LE THANH HUYEN

VIETNAM LIBRARY
IN FRENCH COLONIAL TIME

Specialty: Information - Library Science
ID number: 62 32 02 03

THESIS SUMMARY

HANOI - 2014
The thesis is completed at:

Hanoi University of Culture
Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Instructor:
1. Asso. Prof. - Ph.D Tran Thi Minh Nguyet
2. Ph.D Vu Thi Minh Huong

Examiner 1: Ph.D Chu Ngoc Lam
Hanoi Library

Examiner 2: Asso. Prof. - Ph.D Tran Thi Quy
University of Social Sciences and Humanities - Vietnam National University-Hanoi

Examiner 3: Ph.D Nguyen The Duc
National Library of Vietnam

The thesis is defended at the jury of the university-level Assessment Committee, meeting at:

Hanoi University of Culture
N° 418 La Thanh Street, Dong Da District, Hanoi
At………………2014.

This thesis is available at:
- National Library of Vietnam;
- Information - Library Center, Hanoi University of Culture.
INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale

The French colonial time is a complicated historical period of Vietnam. With the ruling policy of division for domination, the French colonialists divided Vietnam into three regions with different ruling regimes which resulted in social, cultural differences and economic structural changes among the regions. The complicated historical context has a strong impact on the development of Vietnam's library. Libraries become tools of governance apparatus, colonial exploitation and the tool to impose the French cultural influence throughout Indochina.

There have been many studies with profound researches into economic, commercial, cultural, social aspects. However, no works in depth has been made in studies of the organization and operation of Vietnam's library during the French colonial time, basing on the consideration of all aspects of history and culture. That's why I choose the subject "Vietnam Library in French colonial time" as a doctoral thesis.

2. Purposes and assignments for the studies

- Purposes

To research into the organization and operation of Vietnam's library during the French colonial time; to evaluate the role of Vietnam libraries in that era of Vietnamese history in particular, and the national evolution of ethnic culture in general.

- Research assignments

  - Identify the historical, economic, socio-cultural, and educational factors which exert the impacts on the formation and development of the library in French colonial time;
  - Research into the organization and operation of Vietnam's library network during the French colonial time;
  - Analyze and evaluate the Vietnam’s libraries during the French colonial time as reviewed in the overall history of Vietnam Library;
  - Assess the role of libraries during the French colonial time in the process of cultural development in Vietnam.
3. **Scope and Object of studies**

The selected objects of studies are library related organization and operation of the library network in Vietnam, established by the French colonial government and operated during the period from 1858 to 1945.

4. **Methodology**

The thesis uses the methodology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, and in the viewpoints of the Communist Party and Government on the practices in culture and library.

Besides general methods, specific methods such as history study, logical thinking, statistics, analysis, synthesis, comparison and systematization are also used in this doctoral thesis.

5. **The theoretical and practical meaning of the thesis**

- In terms of theory, the thesis codifies and perfects the rationale for the organization and operation of the library; it also contributes into the elucidation of the influence of historical factors, cultural and social movements to develop Vietnam's library during the French colonial time.

- In terms of practicality, the thesis elucidates the organization and operation of the library in French colonial time; makes references for researchers, learners in the areas of the library in particular and the study of culture and education of Vietnam in general.

6. **Overview of studies**

To address the objectives of the thesis, the author uses the following data sources:

- Documents and research on the Vietnamese history, culture, economics during the French colonial time; documents relating to the organization and operation of Vietnam's library network in French colonial time.

- Survey on libraries, archives centers which were built in that period about the organization and library holdings structure, materials, products and information services, patron's service... through the documents stored in libraries and archived in Vietnam and abroad.
Materials used in the thesis are mainly collected from the field surveys in:

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam:
- Center for the National Archives I (Department of State Archives);
- National Library of Vietnam;
- Academy of Social Sciences;
- French School of the Far East (École française d'Extrême-Orient).

The French Republic:
- Overseas Archive Centre in Aix en Provence;
- French School of the Far East and the National Library in Paris;
- Lyon Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- Marseille Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

6.1. Documents related to the historical context of French colonial time

There have been many significant studies on Vietnam historical context in French colonial time. In general, the authors agree that the causes for the French invasive war in 1858 were found in the period of crisis and a severe decline of the Nguyễn dynasty; with the induction of the Christian missionaries, trades, Western ideas and cultures.

Vietnamese economy under the French colonial time was assessed as the economy with the aim of serving the Mother nation's economy, thus it was unbalanced, crippled and dependent on economic influences, the politics of France. The Vietnamese Societies were extremely complicated. The Social status of Vietnamese was limited with injustice, loss of freedom. The class polarization occurred with clarity. The newly born classes from a capital-based economy such as the capitalist bourgeois class grew rapidly in urban areas.

Westernization trends in Vietnam began in the mid-17th century with the influence of culture and religion from the West with a strong impact on the culture of Vietnam in general and the activities of the Vietnam library in particular during the French colonial time, such as the induction of Christianity, the birth of the Latin character script; the policy on culture promulgated by the French, the induction of French cultures, the birth of journalism, innovation of education and the formation of the Western intellectual elite schools.
6.2. Documents on Vietnam's library in French colonial time

The study on the formation and development of Vietnam's library networks during the French colonial time retains some typical works of the Vietnamese and French authors. Overall, Vietnam's library during this time was evaluated with new developments on the organization and operation of the library as to compare with the feudal period. However, possibly due to lack of historical sources, the assessment of library activities during this period are incomplete, the description of the processing operations as well as bibliography is very generalized, analysis on the usage policy and training of Vietnamese human resources for library were very sketchy. In addition to the studies above, the mass of materials formed during the operation of the Archives Department and Library of Indochina was an important source of information for the research on library in French colonial time.

However, possibly due to the lack of reference documents, the researches on Vietnam libraries in French colonial time have not analyzed, nor assessed on the strengths and weaknesses of the library's activities during this period. In particular, no studies yet has been found to clarify the impact of Vietnam's library during the French colonial time to progression in the history of libraries in particular and Vietnam culture in general, as well as the lessons learned from the organization and operation of the library period for the development of present Vietnam's library.

7. Structure of the thesis

Besides the Introduction, Conclusion, Preferences, Appendices, the thesis is structured into three chapters:

Chapter 1. Background on the library and Vietnamese historical context in the French colonial time

Chapter 2. Actual status of Vietnam libraries in the French colonial time

Chapter 1. BACKGROUND ON THE LIBRARY AND VIETNAMESE HISTORICAL CONTEXT IN THE FRENCH COLONIAL TIME

1.1. The background of library

To assess the organization and operation of Vietnam's library in the French colonial time, the thesis studies some concepts of library and librarians and recognizes universally that library is the place for literary stockpiling and use of the materials to meet the demands of readers in the community. The thesis to some expansion highlights the concept of public libraries, specialized sector libraries, university libraries, universal libraries (mass libraries), the national central library, provincial central library. The thesis focuses on the structure of the library with elements such as the library holdings, patron, human resources as librarians and library facilities. Thereby, one can see that the library usually has four basic roles for the society: in those of culture, education, information and entertainment.

Next, it is to learn, to evaluate the cause of library, the thesis examines two aspects of the organization and operation of the library in relation to their mutual interactions as an entire complete social establishment. The library cause now (organization and its activities) is influenced by many objective factors (political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological factors, the general trends of the times, ecological environment) and subjective factors (human, management and facilities).

To assess the cause of library, this thesis is based on multiple criteria. Regarding the institution, criteria can be used, such as the relevance of library network structure, structure of each library; library mechanism for effective network operation; the compatibility of human resources and facilities. The efficient library operations are considered at the level of meeting the requirements of society, and the library's mission.
1.2. Historical context of Vietnam libraries in the French colonial time

The French colonial time is a period of turbulent history. Colonial policy of the French colonialists created the complexity of Vietnam society in the fields of politics, economy, society, culture and education.

1.2.1. Historical context of Vietnam libraries in the French colonial time

Political features

After the French occupied the entire territory, Vietnam shifted from centralized monarchy, headed by the feudal Nguyen dynasty, to colonial semi-feudal. The French set up an unnamed political institution to separate the system into political sub-systems and various institutions in Vietnam.

Economic features

Vietnam's economy is under the French colonial economy, influenced by the economic, political context of France. However, Vietnam's economy was still agriculture-based economy with backwardness, industrial weakness, and imbalance. The colonial exploitations that France conducted at different periods with various intensity and different areas were also to serve with the recovery and development of France's economy.

Social features

The colonial policy, political institutions, the establishment of the capitalist economy exerted profound class polarization: the landlord became increasingly rich, tightly colluded with the colonialists; the peasantry became increasingly impoverished, the working class was born and growing; the bourgeois class came into being and showed its rapid growth in urban areas. The social status of Vietnamese is limited. All the rights and freedom of our people were deprived.

Cultural features

The Westernization trend in Vietnam began in the mid-17th century under the influence of culture and religion of the West, such as the induction of Catholicism, the birth of the Latin character script,
the cultural policy of French colonialism, the introduction of French culture, the advent of the press, of education innovation and the creation of new intellectual elite. This was a period when policies on culture and education were expanded with the Vietnam's library networks expansion, notably represented by the birth of the Central Library of Indochina. However, the pro-culture policy was a part of the colonization policies to serve the purposes of the French colonial rulers in culture.

