

National Library of Thailand

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Name of Country: Thailand
Name of Library: The National Library of Thailand
Name of Director: Ms.Pimpan Paiboonwangchroen
Name of Contact Person for
International Matters: Ms.Nawarat Panyangam
Mailing Address: National Library of Thailand
Samsen Road, Dusit District,
Bangkok 10300,Thailand
Telephone: +662-281-0263
Facsimile: + 662-281-7543
Web Address: www.nlt.go.th
Email Address: director@nlt.go.th
navaratp@yahoo.com

1. General Overview of Recent Major Developments

National Library of Thailand main missions are 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.

Vision of NLT is a splendid fully high-tech national intellectual property heritage source, aims to pleasantly render services to all and reach the destiny of library professional leadership.

In addition, the reading culture is expected to be created by pushing the people 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. NLT has 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 thru 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.

Recently Major Developments:

In 2007 National Library received the budget of 438,000,000 baht (14,500,000 US\$) 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.

In 2009 - Renovation of existing services room of the old building such as journal and newspaper services room, and internet room in modernization. There should to be a learning center via internet network and wireless systems. In addition, there are also to improve the reading room to expand the service area and support the increase of information media in the future while prepare the Korean books corner call “Window on Korea”, in cooperation with the National Library of Korea. Currently, there are 8,000 books of Korean and English language.

In 2010 - Open a new National Library building. There are 5-storeys designed by the Architecture Office of The Fine Arts Department. It was connected with old building which can expanded service area to 11.795 square meters. There is a meeting room name Vachirayan, on the first floor and in front of the new building is multipurpose yard for any activities to promote of further reading. On the second floor is a dissertation and research room, and also have books and documents by international exchanged with the UNESCO. The third floor stored of more than 100,000 rare-books, such as a Royal Writing Book of Klai Ban, the first printed in the time of King Rama 3, which older than 100 years.

In 2011-2012 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

In 2013 – King Vajiravudh Memorial Hall improvement project, which was constructed since B.E.2520. Its internal and external be declined and information public services of technology are out-of-date. Then the Bureau of the Budget, the Crown Property Bureau, and the Government Savings Bank, are cooperate to renovate and develop this building and internal system service with a budget of Bath 20 million (\$US 664,000).

Future Plan

In 2015 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. Relationship to Government

The Thai Library Association within the National Library of Thailand is an association role to management and operation with the Thai Library Association, such as Excursive Broad, and convention of CONSAL.

The Thai Health Promotion Foundation, have the same objective to develop the digital libraries to encourage children, young and all other peoples are easier access to the knowledge. This might led the Thailand developing to the truly sustainable knowledge communities. It is also a part of the implementation of the strategic country within the National Economic and Social Development Plan No. 11 which to focus on the human development to build the qualification society.

The TK Park has a cooperation agreement with the Office of Knowledge Management and Development Thailand (OKMD), in the B.E.2555 with an aim to expanding the opportunities for the country's children and youth to access the knowledge and chance of creatively learning to cover all sectors of the country. This will reduce the urban and rural social inequalities, as well as to strengthening our infrastructure to the learning society, by promoting and publicize the knowledge to help the young or other peoples faster and easier access to the information.

3. Key Facts and Figures

National Library of Thailand has major plans and projects in 2013 as follows:

These operations are to prepare the Fine Arts Department into the ASEAN Community. This shall be allowed the central and regional staffs to discuss and proposed the arts and cultural operation guidance to the people from ASEAN countries, including to finds the cooperation with the six countries of ASEAN Dialogue Partners (ASEAN+3, and ASEAN+6). There is a project of Symposium for the Sharing of best Practices on the Protection of National Treasures and Culture Properties, to interchange their knowledge and work experience involved with the protection of national treasures and cultural heritage.

4. 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	3,110,000 items
Unique and rare collections -Rare books -Manuscripts	170,000 volumes 365,000 items
Secondary publications -Indexes -Bibliographies	250,000 items 460,500 items
Digitized materials -Rare books -Manuscripts -Microfilms	102,000 images 35,500 images 252,000 images
Depository collections -Books -Periodicals -Newspapers	380,600 items 401,000 items 825,400 items
National and special databases	8 databases

Visitors of the National Library of Thailand in 2012

- Foreign visitors 2,550 persons
- Local visitors 8,520 persons
- Readers 354,650 persons

5. New Developments in Managing Collection

National Library of Thailand normally acquires publications through 5 ways e.g. Media Act B.E. 2550 : according to the law, domestic publisher has to present 2 copies of each print of 20 copies of each printed title from government institute; donation from domestic and oversea individuals or general public; fiscal budget purchase and interlibrary exchange. Managing Collection as:

Chinese Information Resources

National Library has so far acquired a lot of Chinese language publications so as to create the Chinese Information Service Room. All Chinese items would be arranged into the National Library Database so that domestic and oversea public can access for Chinese monographs as needed.

Rare Book Collections

National Library, nowadays, has collected and preserved a number of 50,000 items. They are King's works, the original writing documents, early-dated publications, first edited publications, publications printed in auspicious occasion including those which are valuable in illustrations and physically worthy.

Music Collections

National Library complies, preserves, organizes and rendering services of original music scores, Thai classical and popular music of all kinds especially sons composed by H.M. king Bhujibol Asulyadej together with information on royal musical activities in forms of audio-visual materials, monographs, books and music scores in order to serve and meet the needs of general public.

Conservation and Preservation

National Library has long history and has so far acquired a plenty of Thai manuscripts which are invaluable national cultural heritage. We are conduct preservation procedures as follows:

- Manual repair a variety of ancient manuscripts, original valuable monographs, and rear book.
- Transformation in forms of microfilm and digital materials.

6. New Developments in Providing Access

National Library providing access from other types of libraries as follows:

1. Special service such as the provision of International Standard Book Number (ISBN), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), Cataloging in Publication (CIP) and Printing Notice Service as required by Printing Notice Act 2007.
2. Providing service 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 and research.
5. Providing services on Chinese book database.
6. Providing services on music information.
7. Providing services on Korea printing materials.