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Digitization and Data Preservation Centre - A Collaborative Initiative of the Carnegie Foundation and National Research Foundation

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National Research Foundation

Digitization and Data Preservation Centre

A Collaborative initiative of Carnegie Foundation & National Research Foundation

ICADLA - 1 Conference

1st International conference on African Digital Libraries and Archives

1 – 3 July 2009

Dr Daisy Selematsela

National Research Foundation

Project Proposal Content Outline

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- Project proposal background
- Key activities of the project
- Model
- Audit
  - Objectives, methodology and some outcomes
- Selection of material
- Time frames

Origin of Project

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- Stakeholders identified the NRF as an important organisation in bringing resolution to the digitization/preservation issues in playing a central role as convener and facilitator of collaborative solutions.

Project proposal
Origin

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- Origin of project – Stakeholder meeting January 2008
- *Challenges, demands and requirements*
  - ***historical aspects***
  - ***know-how or knowledge and skills for digitization;***
  - ***related quantities of human resources;***
  - ***financial resources;***
  - ***technology infrastructure (both software and hardware);***
  - ***connectivity [related to the above];***
  - ***standards for the management of the digital information resources;***
  - ***policies on various aspects of digital knowledge, in particular intellectual property rights and ownership of content and so on***
- Project proposal
  - National Initiative
  - Establishment of the 'digitization and data preservation centre' at the NRF