1.2.2. Overview of the formation and development of Vietnam's library in the French colonial time

The political, economic, cultural conditions in Vietnam during the French colonial time influenced the decision on the formation and development of library networks in Vietnam. Period 1858-1917, the French focused on setting up the governing and administrative apparatus in Indochina. In this period, the operation of the library and the archives were not yet concerned. The colonial government funding for this area was very limited. The first libraries were established for the administrative bureaucracy but no effectiveness had been reported.

After the establishment of the Archive Department and Library of Indochina (November 29, 1917), Vietnam's library had a large and fundamental change. From 1917 to 1945, the colonial government adopted a series of technical standards for advanced library profession into the new libraries. Besides serving the apparatus of French’s colonial ruling in Indochina, Vietnam libraries have major changes in the organization and operation and became a center of knowledge and culture of Indochina.

Summary of Chapter 1

The library cause includes organizing and operating the libraries in terms of macro and micro levels. Organization and operation of libraries have a dialectical relationship which creates sustainable development of the library. The library cause is evaluated through a number of basic criteria for the organization and operation of the library on the basis of the principle of non-profit educational organizations and the library functions for the society. The library is a cultural institution showing the qualification of the nation and
classes, affected by various objective factors (political, economic, cultural, social) and subjective factors (of human, management and facilities).

The library career was influenced by political, economic, social and cultural factors in the French colonial time. The birth and development of the Vietnam's library under the French rule can be divided into two periods: Period 1 is from 1858 to November 1917 (the milestones for the birth of the Archives and Library Department in Indochina), and the other period is from November 1917 until 1945.

Chapter 2. ACTUAL STATUS OF VIETNAM LIBRARIES IN THE FRENCH COLONIAL TIME

2.1. Vietnam's library during period 1858-1917

2.1.1. Organization of library

Objective of the library institution

The objective of library institution in this period was to serve the purposes of colonial occupation.

Structure of the library network

Network of libraries during that period was though not wide in size, but also had formed in two major types: public libraries (provincial public library), a specialized library.

Facilities and budgets

The libraries operated within the allocated funding by agencies, organizations and locality in charge. With the funding from agencies and organizations the library was established; the library building construction as well as the equipment and facilities for the library at this period was not much a proper concern.

Library human resources

Library staff were not of professional level. The training of librarians were hardly concerned. The staffing was based on absolutely no technical skills, insufficient and unstable in number.
2.1.2. Library operation

Building up and developing the library holdings

The materials as capital in library’s document this time were few in number and poor in type and variety. The materials acquisition sources mainly came from domestic and foreign collectors, without policies for addition and supplement of materials acquisition ranger in specific areas for each type of libraries, because there was no governing agency authorized for the operation of the library network.

Document processing

Although France is a leading country in the field of libraries in Europe, but at this period, active libraries and archives in Indochina was not a priotised concern, the handling and processing of materials in the library in Vietnam in this period was performed under a controlling uniformed rules.

Arrangement and conservation of documents

Most of the libraries did not have its own warehouse to store for conservation of documents. The documents were not arranged and/or conserved logically, many valuable documents were lost or left in poor physical condition.

Library products

The library products in this period had formed into two basic categories: Catalogue and bibliography. This activity had laid the foundation for the library products in the next periods. The libraries at this period organized mainly two types of catalogs: alphabetical catalogue of author’s name and classification catalogue. The Bibliography was taken concern by the French authors in Indochina for compilation. The bibliographies compiled during this period did not show the due attention to the technical and professional requirements but they made a success in the collection of documents in Indochina for the studies.

Regarding the contents, the materials entries into bibliography are documents relating to general issues, history, geography, customs and languages of the countries in Indochina; French – Chinese
conflict, the journeys and researches of the missionaries in Indochina. Regarding the method, the bibliographies compiled during this period had not conformed to the unified form or methods of compilation because the authors focused more on collecting the documents than entries into the bibliographies. It is found that the quadratic form also appeared (directory of bibliographies).

**Services for reader**

The libraries of this period were mainly applying two forms of service: on-spot reading and lending books (to be read at home). Serving the on-spot reading is usually provided in the form of a small reading room in the administrative office and the public library, while the library size was not large, no clear operational rules were applied. The operation of the library reading rooms and lending office were not strictly regulated, without statistical records concerning the number of views, number of library visits, rounds of circulated books and newspapers.

**2.2. Library of Vietnam in the period 1917-1945**

**2.2.1. Organizing the library**

In this period there were obvious changes from management, organizational networks to physical facilities, human resources and budget. The library was operating and developing the model of the modern library.

**Objective of the library institution**

With the desire to build Indochina into a true colony, the French built in its colony many buildings of cultural institutions, libraries to serve the intellectual elite - the contingent with an important role in the colonial exploitation. The Archive Department and Indochina Library were launched in November 1917, as one of the agencies to be established to realize this political purposes.

