

Annual Report to CDNL 2005 – 2006

Name of Country : Iran
Name of Library : National library of Iran
Name of Chief Executive : Dr Fariborz Khosravi

Inauguration of the New Building

Almost the whole year of 2004 was spent on the move to the New Building and planning for the opening day. Surprisingly enough we started moving while workers were still carrying their last finishing task inside the building. The National Library was previously placed in more than ten buildings scattered all over Tehran and one storage some kilometers far from Tehran. Some 1,300,000 volumes were thus stored in different places some processed and some waiting to be fully processed. Now we were supposed to bring them all in one place and place them on the shelves according to their respective classes. The reading area in the new building, the most glorious part of it consists of:



1. Science and Technology hall on one side and opposite to it there is General references both on the ground floor. 2. On the floor beneath (-1) there are three sections of Manuscripts, Non-Book Materials and Periodicals. 3. And on the first floor we have the halls of Iranology and Islamic Studies on one side and Humanities on the other side.

At the moment only %60 of the building has been finished and rendered to us, the rest 40000 square meter is not yet completed unfortunately. 20000 square meter of it consists of the main storage area. It was hard to decide how to transfer the book and other materials, while the main storage area is lacking.

The moving however was a hectic job, getting ready for the opening day was even more so. However we came over and the inauguration went on well enough. Two hymns named: *Knowledge* and *Book*, had been specially composed for this unforgettable day, by our most famous musician and composer, Mr. Farhad Fakhroddini and the poems also were specially written for the occasion by two outstanding Iranian poets Mr. Jalili and Dr. Sh. Kadkani. The inauguration began with the live orchestra of the two hymns which then they were re-produced on a CD which is enclosed for the notice of the CDNL members.

Collection development

Last year about 36930 volumes of books reached the library through depositary law. But we also purchased 1617 vol. (655 titles) of Iranian imprints. To this should be added about 14225 items of non-book materials which have been deposited to us through the approved Depositary Law of A.V. materials. The exchange and gift department has received 2724 titles of monographs. It has sent out 161,887 items as exchange or gift to university, mosque and school libraries, as well as some libraries abroad. We have also received some 138422 items as gift from Iranian publishers, corporate bodies and individuals.

Acquisition from abroad

Meanwhile the Acquisition Department was working hard to purchase as many relevant books and periodicals as possible from abroad. Approximately \$1000,000 have been deposited with foreign dealers. All items have been carefully selected by senior staff of the library.

We have ordered 5000 titles from abroad mainly in English, of which 2158 titles have been received. 760 titles (1116 vol.) were sent to us through exchange. We spent \$129,197,82 plus E4,337,277 and »4,703,440 to cover the cost of air orders.

Processing

Processing Department has also worked hard to get the books and other items, both new and backlog, cataloged and classified and prepared for shelf in the new building. Last year about 71,920 titles were processed, and more than 120,000 volumes were prepared for shelf.

Indexing of articles amount to 69359 entries. Processing and indexing of photographs and slides are carried out. So far about 13085 items (33194 piece) have been processed

CIP

Cataloging in publication being one of the most successful achievements of the library was carried on. Last year 26915 titles obtained CIP of which 836 titles were reprint. Almost %90 of Iranian new publications are being fully cataloged before publication.

Research

1- Name authority: Revision and authorization of the Persian Names is carried on. This year about 20210 names were added to the *Name Authority List*.

2- Catalog of Iranology: National Library with financial assistant of Iranology Foundation is publishing the catalog of its collection of Iranology and Islamic studies both on CD and hard copy. So research and editing of the card catalogs are carried on. So far out of 32 Persian letters, 16 have been finished, the rest is still at hand. The whole thing is hoped to be finished by Dec 2005.

3. International Standard Identifiers for Iranian Libraries: The National Library of Iran has become ISIL Registration Agency for Iran since May 2005 and has, according to the standard: *ISO 15511 Information and Documentation - International Standard Identifier for Libraries (ISIL)* , the authorization to assign, internationally valid library codes to Iranian Libraries.

