

## **Title: ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2010**

**Name of country: China**

**Name of library or equivalent national-level organisation: National Library of China**

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

In 2009, the National Library of China (hereafter referred as NLC) has made great efforts to strengthen its services, and found new ways to make its collections more accessible.

229,500 new library user cards was issued, up 51.58% over that of 2008; 5,209,103 users came to the library for services, up 58.82% over that of 2008; 451,533,000 users visited the homepage, up 176.55% over that of 2008.

26,913,838 volumes of materials were circulated; 213 various lectures were hosted, 49 exhibitions were held and 295 library-tours were arranged, attracting about 415,200 audiences in total; 417,800 reference requests were handled.

#### **World Reading Day**

On the 14th World Book and Copyright Day, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited the NLC to experience the digital reading and appreciated the rare books. He communicated with the readers, encouraging them to read more and be studious and selective in their reading.

Also, a series of grand celebration activities were held by the NLC, especially the newly-launched program "Reading China". It was initiated jointly by the Chinese Writers' Association and the NLC, aiming to promote Chinese classic works in digital form among Chinese readers. 500 Chinese contemporary literary works were selected and recommend to readers in the form of digital reading on the internet.

#### **Centennial Celebration of the NLC**

2009 was a monumental year in the history of the NLC, marking the NLC's centennial anniversary. The NLC ushered in its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a series of activities such as exhibitions, academic conferences and story collections.

A symposium on "International Progress of Libraries: Global Knowledge Sharing", co-sponsored by the NLC and the IFLA National Libraries Section, was held from 9 September 2009 to 10 September 2009 in the NLC. The symposium attempted to promote the further research and discussions on libraries' international development and international services through cooperation, strengthen the exchanges and cooperation among libraries and to boost the development of the NLC and the Chinese librarianship. Several library and information

professionals from home and abroad made a speech in the panel sessions respectively on the following sub-themes, namely, International Progress of Libraries, From Document Resources Sharing to Knowledge Sharing, Standards Development and International Progress, Technical Development and International Progress, International Collaboration Projects.

**Note of the relationship to government, and citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations:**

In cities of China such as Beijing and Shenzhen, local legislation has been passed to mandate legal status, right and responsibilities of library. At the end of 2008, the national public library legislation was launched to effectively regulate and adjust legal relationship regarding public library in china. In addition, "Copyright Law of the People's Republic of China", "Ordinance on the Protection of the Right to Network Dissemination of Information" and other copyright laws and regulations also enacted relevant provisions of library copyright.

**Key facts and figures (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc.):**

Staff: By the end of 2009, the staff of the NLC totaled 1365.

Collections: By the end of 2009, the total collections amounted to 27,783,105 volumes/items, with 829,106 items newly added in this year.

**New developments in creating and building collections:**

**Digital Resources**

By the end of 2009, the digital resources of the NLC accumulated to 327.8TB, including 2.02 TB legal deposit of digital newspaper, 70TB purchased databases, 239.1TB digitalized special collection of the NLC, 16.68TB network navigation and web archiving resources.

In specific, the NLC collects 1,515,000 e-books, 44,000 titles of electronic periodicals, 3,100 titles of digital newspapers, 2,813,000 theses, 515,000 pieces of audio materials, 80,800 hours of visual materials, etc.

The digitalized special collection of the NLC includes 149.59 TB digital modern Chinese materials (books, periodicals, newspapers, theses, audio and visual materials), 0.34 TB Minguo materials (books, newspapers, law rules and regulations, and new year pictures), 89.17TB Chinese rare materials (images of oracle bones, Dunhuang materials, scrubbings, local history, Xixia books, old pictures, classics in several dynasties, etc).

**Bilateral Digitalization of Rare Books by the NLC and Harvard College Library**

On October 9, 2009, the National Library of China, and Harvard College Library formally signed an agreement on a six-year cooperative project co-digitalizing Harvard-Yenching Library's entire 51,500-volume Chinese rare book collection and making it freely available to scholars worldwide.

According to the agreement, the NLC is responsible for providing financial and technical supports as well as data quality control, while Harvard University Library provides technical equipments, and assumes the digitalization of Chinese ancient books, metadata making and data delivering.

The project will be done in two three-year phases. The first phase, beginning in January 2010, will digitize books from the Song, Yuan and Ming dynasties, which date from about 960 AD to 1644. The second phase, starting in January 2013, will digitize books from the Qing Dynasty, which date from 1644 until 1795. The collection includes materials which cover an extensive range of subjects, including history, philosophy, drama, belles lettres and classics.

