



CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES-CDNL

John Kgwale Tsebe

National Librarian: National Library of South Africa
and Chairperson of CDNL

CDNL Presentations for:

Annual Conference of Arab Federation for Libraries and Information (AFLI-22),
Khartoum, Sudan, North Africa.
18-22 December 2011

Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Library and
Information Associations (SCECSAL)

Pre-Conference Workshop

Laico Regency Hotel, Nairobi- Kenya, East Africa.

03 June 2012

Stakeholders Consultative Forum in Southern Africa,
Friday 3rd August 2012. National Library of South Africa, Pretoria.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- The Conference of Directors for National Libraries (CDNL) was 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 a rather loose organisation in the late 1970s to a much more structured body in the late 1990s
- Under the leadership of Marianne Scott, the National Librarian of Canada some significant improvements were made.
- CDNL established its present statutes and rules of procedure which gave the organisation a much clearer and stronger foundation for its activities.
- The statutes were revised again in 2008.

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OBJECTIVES

- CDNL is an independent association of chief executives of national libraries established to facilitate discussion and promote understanding and cooperation on matters of common interest to national libraries worldwide.
- CDNL pursues its objectives through annual meetings of its membership, as well as through the initiation and support of research and development activities by its committees, ad hoc groups, and individual members.

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CDNL VISION FOR 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 interests of scholarly research, education and lifelong learning, innovation and economic development, and the promotion of international understanding.

A copy of the statement is available at: [CDNL Vision for the Global Digital Library](#).

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CONTINENTS AND COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

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

Total of 187 National Libraries in the world from
194 countries

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NATIONAL LIBRARIES LISTED BY REGIONS

- **ASIA-OCEANIC:** (Conference of Directors of National Libraries Asia Oceanic (**CDNLAO**))
- **AFRICA** (**association still to be developed**)
- **AMERICA:** (Asociacion de Estados Iberoamericanos para el Desarrollo de las Bibliotecas Nacionales de Iberoamerica (**ABINIA**))
- **EUROPE:** (Conference of European National Librarians (**CENL**))

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AFRICA



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CHALLENGES OF CDNL

- 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 a few countries which do not have national libraries
- Development of a global distributed digital national library which will be universally accessible on the internet in line with the CDNL Vision.

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