



ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2010-2011

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Name of Chief Executive Officer: John Kgwale Tsebe

Physical Address: National Library of South Africa, 75 Andries Street, Pretoria, South Africa.

Mailing Address: Private Bag X990, Pretoria, 0001, Republic of South Africa.

Tel: +27 12 401 9780

Fax: +27 12 326 7642

Web Address: [http:// www.nlsa.ac.za](http://www.nlsa.ac.za)

Email: John.Tsebe@nlsa.ac.za

1. General overview of recent major developments in the Library

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) is the national treasure house of published heritage as reflected in its collection of over 3 million books and other library material published in and about South Africa. The objects and functions of the NLSA are of a statutory nature and are prescribed by the National Library of South Africa Act, No 92 of 1998. It is vested with the responsibility to contribute to socio-economic, cultural, educational, scientific and innovative development of the nation by collecting, recording, preserving, and facilitating access to this comprehensive and diverse collection of South African literature while raising awareness of its existence and promoting appreciation thereof. The two Campuses of the NLSA in Pretoria and Cape Town are important resources for researchers, writers, students and ordinary South Africans.

2. Library's Relationship with government and citation of relevant legislation

The National Library of South Africa is administered in accordance with the National Library of South Africa, 1998 (Act No. 92 of 1998) which mandates it to contribute to the socioeconomic, cultural, educational, scientific and innovative development of South Africa by collecting recording and making accessible the national documentary heritage. Through its Centre for the Book the NLSA continues to promote awareness and appreciation of this documentary heritage and facilitating access to this resource.

The Legal Deposit Act, 1997 (Act 54 of 1997) makes provision for national published documentary heritage to be collected and preserved through legal deposit.

The NLSA works closely with many stakeholders especially the National Council for Library and Information Services which advises both the Ministers of Basic and Higher Education as well as the Minister of Arts and Culture.

The Department of Arts and Culture awarded a conditional grant for the refurbishment of community libraries and the building of new ones. The NLSA is responsible for certain projects within the grant; namely the reprint of African classics, the establishment of book clubs, present disaster management workshops, train library staff in cataloguing , assist with the implementation of library management system as well as rolling out of faster internet connectivity and improved bandwidth for all community libraries.

3. Key Facts and figures

During this current year, 19 “out of print” titles of African Classics were reprinted by the NLSA and distributed to all libraries in the country to promote a culture of reading, especially in indigenous languages. During World Book Day, 20 000 new books were donated to community and school libraries countrywide. About 19 000 books were de-acidified through the mass de- acidification unit. Through the Center for the Book, 20 authors received funding to publish their books. ISBN and ISSN numbers were supplied to 1745 active publishers. 27 000 index records of South African journal articles were produced. 11 000 items were received on legal deposit, 450 new serial titles were received and 33 000 serial issues were received. More than 260 000 clients visited the National Library during this period. The NLSA employs 170 staff members.

4. New ways of managing collections

The preservation of material through the digitisation of special collections is under way and a partnership with Microsoft may assist with mass digitisation to facilitate access to information. Disaster recovery plans were developed for Information and Communications Technology and the library collections. The Cape Town campus is reaching its maximum capacity in terms of storage space for collections. The NLSA is looking at options to improve and secure optimal storage and accommodation of collections.

5. New ways in creating and building collections

The e-legal deposit of digitally born publications is receiving attention. A pilot project on the deposit of electronic publications was implemented. In preparation for the Centenary celebrations of struggle for freedom and democracy in South Africa the NLSA is collecting all books published in exile about South Africa. An exhibition of all previously banned books is underway. All books on Nelson Mandela in libraries across the country were de-acidified as NLSA 67 minutes campaign on Mandela Day.

NLSA is currently in the process of building an electronic repository for published and digitised collection. This repository will also serve other legal deposit libraries.

6. New developments in providing access to collections

The National Library continues to bridge the digital divide and has availed more than 400 computers for public use to facilitate free internet access. This service continues to provide online access to world resources which were otherwise inaccessible to the majority of citizens. Plans are to establish Official Publications Depositories (OPDs) in all nine provinces of South Africa. The NLSA is leading the transition from existing cataloguing rules (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules) to RDA.

The Centre for the Book is an outreach unit of the NLSA which promotes the culture of reading, writing and publishing in especially the African languages of South Africa. Centre for the Book is embarking on a national awareness campaign advocating the importance and access to children's books. Children books are distributed in rural areas of South Africa. Writer's information pamphlets are available in local languages and used to capacitate authors and publishers in the informal sector.

7. Examples of collaboration with other libraries, archives, museums

The NLSA has the responsibility to undertake research and development as well as to liaise with libraries and other cultural and academic institutions in and outside South Africa. The NLSA is repositioning itself as a leading national library and information centre of excellence in Africa. It is playing an active role in LIASA (Library and Information Association of South Africa), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Libraries (SCECSAL) and IFLA. The NLSA participates in national literary events such as South African Library Week, World Book Day, Copyright Day, the Cape Town International Book Fair, Poetry Africa, Word-fest, Time of Writer and the Richmond Book Festival. The NLSA is hosting the website of the South African Preservation and Conservation Group (SAPCON) as well as the RDA (Resource Description and Access) and CDNL websites.

The NLSA continues to develop relationships with national libraries in other parts of the world. The NLSA established agreements of cooperation with the British Library, the National Library of China, the National Library of Korea, the National Library of Bulgaria, the National Library and Archives of Egypt, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the National Library of the Islamic Republic of Iran.