



## IFLA National Libraries Section

Newsletter, December 2008

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### Editorial

Dear Colleagues

I was pleased to see many of you in Quebec in August. After discussion amongst members, the Standing Committee met once at the beginning of the conference week. Minutes of that meeting can be read at <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/annual/s1-SCminutes2008.pdf>. Next year in Milan we will meet twice as it is an election year and we will be welcoming new members to the Committee.

A call for papers has been issued for our two hour session in Milan. The theme is *National Libraries in the Digital Age: Leadership and Collaboration*. We are seeking a keynote speaker and up to three shorter presentations. I would like to encourage you to discuss this with your colleagues and respond to the chair of our conference session committee, Kristiina Hormia ([kristiina.hormia@helsinki.fi](mailto:kristiina.hormia@helsinki.fi)) with your suggestions for speakers and papers by 16 January 2009.

I have also been contacting many of you to encourage you to either create an entry for your national library in our new *Directory of National Libraries* on Wikipedia, or to update the existing entry for your library. The *Directory* is an IFLA funded project and was identified as a priority by both the Conference of Directors of National Libraries and the Standing Committee. You can visit the directory at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_national\\_libraries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_libraries) .

Best wishes

Ingrid Parent, Chair, National Libraries Section



Standing Committee members and observers, meeting Quebec 2008

Front Seated L-R Araceli Sanchez-Pinol de Anta; Nozha Ibn Lkhayat; Genevieve Clavel-Merrin; Irina Lynden; John Tsebe; Jasmine Cameron

Back Standing L-R Magdalena Gram; Pam Gatenby; Samia Kamarti; Deanna Marcum; Lucien Scotti; Penny Carnaby; Ingibjorg Sverrisdottir; Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen; Antonia Ida Fontana; Galina Kislovskaya; Ingrid Parent; Vladimir Zaitsev; Elisabeth Niggemann; Alan Smith; Martyn Wade; Ngian Lek Choh; Gunnar Sahlin; Andrew Green

## **EUROPEANA: Europe's Digital Library**

The following press release was issued in Brussels, 20 November 2008:

Europeana, Europe's multimedia online library opens to the public today. At [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu), Internet users around the world can now access more than two million books, maps, recordings, photographs, archival documents, paintings and films from national libraries and cultural institutions of the EU's 27 Member States. Europeana opens up new ways of exploring Europe's heritage: anyone interested in literature, art, science, politics, history, architecture, music or cinema will have free and fast access to Europe's greatest collections and masterpieces in a single virtual library through a web portal available in all EU languages. But this is just the beginning. In 2010, Europeana will give access to millions of items representing Europe's rich cultural diversity and will have interactive zones such as communities for special interests. Between 2009 and 2011, some €2 million per year of EU funding will be dedicated to this. The Commission also plans to involve the private sector in the further expansion of

Europe's digital library. In September 2007, the European Parliament supported, in a resolution voted by an overwhelming majority, the creation of a European digital library.

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission; said: "With Europeana, we combine Europe's competitive advantage in communication and networking technologies with our rich cultural heritage. Europeans will now be able to access the incredible resources of our great collections quickly and easily in a single space. Europeana is much more than a library, it is a veritable dynamo to inspire 21st century Europeans to emulate the creativity of innovative forbears like the drivers of the Renaissance. Just imagine the possibilities it offers students, art-lovers or scholars to access, combine and search the cultural treasures of all Member States online. This is a strong demonstration of the fact that culture is at the heart of European integration."

"Europeana offers a journey through time, across borders, and into new ideas of what our culture is. More than that, it will connect people to their history and, through interactive pages and tools, to each other," said Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media. "I now call on Europe's cultural institutions, publishing houses and technology companies to fill Europeana with further content in digital form. We should make Europeana a home for interactive creative participation at the fingertips of people who want to mould their own piece of European culture and share it with others. My objective is that in 2010, Europeana will include at least 10 million objects."

Elisabeth Niggemann, Director-General of the German National Library and chair of the European Digital Library Foundation – the organisation behind Europeana –, added: "Europeana makes cultural bodies more relevant to the Web 2.0 generation – a generation that expects to be able to read text, see video, hear sounds and view images all in the same space and time. By offering young people a complete multimedia experience it will connect them to Europe's culture, past and present."

Europeana makes it possible to search and browse the digitised collections of Europe's libraries, archives and museums all at once. This means users can explore themes without searching for and visiting multiple sites and resources.

