



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VIETNAM

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**Vietnam Country Report
2008**

Hanoi, August 2008

Vietnam Country Report

2008

I. REGIONAL PROJECTS

1. The 1st and 2nd CONSAL Executive Board Meeting was successfully held in Hue city and Ho Chi Minh city with the participation of members from 10 ASEAN countries.

2. Promotion of written publications in Southeast Asia

The National Library of Vietnam has completed the digitization of over 140,000 pages (1212 titles) of old French books published in Vietnam before 1954 as part of the regional project VALEASE funded by the Government of France. Under the project (2006-2007), the National Library of Vietnam, the National Library of Laos, the National Library of Cambodia and other libraries with valuable French holdings are granted funds for the digitization of their old French materials.

3. Improvement of public library services in Laos and Vietnam

As the fund reduced by the Swedish Government, total finance of this project was cut down just enough for the inception phase. The Project Management Board has set up a small- scale project in the year 2008 instead, of which, a training course created for Vietnamese librarians (12 persons) and Laos librarians (6 persons). The course's goal is to provide better awareness of the social role of libraries, library management and development skills, IT application in library services, etc.

4. The competition "Looking for Culture Ambassadors" was successfully organized with the sponsorship from Asia Foundation.

5. Force Foundation supported the General Science Library in Hochiminh City a mobile-library van for vision-impaired persons

6. Sino-Nom Digitization Project

The National Library of Vietnam is working closely with the Vietnamese Nom Preservation Foundation to digitize the NLV's Hán-Nôm collection. The valuable collection of manuscripts in old Chinese and Vietnamese scripts is one of the oldest collections in Vietnam. The materials, however, are under danger of deterioration and damage if the originals are used. The project, once started, will produce digital copies of the collection using high-end digital photographic technologies which will be put on an Internet accessible database.

II. NATIONAL PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

1. Project “Compiling Vietnam Library Acts” was submitted to the 12th National Assembly of Vietnam.
2. MoST have issued the Masterplan of library performance in Vietnam to 2010 and towards 2020, including 11 concerning projects. As mentioned on this document, local committees of people are in charge of setting up the local master plan of library performance
3. On March 10th 2008 MoST issued standardized regulations of structure and services of academic libraries in Vietnam.
4. MoST have completed the draft Decree on “Performance of private libraries for public use in Vietnam ” and submitted to the Prime Minister. This document is to encourage and give favorable conditions to Vietnamese people in setting up private libraries for public use.
5. The National Pilot Program in Culture has been continuously taken into practice of library field. In year 2007, the Government invested more than 22 billion dong to support service of public libraries.
6. Libraries along the country coordinated various activities on Book Day in all of 64 provinces

III. meeting and seminar at the national level

1. The National Meeting of public libraries system was successfully held in Hue city
2. Seminar on Empowering grass-root library net by supports from concerning institutions.
3. Seminar on Reading promotion within minority ethnics.
4. Seminar on “Libraries to serve working class”
5. Vietnam Library Association and the National Library of Vietnam hold the seminar on DDC, MARC 21 and AACR2.
6. Seminar on Digitalization with academic libraries



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CDNLAO Vietnam Country Report 2008

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Introduction

The Report recapitulates highlights of developments of the National Library of Vietnam in 2008 and presents digital library initiatives in Vietnam.

Collection profile

The National Library of Vietnam currently houses as many as 1.3 million volumes of materials in both Vietnamese and foreign languages. In 2006, the National Library of Vietnam acquired additional 231,206 volumes of 20,595 titles, of which over 17,000 Vietnamese titles (i.e., new publications) were deposited by Vietnamese publishers under legal deposit legislation.

Apart from regular acquisitions, in 2006, the National Library of Vietnam (NLV) was donated nearly 40,000 books in English by the Asia Foundation, USA under the Books for Asia Program and distributed the books to libraries nationwide.

Services

Total number of the NLV's membership cards issued in 2006: 28,000 cards

Visits to the NLV: 686,736 visits or nearly 2,008 visits daily

Circulation in the NLV: 1,116,972 items

Infrastructure

In 2006, D-Lib, digital library management software, successfully came into operation to manage new and existing digital collections such as Vietnamese Doctoral Theses, books digitized under CONSAL/COCI digitization project, etc.

