

PAKISTAN

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF PAKISTAN

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002

1.1 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- a Copyright Ordinance in Pakistan was approved in 1962 and was promulgated in 1967. Section 47 of the Copyright Law provides for obligatory deposit of one copy of each publication published in Pakistan to the National Library of Pakistan. Copyright Law was amended in 1992 and implemented as act to include periodicals and journals in the obligatory provisions. Likely extension of legal deposit law to embrace the electronic publications is in the pipeline. The case for amendment was initiated this year.
- b OPAC facility was provided to the readers and researcher this year. Free of cost Internet facility for the readers are being provided also. National Library of Pakistan's LAN with 48 nodes also became operational this year.
- c All the back volumes of periodicals and newspaper received under Copyright Ordinance were got bound. Conservation Section started microfilming of rare book collections of the National Library of Pakistan. 560 manuscripts have been microfilmed by the Section so far.
- d Pakistan National Bibliography from 1947 to 1996 is complete. National Bibliographical Unit has published 29 volumes covering 51,000 entries of Pakistani publications so far. 5 volumes of the Pakistan National Bibliography from 1997 to 2001 are in press and will be available in printed form within short span of time.
- e Government of Pakistan is actively considering to promulgate the National Library Law, formulation of structure and re-organization of the National Library of Pakistan. This task has been assigned to the Office Management Division under the Establishment Division of Pakistan. A very active team of the Officers of said Division is engaged with the activity since April 2002 and National Library Law and proposals for improvement of the structure of the National Library of Pakistan is at final stages.

1.2 POST INDEPENDENCE SCENARIO

The Post independence literary scene in Pakistan is not fascinating. Pakistan inherited a wrecked economy and its impact on the library development in the country was unavoidable. Though initially handicapped, Pakistan inherited 4 libraries of significance. Three of them were located in Lahore, the city once called 'The Cradle of Library movement in India' and where the first University Library School of the British Commonwealth of Nations was founded in 1915 by Asa Don Dickinson who was a disciple of Melvil Dewey (1891 – 1931).

Pakistan has made substantial progress in every walk of life during its 55 years of existence and the libraries are no exception to this rule. A Directorate of Archives and Libraries was established under the Federal Government in 1949, soon after the independence for proper planning and growth of libraries in the country. The Department of Archives and Libraries was subsequently bifurcated in order to create an independent Directorate of Libraries under the Federal Ministry of Education in 1973. This development gave right impetus to the country library movement. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Library Association was founded in 1957 that has been endeavoring a lot for the improvement of libraries in the country since its creation. Some of the important features of librarianship in Pakistan are enumerated below:

1.3 COLLECTIONS

32 universities in public sector and 19 universities in private sector hold the major library collections in the country. University libraries hold approximately 3 million volumes of reading material. Central Library, University of the Punjab established in 1882 holds 406000 volumes while Dr. Mahmud Hussain Library, University of Karachi, (founded in 1952) holds 445000 volumes of reading materials. Punjab Public Library, Lahore (founded in 1884) and Liaquat Memorial Library (founded in 1950) have the biggest collection among the public libraries of the country. Punjab Public Library holds 270000 volumes of reading material and Liaquat Memorial Library holds 130000 volumes of books and other reading materials. Some college libraries have also valuable collections. Among them are Government College, Lahore and Islamia College, Peshawar are notable.

1.4 NUMBER OF LIBRARIES

• National Library	01
• Public Libraries	500
• Special Libraries	350
• University Libraries	51
• University Degree awarding institutes	24
• College Libraries	700
• Army Station Libraries	58

1.5 PROFESSIONAL TECHNIQUES

- Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) is being followed in 95% of the libraries.
- Some libraries are using Library of Congress Classification (LC).
- Sears List of Subject Headings is in common use in libraries while some libraries are using Library of Congress List of subject headings.
- Cataloguing Practice in most of the libraries is done according to the Anglo American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2)
- ALA Rules are used for filing of Dictionary Catalogue.

1.6 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre (PASTIC) used computer technology for the first time in 1964 in the country. Most of the university libraries, special libraries, some college libraries and a few public libraries have adopted the computer technology during the last two decades.

In 1992 the Netherlands Government launched "Netherlands Library Development Project Pakistan (NLDP) for supporting library development and information services in Pakistan. This project acted as catalyst to boost up the professional activities in the field of librarianship and introduction of latest technologies in the libraries of Pakistan. A Library automation and Management Programme (LAMP) was also developed by the NLDP with collaboration of Pakistan Library Association (PLA). This software is being used by most of the libraries of the country. Other commonly used library softwares are In-magic, kitabdar and WINISIS. Many libraries prefer to develop their own library software in M/S. Access. A library software project with Urdu language support by National Library Authority is being used. Internet facility is paving its way to the Pakistani Libraries. Government of Pakistan has provided free Internet facility in all the universities of the country to promote the research and reading activities. COMSTECH Inter Library Resource Service network has developed a bibliographic database of holdings of scientific periodicals of 37 major libraries of 13 countries of organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). The updated list comprising of more than 18000 journals can be accessed online. Hard copies of the database are also available.

