

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2010

Name of country: Korea (Republic of)

Name of library or equivalent national-level organisation: The National Library of Korea

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1. General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library

Opening of Digital Library and New Organization

NLK has opened the National Digital Library of Korea on May 2009. The Digital Library provides services in converged digital and analog environments by operating the information commons and Dibrary portal. On the occasion of the opening, the international conference on “Libraries, Leading the Global Knowledge and Information Society” was held in NLK on May 25 – 26, 2009. Dr. O-Young Lee, First Minister of Culture of Korea, and President Claudia Lux of IFLA gave the keynote. Dr. Deanna Marcum and directors of national libraries from other countries and many experts presented the impressive papers at the conference.

The digital library exists in both physical and virtual space and provides services connecting digital and analog. For more details, please refer to the website of the Dibrary (<http://www.dibrary.net/>) and the Conference homepage (<http://www.nl.go.kr/conference>).

In order to implement new tasks for the digital library, the number of staff was increased from 282 to 307, and a new Digital Library Department was established which consists of three divisions for digital planning, service and operating system.

National Bibliographic Center Promotion Team was set up to encourage the technical processing and quality control for organization of library materials in February 2010. The center is in charge of managing bibliographic standard, publishing national bibliography, creating cataloging in publication (CIP) data and so on.

Map & Geography Room opened in November 2009 to serve as a gateway to geographic information for researchers to conduct related surveys and studies. This room has around 20,250 maps and atlases, and a number of cartographic materials in other formats including 105 digitized maps. The room also had an exhibition on old and rare Korean maps.

Program “Humanities on the Road” is a new social cultural campaign which NLK planned and conducted with Chosun Daily Newspaper, Korean Library Association and other institutions since 2009. The program provides spiritual nourishment to people weary of the pace of modern life and develops Humanities which is alienated.

International Network for Korean Studies Librarians

The website of International Network for Korean Studies Librarians, INKSLIB (www.nl.go.kr/inkslib) was built by NLK in October 2009. It aims to provide a venue for exchanges for the development of libraries based on partnership with Korean studies librarians. The website has a database of the librarians and introduces overseas projects of NLK. Trends in Overseas Korean Studies Libraries (TOKSLIB), a biannual report by Korean studies librarians in other nations, is also uploaded on the site so that the librarians share their knowledge and know-how.

2. Note of the reporting library's relationship to the government, citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and other legislation which directly affects the library's operations.

Legislation on online material collection and legal deposit of digital file

The law on legal deposit was amended in 2009. According to this law, the scope of acquisition is expanded to cover on-line resources. NLK has developed the criteria for selection, format, compensation and other issues related to digital resource. Since April 2010, online resources have been submitted to NLK. In addition, the National Library of Korea may request a digital media file of a book from a publisher on the basis of legal deposit, which is convertible to special materials for disabled people in a digitized format.

3. Key fact and figures

Size of major collections: the total collection is 7,620,502 as of April 2010. In 2009, the collection increased 490,000 volumes. The total number of NLK staff: 303 (as of April 2010).
Total operating budget: 57,428,000,000 KRW (57 million dollar, as of 2010).

4. New developments in creating and building collections

Digitized Resources

For the preservation and service of original collection, the valuable materials have been digitized from the NLK collection since 1998. By December 2009, the database includes 390,000 publications (110 million pages). Access to the database with copyright termination or permission to use (150,000) is free for visitors to the websites of the national library (<http://www.nl.go.kr>) or the national digital library (<http://www.dlibrary.go.kr>).

Web Archiving Resources

The OASIS (Online Archiving & Searching Internet Sources) project has been underway since January 2004 as part of the efforts to collect digitized cultural heritage of the current generation and hand it down to future generations. The primary collection target is limited to domestic websites covering online resources by the central government, university publications, meeting materials, electronic data, and other digital resources which are donated, recommended or have become issues. In addition, sources are selectively chosen for online data by local or government investment institutions, educational materials, annual reports, publications for children, renowned literature, online newspapers, websites with research values, and educational comics, games, videos and animation.

As of December 2009, 430,000 online digital resources have been collected. The target resources are mainly research materials, reports, policy information on the website in Korean domain. The resources are accessible on the website (<http://www.oasis.go.kr>).

Alternative Materials for Disabled People

About 2,000 braille books and DAISY version books were produced and distributed by NLK since 2009.

5. New developments in managing collections

Digital Collection Management System

The digital collection management system was developed in 2008 to collect, organize, store, preserve tangible/intangible digital resources, provide related service and manage copyright. Resources include not only e-book, e-journal and other existing digital information but also user-created contents. Collection and content metadata is managed based on Dublin Core Collection Description Application Profile (DC CD AP) and Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS) respectively. NLK is comprehensively reviewing existing service system operation and digital resource management and is

working on measures for better management as the digital library will mark its first anniversary this May.

The Digitized Data Service System and Web Page Interface for Small Libraries has been developed since 2009 to extend digital knowledge and information service to small libraries within residential districts, especially for rural communities. The National Library of Korea is assisting by installing the system in about 300 small libraries in Korea in 2010.

6. New developments in providing access to collections

Access to Digital Resources

Dibrary(<http://www.dibrary.net>) was launched along with the opening of the Digital Library in May 2009 to give users easy access to various kinds of online information. As Dibrary provides a full-text database of the national library collections, digital contents purchased/subscribed by the library and 160 million digital contents from 1,250 institutions at home and abroad, it serves as an integrated access point to digital content with academic values.

Digital Information Service & Application for Smartphone

NLK is working on new services which enable users to search and use data in a mobile environment. Selected digital information with no copyright issues will be provided in search service through mobile devices. Under the application linking the national inter-library loan system, GPS, and maps, if users submit their locations (home, office or school), the location of public libraries closest to them will be provided. In data search, users will be given information on the location of the nearest library in which the data is available. Inter-library loan service is to be provided in a mobile environment.

Information Service for the Disabled

NLK opened an accessible room for the disabled in April 2009. The room, equipped with assistive devices for various types of disability, has materials in raised letters or sign language. As for the materials without any assistive tools, staff members provide reading service to the visually handicapped and sign language to those who with hearing problems. In November 2009, NLK announced measures to improve services for the handicapped and came up with strategies to increase their information accessibility. Under the newly amended law, materials for legal deposit which are specially converted or made for the disabled may be submitted in digital file. After the “government notification on digital file format” in January 2010, the law took effect.

7. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums)

NLK has been in cooperation with public, university, special, and school libraries. The library and related academic institutions/associations have co-hosted academic conferences and workshops on a regular basis. A workshop and a policy seminar were held on the theme of the advancement of public libraries in November 2009. The library established the Korean Association for Preservation of Old Books (KAPOB) for the union catalog of Korean classics. Currently, 51 domestic and 32 foreign institutions are in cooperation with the national library for Korean Old and Rare Collection Information System (KORCIS). NLK is also running a consultative body, in which domestic library research institutions participate, so as to take a realistic and hands-on approach in conducting policy studies.

For digital resource sharing, NLK has cooperated with Korea Reprographic and Transmission Rights Association (KRTRA), Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information (KISTI) and Korea Education & Research Information Service (KERIS) based on the agreements with them.