Reprographic and Digital Services at the National Library of South Africa: an overview

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Preservation Services
National Library of South Africa

- Cape Town campus (1818)
- Pretoria campus (1887)
Heritage Collections

• Primary source of SA published documentary heritage
• Wealth of information
• Books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, special collections, government publications, foreign official publications
Reprographic and Digital Services
On demand

- Photography & microfilming: transformed
- Existing staff
- Film scanner (neg + mf)
- Digital cameras
- Large-format scanners
- Digital video
First years

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

- 1997-2009: DISA
- Implement digital technologies in libraries
- Socio-political interest
- SA Freedom Struggle
- DISA: training and support
- Journals (40+)
- Archival 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 mighty 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 emphasized for these long ages past."

—Nehru
Research

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

• Metadata for librarians
• Software: Greenstone / DSpace
• Multimedia & graphics
• Digital photography
Pilot projects

- UNESCO Memory of the World (300 drawings by SAN) - 2003
Future plans

• SA newspapers
• Approx 7.5 million pages
• Black Press
• 200 000 pages
Stages: Black Press

• 1830-1880: Christian Missionaries
• 1880-1930: Independent Protest Press
• 1940-1960: From Protest to Resistance
Definition

• According to readership
• African, Indian & Coloured audience
• Not all owned or edited by
• Bi-lingual: English +
• Zulu, Xhosa, Tswana, Sotho
1830-1880
Christian Missionaries

- Two publishing centres
- Lovedale Mission Press (Presbyterian)
- Morija Printing Works (Paris Evangelical)
- Lovedale -> Xhosa
- Morija -> Sotho
Indaba.

"Akuti umpesumo ustele ukhuzi ukulungile."

UMGULU WOKUQALA.

1862—1863.

ISHICILELWE NGESISICILELO SABA FUNDISI,
ELOVEDLE;
KUTENSISE NGATO E-DIKENI AFN,
NANGWENYE ISICILELWE.
1880-1930
Independent Protest

• New generation
• African nationalist newspapers
• Black literary tradition
• First political bodies
Leaders

• John Jabavu: Imvo Zabatsundu (1884)
• Walter Rubusana: Izwi Labantu (1897)
• Solomon Plaatje: Koranta ea Becoana (1901)
• John Dube: Ilanga lase Natal (1903)
• Mahatma Gandhi: Indian Opinion (1903)
• Abdullah Abdurahman: APO (1909)
John Jabavu: Imvo Zabatsundu (1884)
Rubusana & Dube
Abdurahman & Gandhi
1940-1960
Protest to Resistance

- Great Depression mid-30s
- Critical years
- Trek to cities
- 1948-election
Govan Mbeki: Inkundla ya Bantu (1938)
Ruth First
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
Building digital collections

- Digitisation: converting
- Acquisition: original digital works
- Access to external resources
Deposit of e-publications

- Model developed
- Accept original digital works
- Web-based protocol
e-deposit model
Thank you!

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