



## Office of the National Librarian

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### ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2009

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**Name of Library:** National Library of South Africa  
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#### 1. General Overview

The move of the collections to the new National Library in Pretoria was one of the biggest library moves in South African history. 26 km (26,000 linear meters) of library stock had to be moved. The collections to be moved included books, journals, newspapers, maps, ephemera, microfiche and microfilm holdings. Each of these collections had to be moved and handled in a different manner. This challenging task was undertaken by Preservation Unit of the National Library of South Africa together with the consultant.

Staff of various departments assisted by way of preparation of collections, move planning and supervising and directing the removal contractor's teams. They were a great team that showed a keen interest in the working of the library. Throughout the move regular video recording was undertaken. Plans are to produce a training video. As a result, other libraries may also benefit from our experience.

#### 2. Legislative Frameworks

In terms of the National Library of South Africa Act, No. 92 of 1998 and Legal Deposit Act, No 54 of 1997, the functions of the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) are to build up a complete collection of published documents emanating from or relating to South Africa in any medium, print or electronic. Other legislative frameworks within which the National Library of South Africa operates are as follows: Section 195 of the South African Constitution, 1996; provides, amongst others for the provision of timely, accessible and accurate information; Promotion of Access to Information Act No. 2 of 2000; The Electronic Communications and Transactions Act No. 25 of 2002; The Public Finance Management Act No. 1 of 1999; Copyright Act No. 98 of 1978; National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999. All these enabling legislation constitute a cohesive and informed legislation relevant to the National Library of South Africa.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

The new National Library building was officially opened in Pretoria Central Business District (CBD) on 1 August 2008. This modern building will ensure better preservation of national collections and embrace South Africa's heritage. There is another campus and Centre for the Book in Cape Town which also forms part of the National Library.

The new library covers 33000m<sup>2</sup> and seat 1300 users, 10 times more than the existing library, two blocks away. The 14700m<sup>2</sup> of storage space will preserve the quality of the reading material, among it newspapers dating back to the late 18th century. Climate control of 18°C and 50% humidity within the storage space will prevent deterioration of books.

The National Library of South Africa acts as a hub for the Southern African Inter-lending Scheme with more than 600 member libraries and is trying to address problems of information access, both in South Africa, in other Southern African Development Community (**SADC**) countries and worldwide. The National Library of South Africa has 157 staff members and operates on a total budget of R57 977 454.

### 4. New Developments in creating and building collections

#### Creating and building digital collections

**Digitisation** is a fairly new field of practice at the National Library in keeping with present international trends. The Library has many valuable items in its holdings which can be made accessible to the public via the Internet. Digitisation services can also be provided for external clients. The National Library is a partner with the National Digital Imaging Project of South Africa ([DISA](#)) on a project entitled 'South Africa's Struggle for Democracy: Anti-Apartheid Periodicals, 1960-1990', in which digital copies are being made of scarce periodicals published during the three key decades in the growth of opposition to apartheid rule, a period when the African National Congress (ANC), black consciousness, and other resistance movements were very active. Approximately forty periodical titles have been selected from a comprehensive list, representing not only a wide spectrum of political views published during these years, but also a diversity of subjects such as trade unions, religion, health, culture, and gender.

#### Web Archiving

**Legal Deposit:** The National Library of South Africa, and other members of the legal deposit consortia, are in process of exploring legal deposit of electronic and born-digital publications. A meeting was held with various government departments of the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 to develop a guidelines and policy development in line with e-government strategy. The National Library of South Africa also established an internal task team to investigate best methods and standards of collecting, accessioning, preserving and providing access to legal deposit of electronic and born-digital publications.

#### Managing Digital Collection

The National Library of South Africa collection is curated, which is to say, its resources are actively managed during their entire life cycle. The preservation section is concerned with the management of life cycle of resources from the time it is created or obtained until it is purposely disposed of. Curation encompasses a set of activities that include active data management, archiving, and digital preservation. Active data management is required to ensure that objects in a collection can be used and reused over time. It can include creating, correcting, and enhancing metadata; correcting or enhancing the data itself; and adding annotations, linkages to other materials, or other enriching

information. It can involve working with the creators of the digital objects to ensure they are appropriately transferred to the custody of the curator, and appropriately described and documented.

#### Accessing Digital Collections - Digital Resource Discovery

**Digital rights management:** For the purpose of providing excellent information service, the National Library of South Africa subscribes to information provided by the author or any other rightholders, or information about the terms and conditions of use of the work or other subject-matter, and any numbers or codes that represent such information. Once the digital rights management are regulated in South Africa, the National Library of South Africa will apply exceptions and limitations to the reproduction right for certain types of production of audio, visual and audio-visual material for educational and research purpose, and not for private or commercial use.

#### **METADATA**

One of the most challenging aspects of the digital environment is the identification of resources available on the Web. The existence of searchable descriptive metadata increases the likelihood that digital content will be discovered and used. The South African National Bibliographic (SANB) Unit is responsible for metadata standards. At this organization stage, metadata about subjects, publishing history, and access rights are recorded by catalogers or indexers.