

CDNL Annual Meeting Gothenburg, 12 August 2010

Discussion Group A

Convenor: Dame Lynne Brindley (British Library)

Topic: e-Legal Deposit

Scope Note

e-Legal Deposit

1. The most essential task of national libraries, the one which more than any other makes them what they are, is that they are responsible for acquiring, preserving and making accessible the publications (of all kinds) of the country. Therefore it follows that legal deposit – the objective of which is to build a collection of the national literature – must be of fundamental importance for national libraries.

2. CDNL's Vision for the Global Digital Library states:

“Our long-term vision is 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”.

3. The Vision recognises that to this end, inter alia, CDNL must:

- Ensure that learnings on digital library developments and best practice are shared between national libraries
- Increase digital capability and support digital developments in the national libraries of the developing world
- Advocate for the development of the global digital library and for regulatory support (particularly through legal deposit and intellectual property regimes) and financial support for digital developments.

4. In 2009, the British Library conducted a survey of national libraries, to ascertain the current state of play internationally with regards the legal deposit of electronic publications. A questionnaire was issued to all members of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL), in which all the member states of the Council of Europe are represented, plus the remaining G8 countries and a number of other nations.

5. For each category of electronic publication, the questionnaire asked:

- whether or not e-legal deposit or equivalent legislation had already been enacted, or would be in place before 2010;
- whether the legislation had actually been implemented and put into effect;
- whether material is already being deposited *under legislation*; and
- broadly what terms of access are applied.

6. The findings of the survey and broad conclusions drawn are summarised in the attached short paper.

7. The discussion within Group A will provide an opportunity to:

- Explore with participating members whether the findings and conclusions of the BL survey have wider validity across the whole membership of CDNL.
- Update on progress in participating member countries with regards both the adoption of electronic legal deposit legislation and technical implementation.
- Identify issues and share experience and learnings with regards advocacy for securing e-legal deposit legislation and also drafting/revising legislation for e-legal deposit.
- Identify issues and share experience and learnings with regards technical implementation of e-legal deposit legislation.
- Consider issues arising which CDNL might address and make recommendations as appropriate.