

30th General Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania
15-17 November 2024
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Country Report
[Period Coverage: 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023]

Name of Country : Republic of Korea
Name of Library : National Library of Korea
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1 Facts and Figures

Sn	Item Description	Figures
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	- (Government) KRW 984 billion
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	- Total number of staff: 698
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	- 14,253,764 books & items - 19,595,029 items
d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	- Library visitors: 1,087,006 - Website visitors: 8,506,828
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	- 35,958 items provided

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

1) Achievement of 14 million materials in the NLK collection / 19 million digital books

The National Library of Korea has collected 354,758 books published (produced) domestically in legal deposit in accordance with the the Korean Library Act Article 21 (Legal deposit of library materials). In addition, 12,793 foreign books, including Korea-related materials

published overseas, were purchased, 11,423 materials not held by the NLK were discovered and secured through donations through Chaekdamoa(collect all books), and 3,841 books were collected through exchanges with foreign institutions and deposit. In addition, the NLK encourages the establishment of donation culture to discover materials not held by the library before the implementation of legal deposit, and actively collect materials owned by individuals or institutions as donations. In 2023, the first issue of 『Hagwon』, published in November 1952, was donated by the Hagwon Milal Scholarship Foundation. As of December 2023, the National Library of Korea owns 14,253,764 books of offline materials.

In addition, the National Library of Korea achieved a digital collection of approximately 19.6 million items as of December 2023 through online materials legal deposit and collection of online materials, discovering Korean materials located overseas, and digitizing the materials in its collections. Online materials collected pursuant to Article 21 (Legal deposit of library materials) and Article 22 (collection of online materials) of the Library Act include e-books, e-journals, audiobooks, official publications, theses, sound sources, videos, and websites. 386,302 items were collected in 2023. In an effort to systematize online data legal deposit and collection, the "Online Data Legal Deposit and Collection Guidelines" were partially revised (June 2023), while various promotional events were also held to promote online data legal deposit and collection.

2) Revision of the online data organization guidelines

The guidelines for organizing online materials describe metadata of online materials collected by the National Library of Korea in a standardized manner and are intended to be used for user search and identification on the National Library of Korea website (<http://www.nl.go.kr>). The technical format is MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema, 3.7), the technical rules are Korean Cataloging Rules (KCR, 4th edition), and the classification method used is Korean Decimal Classification (KDC, 6th edition).

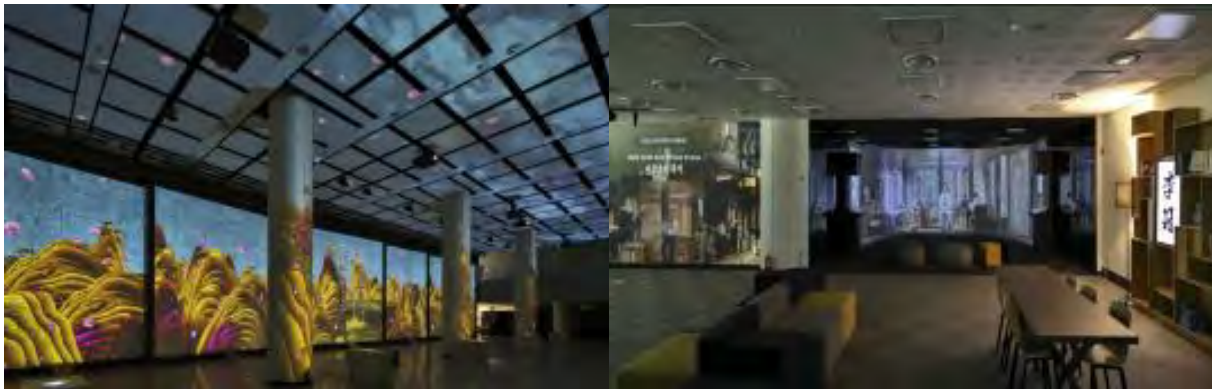
The online data organization guidelines were revised again in December 2023 and published as a booklet. The main contents are ▲ Existing guidelines (11 types) subdivided by data type published as e-books, e-journals, multimedia (videos, sounds, images), and the integrated version (4 titles) ▲ Correcting and supplementing errors within the guidelines ▲ Adding online data organization cases ▲ Production and publication of printed books and e-books.

3) Strengthening knowledge information services by applying advanced digital technology

The National Library of Korea has implemented a project to produce realistic contents by incorporating advanced technology into its collections so that anyone can enjoy and experience various digital information technology.

