

**THE NATIONAL LIBRARY, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE  
TO ITS BIBLIOGRAPHICAL FUNCTION**

**Heila Maryna Fraser**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

|          |                                                             |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| AACOBS   | Australian Advisory Council on<br>Bibliographical Services  |
| A.L.A.   | American Library Association                                |
| ASLIB    | Association of Special Libraries and<br>Information Bureaux |
| B.N.B.   | British National Bibliography Limited                       |
| H.M.S.O. | Her Majesty's Stationery Office                             |
| I.F.L.A. | International Federation of Library<br>Associations         |
| S.A.L.   | South African Library                                       |
| S.A.L.A. | South African Library Association                           |
| U.K.     | United Kingdom of Great Britain                             |
| V.S.A.   | Verenigde State van Amerika                                 |

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the problem

Most countries today have a national library or a library which is regarded as national. National libraries are deeply concerned with the conservation and exploitation of their resources and have a definite responsibility in the field of bibliography. The national library is the dominant factor in bibliographical coverage and control in its own country and should co-operate in bibliographical matters on the international level.

The importance of the national library in the bibliographical activities of a country was emphasised by the Symposium on National Libraries in Europe in its discussions and the principles adopted were incorporated in its conclusions and recommendations.<sup>1</sup>

In South Africa, as in other countries, the national library has a major task in the field of bibliographical services and control. Its bibliographical function should be considered against the background of the national bibliographical scene and the efforts of the South African Library Association to promote bibliographical activity.

1. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.71-80, 113-114.

The South African Library Association activated interest in bibliographical work with the appointment of a sub-committee in 1943 to prepare a survey of existing bibliographical projects.<sup>2</sup> This survey was accepted as a basis for the planning of bibliographical work in South Africa at a conference of the Association in 1943. Further surveys were prepared by P. Freer<sup>3</sup> and H. Holdsworth<sup>4</sup> and published in articles which appeared in 1945 and 1947 respectively.

In 1949 a Bibliographical Committee was appointed as a standing sub-committee of the South African Library Association. In 1950 this committee published a report of the Working Group on the UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey,<sup>5</sup> listing long- and

2. Bibliographical desiderata for South Africa: general conspectus. South African libraries, 11(2): 39-40, Oct., 1943.
3. FREER, P. Bibliographical work in South Africa. In 19th ASLIB Conference, Dec., 1944. Report of proceedings. London, ASLIB, 1945. p.44-48.
4. HOLDSWORTH, H. Bibliography in South Africa. Journal of documentation, 3(3): 151-159, Dec., 1947.
5. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Bibliographical Sub-Committee. First report of the Working Group on the UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey 1950. Cape Town, South African Library Association Bibliographical Sub-Committee, 1950.

short-range projects which should be undertaken in South Africa.

In 1955 D.H. Varley and O.H. Spohr published proposals for the development of national bibliographical services in South Africa. Varley evaluated present services and made suggestions for their improvement. Spohr's article dealt with technical aspects.<sup>6,7</sup>

At the 1958 Conference of the South African Library Association held in Cape Town, a Publication Research Committee was appointed "to make the necessary approach in specific cases to bodies which are willing to finance the publication of bibliographical work".<sup>8</sup>

At its annual conference held in Potchefstroom in September 1959, the Association appointed an Action Committee. The terms of reference of this committee were, inter alia, to investigate and report on the planning of effective bibliographical services. D.H. Varley who was responsible for the bibliographical survey, published his findings in Aspects of South African libraries.<sup>9</sup>

- 6,7 VARLEY, D.H. and Spohr. Some proposals for the development of national bibliographical services in South Africa. South African libraries, 22(3): 79-88, Jan., 1955.
8. VARLEY, D.H. Bibliographical developments in Southern Africa, 1958-59. South African libraries, 27(2): 58, Oct., 1959.
9. VARLEY, D.H. Report and recommendations on bibliographical needs. In Aspects of South African libraries. Potchefstroom, South African Library Association, 1962. 3p.

The South African Library Association formulated recommendations based on this report which were submitted to a National Conference of Library Authorities in Pretoria in November 1962. The resolutions of the Conference were published in the form of a Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa.<sup>10</sup> The Programme acknowledged the importance of the national library in the field of bibliography by stating which bibliographical tasks the national library in South Africa should undertake.<sup>11</sup>

General reports dealing with bibliographical progress in South Africa, compiled initially by D.H. Varley and subsequently by R. Musiker, have appeared regularly in South African libraries, the official organ of the South African Library Association since 1958. These reports were consolidated in a work by R. Musiker entitled South African bibliography which was published in 1970.<sup>12</sup>

The national library in South Africa, although it has been performing bibliographical functions for some time, is a young institution and still relatively new to its rôle of pure national library.

10. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa. South African libraries, 30(3): 81-117, Jan., 1963.
11. Ibid, p. 103.
12. MUSIKER, R. South African bibliography: a survey of bibliographies and bibliographical work. London, Crosby Lockwood, 1970. 105p

It is, therefore, necessary that its bibliographical achievements, past and present be submitted to careful and detailed scrutiny and be measured against the ideal which has been set for it.

It is evident from the foregoing that attention has been given to bibliographical problems in South Africa and that a fair amount has been published on this subject. But, to date, no study devoted exclusively to a detailed examination of the bibliographical function of the national library in South Africa has appeared.

## 1.2 Statement of the problem

The problem investigated is the interpretation and performance by the national library in South Africa of its bibliographical function, evaluated in terms of the bibliographical function of national libraries generally. Bibliographical work completed and in progress will be fully examined. The future rôle of the national library in bibliographical development in South Africa will be determined and recommendations made.

As a result of the renewed interest in national libraries since World War II and the enormous increase in world literature, the functions of the national library should be re-appraised to determine its place in the modern world. The national library today is, for instance, unable to build up comprehensive collections, but should concentrate on collecting the literature of its own country and making it accessible.

No two national libraries perform exactly similar functions, although certain functions are common to many. The majority of national libraries regard the collection of the national literature as an essential function. This is closely related and basic to two other essential national library functions, namely, the publication of the national bibliography and the provision of bibliographical information. Either one or both of these tasks are regarded by national libraries as their minimum responsibility in the field of bibliography.

In order to evaluate the bibliographical function of the national library in South Africa, it is necessary to establish criteria. A theoretical examination of the bibliographical function of national libraries, followed by a description of its practical applications by specific national libraries, provides criteria for the evaluation of the bibliographical function of the national library in South Africa as well as a basis for recommendations for improvement.

### 1.3 Delimitation of the problem

South Africa has three national libraries. The phrase "national library in South Africa", as used in this study will refer to the South African Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria, unless otherwise stated. The third national library, namely, the South African Library for the Blind, Grahamstown, is mainly concerned with the provision of literature to the blind, and will be regarded as outside the scope of this thesis.

#### 1.4 Organisation of the material

The first two chapters following the introduction will deal with national libraries in broad general terms. Chapter Two will describe the characteristics of a national library, i.e. those features identified with a national library which distinguish it from any other type of library. It will also include several definitions of a national library as found in the literature on the subject. Chapter Three will list and discuss national library functions.

Chapter Four will introduce the national library in South Africa, describing the main stages in its development, its characteristics and its functions.

Chapter Five will be devoted to a description of the bibliographical function of the national library. The bibliographical functions of a few national libraries abroad will be analyzed according to a checklist specially designed for this purpose.

Chapter Six will describe the bibliographical function of the national library in South Africa in detail. As both the South African Library and the State Library undertake bibliographical work, the declared policy of each of the two institutions in this regard will be examined and the responsibilities of each for bibliographical work will be indicated. Reference will be made to national bibliographical work performed by other institutions in South Africa. Only the kind of works which are frequently compiled by national libraries and which form an important part of the bibliographical apparatus of a country, will be listed.

Chapter Seven will be a critical evaluation of the bibliographical function of the State Library and the South African Library, indicating which important lacunae in the national bibliographical apparatus have been filled and which ones still exist. The rôle of the national library in bibliographical control in South Africa will also be described. The final section of this chapter will contain conclusions and recommendations.

### 1.5 Method of investigation

Two main methods were used to obtain the information required for this study, namely, searches in the literature of librarianship; and correspondence and personal visits.

#### 1.5.1 Literature searches

Literature searches which led to the compilation of a bibliography, formed the basis of this study. The references so obtained were followed up in books, journals, reports, etc. The following categories of material were systematically searched :

##### 1.5.1.1. Indexes and abstracts

Indexes and abstracts used in compiling the bibliography were :

Library literature (American), 1921 - August, 1972.

Library and information science abstracts (British),

1950-Sept./Oct. 1972.

Index to South African Periodicals, 1940 - 1971.

#### 1.5.1.2 Annual reports, yearbooks and monographs

Additional information not available in other sources was obtained from this category of material. The annual reports of the following overseas institutions were consulted :

National Library of Australia, 1968 - 1971/2.

Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services,  
1956 - 1970.

National Library of Canada, 1955; 1968 - 1971/72.

Library of Congress, 1962 - 1971.

British Museum, 1966 (incl.1939-1966)-  
1969 (incl.1966-1969)

For general information on developments in Britain, the following series was scanned :

Year's work in librarianship, 1928-1950

Five years' work in librarianship, 1951-1965

For information on South Africa, a thorough and systematic search of the following annual reports :

South African Library Association, 1933 - 1971/72

South African Library, 1954 - 1970.<sup>13</sup>

State Library, 1964 - 1971.<sup>14</sup>

13,14 The annual reports of the South African Library and the State Library were studied as from the time they were relieved of their public library functions.

The following series published by UNESCO also yielded useful information :

Manuals for libraries

Bibliographical handbooks

Documentation, libraries and archives: bibliographies and reference works (new series. no. 1, 1972).

### 1.5.2 Correspondence and personal visits

#### 1.5.2.1 Abroad

During a holiday abroad in 1971, the writer visited the British Museum Library, the National Library of Scotland and the National Library of Ireland. Although the National Libraries of Scotland and Ireland have not been included in this study, the writer had some interesting discussions at these institutions about the functions of a national library.

At the outset of this study, it was decided to include the National Library of Canada as an example of a modern national library which had been planned for the purpose it serves. The writer obtained information from this institution by correspondence. Firstly, in a general letter enquiring about the functions of the library and secondly, in a letter enquiring specifically about the library's bibliographical function and automation programme.

As the Australian Bibliographical Centre has enjoyed interest as an example which South Africa should emulate, the writer corresponded with the Centre, obtaining information which had not been found in any

of the literature consulted.

#### 1.5.2.2 South Africa

A questionnaire,<sup>15</sup> accompanied by a covering letter outlining the aims of this study, was sent to the State Library, Pretoria and the South African Library, Cape Town, respectively. The object of these questionnaires was threefold :

To obtain the libraries' own interpretation of their bibliographical function;

to enquire about current bibliographical work; and

to elicit information not available in the literature consulted.

The writer has visited the State Library twice since the commencement of this study. Firstly, at the outset of the study and secondly, during October 1972 to discuss a few points of interest which the questionnaire had not elicited as well as the library's computerisation programme.

The writer was employed at the South African Library, Cape Town, as Reference Librarian for a period of two years during 1969 to 1971.

15. See Appendix

### 1.5.3 Analysis of the bibliographical function

In order to analyze the bibliographical function of the national libraries referred to in this study, the writer required a guide. For this purpose a checklist was designed which incorporates the recommendations of the Symposium on National Libraries in Europe held in 1958. The checklist was divided into four main categories which indicate the bibliographical function of the national library in its limited and its wider sense.<sup>10</sup>

16. Refer p. 129-130.

## 2. THE NATURE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The purpose of this chapter is to discover what is meant by the term "national library" and to distinguish its most important characteristics.

By way of introduction, a brief survey will be given of attempts that have been made to arrive at an understanding of the national library and its significance in the library world. The method employed will be a consideration of definitions found in the literature on this subject and an analysis of the principles used in these definitions. The characteristics generally identified with national libraries will be given, with appropriate examples. A correlation between these characteristics and the principles used in the definitions will also be established.

### 2.1 Introduction to national libraries

The great age of the national library was the 19th and early 20th century when it played a definite rôle. Later in the century, during World War II and the immediate post-war period, it appeared to be passing through a period of stagnation or inertia.

Reference to the background of events and the efforts of individuals which led to the renewed interest in national libraries, is necessary in order to understand the position of the national library in the modern world.

Arundell Esdaile was the first person to focus attention on "that comparatively modern product, the national library" of which "the idea ... has for over a century, and for longer still, if we consider it rightly, been expanding."<sup>17</sup>

In the Preface to his pioneer work, National libraries of the world,<sup>18</sup> Esdaile remarked upon the lack of a general account of national libraries in the literature on libraries and librarianship. This was said in 1934 when the first edition of his work appeared. Esdaile's remark remained valid until 1955 - twenty-one years later - when the journal Library trends<sup>19</sup> devoted an entire issue to "this important phenomenon of librarianship: the national library." These two works were in the form of an enquiry and presentation of data collected.

The title selected by the editors of Library trends, "Current trends in national libraries", is an indication of its main concern, namely, to detect changes and tendencies and their direction. This work offered a comparative study of the structure and functions of certain national libraries, and the following general observations: that national

17. ESDAILE, A.<sup>2</sup> National libraries of the world. 2nd rev. ed. by F.J. Hill. London, Library Association, 1957, p. ix.

18. Ibid. 2nd rev. ed. 1957.

19. MEARNS, D.C., ed. Current trends in national libraries. Library trends, 4(1): 96, Jul., 1955.

libraries are passing through a period of ferment, that they are wonderfully complicated organisms which defy or elude simple categorization, that they possess personalities and proud markings of dissimilarity and that a national library at its best is a libraries' library.

It is interesting to note that National libraries of the world was a work by a prominent British librarian and the issue of Library trends on national libraries, an American-inspired study under the editorship of an American librarian, David C. Mearns. Both men were associated with two great national libraries, namely, the British Museum and the Library of Congress. Esdaile's work was the first general account of national libraries before, and Library trends the first after, World War II.

Three years before the publication of Library trends an event occurred which indicated the first stirrings of renewed interest in national libraries.

In 1952 at a meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), F.C. Francis of the British Museum, appealed to the great libraries to adapt to the requirements of the modern world. In response to this appeal, IFLA founded a section for university and national libraries.

In 1955, the same year as the publication of Library trends, an important resolution was put forward by the heads of thirteen national libraries at the International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centres in Brussels.

"(The Brussels Congress) wishes ... to emphasize the need for developing and maintaining a central library in each country, generally a national library, as the only institution capable of preserving for the future the whole of each country's output and of ensuring that bibliographical work proceeds on uniform lines."<sup>20</sup>

This resolution was a direct result of a feeling that not enough attention - only two short group meetings - had been given to the problems of national libraries. Only the paper on the Problems of large national and learned libraries,<sup>21</sup> delivered by F.C. Francis, which formed the basis of the one meeting, was important for national libraries.

The significance of the resolution taken at Brussels was that it was the first public manifestation of a large group of national libraries and it paved the way for the next and most important event which took place in 1958.

This important event was the Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, organized by UNESCO and held in Vienna in 1958. Prima facie grounds existed for a complete re-examination of national libraries.

20. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11) p(2).

21. FRANCIS, F.C. Problems of large national and learned libraries In International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centres, Brussels, 1955. The Hague, Nijhoff, 1955. vol.1: Preliminary reports. p.106 - 112.

The Symposium aimed at collecting as much information as possible on recent developments in national libraries in Europe. It enabled the representatives of these libraries to compare the conditions under which their respective libraries operate and the requirements of the countries they serve. Although the Symposium was confined to national libraries in Europe - libraries with many interconnections existing in the same cultural climate - the discussions which took place and the conclusions reached and recommendations made, have contributed greatly to the knowledge of national libraries and their problems.

UNESCO encouraged by the success of the Vienna Symposium, subsequently in 1964, organized a Regional Seminar on the Development of National Libraries in Asia and the Pacific Area.

This brief survey of events which led up to the Vienna Symposium, the most important event for national libraries, throws some light on how conditions became ripe for a re-appraisal of national libraries. The Symposium created an awareness of the responsibilities of national libraries for the future.

## 2.2 Definitions of the national library

The question of a definition of a national library has been avoided by many writers on the subject.

Esdaile in his National libraries of the world, did not attempt to define a national library. Neither did F.J. Hill who was responsible for the revised edition which appeared in 1957, although he acknowledged the growth and development of national libraries during the period of twenty-three years since the appearance of the first edition in 1934.

David C. Mearns in his Summary to the study in Library trends contented himself with some general observations on the national library and stated "... perhaps the world will one day hit upon a definition."<sup>22</sup>

Pierre Bourgeois, Director of the Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, stated in his Foreword to National Libraries: their problems and prospects,<sup>23</sup> that it is necessary to know what a national library really is. The official stance of the Symposium was that it would be pointless to try to define the term 'national library', because of the very diversity and wide range of institutions covered by the term. They regarded the term 'national library' as a common denominator for various types of institutions.

22. MEARNS, op. cit., p.96.

23. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p(2)34.

Thomas Landau, editor of the Encyclopaedia of librarianship<sup>24</sup> omits the national library as a type, although he includes definitions and descriptions of an assortment of libraries, for example, Commercial libraries, Newspaper libraries, Sound libraries, Prison libraries, Public libraries, Reference libraries, etc.

### 2.2.1 General definitions

As a preliminary to a consideration of definitions that have been found in the literature, it is necessary to determine the meaning of the words 'library' and 'national'.

The word 'library' derives from the Latin word, 'liber' meaning a book.

L.M. Harrod has defined a library as follows :

1. "A collection of books and other literary material kept for reading, study and consultation.
2. A place, building, room or rooms set apart for the keeping and use of a collection of books, etc."<sup>25</sup>

24. LANDAU, T., ed. Encyclopaedia of librarianship, 3rd rev. ed. London, Bowes and Bowes, 1966.

25. HARROD, L.M., comp. The librarians' glossary of terms used in librarianship and the book crafts and reference book. 3rd rev. ed. London, Deutsch, 1971. p.378.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica defines a library as :

"... a collection of written, printed or other graphic material (including films, slides, phonograph records and tapes) organized for use."<sup>26</sup>

This definition takes into consideration the wide range of materials that make up the stock of the modern library.

L.R. Mc Colvin has provided a useful definition of a general library, using the public library as an example :

"... The public library is a universal provider... it must embrace, as far as possible, all knowledge and activity ... it must, in one word, be comprehensive."<sup>27</sup>

26. ENCYCLOPAEDIA Britannica. Chicago, William Benton, 1968. Vol. 13, p.1031.
27. MC COLVIN, L.R. The theory of book selection for public libraries. London, Grafton, 1925. p.18 - 19.

The next step is to consider the meaning of the word 'national'.

Funk and Wagnalls standard dictionary of the English language gives the following meanings :

1. "Belonging to a nation as a whole: opposed to local.  
(local being defined elsewhere as 'pertaining to a prescribed place or a limited portion of space').
2. Authorized by a national government."<sup>28</sup>

The above represents general definitions of basic concepts.

If one accepts Funk and Wagnalls definition of 'national', could one then, by merely inserting the word 'national' before 'collection' and 'place, building...' in the first two definitions, and substituting it for 'public' in the third definition, regard the result as an adequate definition of a national library?

In the first two instances, it will certainly be correct to say that national collections form part of the bookstock of a national library. This aspect has been used in some definitions, as shall be seen later on. One could also say that a national library is a national place or building in a very broad sense.

28. FUNK and Wagnalls standard dictionary of the English language. International ed. New York, Funk and Wagnall, 1964. Vol. 2, p.845, 747.

By substituting the word 'public' in Mc Colvin's definition one arrives at :

"... The national library is a universal provider ... it must embrace, as far as possible, all knowledge and activity ... it must, in one word, be comprehensive."

This concept of universality and comprehensiveness is in keeping with the traditional concept of the encyclopaedic nature of the national library.

The question of what a national library is, is not so simply decided. It is necessary to consider specific definitions of a national library and examine the principles used in these definitions.

#### 2.2.2 Specific definitions

Libraries may be broadly classified in two ways :

by ownership or purpose;  
or by contents, for example, general, special  
(including legal, music, medical, etc.)

National libraries belong to the first class, as do municipal, school, university and research libraries.

### 2.2.2.1 Definitions by ownership

The A.L.A. glossary of library terms briefly defines a national library as :

"A library maintained by a nation."<sup>29</sup>

N.M. Ketkar gives a more elaborate definition :

"A library may be broadly defined as a service agency of recorded knowledge. The word 'national' is a qualifying epithate. (sic) Firstly, therefore, a national library must belong to the nation and not exclusively to any part of it. In other words it must be maintained primarily by funds allotted from, and disbursed by the national exchequer. Secondly the services of a national library must be available to all nationals on the basis of equality."<sup>30</sup>

Ketkar lays great stress on the fact that a national library belongs to a nation as a whole.

29. THOMPSON, Elizabeth, comp. ALA glossary of library terms. Chicago, A.L.A. 1943. p.90.

30. KETKAR, N.M. A national library: some thoughts. Library herald, 7(1): 8, April 1964.

#### 2.2.2.2 Definitions by purpose, or responsibility or duty

Two Indian librarians provide the definition :

"The library which has the duty of collecting and preserving for posterity the written production of that country."<sup>31</sup>

In the words of S.R. Ranganathan, the national library is "the central station for the assembling and service of thought energy."<sup>32</sup>

The Canadian Library Association in a brief presented to the Canadian government, prior to the establishment of the National Library of Canada, stated :

"A National Library is, first of all, the most comprehensive library in the world on its own country. In co-operation with the National Archives, Art Gallery, Museum and other institutions, its duty is to preserve and organize for use all records of the country's history, distinguished citizens, natural resources, literature, arts, ... in short, of the whole life of the country.

That is not the complete definition. It is only a statement of the major reason for, and the prime purpose of, a national library: that is to collect, preserve, and organize for use the country's records."<sup>33</sup>

31. CHATTERJEE, A. National libraries: their scope, structure and functions. Indian librarian, 20(4): 174, Mar., 1966.
32. RANGANATHAN, S.R. Library development plan... Delhi, University of Delhi, 1950. p.170.
33. DAFOE, E. A National library for Canada. Canadian Library Association bulletin, 5(1): 14, July 1948.

The Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, although its object was not to define a national library, did state :

"In general, it may be said that the national library of a country is the one responsible for collecting and conserving the whole of that country's book production for the benefit of future generations."<sup>34</sup>

The resolution passed by the Third International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centres, Brussels, 1955, expanded on the responsibility or purpose of collecting and preserving national book production, when it described the national library as :

"... the only institution capable of preserving for the future the whole of each country's output and of ensuring that bibliographical work proceeds on uniform lines."<sup>35</sup>

34,35. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.34(2).

### 2.2.2.3 Definitions by ownership and purpose, or responsibility

The authors of the following two definitions have attempted to define a national library by using the principles of ownership and purpose as minimum requirements.

Verner W. Clapp thus defines a national library :

"The minimum requirements for a national library are that it should be a national institution and that it should attempt to form a comprehensive collection of the national publications; beyond that each national library will create its own personality."<sup>36</sup>

A South African librarian, P.C. Coetzee, gives a rather similar definition :

"... dat enige biblioteek voor en al eer dit as nasionale biblioteek aanvaar mag word aan ten minste twee eise moet voldoen :

- (a) dit moet in een of ander opsig nasionale besit wees, wat beteken dat dit liefs deur die staat tenvolle onderhou moet word ...
- (b) die funksie van die versameling (en) van bewaring van die belangrikste wetenskaplike en bellettristiese literatuur van die wêreld moet oorheers ..."<sup>37</sup>

36. CLAPP, V.W. Libraries in the life of the nation; the national library. Ottawa, Canadian Library Association, 1953. (Occasional paper, no. 2)p.10.

37. COETZEE, P.C. Die plek van nasionale biblioteke in die biblioteekwese.  
Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteke, 28(1): 6, Jul., 1960.

#### 2.2.2.4 Definitions by ownership and/or functions

L.M. Harrod provides a comprehensive definition :

"A library maintained out of government funds and serving the nation as a whole. Usually, books in such libraries are for reference only. They are usually copyright libraries. The function of such a library is to collect and preserve for posterity the books, periodicals and newspapers published in the country. This is best done by a law requiring publishers to deposit copies of all publications issued by them and by purchasing books published in other countries ... The functions of national libraries vary considerably. They may compile union catalogues, produce a national bibliography, publish a retrospective national bibliography, or act as a national bibliographical centre."<sup>38</sup>

38. HARROD, op. cit., p.444.

Carl M. White who assisted the Federal Government of Nigeria in planning the establishment of a national library, formulated an interesting definition :

"That for purpose of discussion, a 'national library' be described as a centre of service and professional leadership placed high enough in the nation's power structure to become a useful aid in (a) deciding fundamental questions of social policy, (b) strengthening the modern library movement, and (c) promoting international cultural co-operation especially through the exchange of publications. There is no predetermined pattern to be followed. Each national library must be adapted to the conditions and needs of the nation it serves."<sup>39</sup>

White's definition which was obviously formulated with the needs of Nigeria in mind and the functions that a national library would have to undertake in that country, is, nevertheless, an interesting one.

#### 2.2.2.5 Other definitions

Donald Davinson defines the national library :

"... the national library is the major research collection in a country, with an international coverage of the literature of general scholarship and research."<sup>40</sup>

39. WHITE, C.M. The National Library of Nigeria. Lagos, Federal Ministry of Information, 1964. p.6.

40. DAVINSON, D. Academic and legal deposit libraries: an examination guidebook. 2nd rev. ed. London, Bingley, 1969. p.8.

This is a vague definition which could apply equally well to any research library, despite the emphasis on the encyclopaedic nature of the national library.

A.M. Lewin Robinson, Director of the South African Library, defines a national library by distinguishing it from other research libraries :

"... the principal difference between a National Library performing its function as a research institution and any other research library, is that the former is supported primarily by government funds with the intention that it should be for the benefit of the nation at large and not for the privileged members of a district, a society or a university even if the latter may be prepared to allow outsiders to make use of their facilities."<sup>41</sup>

D.H. Varley, a former Director of the South African Library uses a completely different method and defines a national library indirectly. He says :

"In every country where library services are at all developed, they can be grouped by various characteristics, e.g. municipal, University, special, their totality forming an aggregate of libraries within the nation concerned. Depending on the degree of intercommunications and co-operation between these different types of libraries, one can speak of a national library service or system, of which the main cementing element is, or should be, the type of library known as a national library."<sup>42</sup>

41. ROBINSON, A.M.L. The national library as a research institution. South African libraries, 33(2): 41, Oct., 1965.

42. VARLEY, D.H. The meaning of a national library, and some comments on the organizational point of view. South African libraries, 27(4): 121, Apr., 1960.

Another novel approach to the question of defining a national library, was used by Ib Magnussen. In an address to the University and Research Conference of the Library Association in 1963, he referred to national libraries in a limited and wider sense.<sup>43</sup>

The national library, in a limited sense, will be the central book museum of the country, i.e. be responsible for the collection and preservation of the country's book production. The national library as the central book museum, will normally be the only national library in a country.

When several libraries in a country are entitled to receive the national book production on legal deposit, or certain national libraries are limited by their subject matter, they can be regarded as national libraries in the wider sense. Thus the United States National Library of Medicine may be called a national library in the wider sense.

If one were to apply this concept of Magnussen, one would find that many countries have a national library in the limited as well as the wider sense.

Two facts clearly emerge from this analysis of national library definitions. There is a heavy emphasis on the national character of the national

43. MAGNUSSEN, I. The functions and planning of a national library. In National libraries: extracts from the Proceedings of University and Research Section Conference, Bangor, April 1963. London, Library Association, 1963. p.8.

library and on the national library's responsibility for the national bookstock, regardless of the principles used in the definitions.

The Symposium on National Libraries in Europe preferred to concern itself with the functions a national library should perform in order to be called 'national', rather than to define it.

Magmussen also considered it easiest to define a national library by its functions. The functions of the national library will be discussed at length in the next chapter.

### 2.3 Characteristics of the national library

Various characteristics have become associated with national libraries, distinguishing them from any other type of library. Some of these characteristics are embodied in the foregoing definitions.

#### 2.3.1 The 'national' characteristic

A national library should belong to a nation as a whole, financed by or receiving grants-in-aid from the national government. National libraries often come under the government department for education or culture.

An interesting exception here is the Jewish National and University Library which serves as an university and national library for the State of Israel, but is financed by the Hebrew University.

### 2.3.2 Legal deposit

The privilege of legal deposit provides national libraries with the major source of acquisition of the national output of publications. This does not apply in all countries, though, nor are all the libraries in a country enjoying legal deposit, national libraries.

The British Museum Library in England shares legal deposit benefits with other libraries.

### 2.3.3 National collections and general bookstock

Even where other libraries in a country are legally entitled to deposit copies of the national publications, the national library is usually the only library with an obligation to maintain and preserve its collections.

National libraries are often distinguished from the other libraries of a country by their holdings of early national publications such as books, serial publications and manuscripts. The British Museum Library, for instance, is very rich in such early material due to the operation of legal deposit for several hundreds of years.

The national library acquires on legal deposit, by purchase, by gift and exchange - particularly from university and learned institutions all over the world - a wide range of publications on various subjects and in many languages. These publications are not and could not economically be acquired and stored by other libraries in the country. As a result, the national library is frequently the only institution in a country able to provide information on many subjects not represented in the holdings of other libraries.

The collections and acquisitions policy of the national library are usually orientated towards the Humanities.

Its bookstock is, therefore, a distinguishing characteristic of the national library.

#### 2.3.4 Bibliographical services

As it possesses comprehensive collections, the national library is best able to produce bibliographies and provide bibliographical information to other libraries, locally and abroad, and to individuals.

#### 2.3.5 Inter-library loans and union catalogues

It is not uncommon for the national library to maintain the union catalogue of publications in a country and act as the clearing house for all inter-library loans. These two, inter-library loans and union catalogues, usually go hand-in-hand.

### 2.3.6 Legislative reference service

It is also characteristic of a national library that it may provide library services to the legislative body of a country, as in the case of the Library of Congress and the National Diet Library of Japan.

### 2.3.7 Dual purpose

It is characteristic of national libraries in many countries that they serve a dual purpose.

The Royal Library in Stockholm, for instance, acts as a main library for the university at graduate and faculty level in the fields of the Humanities, Theological and Social Sciences, under an agreement with the University of Stockholm.

Many national libraries in Asia provide public library service. In Hong Kong an institution conceived as a public library is drawing to itself a number of national library functions.

### 2.3.8 History and origins

Great differences in history and origins are also characteristic of national libraries. Some of the European national libraries developed from libraries on the estates of royalty and noblemen, and for reasons of tradition still retain the name 'Royal'. Many were the result of gifts of large collections to a nation, as in the case of the British Museum Library.

The Library of Congress was established in 1800 to serve as a library for Congress, but it is also the de facto national library of the United States of America.

Other national libraries again were established for the purpose they serve, for example, the National Library of Canada.

#### 2.3.9 Other characteristics

Not only do national libraries have a varied history, but they also differ in size and scope from country to country.

National libraries are more and more assuming the operation of centralized cataloguing systems for a whole country, and some, like the Library of Congress, dispatch their cards to libraries all over the world.

Since UNESCO has started to promote the establishment of microfilming projects to make previously inaccessible material available, it has become characteristic for national libraries to make their original material available for microrecording.

Most countries today have a national library or a library which is regarded as national, or are in the process of establishing one. New libraries established today will undoubtedly display new characteristics. The national library in any country, be it old or newly-established should, however, occupy a leading place compared with other libraries in the country. It does not have to be

the largest in the country or attract the greatest number of users, but it should be characterized by outstanding service.

A former Director of the South African Library, Cape Town, has summed up the whole question of national library characteristics very succinctly :

"... the main characteristics in common between most if not all national libraries are, firstly, the fact that they primarily serve the whole nation and not a geographical part (although they may combine that function with a more localized activity) being supported in recognition of that fact, chiefly, by State funds; secondly, the fact that they are in a central position (not necessarily geographically) in relation to the libraries of the nation as a whole, and provide bibliographical and other services to the advantage of all those libraries; and thirdly, that they are deeply concerned with the building up of the nation's own literature as well as of reference and research collections of a high standard, and with the conservation and exploitation, rather than the wide dissemination of such resources."<sup>44</sup>

This summary of national library characteristics by Varley will be used in this thesis as the writer's own understanding and definition of the national library.

44. VARLEY, D.H. The meaning of a national library, and some comments ... South African libraries, 27(4): 121-122, Apr., 1960. .

### 3. FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The aim of the previous chapter was to establish the nature of the national library. This was achieved by analyzing many varying definitions and by stating national library characteristics.

It has been said that it is easier to define the national library in terms of its functions. This chapter will be devoted exclusively to national library functions. A brief description of traditional and modern concepts will introduce the subject, followed by a statement of factors which influence the rôle of a national library in a country. There will be a general discussion of national library functions comparing the views of various authors on the subject. One set of functions will be selected as a basis for discussion. Having dealt with national library functions in general terms, the actual functions of a few selected national libraries will be given.

#### 3.1 Traditional and current concepts of national library functions

National libraries are in a category on their own, unlike other libraries such as public, special, etc., which have reasonably clearly defined functions. The problem is further complicated by the fact that no two national libraries will perform exactly similar functions, although certain functions will be common to many.

The section entitled "Introduction to national libraries", in the previous chapter, showed that national libraries had to face a period of change and adaptation to new conditions in this century.

The period since World War II has witnessed great changes with regard to information requirements and the type of service expected from libraries. Rapid scientific and technological advances in the second half of the twentieth century, coupled with a phenomenal increase in world publication output, are two of the main factors that have created new demands on library service. Other factors are the demand for speed and immediacy in the provision of information, and a tendency to specialisation in various subject fields. These demands have led to the creation of special libraries and information services as we know them today.

Wasserman states :

"The special library has been historically and remains today, an integral, functioning unit of the organization in which it is found, dedicated to the proposition that it exists only to offer the information which the organization needs in order to build, prosper, advance, and achieve its ultimate ends. This mandate, this purpose, this objective, contributes to differences in emphasis, makes for very important and very different service requirements, and also builds into the program, those direct and indirect pressures common to the 20th Century business environment."<sup>45</sup>

45. WASSERMAN, Paul. One of a species: the special library, past, present, and future. Library journal, 89(4): 797-802, Feb. 15, 1964.

In England the National Lending Library for Science and Technology was founded in the post-war era to provide adequate storage accommodation for the mass of scientific and technical literature which has been produced since 1945.<sup>46</sup>

Special library development in South Africa received its impetus from the establishment of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in 1945. 36.4 percent of South Africa's special libraries have developed since 1945.<sup>47</sup>

The majority of modern library users demand quick reference to specific information, usually contained in the so-called report literature and abstracts. The special library and the information service are geared to meet these demands and provide for the rapid exploitation of current literature, especially in the fields of natural science, technology and economics. This new approach to the use of libraries has created severe problems for national libraries.

46. ASTALL, Roland. Special libraries and information bureaux: an examination guidebook. London, Bingley, 1966. p.12.

47. MUSIKER, Reuben. Special libraries: a general survey with particular reference to South Africa. New York, Scarecrow Press, 1970. p.69.

Traditionally the national library was the scholar's workshop where he increased his knowledge of a wide range of subjects through the use of books, monographs and periodicals - in that order of importance - and composed his own contributions to learning. This old-fashioned use of the national library as a universal source of knowledge, has largely fallen away.

During World War II, many national libraries were unable to cope with the new demands made on their services. After World War II it, therefore, became necessary for national libraries to synthesize their traditional functions and modern requirements.

Each generation of librarians has had different ideas on what the functions of the national library should be. Antonio Panizzi clearly indicated the traditional concept of the scope of the national library in his statement that the British Museum should provide "the necessary means of information on all branches of human learning from all countries, in all languages, properly arranged, minutely and fully catalogued and capable of keeping pace with the increase of human knowledge."<sup>48</sup>

48. FRANCIS, F.C. The organization of national libraries. In National libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). Chapter 1, p.21.

F.C. Francis, formerly of the British Museum, has written several articles in which he appeals to national libraries to adapt to modern requirements. He states that the concept of a comprehensive national library as expressed by Panizzi, has been substantially modified for the following reasons:<sup>49, 50</sup>

Many of the comprehensive national libraries with their emphasis on the Humanities were inclined to neglect science and technology. The reader of this kind of literature with its emphasis on the latest information, has become the dominant type of library user.

The national library is unable to provide instant detailed information, since this individual service differs radically from the national library's normal services.

The national library cannot provide a "current-awareness" service, i.e. search for and transmit material and information that has not been requested.

49. Id. Problems of large national and learned libraries. In International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centres, Brussels, 1955. The Hague, Nijhoff, 1955. Vol. 1: Preliminary reports. p.106-112.
50. Id. Place of the national library. Library trends, 4(1): 6, Jul., 1955.

The national library does not have the expert staff to deal with specialized subjects.

The modern library user prefers to consult his material locally rather than at some distant institution.

In other words, the services offered by special libraries and information services.

Herman Liebaers, a Belgian librarian, has summed it up as follows :

"It is clear that a national library is not, and cannot become, a federation of special libraries."<sup>51</sup>

National libraries will have to face the challenge of modern developments. Not only with regard to service, but they will have to take the lead in organizing a system of national co-operation.

The day of the large comprehensive national library is over. When the old national libraries were established, for example, the British Museum Library, the Bibliotheque Nationale and the Library of Congress, it was not considered impossible to achieve a wide and deep coverage in all subject fields. Newer national libraries have come to realise that a policy of collecting in depth in all fields previously attempted is no longer feasible.

51. LIEBAERS, Herman. The needs of national libraries as regards professional training. In National libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). Chapter 11, p.27-28.

They have learnt to concentrate more on collecting their own national literature and co-operating with other research libraries in their country for the collection of world literature.

The library which has adapted best to modern requirements is the Library of Congress. It was already taking the lead amongst American libraries in national schemes such as co-operative acquisition of foreign literature during World War II.

The Library of Congress also acknowledged the impossibility of achieving complete coverage in all subjects when it delegated the responsibility for Agriculture to the Department of Agriculture and Medicine to the Army Medical Library.<sup>52</sup> The Army Medical Library, i.e. the United States Surgeon-General's Library, has become the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland, and serves as an example of a national library with a specialist function.<sup>53</sup>

The position of the national library is, however, not as gloomy as it would appear. Certain traditional functions of the national library remain as important as ever and fall outside the scope of special and other libraries: acting as a depository for national publications and maintaining its

52. FRANCIS, op. cit., p.26.

53. ASTALL, op. cit., p.15.

collections indefinitely; providing coverage in all subjects, as well as foreign language material, outside the scope of other libraries; it has the standing and authority to withstand changes in public interests and is able to maintain historical as well as current material for comparative study, etc.

The Symposium on National Libraries in Europe also stressed that the national libraries are becoming the centre of a series of tasks that they alone can handle, and that they have responsibilities on a national and international level that lie outside the scope of scientific and public libraries.<sup>54</sup>

The Regional Seminar on National Libraries in Asia and the Pacific Area, agreed on six broad functions which are in keeping with current ideas on national library functions. These functions are :

- "1. To provide leadership among the nation's libraries.
2. To serve as a permanent depository for all publications issued in the country.
3. To acquire other types of material.
4. To provide bibliographical services.
5. To serve as a co-ordinating centre for co-operative activities.
6. To provide services to government."<sup>55</sup>

54. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.(2), 34.

55. REGIONAL Seminar on the Development of National Libraries in Asia and the Pacific Area. Final report. UNESCO bulletin for libraries, 18(4): 151, Jul.-Aug., 1964.

### 3.2 Factors which influence national library functions

The social, cultural, geographical and economic conditions prevailing in a country will play a part in determining national library functions.

