Country Report
[Period Coverage: 1 January 2019 – 31 December 2019]

Name of Country	:	**Republic of Korea**
Name of Library	:	**National Library of Korea**
Name(s) of National Librarian, Director-General and/or Director	:	**Suh, Hye Ran**
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1   Facts and Figures

Sn	Item Description	Figures

a	Operating Budget
	   i. Government
	   ii. External Sources
		(government) 104.8 bill

b	Total Staff (FTE)
	   i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications
	   ii. Other Qualifications
		- Total number of staff : 321
		- Librarians : 204 (63.6%)

c	Collection Size
	   i. Physical collection
	   ii. Digital collection preserved
		- Offline materials : 12,307,623
		- Electronic materials : 18,294,413

d	Visitorship (Annual)
	   i. Physical visits to reading rooms
	   ii. Digital visits to websites
		- Visitors to the library : 1.77 million
		- Visitors to the library's website : 9.27 million

e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	- 1,096 public and academic libraries participating - Provided the service 21,422 times

2   Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services

1) Establishing a mid-long term strategic library development plan

In early 2019, the National Library of Korea (NLK) established National Library of Korea 2019-2023, a mid-long term strategic library development plan. Under the library's mission and vision to become a representative library of Korea that makes people's lives abundant, numbering 4 goals (1) advancing the foundation for access/preservation of national knowledge resource, (2) strengthening user-focused national library service, (3) intellectualizing the library's digital service, (4) maximizing cooperation among libraries and leadership and 13 tasks.

The library aims to actively respond to rapidly changing information environments such as the 4th industrial revolution in accordance with the 5 year mid-long term plan.

2) Collecting online materials through legal deposit

In August 2016, the NLK launched the online materials legal deposit system for ebooks and ejournals assigned with ISNI or ISSN. In 2019, the library collected 34,318 books through legal deposit. The library also held a workshop on the current status and prospect of libraries' ebook service to discuss ways to promote ebooks by cooperating with libraries and publishing and distributing organizations.

3) Expanding high quality digital content and improving related services

By implementing the National Collection Digitization Project in 2019, the library created 256,000 books 53.877 million pages of digital content. For the digital content, in addition to the National Library of Korea's collections, the library established a plan for supporting culture & art material digitization for public & private culture & art institutions and digitized 10,970 books (items). The library has discussed ways to support digitizing 1,292 books held by 15 public & academic libraries and build a digital archive for regional cultural heritage. For digital content utilization, the library provided Send an Ecard at the Library mobile service (70 content items) and additionally created 50 content items.

To freely utilize and share library data, the library is providing Linked Open Data (LOD) and application services. As of the end of 2019, the library published and provided about 23 million data including library materials, authors, subjects and information on libraries in Korea in linked data form that is easy for machines to understand. It also improved user access and convenience by developing application services that utilize LOD such as data collection as well as Q&A service.

4) Standardizing bibliographic data and increasing its sharing

As an organization for national bibliographic standardization, the National Library of Korea is exerting multilateral efforts at home and abroad in national bibliographic standardization and data sharing. In particular, in 2019, the library greatly improved the Korean Library Information System Network (KOLIS-NET) and expanded the scope of materials from actual monographs to serials and online materials.

National authority service was officially launched in 2017 and the total number of data reached 800,000 in 2019 which is provided on the official National Library of Korea website and national authority webpage. In 2019, to improve access to authority data and its sharing, the library enabled downloading authority data when downloading bibliographic data on KERIS Union Catalogue of academic libraries in Korea. Along with that, since 2016, the library has been participating in Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) and has internationally shared authority data.

5) Strengthening the international standard identifier system

The NLK operates main international standard identifiers such as ISBN, ISSN and ISNI. Applying the seventh edition of the ISBN Users' Manual, in 2019, the library established a sub-criteria that reflects the status of Korea's publication and distribution industry.

In 2019, the number of publishing companies assigned with a publisher's number recorded 4,352, the number of ISBN-assigned books 331,937 and the number of serials given ISSN 1,195.

As ISNI-Registration Agency in ISNI, the identifier assigned to creators in all fields, the NLK created a consortium with relevant institutions in areas including academic, culture, art fields in Korea and has been running ISNI-KOREA. In 2019, a total of 563,361 ISNIs were assigned. Especially, in 2019, the library reorganized ISNI-KOREA website and improved User UI, developed a data redundancy removal algorithm to enhance data quality and linked the system with the digital academic information distributing system etc. to increase data sharing.

6) Developing a librarian education system for the next generation

The NLK has been providing training for library staff in Korea. In December 2019, the library newly developed a librarian education system based on the e-government standard framework for library staff to develop expertise.

Librarian training system for the next generation provides a smart learning environment in accordance with the learner's area of interest and job using up-to-date education techniques like personalized learning, self-directed learning, blended learning, flip learning etc.

The library has established a foundation for running and developing various kinds of learning courses such as microlearning which is short and concise and can boost concentration,

everyday learning that allows learners to take classes 365 days etc. Adding to that, the library provides interface that considers the latest web trends, accessibility and convenience as well as integrated learning environment based on responsive web, chatbot service for learners to promptly get information they want and remote support. Other than that, the library restructured and converted flash-based e-learning content items to a kind that combines HTML5 and MP4, the web standard for the next generation, to help learners to view e-learning content items without restriction in the operation system or browser.

