

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF KOREA

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DIRECTIONS

The National Library of Korea implemented a set of strategic directions for 2003 in an attempt to strengthen the role of the national knowledge and information centre. This included developing library services that make it as easy as possible for all Koreans to access information and improve the professional capacity of librarians and the library co-operations. The library has tried to achieve the following 6 key projects under the strategic directions.

1. Extension of contents of knowledge and information and dissolution of digital divide
2. Strengthening the collection of national literature and the establishment of scientific preservation functions
3. Embodiment of an open library system that makes it as easy as possible for the public to access the information without restriction of space and time
4. Activation of the function of the library as a cultural institution
5. Improvement of professionalism of librarians
6. Increase of co-operation with domestic and foreign libraries

EXTENSION OF CONTENTS AND DISSOLUTION OF DIGITAL DIVIDE

The Library has focused its efforts to maximize the utilities of digital contents so that the value and the rate of use are gradually increased through continuous extension of digitised materials and diversity of digitising objects. For fiscal year 2003, the Library has built 1 million national comprehensive cataloguing records (This has accumulated a total of 3 millions of bibliographic records and 12 millions of holding records) 59,000 titles of contents and 21,600 million pages of full text. The Library raised the effectiveness of access by making them available through the internet. The Library launched the building of perfect bibliographic records of academic journals by adding the article index and abstracts to the cataloguing database and has completed 180,000 journal issues.

To diversify network-based materials and to protect materials from damage through over-usage, the Library has converted 4,000 videotapes into digital formatting.

Based on the plan of the Ministry of Information and Communication of dissolution of the digital divide, the Library has commenced the building of a full text database for the blind. With this project, the 1,430 titles of text books used by the blind at the college and universities has been converted into digital formatting. And the Library has built a total of 90,000 titles of cataloguing records which are housed in 32 libraries for the blind across the nation and are made available through the NLK website. This has contributed to raising its prestige as the national library.

REINFORCING THE COLLECTION OF NATIONAL LITERATURE HERITAGE

To faithfully collect the national literature by legal deposit, the Library has focused its efforts on collecting them without omission, using official publications registration DB and sales catalogues of

huge bookstores. The library has also channelled its efforts to collect the materials published before the enforcement of legal deposit law in 1965 and which were not possessed by the Library. Therefore, the library has collected a total of 498,322 domestic books, which marks a 7 % increase over that of last year. The library has collected 1,391 titles through printed photo reproduction of rare books that other libraries hold.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUNCTION FOR PRESERVING NATIONAL LITERATURE

For the best -suited preservation environment for national literature the new stock building was constructed in 2001 and the Library installed a 138 square meter repairing and restoring room in this building in 2003. This room is well equipped with 10 pieces of special equipment for preservation and conservation works. The examination of material condition, dry cleaning and dust removal, restoration of precious books and fumigation, ect. have been implemented in this room. In addition to that, a microfilm conservation room was created and equipped with basic required equipment. For the year 2003 the library made various efforts to protect original materials from being damaged by continuous usage and acidification, converting the seriously damaged materials into 18,763 rolls of microfilm, 5,722 titles of print photo reproductions and 21,600 titles of digital format and preserved in a specially designed book case.

REALIZATION OF AN OPEN LIBRARY

To realize the 'open library' concept whereby the people can have access to all information without space and time restrictions, the Library has developed the Mobile Library System and made it possible for people to search the library's catalogue information through this system. And with the increase of wireless internet users, the Library had to develop the wireless LAN environment so that users with notebook or PDAs could access the internet for free without joining the additional telecommunications service.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OF LIBRARIANS

The librarians continuing education has been specifically classified and developed on the basis of library work fields. The library operated 34 courses through 37 classes during 2003 including the required professional courses to offer ethics, common knowledge and skills required at each position level for librarians; the optional professional courses to give the specific knowledge related work in areas according to the advanced information environment; designed courses for common development of private and public libraries and standardization courses for library work automation. A total of 1,428 librarians took the course last year. The Library extended the customer-centred professional courses by area and expanded its efforts for the development of education courses to create professional manpower in this digital internet era.

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