

Title: ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2009

Name of country: China

Name of library: National Library of China

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1. General overview of recent major developments at the National Library of China.

2008 was an important year in the history of the National Library of China (NLC) as it witnessed the completion and opening of a new library building, the National Library of China Phase II, as well as the finish of the first part of the development of China National Digital Library (CNDL) project.

Great efforts were made on providing free services to the public. With the support of state finance, the Library reduced or remitted charges for all service items on February 8, 2008.

The new library building was opened on 9th September 2008; some new systems of the CNDL were also put in place for public services on the same day. The construction of the National Digital Library of China Project has never been relaxed and periodical results have been demonstrated. Over 10 revolutionary services have been launched for the public, including RFID automatic book circulation system, touch-screen electronic newspapers, virtual navigation, mobile phone-based “NLC in Palm” reading, China national digital library for the blind, wireless access, etc. They have enlarged the extent of services and get broad attention and recognition from social communities.

The NLC’s social education commitment was greatly strengthened and fulfilled. In 2008, NLC hosted 165 different lectures totally, attracting about 30,000 audiences; undertook or hosted 20 plus exhibitions, such as “Large-scale Exhibition of Wenchuan Earthquake Relief Documentary Photos”, “Special Exhibition of National Precious Ancient Books”, “Western Eyes: Historical Photographs of China in British Collections”, etc. And the “NLC Wenjin Book Award”, which is honored as the “Wind Vane of Public Reading”, has been successfully held four times.

2. Note of the relationship to government

The information services provided by the NLC to the state council departments were widely extended. NLC have successfully and effectively completed tasks, such as providing special document research and information consulting service for decision-making and law-making by state organs. In 2008, NLC have provided 9224 decision-making and law-making

advisories, among which the *Information Report on Wenchuan Earthquake Post-disaster Reconstruction* has delivered effective information for the country's reconstruction efforts. The “NLC Legislative Reference Service Platform” was put into use.

3. Key facts and figures

Staff: By the end of 2008, the staff of NLC totalled 1357.

Collections: By the end of 2008, the total collections reached about 26,967,000 volumes/items.

Digital Resources: By the end of 2008, the digital resources of NLC have accumulated to 250TB.

Readers: In full year 2008, readers to the Library totalled 3,280,000, which increased 0.47% when compared to year 2007; and library cards issued were 151,400, up 48.43% from the number of 2007.

Reference: In 2008, the NLC handled 298,200 reference requests.

Lending, incl. interlibrary loan: By the end of 2008, NLC's volume of book lending reaches 15,792,347 volume time.

National bibliographic services: By the end of 2008, China National Union Cataloguing System has 1,081 members and the upload and download volume of data of this system reaches 2,542,180 items.

Acquisition, donation and exchange: In 2008, NLC acquires all kinds of books of 459,092 categories or 1,918,645 volumes, and accepts donation of 14,960 categories or 20,957 volumes of books and 20,870 categories or 112,338 volumes of periodicals.

4. New developments in providing access to collections.

NLC in Palm: In 2008 the National Library of China launched the NLC in Palm, a NLC mobile service which uses mobile phone as the media. The NLC in Palm provides the reader with a portable library at any time. The service consists of five parts: Mobile Digital Library, Short Messaging Service (SMS), National Library WAP Website, Mobile Phone Reading and A Brief Tour of NLC.

Intelligent Shelf Navigation Service: For both the reader service system of the NLC and the RFID shelf management of the NLC, the intelligent shelf inquiry system is a new component. The system is embedded in the Online Public Access Catalogue of the NLC (OPAC).

Virtual reality experience: In the general information and exhibition hall on the second floor of the north section of the NLC, there is a virtual reality experience area, which adopts virtual reality technology to create a virtual landscape of the real scenes in the north section building.

Online registration service: Readers can register for a NLC virtual card through the system. Those who have already got a NLC reader's card have no need to register again. Once a reader logs on to any one of the application systems, authentication among all application systems can be realized. Offsite readers can also easily access NLC's online resources, thus the NLC's service coverage is extended and the usage of the NLC's online resources is boosted.

