Term Report
2012 - 2014
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES (NCLIS)

Department of Arts and Culture
Pretoria, South Africa

Term Report

2012 - 2014
# National Council for Library and Information Services

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The mandate of the National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS) is to advise the Ministers of Education (Basic and Higher Education and Training) and Arts and Culture on matters relating to library and information services in the country. After twenty years of democracy we have started making inroads on the vision to provide every South African community with access to a library service. Admittedly much still needs to be done especially concerning access to library and information centres in rural areas.

The following extract from the Transformation Charter speaks to the progress that has been made.

In 2010, South Africa had 7 384 publicly funded libraries, made up of:

- 366 public libraries within the six metropolitan areas;
- 1 386 public libraries affiliated to the nine provincial library services;
- 210 Higher Education libraries;
- 5 310 school libraries;
- 112 special and government departmental libraries; and

By June 2013 the community library conditional grants had funded 414 new public libraries and the upgrading of 244 libraries (Department of Arts and Culture, 2013).

During its term of office the Council prioritised the completion of the Transformation Charter. The 7th and final draft was finalised and endorsed by Council and submitted to the former Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Paul Mashatile, who approved the LIS Transformation Charter in April 2014. The Charter was made available on the website; this was followed by a National Symposium in Pretoria in November 2014 at the National Library of South Africa, attended by 90 delegates from all LIS sectors who agreed on the most important recommendations. The sector looks forward to the implementation of the recommendations from the Charter in the next few years.

There is still much work to be done, but I am confident that the new incoming Council will continue on the work to make South Africa a “reading and writing” nation.
Ms L.E Webster

January 2014 – December 2014
Ms L. E. Webster

SIGNATURE
1. INTRODUCTION

The National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS) is an advisory council that advises the Minister of Arts and Culture and the Ministers of Basic and Higher Education and Training on matters relating to library and information services in order to support and stimulate the socio-economic, educational, cultural, recreational, scientific research, technological and information development of all communities in the country and provide optimal access to relevant information to every person in an economic and cost-effective manner.

The Council consists of members appointed by the Minister of Arts and Culture in terms of the National Council for Library and Information Services Act, 2001 (Act No.6 of 2001). The Council is broadly representative and councillors are appointed for their expertise and experience in the field of library and information services (LIS). Councillors serve on the Council for a three-year term, whereafter the council is reconstituted.

2. VISION AND MISSION

Vision
To position South Africa as the best informed nation

Mission
To provide strategic leadership and advocacy for literacy, a culture of reading and writing, innovation and open access to information.

3. COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

The former Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Paul Mashatile, appointed the NCLIS for the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014. The Council's inaugural meeting was held on the 26 March 2012 and Mr Ndima, the Acting Deputy Director-General, Heritage Promotion and Preservation, was the keynote speaker.
## Members of the Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Industry/Body Represented</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prof A Dick (Chairperson from 1 January 2012 until December 2013)</td>
<td>University of Pretoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms B Dlamini</td>
<td>Gauteng Department of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr T Matthee</td>
<td>Drakenstein Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms R S Mhinga</td>
<td>Tshwane University of Technology, Polokwane Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms S Molawa</td>
<td>Human Sciences Research Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof MC Nassimbeni</td>
<td>Department of Information and Library Studies: University of Cape Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr P Sewdass</td>
<td>Community Library Services: Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms L Vahed</td>
<td>University of Zululand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr F Van der Walt</td>
<td>City of Cape Town Libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms M van Wyk</td>
<td>Library and information services: Emfuleni Local Municipality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms L E Webster</td>
<td>Durban University of Technology</td>
</tr>
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<td>The following were Ex-Officio Members (in terms of Section 5 (1) of the NCLIS Act)</td>
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<td>Mr F Hendricks</td>
<td>South African Library for the Blind (SALB)</td>
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<td>Mr A Subban (succeeded Dr J Joshua)</td>
<td>Department of Basic Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms T van Wyk (succeeded Ms P Bulling)</td>
<td>Department of Higher Education and Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr J K Tsebe</td>
<td>National Library of South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms U Satgoor (succeeded Ms N Haasbroek as LIASA President and representative on the Council)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms S Molawa (succeeded Ms Satgoor as LIASA President and representative on the Council)</td>
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4. OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

NCLIS operates within a structure determined by the strategic focus areas for the term. During the 2012–2014 term of office NCLIS operated in the following groups.

