



IFLA National Libraries Section

Newsletter, June 2007

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Newsletter compiled by Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, Secretary with thanks to all contributors

Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

The National Libraries Section's officers have been actively working on developing the programme for the IFLA conference in Durban. You will see that we are sponsoring several programmes and events during the conference; we hope to see you all there.

You will also note in the newsletter that we are exploring the idea of a wikipedia approach to developing a directory of national libraries. This is in follow-up to our discussion last year in Seoul of the need to have a global directory of national libraries. Please take a few minutes to review the online site and provide your input.

Finally, we would like to sincerely congratulate Ellen Tise on her election as president-elect of IFLA. The National Libraries Section looks forward to working with her on advancing the interests of national libraries and all libraries.

I look forward to seeing you in Durban in August – safe travels

Ingrid Parent, Chair/Treasurer

Elections 2007

Following our call for nominations in February, IFLA received 15 nominations for 11 vacancies which meant that there was a postal ballot. The following members were (re)-elected: Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, Antonia Ida Fontana, Zhan Furui, Magdalena Gram, Kristina Hormia-Poutanen, Galina Kislovskaya, Colette O'Flaherty, Lucien Scotti, John Kgwale Tsebe, Tiiu Valm, Martyn Wade. Welcome – or welcome back, and grateful thanks to the outgoing members and also those who stood for election.

IFLA WLIC Durban 2007

The Section has a very rich programme for Durban.

Our Standing Committee meetings will take place on 11.30-14.20, Saturday August 18th and 08.30-10.50, Friday August 24th. Details of the agenda will be sent out nearer the time, observers are welcome.

The following sessions are planned (please note there may still be programme changes in date or time):

13.45-15.45, Sunday 19th August, National Libraries: ***The future of national libraries: convergence and partnerships***

- New institutions, new landscapes: two models of convergence in Canada / IAN WILSON (Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Canada) and LISE BISSONNETTE (Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, Montréal, Canada)
- Managing National Libraries in an interconnecting future: insights on an inclusive reference service and networking - the Singapore experience / FAUZIAH SOERATMAN (Research & Service Innovation, National Library of Singapore), NGIAN LEK CHOH (National Library of Singapore, Singapore) SOH LIN LI, (INVENT, National Library Board, Singapore, Singapore)
- From beer halls to public library: the story of Naivasha Community library, Kenya IRENE MUTHONI KIBANDI (Kenya National Library Service, Nairobi, Kenya)
- Webarchiving Internationally: Interoperability in the future GRETHE JACOBSON (Danish Royal Library, Copenhagen, Denmark)

10.45-12.45, Monday 20th August, Bibliography with National Libraries and Classification and Indexing: ***Re-thinking national bibliographies in the digital age***

- The importance of national bibliographies in the digital age / INGRID PARENT (Library and Archives, Canada, Ottawa, Canada)
- The new "Guidelines for national bibliographies in the digital age." / MAJA ZUMER (University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- More wine, not enough bottlers: selection and description of materials in national bibliographies / ALAN DANSKIN (British Library, London, UK) and BEACHER WIGGINS (Library of Congress, Washington USA)
- Best practices of indexing in national bibliographies / FRANÇOISE BOURDON (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France) and PATRICE LANDRY (Swiss National Library, Berne, Switzerland)

10.45-12.45, Tuesday 21st August, National Libraries with ICABS and Information Technology:

National libraries and resource discovery strategies - local, national and global

- Resource Discovery at the British Library: New Strategic Directions / CAROLINE BRAZIER (The British Library, Boston Spa, UK)
- Rapid and easy access: finding and getting resources in Australian libraries and cultural institutions / PAM GATENBY (National Library of Australia, Canberra, Australia)
- The European Digital Library - a resource discovery strategy for libraries, museums and archives / ELISABETH NIGGEMANN (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Germany)
- Libraries 2.0 and user-generated content: what can the users do for us? / PATRICK DANOWSKI (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany)

We are also planning a workshop for African national libraries on Thursday August 23rd. More details will follow.

