



## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2011-2012**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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### **1.General overview of recent major developments in the Library**

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) play a significant role in facilitating access to the world's information resources and in fostering literacy. The Centre for the Book, which is the outreach unit of the NLSA contributes towards the building of a reading and writing nation.

### **2. Library's Relationship with government and citation of relevant legislation**

The NLSA is administered in accordance with the National Library of South Africa Act, 1998 (Act No. 92 of 1998). The NLSA collects, records, preserves and promotes optimal access to the national documentary heritage, both nationally and internationally.

### **4. New ways of managing collections**

The NLSA continued to offer training to staff working in libraries. Training was offered in Cataloguing, MARC 21, Interlibrary Loan and Preservation services. The training of community librarians in disaster management and recovery operations was offered in various Provinces.

The NLSA renders national bibliographic services and operates as the National bibliographic agency. The annual general meeting of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and the International Standard Music Number (ISMN) International Agencies was held at the NLSA on the 13 September 2011 for the first time in Africa. About 35 countries. During this meeting an agreement was signed for

the NLSA to become the agency for the International Standard Music Number (ISMN) in South Africa.

### **5. New ways in creating and building collections**

Throughout the year, new books were received through legal deposit and others purchased. Book donations were also received from various publishers and organisations to enrich our collections. The NLSA catalogued more items than any other library in the country during 2011/12. This has ensured that our documentary heritage is accessible nationally and internationally

### **6. New developments in providing access to collections**

Since opening the doors of its new state-of-the art building in Pretoria in 2009 the NLSA has become an information hub attracting over 1500 library users daily, especially young people. It offers free internet access from over 400 computers available in the library. For 2011/12 over 380 000 library users visited the library.

The rare and special collections at our Cape Town Campus were also heavily used by both researchers and scholars. In order to facilitate access to world resources, the International Inter lending services were offered using the OCLC Article Exchange which has made resource sharing much easier.

The NLSA officially launched new services at its Pretoria Campus, namely, the Reference Services, the De-acidification Unit as well as the Digitisation Services. The library hours were also extended to 18:00 during the week and Saturday from 8:00 to 16:00. The NLSA e-Repository was also launched in order to receive digitally borne materials from various authors and publishers.

The NLSA successfully managed an internet connectivity project for 160 community libraries in the Provinces through the Department of Arts and Culture conditional grant for libraries and information services. The grant is managed on behalf of the Department of Arts and Culture.

### **7. Key Facts and figures**

The NLSA received an additional subsidy of R10,5 million for staff appointments to fill vacancies and to create new posts for expanded service delivery at the new NLSA building in Pretoria at the end of 2011/12. Thirty five critical positions were filled. This enabled the library to open new services.

- 259,893 visitors used the library for study purposes and 2,656 to do research.
- 134,795 items were retrieved for use in the reading rooms
- 72,415 reference queries were satisfied
- 12,276 new books received on legal deposit
- 5,982 books were de-acidified
- 162 library workers country-wide participated in preservation workshops
- 22 African classics were reprinted
- 20 new book clubs were established

## **8. Examples of collaboration with other libraries, archives, museums**

The NLSA continued to build and maintained partnerships for collaboration, cooperation and resource sharing with relevant national libraries and organisations. The NLSA is now assisting in strengthening national libraries in Africa. The NLSA is a member of the World Digital Library and will select some of our rare and unique collections for inclusion in this digital collection.