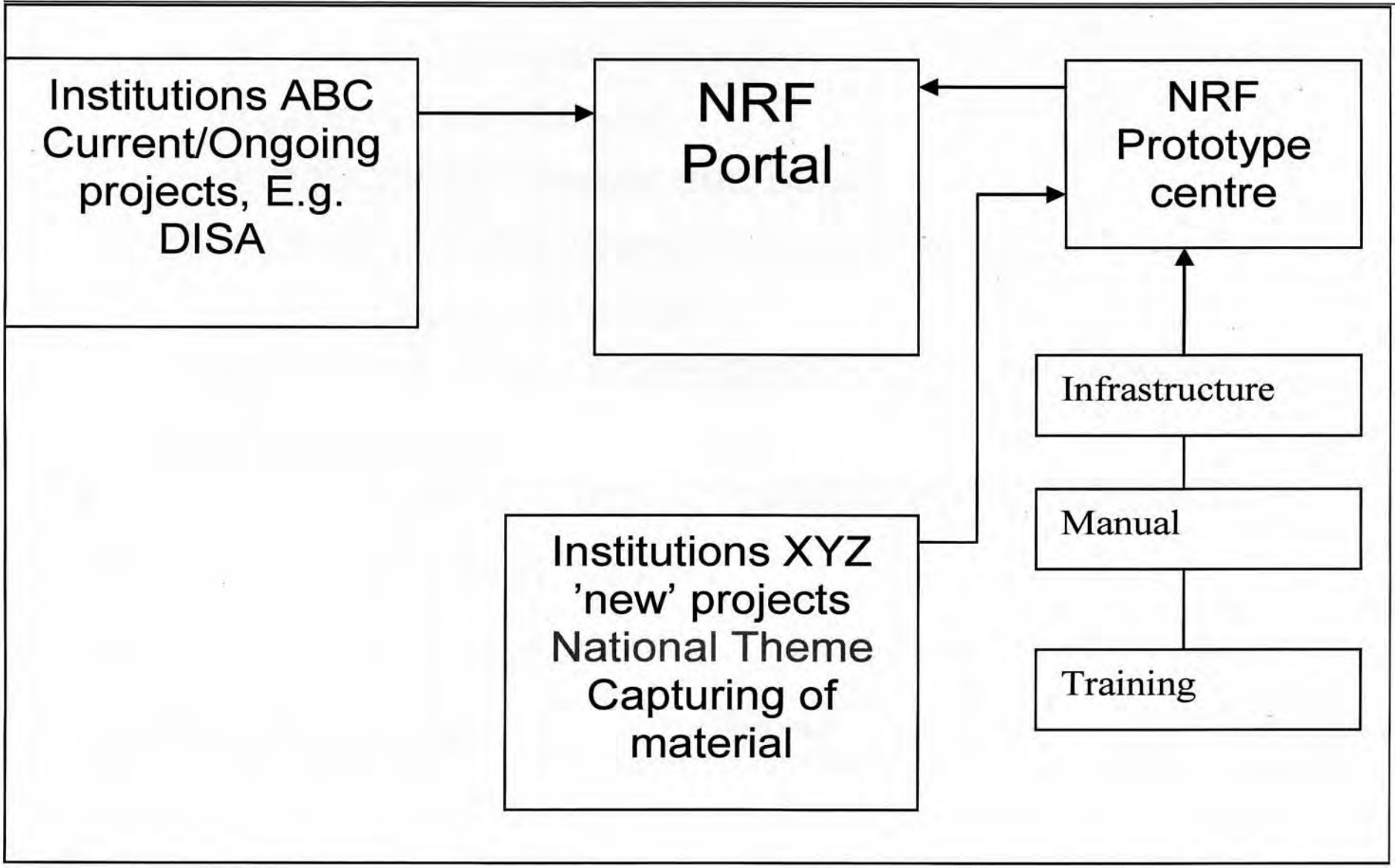
Key Activities of Project

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- conduct national audit
- develop a digitization framework/manual and related policies
  - **Managing digital collections : a South African framework** (8 sections)
- setting-up/implementing a digitization centre
  - Infrastructure: system and portal
  - digitization equipment
  - conduct digitization activities
- training and digitization activities

Project Proposal: Model

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Audit Objectives

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- identify who and which institutions are involved in digitization projects;
- identify potential projects for digitization in South Africa;
- establish on the basis of frequency, priority areas/content for potential digitization projects – the preliminary list generated will be discussed with stakeholders;
- provide a list of current/ongoing projects [to facilitate reduction of unnecessary duplication];
- reaffirm [as appropriate] the merits of a digitization centre, its activities and potential governance structure;

Audit Objectives

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- collect data and information for the establishment of a portal for digitization projects that will ensure accessibility;
- identify levels of expertise/skills availability across institutions in digitization;
- establish digitization needs, i.e. skills, expertise, knowledge, infrastructure requirements
- generate a national database (to be updated regularly) and hardcopy report of the audit for distribution to and access by key stakeholders.

Audit

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Methodology

- Triangulation **method**
- Desktop research
- Survey / Questionnaire http://stardata.nrf.ac.za/carnegie/index.asp
- Visits to institutions

Outcomes of audit

- Audit workshop (18 March 2009)
- Audit report
- Database of digital collections (planned, on the way, completed) http://stardata.nrf.ac.za/html/database.html

Questionnaire

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Address http://stardata.nrf.ac.za/carnegie/structure.asp Go

Part 1: Management and Governance

This Section deals with the management and governance of the organisation which houses the digitization projects. It needs to be completed only once for each organisation.

Part 2: Description of the collection(s) digitized or to be digitized

This section needs to be completed for every collection, whether digitized, being digitized, planned for digitization or warranting digitization but with no plan formulated.

- **Part 2.1: Contact Details of Collection Champion(s)**
  This section is for contact details of the person who is directly managing the digitisation provcess and can answer queries re technical aspects of the project as well as on short-term and sustainability funding.

- **Part 2.2: Collection description**
  This section contains descriptive details of the items in the collection. It needs to be completed for every collection.

- **Part 2.3: Technical aspects**
  This section deals with technical aspects of the digitization and preservation processes in place or envisaged. Please provide this information for every collection, by copying and pasting if the information is common to all collections.

- **Part 2.4: Evaluation of the Collection**
  This section deals with the quality of the collection (uniqueness, completeness, links to other collections etc) and the rationale for digitizing it (greater research access, deterioration of specimens, relevance to heritage or research priorities). It needs to be completed for every collection

Part 3: Resources - Skills, Technology and Funding

This section details the available or required resources. If the same resources are applied to several projects, please copy this section for each collection.

Part 4: Sustainability of Preservation

This section describes measures in place, planned or needed for ongoing preservation of the digitized collection(s)

Part 5: Lessons learnt in digitizing this (these) collection(s).

This section shares special insights obtained in hands-on digitization.

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Address http://stardata.nrf.ac.za/html/database.html Go

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Digitisation Initiatives in South Africa

CARNEGIE CORPORATION of NEW YORK

Register of Projects | Search database | NRF Home

Register projects
Audit report
Search database
Digitisation Framework
Information sources

DEMO WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The National Research Foundation (NRF) with the funding from the Carnegie Foundation facilitates and coordinates digitisation initiatives at a national level. It is proposed that the NRF will host a national digitisation and digital data preservation centre with the following objectives:

- provide technical digitisation support and services to those institutions that are not able to wholly or partially do it themselves;
- provide or mobilize experts to conduct training and support for persons and institutions that would like to embark on a digitisation and digital preservation exercise;
- coordinate collaborative digitisation and digital data preservation initiatives among HEIs as well as NGOs, and other organisations that are keen to collaborate and or provide digitisation support to others.
- facilitate the sharing of knowledge.

