

# INKSLIB WEBZINE

International Network for Korean Studies Librarians

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## Index

<b>[Korean Studies Trends]</b>	
Contemplating the Disappearance of Original Place Names in Korea	2
The Korean Studies Collection at the Library LCAO of Université Paris Cité	10
<b>[NLK news]</b>	
Enjoying the French literary world at South Korea's flagship library	16
Library data in your email!	18
More than 2,000 visitors in two weeks attend an NLK exhibition commemorating the 1st death anniversary of Lee O-young	20
Enjoy a new virtual experience at the library!	22
The NLK renews the Korea Journal Copyright Information (KJCI)	24
The NLK launches the Robotics Process Automation (RPA) system	26
<b>[Domestic News]</b>	
Long-standing challenges in the comics industry, including defining the concept of 'webtoon,' are addressed in new law	29
The first overseas public library support project includes a training workshop for administrators at the Hanoi Library	32
"50 Years of Collecting Old Literature: Treasures Found in 500-year-old Family Clans"	34
Supporting Hallyu (the Korean Wave) exports and policies by analyzing foreign news data	38
Five exhibitions and performance events to be launched to share the charms of Korean culture with the world, starting with the Hangeul Experiment Project	41
<b>[International News]</b>	
To Print! Gutenberg's Europe	45
WLIC '23: IFLA ARL Call for Papers: "From Gutenberg to ChatGPT!"	50
ALA 2023 Annual Conference & Exhibition Preliminary Program showcases education programs, exhibitors, and other conference highlights	53
The Korean Culture and Information Service launches a tour of 15 cities around the world with superb exhibitions and performances related to Korean culture, including the Hangeul Experiment Project	55
Library of Congress Digitization Strategy: 2023-2027	57
The British Library's International Library Leaders Programme	60

Korean Studies Trends

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## Contemplating the Disappearance of Original Place Names in Korea

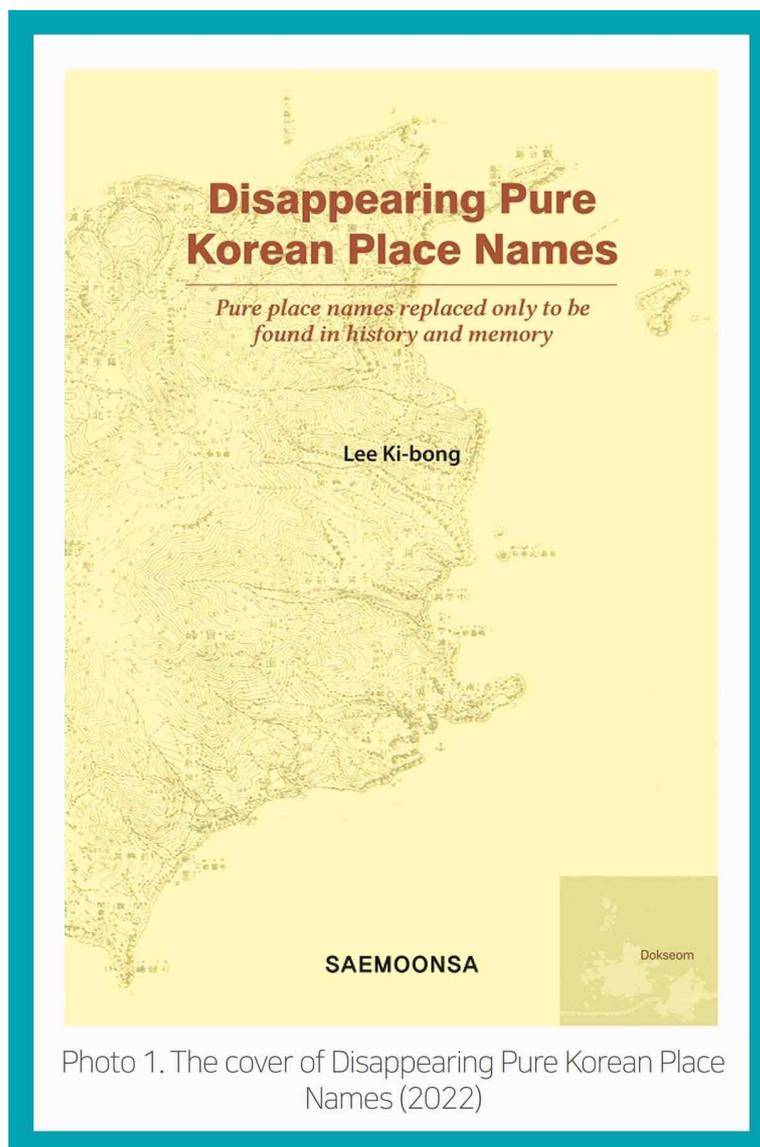


Photo 1. The cover of Disappearing Pure Korean Place Names (2022)

### Why did I write this book?

For the past 18 years I have been researching and compiling place names found in old Korean maps and geography books. Seven books from this effort have been published by the Kyujanggak Institute of Korean Studies at Seoul National University,

including Dongyeodo: Commentary and Index, and another nine, including Place Names in Seoul Found in Old Maps, have been published by the Old and Rare Collection Division of the National Library of Korea. Although these books were published as part of my paid work, I feel pride when I look at these volumes shelved in my library. At the same time, I have always felt a sense of sadness over the loss of original place names in Korea as they became obsolete and disappeared over the past 100 years.

Since ancient times, Koreans have borrowed Chinese characters to write their place names. While King Sejong (1418-1450), the fourth ruler of the Joseon Dynasty, created and promulgated Hangeul in 1446 as an official writing system for the Korean language, it was at first only used by women and commoners. Official documents continued to be written in Chinese characters, and so were place names. The problem was that the sound uttered when reading place names written in Chinese characters differs from the pronunciation of the original place names.

When Chinese characters are used in China, there is no separation between the meaning of a character and its sound. In Korea, a specific Chinese character is matched to the meaning of each Korean word in order to represent Korean words when writing with Chinese characters. However, when spoken, the characters are pronounced in imitation of Chinese rather than the Korean word. There is a resulting separation between the sound and meaning of a Chinese character in the way that Koreans use it. For example, the Chinese character ‘天’ means ‘sky’ or haneul in Korean, but is pronounced cheon by Koreans. When representing original Korean place names in Chinese characters, some were written by using the meaning of the relevant Chinese characters while others used the sound of the Chinese characters. Starting in the Goryeo Dynasty, Koreans began to pronounce place names based on how they pronounced the Chinese characters rather than the pronunciation of the original Korean word represented, and these original names started disappearing from people’s minds.

After universal public education was introduced during the Japanese colonial period and with the economic development of South Korea in later decades, more and more Koreans developed the ability to read Chinese characters. Beginning in the

1960s, the use of the Hangeul alphabet greatly expanded. Place names started to be written in Korean letters, but based upon the sound of the Chinese characters previously representing the name. Sadly, as a result, the original place names were rapidly eradicated. One example can be found in the address of the National Library of Korea, which is 201 Banpo-daero Seocho-gu Seoul. The original Korean name for Banpo was Seoritgae. Locals had called the area Seoritgae for over a thousand years, but it was written 盤浦 in official documents by combining the character 盤 (meaning 'winding' and read as ban) with 浦 (meaning 'shore' and read as po). Since the Japanese occupation era, the administrative name for the area has been pronounced Banpo and its old Korean name has disappeared from memory.

My mother told me that when she was a child, the use of original place names was commonplace. She was born in 1935 and still remembers most of these names. Born in 1967, however, I grew up with place names in Chinese characters. This happened not just in my hometown but across the country. Over the past 18 years that I have worked on the compilation of place names found in old maps and geography books, I felt sad about the loss of the original names. That is why I started writing a book about original place names, and the results were published by Saemoonsa in 2016 under the title Disappearing Pure Korean Place Names. The Korean version is '슬픈 우리 땅이름.' The book was renamed '잃어버린 우리말 땅이름' in 2021 when the second edition was published with the table of contents and text partly revised.



Photo 2. The first edition (2016)

Photo 3. The second edition (2021)

### The organization of the book

Chapter 1, Names of Villages That Have Disappeared Over the Past 100 Years, uses the example of Geumsa-myeon in Yeosu-si, Gyeonggi Province to examine how original Korean place names were erased from South Korea’s administrative addresses. For this work, I traced original names and their corresponding names in Chinese characters for the 17 li<sup>1)</sup> in Geumsa-myeon. According to my findings, there were no cases in which the pronunciation of the original name and its pronunciation based on Chinese characters were the same.

Chapter 2, Anticipating the Revival of the Good Old Name “Dokseom,” explores how Dokdo, an island in the East Sea that is under the jurisdiction of Ulleung-gun, North Gyeongsang Province, came to be called Dokdo instead. Dokdo is a combination of the two Chinese characters 獨 (meaning ‘alone’ and read as dok) and 島 (meaning ‘island’ and read as do) to refer to what was called Dokseom by Ulleung islanders. In this chapter, I also refuted Japan’s claim over the island in detail and suggested that the original names be restored for all the places in Ulleung-gun.

Chapter 3, Place Names Serving as Signposts for Travelers on the Road, applies the example of three roads that connect Seoul with the surrounding areas in order to show

1) Li is an administrative unit.

how most of the place names along those roads changed after people began reading them in Chinese characters.

Chapter 4, Place Names of Boatmen Inscribed on the Waterways, follows the river route used to transport commodities to Seoul along the Han River as it examines and records the now-obsolete place names and the names based on Chinese characters that replaced them.

In both Chapter 5, Pure Korean Place Names in Outer Seoul, and Chapter 6, Exploration of Place Names Inside the Seoul City Walls, I show how most places in Seoul, where it is often wrongfully believed that the original place names were the same as those pronounced based on Chinese characters, were actually once called by different names. I also explain the process through which they changed to names pronounced like their Chinese characters.

In Chapter 7, In Search of Lost Hometown Names, I trace the place names in my hometown of Bibong-myeon in Hwaseong, Gyeonggi Province and the names I saw on my way to school in Suwon when I was young in order to examine how the original names were replaced by names pronounced like their Chinese characters in both administrative and non-administrative place names.

