UNIFIED SHARING AND USING DIGITAL RESOURCES ABOUT ASEAN

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Abstract

National libraries in the ASEAN region hold a great wealth of library resources in different formats. So far, most of these material resources have been digitized in these countries for the purpose of preservation and dissemination. To promote understanding and public awareness of ASEAN cultural heritage, various cooperation programs and projects among ASEAN national libraries to preserve and promote ASEAN documentary heritage value have been being done. Recently, the launching of the wide - regional partnership project of National Libraries Asia Pacific (NL-AP) has marked a new development in the field of regional co-operation on sharing documentary sources about ASEAN culture. The project aims to connect together and aggregate ASEAN digitized content on the prototype NL-AP platform to make it easier to find, share and use. The project which is funded by the ASEAN – COCI, led by the National Library Board, Singapore (NLB) under technical support of the National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ) in providing the technology of metadata harvesting and sharing. The paper refers to the duties of NL-AP partners, which the National Library of Viet Nam and national libraries in the ASEAN region agreed to perform such as selection of appropriate online content sources, ensuring the contributed materials could be displayed in different applications, supplying metadata as requested etc. to create an unified search to the rich cultural resources of all ASEAN National Libraries, providing more access to materials, introducing one’s country material to people of other countries, enhancing knowledge exchange and cultural understanding in the region.

Keywords: Digital resources, Documentary heritage, Asean culture, Southeast Asia, Regional co-operation, National Library of Viet Nam.

1. Introduction

As an Asean member, Viet Nam will continue co-operating and developing within Asean towards an closely linked, self-improvement and rich in identity. In the field of library, National Library of Viet Nam (NLV) has become official member of regional and

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international library profession organizations. Over years, NLV always completed its responsible members, actively participate in the common programs and projects, especially NLV and libraries in the region have together kept efforts to digitize and develop digital resources about Asean to preserve and promote the written cultural heritage of the mankind.

2. Unified sharing and using digital resources about Asean

2.1. NL-AP and its purpose

In 2012, the National Library Board of Singapore (NLB) proposed the launch of regional initiative to connect together collections across the Asia Pacific region. NL Asia Pacific (NL-AP) aims to have Asean National Libraries be part of a prototype platform that provide users with a seamless way to search for, and to again access to, the wealth of digitized library held by the libraries. A one-search approach will provide convenience to users as well as encourage greater use and awareness of regional content, thus fostering higher levels of regional unity.

2.2. Asean National Libraries as member partners of NL-AP

NL-AP will help create a unified search to collections, and provide more access to the material; to showcase one country material to people of other countries, to improve knowledge exchange and cultural understanding; use platform to publish metadata in a friendly way for software developers and build relationships between digital teams. As the partners of NL-AP:

- The source of digital material which the library members wish to contribute needs to be already online somewhere.
- NL-AP will use aggregation technology to collect the metadata about digital objects from partner website or repository. The data such as the title, description, rights information, and subject from an item’s web page will be collected.
- Being a partner means that agree to share the descriptive metadata, the metadata from source website or repository is copied into the NL-AP search index. This search index will contain copies of all metadata contributed by the partners.
- In becoming a partner mean agree the idea that these materials could be displayed in different so as long as they are attribute.
- Member partner then use the share metadata to build services unique to their countries, or build experience that span countries.

Achievements to date: The Asean national libraries will contribute to NL-AP

- National Library of Brunei with 88,000 digitised items included: Manuscripts, Newspapers, Books on Brunei, Posters & maps.
- National Library of Cambodia: total number of digitised collections: 250,00 items, contributing rare materials, images & manuscripts, photos etc.
- National Library of Indonesia: Digitised Indonesian Presidential Library Materials, Digitised collection of Johannes Rach’ Drawings

