

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING OF CDNL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST 2007, 9.30AM

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

WELCOME TO THE MEETING

The Chair, Penny Carnaby, CEO and National Librarian, National Library of New Zealand, welcomed members to the meeting and introduced the host of the meeting, John Tsebe, Second Vice-Chair, CDNL and National Librarian, National Library of South Africa and Professor Moses Nkonda, Chairman of the Board of the National Library of South Africa. The Chair thanked the staff of the National Library of South Africa for their assistance with preparations for the meeting.

Professor Nkonda welcomed members on behalf of Dr Pallo Jordan, Minister of Arts and Culture. Professor Nkonda spoke about the importance of the current scholarship on freedom in South Africa where there is a focus in the post-Apartheid era on South Africans telling their own story. In particular, the Minister has mandated the National Library of South Africa to facilitate publishing in local languages.

John Tsebe welcomed members to the meeting and passed on greetings from the Library and Information Association of South Africa, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary. He spoke about the leadership role of the National Library of South Africa in making information as a strategic resource available to citizens to assist in the development of South Africa.

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

The Chair explained the program for the meeting, noting that the morning would be allocated to regular reporting and the afternoon to a discussion on the future directions for CDNL. Members were reminded that under the CDNL Statutes the language of CDNL is English. The Chair thanked those members who had brought interpreters to assist them during the meeting and the Bibliothèque nationale de France and Library and Archives Canada for providing English to French translation facilities.

The Chair introduced the First Vice-Chair, Erland Kolding Nielsen, Director General, The Royal Library, Denmark; the Second Vice-Chair, John Tsebe, National Librarian, National Library of South Africa and the Secretary, Jasmine Cameron, National Library of Australia.

All members were asked to sign the attendance register and to introduce themselves, indicating if they were attending CDNL for the first time.

The Secretary noted apologies had been received from Johanna Rachinger, Director General, National Library of Australia; Dasharath Thapa, National Librarian, National Library of Nepal; Wim van Drimmelen, Director General, National Library of the Netherlands; Dr Varaprasad, Chief Executive Officer, National Library Board, Singapore and Françoise Pellé, Director, ISSN Office.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

MINUTES OF THE 33RD MEETING OF CDNL

The minutes of the 33rd meeting held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, were accepted without amendment.

PRESENTATION FROM NATIONAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES OF EGYPT

Professor Sherif Shaheen, Head of the National Library, National Library and Archives of Egypt, introduced a short film about the restoration of the old national library building which houses rare papyrus manuscripts. He noted that the National Library of Egypt, which was established in 1870, is the oldest national library on the African continent. A program to digitise rare manuscripts and Arabic books collected between 1870 and 1950 is underway. This will form an Arabic portal which will also include digitised newspapers and periodicals.

PRESENTATION FROM AFRICAN NATIONAL LIBRARIES

The Second Vice-Chair facilitated brief presentations from representatives of African national libraries present at the meeting.

South Africa

John Tsebe noted that the National Library of South Africa plays a leading role in the nation's information infrastructure. He spoke in particular about the need for effective management processes and the need to motivate and inspire staff to perform at a high level in the workplace, with the key message for staff focussing on self-transformation and personal growth. Thirty staff from the National Library of South Africa are attending IFLA as part of the self development process.

The National Library of South Africa works in close collaboration with other libraries in South Africa and the Library and Information Association of South Africa who gave the National Library an award recently for its collaborative work. The National Library is currently working with community and public libraries on a project that has received R1billion from the government to improve services throughout South Africa.

There is also a strong focus on working with other African libraries through SCANUL-ECS, which meets every two years. Relationships with West Africa are also a priority. Many partnerships have been established with other national libraries including The British Library, Library of Congress and the national libraries of China, Iran and Malaysia. Other important alliances include CDNL, IFLA, the Commonwealth Library Association and international funders such as the Carnegie Foundation which gave US\$2m to the National Library in 2006.

Angola

Maria Jose Ramos, Director General, National Library of Angola, spoke about the challenge of restoration and recovery being undertaken by the National Library. A register of collections is being created as a matter of priority. Between 2000-2002 the national library building was repaired and a computer network was implemented. In 2003 staff received training at the National Library of Portugal and in 2004 a new system, PORBASE 5, was installed. There have been issues with power supply, especially in 2006, which has caused disruption to the computer network.