### **Restoring original place names and Korea's historical and cultural identity**

Few Koreans know that the words han and gan, which have the same meaning as and are pronounced similarly to the 'Khan' in Genghis Khan (1162-1227) (who built a great empire spanning Europe and Asia), were commonly used Korean words. In Korean, both han and gan mean the biggest, the leader, or king. The han (韓) in Daehanminguk, the official Korean name for the Republic of Korea, came from the hans in Mahan (馬韓), Jinhan (辰韓), and Byeonhan (弁韓), the three ancient kingdoms on the Korean peninsula. Here, the Chinese character 韓 was chosen to represent the Korean words han or gan due to their similarity in pronunciation. The same is true with the 'han' in the Hangang River, the largest river in Korea: it is represented by the Chinese character 漢 based on the similarity in pronunciation. Names such as han-nae, which means a big river, and han-yeoul, which means a strong current, were once commonly found across the country.

The name Seoul for the capital of South Korea originated from Seorabeol (徐羅伐), which was the name of one of the twelve small regional powers that comprised a kingdom named Jinhan. Around 504, Seorabeol conquered Jinhan and renamed itself Silla (新羅). The name Seorabeol began to be used to indicate the capital of the new country. Through the consecutive periods of the Silla Kingdom (BC 59–AD 935), Goryeo Dynasty (AD 918–1392) and Joseon Dynasty (AD 1392–1910), Seorabeol became a general term for capital and its pronunciation changed over the course of time to become Seoul.

Many years ago, it was not easy to find the traces of original Korean names in administrative terms. Thanks to the administrative reform in street names introduced in 2009, however, a significant number of original Korean names could be restored. For example, the punnap (風納) in Punnap-dong, Seoul, is a combination of two Chinese characters chosen to indicate its original name of baram-deuri: 風 (wind, pung) and 納 (come, nap). For 100 years, punnap was used as the official name for the area. With the 2009 reform, however, a portion of the streets in Punnap-dong were renamed Baramdeuri-gil.

Although the 2009 street name reform restored some original Korean names, there are still more cases in which names as pronounced in Chinese characters remain. While the basic function of place names is to distinguish one area from another, they also embody the historical and cultural identities of the people who lived in a certain area for a long time. In this regard, restoring original Korean place names could support a restoration of Korea's historical and cultural identity.

### **The implications of the publication of an English version of the book**

While I was writing the book, I held no expectation it would become a bestseller. If I have intended to write a book appealing broadly to general readers, I would have chosen to write about place names that might attract public attention. How many people would really be interested in a book that simply lists hundreds of place names and illustrates how the original names were replaced by pronunciations based on Chinese characters? However, I wanted to provide some helpful information to the small number of people who may be interested in these original place names that have gradually disappeared from human memory over the past 100 years. I also wanted to counter the claim that Dokdo is Japanese territory by presenting an extensive and systematic analysis of how

original place names were replaced by names in Chinese characters.

I was right about the sales of the book: they were poor. Thanks to the few people who care about the preservation of original place names, however, the book was able to be reprinted. To my great honor, furthermore, my publisher, who felt sad about the disappearance of original place names, decided to publish an English version: *Disappearing Pure Korean Place Names* (2022).

One of the implications of publishing an English version of the book is that non-Korean speakers now have access to information on original Korean place names that speak to the history and lives of Koreans. With the exception of the name Seoul, most of the place names in Korea that are known to non-Korean speakers are based on the pronunciations of Chinese characters, providing help to research in the genealogy of language and geographical names. I hope *Disappearing Pure Korean Place Names* will be of help to academics and also to general individuals who are interested in language and geographical names.

I am also glad that this book introduces a further example of the drastic changes brought out by the societal transition to the modern world. Modern capitalism, which began in the West, inevitably wrought changes on many familiar things for people everywhere around the world, including place names. Korea was no exception: in fact, it experienced unprecedented change in terms of both scale and pace. Read this book and you will be surprised!

Lastly, this book uses the history of geographical names to further demonstrate that Dokdo is irrevocably Korean territory. The replacement of the original place names by names pronounced as in Chinese characters occurred not in a limited area, but across the country. Ulleung-gun in Gyeongsangbuk Province was no exception and Dok-seom, which was within the jurisdiction of Ulleung-gun, became Dokdo through this renaming process. Readers of this book will be able to understand from the perspective of geographical names that Dokdo is Korean territory, not Japan's.



Photo 4. Dokdo is Korean territory  
(Source : Northeast Asian History Foundation)

**Korean Studies Trends**

**Writer\_Chung Hee-sun**

**Librarian, Library LCAO**

**Université Paris Cité**

## **The Korean Studies Collection at the Library LCAO of Université Paris Cité**

In 2020, Université Paris Descartes (Paris V), Université Paris Diderot (Paris VII), and IPGP (Institut de physique du globe de Paris) were merged and reborn as Université Paris Cité.

Université Paris Cité is a research-focused national university with divisions and research centers structured around three faculties: Faculté de Santé (Health), Faculté de Sciences (Sciences), and Faculté Sociétés et Humanités (Humanities and Social Sciences).

As an institution created by uniting two universities, the school offers a wide range of disciplines, including medicine, law, economics, humanities, language, social sciences, and science and technology. It currently supports approximately 63,000 enrolled students and 4,500 faculty members.

Since the merger, Université Paris Cité became one of the three French universities included in the top 100 universities according to the Academic Ranking of World Universities in 2021 and 2022. Although these rankings are not absolute measures of outstanding universities, earning international recognition following the merger is considered an important bellwether.



Photo 1, 2.  
Odéon campus (left) and Grands Moulins campus (right) of Université Paris Cité

### The Korean Studies section at Université Paris Cité

Conflicts that had been latent across France in the decades after World War II erupted into resistance against the authorities, which further developed into the Protests of 1968. In May 1968 a protest initiated by students at the Sorbonne grew into a serious national crisis. This movement sparked changes across French society including reform of the French university system.

in accordance with the new law, University of Paris were to reorganized. This led to the division of the University of Paris into 13 universities.

Following this comprehensive reform of the university system, all the departments related to East Asian studies at Sorbonne Université were brought under Université Paris Diderot. The Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations (LCAO) at Université Paris Diderot came to include Korean Studies, Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, and Vietnamese Studies in 1970.

In addition, The LCAO Department offers students comprehensive bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs.

For geopolitical reasons, the Korean Studies section, the first of its kind in France, was

less popular at the beginning compared to other sections. Thanks to the hard work of Professor Li Ogg, the first dean of the Korean Studies section at Université Paris Diderot and a leader in Korean Studies research in France, and the first generation of French Korean Studies scholars, this program once on the brink of closure has continued to grow over the past 50 years and established itself as a Mecca for Korean Studies in the country.

With the increasing demand for Korean Studies, particularly since 2010, the Korean Studies section has diversified its programs and hired new faculty every year in an effort to support the growing program. As of 2022, the Korean Studies section is home to 354 enrolled students, 1 professor, 8 associate professors and 15 lecturers.



Photo 3. LCAO brochures

### Bibliothèque LCAO

Université Paris Cité maintains a total of 21 libraries in three faculties (Health, Sciences, and Humanities and Social Sciences). Bibliothèque LCAO, which is under the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, is one of them.



Bibliothèque LCAO opened with the establishment of Université Paris Diderot in 1970. It consists of four sections: Korean Studies, Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, and Vietnamese Studies. With a focus on resources written in the language of the source country.

The specialized documentation of the library is determined based on the LCAO Department's course offerings and research. Currently, the library houses about 80,000 materials, including monographs and periodicals.



### The Korean Studies collection

The Korean Studies collection began with the establishment of Université Paris Diderot in 1970. It was based on the personal collection of Professor Li Ogg before being fully integrated as part of Bibliothèque LCAO in 1992. Thanks to various exchanges and support from the South Korean government and other Korean institutions in the

succeeding years, the collection has grown to contain a range of materials. The library continues to collect quality materials through the Support for Korean Studies Resources program of the Korea Foundation and through support from the National Library of Korea.

As of 2023, the Korean Studies collection contains about 13,659 materials, including books and periodicals in Korean and other languages. It covers a wide range of subjects, including arts, linguistics, history, geography, literature, philosophy, and social politics. In terms of the proportions of materials at Bibliothèque LCAO, Chinese makes up 46%, Japanese 22%, Korean 18%, and Vietnamese 14%. While the Korean collection is smaller than the Chinese or Japanese collections in terms of size, its diversity has made it popular among outside users (especially Korean Studies researchers) as well as students.

The Korean collection has steadily grown over the past 50 years alongside the Korean Studies section. The expansion of the Korean collection is closely related to the increasing interest in Korea in French society and the enrollment status of students at the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations (LCAO).

### **The future of LCAO**

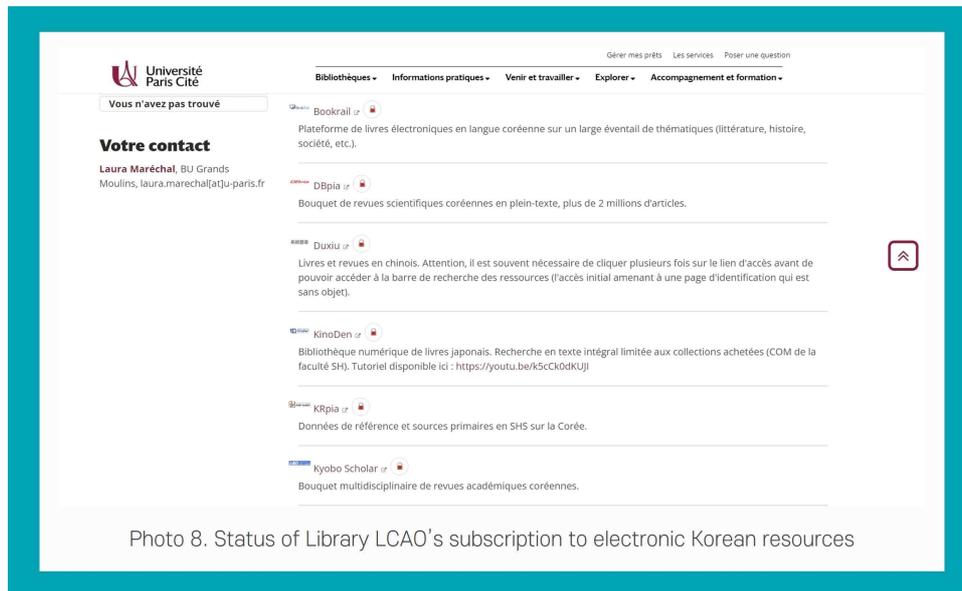
The lockdowns imposed due to the Covid 19 pandemic forced university libraries in France to acknowledge the acute need for online access to library materials.

