



Survey on the state of national bibliographies in Asia

Unni Knutsen, Oslo University College

July 2006

Abstract

This paper presents the results of a survey on national bibliographies in Asia. The survey is a result of an initiative by the IFLA Bibliography Section to gather and update information on the status of the national bibliographies in the regions where the WLICs are being held. 14 national bibliographic agencies (NBAs) have responded to the survey. The main findings are that many agencies are presently revising or planning to revise their legislation to include more types of material, in particular electronic documents. While the national bibliographies are becoming more diversified in terms of including different types of material, there is still a clear emphasis on print/text formats. With a few exceptions the percentage of material under bibliographic control is higher than the inclusion of the materials in the national bibliographies. Online/Internet access is the preferred format for national bibliographies, and NBAs are increasingly focusing on Internet access. Most countries consider the distribution of the national bibliography to be effective, still timeliness and coverage is known to be a problem in some countries in the area. The NBAs generally adopt internationally approved standards, but there is also a variety of national formats.

Contents

Background	2
Project assignment.....	2
Working methods	2
The response rate.....	3
Survey results	5
Legal deposit legislation.....	5
Types of materials under bibliographic control	7
Plans for the future	8
The national bibliography	8
Materials covered by the national bibliography	9
Plans for the future	10
Adoption of international standards	10
The format of the national bibliography	12
The production and distribution of the national bibliography.....	13
National records as an online resource.....	13
Do the NBAs comply with the ICNBS recommendations?	14
Conclusions	16
References:	18
Appendix 1 Survey respondents in alphabetical order.....	19
Appendix 2 IFLA survey on national bibliography	20

Background

Project assignment

The IFLA Bibliography Section's Strategic Plan for 2006 -2007 has the following provision:

Goal 1: Extend the provision of universal bibliographic control by advocating and promoting the production of national bibliographies.

Actions:

1.2. Gather and update information on the status of the national bibliographies in Asia by undertaking a survey and presenting it at the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in Seoul (2006).

At the Section's meeting during the WLIC in Oslo (2005) Unni Knutsen volunteered to do the job.

The Bibliography Section has initiated several studies during recent years. Information gathering was an important tool in the preparation of the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (ICNBS) in Copenhagen, 1998. The recommendations from the conference were published in 1999 and form the basis of national bibliographic work worldwide. In 2001 the undersigned conducted a worldwide survey *Changes in the national bibliographies, 1996-2001*, based on information from 52 countries from all over the world. The survey *An examination of national bibliographies and their adherence to ICNBS recommendations* by Barbara Bell and Annema Hasund Langballe was carried out in 2000/2001. It deals with the formal presentation of document description included in the national bibliographies and on the formal presentation of the bibliography itself. In connection with the strategic planning of the Bibliography Section it was decided that the section should focus on having surveys conducted in the areas where the WLICs are being held. The first survey *Survey on the state of national bibliographies in Latin America* was conducted by Unni Knutsen and Francisca Movilla Lopez in connection with the WLIC in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2004. This is the second regional survey.

Working methods

The mission of this study was to get an overview of the current situation in Asia (including the Middle East) in terms of legal deposit and national bibliography.

The main aims of the survey were:

- To ask about the existence of legal deposit in each country
- To determine the extent of bibliographic control by national agencies and whether there is coherence between bibliographic control and legal deposit
- To identify forthcoming changes in the area of bibliographic control and legal deposit
- To ask about the existence of national bibliography, its coverage and formats
- To investigate whether all the material under bibliographic control is included in the national bibliographies

- To determine the extent of use of international standards and principles
- To determine whether national bibliographic records are available online

It was decided to use the same questionnaire as was used for the survey of Latin America (Appendix 2). Due to lack of capacity the questionnaire was distributed in English only. The questionnaire was sent by air mail and e-mail on November 14th 2005 to 43 out of 48 Asian countries with a deadline of January 1st 2006 to complete the forms. It proved hard to identify the relevant institutions in some countries. The IFLA National Libraries of the World: Address List (<http://www.ifla.org/VI/2/p2/national-libraries.htm>) proved helpful and so did several other compilations found on the Internet. In addition I searched the web pages of the national bibliographic agencies (NBAs) to verify or identify addresses and/or email addresses and contact persons.

The response rate

By February 2006 12 responses had been received. In order to improve the return rate, I sent emails/faxes to non-responding members of the Council of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) and to personal contacts in some countries. This resulted in two additional responses which give a total of 14 or 32, 6 %.

The division of Asia into different regions is indeed debatable. I decided to follow the subdivision found in Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) with a few exceptions. The distribution in areas is as follows:

Southern Asia

Seven nations constitute this region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

All seven countries were approached and responses received from Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan. This gives a return rate of 57, 1 %.

