

NEPAL

NEPAL NATIONAL LIBRARY

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BUILDING

The Nepal National Library is under the Ministry of Education and Sports. His Majesty's Government of Nepal established the Nepal National Library (NNL) in 1957 at Singha Durbar, having bought the personal collection of His Majesty the King's spiritual Preceptor, the late Hem Raj Pandey. Now it is presently housed in Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur at Rana's Palace and is open to all for reading and reference services.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

At present the Nepal National Library possesses more than 79,000 volumes including books, documents and periodicals in different languages including Nepali, English, Hindi, Sanskrit and Newari. Last year a total number of 3,000 volumes were added to the collection. The total collection of the library has been divided according to the language of the text. The collection also consists of rare and valuable documents. Some libraries including national library and Tribhuvan University Central Library (TUCL) publish regular accession lists. Apart from this the NNL publishes the Nepal National Union Catalogue. There are no national electronically accessible databases in Nepal. However, many libraries have now started to convert their retrospective collection into electronic database. A process of automation of the library collection is being done in Nepal National Library. By now some 21,000 collection have been entered into the NNL database.

SERVICES

The traditional type of library service is available in all libraries depending upon their available resources. Other services like internet services are also available in some of the key libraries. Nepal National Library provides the following services to the users:

Reference and Reading Service

CD-Rom Databases

Inter Library Loan

Current Awareness

Children's Library Service

Online Access and Local Database

Mobile Library Service

Audio Visual and Microfilm Services

The national library does promotional activities to motivate people to read through press releases, seminars etc. Document delivery service is also available in some of the libraries.

TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SEMINAR

There are 335 professionally trained librarians in Nepal. More than 200 of them completed their Bachelor's Degree from the Indian Universities. The number of librarians completing their Master's Degree does not exceed 30. Two librarians have done their Ph.D. The Nepal Library Association has a mandate to train middle level manpower. The Association provides training for approximately 30 people each year. They are known as the paraprofessional group. The Tribhuvan University (the oldest university in the country) opened the Department of Library Science in 1995. This department produces an average of 14 professional librarians every year.

Nepal National Library jointly organised an International Seminar on Multipurpose Community Telecentre: Networking and Future Aims on 15-16 January 2004, where participant from SAARC and ASEAN region were present.

ADB DEPOSITORY LIBRARY

Nepal National Library is also functioning as a depository library of Asian Development Bank publications.

THESES/DISSERTATION COLLECTION

This Library has been receiving theses and dissertation from the Ministry of Education and Sports which are submitted to the Ministry by the Ph.D. holders and toppers in the degree examination. Besides this, the NNL is also receiving duplicate copy of theses and dissertation from other universities. Presently NNL has more than 1000 volumes of theses collection.

PUBLICATION

Nepal National Library has been publishing NNL News - a newsletter of the national library biannually that covers all the library related news.

NEW WING OF CHILDREN'S SECTION

Nepal National Library has been providing library services to children through its new wing which was made possible with the assistance from JICA. Presently the section has more the 3,500 volumes of books in Nepali and English languages. The children's section is open on Saturdays as well.