

COUNTRY REPORT

21ST CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES IN ASIA AND OCEANIA (CDNLAO) 2013

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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

1.1 Establishment of the National Library for Individuals with Disabilities

Since May 2007, the National Library of Korea (NLK) had operated the National Library Support Center for the Disabled to address the knowledge and information divide for the disabled people. In February 2012 the Libraries Act was amended to consolidate duties of the government and local governments towards people who have little access to information and knowledge. According to the newly revised act, the National Library Support Center was expanded into the National Library for Individuals with Disabilities (NLID).

The newly launched NLID is organized into two divisions under one director. The total annual budget for 2012 was KRW 21.8 billion, and it has 18 staff members.

The NLID serves as a control tower of libraries for the disabled across the nation with the vision of "Libraries building up the information barrier-free society", and takes on 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

1.2 Reinforce national bibliography standards activities

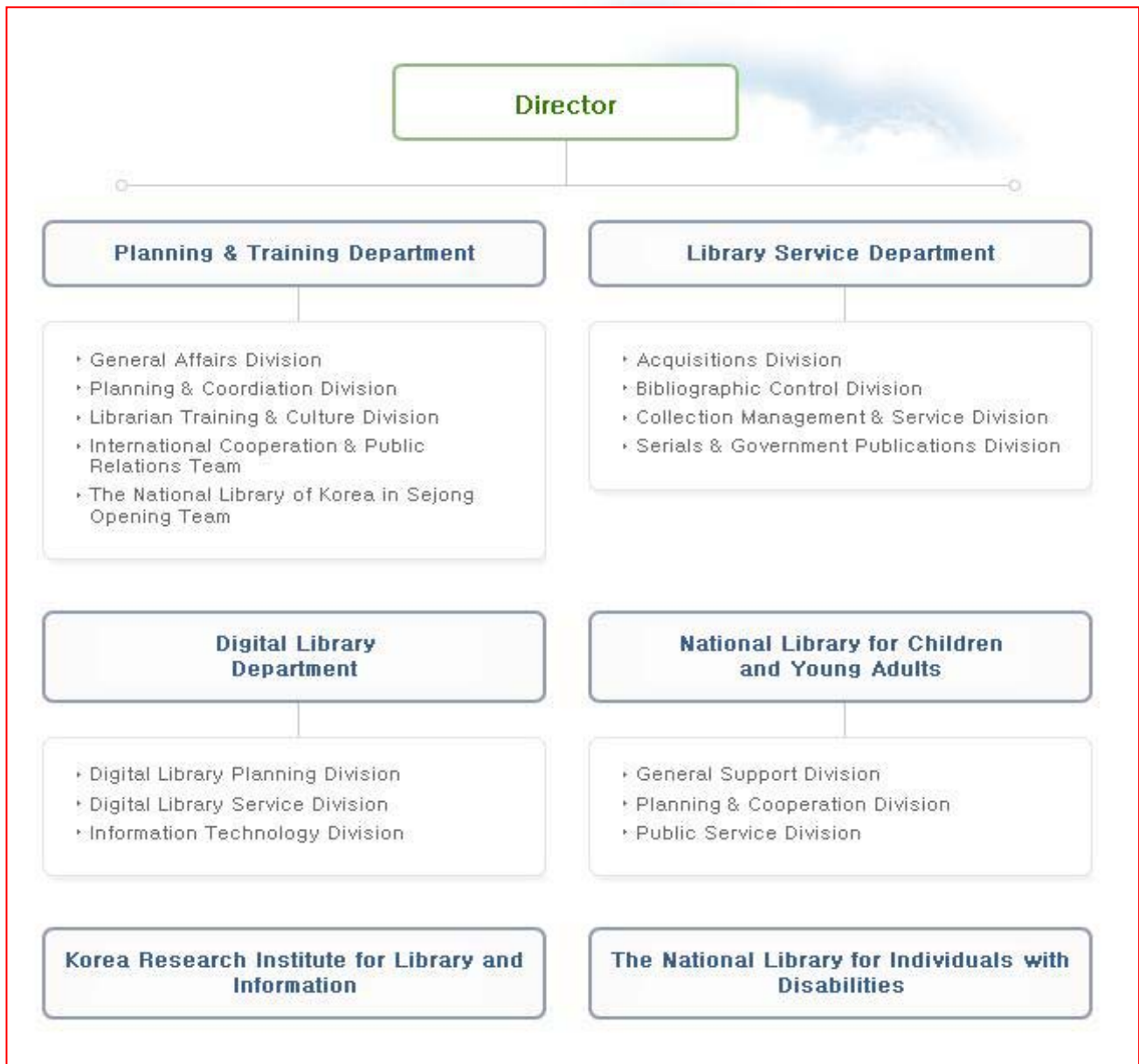
To increase the quality and reinforce standards of the national bibliography, the NLK established the National Bibliographic Information Center Project Task Force Team in February 2010. And the national library expanded this team into the Bibliographic Control Division doubling its efforts to control standards and quality of national bibliographies on April 17, 2012. The division set up three task force teams of classification, cataloging, and authority, and held 25 task force meetings. The division developed "Vision 2020 for the National Bibliography" with 11 core strategies and 32 action plans to accomplish a mid-and long term goal of success in standardizing catalogues and records, integrating bibliographic records nationwide, ensuring interoperability and cooperation.