Europeana was initiated by the Commission in 2005 and brought to fruition in close cooperation with national libraries and other cultural bodies of the Member States as well as with the strong support of the European Parliament. Europeana is run by the European Digital Library Foundation, which brings together Europe's major associations of libraries, archives, museums, audiovisual archives and cultural institutions. Europeana is hosted by the Dutch national library, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek

Over 1,000 cultural organisations from across Europe have provided material for Europeana. Europe's museums, including the Louvre in Paris and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, have supplied digitised paintings and objects from

their collections. State archives have made important national documents available, and France's Institut National de l'Audiovisuel supplied 80,000 broadcasts recording the 20<sup>th</sup> century, right back to early footage shot on the battlefields of France in 1914. National libraries all over Europe have contributed printed and manuscript material, including digitised copies of the great books that brought new ideas into the world.

In 2009-2010 around € 69 million will be available for research on digital libraries through the EU's research programme. In the same period the information society part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme will allocate around € 50 million to improve access to Europe's cultural and scientific heritage.

Background:

The European Commission started to work on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material as early as 2000. Between 2000 and 2005 it co-funded research projects and stimulated a better collaboration between Member States that wanted to bring their cultural heritage online.

In June 2005, Commissioner Reding made the European digital library a flagship project of the EU's i2010 strategy for a European Information Society for growth and jobs (IP/05/643). In September 2005, the Commission outlined the measures needed to make Europe's cultural and scientific heritage accessible to all (IP/05/1202). This August, the Commission asked Member States to step up their efforts to contribute to Europeana, especially by providing more funding to digitisation and put clearer figures on how much material they would digitise. (IP/08/1255, MEMO/08/546).

The Commission's work on the European Digital Library was accompanied by a High-Level Group of experts from the public and the private sector: from cultural institutions, the ICT industry and from right holders.

For more information:

<http://www.europeana.eu/>

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/digital\\_libraries/index\\_en.htm/](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/index_en.htm/)

## **NEWS FROM SECTION MEMBERS**

### **CANADA**

Taking the Lead

It is hard to imagine what it might be like not to be able to simply pick up a book and read it. To peruse the Sunday Times on the Sunday it comes out. Or to chat with your friends at school about the latest Harry Potter. Yet for the ten percent of Canada's population who have print disabilities, either because of a vision problem, a learning disability, or difficulties holding a book, the basic freedom to read is often denied.

Canada's library community has asked Library and Archives Canada (LAC) to take the lead as a national, coordinating body to ensure that all Canadians have equitable and consistent library access to information wherever they live and whatever their means. For millions of Canadians who are print disabled, this is welcome news. LAC is uniquely positioned to provide the kind of leadership and support that will enable public libraries across the country to meet the needs of these Canadians. By promoting equitable library service and access to information in multiple formats, LAC can pave the way for all Canadians to share in the free exchange of knowledge, information and ideas.

LAC is already well on the way with this work, looking into a fully accessible Internet portal that will serve as a gateway for information and resources; a toolkit for libraries on services and training; and an electronic clearinghouse to facilitate the production of materials in multiple formats. LAC has also commissioned a report on "Audio and Digital Publishing in Canada", the first and most comprehensive report of its kind in Canada. The report will be available shortly on LAC's website, in both English and French.

To celebrate the efforts of organizations and libraries nationwide in providing equitable library access, Library and Archives Canada invited key audiences to hear speakers, enjoy a lunch and visit an exhibition of related technologies on December 3, 2008, the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Invited guests at 395 Wellington Street in Ottawa, LAC's main public building, heard from Ian Wilson, the Librarian and Archivist of Canada, former National Librarian Roch Carrier, Jim Sanders, the President of the CNIB, Jim Hugessen, a retired federal court judge, and Euclid Herie of the World Blind Union.

For more information on this and other developments at Library and Archives Canada, visit [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca).

## CROATIA

RENAISSANCE CULTURAL CIRCLES... how European cultures were interconnected before the internet...

On the occasion of two exhibitions celebrating 500th birth anniversaries: Petar Zoranić and his cultural circle in Zadar and Marin Držić in the National and University Library in Zagreb-Croatia.

This year the Library celebrated two half millenium birth anniversaries of the two pillars of the Croatian Renaissance literature - Petar Zoranić and his cultural and literary circle in Zadar and a playwright, Marin Držić, born in Dubrovnik.

