

Country Report from the National Library of China

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Name of country: China

Name of library or equivalent national-level organisation: National Library of China

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Headings:

i) **General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library.**

Libraries, doors open to knowledge and classrooms for citizen's life-long learning, bear the mission to spread knowledge and to inherit and pass on civilization. The year 2013 is the "Year of Development" for National Library of China. During this year, the renovation work was completed and the northern buildings came into service again, which laid a solid infrastructural foundation for the planning, designing and development of the various undertakings of the Library. Therefore, National Library of China launched the objective of "strengthening delicacy management and increasing reader-service level" in 2013.

Strengthening collection building as the basis for library service. The construction of NLC document resources system was further advanced with the aim of building a national document resources guarantee system. Guided by the library service, our work focused on the introduction of documents on key disciplinary areas and major subjects. NLC also strengthened the construction of digital resources and the revelation of various types of documents in NLC collection, so as to enhance the efficiency, quality and profoundness of documents revelation. Meanwhile, NLC reinforced the integration between traditional and digital resources: by enhancing the union cataloging service, the centralized storage of meta data of library information and resources was gradually realized, in order to achieve the association discovery and access of meta data and object data.

Reinforcing the construction of multi-level innovative knowledge service system, promoting the overall service quality. NLC provided targeted, professional and predictive service for central Party leaders and national legislative and decision-making institutions. NLC established a response mechanism for national major policies, important decisions and political, economical, cultural, social and

ecological construction. The professional service for key scientific research and education institutions was also enhanced, to adapt to the changing information environment and transform passive service to positive and interactive service. The social education service was proactively carried out: through multi-level and multi-type training sessions, conferences and exhibitions, NLC is dedicated to promote the information literacy of readers and to organize beneficial reading activities. As for the special public groups, such as the minors, NLC launched targeted social education programs. On the occasion of the building of the National Museum of Classic Books, NLC deeply probed into its collection and enhanced the revelation of documents. Thus, through the expansion of the exhibiting methods was formed the exhibition specialties of NLC. The establishment of a rigorous supervision mechanism further perfected the service regulation. Librarians play an important role in the knowledge navigation, which greatly enhanced the reader administration and guidance. The high-quality service created a harmonious reading environment in the Library.

Broadening the age restriction for readers entering the Library and strengthening service for children. Based on the principle of universality and equality, NLC reinforced its access to minors by lowering the age restriction for their access to the Library and cancelling the lower limit of the age restriction for their access to the children's library. The remote reader service was further enhanced: based on the new digital library mobile reading service platform, high quality digital resources were introduced to a wider range of general public. With a higher speed of Internet access and optimized Internet access procedures, the digital service experience of readers at the library was further enhanced. The research on the knowledge organization tools was continued in order to enhance the revelation of the documents in NLC collection.

Increasing employees' service ability and building a stronger professional team of librarians. The employees are administrated according to their job responsibilities and a service team including professional librarians, paraprofessionals and volunteers has been established.

Steadily promoting the advancement Digital Library Promotion Project. More than 110 provincial and municipal libraries were interconnected via VPN and 15 provincial libraries have launched the special network construction. Nine national training programs on digital library construction were organized, serving over 1100 professionals. The shared resources via VPN mounted to 120 TB in over 100 libraries scattering in 30 provinces. The promotion effects have come to be revealed. NLC also cooperated with the General Logistics Department of People's Liberation Army to construct the digital library. The Sansha Branch of NLC was opened and the first phase of the digital library project in Tarim Oilfield was completed.

Successfully advancing the Chinese Ancient Books Preservation Plan. The

compilation of the fourth batch of National Precious Ancient Books and the nomination of National Ancient Key Protection Institutions were accomplished. More than 400 ancient book collecting institutions conducted the survey and registration of ancient books. The sharing of the ancient books data and cultural heritage objects data was realized. China Resources Library of Rare Books was launched in the first 27 construction institutions. The compilation and publishing of “Zhong Hua Yi Zang” and “Chinese Precious Ancient Books and Records: Book Series” were steadily advanced. Eleven sessions of training programs on ancient books preservation were organized throughout the whole year, providing training for 477 specialists.

