

**35th CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES
(CDNL). QUEBEC CITY, CANADA, 13 AUGUST 2008**

TEMPLATE FOR COUNTRY REPORTS

Name of Country: Thailand
Name of Library: The National Library of Thailand
Name of Chief Executive: Miss Orapin Limskul

ANNUAL REPORT OF CDNL 2008

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**Country Report
The National Library of Thailand
April, 2008 A.D.**

The National Library of Thailand

The National Library of Thailand was established by the Royal Decree of King Chulalongkorn of Siam (King Rama V) in 1905 A.D.. At first, the Library was situated within the precinct of the Royal Palace. In 1916 A.D., King Vajiravudh of Siam (King Rama VI) decreed that the Library be transferred to a new building entitled Thavaravattu building. Over the year there has been an ever increasing appreciation of the important of the role of the National Library in education culture and national development in general. In 1962 A.D. the Thai Government by Minister of Education, therefore, decided to have a new building constructed at the site adjoining to the Royal Landing – stage at Thawasukree, on Samsen Road and officially declared open on May 5, 1966 A.D. In 2007 A.D., the Thai Government provided budget for the National Library of Thailand to build a new building behind the National Library building 1, This project will be begin at the end of the year 2008 A.D.

Vision

As a center of excellent and innovated intellectual heritage collection with best service and academic leading role.

Mission

The Library's main missions are to collect and preserve nation's intellectual properties, sciences, arts and cultures in the forms of written documents, printed documents, printed publications and audio-visual materials; to provide services of reading, learning, searching and researching to students and public; and to operate the library science, information science and information technology science. Beside it also acts as the national center of information and academic cooperation by coordinating with other libraries and institutes both national and international.

Function

As prescribed in the Ministerial Regulation on Organization of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture. The National Library of Thailand as the national representative library of the country is carrying out the following tasks:

1. The acquisition, processing, analysis, preservation and storage of national intellectual and cultural heritage materials in the form of stone inscriptions, manuscripts, Thai traditional books, palm-leaves, printed publications, audio-visual materials and electronic media from Thailand and abroad.
2. Survey, research and development on library management and service.
3. Render service of materials mentioned in 1 to public all over Thailand.
4. Control of the national information system and library cooperation network through computerization.
5. Preparation and standardization of bibliographies and management of the ISBN and ISSN system.
6. Management and preservation of complete collection of domestic materials and materials relating to the country.
7. Leadership and advice to libraries and information units.

National Library organization

The National Library of Thailand is under the direction of a Director and under the control of the Fine Arts Department, Ministry of Culture. The National Library is divided into subdivisions as following:

1. General Administration section
2. Library Resource Development Division
3. Reference and Research Service Division
4. Audio-Visual Materials and Library Activities Division
5. Manuscripts and Inscription Division
6. Library Information Center
7. Library Standard and Research Division
8. National Library Branch

Budget

The National Library of Thailand receives budget from Fiscal Year 2008 A.D. in the total amount of 153,768,900 baht (around 4,805,270 US\$)

Personnel

The library employs a total of 163 staff member. (on 15th April 2008 A.D.)

Personnel	Person
Librarian	42
Library Assistant	16
Oriental Language Specialist	13
Computer Programmer	3
Other (Government officers, Temporary employees, etc.)	89
Total	163

Service

The National Library is **open on:** Monday – Friday 9.00 a.m. – 18.30 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday 9.00 a.m. – 17.00 p.m.

Close on: national holidays

People at all level, all races, all regions can get in to library to receive services.
Books, periodicals, newspapers and other tools can be used within the library.

1. provide reading books of all subjects.
2. journals and newspapers both up-dated and prior issues.
3. information research of ancient documents in the forms of palm-leave inscriptions and Thai manuscripts as well as stone inscriptions and ancient Thai scripture-cases from Ayudhaya to early Rattanakosin periods.
4. audio-visual materials with fees of making copy in the form of microfilms, scan items, CD-ROMS or pictures.
5. computer information research such as automation library system service, CD-ROMS service and internet service without fees by following the library Regulations.
6. music information.
7. certain printed documents the national center of The International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN), The International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSN)
8. The inspector according to the Printing Media Act 2007 A.D. for newspapers and other serials.

Collection

Policy of acquisition is to collect all publications in Thailand, publications about Thailand and by Thai authors published abroad, publication about Southeast Asia and general knowledge of all subjects. Regarding the development of preservation laboratory is being made. Rare books, newspapers and manuscripts, are microfilming and digitizing as well as physical conservation treatments not yet covered all materials.

