

COUNTRY REPORT 2015 – NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VIET NAM
FOR THE CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES (CDNL)

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1. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

The National Library of Viet Nam is the country's central library, a governmental agency under the management of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and assigned with the mandates of collection and preservation of the nation's documentary heritage; and acquisition, preservation, organization and provision of information resources for the society's use. The National Library of Viet Nam is legally incorporated and has its own seal and bank accounts.

Key legislations which set out the library's mandate and directly effect the library operations:

- Library Ordinance No. 31/2000/PL-UBTVQH10 by the Standing Committee of National Assembly dated December 28, 2000 and Decree No.72/2002/NĐ-CP dated August 6, 2002 of the Government on implementation of the Library Ordinance.
- Decree No. 2638/2008/NĐ-CP dated June 11, 2008 by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam on assigning functions, mission, rights and organizational structure of the National Library of Viet Nam.
- Decree No. 257/QĐ-BVHTTDL dated January 20, 2010 of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam on approving and appointing the NLV to implement the project "Strengthening capacity of digital library and digital preservation of the National Library of Viet Nam"

- Decree No. 92/2006/NĐ-CP dated September 7, 2006 by the Government on the formulation, approval and management of master plans on socio-economic development.
- Decree No. 10/2007/QĐ-BVHTT dated on 4 May 2007 of the Ministry of Culture and Information on approval of library development programming to 2010 and orientation to 2020.
- Decree No. 56/2007/QĐ-TTg dated May 3, 2007 by the Prime Minister on approval of the program on development of Viet Nam's digital content industry up to 2010.
- Decree No. 581/QĐ-TTg dated May 6, 2009 of the Prime Minister on approving the strategy for cultural development till 2020.
- Decree No.1051/QĐ-BTC dated May 13, 2010 by the Ministry of Finance on assets transfer.
- Decree No 2607/QĐ-BVHTTDL dated July 26, 2010 by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism on approval of assets value transferred from the National Archive - Home Affairs, to the National Library of Viet Nam - Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism for management, usage and assignment.
- Decree No.284/QĐ-TTg by the Prime Minister on deciding the annual April 21st is the Viet Nam Book Day.
- Circular No. 18/2014/TT-BVHTTDL by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism on regulations for professional activities of the library sector.

2. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- On April 18, 2015, the National Library of Viet Nam (NLV) organized the Book Festival themed "*Book – the Cultural Interference*" with many activities as: book exhibition, round-table between authors and the public about their works; storytelling in Viet Nameese and English contests; painting through book contest; art and crafts, literary work identity contest, displaying and selling books at special prices, etc. On this occasion, the NLV has mobilized book donation and financial support from business sector and individuals for the libraries with difficulties.

- From Jan. 2014 – July 2015, the NLV organized and co-organized 13 exhibitions, display and introduction of materials and artifact. The most typical exhibition was "*ASEAN Cultural Space*" to be organized at the NLV on the occasion of the 47th Anniversary of establishing the Association of Southeast Asian Nation – ASEAN, and 19 years since Viet Nam joined ASEAN; "*Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and the Viet Nameese doi moi cause*" on the anniversary of the 100th birthday of the General Secretary in Ha noi and his hometown – Hung Yen. In April 2015, an ASEAN Book Corner was officially launched at the multilingual reading room, serving over 1,000 special materials taken from the NLV collections and supported by ASEAN Embassies and National Libraries: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. The NLV also purchased an eBook collection IG Library includes over 40,000

e-books on the topics of Economics & Business Administration, Natural Science, Social Science, Religion, Languages, Asian Studies...

- In 2014, the NLV has organized the review for 2 Ministerial-level Science Research: *“Improving digital library model at the NLV and City central libraries”* and *“Enforcement of Copyright and Related rights in the Information - Library activity in Viet Nam: Situations and Solutions”*; continued to implement the project of developing national standard (TCVN) in library operation, accomplished the TCVN 10670: 2014: *“Library operation - Terminologies and definitions on Acquisition and Cataloging”* and has been continuing with the national standard on organization of material storage and preservation of materials and the national standard on library products and services; successfully implement the project *“Enhancement of the Digital Capacity and Digital Preservation at the NLV”*.

- In August, 2014 and July, 2015 the NLV held two workshops on *Enforcement of Copyright and Related rights in Library - Information activities in Viet Nam* and *Situation and solutions for renovating the model of organization and management and methods for operating the library activities in Viet Nam* attracting over 100 library leaders through out the country.

3. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- Materials and information resources:

<http://thuvienquocgia.vn/gioi-thieu-chung/nguon-luc-thong-tin.html>

+ Printed resources: the total NLV collection is over 2.6 million copies.

+ Digital resources:

* Self-develop digital resources: 4,993,309 pages, equivalent of 33,493 titles/volumes, including the following collections: Sino – Nom books, Indochina books, Doctorial theses, English books about Viet Nam, Books and Maps of Ha Noi, a part of the Book collection and Periodical collection in Viet Nameese and foreign languages, and collection of microfilm, microfiche, collection of ancient classical dramas.

* Purchased online full-text documents:

Including databases: Keesing’s, ProQuest, Wilson, European books (EBM), eBook IG Library, Sage Journals, Sage Research methods, Viet Nam Journals Online-VJOL, CD, VCD, CD-ROM with total amount of over 3,000 titles.

