The Soul of Korea

The National Library of Korea
A window into the future of Korea

The National Library of Korea serves as a treasure chest of literature, a storehouse of immense knowledge, and a dynamo for innovation.
HISTORY

The triumphs and tragedies of Korea are mirrored in the history of the Library. As long as Korea continues to make history, so will our library.

Oct 15, 1945 Opening of the National Library (Sogong-dong, Jung-gu, Seoul)
Oct 28, 1963 Enactment of the Library Law. Library is renamed the National Library of Korea
Mar 26, 1965 Implementation of Legal Deposit
May 28, 1988 Opening of a new main building (Banpo-dong, Seocho-gu, Seoul)
Aug 30, 2000 Construction of the “Deposit & Conservation Building”
Apr 06, 2006 Opening of the National Library for Children & Young Adults
(Yeoksam-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul)
May 22, 2007 Opening of the Korea Research Institute for Library and Information, and the National Library Support Center for the Disabled
Nov 25, 2008 Establishment of IFLA PAC Korea Center
May 25, 2009 Opening of the National Digital Library
Sep 2009 Subordinate legislation of the Library Act is revised
(Enforcement ordinance: Sep.21/Enforcement regulations: Sep.23).
Jan 26, 2010 "Notification on types and forms of collected digital materials" is published in the official journal.
Feb 12, 2010 Task Force Team for the Bibliographic Information Center is established.
Apr 17, 2012 Bibliographic Control Division is created.
National treasures, treasures and 7.6 million items

The Library is at the forefront of efforts to create a sanctuary safeguarding our intellectual and cultural heritage for generations to come.
The aim of the National Library of Korea (NLK) is to collect and hold two copies of all documents published in Korea and at least one copy of Korea related documents published out of Korea.

General collections
The size of the collection is over 7.6 million items as of 2010, which has been increased about 500,000 items yearly. The collection consists of all different subjects in various genres and formats.

Special collections
It is such a valuable fact that the National Library of Korea has special collections of over 1,600 rare books (5,300 volumes).
As part of the general collection, there are about 270,000 old books, which were published before 1910. The noticeable items among the old books are: the fifteen cultural properties of the National Treasures of Korea, the general treasures, and the ancient literature works which is designated as the tangible cultural properties by the Seoul City. There are also 895 valuable ancient works of literature (3,355 volumes) which are designated by the NLK under its regulations of the Treatment of Valuable
Resources. Some of them are: Heo Jun’s *Donguibogam* (published in 1613, and the UNESCO Memory of the World Register), *Seokbosangjeol* (published in 1449, written in old Hangul). Far beyond this, the Library has the largest collection of genealogical records (about 35,000 volumes) in Korea.

**Legal deposit collection**

Since 1965, the Library has been practiced to collect two copies (one for preservation and the other for public use) of every publication of Korea according to the Article no. 20 of the Library Act. On-line access to the Library’s catalogue has been available since 2004 for the currently received materials.

In 2009, the NLK expanded the scope of its acquisitions and began to request materials in digital file format to be converted into targeted resources for the disabled. In addition, the Library formed an internal ‘Library Resources Committee’ to deliberate on major issues concerning the selection of library resources, their types and forms, and appropriate compensation.

**Personal collection**

As part of the effort to ensure a more comprehensive collection, the Library has been engaged in a nation-wide book donation campaign, and organized personal collections in the name of the donors.

**International exchanges and deposit materials collection**

The Library has been exchanging materials internationally. Currently, 298 libraries in 99 countries are sending their materials to the National Library of Korea. 58 libraries in 22 countries are receiving resources from us. The Library also receives materials from 18 international organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International labor Organization (ILO) as a depository library.

