The future is digital: ICADLA-1 and the future of African digital content

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and Archives (ICADLA-1)
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Why are we gathered here?

- IFLA focus on facilitating of sharing information, creating synergy and cohesion, and development of standards;
- Deliberate on a policy framework on digitization in Africa;
- Create a strategic framework for sharing of digital content ---locating, communicating and working together on digitization issues in Africa;
- Deliberate on strategies for sharing development information;
- Build on previous and existing networks on digitization.
What has happened since idea was mooted?

- Global recession
- Review of MDGs
- Creation of a framework for a united states of Africa
- A renewed commitment to research and development by most partners
- Africa has hosted its Confederation cup!
What has all this got to do with libraries and digitization?

• All the above speak to generation of information, its storage, its communication;
• As Lor 2009 states, “When decision makers speak about information, they do not have libraries in mind.”
• It is for libraries, archives and information professionals to identify relevance, intervention and opportunity;
• How indeed does digitization relate to global recession, MDGs, united states of Africa, research and development and the Confederation Cup?
  – That is the question.
IFLA’s interventions

• Standing partnership with UNESCO on information access;
• WSIS declaration put IFLA and libraries at the centre for information communication;
• President Claudia Lux on “Libraries on the agenda;”
• All seek to identify space for intervention, facilitate dialogues, create relevance and put libraries in the knowledge development cycle;
• Current meeting seeks to do the same.
Africa’s digitization agenda

• Do we have one?
• Who is setting the digitization agenda?
  – Priorities
  – Power
  – Technical issues
• Are we able to intervene as practitioners and get our selves on the agenda?
• Do we have capacity to identify opportunity, intervene and sustain the intervention?
• Beyond ICADLA-1...
Beyond ICADLA-1

• Capacity building strategies: especially to influence the game plan;
• Strategy on the future of digital content and preservation of African heritage;
• Policy framework on digitization;
• Platform for sharing information on initiatives on the continent.
Conclusion

• Meeting not an end by itself;
• Africa will have to do it by ourselves;
• Sharing of African digital content critical to development;
• The future is digital: what is our game plan?
• Thank you for your attention
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