7) Opening of the 'Future, Dream and Hope', the National Library for Children and Young Adults Makerspace

In September 20 2019, the National Library for Children and Young Adults (NLCY) opened the NLCY Makerspace, 'Future, Dream and Hope', a makerspace area to foster creativity of children in the era of the 4th industrial revolution.

The 'Future, Dream and Hope' provides a creating program for libraries that connects the NLCY's 1.2 million books, reading to information technology.

The NLCY makerspace is equipped with various equipment including 155 3D printers, laser cutters etc. and offers a differentiated space and programs on various topics.

In 2019, the Dream Makerspace for children and Hope Makerspace for young adults ran various creating programs 461 times where 14,545 users participated, leading to a nearly 62% year-over-year increase in the number of visitors to the NLCY. The library developed and distributed 10 creative programs including Create Your Own Birthstory to 10 public libraries.

8) Ensuring people with disabilities' universal access to information and their right to enjoy reading culture

In 2019, the NLK delivered 79,940 books for free to 10,253 users who have mobility difficulty of 914 public libraries, academic libraries and libraries for persons with disabilities. The library also supported reading device installation for 235 public libraries in Korea. In addition, the library supported 50 public libraries and libraries for persons with disabilities run reading programs for people with visual/hearing/developmental/physical disabilities 689 times, that had a total of 7,411 participants. Meanwhile, in cooperation with special classes of 10 regular schools and 8 special schools, the NLK provided support in running reading activities 133 times for 174 children and young adults with disabilities.

3   Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in your Country

1) Cooperating to collect library materials

For efficient legal deposit collection and promotion of library materials, the NLK has built a cooperative network with representative local libraries, research institutions etc. The library is collectively acquiring regional government publications through 14 representative local libraries. In 2019, by cooperating with the National Research Council for Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences (NRC), Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information (KISTI) etc., the library collected 79,537 research materials published by the government and public institutions. In 2020, the library plans to strengthen cooperation with representative local libraries and regional publishing industries to enhance the collection of publications only issued regionally as well as government publications.

Moreover, the library has built and expanded cooperative networks with relevant institutions by signing agreements with Korea Manhwa Contents Agency and Arirang to collect and utilize various kinds of library materials including webtoon, audio or video content etc.

2) Collecting library bigdata and providing analysis services

The NLK has implemented the library bigdata project to reasonably run the library based on data sharing, support scientific decision making and provide customized user service. With 193 new participant institutions in 2019, 1,038 public/small libraries are participating in the project as of the end of 2019. Collecting about 1.5 billion library data (users, books and loans) from the participant libraries, the NLK ran library bigdata platforms (librarians' decision support system Solomon, Data for Library www.data4library.kr and Open API service) and provided services for library stakeholders, researchers and private companies to utilize open data and analyzed data.

3) Authority-ISNI cooperation with academic libraries

For efficient distribution of academic information and high quality national authority data and its expanded utilization, the NLK established a cooperative network with the academic library field and is implementing authority-ISNI joint utilization. After signing a memorandum of understanding with the Korea Education and Research Information Service (KERIS) in April 2018, in May of the same year, the NLK created the academic library authority-ISNI cooperation taskforce mainly with universities participating in the Academic Libraries' Union Catalog Committee and drew up a national authority-ISNI introduction & utilization plan for academic libraries.

In 2019, the library established a system where academic libraries utilize national authority and ISNI through the KERIS union catalogue and is currently distributing the authority connecting system it developed.

4   International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries

1) Attending and holding international conferences

In 2019, the NLK attended the 85th World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) and the 46th Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) where participants discussed about the role of the global library field and national libraries. Upon co-hosting the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) annual international conference in September 23-26 2019 in which 114 metadata experts and researchers from 20 countries attended, the library strengthened its global stance as an institution for bibliographic standardization of Korea. In November 5-8 of the same year, the National Library for Children and Young Adults held the ASEAN-ROK Library Leadership Conference on Reading Promotion in Seoul. At the conference, 12 delegates from 10 countries shared reading promotion activities for children and young adults of each country, and signed the Joint Agreement on the 'ASEAN-ROK Joint Project on Reading Culture'.

2) Holding work exchange programs and MOUs with national libraries

In October 2019, the NLK held the 21st NLK-NDL Work Exchange program in Tokyo, Japan and in November of the same year, the library held the 21st NLK-NLC Work Exchange program in Seoul. At the work exchange, participants shared their libraries' policies and experience and their opinion on national library strategies, services for children, young adults and people with disabilities and government policy service promotion plans of the libraries.

Moreover, in April 2019, the library extended the agreement with the National Library of Tajikistan to increase exchange and strengthen relationship between the two libraries.

The National Library for Children and Young Adults held the 6th NLCY-RSLYA Staff Exchange Program in May 2019 in Seoul and participated in the 5th NLCY-NLB Staff Exchange Program in October of the same year in Singapore.

3) Exchange with foreign librarians

For Korean studies librarians to develop expertise, the NLK held the 12th Overseas Korean Studies Librarians Workshop on October 13-18, where 18 librarians from 10 countries including the US, France and the Philippines attended.

From June to October, the library held the overseas librarian training program Cultural Partnership Initiative in which 4 librarians participated from Bhutan, National Library of Myanmar, Senate Library of Cambodia and Rizal Library of the Ateneo de Manila University.