



What Is Our Future ? National Libraries In 2040

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Singapore

Country Report [Period : January 1 2018 – December 31 2018]

Name of Country : Bhutan
Name of Library : National Library and Archives of Bhutan
Name(s) of National Librarian, : Sonam Yudon, National Librarian
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1 Facts and Figures

Sn	Item Description	Figures in BTN Nu.
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	i. 9.5 million ii. Nil
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	i. 2 iii. 22
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	i. 338950 ii. 2998 volumes in raw

d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	i. 25,000 ii. Digital website under development
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	NA

2 Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

- a) The National Library and Archives of Bhutan (NLAB) is using web-based KOHA integrated Library Management System and its users have access to Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) since 2017.
- b) NLAB also plays a huge role on safeguarding and preserving cultural heritage and research output in the country. NLAB with the generous help of the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO collaborated in establishing Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) information system with generous support from Cultural Heritage Administration, South Korea. A database has been developed and it is fed with research data which will be of utmost importance to users in the general public and enthusiastic individual researchers, students and scholars. The NLAB's staff are mostly in the field collecting information and data in the country. This database will hold important culture-related information from around the country accessible to the general public and preserve it for future reference.
- c) A project on the Preservation of Bhutan's traditional Calligraphic, Xylographic and Print Culture was started in 2015 with support from German Bhutan Himalaya Society (GBHS) co-ordinated by NLAB. The objective of this project is to identify, inventory, and document the calligraphic, xylographic and print culture with appropriate research on its historical development and significance. The library has a collection of materials on diverse subjects with an emphasis on published works and manuscripts produced in Bhutan or written on Bhutan. In addition to books or materials received through legal deposit act, NLAB has received through donation or purchased all such national and foreign works which are essential for its scholars, students, public, and its users. There are also plans to construct modern library with modern library amenities but the plan is still in the pipeline due to budget constraints and still seeking financial support from external donors.

3 Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in your Country [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

- a) NLAB is in the process of initiating to establish a Bhutan Library Consortium to standardise the library system in the country, to ensure efficient and effective use of resources and creating next generation library. NLAB organized and conducted its first ever Librarian Symposium at a national level on March 2017 with the theme 'Good Libraries for a Strong Society.' It was organised by NLAB with the objective to improve the library system in the country and standardise library procedures among different libraries. It is planned as an annual event of the NLAB.
- b) Since then, the NLAB conducts annual in country National Library Workshop annually–an interactive workshop that provides an opportunity to the librarian participants to voice out their opinion and contributes in shaping the libraries in Bhutan, in general.
- c) Apart from reference services, NLAB is also actively involved in mentoring the library assistants from schools, organisations and agencies in the country. NLAB has helped in setting up the National Assembly of Bhutan Library in 2017 and Supreme Court of Bhutan Library in 2018 from the scratch. The NLAB has initiated in providing bibliographic services and has published its 1st volume of the National Bibliography of Bhutan in 2015.

4 International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

- a) The Director General along with the two officials from the NLAB visited the National Library Board of Singapore on a study visit from 24-26 January 2018 upon the invitation of the National Library Board of Singapore and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.
- b) NLAB is an official member of International Federation of Library Association from last November 2017. NLAB is looking forward to collaborating with the National Libraries from other countries.