

# BENIN

## THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE BENIN

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### THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE BENIN IN THE AGE OF RESTORATION AND OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION (NTIC)

The National Library of the Benin was created in 1975 and obtained new buildings in 1985 covering an area of 2 hectares. It was built with national budget funds.

Following the financial problems that the Benin encountered in 1988-1989, the maintenance of the buildings was neglected and became run down.

A program of renovation was established in 2001 to restore and give the Library a new face. This program is being financed by the Programme d'Investissements Publics (P.I.P.) and the renovation is being performed over a period of 5 years, progressively modernising the three essential buildings that constitute the National Library.

The 1st phase of this restoration deals with the building intended for public use. Work will commence before August 2002 and will take into account the large reading room, the conference room, the exhibition area and part of the inner courtyard (paved area and garden), with the construction of a car park for motor vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles.

At the end of the five year period, the whole complex will be renovated and will present a new and attractive Cultural institution as in any other country.

The National Library has received financial support from UNESCO in order to start the computerisation of its services. A project will be financed during 2003 for the continuation of this computerisation and to acquire computer equipment and to set up the installation of a connection by satellite.

The National Library will offer an Internet centre aimed at the young people attending colleges and high schools in Porto-Novo, the capital of the Benin. This is being sponsored by means of a project by the Institut Francophone of the Nouvelles Technologies de l'Information et de la Formation (INTIF). The extension of this centre will establish a Resource centre specialised in data processing, in new technologies (NTIC) and a Training centre for using these computerised and information resources.

In order to remain within the framework of the activities of national and international bibliographical control (ISSN and ISBN), it is anticipated that data processing creation will take place for the sharing and transfer of files with the CIEPS and the ISBN agency.

Two publications are expected for the end of the year.

- Publication no.5 of the National Bibliography
- Publication no.1 of the National Discography.

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