#### **More Than 4,000 Titles of Chinese Ancient Books Back Home**

The NLC signed a cooperative agreement in November 2009 with the Institute of Oriental Culture at the University of Tokyo, Japan. According to the agreement, the Institute of Oriental Culture would digitalize more than 4,000 titles of Chinese ancient books, and then send these digitalized documents to the NLC for free use to the readers through the website of the NLC.

This collection included rare books in Song, Yuan, Ming, Qing Dynasties and transcripts in the Republican period, which were completed with Confucian classics, history, philosophy and literature. The fictions and operas in high historical value were the majority.

#### **New developments in managing collections:**

The NLC selects the Ex Libris MetaLib library portal and SFX context-sensitive link server to manage the library's large collection of hybrid electronic resources and provide users with seamless access to the library's services.

In 2009, the NLC upgraded its Aleph500 system to the 20<sup>th</sup> version. The Aleph500 v.20 system has two new features: the ability to select multiple items from a patron's list of loans and perform a due date change and the ability to send customized notices, on a customized schedule, to patrons whose items have been recalled.

#### **New developments in providing access to collections:**

##### **Navigation of National Rare Ancient Books**

This navigation is based on the database of the digitalized *Chinese Rare Ancient Books Bibliographies* printed by Xianzhuang Book Company, with a total amount of 290,000 data. The database can be browsed and searched by the literature categories, locations and print age.

##### **Chinese Studies Centre of the NLC**

The Chinese Studies Centre of the NLC, launched on September 9, is a service center comprising of the "reading, reference, research and service" of the collections. It carries forward the collection tradition of overseas Chinese Studies collections in the NLC, promotes the development and utilization of library collections, so as to make the NLC as the centre of preservation, research and service on overseas Chinese Studies.

The Chinese Studies Centre of the NLC provides various services through reading room, website, international visiting scholars and academic exchanges. The reading room collects 30000 titles of western languages books on Chinese Studies since 1985, 3500 titles of books on Chinese Studies in Russian, Japanese, and Korean since 2007, 90 titles of periodicals on Chinese Studies in western languages, Russian, and Japanese since 2007, and 700 titles of Chinese translation books, Chinese research monographs and reference books on overseas Chinese Studies.

### **Chinese Government Public Information Online**

The NLC launched the Chinese Government Public Information Online launched on April 30, 2009 is the first government public information portal in China.

The NLC is devoted to promoting the development of the sharing of national public cultural information, and the official launching of the Chinese Government Public Information Online is an important milestone for NLC's government public information service. It is oriented to user demands, integrates the public information in government websites at all levels by the manner of automatic collection and organization, and then uses the united metadata standards to fully organize, mine and explore the contents, external features, and the relations of government information.

### **NLC Legislative Decision Service Platform**

Based on the abundant digital resources and the experiences on information services of the NLC, with the document information service as its basic service, the NLC Legislative Decision Service Platform processes, organizes, and disseminates information, and fulfills online search and full-text utilization, which helps users accurately and quickly acquire information. According to users' demands, this platform creates personalized information service environment for users, such as subject research, document recommendation, media reports, and so on. Through this platform, the legislative divisions of the central government can accurately and quickly acquire the information inquiry and decision-making services of the NLC.

### **NLC Digital TV Programs**

As an innovative service manner of National Digital Library of China, NLC TV is a new DTV channel for the television audience, which has 6 columns, including Wenjin Forum, Book Recommendation, Treasured Collections, Selected Album, Exhibitions, and Children Readings. NLC TV aims to push the NLC resources and services into residents' homes through their TV sets, so as to fully play the public cultural service function of the NLC, to enrich the cultural life of the residents and fulfill their wish of enjoying NLC resources and services at home through TV sets.

### **Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums):**

#### **IFLA Chinese Language Centre**

IFLA Chinese Language Centre, established in the NLC on 3 March 2009, can be seen as a permanent representative of IFLA/HQ for the Chinese-speaking community. It promotes IFLA, supports IFLA's Asia and Oceania Section as well as other relevant IFLA professional bodies and liaises with IFLA/HQ. Just as Alex Byrne (the former president of IFLA) said, the center can help IFLA communicate more easily with its counterparts in China and those in other regions who use the Chinese language.

#### **World Digital Library**

On 21 April 2009, the delegation of the NLC attended the launching ceremony of the world digital library (WDL) in Paris, marking the participation of the NLC in the establishment of the WDL. As the main Chinese resources provider, the NLC actively joins in the planning and operation of WDL website. The first batch of 20 titles of NLC treasures has been specially selected and submitted, including manuscripts, maps, rubbings, oracle bones, ancient books, and so on.