**Structure of the library network**

In France, during that time, the libraries were divided into different types: the National Library, provincial libraries, popular libraries, university libraries and specialized libraries. Library network in Indochina was applied in the French model of two major
categories: public libraries and specialized libraries concentrating in 3 regions (Northern, Central and Southern region) of Vietnam. However, documentation of these libraries of the time is very restricted.

**Facilities and budgets**

After the establishment of the Archives Department and Indochina Library, the facilities and the library's budgets were much more concerned by the colonial government than they had been in the previous period.

The construction of warehouses and facilities to store the materials for the archives and library were also affected by the situation of the French economy. From 1917 until 1945, plans to build a headquarters of Archive – Library were not implemented due to the economic hardship and the war. Library budget for this period though increased steadily by each year, the allocation of funds for facilities and activities of the library were not well worth.

**Human power for library**

**Personnel structure and recruitment policy**

Human power for libraries in this period had experienced major changes in nature and in number over the previous period. The personnel structure for the archive and library was divided into two grades and ranks of staff: for the French, the Europeans and for the natives. The staff of the archives, libraries of Indochina were directly employed or transferred from other institutions. Human resource as natives were employed in small quantities and under very strict conditions.

**Use of human power**

The policy for the use of human resources in general and the human power for library in particular during this period was influenced by policy of subjugation of the colonial administration. Native manpower was mainly responsible for the low class jobs, with the wages subjected to the regime of discrimination administered by the colonial government. However, the policy for the use of human
resources was performed on ranking, which had the advantage of establishment of clear criteria for position-based system.

The promotion was mainly carried out through selection. The highest ranked position was reserved for European and the French staff. No native staff was appointed to the position of the highest ranked leaders.

Remuneration

The remuneration for librarians was set up with important distinction between the Europeans, the French and the natives, demonstrated by various levels of wages, allowances and disciplines.

Training of human resources for library

The training programs and recruitment examinations for library's positions in this period show great advantages in developing the human resources in the libraries. Training of human resources for library was performed in two modes: Training quota (at the National School of Epigraphic) and on-site training. The indigenous people had little opportunity to be trained in France as hindered by restricted financial affordability. The training program focused on practical skills to help staff with the methods of working as they would do in the Mother country.

2.2.2. Library Operation

2.2.2.1. Building up and development of library holdings

Structure of library holdings

As dominated by colonial policies, the replenishment of library materials during this period was unbalanced. Literature books occupied the highest rate (nearly 50% of the books, the Central Library of Indochina). Each year, the additional rates were equivalent for various fields, which manifested, as evidence, the purposes of the colonial government in its cultural influence, stimulation of demands for recreation and entertainment, without concern of the science and technology development.

Methods for replenishment
The library holdings were replenished by means of payment and non-payment (including donations, administrative replenishment, and exchange). The Central Library of Indochina had an additional method for replenishment which was the deposit.

Being supplemented and replenished through various methods, the libraries in the French colonial time had developed their library holdings, which were relatively large, typically as found in Central Library of Indochina, Saigon Library and the Library of the French School of the Far East.

Up to 1943, the library holdings of the Central Library of Indochina reached 108,921 copies, the Saigon Library had 47,259 copies, the Central Library had 4,156 copies. The EFEO Library (École Française d'Extrême-Orient) was the library with relatively large library holdings. Within 50 years this library had developed over 85,000 books and nearly 35,000 documents of various types. Some other libraries also had increased their library holdings such as Oceanography Library - Nha Trang (8,000), the Library of the Indochina University in Hanoi (14,000), Hanoi Pharmaceutical Medical University Library - (5,000).

**Supplementary funding**

The supplementary addition of books, publication for public libraries in Indochina was funded from the expenses for maintenance, renovations and new facilities. Each year, in addition to regular funding for the replenishment of documents, the libraries also spent the available funds for the new purchases, as well as library holdings maintenance, repairs and restoration of materials.

2.2.2.2. **Handling the library material documentation**

The Library Material documentation had been defined by the Archive Department and Library of Indochina with consistent rules ranging from document processing, cataloging to descriptive classification of documents.

*The procedure of document handling*: Books entries into libraries were handled in accordance with the manual handling, strictly monitored to ensure no overlapping of the operational steps (specified in the Manual for Library Organization in Indochina).
Registration of documents include the following logbooks: Individual Registration, Subscription, Lending.

The descriptive cataloging was handled in compliance with the Manual for Library Organization in Indochina with adjusted modification to suit the features of publishing and political regimes in Indochina and Vietnam. Since the early 20th century, libraries in Indochina applied rules in document cataloging like the French cataloging rules. Unified rules for bibliographic description had contributed to building up the scientific means of searching, to facilitate the document retrieval quickly and efficiently.

