



ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2013-2014

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 Librarian, Mr John Tsebe went on retirement in February 2014, having served the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) for 10 Years. He played a significant role in the LIS sector both national and internationally. He also served as the Chairperson of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL). Following the retirement of Mr Tsebe, the Board subsequently appointed the new CEO and National Librarian, Professor Rocky MD Ralebipi-Simela.

The NLSA is an institutional member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Several staff members are serving on the IFLA Standing Committees. It was noted with appreciation that IFLA will be hosted in South Africa in 2015 with the NLSA hosting CDNL.

Fundraising initiatives resulted in an opportunity to de-acidify the collections in custody of the Nelson Mandela Foundation. The significant part that acidity plays in the rapid deterioration of paper has long been recognized. The Bookkeeper mass de-acidification system allows for the dipping and spraying of acidic books with a de-acidification solution followed by high pressure drying.

2. Library's relationship with government and citation of relevant legislation

The objects of the NLSA are to contribute to socio-economic, cultural, educational, scientific and innovative development by collecting, recording, preserving and making available the national documentary heritage and promoting an awareness and appreciation thereof, by fostering information literacy, and by facilitating access to the world's information resources.

The Board of the NLSA ensures the National Library aligns with the National Development Plan. Underfunding still remains the greatest challenge to the National Library to carry out its functions as prescribed by the Act, namely: to act as the national preservation library, render a national bibliographic service, provide reference and information services nationally and internationally, and promote the culture of reading among South Africans.

The NLSA is strategically placed to provide professional support to the Department of Arts and Culture. It has carried out these functions through the DAC conditional grant, namely: Internet connectivity has been rolled out successfully nationwide, the NLSA provided preservation training in the provinces, promote optimal access to information by creating awareness, through marketing and promotion of the conditional grant projects, promotion of the culture of reading through reprint of African Literature Classics.

3. Key facts and figures

- 361 398 clients visited the library
- 65 137 clients used internet facilities
- 24 137 items were catalogued
- 17 520 images / pages were digitized
- 10 400 books were de-acidified
- 10 496 monographs were received on legal deposit
- 906 books were repaired
- 73 media coverages were recorded
- 29 workshops / training events took place
- 21 book clubs were established

4. New ways of managing collections

As the recipient of a DAC (Department of Arts and Culture) conditional grant promoting the implementation of RDA (Resource Description Access), a new cataloguing standard set to replace the current AACR2, and in line with the leading role of the NLSA, the Programme has been responsible for constituting the RDA-SA Steering Committee, the creation of a national RDA website, and the promotion of RDA at national events such as the LIASA annual conference.

5. New ways in creating and building collections

The NLSA is one of five legal deposit libraries, deriving its status from the Legal Deposit Act 54 of 1997, and through which it is mandated to “provide for the preservation of the national documentary heritage through legal deposit of published documents; to ensure the preservation and cataloguing of, and access to, published documents emanating from, or adapted for, South Africa”.

In achieving this mandate, and thereby serving the citizenry of South Africa, the NLSA received 10 496 new monographs, 21 682 new serial issues, and 33 new serial titles on legal deposit. To supplement the legal deposit collection, an additional 2 461 items published abroad, relating to South Africa or written by South African authors were purchased and added to our collection.

Good progress was made with the Black Press digitisation project: various local historical newspapers were scanned. Scanning to digital format will improve access and prevent further degrading of the original paper copies.

An unprecedented number of good quality manuscripts were submitted publication grants. The following new authors from all over South Africa received grants to publish their books:

Fikiswa Magqashela for isiXhosa novel, Umlindi.

Pitso Moletsane for Sesotho children's story, Bana Le Dithothokiso.

Jacqueline Opperman for English children's story, The Jenga Day.

Nompumezo Buzani for IsiXhosa drama, Imida.

Samuel Mphuthi for English short stories, Election Day.

Mfana Skhosana for IsiNdebele drama, Kuphelile.

Mgwebi Snail for English poetry, Window seat
Michelle Searle for English children's story, Shimmer Time.
Samukelo Ntombela for IsiZulu poetry, Impukane.
Eefka Young for English children's story, The Cat Who Sees It All.
Nomthandazo Dyamdeki for IsiXhosa short stories, Ukuhamba Kukubona.
Zach Heyns, a 9 year old boy, for English children's story, Animal Antics.
Virgil Johnson for Afrikaans poetry, Veraad Sonder Rigting.
Nwabisa Kope for IsiXhosa children's story, Ibali likaVeli noMveli.
Elizabeth Masombuka for isiNdebele poetry, Inkwana Yomthubi.

6. New developments in providing access to collections

To provide access to our collections both nationally and internationally, an additional 24 137 bibliographic records were added to our OPAC and the OCLC Worldcat database, and we ensured that access was optimised via the maintenance of the South African name authority file adding 1 890 new names to our local and Library of Congress name authority files, and a total of 1 357 series and uniform titles.

Further facilitating access to the legal deposit collection, ISAP (Index to South African Periodicals) added 9025 records to the ISAP database, thereby ensuring that locally published scientific research is available to both national and international patrons.

The ISN (International Standard Number) agency based at the Pretoria campus of the NLSA continued to assist both self-publishing authors and large commercial publishers via the allocation of ISBN, ISMN and facilitating the allocation of ISSN to all new publications.

The NLSA is fortunate to have in their collections a significant number of unique historical images which are highly used by researchers both nationally and internationally. The Library displayed examples of the various photographic processes which were available, including examples of Photographic Negatives, Glassplates, Daguerrotypes and Stereographs. These photographs were hung around the exhibition gallery walls. Also to be seen in the exhibition were examples of early photographic equipment on loan from the Cape Town Photographic Society.

7. Examples of collaboration with other libraries, archives, museums

The NLSA was awarded a R32 million grant by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support a pilot project to strengthen selected Public Libraries in South Africa. The fund was awarded in partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture Conditional Grant in order to enhance technology access in public libraries and to foster research and innovation in libraries.

The NLSA played a pivotal role in the establishment of the African Library Associations (AfLIA) and the Conference of the Directors of National Libraries in Africa (CANL) at the African Library Summit July 2013. We truly cherish and embrace this initiative in our quest to building a positive image of libraries in Africa and strengthen our strategic partnerships Africa and globally and to advance the objectives of CDNL.

The NLSA acted as regional centre for IFLA PAC (Preservation and Conservation Core Activity) Southern Africa. The NLSA published a directory of National Libraries in Africa (NATLIB Africa Project). Other contacts with African libraries were established through participation in the African Library Summit that was held in Pretoria in July 2013. Preparations for hosting sessions at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Cape Town in 2015 are well under way.

The NLSA conducted preservation training and workshops in cooperation with the Provincial Library Services and the Africana Library Trust in Kimberley. Workshops were presented by NLSA staff with assistance of external professionals and trainers. Training covered topics ranging from bookbinding, basic book repairs to disaster planning and pest management. Participants learned how to deal with wet books in case of flooding disasters. During practical sessions wind-tunnels were built for air-drying damp books, interleaving of wet books and the preparation of soaked books for dry-freezing. Examples of library disaster plans were discussed as well as means of preventing library disasters.