

**The changing role of the DHL - Bridging the information gap
between developing and developed countries
UN Publications in National Library of China**

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The 21st century is an information age. It must be recognized that the information gaps do exist between developing and developed countries. Now most libraries are faced with technical difficulties concerning digital acquisition, processing, access, delivery and preservation during the period from the traditional mode to the virtual one. We have to formulate strategies and policies for resource sharing, and introduce standards and rules concerning the legal, social and ethnical issues. We have to meet increasing information requirements of the users under the networked environment. We have recognized that one single library can hardly hold all information resources required by users. The user's demand can only be met by the joint efforts of the libraries via resource sharing. We must know each other in library-world and to seek regional, national and even international cooperation.

The development of library-world rests on the active international communication and cooperation, in which the Dag Hammarskjöld Library is so active and efficient that no other library can compare with. It is devoted to promote international economic and social progress. The communication and cooperation in DHL are carried on as one linkage under the guidance of the principle of healthiness, friendliness and equality, to finally increase the mutual understanding between the developing and developed countries.

As you know, the National Library of China is an UN depository library. NLC has been collecting the publications of UN and its specialized agencies and related organizations (including UNESCO, FAO, ILO, WB, IMF, ICAO, WIPO, WTO and WMO) for many years. The collection of UN publications is from 1947 in NLC. Now except reference librarian there are 6 special staff members who are responsible for the acquisition, catalogue and service of UN publications in NLC. When we receive the materials our staff members process them immediately, and provide them to readers as soon as possible.

With a special stack and a reading room, NLC provides services of materials in various formats, including printed books and journals, documents, microforms, CD-ROMs, etc. NLC not only provide good reading environment but also reference services of UN publications.

Every year NLC receive books, documents, journals and CD-ROMs sent by Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the UN related organizations.

These materials provided by DHL are frequently used by readers, which are mainly from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, government organizations, and other research and educational institutions. They are very important for the readers to know the conditions of foreign countries, learn experiences from advanced countries and promote the exchange and cooperation with foreign countries.

From the above facts, all of us can see that the vision of Dag Hammarskjöld has been implemented in the library world. At the same time, the role of DHL has changed. It is not only an information center for UN officials, but also a bridge of information gap between developing and developed countries.