

COUNTRY REPORT

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

chin_lj@pnm.gov.my / ima_eryanty@pnm.gov.my

Name of Country : Republic of Maldives

Name of Library : National Library of Maldives

**Name of Director-General/
Director** : Mr. Ibrahim Shiyam

**Name of Contact Person For
International Matters** : Mr. Ibrahim Shiyam

Mailing Address : National Library of Maldives
: Museum Building - Block A
: Medhuziyaarai Magu
: Male', 20158, Republic of Maldives

Telephone : + (960) 3323943

Facsimile : + (960) 3313712

Web Address : <http://www.nlm.gov.mv/>

Email Address : info@nlm.gov.mv

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS



Figure 1: An aerial view of the Maldives islands

The Republic of Maldives is an island nation in the Indian Ocean just across the equator. Maldives consists of 1190 islands formed around 26 ring-like atolls that spread to 90,000 square kilometers. Among these islands 200 are inhabited while 90 islands have been developed into resorts. Tourism and Fishing are the two major industries in the Maldives. Maldives have always been a nation that strives to progress and make outstanding achievements while preserving its heritage.

The National Library of Maldives founded on 12th July 1945 is the main organization mandated for the development of library and information science field in the Maldives. The library plays an active role in collecting reading materials, promoting reading habit as well as research work among Maldivians and non-Maldivians, and collaboration with its stakeholders.

The National Library has recently been automated with the integration of Liberty software as our Library Integrated System (ILS), which has been a milestone of an achievement. Automation of the library has cut down many costs and improved the efficiency and quality of the services provided to the public.

Our online catalog is now available at <http://nlmopac.nlm.gov.mv/liberty>.

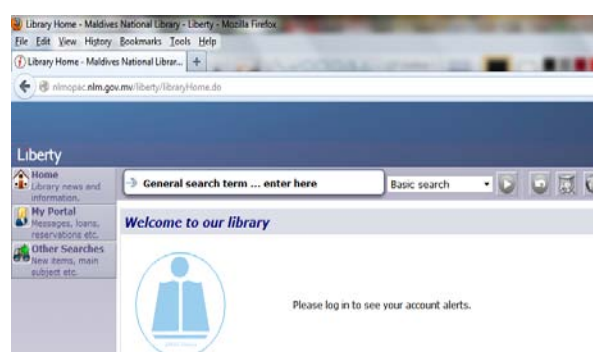


Figure 2: National Library's OPAC

2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

The National Library functions as a division under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and is headed by the Library's Director General. The National Library serves as a Public Library and the National Library of the country. As the Public Library, the library aims to provide information, recreation and supports research. As the National Library, the library aims to acquire and preserve all publications concerning the country and maintain national literature.

3. KEY FACT AND FIGURES

The main objective of the National Library lending service is to provide access to information. Books are placed on open shelves and freely accessible to the readers. Internet and Photocopying services area also provided. A separate children's multimedia library provides services for children from two to thirteen years.

- In 2012 the National Library has received a total of 2400 books as donations.
- In 2012 the National Library donated 10,392 books and magazines to school libraries and public libraries.

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

The National Library together with the Maldives Library Association and Educational Development Centre has implemented a Digital Library Project in order to create a union catalogue and digitize materials so that people in the remote islands of Maldives will have access to these materials. This project consists of two main components. Firstly the development of a union catalog and secondly the development of digital content. The digital library collections can be access at <http://gsdl.library.egov.mv/greenstone>.

The recent implementation of the Legal Deposit act 1/2006 has resulted in more comprehensive collection of local materials.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS

- The demand for reference services and general information has increased as can be seen from library visits of users in the past year. Our government strategic plan includes a new building to accommodate National, Public and a Children’s Library with new spaces and services to enhance the spread of knowledge and skills for the entire nation.



Figure 3: Children's Multimedia Library



Figure 4: National Library

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

- Our website provides an online inquiry service which is frequently used by customers
- The National library currently has no security for library materials. Thus it aims to optimize the handling, processing and security of its materials.

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

- Collaboration with Maldives Library Association and Education Development Center on the creation of the Digital Library and Union Catalogue. The website can be access at <http://library.egov.mv/>
- Access to electronic resources have been made available from prominent digital libraries by collaborating with EIFL
- Conduct certificate level courses with accredited materials from overseas institutions.
- Looking forward to further collaboration projects



Figure 5: Digital Library website