**Documents on Korea**

The Library has been collecting photoprint edition of the Korea related materials published in the period of the modern and the contemporary periods. Specially, the materials related Korea have been shipped from the United States’ Government public documents and the United States’ National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) since 2004, and contributed to the research on the dynamics of the Korea and its relations with the neighbors during the period. Now, it is a database of over 1.2 million digital files, which anyone can access to via the Library’s OPAC.
Valuing innovation and efficiency

As part of its ceaseless efforts at perfection, the Library continues to improve the efficiency of its literature and information resources.
Catalogue and Bibliographies

Korean collection can be discovered by the collection’s catalogue. The cataloguing is processed on the basis of the international standards and on specific operations for each type of medium. Domestic publications are assigned classification numbers in both Korean Decimal Classification (KDC) and the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). The DDC is applied to Western publications and the KDC to Asian publications (i.e. Chinese and Japanese books), non-book materials, and antique books. Regarding cataloguing rules, the Korean Cataloguing Rules (KCR4) which is based on ISBD (International Standard Bibliographic Description) are applied to Korean and Oriental publications and non-book materials, and the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules II (AACR2) to Western publications.

Korean Cataloguing In Publication (CIP) Program

The NLK administers the CIP program in Korea, under which Korean language publications submit, just prior to publication, bibliographic information that is essential for the summary processing of books.

Union Catalogue

KOLIS-NET is a collaborative library cataloguing network which has merged the full resources held by public libraries nationwide into a union catalogue of national resources for all public libraries (www.nl.go.kr/kolisnet).

KORCIS (Korean Old and Rare Collection Information System) is union catalogue which is contained catalogues, annotations, and full texts of old and rare Korean books and documents from 90 participant institutions (www.nl.go.kr/korcis).

Bibliographies

The bibliographic information compiled based on these rules is published as The Korean National Bibliography, a cumulative bibliography released annually in DVD format. The scope of the national bibliography includes the entirety of materials deposited in the NLK since 1945, the university library union catalogue data of the Korea Education and Research Information Service (KERIS), the Korean public library catalogue data from the Korean Library Information System Network (KOLIS-NET), the union catalogue of the Korea Special Library Association (KSLA), and the catalogue
data of registered materials from the database of the Book Trade Promotion Center. The full bibliographic records on the DVD can be retrieved in both the Korean Standard (KS) character code and UTF-8 Unicode.

In addition, the annotated bibliographies of the manuscripts, rare books and foreign old books since 1971. Catalogue on old books in Korean temples (1971) and Books on Korea published before 1950 (1997) also published. Since 2007, the translation of Korean rare books in the Library collection has been conducted.

**Standardization**

**Establishment of databases**

The National Library of Korea has different databases, such as the National Union Catalogue, the Union Catalogue for the visually impaired, the table of contents of materials published in Korea, the indexes, the abstracts, and the articles of journals, the full texts of primary resources, and the full texts of the resources for the blinds.

**Establishment of RFID-applied management information system**

In 2006, the NLK established a management information system (MIS) utilizing radio-frequency identification technology (RFID), which maximizes the efficiency of library workers and services.

**Standardization of Knowledge Information Processing**

In order to facilitate the standardization of bibliographical information, NLK established Korean Machine Readable Cataloguing (KORMARC) as a Korean Standard (KS) library cataloguing tool and has been distributing it through its website (www.nl.go.kr/kormarc). As a secretariat institution of Korea of ISO/TC46 (Information and Documentation), the Library oversees arrangement of committee meetings and the recommendations of committee members, distribution of international standard documents, proposals of domestic opinions, and the recommendation of delegations to attend international meetings.

**Distribution of library resource management software**

In 2000, the NLK developed the Korean Library Automation System II (KOLAS II) for public library data processing. It is one facet of the effort to unite the national resources held by public libraries and establish a standardized system.

In 2007, the Library upgraded KOLAS II to KOLAS III to better support old Korean and multiple languages, utilize resources in Unicode, and cope with the international exchange of varied digital resources and bibliographic information. It distributed the upgraded software to public libraries and the administrative resource offices of...
governmental institutions. In addition, it developed the Korean Library Automation System-Small (KOLASYS), resource management software with key functions that enable small-scale libraries to more efficiently manage their information resources.

**ISBN and ISSN**

The Korea Standard Number Center of the NLK has assigned international standard publication numbers (i.e., ISBN and ISSN) to the full range of books and periodicals and created databases of bibliographic information to better provide related services.

- **International Standard Book Number (ISBN)**
  
  After establishing the Korea Standard Number Center in 1990, the NLK officially joined the International ISBN Agency in 1990 and began to assign a Korean ISBN to domestic publications, including electronic versions such as e-books and digital content. As for ISBN metadata, the Library began building a database in March 1993, compiling over 950,000 items by the end of April 2010. It provides this information in real time on the homepage of the Korea Standard Number Center.

