

VIETNAM

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VIETNAM

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LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

A national Library Council or Association has not been formed in Vietnam yet, but there are several regional library consortia which provide support to libraries in their regions. The majority of these consortia are in the Public Library System, and the Academic Library system is represented by two consortia.

According to the Ordinance on Library in Vietnam promulgated in December 2000, the National Library of Vietnam (NLV) is the leading library in the Public Library System and also the central library of the whole country

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM IS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION

There are 636 libraries under this system including:

- 1 National Library
- 61 City and Province Library
- 574 District Library

In addition, there are 470 Reading Rooms for Children

THE ACADEMIC LIBRARY SYSTEM IS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

There are over 200 University Libraries and more than 18,000 School Libraries in the academic system.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES

The exact number of libraries under this system can't be counted as this kind of libraries depends on respective ministries and sectors

THE MILITARY LIBRARY SYSTEM IS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

About 1,500 libraries and mobile libraries exist under this system, of them there are 54 main libraries. Each of these has a collection of 200,000 to 300,000 volumes.

In recent years, the number of newly built libraries are:

- commune-level libraries: 50
- Provincial libraries: 15
- Academic libraries: 15

Every year the National Library of Vietnam receives 15,000,000 visitors and memberships. There are no visitor/membership statistics from the other library sectors.

Collection Profile

The legal depository collections in Vietnam average 9,600 each year from 45 publishing houses.

The following is the record of publications collected over the last five years:

- 1998: 8,500 titles
- 1999: 9,000
- 2000: 9,550
- 2001: 11,162
- 2002: 10,184

In addition, there are about 540 annual titles of newspapers and local periodicals; about 500 doctoral dissertations.

Furthermore, the National Library maintains the collection of over 5,000 rare books and 20,000 titles of Indo-Chinese books dating from the late 19th century to the early 20th century

NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

- Monographs: 1,200,000 volumes (166.601 titles)
- Rare books: 5,205 vols. (Includes 910 vols. of manuscript)
- Doctoral thesis: 9,152 titles
- Periodicals: 8,000 titles (includes 2,000 Vietnamese titles)
- Microfilms: 200 titles

National bibliographies are published monthly and annually by the National Library. Standard manuals on library profession such as description rules for books, Classification Table, etc. are also produced by the National Library

NATIONAL DATABASES:

SACH (books): 186,000 records

JM (periodicals): 6,000

LA (Thesis): 9,000

INFRASTRUCTURE

Since 1994, the provincial libraries have been linked to the National Library to form library Intranet but the Internet achieved mass adoption in 2000.

The IT Project entitled "Electronic Library" is being implemented making a substantial change to library activities. The Project includes a change in library software, reader card issue, Website design, bar-code application and security equipment for open stacks.

SERVICES

Along with the OPAC, the traditional catalogues exist in most of the main libraries

Apart from the bibliographies published by the National Library as referred to above, other libraries regularly publish different kinds of bibliographies such as special bibliographies and local history bibliographies to meet the needs of the local government and users.

The common trend of libraries is to provide services to the users in the form of open stacks.

Inter-library loan and Exchange services are not very popular in Vietnam.

Services for visually impaired people are carried out in several provincial libraries. This type of service is also being developed at the National Library.

TRAINING

The number of professional librarians under the Public Library System is 1,957. There are 5 Library training schools in Vietnam.

The International Conference on Translation DDC and AACR2 into Vietnamese took place in late September 2002 in Hanoi - Vietnam. The Conference attracted the participation of the leading professors, doctors on library science from the United States, Australia, and directors of key libraries and information centres of the Ministry of Culture and Information and Ministry of Education-Training.

Following up this Conference, the workshop on the Development of Vietnam Library Association was held at NACESTID in Hanoi.

The NLV has signed the copyright contract with the OCLC (United States) for translating and publishing the Abridged 13 Dewey Decimal Classification.

VIETMARC produced by the National Centre for Scientific and Technological Information and Documentation (the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment) based on MARC21.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The 85th anniversary of the NLV was held successfully and NLV was given the Independent Medal by the Vietnam Government.

The National Library of Vietnam:

- Jointly held two exhibitions with Ministry of Culture and information titled *Culture in Western Highland and Publishing in the 50th year*.

- Held 2 international exhibitions entitled "French Books" on the occasion Francophone Day, "Books donated by the Asia Foundation" and the photographic exhibition "After 11th September from the Ground Zero".

- Held a successful National Conference on professional guidance, and donated over 9,000 books for local libraries, army libraries and libraries in flooded areas.

- Hosted the workshop on advanced computerized Braille production.

- Modelling typical libraries in different areas and develop them through out the country.

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LIBRARY ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF VIETNAM