Please plan to attend these sessions and contribute your comments and discussion – we look forward to seeing you there.

Conference of Directors of National Libraries CDNL

We have also been asked to remind you:

The Conference of Directors of National Libraries will meet on Wednesday, 22 August, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban.

Transport from the main IFLA conference site to the CDNL meeting will be provided, and details made available closer to the event.

The chief executives of all national libraries are welcome to attend the CDNL meeting. Anyone intending to join the meeting should register, by sending their details to csb@nla.gov.au. Please provide the following information: Name, Position, Institution, Address, Fax number, Email address, and whether you will be accompanied by an interpreter.

Country reports are also requested from all national libraries, whether attending the meeting or not. A template is available upon request from csb@nla.gov.au (or fax +62 2 6273 2545, attention S. Henderson). The reports will be made available on the CDNL website (<http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/meetings/cdnl/index.html>) closer to the meeting date. As soon as details are available, we will also include on that site information about the CDNL Office times/location at IFLA in the days preceding the meeting.

Please address any queries to csb@nla.gov.au

Sandra Henderson
CDNL Secretariat

Help needed: Directory of National Libraries on Wikipedia

The Standing Committee has discussed the creation of a Directory of national libraries worldwide, taking into account existing lists such as that maintained by the European Library Service for the national libraries of Europe members of CENL (Conference of European National Librarians). We have now learned that a worldwide list exists on Wikipedia:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_libraries

We think this is an excellent basis for developing a list: since it is open each country may add its national library details and maintain them, thus avoiding setting up another infrastructure. We encourage you therefore to check your country's national library (and other) details on this site and update – or create - entries as required. Please let us know your comments on the entries and help maintain an up-to-date list. As an example, the reference staff of the Swiss National Library ensure that the Swiss entry is accurate and up-to-date as part of their general information service mission. Thank you for your input!

News from some Section members

Denmark

On July 1st 2005 the most recent Danish legal deposit law went into force. Chapter 3 of the law concerns "Materials published in electronic communications network" and allows for the harvesting of websites within the domain <.dk> and of websites on other domains aimed at a Danish audience. Since that date the Royal Library (The National Library of Denmark) and The State and University Library have harvested more than 34 terabytes from the Internet. An article by Grethe Jacobsen at netarkivet.dk discusses the experiences, which the libraries have gained during the first two years. For the full article see http://netarkivet.dk/publikationer/CollectingTheDanishInternet_2007.pdf

France

News from Bibliothèque nationale de France

A new president for the BnF

Bruno Racine has been named president of the Bibliothèque nationale de France on March 28 2007. He took up his post on April 2nd, succeeding Jean-Noël Jeanneney, president of the BnF since 2002, who retired at the end of March.

From 2002 to 2007, Bruno Racine was president of the Centre national d'art et de culture Georges Pompidou. Born in December 1951, Bruno Racine is 'conseiller maître à la Cour des comptes', he studied at the Ecole normale supérieure, at the Institut d'études politiques de Paris and at the Ecole nationale d'administration.

Before becoming president of the Pompidou centre, he was a councillor to Jacques Chirac while the latter was prime minister (from 1986 to 1988), director of cultural activities for Paris from 1988 to 1993, official representative for Alain Juppé minister of Foreign affairs from 1993 to 1995 and Prime minister. From 1997 to 2002, Bruno Racine was director of the Académie de France in Rome.

In addition, Bruno Racine is president of the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique since 2001 and president of the Haut Conseil de l'éducation since October 2005.

He is also the author of several novels including *Le Gouverneur de Morée* (prix du Premier roman, 1982), *Au péril de la mer* (1991, prix des Deux-Magots 1992), *Le Tombeau de la Chrétienne* (2002) and *Le côté d'Odessa* (2007).