Classification of documents

The libraries in this period adopted the Universal Decimal Classification to classify documents. For the first time, libraries’ documents in Vietnam were classified in compliance with a classification of relatively scientific and detailed chart (using 10 digits from 0 to 9 to represent the equivalent basic fields).

2.2.2.3. Organizing and conserving the documents

Document organization

Classifying and organizing documents was specified as it had been in the libraries of France and other developed Western countries during this period. The Library organized the library holdings system in 2 ways: by subject and by author (in the storage for borrowing) and by size (in storage for reading).

Document conservation

Document repository was built in conformation with the French styled architecture for archiving, adapting into the tropical climate in Vietnam. The storehouses were built solidly of reinforced concrete, with thick walls, to ensure good thermal insulation. The architecture of storehouses always gave a priority to ensure natural ventilation.

The stocktaking

The inventory, the sanitation of storehouses and measures for conservation were subjected to the French methods, directly performed by native library staff.
**Hygiene for books and storehouses**

Hygiene is one of the concerns in treasures conservation. The procedures and processes for keeping the hygienic condition for storehouses were mandatory for libraries in the network. The Central Library of Indochina applied this rule seriously. Hygiene treasure the staff responsible for native libraries under the technical process.

**Insect Prevention and Repellents**

The insect prevention as the highest priority is to keep the storehouse, bookshelves well ventilated, well-lit and maintained in a state of cleanliness. For the first time Vietnam libraries used repellents as chemical measures to prevent insects.

**2.2.2.4. Library products**

With the advances in profession, the libraries in the period already had built up library products which could help readers find documents quickly and efficiently. The library products represented in this period included: catalogs and bibliography.

**Catalog**

The cataloging system at libraries in Indochina in general and Vietnam in particular was organized in the same way as is was done in libraries in Europe and France, including the Central Library of Indochina as a template library. There were two types of catalogs to be organized: alphabetical catalog and thematic catalog. These catalogs were arranged in alphabetical order of author names or book titles, and theme names.

**Bibliography**

To serve the study of colonial exploitation, the libraries in Indochina, typically the Central Library of Indochina and Library of EFEO compiled various types of bibliographies to control the resources including the following valuable bibliography: General French Bibliography, Indochina Bibliography, and some other bibliographies such as Geographical Bibliography, Periodicals Bibliography and New books notification Bibliography.
2.2.2.5. Patron service

**Library reader**

The reader of service in the library were discriminated between Europeans and Asians. Europeans were served with limits of age, while the Asian readers were served under many restricted criteria (favoring those people who were in the education sector and government agencies, and journalists).

**Type of service**

In this period, the libraries adopted two type of service, mainly for on-site readers and lending. Besides, there were two new and progressive type of service which were meant for children and itinerant service (travelling library).

**Exhibition of document**

With the aim to promote the image of France to the world, to introduce the cultures of Indochina and Vietnam, the colonial government also organized exhibitions of documents with trade fairs or exhibitions to realize the purposes of promotion of domestic and foreign trades. This is a new propagation activity of the library. The majority of the exhibitions of documents were organized and hosted by the Archive Department and Library of Indochina.

2.3. Evaluation of actual status of Vietnam libraries in the French colonial time

2.3.1. Organization of libraries

**Advantages**

It is possible to state that since the entire occupation of Indochina and during the process of exploitation and domination, the French took concerns in the establishment and development of libraries and they had made certain achievements. The library network was initially established and gradually strengthened in term of management. The libraries were established separately in the administrative and research offices, then the library network had gradually been formed. The Archive Department and Library of Indochina established by the colonial authorities for the purpose of
governance in the country and throughout Indochina in the field of library marked the turning point of the Vietnam's library in the French colonial time. A library network was established under the French model: public libraries and specialized libraries. These libraries have played an important role in the patron service to access culture and modern education.

**Limitations and causes**

Being established by the colonial administration and influenced by colonial policy, the organization of libraries revealed certain limitations. The library networks was still mainly concentrated in large urban areas to serve the colonial exploitation, thus it was unbalanced among regions. The use and training of library personnel were not much properly concerned. The important positions in the library were occupied by the French persons, so the Vietnamese people did not have the opportunity to access the library technology and library management. The training of indigenous manpower had not been performed in time, and it just stopped at vocational training.

**2.3.2. Library Operation**

**Advantages**

The capital building of library holdings to serve scientific research was, among others, the colonial government's top concern. The library holdings in libraries had been organized according to the model of the French library from handling techniques, arrangement in the reading room, lending room, organization of storehouses to create favorable conditions for readers in finding and using the books. The conservation for long-term use was particularly concerned by the application of advanced methods of conservation. To meet the needs of readers, the libraries used diverse service type: on-spot reading, lending, section for children. In addition, the library had organized the itinerant service, which was applicable in remote areas and to serve the needs of readers in jail. Regarding the appealing attraction, readers were provided with the friendly feeling to use libraries, readers were guided to reading with efficiency, as well as the habit of new information acquisition (unprecedented in the old libraries in the feudal period). The number of readers
increased every year especially in 1940, and 1941 which reflected the influence of the library in the spiritual life of people and growing demand for information in the public.