Reading Promotion

For the first time, the National Library of Vietnam, in collaboration with the British Council and major libraries in Hanoi, organized the *World Book and Copyrights Day* on 23 April 2006. The crowded event attracted nearly 3000 visits and was a good occasion to encourage public interest in reading books and copyrights issues.

Apart from this highlight, 12 workshops about authors and works as well as 6 exhibitions on various topics that attracted thousands visitors were held at the National Library of Vietnam. Followings are major exhibitions and events:

- Reading Festival and Exhibition of books donated by the Asia Foundation, USA
- EU Space Exhibition
- Chinese scripts - from oracle bones to computer

Professionalization, training

On 22 October 2006, Vietnam Library Association was officially established and presented before the public in a conference at the National Library of Vietnam. This is the first Vietnamese nation-wide professional organization of the library community.

The National Library of Vietnam is working with Tsukuba University of Japan in the project “Research Development of a model for improvement of information environment through Japanese libraries” which applies for funding from Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports Science and Technology. The project focuses on training of public and school librarians in developing countries including Vietnam.

DDC Translation

The National Library of Vietnam officially published Vietnamese translation of the Dewey Decimal Classification Abridge Edition 14 in a seminar in Hanoi on 16 August 2006. This is the first authorized and complete Vietnamese version of the DDC scheme undertaken by the National Library of Vietnam under a joint project with RMIT International University Vietnam with a view to improving bibliographic organization in Vietnamese libraries. The National Library of Vietnam also aims to be Vietnam’s DDC National Center and committed to promoting the ongoing use of Dewey.

International and regional relations

The National Library of Vietnam has set up and maintained friendly relations and regular material exchange with 122 libraries and information agencies of 32 countries. In 2006, the National Library sent out 1,330 Vietnamese books and 13,756 Vietnamese issues of 60 periodical titles to 78 partner libraries all over the world.

Year 2006 also marked greater regional and international integration of Vietnam libraries with handing over of the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians’ flag to Vietnam. The 14th CONSAL General Conference will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2009.

Digitization Projects

Vietnamese Doctoral Theses

This is one of the National Library of Vietnam’s major digitization projects under which about 400,000 pages of Vietnamese doctoral theses have been digitized and available to the NLV’s user on a controlled access database.

CONSAL Digitization Project

The heritage and depository collections (including manuscripts) of the National Libraries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) make up the most

comprehensive cultural and literary heritage of the region. A regional digitization project - "Shared Knowledge, Shared Heritage" was proposed as a response to the growing interest of Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) member countries to promote and share publications of cultural and literary heritage with each other. This eventually led to The Digitisation of Legal Deposit Catalogues in ASEAN National Libraries Project partially funded by ASEAN COCI Regional Digitisation Programme.

Under the project, the National Library of Vietnam digitized 500 legal depository titles in English in its national collection and became one of the biggest contributors of the project. The titles now can be accessible at the project website: <http://www.aseaninfonet.org/>

VALEASE Project

The project is funded by the Government of France, concentrating in digitization of precious and rare documents in French language now being stocked at the National Library of Vietnam, the National Library of Lao, the National Library of Cambodia and other libraries.

By the end of 2006, the National Library of Vietnam has digitalized 618 titles with 70,329 pages and 66 maps.

The project lays foundations for the development of an Indochina Digital Library offering access titles of great significance to the cultural heritage of the countries in the Mekong Sub-region.

Digital Library for Oversea Vietnamese

The National Library of Vietnam is assigned to carry out this project with funding from the Ministry of Culture and Information.

The digital library will provide for about 5 million overseas Vietnamese published materials in various format such as text, sound and video clips, in a wide range of subject and be available in both Vietnamese and major foreign languages.

Sino-Nom Digitization Project

The collection of manuscripts in old Chinese and Vietnamese script (Han-Nom) is one of the oldest collections in Vietnam. The National Library of Vietnam is planning to digitize about 5700 titles in its Han-Nom collection and create an Internet accessible database of Han-Nom collection within a project funded by the Vietnamese Nom Preservation Foundation, USA.