



ASOCIACION DE ESTADOS IBEROAMERICANOS
PARA EL DESARROLLO DE LAS
BIBLIOTECAS NACIONALES DE LOS
PAISES DE IBEROAMERICA

**CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES (CDNL)
(Durban, South Africa. August 22, 2007)**

REPORT ON THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2006 THROUGH JULY 2007

The work accomplished by ABINIA during this period was aimed at highlighting the importance of libraries, and particularly of the national ones, as producers of organized information, essential input for the production and implementation of new knowledge: ultimate goal of the so-called knowledge society. We also intended to continue the purpose of achieving a greater cooperation, not only among the Iberoamerican National Libraries (INLs), but also among them and the rest of libraries within their own countries, in order to make available to users the information existing in such services. In addition, we insisted in our effort to encourage the acquisition and implementation of new communication and information technologies (CITs) by INLs, as well as, to promote their access to global information via the Internet. We also paid special attention to the improvements in the field of preservation and conservation of the collections of the least developed national libraries. The following are some of the most relevant outcomes of this period, following the principles mentioned above.

- **Update of ABINIA's web site:** www.abinia.org **preparation and distribution of three numbers of our electronic newsletter "ABINIA Informa"**. This e-publication provides additional information regarding activities that will be reviewed later in this report. By these two means of communication, we make available to our readers, specially the INLs, information about their importance in the context of the knowledge society, the value of cooperation among libraries and the CITs that may be applied to such services.
- **Survey for evaluation of Iberoamerican National Libraries.** The revision of the initial design of this survey was completed, as well as a complementary study of users. Through these two instruments we will collect information about the origin, juridical status, material and financial resources, collections and, particularly, information about the users of library services. The information obtained, once processed, will allow us to know the strengths and weaknesses of each library, which, in turn, will facilitate the definition and implementation of strategies focused in solving their most relevant problems and the consolidation of their strengths.
- **Signing of a cooperation agreement with the General Secretariat of the Summit of Presidents and Chiefs of Government of Iberoamerica (SEGIB).** Both organizations (ABINIA and SEGIB) committed themselves to cooperate in implementing and funding projects, particularly the following ones: "*Conmemoración del bicentenario de las firmas de las actas de independencia de los países iberoamericanos*" (Commemoration of the bicentennial act of signing the independence declaration of Iberoamerican countries), "*Renovación de las colecciones de las bibliotecas públicas de América Central*" (Renewal of Central American public libraries collections) and "*Creación del Centro Regional de Capacitación en la Zona Revertida del Canal de Panamá*" (Creation of the Training Regional Center in the Reverted Area of the Panama Canal).

- **Course on Documentary Preservation and Conservation.** This course took place at the National Library of Nicaragua, was given by preservation specialists of the Venezuelan National Library to participants from the national libraries of: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. In addition, the NLs of Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua were endowed with materials and equipment to launch their own document restoration services.
- **Formalization of ABINIA's membership to the “Consortium of European Research Libraries” (CERL).** ABINIA was accepted as a member of CERL, in accordance with a special arrangement that will allow Iberoamerican NLs, at no cost, access to this important database.
- **Acquisition of conservation materials and equipment for the NLs of the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Venezuela.** ABINIA donated to these libraries the necessary equipment and materials to improve the functioning of their conservation services.
- **Projects in progress:** *“Automatización de las BNs de Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua y República Dominicana”* (Automation of the NLs of Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic); *“Digitalización del Archivo de Lya y Luís Cardoza y Aragón en la BN de México”* (Digitization of the Archive of Lya and Luís Cardoza y Aragón in the NL of Mexico); *“Digitalización de la Prensa Latinoamericana del siglo XIX, Segunda Etapa”* (Digitization of the 19th Century Latin American Newspapers, Second Stage); *“Preservación de los Fondos Documentales de la BN de Paraguay”* (Preservation of Paraguay national library collections); *“Catálogo Colectivo de los Fondos Musicales Iberoamericanos del Siglo XIX y comienzos del XX”* (Union Catalog of Iberoamerican Musical Collections of the 19th Century and Beginning of the 20th Century) and *“Digitalización de la Colección Morenos de la BN de Bolivia”* (Digitization of the Rene Moreno Collection of the NL of Bolivia).
- **Funding of projects.** The database on international organizations for cooperation and funding in the field of Information was updated. The use of this database, starting next September, will allow INLs to make all the necessary formalities to request funding for their projects; for this, they will rely on the counseling of ABINIA's Executive Secretariat.

Executive Secretariat

Caracas - Venezuela

July 2007.