Cooperation with other national libraries is important for Angola because there is a shortage of human resources and skills. In 2006 an agreement was signed with the National Library of Portugal to provide training and staff have also been to the Bibliothèque nationale de France for training. The National Library of Angola works with public libraries. In 2003 a new Legal Deposit act was introduced, however, there is no national bibliography as yet. In 2008 a project to build a new national library will commence,

Lesotho

Mathabathe Pakiso Ue-tus reported that the Lesotho National Library Service, which opened in 1978, was funded by the British Government. It has responsibility for public libraries, with five branches in the country. The National Library Service has a collection of English and Lesotho language books, and includes a children's section and a school library section. In 2006 China funded a new library building and a new section was added which features computers with Internet access for users. The Library Service has forty staff but only four are graduates, with many staff leaving for better paid jobs in the private sector.

Recent achievements include becoming a department within the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture; installing the InMagic system and opening branch libraries in two more districts. Professional training is currently undertaken in Botswana or South Africa although local training is needed to keep key staff.

Malawi

Mr G Nyali, Director of the National Library Service of Malawi, said the National Library, which was established in 1967 and opened in 1968, has responsibility for public library services and an outreach service that links with school libraries. The National Library has one hundred and ten staff, with twelve branches in three regions.

Current projects include a project being undertaken in collaboration with Canada to promote and distribute books to children via primary schools. Library rooms have been established in schools and teachers are being trained to manage the rooms. A women's reading project aimed especially at rural women is underway through books supplied to reading clubs and a mother and child reading project which helps mothers teach children to read are also progressing. In partnership with UNESCO, project Sara, which educates girls about their opportunities, will be launched soon.

Challenges include the number and lack of trained staff needed to run twelve centres and a shortage of suitable library buildings in many areas.

Nigeria

Dr Linus Ikpaahindi, National Librarian, National Library of Nigeria spoke about progress in Nigeria. Nigeria gained independence in 1960 and has a federal system of government where all three tiers of government can establish libraries. The National Library was established in 1964 and is mandated to have a branch in all thirty-six states. At present it has twenty-two branches, with 650 staff down from 1,002 earlier in the year. Numbers have reduced through outsourcing maintenance activities. There is a contract to build a new national library which is projected to be ready in 2010.

Nigeria has embarked on digitisation of newspapers and will move to other formats soon to create local content in order to contribute to global knowledge. Digitised local content will be added to a virtual library providing access to full text databases. The National Library of Nigeria produces a national bibliography and manages a national union catalogue and ISSN, ISBN and ISMN services.

Librarians in Nigeria are well trained but benefit from exposure to other libraries, such as a recent staff attachment to the National Library of Wales and a visit to the National Library of China.

Swaziland

Dikeledi Kunene, Director, Swaziland National Library Service reported that the National Library was established by an act in 2002. It provides public library services, including Internet access. 134 staff, of whom 10 are professionals and 15 para-professionals, look after 13 branch libraries. Challenges include lack of foreign book aid and financial constraints which mean many staff leave for better-paid jobs elsewhere.

Uganda

Gertrude Mulindwa, Director, National Library of Uganda, said that the library was established in 2003 and is governed by a board of nine people. It has twenty-two functions under its act, including collecting and preserving all Ugandan publications, promoting a reading culture, establishing policies and standards for public libraries and providing leadership in library and information science.

Achievements include collaborating and establishing partnerships with other libraries; collaborating on a national bibliography with the other two legal deposit libraries in Uganda, Makerere University Library and the Uganda Management Institute; working with publishers, booksellers, authors and the education sector and partnering with the National Planning Authority to ensure digitised local content is available on websites.

The National Library is running out of space and is seeking a new building. Funding comes from government but funds are also sought from other sources.

In concluding the session John Tsebe reminded members that a workshop for African national libraries would be held on Thursday morning (23 August) to discuss future collaboration and partnerships.

Egypt

In May 2007 the national libraries in the Arab region met and agreed to establish the League for Arab National Libraries. One of the League's aims is to develop a single digital portal. It will have its base in Algeria.

