

SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA

JOHN KGWALE TSEBE – NATIONAL LIBRARIAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

The National Library of South Africa, as the primary resource and custodian of South Africa's documentary heritage, promotes creative, effective and efficient universal access to information. This is the National Library's shared mission. The Library has formulated its mission in accordance with the statutory objects set out in the *National Library Act* with the core functions outlined in Section 4 of the Act.

The National Library's business and development planning cycles are in line with those of the Department of Arts and Culture, the main source of the Library's funding. The National Library has been able to sustain its services, complies with the statutory mandate in terms of the Legal Deposit Act, as well as its functions and objects as stipulated in the *National Library of South Africa Act*.

CHALLENGES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES FOR THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA TO OCCUPY NEW STRATEGIC SPACE

The National Library of South Africa is a recipient of the Carnegie Corporation fund. This will assist in obtaining and providing easy access to appropriate information that is widely accepted as an essential platform for sustainable economic development. NLSA is one of the best-known and best-used points of access to information by national and international researchers. In addition, the NEPAD programme funded on the principle of sustainable economic development requires the support of African institutions such as the National Library of South Africa.

ACCOMMODATION

The construction of the new National Library building in Pretoria is progressing very well. It is estimated to be completed for occupation by late 2007. The Library will gain approximately 14,700 usable square metres of space for its book collections, as well as approximately 1,800 seats for library users. The present campus building accommodates only 130 users.

The Cape Town campus and the Centre for the Book are housed in buildings which are landmarks in the historical nucleus of the city. The buildings were extensively renovated in the mid-1990s and further repairs to the campus premises were carried out during the current year.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA IN THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES (LIS) SECTOR NATIONALLY, REGIONALLY IN AFRICA AND IN THE WORLD.

National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS): the responsibility of the Council is to advise the Minister of Arts and Culture and the Minister of Education on matters relating to the development and coordination of library and information services (LIS); the promotion of cooperation; legislation; policies to govern the allocation of public funds; deficiencies in the LIS system and priorities needed to eliminate them; the promotion of literacy, a culture of reading, and information literacy; and the utilisation of information technology.

The National Library is strongly represented on the Council and will, therefore, be playing a visible leadership role in the promotion and development of library and information services in the country.

The National Library of South Africa also has a close relationship with the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA).

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY TO AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL IMPERATIVES

The National Library strives to ensure equitable access to Southern African information resources in a balanced national and regional system, both in South Africa and other Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries and the world. The National Library of South Africa strives to participate actively in the LIS sector nationally, regionally and in the world, by active presence at SCANULE-ECS, COMLA, SCECSAL and IFLA during the past year. Some of the staff members are also members of the Standing Committees of IFLA.

There are other initiatives that are underway to establish professional contacts of long standing partnerships and collaboration with other national libraries in Britain, Korea, China, Cuba, Germany, Iran, Malaysia, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague, Netherlands and currently Korea. These will result in active exchange of experiences, publications of mutual interest and exchange programmes between the institutions.

The National Library intends to have more international relations with other international libraries as this will open the gateway to strengthen the links between the national libraries. Apart from valuable networking The Memoranda of Understanding signed between the National Library of South Africa and National Libraries abroad, are intended to develop specific areas of collaboration for the mutual advantage of the institutions and to further the interests of the research communities which they serve.

CONCLUSION

We celebrate all the significant achievements of the National Library during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Together with our fellow colleagues in the Library and Information Services (LIS) Sector, we welcome the world to the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) and IFLA General Conference and Council in Durban 2007.

We are indeed delighted to be welcoming the world to WLIC and IFLA in Durban, South Africa 2007.

CONTACT DETAILS

Address: Private Bag X990, Pretoria 0001 South Africa
Telephone: + 27 12 401 9781
Fax: + 27 12 326 7642
Web address: www.nlsa.ac.za
Email contact: info@nlsa.ac.za