On October 16, 2023, 'Yeollin Madang' (main building first floor, 1,224m²), the third immersive experience center of the National Library of Korea, opened. 『Gwandongbyeolgok』, with modern illustration. The library exhibits the media art 'Rediscovering of K-Literature' that reinterprets 『Gwandongbyeolgok』, the representative classical literature of Korea, with modern illustration. The artwork 'Wave of Knowledge' (width: 39.2m, height: 6.2m), which symbolizes the book collection of the representative library of Korea, pillars and ceilings, are used as media canvas to depict the literary work.

At the 'Meet the Author' corner of Yeollin Madang, Korean author Lee Sang (1910-1937), who has been reborn through 'Deep Fake' technology, talks to visitors. Visitors can sensuously experience the works introduced by the author through media art and digital books.



Rediscovering K-literature

Meet the Author Corner: Lee Sang

The 'Immersive Library', which has been established as the representative brand of the National Library of Korea's immersive experience center since its opening in 2021, provided a variety of contents in 2023 by adding two new types of content, including the 3rd generation digital book 『Seokbosangjeol』.

The immersive media wall (approximately 4.9 x 2m) created on the inner wall is a content that allows you to experience a three-dimensional and vivid old map by combining the two sheets of 『Cheonggudo』, the national atlas of the Joseon Dynasty, in 1:1 size on an OLED display and creating a 32K high-resolution map. Visitors can select the area they are interested in and can search and see various geographical and historical information, abnormal climate at the time, and traffic information included in the map as 'geographic information' and 'theme information.'



A View of the Immersive Media Wall



The Immersive Media Wall 'Geographic Information'

Since 2019, the National Library for Children and Young Adults has run Mikumso (Future Dream and Hope Creation Center), a library maker space that combines 'reading and creative activities' based on library materials to help children and young adults improve their convergent thinking skills based on imagination and creativity. In 2023, the theme was "2023 Mikumso, a sustainable world created by digital technology" to help children and young adults develop capabilities they need to grow into future talents in the digital age and realize

universal human values for the continuous development of the current generation. A total of 1,661 creative activity programs were operated in which young people find and solve problems on their own through books. In particular, to run a new creative activity program based on future capabilities (creativity, problem-solving ability, collaboration ability, etc.) in a space within Mikumso, the library built a space where users can experience new technologies such as autonomous driving, drone flight, and robots. On April 12, 2023 the space was opened as the Mikumso Advanced Technology Experience Center.

The Mikumso Advanced Technology Experience Center consists of a mobility experience area (robot autonomous driving, drone), a robot play area (robot experience), and a high-tech exhibition area. A new experience program was planned and piloted for a month in April, and has been run since May. The main equipment includes RoboMaster, for experiencing autonomous driving, and educational drones and coding robots for flying a drone through coding. The program related with the advanced technology experience center consists of three experiences: drone experience (including drone simulator experience), robot play area (coding robot), and mobility experience (Robomaster driving). The program is run twice a day, to offer a new form of experience by combining related digital technology experience and reading activities.



High-tech Experience Center(outside)



High-tech Experience Center(inside)