Europeana, the French contribution to the European digital library

Along with its European partners, the BnF is setting up a digital library aiming to make works representing the array of European culture available to all. The BnF has developed a prototype of an innovative digital library : *Europeana*. This French contribution to the future European digital library is available to all since March 22nd 2007 at the following address : www.europeana.eu.

Users of the site have access to 12,000 out-of-copyright works in several languages, from the collections of the national libraries of Hungary, Portugal and France.

Europeana will also be the model for the modernisation of Gallica, the BnF's digital library. In a few months, the tools developed for *Europeana* will also be available in the new version of Gallica, enabling access to more than 100,000 works and journals, national newspapers, images and sound .

Réseau francophone des bibliothèques nationales numériques

In Paris on February 28th 2006, the national libraries of Belgium, Canada, France, Luxembourg, Québec and Switzerland decided to found the Réseau francophone des bibliothèques nationales numériques.

This network reached an important milestone on March 9th 2007 : during a meeting organised in cooperation with the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, the founding libraries and experts from national and heritage libraries from different regions of the French-speaking world prepared to extend the network to French-speaking countries in Africa.

With the help of the Francophonie, the members of the network will present their first development in Québec, in summer 2008 : a portal accessing digitised collections of French language newspapers.

Renovation of the Richelieu site of BnF

In November 2006, the Etablissement public de maîtrise des ouvrages culturels (EMOC) received the mandate to renovate the BnF Richelieu site. The general management contractor will be nominated in 2007 and work on the renovation of this historic site which contains the BnF's special collections, is planned to last from 2009 to 2014. 149 million Euro are budgeted for this major undertaking.

Malta

The National Library of Malta has embarked in the last few months on an ambitious project that has a time frame of three years. This includes the restoration of the building which was the last edifice built

by the Knights of St. John in Malta. Furthermore to complement this restoration the Library is in the process of publishing a detailed study of one of its treasures, the watercolour prints collection made by the Danish artist Charles von Brocktorff where he depicts traditions, trades, countryside, towns and other aspects of Malta and Maltese way of life in the first half of the nineteenth century. This study will be in three volumes, with the first volume scheduled for November 2007.

In May 2007, the National Library of Malta started distributing an informative brochure free of charge, to all visitors of the library. This brochure gives a brief history of the imposing library building and some details about major collections held in the library. It was very well received by the many tourists who visit the library for it answers many of their questions regarding the place. This brochure is available in Maltese, English, Italian, Spanish, German and French.

On May 21st, the National Library of Malta launched a set of 10 postcards showing scenes of the National Library building and some of its treasures. To complement this set, an informative card giving details about the Library's history and holdings was included in an attractive folder on which the TEL logo and website address is found. On each postcard information in Maltese and English is given regarding the particular postcard's image of a scene or treasure of the Library.

Russia

Aims, guidelines and principles of organization of a Public Committee Assisting Russian Libraries Development

Power must understand that "providing with information" is as important as providing with water, electricity, transport.

G.Cornish
English scientist

Aims:

- Real help in developing libraries of all types at all levels (federal, regional, local, departmental etc.);
- Assistance in setting up a civil society, removal of information inequality of regions and citizens;
- Organization of explanatory work on the basis of libraries on solving social and economic problems formulated by the society and solved by the state.

Problems:

- Assistance to elaboration of perspectives of development of a library system of the country as a part of the state policy in the field of science, education, informatisation, culture;
- Combining efforts to facilitate smooth development of libraries belonging to different parent bodies;
- Organization of sponsor and charitable support of projects on widening of citizens' access to information resources and knowledge;
- Attracting business community to support library activities as basic structures in developing information society and information economics;
- Search of forms of financial or other support of successful libraries as well as individual librarians;
- Attracting representatives of business to contribute to libraries development;
- Assistance to libraries in supplying of the priority directions of society development, including national projects;
- Collecting and summarizing of data on libraries projects.

