

**30<sup>th</sup> 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]**

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**Name of Country** : Myanmar

**Name of Library** : National Library of Myanmar

**Name(s) of National Librarian, Director-General and/or Director** : Dr. Kay Thi Aye, Director

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**1 Facts and Figures**

The Original of the National Library of Myanmar is Bernard Free Library which was established by Sir Charles Edward Bernard, British Commissioner for Lower Myanmar. It was opened to the public free library in 1883. National Library moved many places during this period.

Since 2010, the National Library has been established as two National Libraries;(National Library-Yangon) and (National Library-Naypyitaw). Currently the National Libraries of Myanmar are under the Department of Historical Research and National Library, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. There are two directors of the National Libraries and directors are responsible for the administration.

Budget allowance for the National Library is controlled by the Department of Historical Research and National Library. All expenses of each library are provided by the government annual budget, an average annual budget is (about 1 million USD) for each national library.

According to the organizational set up, there are two directors in two national libraries.

<b>Sn</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Figures</b>
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	i. Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ii. -
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	Total ( 60 ) i. 17 ii. 43
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	i. 16,733 ii. 1639
d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	i. 14,358 ii. 2,21,031
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	-

**The total collections of each national libraries (Ygn/Npt) are as follow: 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023**

Category	Volumes	
	Yangon	Nay Pyi Taw
Books	8908	7914
Serials	7807	11,441
Manuscript	-	1301
Audio Visual	18	5
Digital Collections	1639	3366
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,372</b>	<b>24,027</b>

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

In three year-project 2017-2019, the National Library (Yangon) has been transformed traditional to a modern library by renovating a 100-years-old building and installed into a digital library system at a public access point. 2018-2019 fiscal year, the National Library (Yangon) started a project began work building a digital library system with Company and the library staffs. At present, NLM (Yangon/Naypyitaw) has been collecting physical collections and digital collections in many ways such as depository, purchases, donation and exchange.

As the vision of the National Library of Myanmar is “to be a center of Myanmar literary heritage”, The National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) has also developed its collection by collecting palm-leaf manuscripts from the Upper Myanmar region, old music discs, and private collections in the library. Under the National Library Law, NLM is assigned as a National bibliographic agency for the maintenance of bibliographic standards.



NLM (Yangon)



NLM (Naypyitaw)

According to the National Library Law, NLM (Yangon) has been collecting the library materials such as "A publisher including the government department, government organization, non-governmental organization shall deliver five copies of every printed and unprinted library resources published locally to the National Library. E-resources are collected in many ways such as purchases, donation and there are over 90, 000 e-resources for users in both virtual space and physical user space. They can access freely in the digital-library room arranged with National Library Management Software with the metadata.

#### **NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SERVICES:**

- NLM promoted on the online services and resources through the social media of the library. There are-
- Online Reference Services: The Ask a Librarian is an initiative Virtual Reference Desk and any library questions will be reply through [nlm.reference@gmail.com](mailto:nlm.reference@gmail.com) after one week from the date of received.
- Document Delivery Services: Electronic delivery of full-text articles, eBooks or book chapters. It will be provided free scanning and electronic delivery of articles and book chapter of library collections.
- According to the library policy, in this regard, the membership service is currently available at the National Library.
- The National Library of Myanmar applies a hybrid system for its users. Some are preferred to use printed books and publications. It also applies to the library automation system that was developed in Myanmar. Catalogues of library

collections can be accessed as an online catalogue through our website [www.nlm.gov.mm](http://www.nlm.gov.mm) for National Library (Yangon) and [www.nlmnpt.gov.mm](http://www.nlmnpt.gov.mm) for National Library (Nay Pyi Taw).

-Documentary movie, Myanmar culture films and traditional entertainment are arranged at Audio video room. It is shown every Saturday afternoon 1:00 pm, with the aim of knowledge sharing and providing awareness to the public to know what about the Myanmar Cultural Heritage, customs, and festivals through these films and documentary movie.

Reading room services for Disabled users provided by NLM. NLM cooperated with the Blind Education Center to collect the brilliant books and audio books. Users can read the books and listen to the audio books in the reading room for disabled users.



Reading room for Disabled



General reading room and Reference Reading Room

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

The National Library of Myanmar is building network with university libraries and other institutions for collaborative programmes of digitizing ancient manuscripts, sharing collection, participating library seminars and forums, etc.

Myanmar hosted Seminar on Conservation Management of Library Collections for ASEAN (7 -10, August 2024). Seminar theme is **“New Challenges and Different Methods for the Conservation of ASEAN Literary Heritage: Current Perspectives and the Best Finding”**, as a project of ASEAN Cultural Fund-ACF 2024. Representatives from ASEAN member countries and participants from local libraries, Museum and Archives department were participated in that Seminar.

Which was hosted by Department of Historical research and National Library, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.



Seminar on Conservation Management of Library Collections for ASEAN  
(7 -10, August 2024, Myanmar).

Due to 'ASEAN-ROK Children's Reading Culture Development Project', it is a 3-year-project (2022-2024). NLM also participated in that project and implemented the reading programs and hold the children librarian workshop in Myanmar. NLM taking action on cooperative with other institutions, private



school library, government school library, monastic school library and community centers in Myanmar to raise the awareness among librarian on the importance of children's reading culture.



**Children's Activities and Reading together Program**



With the collaboration of Department of Historical Research, National Library and the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon), Post-Graduate Diploma on Library Management Course is offered by the National Library (Yangon) since 2010 to present. Library and Information subjects are offered by the senior librarians of NLM and teachers from Library and Information Science Department of Yangon University.



Post Graduate Diploma in Library Management Program (PGDLM)

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

As the National Library is member of Congress of Southeast Asia Librarians (CONSAL) and Conference on Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO), it has been connecting with the member libraries and participates in the library cooperation activities and programmes. Moreover, connecting with the above two organizations, the National Library is taking responsibility for reporting the libraries' sector development of Myanmar in annual meeting and participating the related workshops and cooperation programs in other ASEAN counties.

The National Library of Myanmar contributed metadata records of library collections to the ASEAN Digital Library Portal to make the resources of the National Library of Myanmar more visible and accessible to the world.

Apart from that, the library is implementing the cultural cooperation projects by hosting ASEAN cultural meetings, seminars and workshops, and by participating to ASEAN member states' programmes, by coordinating with Culture and information Unit of ASEAN Secretariat.