EMEA Regional Council Annual Meeting 2014

The Global role of National Libraries in Collaboration: National, Regional and Global Perspective

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Overview

• National Libraries and Cooperation
• National Library of South Africa (NLSA)
• NLSA / SABINET / OCLC
• Regional cooperation in Africa (SADC)
• Conference of African National Libraries (CANL)
• Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL)
• Conclusion
National Libraries

- Established by governments (defined by law)
- Record of nation’s publishing output
- Provision of central services (reference and information, bibliography, interlending, preservation and conservation, legal deposit, centre for the book, ISBN/ISSN/ISMN)
- Promotion of national cultural heritage
- Coordination of international projects
- Facilitate the establishment of national information policies
National Libraries in the world

• Africa (54)
• Asia (44)
• Europe (47)
• North America (23)
• Oceania (14)
• South America (12)

• 194 countries of the world...

...but only a total of 187 National Libraries in the world from the 194 countries.
Regional/Global Cooperation

- ASIA-OCEANIC: (Conference of Directors of National Libraries Asia Oceanic (CDNLAO))
- AFRICA (Conference of African National Libraries (CANL))
- AMERICA: (Asociación de Estados Iberoamericanos para el Desarrollo de las Bibliotecas Nacionales de Iberoamerica (ABINIA))
- EUROPE: (Conference of European National Librarians (CENL))
- IFLA / CDNL strategic partnership
National Library of South Africa (NLSA)

- NLSA is an associated institution within the Department of Arts and Culture, and serves as a custodian of the national documentary heritage.
- It plays a strategic leadership role nationally and internationally in the Library and Information Services (LIS) sector.
- NLSA is currently regarded as one of the leading national libraries in the world: in Africa we are in touch with almost every National Library on the continent, eg. MoU with Tanzania and others.
- Globally we relate very well with advanced national libraries of the developed countries.
Objectives of the NLSA

The objectives of the National Library are:

• to contribute to socio-economic, cultural, educational, scientific and innovative development

• by collecting, recording, preserving and making available the national documentary heritage

• and promoting an awareness and appreciation thereof

by fostering information literacy

• and by facilitating access to the world’s information resources
National and International Involvement

NLSA acts as a link between the LIS profession and the heritage sector through the following:

- Library and Information Association of SA (LIASA);
- Legal Deposit Committee (LDC);
- National Council for LIS (NCLIS);
- CEO’s Forum of DAC Public Entities;
- South African Book Development Council (SABDC); etc.
National and International Involvement

NLSA plays an active role in Africa and globally through the:

- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL)
- The Standing Conference of African National and University Librarians in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (SCANUL-ECS)
- African Union (AU)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
International Leadership

NLSA exists in a fertile leadership environment of African Librarianship:

- IFLA: Africa Section Chairs and Secretaries (Angola, Namibia, South Africa)
- IFLA Africa Office (South Africa)
- Africa’s first IFLA President: Botswana’s Kay Raseroka
- Past IFLA President: South Africa’s Ellen Tise
- Involvement in IFLA Standing Committees
- Common Wealth Library Association (COMLA) President (Malawi)
- Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL)
  (Peter Lor 1996-2000 Chairperson) who later served as IFLA Secretary-General
Strategic Leadership Role of the NLSA

According to the National Library of South Africa Act 92 of 1998 [Section 4 (2)(a)(b),(c),(f)] the NLSA must amongst others:

- provide appropriate information products and services
- provide leadership, guidance and advice to South African libraries and information services
- undertake planning and co-ordination in co-operation with other library and information services
- liaise with libraries and other institutions in and outside South Africa
- undertake research and development
Legal Deposit

- NLSA is one of 5 legal deposit libraries in South Africa. The Legal Deposit Consortium comprises of NLSA Pretoria and Cape Town campuses; Library of Parliament; Msunduzi Municipal Library; Mangaung Metropolitan Municipal Library Services; National Film, Video and Sound Archives.
- The role of the LDC is to provide a complete collection of legal deposit material in one combined database.
- E-legal deposit
E- Legal Deposit Platform