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2 NL Asia-Pacific Proposal Document by National Library Board of Singapore
3 National Library Board, Singapore – Updated presentation on National Libraries Asia Pacific at CDNL-AO 2014 in Australia
- National Library of Laos: 12,000 texts & 500,000 digitised images
- National Library of Malaysia: The existing online content that the library can contribute to NL-AP include NLM Internal Publications, Contents available on myrepository.pnm.gov.my along with the related metadata, Contents available on Selected Digital Contents
- National Library of the Philippines: Otley Beyer Ethnographic Collection, Official Gazette, Historical Data, Rizaliana Collection
- National Library of Thailand: Damrong Rajanubhab Collection Rare books Manuscripts Thai traditional books Palm leaves Sound and audiovisual recordings

2.3. NLV and its process to participate in NL-AP

2.3.1. NLV and its documentary resources

Any country has their own book storage in which documents and published works of the whole nation and about the nation are preserved and passed on for long-term use. The NLV founded on the basis as the Central library of the Indo-China (29 November 1917 - present), managed and invested directly by the State, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam has made considerable contributions to the collection, organisation, preservation and dissemination of written cultural heritage of both the country and the world. At present, the NLV owns more than 2.6 million documents, the biggest source of document nationwide. The source is varied in contents and languages, diversified in all forms (book, newspaper, journal, doctoral thesis, painting, music, map, music pieces, description, etc.). Digital source produces over 5 million document pages equivalent to 33,500 document titles.

Commencing since the end of 2012, this is an important strategic project invested by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam to develop digital technology in Viet Nam. The project is expected to digitize and provide public access with over 500,000 pages of books, newspapers, magazines annually. Through two years implenting the project, NLV’s IT staff have been able to master the modern equipments and softwares enabling the Library to fully exploit the equipments, optimize the digital work flows, improve quality of digital materials and deliver an increasing number of digital materials (current NLV digital collection equivalent to 5 millions pages). Also after two years, NLV website counts a three times increase of hits to the NLV databases. Digital items published in the Internet for public access, most of these digitalised documents are and have been opened to the reader for free online access at http://dl.nlv.gov.vn.

Valuable NLV’s collections include the following:

Collection of ancient Han Nom books: comprises 5,280 books manually created with Do paper, hand-written and printed on the woodprint in Han Nom character – an ancient type of characters of Viet Nam, dated on 16th -19th Centuries. Since 2006, the NLV has cooperated with Han Nom Heritage Protection Association to digitalize nearly 150,000 pages being equivalent to 1,965 documents at http://nom.nlv.gov.vn/nlvnpdf
**Collection of doctoral thesis:** comprises 21,300 theses (nearly 4.5 million digital pages) of Vietnamese citizens at home and abroad, foreigners in Viet Nam. This is the most unique and full collection at the NLV with significance in terms of research and application in all aspects of life at [http://luanan.nlv.gov.vn](http://luanan.nlv.gov.vn).

**Collection of Indo-China documents** (from Viet Nam, Cambodia, France, some European countries and French dominated countries etc.,) comprises 68,500 titles and 10,000 titles in form of microfilm and microfiche. These documents published since the 17th Century to 1954 are invaluable cultural heritage with historical, geographical, resourceful and agricultural values. Since 2006, the NLV has been sponsored by the French Embassy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France together with concern given by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. The NLV has digitalised more than 200,000 document pages equivalent to 1,320 document titles and also digitalised 8,600 microfilm items equivalent to 126 documents at [http://sach.nlv.gov.vn](http://sach.nlv.gov.vn).

**Collection of ancient Tuong (classcial drama) – Cai Luong (reformed theatre):** this is a digital collection of 5,000 pages equivalent to 100 books in the *Collection of Indo-China Books*.

**Collection of legal deposit publications** of Viet Nam since 1992 to present: this is an imporant collection of national documents closely associated with the development of publishing industry and of the NLV with more than 600,000 titles being equal to 1,580,000 sets of books, newspapers, journals, descriptions, paintings, music pieces, maps and numerous special issued publications.