- **International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)**
  
  The NLK has been operating the ISSN Korea Centre since 1991. As of the end of April 2010, nearly 14,000 serials published in Korea had been assigned ISSNs, the information related to which along with the publishers is provided in real time on the homepage of the Korea Standard Number Center at the NLK. Meanwhile, to keep pace with the recent shifts in information dissemination and access, an increasing number of online publications (i.e., webzines and electronic journals) are being assigned an ISSN.
Our first priority is people.

Every service and program at the Library is based on the needs of users.
Services in General

Public service
The National Library of Korea permits admission to individuals aged sixteen or older and operates from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (6 to 10 p.m. for the nighttime library). The Library is closed on the second and fourth Mondays of every month as well as on national holidays. Resource rooms are divided into two types: the Main Circulation Desk, operating on a closed-stack basis, and topical resource rooms operating chiefly on an open-stack basis. Through the Main Circulation Desk, users are able to borrow materials published before 2005 after applying through PCs; they must access these materials within the Library. Within the topical resource rooms, the Information Service Room serves as a comprehensive information center with a main purpose of providing reference counseling. This room also maintains a nighttime library open until 10 p.m. for those unable to access library services in the daytime by providing book reservation services via the Internet.

‘Ask a Librarian’ and ‘Chaek-bada’ services
The NLK provides an online Collaborative Digital Reference Service (CDRS) system entitled ‘Ask a Librarian.’ In 2006, the Library conducted case studies and research and began developing the system. It was pilot-tested at seventeen local public libraries in May of that year. In 2009, the Library started to distribute the system to public libraries nationwide, and it reached to a total of 326 member libraries as of April 2010.

‘Chaek-bada,’ which means ‘sea of books’ or ‘receive books,’ is a library resource exchange service system linking libraries across the country. In a bid to ensure the
convenience of users and augment the limited collections at individual libraries, the NLK embraced developing the system in 2007 and launched it in April 2008. As of May 2010, the service linked a total of 492 member libraries (392 public libraries and 100 university libraries) and had provided help to roughly five thousand library users.

**Digital Library Service**

**Opening of Digital Library (Dibrary)**

The NLK established and organically linked itself to a digital library (Dibrary, the brand name of the digital library) so as to better meet the need for new types of library services rising from the advent of digital publications, the growth in online information resources, and the development of the media industry.

The Dibrary was constructed over seven years from 2002 to 2008 and launched with a proprietary online portal in May 2009. Boasting a total floor area of 38,014m² (three floors above ground level, five floors below), the building was constructed out of glass walls and grass roof. It not only serves as a physical Information Commons but also provides virtual integrated search services through its online portal www.dlibrary.net. Moreover, the Dibrary Portal offers over 116 million discrete items of digital content spanning academic, public, private, and foreign information through links with other institutions, including the full-text database of 390,000 volumes of the NLK.

Furnishing high-quality knowledge and information services through its portal, the Dibrary is a novel model of a library which makes for digital information resources accessible to anyone, anytime. It will play a central role in enhancing the national ability to access information.

**The National Digital Library (www.dlibrary.co.kr)**

The National Digital Library offers catalogues of resource collections and their full
texts compiled from nine institutions: The National Assembly Library, the Supreme Court Library of Korea, the Science Library of the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), the Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information, the Korea Education and Research Information Service (KERIS), the Agricultural Science Library of the Rural Development Administration, the Korea Knowledge Portal, and the National Defense Digital Library. Each institution provides its digitized collection catalogues and their full texts to the National Digital Library system to facilitate one-stop services and lay the practical groundwork for an initial home resource-room environment.

**Acquisition, preservation, and servicing of online digital resources**

The NLK has assumed the responsibility to acquire and archive valuable online digital resources at the national level and preserve them for future generations. Collected online resources are managed through the Digital Resource Management System...
(DRMS) and offered through the Library Portal. In an effort to uncover and preserve worthwhile web content in an environment of volatile online resources, the LNK has pursued the Online Archiving and Searching Internet Sources (OASIS) Project since 2004, amassing 51,477 items as of May 2010. In addition, with the amendment of the Library and Reading Promotion Law in 2009 to lay a legal foundation, the Library has begun to collect electronic books and magazines with a view to expanding its acquisition scope to video, image, and musical data in the latter half of the year.