Robo master



Drone for education



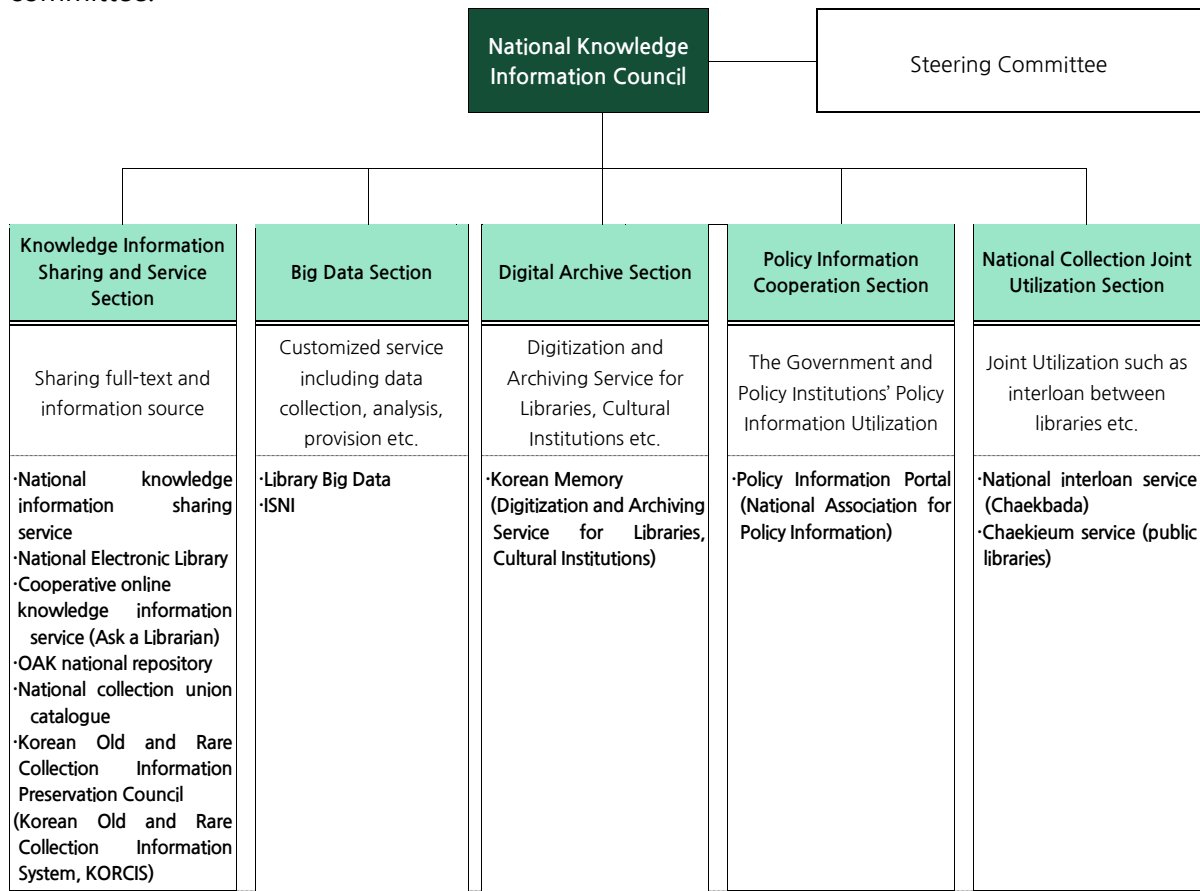
Coding robot

3 Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in your Country

1) Launching the National Knowledge Information Council

The National Library of Korea launched the National Knowledge Information Council on November 13, 2023 to strengthen exchange and cooperation between institutions that collect and produce national knowledge information resources and create a foundation for smoothly sharing and utilizing resources. With over 11,000 partner institutions (including duplicates) participating in 12 projects, including the National Electronic Library, the council plans to reinforce development, information exchange and cooperation among member institutions by organizing five sections (including the Knowledge Information Sharing and Service Section,

Big Data Section, and Digital Archive Section) and running a general meeting and steering committee.



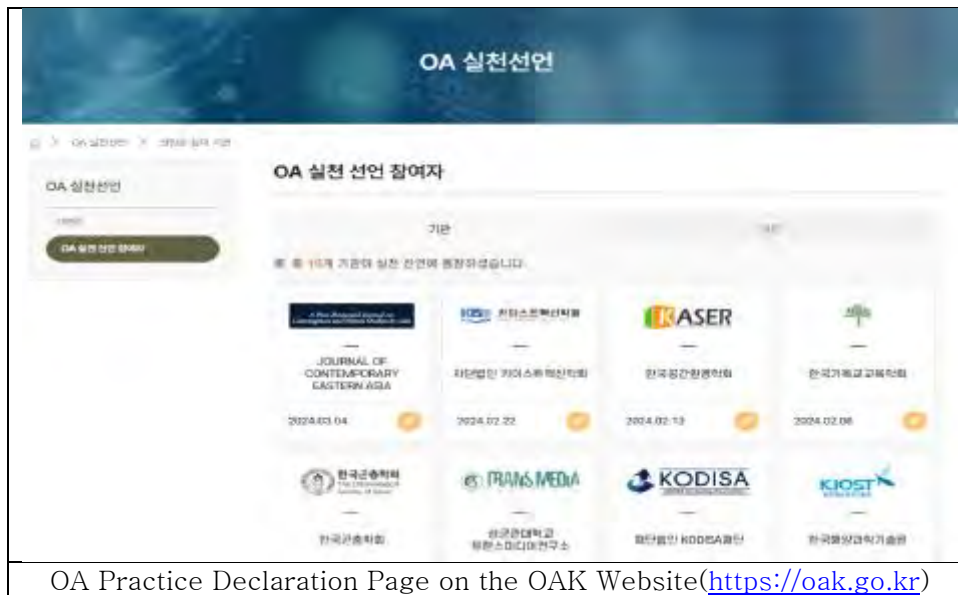
Council Organization Chart

2) Declaration of Open Access Practice

At the '2023 Open Access Conference' held on Thursday, October 12, the National Library of Korea, the Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information, the National Research Council for Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences, and the National Research Council of Science and Technology held the 'Open Access Practice in the Korean Academic Ecosystem Declaration Ceremony' with open access-related organizations. The declaration ceremony was attended by 12 organizations¹ which agreed to cooperate and practice with each other so that the entire society can enjoy the benefit of rapid and unrestricted disclosure of research results.