**Collection of newspapers and journals:** over 10,000 titles of newspapers, journals at home and abroad, database of article abstracts with over 65,000 titles at [http://baochi.nlv.gov.vn](http://baochi.nlv.gov.vn). Nearly 49,000 pages of Vietnamese journals have been digitalized (equivalent to 6,313 volumes of 26 journal titles).

**Collection of Books and maps on Hanoi:** on the occasion of the Anniversary of 1000 years of Thang Long – Hanoi, the NLV in coordination with Hanoi Publishing House to build a database of full documents on Thang Long – Hanoi (1010-2010). More than 400,000 pages (equal to 850 books) went digital.

**Collection of foreign documents** (1959 to present): there are more than 500,000 titles through purchase and donation from organisations, individuals and in exchange with 132 libraries and information agencies from 32 countries worldwide.

**Collection of English books on Viet Nam:** the NLV selected and digitalised 338 English books on Viet Nam, equivalent to 95,520 pages (under the ASEAN-COCI program: Congress of Southeast Asian Libraries (CONSAL)).

### 2.3.2. **NLV as a member partner of NL-AP**

Suggested by NLB to join in NL-AP, NLV agreed to participate in the partnership specifically developed to find, share, and use digital content through a platform that provides library users with a seamless way to search for and to gain access to the wealth of digital material held by the parties.

The digitalized collections of the National Library of Viet Nam that earlier identified to contribute for the NL-AP project:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identified Collection Name</th>
<th>Number of Records</th>
<th>Website Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indochina Books</td>
<td>1318</td>
<td><a href="http://sach.nlv.gov.vn/">http://sach.nlv.gov.vn/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspapers - Magazine</td>
<td>6313 vols of 26 articles</td>
<td><a href="http://baochi.nlv.gov.vn/">http://baochi.nlv.gov.vn/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral theses</td>
<td>21300</td>
<td><a href="http://luanan.nlv.gov.vn/">http://luanan.nlv.gov.vn/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English books about Vietnam</td>
<td>338</td>
<td><a href="http://hannom.nlv.gov.vn">http://hannom.nlv.gov.vn</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


![Screenshot for Ancient Sino-Nom books Collection](image1.png)

**IndoChina Collection** is a rare collection of 67,000 books copies published from the 17th century to 1954. The collection contains historical, cultural, geographical value of Indochina, available at [http://sach.nlv.gov.vn](http://sach.nlv.gov.vn)
Screenshot for IndoChina Collection

**Doctoral theses collection** is the most unique and full collection at the NLV, available at [http://luanan.nlv.gov.vn](http://luanan.nlv.gov.vn)
Newsletters and Journals Collection comprises over 10,000 titles (published since 19th century to present) of newspapers, journals at home and abroad, at http://baochi.nlv.gov.vn.

As a partner of NL-AP, NLV must submit the metadata as request and ensure that the metadata contain the following fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Optional/ Mandatory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>A name given to the resource (For non-English metadata, please indicate clearly the label “Title” in English. The value can be in the original script)</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Descriptive information about the resource e.g. summary, abstract, etc.</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thumbnail URL</td>
<td>A URL resolving to a thumbnail of the content for display in search results list.</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landing URL</td>
<td>An HTTP URL resolving to a landing page (webpage) for the content.</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>The name of the original creator / photographer etc.</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>The date of creation i.e. when was the photograph taken in whatever date format available</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection name</td>
<td>Name of the collection(s) that the resource belongs to</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>The subject of the resource, if available</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unique Identifier</td>
<td>A unique number or reference for each record that might come from your collection management</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample of metadata fields of National Library of Vietnam, including Thumbnail URL & Landing URL as followed

3. Conclusion

In order to enhance knowledge exchange and cultural in the region, co-operation among Asean libraries to develop and share the resources about Asean will contribute to the efforts to raise awareness and community in the region. The National Library of Viet Nam and other member partners of NL-AP will continue follow up the guidance, contributing metadata as identified to perform well the task towards one-search approach to regional content, thus fostering higher levels of regional unity.
REFERENCES

2. [http://asiapacifica.org](http://asiapacifica.org) (February 2015)