



COUNTRY REPORT TO CDNL 2016-2017

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1. Basic information

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) is a custodian and provider of the Nation's key knowledge resources. The Library is mandated by the National Library of South Africa Act to collect and preserve published documents and make them accessible to the public. The NLSA ensures that knowledge is not lost to posterity and that information is available for research. The National Library's collections contain a wealth of information, and include rare manuscripts, books published in South Africa, periodicals, government publications, official foreign publications, maps, technical reports, Africana and newspapers.

2. Relationship to the government

The NLSA as agency of the National Department of Arts & Culture in collaboration with Provincial Departments of Arts & Culture coordinates the implementation of a community library development project in all provinces with the aim of enabling communities to gain access to knowledge and information, to eliminate illiteracy, eradicate inequality in the sector, promote social cohesion and develop an informed and reading nation. This Conditional Grant fund project ensures that new community libraries continue to be built every year and others upgraded and new material

purchased. Through this Community Library Conditional Grant Project, 41 new library structures were completed (10 brick and mortar and 31 modular libraries) and 18 library structures were refurbished. The Department works with the Department of Basic Education in providing school-community libraries.

3. Relevant legislation and mandate

In terms of Section 6 of the National Library of South Africa Act, the National Library is controlled by a Board of Directors. The Minister of Arts and Culture appoints Board members from a short list drawn up by an advisory panel after a public call for nominations. The Chief Executive Officer of the National Library, known as the National Librarian, is an ex officio member. Among other responsibilities, Board policies of the National Library (in consultation with the Minister); approve its budget; appoint the Chief Executive Officer, management team and other employees, and determine the remuneration and benefits of its employees. In this respect the governance of the National Library resembles that of other South African statutory institutions such as the universities, national research institutions and museums.

The National Library of South Africa is one of five Legal Deposit libraries, deriving its status from the Legal Deposit Act 54 of 1997, 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”.

4. General overview of recent major developments

Mzansi Libraries On-Line (MLO) is a programme of the NLSA, in collaboration with the Department of Arts & Culture and the Provincial Library Services in all nine provinces. It is part of the Global Libraries Programme which has benefited developing countries. The Global Libraries Programme is based on the reality that libraries have the potential to serve and engage the entire community through targeted outreach programmes aimed at improving the lives of information-deprived communities who currently lack adequate access to information needed to live healthy and productive lives. A total of 667 public libraries will benefit from this generous donation by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. A pilot project of 27 libraries was completed benefitting three libraries per province. The NLSA/ BCX Graduate Internship Programme emerged as a response to the challenge to identify opportunities to address youth unemployment and economic emancipation in the country. Upon completion of the training programme, the trainees will be deployed to libraries in their local communities to provide support to the libraries that participated in the Mzansi Libraries On-Line pilot project.

5. Key facts and figures

- 376 797 clients visited the library
- 97 611 clients used internet facilities
- 35 145 images / pages were digitized
- 20 657 serial issues were received
- 18 094 items were catalogued
- 10 555 monographs were received on legal deposit

- 10 077 books were de-acidified
- 1 014 books were repaired
- 62 media engagements
- 37 workshops / training events took place
- 17 book clubs were established
- 12 exhibitions were held

6. New developments in creating and managing collections

Requirements and specifications for a new Library System were developed to replace the current library system. Tenders were invited to satisfy the needs for additional and improved functionality required for managing and enhancing access to digitised collections, electronic publications and other e-resources, statistical reporting, new cataloguing and metadata rules and standards, inventory control and new requirements in line with generally recognised accounting practices. The new system will be in place soon.

The NLSA has undertaken the digitisation of South African historical newspapers for the purpose of preserving brittle collection items and advancing access to information. In 2016 a significant grant was received from the National Lotteries Commission to strengthen the digitisation capacity at the NLSA. Activities include the procurement of two large format scanners and skills development.

The aim of digitisation is the optimal reformatting of the Library's collections in line with the NLSA's conservation and preservation policies as required by users and clients of the Library. The digitisation service creates digital copies of materials for both preservation and easy access purposes. During the year under review the NLSA digitised 35 145 pages of content mostly from South African newspapers. These included *Imvo Zabantsundu* (1897-1903), *Indian Opinion* (1930-1949), *Cape Standard* (1936-1947), and *Izwi Lama Swazi* (1949-1958).

7. New developments in providing access to collections

A user survey was undertaken to evaluate the services that are offered to library users. The objectives of the survey were to determine user satisfaction in general, the extent to which library resources are being utilised, to make informed decisions on the allocation of resources, and to measure and monitor library performance over a couple of years. On quality of services 85% indicated satisfaction with staff being pleasant and helpful. Internet usage was rated at 72%.

8. Collaboration with other libraries, archives and museums

The NLSA participated in the Good Hope exhibition at the Rijks Museum in the Netherlands exploring the complex history of relations between South Africa and the Netherlands since the 17th century up to the arrival of Nelson Mandela in the Netherlands in 1990. A number of 14 unique items from the National Library's Special Collections were exhibited.

The National Library of South Africa participated in the South Africa - Russia Season 2016. The National Library mounted an exhibition in Moscow in October 2016,

including material on previously banned publications, and material relating to struggle stalwarts who were in Russia during the struggle for freedom years. A variety of manuscript material, and published items were scanned and translated into Russian for the exhibition.

The South African ISN Agency is located at the National Library of South Africa and is responsible for the provision of International Standard Numbers for books, music, and the facilitation of Standard Numbers for periodicals, to both commercial and self-publishers. The Agency produces the Directory of South African Publishers on an annual basis and assists both commercial and self-publishers with daily queries regarding publishing, copyright, legal deposit, marketing, barcoding etc. The Agency uploads information pertaining to all allocated ISNs to the Global Register at the International ISBN Agency in London. A total of 13 534 ISBN, 73 ISSN and 102 ISMN were allocated to commercial publishers and 4 936 ISBN were allocated to self-publishers in the past financial year.

As a national bibliographic service the NLSA is also responsible for the creation of bibliographic records for all material received. Bibliographic records are created to comply with set international standards and are contributed nationally to the Sabinet Online SACAT database and internationally to the OCLC and NISC databases. The NLSA is also responsible for the creation and maintenance of authority records pertaining to South African authors both personal and corporate and series. A total of 18 094 items were catalogued in the past financial year.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institution's (IFLA) Regional Preservation and Conservation Centre for Southern Africa is based at the National Library of South Africa. The purpose of the Centre is to raise awareness among library professionals, the public and authorities of the urgent need to preserve endangered library collections. The IFLA News Media Section in partnership with the Preservation and Conservation Regional Centre for Southern Africa and Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA) presented a Digitisation and Digital Preservation Workshop at the University of Nairobi from 14 to 16 February 2017. The topics covered included the selection of materials, digitisation standards, workflow, quality assurance, preservation considerations, digitisation tools and hands-on activities. The Workshop was attended by 38 participants from Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Tanzania and South Africa.