**Limitations and causes**

One of the most fundamental limitations of library operation during this period was the library disproportionate library holdings, which aimed at making the people primarily access to French and Western literature towards full acceptance of culture, and then subsequently accepted the French domination. To accomplish this goal, the libraries also had the orientated guidance on readers. Apart from regulations on the reading age, which allowed natives at older age as to compare with French and European readers, other regulations on the educational qualification also limited the opportunity for Vietnamese people to use the library. On the other hand, the network of public libraries and specialized libraries was also mainly concentrated in urban areas with concentration of the administrative apparatus of the colonial authorities. These restrictions stemmed from colonial exploitation purposes, were not for the purpose of improving the people's knowledge or satisfying the needs of information of the Vietnamese. The library primarily served those employees working in the apparatus of the colonial administration, professors, lecturers, teachers and students, those who had influence, propagation on French culture, and French civilization.

**Summary of Chapter 2**

The development of Vietnam libraries in the French colonial time is divided into two period (1858-1917 and 1917-1945) with the unique characteristics of the organization and operation. During the period from 1858 to 1917, the library and archive were established within the colonial administration. Although it had not been adequately invested, the human power for libraries was in shortage and not properly trained, the libraries in Vietnam had gradually been formed, including public libraries and specialized libraries. The organization and operation of the library in the period were even simpler, spontaneous and no unified regulations were found.
From 1917 to 1945, with the birth of the Archive Department and Library of Indochina, the Vietnam's library network was put in operation, regulated and unified. The public library was established at this period in the major cities. The legal documents required for the organization and operation of the library created a legal framework which helped organize libraries with stable operation, and it then developed with a new forward step as compared to the previous period.

Chapter 3. EFFECTS OF THE FRENCH COLONIAL LIBRARIES IN THE LIBRARY SECTOR AND CULTURE OF VIETNAM

3.1. Effect of Vietnam libraries in the French colonial time to the library nowadays in Vietnam

3.1.1. Conversion of imperial library model to modern library model

Library of Vietnam during this period experienced great changes in both the organizational structure and operations.

3.1.1.1. Formation of a library network

In the French colonial time, the model of the modern library, the library network began to take shape. Network of libraries include public libraries, universal libraries and specialized libraries. The objects to serve were extended to a number of public sections thereof.

Enhanced governance over libraries

Since 1917, the issue of governance over the field of library was demonstrated by the establishment of the Archive Department and Library of Indochina, which represented the Governor General of Indochina to exercise the governance over the fields of library and archive.

Initially with focus on training of human resources

The colonial government had set up training courses, focusing on practical skills training to address deficiencies in human resources for libraries.

Inequalities in the use of human resources

The issue of human use under the French library revealed the French colonialists’ discrimination against the natives.
3.1.1.2. Developing and organizing the document repositories in compliance with unified rules

The library in the French colonial time had applied the French rules in the construction, development of library holdings and organizing the document repositories. The supplementary replenishment of library holdings in many different ways did form a significant volume of documents in Vietnam.

3.1.1.3. Handling the library operation under unified methods and rules

In comparison with that before the 19th century, the processing of library holdings during the French colonial time had a big advancing step, a deeper trend, more standardized and consistent response to the development of publications when the printing, publishing were introduced into Vietnam. France applied for libraries in Indochina the organizational procedure, maintenance and service for modern readers, all of which were standardized.

3.1.1.4. The diversification of products and services in the library

There were two types of catalogs set up in the library during this period: alphabetical catalog and thematic catalog. The set-up of these two basic types of catalogs was based on the achievement of cataloging and classification of holdings from France. Although the catalogue was only in the traditional format, but it helped readers access to documents quickly, to change the quality of services in the context of increased flows of readers to read more books in libraries.

3.1.1.5. Limitations

Inequality in the patron service

For those reader served in the library, there was a discriminate between Europeans and Asians. A lot of criteria were created to limit Asian from the use of the library. Thus, despite the formation of many libraries, in fact the libraries had not been operated under its public service functions.

Imbalance in the development of library holdings

The imbalance in the composition of the library documents in this period had limited the accessibility of readers to the advanced
science and oriented the reader to accept the French culture and the French subjugation.

3.1.2. **Laying the foundation for the theory and practice of modern Vietnam's library**

3.1.2.1. **Theoretical foundation**

It is possible to say, that Vietnam libraries under the French colonial time had created a new leap forward in the organization and operation of libraries with a library network to create a legal framework for the library career, the application of advances in standards and professional rules to create a new quality in the field of library and it laid the foundation for modern libraries in Vietnam. This helped Vietnam libraries access the trend of standardized and unified library world today.