South-eastern Asia

Southeast Asia consists of eleven nations: Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Except for East Timor all countries were approached. Malaysia and Singapore responded to my survey. This gives a return rate of 20 %.

Eastern Asia

China, Japan, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Korea (Republic), Mongolia and Taiwan are the six countries in this region.

All countries were approached. Answers were received from China, Japan, the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and Taiwan. This gives a return rate of 66, 7 %

Central Asia

The five nations in this area are:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

All countries were approached. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan answered the survey. This gives a return rate of 40 %. For a fuller report on the bibliographic situation in these countries, please refer to Dzhigo & Teplitskaya (2006).

South-western Asia:

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Gaza Strip and West Bank, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen constitute this part of the world.

Since quite often associated with Europe I chose not to include Turkey in the survey. 12 countries were approached. Only two countries: Iran and Israel responded to the questionnaire. This gives a return rate of 16,7 %.

Caucasia:

The Caucasian nations Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia were approached but none responded to the survey.

Region	Number of countries	Number of countries approached	Number of countries answering	Per cent (approached /answering)
Southern Asia	7	7	4	57,1
South-eastern Asia	11	10	2	20,0
South-western Asia	16	12	2	16,7
Central Asia	5	5	2	40,0
Eastern Asia	6	6	4	66,7
Caucasia	3	3	0	0,0
Sum	48	43	14	32,6

As seen from the above some of the regions are very poorly represented.

The poor return rate may be due to several causes. In some countries e.g. most of the former Soviet republics the national bibliographies are not compiled by the national libraries and the survey may not have been passed on to the relevant agency. The fact that the survey was in English only may have restrained some agencies from completing the survey. Also a surprisingly large percentage of email addresses were returned to sender.

¹Classification of economies in the survey by income shows the following distribution:

¹ Source: World Bank data (2003 GNI per capita)

Economic level	Number of countries	Percent
Low-income (USD765 or less)	4	28,6
Lower middle income (USD 766-3 035)	4	28,6
Upper middle income (USD 3 036-9 385)	1	7,1
High income (USD 9 386 or more)	5	35,7

To give a representative picture of the countries approached, the number of low-income countries should have been around 34, 9 %, the percentage of lower middle income countries 34, 9, upper middle income countries 9, 3 % and the number of high income countries 20, 9 %.

Survey results

Legal deposit legislation

Does legal deposit legislation exist?

When asked whether the countries have legislation that requires legal deposit of some or all types of publications ten agencies answered yes and four agencies (China, the Maldives, Nepal and Uzbekistan) answered no. Even though China has stated that there is no legal deposit law as such, there are some regulations promulgated by the General Administration of Press and Publications (GAPP). In the Maldives a legal depository act was passed in December 2005 and will be implemented as soon as possible.

Though not clearly asked about this question not all countries report having a specific legal deposit act. Japan e.g. has deposit of publications prescribed in Article 24 and 25 of the National Diet Library Law. Kazakhstan refers to “The law about the press of the Republic of Kazakhstan” and the “Law on the mass-media of the Republic of Kazakhstan”. Pakistan refers to “Copyright Law” and Singapore to the “Book registration ordinance” and the “National Library board act”. From the answers given one might suspect that this situation applies to even other agencies.

Has current legislation been revised?

Ten agencies provided information as to when their legal deposit legislation was passed and the year of the latest revision.

Seven agencies have revised their legislation since 1998 when the ICNBS conference was held. These are Bangladesh (2005), Iran (1999), Israel (2000), Japan (2005), Kazakhstan (1999), Korea (Republic) (2000²) and Taiwan (2001). The three remaining national bibliographic agencies: Malaysia, Pakistan and Singapore are studying their current act to include electronic resources. Pakistan has a draft revision under consideration.

² According to Chung (2006) the Library and Reading Promotion Act was revised in 2003

Although half of the countries in the survey have relatively newly revised their laws this does not necessarily imply that their legislation comprises all types of materials.

Is the legal deposit system considered to be effective?

Eleven agencies answered the question of whether they considered the legal deposit system in their country to be effective. Seven agencies answered yes, four no. Three of the four countries currently without operative legal deposit legislation (the Maldives, Nepal and Uzbekistan) did not answer the question. China, on the other hand, has some regulations but considers the system to be ineffective as e.g. only 70 % of books are deposited. Iran also answered no to the question stating that if publishers do not send material, only serials and government publications will be claimed. Pakistan reports: "Legal depository system in the country is not satisfactory due to absence of proper infrastructure for collection of depository materials, nominal penalty on publishers for disobeying the depository clauses of the Copyright Law 1962 and lack of awareness about the law". In Bangladesh the relatively high number of copies designated to government agencies (7) is problematic as the publisher community "always tries to escape from obeying the regulations". As a consequence the National Library of Bangladesh plans to be the only institution to receive legal deposit copies and also to utilise mass media for motivating publishers to deposit publications.

