

Digital resources sharing among the National Library of Vietnam with Asian countries

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ABSTRACT: *Sharing of information resources in the library is an important indicator of the level of development. The construction of information resource sharing strategy has become an important issue facing libraries. Libraries in Asian countries make the resource sharing project to be beneficial to economy and all people in Asian countries. This paper focuses on the necessity, feasibility and benefits, of developing and digital resources sharing among Vietnam libraries and Asian libraries, and puts forward some suggestions on the ways resources sharing.*

Keywords: Digital resources sharing, Resources sharing, Digital library, Vietnam, Asian

Received: 12 February 2017, Revised 17 March 2017, Accepted 25 March 2017

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1. Introduction

The world is entering the era of knowledge economy and international integration on every area and Vietnam is not an exception. Nowadays, with the rapid development of Science Technology, Library and Information enters are facing with number of challenges from different aspects brought about by the knowledge society, such as information explosion, Information and Communications Technology revolution, the increasingly high demand for information of the users, the change in quality and quantity of information resources and the increase in materials' prices, while the states funding budget for libraries is getting tighter.

Resource sharing is a new subject faced to the development of information undertaking. The development of modern science and technology, especially the increasing popularization of computer and network, creates favorable conditions for information resources sharing. Resource sharing is a sort of implied agreement amongst participating libraries wherein each participant is willing to share its resources to other members and in turn are privileged to share the resources of its partners as and when the need arises.

The construction of digital resources plays an important role in the utilization, sharing and storage of knowledge and documents. Resource specialization has become master stream for the construction of modern library. Specialized resource repository mainly includes the digitization of the specialized resources and the construction of original specialized resources. Libraries should identify their own specialties of library holdings and construct their own-specialized digital resources. The entrance of new technologies has changed the library functions and provides a new shape to age-old concept of resource sharing.

Vietnam libraries are always identify the sharing of information resources as the library an important indicator of the level of development. The construction of information resource sharing strategy has become an important issue facing libraries. It is important that libraries to establish a correct concept of literature resource sharing, the establishment of information resource sharing of the management, strengthens the construction characteristics of network information resources, so that library construction and sharing of information resources in order to further improve the collection of resources to sustainable development.

2. Review of Literature

Resource sharing has been the goal of libraries for many centuries. There is no one library that can afford to build a collection that is sufficiently comprehensive to satisfy all of its users' requests. By joining cooperative acquisition or collection development programs, libraries provide their users greater range of library materials or better depth of subject coverage [1].

Interlibrary loan (ILL) services facilitate the sharing of resources among libraries. As stated in ALA Interlibrary Loan code for the United States, "the purpose of interlibrary loan is to obtain, upon request of a library user, material not available in the user's local library" [2]. The increasing amount of electronic resources in libraries may have affected the use of ILL services. A study conducted by Egan [3] indicated that the requests for nonreturnable, photocopied materials decreased because there are more full-text e-journals available online now. Wiley and Chrzastowski found that the requests for periodical articles fell 26% between 1990 and 2003 because libraries started subscribing to more packaged periodical databases [4]. An investigation conducted by Beaubien (2007) [5] found that requests for nonreturnable materials decreased 4% while the requests for returnable materials (books, audio-visual materials, microfiches, etc.) increased 26% from 1998 to 2004. The statistical data on ILL in Taiwan from 2001 to 2008 show similar trends. The number of requests for periodical article copies declined from 168,620 items to 108,017 items, while the requests for monograph borrowing increased from 17,710 items to 38,322 items [6]. Walton (2008) [7] explained that the convenience of electronic resources did change the users' information behavior and that they prefer accessibility over resource quality. Meanwhile, the growth of open access resources also reduces the number of requests for ILL.

3. Necessity of ASEAN Library Digital Resources Development & Sharing Implementation

Demands of the information age. The 21st century is of knowledge-based economy and information age. Under such circumstances, information resources are the most important strategic resources and the strategic position will exceed other resources and will be highly valued. Digitalization, development and sharing of information resources break the national, regional, spatial and timing restrictions. Users can inquire, retrieve and request the document information which they need, then may read, download and store it through network if necessary. The range, size, time frame, speed and quality of services, user's satisfaction, etc. will be increased gradually. To lead the library services to digitalization, socialization and globalization through the development of digital library resources sharing system is carried out.

Urgent demands of global library users. Users are no longer satisfied with information. Collection services in libraries are related to a single country. The need is the latest, comprehensive information of complete types, in various forms and from a wide variety of sources. Obviously a single national library is not able to meet it. All walks of multinational information units in collaboration with the information and resources development and sharing have become the urgent problem of information services sectors to solve.

Resources sharing is not only an inevitable trend of the document information resources development and services in the 21st century, but also the ideal and pursuit of library colleagues for many years. The final goal of library automation, network and development is resources sharing, namely a digital library, is also one of the guiding ideology of library information resources development. Only libraries of network age integrate into the world library system and upload the information resources of their own, provide services to the world, and share resources, can they have the existence and development of vast space, otherwise they will be eliminated.

Vietnam and other Asian countries are closely related in many historical, political, social, cultural and economical aspects. Their connectivity is interlinked and their close ties bind them together as one ASEAN family. The colourful and rich cultural diversity of the Asian heritage continues to play an important role in our rootedness and growth as treasured national libraries of the region.

4. Significance of ASiAN Library Digital Resources Development & Sharing Implementation

Wide dissemination of the fine historical and cultural resources. Libraries have abundant national and local literature resource collections in different historical periods of time. They are the cultural and historical enrichments, and one of the representatives of the mainstream culture of a country. Literature information resources development and sharing will make different cultures display splendor by their contact, so that the splendid history and culture of the countries can be widely disseminated.

Greatly meet the users' cultural needs. The fundamental purpose of literature information resources development and sharing is to make the reader or user have the most convenient access to the information they need without the constraints of frontiers, geography, time or space.

It will help enrich countries in the library's information resources, improve the utilization of the national library literature resources, re-integration and optimal allocation of national document resources, then further improve the comprehensive ability of Asian literature resources.

It will promote the common development of Asian economies. By computer technology, the Asian libraries are linked up in a network environment to and share all the information resources, expand distribution channels through the network so as to play a greater supporting role in the process of Asian economic development and promote the common development of Asian economies.

Promote the smooth implementation of various cross-border documentation projects. Implementation of the Asian library digital document resources development and sharing will effectively promote the schedule of international literature projects (XiaofengLi Xiaoqiu and Liu, 2012).

5. Factors lead to success of Libraries resources sharing services

An advanced technology platform is a pre-requisite. Libraries' resource sharing is possible through the technological platform of corporative network or united system. This new generation platform aims for appropriate allocation and use of documentation resources. It is neither limited to one area or one library, nor limited to time constraint. This platform can be accessed from all over the world with Internet, therefore maximizing the scope of resource sharing. In such network or platform, the visitors have expanded from users of one library to users of the whole library union, same for the reference services. In this way, the resource sharing is made true.

A union catalogue is a firm foundation. The aim of library resource sharing is to integrate the resources from different libraries so as to make the optimal and most effective use of them. By forming a union library catalog, readers are able to understand of the different collections of different libraries, also to borrow cross-library. In this way, the library resources are maximized for use. At the same time, it provides a reliable, informative basis for library resource sharing. Hence, the establishment of library union catalog can lay a good foundation for the sharing of resources.

Free and efficient electronic documentation delivery is a feasible way. Electronic documentation delivery service makes use of computer network, fiill-text information retrieval system and full-text database system and electronic documentation transfer system to achieve sharing of documentation resources and greatly improve the efficiency of knowledge transfer. This makes up for the shortcoming of local library's collection and satisfies diversified knowledge needs of readers. The free service is an effective way to reflect China's free service polity for public cultural service and increase the utilization rate of libraries resources. Free documentation delivery service is one of the most direct and effective ways to achieve resource sharing due to its high satisfaction rate and utilization rate.

Resolving copyright issues is a strong guarantee. In the process of information resource sharing, libraries should respect and protect intellectual property rights and coordinate individual and community interests.

Libraries should make full use of the right exemption by “fair use”. The copyright law states that given that the non-profit use of work is in line with the “fair use” rules, the authorization from the copyright holder and licensing fees could be avoided. From the contract authorization point of view, libraries could avoid the risk of infringing copyright law. The validity of the procurement contract and the pointed reference of stipulated contents are two respects from which libraries can gain authorization through contracts. The validity of procurement contract requires the resources to have relevant qualification and legal rights of its authorized contents. The pointed reference of stipulated contents requires the contents must point to the behaviors the libraries have engaged in. For example, a contract signed between library and resource provider must specify the types of rights to authorize, the geographical scope to authorize, the standards and means of paying authors, remuneration etc.

Quality is the soul of resource sharing service. Apart from a strong technological platform to guarantee the efficiency of information delivery, the quality of service is also essential. If the librarian’s response is far from what the readers requested for, the readers’ satisfaction is rather low. Then, it is a failed service for the library. As a result, high quality service that meets readers’ needs is the soul of the resource sharing service.

6. The National Library of Vietnam With Sharing Digital Resources

During the journey of building and developing the library, through many historical changes, the National Library of Vietnam (NLV) is archiving more than 2 million documents from the 17th century to present with rich contents and diverse formats. The NLV is gradually becoming a bright spot, a friendly and reliable destination for many library readers and colleagues in the country and abroad. In the integration process, the NLV is always positive, and active in promoting the information resources acquisition, Information Technology application and takes the lead in the application of professional library standards with the objective: “Unification, standardization, sharing and integration.”

Regarding the international and material exchange, the NLV currently has the material exchange programs with 70 libraries and 30 countries all over the world. In recent time, the NLV has actively implemented and expanded the international cooperation activities in many new aspects such as continue to reinforce material exchange activities with libraries and international organizations in the country and abroad, collaborate with embassies and international organizations in Hanoi to hold various book exhibitions and seminars, effectively exploit supports on staff training with traditional partners like India, Malaysia, Singapore, and new partners like Korea; explore international cooperation projects such as the “Books for Asia” program since the year 2000 with over 400,000 English books distributed to over 160 library recipients in Vietnam funded by The Asia Foundation; the pilot project with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: “Strengthening the capabilities of public library institutions to support public access to computers and the Internet in Vietnam” with service provision skills training for 255 staff of public libraries and cultural post offices at 99 project sites of the 3 pilot provinces and organization of 48 Internet Festivals during 2009-2011; project of building digitized resources and information sharing under CONSAL project (the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarian) funded by ASEAN COCI: with 338 English books about Vietnam of approximately 92,520 pages have been selected, digitized and contributed to the general database.

After nearly a century of establishment and development, the NLV is proud of such potentialities as :

- The most sufficient collection of publications (Books, newspapers, magazines, maps) of Vietnam from 17th century up to now.
- Full-text digitized Doctoral Theses with thousands of copies (approximately 400.000 pages) submitted per year
- Key Partners are publishers in the country and abroad
- The relationship with the National Libraries all over the world
- Resources of the NLV will be strongly supplemented with major projects which are going to be implemented.

Some specific information resources of the NLV:

1. Books:

NO.	The collection	Quantity (copies)
1	ietnamese collection (including legal deposit collection)	800,000
2	Music collection	21,800
3	Resistance collection	3,996
4	Indochina collection	67,000
5	Foreign collection	100,000
6	Russian materials	270,000
7	Chinese materials	50,050
8	Sino-Nom materials	5,205
9	The Asia Foundation materials	4,500
10	Doctoral Theses collection	16,000
11	Reference collection	4,000

2. Newspapers - Magazines

No.	The collection	Quantity (title)
1	Vietnamese Newspapers - Magazines	1,713
2	English Newspapers - Magazines	2,155
3	French Newspapers - Magazines	990
4	Russian Newspapers - Magazines	790
5	Chinese Newspapers - Magazines	500
6	Other languages	820
7	Research Newspapers - Magazines	1,700

3. Digitized materials, tapes, CDS, microfilm

No.	Materials	Copies	Pages
1.	Doctoral Theses	> 15,000	> 1,500,000
2.	Indochina Books	>800	> 95,000
3.	Sino-Nom materials	> 1,258	> 192,000
4.	English books about Vietnam	>338	> 92,520
5.	Books, maps on Hanoi	> 1,000	> 200,000
6.	Tapes, CDs	>2000	
7.	Microfilm	10,000	

The above are the whole content related to resources, sharing capacity of information resources of the NLV. NLV always welcome your support as well as sharing the above information resources with the hope that “Vietnam is a friend and reliable partner of all countries in the international community, striving for peace, independence and development”[8].

7. The NLV And Asian Library Digital Resources Sharing Some Suggestions

7.1 Working together for Overcoming Language Difficulty

Language problems must take precedence of other questions for digital resources construction and sharing in NLV and Libraries of Asian. It is important to choose one official language for the cooperation. Moreover, establishing a base for the official languages is also necessary, which cloud handled the jobs concerned of language translations and the format transformations.

7.2 Establishing and Ensuring the Fund

Considering the spending among NLV and libraries in Asian countries, there is need to establish and ensure the fund for digital resources construction and sharing in NLV and libraries of Asian. Methods of utilizing the fund would be diversified. Asian government investment and the enterprise supporting and individual donations, are technically feasible.

7.3 Organizing the Administrations

Referring to organization and management of international organizations, the headquarters of Digital Resources Construction and Sharing in Libraries of Asian, should be built. In the future the administrative branches should be set step by step. Besides, it need hire expert advices from librarianship consultants and bureau. Finally, a good organization not only depends on efficiency, and the evaluating and assessment as well. So the evaluating job is important part of complete working organs and mechanisms.

7.4 Building digitalized sharing platform

The prerequisite of information resources sharing is common knowledge, of which the most effective insurance is coherent standards and regulation. Therefore, data collection, indexing, processing, input must be strictly carried out in accordance with international standards, and standards and specifications of the database construction must be improved when online cataloging international books and documents. Standard specifications are the basis of digital library construction, and also fundamental insurance of digital resources development and sharing. To achieve the interoperability of digital library systems in Asian, they must combine the actual needs of the national digital library construction and service, set up operation regulations around the core business, give priority to well-established international standards on the principle of “joint, open and share”.

7.5 Digital document copyright lack of legal protection

The legal platform of library information resources sharing refers to laws and regulations related to various information resources development and sharing. The document data development and sharing is for the library to meet the demand international standards. There will be some new issues such as copyright, network security, information controlling and so on. The legislation on digital works copyright is not clear. Rapid developments of computer technology, automation technology and network technology make transforming document resources format conversion, duplicating, downloading digitalized works and piracy easier. Intellectual property protection of digital works is more complex and prominent than the traditional paper document. According to Copyright Law, obtaining the owner’s consent must goes before using his works. The digital resources are so big that it is rather difficult to get the owner’s authorization of every work in reality. The laws which are inconsistent with self-construction and development characteristics cannot be applied in the digital library of relevant legislation.

7.6 Pay attention to improve the librarians’ abilities

Library resources development and sharing in the network environment are very complicated. New digitalization technology, network technology and automation technology have brought great changes to library service model, and it puts forward higher requirements for the quality and ability of the librarians. In addition to good political thought, professional ethics, professional knowledge, librarians should keep pace with the time and master the network technology, digital communication skills and foreign language. Only in this way, librarians can be competent to the work in the network environment and provide readers full, accurate and efficient service.

8. Conclusion

Sharing of information resources is important that libraries to establish a correct concept of literature resource sharing, the establishment of information resource sharing of the management, strengthens the construction characteristics of networks information resources, so that library construction and sharing of information resources in order to further improve the collection of resources to sustainable development. NLV and Librarians in Asian countries should seize the opportunities to learn the significance of Co-construction project, solve the problems and make the resource snaring project to be beneficial to economy and all people in Asian countries.

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