The Committee's principles of organization:

The Committee is an open voluntary union of individual persons which independently approves regulations, membership, structure, activities program. Members of the Committee work on a voluntary basis. Committee expert working groups assigned to various directions of library activities and composed of representatives of different professional communities can be established. Regional committees can be established in federal districts and // Federation. Decisions of the Committee are in the nature of recommendation. Hardware for the activities of the Committee is provided by the Russian State Library.

RESOLUTION of the steering meeting of a Public committee Assisting Russian Libraries Development 02.11.2006

To establish a public Committee Assisting Russian Libraries Development (further the Committee)

To approve an executive body of the Committee consisting of:

- Chairman – B.V. Gryzlov;
- Deputy – A.V. Loginov;
- Executive Secretary – V.V. Fedorov.

To commission the executive body to prepare documents regulating to Committee activities.

To agree with the main directions of the Committee activities formulated in the speech of Chairman B.V. Gryzlov:

- Legislative support of libraries development;
- Concepts of development of librarianship;
- ICT and libraries;
- Social role of libraries and status of a librarian in the society.

To commission Deputy Chairman A.V. Loginov to set up Committee expert working groups assigned to a particular area of activity and to convene meetings of heads of expert working groups with the aim of planning work by December 1, 2006.

To commission Executive Secretary V.V. Fedorov to set up an information-creative group by December 1, 2006 with the aim of efficient collecting and summarizing data on problems of libraries development and submitting it to the Committee .

To convene the next meeting of the Committee in May, 2007. Heads of the working groups should ensure efficient work of the executive body of the Committee with prepared materials tailored to inform all members of the Committee.

The Committee established 5 working groups:

1. Expert Working Group on Updating Federal Laws “On Librarianship” and “On Legal Deposit”

Group leaders from the members of the Committee:

1. Sudarenkov Valeriy Vasliyevich (Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation)
2. Stepanova Zoya Mikhaylovna (State Duma Committee on Culture)

2. Expert Working Group on the Concept of Librarianship Development

Group leaders from the members of the Committee:

1. Loghinov Andrey Viktorovich (Plenipotentiary of the Russian Government in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly)
2. Shvydkoy Mikhail Efremovich (Federal Agency on Culture and Cinematography of the Russian Federation)

3. Expert Working Group on Legislation in the Field of Copyright and ICTs in the Library Science

Group leaders from the members of the Committee:

1. Krashennnikov Pavel Vladimirovich (State Duma Committee on Civil, Penal, Arbitral and Procedural Law)
2. Yurgens Igor Yuryevich (Russian Union of Commerce and Industry)

4. Expert Working Group on Social Role of Libraries and Librarians in Society

Group leaders from the members of the Committee:

1. Tyagunov Alexander Alexandrovich (State Duma Committee on Culture)
2. Platonov Vladimir Mikhaylovich (Moscow City Duma)
3. Mosyakin Ivan Yakovlevich (State Duma Committee on Labour and Social Policy)

5. Information Creative Group

Group leaders from the members of the Committee:

1. Fedorov Victor Vasilyevich (Russian State Library)
2. Zaitsev Vladimir Nikolaevich (Russian National Library)

Brief Report on the Problems Discussed at the Expert Working Group on the Concept of Librarianship Development Meeting.

On January 23, 2007 the first Meeting of the Expert Working Group on the Concept of Librarianship Development of the Public Committee Assisting Russian Libraries Development was held in the Federal Agency for Culture and Cinematography. The Committee is chaired by Loghinov Andrey V., Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Russian Federation in the State Duma, and Shvydkoi Mikhail

E., Head of the Federal Agency for Culture and Cinematography.

At the Meeting the agenda and challenges of the expert working group were discussed, proposals on organizational management of the experts and on the problems related to the development of the librarianship concept in the Russian Federation.