Also within the nations that consider their legal deposit system to be effective there are some concerns. In Israel "infringement of the law is not always taken sufficiently seriously by those responsible for enforcement i.e. the police". The Republic of Korea has conceived a system where a legal deposit agent collects material and creates MARC records. In adapting this new system they expect to increase the number of deposit materials and to save time and manpower. Singapore argues that more could be done in terms of creating greater awareness of legal deposit.

Types of materials under bibliographic control

The following table presents the number and percentage of those agencies that answered “yes” for each type of material under their bibliographic control. 12 agencies provided information.

Types of materials under bibliographic control	Number of agencies	Percentage
Books	12	100,0
Official publications of your government	12	100,0
Serials	12	100,0
Conference proceedings	11	91,7
Maps	10	83,3
Textbooks	9	75,0
Periodical articles	9	75,0
Pamphlets	9	75,0
Music	8	66,7
Sound recordings	8	66,7
Video recordings	8	66,7
Graphic materials	7	58,3
Dissertations	7	58,3
Microforms	7	58,3
International government publications	6	50,0
Computer files and software	4	33,3
Other electronic documents	3	25,0
Motion pictures	3	25,0
E-journals	1	8,3
E-books	1	8,3

These results show that there is still primarily emphasis on the bibliographic control of print formats. Bangladesh and Kazakhstan only cover textual formats. Others have included a few other formats whereas some countries have substantial bibliographic control; e.g. Iran, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan.

The agencies were asked to indicate whether the material under bibliographic control is included in their legal deposit legislation. Seven countries have more material under bibliographic control than what is included in the legal deposit system whereas one country has bibliographic control of all the material obtained under legal deposit. The remaining NBAs did not answer this question. Only Israel has e-books and e-journals under bibliographic control even though it is not yet part of the legislation. Iran and Taiwan have some types of electronic resources included in their legal deposit systems. Taiwan doesn't specify whether they have bibliographic control whereas Iran does not attempt to provide bibliographic control of the material.

Four agencies reported having other types of material under bibliographic control. This includes manuscripts (two agencies) and material about the country published abroad (one agency).

Plans for the future

The agencies were asked about their plans for the next five years in terms of major changes in the area of bibliographic control and legal deposit. Out of the four countries currently without legal deposit legislation China reports that the national library is appealing to have a legal deposit or national library law to include articles for legal deposit. Unfortunately the Maldives does not disclose what materials their new legal deposit act covers. Nepal and Uzbekistan do apparently not have any immediate plans to introduce legal deposit legislation.

Out of the remaining states with current legal deposit legislation Pakistan has drafted a revision to current law. The main reason appears to be the need to include legal deposit of electronic resources. The National Diet Library of Japan has been preparing legislation for the acquisition of web resources separately from their existing legal deposit system and has been considering bibliographic control of web resources. Several other agencies, such as Israel, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan report that they are eager to include electronic documents in their legal deposit legislation.

The national bibliography

When asked whether there is a national bibliography in their country, all agencies answered yes. With two exceptions it is the national libraries which currently compile the national bibliographies. In Kazakhstan the responsible agency is the State Book Chamber. Nepal reports: "Royal Nepal Academy published one issue in 1972. Tribhuvan University Central Library has been issuing since 1983. There is not any institution having mandatory function of publishing national bibliography. However Tribhuvan University Central Library has been publishing it including whatever materials they have in their collection".

Materials covered by the national bibliography

The following table presents the number and percentage of those agencies that answered “yes” for each kind of material. All 14 agencies provided information.

Types of materials in the national bibliography	Number of agencies	Percentage	Added (not marked) or deleted (marked) in the 1999-2005 period	To be added (not marked) or deleted (marked) before 2010
Books	14	100,0	2	1
Serials	12	85,7	2	1
Official publications of your government	11	78,6	1	2
Textbooks	11	78,6	1	
Conference proceedings	10	71,4	1	1
Maps	9	64,3	2	4
Sound recordings	7	50,0		3
Music	7	50,0		3
Pamphlets	7	50,0		3
Microforms	7	50,0		2
Video recordings	7	50,0	2	3
Graphic materials	6	42,9		4
Computer files and software	6	42,9	2	3
Dissertations	5	35,7	2	5
Materials about the country published abroad	5	35,7	1	1 1 (deleted)
Other electronic documents	4	28,6	2	5
Motion pictures	3	21,4		2
International government publications	3	21,4		2
Periodical articles	2	14,3		2
E-journals	2	14,3	1	6
E-books	2	14,3	1	6

This table shows that there is an emphasis on text formats. Audiovisual and electronic materials tend to be more easily left out of the national bibliographies than textual material. It is, however, encouraging to see that several agencies plan to include audiovisual material and electronic resources within the next five years. It is also positive that no types of materials have been deleted during the 1999-2005 period.