The following factors will influence the rôle of a national library in a country :

- 3.2.1 The status and degree of development of the national library, and the quality and range of its own collections;
- 3.2.2 the presence of other libraries in the country (particularly university and special libraries) and the services provided and functions performed by these libraries;
- 3.2.3 the existence of scientific and other learned institutions or organizations in the country performing one or more national library duties; (e.g. the Library of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in the Republic of South Africa can be said to perform a national function in the fields of Science and Technology)
- 3.2.4 The government's conception of the importance and purpose of the national library; (the idea of a national library must be strong if it is to assume its rightful place in the national life of a country);
- 3.2.5 the financial resources at the disposal of the national library; (the quality and range of a national library's collections and services is in direct relation to its financial support;

and

- 3.2.6 the size of the country in terms of geographical area and population.<sup>56,57</sup>

### 3.3 Functions of the national library in general

It is neither possible nor necessary to examine the functions of national libraries given by all the writers on the subject. One set of functions has been selected as a basis for discussion and, where appropriate, views of other authors will be mentioned. The functions selected are those given by K.W. Humphreys, Librarian of Birmingham University, who compiled his list from a diversity of functions undertaken by several national libraries and published them in two articles.<sup>58,59</sup>

56. CHATTERJEE, A. National libraries: their scope, structure and functions. Indian librarian, 20(4): 174, Mar., 1966.
57. FRANCIS, F.C. The organization of national libraries. In National libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). Chapter 1, p.21.
58. HUMPHREYS, K.W. The rôle of the national library; a preliminary statement. Paper read to the Section of National and University Libraries at IFLA Council Meeting, Rome, 1964. Libri, 14(4): 362-368, 1964.
59. Id. National library functions. UNESCO bulletin for libraries, 20(4): 158-169, Jul. - Aug., 1966.

For contrast, the views of an Indian and a Danish librarian will be given. They are A. Chatterjee<sup>60</sup> and I. Magnussen.<sup>61</sup>

In discussing national library functions, Humphreys presupposes that a country has only one national library which does not have additional responsibilities such as acting as a university or public library.

He divides national library functions into three categories which he calls Fundamental or Essential, Desirable and The Functions of a National Library which are not Necessary Functions of a National Library.

### 3.3.1 Fundamental or essential functions of a national library

#### 3.3.1.1 The outstanding and central collection of the nation's literature

Most writers on the subject, recognise this as a vital function of the national library, including Chatterjee and Magnussen. The Symposium on

60. CHATTERJEE, op. cit., p.174.

61. MAGNUSSEN, I. The functions and planning of a national library. In National libraries: extracts from the Proceedings of the University and Research Section Conference, Bangor, April 1963. London, Library Association, 1963.p.11-19.

**National Libraries in Europe in its Conclusions and Recommendations stated :**

"It is the responsibility of the national library to acquire and conserve the whole of the national production of printed material; if some of the material is stored elsewhere, the national library should have a record of it."<sup>62</sup>

Humphreys deals fully with the Acquisition policy of the national library under this heading.

**3.3.1.2 Dépôt légal**

In connection with para. 3.3.1.1 above, it is essential that the national library legally be empowered to demand at least one copy of everything published in the country.

Humphreys suggests that the national library should have at least three copies - one for normal use, one for inter-library loans and one for preservation. The actual number of copies received on legal deposit will vary with practice from country to country.

Legal deposit provides national libraries with an important source of acquisition of the national book production. Listed as a separate function - an essential one, at that, it seems strange.

62. NATIONAL libraries: their problem and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.112.

Chatterjee and Magnussen both recognize the importance of legal deposit without regarding it as a separate function. Chatterjee lists as his second function: "Serving as a depository for documents received on copyright."<sup>63</sup> Magnussen states under the heading of his first function, "Collecting national literature", that "This is normally aimed at by means of the copyright law, no matter whether this is imposed on the publisher or the printer."<sup>64</sup>

### 3.3.1.3 Coverage of foreign literature

In this connection, the Symposium on National Libraries in Europe stated in its recommendations :

"It (the national library) should also collect printed material concerning its country, no matter where it is published, and should be responsible for co-ordinating efforts to obtain the foreign literature the country requires."<sup>65</sup>

63. CHATTERJEE, op. cit., p.174.

64. MAGNUSSEN, op. cit., p. 11.

65. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.112.

The Symposium also recommended that :

" ... a national plan for the acquisition of foreign material should be established in countries where no such plan exists ..."66

The Symposium felt that a policy of national co-ordination of acquisitions should be adopted with regard to foreign publications not directly relating to a country, and that the national library should have the responsibility for ensuring that a country had all the foreign literature it required. Harald Tveteras delivered a paper on the co-operative acquisition of material in Scandinavia at the Symposium.

In an article by H.C. van Rooy on the building up of the national bookstock in South Africa, he emphasizes the importance of building up the national research stock. He illustrates his article with several examples of library co-operative enterprises in overseas countries, including the Farmington Plan in the United States of America and the subject specialization plan in Western Germany. Although these two schemes differ in detail, both were established for the purpose of obtaining foreign literature in their respective countries.<sup>67</sup>

66. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p. 112, 35-36, 89-96.

67. VAN ROOY, H.C. The building up of our national bookstock. South African libraries, 33(3): 86-94, Jan., 1966.

#### 3.3.1.4 Publication of the national bibliography

Where the national library enjoys legal deposit privileges, it is usual for it to compile the current national bibliography, or house the organization responsible for it. Until 1967 the British National Bibliography was housed in offices in the British Museum library.

Chatterjee lists the preparation of the national bibliography as his third function. The preparation of subject and other bibliographies he regards as one of ten functions which a national could perform, subject to certain conditions.<sup>68</sup>

The Symposium on National Libraries in Europe agreed unanimously that :

"... one of the most important duties of a national library was to ensure the publication of a current national bibliography."<sup>69</sup>

It is important that the national bibliography should be as current as possible.

68. CHATTERJEE, op. cit., p.174.

69. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.71.

### 3.3.1.5 National bibliographical information centre

This is an important national library function, although it need not constitute a separate function from the publication of the national bibliography. Magnussen combines these two functions, 3.3.1.4 and 3.3.1.5, in a fifth function which he calls "Carrying out information service and bibliographical activity."<sup>70</sup>

As the whole question of the bibliographical function of the national library will be dealt with in subsequent chapters, there is no need to elaborate here.

### 3.3.1.6 Publication of catalogues

It is suggested here that the national library should publish catalogues of its holdings of printed books, manuscripts and other materials, like the British Museum Library.

### 3.3.1.7 Exhibitions

Humphreys sees the holding of exhibitions and the appointment of a permanent Public Relations Officer, as an attempt to make the collections of the national library known and to foster interest in its work.

70. MAGNUSSEN, op. cit., p.11,18.

These last two functions, 3.3.1.6 and 3.3.1.7, do not appear in any of the other literature consulted.

### 3.3.2 Desirable functions of a national library

#### 3.3.2.1 Inter-library lending

If the national library is in the position to lend its material, it is the most suitable centre for inter-library loans. If the national library is unable or unwilling to lend its material and the inter-library loan centre is operated from elsewhere, it is essential that good relations should exist between this centre and the national library.

It is of interest to note that Chatterjee lists "Centre for co-operation between libraries and inter-library loan" and "Maintenance of a union catalogue of all other libraries of the country", as two distinct functions of the national library.

Magnussen includes inter-library lending under his function, "Giving public access to collections."

#### 3.3.2.2 Manuscripts

The national library should be responsible for the preservation of manuscripts and could compile the union catalogue of manuscripts held in other libraries in the country.

### 3.3.2.3 Research on library techniques

The national library should be in a good position to undertake research in library techniques. The Library of Congress undertakes this as a task. If the national library does not undertake the actual research, it can stimulate interest in research projects.

### 3.3.3 Functions of a national library which are not necessary functions of a national library

#### 3.3.3.1 International exchange service

The national library can either operate as an exchange centre, or such a centre may operate under the aegis of the national library or be housed in it. The question of exchange relations with libraries abroad differs from country to country.

In the United States of America, the Library of Congress acts as an exchange centre, but in Britain each library handles its own exchanges.

Chatterjee mentions this as a function that a national library could undertake. He and Humphreys are in accord that it is not necessarily a national library function.

The question of centralization versus decentralization of exchange is a debatable point.

### 3.3.3.2 Distribution of duplicates

Most libraries prefer to handle the disposal of duplicates themselves and have independent arrangements with libraries that receive comparable material. When it is a question of national publications, particularly rare items, which may leave the country, a case can be made for the national library to deal with the distribution of duplicates. Humphreys is of the opinion that the distribution of duplicates on a national level should be undertaken by a body or bodies independent from the national library.

### 3.3.3.3 Books for the blind

There are national libraries, including the Library of Congress, which provide a service for the blind. The provision of a library service to the blind is, however, of a specialized nature, as it involves special material such as tapes, recordings, etc. A special national library for the blind will be much better equipped to offer this service.

Chatterjee mentions service to different types of readers, including the blind, as a task which the national library could undertake in the absence of any other service in the country.

### 3.3.3.4 Professional training

The formal training of librarians is best executed by universities or national schools of librarianship. National libraries could participate in the practical aspects, and trainee-librarians should work

in the national and other libraries as part of their education. The training of professional staff may well be a fundamental function of the national library in developing countries. Magnussen regards the functions of training centre as a definite task of the national library.

#### 3.3.3.5 Assistance in library techniques

This is closely related to the function of research in librarianship. A great deal will depend on the relationship of the national library with other libraries and their level of development. The national library could take the lead in cataloguing and classification techniques in a country, and the standardization of codes of practice. The classification scheme of the Library of Congress, for example, has had a local and international influence on libraries.

Chatterjee mentions both technical assistance to libraries and standardization of classification and cataloguing codes, as possible national library functions.

#### 3.3.3.6 Library planning

There can be no doubt that an overall plan for organising co-operation between libraries will have many advantages. In certain countries, notably the Soviet Union, the plans for development of libraries throughout the country are centrally devised with co-operation from the heads of

libraries. National libraries are suitable agencies for active participation in library planning.

Magnussen lists participation in library planning as his seventh and last function. He feels that it is important that the national library should take an active part in library planning and establish itself as the leading library in the country.

"National libraries have an obligation not only towards the treasures of the past, but also a responsibility towards the shaping of the library system of the future."<sup>71</sup>

### 3.4 Specific functions of a few national libraries

The foregoing represents some general views on national library functions. A study of the declared aims and functions of individual institutions will reveal variation on some of these functions as well as functions peculiar to the institutions in question. This is because national libraries in their development do not follow a pre-determined pattern, but adapt to the needs of the nations they serve.

#### 3.4.1 Functions of the National Library of Canada

The National Library of Canada is an example of a young institution established for the purpose it serves during the post World War II era.

71. MAGNUSSEN, op. cit., p.25.

The National Library of Canada had, as it were, a pre-existence. The Canadian Bibliographic Centre was established in 1950 to prepare for the new institution and start it on its way. When the National Library was established in 1953, it absorbed the Bibliographic Centre.

The aim of the National Library of Canada is to serve all Canada. It was established by an act of Parliament which was subsequently repealed by the National Library Act of 1969. The Powers and Duties of the National Librarian are embodied in the Act, and the main functions of the Library are derived from the Librarian's Powers and Duties. It performs four basic functions which are based on specific needs and help the Library to achieve its aim of serving Canada.

The following are the main functions of the National Library of Canada :

#### 3.4.1.1    Compilation of the national bibliography

The compilation and publication of the national bibliography, Canadiana, is regarded as its most important function and is related to the practice of legal deposit. In fact, the Library started its life with the compilation of the current national bibliography, Canadiana.

#### 3.4.1.2 The national union catalogue

The compilation of the national union catalogue was also one of the Library's first tasks. It regards the maintenance of and the location of titles through the union catalogue as a main function. The Library also serves as the centre for inter-library loans on a national and international level.

#### 3.4.1.3 The national library collection

When the Library was established in 1953, Canada was a country relatively poor in books and the combined bookstock of all her university and research libraries represented fewer volumes than that of the Harvard University Library or the New York Public Library.

The building up of its bookstock and the cataloguing of the collections in the Library is, therefore, regarded as an important function.

#### 3.4.1.4 The Office of Library Resources

This Office was first established in January 1968. Its functions are, briefly, to assemble and maintain up-to-date information on library research collections and acquisition plans; to encourage the co-ordination of collecting activities in the country; and to plan the acquisitions programme of the National Library, while keeping in mind the resources of other research libraries. A survey of the collections of university libraries in Canada is well advanced and will later be extended to include other types of libraries.

The Office of Library Resources was incorporated into the Research and Planning Branch of the National Library which was established in 1971, as the Resources Survey Section. The Research and Planning Branch also includes a Systems Development Division, a Resources Development Division and a Documentation Centre on Library and Information Science.

#### 3.4.1.5 Varia

The foregoing functions, 3.4.1.1 to 3.4.1.4 are regarded as the principal functions of the National Library of Canada. In addition to these, it has also performed other functions; distribution of duplicates; microfilming projects; professional and technical advice to other libraries; organization of exhibitions of educational value. Initially the planning of a building was also regarded as a function of the Library.

The National Library of Canada was built on firm foundations and is performing the essential functions expected of it.

#### 3.4.2 Functions of the Library of Congress

Since its establishment as a parliamentary library in 1800, service to Congress has been the Library's most important function. In addition to providing service to Congress, the Library of Congress is also the national library of the United States of America.

