National Digital Library Strategies: a South African Perspective

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• Primary source of SA published documentary heritage

• Wealth of information

• Books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, special collections, government publications, foreign official publications
Digital Libraries

- Information resources
- Collected, processed, preserved, accessed
- In digital form
Building digital collections

- Digitization: converting
- Acquisition: original digital works
- Access to external resources
First years

• DISA
• Research
• Pilot projects
• On demand
Digital Innovation
South Africa

- 1997
- Implement digital technologies in libraries
- Socio-political interest
- SA Freedom Struggle
- DISA: training and support
- Journals (40+)
- Historical collections
- 220 000 images/pages
Sechaba: 1 (1) 1967
Indian Opinion: 48 (1) 1950

ASIA FINDS Herself


"All over Asia we are passing through trials and tribulations. In India also you will see conflict and trouble. Let us not be disheartened by this; this is inevitable in an age of hasty transition. There are a new vitality and powerful creative impulses in all the peoples of Asia. The masses are awake and they demand their heritage. Strong winds are blowing all over Asia. Let us not be afraid of them for only with their help can we build the new Asia of our dreams. Let us have faith in these great new forces, and the dream which is taking shape. Let us, above all, have faith in the human spirit which Asia has symbolised for these long ages past.

—B. R. Ambedkar, Nov 22
Research

• Legal deposit of web-based publications (2004)
• Digitization in Africa (2005)
• SA policies en legislation (2007)
• Software
Training

- Metadata for librarians
- Software: Greenstone / Fedora
- Multimedia & graphics
- Digital photography
Pilot projects

- UNESCO Memory of the World (300 drawings by SAN) - 2003
On demand

- Photography & microfilming: transformed
- Existing staff
- Film scanner (neg + mf)
- Digital cameras
- Large-format scanners
- Digital video
Reprographic Services
Future plans

• SA historical newspapers
• Approx 7.5 million pages
• Black Press
• 200 000 pages
• Imvo Zabantsundu 1884-mid 90s
Policy development

• National policy
• Guidelines
• Coordinate and protect
• Draft tabled Feb 2011
Draft policy

• Role of existing memory institutions
• National Digital Repository
• Inclusive info society
• Develop institutional capacity
Deposit of e-publications

- Model developed
- Accept original digital works
- Web-based protocol
e-deposit model
Summary

• Digitization since 2000
• Draft National Policy 2010
• Accept original digital works
Thank you!

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