**Services for the Disabled**

In May 2007, the NLK founded the National Library Support Center for the Disabled (hereafter ‘Center’) to narrow the information divide suffered by the physically challenged, develop human resources through lifelong learning, and promoting overall welfare. The establishment of the Center served as a turning point in the central government’s systematic focus on library services for the physically challenged.

The main business of the Center includes: formulating standards and guidelines for library services for the disabled; streamlining library service systems and relevant laws; producing and publishing targeted materials; exchanging and collaborating on specialized library services with partner institutions; and offering service training and developing experts on services for the disabled.

On November 23, 2009, the Center announced a comprehensive measure named ‘Plans to Advanced Library Services for the Disabled,’ and declared the year 2010 to be the initial year of this effort at aggressively pushing ahead with an assortment of library service projects for the disabled.

As its primary task, the Center produces and distributes approximately two thousand alternative materials for the visually impaired and the hearing impaired. In addition, it has formed the ‘Committee on the Production of Alternative Materials’ and applied the
two-dimensional barcode (Voice-Eye) system to all publications produced by the Center. This document recognition system converts printed materials into sound for the disabled. In January 2010, the Center launched the ‘Korea DAISY (Digital Accessible Information SYstem) Consortium (KDC)’ in partnership with twenty-one libraries and institutions, including the Korean Braille Library, to promote an international standard for digital talking-book services.

Next, the Center is widening the distribution of assistive technology equipment for the disabled in public libraries and expanding support for cultural programs. It is freely circulating the ‘Korea Library Automation System in Able (KOLASIA),’ which makes possible the integrated search and management of alternative resources held by public libraries, Braille libraries, and schools for the blind. In April 2009, the Center opened a reading room for the disabled equipped with various assistive technology and has since been providing customized services for the disabled by type of
disability. In 2010, it launched a ‘library service hotline for the disabled,’ providing free book delivery services, though only on a limited scale.

Finally, as part of an effort to promote social responsibility and participation in library services by the disabled, the Center is running ‘sorichaek nanumteo,’ to encourage publishers and authors to donate original digital files of their publications. It is also implementing a voucher system to support the disabled with 50 percent of their phone fees to assuage their financial burden.

In the future, the Center will proceed more aggressively with library services for the disabled to significantly improve their unfettered access to knowledge and information.

**Services for Children and Young Adults**

Since its foundation on June 2006, the National Library for Children and Young Adults (NLCY) has spearheaded its efforts to realize a mission of becoming ‘a library to prepare children and young adults for their future,’ and has set five goals: laying a groundwork for the development of services for children and young adults; development and distribution of reading-promotion programs for that group; strengthening the expertise and capabilities of children’s librarians; assisting the study of children’s materials and the strategic development of book collections; and serving as a model library for children and young adults.
In order to lay the foundation for better services for children and young adults, the NLCY conducts research on the current status of libraries for children and young adults across the country and prepares and distributes manuals and guidelines for improved services to public libraries. The NLCY holds the ‘National Contest of Reading Newspapers and Book Reviews for Children and Young Adults’ to stimulate young people’s interest and curiosity about reading and provides support for the effective management of the ‘Reading Class’ at public libraries during summer and winter vacations. The ‘Library Adventure by Bookworms Aged 13 to 18’ program was developed to help young adults grow interested in reading. The NLCY develops and distributes reading lists for young adults by gathering titles recommended by participating teens and operates a website (http://cafe.naver.com/1318bookworm) where visitors can share their valuable reading-related information and take part in reading discussions. The NLCY operates the ‘Reading Books Together with the Library’ project to reach out to underprivileged children, such as those from orphanages and community child centers and provides the ‘Multicultural Storytelling Content’ service which is available in six languages for multicultural families. It also runs the ‘Book Bundle Circulation’ project for elementary schools with less than 200 students on islands or remote areas to lend out a bundle of children’s books.

