - Ho Chi Minh City University of Culture  
Offer Bachelor training
  - Social Sciences and Humanities University, Vietnam National University in Hanoi  
Offer Bachelor/ Master training (new)
  - Social Sciences and Humanities College, Ho Chi Minh City National University  
Offer Bachelor/ Master training
  - Dong Do University // Offer Bachelor training
  - Can Tho University// Offer Bachelor training
  - Sai Gon University// Offer Bachelor training
  - Thanh Do University// Offer Bachelor training
  - Hanoi University of Home Affairs // Offer Junior college and Intermediate training
  - Ba Ria - Vung Tau Teacher Training // Offer Bachelor training
  - Binh Thuan Community College// Offer Junior college training
  - Dong Nai University// Offer Bachelor training
  - Dong Thap University// Offer Bachelor training
  - Hanoi College of Arts// Offer Junior college training
  - Hanoi Pedagogical University No2 // Offer Bachelor training
  - Hanoi Teacher Training College// Offer Junior college training
  - Nha Trang College of Tourism and Art-Culture// Offer Junior college training
- And dozens of other colleges that also offer Bachelor Degree of Library training.

**Submitted by: Mr. Dang Van Uc**  
**Vice Director**  
**National Library of Vietnam**  
**31 Trang Thi Street**  
**Hanoi, Vietnam**  
**Tel.: 84-4-39364624**  
**Fax: 84-4-38248051**  
**Email:uctvqg@nlv.gov.vn**