Great names and outstanding personalities had challenged the Library, rich in Croatian manuscripts, rare books and special collections to organise these two exhibitions.

It is worth remarking on conditions in which the Renaissance in Croatia was born and developed. One must bear in mind that Croatia at that time was incessantly surrounded with warlike dangers (Turkish invasion and Habsburg and Venetian rules). However, the Renaissance and Humanism developed at incredible speed in some cultural centers (Zadar and Dubrovnik).

Petar Zoranić is best known for his literary work *Planine* (Mountains) written in 1536 in Zadar and published in Venice in 1569. The fable in dodecasyllabic line, describes the endangered national identity – mirrored and symbolised in neglect of the Croatian language, scattered heritage and homeland, during the Turkish invasion. In his work Zoranić articulates the weak position of the Croatian language due to fact that many writers are writing in Latin and in Italian, instead of Croatian.

From the same literary circle, Šimun Kožičić Benja was known publisher of the glagolitic books and promoter of the Croatian language. Andrija Medulić, in Italy known as, Andrea Schiavone, a painter connected to Parmigianino, is belonging to the same historic cultural circle. Fifteen copperplates by Andrija Medulić are deposited in the Prints and Drawings Collection of the NUL.

Brne Karnarutić, although a lawyer by profession is connected to this circle as an author of a military epic *Vazetje Sigeta grada*, dedicated to Nikola Šubić Zrinski and the battle against the Turkish invasion.

Šimun Budinić, cannon in Zadar, had written two books in a language which has the ambition to become a standard. He has introduced the diacritics Č and Š. Juraj Baraković, besides Petar Zoranić, is the most distinguished poet in Zadar, his major work, an epic *Vila Slovinka*, was published in 1614 in Venice. The style followed the same pattern of glorification of the homeland (Croatia) as found in Petar Zoranić's works. All the authors were promoting and protecting Croatian language or publishing Croatian books. The Library has published the catalogue of the exhibition containing the bibliography.



Marin Držić, was the famous Croatian poet and a playwright, born in Dubrovnik in 1508. "...56 years before W. Shakespeare and Ch. Marlowe, 114 years before Moliere, 131 years before Racine. When Držić died, Lope de Vega was 5 years old." (Cit. by Radovan Ivšić). He was a fruitful author for only 11 years, until 1559. What was left after Držić's death is a collection of poems and plays, which were not performed again until the last century. His best known work is comedy in five acts, *Dundo Maroje*, which has been translated in eighteen languages. In some of the European languages the comedy is known as : Uncle Maroje, Zio Maroje, Doundo Maroï, Vater Marojes Dukaten, Pappa Marojes Pengar, Ukko Marojes Dukaatit, Rzymaska kurtyzana, Dundo Maroe, Ujko Maroje, Nunc Maroj, Onklo Maroje...his main themes were about the renaissance life in Dubrovnik.

The catalogue of the exhibition is richly illustrated, containing the chronologically arranged annotated bibliography. By organising those exhibitions the Library intended to pay a tribute to those great men belonging to the Croatian Renaissance literature, in the year when the ISO has recognised the hrv, as a Croatian language code.

The exhibition of Petar Zoranić is a travelling exhibition and it has been displayed in public libraries in Pula and Varaždin in order to improve the reception of the writers to the present day. Both exhibitions show the continuity of development and contacts with corresponding European cultural circles. The present and future generations might discover, follow and evaluate their influences to the present network cultures.

By now maybe you have been familiar with the uniqueness of the city of Dubrovnik or Zadar, the town with its origins in the Roman times. We hope to add new dimensions to the picture of the European Renaissance literature with the names of the poet and a playwright Marin Držić or Petar Zoranić. When in Dubrovnik, you could visit Marin Držić's museum.

Marina Mihalić

## IRELAND

*The Life and Work of WB Yeats* : online exhibition

The National Library of Ireland holds the largest collection of WB Yeats manuscripts in the world, and in addition, holds other fascinating Yeats material generously donated by the poet's family over several years.

Material from this collection is currently on display in the Library's multi-award winning exhibition *Yeats: The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats* which opened in May 2006.

An online version of *Yeats: the Life and Works of William Butler Yeats* was launched during summer 2008. Online visitors can explore and enjoy many aspects of the exhibition as they would if they were visiting in person and in addition can search through the exhibition content in a way that they cannot within the physical space. The online exhibition contains over 2000 interactive elements and an extensive interactive biographical timeline of Yeats life.

