

MALDIVES

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE MALDIVES

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The National Library of the Republic of Maldives was founded in 1945 as the “State Library” of the Maldives by Ameer Mohamed Amin didi, then the head of the Department of Education. The Library was renamed “Majeedi Library” in 1948 after one of the most popular statesmen of the Maldives, Ameer Abdul Majeed Didi.

In the climate of development and modernization that has prevailed since 1978 the library was named The National Library by H.E. President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom on the 1st June 1982.

The National Library is headed by the Director General, financed by the government and functions under the Ministry of Information, Arts and Culture. After the re-opening of the National Library, the library will provide Public Library Service cum National Library service. The Public Library aims to provide information, recreation and support research as well as equal opportunity for education and providing books for all. The National Library aims to acquire and preserve publications concerning the country and maintain its national literature.

In the age of globalization, the National Library of Maldives, as the largest and oldest library in the Maldives, is the center of library and information activities in Maldives. The National Library is the apex organization of the library and information services system and serves the entire nation. With the turning point of the new era, the National Library has become the landmark for consultation whenever the need arises for additional knowledge and information. The library has played active roles in collecting reading materials and promoting reading habits as well as research work among Maldivians and non-Maldivians in the past twenty-two years.

OBJECTIVES

Acquisition and conservation of manuscripts of national importance.

Acting as a Referral Center purveying full and accurate knowledge of all sources of bibliographic information and participation in international bibliographic services.

Rendering of bibliographical and documentation services of retrospective material, both general and specialized.

Planned acquisition of foreign material required by the country.

Collection of printed material concerning Maldives, wherever it is published and also acquisition of a photographic record of such materials that are not available within the country.

To promote the researching habits among the children and adults of the Maldives.

Acts as the focal point of Library services in the country and renders to the general public.

To serve as a legal depository for all publications in the country.

To publish the National Bibliography.

To serve as the National Bibliographical Center coordinating local and international activities by establishing relations with other countries.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Collection development is one of the most significant areas of librarianship. It is the backbone of all library services and important for the librarians to develop the collection in an organized manner.

The library has a fairly good number of Arabic and Urdu books beside Dhivehi (Maldivian Language) and English books. The English section contains more than 34,263 books, both Reference Fiction and Non-Fiction. The Dhivehi, Arabic and Urdu section contains almost 8,860, 1,662 and 947 respectively. In addition, the library holds bound periodical volumes, reports, manuscripts, journals and other serials, newspapers and press cuttings files and pamphlets. The books are categorized according to Dewey Decimal Classification 21st edition and catalogued according to AACR2.

The library has a rich collection in Philosophy & Psychology; Religion; Social Sciences; Language; Natural Science & Mathematics; Technology (Applied Science); The Arts – Fine and Decorative Arts; Literature & Rhetoric; Geography & History. The library collects foreign government and academic publications through donation and an exchange program with other libraries around the world. The library has collected and preserved many old Dhivehi literature which is allowed to be used only for reference work. The bound newspapers are also collected. These are a good number of Dhivehi, Arabic, Urdu and Maldivian books. A special collection of books on all aspects of the Maldives is also maintained separately. The library has also good collection in fiction & non-fiction books for children.

National Collection: The National Library main objectives are to acquire and preserve all significant printed materials produced in the country and to maintain the national heritage. A special collection of books on all aspects of the Maldives is also maintained separately. This can be used in the library for reference purposes only.

THE LIBRARY HOURS

The National Library remains open from 8.00am to 9.00pm everyday except Friday and public holidays. The library services hours are:

Opening Hours:	8:00 – 21:00
	9:00 – 21:00 (Ramazaan hours)
Lending Hours:	8:15 – 20:00
	9:15 – 16:00 (Ramazaan hours)
Cash Counter:	8:15 – 18:00
	9:15 – 16:00 (Ramazaan hours)

MEMBERSHIP

The library has the following procedure to enrol its members in the library:

a) To become a member, fill in an application form available for MRF 1/- from the cash counter, and return it to the Library with the membership fees, the Library fees, and two stamp size photographs. Foreign members must pay a refundable deposit or MRF 150/- (one hundred and fifty rufiyaa) in addition to the membership fee and the library fee.

b) Membership fee:

Adult membership fee MRF 50/- (Fifty rufiyaa)

Junior membership fee MRF 25/- (Twenty five rufiyaa)

c) Library fee:

The library fee can be paid annually (every 12 months) or twice a year (every six months). The annual fee is to be paid before December 15th. The first instalment should be paid by June 15th and the second instalment by December 15th. The library fee is to be paid according to the following scale.

Adult members MRF 120/- for one year (12 months)

Adult members MRF 60/- for half year (06 months)

Junior members MRF 60/- for one year (12 months)

Membership is in three categories:

Junior members

Adult members

Foreign members

CLIENTS

The library's users are the general public, children, students, teachers, researchers and Government personnel. Foreigners can be members and also they can visit the library as readers, by paying a deposit of 150.