With the exception of books, textbooks, e-books, e-journals, “computer files and software” and “other electronic documents” the percentage of materials under bibliographic control is higher than the inclusion rate of the materials in the national bibliographies. Still, many countries have a situation where the bulk of the material under bibliographic control is included in the national bibliographies. A clear exception is Iran with 15 types of material under bibliographic control and a national bibliography merely consisting of books,

conference proceedings, textbooks and material about the country published abroad. The last category will be deleted from their portfolio before 2010.

Five agencies (Iran, Israel, Maldives, Nepal and Taiwan) report that they include publications about the country published abroad.

While some countries e.g. Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan have comprehensive national bibliographies, other countries e.g. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Iran leave out quite a number of materials. It is worth noticing that the countries with the highest level of bibliographic control also have the most comprehensive national bibliographies.

The Maldives with their new legal deposit law passed in December 2005 deserves special mention. The current national bibliography consists of books, serials, maps, official government publications, conference proceedings, textbooks and materials about the country published abroad. Before 2010 the NBA plans to include another 15 types of materials. The remaining two countries that reported not having legal deposit legislation are Nepal and Uzbekistan. Nepal did not report explicitly on what material they have under bibliographic control, but their national bibliography merely consists of books, textbooks and materials about the country published abroad. Uzbekistan has a few more types of material in their national bibliography: books, serials, official government publications, dissertations, conference proceedings and periodical articles.

Plans for the future

The overall impression is that future plans include adding more formats to the national bibliography. An example of this is Kazakhstan which plans to add 11 new types of materials before 2010. Iran also has comprehensive plans for adding textual, audiovisual and electronic materials in the coming period.

None of the agencies answering the question plan to eliminate the national bibliography in the next five years.

Adoption of international standards

The survey included some questions to explore whether the agencies use internationally approved standards.

Scripts

Not surprisingly a number of scripts are in use to record the national languages. Examples include Bengali, Arabic, Korean, Kanji, Cyrillic, Dhivehi, Jawi, Tamil, Chinese, Urdu, and Malay. About half of the agencies also reported using Latin script.

Cataloguing tools

Nine agencies reported that they use AACR and seven use ISBDs. Four agencies use ALA rules, Singapore for transliteration purposes. Malaysia and Singapore also use LC rules. Some countries use national systems only. Japan uses Nippon Cataloguing Rules (NCR), China the Chinese Cataloguing Rules. The Republic of Korea uses Korean Cataloguing Rules (KCR) in

addition to AACR. Pakistan applies local rules in addition to AACR, ISBD and ALA. Kazakhstan reports that it is adhering to the “System of Standards on Information, Library and Publishing Business of the CIS countries”.

Iran uses LC Subject Headings in addition to Persian Subject Headings.

Classification

The Dewey Decimal Classification system (DDC) is used by Bangladesh, Iran, Israel, Korea, Malaysia, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore and Uzbekistan. The Republic of Korea uses Korean Decimal Classification (KDC) – a modification of DDC - and also DDC for Western books and some other materials e.g. doctoral theses. Iran has expanded DDC in areas pertaining to Iranian literature, Iranian languages, the history and geography of Iran as well as Islam. Iran has also expanded the Library of Congress Classification in BP (Islam), PIR (Iranian languages and literature), DSR (history of Iran), PG (Russian literature), PQ (French literature), LGR (educational institutions of Iran) and BBR (Islamic philosophy).

The Universal Decimal Classification system (UDC) is used by Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan also uses the Library-Bibliographic Classification (LBC).

National systems are found in China and Taiwan. Japan uses the Nippon Decimal Classification (NDC) and the National Diet Library Classification (NDLC).

International standard numbers

When asked of what international standard numbers are in use all answered ISBN. Twelve agencies also include ISSN. These are: China, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan and Uzbekistan. Three agencies even include ISMN (Iran, Singapore and Uzbekistan).

CIP programmes

When asked if their countries have a CIP programme eight agencies answered yes (China, Iran, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan and Uzbekistan). China has a CIP programme which is developed by the General Administration of Press and Publications. The programme has no relationship with the national bibliography. Pakistan reports having recently started a CIP programme “at a moderate speed”.

In Israel the Jewish National & University Library will take steps to adopt a CIP programme within the next five years. The Maldives has similar plans.