Visit *The Life and Work of WB Yeats* : online exhibition: <http://www.nli.ie/yeats>

Image 1: Screen shot of 'Verse and Vision Section' of *The Life and Works of WB Yeats* : **online exhibition**





Image 2:

Photograph of the interior of *Yeats : The Life and Works of WB Yeats* at the National Library of Ireland



*Visit our free exhibitions*

Yeats: the Life and Work of William Butler Yeats  
National Library, Kildare Street, D.2

Strangers to Citizens : the Irish in Europe 1600-1800.  
2/3 Kildare Street, D.2

A Bird's Eye View of Ireland  
National Photographic Archive, Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, D.2  
18 November 2008 28 February 2009

## **SINGAPORE**

### **Standing the Test of Time**

By Soh Lin Li, Manager, National Library Office, National Library Singapore

Memories, sights and sounds, which had once accompanied us on our life journey, had been unknowingly forgotten as we go through new experiences

and phases in our lives. But these lost memories come flooding back as we flip through our photo albums with nostalgia, recalling the times when we took the photographs with our family and friends at different places.

The National Library Singapore has always put in concerted efforts to preserve our local print heritage and not let them become Singapore's lost memories. Memories of our family and friends form an important facet of our national memory, serving as a source of pride and a point of reference to Singapore's social achievements over the decades.

The Heritage Road Show, which was into its third run, took place on 2 August 2008 and it was a vibrant showcase of local lives as seen through the kaleidoscope of Singaporeans. Visitors were able to view still shots of kampung (village) life back then in Upper Serangoon (a housing estate in Singapore), old documents like library cards, certificates and artefacts such as game pieces from yesteryears through an exhibition organised by Aljunied Town Council, one of the working partners for this Road Show.

Besides taking a journey back in time, there was a photography exhibition on the '43 Things that Remind Me of Singapore'. Winning entries were picked from the photography competition held earlier this year, which invited Singaporeans to submit photographs of Singapore's sights and sounds. Today's memories will be tomorrow's history and this was the message that the National Library Singapore wanted to bring across to the local community through this competition.



Old photographs bringing back smiles and memories for Senior Minister of State for Education and Information, Communications and the Arts, RADM (NS) Lui Tuck Yew seen here chatting with visitors.

Senior Minister of State for Education and Information, Communications and the Arts, Rear Admiral (NS) Lui Tuck Yew, graced the event as guest-of-honour. He summed up the importance of preserving local heritage in view of modernisation succinctly, saying, “With more people travelling widely and having Internet access, many begin to see themselves as cosmopolitans or citizens of the world. While we adopt a global view, we must develop a sense of history and appreciation of our heritage. Only then can we truly understand how and why we are unique, relate to the world confidently and develop the roots that bind us to this nation.”

The National Library Singapore also launched two online initiatives, namely the Virtual Donors Gallery and Flickr SNAP. The Virtual Donors Gallery ([www.donors.nl.sg](http://www.donors.nl.sg)) is an online portal showcasing highlights of Donors Collection and local artefacts donated by the public during the first Heritage Road Show in 2006. Researchers and overseas visitors can now get a chance to see our local heritage in the comfort of their homes.



What are the things that remind you of Singapore? Singaporeans tell their stories through a photo showcase depicting the sights and sounds of Singapore.

The other initiative, Flickr SNAP ([www.flickr.com/people/snapsq/](http://www.flickr.com/people/snapsq/)), is an extension of the National Library Singapore's *Singapore National Album of Pictures* (SNAP) on the popular photo-sharing website, Flickr.com. This initiative allows the National Library Singapore to widen its pool of donors by encouraging the online community to share their personal photo collections without having to part with their much-treasured mementos. In support of this initiative, Yahoo! had also featured heritage photos on Singapore's Yahoo! network and participated in the Road Show to promote greater awareness of their services.

Through public contributions, the National Library hopes to build a more comprehensive collection of pictorial records of Singapore's progression before the 1980s. Scores of Singaporeans came ready with photos depicting Singapore's architecture and landscape, commerce and industry, arts, ethnic communities, events, geography, nature, organisations, personalities, recreation, politics and government.

Dr N. Varaprasad, Chief Executive of National Library Board Singapore, lauded the responsive role that the public had taken up in the ongoing efforts to expand and enrich Singapore's heritage collection. He added, "The photos that you donate will form part of Singapore's pictorial heritage for future generations. Donations to the National Library Singapore play a significant role in adding diversity and depth to our collections. Participation from the local communities is thus important to preserving and building our cultural heritage."