(Data: as of April 15, 2008 A.D.)

Material Collection

❖ Monographs	2,903,175	volumes
❖ Periodicals	67,163	items
❖ Newspapers	20,439	items
❖ Rare books	150,614	volumes
❖ Manuscripts	389,294	items
❖ Non-book materials	98,554	items
❖ Microfilms	487	items

Digital Collection

❖ Inscriptions	27	items
❖ Thai traditional books	341	items
❖ Palm-leaves	49	items
❖ Rare books	708	item
❖ Audio-visuals (Music)		
- VDO Tape	337	items
- Cassette Tape, Compact Disc etc.	2,734	items
- Music Scores	23,879	items
- Photos, Picture, Written Program	2,105	items

Challenges

1. Buildings and Facilities. According to the increasing number of printed and audio-visual materials and library users, the collecting and service areas are insufficient.
2. Personnel. Personnel in operation and service are insufficient. Moreover there is a high number of resignation, which leads to time consuming for recruiting and training new entry personnel since they are inexperienced and inaptitude.
3. Information Technology. This means of insufficient number of computers. The existences are out-dated models with slow response to the network.

Main Development

Regarding with the current challenges, the National Library of Thailand has decided to establish some pilot projects, which are;

1. The National Library of Thailand Bill B.E..... the Negotiation and Evaluation the Development of the Public Sector Committee Group 9 has approved to submit The National Library of Thailand Bill B.E..... The bill subcommittee includes veterans of laws from the Council of State and Ministry of Education, and librarians from institute libraries with the mission of inspecting the bill, which is being amended, followed the universities representatives' purposes. Moreover the subcommittee missions are also to formulate the assessment principles of the necessity for The National Library of Thailand Act, and to transfer the work to the legislative subcommittee when the mission is done.

2. The National Library of Thailand Development Project, with the Cabinet resolution and a budget of 562,687,600 baht, the National Library is going to build a five story building located behind the main building within the constructing period of 4 years, between 2008 - 2011 A.D.

3. The New Library Building Project in Sa Kaew Province. The National Library of Thailand has received a budget to build a new National Library building by setting in a 2 year bound budget (2006 – 2007 A.D.) Currently the building is completely built and in the fiscal year 2008 A.D., it needs to collect all materials such as books, printed documents, educational items and computers.

4. The Chinese Information Resource Service Room Development Project. According to the Fine Arts Department under the initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn – Chinese Information should be arranged into the National Library database so that the public can search for Chinese documents. Currently it is in progress.

5. The National Library of Thailand Information Technology Development Project. This project is to use the information technology in administration and service management. It is the main restructuring for the library to underpin the advance of technology in the next 2-3 years for the network connection between the central and regional facilities.

6. The Princess Sirindhorn Music Library and King Rama 9 Music Library Renovation Project.

7. "The Thavaravuthu Building" Renovation and Decoration Project. This building is aimed to be the Phra Chula Chomklao Chaoyuhua Glorify Building by the government policy 1998 A.D. At present the building is completely renovated but with the property matter the landscape could not be arranged.

8. The Database Duplication Development Project. This is to make duplication for all ancient documents, which are the main source of the national cultures. The duplicates can be in all forms, for instant, photocopies, microfilms and pictures, which can be used efficiently.

9. The International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN) Development Project.

10. The International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSN) Development Project.

Events in 2007 – 2008 A.D.

- “Funny Time on May 2007” a reading promotion Program (May 2007 A.D.)
- Complete Preservation Program (25th - 27th June 2007 A.D.)
- The Ceremony for The National Library of Thailand 102th Year Anniversary (12th October B.E. 2007 A.D.)
- The Visit to the National Library of Thailand. The Director General of the Fine Arts Department (18th October 2007 A.D.)
- The Visit to the National Library of Thailand. The Deputy Director General of the Fine Arts Department (30th October 2007 A.D.)
- The Seminar for ESCAP librarians from other countries at The National Library of Thailand (7th November 2007 A.D.)
- The Mahachaad Sermon, the sermon on lives of the Great Buddha (1st December 2007 A.D.)
- The Visit of Korean librarians (13th December 2007 A.D.)
- The Seminar on “Justified Use of Copyrights” by The National Library of Thailand Association (Society) (19th December 2007 A.D.)
- The Receiving Ceremony of The New Library Building in Sa Kaew Province (26th February B.E.2008 A.D.)
- ISBN Workshop/Training course (7-8th May 2008 A.D.)