The NLCY maintains a continuing education program to strengthen professionalism of children’s librarians. The education courses cover subjects such as ‘Planning Children’s Programs’ and ‘Communicating with Children’. Cyber courses are developed to provide more educational opportunities to children’s librarians nationwide. A total of nine in-person courses and cyber courses are operated ten times a year. Additionally, the NLCY runs a variety of workshops and seminars and holds the annual International Symposium.

The NLCY focuses on providing information resources for researchers and sharing information by systematically collecting knowledge and information resources in the field of children and young adults published both home and abroad. It also holds seminars on various topics and publishes e-partner, a monthly webzine for researchers of children’s materials.

The NLCY has run quality reading and cultural programs which satisfy the needs of young people so it encourages them to visit libraries more and read more. It also has played a major role in helping young people develop lifelong reading habits. The NLCY boasts of the Children’s Collection, Foreign Language Children’s Collection, Multimedia Room, Stacks, Young Adults’ Collection and Research Materials Room which were created by taking into account needs of users and characteristics of collections. Users can take advantage of a wealth of resources including Korean materials, foreign materials and serials. In 2010, an average of 305 users visits the NLCY per day.
Harmony between science and passion

The Library is always thinking about the next generation. It is our sacred obligation to preserve literature and information and cultural insights for future generations.
The National Library of Korea is tasked with preserving its collections as safely and scientifically as possible since they are a cultural heritage to be passed down to future generations. The Library collects two copies of all national materials via the legal deposit system. One is retained for public, while the other is permanently preserved in the Deposit Building. This building is equipped with facilities for preservation, such as the Deposit Room for storing deposited materials and the Conservation Lab for specialized conservation treatments, along with the Microfilm, Fumigation, and Deacidification Rooms.

Furthermore, in 2008, the IFLA Preservation & Conservation Korea Center was installed to cooperate in international efforts at preserving resources and educating the public about the preservation of domestic materials by advancing awareness.
Complex cultural space

The Library is a complex cultural space where domestic and international cooperation, education, research and cultural activities work together in harmony.
Collaboration efforts at home and abroad

Domestic cooperation
Since 2008, the NLK has undertaken an annual project eliciting cooperation from libraries in the sharing of resources and services in order to mutually benefit library users and participating libraries. From 2008 to 2009, a total of nearly 260 libraries took part in the project, indicating a great success. Meanwhile, in 2010 the Library has concentrated its efforts on assisting with collaborative work for the disabled, senior citizens, and residents working in the agricultural, forestry, and fishery sectors, expecting a significant rise in user satisfaction and accessibility to library services among those currently lacking opportunities to obtain knowledge and information.

International cooperation
- Cooperation with international library organizations
As a member of IFLA, the NLK has actively participated in the Word Library and Information Congress (WLIC) to enhance mutual cooperation and accelerate the exchange of information with international libraries. In addition, representatives of the Library routinely attend the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) and the Conference of Directors of National Libraries of Asia and Oceania (CDNL-AO).
- Professional exchange programs with overseas national libraries

Since 1997, the NLK has conducted professional exchange programs with the National Library of China and the National Diet Library, and recently extended its vision to launch exchange programs with the Russian States Library and the National Library of Tunisia, raising the total number of partner libraries to four. Every second or fourth year, a delegation from the Library pays a visit to one of the other parties to attend seminars on areas of mutual interest and to exchange professional experience and information.

- Strengthening exchange agreements with overseas libraries

The NLK has inked exchange agreements with overseas national libraries to heighten its development through mutual cooperation in publication and personnel exchange programs. Expanding the scope of these exchanges, the Library has signed exchange agreements with a total of fifteen national libraries in thirteen countries, including the National Diet Library, the National Library of China, the Library of Congress, the British Library, the National Library of South Africa, and the National Library and Archives of Egypt.

- Cultural Partnership Initiative Program (CPI Program)

The CPI Program offers Korean-language courses and on-the-job training in library management technique to librarians from university, national, and public libraries in Asian, African, and South American countries. This program aims to nurture international librarians with a positive view of Korea and to promote a friendly image of the country through cultural and information exchanges. From 2006 to 2009, sixteen librarians from eleven countries participated in the program.

- Window on Korea: Korea collections in foreign libraries

Since 2007, the NLK has established Korea collections entitled “Window on Korea” in foreign libraries. The “Window on Korea” project offers Korea-related materials in a variety of topics and formats to foreigners interested in Korea.