L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress, has made the following observation : "The Library of Congress today performs more national library functions than any other national library in the world."<sup>72</sup> He listed the Library's functions as follows :

- "1. Maintains comprehensive collections, especially evidence of the national heritage, for the use of the Government, the scholarly world, and the public, making it a national center for research.
2. Benefits from official, intergovernmental exchange of publications.
3. Receives through copyright or legal deposit materials for the enrichment of its collections.
4. Receives gifts to the Nation in the form of collections of personal papers, rare books, and other valuable materials and in the form of trust funds and bequests, which enable it not only to enrich the collections but to present cultural programs in such fields as literature, art and music.
5. Develops a comprehensive classification system, which is widely used by other research institutions, and cataloging codes, which are nationally accepted standards.
6. Serves as a center for co-operative cataloging of books and other forms of material by the Nation's libraries.
7. Provides a national catalog card distribution service.

72. DUNKIN, P. Pyramid or volcano. Library journal, 88(1): 52, Jan. 1, 1963.

8. Maintains national union catalogs on cards, which serve as guides to the Nation's research resources in various forms (such as books and manuscripts) and in various fields (such as Hebraica and Slavica), and furnishes information about the location of needed materials to those who cannot personally consult these tools.
  9. Publishes in book form a national bibliography, or a major contribution thereto, such as the Library's National Union Catalog.
  10. Gives reference service on its premises and provides extensive information from and about its collections by mail.
  11. Participates in a nation-wide inter-library loan system, which enables it to share collection responsibilities with other libraries and to make research materials generally available, thereby strengthening smaller libraries throughout the country by supplementing their research resources through those of the national library.
  12. Has an active bibliographic program and makes the results of it widely available through publication.
  13. Administers the national books-for-the-blind program.
  14. Presents exhibits selected from the national collections for the education and enjoyment of the general public, and circulates exhibits at home and abroad as evidence of the national history and culture.
  15. Experiments and conducts research in the area of library technology.
  16. Engages in national and international co-operative bibliographic projects and works with other national libraries and international organizations to achieve standardization of rules in order to increase the accessibility of the materials of knowledge without regard to national boundaries and language barriers."<sup>73</sup>
73. UNITED STATES. Library of Congress. Annual report...1962. Washington, the Library, 1963.p97-98.

In 1967 the Library of Congress described its goals for expanded services and activities to the National Advisory Commission on Libraries. Some of the services envisaged were :

"The National Center for Library Resources, which would extend the National Union Catalog; prepare guides to the total library resources of the United States; serve as a national center for research, guidance, and information on preservation problems.

The National Cataloging Center, which would automate the catalog card distribution service; publish a current national union subject catalog.

A National Center for Bibliographical Services, which would provide systematic bibliographic coverage of non-Western publications; publish comprehensive accessions lists for all countries lacking adequate current national bibliographies.

A National Center for Research and Training in Library and Information Science, which would create a national technical process service; create a national automated system of subject controls; translate the library's technical publications and bibliographical tools; train American librarians; train scholars to administer research collections; train foreign librarians.

The National Center for Data on Serials.

The National Referral Service in all subject fields."<sup>74</sup>

74. MUMFORD, L.Q. The Library of Congress - twice as fast. American libraries, 3(7): 773, Jul.- Aug., 1972.

These were some of the activities it was felt that the Library of Congress could undertake over and above its other functions.

Tribute has been paid to the Library of Congress as a workshop of scholars; a national and international leader in library matters; a stronghold of professional librarianship; and as the most daring of the national libraries of the world which was not afraid to take on new responsibilities.<sup>75</sup>

### 3.4.3. Functions of the National Library of Australia

The functions of the National Library of Australia combine four concepts of service :

"The first has some elements of the pattern set by the Library of Congress: service to the Parliament and the national government. The second and third stem largely from the tradition of European libraries: to be a recognised repository for the record of the life and achievement of its own people and to be a place to which scholars may turn with confidence for what is most significant in the literature of other countries. The fourth is the more modern concept of a centre of national bibliography and of bibliographical and library co-operation."<sup>76</sup>

75. RANGANATHAN, S.R. The Library of Congress among national libraries. A.L.A. bulletin, 44(9): 357, Oct., 1950.
76. AUSTRALIA. National Library. The National Library of Australia. Canberra, the Library, 1968. p.19.

In other words, its functions are :

- 3.4.3.1 To provide services to government.
- 3.4.3.2 To serve as a permanent depository for for all publications issued in the country.
- 3.4.3.3 To collect foreign literature.
- 3.4.3.4 To produce the national bibliography and provide bibliographical services.
- 3.4.3.5 To promote co-operation among libraries.

The National Library of Australia also administers the Inter-Library Loan System for the country.

#### 3.4.4 Functions of the British Museum Library

The primary function of the British Museum Library is "to provide a national reference collection of books, contemporary and antique, British and foreign."<sup>77</sup>

The following is a summary of the functions of the British Museum Library :

- "1. The depository for all national literature. (printed books, manuscripts, prints, drawings, etc.)
2. The collection of representative literature on all subjects in all languages.

77. GREAT BRITAIN. National Libraries Committee Report. London, H.M.S.O., 1969. (Cmnd. 4028). p.9.

3. Houses the British National Bibliography.<sup>78</sup>
4. Offers photographic services.
5. Preparation of catalogues.
6. A reference service."<sup>79</sup>

These were the functions of the British Museum Library. In December 1967 a National Libraries Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. F.S. Dainton with the following terms of reference :

"To examine the functions and organisation of the British Museum Library, the National Central Library, the National Lending Library for Science and Technology and the Science Museum Library in providing national library facilities; to consider whether in the interests of efficiency and economy such facilities should be brought into a unified framework; and to make recommendations."<sup>80</sup>

The two main criticisms of these terms of reference were that no librarian had been invited to serve on the Committee and that it would have been better if the Committee had been asked to consider what the country's library services should be, what the

78. The British National Bibliography was housed in the British Museum until 1967 when it moved to offices outside the Museum.
79. HUMPHREYS, op. cit., p.360.
80. GREAT BRITAIN. National Libraries Committee. Report. London, H.M.S.O., 1969. (Cmnd. 4028). p.1.

purpose of national libraries should be, and how the existing institutions could, together or separately, perform the duties required of them.<sup>81</sup>

The report which resulted from the investigations of the Dainton Committee dealt with the British Museum Library and its functions and services in Chapter Three, and proposed that the British Museum Library should be incorporated in an overall national libraries' organisation, administered by a National Libraries Authority.<sup>82</sup>

The 320 page report with its 132 recommendations was received with mixed feelings by British librarians. Maurice Line, however, states that the Dainton Committee took the first ever complete look at the national libraries and their place in the library system of the country.<sup>83</sup>

In June 1969 the Dainton Committee's report was presented to Parliament and in 1971 a White Paper on the British Library appeared. The White Paper outlined the structure of the British Library which

81. HUMPHREYS, K.W. The British Library. Journal of librarianship, 4(1): 7, Jan., 1972.

82. GREAT BRITAIN. National Libraries Committee. Report. p. 9-18, xii.

83. LINE, M.B. The developing national library network in Great Britain. Library resources and technical services, 16(1):62, Winter 1972.

will be composed of the British Museum Library, including the National Reference Library for Science and Invention, the National Central Library, the National Lending Library for Science and Technology, and the British National Bibliography Limited.

The British Library's objective to provide the best possible services for the United Kingdom, includes :

- "(a) preserving and making available for reference at least one copy of every book and periodical of domestic origin and of as many overseas publications as possible. The aim will be to provide as comprehensive a reference service of last resort as possible ...;
- (b) providing an efficient central lending and photocopying service in support of other libraries and information systems of the country;
- (c) providing central cataloguing and other bibliographical services related not only to the needs of the central libraries but to those of libraries and information centres throughout the country in close co-operation with central libraries overseas."<sup>84</sup>

The British Library will come into existence in about two years' time when the legislation necessary to establish the framework has been formulated. An Organising Committee was set up in June 1971 to implement the proposals contained in the White Paper. With the establishment of the British Library,

84. HUMPHREYS, K.W. The British Library. Journal of Librarianship, 4(1): 11, Jan., 1972.

Britain will for the first time have an integrated national library structure consisting of reference services, lending services and bibliographical services.<sup>85</sup>

Humphreys in his article on the British Library states in conclusion :

"It is of vital importance that the needs of the nation's library service should be considered fully in relation to whatever services are planned for the new British Library, and it is hoped that all librarians will help to ensure that we have a truly co-ordinated system for which we have looked for so long."<sup>86</sup>

#### 3.4.5 Functions of the National Library of Nigeria

Carl M. White who assisted the Federal Government of Nigeria in planning for the establishment of a national library, recommended that the library should perform the following functions :

- "1. Preserve for present and future use as a part of the national heritage a comprehensive collection of books relating to Nigeria and the Nigerian people.
2. Maintain a collection which is strong in general works of reference and the various subjects in which the Federal Government has special interest.

85. LINE, op. cit., p.62-63.

86. HUMPHREYS, K.W. The British Library. Journal of librarianship, 4(1): 13, Jan., 1972.

3. Serve as a legal depository of all publications which originate in Nigeria and as the national centre for handling the exchange of publications.
4. Develop a staff of librarians qualified to operate the library and to contribute toward making library service a significant force in the life of the people of Nigeria.
5. Use the Library's resources to aid members of all branches of the Federal Government in discharging their duties, this responsibility to have first priority.
6. Use these resources to answer inquiries from officials, organisations and private citizens throughout Nigeria, provided the service cannot be obtained through local libraries.
7. Provide photographic reproductions of library materials or send books on inter-library loan when access to the books cannot be obtained from their local libraries.
8. Serve as a national bibliographical centre.
9. Co-operate with other libraries in activities which are calculated to improve service or reduce library costs.
10. Administer such aid, financial or advisory, as the Federal Government may deem desirable and necessary to obtain high standards of library service and equalize library opportunity."<sup>87</sup>

Some of these functions are typical national library functions, but many were based on the special needs of a country like Nigeria.

87. WHITE, C.M. The National Library of Nigeria. Lagos, Federal Ministry of Information, 1964. p.27.

### 3.5 Summary

One set of national library functions, arranged in three categories, was used as a basis for discussion in this chapter. The publication of the national bibliography and the provision of a national bibliographical information service were regarded as essential or fundamental national library functions. Basic to these functions are two other essential national library functions, namely, the collection of the nation's literature, usually received on legal deposit; and the coverage of foreign literature of which the collection of material about its own country is an important facet. In fact, it is only by means of a current national bibliography that the literature of a nation can really be made accessible on the national as well as the international level. As the repository for the national literature, the national library is well-equipped to compile the current national bibliography. The excellence of its collections, as described in Chapter Two,<sup>88</sup> also renders the national library suitable as a national bibliographical information centre, particularly if it should also operate the inter-library loan centre or the international exchange centre.

88. Refer Chapter Two, par. 2.3.3, p.32.

The national library, therefore, has a definite responsibility in the field of bibliography. This responsibility was illustrated by the functions undertaken by the five national libraries used as examples in this chapter. All five of these national libraries perform a bibliographical function, either by compiling the national bibliography as in the case of the National Library of Canada and Australia, by functioning as a national bibliographical information centre, or by performing the essential function of publishing its catalogues which form a major part of the bibliographical apparatus of the country, as in the case of the British Museum Library.

#### 4. THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Chapter Two aimed at establishing the identity of the national library by analyzing definitions and stating national library characteristics.

Chapter Three dealt with national library functions. A general discussion of national library functions was followed by a statement of the functions of five national libraries abroad. It was established that although no two national libraries perform exactly similar functions, certain functions are common to many, for example, collecting the national literature and publishing the national bibliography; and that the national library has a responsibility in the field of bibliography.

This chapter will introduce the national library in South Africa by describing its characteristics, the main stages in its development, and its functions.

##### 4.1 Characteristics of the national library in South Africa

For historical reasons it must be accepted that South Africa has two national libraries, namely, the State Library in the North and the South African Library in the South. The Committee of Enquiry into the Needs of State-aided Institutions, referred to as the "Booyesen Committee",<sup>89</sup> regarded the two

89. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1962. Deel 1 (Hoofverslag) par. 3.7.3., p.42.

national libraries as one national library with two branches, and the principle of two national libraries was confirmed by the National Conference of Library Authorities in November 1962.<sup>90</sup>

The characteristics of national libraries were discussed in Chapter Two.<sup>91</sup> How do these characteristics apply to the national library in South Africa?

#### 4.1.1 The 'national' characteristic

A national library should belong to a nation as a whole, financed by or receiving grants-in-aid from the national government. National libraries often come under the government department for education or culture.

The South African Library and the State Library were placed under the control of the Union Government in terms of the Second Schedule of the Financial Relations Act, no. 10 of 1913. Both were State-aided Institutions in terms of the State-aided Institutions Act, no. 23 of 1931. They came under the Department of Interior in 1947 and from April 1948 under the Department of Education, Arts and Science. In terms of the Cultural Institutions

90. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa. South African libraries, 30(3): 102, Jan., 1963.

91. Refer Chapter 2, par. 2.3, p.31-36.

Act, no. 29 of 1969, which came into force in April 1969, the national libraries became "Cultural" or "Declared Institutions" under the Department of Cultural Affairs. The Board of Trustees became the "Council" with more clearly defined functions. The Act provided for a National Advisory Council for Cultural Institutions appointed by the Minister, and the Committee of the Heads of Declared Institutions was given legal status.<sup>92</sup> The Departments of Cultural Affairs and Higher Education have amalgamated and the national libraries now come under the Department of National Education.

#### 4.1.2 Legal deposit

Under copyright legislation, i.e. the Patents, Designs and Trade Marks Act, no. 9 of 1916, both the State Library and the South African Library enjoy légal deposit privileges which they share with three other libraries in the Republic, namely, the Library of Parliament, the Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg, and the Bloemfontein Public Library.

92. SOUTH AFRICAN Library. Report of the Council for the period 1st Jan., 1969 to 31st Dec., 1970. Cape Town, the Library, 1970. p.2.

The Co-ordinating Committee of the national libraries has been giving consideration to legislation regarding legal deposit, as recommended by the Programme for future library development ... <sup>93,94</sup> The National Library Advisory Council is also concerned with a Legal Deposit Act.<sup>95</sup>

#### 4.1.3 National collections and general bookstock

Its bookstock is a distinguishing characteristic of the national library.

It is the duty of the South African Library to preserve its literary treasures while the State Library as the Inter-library loan centre makes its stock available on loan.

The South African Library is particularly rich in early South African publications. In addition to its excellent stock of South African material it possesses valuable special collections, for example, the Dessinian collection (on permanent loan from the Dutch Reformed Church, Cape Town), the Grey collection, the Fairbridge collection, Muir collection on Mathematics, etc. Its manuscript collection

93. STATE LIBRARY. Report of the Council for the year ended March 31, 1970. Pretoria, the Library, 1970. p.10.

94. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa. South African libraries, 30(3):104-106, Jan. 1963.

95. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report, 1970-71. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1971. p.15.

contains the manuscripts and private papers of well-known personalities such as Jan Hendrik Hofmeyr ("Onse Jan"), John X. Merriman, Sir James Rose-Innes, Lady Anne Barnard, and others. The private papers of John Henry, 1st Baron de Villiers (1842-1914), Chief Justice of the Cape Colony and the Union of South Africa and President of the National Convention, were donated to the Library in 1970.

The State Library has been building up its collection of bibliographical works in recent years. For historical and cultural reasons the State Library also maintains a collection of Nederlands-Flemish literature.

#### 4.1.4 Bibliographical services

Both the State Library and the South African Library render bibliographical services and, until 1969, both compiled a current national bibliography. In 1969 Africana nova published by the South African Library, ceased. The South African national bibliography published by the State Library, is the current national bibliography.

#### 4.1.5 Inter-library loans and union catalogues

The State Library has been acting as a clearing-house for inter-library loans since 1933 and it started compiling the joint catalogue of monographs in 1941. This was its earliest national library function.

#### 4.1.6 Legislative reference service

The national library in South Africa, unlike the Library of Congress and the National Diet Library of Japan, does not provide library service for the legislative body. The Library of Parliament provides this service.

#### 4.1.7 Dual purpose

It is characteristic of national libraries in many countries that they serve a dual purpose, for example, as national and university library or as a national and public library.

Until 1954 and 1964 the South African Library and the State Library respectively rendered a public library service for the Cities of Cape Town and Pretoria.

#### 4.1.8 History and origins

Great differences in history and origin are also characteristic of national libraries. The State Library, Pretoria, was founded in 1887 as "De Staatsbibliotheek der Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek" and was amalgamated with the Pretoria Public Library in 1893. The South African Library, Cape Town, is the oldest library in the Republic of South Africa and although it served a social function as a public library, it was also regarded as the "national" library of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope. It celebrated its 150th anniversary in March 1968.

#### 4.1.9 Other characteristics

National libraries vary in size and scope from country to country. Although the South African national library shares characteristics with other national libraries, some of its characteristics are unique, for example, the Non-European Study Library at the State Library.

Since UNESCO started to promote the establishment of microfilming projects to make previously inaccessible material available, it has become characteristic for national libraries to make their original material available for microrecording. In South Africa the State Library has taken the initiative by starting a project for the microfilming of old runs of South African newspapers. It has also been decided that the original files of newspapers before 1910 will be kept by the South African Library and the State Library will keep microfilm copies only.<sup>96,97</sup>

#### 4.2 Development of the national library in South Africa

The national library has been very slow in developing in South Africa. Despite tremendous library development in South Africa generally and, particularly after World War II, for example, the

96. SOUTH AFRICAN Library. Report of the Trustees... 1964-1965. Cape Town, the Library, 1966. p.1.
97. STATE LIBRARY. Report of the Trustees...1964-1965. Pretoria, the Library, 1966. p.9-10.

establishment of provincial library services by the four provinces and the library of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the national libraries lagged far behind.

#### 4.2.1 Factors which have influenced the development of the national library in South Africa

##### 4.2.1.1 Lack of status

No Act similar to the one which established the National Library of Canada in 1953, has ever been passed in South Africa. Uncertainty existed for many years about the 'national' status of the South African Library and the State Library. This state of uncertainty persisted until 1962 when the Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the Needs of State-aided Institutions (the "Booyesen Committee") stated unequivocally that although no national library legislation has been passed, the two libraries were officially recognised as national libraries.<sup>98</sup> In the same year the National Conference of Library Authorities requested the Government to ratify the status of the national libraries.<sup>99</sup> Proposals for

98. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1962. Deel 1 (Hoofverslag) 3.1.3, p.39.

99. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development... South African libraries, 30(3): 102, Jan., 1963.

a National Libraries Act are under consideration.<sup>100</sup>

#### 4.2.1.2 Inadequate financial support

The quality and range of a national library's collections and services are in direct relation to its financial support. The financial support received by the national libraries in South Africa has been hopelessly inadequate, so much so that the distinguished American librarian, Dr. Keyes Metcalf who visited South Africa in 1959 was tempted to remark :

"South Africa's National Libraries are well below world standard and the financial support they get from the state appears to be quite inadequate. South Africa is doing far less than most smaller countries, even than most younger states, in building up an adequate national reference and research library."<sup>101</sup>

Two Committees of Enquiry have recommended that the financial position of the national libraries be improved. The first was the Booysen Committee in 1962<sup>102</sup> and the de Villiers Committee in 1968.

100. STATE LIBRARY. Report of the Trustees... 1964/1965. Pretoria, the Library, 1966. p.11.

101. S.A.L.A. newsletter, 11(1): 5, Jul., 1959.

102. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1962. Deel 1 (Hoofverslag) par. 3.10.1, p. 44.

The de Villiers Committee stated in strong terms that "it felt the stage had now been reached when the State should ensure that the two national libraries were in a position to develop so that they might take their rightful place in the country as important research and learned libraries."<sup>103</sup>

#### 4.2.1.3 Dual function as national and public libraries

Both the South African Library and the State Library performed public library functions for many years which retarded their development as national libraries. Zastrau and Viljoen see a correlation between the dual functions of the national libraries and their financial position. Zastrau is of the opinion that the government did not wish to assume full responsibility for the national libraries while they were functioning as public libraries.<sup>104</sup> Viljoen points out that in 1960 the municipal subsidy for the State Library was less than that of the state, despite the fact that the greater part of the budget was devoted to the public library service.<sup>105</sup>

103. SOUTH AFRICAN Library. Report of the Council... 1969/1970. Cape Town, the Library, 1971. p.1.

104. ZASTRAU, H.O.K. Oorsig oor die Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteekwese: die nasionale biblioteke. In Aspekte van die Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteekstruktuur. Potchefstroom, Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging, 1962. p.1.

105. VILJOEN, G. v N. Die nasionale biblioteke van Suid-Afrika. Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteke, 33(2): 47, Okt., 1965.

Lack of status, inadequate financial support and performance of public library functions as well as national library functions are the factors which retarded the development of the national library in South Africa.

Three major stages can be distinguished in the development of the national library in South Africa: the early period when the public library function predominated and national library functions were pushed into the background; an interim period during which the national libraries adapted to their rôle as pure national libraries, assisted by three major events; and the final stage, i.e. the development as fully-fledged national libraries.

#### 4.2.2 The early period

The two national libraries represented the early beginnings of the Reference and Bibliographical Centre (the South African Library) and the Inter-Library Loan Centre (State Library).

In terms of an agreement between the Union Government and the Carnegie Corporation of New York in 1933, the State Library agreed to function as a national lending library, and formulated its objectives. In addition to acting as a free municipal library for the City of Pretoria, a start was made with its national library functions. The inter-library loan system was introduced and it started compiling the joint catalogue in 1941; it acted as a repository for publications received in terms of the Copyright

Act of 1916, and started publishing its monthly accessions list. It also claimed to act as a centre of bibliographical information and to provide the mechanism for exchange of books between libraries.

The State Library's concept of its functions were hopelessly over-ambitious, as borne out by the following aims :

"To act as the centre of the South African library system;

To achieve a united national library system and to provide the services of a travelling organiser to assist library authorities in the solution of their difficulties and in the improvement of their library services;

To assist in the establishment of rural library services throughout the entire Union."<sup>106</sup>

No wonder the State Library could not cope with its national library functions. On recommendation of the Booysen Committee, the Minister of Education, Arts and Science informed the Board of Trustees in October 1962 that it should discontinue its public library functions. The City of Pretoria assumed responsibility for the public library service on April 1, 1964.<sup>107</sup> A year later the Trustees announced that "the year under review was the first in which the State Library was engaged solely in its activities as a national central library."<sup>108</sup>

106. FRIIS, T. The planning of library material for use from the organizational point of view. Part II. South African libraries, 27(4):115, Apr., 1960.

107, 108. STATE LIBRARY. Report of the Trustees... 1963/1964, p.5; 1965/1966, p.7.

The City of Cape Town assumed responsibility for the public library service in 1954, and in 1955 the Trustees of the South African Library reformulated the Library's objectives and policies.

In comparing the functions of the State Library and the South African Library in this early period it is obvious that no consultation had taken place between them in deciding their functions. Both claimed to be the national reference library and the national bibliographical centre, to provide facilities for the exchange of books between libraries, and both compiled lists of accessions received on legal deposit.<sup>109</sup>

#### 4.2.3 The interim period

During the period which started in 1955 for the South African Library and 1965 for the State Library, the national libraries had to adapt to their new rôle as pure national libraries. In 1962 and 1968 three major events occurred which were significant for their development.

109. FRIIS, *op. cit.*, p.116.

4.2.3.1 Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the Needs of State-aided Institutions, 1962. (Booyesen Committee)

The first significant event for the national library in South Africa was the acceptance of the recommendations of the Booyesen Committee by the Minister of Education, Arts and Science.

The most important recommendations were :

Determination of the status of the national libraries;

Adequate financial support for the national libraries;

Division of functions between the State Library and the South African Library. The South African Library would be regarded as the main repository of the country's literary treasures and the most important centre for bibliographical services. The State Library would be regarded as the national inter-library loan centre and would undertake bibliographical work necessary to expedite this function;

The introduction of a Co-ordinating Library Committee constituted of representatives of the Boards of Trustees and Directors of the South African Library and the State Library for the purpose of achieving co-operation between the two libraries and reducing unnecessary overlapping of functions;

The publication of one list of accessions based on publications received on legal deposit;

The Co-ordinating Committee should investigate the duplication of bibliographical services.

"Die getuienis wat ingewin is, wys op die onbetwisbare moontlikheid van duplisering van bibliografiese dienste tussen die twee biblioteke."<sup>110</sup>

#### 4.2.3.2 National Conference of Library Authorities

The second important event occurred in November 1962 when the National Conference of Library Authorities met in Pretoria and formulated resolutions.<sup>111</sup> After the Conference the South African Library Association decided to commence with the preliminary work and appointed a sub-Committee for this purpose. The Committee lodged the Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa containing the resolutions together with memoranda including a resumé of the Programme and an estimate of the cost to the Department if the resolutions of the Conference were to be implemented over the following five years, to the Minister of Education, Arts and Science.<sup>112</sup>

110. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings, Pretoria 1962. Deel 1 (Hoofverslag) p.39-45; p.97-98.
111. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development... South African libraries, 30(3): 81-117, Jan., 1963.
112. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual reports: 1962-63, p.11-12; 1963-64, p.13; 1967-68, p.51.

Some of the most important resolutions involved the central government and the Department of Education, Arts and Science. In a statement made by the Minister he declared himself prepared to submit the recommendations to the Cabinet. The Minister appointed an Interim Committee to submit proposals to him for the implementation of the resolutions of the National Conference.<sup>113</sup> This Committee met for the first time on April 8th, 1964.

In 1965 the Minister agreed that the South African Library Association could proceed with the preliminary investigations in connection with the co-operative acquisition of library material pending the establishment of the continuation body. The Minister established a National Library Advisory Council to advise him on library matters in 1967.

The Programme recognised the importance of the national libraries and determined their functions. In the re-organisation of the library structure in South Africa as proposed by the Programme, the national libraries were assigned an important part.

Despite the recommendations of the Booysen Committee and the Programme for future library development... the national libraries were still only performing their national functions on a limited scale. Professor G. van N. Viljoen, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the State Library commented in 1965 that the

113. S.A.L.A. newsletter, 15(2): 16-17, Aug., 1963.

national libraries were still a long way from performing their national functions properly and would not be able to do so before their financial means, organisation and possibly system of control, were radically revised.<sup>114</sup>

4.2.3.3 Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the Needs of State-aided Institutions, 1968 (de Villiers Committee)

The third significant event was the appointment of the de Villiers Committee in 1968. The report which resulted from the enquiries of this Committee was hailed as a sound factual exposition of the present situation, and the findings and recommendations as reasonable. Most of the recommendations were accepted by the Minister of Educations, Arts and Science.<sup>115</sup>

Both the State Library and the South African Library had stressed in their submissions to the Committee the importance of more generous provision with regard to staff and funds.<sup>116</sup> The Committee stressed the importance of improved financial means for the national libraries if they were to develop as fully-fledged national libraries and take their rightful

114. VILJOEN, op. cit., p.50.

115,116. STATE LIBRARY. Report of the Council... March 31, 1969. Pretoria, the Library, 1969. p.7-8.

place in the country as important research and learned libraries.<sup>117</sup>

As a result of the recommendations of the de Villiers Committee a new subsidy formula was introduced; a vote of R45 000 for the purchase of books over five years and the staff position in both libraries was improved. Recommendations with regard to staff and finance were implemented after 1st April 1970. Salary scales were considerably improved, although the Cabinet did not approve the Committee's recommendation that salaries should be equated with those of universities.

The staff of the State Library was increased from 48 permanent posts and 18 temporary posts in 1968 to 84 permanent and 12 temporary posts on 1st April 1969.<sup>118</sup>

The South African Library had requested an increase of 20 additional posts of which the Committee recommended 10 and of these only 3 were professional.<sup>119</sup>

The two national libraries experienced a certain amount of disappointment when the details of the implementation of the Committee's recommendations became known, but on the whole their lot was considerably improved.

117. SOUTH AFRICAN Library. Report of the Council... 1969-1970. Cape Town, the Library, 1971.p.1-2.

118 STATE LIBRARY. Report of the Council...Mar.31, 1970. Pretoria, the Library, 1970. p.7-8.

119. SOUTH AFRICAN Library. Report of the Council... 1969-70. Cape Town, the Library,1971. p.1-2.

Some time before the de Villiers Committee, the State Library had embarked on a project for the microfilming of runs of old South African newspapers. The Committee recommended the preservation of original periodicals and newspapers by the South African Library while the State Library should keep microfilm copies only.

The Committee endorsed the duplication of stock by the two libraries in view of the fact that the State Library lends from its stock whereas the South African Library does not. The Committee acknowledged the services of the State Library as the national inter-library loan centre and the bibliographical work performed by the State Library, but recommended the extension of bibliographical work by the South African Library. The recommendations of the de Villiers Committee with regard to the bibliographical work of the State Library and the South African Library will be explored in depth in the next chapter.

The de Villiers Committee recognised the importance of adequate accommodation for the libraries and strongly supported the requests by the State Library and the South African Library for new buildings.<sup>120</sup>

120. SOUTH AFRICAN Library. Report of the Council... 1969-1970. Cape Town, the Library, 1971. p.1-2.

#### 4.2.4 The final period

The Report of the de Villiers Committee marked the beginning of a new era for the national library in South Africa. It can only be hoped that the decade of the seventies will witness the development of the South African Library and the State Library as fully-fledged national libraries which will assume their rightful place in the library structure of the country and among the national libraries of the world.

#### 4.3 Functions of the national library in South Africa

##### 4.3.1 Functions of the State Library

In 1964 the Minister for Education, Arts and Science determined the following as the purpose and functions of the State Library :

"Aim : To open up the country's study and research material, and to assist in augmenting it.

Functions :

##### (a) National lending service

- (i) To act as a clearing house for inter-library loans;
- (ii) for this purpose to build up a joint catalogue;
- (iii) to lend its own bookstock or photocopies thereof to other libraries and approved institutions.

(b) Bibliographical work

To make national literature better known by means of bibliographies, and to provide bibliographical information.

(c) Book collection

- (i) To build up a South African Legal Deposit Collection, to add to it, maintain it and make it available;
- (ii) to build up an efficient bibliographical apparatus;
- (iii) with the advice of the National Library Advisory Board, to build up a comprehensive collection of study and research material.

(d) Reference Service

To make its bookstock directly accessible to students and research workers for use in the library.

(e) Non-European Study Library

For the present to make provision for the needs of Non-European students in the Republic by providing study material on loan through the post to individual students."<sup>121</sup>

121. STATE LIBRARY. 2nd State Library Seminar on Library Co-operation, 1967. Proceedings. Pretoria, the Library, 1967. p.7.

#### 4.3.2 Functions of the South African Library

The following are the purpose and functions of the South African Library, as determined by its Council:

"Aim : To act as the national Reference Library of South Africa in co-operation with the State Library, Pretoria."

To achieve this aim, the Council of the South African Library regards the following functions as the most important :

##### "Functions :

The acquisition and preservation of all publications in or about the Republic of South Africa, including those received under the Copyright Act, for reference purposes;

the acquisition and preservation of representative material on Africa South of the Sahara, for reference purposes;

the acquisition of basic reference material with emphasis on the Humanities and books in foreign languages;

the acquisition of special material not available elsewhere in South Africa with special reference to Mathematics;

the preservation and exhibition of literary treasures;

the provision of information and advice to other institutions and individuals;

bibliographical research in connection with the abovementioned in co-operation with other libraries and the publication of the results thereof; and

co-operation with national libraries abroad."<sup>122</sup>

#### 4.3.3 Proposed functions of the national library in South Africa

The Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa, gives the following as functions of the national library in South Africa :

##### 4.3.3.1 "Co-ordinating function

... to act as a co-ordinating centre for library co-operation in the country with regard to the building up of the national bookstock by means such as subject specialisation and as regards the rendering of supplementary and liaison services.

##### 4.3.3.2 The Archival and preservation function

4.3.3.2.1 The housing of all publications published in the Republic and received as legal deposit material, as well as important publications on the Republic published abroad.

4.3.3.2.2 The building up of as complete a collection as possible of all basic reference material and, in collaboration with other libraries of special collections of study and research material.

122. DE JAGER, P.J. Wat die nasionale biblioteke vir openbare biblioteke kan doen. In Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging 25ste jaarlikse konferensie, Oos-Londen, 1970. Referate. Potchefstroom, die Vereniging, 1970. p.67. Free translation from the Afrikaans.

- 4.3.3.2.3 The preservation of literary treasures.
- 4.3.3.2.4 The acquisition of special material not readily available elsewhere in the country.
- 4.3.3.3 National Lending Library functions
  - 4.3.3.3.1 The maintenance of a central or union catalogue.
  - 4.3.3.3.2 The maintenance of a National Lending Library Centre.
- 4.3.3.4 Bibliographic functions
  - 4.3.3.4.1 Assistance in the planning and co-ordinating of bibliographic services in the Republic
  - 4.3.3.4.2 The preparation and publication of a national bibliography
  - 4.3.3.4.3 The establishment and consolidation of a strong collection of bibliographic tools
  - 4.3.3.4.4 The preparation and publication of special bibliographies
- 4.3.3.5 Auxiliary services
  - 4.3.3.5.1 Assistance in the arrangement of subject specialisation and special services
  - 4.3.3.5.2 The provision of book reproduction facilities for valuable material
  - 4.3.3.5.3 The provision of facilities for in-service training for professional library employees
  - 4.3.3.5.4 Assistance in the planning of research work in the field of librarianship and documentation

- 4.3.3.5.5 Co-operation with national libraries in other countries
- 4.3.3.5.6 To serve as an exchange for local and foreign exchange material."<sup>123</sup>
- 4.3.4 Comparison between the actual and proposed functions of the national library in South Africa

The functions performed by the State Library and the South African Library as well as those proposed by the Programme for future library development ... will now be considered in terms of the three categories used by Humphreys.<sup>124</sup>

- 4.3.4.1 Fundamental or essential functions of a national library
  - 4.3.4.1.1 The outstanding and central collection of the nation's literature
  - 4.3.4.1.2 Dépôt légal

Both the State Library and the South African Library perform these two functions.

The South African Library has the duty to preserve its copies, whereas the State Library and two of the other three libraries will lend from their national collection.

- 123. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa. South African libraries, 30(3):102-103, Jan., 1963.
- 124. Refer Chapter Three, par. 3.3 "Functions of the national library in general, p.46-57.

The Programme... deals with this function under the heading "The Archival and preservation function". It also states that the Natal Society Library and the Bloemfontein Public Library which also enjoy legal deposit privileges should regard theirs as deposit collections of the national literature for the provinces of Natal and the Orange Free State.

#### 4.3.4.1.3 Coverage of foreign literature

This function does not rest entirely on the national libraries in South Africa for various reasons. South Africa hopes to achieve this by means of a decentralized system of subject specialisation. Under the heading "Co-ordinating function" the Programme... states that the national libraries should act as the co-ordinating centre for library co-operation with regard to building up the national bookstock.

#### 4.3.4.1.4 Publication of the national bibliography

The Programme... recognises this function under the heading "Bibliographic function". The State Library publishes the current national bibliography South African national bibliography.

#### 4.3.4.1.5 National bibliographical information centre

Both the South African Library and the State Library provide bibliographical information. The Programme... proposes a South African Bibliographic Bureau.

The whole question of the bibliographical function will be the subject of subsequent chapters.

#### 4.3.4.1.6 Publication of catalogues

This is not an actual or proposed national library function in South Africa.

#### 4.3.4.1.7 Exhibitions

This is one of the declared functions of the South African Library where a full-time Exhibitions and Public Relations Officer has been employed since 1970.

#### 4.3.4.2 Desirable functions of a national library

##### 4.3.4.2.1 Inter-library lending

The Programme... deals with this under the heading "National lending library functions". This is more a fundamental or essential, than a desirable function, in South Africa.

The State Library acts as the Inter-library loan centre on a national and international basis, and maintains the union catalogue of monographs in South Africa.

#### 4.3.4.2.2 Manuscripts

The South African Library has good holdings of South African manuscripts and has in recent years established a Manuscripts Department. A full-time professional assistant was appointed to this department in January 1970. The library has also been assigned the task of compiling a union catalogue of South African manuscripts by the South African Library Association.

#### 4.3.4.2.3 Research on library techniques

This function is not performed by the national library in South Africa. The State Library does, however, publish a series entitled "Contributions to Library Science".

The Programme... regards "Assistance in the planning of research work in the field of librarianship and documentation" as an auxiliary service of the national library.

#### 4.3.4.3 Functions of a national library that are not necessary functions of a national library

##### 4.3.4.3.1 International exchange service

The Programme... regards this as an auxiliary service of the national library.

#### 4.3.4.3.2 Distribution of duplicates

Individual libraries in South Africa arrange their own disposals and distribution of duplicate material.

#### 4.3.4.3.3 Books for the blind

The South African Library for the Blind, Grahamstown, exists for this purpose.

#### 4.3.4.3.4 Professional training

The professional training of librarians in South Africa is undertaken by Schools of Librarianship at universities. The Programme... does, however, regard the in-service training of professional staff as an auxiliary service of the national library.

#### 4.3.4.3.5 Assistance to other libraries in library techniques

#### 4.3.4.3.6 Library planning

These two functions are not performed by the national library in South Africa nor envisaged as a national library function in the Programme... The Programme... does stress the importance of the national library as a co-ordinating centre for library co-operation in South Africa.

In theory as well as practice, there should be no overlapping of functions between the South African Library and the State Library. The Programme<sup>125</sup>

125. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa. South African libraries, 30(3): 102, Jan., 1963.

recommended that the question of division of services between the two libraries be investigated, and the Booysen Committee recommended the establishment of a Co-ordinating Committee for this purpose.<sup>126</sup> The Co-ordinating Committee is composed of representatives of the Councils and Directors of the South African Library and the State Library and aims at the co-ordination of the activities of the two national libraries by means of consultation and advice.<sup>127</sup>

It is clear from this detailed examination of the functions of the South African Library and the State Library as well as those proposed by the Programme, that the national library in South Africa has an obligation to collect and preserve the national literature, as well as other material required for study and research; and to exploit its collections by making it accessible to students and research workers, by publishing the national bibliography and other bibliographies, and by providing bibliographical information.

126. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1962. Deel 1 (Hoofverslag) par. 3.7.4, p.42.

127. STATE LIBRARY. Report of the Trustees ... 1964. Pretoria, the Library, 1965. p.8.

## 5. THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL FUNCTION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

Chapter Three examined national library functions and listed the functions of five national libraries. Chapter Four described the national library in South Africa in terms of its characteristics, development and functions. The conclusion reached in both these chapters was that national libraries, despite a diversity of functions, have a definite responsibility in the field of bibliography.

This chapter will deal with the bibliographical function of national libraries.

The introductory section will briefly outline the development of the problem of bibliographical control.

UNESCO's involvement in and contribution to bibliographical matters will be indicated.

The next section will discuss basic concepts and definitions of terms used in this study.

A third section will describe in full the bibliographical function of the national library in terms of the Conclusions and Recommendations made by the Symposium on National Libraries in Europe in 1958.<sup>128</sup>

128. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.113-114.

In this general discussion on the bibliographical function of the national library, reference will be made to the rôle of computers in libraries today. Many libraries, including national libraries, have introduced automation or are planning to apply automation to their procedures and services.

A checklist, based on UNESCO's Recommendations, will be given at the end of Section Three.<sup>129</sup> The author will use this list as a rough guide for analyzing the bibliographical function of individual national libraries in the final section.

## 5.1 Introduction

As the production of books and periodicals continues at a steadily accelerating rate, bibliographical work becomes proportionately more important and complicated. More books have been printed since 1900 than in the four hundred and fifty years since the invention of printing.<sup>130</sup> In addition to the increase in the amount of printed material, there has been an increase in the variety of physical means of storing information: microrecords, including microfilm, microfiche and ultrafiche, magnetic tapes and magnetic discs, etc.

129. Loc. cit.

130. DOWNS, R.B. and Jenkins, F.B., eds. Bibliography; current state and future trends. Part 1. Introduction. Library trends, 15(3): 338, Jan., 1967.

One of the greatest problems facing modern librarianship is the question of bibliographical control.

"Bibliographical control" is a relatively new term, but the concept is an old one.

