

SWAZILAND

SWAZILAND NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002

This report highlights Swaziland National Library Service (SNLS) new developments and updates the report submitted at the conference in Boston U.S.

INTERNET SERVICES FOR USERS

The Swaziland National Library Service envisages the installation of one PC in both the main libraries and in some branch libraries to enable library users to browse and search the internet for themselves. Currently internet searches are done by staff members on behalf of the user.

TRAINING

Training of library staff in information technology continues to play a major role in both short and long courses. The Swaziland National Library Service train staff as an effort to facilitate the development of information and computer literacy skills. SNLS has sent its third library staff member to the University of Namibia to do a degree program in computer science.

Staff members are also availed the opportunity of attending short courses in computer literacy skills in the local institutions.

SNLS- WEB PAGE

Government has already approved that the Swaziland National library Service (SNLS) uses the services of one the local Internet Service Provider (ISP).to develop a WEB – Page for SNLS, inspite of the fact that we are not yet automated. This we believe will market us not only Nationally but to the global community. The WEB- Page is expected to be ready before the end of this year.

SNLS- AUTOMATION

The Swaziland National Library Service main automation project has started. Already a team of three staff members plus one officer from the government computer centre visited South Africa last year October to explore available suitable library software in the market. SNLS is also expecting vendors before the end of 2002 to demonstrate their software. Lack of funds however is a major constraint in this regard and the Swaziland government as the primary funder of SNLS centralizes the budget and there are lots of budget cuts being experienced by SNLS.

SNLS-CABLING

The Swaziland National Library Service since late 2001 and the better part of 2002 has been undergoing major renovations which have just been completed and partial cabling has been done, however, the Mbabane public library at the headquarters is still to do the cabling for the automation purposes.

RECORDING/COLLECTION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

The National library section is also involved in the recording and collection of indigenous knowledge. These include the culture of Swaziland, history of some prominent individuals in Swaziland etc.

WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY

The Swaziland National Library Service hosted the World Book and Copy Right Day successfully on the 12th April, 2002.

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