Prominent results in Minguo Materials Preservation Plan. In 2012, National Library of China cooperated with various institutions to compile and publish multiple important documents. In addition, NLC initiated the research project on the standard of the storerooms for Minguo materials and launched the study on the deacidification of documents.

Library building renovation project going smoothly and national strategic reservoir of documents project launched. A large part of the renovation of NLC northern area was finished and put to use, and the renovation project of key areas was also basically accomplished. The internal adjustment of the reserved copies of documents, the microform documents and the basic collection library were finished. The returning of the documents in turnover deposits was initiated. As the northern area of the Library will be opened to general public in 2014, preparatory work has been launched. The national strategic reservoir of documents project, approved by the government, is now under planning.

Proactively planning the construction of the National Museum of Classic Books. The National Museum of Classic Books, based on the abundance of the collection of National Library of China, is a national-level museum in the purpose of exhibiting Chinese classic books and promoting Chinese culture. As an extension of the social education service of National Library of China, the Museum is located in the southern area of the main library of NLC. The area of 11549 square meters is divided into 10 exhibition areas. As the first museum of classic books in China, it is a museum with large area, rich collections and many representative items in the world. The Museum, integrating the collection, exhibition, research, preservation of classic books and public education, cultural heritage and entertainment, is the collection center of Chinese classic relics, the exhibition and research center of the classic culture as well as the exchange center of the international classic culture, the cultural education base and public cultural entertainment center. In the future, the overall integration of the service in the Museum and the Library will be fully implemented and the Museum will be constructed as an education venue for juveniles and the propagation base of classic culture. In 2013, the construction of the museum was completed and the planning and implementation of its opening were started. In July 2014, National Museum of Classic Books was open for trial operation.

ii) Library's relationship to government, citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations.

In 2013, National Library of China continued to provide research support for the legislation of Public Libraries Law of China, the elaboration of the Twelfth Five-Year plan of public libraries under the coordination of the Ministry of Culture and the fifth round of assessment and rating of public libraries in China. On the demand of the Ministry of Culture, NLC hosted the annual professional conference of Library Society of China in 2013.

The Digital Library Promotion Project is a nation-wide digital cultural construction project launched in 2011 by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Finance. NLC is responsible for its implementation. In 2013, the Project was steadily advanced: more than 110 provincial and municipal libraries were interconnected via virtual network; 15 provincial libraries launched the construction of special network; NLC organized 9 sessions of national-level training program on digital library construction, providing training for 1100 professionals; the shared resources via the virtual network in more than 100 libraries in 30 provinces mounted to 120 TB. The coordination platform of decision-making consultation in provincial public libraries and the coordination network of reference service in libraries in China were completed. The social benefits of the project have become to be realized.

Chinese Ancient Books Preservation Plan and Minguo Materials Preservation Plan were important cultural projects undertaken by National Library of China. In 2013, while conducting surveys on ancient books and Minguo materials, NLC promoted the organization and utilization of excellent classic books. The construction of the Specialists Training Base of National Ancient Books Preservation Center and the National Key Ancient Books Repair Center was started. The digitization of national precious ancient books was promoted and the Chinese Ancient Library was constructed. The collection of Minguo materials scattering in Japan and Russia was launched. The editing and publishing of the Minguo documents were advanced.

(iii) Key facts and figures (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc).

In 2013, affected by maintenance of some reading rooms and warehouses and suspension of related reading services, National Library of China had only 4.18 million visitors for the year. Number of publications in circulation was 27.73 million, reference service cases of various kinds were 1.03 million, page hits of the library's website totaled to 1.04 billion times, and as many as 232,200 reader's cards were issued.

In the same year, the collection of NLC welcomed another 1.25 million volumes and artifacts, now totaling 32.44 million items. 61 TB digital resources were added, making the total amount of digital resources to 874.5 TB. Publications in all the foreign languages were cataloged with the aid of computers, whereas publications cataloged and processed reached 589,000 titles and 1.26 million items. In addition, the Wenjin search engine were expanded by about 10 million newly-generated meta data, and now boasted 200 million entries of meta data.

The Online Library Cataloging Center set up by NLC provided services to local libraries all over China. So far the center has established partnership with 1,477 libraries and 1,965 clients with data.

