

CDNL Annual Meeting, 13 August 2012, Helsinki, Finland

**Scope note/Agenda for Discussion Group C:**

**Convenor:**

**Bill Macnaught, National Librarian, National Library of New Zealand**

**Topic:**

**Reviewing CDNL's Vision for the Global Digital Library**

**Scope:**

The Chair of CDNL suggested that members review the 'Vision' statement that was adopted at the Annual Meeting of CDNL in 2008, and consider whether it needs to be updated in any way to take account of developments since then. The text of the amended statement follows.

Revised August 2012

**CDNL VISION FOR THE GLOBAL DIGITAL LIBRARY**

The world's national libraries share a common mission of collecting, recording, organising, storing, preserving in perpetuity, and providing access to their nation's cultural patrimony and intellectual output in documentary form.

The Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) is an independent association of the chief executives of the world's national libraries, established to facilitate discussion and promote understanding and cooperation on matters of common interest to national libraries worldwide.

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 research, education and lifelong learning, innovation, social and economic development, and the promotion of international understanding.

To this end we must:

- a) promote, encourage, and support the development of collaborative 'digital libraries' of all types;
- b) promote and support the connecting of the digital collections of national

libraries, and in dialogue with other libraries and archives, to provide a window to the cultures of the world and to open up our rich and diverse holdings;

c) support cultural and linguistic diversity and multilingualism, and also respect indigenous cultures and cultural property;

d) promote the development and use of compatible digital tools, products and services and common standards,

e) ensure that learnings on digital library developments and best practice are shared between national libraries;

f) increase digital capability and support digital developments in the national libraries of the developing world;

g) work for widespread appreciation of the importance of intellectual property issues in the digital age;

h) advocate for solutions to intellectual property issues which strike the appropriate balance between the crucial public interest in ensuring access to information and ideas and also the rights of creators to be recognised and rewarded for their work;

i) 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;

j) strengthen our strategic collaboration with other cultural heritage institutions, with national and international government organisations and NGOs, publishers and information providers, and other private sector organisations.

k) focus on critical issues for national libraries such as long-term digital preservation, authenticity, and competencies to manage digital complexity in order to give access to all our users