At the end of the event, the National Library Singapore had harvested a total of 1,095 items of which 150 were physical items and 945 photographs were converted into digital format. The physical items collected included Arts Theatre of Singapore programme collaterals dating from the 1950s to 1960s, photographs of Bugis Street during the 1960s and the Singapore Island Country Club during the 1930s. All these will go towards building the National Library's print heritage collection for current and future generations to appreciate the history of Singapore.

Members of the public can log on to [http://www.flickr.com/groups/snapsq\\_events/pool/show/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/snapsq_events/pool/show/) to view digitised photographs of National Day Parade photographs taken in 1963, just before Singapore's independence and also the nation's second National Day Parade. These photos are not easily attainable and the National Library Singapore is excited to have these in their heritage collection.

Physical or digital donations were and are also collected online via [www.deposit.nl.sg](http://www.deposit.nl.sg).

## NORWAY

An Endless Tail: the National Library of Norway's "High North" Pilot Project – Evaluation as at 1 October 2008

### Summary

The National Library of Norway and representatives for Norwegian rights holders have collaborated on a pilot project in which copyrighted Norwegian works are made available in a digital format via the internet. The High North project, which was launched on 24 April 2007, will run until the end of 2009. In addition to disseminating knowledge about the High North, the purpose of the project has been to gain genuine experience of the use of digitalised books and journals online. This report is based on the statistical analysis of the behaviour of users of the online service, of library lending figures and of sales statistics during the same period, in addition to findings from an online questionnaire. Below are some of the key findings of the analysis:

#### *The whole tail wags*

The study shows there was a demand for all subject areas and genres, and a full 87 percent of titles were accessed.

#### *Positive reading experience*

Fifty-five per cent of people asked rated their experience of reading books and journals online from "OK" to "Very good".

#### *Time generates access*

From April 2008 until October 2008, the total number of pages displayed grew by 59 percent, despite the fact that the service itself had experienced minimal growth, and even though no special initiatives had been implemented to raise awareness of the service.

#### *The service is used as a library, not as a reading room*

On average each user views five unique pages in each book and two pages in each journal, often visiting the service several times and viewing the same pages, bringing the average number of pages displayed to fourteen for books and five for journals.

#### *Everything is growing – some things are growing more than others*

Usage of all the titles included in the service has increased during the report period, but, relatively speaking, there was greatest growth among the most popular titles.

#### *Search engines*

When Google and other search engines were given access to the service's metadata in January 2008, the number of objects accessed each month increased by 61 per cent compared with figures for 2007.

### *Older material is not dead*

Sixty-five per cent of the titles accessed are 11 years or older relative to the year of publication.

### Background to the pilot project

Norwegian writers, publishing firms, journal publishers, other copyright holders and the National Library of Norway all have a common goal, which is to enable access to literature and other copyright protected material, and to give the public an insight into and knowledge of the diversity in the Norwegian cultural heritage.

As part of this goal, the National Library of Norway and representatives for Norwegian copyright holders<sup>1</sup> have for the last two years collaborated on a pilot project in which Norwegian works are made available in a digital format via the Internet within a more closely defined subject area – the High North. The aim of this pilot project is, among other things, to gain experience with technological solutions, problems with links, agreement mechanisms, usage patterns etc., which can form the basis for any future agreements on the digital dissemination of copyright protected material.

The High North was chosen as a basis for the pilot project due to current interest in this area. The Norwegian government's focus on the High North as a geopolitical area opens for many problem issues and for material from many sources. Collecting the most relevant material in one location would represent an important contribution to knowledge about the High North, particularly since the works could be presented in full-text versions on the internet. The sample consisted of works of fiction and non-fiction evenly distributed according to year of publication, with the most recent titles being publications from the previous year.

The National Library of Norway was responsible for selection of the sample, and for digitalisation and technical solutions, while the licensing organisations handled the clearing of rights to the copyrighted material. The comprehensive collection of links was produced with the assistance of the Barents Secretariat and the Fellowship Programme for Studies in the High North at the University College of Bodø.

