

Annual Report to CDNL 2005 – 2006

Name of Country : Republic of Korea
Name of Library : The National Library of Korea
Name of Chief Executive : Kim, Tae Geun

Enhancing the Collection and Processing of Library Materials

As the total depository for the books and documents of the nation, the National Library of Korea (NLK) has been searching for ways in which to handle its ever increasing reserves. In 2004, the NLK introduced a new system for cataloguing its acquisitions and collection of resources. Through this process, we have developed new and more efficient acquisitioning and cataloguing processes, and hence, created more professional opportunities for our librarians.

Cultivating Subject Specialists

For the past few years, the library considered bringing in the Subject Librarianship in response to the constant demand for higher quality reference services by our users. Librarians at the NLK are hired and trained as generalists rather than subject specialists. Last year, we changed this policy along with the organizational structure of our library. The library staff is now assigned to an appropriate professional field according to their backgrounds, experiences and specialized subjects. In addition, we developed training courses for the Subject Librarianship in the hopes of cultivating more creative and knowledgeable librarians, thus improving the overall quality of our reference services.

Reorganization

The NLK has seen substantial improvements through the introduction of the new acquisitioning and cataloguing processes and the Subject Librarianship. Under the current system, there are two departments, seven divisions and one branch library. We have reorganized the library to create a 'Library Policy & International Relations Division' and a 'Serials and Government Publication Division.' We have also combined two divisions - 'Deposits Division' and 'Acquisition & Technical Service Division' to 'Acquisitions and Technical Processing Division.'

A Library Collection of 5 Million

Since its opening in 1945, the NLK has acquired a collection of five million volumes in 60 years. Having reached this impressive record of five million, we have firmly established our position and role as the National Center of Knowledge and Information. Last year to highlight this event, we held a celebration ceremony by inviting five hundred guests, including the First Lady and the Minister of the Culture and Tourism.

The 60th Anniversary of the National Library of Korea

This year is the 60th anniversary of the NLK and we have planned various events to commemorate this special occasion. This consists of the ceremony of the NLK's Vision Announcement, an International Symposium on the Cooperation of Northeastern Libraries, and an Exhibition. The book 「60 Year History of the National Library of Korea」 will also be published this November describing the changes and development of the NLK.

Library Services for the Visually Impaired

To integrate people with disabilities into the mainstream of the library, the NLK introduced several services to benefit the visually impaired, in particular, since 2003. A website was developed using Web Contents Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (WCAG 1.0) as well as a union catalogue of alternative format materials for people with visual impairments. With this project, so far 110,000 titles that are housed at 37 libraries across the country have been built since 2003. In addition to this, we have built a full-text database of university textbooks for students with visual impairments since 2004. At present, 2,276 text books used by various universities have been converted into digital format.

National Children's Library

The NLK plans to change the function of its branch, the Thesis Library, and re-open it as the National Children's Library. The Library will play an important role for the promotion of reading and cultural space for children and

young adults. The National Children's Library will run as a comprehensive research center providing not only a complete collection of Korean children's publications, but also a selection of children's books abroad and international research materials on children's books. The building is being remodeled step by step, with interior work to reflect a new image appropriate for children. The library is scheduled to open in May 2006.

Preparation for the 72nd WLIC/ IFLA General Conference in Seoul 2006

At present, we are putting all of our time and effort into the successfully hosting of the 2006 WLIC, CDNL, IME-ICC which will be held in Seoul next year. Also, we are doing our best to attend several international conferences such as the 2005 WLIC to actively promote these events in Seoul.