NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES (NCLIS)

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

Article 3 and 4 of the Legal Deposit Act No.6 of 2001 set out the aims and objectives of the National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS) as being to advise the Minister of Arts and Culture (the Act refers to the former joint Ministry of Arts, Culture, Science & Technology) and the Ministers of Education 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 NCLIS must inform and advise the Ministers on the following:

- the development and coordination of library and information services;
- the promotion of cooperation among LIS;
- legislation affecting LIS;
- policies, principles and criteria that should govern the allocation of public funds for LIS;
- existing adequacies and deficiencies of library and information resources, including literature in African languages and services;
- the effectiveness of education and training in library and information science;
- service priorities, after consultation with any organ of state responsible for LIS and other interested parties;
- the promotion of basic and functional literacy, information literacy and a culture of reading;
- ways in which new information and communication technologies should be harnessed to achieve improved integration, equity, cost-effectiveness and quality in LIS; and
- any other matter relating to LIS which the Council deems necessary, or which any of the Ministers may refer to the Council.

In addition, the Act stipulates that the NCLIS must:

- coordinate the response of the LIS sector to LIS matters;
- liaise and develop synergy with other bodies and councils regarding LIS matters;
- play an advocacy role in LIS matters; and
- investigate incentives for donations to libraries.