

Parliament Library of Nepal: An Introduction

By: Kamala Devi Sharma
Library Officer
Federal Parliament Secretariat
Nepal

Introduction

- Parliament library is the greatest library in Singh Durbar which was established in the year 1951 from Record Section with 250 books, to assist for seeking of information to the members of parliament of Nepal .
- In the organization chart of Federal Parliament Secretariat, Library Section is under the division of Parliamentary Study and Research. Under the library there is Parliamentary Museum Unit also but it is not established yet.

History

- In 1950, democracy was introduced in Nepal.
- In 1951, a library was established as a record section from 250 books in parliament house.
- In 1957, Sallahkar Sabha Pustakalaya.
- In 1960, Rashtriya Panchayat Pustakalaya.
- In 1990, Samsad Pustakalaya.
- In 2006, Legislature- Parliament Library.
- In 2017, Federal Parliament Library.

Users

- National Assembly members -59 (Upper House)
- Representative Assembly members – 275 (Lower House)
- Staff -358
- All Total – 692
- Others (Researchers, General public)

Purpose

- To help parliamentarians by providing books and other documents according to their need.
- To help the MPs in their study and research.
- To manage our documents systematically.
- To cooperate with other national and international libraries for resource sharing .
- To preserve the Verbatim of parliament.
- To preserve the historical important materials about parliament by establishing Parliamentary Museum.

Collection

- Verbatim – since 1959 to till now
- Documents –About 20,000 documents covering the subject mainly Federalism, history, politics, economics, geography, international relations, diplomacy, religions, literature etc.
- Reports of parliamentary committee
- Reports of Government high commission
- Journals – 5 e.g., Prashasan, Sopan, Nepal Law Society, Pustakalaya Aawaj, etc.
- Newspapers,
 - Daily – 18
 - Weekly –21
 - Monthly - 8

Services

- Cataloging (Creating Database in Koha Integrated Library Software) service
- Circulation service
- Reference service
- Reservation service
- Newspaper clippings service
- Xerox service
- Cyber (Internet facility to MPs)
- OPAC (Online Searching) service

Library Rules

- Opening hours, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.
- Members of library- MPs and staff
- Issued the book, MPs-1 month 2 books and staff- 15 days 2 books (but not strictly applied)
- Former members of parliament can't borrow the books
- Members can reserved their required books
- Reference books are not issued
- If books are lost, members should replace the another book from the market

Section's of library

- General section
- Reference section
- Government's high commission report section
- Verbatim section
- Parliamentary committee's report section
- Rare books section
- Newspaper section
- Study room for mps
- Study room for staff and others.
- Parliamentary Museum Unit (To be establish)

Challenges

- Lack of space
- Lack of budget
- Lack of human resource
- Challenges to manage the library
- Challenges to give services about 700 users
- Challenges to change the library from semi-traditional to e-library.
- Challenges to take IT trainings to upgrade library services.

Human Resource Development

- Require on-the-job training.
- Require refreshment training on specially IT-based Library Management.
- Library visit to well resources as well as well managed library.
- Internship to the parliament librarian in international well-managed library.

Future of Parliament Library

- Should provide the needed information to 334 mps + 358 staff.
- Should provide the information of different subject to 16 parliamentary committees in parliament.
- Should make resourceful collection to provide printed and electronic information
- Should make e-library
- Should provide the information hand to hand to it's member.
- Should give the staff IT-based training on library management.
- Should give priority to add required space.
- Should aware the authority to give priority to the library.
- Parliamentary museum should be established.

Recommendations

- Parliament library should be innovative
- Alteration should be launched in library services to avoid monotony
- Parliament librarians should be well-trained to make them fully literate in library services
- Developing customer focused library

Some photographs

Parliament House of Nepal



MPs in Reading Room



Photos

General collection section

Verbatim section





Thank You