1.7 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Seven University Library Science Schools are offering post graduate degree courses and five library schools are offering under graduate library certificate courses in the country. Mainly the Pakistan Library Association is imparting library software training. The Association has established Computer Training Centres in the Federal Capital and professional headquarters as well. Pakistan Library Association Journal is published by the PLA Headquarters and five branches of PLA publish their own Newsletter. Library Promotion Bureau also publishes Pakistan Library Bulletin from Karachi.

2.1 GENESIS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF PAKISTAN

A Skeleton National Library was established in 1950 as a branch of Directorate of Archives and Libraries. In the year 1954, Liaquat Memorial Library was amalgamated with the National Library and named as Liaquat National Library. A scheme for the establishment of a National Library in the real sense in Islamabad was originally approved by the ECNEC in 1963. The Liaquat National Library was renamed Liaquat Memorial Library in 1968. This Library continued to perform some of the functions of the national library until 1986 when it was transferred to Sindh Government under orders of the Federal Cabinet. The actual construction of the National Library commenced in 1982. Most of the civil works were finished by June 1988 as scheduled and the library collections and staff were moved into the new building during the same year. The Prime Minister of Pakistan formally inaugurated the library on August 24, 1993 and its doors were opened to the users.

2.2 CULTURAL ACTIVITY

The National Library has become a focal point for cultural activities in the Capital. It organizes book exhibitions on important national days and provides Auditorium facility to Governmental and NGOs for holding of seminars, conferences and cultural events.

2.3 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The National Library exchanges Government documents with USA; Pakistan National Bibliography with other national libraries of the world; serves as depository for Asian Development Bank publications; and provides information and photocopy service on International request. The National Library is a member of the International Federation of Library Association & Institutions (IFLA), Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL), and CDNLAO.

2.4 AUTOMATION

To computerize the various activities and operations of the National Library, an application software has now been developed and tested. The feeding of the actual data of books on computer started on October 22, 1998 and data of more than 45000 books have been loaded on computer. The software with Urdu support is also being used. The application software also provides for scanning of national newspapers for preservation and preparation of CDs.

2.5 PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF READING MATERIAL

A Conservation Laboratory and a Bindery was established in the National Library in 1994 to protect the collections from deterioration and loss. All new arrival and old books are fumigated against insect-damage. All manuscripts have been microfilmed. Now rare books are being microfilmed. Tissue Lamination process is being for restoration of manuscript and rare books. A programme has been prepared to scan important national dailies on CDs.

2.6 INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BOOK NUMBERING AGENCY (ISBN)

For proper bibliographic control in the country, the ISBN Agency was established 1984. Since then over 800 Pakistani Publishers have been enrolled in the system and more than 17000 publications have been allotted ISBN Numbers. The data is also transmitted to the International ISBN Agency, Berlin, Germany regularly.

2.7 READERS SERVICES

The National Library is intended to be the reference library for all purposes, a working place for scholars, postgraduate students of social sciences and humanities and repository of national published literature for the future generations. Any citizen of Pakistan above the age of 20 years is entitled to become member of the Library. Citizens of foreign countries who live or work in Pakistan may also become members. Besides reading facilities, the Library provides photocopying microfilming and internet facility to the bonafide members.

2.8 COLLECTION OF NATIONAL LIBRARY

National Library of Pakistan has 200000 volumes of books and other reading material at present. Special collections include rare handwritten manuscripts Persian language relating to history of Kashmir and first copy of Kulyat-e-Meer published in 1811 and microfilms/microfiches of All India Census Reports for 1911, 1921, 1931 and 1941. The Library has also acquired copies of about 300 Ph.D. dissertations written in American Universities on Pakistan.

Over a short span of 7 years the Library has acquired following collections through purchases, copyright deposits, gifts exchanges and donations.

Copyright Deposits	45850
Collection other than Copyright Deposits	81874
Manuscripts :	560 Titles
Rare Books	10000
Microfilms	3,15,500 pages
Microfiches	48000 Cards
CDs	600
Magazines	921 titles
Newspapers	207 titles

2.9 BUDGET 2001 – 2002

An approximate budget of Rs.16,647,000 including a book budget of Rs.3,000,000 has been provided for the current financial year 2001 – 2002. A development Budget amounting Rs.1.66 million was also provided during the current financial year 2001 – 2002.

2.10 ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP

The Director General, Department of Libraries, manages the National Library under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education. Following sections of the National Library are in operation

- a Acquisition Section
- b Record Creation Section
- c National Bibliographical Unit (NBU)
- d Delivery of Books and Newspapers Branch (DBNB)
- e Planning & Research Section
- f Conservation Section
- g Computer Section
- h Accounts Section
- i Administration Section
- j International Standard Book Number (ISBN)
- k Readers Services
- l Stack Area

2.11 BUILDING

Constructed on a plot measuring 500 x 112 ft. the National Library building has a covered area of 168,800 sq. ft. on four floors. It is a centrally air conditioned/heated building with a capacity to accommodate one million volumes, 500 general readers seats, work area for staff, Auditorium and other services.

2.12 PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Books Exhibition were arranged on the Independence Day and on the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

A seminar on “Digital Libraries: Trends and Needs in Pakistan” was arranged by the National Library of Pakistan on 6th June 2002 with the collaboration of Pakistan Library Association in the auditorium of the National Library of Pakistan.

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