The terms and conditions governing collaboration between the National Library of

Norway and the licensing organisations have been set forth in a separate agreement (see <http://www.nb.no/nordomradene/>). The pilot project was launched on 24 April 2007. One year later experiences of the project were summarised in a quantitative analysis of user patterns as at 24 April 2008

(see <http://www.nb.no/nordomradene/Nordomradene-midtveisrapport.pdf>). In this evaluation, the "midway report" has been expanded on and all experiential documentation has been elaborated on and updated as at 1 October 2008.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### NEW STATE OF THE ART NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING

The new National Library Building in the hub of Pretoria Central Business District (CBD) was officially opened on 1 August 2008. It was built at an estimate cost of R374-million. The department of Arts and Culture committed itself to building the modern library to better preserve national collections and embrace South Africa's documentary heritage. There is another campus and Centre for the Book in Cape Town.

The new premises are now open for use by the public and offers free access to internet, free membership and reading space for 1300 users at a time. It offers research materials dating back to 17<sup>th</sup> century, and interlending services through Public and Community Libraries. The National Library Act 92 of 1998 provides for the National Library to collect, record, preserve and make available the South African published materials, including the national heritage documentation, published in print and other forms. The new premises will greatly facilitate the execution of that mission.

The Minister of Arts and Culture, Dr Pallo Jordan in his inaugural speech, he said: "We are trying to make our libraries warm and engaging public spaces thronged by young learners seeking knowledge. To effect such a radical shift in user patterns requires radical initiatives. Along with the expansion and extension of library services, South Africa needs to leapfrog its libraries from book-based, segregated past into an open, democratic, inclusive, international and multimedia information future."

The National Library undertook one of the largest library moves in Africa by moving 26 km of running stock to its new premises in Pretoria. The whole process was filmed on video and will be used for training purposes to assist other libraries with planning library moves.

### STATE OF THE ART INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

National Library of South Africa (NLSA) has pioneered the use of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in government departments by migrating from proprietary software to FOSS based platform, Linux.

This exercise has brought new technology to the public and the National Library can pride itself as the first state institution to expose the public to the open source software.

## CATALOGUE OF AFRICAN LITERATURE

As part of the National Library's mission to promote creative, effective and efficient universal access to information the National Library participates in a national project to revitalize South Africa's community libraries.

The government of South Africa is committed to the vision of reducing illiteracy and promoting the culture of reading and writing in the country.

The National Library of South Africa is supporting this initiative, promoting accessibility to books. The National Library of South Africa has developed a catalogue of South African Literature. The catalogue will be made available at South African community libraries.

## REPRINT OF SOUTH AFRICAN CLASSICS

One of the National Priorities, in which the National Library is involved - is the promotion of writers and publishers in African languages by [Reprint of African classics](#). The National Library of South Africa has undertaken to reprint some books in indigenous African languages that are considered classic.

Visit the national Library of South Africa: [www.nlsa.ac.za](http://www.nlsa.ac.za)

## WALES

Leonardo da Vinci visits Aberystwyth



The National Library is currently displaying a selection of the drawings of Leonardo da Vinci held in the royal collection in Windsor Castle. The exhibition, arranged by the noted Leonardo scholar Martin Clayton, is visiting other venues in the UK. It is attracting an unusually large number of visitors, many of whom have never been in the Library before.

It is not the first time that the drawings have visited Aberystwyth. During the Second World War they were evacuated from Windsor Castle, along with many other treasures from London art collections, to the comparative safety of the west Wales coast. Here they were stored underground in a large cave on the National Library's estate!



## Digitising Wales



The National Library has recently submitted an application to the Welsh Assembly Government for finance towards a £3m programme to begin digitising the complete texts of all newspapers and magazines published in Wales. An existing two-year preliminary project to digitise 50 periodicals published in Wales is due for completion in summer 2009.

Other recent and current projects include:

- the historic wills of Wales
- the complete parish registers of Wales
- Wales-Ohio, documents about Welsh settlers in Ohio, USA
- photographs from the Geoff Charles collection, showing Welsh life during and after the Second World War
- Community Archives Online, aimed at helping local community groups digitise and archive items illustrating the history of their areas

## Artist in Residence



The National Library's second Artist in Residence, Blue MacAskill, is approaching the end of her year in the National Library. As well as developing her personal responses to parts of the collections using film, photographs and other media, she has worked with students from four primary and secondary schools throughout Wales: they have visited the Library and worked in the schools on projects again based on the multimedia collections held in the Library. This creative use of the Library goes far beyond traditional passive means of 'interpreting' the collections, such as exhibitions. The residency was funded by Safle, the body responsible for promoting public art in Wales, and by other external funders.