

Maintaining our digital memory: a declaration of support for the World Summit on the Information Society

Communiqué from the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL), Oslo, August 2005

The National Libraries of the world are the guardians of the cultural heritage expressed in a nation's documented memory which includes the digital information produced in the Information Society.

National Libraries in all countries have a mandate and duty to **collect and preserve** this digital cultural heritage and to make it **accessible** both now and to future generations.

It is a matter of the highest importance to the National Libraries of the world that all states develop coordinated national strategies for inclusive information societies in which our digital heritage will be preserved and made accessible with the same commitment already shown to our nations' printed records.

In the spirit of partnership and digital solidarity we, the Directors of the National Libraries of the world support the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, adopted in Geneva, December 2003, in particular those principles related to:

- Section A Our Common Vision of the Information Society
- Section B An Information Society for All
- Section C Towards an Information Society for All Based on Shared Knowledge

Furthermore we seek the endorsement of the Tunis meeting of the World Summit on the Information Society, November 2005, for the full implementation of these principles as well as the maintenance of our shared digital memory.

The above text was unanimously adopted by the Conference of Directors of National Libraries held in 27 August, 2005 in Oslo, Norway, by the following national libraries present:

ARGENTINA	DENMARK	JAPAN
AUSTRALIA	EGYPT	KAZAKHSTAN
AUSTRIA	ESTONIA	KOREA
BARBADOS	FINLAND	LATVIA
BELGIUM	FRANCE	LEBANON
BENIN	GERMANY	LITHUANIA
BRAZIL	HUNGARY	LUXEMBOURG
CANADA	ICELAND	MALAYSIA
CHILE	IRAN	MALI
CHINA	IRELAND	MALTA
CROATIA	ISRAEL	THE NETHERLANDS
CUBA	ITALY	NEW ZEALAND
CZECH REPUBLIC	JAMAICA	NORWAY

PORTUGAL
RUSSIA
RUSSIAN
FEDERATION
SCOTLAND (UK)
SERBIA AND
MONTENEGRO
SINGAPORE
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA
SOUTH AFRICA
SPAIN
SWAZILAND
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
SYRIA
THAILAND

TRINDAD AND
TOBAGO
TUNISIA
TURKEY
UGANDA
UNITED KINGDOM
USA
VENEZUELA