
Initiated by several Gauteng–based institutions: Wits, UP, the NRF and the Goethe Institute.

Aimed at reaching representatives from South African institutions involved in digitisation projects to provide a forum and mechanisms for:
- Exchanging knowledge and experiences;
- Fostering discussion, cooperation and collaboration;
- Creating standardised metadata and digital collections;
- Building a national platform and aggregator.

Attended by 48 participants from 20 South African Institutions and focussed on:
- Local Experiences;
- Potential areas of alignment and collaboration;
- Proposals for the establishment of a collaborative national initiative.
A national initiative under the name ‘South African Digitisation Initiative’ – (SADI).

SADI – open forum, consisting of institutions and individuals who are prepared to contribute, assist and offer expertise.

SADI to provide leadership in terms of digitisation guidelines, standards and processes.

A national resource of digital heritage materials through a searchable interphase should be created.

SADI to build and host an information resource for digitisation processes, best practices, expertise, etc.

SADI projects to speak to draft National Policy on the Digitisation of Heritage Resources.
WORKSHOP OUTCOMES (cont.)

- SADI to coordinate various functions such as training and lobbying.

- SADI Working Group formed to deal with:

  Structure, Membership and Fundraising;

  Standards, Benchmarking, Metadata and Interoperability;

  Training and Skills Development;

  Lobbying and Advocacy.
PILOT NATIONAL AGGREGATOR PROJECT

- A need for such a project from a research and access perspective;

- Would bring together and help address all the identified themes;

- Would enable participants to work to standards within their own environments;

- Would allow stakeholders and SADI to identifying problem issues around digitisation and suggest solutions;

- Formalisation of SADI could be implemented parallel or as continuation of the Pilot project;

- Initial Pilot Project participants:
  - Mayibuye Centre (UWC/Robben Island)
  - NLSA
  - Wits Historical Papers Research Archive
  - Tutu Foundation
  - UCT Special Collections
SADI’S ROLE

- Helping to get digitisation done and assisting in building capacity and expanding skills to support digitisation activity;

- Building a national digital resource through a national platform and aggregator – a National Digital Library – which will also help to develop institutional skills, promote research and development and support national metadata standards and interoperability.

- Building best practice methodologies and metadata production standards within participating institutions themselves.
WHAT STILL NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED

- How do we fund the national project and what are the fundraising possibilities?
- How do we build institutional capacity for metadata standardisation and creation using XML?
- How do we build the hybrid skills necessary to do this?
- What other projects and activities do we prioritize for the next 3 to 5 years?
- Unpacking the cost and budget implications at both institutional and project implementation level.
WHAT STILL NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED (cont.)

- Governance and sustainability of SADI.

- SADI’s relationship with government bodies such as the NRF and DAC?
  Main proposals in this regard:
  A consortium under the chairmanship of or hosted by the NRF
  An entity supported by DAC, such as that of the South African Institute for Digital Heritage.

- Or does SADI operate independently on a membership basis, where participating institutions would pay a membership fee.

- Sustainability, long-term curation and access to, digital resources that we create – and have been created – collaboratively and nationally.

- Issues of duplication of effort.
RESULTS OF TRAINING SURVEY

- 14 institutions responded to the Training Survey
- All respondents interested in attending digitisation training workshops
- Most would like to participate in the pilot national aggregation project
- Institutions are at different levels in terms of digitisation. In order of highest to lowest demand:
  - Metadata schemas and encoding;
  - Management systems, repositories and search engines;
  - Digital Preservation systems;
  - Hands-on Training;
  - Managing Digital Projects and policy formulation;
  - Imaging Preservation standards and colour management;
  - Setting up a Digitisation Centre;
  - Selecting Content for digitisation;
  - Collection Development;
  - Copyright.
Thank You!