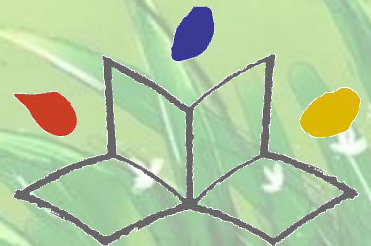


Korean Strategy for Library Development & Reading Promotion for Children and Young Adults

Sook Hyeun Lee

Director
Library Services Department
National Library of Korea



THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

Introduction

- One of the poorest countries by early 1960s
- Transformed to a donor country
- Achieved democratization and industrialization together with economic success

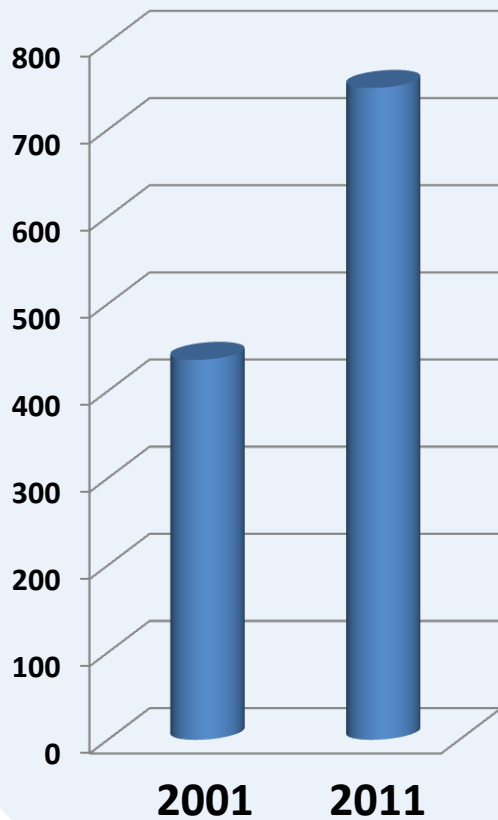
Background of Reading Movement

- Korean people's strong drive for education
- Change in college entrance examination which values reading
- Growing calls for children's services from the public
 - Nationwide movement like Miracle Library Project
 - Government's efforts to promote the public and school library system