The three working groups were established in terms of the NCLIS Act, 2001, Section 11 (1-5) at the Strategic Planning Workshop, 13-15 May 2012, that was held to focus on the strategic goals for the Council. The following working groups were established: Legislative Working Group, Marketing and Advocacy Working Group and the Financial Working Group.

4.1. Legislative working group

Members:
Mr Preshen Sewdass
Ms Naomi Haasbroek (succeeded by Ms U Satgoor)
Ms Rhandzu Mhinga
Prof Mary Nassimbeni

The Working Group’s focus was on the following key areas:

4.1.1 South African Public Library and Information Services Bill

In cooperation with the Department of Arts and Culture, the Working Group assisted to draft the Bill and the costing thereof. The implementation cost of the Bill has been established and the Bill is ready for submission to Cabinet for approval. The Council will provide further input towards the identification of norms and standards for the sector.
4.1.2 LIASA Statutory Status

The NCLIS supported the proposal that LIASA must apply with SAQA to be recognized and registered as a professional body for the LIS profession. LIASA is awaiting the final announcement on the application.

4.2 Marketing and Advocacy Working Group

Members:
Ms Pat Bulling (succeeded by Ms T van Wyk)
Ms Lucille Webster
Ms Segametsi Molawa
Mr Flippie van der Walt
Dr Jenny Joshua (succeeded by Mr A Subban)

The Working Group’s focus was on the following key areas:

4.2.1 Communication strategy to ensure optimal communication with all stakeholders within the sector.

4.2.2 NCLIS website

The Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) and the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) were approached to host the NCLIS webpage. The Working Group assisted with the content and layout of the web page.

4.2.3 NCLIS banners

The Council developed banners that were displayed at events within the sector for marketing purpose.

4.3 Financial Working Group

Members:
Mr Tommy Matthee
Ms Marina van Wyk
Ms Sibongile Nzimande
Ms Busi Dlamini
Ms Laila Vahed
The Working Group’s focus was on the following key areas:

4.3.1 Capitalization of library books according to Generally Recognized Accounting Practice (GRAP 17) - an accounting guideline.

According to GRAP 17, it is required that books be classified as assets. NCLIS raised its concern about the National Treasury’s requirement regarding books as assets in compliance with GRAP 17.

A report regarding the concerns was submitted to the Minister of Finance who responded that libraries would have to comply with GRAP 17.

5. Projects

5.1 Library and Information Services Transformation Charter

In response to the challenges facing the LIS sector, the NCLIS, National Library of South Africa and DAC recommended the appointment of a writing team to investigate the challenges facing the sector and to provide a clear framework of principles and mechanisms needed to eliminate illiteracy and inequality in the South African society, and to build an informed and reading nation.

The National Librarian was tasked with the overall management of the LIS Transformation Charter and the following members were appointed to serve on the Technical Writing Team: Prof M Nkondo, Chairperson, Prof J Teffo, Prof Y Seleti, Prof M C Nassimbeni, Ms Segametsi Molawa, Ms Anna Brown. Mr M Matyumza and Mr M Monaa provided the Secretariat for the Team. The following persons served on the Reference Team: Ms Lucille Webster, Ms Busi Dlamini, Mr Francois Hendrikz, Ms Koekie Meyer, Mr Haffy Haffajee, Dr Jenny Joshua, and Ms Pat Bulling.

The 7th draft was finalised and endorsed by NCLIS. The former Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Paul Mashatile, approved the LIS Transformation Charter in April 2014. The process was followed by a national symposium which was held on 3 November 2014 at the National Library of South Africa. Out of the 39 recommendations made by the Charter Team, library stakeholders who attended the symposium identified nine (9) as national priorities for implementation.

5.2 Community Library Conditional Grant Programme

The purpose of the grant is to address specific inequalities in the delivery of public library services to all communities. The national Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), in collaboration with the provincial departments of Arts and Culture, are coordinating the implementation of the community library conditional grant. DAC is the key stakeholder in the development of public libraries infrastructure and services with the goal to enable all communities access to knowledge and information. The Council recommended that an impact assessment study should be conducted by the Department to determine the impact that the new and upgraded libraries have on the communities. Below are photos of some of the libraries that have been built since 2008:
Photos of Libraries

Tsolo Library - KZN

Nkosi Mtshazi Public Library - EC

Nkqubela library WC

Lomanyaneng Library - NW

interior of Lomanyaneng Library - NW

Nkungumathe Library - KZN

Siyabuswa Library - MP

Thulamela Library - LP

Tsikelelo Tida - NC

Tsikelelo Tida - NC

Wedela - WC

Upgrade-Boholokong Library FS

Upgrade-Morebeng Library-Limpopo

New Building-Sicelo Library-Gauteng

New Morgenzon Library - MP
5.3 Public Library and Information Services Bill

In terms of Schedule 5, Part A, of the Constitution, the public library function is a provincial competency. The Department of Arts and Culture, in consultation with NCLIS, has drafted the South African Public Library and Information Services Bill, 2012. The Bill seeks to provide a framework for providing measures to maintain essential national norms and standards and to establish the minimum standards required for the rendering of services as explained in section 44(2) of the Constitution.

The South African Public Library and Information Services Bill basically aims to ensure consistency in the delivery of public library and information services in the country; to put in place measures to ensure redress of the inequalities in the provision of public library and information services; and to provide for principles, norms and standards for the provision of public library and information services.

The Department of Arts and Culture appointed a service provider to cost the implementation of the Bill. NCLIS endorsed the consultant’s findings and report. To this end, the Bill has been costed and will be submitted to Parliament by the Department of Arts and Culture. NCLIS will assist with the development of the norms and standards for the provision of public library and information services.

6. Other areas of participation during the Council’s term of office

NCLIS dealt with the following matters:

6.1 WIPO Treaty and implications for LIS

The Council was updated regularly on developments within the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), including the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, and Visually Impaired.

The Council supported initiatives to improve access to reading for the visually impaired since reading materials and books in accessible formats are often seen as an option rather than a requirement.

6.2 Minimum norms and standards for public schools infrastructure

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) published the minimum uniform norms and standards for public schools infrastructure.

The Council recommended that each school library should have a dedicated qualified librarian, that DBE should further consult with the library and information services sector and that the source document should be made available.

6.3 Collaboration strategy for public schools and libraries

The Council noted that public libraries are supporting schools and to some extent performing tasks to assist schools in the promotion of reading and information literacy. The Department of Basic Education had briefed NCLIS about a collaboration strategy between DAC and the DBE which outlined the roles and responsibilities of the respective departments.
NCLIS commented on the collaboration strategy and recommended that DBE consult further with the library and information services sector to reach a positive outcome.

### 6.4 Contribution of LIS in the White Paper on Arts and Culture

The second draft of the White Paper on Arts and Culture proposed that the department should restructure its councils and public entities. The establishment of an umbrella body for the sectors was recommended in the Paper. It was proposed to create one body to attend to the needs of libraries, the media and book sectors.

The Council was concerned about this recommendation. The main reason for the establishment of the NCLIS was to redress historical inequalities brought about by the legacy of Apartheid. A survey of public libraries, commissioned by the Department of Arts and Culture in 2007, found that South Africa had three libraries per million people, which compares unfavourably with countries in the developed world. NCLIS believes that establishing a single body trying to serve multiple interests and stakeholders will not expedite redress in the LIS sector.

### 6.5 National site licensing

In an effort to close VAT loopholes, the South African Revenue Service has announced a change to the VAT Act, effective from 1 January 2014. This would impact on the supply and consumption of information subscription services.

The Council supported the motion that the South African National Library and Information Consortium (SANLiC) be involved in the negotiations of nationally funded electronic licenses. SANLiC is a consortium that negotiates prices of national licenses and databases applicable to higher education libraries and research libraries.

### 7. NCLIS STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2014

The DAC/NCLIS strategic workshop was held from 5 to 6 May 2014 at the National Library of South Africa in Pretoria. The purpose of this workshop was to define the Council as well as to ascertain the main strategic objectives for the following 2 to 3 years.

The following focus areas were identified during the Strategic Planning Workshop:

1. NCLIS’s relationship with other stakeholders (Portfolio Committee, Ministers, LIASA) including the administrative support.
2. The relationship between higher education libraries and school libraries.
3. Identification of NCLIS’s stakeholders.
4. Development of the NCLIS website and marketing issues.
5. NCLIS meeting with Ministers to re-introduce itself and new strategic objectives.
This report deals with my activities as NCLIS chairperson since our previous meeting on 18 June 2013.

1. On 26 August I attended a consultative workshop, chaired by Mr Puleng Kekana, on the investigation to cost the implementation of the South African Public Library and Information Services Bill. Cornerstone Economic Research presented a draft of its report to a wide representation of colleagues from the LIS sector. Some NCLIS colleagues were also present, and they can add further comments on the workshop.

Attendees probed the presenters about various aspects of their work so far, but my impression was that they had done very valuable and thorough work. Among other things, a clear picture emerged of how many and what types of libraries and levels of service are needed in the provinces. The emphasis was on their physical distribution in order to improve access by the public.

I believe that when it is implemented, this legislation will go a long way towards dealing more effectively with such things as the inherited imbalances in the country’s LIS system, the proper assignment of functions, and the under-prioritization of a funded mandate.

2. On 27 August I met with the Deputy Minister, Dr Joe Phaahla. It was a successful meeting. I thanked him for the Department’s allocation towards LIASA’s successful bid to host IFLA in 2015. We spoke about progress with the LIS Transformation Charter, and the implementation of the Public Library and Information Services Bill.

I shared some of the sector’s anxieties about the capitalization of books, especially the financial and practical implications such as library closures for this purpose, as well as exclusions such as children’s books, etc. The Deputy Minister appeared sympathetic, but it seems that Treasury is determined to go ahead with this initiative. Mr Kekana probably has the latest on the matter for the NCLIS meeting.

We also exchanged views on the future of councils more generally as discussed in the recent White Paper. Although there is no final view of the course that this matter will take, the Deputy Minister did mention that there is a feeling that there are too many types of council.

My own view is that the legislation and procedures for the way councils are constituted and mandated emerged in very different circumstances, when matters such as representativeness, for example, was sensitive and necessary. The process of electing and re-electing members to the NCLIS, consequently, is too long and cumbersome. The logistical challenges of arranging meetings, venues, travel and accommodation for members are self-evident, and the fact that our secretariat is not allowed to focus only on NCLIS matters affects its smooth functioning.

Some of these challenges may be behind the new thinking about councils in the White Paper, but I hope that Mr Kekana will brief the NCLIS meeting on this.

3. On 14 October, I spoke to Ms Teresa Naidoo about NCILS and the LIS sector in relation to the ETDP SETA Library and Archival Services Sector Skills Plan. I told her about the LIS Charter, as well as other important documents necessary for her report. I also mentioned people whom I thought she should consult in order to represent the LIS sector accurately and fairly in the report. I also requested that she submit a draft to NCLIS for comment as soon as it is ready.
4. Finally, it is with regret that I announce my resignation from NCLIS. I thought long and hard about this, but have little choice. My availability in 2014, which is crucial to the arrangement of meetings, is uncertain because of several research commitments that will take me abroad for long periods of time. This will also impact on other NCLIS-related commitments and meetings that will require attention and attendance by the chairperson. I therefore thought it best to excuse myself from this meeting of NCLIS so that the leadership for 2014 may be discussed freely. I enjoyed the time we spent together and wish NCLIS and all of you well.
The NCLIS Members
8. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Amendment to the NCLIS Act (Three Ministers to be included)

2. Raise awareness of NCLIS through-
   • Marketing Strategy & Plan
   • Visibility of the LIS Sector
   • NCLIS web page and other media
   • Communication Strategy

3. Induction of new members
   • Plan a structured hand-over
   • Revisit the vision of NCLIS

4. Lead discussions on norms and standards

5. Alignment of plans with National Development Plan and other government strategies

6. Oversee the implementation of the recommendations in the Transformation Charter that were identified as national priorities

9. CLOSING REMARKS

It was underlined that the role of the Council was to provide leadership and advise the Ministers on matters relating to the library and information services sector.
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Email: rosep@dac.gov.za