

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF KOREA

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

First of all, last year was the pivotal moment for the National Library of Korea with its successful host of 2006 Seoul CDNL and WLIC and the launch of the National Library for Children and Young Adults. Also, it was the year for us to take our new motto of “Vision: Intellectual Power to Make the Country Strong” that was a project in October 2005. Under this motto, we started to put into action to perform library policy functions and to listen to the public. We focused on the enhancement of user-oriented library services in seeking for facing problems and finding out solutions. As the extension, we have expanded supports for building public libraries, and provided operational supports. Also, to provide support for building small libraries nationwide, we have a newly organised ‘Small Libraries Promotion Team’ in April.

Secondly, we have carried out two major projects in 2006. The first one was to build the National Digital Library. With the establishment of the “Basic Plan for the National Digital Library Operation Strategy”, we have set up five target tasks, such as the National Digital Library Collection Management, the National Digital Library Portal, and Information Commons. Also, we have organised “Friends of the NDL” to converge various aspects and to attract continuous interest and support in the construction of the NDL, which may become a new paradigm for the conventional notion of libraries. The construction of the NDL is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2008. Upon opening, it will serve as the major national information centre equipped with cutting-edge technology set in a ubiquitous environment.

The other project, to build the National Library for Children and Young Adults, was successfully opened on 28 June 2006. As the demands emerged for children’s libraries, it was inevitable to assign a separate premise for a children’s library. The National Library for Children and Young Adults is now in operation with six library rooms including space offering various cultural programs to children and young adults.

Thirdly, we have not only executed various activities to systematically promote our vision but also internally established the ground for an organised and efficient promotion of the library policy. In October 2006, the *Library Act* and in December 2006, the *Reading Culture Promotion Act* were enacted. Accordingly, in October, the “Library and Information Bureau” was organised in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to support the “Committee for Library Information and Policy”, which will be under the command of the President and expected to efficiently promote library and information policy on the national level.

Lastly, in 2007 we have set the goal of “Globalisation, Digitalisation, and User-oriented Operation of the Library”, and basic directions of strengthening the international co-operation towards a global knowledge-based society and of expanding information service ground through IT and digital culture. We are planning to perform reorganising of our systems pursuant to the amended Library Act, establishing of Digital Library Preparatory Planning Group, building the foundation of Support Center for Libraries for the Disabled and the Library Research Center, strengthening user-oriented library services and expanding library infrastructure, strengthening of collection system and management capability of national literature, establishing a library information system to lead U-Library and raising international recognition through fortified cooperation activities, and lastly, developing the foundation for nationwide libraries for children and young adults for the future.

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