CDNL/ICABS

Elisabeth Niggemann, Director General, National Library of Germany, gave a brief report on developments in ICABS. She reminded members of the background to the establishment of ICABS, which involves six national libraries working together on a range of bibliographic and digital issues, with Germany providing the secretariat. ICABS is a core program of IFLA and has been undertaking an evaluation of its strategic plan in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the IFLA Governing Board. After discussion during the week, it has been agreed that ICABS should hand responsibility for bibliographic standards to Division 4 (Bibliographic Control) and concentrate on digital issues. ICABS will develop a new strategic plan, establish a new name and report back on progress at the CDNL meeting in 2008. ICABS will focus on implementation rather than the theory of digital issues.

Peter Lor, Secretary General, IFLA commented that the rethinking of ICABS had been useful and that discussion would now take place on the implications of the change for Division 4.

NATIONAL LIBRARIES SECTION

Ingrid Parent, Chair of the National Libraries Section and Assistant Deputy Minister, Library and Archives Canada, reported on the recent election of members to the standing committee which involved the election of 11 new members from 16 candidates. The Section has 20 members, representing all continents except South America.

Ingrid Parent thanked Geneviève Clavel, National and International Cooperation, Swiss National Library for serving for four years as secretary to the Section. Jasmine Cameron, National Library of Australia, will replace Geneviève as secretary for the next two years.

Recent activities include evaluation of an appropriate mechanism for a directory of national libraries. It has been decided that IFLANET is the best place for this directory and funding will be sought from IFLA to update the information already on IFLANET and to establish a mechanism for ongoing updating. Input on new bibliographic guidelines for electronic resources has been given to the Bibliography Section. These guidelines will be publicised for review in 2008. The IFLA Section on Statistics and Evaluation is also liaising with an ISO working group that is devising performance indicators for national libraries. A menu of 32 indicators has been proposed and a draft will be made available for voting on at the end of the year.

On Sunday 19 August the Section's session *The future of national libraries: convergence and partnerships* was well attended with an audience of around 280. The sessions on Monday 20 August held with the Bibliography and Classification and Indexing sections, *Re-thinking national bibliographies in the digital age* and on Tuesday 21 August held with ICABS and the Information Technology section, were also a success with similar-sized audiences. On Thursday there will be a workshop for African national libraries to discuss cooperation and partnerships.

The National Libraries section is committed to working collaboratively with CDNL in the most appropriate way. This will be pursued over the coming year with a focus on the alignment of issues and strategies. The possibility of a joint project will be discussed between both chairs during the year.

ISBN

Dr Hartmut Walravens, International ISBN Agency, reported on developments with the ISBN and ISMN services. Implementation of the 13-digit ISBN commenced in January 2007. OPACS do not need to be altered and it is suggested that use of a software plug-in will facilitate searching across both

10 and 13-digit ISBNs. Revision of the ISMN to 13 digits is underway to harmonise it with ISBN. Those national libraries who had not already done so were urged to adopt the ISMN. The most recent annual general meeting was held in Paris in November 2006. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the ISSN Director's meeting in Buenos Aires from 1-3 October 2007. The Publishers' International ISBN Directory, which now lists over 700,000 publishers, is unlikely to continue as a printed publication.

REPORTS FROM REGIONAL CONFERENCES

The Chair invited representatives from regional national library groups to report on their activities. (Note: these items were not taken in agenda order)

ABINIA

Ximena Cruzat, Director, National Library of Chile, reported on behalf of ABINIA. Activities during the year concentrated on the goals of becoming knowledge societies, maintaining cooperation within ABINIA and within member's countries, acquisition and implementation of new technology, especially the Internet and the preservation of national library collections. Other achievements included a survey of Ibero-American national libraries, updating the ABINIA website, issuing three newsletters, signing a cooperative agreement with the General Secretariat of the Summit of Presidents and Chiefs of Government of Iberoamerica for future joint funding of projects, preservation training delivered for ABINIA members by the National Library of Venezuela at the National Library of Nicaragua, formalization of ABINIA's membership of the Consortium of European Research Libraries, acquisition of preservation materials for the national libraries of the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Venezuela, digitisation of the archive of the National Library of Mexico and further progress with the digitisation of 19th Century Latin American Newspapers (second stage), digitisation of the Rene Moreno Collection at the National Library of Bolivia and completion of the Union Catalogue of the Iberoamerican Musical Collections of the 19th Century and Beginning of the 20th Century.