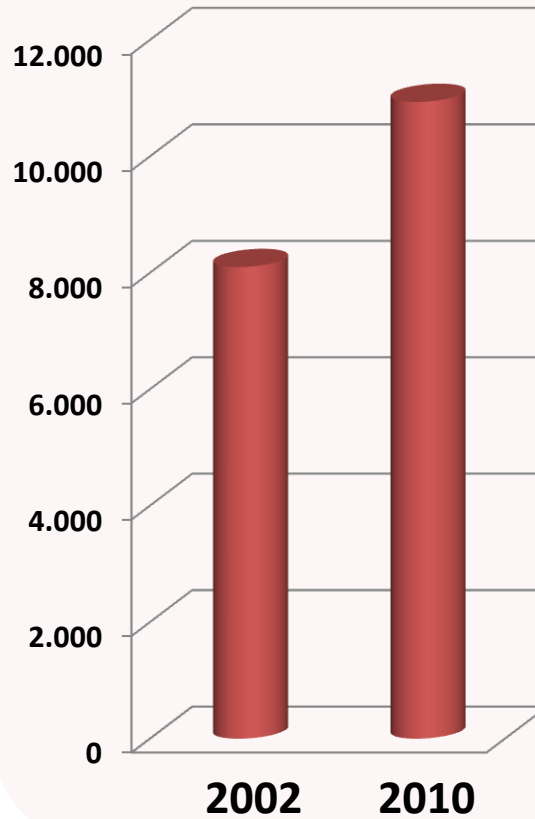
Improvement of Library Infrastructure

The number of libraries

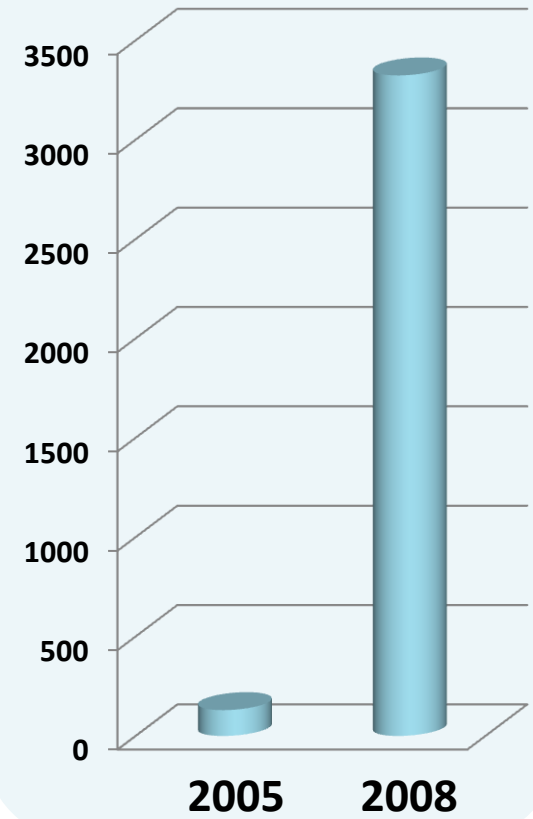
Public libraries



School libraries



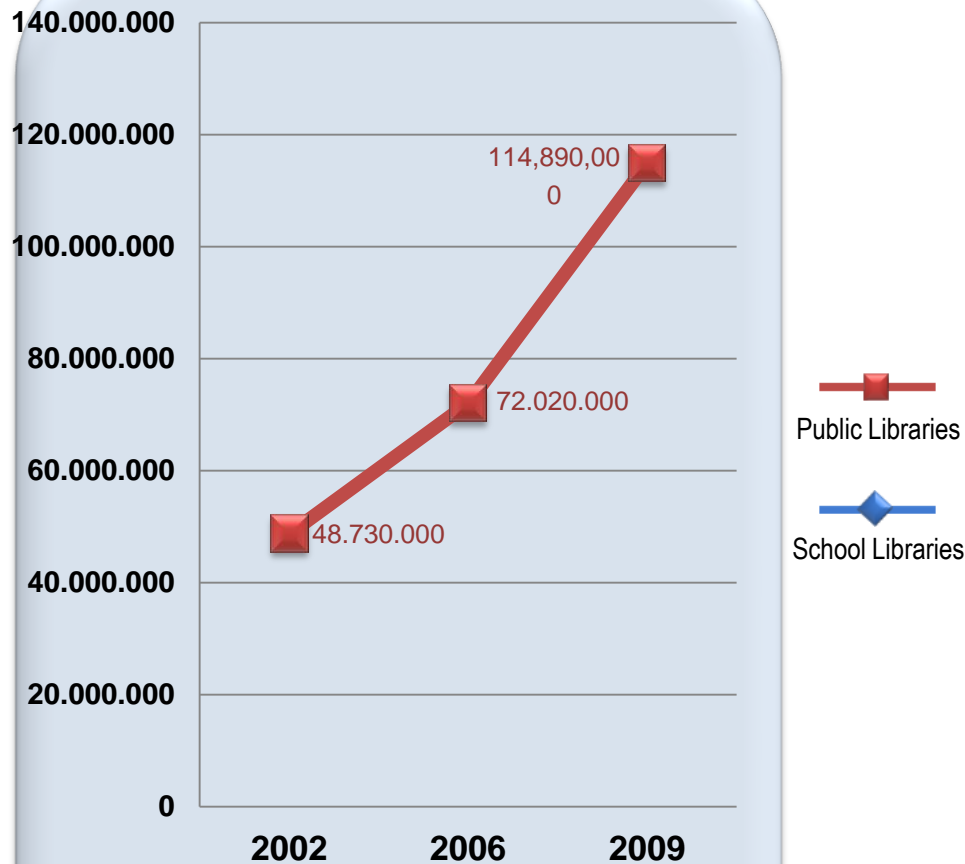
Small libraries



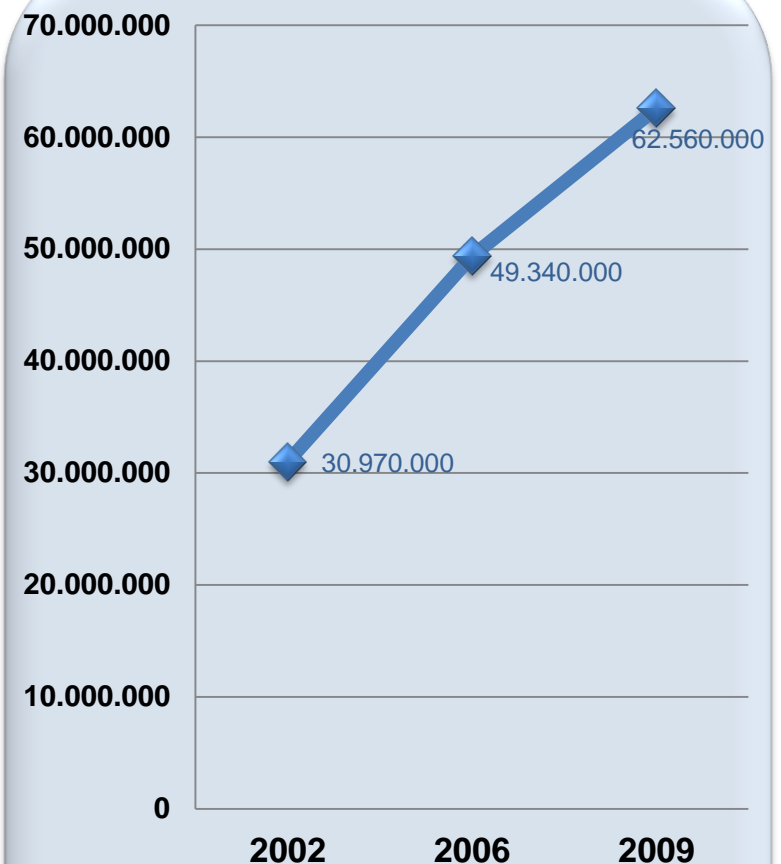
Improvement of Library Infrastructure

The number of collections at public and school libraries

The number of collections

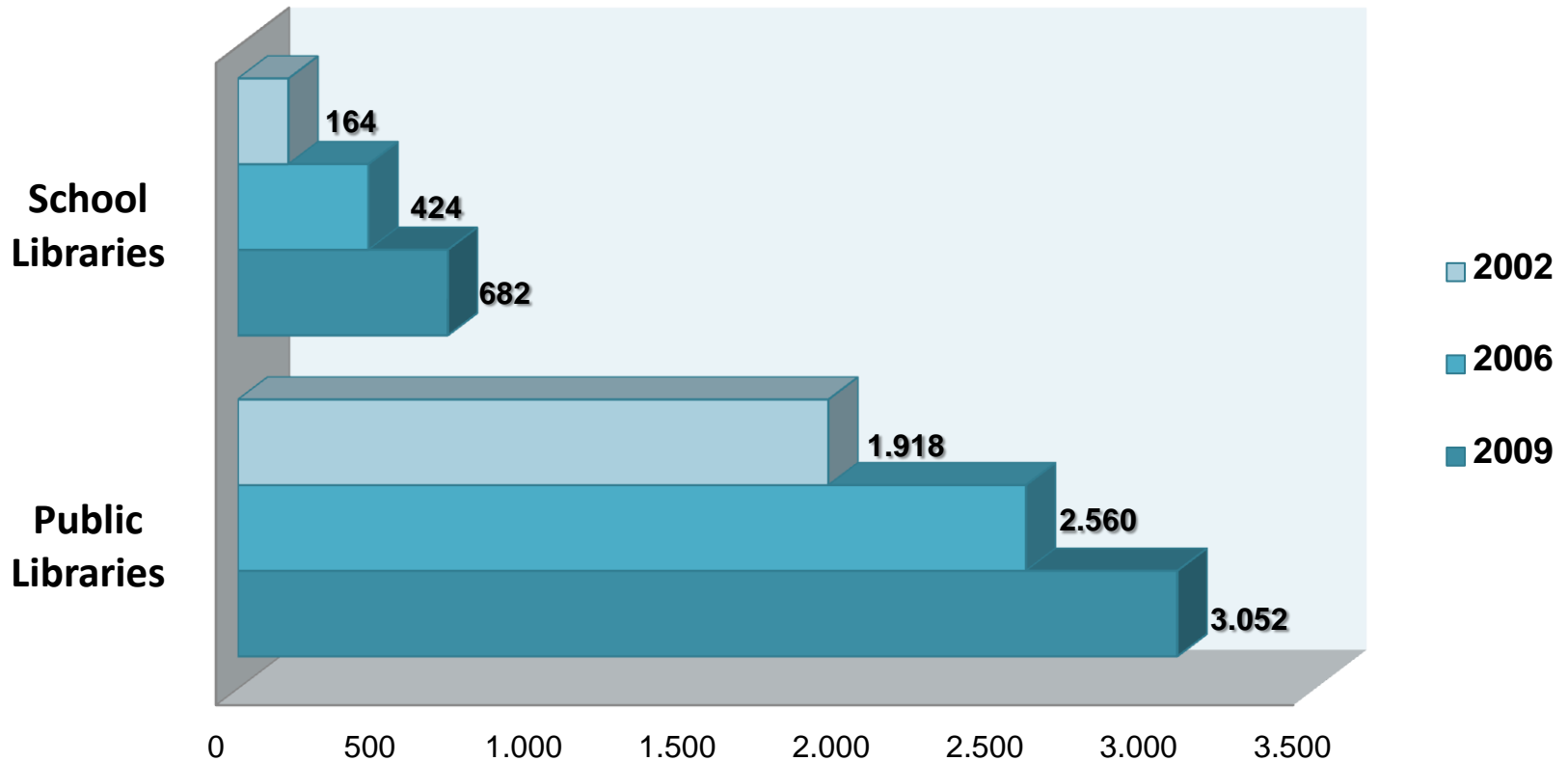


The number of collections



Improvement of Library Infrastructure

The number of librarians at public and school libraries



Foundation of the National Library for Children and Young Adults

- Despite remarkable library development led by central and local governments, quality aspects should be improved
- The NLK realized that libraries should be equipped with professional librarians, quality collection development and excellent reading programs
- In 2006, the NLCY was opened by the NLK to improve children's services by showing leadership to public librarians who serve children

Continuing Education Program for Children's Librarians

- Children and young adults account for over 50 percent of all public library services
- College provides a few courses related to children's services
- The program reflects librarians' demands and survey results
- Courses are designed around key areas like children's books, reading promotion programs and communication skills with children

Continuing Education Program for Children's Librarians

The NLCY Developed 9 training courses for children's librarians

- Understanding Children's Books
- Programming for Children
- Understanding Children's Literature
- In-depth Reading of Picture Books
- Communicating with Children
- Fundamentals of Children's Services
- Reading Counseling for Children
- Reading Together
- Children's Book Review

Continuing Education Program for Children's Librarians

- The classroom training was replaced with online courses
 - Provide more educational opportunities to children's librarians
- Offer short-term practical workshops to make up for the weaknesses of e-learning courses
- Participating librarians feel proud of their job as a children's librarian

