



## **Country Report of Bangladesh**

### **21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) 2013**

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<b>Name of Library</b>	: The National Library of Bangladesh
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#### **Abstract:**

The National Library of Bangladesh (NLB) as the Knowledge Contents National Provider (KCNP) is in transition from rudimentary systems to Modern Library systems and services including digital by way of implementing ongoing Library Modernization Project.

The spirit of the establishment of NLB as the Knowledge Contents National Provider in 1972 and the construction of its own building in the new born country's first Five Year Plan is embedded and tuned with the spirit of emergence of Bangladesh in 1971.

## **1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:**

The National Library of Bangladesh is the visioning institution of Bangladesh. The vision of establishment the National Library of Bangladesh is enhancing total competitive power of the nation as a whole by way of building a comprehensive National Collection for the development of education, research facilities at one stop and hereby helps creating a egalitarian, gracious and knowledgebase Society in Bangladesh.

NLB recently two major developments programs have been approved by the government and are being implemented. These are:

- (1) The National Library Modernization project having two software, one is for providing Digital Library service and another customized software is for providing integrated library services with OPAC (On-line Public Access Catalogue) from National Library.
- (2) A program on the capacity building of the existing manpower of National Library. Under this ongoing modernization program 03 (three) Reading Room of NLB have been already been transformed into air-conditioned. However, some various items of machinery like Access Control Door, CC Camera, High Resolution Server, various Scanner etc. have already been placed in the NLB.

Thus it can be said that NLB is at the verge of introducing modern library systems and services including digital mode with implementation of open source Digital Library Software of Greenstone and Koha software of customized in twin nature for NLB. All are set to commission integrated and online library services applying MARC-21 in NLB. This modernization program is financed by the government of Bangladesh and is being implemented by a consulting firm with the help of existing manpower of the NLB. These are the recent major breakthrough of NLB. This transformation journey from traditional to modern library systems and services including digital service has been generating worth mention number of corporate and individual visitors and seems to have put a positive nationwide impact on country's National Library systems and services of Bangladesh.

## **2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT**

The National Library of Bangladesh (NLB) has been facing some institutional limitations. At present NLB is one of two wings of the mother Institution- Directorate of Archives and Library. (Another wing the National Archives of Bangladesh, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Bangladesh. .For last forty years there is provision of only one Director for both the wings. However the Govt. is in plan and consideration for approving two Directors for the two wings under one Director General. The government is in plan to finalize National Library Act soon. National Library is thus administratively run by the Cultural Ministry through the Directorate. NLB is also a revenue-incoming agent of the government through utilizing by renting its utility infrastructure like NLB Auditorium.

### **3. KEY FACT AND FIGURES**

NLB performs its functions in its own building having air conditioned stack blocks.

- National Library holds about 0.5 million of titles/volumes including all.
- The number of Yearly users is about 12000.
- The financial allotment for purchasing of books is BDT 4 million per year.
- The present National Library is the then Dhaka Central Library, which started in 1968. After independence in 1971 the Dhaka Central Library was declared with its inherited information resources and manpower as the National Library of Bangladesh. Later on time to time approval were taken from the government for required manpower and at present there is provision for 63 posts including administration and accounts section.



National Library Building

### **4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS**

In recent past years National Library was given single depository and repository status to develop the copyright collection of indigenous literature by enforcing legal deposit regulations under the Copyright Law of the country. In the light of that deposition of new books to the National Library has been compulsory for participating in the Bangla Academy Book Fair the most prestigious and popular Book Fair of Bangladesh. This has brought a tremendous positive effect to the copyright collection development of NLB.

### **5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS**

In view of efficient knowledge management (K.M) more professionally and user friendly manner the national collection has recently brought under reorganization for the first time in the light of nature of knowledge materials.

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

For ascertaining easy access to the National Collection in traditional process, the total collection recently has been categorized into 24 clusters. The dual nature software having been installed will pave the way for providing both integrated as well as digital service.

## **7. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND OTHER NATIONAL COLLECTING INSTITUTIONS (LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS)**

The National Library is closely associated with the collecting and custodian other organizations like National Archives, National Museums, Public Library, Bangla Academy. It use to maintain sound collaboration also with national/educational institutions. Very recently National Library has participated in the special Book fair held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2013. organized by the National Museum of Bangladesh on observance of the centenary of the establishment of the National Museums. In recent past NLB participated to the special exhibition organized by the A2I (Access to Information) program, a national program for ascertain access to the national stacks/collections) run by the office of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

## **8. FUTURE PLAN**

As the outcome of the redefining its mission, NLB has future plan to match with the changed scenario of the present digital world. It has the future plan to proceed with for the greater interest of its own as well as for the over all development of the library profession, system and services of Bangladesh.