

18th AUNILO Meeting: “Co-Creating the Future of Libraries: Empowering Academic Librarians for Innovation and Impact”

COUNTRY REPORT CAMBODIA



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Introduction

Esteemed colleagues and members of AUNILO, it is my honor to present this report on the state of university libraries in Cambodia. As an important component of the higher education landscape in the country, university libraries have made significant progress in recent years, despite facing various challenges. This report aims to provide a detailed overview of the current status, developments, and initiatives within the university library sector in Cambodia.

Overview of University Libraries

- Cambodia's higher education system has experienced remarkable growth, with a notable increase in the number of universities and colleges throughout the country.
- University libraries serve as vital knowledge hubs for students, faculty, and researchers, playing a pivotal role in supporting academic endeavors and promoting intellectual growth.
- These libraries offer access to a diverse range of academic resources, both physical and digital, including books, journals, research papers, theses, and electronic databases.
- Additionally, university libraries often collaborate with academic departments to ensure that their collections align with the evolving needs and research interests of the university community.



Digitalization and E-Resources

- In response to the growing need for digital access to academic materials, many university libraries in Cambodia have embraced the process of digitalization.
- Digitalization involves the conversion of physical resources, such as books, journals, and historical documents, into digital formats. This transition allows for easier storage, retrieval, and dissemination of information.
- One of the significant advantages of digitalization is the ability to create and offer electronic resources (e-resources) and online databases to library patrons.
- Through the implementation of e-resources, university libraries have significantly expanded access to a vast array of academic content, breaking down barriers of physical distance and increasing convenience for students and researchers.
- Students and faculty can now access e-books, e-journals, research articles, and multimedia resources from any location with internet connectivity.
- Despite these benefits, challenges related to copyright, licensing agreements, and funding for digital initiatives need to be addressed to maximize the potential of e-resources in Cambodia's university libraries.



Challenges and Solutions

•Funding Constraints:

- Limited funding remains a significant challenge for university libraries in Cambodia.
- Advocacy efforts should be made to secure more financial support from the government, donors, and other stakeholders.
- Collaborative fundraising initiatives between universities and library networks can help augment available resources.

•Language Barrier:

- While English is widely used in higher education, there is a need to offer resources in Khmer and other local languages to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for all students.
- Translation efforts and partnerships with publishers can help expand the availability of academic materials in local languages.
- Libraries can also offer language learning resources to support students in their academic pursuits.



Contributions to Higher Education

Supporting Research: University libraries in Cambodia play a vital role in supporting academic research. By providing access to a wide range of scholarly resources, including academic journals, databases, and research papers.

Enhancing Academic Excellence: As knowledge hubs, university libraries enhance the academic experience of students and faculty alike.

Knowledge Dissemination: University libraries act as hubs for knowledge dissemination, promoting the sharing of ideas and insights. They host academic events, workshops, and seminars that facilitate the exchange of knowledge among scholars, researchers, and students.



Conclusion

- Cambodia's university libraries have made commendable progress in recent years, emerging as vital pillars of the country's higher education system.
- Despite facing challenges such as funding constraints and infrastructure limitations, these libraries have continued to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of students, faculty, and researchers.

