



## NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VIETNAM

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# ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2010

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

- On June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, in a solemn building handover ceremony at the NLV, the NLV officially received one more building of 1,500 M<sup>2</sup> from the Government. This building is next to the current NLV's buildings and has opened the NLV new prospects of development.
- NLV is running the "Cataloguing in Publication" project. The project duration is two years and implements with 59 publishing houses in Vietnam. So far, the NLV has held several meetings and training courses on how to take cataloguing information for staff of Publishing Houses that joint the project.
- NLV has conducted successfully the National Conference on 3 years reviewing the application of the Abridged DDC14 in Vietnam and is starting initial steps of the "Full DDC22 translation into Vietnamese" project. Under the approval of MoCST, the project is expected to start in August 2010 and finish by the end of the year 2012.
- NLV organized successfully the IFLA/FAIFE workshop on "Transparency, good governance and freedom from corruption" with the participation of 20 librarians from public, academic libraries in November 2009. The workshop was partly funded by the IFLA/FAIFE.
- NLV has launched the Fulltext database on Han-Nom materials and Fulltext database of the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thang Long – Hanoi.
- NLV completed successfully the pilot project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on "Strengthening capacity of computer usage and internet access for librarians in public libraries in Vietnam" implemented in Thai Nguyen, Nghe An and Tra Vinh provinces in Vietnam (31st March 2010). The project is funded through The Asia Foundation.
- NLV signed the letter of agreement to carry out project "Books for Asia" funded by the Asia Foundation on period 2009-2012 with 120,000 English books donated to Vietnamese libraries.

- NLV is conducting the scientific research entitled "Research on information technology applications and solutions to improve the organization and operation of the district libraries" since March 2009. It will be finished in February, 2011.
- NLV organized successfully a training workshop on “Techniques on box making and preservation of Han-Nom materials” in June 2009 for librarians from Vietnamese public and academic libraries. It was funded by the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and facilitated by Dr. John Dean – Cornell University.
- NLV organized successfully a training class on Improving communication skills, Introduction and exploitation of information resources and International protocol practice for hundred librarians from various libraries on 22-23 March 2010.
- NLV in cooperation with The Asia Foundation and Library Department organized successfully a chain of workshop on building vision and strategic plan for public library system in Vietnam.
- A Board for Drafting Vietnamese Library Law has been established with the active participation of the NLV.

## **2. Library’s relationship to government, citation of legislation which sets out the library’s mandate**

Pursuant to the Library Ordinance dated on 28 December 2000 and Decree No 72/2002/NĐ-CP dated on 06 August 2002 of the Government on implementation of the Library Ordinance, the National library of Vietnam is the central library of the country assigned with mission to develop culturally advanced individuals inspired with a love for knowledge, acquired through lifelong reading and thereby to cultivate the minds of the Vietnamese towards excellence and innovations which can enhance the tradition of knowledge of the nation.

Pursuant to the Decree No 2638/2008/NĐ-CP dated on 11 June 2008 of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism Vietnam assigned functions, mission, rights and organizational structure of the National Library of Vietnam stated that the NLV is the central library of the nation, is a Government agency under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism assigned the functions of gathering, conserving of national bibliographies, acquisition, preservation, exploiting and using documentary sources at home and abroad. The National Library of Vietnam has its own legal capacity, seal and separate accounts.

Another official document from the Government makes the driving force for library activities in Vietnam on Decree No.56/2007/QĐ-TTg dated on 03 May 2007 of the Prime Minister of Vietnam indicated that building-up digital library is one of nine focal points within framework to develop digital industry in Vietnam to 2010.

Pursuant to Decree No.257/QĐ-BVHTTDL dated on 20 January 2010 of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam approved and appointed the NLV to implement the project “Strengthening capacity on digital library and digital preservation at the National Library of Vietnam”.

## **3. Key facts and figures**

The National Library of Vietnam has a staff of 179 employees (1 doctor, 14 Master and 134 Bachelor). It is divided into 13 divisions. Every year, the NLV issued over 30,000 membership cards to its users and it receives 2,000 visits per day.

It is the largest library in the nation with **collections** of all kinds in various languages.