In the early stages of the pandemic, no Korean Studies program at a tertiary institution in France, including Université Paris Cité, maintained subscriptions to e-resources. Fortunately, however, the merger of universities that coincided with the pandemic allowed budgets for e-resources (projet "ReDoN" Ressources documentaires numériques) to be allotted to the libraries in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. As a result, Bibliothèque LCAO came to acquire e-resources related to Korean Studies. Beginning in 2021, the university subscribed to BookRail (a Korean e-books service) and DBpia (Korean academic journal database).

In addition, the library began to receive subsidies in 2023 for subscriptions to DBpia and KyoboScholar through the Support for Korean Studies Resources program of the Korea Foundation. Thanks to this program, Bibliothèque LCAO has become a major library in France with e-resources on Korea.

While the pandemic provided the library with an opportunity to acquire electronic Korean resources, sustaining this acquisition remains a challenge for the future, as an East Asian research library in France.

It is hoped that Bibliothèque LCAO will be able to continue to grow by providing researchers with quality Korean resources, both electronic and printed, and bring greater diversity to the Korean collection.



## Enjoying the French literary world at South Korea’s flagship library

- From May 25 to June 25, 2023, the special exhibition “The Bold Literary World of France: The Winners of the Goncourt Prize” was held at the National Library of Korea.-
- The library provided an exhibition briefing and a shuttle bus every Thursday during the exhibition period.-

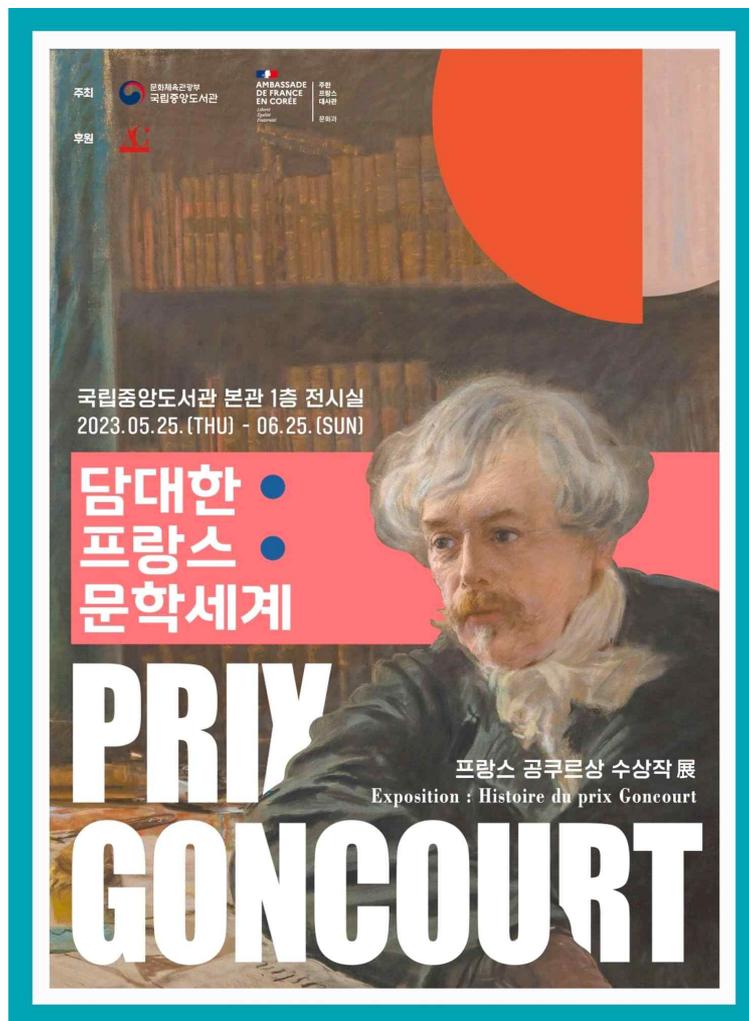


Photo 1. “The Bold Literary World of France: The Winners of the Goncourt Prize” poster

The National Library of Korea and the Embassy of France in South Korea co-hosted the exhibition “The Bold Literary World of France: The Winners of the Goncourt Prize” from May 25 (Thu) through June 25 (Sun) at the Exhibition Hall on the first floor of the NLK’s main building.

The goal of this exhibition is to introduce the bold and unique literary tradition of France to the Korean public by presenting the winners of the Goncourt Prize, one of the world's top-three major literary awards. It was also designed to raise public awareness of the value of the NLK's collections. Along with an overview of the prize and its past winners, the exhibition showcases approximately 80 Goncourt-winning works in both the original French and in Korean translation. There was a special event known as the First Goncourt Prize in South Korea in which favorite Goncourt winners are selected by South Korean readers.

The Goncourt Prize was established in 1903 by the successful author and publisher Edmond de Goncourt. Together with the Nobel Prize for Literature in Sweden and the Booker Prize in the UK, it is considered one of the world's top-three major literary awards.

Every year the National Library of Korea holds a special exhibition in partnership with a foreign embassy to provide the public with an opportunity to enjoy outstanding cultural content from around the world. This year's exhibition co-hosted with the French embassy presents the literary world of France, a country known for its exquisite culture, at the National Library of Korea, a treasure trove of Korea's literary collections.

The library offered a shuttle bus and a 2 pm exhibition briefing on Thursdays during the exhibition period in order to facilitate public participation.

The opening ceremony was held at 3pm on May 25 on the first floor of the library's main building. The ceremony included congratulatory remarks. There was a string trio performance by the Korea Chamber Ensemble and a briefing on the exhibition.

"Through this exhibition designed to share the literary world of France with the Korean public, we hope to help further facilitate cultural exchanges between our two countries and raise public awareness of the value of our library collections," said an NLK official.

(Source)

<https://www.nl.go.kr/NL/contents/N50603000000.do?schM=view&page=1&viewCount=9&id=45837&schBdcode=&schGroupCode=>

# Library data in your email!

- The National Library of Korea launches a data delivery service on the Library Big Data platform. -



Photo 1. A flier on how to subscribe to the Library Big Data Platform Data Delivery service

The Library Big Data platform (Jeongbo Naru) operated by the National Library of Korea launched a data delivery service on March 20, 2023.

The new service emails to subscribers key data that are regularly uploaded to the platform (<https://data4library.kr>), including collection/loan data by member library (monthly), monthly keywords (monthly), and data by theme (quarterly). Subscriptions are available to all members of the platform.

Those who wish to subscribe to the service should log on to the Library Big Data platform and sign up for the service on the page for the data he/she wishes to receive. Alternatively, they can be requested via My Page. Once subscribed, there is no need to visit the platform for library data as it will be delivered automatically by email.

The library developed this service based on users' requests for a notification service for data updates. It is expected that the data delivery service will enhance access to the data on the platform.

"Nowadays people are used to having everything delivered. The NLK acknowledges this need and will work to diversify its subscription-based data services and improve access to interesting and useful data," noted an NLK official.

(Source)

<https://www.nl.go.kr/NL/contents/N50603000000.do?schM=view&act=UPDATE&page=1&ordFld=regdt&ordBy=DESC&viewCount=9&id=45430&schBdcode=&schGroupCode=>

## More than 2,000 visitors in two weeks attend an NLK exhibition commemorating the 1st death anniversary of Lee O-young

- A special thank-you event was held from March 23 to April 13. -

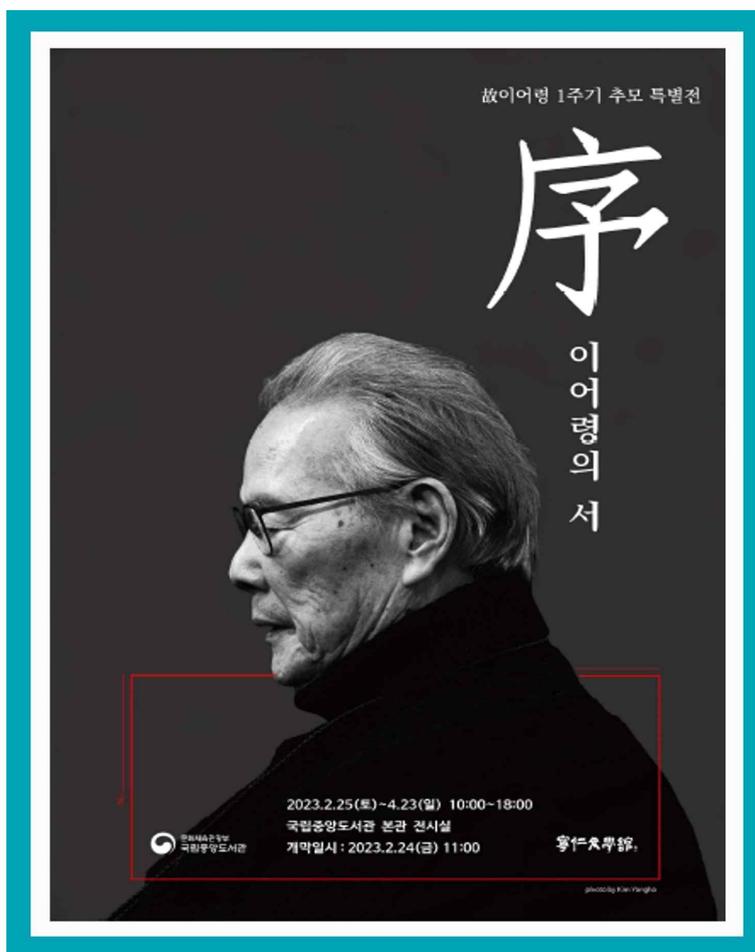


Photo 1. The exhibition poster

The National Library of Korea held a special thank-you event from March 23 to April 13 for those who visited The Life of Lee O-young as a Writer, a NLK exhibition held to mark the first death anniversary of Lee O-young, an intellectual and writer beloved by many Koreans. On April 12, the library offered books by Lee to the first 30 visitors in celebration of Library Day.

This exhibition co-hosted by the NLK and the Youngin Museum of Literature was

held through April 23 in the Exhibition Room at the library. More than 2,000 people visited during the two weeks after its opening on February 25, a record for an NLK exhibition. Visits by those who wished to remember him and his works continued in the succeeding days. As of March 21, the exhibition had recorded a total of 2,708 visitors (118 visitors per day).

In response to the huge success of the exhibition, the NLK offered an online gift certificate to 30 people selected in a lottery from among those who visited the exhibition and shared photos of their visits on social networking sites by April 13. On April 12, books by Lee signed by Kang In-suk, Lee's wife and the Director of the Youngin Museum of Literature, were given to the first 30 visitors in celebration of Library Day. This year marked the first national Library Day since its designation as a legal anniversary.

