

Short overviews of libraries in Nepal

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Brief history

- Since the ancient time Nepal was the center of education. The Hindu temples, Buddha Gumbas and Vihars were the places of education. Those holy places also used to collect the manuscripts in various forms such as Tamrapatra, Bhojoatra, Shilapatra etc.
- The formal history was began from the Lichhavi Dynasty. Lichhavi dynasty is called the golden age of Nepal. King Manadeva was the first king proved by the history. The written history is started form this period.
- The Chinese monk and explorer had described beautifully about Nepal and the governance system t that time.
- Before Unification in Medieval period, Nepal was divided more than 50 small states called Baiyese, Chaubise states. Library history was began from the Kathmandu valley. It is said that there was a library called "SAKOTHA" in Bhaktapur in the period of Malla dynasty. Bhaktapur was the main capital city before the unification of Nepal.
- Prithivi Narayan Shaha had started to build up the unified Nepal from 1759. He started to collect valuable manuscripts and written documents along with the unification of Nepal and kept to Hanumandhoka palace.
- King Girvanayuddhavikram Saha ordered a decree to open a Library "Pustak Chitahi Tahabil" in his Palace in 1812 (1869 Bhadra 15). It was the first library in Nepal. This is the first written law to establish the Library in Nepal. A librarian (Pandit) and two assistants were appointed to look after the library. Nepal is celebrating the Library day in the memory of that historical day every year since 2008. It lies on August 31st of September 1st according to the English calendar.
- Prime Minister Junga Bahadur Rana openend first school in 1843 and transferred the books from the Pustak Chitai tahabil to the Jaisikotha of the Thapathali durbar. The books again transferred another new building in 1900 by the Prime Minister Bir Shumser. The name of the library is given as Bir Library also called Ghantaghar Library.
- Tri-Chandra College, the first Higher education institution was established in 1908. There was a library too, to help the teaching learning activities.
- The First Education Commission recommended for establishing School and Public libraries in the villages. The concept of Teacher Librarian was introduced to operate the school libraries.

- Now, there are more than 34000 schools, 1500 Colleges and 13 universities in Nepal but the number of the public libraries is not more than 1500. The Government of Nepal has announced "One School One Library and One School One Laboratory" Programme. Most of the Schools have not the library. The schools having the libraries is facing the lacking of the trained human resources to manage the libraries.

History of Public libraries in Nepal

- A civil servant called Krishnalal Adhikari wrote a book called "Makaiko Kheti (Corn Farming)". Some of the points about the insects and insecticides mentioned in the book were misbriefed by some of the favorers of the Rana rulers. As a result Mr. Adhikari was charged as Ryoal criticisizer and sentenced to 9 year jail. All the books were collected and destroyed. It is called "Makai Parva (the Corn Festival).
- Around 46 youth including the great poet Laxmi Prasad Devkota prepared to establish a Public library called Saraswati Sadan in 1930. Unfortunatrely one person among the group informed the rulers. All the persons involved to establish the library were fined Rs. 100 each. It is called the Library Parva.
- A Public library was opened in the name of "Pustsk pdhne Dalan" in 1926 in Palpa. It was renames as "Dhawal Library in 1947.
- There were only 31 libraries in Nepal before the independence many of them were as personal library such as the Kaiser Library Kesharmahal, Kathmandu, Bharati Bhawan Library, Bashantapur, Kathmandu, Singh Library, Thapathali Kathmandu, Dhawal Library Palpa etc.
- After the independence many educational institutions and public libraries were started throughout the country. Central library was established in 1952 in Cooperation with the USAID. Current renowned libraries such as Nepal National Library, Madan Puraskar Library were established in 1957.

University Libraries

- There are nine universities and four deemed universities in Nepal. 97 constituent, 1268 affiliated colleges under these universities.
- Each university has their own Central Library.
- There are 38 Central departments, 60 constituent, 1053 affiliated colleges and four research centers under Tribhuvan University. Each college has their own libraries.
- Tribhuvan University Library established in 1959. The Central Library and the Tribhuvan University Library were merged as Tribhuvan University Central Library (TUCL) in 1961.

Tribhuvan University Central Library

- TUCL is the largest University in Nepal having more than 4,00,000 collection
- ISBN National Agency

- UN depositary Library
- Nepalese National Bibliography publisher
- NepJOL handler
- CIP provider to Nepalese publishers
- TU Publication Depositary Library
- National coordinator for the international network for the availability of scientific publication (INASP) in Nepal
- Founder member of Nepal Library and Information Consortium.

Kathmandu University Central Library (KUCL)

- KUCL Established in 1990 along with the KU is in Dhulikhel Campus,
- Management and Education Library in Lalitpur,
- Music and Fine Arts in Bhaktapur,
- Medical Sciences KUMS Library in Chaukot, Panauti
- Clinical Sciences in Dhulikhel Hospital KUTH.
- **KUCL collections**
- 56,091 - Volume of books, 2500 - CD-ROMs
- 200 - Video cassettes
- 125 - Journal titles and newsletters and
- 75 - Audio cassettes.

Pokhara University Central Library

- Established in 1999
- More than 25000 volumes of books
- 12 staff
- 2200 users
- Offering various services to the users

School Libraries

- There are 3659 Higher Secondary Schools running in Nepal. Each school has their own library but the collection is not sufficient.
- There are around 34000 schools. The condition of school libraries is not satisfactory.

Nepal National Library.

- Government of Nepal Purchased the Deputy Royal priest's personal collection in three lacks Indian currency.

- Merged to the central secretariat library's 8000 book.
- Established in 1957 January 2 at Sikridhoka Singhdurbar.
- Transferred to current location in 1962.
- Second largest library having 1,50,000 books, journals, collection.
- ISSN National Agency since 2009
- Around 550 ISSN distributed
- Language wise section
- Separate Japanese collection (donated by the Nippon foundation)
- Children's section was opened in 1995 by the technical support of JICA.
- CDNLAO and APIN member.

NNL's situation when the earthquake occurred and after the earthquake

- The Library building totally damaged
- 40% steel book rack damaged
- All the books, journals and reading materials were successfully evacuated by the help of Armed Police Force, Civil servant volunteers, Librarians and overseas volunteers.
- Books are kept in Mahendra Bhawan Higher Secondary Schools two rooms in plastic sacks temporarily.
- Some books are restored in the book racks

National Library's plan for reconstruction

- Ministry of Education is has given Rs. 1,50,00,000 for immediate reconstruction of the library building.
- Looking for the land to construct the new library building.
- A file has moved through the Ministry of Education to decide the land to NNL.
- After getting the land at least 1000sq Meter pre fab buildings will be constructed as soon as possible.
- The most valuable and rare books will be digitized and digital library will be created.
- Almost all the publications of NNL has digitized.
- Library service will be reopened to the users as soon as possible.
- NNL has already developed a mobile application called NNL Catalogue it will update regularly.
- NNL web site will be updated.
- Mobile library service will be initiated.

- Library opening hour will be increased.
- Lending service will be initiated.
- New building will be constructed within