Continuing Education Program for Children's Librarians

Types of Continuing Education Program



Classroom course



E-learning course

Continuing Education Program for Children's Librarians

Types of Continuing Education Program



Workshop

National Library Reading Promotion Efforts

Reading Books with the Library

- Promote reading among underprivileged children in partnership with public libraries nationwide
- Encourage them to develop reading habits and use the library
- Ultimate goal is to break the vicious circle of poverty



(Post-reading activities)

National Library Reading Promotion Efforts

The program results in many positive changes

- Children gradually enjoy the program and show interest in reading
- They enjoy school life
- They become more optimistic and improve social skills
- Librarians take more pride in their job and rethink the value of reading



National Library Reading Promotion Efforts

Comments from participating children

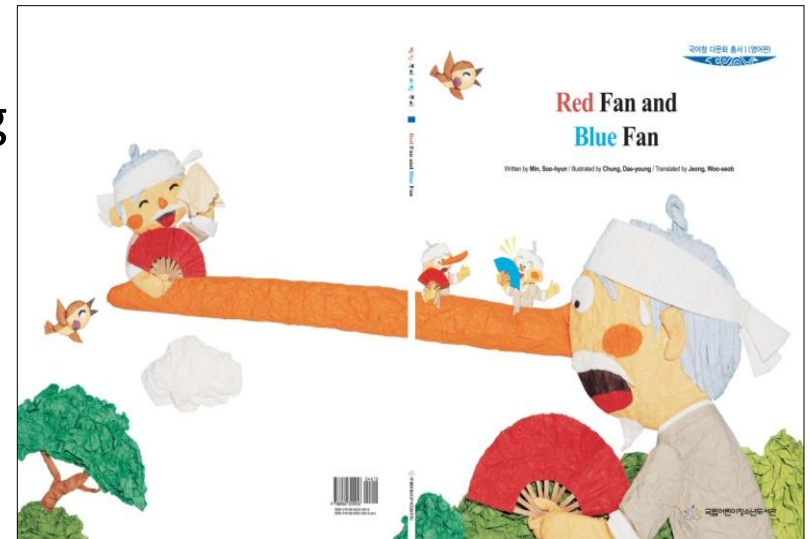
*“When I first heard the reading therapy, I thought it was stupid because I was not sick. When I asked “why do I need to take reading therapy?” the librarian told me, “It is good for broadening your horizon and it stimulates your mind”. We read together and did some fun activities. I did not like the class activities when we first started. “
The reading instructor was very patient with me so my interest in reading has slowly grown. Now I find myself very interested in reading and feel like I have more self-esteem. Before I was afraid to read aloud in class but now I enjoy reading aloud and school”.*



National Library Reading Promotion Efforts

Reading Content for Multicultural Families

- Korea becomes a multicultural society due to foreign migrant workers and international marriages
- Children born to foreign mother struggle in their speech and language development
- The NLCY creates the storytelling content in five languages partnering with the Uni. Of Wisconsin
- Public libraries and cultural centers utilize the storytelling DVDs and books for multicultural families



(An example of a multilingual book)

National Library Reading Promotion Efforts

Library Adventure by bookworms aged 13 to 18

- Teenagers find it hard to spend time on reading due to study and homework
- Teenage bookworms play a leading role in creating a recommended reading list based on their reading experience
- They recommend books which interest their peers
- School librarians and teachers provide customized reading counseling by referring to the list
- More students visit school libraries



Reading List Poster



Public and School Libraries

- Public and school libraries play a leading role in promoting reading for children and young adults
- Public libraries focus on school subject related reading programs to improve children's academic performances through reading
- At a national level, the majority of schools introduce the '10 minute morning reading' program

Results

- Library visits by elementary and secondary students soared 12.6% to 65.1% year on year
- Children and young adults' reading rate recorded the highest level
- Contributing factors:
 - Establishment of more libraries nationwide
 - Morning reading program
 - Provision of diverse collection and better library services

Conclusion

- The government should make efforts to build more libraries
- Professional librarians and quality collection should be readily available.
- Parents and teachers should create a desirable reading environment.
- We can raise children as our nation's future at a library



Thank You