

Annual Report to CDNL 2005 – 2006

Name of Country : China
Name of Library: National Library of China
Name of Chief Executive: Dr. Zhan Furui

The National Library of China (NLC) has a history of 96 years, and its predecessor is the Metropolitan Library of Peking which was found in 1909. The total floor space of NLC is 170,000 square meters. There are almost 1300 staff members, 46 reading rooms and 3600 seats. NLC opens everyday throughout the year.

As a national library, NLC provides subject materials for National People's Congress Standing Committee and central government leaders. Besides, NLC also provides subject reference to departments of the central government, national legislative bodies, key research, educational and production institutions.

NLC has an important responsibility of collecting, researching, preserving and conserving the traditional resources. During 2004, the resources of Xixia have been restored completely, the Dunhuang Documents Stack has been founded in NLC, and the Project of Protecting Chinese Rare Book has already started.

Serving public is also one of the NLC's responsibilities. A number of activities were held by NLC, such as the Reading Month, Beijing Science and Technology Week and so on. The items and data correlative total in 2004 are as follow:

Services	Number
Readers to the library	4,450,000
Circulated volumes/items	23,960,000
Information consultation	306,000
New reader Cards	223,900
Lectures	189 (with 66,200Audiences)
Trainings	49
Exhibitions	5

In 2004, NLC continues to be active in the International Communications and cooperations. NLC is now expanding new cooperative relationship with famous universities' libraries. According to the suggestions of IFLA PAC, NLC has founded the China Center of IFLA PAC, translated some articles into Chinese and disseminated to the libraries in China. Various international conferences were held in NLC, such as "the12th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania", "the Sogdiens In China International Symposium", "International Symposium of Local History Documents", "Digital Library-Advance the Efficiency of Knowledge Utilization International Conference". And a number of foreign professionals in the field of library studying were invited to visit NLC.

The National Library of China Phase II Project & National Digital Library Project was started, which aims at building the largest Chinese resource collection and database and the best Chinese information service network. The project has got RMB1.235 billion (\$150 million) from the government. The total floor space is 80,000 square meters, which can accommodate the collections in the following 30 years. When the Phase II Project finishes, the total floor space will reach about 250,000 square meters. The present building will be renovated and then there will be a pretty new National Library of China as a gift to the 2008 Olympic Games.

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