Besides, the NLV has some digital collections which are served online on the library's website, such as the monthly/annually National Directory, training materials of SIDA Foundation, the ISO file of monthly directory data of NLV to be shared with other libraries in Viet Nam.

- Organizational structure: NLV has 182 employees and labor contracts, in which there are 25 masters, 130 bachelors and 27 of other educational levels. The library has a Board of Directors, a Science Council and 13 functional Divisions.

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS

Through the operation of legal deposit, book exchanges, acquisition and receiving gifts, donation from institutions and individuals in Viet Nam and overseas, the library's resources have dramatically increased recently.

- Collection Development:

In 2014, the NLV has acquired depository of 20,030 book titles (59,381 copies); Doctorial Theses: 1,499 titles; Special Publications: 587 titles (1,761 copies); Periodicals (Newspapers, Magazines, Newsletter): 46,514 issues (1,113 titles and 228,935 copies in which there are 49 Newspapers and Magazines published in foreign languages). For acquisition source via purchase, exchange, donate, the total amount was 22,737 copies (11,217 titles), including 18,936 Viet Nameese books and 3,801 foreign language books; 3,344 issues (204 titles) of magazines, newspapers including 56 titles in Viet Nameese and 148 titles in foreign languages; 89 CDs; 195 Doctorial Theses in digital format; 05 online full-text databases: Keesings, ProQuest, EBM Center, Spring Images, SAGE Premier.

- Technical processing:

+ Books, Doctorial Theses: Completed technical process for 26,632 titles, including 20,030 tiles of books, 486 special publications and 6,116 titles of foreign language books; 1,499 Doctorial theses.

+ Periodicals: Completed technical process for 47,789 magazines, newspapers, including: Viet Nameese: 45,001 issues; foreign languages: 2,797 issues.

+ Completed retrospective treatment for resistance war's stacks: 3,708 records; Repository of documentations, pictures, photos, maps of Indochina: 995 records; Completing 2013 National Bibliography; Monthly National Directories (from January to November, 2014). Implementation on computer for 7,816 records of abstract's journal article put into a database to serve users.

+ In cooperation with publishers, bookstores across the country, the NLV has provided 3,294 bibliographic data records (CIP data) for forthcoming books.

- Preservation, Conservation of materials have achieved many good results for example: renovation, binding 4,897 books; binding 3,642 newspapers and magazines; restoring 87,130 pages of documents; microfilming 2,552 meters; copying – printing 100,780 pages; reproduction of 02 ancient books for displaying at exhibitions. Coordinate implementation of the project for restoration – reproduction the original, precious

documentations of President Ho Chi Minh at the President Palace's relic site, the reproductive program for geographic documents of Bac Ninh Province...

- Digitization, data processing were promoted, as a result, 164,957 pages of books, newspapers, magazines in microform were digitized in 2014; digital processed for 2,390,977 pages of newspapers, doctoral theses. Converted 1,000 CDs / DVDs to ISO format to serve readers. Converted 30,000 of notation theses in digital format to the new notation which helps the searching of users and storing of documents.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

In 2014, the NLV opened 336 days, issued 16,705 membership cards, total access of readers on-site and off-site (online access) were 2,741,598 visits (equivalent of 8,160 visits/day). Circulated documents reached 1,052,883 (average of 3134 visits / day).

Regularly organizing 50 training classes "Guiding readers use the library"; meet 3,363 online inquiries via the website of NLV; building 13 bibliographies to provide for the exhibitions and meet the demands of individuals and institutions.

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

The National Library of Viet Nam is independent with other libraries in terms of funding and administration. It has the strongest professional influence over the other libraries in the country. It is also Viet Nam's biggest library, the national bibliography publisher and the sole national legal depository agency which acquires and houses the most sufficient collection of materials published in Viet Nam and Indochina since 1917.

In the relationship with other libraries in Viet Nam, it has the task to conduct scientific research in the field of library and information science, apply scientific and technological advances to professional activities, and give advise and provide professional instructions for librarians all over the country through various channels such as compiling professional guides, providing continuing education and training, organizing conferences and workshops on librarianship assigned by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. The NLV also has the function to promote international cooperation in the library section through participating in international library associations, developing and implementing projects to seek donations of materials, library equipments from foreign libraries and organizations; through organizing sponsored conferences, professional experience sharing workshops, and documentary exhibitions in compliance with regulations.

Some typical activities:

- In 2014, the NLV continued to keep good performance in professional assistance to libraries of the provinces and Laos; guiding 13 LIS students; organizing 3 traing workshops on DDC23 appllication in three main regions of Viet Nam (the North, the

Centre and the South) for over 200 key cataloguers of Viet Nameese libraries and conduct several further training classes for library institutions of special library system; a workshop on Designing library spaces (in cooperation with Goethe Institute), a workshop on Preservation of traditional materials, digital materials and management of disasters (in cooperation with SLA-Asia Chapter) for 300 Viet Nameese librarians.

- Delivering 19,590 donated books to libraries and schools throughout the country, receiving and distributing almost 35,000 books in English sponsored by The Asia Foundation (U.S.A) to 178 beneficiaries including 30 Primary Schools as the new receiptent group./.