



## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2014-2015**

### **REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

### **NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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#### **1. General overview of recent major developments in the Library**

The objects of the NLSA 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.

The NLSA is an institutional member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Several staff members are serving on the IFLA Standing Committees. The Board noted with appreciation that the World Library and Information Congress 2015 will be hosted in South Africa in 2015 with the NLSA hosting the Conference for Directors of National Libraries (CDNL).

The NLSA occupies a strategic space in the Library and Information Services (LIS) Sector both nationally and internationally. In the quest to maintain its visibility and active stakeholder engagement, the NLSA has participated in various LIS and literary activities. The South African Library Week/month, UNESCO World Book Day, the South African Book Fair, Mandela Day activities, the Eskia Mphahlele Memorial Lecture, the Jozi Book Fair, the LIASA Conference and the launch of the Gates and Melinda Gates Foundation Public Libraries / Mzansi Libraries Online Project. These events attracted huge media coverage and were well attended by NLSA stakeholders and the public.

## **2. Library's relationship with government and citation of relevant legislation**

The Board commended the NLSA for working closely with the Department of Arts and Culture on the Public and Community Libraries' Conditional Grant. The Board noted that the NLSA renders professional services to the Department of Arts and Culture in terms of Internet connectivity which has been rolled out successfully to different provincial library services. Training in Preservation Management and Resource Description Access (RDA) were offered to libraries. The NLSA also undertakes the marketing and promotion of the conditional grant projects as well as the reprint of African Literature Classics to promote reading in the South African indigenous languages.

## **3. Key facts and figures**

- ⋈ 381 925 clients visited the library
- ⋈ 65 117 clients used internet facilities
- ⋈ 241 934 items were catalogued
- ⋈ 26 457 images / pages were digitized
- ⋈ 14 645 books were de-acidified

- ⋈ 8 028 monographs were received on legal deposit
- ⋈ 887 books were repaired
- ⋈ 65 media coverages were recorded
- ⋈ 35 workshops / training events took place
- ⋈ 24 book clubs were established

#### **4. New ways of managing collections**

Preservation and conservation services is one of the core activities of the NLSA. The objectives of Preservation Services is to preserve and optimally maintain the library collections for current and long-term survival and accessibility. Specific preservation projects included the de-acidification of papers, books and archives in custody of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the digitisation of parts of Indian Opinion (newspaper published by Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa), the digitisation of manuscript material from the David Livingston and Saartjie Baartman collections. Digitisation of other historical newspapers included African Leader (1932-1933), Cape Indian (1922-1925), Inkokeli ya Bantu (1940-1942), Spark (1962-1963), African Leader (1932-1933), Imvo Zabantsundu (1935), Umhlobo Wabantwana (1956), Motswalle wa Bana (1956), Egoli (1952) and Amanzimtoti Observer (1956-1959).

#### **5. New ways in creating and building collections**

The ISN (International Standard Number) Agency based at the Pretoria campus of the National Library continues to assist both self-publishing authors and large commercial publishers via the allocation of ISBN, ISMN and facilitating the allocation of ISSN to all new publications.

As the recipient of a DAC (Department of Arts and Culture) conditional grant promoting the implementation of RDA (Resource Description Access), a new

cataloguing standard that has replaced AACR2, and in line with the leading role of the National Library, five workshops were conducted.

## **6. New developments in providing access to collections**

The Information Access Services Programme undertook a Survey in 2014. Of the 268 questionnaires distributed in Cape Town and Pretoria, 242 were returned. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the service that is provided to our users in order for the Library to improve on the quality of the service. When examining the performance of staff, 95% of users felt that staff were professional and friendly in their approach and 70% felt that they are always willing to assist. When asked if staff provided accurate information and whether this was done timeously 57% felt that staff provided accurate information always and 30% provided accurate answers most of the time and 51% felt that the information was provided timeously. Further analysis of the Survey results indicated a need for staff to improve the quality of the service. For example, providing the information more timeously and referring users to other institutions where they could find information. A further aspect which was highlighted and needed attention, is teaching users how to search the online catalogue. Only 30% of the users knew how to search the catalogue and 25% percent did not know how to do this.

## **7. Examples of collaboration with other libraries, archives, museums**

The National Library of South Africa has been mandated by the South African Government to promote optimal access to published documents nationally and internationally. The National Library is the hub and coordinator of a resource-sharing network of which currently 581 libraries are members. They have access to Southern African information resources, resources from the rest of Africa, and resources in other countries. The Document Supply Service ensures remote access to National Library and other library collections through the Southern African Interlending

Scheme (SAIS). For the year 2014/15 the library attended to 2036 requests received from both local and international institutions.

The Launch of South African Library week in partnership with the Library and Information Association was a success and attracted huge media coverage. The NLSA took significant strides in terms of liaising with the Library and Information Services (LIS) Sector in and outside South Africa. The NLSA greatly appreciates the relationship with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Mzansi Libraries Online Project) for strengthening and enhancing public libraries in South Africa.

The National Library of South Africa celebrated South Africa's 20 years of freedom and democracy by way of a series of exhibitions throughout the year. The Exhibition *Celebrating 20 years of Democracy* showcased the legacy of 20 years of published heritage material. Various books, newspapers, journals, posters, photographs dating from the 1994 elections were used to depict how the country progressed, and the individuals and organisations that was part of the process. Other exhibitions that were held in conjunction with this exhibition and that complemented the theme included; Librarians Choice – Top 20 titles in 2 decades of democracy 1994-2014, Mandela Day Exhibition, Youth Day Exhibition, Women's Day Exhibition and Heritage Day Exhibition.

The National Library of South Africa (Preservation Services) in partnership with the Office for Africa of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Mount Kenya University (Kakamega Campus) presented a two day Preservation and Conservation workshop for participants from Anglophone countries in Africa. The workshop was held in Kenya from 3-4 February 2015 at the Kenya National Library Service in Nakuru. The workshop was attended by senior staff and decision makers from academic, national and public libraries and archives in Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru, Pretoria and Johannesburg.

Writer's grants in support of budding writers for the financial year 2014/15 were allocated to 14 recipients. They reflected fairly well the languages spoken in the country. The recipients were Aubrienne Stuurman (Afrikaans), Amanda Skhosana (isiNdebele), Malibongwe Nkohla (isiXhosa), Segametsi Moumakwe (Setswana), Susan Meiring (Afrikaans), Simon Mabena (isiNdebele), Lineo Leroba (Sesotho), Colette Kemp (English), Siphiwe Gambu (Sesotho), Diana Ferrus (Afrikaans), David Ditake (Setswana), Zethu Cakatha (English), Siphonkambule (isiNdebele) and Lanny Mokwena (Sesotho).

The NLSA continued to assist the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) with its Conditional Grant projects to connect South African public libraries. NLSA appointed a service provider to begin providing Internet connectivity to 207 Eastern Cape public libraries.