- An e-repository server is in place
- Content from external storage devices are being consolidated onto this server
- A platform has been designed to facilitate collecting e-publications
- The platform was launched during Library week 2012
- Training on the platform has been planned for staff
- Publishers will be notified as to when they can begin using this online service
Illustration of the platform for e-legal deposit of material
National Initiatives

Collaboration and cooperation with Government to support:

- The development of Public Libraries in South Africa
- The advancement and promotion of the Library and Information Services in the country
Conditional Grant

Funding from the Department of Arts and Culture provides for:

- development of public libraries
- drafting of the LIS Transformation Charter
- promotion of access to the internet
- provision of disaster prevention training
- production of indigenous languages catalogues
- reprint of classics in indigenous languages
- RDA training to ensure current international standards are adhered to
Conditional Grant: The LIS Transformation Charter

Working closely with DAC, NLSA implemented NCLIS decisions as follows:

- Appointment of the LIS Charter Technical Team and the Reference Group offered administrative support to the Technical Team and Reference Group throughout the process
- Accompanied the Technical Team to all nine provincial consultations and made lead presentations
- Organised and hosted the national consultative forum since December 2008
- The Charter has been presented to Ministers and to Parliamentary Portfolio Committees
- It is hosted on the DAC and NLSA websites
- Draft Transformation Charter is now completed.
Conditional Grant
Promotion of access to the internet:
ICT Connectivity in Public Libraries

- NLSA has partnered with the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) to implement the new library management system in community libraries throughout the country.
- The project is to ensure that community libraries nationally have an integrated library system.
- The newly acquired system is web-based and built on an open-source platform which is aligned to the Government Free Open Source Software (FOSS) policy.
- The new system is called SLIMS (SITA Library management system).
Conditional Grant
RDA training

• Build cataloging capacity in community libraries, ensuring accessibility to South African published documentary heritage.
• In line with the Library of Congress/ALA decision to implement RDA, an RDA-SA Steering Committee was established to provide training to SA catalogers. This is to be implemented over a three year period beginning May 2014.
• This Steering Committee comprises cataloging experts from institutions country-wide.
• To assist with and facilitate training, and the move to RDA an RDA-SA website was established which is hosted by the NLSA.
Strategic Partnerships with Authors and Publishers

- NLSA’s ISN agency assigns ISBNs, ISMNs and ISSNs to South African publishers and authors
- South Africa is one of 160 ISN agencies worldwide. 29 are sited in Africa. NLSA assists other African countries with training and the establishment of ISN agencies
- South Africa hosted the first ISBN and ISMN AGM in Africa in September 2011. More African delegates attended than any previous AGM
- NLSA works closely with authors and publishers in developing a viable and sustainable publishing industry in South Africa
- As a member of the Legal Deposit Consortium we encourage and promote a culture of legal deposit
NLSA is a founding member of SABINET (1983)
NLSA serves on the SABINET Advisory Board
SABINET hosts NLSA library system server
NLSA contributes more than 10 000 records annually to the SACat and OCLC WorldCat
NLSA’s ISAP database forms part of the SABINET bouquet of databases
NLSA’s Interlibrary Loan Scheme utilizes Sabinet Request for national requests and OCLC Worldshare Interlibrary Loan service for international requests
NLSA participated in the OCLC Reclamation Project adding unique SA material to WorldCat and updating National Library records with OCLC record numbers
There are more than 44 national libraries cooperating in OCLC. New additions are:

- 2009 Slovenia
- 2010 Serbia
- 2010 Japan
- 2013 Poland

50 African libraries from Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Uganda and Zimbabwe partner with OCLC.
Southern African Development Community (SADC)

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      - Fourth level
        
        - Fifth level
SADC Strategic Framework

Vision

to ensure economic well-being, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom, social justice, peace and security for the people of southern Africa

Mission

to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth, socio-economic development through efficient productive systems, deeper co-operation and integration, good governance, durable peace and security

Demography and Economy

• Population size: 257 million inhabitants
• Gross Domestic Product (GDP): US$ 471 billion
National Libraries in SADC