As a follow-up, the National Library of Korea and the Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information (KISTI) created a joint webpage to enable institutions and individuals to participate in the open access declaration and began providing service in 2024.

¹ The National Library of Korea, the Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information, the National Research Council for Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences, and the National Research Council of Science and Technology, National Institute of Ecology, Daegu National Institute of Science and Technology Academic Information Center, Yonsei University Medical Library, Jeonbuk Research Institute, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology Academic Cultural Center, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, Korean Psychological Association, Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology



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

1) Holding work exchange seminars and librarian training between national libraries

The National Library of Korea has been conducting regular work exchanges with overseas national libraries such as China and Japan since 1997 and France from 2023 to share library technology and experience and promote mutual cooperation. In 2023, work exchanges were implemented with the National Library of China, the National Diet Library of Japan, and the National Library of France.

At the NLK-BnF (National Library of France) Work Exchange held at the BnF from Monday, June 5 to Sunday, June 11, 2023, opinions were shared on ▲ general data legal deposit status and tasks, ▲ online data (digital data) legal deposit status and tasks.

NLK-NDL (National Diet Library of Japan) work exchange was run from July 24 (Mon) to July 29 (Sat), 2023 at the NDL, and policies and experiences were shared on the topics of ▲introduction of next-generation bibliographic languages and ▲long-term preservation of digital materials.

The NLK-NLC (National Library of China) Work Exchange was held at the NLK from September 18 to September 25, 2023, exchanging information and sharing in-depth opinions on the topics of ▲ the national library's digital service strategy and ▲ plans to introduce the next-generation bibliographic language.

The National Library of Korea has also carried out human exchanges with overseas libraries. The NLK-NLC Librarian Exchange Training is a regular training program that has been conducted since 2010, and a librarian from the NLK was dispatched to the National Library of China for three months from Monday, September 11, 2023 to Friday, December 8, 2023. The

NLK-NDL Librarian Exchange Training, which started in 2023, was conducted with a librarian from the National Diet Library of Japan being trained at the NLK from October 4 (Wed) to November 17 (Fri), 2023.

2) Discovering and collecting Korea-related materials located overseas

The National Library of Korea researches and collects Korea-related materials located overseas, expands them into Korea's modern and contemporary historical materials, and establishes Korean studies research information service infrastructure. Korea-related documents were digitized and collected from the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Russian National Library, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Hungary, and Turkic Republic. , and these data are used as primary data when studying the situation on the Korean Peninsula in the modern and contemporary period as well as the relationship between Korea and neighboring countries.

In 2023, the NARA document collection project, which had been temporarily suspended due to the spread of COVID-19, was resumed. Among the documents held by NARA, a total of 150,073 pages of Korea-related materials were collected, including RG 338, a record of the U.S. Army's operations, tactics, and support organization, and RG 407, a record of the Adjutant General's Staff Office. In addition, the collection of documents from the Hungarian National Archive, which had been collected on a pilot basis in 2022, were also expanded. A total of 17,000 pages of documents related to North and South Korea from the Hungarian Cabinet, Committee, National Planning Ministry, and Presidential Committee were collected. In addition, 1,300 photos of Hungarian medical corps dispatched to the Korean Peninsula during the Korean War and later were additionally digitized and collected. These collected materials are registered and organized and are then served in their original form through the library website (<https://www.nl.go.kr>).

Meanwhile, in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the ROK-US alliance, 『National Library of Korea Collection Release of NARA Documents Related to US Aid to Korea: RG 286 and RG 469』 was published. Various economic documents produced between 1948 and 1979 were analyzed and described, and records of the close economic cooperation between Korea and the United States were selected and released in detail. The collection of materials was distributed to modern and contemporary history academia and research institutes, and was uploaded on the library website so that anyone could use it.

3) Exchanges with overseas librarians

The National Library of Korea held the 16th Overseas Korean Studies Librarians Workshop from October 23 to 27 at the National Library of Korea to strengthen the expertise of Korean studies librarians. A total of 19 people from 10 countries attended and listened to lectures on the 'Korean Old Collection-Specialized Program' and had time to explore culture.



2022 Overseas Korean Studies Librarians
Workshop Group Photo



The workshop being run

In addition, in order to promote cultural exchange and international mutual understanding with countries in Asia and Africa, the National Library of Korea invited a librarian each from the National Library of Vietnam, the National Library of the Philippines, and the National Library of Kazakhstan for approximately three months to provide Korean language lectures, librarian training, and Programs such as cultural tours were provided.



2023 NLK CPI Completion Ceremony