An audit was conducted to establish the state of digitisation in the country, that is, to identify the digitisation projects currently taking place, including potential projects for digitisation in South Africa.

View Digitisation Projects

A-C | D-J | K-N | O-R | S | T-Z

Search database

Framework of Guidance for Building Good Digital Collections

Trusted Digital Repositories - Tutorial

Distributed National Electronic Resource (DNER): Standards and Guidelines to Build a National Resource

Audit report
Selection of material

National Research Foundation

- Digital collections database
  - Functional digitizing
    - SABS - SA national standards to clients and users via the WWW
  - Digitizing for Academic Visibility
    - Transvaal museum's joint activity with the Univ of Toulouse to digitise the skull of Mrs Pless (brain structure)
  - Inaccessible Heritage Material
    - Freedom struggle collection being assembled via DISA, Rock art collection from the SA Roc Art Digital Archive; Hugh Tracy recordings of ethnic music in the International Library of African Music (ILAM) at Rhodes University

Collection Status and Number of Items

Category	Digitised	Digitising under Way	Planned	Not Planned	TOTAL
Number of Collections	18	55	64	48	**185**
Number of Items	180 300	1 354 710	695 090	487 070	**2 717 170**

Audit report
Selection of material

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- Prioritization of Digitization Projects
  - National Priorities (national strategic documents & white papers)
    - National Research and Development Strategy, 2002 – DACST
    - Innovation plan (DST, 2008) listed 5 grand challenges
    - Strategic Plan for 2008-2011, Dept of Arts and Culture
  - List of themes according to the Database
  - Suggestions of Participants at the Stakeholders' Workshop
  - Desktop Research (matrix for collection Prioritization)

Audit report
Collection Prioritization

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Think Tools© methodology

- **Perceived Value:** Clearly this is the most important and the most difficult to assess objectively, but positioning it within a priority theme should help.
- **Fragility:** the items are likely to fall apart, become illegible, self-combust etc.
- **Audience:** The items are of interest to far more people than can reasonably visit the archive in person; to which one might add the rider '*and are part of the legitimate target group for this service*'.
- **Reciprocity/Collaboration:** Web publication of the images may give the 'owners' access to partnerships in research that would otherwise be difficult.
- **Funds available or on offer:** Someone has the funds to train our people and/or pay for the work to be done by others. Provided that ownership and copyright are not compromised, this may be a mutually beneficial arrangement. (See 7)
- **Readiness for digitisation.** It makes a certain amount of sense to focus on this as a relatively minor criterion, but making collections ready for digitisation can absorb large portions of the budget.

Matrix : Collection Prioritization

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Think Tools© methodology

Selection of material
Way forward

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- Audit report
- Formulation of a process for prioritization of collections
- Panel recommendations

Time frames

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- Period 1
  - Audit (31 March 2009)
  - Managing digital collections : a South African framework (31 March and 31 August 2009)
- Period 2
  - Infrastructure (31 October and 31 December 2009)
  - Training, Implementation, Active Digitizing (2010)
- Period 3
  - Training, Active Digitizing (2011)

Sustainability

Closing thoughts

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- The goal of the project is to encourage shared responsibility for digital content and to seek national solutions for:
- The continuing collection, selection, and organisation of the most historically significant cultural materials & important information resources, regardless of evolving formats,
- The long-term storage, preservation, and authenticity of those collections,
- Persistent, rights-protected access for the public to the digital heritage of the South African people.

Closing thoughts

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- The stakeholders surfaced priorities for action on :
- understanding better who the users are and will be,
- Scope of collecting, that is, what is preserved by whom, for whom, and in what forms,
- Developing sustainable economic models for preservation, and
- Balancing the interests of preservation and access

Closing thoughts

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- Action is needed now, not some time in the future; and that everyone from creators to custodians – must contribute to the solution and learn to operate fluently in a world of constant and unpredictable change.

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Enkosi, Thank you, Re a leboga, Siyabonga, Dankie

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RISA

SAASTA

NZG
National Zoological Gardens of South Africa

SAAO

SAEON

HMO

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iThemba LABS

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