Participants of the Meeting adopted the materials, prepared for discussion and focused on the complex of issues demanding its solution and possible inclusion in the project of the Concept on Librarianship development. Among them are:

- Building the state policy in the field of librarianship in the terms of reforms subject to legal and financial provision of activities in library and information environment;
- Strengthening the role of libraries in the civil society functioning;
- Library Positioning as a vital socio-cultural institution, providing informational support to all reforms in the state;
- Increasing the role of libraries in the civil society development aimed to decrease information inequality of citizens and regions with a special attention paid to informatization of rural and school libraries. Taking measures, facilitating library and information resources in whole;
- Building the national digital library;
- Skilled personnel training, whose salary is on the average level in the region

The Expert Working Group will hold one more meeting at the minimum on the development of the concept, which will be submitted for discussion to the Public Committee Assisting Libraries Development.

Expert Groups of the Public Committee Assisting Libraries Development of the Russian Federation started their work.

The first meetings of the expert groups of the Public Committee Assisting Libraries Development were held in late January.

The **Expert Group on Updating Federal Laws “On Librarianship” and “Legal Deposit Act”** focused on the currency of the nearest end of work on updating federal law “On Librarianship” in connection with vitality of inclusion new terms and definitions into the law. The expert group adopted a draft of the law and a draft of corrections and amendments to the law “Legal Deposit Act”, moved to the State Duma for forthcoming first reading. It’s proposed to hold further a number of visiting session in federal districts and large constituent territories of the Russian Federation to hear opinions of library professionals and representatives of local government of law enforcement practice of new legal acts. The group leaders are Z.M. Stepanova (Committee on Culture of the State Duma) and V.V. Sudarenkova (Federation Council)

The second **Working group on librarianship development concept** at its meeting focused on such issues as state policy creation in the field of librarianship in terms of reforms, creation of national digital libraries, regional digital divide overcoming, qualified staff training etc. The expert group is going to hold at least one meeting to develop a draft concept for submitting to the spring meeting of the Committee. Leaders of the group are A.V. Loghinov (Plenipotentiary of the Russian government in the State Duma) and M.E. Shvydkoy (Head of the Federal Agency on Culture and Cinematography).

Experts in the **Group for Legislation on Copyright and Information Technologies in Librarianship** discussed positions of Russian legislation facilitating or preventing development of libraries as modern research and information centres. A number of vital questions were discussed, in particularly, creation of digital libraries for provision of easy access to information (including in distant regions) and solving legal, financial and technological problems of provision of access to digital resources for libraries users. Leaders of the group are P.V. Krashennikov (Chair of the Committee on Civil, Criminal, Arbitral and Procedural Legislation of the State Duma) and I. Yu. Yurgens (Vice-President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs)

The tendency which is developed by the **working group on Social Role of Libraries and Librarian’s Role in Society** is close to the whole library community. Its first meeting was dedicated to actual problems in capacity of the members of the group. There are lost of problem spots in this area: violation of the foundations of Russian libraries network development, elimination of libraries on rural and district level and inefficient salary of library staff, and underestimating of libraries as one of main social institutes on the whole. It’s necessary to raise the prestige of the profession. In connection with this challenge a proposal was made to organize a meeting between the best librarians and the President of the Russian Federation and establishment of a competition “Librarian of the 21st century” .

The leaders of the group are A.A. Tyagunov (First Deputy Chair of the State Duma Committee on Culture) and V. M. Platonov (Chair of Moscow Duma).

Slovenia

The **Digital Library of Slovenia** (www.dlib.si), a web portal providing access to digitized knowledge and cultural treasures, was created in November 2005 with financial support of the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Directorate for the Information Society). A single access point functions as a common gateway to a number of cultural treasures in digital form as well as to current scientific achievements of the nation. It offers free searches of various text, image and sound resources, and documents, brought up as a result can be thus read, visualized or listened to.