The theoretical issues of the modern library were introduced into Vietnam since the French colonial time, through the material stocks in the library. The system of legal documents for governance over the field of library in the French colonial time had paved the way for the organization and operation of the Vietnamese modern library network.

The methods for training the workforce in modern library focused more on practice, which is good experienced for reference in training of librarians today.

3.1.2.2. **Practical foundation**

**New methods in conservation**

The experience gained in conservation of library holdings during the French colonial time contributes significantly to modern libraries in Vietnam. From a technical perspective, the conservation of library holdings is applied in a variety of flexible methods, reasonable, consistent with the climate, which does not impose a rigid molding rule of any specific public library. This is a success in building up a repertoire of materials in limited conditions.

**Setting up basic functionality for the National Library of Vietnam**

The library activity in the French colonial time, typically, the activities of the Central Library of Indochina laid the foundation for a
number of basic activities of the National Library of Vietnam today. Typically, it is the setting up a depository mode in Indochina and the preparation of Statistics Bibliography.

3.2. Effect of Vietnam libraries in the French colonial time on Vietnamese culture

3.2.1. Enabling environment for the East-West culture exchange and acculturation

3.2.1.1. Means reception of Western culture

Printed matter, newspapers and magazines became an important means of French - Vietnamese cultural exchange brought in a new flow of thoughts, changing the mindset from the inherent sensuousness of Vietnamese into the rationalism for Vietnamese intellectuals, and researchers. The Library of Vietnam has become a central storage of publications in the fields of science, history, society and humanity.

The Library keeps in storage all the periodicals, abundant data sources available for studies in various areas which never previously appeared in the library in Vietnam.

The library is also an important tool to exert strong impacts on education in Vietnam during the French colonial time, demonstrated by the priority given to subjects working in the education sector.

3.2.1.2. The centers to spread Vietnam cultural values countrywide and into the world

The material exhibitions in the country and abroad were the opportunity to introduce French culture, people and the images of Indochina culture to the world; to promote tourism, trade and investment and to expand the understanding of the history and culture of the country.

The depositary regime in Indochina was not only a contribution to the enrichment of the bookstores in the Central Library of Indochina but also an important contribution into the unified management of resources of publication, an introduction about Vietnamese country and people to the French people and the
world through the publications to be deposited in the National Library of France.

3.2.1.3. Harmonious perception of the Western library architectural style

In the context of restricted funding for library facilities, the Indochina Library tried to renovate certain buildings according to library European architecture. The architecture of the library-style is classic and romantic, gentle and well-suited to Vietnamese, to bring about serenity, peace in harmony with nature. The storage space design, the information rooms and reading rooms inside the library building was designed in sciences of lighting, trees, tables, chairs, cabinets, book stacks in the reading room layout.

3.2.2. Preservation of the cultural literary heritage of the nation

The colonial government invested in redesign, re-arrangement of the library's reading room of Bao Dai Library, Literature & Poetry library, establishment of the catalogs and reference tools, opened for public access to documents of Gia Long King, Minh Mang King, thus these precious historical documents of the Nguyen Dynasty could have been preserved up to this day.

3.2.3. Tools to serve the goal of colonization and enslavement

Dominated by colonial policy, so besides the positive contribution, Vietnam's library became one of the tools to spread French culture, meanwhile a subjugation and inhibition over Vietnamese cultures. The press, a division of the document in the library, become a tool in the implementation of culture invasion. The components of document stock became unbalanced to reflect the colonial policies of the French colonialists: no science or technology; making use of literature and journalism to promote French cultures; recognition of French rules. The discrimination particularly in the use of human resources and patron service had limited the access to culture and science and technology of native people.

The colonial government also prohibited the undertakings of publications with ideological opposition, the progressive publications which reflected the voice of the people and the revolutionary newspapers, that is why these documents could not be included in the
libraries. This is the cause for limitations in communication, cultural creativity of Vietnamese.

Summary of Chapter 3

The colonial government had applied the method to organize and operate a modern Western libraries which absolutely innovated the library activities in Vietnam. This is the premise of the theory and practice of library careers in Vietnam later after that.

The Vietnam's library under the French colonial time exerted positive effects, to change the cultural development in Vietnam. The library became the center of cultural possession of the nation, creating a favorable environment for the culture exchange and East - West acculturation in the fields of education, literature and arts. In particular, the library in this period contributed to changes in scientific thinking of the intellectual elites and the habit of perception of mass media in Vietnam.

