

**29<sup>th</sup> General Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania  
1-2 November 2023, Wednesday & Thursday  
Doha, Qatar**

**Country Report  
[Period Coverage: 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022]**

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<b>Name of Country</b>	: Myanmar
<b>Name of Library</b>	: National Library of Myanmar
<b>Name(s) of National Librarian, Director-General and/or Director</b>	: Dr. Kay Thi Aye
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**1 Facts and Figures**

Since 2010, the National Library has been established as two National Libraries; (National Library-Yangon) and (National Library-Naypyitaw). Currently the National Libraries of Myanmar are under the Department of Historical Research and National Library, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. There are two directors of the National Libraries and directors are responsible for the administration.

Budget allowance for the National Library is controlled by the Department of Historical Research and National Library. All expenses of each library are provided by the government annual budget, an average annual budget is (about 1 million USD) for each national library.

According to the organizational set up, there are total 120 staffs in National Library (Yangon) and National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) but 99 staffs are already appointed. Among them, 31 staffs gained post graduate diploma degree on library and Information Studies (DLIS) and master degree (MLIS). Due to the organizational set up, there are two directors in two national libraries.

Sn	Item Description	Figures
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	i.(1 million Dollars) ii. -
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	99 (FTE) (Ygn+Npt)
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	i. Over 50,000 copies ii.Over 6000 copies and 30098 pages of all collections.
d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	i.8538 ii.34,013
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	-

**The total collections of each national libraries (Ygn/Npt) are as follow: 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022**

Category	Volumes	
	Yangon	Nay Pyi Taw
Books	6895	34574
Serials	7106	4846
Manuscript		7
Audio Visual	3	-
Digital Collections	36236	460
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,240</b>	<b>39,887</b>

## **2.Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]**

### **2.1 Major development in library Building**

In three year-project 2017-2019, the National Library (Yangon) has been transformed traditional to a modern library by renovating a 100-years-old building and installed into a digital library system at a public access point. 2018-2019 fiscal year, the National Library (Yangon) started a project began work building a digital library system with Company and the library staffs.



NLM (Yangon)



NLM (Naypyitaw)

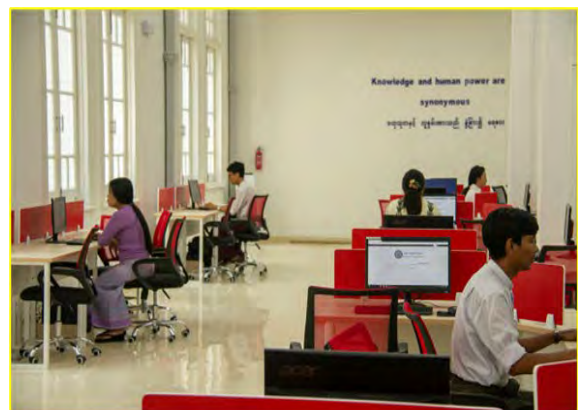
For National Library (Yangon), the digital library is very important to construct a modern digital resources environment for readers and improve the popularity of reading. This digital library includes five important parts: Digital library platform, Digital reading room, Library RFID Equipment, Campus network and Datacenter.

Digital library portal integrates information publishing, reader services and digital libraries into a comprehensive service platform.

Digital Library Platform



General Reading Room



Digital Library Room

## 2.2 Collections Development

As the National Library of Myanmar is still a reference library due to its single depository collection which is needed to be permanent preservation as national literary heritage. The National Library Law is enacted in 2020, the National Library is going to receive five copies of each local printed and unprinted publication by the National Library Law 2020, the depository collection will be increased.

At present, NLM (Yangon/Naypyitaw) has been collecting physical collections and digital collections in many ways such as depository, purchases, donation and exchange.

As the vision of the National Library of Myanmar is "to be a center of Myanmar literary heritage", The National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) has also developed its collection by collecting palm-leaf manuscripts from the Upper Myanmar region, old music discs, and private collections in the library. Under the National Library Law, NLM is assigned as a National bibliographic agency for the maintenance of bibliographic standards.

## 2.3 Library Service Development

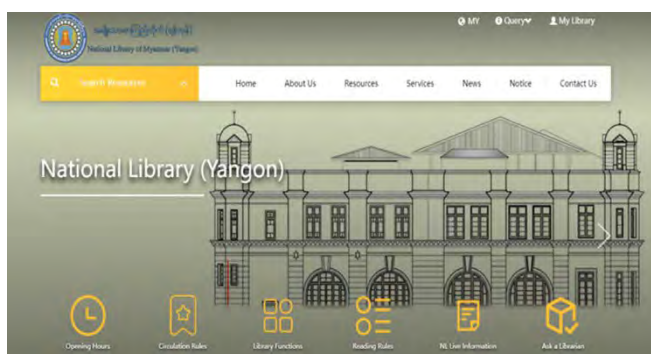
### (a) Online Library and Online Reference Services

The National Library of Myanmar has been promoting the digitized collection to provide user services with these documents and data. There are over 90,000 e-resources for users in both virtual space and physical user space. They can access freely in the digital-library room arranged with National Library Management Software with the metadata.

National Library of Myanmar applies a hybrid system for its users to the library automation system that was developed in Myanmar. Catalogues of library collections can be accessed as an online catalogue through our website [www.nlm.gov.mm](http://www.nlm.gov.mm) for National Library (Yangon) and [www.nlmnpt.gov.mm](http://www.nlmnpt.gov.mm) for National Library (Naypyitaw). And also, an online database provides the user with free online access to either the national library or Library Portal.

NLM promoted on the online services and resources through the social media of the library. There are-

- Online Reference Services: The Ask a Librarian is an initiative Virtual Reference Desk and any library questions will be reply through [nlm.reference@gmail.com](mailto:nlm.reference@gmail.com) after one week from the date of received.
- Document Delivery Services: Electronic delivery of full-text articles, eBooks or book chapters. It will be provided free scanning and electronic delivery of articles and book chapter of library collections.



[www.nlm.gov.mm](http://www.nlm.gov.mm)

**(b) Circulation Services**

The National Library is taking responsibility to preserve the national literary heritage to hand to the next generations. Therefore, any library collection is not allowed to take outside the library. Mainly, the library provides reading room service to any people who can read not only current publications but also any publications of the library freely. Moreover, the user can borrow the limited books within a limited duration at the National Library. National Library of Myanmar have implemented a plan to provide and promote for reading habits and enhancing knowledge for all citizens Which will provide access to the book borrowing services with conduct the circulation through the Library Automation System.

**(c) Visitor ship and Membership**

The National Library of Myanmar is opened to the public since its establishment. Any Myanmar citizen can freely aware the library collections at the library. According to the library policy, in this regard, the membership service is currently available at the National Library. National library is the place of comprehensive collections of printed materials published in the country, manuscripts and rare publications; it is the dependable place for scholars, researchers, students, fact finder and lifelong education.

**(d) New services provided by NLM**

Documentary movie, Myanmar culture films and traditional entertainment are arranged at Audio video room. It is shown every Saturday afternoon 1:00 pm, with the aim of knowledge sharing and providing awareness to the public to know what about the Myanmar Cultural Heritage, customs, and festivals through these films and documentary movie.

Reading room services for Disabled users provided by NLM. NLM cooperated with the Blind Education Center to collect the brilliant books and audio books. Users can read the books and listen to the audio books in the reading room for disabled users.

**2.4 Children Library Services and reading culture development**

The National Library (Yangon) has tried to promote in-reach and outreach children library services and weekly activities are being carried out in the children's library. The storytelling program has been conducted every Saturday at the library. Story Tellers are children librarian, children themselves and the volunteers do the talking in that program.



### Story telling and let's read program

Especially, in every Saturday programs such as story retold, read me a book, making handmade toys by using recycle things and quiz competitions are also provided by our library. And then, our library has been playing the children's activities, such as Story-telling, play games and reading programs with the invitation of schools and others. That are implementing the focus on the child as user and the importance of targeting services more carefully to ensure individuals needs that are the focus for provision.

Let's Read (reading together) Program started in June, 2022, to provide the reading opportunity for children. It's conducted in every Saturday at the library with separate story time. Chose the books from library and read together. After reading the book, ask and discuss the contents of the book together with the children and the librarian.

On Nov. 25-27, 2022, Children's Literature Festivals was held by National Library (Nay Pyi Taw). In that festival, they invited students from schools in Nay Pyi Taw township to take part in the events. The children festival is focused expand the knowledge horizon of children.



Children's Literature Festival, 2022, NPT

### 3. Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in your Country [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

The National Library of Myanmar is building network with university libraries and other institutions for collaborative programmes of digitizing ancient manuscripts, sharing collection, participating library seminars and forums, etc.

Due to 'ASEAN-ROK Children's Reading Culture Development Project', it is a 3-year-project (2022-2024). NLM also participated in that project and implemented the reading programs and hold the children librarian workshop in Myanmar, that are started in May 2022. NLM taking action on cooperative with other institutions, private school library, government school library, monastic school library and community centers in Myanmar to raise the awareness among librarian on the importance of children's reading culture.



ASEAN-ROK Children's Reading Culture Development Project (2022-2024)  
Workshop and read me a Book program held by NLM

With the collaboration of Department of Historical Research, National Library and the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon), Post-Graduate Diploma on Library Management Course is offered by the National Library (Yangon) since 2010 to present. Library and Information subjects are offered by the senior librarians of NLM and teachers from Library and Information Science Department of Yangon University.

**4 International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]**

As the National Library is member of Congress of Southeast Asia Librarians (CONSAL) and Conference on Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO), it has been connecting with the member libraries and participates in the library cooperation activities and programmes. Moreover, connecting with the above two organizations, the National Library is taking responsibility for reporting the libraries' sector development of Myanmar in annual meeting and participating the related workshops and cooperation programs in other ASEAN counties.

The National Library of Myanmar contributed metadata records of library collections to the ASEAN Digital Library Portal to make the resources of the National Library of Myanmar more visible and accessible to the world.

Apart from that, the library is implementing the cultural cooperation projects by hosting ASEAN cultural meetings, seminars and workshops, and by participating to ASEAN member states' programmes, by coordinating with Culture and information Unit of ASEAN Secretariat.