

CDNL VISION FOR THE GLOBAL DIGITAL LIBRARY

The world's national libraries share a common mission of collecting, recording, organising, storing, preserving in perpetuity, and providing access to their nation's cultural patrimony and intellectual output in documentary form.

The Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) is an independent association of the chief executives of the world's national libraries, established to facilitate discussion and promote understanding and cooperation on matters of common interest to national libraries worldwide.

Our long-term vision is the development of a global distributed digital library - comprehensive, open, seamlessly-connected, and universally accessible on the internet - giving ready access to library materials in the collections of all the national libraries of the world in the interests of scholarly research, education and lifelong learning, innovation and economic development, and the promotion of international understanding.

To this end we must:

- a) promote, encourage, and support the development of collaborative 'digital libraries' of all types;
- b) promote and support the connecting of the digital collections of national libraries, and in dialogue with other libraries and archives, to provide a window to the cultures of the world and to open up our rich and diverse holdings;
- c) support cultural and linguistic diversity and multilingualism, and also respect indigenous cultures and cultural property;
- d) promote the development of digital tools, products and services and common standards through ICABS and IIPC, and with a particular focus on critical issues for national libraries such as long-term digital preservation, authenticity, and understanding the needs of our users;
- e) ensure that learnings on digital library developments and best practice are shared between national libraries;

- f) increase digital capability and support digital developments in the national libraries of the developing world;
 - g) work for widespread appreciation of the importance of intellectual property issues in the digital age;
 - h) advocate for solutions to intellectual property issues which strike the appropriate balance between the crucial public interest in ensuring access to information and ideas and also the rights of creators to be recognised and rewarded for their work;
 - i) advocate for the development of the global digital library and for regulatory support (particularly through legal deposit and intellectual property regimes) and financial support for digital developments;
 - j) strengthen our strategic collaboration with other cultural heritage institutions, with national and international government organisations and NGOs, publishers and information providers, and other private sector organisations.
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