

VIETNAM

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VIETNAM

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

The Library Council as well as the Library Associations have not yet been developed in Vietnam. Several Consortiums of Library exist according to the geographic areas; these consortiums are designed to provide professional support to different libraries. The majority of these consortiums are under the Public Library System, excluding 02 consortiums belonging to the Academic Library System.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM (UNDER MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION)

The total libraries under this system is 638 including:

1 National Library

63 City and Province Library (2 libraries more than last year)

574 District Libraries

In addition, there are 470 Reading Rooms for Children.

ACADEMIC LIBRARY SYSTEM (UNDER MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING)

This System consists of over 200 University Libraries and more than 18,000 School Libraries.

SPECIAL LIBRARY SYSTEM (UNDER RELEVANT MINISTRIES)

The exact number of libraries under this system cannot be counted as these kinds of libraries depend on respective ministries and sectors.

MILITARY LIBRARY SYSTEM (UNDER MINISTRY OF DEFENSE)

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

In some recent year, the number of newly built libraries is

Commune-level libraries: 50

Province-level libraries: 21 (6 libraries more than last year)

Academic libraries: 17

Regarding the general trend of visitorship and membership at the National Library, every year the Library receives 15,000,000 visitors. This aspect has not been reported from other libraries.

COLLECTION PROFILE

The legal depository collections in Vietnam average 10,300 each year from 45 publishing houses.

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

1999: 9,000 titles

2000: 9,550

2001: 11,162

2002: 10,184

2003: 11,700

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

Further more, the National Library maintains a 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 (766.601 titles)

Rare books: 5,205 vols. (Includes 910 vols. of manuscript)

Doctoral thesis: 11,000 titles

Periodicals: 8,000 titles (includes 2,000 Vietnamese titles)

Microfilms: 200 titles

NATIONAL DATABASES:

SACH (books): 227,000 records

JM (periodicals): 6,240 -

LA (Thesis): 10,745 -

INFRASTRUCTURE

The IT Project entitled "Electronic Library for NLV" (2001-2004) has been in implementation, making a substantial change in the library activities. The Project includes the change in library software (produced by Vietnamese Companies), reader card issue, Website design, bar-code application and security equipment for open stacks and multimedia service.

The first phase of the Project equipped the NLV. The second phase of the Project equipped 6 provincial libraries including setting up the Local Network Area, new library software, computers and providing training. The third phase of the Project equipped more 6 provincial libraries with the same items as the second phase. 4 Provincial Libraries have their own IT Projects.

Many Libraries are interested in linking to the Internet and using the Online Database.

TRAINING

Training Workshops have been held in some main Centers of Information and Libraries on:

Using MARC21_VN

Managing Automation System

Using new Library Software

SERVICES

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

The common trend of libraries is to provide services to 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 in preparation at the National Library.

Many Libraries are interested in establishing Multimedia Services.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- The Project on DDC translation and publication has been in implementation: The DDC Office has been set up in NLV; The Chief Editor has gone to LC for training in Apr. 2004.

- The Project of publishing MARC21_VN is nearly completed by NACESTID (National Center of Science and Technology Information Documentation. Ministry of Science and Environment)

- The NLV hosted the workshop on "Tactile graphics" from 3-7 May 2004, jointly organized by Force Foundation, National Library of Vietnam, and The General Sciences Library of Hochiminh City of Vietnam.

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