The development of the portal is based on Library's in-house work, but also carried out in co-operation with external commercial companies and other public sector institutions and associations. At the end of 2006 the »Digital Library of Slovenia Development Strategy – dLib.si 2007-2010« was completed and published. The purpose of this document is to devise a strategy leading to creation of an all-embracing national digital library to cover the 2007-2010 period. The main topics discussed by the Strategy are: building a comprehensive digital library, establishing organizational structure to support the Digital Library of Slovenia, enhancing quality service, selecting library materials for digitization at the national level, digitizing the national collections, services offered via dLib.si web portal. Through creation of a comprehensive digital library NUK will become a development and services centre to both the national library network and users of library services. The essence of the digital library can be seen in the cultural heritage held by Slovenian libraries and other institutions are thus welcome to join due to the open source technology of the portal.

Preservation of the nation's written cultural heritage. Library materials are affected by corrosive properties of iron gall-ink. Scientists co-operating in »InkCor«, an EU-funded research project coordinated by the Library, have developed an efficient method to preserve those precious items. The project was completed in September 2005 and was also featured at the prestigious BA Festival of Science 2005 in Dublin. The new treatment is based on a combined action of alkali and antioxidants and has turned out to be very successful, since the life-time of endangered documents can be prolonged up to ten times, <http://www.infosrvr.nuk.uni-lj.si/jana/lnkcor/index.Htm> .

In the framework of »PaperTreat«, <http://www.infosrvr.nuk.uni-lj.si/jana/papertreat/index.htm>, an EU-funded research project, Slovenian researchers have reviewed the state of the nation's written heritage held by NUK. The evaluation has revealed dramatic evidence. Every third book, published between 1850 and 1990, has already become brittle and eventually unavailable to readers. Book decay is a large-scale problem, therefore the European Commission decided to support two research projects under the 5th FP. The aim of Paper Treat project is to develop the most effective solutions for preservation of endangered material. The SurveNIR project, <http://www.science4heritage.org/survenir/>, will come up with an instrument to determine the state of deterioration. European endeavours in the field are being coordinated by two institutions from Slovenia – the National and University Library (PaperTreat) and the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, University of Ljubljana (SurveNIR).

New Legal Deposit Act. The new Legal Deposit Act was passed in the middle of 2006 which came into effect in mid-October 2006. The most important changes are as follows: the new Act extends legal deposit to electronic publications, published on the network; publishers and distributors are responsible for the sending of deposit copies (formerly printers); the number of deposit copies was reduced to 4 (with the exception of publicly funded publications which will continue to be deposited in 16 copies); the deposit copies should contain all imprint data and consignments should contain a list of contents; materials produced using the same matrix or originals of which deposit copies have already been delivered are no longer under deposit; NUK has become the national deposit organization, distributing copies to other deposit libraries.

Spain

The Spanish National Library has just signed an agreement to acquire **Corinthian**, a product marketed by the company **Sirsi-Dynix**, in order to implement an Integrated Library Management System, that will replace the existing Ariadna system, a tool designed over fifteen years ago that was limited to computerising the catalogue. This new system represents a key element for the technological change needed to overcome future challenges. This innovative solution incorporates the most advanced technology and allows the development of a wide range of services for users. Its selection was the result of a public tender designed to find the most suitable response to the exhaustive technical specifications defined by the Spanish National Library.

This project will be developed over two years, with an initial phase devoted to the migration of over 3,000,000 bibliographic references that are currently available and to the implementation of the cataloguing and authority control module and the Internet user consultation module (OPAC). The second phase of the project will include the implementation of purchase, traffic and serial publications management modules.

This ambitious project will allow the automation of all library tasks and will provide more and better services for its users. This will be done by taking advantage of the potential offered by Internet and by significantly expanding the remote services offer.

Corinthian is an integrated system that has all the necessary modules for library management, offering at the same time great flexibility for defining, maintaining, and configuring the information structure. Its design is multi-layer and uses Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) standard technology as well as independent servers (applications, OPAC, and databases) and OPAC and library clients developed in Java and accessible through a web navigator. It is compatible with Unix, Linux, and Windows operating systems, and supports a wide range of databases (Oracle, MS SQL Server y DB2). It also supports the major international standards related to management, dissemination and access to information.