The exhibition consisted of six sections displaying books, hand-written manuscripts, personal items, videos, and more. The sections were known as the Corridor of Silence; the Bookshelf of Creation; the Power of Speech, the Power of Writing, and the Power of Books; Meeting Lee O-young; the Infinite Path; and Good Night, Lee O-young.

The library offered a docent program at 3pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and at 2pm on the weekends. Over 100 books by Lee O-young were displayed in a corner next to the entrance to the exhibition to allow visitors to freely explore his writing. You can also learn about his life and works through the library's digital collection "Lee O-young, a Giant of Our Time" (Go to the NLK website ([www.nl.go.kr](http://www.nl.go.kr)) → Digital Collection → Collection by Subject → Lee O-young, a Giant of Our Time).

"Lee O-young was an intellectual and scholar who showed exceptional creativity and insight. We hope that this exhibition provides the public with an opportunity to encounter him again," said an NLK official.

(Source)

<https://www.nl.go.kr/NL/contents/N50603000000.do?schM=view&act=UPDATE&page=1&ordFld=regdt&ordBy=DESC&viewCount=9&id=45463&schBdcode=&schGroupCode=>

## Enjoy a new virtual experience at the library!

- The Pathway of Knowledge and Virtual Bookshelves enriched with the latest content-convergence technology open to the public on January 10, 2023 -

### The Writer's Notebook section

	
<p><i>When Buckwheat Flowers Bloom</i> by Lee Hyo-seok, 1936</p>	<p><i>The Night of Counting the Stars</i> by Yun Dong-ju, 1948</p>
	
<p><i>Rain Shower</i> by Hwang Sun-won, 1952</p>	<p><i>Azaleas</i> by Kim Sowol, 1925</p>

### The Virtual Bookshelves

	
<p><i>Muyedabotongji</i>, 1790</p> <p>A martial arts training manual compiled by the order of King Jeongjo in the 14th year of his reign. It consists of four volumes and includes detailed illustrations of a total of 24 combat techniques.</p>	<p><i>Suseongjeondo</i> (both maker and year of publication unknown)</p> <p>Suseongjeondo, which means a map of Seoul, carries no indications of its maker. Based on records from other materials, however, it is believed to have been created by Kim Jeong-ho in the 1840s.</p>

Photos. The content presented through the Virtual Bookshelves of the National Library of Korea

The National Library of Korea enhanced its Pathway of Knowledge and Virtual Bookshelves with the latest content-convergence technology and reopened them to

the public in January 2023.

The Writer's Notebook section in the Pathway of Knowledge was launched in 2022 as virtual experiential content created by applying interactive technologies to four famous Korean literary works: When Buckwheat Flowers Bloom by Lee Hyo-seok; The Night of Counting the Stars by Yun Dong-ju; Rain Shower by Hwang Sun-won; and Azaleas by Kim Sowol. This year, the Writer's Notebook section was further expanded with new interactive effects based on the theme of each work and an expanded projection mapping space so that visitors can enjoy an improved immersive experience.

The Virtual Bookshelves, which opened in 2021, were enhanced with animations and special effects for Muyedobotongji and Suseongjeondo. For Muyedobotongji, a martial arts training manual used in the late Joseon Dynasty, animation and sound effects were added to help visitors experience the weapons of the past in an immersive environment. For the old map known as Suseongjeondo, 15 places (including Gondamgol, Sujinbanggol, Mallijae, and Beotigogae) were added to the existing 15 sites in order to show the origins of and changes in place names in Seoul.

"Celebrating the Year of the Black Rabbit, we hope that visitors enjoy this new experiential reading that awakens the senses," said an NLK official.

The renewed Pathway of Knowledge and Virtual Bookshelves were opened to the public on January 10. Visitors who wish to experience the Pathway of Knowledge are required to make a reservation on the NLK website ([www.nl.go.kr](http://www.nl.go.kr)). For more information on this immersive experience at the library, please visit the library website.

(Source)

<https://www.nl.go.kr/NL/contents/N50603000000.do?schM=view&act=UPDATE&page=2&ordFld=regdt&ordBy=DESC&viewCount=9&id=44889&schBdcode=&schGroupCode=>

# The NLK renews the Korea Journal Copyright Information (KJCI)



Photo 1. A snapshot of the KJCI website

On January 31, the National Library of Korea launched a renewed version of the Korea Journal Copyright Information (KJCI), which provides copyright information on domestic academic journals.

For the new KJCI system (<https://copyright.oak.go.kr>), responsive web technology is used to optimize screen composition regardless of the device, and the user experience has been greatly enhanced through a user-friendly interface.

The KJCI, which is open to the public, provides copyright information on domestic academic journals, including information on the copyright holder, where the full text can be viewed, and the conditions for reuse of the article.

Currently, the KJCI provides copyright information on 2,889 academic journals, including 2,751 journals enlisted on the Korea Citation Index (KCI).

“This renewal will improve the user experience for copyright information search. We believe that it will also contribute to further promoting the application of academic information.” said an NLK official.

(Source)

<https://www.nl.go.kr/NL/contents/N50603000000.do?schM=view&act=UPDATE&page=2&ordFld=regdt&ordBy=DESC&viewCount=9&id=45058&schBdcode=&schGroupCode=>

# The NLK launches the Robotics Process Automation (RPA) system

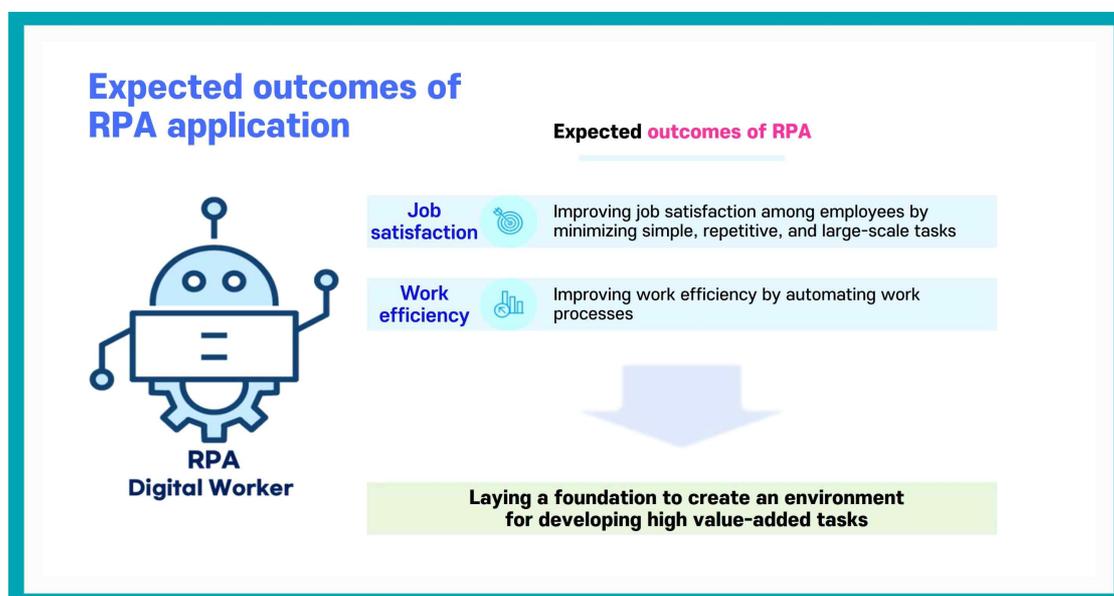
The National Library of Korea has launched its Robotics Process Automation (RPA) system as part of efforts to bring digital innovation to its operations.

**An example of RPA application:  
Checking the full-text service for errors**

1. Log in to KOLIS.
2. Select from the menu.
3. Search for items for the full-text check.
4. Extract the items as an Excel file.
5. Create a column for error checking and log in to the NLK website.
6. Search for content ID.
7. Check the results and view the full text.
8. Check for errors in the full text and record the results in the Excel file.
9. Save the Excel file.
10. Electronically send the file to the person in charge.

**Outcomes of RPA application by task**

Task	Before RPA application			After RPA application		
	Frequency of performing task	No. of cases handled	Time taken (case)	Frequency of performing task	No. of cases handled	Time taken (case)
① Identifying non-deposited e-books and compiling statistics	Once per day	Approx. 300 cases	480 minutes (8 hrs.)	Once per day	About 300 cases	120 minutes (2 hrs.)
② Converting the metadata format of online materials	2-3 times per month	1 case	600 minutes (10 hrs.)	2-3 times per month	1 case	10 minutes
③ Identifying and listing non-deposited materials	Twice per month	1,000 cases	300 minutes (5 hrs.)	Twice per month	1,000 cases	40 minutes
④ Checking the full-text service for errors	None	None		Once per month	5,000 cases	5,000 minutes (1 min/case; 84 hrs.)
⑤ Converting the metadata format of web resources	2-3 times per month	1 case	480 minutes (8hrs)	2-3 times per month	1 case	3 minutes



Photos. An example of RPA applications and outcomes

RPA is a technology that automates simple repetitive tasks through software. Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been highlighted as a leading technology for digital conversion.

The library introduced the RPA system last year for simple, repetitive, and large-scale tasks with a goal to promote the systematic collection of the country’s knowledge and information resources and improve its services to the public. The system has been applied to the following tasks: identifying and listing non-deposited materials; identifying non-deposited electronic books and compiling related statistics; converting the metadata formats of online materials; converting the metadata formats of web resources; and checking the full-text view service for errors.

**The RPA system performs format conversion that used to take eight hours in just three minutes**

Format conversion, which is required for making web resources suitable for service, used to take about eight hours per case. With the RPA system, it can be done in just three minutes. In addition, RPA automatically checks 5,000 cases in the full-text service per month for errors, a task that had long been postponed due to lack of staff.

In 2023, the NLK plans to expand the range of tasks managed by the RPA system

in order to enhance the efficiency of its operations and effectively respond to increasing demands for digital resources and provide everyone with speedy and convenient access to information resources.

“It is believed that the RPA will improve the speed and accuracy of the completion of tasks, allowing our employees to focus on tasks with greater added value and service improvement impact. The NLK will continue to lead digital innovation in the library community by proactively adopting the latest technologies to its operations,” said an NLK official.