Over the past year, NLC received a financial allocation of RMB 819 million, spent RMB 135 million on publication purchasing, and had 1,468 staff on regular payroll.

(iv) New developments in creating and building collections.

In 2013, NLC stuck to the guiding principle of building a comprehensive documents & resources system from the strategic height of national publication construction, and continued to collect Chinese documents of various kinds. Furthermore, the library placed great emphasis on acquisition of nonofficial Chinese publications and collection of featured ancient books and historical documents in modern times from home and abroad. Collection of materials on Japanese invasion of China, among other things, has broken new grounds, and priceless ancient documents such as a volume of the *Yongle Encyclopedia* have been collected. In addition, implementation of the Chinese Memory project contributed to the diversity of collections in the national repository.

(v) New developments in managing collections.

In 2013, with an aim of building a national document supply system, NLC continued to improve its collections. The service-oriented library paid particular attention to document collection of key disciplines and major subjects, and made more efforts to build digital resources. Various publications in the library were further explored to improve their utility efficiency, quality and depth. Traditional resources and digital resources were further integrated, combined cataloging services were promoted, meta data of the library information resources gradually achieved consolidated storage, and discovery of its link and access to object data were realized.

(vi) New developments in providing access to collections.

Strive to promote reading among the public. In 2013, NLC held various activities to encourage people to read. A Daily Class program was implemented to familiarize readers with NLC's resources, services and activities. Digital library services and

activities such as portable electronic reading and “Enjoying Reading Through Internet during Spring Festival” were offered, which enabled readers to relish a variety of E-books and periodicals without having to visit the library.

Offer inter-library loan and resources sharing services to academic institutions.

China Academic Library & Information System (CALIS) is one of the three public service systems under the “211 Project”, the Ninth Five Year plan and the Tenth Five Year plan for higher education in China and approved by the State Council, and is also a document supply system with the largest coverage and influences. In 2013, NLC and CALIS signed a formal inter-library loan and document delivery cooperation agreement, agreeing to provide related services to teachers and students of almost 3,000 higher education institutions throughout China through a unified service and management platform.

Make breakthroughs in Minguo document protection. *Charter of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East* (all 80 volumes amounting to nearly 50,000 pages) was compiled and published. Agreements were signed with 22 institutions to collate and publish documents, including *Collection of Minguo Economic Survey Data*. And approximately 170,000 bibliographic records have been created on Minguo document union catalogue.

Organize various social education activities. In 2013, NLC held 237 lectures for public good, attracting over 60,000 attendees, and 53 non-profit exhibitions, drawing 577,000 visitors. The library also undertook the appraisal and prize presentation of the eighth Wenjin Book Award, selecting ten books out of the 1,150 titles recommended by 46 public libraries and college libraries in China and promoting reading of them among the public. This was also the first time that NLC invited other libraries to participate in the preparation of this activity.

Provide featured services to special groups. This year, NLC initiated the event of the National Children’s Reading Year, and held reading activities with the theme of “Let’s Read and Grow”. This was the first Reading Year event organized for children. Besides, the library launched “Reading in China-Making Knowledge Accessible to All” - a series of library cultural activities assisting people with disabilities, which was co-sponsored by China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF). The two agencies also issued the *Joint Initiative Assisting People with Disabilities with Knowledge in Library*, endeavoring to build an accessible library service system and guarantee the disadvantaged groups equal, full opportunities of public cultural services.

(vii) Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums).

In 2013, NLC continued to develop domestic and international exchange and cooperation, and played a more proactive, initiative role in library-related affairs.

This year, *The Development Report of Chinese Librarianship, 2012* (Bluebook) was edited and officially published. The report, in the form of a bluebook, reflected the development of Chinese librarianship in recent years for the first time, analyzed in great detail the social background, opportunities, challenges and future development trends facing Chinese librarianship, and probed into some key issues concerning Chinese librarianship.

With regard to exchange and cooperation with counterparts in other countries and Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, NLC signed bilateral cooperation agreements with libraries in Bahrain, Cuba, Peru, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong in 2013. The Library has reached a preliminary agreement with the National Palace Museum in Taipei to promote ancient books publishing. It also held the 2013 Forum for Asia Library Directors, the Overseas Symposium on Chinese Ancient Books Preservation (in North America) and the Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources.