



# IFLA National Libraries Section

## Newsletter, November 2009

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*Newsletter compiled by Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, Information Officer with thanks to all contributors*

### Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to introduce the latest edition of our sections Newsletter in my role as the new Chair of the National Libraries Section of IFLA.

I am sure that you will join me in congratulating my predecessor, Ingrid Parent, who has been elected as IFLA's President Elect 2009-2011. We wish her every success in this role, and look forward to her Presidential years. Ingrid has also taken up a new post earlier this year as University Librarian at the University of British Columbia, Canada, earlier this year and we wish her well in her new job as well.

As National Libraries, we have a unique role in collecting, preserving and ensuring access to the heritage and knowledge of our countries. And building on a tradition of collaboration we are making this more readily available to the world. The work of our section reflects the essentially collaborative nature of national libraries, and I look forward to working with you to build on past successes and promote the role of national libraries in the world.

In particular I look forward to continuing to develop our relationship with the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) on areas of common interest between our organisations.

As you can see in this newsletter the section has continued to be very active. A lively section committee meeting held at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Milan this year received an update on the progress made on the Online Directory of National Libraries, approved the Strategic Directions of the section, and had a good discussion on proposals for the sections conference session in Gothenburg in 2010 on the theme 'Open access to knowledge: promoting sustainable progress.' Further details can be found in this newsletter, and I hope that you will take this opportunity to contribute proposals for papers for our conference session next year.

I would like to thank Jasmine Cameron, Secretary of the section, and Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, Information Co-ordinator, who has brought this newsletter together, for their continued hard work for the section.

Your comments and suggestions about any aspect of the work of the section are always welcome.

Best wishes to you all,

Martyn Wade  
Chair, National Libraries Section

## **Elections 2009**

Following our call for nominations in February, IFLA received 13 nominations for 9 vacancies which meant that there was a postal ballot. Subsequently other vacancies due to resignations from the committee were filled in order of votes. The following members were (re)-elected: Janne Andresoo, Estonia; Melita Ambrožič, Slovenia; Atakilty Assefa, Ethiopia; Martin Bossenbroek, Netherlands; Jasmine Cameron, Australia; Gérald Grunberg, France; Irina Lynden, Russian Federation; Deanna Marcum, USA; Elisabeth Niggemann, Germany; Pepa Michel Rodriguez, Spain; Vigdis Moe Skarstein, Norway. Welcome – or welcome back, and grateful thanks to the outgoing members and also those who stood for election. Full details of all SC members are available on the section pages and at the end of this newsletter.

## **IFLA WLIC Milan 2009**

The Standing Committee met once at WLIC Milan, on Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Pierre Clavel presented an update on the Online Directory of National Libraries and the Chair encouraged all national libraries to visit the site and maintain their own library page.

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_national\\_libraries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_libraries) )

Kelly Moore presented the National Organisations and International Relations Special Interest Group which is sponsored by the National Libraries Section: a short report is available below. After a successful four years as Chair, Ingrid Parent stepped down following her election as IFLA Vice-president Elect and Martyn Wade was unanimously elected as Chair. Jasmine Cameron was re-elected Secretary and Genevieve Clavel-Merrin was elected as Information Officer. Members attending presented short updates on activities. The full minutes are available at [http://www.ifla.org/files/national-libraries/nlminutes\\_2009.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/files/national-libraries/nlminutes_2009.pdf)



Members of the Standing Committee and Observers, Milan 2009

The Section's conference session, National Libraries in the Digital Age: Leadership and Collaboration, comprised a keynote address from Penny Carnaby followed by three case studies presented by Martin Bossenbroek, Netherlands; Minna Karvonen, Finland and Vigdis Moe Skarstein, Norway. It was very well attended, despite being held on the last morning of the conference. All the papers are available online at the IFLA site at <http://www.ifla.org/annual-conference/ifla75/programme2009-en.php>

## Call for papers Gothenburg 2010

In support of the theme of the WLIC in Gothenburg 2010 "Open access to knowledge – promoting sustainable progress", the National Libraries Section has issued the following call for papers:

The National Libraries Section invites the submission of proposals for papers on the Theme: "National libraries promoting open access to knowledge".

A keynote paper on this topic will be delivered by Drs. J. S. M. (Bas) Savenije, Director General, National Library of the Netherlands. This is a call for additional papers that focus on issues and strategies rather than descriptions of existing or proposed services. Other than the keynote address, presentations at the National Libraries Section conference session in 2010 will be limited to 15 minutes with a further five minutes for questions.

In formulating its conference topic for 2010, the Standing Committee of the National Libraries Section noted several issues of strong interest to national libraries:

The role of national libraries in developing national policies on open access  
Responsibilities for managing and preserving research data, including datasets, and relationships with the academic sector  
Copyright issues  
Provision of open access infrastructure (repositories, standards etc.)

National libraries work with government agencies, universities and other research funding bodies in developing national open access strategies. They also work with and support university and research libraries in developing institutional repositories. In this context, national libraries are looking for new partnerships, new ideas and new approaches to promoting open access to knowledge. Proposals should address the topic in terms of leadership and collaboration in the digital age.

The deadline for submitting an abstract (maximum 400 words) for a proposed paper is 16 January 2010. The abstract should include the title of the paper; name, position and employer of the presenter(s); email address; and telephone/fax numbers.

This should be sent to:

Ms Jasmine Cameron  
Secretary  
National Libraries Section Standing Committee  
c/- National Library of Australia  
Parkes Place ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA  
Email: [jcameron@nla.gov.au](mailto:jcameron@nla.gov.au)

Proposals will be reviewed by a sub-committee of members of the Standing Committee of the National Libraries Section. Successful proposals will be identified by 31 January 2010. Papers will be due by 15 May 2010. Papers should be in English and contain an abstract.

## **National Organisations & International Relations Special Interest Group (NOIR SIG): a short report on activities**

The NOIR SIG is sponsored by the National Libraries Section.

The NOIR SIG had a successful start-up meeting in Quebec City in 2008. Approximately 80 people attended the session, and contributed to lively discussion about the potential activities of the SIG and its role within IFLA.

The Convenor submitted terms of reference for the NOIR SIG and a list of over 80 supporting signatures to the IFLA Professional Committee in November 2008. The PC formally approved the establishment of the NOIR SIG at its meeting in December 2008.

A list-serv for the Group was set up in early 2009; and the SIG now has its own pages on the new IFLA website (<http://www.ifla.org/en/noir>).

The NOIR SIG held its first conference programme in Milan on Tuesday this week. Over 60 people attended the round-table session. There were five group discussions focused on determining activities to be pursued by the SIG in the coming year.

Four actions were identified, and individuals have volunteered to take leadership roles on these activities for the coming year.

A survey of the international activities of both national libraries and national associations will be undertaken. The survey will likely take place in two stages: first for the libraries, then for the associations. A sample of the survey questions will be posted to the NOIR SIG webpage.

Samples of existing guidelines for creating Memoranda of Understanding and partnership agreements will be made available via the webpage.

A checklist of considerations for undertaking and evaluating international activities within an organisation will be translated and posted to the NOIR SIG website.

A list of existing policies related to various aspects of international activities (for both institutions and associations) will be compiled.

Participants in the NOIR SIG sessions in both Quebec City and Milan have been keen to see practical tools developed which will assist them in their daily work. The actions to be undertaken in 2009-2010

will provide an excellent start to a toolkit available to anyone with an interest in or responsibility for international activities within their organisation.

The NOIR SIG thanks the IFLA National Libraries Section for its continued support of the Group.

*Kelly Moore*

*NOIR SIG Convenor*

*August 2009*

## Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan 2009-2011 has been adopted and is available at [http://www.ifla.org/files/national-libraries/Strategic-Plan/NL\\_Sp2009\\_11.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/files/national-libraries/Strategic-Plan/NL_Sp2009_11.pdf). In pursuing its goals, the Section will support and promote the President's theme, *Libraries driving access to knowledge*. Close cooperation will continue with CDNL, ICADS, NOIR SIG and the World Digital Library. Please visit the site to see the full range of areas in which we will be working in the next 2 years.

## Adopt a student !

IFLA Education & Training Section (SET) offers LIS students a 1-year free IFLA membership, following the motto "Adopt a Student! - Open Access to IFLA - Open a door to IFLA's network!".

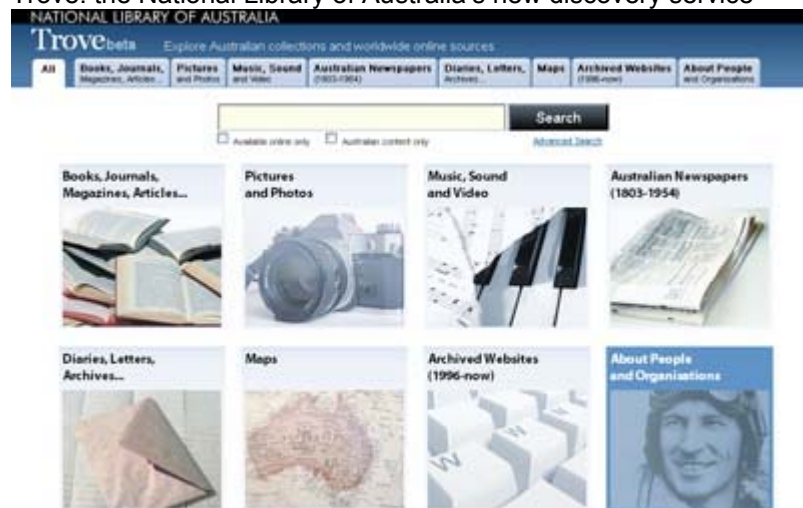
Therefore IFLA SET is looking for sponsors, willing to overtake for one year the students membership fee of 56 Euro.

If you would like to become a sponsor, please find further information, including the full list of already registered sponsors, at <http://www.ifla.org/en/set>

## News from some Section members

### Australia

Trove: the National Library of Australia's new discovery service



Screenshot of the Trove beta service

In the past 12 years, the National Library of Australia has developed eight 'national online discovery services'—free services to assist researchers to discover information resources held in Australian collections.

In 2007, the Library decided that combining these into one service would be in the interests of both the users and the Library. This led the Library to commence the 'Single Business Discovery Project' in September 2008.

The Library has now given the new service a name—Trove, as in ‘treasure-trove’, being a collection of valuable or delightful things.

A search of Trove retrieves multiple result sets that are presented in ‘collection views’. These views recognise the unique requirements of different types of information resources, and Trove applies its own relevance-ranking algorithm and its own facets to narrow the search results.

Many of these views will be based on the format of the information resource, for example, ‘Pictures and Photos’. Others may reflect a topic approach, such as ‘About People and Organisations’. In the future, some of these views may reflect disciplines that are represented in multiple resource formats, such as ‘Music’. And some may reflect a wider contextual perspective, such as ‘Research’. The number of collection views, and the boundaries between them, are likely to change as the scope of the service develops, and in response to feedback from users.

In late 2008, the project team assembled a focus group of potential end users to participate in a ‘card-sorting’. The aim of the exercise was to give the team a better understanding of the format categories that were understood by users and of the terminology which would make most sense to users in describing those categories. The report of this exercise was published on the [Library Labs](#) site.

Following this exercise, the project team developed the prototype based on the following eight collection views:

- Books, Journals, Magazines, Articles
- Pictures and Photos
- Australian Newspapers (1803–1954)
- Music, Sound and Video
- Maps
- Archived Websites (1996–)
- Diaries, Letters, Archives
- About People and Organisations.

The last of these views, ‘About People and Organisations’, reflects the Library’s objective to support an entry point to Australian web-based biographical services.

The production release of Trove is planned for early November 2009. The Library then plans to extend Trove by making a number of general improvements, such as an advanced search for each view, RSS feeds, enhanced sorting of results, more external targets, full text from more sources and bug fixes.

This ambitious attempt to construct a national ‘information portal’ is approaching fruition. While there are many examples of worldwide portals with extensive coverage, the National Library is not aware of any others that include content from such a variety of sources, including library, archive and museum collections, university repositories, digitised newspapers, web archives and online biographical databases. You can search Trove at <http://sbdsproto.nla.gov.au/>.

## China

### Centennial Celebration of the National Library of China

The National Library of China held the centennial celebration in Beijing on September 9th, 2009. Mr. Li Changchun, Member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau, the CPC Central Committee presented at the event and gave an important speech, followed by Mr. Zhan Furui, Director of the National Library of China, Ms. Ellen Tise, President of IFLA, and Mr. Cai Wu, Minister of Culture of China.



In parallel with the centennial celebration, the National Library of China has co-sponsored with the IFLA National Libraries Section a symposium under the theme “International Progress of Libraries: Global Knowledge Sharing”.



In the trend of globalization, the flow of information and knowledge has already crossed the national boundaries; libraries have to stay close to the international society, and engage themselves in the exchange and cooperation, and therefore become part of the drive for the global flow of knowledge. The symposium aimed to generate extensive and in-depth exploration and discussions on the cooperation in internationalization and the areas of service in this area, and to discuss on the methods and means of international exchange and cooperation in knowledge sharing, so as to promote the international exchange and development of libraries in China.

This international symposium has received active responses from international library communities; more than 170 library directors and senior executives from over 20 countries were present at the symposium, and about 15000 visits to the symposium were made through internet broadcasting.

The symposium concluded after a 2-day agenda. 15 speakers presented their excellent speech at the symposium; they are the directors or senior executives from IFLA, national libraries, parliament libraries, public libraries, special libraries, university libraries, etc.

Among them, Mr. Zhan Furui, Director of the National Library of China, and Ms. Jennefer Nicholson, Secretary General of IFLA, presented their keynote speeches; the other speakers were Ms. Lynne Brindley, Director of the British Library, Ms. Deanna Marcum, Associate Librarian of the Library of Congress, USA, Mr. Gnezdilov Vladimir Ivanovich, Executive Director of the Russian State Library, Mr. Makoto Nagao, Director of the National Diet Library of Japan, Mr. N. Varaprasad, Director of the National Library Board of Singapore, Mr. Knoll Adolf, Deputy Director of the National Library of Czech, Mr. Ismail Serageldin, Director of Alexandria Library, Egypt, etc.



These speakers have covered subjects including the international progress of libraries, Standards Development and International Progress, Standards Development and International Progress, Technical Development and International Progress, and International Collaboration Projects.

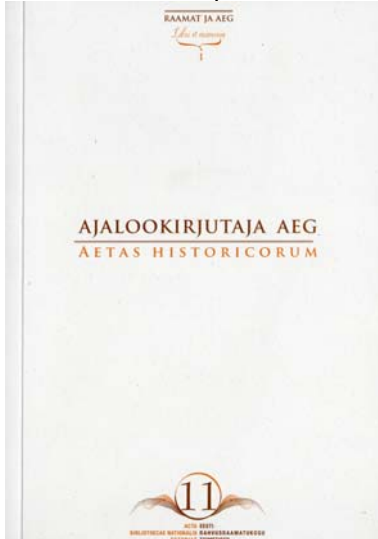
Through this symposium and the discussions on international cooperation among libraries, the National Library of China as well as the other attending libraries or research institutions, were able to exchange their ideas and experience in the internationalization of libraries, and to learn from each other. This will be positive for a combined exploration of the guiding principles and models of cooperation in the international progress of libraries.

(Mr. Yan Xiangdong, Director of the International Cooperation Division, National Library of China; Mr. Hao Jinmin, International Cooperation Division, NLC)

## Estonia

Transactions of the National Library of Estonia

The National Library of Estonia takes pride in two new, peer-reviewed volumes of its Transactions (*Acta Bibliothecae Nationalis Estoniae*), both abstracted and indexed in EBSCO Publishing: Central and Eastern European Source.



The sub-series „*Libri et memoria*” publishes studies on the history of the written word and its collection of articles „*Aetas historicorum*” (compiled by Piret Lotman and published in 2008) contains texts related to history writing from the 16th-18th centuries. The researchers have focused not so much on the texts themselves but rather on the motives of the authors, their cultural and social background. The reception of most of the writings studied in this collection has been unconventional, the same applies to how those writings came to be printed, as part of them were not planned to be published at all. The contributors include renowned Estonian historians and researchers Marek Tamm, Tiina Kala, Janet Laidla, Lea Kõiv, Kristiina Savin, Piret Lotman, Aivar Põldvee and Sirje Lusmägi. All articles are in Estonian, with English summaries.



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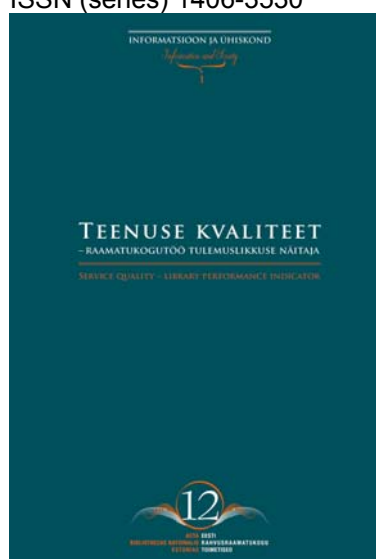
ISSN (series) 1406-3530

Estonian research libraries have been focusing mostly on information needs and satisfaction of readers but recent years have seen increased interest of librarians and library theoreticians towards user-centered evaluation of library performance and service quality measurement. This was the reason for choosing “Service quality – indicator of library performance” to be the topic and title for the first issue of the sub-series “Information and Society”. The volume has been compiled by Anne Veinberg and published in 2009. The articles give an overview of quality studies carried out in Finnish and Estonian research libraries, and the measurement techniques and evaluation models used. One of the articles introduces the experience of the National Library of Estonia in combining the statistical data and results of reader surveys with the aim to better organise the library’s work.

The authors include the teaching staff of the Tallinn University (Aira Lepik) and the Pärnu College of the University of Tartu (Heli Tooman) as well as specialists from Estonian research libraries (Anne Veinberg and Margit Jõgi from the National Library of Estonia, Kate-Riin Kont, Tiit Valner, Konrad Kikas and Peep

Miidla from the Tallinn University of Technology Library, Olga Einasto from the University of Tartu Library). Päivi Kytömäki gives an overview of the achievements of Finnish librarians in this area, introducing a research carried out by Oulu University Library and a joint research involving different types of libraries from Finland.

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## France

### **An online service to make the legal deposit of books in France easier** <http://depotlegal.bnf.fr/>

Since July 2009, a new service intended for publishers has been set up online at BnF. It aims to facilitate legal deposit procedures. This service pertains to a global perspective intending to dematerialize and improve communication and exchange of data between the library and its partner publishers. This service allows legal deposit notifications to be managed online; it also gives publishers the opportunity to follow the various phases of the process, from the receipt of the document to the description in the catalogue and the French national bibliography. Considering that data contained in online notifications can be retrieved in the library’s information system, bibliographic records are more easily available via the catalogue. This service firstly concerns the legal deposit of books. It will be gradually extended to periodicals and other types of documents.

### **Un service en ligne pour faciliter le dépôt légal des éditeurs en France** <http://depotlegal.bnf.fr/>

La Bibliothèque nationale de France a mis à disposition des éditeurs, depuis juillet 2009, un nouveau service en ligne destiné à faciliter les démarches de dépôt légal. Ce service s'inscrit dans une logique de dématérialisation et d'amélioration de la communication et de l'échange de données entre la Bibliothèque et ses partenaires éditeurs. Le service permet aux éditeurs la saisie des déclarations en ligne, leur gestion et le suivi des étapes du traitement du document au sein de la Bibliothèque, depuis la réception jusqu'au signalement dans le catalogue et dans la Bibliographie nationale française. La récupération dans le système d'information de la Bibliothèque des données contenues dans les déclarations en ligne des éditeurs, accélère la disponibilité des notices dans le catalogue. Ce service concerne dans un premier temps le dépôt légal des livres. Il sera étendu progressivement aux périodiques et à d'autres types de documents.

## Mauritius

In addition to being a depository library for United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, the National Library has been chosen by the Office of the European Union Commission in Mauritius to house its rich collection since August 2009.

In the same vein, the Municipality of Shanghai has already started a series of publications in the context of the "Windows on Shanghai" project. It is hoped that the Collection will develop in the near future for a better exposure on Shanghai.

Thus, the National Library is pursuing its collection development unceasingly.

### Newspaper Digitisation Project

With the assistance of the 'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)', based in Paris and in partnership with a counterpart from another French Speaking Country, the National Library is actively working on a project to digitize its local newspapers.

This venture, if it comes to fruition, will enable users worldwide to access this unique collection of primary information.

35 titles have been selected for this project including newspapers dated from 1832 to 1950.

### National Library Building

Ever since its official inauguration in 1999, the National Library has been waging a relentless battle to have its own state of the art purpose-built building. The collection is presently located in a rented building in the capital city of Port Louis.

Although a plot of land has already been earmarked by the Government, this long overdue project has yet to see the light of day.

### Tenth Anniversary (1999 – 2009)

The 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009 is a historic date for the National Library of Mauritius for it will proudly celebrate its tenth anniversary by organising a series of activities. Although one decade is short in the life of a national institution, it will be an opportunity to take stock of the various achievements such as:

- Acting as the National Bibliographic Centre;
- Collection building;
- Acting as the agency for allocating ISSN and CIP;
- Publishing the National Bibliography of Mauritius, two strategic plans, a customer charter, information brochures;
- Offering an OPAC service;
- Compiling the National Union Catalogue and the National Union List of periodicals; and
- Organising the World Book Day at national level since 2003.

Soon, it will also be time to re-engineer itself for challenges lying ahead.

## Scotland

### Darwin theatre project reaches final stage



The work of our John Murray Archive Writer-in-Residence, Peter Arnott, continues with an exciting series of workshops and performances of his play, *This View of Life*.

The play, devised with TAG Theatre Company, for primary school groups makes stops at the Hunterian Museum, Summerlees Heritage Centre in North Lanarkshire and finally at NLS. The play takes its inspiration from the correspondence between Charles Darwin and publisher John Murray found in the Archive. It features pigeons, asteroids and three time travellers who travel back in time to help Darwin finish 'On the Origin of Species'.

### Great Escapes unleashed

The Great Escapes project was officially launched in Mull in October. Inspired by travel handbooks first published by John Murray in the 19th century, the Great Escapes project has seen children from six Mull schools working to produce multimedia tours of various sites across the island.

The guides are GPS-linked and can be viewed using an electronic device borrowed from the local tourist information centre on Mull, or downloaded directly to your own device.



### Project fashions tools for urban research



Another collaborative research project with Edinburgh University and NLS Map Collections is under way.

Visualising Urban Geographies (<http://geo.nls.uk/urbhist/>) is a 15-month project funded by the AHRC. It aims to create online tools for researching social and economic history using geo-referenced historical maps, focusing on Edinburgh over the last two centuries.

The tools will take advantage of recent web-mapping technologies to compare historical data from a range of sources, including our own geo-referenced maps.

Post-war aerial photos online

Aerial photographs of Scotland from 1944 -1950 are some of the most recent map items to be put on the NLS site.

These RAF photographs provide detailed information on the landscape of post-war Scotland, as well as giving a fascinating portrayal of urban topography and land-use.

You can search for OS air photo mosaics using a zoomable map of Scotland or by place-names. (<http://www.nls.uk/maps/os/air-photos/index.html>) They are also available as a Google maps overlay, allowing direct comparison to present-day air photography and mapping



## Singapore

Digitisation and Preservation of Singapore's Images for Literary Heritage at National Library Singapore  
~ Kouo Shang Wei Collection ~

Written by Timothy Pwee and Eunice Low. Senior Librarians, National Library Singapore

Since the opening of the new National Library Building, the National Library Singapore has been actively seeking out and collecting primary Singapore materials for researchers. Aside from the traditional focus on the printed word, we have also been paying attention to visual materials, especially photographs. Among the pre-War photograph collections of Singapore donated to us are those by the families of Edwin A. Brown and Percy R. Hill. These images, along with the more famous commercial photography of Lambert & Co, help researchers visualise the past.

Photography as an art form began emerging in Singapore after the end of the Second World War. By the 1950s, Singapore had its own crop of pioneering and aspiring photographers, among them the late Kouo Shang Wei (郭尚慰 (1931-1988)). Along with contemporaries like Yip Cheong Fun and Lim Lee, Kouo captured long-lost sights and scenes of the island city between the 1950s and 1980s.

An immigrant from Vietnam, Kouo became known nationally and internationally for his scenic and building photography with recognition from organisations like the Royal Photographic Society and the International Federation of Photographic Art. As a significant Singapore photographer, his biography has been placed online in the National Library's Infopedia, an online encyclopedia on Singapore at: [http://infopedia.nl.sg/articles/SIP\\_1420\\_2009-01-13.html](http://infopedia.nl.sg/articles/SIP_1420_2009-01-13.html)

After Kouo passed away, his family approached the National Library Singapore about preserving Kouo's photographs - a collection of about 7,000 images documenting Singapore's landscape in the early years of nationhood. Of special interest are photographs of the Singapore River and the Samsui women (female workers performing menial jobs in the early construction industry). These images bring memories to Singaporeans who are familiar with the 1950s and 1980s scenes of Singapore.



Pigeons by the Singapore River, 1978



Samsui Women

The photographs of Kouo have been digitised and a selection is on display at the National Library Singapore's Donors Gallery and online in the Singapore National Album of Pictures at: (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/snapsq/sets/72157611874189622/>). Specifically, the displayed works are those showing political events; the Singapore waterfront; prominent landmarks within what is today's Central Business District, and Samsui women. Many of the late photographer's prize-winning works reflect Singapore's progress.

To complement our digitised collections of historic material, the Singapore Infopedia database at <http://infopedia.nl.sg/> provides short encyclopedia-style articles on topics relevant to Singapore. For instance, there are entries explaining the origins and life of the Samsui women; a series of articles detailing various aspects of the Singapore River's history and significant locations along its banks; and brief descriptions of places like the Asia Insurance Building that was once the tallest building in Southeast Asia when it was completed in 1954. These assist researchers in understanding the significance and context of these photographs.

For a visual display of the National Library's collection of images, please visit:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/snapsq/collections/>

## Switzerland

A region's memory online

December 1st 2009 sees the launch of the website enabling access to the digitized archives of two Neuchâtel daily newspapers, L'Express and L'Impartial at the following addresses: [www.lexpressarchives.ch](http://www.lexpressarchives.ch) or [www.limpartialarchives.ch](http://www.limpartialarchives.ch). In this first stage access is restricted to the editions published between January 2000 and December 2005; those of previous years will be uploaded progressively. The complete collection of L'Express (entitled the Feuille d'avis de Neuchâtel from its creation in 1738 until October 1988) and of L'Impartial (launched in 1881) will be available online by the end of 2012. In 2013 L'Express/Feuille d'avis de Neuchâtel will celebrate its 275th anniversary.

This mammoth task of scanning the collections of L'Express and L'Impartial was launched in the beginning of 2009 by the SNP Société neuchâteloise de presse, the publisher of the two daily newspapers, with the support of the Bibliothèque publique et universitaire (BPU) of Neuchâtel, the Bibliothèque de la Ville de La Chaux-de-Fonds (BVCF) and the Swiss National Library (NL) in Bern. By the end of the project 1.4 million pages will be freely available online.

Articles may be search by keyword, date or edition. Search and display of articles are easy and intuitive. The project is intended for both academic researchers and the general public and aims to offer easy access to an invaluable source of information about life in the Neuchâtel canton not only through hundreds of thousands of articles but also through the announcements and advertisements

published in the two daily newspapers from 1738 in Neuchâtel and 1881 in La Chaux-de-Fonds. This entire printed heritage has already been microfilmed to ensure its long-term preservation.

The overall cost of the project is estimated at 1.5 Million Swiss francs, half of which has been contributed by the project partners – the SNP Société neuchâteloise de presse, the support of the Bibliothèque publique et universitaire (BPU) of Neuchâtel, the Bibliothèque de la Ville de La Chaux-de-Fonds (BVCF) and the Swiss National Library (NL). The remainder will be covered through private funding and supplementary institutional support.

For further details, please contact:

Jacques Matthey, General Director SNP Société neuchâteloise de presse, [jMatthey@l'impartial.ch](mailto:jMatthey@l'impartial.ch)

Nicolas Willemin, Editor, L'Express et de L'Impartial, [nwillemin@lexpress.ch](mailto:nwillemin@lexpress.ch)

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## Wales

### Rethinking reader space



In recent years academic libraries have taken new, and sometimes radical approaches to the planning of space for their readers. The managers of the new 'information commons' recognise that today's students prefer to work in different ways from their predecessors: for example by consulting print, electronic and other sources simultaneously rather than separately, and by working more socially, in small groups with colleagues, rather than in the traditionally silent, solitary way.

This movement is beginning to have an impact on national libraries.

In September 2009 the large North Reading Room at the National Library of Wales was officially reopened after an ambitious modernisation: the first major change since the space was first opened to readers in 1916.

The North Reading Room is used for using printed and electronic material. We have tried to retain the best of its existing features – its cathedral-like architecture, quietness and traditional study seating – while introducing many new features that reflect the different ways in which people now study and learn. These include free wireless internet access, improved lighting, areas for electronic media use, a seminar room, a lounge with easy seating and fine views over Cardigan Bay, a central circular enquiry point with a distinctive canopy, and – a hugely popular facility – a series of smaller rooms where readers can either work in silence or discuss ideas with friends and colleagues without disturbing others.

The reaction so far to these changes has been overwhelmingly positive and we are confident that the Reading Room now offers a comfortable, relaxing and popular space for a new generation of users.

In her recent novel in Welsh set in the National Library of Wales, *Y Llyfrgell*, the author Fflur Dafydd imagines a future when *all* the Library's contents will be in digital form, but unless or until that time arrives we shall need to cater for our readers within our building: it's important that we do so in ways that meet the changing needs of our users.

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