(Source)

<https://www.nl.go.kr/NL/contents/N50603000000.do?schM=view&act=UPDATE&page=1&ordFld=regdt&ordBy=DESC&viewCount=9&id=45072&schBdcode=&schGroupCode=>

**Long-standing challenges in the comics industry, including defining the concept of ‘webtoon,’ are addressed in new law**

- A bill for the revision of the Promotion of Comics Act that includes a definition of webtoon and recommendations on the use of a standard contract, was passed at the National Assembly Plenary Session on February 27. -



A bill revising the Promotion of Comics Act that reflects the changing environment of the comics industry and includes recommendations on the use of a standard contract to promote fairness in the industrial ecosystem was passed at the National Assembly Plenary Session on February 27, as announced by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism (Minister Park Bo Gyeon).

**Long-standing challenges of the comics industry, including the definition of ‘webtoon’ and the application of a standard contract, are addressed**

The long-awaited revision expands the definition of manhwa (comics in general) to include webtoons and introduces a legal definition of webtoon in an effort to adapt

the law to the changing in the industry and to clarify both manhwa and webtoons. The terms manhwa and webtoon have been used inconsistently and in confusing manners due to the lack of clear definitions.

As part of efforts to implement State Agenda 58 on promoting a fair creator-focused labor environment in the comics industry, provisions on the use of a standard contract are also being introduced. According to the revised law, the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism should consult relevant organizations and experts when creating or revising a standard contract for the comics industry and should recommend that the industry use it. With a goal of helping a standard contract to be adopted as an industry standard as soon as possible, the law provides a legal basis for a survey of companies using the standard contract and for incentivizing companies and organizations to apply it.

\* State Agenda 58: Spreading the appeal of “K-content” around the world  
(Establishing a fair creator-focused labor environment)

### **Measures to support the industry and promote comics among the public**

The law also lists matters to consider when creating plans for the further development of the comics industry. They include promoting diversity, improving the working environment, supporting balanced development among different regions within the industry, encouraging access to comics among the underprivileged, facilitating research, cultivating and supporting content convergence within the industry, and expediting the distribution of comics and related products. There is now a legal basis to compile data and statistics on the industry by collecting and preserving literature and other materials related to comics and conducting surveys.

The law also reflects the government’s commitment to supporting the public enjoyment of comics across different regions and social groups. To encourage the balanced development in the industry across regions, the law allows central and local governments to initiate the establishment of infrastructure for the industry and take measures to expand opportunities to enjoy comics available to the underprivileged.

## **Policies to cultivate the comics industry and promote industry-wide equity will continue into 2023**

In line with the revision of the Promotion of Comics Act, the Ministry will continue to take initiatives for establishing policies for the cultivation of the comics industry and the creation of a more equitable system within the industry, including the protection of the rights of creators. The Ministry will focus its efforts on the revision of the standard contract, which was one of main agenda items at last year's webtoon round table; on research on institutional improvement, including the introduction of a webtoon standard identification system; and on establishment of a fifth plan for the promotion of the comics industry (2024-2028). Regarding the standard contract, the Ministry is in the process of collecting opinions through meetings with creators and industry representatives with a goal to complete the revision by the first half of this year. It also plans to create a comics promotion committee under the Content Industry Promotion Committee as a permanent channel to communicate with the industry.

“The tireless efforts and commitment of all the stakeholders in the comics industry, including creators, production companies, and platform providers, have enabled the revision of the Promotion of Comics Act,” said an official at the Ministry. “We will continue to work with creators and the industry in general to further improve related systems and policies.”

(Source)

[https://www.mcst.go.kr/kor/s\\_notice/press/pressView.jsp?pSeq=20061&pMenuCD=0302000000&pCurrentPage=6&pTypeDept=&pSearchType=01&pSearchWord=](https://www.mcst.go.kr/kor/s_notice/press/pressView.jsp?pSeq=20061&pMenuCD=0302000000&pCurrentPage=6&pTypeDept=&pSearchType=01&pSearchWord=)

## The first overseas public library support project includes a training workshop for administrators at the Hanoi Library

- The MCST conducts a training workshop for administrators to coincide with the reopening of the renovated Hanoi Library (March 27-31) -



Just in time for the reopening of the renovated Hanoi Library, the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism (Minister Park Bo Gyeon) invited management officials from the library to a training workshop held for them in Korea from March 27 to March 31. The renovation of the Hanoi Library was the first project carried out under the Ministry's overseas public library support program.

As part of its overseas development assistance project, the Ministry has been implementing small-scale library construction projects in developing countries since 2007. Beginning in 2020, it augmented this ODA project with a public library support program as a means to expand the recipients. The Hanoi Library was selected as the first beneficiary of the program. Using the Ministry's support, the

Hanoi Library renovated its first through third floors, which include the lobby, materials rooms, a multipurpose room, and a lounge. It has also renewed its equipment and content, installed a Korean materials room, and implemented competence-building programs for library employees. The renovated library opened on April 18.

Designed to promote cultural exchanges and cooperation between the library communities of the two countries, the training workshop was attended by a total of six management officials from the Hanoi Library, including the library's Vice Director. Attendees visited seven libraries in South Korea, including the National Library of Korea, to learn more about South Korea's library practices and receive competence-building training. They were also given opportunities to experience Korean culture first-hand by visiting the Gyeongbokgung Palace and the Jeonju Hanok Village.

"It is hoped that the training workshop has contributed to strengthening the friendship between South Korea and Vietnam," said an official at the Ministry. "The Ministry will continue to share South Korea's library best practices and policies in order to contribute to sustainable educational and cultural environments around the world."

(Source)

[https://www.mcst.go.kr/kor/s\\_notice/press/pressView.jsp?pSeq=20112&pMenuCD=0302000000&pCurrentPage=1&pTypeDept=&pSearchType=01&pSearchWord=](https://www.mcst.go.kr/kor/s_notice/press/pressView.jsp?pSeq=20112&pMenuCD=0302000000&pCurrentPage=1&pTypeDept=&pSearchType=01&pSearchWord=)

## “50 Years of Collecting Old Literature: Treasures Found in 500-year-old Family Clans”

- The Academy of Korean Studies holds a special exhibition of old literature collected from across the country at the National Assembly -



Photo. Poster for the exhibition “50 Years of Collecting Old Literature”

- ◇ The AKS holds a special exhibition “50 Years of Collecting Old Literature: Treasures Found in 500-year-old Family Clans.”
- ◇ The exhibition showcases 14 items, including five designated treasures of old literature along with relics collected or donated/entrusted from across the country.
- ◇ The AKS is also sharing stories related to collecting the treasures, ranging from a copy of Jijeongjogyek, the last law book of the Yuan Dynasty, being found in a

neglected ramen box, to the donation of Donguibogam by the Dongrae Jeong family clan

◇ The exhibition was held in Lobby 2 on the 2nd Floor of the Assembly Member Hall at the National Assembly for three days beginning on February 20.

□ The Jangseogak Archives of the Academy of Korean Studies (President Ahn Byung Woo) held a special exhibition to encourage interest in and support for the country's documentary and cultural heritage among National Assembly members and government officials and to show its gratitude to the donors of hundreds of thousands of precious items handed down from their ancestors.

□ For the half-century since its inception in 1978, the AKS has strived to identify and collect valuable old documents and books. For three days beginning on February 20, the AKS held a special exhibition "50 Years of Collecting Old Literature: Treasures Found in 500-year-old Family Clans" at the Assembly Member Hall of the National Assembly.

□ The goal of the exhibition, which was hosted in partnership with the National Assembly Education Committee (Assembly Members Ahn Min-seok and Kim Byeong-wook), was to raise awareness among Assembly Members of the value and historical significance of old literature. It was designed as an expression of gratitude to all those who willingly donated family treasures handed down from their ancestors. The number of such items collected through donations now totals nearly 120,000.

### **The Special Exhibition at the National Assembly "50 Years of Collecting Old Literature: Treasures Found in 500-year-old Family Clans"**

□ The exhibition included a total of 14 items organized into five sections based on a selection of the family clans who have significantly contributed to the establishment of old literature as important national cultural heritage.

○ Section 1. "The Songcheom House of the Gyeongju Son Family Clan: An Unexpected Discovery" shares how a copy of Jijeongjogyek came to be found in a forgotten ramen box in the house of the 500-year-old Gyeongju Son family clan in Yangdong Village in Gyeongju and eventually to be enlisted as a treasure after special preservation treatment.

\* Exhibits (3 items): Jijeongjogyek (treasure), King Sejo's Letter of Commendation to Son So (treasure), and the Portrait of Son So (treasure)

○ Section 2. "The Yimcheonggak House of the Goseong Lee family Clan in Andong: Rediscovering the Value of Treasures" introduces the role that the family's oldest daughter-in-law played in preserving precious documents at the 500-year-old clan house during the Japanese occupation. This section displays the documents donated by the family, which contain important stories related to the Independence Movement as well as events during the Joseon Dynasty.

\* Exhibits (3 items): The will of Lee Jun-hyeong; a letter written in Korean by Park Woo-jong to Lee Sang-ryong; and the paintings of the father of Heo Ju (Heoju Bugun Sansu Yucheop)

○ Section 3. "The Sajedang House of the Sunheung Ahn family Clan in Namwon: Precious Treasures" shares the story of Gimyojehyeonsupil and Gimyeojehyeonsucheop, both treasures handed down in the family for over 500 years. The family attempted to protect the covers of the books using self-adhesive sheets. When the covers were damaged, they entrusted the books to the Jangseogak for preservation. After being treated through scientific preservation, the books were enlisted as national treasures.

\* Exhibits (2 items): Gimyojehyeonsupil (treasure) and Gimyeojehyeonsucheop (treasure)

○ Section 4. "The House of the Jangheung Yim Family Clan in Asan: Cooperation for Preservation" tells the story of this 400-year-old family clan that entrusted portraits of their ancestors and the family's old documents to the Jangseogak out of concerns over theft and damage. Section 4 also shares the Jangseogak's research and efforts to preserve the family's treasures.

\* Exhibits (3 items): The portrait of Yim Wook; 1735 Yim Wook Nojeonggi; and 1735 Yim Wook Goshin

○ Section 5. "The Dongraebuwongun House of the Dongrae Jeong Family Clan in

Gunpo: The Honor of the Clan” presents the story of this 500-year-old family clan who once entrusted over 4,000 family documents to a local organization before donating them to the Jangseogak in 2015.

\* Exhibits (3 items): Official attire worn by Jeong Hak-muk; a hand-written copy of the Dongraebuwongun; Donguibogam (a Jangseogak copy of Donguibogam (national treasure))

□ At the opening ceremony held on February 20, a certification of appreciation was awarded in the name of the Chair of the National Assembly Education Committee to the families who donated their family assets to the Jangseogak.