The Iranian Library number consists of 10 character positions in the following order:

1- Country Code for Iran = "IR-"

2- Library Category Code for:

Academic Libraries = "2"

Special Libraries = "3"

Research Libraries = "4"

Public Libraries = "5"

School Libraries = "6"

Religious Libraries = "7"

3- City Code, consisting of 3 character positions

4- Library number, consisting of 3 character positions

4- Encyclopedia: The project of Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences in Persian is at hand. The first volume was published in late 2002. Research and editorial work for the compilation of the second volume is nearly finished and will go to the press in a month or two.

5- Integrated Software: The team of catalogers and computer specialists who began working on an integrated library system to be implemented in the new building last year, continuing their task. The project is not finished yet and have had more than 100 session of team work.

6- Subject Heading List: The continuous research project of production of new authorised *Persian subject headings* , goes on as usual. The second supplement to the 3rd edition consisting of some 100,000 new entries (main, subdivision, references and changes) was prepared for publication and is now awaiting for the English - Persian Index to be published.

7- ASFA: Research project of the *Persian Cultural Thesaurus* (ASFA) in 3 languages: Persian, English, Arabic will be distributed in a month or so.

8- National Bibliography: The *National Bibliography* pertaining 294000 records was published as usual on CD format.

9- Periodical: *Directory of Iranian Periodicals and Newspapers* , 2004, was compiled and is under press.

10- Library quarterly: Three issues of *Faslname-ye Ketab* , the quarterly journal of the National Library of Iran, was published in 2004. The fourth one is under press.

11- Standards: Towards the construction of standards for different type of libraries, *Standards for Iranian School Libraries* , was published .

12- Transliteration Scheme: *le Schéma de la translittération Persane pour la langue française*, 2004 . The research project of transliteration scheme for french language into Persian was finished and the result was published.

13- Class PQ: The new edition of PQ (French literature) translated and rearranged according to Persian Alphabet was finished and the result is under press.

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Several other basic books and references have also been written, edited and updated or translated. To name a few:

- *Directors and renowned librarians of the National Library of Iran 1937-2005.*
- *Cataloging manual of Latin works in Persian.*
- *Records of Iran's Contemporary Literary Notables*
- *Moments of reflection* ; a collection of essays on Librarianship.
- *Two centuries with the Persian periodical Abroad*

Manuscript Department

In the year 2004, 970 titles of precious manuscripts were bought to be added to the collection. Last year 460 volumes of manuscripts were cataloged according to library's new format based on AACR2 (rev.) with authorized subject headings, and name authorities. Codicology section is also fully described. Volume 22nd of the catalog of the manuscripts kept in the National Library was published consisting of 550 manuscripts.

Electronic Library for the Blind

A division of Services to the Blind is set up consisting of a special computer with Braille and ordinary keyboard and other peripheral equipments. Some 1700 files of books in full text exist in computer for Braille and audio users.

The National Library with the cooperation of Pactos Company is also making provisions so that the blind can have access to the bibliographic information of all printed materials of the country.

The National Library is also cooperating with Rudaki Organization in various fields.

ISSN

The National Library of Iran has become the National Centre for ISSN since August 2003. So far 385 journal have received ISSN through the National Centre. Before that the National Library as a mediator used to obtain ISSN for Iranian periodicals from the International Center in Paris. Thus some 875 journals had received ISSN before we acted as National Centre. Altogether 1260 out of nearly 1570 periodicals (journals and newspapers) are now identified by ISSN. A monthly report is sent to ISSN in Paris by the Iranian Center.



Architectural aspects of the building

The National Library is the prominent sign of blossoming and development of Iranian culture and civilization and the source of development of Knowledge, duration of rites and strength of belief of Iranian nation, the place of housing the literary treasure of this land and the collector of the fruits of cultural, artistic, scientific and technological efforts and struggles of the people and the scholars of this country. This foundation which is the heart of the information system of the country, while maintaining cultural heritage of the past, is the force to drive community to eminent future.

The new building of the National Library of Iran which is located at Abbasabad lands, North of Shahid Hemat expressway, in an area of 62,000 square meters, is the most important public building, constructed after the Islamic revolution.