- 2000: SCANUL-ECS workshop held in Namibia
- 2002: SCANUL-ECS workshop held in South Africa
- 2003: The role of SADC national libraries in the African Renaissance held in South Africa
- 2005: SADC national libraries workshop on Information as a strategic resource for development in South Africa
- 2007: CDNL and IFLA Standing Committee followed by a meeting of National African librarians in South Africa
- 2008: Review of the 2003 workshop held in Zambia
SADC National Librarians agreed to Strengthen their Library Associations

- Promote the LIS profession
- Increase lobbying and advocacy
- Support LIS training
- Enhance networking
- Build regional databases
- Liaise with IFLA and CDNL
Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL)

Strongly supported by African National Libraries

- 2000: Namibia
- 2002: South Africa
- 2004: Uganda
- 2006: Tanzania
- 2008: Zambia
- 2010: Botswana
- 2012: Kenya

African National Librarians regularly meet at SCECSAL conferences
NatLib Africa Directory / Database

- NLSA developed and maintains a database of African National Libraries, or equivalent institutions, as tasked by the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in 2007.
- The project was started under the auspices of the IFLA National Libraries Section and the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL).
- The directory includes information about institutions in 54 African countries which perform the functions of a National Library.
Declaration on the Establishment of a Conference of African National Libraries (CANL)

We, National Librarians / Directors / CEOs of national libraries in Africa, gathered on the occasion of the African Library Summit, July 2-5 2013, in Pretoria, declare that:

• We recognize the need for a strong organization to represent National Libraries, and equivalent institutions performing the same roles in Africa.

• We emphasize the urgency of creating a credible body vis-a-vis each National Government, and international professional, inter-governmental and other organizations.

• We unanimously support the formation of such a body, to be known as the Conference of African National Libraries (CANL), with equivalent translations of this name in French and Portuguese.

• We are committed to obtain agreement and to mobilize National Library Executives who are not undersigned, so that each African country is represented.
What is CANL?

It is an independent organization of chief executives of national libraries, established to:

- Facilitate discussion and promote understanding and cooperation on matters of common interest on the continent
- Facilitate exchange of information, training opportunities, sharing resources, experiences and expertise, promoting research
- Improve regional cooperation and visibility
- Set standards against which performance can be measured
- To be a representative body, recognised at national, regional, continental and international levels
- Provide guidelines whenever needed
- Enable and promote communication
- Reach out to countries without national libraries
The world’s libraries.

Established in 1974.

Its main purpose is to discuss policies and carry out activities that could be performed most effectively by national libraries on the understanding that its work will be coordinated with the IFLA section of National Libraries.

It grew from an informal organisation in the late 1970’s to a structured body by the late 1990’s

Under the leadership of Marianne Scott, the National Librarian of Canada, significant improvements were made.

CDNL established its present statutes and rules of procedure which provides the organisation with a clearer and stronger foundation for its activities.

The statutes were revised again in 2008.
CDNL initiative in collaboration and cooperation: Global Digital Library

CDNL Vision for the Global Digital Library:

The development of a global, distributed digital library – comprehensive, open, seamlessly-connected, and universally accessible on the internet giving ready access to library materials in the collections of all the national libraries of the world in the interest of scholarly research, education and lifelong learning, innovation and economic development, and the promotion of international understanding.
Challenges

• Increase membership participation at our annual meetings
• Improve regional cooperation and visibility in all countries and continents
• Develop regional databases of national libraries
• Link all existing databases of national libraries
• To advise and assist with the establishment of national libraries in those countries which do not have national libraries
• Develop a global, distributed digital national library which will be universally accessible on the internet, in line with the CDNL Vision.
Conclusion

- National libraries play a critical role in building relationships among professionals and the profession in their respective countries.
- National libraries should:
  - play a leading role in Africa, setting an example in cooperation, and harnessing technology to create shared efficiencies.
  - be involved in mentoring the young generation for future leadership.
- The Conference of African National Libraries is a model that should be utilized to effect regional collaboration.