Overview of Cultural Heritage Preservation and Conservation in National Library of China
### Cultural heritage in China

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Immovable cultural relics</td>
<td>767,000 sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movable cultural relics</td>
<td>108 million pieces (sets)</td>
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<td>Intangible cultural heritage</td>
<td>870,000 items</td>
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52 cultural and natural heritage items in China are inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, ranking the second in the world; 39 intangible cultural heritage items have been included in the UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List, ranking the first in the world.
The collections can be traced back to the royal collection of the Southern Song Dynasty more than 700 years ago. The earliest collections are the tortoise shells (tortoise bones) excavated from Yin Dynasty Ruins, traced back to 3,000 years ago. Valuable and special collections include Dunhuang Manuscripts, western region documents, rare ancient books, epigraphs and rubbings, ancient maps, ancient books in languages of ethnic minorities as well famous expert's manuscripts, totaled more than 2.8 millions volumes and pieces.
Serving as the repository of the nation’s publications, the NLC comprehensively collects all official publications in China. Besides, it pays great attention to collecting unofficial publications in China. It is the collection center of dissertations prescribed by Academic Degree Commission of the State Council. As of the end of 2017, the total number of documents collected by the National Library of China reached 37 million volumes and pieces.
Functions

The major responsibility of the NLC includes:

Collection and preservation of domestic and foreign publications;
Compilation of National Bibliography and Joint Directory;
Provision of information and reference services to the central government;
Organize the protection and conservation for national ancient books;
Research in the theory of library sciences and development of librarianship;
Guidance to other libraries in China;
Promotion of exchanges and cooperation with other libraries in China and abroad.

Therefore, how to protect and make good use of cultural classics and guide the national library to do a good job in related work is the biggest challenge facing the National Library of China.
I  Preservation and Conservation of Literature Classics

II  Development and Utilization of Literature Classics

III  Epilogue
Preservation and Conservation of Literature Classics
1.1 National Strategic Depository of Document Preservation Project

The project assumes the responsibility of remote backup and storage of national important documents and digital resource disaster recovery storage, grantees national culture security and long-term development, and is a national key cultural project which comprehensively protects and inherits national culture heritage. After this project is completed, the NLC will form a layout of "Three Premises in Two Cities", i.e. Beijing Baishi Bridge and Wenjin Street, and National Strategic Depository of Document Preservation in Chengde, Hebei Province.

In 2010, the NLC made the plans to build a depository project; In 2015, the program was approved by the National Development and Reform Commission; In 2016, it was included in the four major cultural facilities in China`s 13th Five-Year Plan; In 2017, architectural design program was confirmed and the construction was about to start.
National Strategic Depository of Document Preservation Project

With the functions of document storage, digital processing, and protection and restoration for paper-based document, it will cover the area of more than 10.17 hectare, including the storage area, digital resources storage and disaster recovery center, business processing area, supporting facilities. The total construction scale of the project is close to 67,000 square meters, of which 45,000 squares meters can guarantee constant temperature and humidity. The total investment about the program is about 900 million RMB.
In 2007, China National Center for Preservation & Conservation of Ancient Books was set up and it’s the first documents preservation project undertaken by the central government in Chinese history.

In 2012, the Office of Minguo Documents Preservation Project was set up and the “Minguo Documents Preservation and Conservation” was formally launched.
Achievements of the Chinese Ancient Books Preservation Plan

1.2.1 Carrying out ancient books survey and registration in the country;
1.2.2 Establishing multi-level protection system for ancient books;
1.2.3 Publishing *National Directory of Precious Ancient Books*;
1.2.4 Improving storage environment of ancient books;
1.2.5 Rescuing and restoring damaged ancient books;
1.2.6 Establishing multi-level talents cultivation system;
1.2.7 Establishing a training base for national ancient books protection.
1.2.1 Carrying out ancient books survey and registration

By the end of 2016, we have completed the survey and registration of 1,218 institutions, with more than 2 million pieces registration data, and more than 400,000 pieces were publicly released.
1.2.1 Achievements of ancient books survey and registration

The “National Basic Data Base for Census and Registration of Ancient Books” based on the national census registration data of ancient books was published on the Chinese ancient books protection website.
1.2.2 Establishing multi-level protection system for ancient books

Lists of precious ancient books at the national and local levels were established respectively; National standards for classification of ancient books were formulated; General situation of the first- and second-rate precious ancient books in the country was roughly grasped.
1.2.3 Publishing *National Directory of Precious Ancient Books*

The State Council has released five batches directories, with a total of 12,274 ancient books in 457 units.
1.2.4 Improving storage environment of ancient books

By the end of 2016, the State Council has nominated five batches of 180 institutions as the "National Key Ancient Books Preservation and Conservation Institutions", improving storage environment of ancient books in 1,000 institutions.
1.2.5 Rescuing and restoring damaged ancient books

247 restoration rooms have been established with a total area of 16,000 square meters, and more than 2.5 million leaves have been restored.
1.2.6 Establishing multi-level talents cultivation system

The staff related to ancient books have grown from less than 1,000 people to tens of thousands since 2007 and the restorers for ancient books has increased to more than 1,000 people.
1.2.7 Establishing a training base for national ancient books protection
1.3 Mango Documents Preservation and Conservation Programme

- Establishing and improving work mechanism;
- Conducting a comprehensive literature survey;
- Conducting overseas literature collection;
- Accelerating the publication of documents;
- Starting the original protection;
- Constructing special database;
- Carrying out promotional activities.
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<th>文献类型</th>
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<th>题名</th>
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1.4 Strengthening Legislation and Technical Research to Improve the Level of Document Preservation and Conservation

Several documents were released by the central government continuously in recent years and the major cultural projects were included in the overall strategic plan of the national development.
The "Public Library Law of the People's Republic of China" was formally implemented on January 1, 2018, clarifying the responsibility of the NLC for the strategic preservation of national documentary and organization of national ancient books. It requires that all public libraries adopt special protection measures for ancient books and other valuable documents.
The Ancient Books Protection Laboratory of the NLC was built in 2007, which has reached the international advanced level in the study of the restoration, installation, store environment and the problems of aging. 12 National Ancient Book Restoration Centers have been set up nationwide, with a total area of about 7,250 square meters.
Development and Utilization of Literature Classics
As the spirit of China and soul of the nation, literary classics are the foundation of our great rejuvenation and cultural self-confidence. One of the important tasks of the “Chinese Ancient Book Protection Plan” is to study and make good use of these documents and books so that they can play their due role in inheriting and promoting the great tradition of Chinese culture. In the past ten years, we have not only achieved major breakthroughs in the rescue and protection of precious ancient books, but also actively explored the reorganization, research and development of these ancient books, and creatively promoted the outstanding tradition of the Chinese culture to shine new vitality in the cultivation of sensibility and cultivating civilization.
At the beginning of the protection plan, the State Council made it clear that, “It should strengthen the usage of digital books and reconstruct the ancient books while protect them, better serving the community.” The protection plan promotes the reconstruction protection of ancient books by means of photocopying, publishing, digitalization, micro reproduction, etc. Over the ten years, the “Reconstruct Project of Chinese Rare Books” “Overseas Chinese Ancient Books Survey and Digital Cooperation”, “Digital Resource of Chinese Ancient Books Database” and other several programmes were organized and implemented.
Up to now, the photocopying and printing of all kinds of ancient books amounts to 1,341 kinds, 2377 items and 13395 volumes, which are located in major libraries in China.

Reconstruct project of Chinese rare books
According to “Overseas Chinese Ancient Books Survey & Digitalization Cooperation Project”, we have completed the publication of “Yongle Encyclopedia” and other precious documents collected by the British Library and the University of Aberdeen University, and enabled the digitalization of all Dunhuang manuscripts in the National Library of France to the motherland in digitalization manner, all of which make great influence on the field of Chinese studies at home and abroad.
The “China Ancient Book Resource Database” has cumulatively issued 17,000 volumes ancient resources of the NLC, accounting for 60% of the total amount of rare books collected by the NLC. It drives a number of provincial public libraries to launch free distribution of precious digital resources.
2. Strengthen the interpretation and development of literature classics through key cultural projects

On the basis of the protection of ancient books, a series of deep-level ancient book research work was organized and carried out. It provides people with a new view of quality cultural products, helping them gain a deeper understanding of the classics, close to the classics, and appreciate the beauty of classics.
In 2012, the compilation project of *The History Series of China's Rare Books* was written in popular language to explain the historical stories of the compilation, copying, circulation, and collection of rare books. So far, “Shiji”, “The Diamond Sutra”, “Yongle Encyclopedia” and other 17 kinds of history books have been published.
In 2016, the project entitled “A Hundred Classic Books of Chinese Traditional Culture” was launched. 100 classics of traditional culture were selected for public reading. The first batch was officially published in October 2016.
The National Museum of Classic Books (NMCB) was established in 2012 by the NLC. Making full use of the resources and site advantages, the national and local ancient book protection centers hold 28 special exhibitions, more than 500 tours and 600 lectures, such as “National Special Exhibition of Precious Ancient Books” and “Tianfu Qianhua”. In order to encourage all sectors of society to develop cultural and creative products, and cultivate awareness of protection of ancient books in the whole society, the programme entitled "I and the Ancient Books of China" Maker Contest was held in Beijing with more than 300 items (sets) were collected.
On the basis of protection, studying and making good use of outstanding Chinese classics is an era proposition that telling Chinese stories, promoting Chinese spirit and spreading Chinese values. By the way of extensively carrying out exhibitions, lectures, and cultural promotion activities and supporting and guiding the development of cultural creative products, we should draw public attention and let them participate in cultural heritage protection. Relying on the internet, mobile communication networks, radio and television networks and other multimedia platforms, we can promote the integration of traditional cultural resources with new technologies and formats, promoting the creative transformation and innovative development of excellent traditional culture.
In order to spread the fine traditional Chinese culture and improve the quality of the public's cultural life, the National Library of China has established an “Open Course” with 14.5 million visits to the internet by the end of 2017.
Establish service brands

The NLC has also adopted a series of reading service brands such as the Wenjin Forum, the NLC Forum, Wenjin Classical Reading, and other service platforms to provide readers with excellent traditional Chinese culture and display the achievements of documentary protection.
Epilogue
With the purpose of building and protecting resources including Chinese traditional cultural heritage, major modern and contemporary events, and important individuals in various fields, the “China Memory Project” was launched in 2012 in the ways of oral history and AV documents. We formed a special memory resource system and promoted it through publications, exhibitions, lectures, feature films, and experience activities.
By the end of 2017, we have carried out more than 10 items such as “Silk Embroidery”, “Our Character”, “Academic History of Scholars” and accumulated nearly 2,000 hours of oral historical materials and audio-visual documentation, built and published 6 resource databases online, hold 6 exhibitions, and publish more than 10 monographs.
In 1984, “IFLA Preservation & Conservation Center” was established and the “China Center” was formally established in the National Library of China approved by the Ministry of Culture in 2014. Since the founding of the China Center, especially after the “China Ancient Books Protection Program” launched in 2007, the Chinese Center has carried out a lot of fruitful work in cultivating ancient talents, digitizing ancient books, collating and publication, and carrying out overseas cooperation. At the beginning of 2015, “IFLA Preservation & Conservation Center of China” was formally added in China National Center for Preservation & Conservation of Ancient Books and established the IFLA Working Group.
Looking forward to strengthening cooperation and sharing experiences with all of you in the future.

THANK YOU

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