

VIETNAM

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VIETNAM

PHAM THE KHANG – CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

HIGHLIGHTS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

TRANSLATION OF INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC STANDARDS

The National Library of Vietnam officially launched the Vietnamese translation of the Dewey Decimal Classification in a seminar in Hanoi on 16 August 2006. Translated and published by the NLV under license of the copyright holder OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, Inc.), this is the first official and complete Vietnamese version of the DDC scheme. The publication was also introduced at the IFLA 77th General Conference in Seoul, Korea on 22 August 2006.

In October 2006, the National Center for Scientific and Technological Information (NACESTI) also announced the completion of the Vietnamese edition of Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2). With these achievements, three major international bibliographic standards including MARC21, AACR2 and DDC have been translated into Vietnamese for nation-wide implementation. All three translations take root from a workshop in Hanoi in September 2001 attended by leading librarians across the country, who decided to choose the standards as their national ones. It was expected that the standards will improve the bibliographic control, promote resource sharing and international cooperation among Vietnamese libraries.

FOUNDATION OF VIETNAM LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vietnam Library Association (VLA), the first and long cherished nation-wide grouping of Vietnamese librarians, was officially founded in a conference in Hanoi on 22 October 2006. The national association of Vietnamese librarians shall have the following objectives:

- Advance and strengthen the Vietnamese librarianship; enhance the roles and positions of librarians and library institutions in the Vietnamese people's social and cultural life; make positive contributions to the economic, social and cultural development of the country.
- Establish, maintain and strengthen networks, partnerships and linkages among Vietnamese and foreign librarians, libraries, library schools and library associations and related organisations in the areas of experience sharing and improved professional knowledge; foster the development and international integration of Vietnamese librarians and library institutions.
- Serve as a national forum for library professionals, library related people and library friends to share experience, to promote mutual understanding and to unite their intellectual power to solve major issues of the Vietnamese library profession.

VLA founding conference also elected 31 Executive Members including President and five Vice Presidents. The two VLA's top positions include:

1. Ms Nguyen Thi Ngoc Thuan, VLA President
 - ♦ c/o: Director, Library Department, Ministry of Culture and Information
2. Mr Pham The Khang, VLA Vice President cum Secretary-General
 - ♦ c/o: Director, National Library of Vietnam

PUBLICATION OF DIRECTORY OF VIETNAMESE LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS

In October 2006, the Library Department of the Ministry of Culture and Information published the Directory of Vietnamese Libraries and Information Centers (2nd Edition). The Directory (in Vietnamese) provides an overview of all library systems and information centers with contact details, collections, number of staff, facilities and IT infrastructure of each library. The publication resulted from a comprehensive survey by the Library Department of:

- The National Library of Vietnam.
- 64 provincial/city public libraries, 582 district libraries and 6,046 village book stacks.
- 57 research libraries, 230 academic libraries and 17,000 school libraries.
- 218 information centres and 2,740 military libraries.

DIGITAL LIBRARY FOR OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE

Assigned and funded by the Ministry of Culture and Information, the National Library of Vietnam has started a new project to build a digital library for overseas Vietnamese. The online digital library is targeted at about five million overseas Vietnamese (Viet Kieu) living in the United States, Australia, and Europe who have relatively different demands for Vietnamese information. The provision of information resources on Vietnam's economy, society and culture is of great importance to strengthen their bonds to the motherland and make a greater contribution to the national development.

The digital library, scheduled to be online in 2010, will provide published materials in various formats such as text, sound and video clips digitised from the National Library of Vietnam's legal depository collection. The digital collection will cover a wide range of subjects and be available in both Vietnamese and major foreign languages. It will also include online Vietnamese dictionaries to help library users have better understanding and correct use of their mother tongue language.

RESEARCH ON COMPUTING ACCESS IN VIETNAMESE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the project's objectives were to draw an overview of computing access and to identify challenges as well as opportunities to bridge the digital divide in 64 provincial/city libraries and nearly 700 district libraries in Vietnam. Conducted by the Library Department of the Ministry of Culture and Information, National Library of Vietnam and General Sciences Library of Ho Chi Minh City from October 2006 to February 2007, the project is one of the most comprehensive surveys of information technology infrastructure and computing access in Vietnamese libraries. The project's deliverables are expected to lay foundations for a possible project applying for funding from the Global Libraries Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

SEAM MICROFILM PROJECT

Negotiation is underway between the National Library of Vietnam and the Center for Research Libraries, USA, to start a new project on microfilming of early Vietnamese newspapers as part of The Southeast Asia Microform Project. If the negotiation succeeds, the project is expected to start in January 2008 and be completed in December 2009. Under the project, the CRL will provide the NLV with microfilming facilities and training of staff to negative and makes one positive copy for scholarly use. However, the NLV remains the copyrights holder of the microfilmed materials and the CRL does not have permission to make copies of the materials without the consent of the NLV.

THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ASIAN DIGITAL LIBRARIES

The International Conference on Asian Digital Libraries (ICADL) is the leading event in Asia in digital libraries research. Through a series of nine annual conferences, with focus on the development, implementation and utilisation of digital libraries, the ICADL has gained its reputation as an important and well-known international event in the field of computer science and library and information science. It provides an effective forum for IT and information professionals to share and discuss the latest development of digital libraries. The Conference has shown a significant impact not only in Asian countries in particular, but also in the whole world in general.

The 10th International Conference on Asian Digital Libraries (ICADL 2007) will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam and is jointly hosted by the National Center for Scientific & Technological Information (NACESTI), the National Library of Vietnam (NLV), General Science Library of Ho Chi Minh City (GSL), the Library & Information Center of the Vietnam National University Hanoi (LIC/VNUH), Hanoi University of Technology (HUT), Vietnam Association on Scientific and Technological Information & Documentation (VASTID), Vietnam Library Association (VLA), Vietnam Association for Information Processing (VAIP), and other organisations.

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