However, the colonial government had intended to use the library to enslave the people and to inhibit the access to science and technology of the people. The uneven development of library holdings, limited access to the library and the ban of some progressive publications had affected seriously the development of the culture of Vietnam.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

1. In the French colonial time, the entire economy, politics, society and culture of Vietnam had experienced radical and complicated changes. Vietnam's economy became crippled, unbalanced. Vietnam society, under the impact of economic factors and capitalist colonial policy, had formed new social classes. The Vietnamese Culture under the strong influence of Western civilization had for itself radical changes. Besides traditional culture, a new culture was formed with new communication products, the East - West acculturation.

In such a historical context, the Vietnamese library came into life, with development and influences of the policy of colonial
exploitation. The development of the Vietnam's library during the French colonial time was basically divided into two periods 1858-1917 and 1917-1945 through many changes.

2. From the viewpoint of library development, Vietnamese libraries in the French colonial time had positive changes.

The library moved from the old-styled organizational model and operation into new styled model with two types of libraries: public libraries and specialized libraries. The library moved from spontaneous establishments, located in the administrative offices to professional libraries, located in separate building. The library network was in the process of gradual formation. France also applied the contemporary scientific achievements in the field of library in Vietnam.

The public library in its existence was initially directed to the strata of masses, to change the habits of accessing mass media in Vietnam. The Library satisfied the patron by means of many different modes of operation: on-spot reading, lending, children's reading room and itinerant library service.

Regarding the governance, the library career was, for the first time, regulated through the legal documents of the colonial government, creating a legal framework for the organization of a library network and operation throughout Indochina, including Vietnam.

The setting up and development of library holdings were realized by many different methods, especially the method of depository, thus Vietnam libraries have become a cultural treasure of the largest publications in Indochina, contributing to a positive promotion of culture exchange process and East - West acculturation.

The library is the means to absorb the Western culture through resources of imported documents from France and other countries. This brought about a flow of new ideas, to change the mindset of the intellectual elite in Vietnam.

3. Vietnam's library in the French colonial time, however, experienced some negative effects. The library was established under the French rule primarily to address the training and service of the French intelligentsia and the apparatus of the colonial administration. The library was established to become a tool for enslaving
Vietnamese people with the cultural invasion. The constraints in library holdings components lead to a general access to superficial knowledge, limiting the development of science and technology.

4. In general, the operation of the library under the French domination have left considerable significant milestones for library sector and the culture of Vietnam. The operation of the library under the French domination is a premise for the theory and practice of modern libraries in Vietnam after the country became fully independent and prepared for international integration.

**Recommendations**

As a result of the study on the actual status of organization and operation of Vietnam libraries in the French colonial time, a number of recommendations are proposed in the followings:

1. Enhanced role of governance over library operation

To make library a contributing media for Vietnam to build a knowledge-based economy, various levels of governance are to take concerns of library development promptly and effectively with timely promulgation of legal documents. The management of the sector, the library researchers are expected to be the pioneers in the drafting of those documents, ensuring the legality, scientific and professional features.

2. Relevant application of scientific and technological achievements

Though many advanced progresses from Vietnam's library in the French colonial time are achieved, but some library accomplishments in this period have not been fairly evaluated with full inheritance. Typically, it is noted in the design of storehouse and conservation of library holdings. The archives agency and libraries today have removed the natural ventilation design in warehouses and replaced it with modern mechanical systems, which run at higher energy costs, and are not really effective.

3. Focus on practical skills of human resources

The question of practical skills was a particular concern in all curriculum contents for library personnel training during the French colonial time. Currently, this practice has not been adequately attended
in the library human resources training programs, thus the modules of the information – library sector should focus on practical contents.

4. Realization of standardized operation in the library

The standardization in library operation should be institutionalized by legal documents with adequate training and monitoring during the implementation process. This work is not only significant in the integration of library operations but also meaningful in synchronization of data and information resource sharing among libraries, all of which save the operation cost, and serve the patron with efficiency and the highest quality.

5. Arrangement of open storehouses in large public libraries

The organization of open storehouses in large libraries, especially university libraries to facilitate the proactive and effective access to information for the patron. This practice was well performed in libraries during the French colonial time. However, not all libraries Vietnam today are practicing this because of various reasons; such as lack of facilities, patron control equipment, and lack of document, and also the unawareness of the reader. For the open storehouses to be well organized with success and popularity, the government should take concern in investment budget to focus on monitoring, testing and training of information reader.

6. Outreach services to the remote areas

This type of itinerant service had been used quite effectively in Vietnam during the French colonial time. However, this outreach mode has not been maintained regularly and widely in Vietnam since 1945. To maintain and develop this forms of outreach service, the government and various governance levels need to institutionalize the outreach service in written form to mandate this service in the operation of the library network; thus it needs budget, equipment and facilities as well as regular replenishment of library holdings. The smooth deployment of this outreach service would contribute to improvement of people's knowledge, the reading culture and also an enrichment of spiritual and cultural life of people living in rural and remote areas
LIST OF WORKS


