China has attached greater importance to its cultural development in the wake of its economic growth. Many cultural projects have been launched in recent years.

1. The digital library construction;
2. The intangible cultural heritage protection;
3. Chinese rare books facsimile reprinting project;
4. The Ancient Books Conservation Project;
   etc.

As a result of negative factors such as insufficient capital input, climate change, poor storeroom condition, lack of personnel and as well as restoring knowledge and techniques, Chinese ancient books preservation work is in an unclear condition with a loss in storing information and some of the books severely destroyed.

Chinese ancient books are important cultural carriers and play an integrate role in passing on the time-honored Chinese civilization. They are in various forms and large volumes, often reserved in libraries, sometimes in museums, archives and scriptoriums.
To enhance the ancient books protection, the State Council listed the Ancient Books Conservation Project as a national key project in 2006, and launched the project in the following year.

Main tasks involved in these projects are as follows:

1. Conducting a general survey on the preservation of ancient books in libraries, museums and temple canon houses all over the country, following the principle of "protection and rescue in the first place, rational use and strict management";

2. Setting up standards for ancient books conservation by awarding several national key institutions for ancient books preservation, so as to improve the conservation environment of the ancient books;

3. Training professionals with comprehensive knowledge on ancient books conservation and promoting restoring work and basic experimental studies;

4. Further enhancing the classification, publication and research utilization of ancient books.

The launch of the Project has not only strengthened the protection of ancient books and documents, but also promoted the conservation work of other modern documents.

Firstly, people are more aware of the importance of documents conservation after the project’s promotion.

Secondly, preservation environments are improved for books and documents as the book stacks are renovated in the consideration of preventing disasters.

Thirdly, ancient books preservation professionals are trained for all books in preservation, not the ancient books only.

While the ancient books preservation work is making great progress, the National Library also started to plan the Republican Period Document Conservation Project, as a response to people’s growing interests on modern document preservation.
2. Cooperative network of the Ancient Books Conservation Project

The National Joint Inter-Ministerial Conference on Ancient Books Conservation

Ministry of Education
Ministry of Science and Technology
Ethnic Affairs Commission
Cultural Administration of Press and Publication
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Culture
National Development and Reform Commission
Bureau of Religious Affairs
State Cultural Relic Bureau
State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine
National Library

National Joint Inter-Ministerial Conference on Ancient Books Conservation

The National Ancient Books Conservation Experts Committee

The Office of the National Joint Inter-Ministerial Conference on Ancient Books Conservation

China National Center for Preservation and Conservation of Ancient Books

National key institutions for ancient books preservation

4. Documents protection and hazard prevention plan of National Library

The National Library of China, the country's leading stack room, is where the National Center for Preservation & Conservation of Ancient Books is located. It is one of its key responsibilities to preserve and protect books and documents both home and abroad. It takes the lead in national documents protection undertakings.

3. Personnel training of the Ancient Books Conservation Project

Since 2007, 75 training classes were given to nearly 3000 people, 4200 person-times, of which training on restoration amounted to 500 people, 693 person-times.

Hazard prevention training includes two aspects:

Firstly, to build an ancient stack room according to the "Nine Preventions" principle (waterproof, fireproof, quakeproof, insect prevention, etc.), the principle of site selection, the location and layout of the room in the whole library, function design of the stack room, etc.

Secondly, to choose and make ancient books harnesses, which should not only be able to reduce the damage of wind, dust and ultraviolet rays, but also be able to prevent or reduce the damage of insects.
Emergency Plan of National Library of China:

1. The leading principle of the plan is to put prevention first, respond rapidly, and clarify each person's responsibility.
2. It pays special attention to safety of people's lives, constructions and readers' service environment.
3. Aiming at sixteen types of emergency, such as earthquake, fire, thunder strikes, running feed pipes, reader's sudden illness, computer network breakdown, etc.,
4. the plan respectively sets up detailed emergency rules and methods. Person in charge and linkman are clarified.

The plan also attaches great importance to the hazard prevention and disaster relief of the library's documents.

In order to better implement the protective function of ancient books and documents, the ancient books library set up teams of emergency evacuation, fire-fighting, site-control, property protection and rescue transport in accordance with the requirements of the plan.

Detailed emergency plan of incidents and Drilling Project of Emergencies are drafted and personnel are organized to do emergency drillings.

Therefore, when fire, earthquake, power failure and other emergencies break out, personnel can carry out various jobs such as contacting, evacuation, searching and rescuing, protection and rescue transport of documents, so as to reduce the damage as much as possible.
5. Documents protection and rescue during Wenchuan earthquake

The earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale took place in Wenchuan County, Sichuan Province on May 12th, 2008. During this earthquake, libraries, museums and archives were severely damaged.

During the rescue and restoration of documents, the Chinese government has given its full play of leadership. The National Archives, the National Library of China and the Library Society of China had also played their roles. Besides, local cultural departments and cultural workers summoned up their courage and managed to reduce the earthquake damage to the lowest, which can be seen from the following cases.

(1) Over 600 copies about the Tibetan and Qiang communities in Wenchuan County Library were rescued

(2) A tough journey of over 1000 miles with 540,000 library books from Aba Teachers College

(3) Rescue transportation and restoration of 65,000 copies of documents in Beichuan County Archive
The file rescue work in Beichuan is considered as the largest and most difficult documents restoring work case ever since 1949.

Thank You