CDNLAO

Ngian Lek Choh, Director, National Library Board, Singapore, reported on the 15th meeting of CDNLAO, held on 7 May 2007 in Bali, Indonesia. Fifteen of the thirty member countries attended. The meeting discussed the CDNL Futures paper, shared information on best practice, progress with digitisation projects and the increasing accessibility of national libraries through resource discovery. The National Library of Indonesia held a seminar on manuscript preservation in conjunction with CDNLAO.

SCANUL-ECS

John Tsebe spoke about the need for a formal grouping of African national libraries, which will be discussed at the workshop on Thursday. SCANUL-ECS is sub-regional only and in any case is broader than national libraries. The 2006 meeting was held in Tanzania and in 2007 Zambia will host the meeting. Few national libraries attend the meeting.

CENL

Elisabeth Niggemann spoke on behalf of CENL. She referred members to the 2007 report on the CDNL website. CENL celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and has grown from a small grouping of libraries in 1987 to a body with 47 members from 45 countries. This year's CENL meeting took place in St Petersburg from 27-29 September 2006.

CENL's web service, The European Library is now used by 30 of the 47 CENL members. There are 250 digital collections currently in the service. Work is underway on The European Digital Library project, which aims to provide a multilingual portal to the digital collections of member states. A conference, *One More Step Towards The European Library*, will be held at the National Library of Germany from 31 January – 1 February 2008 to take the EDL forward.

REPORT FROM IFLA

The Chair welcomed Alex Byrne, President, IFLA, Claudia Lux, President Elect 2007-2009, Ellen Tise, President Elect 2009-2011 and Peter Lor, Secretary General IFLA who joined the meeting at

11.00am. Alex Byrne spoke about the importance of the relationship between IFLA and CDNL. He noted the attendance from many different parts of the world and congratulated Cambodia on its first CDNL meeting.

The IFLA Governing Board has been reviewing IFLA's focus, which centres on those things that can only be done at the global level. Discussions have been held with national library associations about the complementary roles of both bodies in dealing with issues at the international and supra-national level. Advocacy has been given priority and a senior position has been created within IFLA Headquarters to undertake work in this area.

The Governing Board has also given attention to a range of other issues including dialogue and collaboration; bridging the digital divide, reform of the IFLA structure to make the organisation more flexible and responsive, and finances. An IFLA foundation has been established to seek grant money.

Claudia Lux spoke about her president's theme, *Libraries on the Agenda*, which will follow up many of the issues raised at the World Summit on the Information Society. Representation is crucial and one aim is to see more librarians on UNESCO National Commissions in order to promote the importance of access to information through libraries. Claudia will prepare a paper in the next fortnight for libraries to use as a basis for influencing local commissions prior to discussions at the forthcoming UNESCO General Conference to be held in Paris in October 2007.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR CDNL

The Chair spoke about the CDNL Futures Survey which had thrown up some clear themes:

- Collaboration with IFLA, UNESCO and WSIS
- Collaboration between CDNL members to bring digital collections together
- Benchmarking
- Promoting action to address the digital divide
- Role of regional national library groupings
- Possibility of funding collaborative projects

Steve Knight, Manager, Digital Strategy Implementation, National Library of New Zealand, gave members a brief demonstration of an aggregation of the digital collections of the national libraries of New Zealand and Singapore, which had been undertaken in order to examine the technical issues of bringing together the collections of two national libraries.

The Chair then invited members to give their views on a set of topics distilled from the survey responses:

Strategic collaboration with the wider information sector

In general members felt that it would be difficult for CDNL to have a strong role in this area beyond promoting the concept of collaboration beyond the library sector.

Collaborate with IFLA to support UNESCO's implementation of WSIS action lines

Members agreed that it was important for CDNL to promote WSIS concepts like freedom of access to information within their respective countries. WSIS should remain on the CDNL agenda and CDNL should maintain a close working relationship with IFLA on this.