With this acquisition the Spanish National Library will count on a powerful, flexible and user-friendly tool that will allow it to satisfy the information needs of all citizens, offering an indispensable professional support to all Spanish libraries, thanks to its multiple functions devoted to library cooperation (such as management of collective catalogues, authorities and on-line Spanish bibliography, powerful and flexible record downloading, etc.).

Wales

National Library of Wales: Celebrating 100 years

As Section members will know the National Library of Wales is celebrating its hundredth birthday this year. As well as commissioning the two poems, one in Welsh and one in English, which we send to you in March, we've organised a huge number of events: lectures and conferences, open days, television and radio series, book publications, a large centenary exhibition, festivals of film and photography, a photographic exhibition touring the Baltic states, and much more. One of the groups visiting the Library as part of the centenary is the International Group of Publishing Libraries (11-15 June).

A major object of all this celebrating is to improve the profile, knowledge and use of the National Library among the people of Wales. In November 2006 we commissioned a public opinion survey company to conduct a survey of over 1,000 adults in Wales to find out about the awareness and use of the Library (please let us know if you would like details). We intend to repeat the same survey annually, and it will be interesting to see whether the additional publicity generated by the centenary will result in a higher profile for the Library.

National digitization?

As 'mass digitization' projects proliferate it becomes possible for the first time to imagine a programme that would result in making the *whole printed heritage* of a (small) country available online – free and searchable.

The National Library of Wales is developing a scheme (provisionally entitled *The Theatre of Memory*)

to digitise, in principle, all the books, pamphlets, newspapers and periodicals published in Wales from the sixteenth century to the present day.

(See http://www.llgc.org.uk/fileadmin/documents/pdf/theatre_of_memory.pdf). A small part of this plan is already under way: a project to digitise the entire contents of about 100 periodicals relating to Wales published between 1900 and the present.

Many obstacles remain to be overcome before *The Theatre of Memory* can start to become a reality, in particular funding support and copyright issues. We should be interested to hear from other national libraries with similarly ambitious plans.

Andrew M.W. Green (ang@llgc.org.uk)

Librarian

National Library of Wales

Project DRIVER

The Section has been asked to make members aware of the following project: MAKE RESEARCH FREE – the DRIVER project and the BASE search engine / Sophia Jones and Mary Robinson, SHERPA – DRIVER, University of Nottingham, UK

Access to information has been revolutionised by the Internet and the World Wide Web. The creative application of these technologies has led not only to innovations in research but also in new ways to discover, access and use research information.

Much academic research is publicly funded. It follows therefore that the results of this research should be available to the public. The current system of academic publication hampers access to research articles because it is limited to only those who can afford to subscribe. A recent report commissioned by the European Commission called for publicly funded research results be made available to the public shortly after publication*.

The Open Access movement aims to do just that by making research information freely available to everyone. In addition to research articles, open access materials can include book chapters, conference papers and also theses.

SHERPA is internationally recognised as a leader and advocate for the development of open access institutional repositories and associated services. SHERPA is collaborating on the major project, DRIVER (Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research). This is a high profile, major European project with 10 international partners, funded by the European Commission.

Through DRIVER we will make European Research articles available via Internet search services. Open access materials can be accessed via general search engines such as Google, Yahoo and others. DRIVER recommends that readers searching for full-text articles should use the specialised search engine BASE (www.base-search.net) which covers scientifically relevant web resources but also – unlike commercial search engines -offers the opportunity for a more refined search on full text open access material. Public libraries can make use of this growing body of information by adding the BASE search engine to their library's public website as an additional resource.

For more information on SHERPA and the DRIVER project, please visit

<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/>

<http://www.driver-support.eu>

or contact the DRIVER team directly: driver@nottingham.ac.uk.

*"Study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe" Commissioned by DG-Research, European Commission. January 2006, page 11

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