○ The opening ceremony was attended by National Assembly Members Ahn Min-seok and Kim Byeong-wook, Chair of the Education Committee Yu Ki-hong, National Assembly Member Lee Tae-gyu, Vice Administrator of the Cultural Heritage Administration Lee Gyeong-hun, officials from the Ministry of Education, and donors.

□ “I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the families who donated to us their precious legacy and to the National Assembly for allowing us to hold this important exhibition here,” said President Ahn Byung Woo of the Academy of Korean Studies. “With the ongoing interest and support from the National Assembly and the rest of the government, the Academy of Korean Studies will work hard to secure the expertise and facilities required to preserve our documentary heritage for future generations.”

□ The exhibition was held over three days beginning on February 20 in Lobby 2 on the 2nd floor of the Assembly Member Hall at the National Assembly.

(Source)

[https://www.aks.ac.kr/cop/bbs/selectBoardArticle.do?nttId=319080&bbsId=BBSMSTR\\_000000000046](https://www.aks.ac.kr/cop/bbs/selectBoardArticle.do?nttId=319080&bbsId=BBSMSTR_000000000046)

## Supporting Hallyu(the Korean Wave) exports and policies by analyzing foreign news data

- The Korean Culture and Information Service signs a business agreement with the Korea Culture Information Service Agency to provide free public access to foreign news trends and other data on Hallyu through KCISA's Culture Big Data Platform -

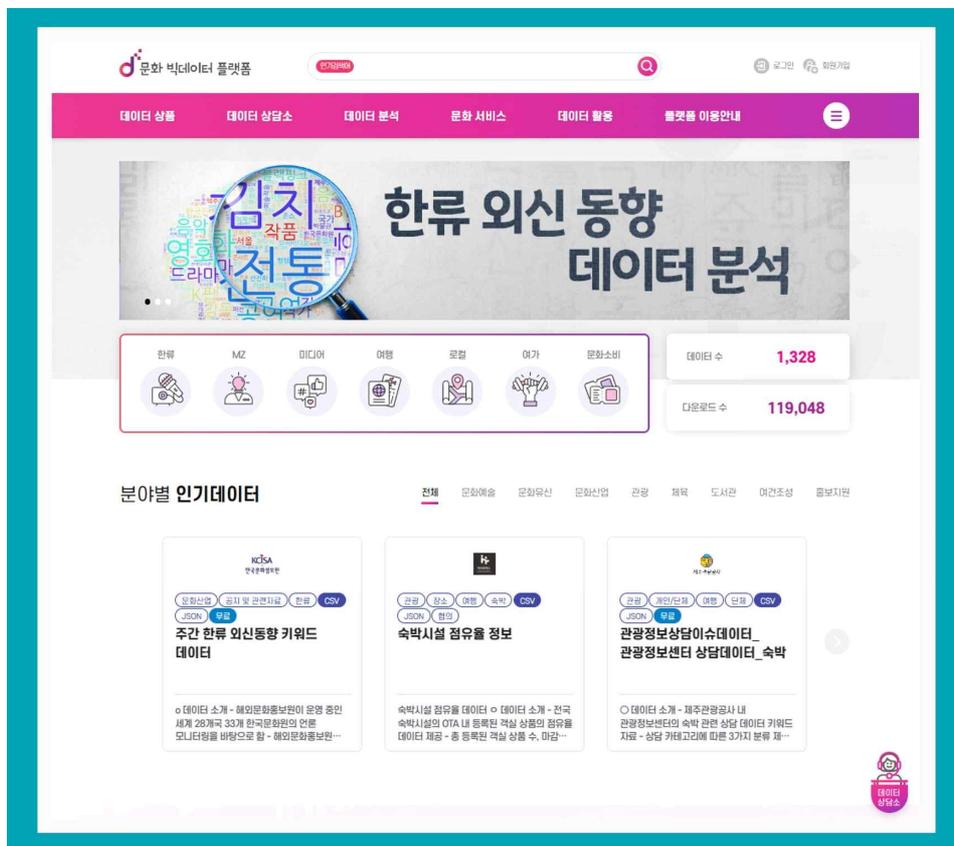


Photo. The foreign news data on Hallyu page on the Culture Big Data platform

On December 26, 2022, the Korean Culture and Information Service (KOCIS) of the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism signed a business agreement with the Korea Culture Information Service Agency (KCISA) designed to facilitate the analysis of overseas news on Korean culture and public access to the results.

The two organizations have been seeking ways to cooperate on the analysis of overseas news and expand access to the related findings. As a result of this business agreement, the data obtained from the analysis of foreign news on Hallyu

will be available on the KCISA's Culture Big Data platform. The two organizations agreed to expand their cooperation to analyze foreign news articles on Hallyu and build visual data, pursue the advancement of Hallyu and other cultural industries, and contribute to the data economy.

### **Identifying demand for data on foreign news analyses through interviews with domestic and overseas experts**

The two organizations held their first working-level meeting in March 2021 and established a consultation group to discuss measures to provide public access to data obtained through the analysis of foreign news articles on Hallyu and convert them into policies. In January 2022, the group interviewed officials in charge of Hallyu-related affairs at five departments at the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism and external experts to estimate the demand for data on Korean culture and Hallyu and determine a direction for data analysis. A total of 30 reports analyzing news articles were published from February through November 2022. The key weekly data related to foreign news trends was listed on the first page of each report along with a summary of the weekly analysis of foreign news on Hallyu. The reports are available as downloadable material on the Culture Big Data platform.

### **News articles collected by the 33 Korean Cultural Centers in 28 countries will be used as resources to support industrial, policy, and academic goals**

Through a database established in 2009, KOCIS has been compiling foreign news articles collected by the 33 Korean Cultural Centers located in 28 countries around the world. The KCCs have accumulated some 273,000 news articles over ten years, about 25,000 of which are related to Korean culture and/or Hallyu.

The weekly key data on foreign news trends provides the results of an analysis of 120–130 news articles on average in the form of word clouds on preferences and features related to Hallyu and Korean culture by region and theme. This data is expected to be of great value to industrial, policy, and academic undertakings, among other efforts.

“KOCIS is committed to using its analysis capacity to create and provide access to a range of useful data,” said Choi Gang, Head of the Foreign News Analysis Team

at KOCIS. “We will continue to analyze overseas news on Korean cultural content and render the findings into useful data for Korean content exporters and government policymakers.”

“We have successfully created a cooperative relationship with KOCIS and laid a foundation to analyze foreign news trends on Hallyu and create useful data for the Hallyu industry. Our agency will remain committed to supporting the advancement of the culture industry by creating and providing access to new data on Hallyu,” said Lee Gwon-su, Director of the Culture Big Data Division at the KCISA.

About the Culture Big Data Platform the Culture Big Data Platform run by the Korea Culture Information Service Agency ([www.bigdata-culture.kr](http://www.bigdata-culture.kr)) maintains a big data center with participation by public and private organizations. It is designed to create a virtuous cycle of analyzing and using big data on Korean culture by providing access to high-quality data in the areas of the Korean Wave (Hallyu), books, sports, accommodation, food, and other cultural products. The Culture Big Data platform was launched in 2019 and won first prize in a big data platform and network building project competition hosted by the Ministry of Science and ICT.

(Source)

<https://www.kocis.go.kr/bodo/view.do?seq=1043703&page=1&pageSize=10&photoPageSize=6&totalCount=0&searchType=null&searchText>

## Five exhibitions and performance events to be launched to share the charms of Korean culture with the world, starting with the Hangeul Experiment Project

- Five exhibitions and performance events highlighting Korean culture, including paintings, dance, and traditional music, will be held from April 2023 through March 2024 in 15 cities in 14 countries -



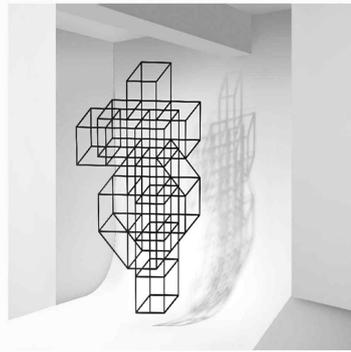
The Korean Culture and Information Service (KOCIS, Director Kim Jangho) under the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism is planning to launch a world tour featuring five exhibitions and performance events that are designed to display the quintessence of Korean culture. The events will be held in 15 cities in 14 countries in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and North America.

In partnership with a number of national cultural and art institutions, KOCIS has planned this program as a means to share superb South Korean exhibitions and performance events with people around the world through the overseas Korean Culture Centers. The tour includes two exhibitions (the Hangeul Experiment Project and Korea's Colored Paintings) and three performances (Mukhyang (the scent of ink), Double Bill, and K-Maestro). The tour begins with the Hangeul Experiment Project in Poland co-hosted by the National Hangeul Museum and the Korean Cultural Center in Poland. It will continue until March of next year.

Works of Hangeul design included in the Hangeul Experiment Project in Europe



Replica of *Hunminjeongeum Haerye*



Hangeul from ㄱ to ㅎ  
(Ham Young-hun, 2019)



Decorative metal furniture  
(Ha Ji-hun, 2016)



I'm sorry, thank you, and I love you  
(Kim Ji-man, 2019)

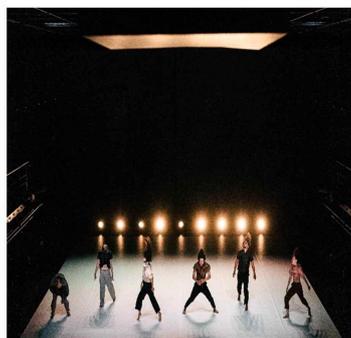
Exhibitions and performance events included in the program



Korea's Colored Paintings presented by the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art



*Mukhyang* presented by the National Theater of Korea



*Double Bill* presented by the Korea National Contemporary Dance Company



*K-Maestro* presented by the National Gugak Center

Event	Organization	Title	Date	Country/city
Exhibition	National Hangeul Museum	The Hangeul Experiment Project 1 (Hunminjeongeum Haerye, The Sounds and Shapes of Hunminjeongeum)	April–December 2023	Poland, Germany, Austria
		The Hangeul Experiment Project 2 (Hangeul in modern Korea)	May 2023–February 2024	Beijing, Tokyo, Hong Kong
	National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art	Korea's Colored Paintings	October 2023–March 2024	Los Angeles
Performance	National Theater of Korea	Mukhyang (Traditional dance)	October 2023	Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Canada
	Korea National Contemporary Dance Company	Double Bill (Modern dance)	April 2023	UK, Belgium, Spain
	National Gugak Center	K-Maestro (Traditional music)	September–November 2023	UAE, Turkey, Kazakhstan

**The Hangeul Experiment Project:** About 30 works of Hangeul design presented in the form of artistic or industrial content

With a goal to raise global awareness of the cultural value of Hangeul, the Hangeul Experiment Project exhibition has been successfully organized by the National Hangeul Museum four times since 2016. In this exhibition, Hangeul is reborn as artistic and industrial content in the form of graphic design, furniture, replicated artifacts, and media art. This exhibition of about 30 works showing the creative principles and formative characteristics of Hangeul is scheduled to be held at the Korean Cultural Center in Poland from April 5 through May 31. It will then move on to the Korean Cultural Centers in Germany and in Austria. The opening ceremony was held on April 4.