The format of the national bibliography

Country	Print	Microfiche	Computer tape	Floppy disk	CD-ROM	Online (other than Internet)	Internet
Bangladesh	x						
China							x
Iran					x	x	x
Israel							x
Japan	x				x	x	x
Kazakhstan	x						x
The Republic of Korea							x
Malaysia					x	x	
Maldives	x						
Nepal	x						
Pakistan	x						
Singapore					x	x	
Taiwan					x		
Uzbekistan			x				

Of the 14 countries that have reported having a national bibliography, six publish a printed version (42, 9 %). One agency produces computer tape (7, 1 %), while five have CD-ROM (35, 7 %), four (28, 6 %) are online (other than Internet) and six agencies (42, 9 %) provide Internet access.

During the 1999-2005 period the agencies reported the following changes:

The Iranian national bibliography was published from 1963-1996 in print format. The CD-ROM and floppy disk formats were introduced in 1997. The current formats are CD-ROM, on-line and Internet. The Israeli national bibliography is now available in electronic format only. Until 2003 it appeared as a quarterly journal in printed format. Japan stopped producing computer tapes and introduced CD-ROM and Internet access. The Republic of Korea terminated print, introduced and terminated CD-ROM and introduced Internet access. Malaysia has abandoned several formats. The national bibliographic records have been available online since 1990. The Maldives introduced print.

When asked about their plans for the next five years (up to 2010), Bangladesh (if interpreted rightly) would like to introduce floppy disk and Internet access. Kazakhstan indicates that they plan to add CD-ROM and online access. The Maldives would like to add computer tape, floppy disk, CD-ROM, on-line access as well as Internet access. Malaysia would like to have CD-ROM and Internet access. The National Library of Pakistan is planning to publish the Pakistan National Bibliography on CD-ROM in the near future. They also report that the bibliographic data will be available on-line and on the Internet.

China reports: “The printed version of the national bibliography ceased to be published in 1993³. Although the database of the Online Library Cataloguing Centre of the National Library of China is not called the national bibliography, it is used as a substitute for the printed version of the national bibliography. We are considering to improve the functions of the database as a national bibliography”.

The production and distribution of the national bibliography

Publication pattern

Among the agencies that have a printed national bibliography. Bangladesh, the Maldives and Pakistan publish yearly, Japan weekly and Kazakhstan monthly, quarterly and yearly. Nepal produces its bibliography on an irregular basis.

Korea issues a DVD as a yearly publication.

Japan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan produce cumulations.

Distribution

When asked whether they considered the distribution of the national bibliography to be effective, twelve agencies answered yes, two (Bangladesh and Nepal) no. Bangladesh reports that the distribution is not very effective, but the national bibliography (print) has been distributed to almost all major libraries in the country and to the Bangladesh foreign missions abroad. The distribution to other national libraries around the world is ongoing. In Kazakhstan bibliographic data (books and articles) appear on the Internet under the web page of the Kazakhstani Centre of Corporate Cataloguing.

National records as an online resource

10 agencies (71.4 %) report that they have MARC-based records; Bangladesh, Iran, Maldives and Nepal do not. Five agencies use MARC 21 (Israel, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore), two countries (Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) UNIMARC⁴.

Several countries have national formats or plan to introduce it. From 2006 Iran will catalogue in the newly developed IRANMARC based on UNIMARC. China uses CNMARC based on UNIMARC. According to Ben Gu (2006) the National Library of China also uses MARC21 for foreign publications. Hong Kong uses MARC21 for all publications. Taiwan also has a national format. According to Ben Gu (2006) large libraries in Taiwan use CMARC (based on UNIMARC and similar to CNMARC) or LCMARC/USMARC while mid-sized libraries favour CMARC. Japan has developed JAPAN/MARC. Kazakhstan presently uses both UNIMARC and MARC21 but is planning to develop a national format from 2006. The Republic of Korea uses KORMARC.

³ According to Gu (2006) the printed version was first published in 1987 and ceased to be published in 1994.

⁴ According to Dzhigo & Teplitskaya Uzbekistan uses RUSMARC

When asked about how agencies make the online national bibliographic records available multiple answers were given. Five answered that the records were mixed in as part of the file that includes all records held by the agency. Four reported that the records are in a separate file of materials published in the country and held by the agency. One agency has its records mixed in as part of a union catalogue of materials published in the country and held by several agencies whereas one NBA keeps the data as part of a union catalogue of materials published in the country and held by several agencies.

Do the NBAs comply with the ICNBS recommendations?

Legal deposit

According to *The final recommendations of the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (ICNBS)*, paragraph 1, states should, as a matter of urgency, examine existing deposit legislation and consider its provisions in relation to present and future requirements. Where deemed necessary, existing legislation should be revised. Countries without legal deposit legislation are urged to introduce it (paragraph 2).

It is encouraging that the government of the Maldives has recently passed legislation. Hopefully the other nations currently without legislation will follow their example.

Many of the countries have examined and revised their existing legal deposit legislation since 1998 when the ICNBS conference was being held. Unlike in other surveys conducted by the undersigned I can not see a clear picture emerging where agencies with recent legislation have more material under bibliographic control than their colleagues with older legislation. This can partly be explained, I think, by the fact that agencies have more material under bibliographic control than what is included in legal deposit. It is also a fact that several of the countries with relatively new revisions have not included newer types of materials e.g. electronic resources in their legislation. This is not in line with paragraph 3: “New deposit laws, or regulations pursuant to such laws... should be comprehensive in terminology and wording to include existing types of materials with information content and others which may be developed...” Generally speaking it is relevant to conclude that countries that have not revised their legislation recently have fewer types of materials under bibliographic control than those with recent revisions and less force behind their claims towards the publishing community. These countries should revise their legislation as soon as possible.

Some of the respondents report that publishers are not fully informed about their obligations. There are also problems connected with the number of copies and the enforcement of the law. The ICNBS recommendations stress that legislation should include measures for law enforcement and the deposit of copies (paragraph 3). The NBAs in question should address this issue. Some agencies should also consider launching information campaigns to enhance the awareness of legal deposit among the publishing society.

Paragraph 3 also opens for the possibility of sharing responsibility for deposit among more than one national institution. Although not specifically asked about this, none of the agencies indicated that cooperation is taking place. Yeon-Kyoung Chung (2006) reports, however, that the responsibility for theses has been transferred from the national library to the National Assembly Library of the Republic of Korea which has been publishing *The List of Theses for Doctors' and Masters' Degrees Awarded in Korea* since 1969. Films produced for public

showing are the responsibility of the Korean Film Archives. There is a similar arrangement for electronic publications. Considering the relatively low percentage of bibliographic control of e.g. audiovisual material in this survey this could be an example to follow.

Six agencies have bibliographic control of international government publications. Paragraph 18 in the ICNBS recommendations states: “IFLA should encourage intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations to record their publications in bibliographies (preferably their own), according to internationally agreed bibliographic standards”. Only the Republic of Korea reports having this type of material included in their legal deposit legislation

National bibliography

Legal deposit legislation is generally considered a prerequisite for having a comprehensive national bibliography. This view is obviously shared by the Maldives: “Our unsuccessful effort to compile a complete and comprehensive bibliography of all national publications is still highly constrained in consequence of the absence of legal depository law in the country”

All agencies in this survey produce a national bibliography. The ICNBS recommendations state that the national bibliography is a major instrument in ensuring a full recording of the national published heritage and achieving bibliographic control.

Coverage:

The ICNBS recommendation, paragraph 4, states that national bibliographies should include the current national output. In Asia there are some national bibliographies that are impressively comprehensive. Several NBAs have included many new types of materials during the last few years and/or have plans to include more material in the future. Still, other national bibliographies only include printed material. Generally speaking this recommendation is not presently met.

Further there are recommendations for retrospective coverage “where practicable”. Though not directly asked about retrospective coverage, Pakistan reports that they meet this requirement: “Pakistan National Bibliography (PNB) is being published regularly on annual basis since 1962. Retrospective national bibliography pertaining to the period from 1947 to 1961 has been compiled and published in collaboration with the Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group (PBWG)”. According to Gu (2006) a Chinese retrospective database covering publications from 1975-1987 was completed in 1996. On a more negative side Dzhigo & Teplitskaya (2006) report that retrospective bibliographic control has been suspended practically everywhere in Central Asia along with the general decline in bibliographic work in the five countries that constitute this region.

Around half of the countries support Latin scripts, which indicate that the NBAs use transcription/transliteration when dealing with other scripts. According to paragraph 5 of the ICNBS NBAs are recommended to include the languages and/or scripts in which publications are produced within a state. Wherever possible the records should include the languages and/or scripts in which the publications originally appeared. This seems to be the case in several countries. Pakistan reports: “Pakistan National Bibliography is bi-lingual and contains two parts; English and Urdu in each annual volume. The script is Roman (English) and Arabic (Urdu)”. Japan gives this answer: “We also use scripts of materials in European languages

supported by Latin and materials in Asian languages supported by scripts of each language. (Materials in European and Asian languages contained in the national bibliography are domestic publications only)". The Maldives reports including English and Dhivehi, Malaysia Jawi, Chinese and Tamil scripts, Singapore Chinese, Malay and Tamil scripts. It is really encouraging to note that this important recommendation is met to such an extent.

The format/presentation and timeliness/international standards used:

Less than half of the countries have a print format. This format meets recommendation 6: "At least one of the formats used to distribute the national bibliography should be capable of meeting archiving and preservation needs of the national bibliography and should be permanently accessible." The agencies that have online/Internet access only should also ensure that the recommendation is met so that the bibliographic records are preserved for the future.

Paragraph 7 states that the material should be listed as soon as possible after publication and that provision should be taken to make the distribution of the national bibliography effective. Only two agencies reported that they do not consider their distribution to be effective. Still several countries do not distribute the material to the users immediately after publication. Barbara Bell and Annema Hasund Langballe (2001) reported timeliness to be a problem in some Asian countries. Though not reported effective distribution might still be a problem, especially in the countries that still publish in printed form only. The NBAs should look closely into this. It is encouraging to see that half of the agencies give on-line access to the national bibliography and that others plan to follow.

Most NBAs have formats according to internationally approved standards thus complying with paragraph 10, "The bibliographic records included in the national bibliography should be based on internationally recognised standards..." and 11 "The national bibliographic agency should undertake responsibility for preparing comprehensive bibliographic records of the national imprint (or co-ordinating their preparation), and should adopt national and international standards and principles for cataloguing, identification systems such as ISBN and ISSN, script conversion, authority control, classification schemes..."

Conclusions

- The agencies acquire materials through legal deposit
- Legal deposit legislation still emphasizes print material
- Many agencies presently revise legislation to include more types of materials, especially electronic documents
- Some countries have legislation that requires revision
- In awaiting new legal deposit legislation some agencies include material under bibliographic control that is not provided for under the current legislation.
- The national bibliographic agencies are committed to producing national bibliographies
- The national bibliography is becoming increasingly diversified in terms of including different types of material, but there is still a clear emphasis on text formats
- With the exception of books, textbooks, e-books, e-journals, computer files and software and other electronic documents the percentage of materials under

bibliographic control is higher than the inclusion rate of the materials in the national bibliographies

- Most countries consider the distribution of the national bibliography to be effective
- Timeliness and coverage is known to be a problem in some countries in the area
- Most agencies use international standards in cataloguing, classification and use of numbering systems, but there are also a variety of national formats
- Over half of the countries have CIP programmes
- Online/Internet is now the preferred format for the national bibliography. There is increased focus on online and Internet access.
- About 71 percent of the agencies have MARC-based records

References:

Bell, B.L. & Langballe, A.H. (2001). *An examination of national bibliographies and their adherence to ICNBS recommendations*. [The Hague]: IFLA

Retrieved July 23, 2006 from

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s12/pubs/sbrep.pdf>

Chung, Y.-K. (2006). *National bibliographies: Past, present and future: The Korean experience*. [The Hague]: IFLA

Retrieved July 23, 2006 from

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/109-Chung-en.pdf>

Dzhigo, A.A. & Teplitskaya, A.V. (2006). *Status of national bibliographies in the CIS countries of Central Asia*. [The Hague]: IFLA

Retrieved July 23, 2006 from

http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/109-Dzhigo_Teplitskaya-en.pdf

Gu, B. (2006). *National bibliographies: The Chinese experience*. [The Hague]: IFLA

Retrieved July 23, 2006 from

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/109-Gu-en.pdf>

International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (1998 : Copenhagen). (1999). *The final recommendations of the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services*. [The Hague]: IFLA

Retrieved July 23, 2006 from

<http://www.ifla.org/VI/3/icnbs/fina.htm>

Knutsen, U.(2001). *Changes in the national bibliographies, 1996-2001*. [The Hague]: IFLA

Retrieved July 23, 2006 from

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/papers/143-199e.pdf>

Knutsen, U. & Lopez, F.M. (2004). *Survey of the state of national bibliographies in Latin America*. [The Hague]: IFLA

Retrieved July 23, 2006 from

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s12/pubs/s12-national-bibliography-latinamerica.pdf>

Appendix 1 Survey respondents in alphabetical order

Country	Institution
Bangladesh	National Library of Bangladesh
China	National Library of China
Iran	National Library and Archives of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Israel	Jewish National & University Library
Japan	National Diet Library
Kazakhstan	The National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Korea (Republic)	The National Library of Korea
Malaysia	National Library of Malaysia
Maldives	National Library
Nepal	Nepal National Library
Pakistan	National Library of Pakistan
Singapore	National Library Board
Taiwan	National Central Library
Uzbekistan	Alisher Navoi National Library of Uzbekistan

Appendix 2 IFLA survey on national bibliography

Name of agency:	
Address:	
Person answering survey:	
Title/Position:	
Date survey completed:	E-mail:
Telephone:	Fax :
Please return by January 1st 2006 to:	Unni Knutsen Faculty of Journalism, Library and Information Science Library and Information Science Programme Postbox 4 St. Olavs plass NO-0130 Oslo NORWAY Tel: +47 22 45 26 56 E-mail: Unni.Knutsen@jbi.hio.no

1. Legal deposit and bibliographic control

1.1. *Does your country have legislation that requires legal deposit of some or all types of publications?*

Yes:		No:	
------	--	-----	--

1.2. *If your country has legal deposit legislation, please indicate when the act was passed and the year of the latest revision (if any).*

Which year was the legal deposit act passed?	
Which year was the latest revision?	