<b><i>National collection:</i></b>	The NLV is designated to be the unique national agent of legal deposit. Annually, it receives about 20,000 copies submitted from 60 Publishers across the country.
<b><i>Books collection:</i></b>	included over 1,500,000 volumes of books in Vietnamese and many foreign languages.
<b><i>Periodicals collection:</i></b>	comprised of about 9,000 titles. Of which, there are 1,713 titles of central and local newspapers and periodicals in Vietnamese and about 7,000 titles of major newspapers and periodicals in foreign languages.
<b><i>Indochina collection:</i></b>	is comprised of 67,600 volumes of books, journals and newspaper published in French Indochinese territories from 1861 to 1954.
<b><i>Han - Nom collection:</i></b>	is considered as one of the rare collections of the NLV. It is made up of over 5,265 volumes in both manuscripts (910 vols) and printed version from hundreds of years ago written in old Vietnamese language, the Nom scripts.
<b><i>Doctoral theses collection:</i></b>	is comprised of over 15,600 doctoral theses written by Vietnamese people in Vietnam and abroad
<b><i>Microfilm, microfiche</i></b>	included 1,812 reels of negative microfilm. More than 10,000 titles of periodicals published in Indochina before 1954 are also backed up by microfilm.
<b><i>Multimedia collection:</i></b>	consists of over 1,000 items of audiovisual materials on various subjects on a variety of storage media such as tape, video, CD-ROM, DVD, data server, etc.
<b><i>Bibliographic database:</i></b>	included about 400,000 records
<b><i>Press clipping database:</i></b>	included 58,000 records of press clipping from 60 titles of central newspapers and special periodicals

***Full text Databases:***

- Doctoral Theses of Vietnamese people: (i) Full text database: over 1,812,000 pages, appropriate 9,356 volumes; (ii) Abstract database comprises 172,002 pages (6,402 volumes)
- English books about Vietnam: 92,520 pages (appropriate 338 volumes)
- Indochina Collection: about 130,000 pages (appropriate 1,150 volumes)
- Han-Nom Collection: 185,000 pages (appropriate 1,258 volumes)
- Books & Maps about Hanoi comprises of old Han-Nom books, Maps, books and periodicals before and after 1954, Theses about Hanoi.

#### **4. New developments in creating and building collections**

- In recent years, beside maintaining the traditional books exchange relationships with many libraries and institutions in the region and the world, the NLV is pushing up the friendship cooperation with many NGOs, embassies and international organizations in Vietnam and from overseas. Donations of books can be made under an MoU with them

like with The Asia Foundation/ the U.S.A, the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, IMF, MUTRAP, Goethe Institut, Tsukuba University, the National Library of Korea, Spain, Russia, France, and China etc. By cooperating with embassies in Vietnam to organize books exhibitions and reading festival day at the NLV, participating in national and international books fairs as well as arranging many foreign languages corners at the NLV (this August 2010 a multilingual reading room will be opened at the NLV) the NLV has also attracted a number of book donations from embassies to the NLV during the last years.

- Recently, on 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2010, the director of NLV took part in the meeting of the “Network of digital national library of the Francophonie” in Paris - OIF (organisation internationale de la Francophonie) and signed in a constitution to share and use electronic information resources among libraries of OIF. The constitution enables NLV to share and exploit digital resources among nation members of OIF.

- An initiation has taken into account when NLV promotes cooperation with publishers to obtain electronic version of publications. Within cooperation theme between the NLV and Hanoi Publishing House, hundreds of publications about Hanoi are being submitted to the NLV. This has contributed to the establishment of the collection about Hanoi for the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thang Long – Hanoi.

- Beside that, in order to enrich the databases, the NLV continued to digitize 1,393 volumes of doctoral theses (about 287,775 pages) in 2009.

## **5. New developments in managing collections**

- Together with major improvements in conservation and preservation at the NLV during the last few years, a circle for managing the collection has been set up and proved to be effective. Collections are regularly checked to find damaged items, and have them repaired within a week to ensure quality of the library’s collection.

- The NLV has its own policy to improve quality of library’s information resources and make priority to develop rare collection such as Han-Nom collection in upcoming time.

## **6. New developments in providing access to collections**

- An Instruction program for library users has been organized two times a month at the NLV. The aim of the program is to introduce about the NLV’s rules, infrastructure, information resources and methods to exploit information inside and outside the library the most effectively.

- NLV has uploaded the fulltext database of Han - Nom materials on the NLV’s website to support library users with on-site search from April 2009.

- NLV launched the digital collection celebrating the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thang Long – Hanoi on website of NLV to aid people interested in Hanoi.

## **7. Collaboration between the library and other national collecting institutions**

- NLV continues to maintain the friendship relations with libraries and international institutions to exchange documents and staff. As a traditional partner of the Asia Foundation, Swedish Embassy, American Embassy, Spanish Embassy, French Embassy, Australian Embassy, every year the NLV has received thousands of foreign language books for the NLV and to distribute to libraries throughout Vietnam.

- NLV signed a letter of agreement with the National Library of Korea in April 2009 to develop the friendship relation to a new step of professional exchange and cooperation.

## **8. Development strategy:**

- To collect and preserve written heritage and to build national books museum
- To apply international professional standards to promote the NLV's integration process with the libraries in the region and the world.
- To build a friendly library environment for people's life-long learning
- To prioritize developing the NLV to become a digital library
- To broaden international cooperation in the fields of materials exchange, resources sharing and staff training
- To well perform the role of a central library nationwide contributing to the unity and qualification of professional activities of Vietnamese libraries.