SERVICES

The library is providing the following kinds of services to the library users:

Lending Services

Reference & Information Services

Current Awareness Services

Photocopying Services

Internet Services

Technical Advice Services

INTERNET SERVICES

The Cyber Station has been installed in the library. The Library Cyber Station provides Internet services to library members for educational purposes only, from 9:00am to 8:00pm. The Internet service could be used for 15 minutes per day free of charge. A fee of =/50 laari for a junior and =/75 laari for an adult member will be charged for each extra minutes.

PHOTOCOPY SERVICES

The photocopy services incurs reasonable charges and this service is also heavily used, especially by students.

SERVICES TO CHILDREN

The Public library has a legitimized duty to perform by providing adequate library services to the children of the locality. Special attention is paid to children by a person specially qualified to attend their needs. A reading room is provided for children between 5 and 16 years of age equipped with reference materials and books of a general nature on various subjects. They can also take books for home reading. The section allows the children to use the computer, including Internet facilities, from the Cyber Station. The Photocopy service and press cutting is also available to children for their school purposes. Special project files are made ready for the student in any time of the year when needed.

LENDING SERVICE

The main objectives of the National Library are provide and issue books for home reading. Books are placed on open shelves and are freely accessible to the readers. The readers can borrow two books at one time for two weeks. There will be a fine of ₨50 laari per book for each day if the item is not returned within the loan period.

REFERENCE AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Besides these essential book services, there are many more facilities that are offered to the public. There is a separate Reference Section in the library where periodicals, newspapers and books for ready reference services are made available for consultation. The Reference service is to assist the clientele to use the resources of the library in an effective manner leading to their optimum utilization. The Reference and information service is the most intensive kind of personal service, which attempts to bring together the user and information in a personal way.

CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICES

The library collects various articles and news items from Newspapers, Periodicals etc. mainly for the use of our readers and filed according to the subjects which are available at the magazine rack. The library also provides abstracts of important articles appearing in newspapers and periodicals. This is part of the library's extension activities and it attempts to bring about an awareness of current affairs among our clients.

READING ROOM FACILITY

A special provision has been made in the National Library for the public to read in the cool and conducive atmosphere of the library. This section is very much appreciated by the readers who sit there undisturbed and study. The latest newspapers and magazines are available this section.

ADEPLIS (Advanced Distance Education Programme in Library and Information Science)

The National Library of Maldives has started an Advance Distance Education programme in Library and Information Science with the help of the Sri Lanka Library Association to train library staff. Five employees have been deputed for this course. The course is a three level professional development programme.

The objectives of the programme are:

- Developing the managerial and professional skills of the library personnel in Maldives so that they can design, operate and maintain the library information system and services required by the country.
- Strengthening the relationship between the library association of Maldives and Sri Lanka with other professional library associations in the region with the view to improving regional cooperation and networking through sharing and exchange of resources.

- Enhancing capability of the Maldives Library personnel in the national library and information system development.
- Produce professionals who can teach and train library personnel in Para-professional grades.

The syllabus, duration and lessons of this course and evaluation of the participants are similar to the national professional course of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA). The participants who complete the three level courses are awarded the professional certificate, which is internationally recognized. Professional librarians are required for designing, developing and operating information and library systems and for the improvement of the library profession in Maldives. The advantage of this programme is that the National Library will recruit a professional librarian as lecturer and consultant.

PUBLICATION OF BIBLOGRAPHIES

One of the important functions of the National Library is to bring about the publication of the National Bibliographies. In addition, the library is responsible for the regular publication of a variety of other bibliographies. The National Library has published the Maldives National Bibliography annually.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The National Library of Maldives is headed by a Director General. The total number of staff is 38 out of which 9 are in administration and 29 in the professional staff. The National Library is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Information Arts and Culture.

LIBRARIAN TRAINING PROGRAMME

The National Library provides librarians around the country with training and continuing education programmes. In this way, the library staff are better able to cope with both the changing external environment and demands of the library's users to more comprehensive information and services. The librarians are provided with courses and instructions from other countries.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

The National Library is actively involved in International Cooperation, document exchange with overseas libraries and membership in international exchange of library materials. The National Library is presently a member of Directors of National Library in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO).

FUTURE PLANS IN MODERINZATION OF NATIONAL LIBRARY

- Networking of Atoll libraries
- Networking with major Government libraries in Male
- Installation of Hardware & software for Networking
- OPAC (Online Public Access Cataloguing)
- Online Access Database
- Linkage with other National resources Networks
- Network based services
- Creation of special database services
- CD-ROM services
- Adequate budget required for retro-conversion

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