2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

According to the Libraries Act, the National Library of Korea is a representative library and falls under the control of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. The national library implements comprehensive library development measures and as a legal deposit library it plays a critical role in collecting and preserving the nation's documentary heritage.

3. KEY FACT AND FIGURES

3.1 Organizational Structure and Manpower



3.1.2 Manpower (As of Dec. 31, 2012)

Department	Planning & Training	Library Service	Digital Library	National Library for Children and Young Adults	Korea Research Institute for Library and Information	National Library for Individuals with Disabilities	Total
No. of people	65	115	55	49	17	18	319

3.2 Budget for Year 2012

Purchase of library materials and services	Collection and operation of digital materials	Operation of National Library for Children and Young Adults	Operation of National Library for Individuals with Disabilities	Total
KRW 15.7 B	KRW 13.4 B	KRW 4.3 B	KRW 4.4 B	KRW 57.8 B

3.3 Collection statistics (As of Dec. 31, 2012)

Type	Korean material	Japanese material	Chinese material	Western material	Old and rare books	Non-book items	Total
No. of item	6,107,853	281,187	71,882	760,814	272,215	1,415,036	8,908,987
Ratio(%)	68.6	3.2	0.8	8.5	3.1	15.8	100

3.4 Digital collection statistics (As of Dec. 31, 2012)

Web archiving	Overseas record related to Korea	Digitizing library collection
530,000 sites	1,864,585 pages	433,454 books 122,239,451 pages

3.5 Visitors statistics (As of Dec. 31, 2012)

3.5.1 Visitor statistics

Building	Number of visitors	Avg. visitors a day
Main building	650,421	1,977
Digital library	217,640	725
National Library for Children and Young Adults	81,449	247
Total	949,510	2,949

3.5.2 online-user statistics

Website	Number of visitors	Avg. visitors a day
www.nl.go.kr (NLK homepage)	2,958,873	8,084
www.dlibrary.net	4,197,684	11,469

(Digital Library portal)		
www.nlcy.go.kr (National Library for Children & Young Adults homepage)	402,379	1,099
Total	7,558,936	20,652

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

4.1 Expand collection of gray resources

The national library has endeavored to collect grey literature, a term that refers to informally published written material, to build up its capacity as one of national information agencies supporting research and development. To this end the national library created a list of about 3,000 institutions including government and public institutions, R&D centers, universities, academic societies and its affiliates to collect publications such as policy, technical reports, statistics, research papers, proceedings and others. As of 2012 the national library collected 109,957 items in total: 22,635 titles of books, 6,647 titles of periodicals, 13,796 non-book materials, and 66,879 web files.