Implement a project to connect the digital collections of national libraries

Some concern was expressed about the cost and sustainability of a collaborative CDNL digital library and reference was made to the issues faced by a similar concept, the Biblioteca Universalis. It was felt that the European Library project would provide an excellent framework, and exemplar for connecting the digital collections of Europe and that other CDNL Libraries could reference off this architecture to connect collections where there was a will to do so.

Action

National Library of New Zealand to communicate collaborative digital projects between CDNL Libraries as they emerge referencing from TEL.

Web Harvesting

The First Vice-chair Erland Kolding Nielsen talked about the Web Harvesting Survey conducted by the Royal Library of Denmark and saw this as a possible area of future collaboration between CDNL Libraries.

Action

Royal Library of Denmark to communicate a suggested strategic direction for CDNL Libraries in the web harvesting space preparing an action plan for the CDNL meeting in Quebec 2008.

Sharing learning on digital activities

The chair noted that this had already been covered in the discussion above and addressed through the agreement to share best practice.

Promote the development of digital tools, products and services

It was agreed that ICABS and the International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) were best placed to do this. IIPC would be invited to report on their activities to CDNL.

CDNL develop a strategic action plan in cooperation with regional groups

Discussion focused on ways to provide opportunity for greater discussion at CDNL meetings, which would provide a basis for developing strategic actions. It was suggested that the format of meetings could be changed to ensure that there was plenty of time for informal discussion during breaks. As written reports are received for many regular items, such as reports from regional groupings, these could be taken as read and time freed up for discussion of strategic topics. This could possibly take the form of a plenary session followed break out sessions to enable smaller groups to discuss issues.

The Chair agreed to look at changing the format of future meetings. The First Vice-Chair, Erland Kolding Nielsen suggested that consideration be given to extending the CDNL executive to include the chair, two vice-chairs and one representative from each of the regional national library groupings. This would help align the regional groupings more closely with CDNL.

Action

Chair to work with CDNL Executive and Ingrid Parent to refocus the CDNL meetings in Quebec in strategic issues for CDNL.

High level strategic vision paper for CDNL

Lynne Brindley CEO of the British Library felt that CDNL would be better served by operating at a more strategic level discussing and debating the "big issues" facing the National Libraries of the world. She offered to write a high-level vision paper for discussion during the year to be agreed to for Quebec meeting in 2008.

Action

Lynne Brindley to circulate a high-level vision/strategy paper for CDNL discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Erland Kolding Nielsen suggested that once the ISO work on performance indicators for national libraries is completed that consideration be given to using these performance indicators as basis for CDNL country reports.

Dr Makoto Nagao advised that the 2008 meeting of CDNLAO would be held in Tokyo during October.

The Secretary informed members of the website about national libraries that has been developed privately by Suzanne Gyeszly from the Texas A&M University Library at Qatar. The website can be accessed at www.nationallibraries.org.

CDNL MEETING QUEBEC 2008

On behalf of Dr Ian Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Ingrid Parent welcomed members to the CDNL meeting to be hosted by Library and Archives Canada during the World Library and Information Congress which will be held in Quebec from 10-14 August 2008. CDNL is scheduled for 13 August 2008 and will meet in the historic Military Officers' Club which forms part of the Citadel.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AND CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chair thanked the presenters from the African national libraries for a very interesting and thought-provoking session.

She also thanked Ingrid Parent for her leadership of the IFLA National Libraries Section, and indicated that further discussion would take place between the both chairs in order to bring the agendas of both groups closer together.

The Chair noted that the afternoon's discussion had signalled some important changes for CDNL including the need for new meeting format which would see a move away from routine reporting in favour of greater opportunities for both formal and informal discussion. The CDNL executive would develop an agenda for 2008 based on this concept. It was also noted that a strong vision statement which gave CDNL a clear brand and provided a framework for digital activities was required.

The Chair thanked all members for attending the 34th meeting of CDNL and acknowledged the work of the vice-chairs, secretary and staff of the National Library of South Africa in ensuring a very successful day.

The Chair closed the meeting at 4pm.