1.3. *Do you consider the legal deposit system to be effective in your country?*

Yes:		No:	
------	--	-----	--

Comments

--

1.4. For what types of materials published in your country does your institution attempt to provide bibliographic control? (Please indicate with an x if the material is included in the legal deposit regulations in your country)

Types of materials	Yes	No	Included in legal deposit
Books			
Serials			
Maps			
Music			
Sound recordings			
Motion pictures			
Video recordings			
Graphic materials			
Computer files and software			
Microforms			
E-books			
E-journals			
Other electronic documents			
Pamphlets			
Official publications of your government			
International government publications			
Dissertations			
Conference proceedings			
Textbooks			
Periodical articles			
Other (please specify)			

1.5. Do you have any plans for major changes in the area of bibliographic control and legal deposit within the next five years? Any other comments?

2. The national bibliography

2.1. Do you produce a national bibliography in your country?

Yes:		No:	
------	--	-----	--

2.2. If yes, is the National Library the responsible agency? (If no, please state the responsible agency under comments)

Yes:		No:	
------	--	-----	--

2.3. If a national bibliography does not exist, is there a regional bibliography or other substitution? (Please specify under comments)

Yes:		No:	
------	--	-----	--

2.4. If the national bibliography has ceased to exist, please indicate the years of operation

--

2.5. If you do not have a national bibliography at the moment, are there any plans to establish one within the next five years?

Yes:		No:	
------	--	-----	--

2.6. Are there any plans to eliminate the national bibliography within the next five years?

Yes:		No:	
------	--	-----	--

Comments

--

2.7. What types of materials does the national bibliography cover?(Please indicate changes that took place in the 1999 –2005 period and changes you foresee in the next five years)

Types of materials	Yes	No	Added(+) or deleted(-) in the 1999-2005 period	To be added(+) or deleted(-) before 2010
Books				
Serials				
Maps				
Music				
Sound recordings				
Motion pictures				
Video recordings				
Graphic materials				
Computer files and software				
Microforms				
E-books				
E-journals				
Other electronic documents				
Pamphlets				
Official publications of your government				
International government publications				
Dissertations				
Conference proceedings				
Textbooks				
Periodical articles				
Materials about the country published abroad				
Other (please specify)				

2.8. What scripts does your national bibliography support?

Scripts	Yes	No
Latin		
Non-Latin		
Others (please specify under comments)		

2.9. What cataloguing tool(s) do you use?

Cataloguing tool	Yes	No
AACR		
ISBDs		
ALA rules		
LC rules		
Others (please specify under comments)		

2.10. What classification tool(s) do you use?

Classification tool	Yes	No
Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)		
Universal Decimal Classification (UDC)		
LC Classification		
Others (please specify under comments)		
We do not classify the material		

2.11 What international standard numbers are in use?

Type of standard number	Yes	No
International Standard Book Number (ISBN)		
International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)		
International Standard Music Number (ISMN)		

2.12. Does your country have a CIP programme?

Yes:		No:	
------	--	-----	--

Comments

3. The format for publication of the national bibliography

3.1. What are the present format(s) for publication of the national bibliography?

Format of publication	Yes	No	Added(+) or deleted(-) in the 1999-2005 period	To be added(+) or deleted(-) before 2010
Print				
Microfiche or similar				
Computer tape				
Floppy disk				
CD-ROM				
On-line access (other than Internet)				
Internet				

3.2. How often is the national bibliography published? (not applicable for agencies with only on-line/Internet access)

Publication frequency	Yes	No
Monthly		
Quarterly		
Twice a year		
Yearly		
Other publication pattern (please specify under comments)		
Do you produce cumulations (please specify under comments)		

3.3. Do you consider the distribution of the national bibliography to be effective in your country?

Yes:		No:	
------	--	-----	--

Comments

4. National records as an online resource

Are the records MARC-based?

Yes:		No:	
------	--	-----	--

If yes, what MARC format(s) do you use?

MARC format	Yes	No
UNIMARC		
MARC21		
National MARC format		
Others (please specify under comments)		

4.3. Which answer best describes how you make the online national bibliographic records available? (Only one answer, please)

Mixed in as part of the file that includes all records held by our agency	
As a separate file of materials published in our country and held by our agency	
Mixed in as part of a union catalogue of all records held by several agencies	
As part of a union catalogue of materials published in our country and held by several agencies	

Comments