

Annual Report to CDNL 2005 – 2006

Name of Country : Vietnam
Name of Library : National Library of Vietnam

Library system

VietNam library currently comprises Public Library System, Academic Library System, Special Library System and Military Library System. There are about 23, 000 libraries throughout the country.

+ *Public Library System under Ministry of Culture and Information. The total libraries under this system is including:*

- 1 National Library
- 64 City and Province Library
- 583 District Library
- 2500 ward-level libraries

In addition, there are 470 Reading rooms for Children, 8,000 commune and village libraries or book cabinets

+ Academic Library System under Ministry of Education and Training. This system consists of 250 University Libraries and 19, 000 School Libraries ; and the military library sectors account for a futher 300 and 1,500 libraries respectively

+ Special Library System under relevant Ministries

The exact number of libraries under this system cannot be counted as this kind of libraries depends on respective ministries and sectors

+ Military Library System under Ministry of Defence

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

The public library system is headed by the National Library of Vietnam. According to the Ordinance on Libraries promulgated in 2001, the National Library is empowered to work as the central library throughout the country, with the following responsibilities: (i) to exploit domestic and foreign sources to meet the needs of readers; (ii) to collect legal deposit publications; (iii) to build up and preserve the national collection; (iv) to compile and publish the National Bibliography and General Bibliography of Viet Nam; (v) to provide readers with library services; (vi) to co-operate and exchange materials with domestic and foreign libraries; (vii) to study information and library science and technology; (viii) to improve the expertise and professional skills of librarians; and (ix) to provide professional guidance to libraries throughout the country.

Collection Profile

The legal depository collections in Vietnam average 11, 200 each year from 47 publishing houses. The following is the record of publications collected over the last five years:

2000: 9, 550 titles

2001: 11, 162

2002: 10, 184

2003: 11, 700

2004: 13, 342

In addition, there are about 540 annual titles of newspapers and local periodicals; about 800 doctoral dissertations. Further more, The National Library maintains the collection of over 5, 000 rare books and 20, 000 tiles of Indo-Chinese books dating from the late 19 th century to the early 20th century

Regarding general trend of visitation at the National Library, every year the library received 15, 000, 000 visitors. This aspect has not been reported from other libraries

National collections

The national collection housed in the National Library of Viet Nam:

Monographs: 1, 200, 000 volumes

Rare book: 5, 205 volumes (910 vols of manuscripts)

Doctoral thesis: 11, 1 37 titles

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

Microfilm s: 200 titles.

National bibliographies are monthly and annually published by the National Library

National Databases

SACH (books): 262, 364 records

JM (Periodicals): 6, 261 -

LA (Thesis): 11, 379 -

Infrastrure

Since the mid 1990s computers have been installed in the National Library of Viet Nam and several other major libraries, and as part of its recent upgrade the National Library has made substantial progress with automation, establishing a local area network (LAN) to link all its divisions and a wide area network (WAN) to connect it to 64 provincial/municipal libraries. Internet achieved mass adoption in 2000. Other important developments of recent years include the launch in 1987 of a National Bibliography which now accounts for some 130, 000 books, 6, 000 current periodical titles, 1, 700 historical periodicals and 3, 000 doctoral theses; and since 1994 the South East Asian Microfilm (SEAM) project which has created modern microfilming facilities in Hà Noi with a view to filming the most important documents in the National Library, the National Archives, the Institute of H₂N-N₂m Studies and the Institute of Social Sciences Information.

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

The first phase of the Project equipped for NLV. The second phase of the Project equipped for 6 provincial libraries includes setup Local Network Area, new library software, computers, training...

The third phase of the Project equipped 6 provincial libraries includes the same items as 2nd phase, 4 Provincial Libraries have their own Project on IT

Many Libraries are interested in linking to Internet and Online Database

Since the last year there have been more provincial libraries paying attention to collect electronic materials though the total number collected was still limited (about 20 titles of CD per library a year in average); some libraries have compiled electronic publications.

The common trend of libraries is to provide services to the users in the form of open stacks. Inter-library loan and exchange services are still not very popular in Vietnam.

Training

About training, The Vietnamese library sector currently employs an estimated 22,300 full time staff.

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

- Using MARC21_ VN
- Managing Automation System
 - Using new Library Software
 -

- Held successfully the Conference on “Improving the quality of services of town/city libraries under province in the new period” 200 participants from 51 provinces

- Held successfully 2 Classes of AACR2 training in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city with 400 participants through out the country

Other Activities

- Start digitizing material of NLV with 2, 000 title (50, 000 pages) of doctoral thesis synopsis
- Open the multi-media Reading room at NLV attracting more than

20, 000 readers coming to use in 6 months

- The first volume of Vietnamese Library Journal has been issued

- Controlled vocabulary of National Library of Vietnam has been completed and will be issued in 2005

- DDC translation into Vietnamese

- MARC21_VN is completed by NACESTID (National Center of Science and Technology information Documentation, Ministry of Science and Environment)
- Distribute 80, 000 books sponsored by The Asia Foundation to Vietnamese libraries
- The NLV Hosted the workshop on "Tactile graphics" from 3-7 May 2004, jointly organized by Force Foundation, NLV and The General Science Library of Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam