



ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2009-2010

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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1.GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LIBRARY

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA), continues to play an important role in contributing to socio-economic, cultural, educational, scientific and innovative development of the country by collecting, recording, preserving, and facilitating access to this comprehensive and diverse collection of South African literature as well as the world's documentary resources.

Since opening the doors of its new state of the art building in August 2008, the NLSA has become a symbol of national pride, community upliftment and nation-building. Of note is 400 computers sponsored by Carnegie Corporation of New York to facilitate free internet access to the public. This service has bridged the digital divide and continues to give online access to world resources which were otherwise inaccessible to the majority of citizens. The service is slowly improving the percentage of South Africans who have access to Internet.

NLSA is housing the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) on its premises since 2009. This development has strengthened the partnership between the two organisations in such a way that they run campaigns on reading together. Of note was the celebration of the South African Library Week which also marked the establishment of the first public library in South Africa in 1818. Now known as the NLSA. The celebration was also the beginning of "Every Child a book" reading campaign to build a reading nation. Government sponsored the activities which were also directed at promoting appreciation for libraries.

The Department of Arts and Culture has assigned an important role to the National library in the implementation of the Community Library Conditional Grant which is recapitalising and revitalising the local community and public libraries of our country. The National Library is responsible for IT co-ordination, marketing which focus on raising awareness of the importance of libraries for the upliftment of communities, and the other project is the republication of literary classics in African indigenous languages.

2. LIBRARY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT AND CITATION OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION

NLSA exist through the National Library of South Africa Act, No. 92 of 1998 which stipulates its objects and functions. Other relevant legislation governing the function and services of the NLSA are the The Legal Deposit Act , No 54 of 1997, the National Council of Library and Information Services Act , the Promotion of Access to Information Act, the Copyright Act, the Public Finance Management Act, National Heritage Resources Act, the Electronic Communications and Transaction Act, etc.

All these enabling legislations constitute a cohesive and informed legislation relevant to the NLSA.

3. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

The NLSA has a collection of over 3.4 million printed material which include, books and periodicals. The 23 special collections of rare books and manuscripts are of historical value and used by scholars and researchers. Since moving in the new NLSA building the visitors have increased up to 232 268 annually. The library employs 160 staff members with a budget of R57 million.

4. NEW WAYS OF MANAGING COLLECTIONS

The NLSA acts as the national preservation library and continues to preserve its collection for prosperity using preservation methods that included reformatting of materials. The digitisation project is a new initiative which will assist the library to preserve documentary heritage. NLSA has installed the Bookkeeper Mass De-acidification system valued at R21 million for the treatment of books and archival material in 2009 . It is the seventh system in operation in the world, the third one installed at a national library and the first in Africa. The Bookkeeper system allows for the dipping and spraying of acidic books with a de-acidification solution followed by high-pressure drying. The facility is of interest to librarians, archivists, museum professionals and experts in paper technology, the print, publishing and book industry. The system has a capacity of processing more than 30,000 books per year. Being the only system in Southern Africa, the NLSA is planning to service other libraries, cultural institutions and the private sector in the region as well.

NLSA provides training in preservation and conservation nationally to establish best practice models and to ensure sustainable training of Community Library staff to deal with disasters as well as other causes of damage to collections. Over 250 librarians have been trained throughout the country.

Contracted out the antique Map collection to be de-acidified and digitised. Three images of VOC maps to be published in the upcoming publication by Asia Manor Publishers in Holland

5. NEW WAYS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

The National Library of South Africa published a catalogue of published literature in nine indigenous languages. The Reprint of Classics in Indigenous Languages project was launched by the Minister of Arts and Culture in 2009. Over 3000 per title of the 27 African classics selected were reprinted and distributed to libraries throughout the country to encourage reading in the nine Indigenous South African languages.

The 2nd phase of project is underway. Successfully completed the Carnegie funded addition of 5000 titles on African literature and Reference material for the Reading Room. Two

manuscripts of major historical significance were acquired through generous donation from the Hill Trust. As a legal deposit library, the NLSA continues to receive by law, books published South Africa

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

Successfully completed the retrospective conversion of more than 420 000 catalogue cards to machine readable format. Project also sponsored by Carnegie Foundation of New York. Also rounding of the Tswana Bibliography, which consists of materials we found published in the Tswana Language or about the Tswana language and literature. Also relooked the OPAC and used terms more familiar to users.

7. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION WITH OTHER LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES MUSEUMS

The National Library of South Africa develops professional contacts of long standing nationally and Internationally, and form new partnerships and collaboration with other national libraries in countries as diverse as the United Kingdom, Cuba, Germany, Iran, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Korea and China. These result in the active exchange of experiences, of publications of mutual interest and exchange programmes between the institutions and to further the interests of the research communities which they serve.