The project of the National Library of the Islamic Republic of Iran is executed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Commissioning Organization for State and Public Building and Installations and will be revenue by National Library and Archives of I. R. of Iran. Pirraz consulting planners, architects and engineers carried out the planning, designing and supervision of the complete building.

The consultant of the project was chosen through a designing architecture competition.

The library building is constructed on a gross area of approximately 97,000 square meters with a capacity of, in normal circumstances about 4 million volumes of books and in case of using compact shelving system or robots, up to 7 million volumes of books and periodicals.

In the physical scheme, required spaces have been classified into 8 units considered as the functional subdivisions of the library.

Unit 1 – Public activities, with a net area of 7,410 m².

Unit 2- Research library, with a net area of 16,000 m².

Unit 3- Operational support services, with a net area of 4,560 m².

Unit 4- General Administration, administrative support services and staff facilities, with a net area of 7,960 m².

Unit 5– Operational and maintenance services, with a net area of 7,130 m².

Unit 6- Central closed stacks, with a net area of 20,000 m².

Unit 7- Research center of Islamic and Iranian studies, with a net area of 2,080 m².

Unit 8- Parking facilities with a net area of 7,000 m².

An additional %25 of these areas is needed for vertical and horizontal circulation and building elements, resulting in a total gross area of 97,000 m² for the whole library.

Regarding the inherent and natural specifications existing in the overall architecture plan of the National Library, the following notes are worth mentioning:

_ Achieving to the bulk and humble facade of the building which is the manifest of Iranian architecture. Also, free and easy access to the attractive and everlasting format of its interesting spaces.

_ Achieving to the splendid and magnificent spaces in the internal areas and reading halls which are the spirit of the rich culture and history of Iran.

_ Future developments of technology is the format and operation of the library and the required flexibility of the plan.

_ Accessibility and the internal connections with various functions of the library.

_ Structure specifications of the National Library including considerable live loads on the floor in connection with earthquake and proximity of the plan to the main faults of North Tehran.

_ Permanent development and energy conservation and utmost use of natural light for different spaces, as well as minimizing consumption of fossil fuels through compact spaces and specific construction details.

Also specifications of the design concerning climate of Tehran and the used materials in the casings of the building and its roofs.

- _ Specific and various installations required for different spaces of the plan.
- _ Intelligent devices of the building and their function in the progressive technology of today.
- _ Internal architecture design and specific equipments required for various spaces.

In addition, it is noteworthy to mention that in the structure and façade of the National Library the materials which have been consumed are:

Bricks, concrete and plaster initial sources which are abandoned in the nature. Such materials have also been used for decorations of the internal spaces with various designs and formats.

Simultaneous with the second phase of studies construction of the plan was publicized through tenders in March 1995, and performance of the project was handed over to Armeh Dasht Company under conditions of fixed price without adjustments within two years. This contract was terminated in September 1998.

In the winter 1999, architectural finishing and site works was handed over to Iran Borgeh Construction Company through tender and mechanical, electrical and electronically systems to Alaveh Company.

The coverage of the above contracts was for the first phase of the plan and in this respect a total of 97,000 square meters of building and façade were completed in the beginning of March, 2004. Also, constructions and installations of 60,000 square meters have been completed so far, and the remaining 37,000 square meters relating to the second phase will be completed in the future.

In 2003, when the final construction of the plan was underway, in accordance with the request of national library, new spaces were added to the plan. These were: Auditoriums, non book materials, audio-visual and music study halls, book-binding, repair and disinfection spaces etc.

At the end of 2003, the concrete skeleton of the National Library (contract of Armeh Dasht Company) was recognized as the best concrete skeleton of the country by concrete Association of Iran. It is worth mentioning that this company has performed its obligations by authorizing fixed prices (without adjustments) and has proved its ability in shortening the duration of the plan. As a result of non-payment of adjustment fees for the performance of the plan, in case of prolongation, considerable expenses have been saved. The construction of the skeleton of this project with 97,000 square meters in two and a half year and with such superior specifications is considered a record in construction projects of the country.