Librarian training, exhibitions, and other cultural activities

The NLK offers an array of job training courses to reinforce the fundamental skills of the librarians who will lead a knowledge-based society. The Library carried out the first librarian training program in 1983. Today, 1,800 librarians receive training every year. The librarian training program is targeted at the roughly 18,000 librarians working at different types of libraries nationwide. The educational courses are divided into dual areas: basic courses for library officials and professional courses centering on work practices. The courses provide education
on the theory of basic library management, including library administration, services related to library use, and library materials management, along with information services training for coping with the evolution of library information technology. In order to forge a lifelong learning system which uses online education to overcome the constraints of time and space, the Library has developed courseware for the classes. In addition, all courses are structured to meet the needs of individual librarians and their workplaces in consideration of the fact that they include public librarians, librarians at university and special libraries, employees of private libraries, or teaching librarians running school libraries. The courses are themed around practical subjects applicable to librarians in their jobs, and utilize a variety of educational methods including hands-on practice, experiential teaching, discussions, and problem-solving techniques. In order to maximize the effectiveness of the education, each course contains a period for individual librarians to actively share their knowledge and experience with others.

The NLK is furnished with state-of-the-art educational equipment and facilities, including two lecture rooms for professional librarian education, eight discussion rooms, two computer labs, a first-aid room, and a cafeteria. The Library maintains a database of outstanding instructors to secure top-notch instruction.

Moreover, the NLK fulfills a social function for library visitors by sponsoring diverse cultural events such as special exhibitions, concerts, and humanities programs. Exhibitions and concerts are free, while the “Humanities on the road” program requires a small fee. In 2010, the Library will host four special exhibitions, including
Research Activities and Library Publications

In May 2007, the NLK founded a national institute titled the Korea Research Institute for Library and Information (KRILI) within its precincts for the purpose of developing, surveying, and researching policies to advance library and information science (LIS) in the country. The KRILI concentrates on seeking out practical and immediate real-world alternatives through activities such as acquiring, annotating, and surveying rare books and documents; managing and preserving national materials in a scientific manner; developing and distributing handbooks and guidelines for the advancement of library services; and undertaking collaborations with library institutions at home and abroad.

In 2008, the Library carried out four policy studies, including an investigation on a basic framework for the development of national collections. It also pushed for two studies, including a study on operating hours for public libraries, in close collaboration with the Committee on Public Library Services. Moreover, it published twenty issues of a webzine that features international trends in library circles and in the field of library and information science and played a leading role in the development of the domestic library community.

Meanwhile, as its major publications, the NLK issued The Annual Report of the National Library of Korea, Doseogwan (meaning ‘Library’), Doseogwangye (meaning ‘Library World’), and Library Stories.

The Annual Report of the National Library of Korea is a chronicle of the Library’s recent undertakings and their results. It is intended to be used to evaluate the Library’s policy promotion activities and performance, serving as a historical record and fundamental resource for the improvement of future working processes and the development of the Library.

Doseogwan is an academic journal featuring research papers on theory and practice in the field of LIS which contributes to the development of theory in the field and thus of the overall library community.

Doseogwangye is a comprehensive newsletter that influences library and reading culture and disseminates information about libraries at home and abroad, along with cataloguing the latest trends.

Library Stories is a newsletter intended to promote featured major policies and activities of the National Library for Children and Young Adults. It provides the latest information about libraries for children and young adults at home and abroad in order to facilitate the development of children’s services and cooperation between libraries.
### Organization Chart

**Chief Executive**
- Planning & Training Department
  - General Affairs Division
  - Planning & Coordination Division
  - Library Training & Culture Division
  - International Cooperation and Public Relations Team

**Library Service Department**
- Acquisition & Technical Processing Division
- Public Service Division
- Serials & Government Publications Division

**Digital Library Department**
- Digital Library Planning Division
- Digital Library Service Division
- Information Technology Team

**National Library for Children and Young Adults**
- General Support Division
- Planning & Cooperation Division
- Public Service Division

**Korea Research Institute for Library and Information**

**The National Library Support Center for the Disabled**

### Statistics

#### Growth of Holdings (unit: volume)

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#### Number of Users

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#### Annual Budget (unit: million won)

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