Digital library for the visually-impaired: To enable the visually-impaired to share the convenience of the information society with us, China Digital Library for the Visually-impaired is established with the collaborative support from the National Library of China, Information Center of China Disabled Persons' Federation, and China Braille Publishing House.

Virtual reality reading kiosk: The reading kiosk uses the Flash technology and the hand gesture identification system to provide readers who come to the north section of the NLC with digital books reading service and interactive experience. User can leaf through e-books on the computer in a no-touch virtual interactive way, realizing virtual reading of e-books.

Multi-media touch screen: Some multi-media touch screens are placed in the enquiry and exhibition hall and some of the reading rooms to provide readers who come to the Library with reading service of 10 frequently read e-newspapers. Users can read newspapers of current edition or previous editions. In 2009, other sections in the Library will also be equipped with multi-media touch screens, offering 100 e-newspapers totally. In addition, multi-media touch screens also provide other contents.

Portable E-books: National Library of China offers readers with 80 sets of Portable E-book Reader, with 500 e-books preloaded with each set. Portable E-book Reader is a portable electronic device. The Portable E-book Reader can be lent to a reader through necessary procedures. A reader may download E-books on the E-book resource platform purchased by NLC according to their reading habits, or connect Portable E-book Reader USB to any online PC in the NLC building, logging on the E-book resource platform of NLC, searching wanted E-books and downloading, and reading them on the Portable E-book Reader. Up to now, the E-book resource platform of NLC offers E-books of 190,000 categories or 380,000 volumes, and chronicles of more than 1,000 categories. The aforesaid quantity will increase continuously.

5. Examples of collaboration with other collecting institutions

Significant work and leading performance were conducted by the NCL on facilitating the nationwide development of library and information services. NLC innovated in service modes by jointly establishing branch libraries of the National Digital Library of China; continued to making progress in the NLC Western Aid Program; donated 350,000 books and 500 e-book optical discs, which were unloaded from shelves, to Wenchuan Earthquake-hit areas, such as Sichuan, Shaanxi, etc. to support post-disaster reconstruction of libraries; and organized volunteer initiatives in cooperation with the Library Society of China to carry out training of basic level library directors, in which 708 directors from 6 provinces were involved in year 2008.

6. Creating and building digital collections

After several years of efforts in the developments of digital collections, among which 180TB are self-constructed. NLC have quickened the construction and release of digital resources, and up to now, 720 thousand e-books have been released on the internet and more than a

million e-books have been uploaded on the Local Area Network. Here are the Featured Digital Resources Databases among them: Rubbing resource database, Oracle bone resource database, New Year Picture resource database, Tangut Material resource database, Dunhuang Material resource database, Digital Chronicle resource database, Doctoral dissertation resource database, Min Guo (1911-1949) document resource database, Video & Audio resource database, Chinese Studies network resource database

7. Web Archiving

According to the data from China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC), the number of Chinese websites has reached up to 1,919,000 (annual growth rate of 46.3%), and the number of domain names had reached up to 14,850,000 as of July 2008 (annual growth rate of 61.8%). Averagely, the webpage can exist for 44 days only. National Library of China is fulfilling the function of a deposit library. From 2003, it began setting up a project team and making pertinent web collection policies to preserve the great events reflecting the politics, economy and culture of China among the volumes of Chinese web sources.

In 2003, National Library of China founded a group being composed of reference consulting librarian, cataloger and net administrator for collecting and preserving web documentation and went into the execution of WICP project (Web information Collection and Preservation). The purpose of this project is to dig out the problems on collecting, arranging, cataloguing, preserving and serving web documentation and put forward the solution, then to confirm the object to be preserved and define the technical route and strategy based on its characteristic, then to try to collect, arrange and preserve data and provide service and finally to make the plan of business integration. WICP project mode:

