



NNL News

The Newsletter of the Nepal National Library



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NEPAL NATIONAL LIBRARY CELEBRATES ITS 68TH ANNIVERSARY

The Nepal National Library (NNL) joyfully celebrated its 68th anniversary on January 2, 2025 (2081 Poush 19 BS.) amidst a special function organized at the library premises at Sanothimi, Bhaktapur. The program was inaugurated by Ms. Indira Dali, a respected senior library activist, former librarian of T.U. and the event's Chief Guest who officially opened the ceremony with a warm address highlighting the legacy and contributions of NNL to Nepal's intellectual and cultural development.

The anniversary function brought together a distinguished gathering of professionals from the field of library and information science. Several renowned figures shared their well-wishes and fond memories of their association with NNL. Among the speakers were Mr. Pushparaj Subedi, President of the Nepal Library Association; Mr. Yadav Chandra Niraula, Chief of Kaiser Library; Mr. Prem Raj Adhikari, Librarian at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Mr. Sagar Raj Subedi, Chief of the Tribhuvan University Central Library; Ms. Leela Nyaichyai, Chief of the Central Department of Library and Information Science; Mr. Bholu Kumar Shrestha, former employee of NNL and past President of the Nepal Library Association; and Mr. Rudra Prasad Dulal, former lecturer at the Central Department of LIS.

Each speaker highlighted the vital role the Nepal National Library has played in preserving Nepal's documentary heritage and promoting access to information. Personal anecdotes, historical reflections, and words of encouragement marked their speeches, contributing to a thoughtful and celebratory atmosphere.

A special highlight of the event was the felicitation of Mr. Achut Ram Parajuli, a long-serving staff member of the NNL, in recognition of his dedication and significant contributions to the institution over the years.

In addition, the children's library services, which had been temporarily halted, were officially restarted on the same day from a newly built room, signaling NNL's commitment to nurturing young readers and promoting early literacy.

The event drew an enthusiastic gathering of around 130 participants, comprising librarians, library professionals from diverse institutions, students, researchers, and library supporters. Beyond marking a milestone, the celebration underscored the Nepal National Library's continuing significance and its dynamic role in advancing education, knowledge access, and cultural preservation in Nepal.



NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES RESUMES FROM SANOTHIMI, BHAKTAPUR

Since Poush 19, 2078 B.S. (January 3, 2022), the Nepal National Library (NNL) has been providing its services from a temporary Prefabricated (Prefab) building located at Sanothimi, Bhaktapur. From this new location, the library has resumed its core public services, including reading and reference facilities for general users. Additionally, the children's library has been restarted to promote reading habits among young learners.

The library also continues to provide International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) services to periodicals published in Nepal, ensuring that Nepalese serial publications are properly identified and internationally recognized.

Prior to this relocation, the devastating earthquake of 2015 had rendered the previous library building unusable. As a result, the entire collection of the Nepal National Library had to be carefully packed in plastic sacks and cartons and stored in a safe location to prevent from further damage. The materials remained in storage for several years while plans were developed to resume library operations from a new location.

With the eventual construction of the Prefab structure at Sanothimi, the collection was transferred to the new site, and the books and documents were unpacked and systematically arranged on bookshelves. This transition enabled the library to officially reopen to the public on Poush 19, 2078, marking a significant moment of recovery and renewal for national library services in Nepal.



Following the reopening, extensive efforts were made to properly manage and organize the reading materials. This involved beginning the data entry, cataloguing, and shelving of resources. A large portion of the collection, particularly books in English, Nepali, Sanskrit, and Hindi, has already been catalogued using the Koha Library Automation Software, an open-source platform widely used for library management. Cataloguing work is still ongoing for materials in Bengali, Marathi, Urdu, Newari, and several other languages.

In addition, the technical processing of theses and dissertations, primarily received from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and other academic bodies, has also continued. These academic resources have been classified using the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) System and appropriately shelved to ensure easy access for users. Currently, the entire book collection is housed in a single stack room, while separate rooms have been allocated for periodicals and the children's library. Despite the challenges faced in the aftermath of the earthquake, the Nepal National Library has made remarkable progress in restoring its services and reaffirming its essential role in the preservation of knowledge, support of research, and promotion of lifelong learning in Nepal.



NEPAL NATIONAL LIBRARY REOPENS CHILDREN'S LIBRARY IN NEW DEDICATED SPACE

The Children's Library Services of the Nepal National Library (NNL) have been restarted from a newly constructed room within the library premises at Sanothimi, Bhaktapur. This revitalized space was officially opened on January 2, 2025, (2081 Poush 19 B.S.) marking a significant step forward in enhancing services for children's.

The children's section of the Nepal National Library was originally initiated in 1995 with the goal of fostering early reading habits and supporting educational development among children. Over the years, the collection and services of the children's library were gradually enhanced, thanks in part to the generous support from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). JICA's contributions included both book collections and furniture, helping to create a welcoming and engaging environment for young readers.

Unfortunately, the devastating earthquake in 2015, followed by spatial limitations at the library's temporary site, forced the suspension of the children's services for several years. The lack of a dedicated space hindered the ability to run programs effectively. However, with the recent construction of a separate room specifically designed for children's activities, the Nepal National Library has now resumed its full-fledged children's library services.

In addition, the former Community Child Development Library has been integrated into the children's section of the Nepal National Library. As a result, the children's library has expanded not only in terms of its book collection, but also in furniture, learning materials, and other child-friendly resources. This integration has significantly strengthened the library's capacity to serve children from diverse backgrounds, making it a more inclusive and resource-rich environment.

The resumption of children's services marks a significant milestone in the library's commitment to promoting literacy and lifelong



LIBRARY INTERNS GAIN PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AT NEPAL NATIONAL LIBRARY

Two aspiring library professionals have recently completed their internship at the Nepal National Library (NNL), gaining hands-on experience in various aspects of library operations. One of the interns, Ms. Reeta Gautam, a student of the Diploma in Library and Information Management (DLIM) program at the National Open University (NOU), joined the library on 2081 Falgun 25 (March 10, 2025). The second intern, Ms. Sabitri Sah, joined the library on 2081 Magh 10 (January 23, 2025), after completing a three-month training program in Library and Information Science as an independent learner.

During their internship, both interns were actively engaged in a range of library activities. Their responsibilities included accessioning, classification, and cataloguing of materials, with data entry conducted through the Koha library automation system. They were also involved in organizing and uploading digital resources into Dspace, the library's digital repository system. Alongside this, they assisted with the arrangement of books on shelves and actively took part in the day-to-day operations of the library.

Their time at NNL provided valuable practical exposure and an opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge in a real-world library setting. The Nepal National Library continues to support emerging library professionals through such internship opportunities, contributing to the growth of the field of library and information science in Nepal.

NNL ORGANISES BASIC LIBRARY MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Two training programs on Basic Library Management were successfully concluded at two different places separately. One of such programs was held at Chitwan from Asar 09, 2081 to Asar 13, 2081 (June 23, 2024 to June 27, 2024). It was conducted at Shree College of Technology which brought together 22 participants from a range of institutions, including colleges, schools, public libraries, and resource centers of Chitwan district.

The training sessions were facilitated by Mr. Dashrath Mishra, the then Chief Librarian; Ms. Sujata Poudel, Library Officer; and Mr. Sanjib Kumar Chaudhary, Library Assistant. Their expert guidance and practical insights enriched the learning experience and enabled participants to apply the concepts effectively. Another such training was organized at Shree National Library situated at ward no 10 of Kerabari Rural Municipality, Morang district. There were 20 participants from various academic and public libraries of Kerabari Rural Municipality.

The training program was started in the presence of Mr. Mithun Devan Ward member of Kerabari Municipality Ward no 10 and was facilitated by Mr. Pradeep Bhattarai, Chief Librarian and Mr. Sanjib Kumar Chaudhary, Library Assistant. Similarly, the closing and certificate distribution was organized in the presence of the Chairman of the Kerabari Rural Municipality Mr. Suman Miringching Magar.



Both the training programs focused on strengthening participants' knowledge of both traditional and modern library practices, with special emphasis on emerging digital tools and technologies. Over the five days, participants developed hands-on skills in crucial areas such as accessioning of reading materials, classification, and processing and other major aspects. The training aimed to equip library professionals with technical competencies needed to meet the demands of today's increasingly digital information environment.

The program concluded with enthusiastic feedback from attendees and a renewed collective commitment to enhancing the quality, accessibility and technological advancement of library services throughout the region.

LIBRARY SERVICE HOURS EXTENDED TO ENHANCE USER ACCESS

In response to frequent requests from library users, the Nepal National Library (NNL) has officially extended its service hours by two hours on working days. Additionally, the library is now open on Saturdays, further increasing accessibility for students, researchers, and the general public.

As per the new schedule, which has been in effect since 2081 Magh (January–February 2025), the library opens at 8:00 AM and closes at 5:00 PM on working days and on a Saturday it serves from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM during the summer season. This extension reflects the library's ongoing commitment to user satisfaction and greater community engagement.

The initiative has already benefitted a notable number of users, who now have more flexible opportunities to access reading and reference services. For more details and updates, users are encouraged to visit the official website at www.nnl.gov.np.

ONGOING LIBRARY AUTOMATION AND DIGITIZATION WORKS

As part of its ongoing efforts to modernize library services and provide online access to users, the Nepal National Library (NNL) has been actively engaged in library automation and digitization. A key component of this initiative is the continuous data entry of library materials into the Koha Integrated library automation software.

To date, bibliographic information for more than 80,000 documents has been successfully entered into the Koha ILS system. This includes books and monographs in multiple languages. In addition, the library has begun cataloguing periodical publications using the same software. So far, 1497 volumes of various journal titles have been added. For each journal entry, users can access not only the bibliographic information but also the cover page and table of contents, enhancing the utility and accessibility of these resources. A link to the Koha database (<http://nnl.gov.np>) is available via the library's homepage.

In parallel, the NNL is also developing its own digital library using Dspace software, a widely used open-source platform for digital repositories. Currently, the digital library hosts around 2,000 full-text documents, including theses and dissertations, NNL publications, and selected additional materials. These digital resources are fully searchable and available for open access. The digital library is a growing repository, and the NNL is continuously adding more documents to expand its digital footprint. The platform can be accessed directly via the following link: <http://archive.nnl.gov.np/>, and it is also available through the NNL's official homepage.

These initiatives represent the NNL's commitment to improving information accessibility, supporting research and education, and preserving Nepal's intellectual heritage through digital means.

TRANSFER OF LIBRARY PERSONNEL

Mr. Pradeep Bhattarai has assumed the position of Chief Librarian at the Nepal National Library (NNL) from 2024 November 20 (Mangsir 05, 2081 B.S.), in accordance with the decision of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Bhattarai was serving at the Centre for Education and Human Resource Development.

Mr. Dasharath Mishra, former Chief Librarian at NNL, has transferred to the Centre for Education and Human Resource Development.

Additionally, the Ministry's decision included several other transfers of senior library professionals.

Mr. Yadab Chandra Niraula has been transferred from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to serve as Chief Librarian of Kaiser Library. Similarly, Mr. Suresh Kumar Yadav has been transferred from Kaiser Library to the Ministry of Forests and Environment, and Mr. Prem Raj Adhikari has moved from the Ministry of Forests and Environment to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. These transfers aim to strengthen the capacity of key library institutions and ensure the effective management of human resources across departments.



PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL LIBRARY SUMMIT 2025 IN NEW DELHI

The Nepal Library Association (NLA) proudly participated in the prestigious Global Library Summit 2025, held from February 5 to 7, 2025, at South Asian University, New Delhi. The summit brought together library and information science professionals, researchers, and scholars from around the globe to explore the evolving role of libraries in preserving cultural heritage, embracing technological innovation, and fostering international collaboration.

The theme of the summit revolved around the dynamic transformation of libraries and their increasing significance in the digital age. From digitization to e-resource integration, the discussions reflected global trends, innovations, and future directions in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS).



Notable Contributions from Nepal

Participants from Nepal made impactful presentations, showcasing the country's ongoing contributions to the international LIS community:

- "Libraries and Cultural Heritage Preservation" was jointly presented by Mr. Pushparaj Subedi and Mr. Sanjib Kumar Chaudhary from Nepal Library Association (NLA). The paper highlighted both global practices and Nepal's unique approaches to preserving intangible and tangible cultural heritage through library services.
- "E-Resource Centric and User-Centric Analysis of Usage Statistics", authored by Ms. Leela Nyaichyai, Mr. Sagar Subedi, and Mr. Bijaya Sharma of CDLIS-TU, and presented by Ms. Leela Nyaichyai offered an analytical view on digital resource usage trends in Nepal's academic libraries.
- "Application of Technology in University Libraries and Users' Satisfaction: A Case of Pokhara University, Nepal", co-authored by Ms. Min Kumari Dallakoti and Ms. Anita Bhandari of Ullens School, Lalitpur, presented a study measuring the impact of automation and user experience in university libraries.
- "SAARC Secretariat and its Library Integration with Regional Centers of SAARC and Introduction of REFSALA (Regional Federation of South Asian Library Associations)" was presented by Ms. Reshma Dangol of SAARC Secretariat, focusing on strengthening regional cooperation and the role of libraries in diplomacy and information sharing.

Ms. Bhabana Nyaupane, Librarian at the Russian House, Kathmandu, and Ms. Subina Maka, Library Assistant at Khwopa College, School of Law, Bhaktapur, also participated in the program and were actively engaged in various discussions and networking sessions.

INTERACTION PROGRAM ON NNL

On the occasion of the 17th Library Day of Nepal, Nepal National Library organized an interaction program on Strengthening of NNL. The event was held on August 28, 2024 (2081 Bhadra 12) in the presence of librarians and library lovers. The program was chaired by Mr. Dashrath Mishra, the then Chief Librarian of Nepal National Library. The Chief Guest of the event was Mr. Bishwo Babu Pudasaini, Secretary (Science) of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST). Other distinguished guests included Mr. Dinanath Mishra and Mr. Chandra Kant Bhusal Joint Secretaries at MOEST. The program was facilitated by Mr. Rabin Shrestha, Library Officer, NNL. A total of 120 participants, representing various library-related organizations, attended the program.

The event featured in-depth discussions on improving library services, strengthening infrastructure, enhancing staff capacity, and developing long-term strategic plans for the advancement of the Nepal National Library. It was regarded as a meaningful step toward shaping the future of library services in Nepal.



CELEBRATION OF 113RD BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF DILLIRAMAN REGMI

Dilliraman Kalyani Regmi Memorial Library (DKRML) Development Committee has organized the 113rd birth anniversary and peace day of the veteran politician and historian Dr. Dilliraman Regmi on 3rd poush, 2081 (December 18, 2024 A.D), in its premise, Lazimpat. The then Honorable Minister of Education, Science and Technology Mrs. Bidya Bhattarai was the Chief Guest of the program. Speaking on the program the Minister highlighted the contribution of Dilliraman Regmi to the nation. The program was chaired by the Chairman of the library Mr. Gopal Chhancha Rai. Member of Parliament Mrs. Sushila Shrestha was also present on the occasion. On the occasion, three library staff Mr. Jitendra Shrestha, Mrs. Laxmi Twanabasu and Mrs. Shanta Khadka were felicitated for their long service at the library.

DIGITIZATION AND PRESERVATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES (DPLR) PROJECT

The Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MOEST) has initiated a landmark project focused on the establishment of national digital library of Nepal as well as digitization and preservation of public library collections in Nepal. This initiative is being implemented with the technical assistance (TA) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The project aims to modernize Nepal's library system by introducing national strategies for digitization, enhancing the capacity of library institutions, and laying the foundation for a National Virtual Library.

The pilot phase of the project will be launched based on three major libraries: Nepal National Library (NNL), Kaiser Library (KLILB), and Dilli Raman Kalyani Regmi Memorial Library (DRKRML).

To facilitate implementation, Kathmandu University School of Education (KUSOED) has entered into an agreement with ADB to provide project management consulting services.

KUSOED will also lead an academic consortium to support the project's objectives and will conduct a user satisfaction survey upon completion of the pilot phase.

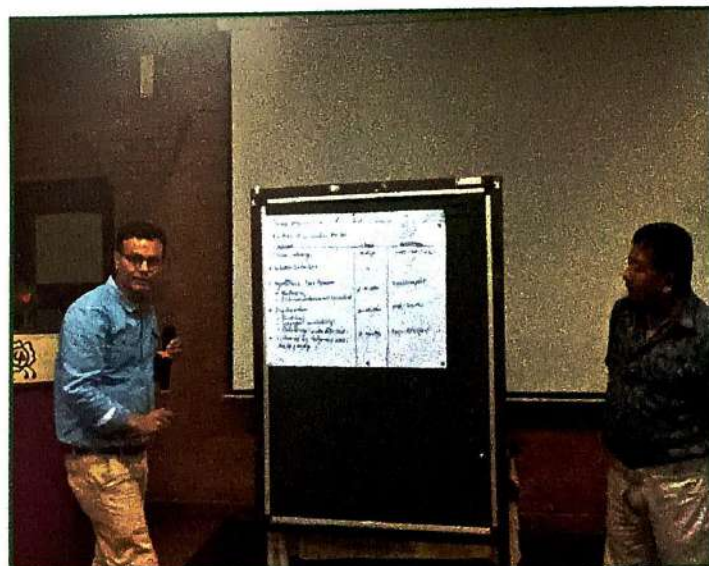


Entitled as "Digitization and Preservation of Library Resources (DPLR)," the project is funded by the e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund (EAKPF) of the Republic of Korea, with fund management support from ADB.

The project is scheduled to run from March 2024 to January 2026. Key components of the project include the development of comprehensive short-term, mid-term, and long-term plans for the digitization and preservation of library resources. It also involves drafting a national policy framework to guide future digitization and preservation efforts. A major focus will be placed on capacity building, with dedicated training sessions organized for library professionals to equip them with relevant digital skills. The project will also carry out a pilot digitization phase, focusing on selected materials from the three target libraries.

In the early stage, selected publications from Nepal National Library, Kaiser Library, and Dilli Raman Kalyani Regmi Memorial Library will be digitized. These digital resources will be uploaded into a centralized digital library system that will eventually integrate content from other libraries across Nepal. Over the past 14 months, the project team has actively engaged with stakeholders, drafted policy documents, finalized materials for digitization, and conducted training sessions for library staff. The official domain of the digital library platform is www.nnl.gov.np.

This project represents a significant step toward safeguarding Nepal's literary and cultural heritage. It also promises to expand public access to knowledge and support the digital transformation of library services across the country.



CELEBRATION OF 133RD BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF KAISER SUMSHER

Kaiser Library has organized the 133rd birth anniversary of the founder of the library Field Marshal Mr. Kaiser Sumsher, on January 7, 2025 (2081 Poush 23 B.S.). He was born as a third son of former Prime Minister Mr. Chandra Sumsher on January 8, 1948 AD (2004 Poush 24 B.S.). The then Honorable Minister of Education, Science and Technology Mrs. Bidya Bhattarai, was the Chief Guest of the anniversary program. Speaking on the program, the Minister said that the nation should remember the donor and conserve and preserve the legacy that Kaiser Sumsher and his family kindly donated to the Government of Nepal. On the occasion, family members of Kaiser Sumsher, former librarian and staff of the Kaiser Library, library and information professionals and journalists were present. Senior advocate and son of late Kaiser Sumsher, Mr. Lok Bhakta Rana expressed his views on behalf of family members. Likewise Chief Librarian of the Tribhuvan University Central Library Mr. Sagar Raj Subedi, Chief Librarian of Nepal National Library Mr. Pradeep Bhattarai, Head of Central Department of Library and Information Science, Dr. Lila Nyaiachai, and the President of Nepal Library Association Mr. Pushparaj Subedi also expressed their best wishes. Kaiser Library staff Mrs. Hiru Nepali and Mrs. Sunmaya Tamang were felicitated for their long service at the library.

CELEBRATION OF 62ND MEMORIAL DAY OF KAISER SUMSHER

On 2025 June 07 (2082 Jestha 24 B.S.), Kaiser Library has organized 62nd Memory day of late Kaiser Sumsher. Honorable Minister of Education, Science and Technology Mr. Raghujee Panta was the Chief Guest of the program. On the occasion, Honorable Minister remembered his early days, especially those spent in the library and also expressed his concern about the condition of the old and antique furniture, books as well as the artefacts. On the occasion, Honorable Minister also felicitated the Central Level Program Implementation Unit and the construction company who were directly involved in the retrofitting work of the library building damaged by the 2015 earthquake.



KAISER LIBRARY ORGANISES BASIC LIBRARY MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Kaiser Library in collaboration with Waling Municipality, Syangja and Nepal Community Library Association (NCLA) has organized a five day-long Basic Library Management Training in Waling, Syangja from 2082 Jestha 28 B.S. to 2082 Asar 1 B.S.. There were 26 participants representing community schools of Waling Municipality. Both the opening and closing ceremony was chaired by the Mayor of Waling Municipality Mr. Krishna Khan. The other guests present on the program were Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive Officer, Education Section Head and the staff of Waling Municipality. Chief Librarian of Kaiser library and the facilitator of the training program Mr. Yadab Chandra Niraula welcomed all the participants and highlighted the main topics to be covered during the training.



NEPAL NATIONAL LIBRARY RECEIVES COLLECTION OF THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

The Nepal National Library (NNL) has recently received a new batch of 862 theses and dissertations that were submitted to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for the purpose of academic degree awards. These scholarly works contribute to the growing academic collection of the library.

To date, the NNL holds a collection of approximately 4626 theses and dissertations, which have been awarded various academic titles through the Ministry. The library has been receiving such academic submissions from the Ministry for the past ten years, making it a key repository of higher education research in Nepal.

All newly received theses and dissertations have been catalogued and are made available through open access. Readers and researchers may access these materials upon request, supporting academic inquiry and the advancement of research in multiple disciplines.

YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD

Dr. Dilliraman Regmi has donated all his property to the nation so that the future generation can remember his contribution to nation building. Honoring the contribution, DKRML Development Committee decided to honor young scholars of various fields so that they can remember the contribution of Dr. Regmi. Since 2007 the award is being distributed every year organizing different events.

This year DKRML Development Committee organized a one day portrait workshop on Dr. Regmi and his wife Mrs. Kalyani Regmi on 2082 Jestha. A three member committee was formed under the coordination of Mr. K. K. Karmacharya for the overall organization of the program. There were 17 veteran youth artists participating the workshop. Altogether 18 portraits were prepared during the program. Mr. Narad Mani Hartamchhali, Chancellor of Nepal Academy of Fine Arts was the Chief Guest of the workshop program. Mr. Hartamchhali expressed his happiness that libraries are also engaged to preserve and conserve not only books but also the non-book materials like portraits and other arts.

All the artists were honored with a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 by the Honorable Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Mr. Raghujee Panta, at a special program.

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NEPAL NATIONAL LIBRARY



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