### Combining the charm of Korean culture with efficiency through tours by region

This support program for the Korean Cultural Centers, the first of its kind

implemented by KOCIS, is designed to minimize expenses, including the cost of freight transportation and airfare, by scheduling events by region so that they can tour sequentially in neighboring countries/cities while still expanding the opportunities for people around the world to enjoy Korean culture in their own countries. Inspired by the success of this program, KOCIS plans to explore similar partnerships with local governments and public/private cultural institutions in other countries.

“In response to the growing call for opportunities to experience Korean culture, KOCIS will work to expand the opportunities for people around the world to experience quality Korean culture and arts,” said an official at KOCIS.

(Source)

<https://www.kocis.go.kr/bodo/view.do?seq=1044426&page=1&pageSize=10&photoPageSize=6&totalCount=0&searchType=null&searchText=>

## To Print! Gutenberg's Europe

(Note: The original article written in French was translated into English by the National Library of Korea for the readers of its Webzine.)



Photo. Poster

**Exhibition:** April 12–July 16, 2023

**Venue:** The National Library of France (Bibliothèque nationale de France)

In the middle of the 15th century, Europeans discovered a technique for reproducing books that would disrupt their distribution and forever change access to knowledge: the printing press. The National Library of France (Bibliothèque nationale de France or BnF) looks back on this innovation, one of humanity's most significant, by retracing the history of the development of the printing press and the keys to its success. On this occasion, exceptional pieces from the collections of the National Library of France are being presented together for the first time, including the oldest known Western woodcut (the Bois Protat; late 14th or early 15th century), the world's oldest surviving work printed from metallic letterpress type (the Jikji; Korea, 1377), and the first major European typographic print (the Gutenberg Bible; Germany, around 1455).

The development of the printing press is perceived as a fundamental historical shift that marks the passage into modernity. This event is often reduced to the single moment of the printing of a 42-line Bible in Mainz around 1455 by the German Johann Gutenberg.

The exhibition is designed to examine the invention developed by Gutenberg within its context by specifying that previous printing methods did exist. In China and Korea, xylography has been practiced since at least the 8th century. The oldest preserved work printed with metallic movable type, the Jikji, comes from Korea, and it was printed according to a process very similar to that implemented in Mainz more than seventy years later. Gutenberg was probably unaware of this Korean accomplishment, but he was able to rely on techniques and practices that also existed in Europe, where since around 1400 it was known how to print and reproduce an image using an engraved matrix, first on wood, then on copper.

The need for creating multiples in order to allow wide distribution was also a problem that occupied the metal artisans with whom Gutenberg rubbed shoulders during his time in Strasbourg. His innovation was not only to combine three pre-existing techniques from the metal arts and the graphic arts – coining, casting, and transfer by printing – but also to apply it to a work of unprecedented textual scope, the Bible, at nearly 1300 pages. Furthermore, he possessed the immediate objective of placing a large number of copies on the market, more than one hundred and fifty according to testimonies from the time.

In the wake of Gutenberg's achievement, printers, humanists, and artists took hold of his process and launched an unprecedented experimental proliferation. The rapid development of the printing press provided great efficiency to the printers of the 15th century.

With nearly 270 pieces testifying to this process of trial-and-error with techniques and experiments, the exhibition aims to show the attainments and advances made possible by this new process by following the process of book manufacturing from the printer's workshop to the bookseller's stall, from the artisan to the reader, while emphasizing its collective dimension. The typography workshops of the 15th century were veritable laboratories for experimentation, making it possible to overcome technical difficulties and accelerating the spread of the printing processes throughout Europe. These techniques will be presented and explained in a space dedicated to the printer's workshop that has been organized around an exceptional press on loan from the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz.

## The Gutenberg Bible: birth of a myth

The National Library of France keeps two copies of Gutenberg's Bible which will be exhibited side-by-side for the first time. One was printed on parchment, luxuriously painted and illuminated in the Mainz region, and remains in an exceptional state of preservation. The other, printed on paper, is more modestly rubricated and decorated. It has a handwritten addition dated 1456, which makes it one of the rare period sources capable of dating the production of the work. Both carry valuable clues to understanding the roots of Western typography and are, for this reason, world-famous.

These two copies entered the National Library of France more or less directly through the same man, the Lorraine Benedictine Jean-Baptiste Maugérard (1735-1815), in 1787 and in 1792. Maugérard was a bibliographer involved in the book trade at a time when the bibliophile market was first taking shape. Aware of the value of these prints, he visited monasteries in the Rhine region in search of rarities to acquire and then offer to wealthy collectors. It was probably he who first published the expression "Gutenberg's Bible" in a scientific contribution from 1789. At a time when the anonymous nature of printing work made identification difficult, a myth was born that tends, even today, to eclipse the other printers who followed Gutenberg and contributed to the advancement of modern printing technology.

## Innovation laboratories

Printers were quickly faced with technical challenges of various kinds: perfecting the press and typeface, layout, printing non-Latin typography (Greek and Hebrew in particular), applying musical notation, inserting illustrations, and adding coloring to both the text and images. The exhibition explores the responses to these challenges, some of which will remain ephemeral but others that will go down in history. A spotlight is given to issues related to the illustration of printed matter that make a book both more attractive and more comprehensible. Several avenues were explored and specialized centers quickly emerged, such as Venice, Basel, and Nuremberg. Artists also seized on this new field of production, such as Albrecht Dürer who, in the last years of the 15th century, revolutionized the art of the illustrated book by publishing an Apocalypse in which primacy was given to the images presented at the front, while the text was relegated to the back.

## Printed matter and society

If the first prints remain close to the handwritten tradition, technical innovation gradually led to formal innovations and the new medium spawned new markets and products in an unprecedented relationship that has continued to the present. Around the beginning of the sixteenth century, the book lost its medieval characteristics and gradually adopted its modern form: a small-format book with a title page, and more and more often printed in the vernacular. A new book market subsequently emerged. Booksellers developed commercial strategies to make themselves known in order to better distribute their goods and sell their wares. A wider readership was gradually approached. Finally, the socio-cultural phenomena of humanism and the Reformation were able to experience widespread rapid dissemination thanks to this sector.

## Organization of the exhibition

### Commissioners

- ▶Nathalie Coilly, Curator, Rare Books Reserve, BnF
- ▶Caroline Vrand, Curator, Department of Prints and Photography, BnF

### Exhibition catalog

- ▶To Print! Gutenberg's Europe
- ▶225 x 300mm
- ▶260p, 180 illustrations
- ▶€ 49

For more information about the exhibition, please visit the National Library of France website.

### To visit the exhibition

- ▶Venue: The François-Mitterrand branch
- ▶Address: Quai François Mauriac
- ▶75706 Paris Cedex 13
- ▶Access: East entrance.

Opening Hours: Tuesday–Saturday 10:00–19:00 and Sunday 13:00–19:00

The exhibition is closed on Mondays and public holidays.

Entrance fee: €10 (reduced price of €8 for eligible individuals)

Holders of a Pass BnF Lecture/Culture (Price: 24€/reduced price: 15€) and Pass Recherche (Price: 55€/reduced price: 35€) enjoy free and unlimited entry to exhibitions and cultural events at the National Library of France.

For information on reduced price or free entry, visit [www.bnf.fr](http://www.bnf.fr)

(Source)

The National Library of France (<https://www.bnf.fr/fr/agenda/imprimer-leurope-de-gutenberg>)

## WLIC '23: IFLA ARL Call for Papers: “From Gutenberg to ChatGPT!”

- From Gutenberg to ChatGPT: Will AI Change the Mission of Academic and Research Libraries?" 2023 Hot Topics Call for Proposals -



Photo. IFLA Trend Report Update 2022

IFLA's Academic and Research Libraries Section sought proposals for its in-person open session at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2023 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. See: <https://www.ifla.org/units/academic-and-research-libraries/>

From Gutenberg to Google, libraries have constantly evolved to advance and respond to society's needs. Yet, their fundamental purpose has remained the same: to provide equitable access to trustworthy, authoritative knowledge. However, libraries have not remained untouched by the technological changes and advancements in their environment. Instead, they have often leveraged technological changes of their time to advance their mission. The evolution of libraries has always been linked with the technological developments in their environment. Currently, the introduction of

artificially intelligent software, for example, ChatGPT is transforming many knowledge-based interactions and has been a major force driving change with implications in many different sectors.

With these new forms of human machine knowledge, how do libraries lead and how do we steward that technology to advance research integrity and learning? With increased automation and reliance on different technologies affecting all levels of staff throughout the library, how will AI shape the world of libraries to align staff and their skills to this new and evolving landscape? Will AI totally change our way of life? Is the introduction of AI posing challenges or providing opportunities for libraries?

The Hot Topic session will have up to three speakers to respond to these many questions, introduce the AI development and various perspectives of the use of AI software including the impacts to the higher education sector and the library profession. Librarians from different global regions will be invited to share their thoughts and experiences using AI application in their libraries.

**Proposals for any relevant topics will be considered e.g.**

- ▶ Ethics of AI
- ▶ Opportunities/Challenges/Limitations of AI
- ▶ Case studies of AI in Libraries

Each presentation will be an ignite talk of 8–10 minutes each followed by small round table discussions on the topics led by the presenters. Audience participation will be essential to learn and understand the importance of academic and research libraries' roles in this work.

Please submit a proposal before or by Friday, April 28, 2023 to Lorraine j Haricombe at [ljharic@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:ljharic@austin.utexas.edu). Use subject line: **2023 Hot Topics Proposal**.

**Proposals must be for original presentations not published or presented elsewhere.**

**Please submit your proposal in electronic format with the following information:**

- ▶ Title of the proposed presentation

- ▶ Abstract of the proposed presentation (150–200 words)
- ▶ Names of presenter(s), position(s) and/or title(s)
- ▶ Employer or affiliated institution
- ▶ Contact information including email address and telephone number
- ▶ Brief biographical statement (no more than 100 words)
- ▶ Note if you can attend WLIC in Rotterdam.

