

**CDNL Annual Meeting 2009 – Milan**

**Agenda item 6 – Panel discussion on ‘Challenges facing national libraries’**

Panellists:

Elisabeth Niggemann (Germany)  
Mônica Rizzo Soares Pinto (Brazil)  
Makoto Nagao (Japan)  
John Tsebe (South Africa)

The panel will be moderated by Penny Carnaby.

Explanation of the topic:

National libraries are picking up the digital challenge, but now they must also confront the challenge of economic recession. What are the key issues and concerns? Are there also new opportunities in terms of the digital paradigm?

- changing workplaces: capabilities, skills and culture
- knowledge sharing
- overcoming regional disparities
- how can CDNL facilitate solutions?

Bio notes on the panellists:

**Dr. Elisabeth Niggemann** is the Director General of the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (German National Library) in Leipzig, Frankfurt am Main and Berlin. In 1987 she started her career as a librarian at the German Central Library for Medicine in Cologne as head of the acquisitions department. In 1989 she became head of the cataloguing and subject indexing department at the University and State Library at the Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf. In 1994, she became the director of the Düsseldorf University and State Library. She took up her present position in 1999.

She is Chair of the Board of Directors of CENL (Conference of European National Librarians), a member of the Board of Trustees of OCLC, a Board member of the ‘Stiftung Buchkunst’, a member of several Advisory Councils, a member of the High Level Expert Group on Digital Libraries of the European Commission and Chair of the European Digital Library Foundation. She is a member of the LIBRI Advisory Board and one of the editors of the ‘Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie’.

**Mrs Mônica Pinto** is the director of the Reference and Diffusion Center at the National Library Foundation of Brazil and her responsibilities include the maintenance and promotion of access to all collections of the National Library. She has been a Librarian at the National Library Foundation since 1983, most recently was the Coordinator of Bibliographic Services and was in charge of the coordination of collection development, descriptive and subject cataloguing, and of the activities of the National Bibliographic Agency. Mrs. Pinto is pursuing a master's degree in Social Memory on the theme of legal deposit of electronic publications, and has a bachelor's degree in Library Science.

**Dr. Makoto Nagao** is the Librarian of the National Diet Library (NDL), Tokyo. He is Professor emeritus at Kyoto University. He holds a PhD in Information Engineering. He graduated from the Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University in 1961. After serving as President of Kyoto University (1997-2003) and President of the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (2004-2007), he took up the position of Librarian of the NDL in 2007. He also served as President of the Japan Library Association (JLA) (2000-2007).

**Mr John K. Tsebe** was appointed National Librarian of South Africa in 2004. He was previously University Librarian at the University of the North (now University of Limpopo) for 19 years. He holds an MLS from Syracuse University and a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from Harvard University, USA. He also studied at the College of Librarianship, Wales, UK.

He was a founder member of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), and played a key role in the creation of its constitution. As National Librarian he continues to support LIASA activities. He serves on various lead bodies in the library, information and book industry sectors in South Africa, and is involved in national high-level initiatives for the transformation of the heritage, higher education and LIS sectors.

Mr Tsebe chaired the Executive Committee of the Standing Conference of African National and University Libraries in East, Central and Southern Africa (SCANUL-ECS) from 1998 to 2002. He is currently a Standing Committee member of the IFLA Section of National Libraries, and a Vice-Chairperson of CDNL. He served on the OCLC Council as an alternate member till May 2009. He has wide experience of the LIS sector in developed and developing countries, and works to encourage, develop and sustain global partnerships.