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To CDNL members

26 July 2007

Dear colleagues,

Findings of the Report on the CDNL 'Futures' Survey 2007

We will soon be meeting in Durban. Before then, I trust you will have had time to read and consider the survey Report which is now available on the CDNL website.

I would like to draw to your attention the Executive Summary and key findings. Considering that the findings raise some important issues, I propose that we discuss these at our meeting, and agree on a number of **recommendations** for action.

Briefly, the responses to the survey indicate agreement on:

- the need to collaborate more closely within CDNL and between CDNL and other organisations including IFLA.
- the need for strategic relationships with a number of other professional, governmental and private sector organisations.
- the importance of the global digital environment which conditions all the traditional issues which libraries face, and throws up new and challenging ones.
- a group of core technical 'digital issues' of concern to national libraries.
- the need to align intellectual and cultural property principles and practices with the digital age, and support cultural diversity
- the need to share information and resources between national libraries in developed and less developed countries.
- the need for national libraries to respond to trends in society and engage with their user communities.

The Report notes that action could be taken in these areas of particular interest to national libraries:

- web harvesting and digital preservation;
- developing collaborative 'digital libraries' of various types;
- raising awareness of the role of national libraries and sourcing financial support for digital developments;
- developing shared tools (directories, databases), services and protocols;

- practical arrangements for sharing resources and 'best practice' advice on implementing innovative ICT applications;
- legal and legislative developments: intellectual property issues and particularly copyright, e-legal deposit;
- connecting the digital collections of national libraries providing a searchable window to the cultures of the world; developing multilingual access to information;
- engagement with communities to develop user-centred services and encourage the creation of new content;
- improving communication among national libraries and strengthening the work of CDNL as an organisation.

The Report notes that the low overall response rate, and the geographical gaps in responses, mean that the views reported may not be fully internationally representative. I believe we should be concerned about this; however, if CDNL is to improve communication with all its members, develop as an organisation and undertake projects, the question of resources naturally arises.

Accordingly, I propose that CDNL:

- discuss the survey report and findings, at its 2007 meeting in Durban
- adopt the attached recommendations for action, recognising that these have resource implications.

I look forward to discussing these issues further with you in Durban.

Best regards,

Penny Carnaby
Chairperson CDNL
Chief Executive / National Librarian
National Library of New Zealand

CDNL meeting, Durban, August 2007

Attachment to the Chair's letter on the Report of the CDNL 'Futures' Survey 2007

Recommendations:

The Chair recommends :

- 1) that libraries leading work on high-profile digital library projects – the European Digital Library (EDL), The European Library (TEL) and the World Digital Library (WDL), among others - be requested to provide a high-level report to CDNL, by the end of 2008, on technical and policy issues arising from these initiatives, and proposing how experience from them could inform other digital library developments.
- 2) That CDNL strengthen its strategic collaboration with organisations in the wider information sector, and in the archives, museums, culture and publishing sectors.
- 3) That CDNL collaborate with IFLA to support UNESCO in implementing WSIS action lines and to advise WIPO on its Development Agenda.
- 4) That CDNL members collaborate with IFLA through relevant Sections and Core Activities, to develop and implement a project to connect the digital collections of national libraries.
- 5) That CDNL promote the development of digital tools, products and services by and for its members, for information and resource sharing, expand the use of its website and listserv for circulation of information and reports on CDNL activities, and encourage all national libraries to access these.
- 6) hat CDNL develop a strategic prioritised action plan in close consultation with its regional groupings.
- 7) That CDNL members agree to provide a higher level of resources to the CDNL secretariat to undertake these activities, on the basis of either:
 - a. a voluntary annual contribution, or
 - b. an annual membership fee.