4.2 "Library in your living room" with open electronic resources

Since 2002 the national library has gathered web resources that are open to public online through Online Archiving & Searching Internet Sources (OASIS) Project and serviced 65,922 items that are permitted to use through its own website, Dibrary.

150,937 digitized books with copyright termination or permission to use are open to users at home through personal computers. The national library collects 30,000 public domain materials listed on the Korea Copyright Commission website for preservation and user-service purposes.

4.3 Research on online collection development policy

Article 20-2, Item 1 of the Libraries Act stipulates "The National Library of Korea shall select online materials highly worth preserving, from among those serviced in the Republic of Korea, and collect and preserve them"; thus, the national library has developed a plan for online materials collection since 2010 and collected 1.6 million items of various type of materials such as e-book, e-journal, voice, sound, video clips, image files etc.

In 2012 the national library had researchers conduct a study on collection development policy as a master plan for defining the scope of collection, developing guidelines for materials by its type, media, and topics. The research helped the national library find out its strength and weakness in its collections and lay a foundation for public libraries and other types of libraries to publish an online collection development policy.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS

While the Bibliographic Control Division is responsible for bibliography standards of printed materials, the Digital Library Planning Division is in charge of metadata management of resources in digital format. The national library has used the Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS) to create metadata since 2009 when the digital library was opened and continued to create its own profile in line with the schema standard of the Library of Congress.

In 2012 the Digital Library Planning Division revised its metadata description guideline more in detail for electronic books and e-journals. The division also analyzed the PREMIS Data Dictionary to identify metadata elements that can be newly added on to its system for preservation. The division is planning to develop data models and metadata schemas for multimedia resources based on PREMIS-base metadata elements.

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

The national library developed a description guideline for personal name authority to enhance bibliography search accuracy and facilitate information sharing among libraries home and abroad. Following the revised guideline, the library system was modified to adjust to the new rule: for example, now the system is able to read and write Chinese characters at 400 fields in KOMARC authority records. This upgrade will contribute to standardizing authority records. Plus the national library added a search module that links authority data to its online catalog system and helps get more accurate search results.

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

7.1 Domestic cooperation activities

The national library has distributed Korea Library Automation System, a standard library automation system, to public libraries, small libraries, and libraries for the disabled across the country to connect these systems and create a national union catalog system called Korean Library Information System Network. The network has helped share holding information of each library and it has been utilized to provide inter-library loan services among member libraries. The national library operates collaborative digital reference service called Ask a Librarian with 355 public libraries across the nation.

7.2 International cooperation activities

7.2.1 Business exchange with national libraries

In July the national library held the 15th Korea-China work exchange seminar in Seoul with the theme: "Activities of national libraries on bibliography standards."

In September librarians of the national library were invited to attend the 15th Korea-Japan work exchange at the National Diet Library of Japan and share their experience of national bibliography standards activities with their counterparts.

In November the National Library of Korea invited a director and a leading librarian of the Russian State Library to carry on the 3rd Korea-Russia business exchange program to talk about implementation of digitizing project of Korean old and rare collection with the state library.

7.2.2 Participate in IFLA World Library and Information Congress

The national library participated in Helsinki WLIC 2012 and successfully held the first open session of the National Library and Information Policy Special Interest Group under the theme of "Innovative Policies for Library Development".

7.2.3 Cultural Partnership Initiative

As part of the Cultural Partnership Initiative, the national library invited four librarians from the Philippines, Cambodia, Hungary and Mongol for six months to offer professional on-the-job training and Korean language program to promote Korean culture and cultural exchanges among these countries.

7.2.4 6th International symposium held by NLCY

In June under the theme of "Reading Makes the World Come Together", the National Library for Children and Young Adults (NLCY) organized the 6th international symposium with 355 participants in attendance from home and abroad in Gyeongju, Korea.

7.2.5 Professional librarian training program

To improve ability of librarians for children in South East Asian countries and build human networks, the NLCY has operated a training program for ASEAN children's librarians since 2010. In 2012 the library invited 20 librarians from 10 ASEAN member countries in September.