**Please note:**

Presenters need to register for IFLA and be onsite in Rotterdam, however; this year IFLA decided to allow at least 1/3 of a session to use pre-recorded video presentations. Please submit a proposal whether or not you are able to attend IFLA in-person in Rotterdam. All expenses, including registration for the conference, travel, accommodation etc., are the responsibility of the authors/presenters. No financial support can be provided by IFLA, but a special invitation letter can be issued to authors.

(Source)

<https://www.ifla.org/news/a-call-for-radical-hope-ifla-trend-report-update-2022/>

## ALA 2023 Annual Conference & Exhibition Preliminary Program showcases education programs, exhibitors, and other conference highlights



CHICAGO – The American Library Association (ALA) has launched the Preliminary Program, listing agenda items that will take place at the ALA 2023 Annual Conference & Exhibition in Chicago, June 22–27, 2023. Prospective and registered attendees can view President & Chair programs, ticketed events, exhibitors and the Library Marketplace floor plan, and 175+ education programs covering a range of content areas. Featured speakers, Governance meetings, and News You Can Use sessions will be added soon.

Registration for the conference is open and early rates are available through March 31, 2023. And group registrations are available for libraries, schools, and associations looking to send their staff, students, and faculty as a team.

Get updates from the 2023 Annual Conference & Exhibition and follow #ALAAC23 and social media at ALA Twitter, ALA Conferences Twitter, ALA Facebook, and Instagram.

## About the American Library Association

The American Library Association (ALA) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit [ala.org](http://ala.org).

(Source)

<https://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2023/03/ala-2023-annual-conference-exhibition-preliminary-program-showcases-education>

## International News

**The Korean Culture and Information Service launches a tour of 15 cities around the world with superb exhibitions and performances related to Korean culture, including the Hangeul Experiment Project**



▲ Beginning with the debut of the Hangeul Experiment Project on April 4 in Warsaw, Poland, the Korean Culture and Information Service (KOCIS) of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism embarked on a tour of 15 cities around the world with five exhibitions and performance events spotlighting Korean culture. This program will continue until March next year. The photo above is a snapshot of the Mukhyang (the scent of ink) dance performance presented by the National Theater of Korea.

This world tour consists of two exhibitions and three performances that are designed to show the fundamental beauty of Korean culture: the Hangeul Experiment Project and Korea's Colored Paintings (exhibitions), and Mukhyang, Double Bill, and K-Maestro (performances).

The tour that began in Poland with the Hangeul Experiment Project co-hosted by the National Hangeul Museum and the Korean Cultural Center in Poland will include a total of 15 cities in 14 countries, including Germany, Austria, and the United States.

The National Hangeul Museum has successfully organized the Hangeul Experiment

Project exhibition four times since 2016. This exhibition aimed to promote the value of Hangeul showcases over 30 works of Hangeul design that reinterpret the alphabet as artistic and industrial content in the form of graphic design, furniture, replicated relics, and media art using the creative principle and formative characteristics of Hangeul as themes.

The Korean Cultural Center in Poland hosted the opening ceremony for the Hangeul Experiment Project on April 4. The exhibition will continue until May 31, 2023.

This tour is the first of its kind launched by KOCIS as part of its efforts to support Korean Cultural Centers around the world.

“In response to the growing need for opportunities to experience Korean culture, KOCIS will work to expand opportunities for people worldwide to experience quality Korean culture and art programs.” said Kim Nana, Director of the KOCIS Global Culture Promotion Division.

For more information on the Hangeul Experiment Project, please visit the Korean Cultural Center website.

(Source)

<https://www.kocis.go.kr/koreanet/view.do?seq=1044446&page=1&pageSize=10&photoPageSize=6&totalCount=0&searchType=null&searchText=&RN=&cateCode=>

## Library of Congress Digitization Strategy: 2023–2027

The Library of Congress has a new Digitization Strategy for its collections. As we did for the Library’s Digital Collections Strategy, we are excited to share this overview of it with readers of The Signal blog. We get a lot of questions about what we digitize and why, and hopefully this provides a little bit of insight into our institutional plans and priorities.



The Library has expanded the amount and throughput of our digitization efforts dramatically over the past three decades. In 2020 we finished digitizing the last of our presidential papers – all of the personal papers of the presidents from George Washington to Calvin Coolidge are now available to anyone with an internet connection. In 2021, we opened a new Digital Scan Center, which significantly increased digital image production capabilities and postproduction processes. So far, we have digitized more than nine million items in our collections, with particular strengths in newspaper issues, manuscripts, and pictorial materials.

Over the next five years, the Library will expand, optimize, and centralize its collections digitization program to significantly expand access to users across the country to rare, distinctive, and unique collection materials which can be made

openly available online and use digitization as a core method for preservation reformatting of rights restricted collection materials. Below are the five guiding strategic objectives for this work.

## Strategic Objectives

**1. Transition from one-off project-based digitization toward the systematic digitization of rare, distinctive, or unique materials in the Library's collections that can be made openly available online:** Over the last two decades the Library has scaled up capacity to support major digitization projects using a targeted project-based approach, with priorities established according to a variety of factors. Evolving user expectations necessitate a more systematic approach that prioritizes material that can be made openly available online and that is not already available online from other institutions.

**2. Systematically deploy digitization as a core method for preservation and collection management workflows:** Over the last five years, the Library has made significant progress in transitioning preservation reformatting from the production of print facsimiles or microfilm to digitization. This shift not only meets current preservation requirements, but it also supports enhanced onsite or offsite access. Going forward, the Library will use digital systems for reformatting, and will integrate digital delivery into collections management processes.

**3. Enhance the reach of library programs, exhibitions, events, and special initiatives by establishing a rapid-response focused and targeted projects digitization program in support of priority initiatives:** A wide range of Library programs, events, and special initiatives draw on and offer opportunities to deepen engagement with the Library's collections. Enhancing processes and capacity to support a range of rapid-response digitization projects will support these efforts.

**4. Review and improve the operational effectiveness, organizational structure, governance and prioritization processes for digitization efforts in support of the increasingly central role of digitization for access and preservation:** As digitization has become an increasingly important technology for access to and preservation

of Library of Congress collections, a wide range of organizational units have developed capacity to support this work on a large scale. It is critical to further mature digitization into core areas of the overall collections program. This includes but is not limited to clarifying roles for prioritizing specific digitization initiatives, and affirming requirements for technical standards.

**5. Implement end-to-end tracking and reporting on the status of digitization of collection items:** The Library has for many years measured digitization efforts in terms of total counts of master files produced. This is a useful metric, but it does not align with other methods for counting Library collection items. Further, tracking total counts of master files produced does not necessarily mean that those images have been fully processed and been successfully made available to Library users. Over the next five years, the Library will implement methods and approaches to fully track digitization of collection materials from the beginning of projects to the point where they have been successfully made available to users.

(Source)

<https://blogs.loc.gov/thesignal/2023/02/library-of-congress-digitization-strategy-2023-2027/>

<https://librarian.nl.go.kr/LI/contents/L30303000000.do?schOpt5=continent&schM=view&page=1&viewCount=9&id=45354&schBdcode=&schGroupCode=>

## The British Library's International Library Leaders Programme



Photo 1. British Library(Source: British Library Webpage)

### **An intensive five-day leadership course for library and archive professionals**

#### **About the programme**

An incredible opportunity to join an intimate group of international library professionals and go behind the scenes at our iconic institution, meet our experts and learn from their experiences of dealing with the challenges facing libraries today.

During this intensive week-long programme you will:

- ▶ attend a session on information literacy with our Chief Librarian, Liz Jolly
- ▶ discover how our expert curators use library collections to engage with researchers and broader audiences
- ▶ learn how we design and manage digitisation projects
- ▶ find out how we care for our physical and digital collections
- ▶ visit our storage facilities in Boston Spa, Yorkshire

► meet peers from around the world to share and discuss key issues in contemporary collection management through a series of workshops, case study reviews and focus groups.

[Download our 2023 brochure.](#)

### Who is the programme for?

Working library professionals, aspiring leaders and mid-career managers with a minimum of three years' relevant experience in a library, archive or cultural institution. We welcome delegates from anywhere in the world.

Hear what previous delegates had to say about the programme.

### Where and when

The programme runs from 12 – 19 July 2023. Sessions take place at the British Library in London every day except 14 July, when delegates travel to our site in Boston Spa, Yorkshire. Delegates can also opt-in to visit other cultural institutions across the weekend of 15 – 16 July.

### Support and guidance

#### Entry requirements

We seek applicants from a wide range of roles across libraries and archives worldwide. We are looking for professionals who are keen to gain an insight into how a national library functions. You'll be taken behind-the-scenes and see the huge breadth and variety of operations that take place each day to maintain a public facing library, open to everyone. Applicants are encouraged to exchange knowledge with their peers around the future of libraries and those with a collaborative outlook will benefit most from this programme.

#### Fees

The programme fee for 2023 is £1,990 per person. This covers all course materials, refreshments and lunch during the programme, and return transport to the Library's Boston Spa site. The fee does not include travel costs to and from the UK, accommodation costs or any other expenses. Once your place has been confirmed

by email and an invoice issued, we ask that payment is made within 30 days to guarantee your place.

### **How to apply**

You can apply online for the 2023 International Library Leaders Programme, or you can download and complete the application form (PDF) and email it to [international@bl.uk](mailto:international@bl.uk) with the subject line 'ILLP 2023 Application'.

The deadline for applications is **12.00 GMT on Monday 27 February 2023**. Successful applicants will be notified by Friday 24 March 2023.

If you have questions about the programme or application process please contact us at [international@bl.uk](mailto:international@bl.uk).

### **Useful information**

Our priority is the safety of our visitors and staff. We're following UK Government COVID-19 guidance and monitor changes to this advice regularly. Should anything change from current guidelines, we may include safety measures such as social distancing or revise our course instruction methods to reduce the risk of virus transmission. Please see our 2023 brochure for more information in the event of cancellation due to regulations.

Please read the background information (PDF) and terms and conditions (PDF) documents and indicate that you have read and agreed to these when submitting your application.

(Source)

<https://www.bl.uk/projects/ILLP>

<https://librarian.nl.go.kr/LI/contents/L30303000000.do?schopt5=continent&schM=view&page=3&viewCount=9&id=44971&schBdcode=&schGroupCode=>