

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2010**

### **SWAZILAND: SWAZILAND NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE**

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### **1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS**

The Swaziland National Library Service (SNLS), like most national library services in the global south serves a dual purpose, mainly the National / Depository library and Public library systems. SNLS operates two main public libraries in the major towns of the country (Mbabane and Manzini) and thirteen branch libraries located in the smaller towns. The Mbabane Public Library and the National Library are housed in the Swaziland National Library Service headquarters in Mbabane which is the country's capital city.

The National library consists of two main sections, the Swaziana and the United Nations Information Centre. Among some of the responsibilities of the National Library is the maintenance of the Swaziland Union Catalogue which lists holdings of all libraries in the country. It is also a national coordinating centre for inter-library loans and information exchange.

### **2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT**

The Swaziland National Library Service is a department within the Ministry of Information Communications Technology (ICT) and all its operations are fully funded by the government of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The Swaziland National Library Service was established by the National Library Service Act of 2002, which guides the operations and stipulates the functions of the National Library Service. The National Library Service is governed by an Advisory Board which was appointed through Legal Notice No.129 of 2008.

### 3. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

#### **3.1 Human resource**

The Swaziland National Library Service has a staff complement of **160**.

**Professionals** (Staff members with Masters and Bachelors degrees in Library and Information Studies): **27**

**Para- professionals** (Diploma and Certificate holders in Library and Information Studies): **7**

**Non – Professionals** (Staff members within the Librarianship Cadre who have no formal training in Library and Information Studies): **39**

**Support staff** (included in these categories are accountants, typists, secretaries, messengers, security officer, drivers and cleaners): **87**

**3.2 Major collections:** The National Library Section has **22,557** major collections.

The Public section has total of **248388** items.

#### **3.3 Operating budget**

The Swaziland National Library Service receives an annual budget of U\$ 188067.97.

An amount of U 1041666.7 was granted by government for the Swaziland National Library and Bibliographic Network project.

### 4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

As part of its mandate, the National Library collects Indigenous Knowledge from resourceful Swazi citizens for posterity. The National Library is currently working on project to convert information from traditional medium, to usable and contemporary formats such as DVDs.

In October 2010, the Swaziland National Library Service will subscribe to the South African Bibliographic Network (SABINET) to increase user's access to a variety of electronic databases.

### 5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS

The digitization project will commence in 2011.

### 6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

In an effort to adhere to the principle of inclusivity and to bridge the knowledge gap between the urban and rural populace, the Swaziland National Library Service in 2009 established ten (10) Community Library and Information Corners in the some of the country's constituencies which are predominantly in rural areas.

In December 2010, the National Library will transcribe most of the information in print format to Braille to cater for the information needs of the visually impaired persons.

The Swaziland National Library Service will roll out the Swaziland National Library and Bibliographic Network (SWALINET) project in January 2011 to ensure wide coverage of library and information services. Most of library services in Swaziland will have access to internet services.

#### 7. COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

The Swaziland National Library Service in collaboration with key partners in the information industry namely tertiary and special libraries, the Swaziland National Archives, is a member of the Swaziland Library and Information Consortium (SWALICO) .

The National Library deposits all materials on Swaziland with the Centre for International Collections, Ohio University Libraries and the Library of Congress.