The librarians who compiled the records of the collections in the Alexandrian library were our earliest bibliographers. The aim of this library - the greatest of ancient times - was the collection of the whole of Greek literature, and it became the literary and bibliographical centre of the Hellenistic world. The catalogue of the Alexandrian library, had it survived, would have been a bibliographical tool of great historical significance.

There was an increase in the number of bibliographical compilations throughout the Middle Ages and Renaissance, but the problem of bibliographical control can be said to have started with the invention of printing in the fifteenth century and the subsequent introduction of high-speed printing presses and woodpulp paper.

Various attempts have been made at compiling universal bibliography. In 1545 Conrad Gesner published his Bibliotheca Universalis in an attempt to provide a list of the world's printed material. He excluded books in the vernacular, though. This work earned Gesner the title of the "father of bibliography." Other attempts at universal bibliographies were made by men such as Gottlieb Georgi, Jacques Brunet, Johan Graesse. Over the centuries similar projects were undertaken, each project reflecting the problems

and interests of its own time and adding to the growing store of bibliographical material.

During the nineteenth century bibliographical undertakings increased in number and scope. Printed catalogues of the great libraries, for example, the British Museum Library, were first published. The nineteenth century also witnessed a great increase in periodical publications which created new problems. By the end of the nineteenth century it became obvious that a new approach to bibliographical control was required. The introduction of new media of communication such as radio, telephone, telex, in the twentieth century added a new dimension to the problem.<sup>131,132,133</sup>

Universal bibliography today can only be achieved on the basis of the contributions of individual countries, i.e. effective national coverage must precede international or universal coverage.

The national library in each country is an important factor in national coverage. This principle was formulated by UNESCO which has done a great deal to promote and co-ordinate bibliographical activities on a national and international level.

131. STOKES, R. Bibliographical control and service. London, Deutsch, 1965. p.15-17.

132. Id. The function of bibliography. London, Deutsch, 1969. p.25.

133. DOWNS and Jenkins, op. cit., 337, 339.

The term "bibliographical control" came into prominence after World War II when a number of conferences on bibliographical problems were held under the auspices of UNESCO.<sup>134</sup>

In 1950 UNESCO sponsored and held a conference on the improvement of bibliographical services. The Library of Congress prepared a report surveying the existing state of bibliographical services in the world which served as a working paper for the conference.<sup>135</sup> It was decided at the conference that designated correspondents in each of the countries represented would provide UNESCO with information on their countries' respective bibliographical activities. UNESCO would publish the information.<sup>136,137</sup>

134. WELLS, A.J. National and international bibliographic control. Address to the Southern Transvaal Branch of the South African Library Association, 27th Oct., 1971. p.1. (Unpublished).
135. UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey. Bibliographical services: their present state and possibilities of improvement. Washington, the Library, 1950.
136. COLLISON, R.L. Bibliographical services throughout the world, 1950-1959. Paris, UNESCO, 1961. (UNESCO bibliographical handbooks, 9).
137. AVICENNE, P. Bibliographical services throughout the world, 1960-1964. Paris, UNESCO, 1969. (UNESCO bibliographical handbooks, 11).

One of the objectives of the 1950 conference was to promote the establishment of a National Commission for Bibliography in each of the participating countries.

In 1953 UNESCO published a guide to assist countries where bibliographical services had not been established, with practical advice. The manual emphasised the importance of a current national bibliography as a starting point.<sup>138</sup>

In addition to its Bibliographical Handbooks series, UNESCO publishes a Bulletin on bibliography, documentation and terminology. This is an extremely useful tool which attempts to record new bibliographies produced in the world.

Two other international organizations which also promote bibliographical activities are the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the International Federation of Documentation (FID).

138. LARSEN, K. National bibliographical services: their creation and operation. Paris, UNESCO, 1953. (UNESCO bibliographical handbooks,1). p.3.

## 5.2 Basic concepts and terminology

What is bibliography? There are many definitions of this term indicating various forms and emphases. An academic discussion of the term "bibliography" does not fall within the scope of this thesis. It is, nevertheless, necessary to clarify and distinguish between concepts that will be used in this work, lest terminological confusion results.

Bibliography falls into two major groups, dividing the book into its physical and intellectual aspects. The two divisions are :

Descriptive bibliography, also referred to as "comparative", "historical", "analytical" or "textual", is the study of the book as a physical object.

Enumerative or Systematic bibliography is the study of the book as an intellectual entity. Information about individual books is assembled into a logical and useful arrangement; methods used are enumerative or systematic bibliography; and results are compilations or subject lists of books.<sup>139</sup>

These two divisions today include other vehicles of ideas such as microfilms, tape recordings, motion pictures and other objects which can be studied bibliographically.<sup>140</sup>

139. WYNAR, B.S. Introduction to bibliography and reference work... 4th rev. ed. Rochester, N.Y., Libraries Unlimited, 1967. p.49-55.

140. SHOEMAKER, R.H. Bibliography (General). Library trends, 15(3): 340, Jan., 1967.

Enumerative bibliography is by far the most widely practised form of bibliography, and its function is to establish order out of chaos. Generally speaking, the bibliographical compilations of national libraries fall in the field of enumerative bibliography.

Linder quotes the following definition of enumerative bibliography, "a complete and definitive list within limits set by the compiler; usually geographical, chronological, or topical."<sup>141</sup>

The definitions of "bibliography" and "a bibliography" used in the UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey are of interest :

"Bibliography... is defined as the technique of systematically producing descriptive lists of written or published records (especially books or similar materials).

A bibliography is defined as such a list, so produced."<sup>142</sup>

141. LINDER, L.R. The rise of current complete national bibliography. New York, Scarecrow Press, 1959. p.10.

142. UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey. Bibliographical services: their present state and possibilities of improvement. Washington, the Library, 1950. p.1.

It is necessary to distinguish between a catalogue and a bibliography. The A.L.A. glossary of library terms makes the following distinction :

Under "bibliography" it states :

"4. A list of books, maps, etc., differing from a catalog in not being necessarily a list of materials in a collection, a library, or a group of libraries."

Under "catalog" it states :

"A list of books, maps, etc., arranged according to some definite plan. As distinguished from a bibliography it is a list which records, describes and indexes the resources of a collection, a library, or a group of libraries."<sup>143</sup>

Having established the difference between a bibliography and a catalogue, we must establish what is meant by "national bibliography".

"National bibliography" is defined as :

"A list (or, collectively, lists) of works published in a country; or, in an extended sense, of works about a country, by natives of a country living in that country or elsewhere, or written in the language of a country."<sup>144</sup>

143. THOMPSON, Elizabeth, comp. A.L.A. glossary of library terms. Chicago, A.L.A., 1943. p.11, 24.

144. THOMPSON, op. cit., p.90.

A national bibliography can be current or retrospective. Ideally a country should have both. Linder gives a very full definition for current national bibliography :

"... current complete national bibliography is a complete or nearly complete listing, in one or more parts, of the records of a nation, about a nation, copyrighted in a nation, or in a single language, issued serially at appropriate intervals as the records appear."<sup>145</sup>

By "nation" Linder means the natives of a country as well as the "nation" as a political and geographical entity.

Retrospective national bibliography refers to publications formerly published in a country.

A term which was frequently used in the previous section and which features in any discussion on bibliography, is "bibliographical control". The UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey states :

"Bibliographic control is defined to mean the mastery over written and published records which is provided by and for the purposes of Bibliography. ('Bibliographic control' is synonymous with 'effective access through bibliographies')."<sup>146</sup>

145. LINDER, op. cit., p.18.

146. UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey. Bibliographical services: their present state and possibilities of improvement. Washington, the Library, 1950. p.1.

The term "bibliographical control" usually covers the compilation of national bibliographies, the centralized provision of cataloguing data, and the provision of union catalogues.<sup>147</sup> The essential requirements of bibliographical control have been described as an efficient union catalogue of books, periodicals, newspapers and theses; an adequate range of subject bibliographies; and the national bibliography which is the most essential requirement.<sup>148</sup>

Two other definitions worth noting are those for "bibliographical service" and "bibliographical tool." The UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey defined "bibliographical service" as :

"Bibliographical service... the complex of facilities, procedures and devices by which a bibliography may be supplied, at a stated time, to fill a distinctive need."<sup>149</sup>

Harrod defines "bibliographical tool" :

"A publication, such as a list of books, which is used by a bibliographer in the course of his work."<sup>150</sup>

147. WELLS, op. cit., p.1.

148. MUSIKER, R. Bibliographical control in South Africa. International library review, 4(2): 149-151, April 1972.

149. UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey. Bibliographical services: their present state and possibilities of improvement. Washington, the Library, 1950. p.1.

150. HARROD, L.M., comp. The librarians' glossary of terms used in librarianship and the book crafts and reference book. 3rd rev. ed. London, Deutsch, 1971. p.79.

### 5.3 The bibliographical function of the national library

At the end of Chapter Two the writer quotes in full a summary of national library characteristics and states that this summary will be used as the writer's own understanding and definition of the national library.

To recapitulate briefly, Varley states in this summary that national libraries "provide bibliographical and other services to the advantage of all those libraries (i.e., "the libraries of the nation as a whole")(and) ... are deeply concerned with the ... conservation and exploitation of ... resources."<sup>151</sup>

The South African librarian, P.C. Coetzee, sees the exploitation of resources as the *raison d'être* for the collection and preservation of material, and states that the national library should, in order to facilitate exploitation, build up a comprehensive bibliographical apparatus.<sup>152</sup>

151. VARLEY, D.H. The meaning of a national library, and some comments... South African libraries, 27(4): 121, April 1960.

152. COETZEE, P.C. Die agste wêreldwonder: gedagtes oor die nasionale biblioteek en sy betekenis vir kultuur. Hertzog - Annale, 13(17): 81-82, Des., 1964 (Jaarboek xi).

It has also been said that the personality of a national library will be based on its collections and that the library will only realize its full effectiveness when these collections are made available through bibliographical services.<sup>153</sup>

The bibliographical function of the national library is closely linked to the exploitation of its resources.

Before discussing the bibliographical function of the national library, reference should be made to the rôle of computers in libraries today. This is a relatively new field, as computers only began to play a part in library and information work about ten years ago. There are usually two reasons why libraries decide to computerise :

The library may be experiencing difficulty in maintaining existing services and hopes that computerisation may solve the problem.

The library would like to provide new services that could not be provided manually.<sup>154</sup>

153. CLAPP, V.W. Libraries in the life of the nation; the national library. Ottawa, Canadian Library Association, 1953. (Occasional paper no. 2). p.10.

154. ATKINSON, I. Systems analysis and programming. In Biblioteekmeganisasie: 'n seminaar gereël deur die Noord-Transvaalse Tak van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging... Julie 1972. p.29-30.

Libraries are using the computer for housekeeping purposes such as acquisitions, cataloguing, issuing systems, serials control, union catalogues, subject lists, etc. National libraries are turning to computers to assist them with the compilation of national bibliographies, distribution of cataloguing data, union catalogues, etc. L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress, has summarized it as follows :

"The national library must continuously expand its collections, its services, its space, and its support. It must also expand its tools - the staff who are to do the intellectual work and, in the electronic age, the machines to perform the slave labor."<sup>155</sup>

Computerisation does not change the basic bibliographical function, but increases the scope by offering opportunities for improved service, increased bibliographical control and co-operative ventures on both the national and international level. It promotes the development of networks - a concept which is becoming increasingly more important. Although independent of each other, libraries are beginning to regard themselves as components of an integrated library system. The network concept which

155. MUMFORD, L.Q. The Library of Congress - twice as fast. American libraries, 7(3): 773, Jul.-Aug., 1972.

was made possible by new communication techniques, is still in its experimental stages.<sup>156</sup>

One of the factors limiting the use of computers in libraries and information centres is the prerequisite that large volumes of bibliographical and indexing information must be available in machine-readable form. The development of computer-based cataloguing information distributed in machine-readable form exemplified by the Library of Congress and the British National Bibliography Marc tapes, may be a solution to the problem.<sup>157</sup>

The next section which deals with the bibliographical function of a few selected national libraries will also refer to the attempts which have been made and are being made by these libraries to computerise.

Which tasks performed by the national library constitute its bibliographical function? How should it perform these tasks?

156. WILLEMSE, J. Van samewerking tot netwerk: indrukke oor die ontwikkeling van biblioteekstelsels in die V.S.A. Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteke, 38(1): 26, Jul., 1970.
157. LODDER, N.M. Computers and information retrieval. South African libraries, 39(3): 240, Dec., 1971.

Group II of the Symposium on National Libraries in Europe discussed the bibliographical activities of the national library. It was agreed that the following constituted the bibliographical function of the national library :

Compiling and publishing bibliographies;  
acting as a bibliographical information centre;  
co-ordinating bibliographical activities in its own country;  
playing a constructive part in international bibliographical activities.<sup>158,159</sup>

The first two points can be regarded as bibliographical activities in a limited sense, and the last two points as bibliographical activities in a wider sense.

The following is a detailed consideration of the Main Conclusions and Recommendations, under the heading "Bibliography", and the discussions of Group II, of the Symposium on National Libraries in Europe.<sup>160</sup>

158. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27th Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.49-80.
159. WORMANN, C.D. National libraries in our time. Libri, 9(4): 273-307, 1959.
160. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.49-80; 113-114.

### 5.3.1 Compilation and publication of bibliographies

#### 5.3.1.1 Current national bibliography

The most important bibliography which the national library should compile is the current national bibliography which will make the literature of the nation accessible within and without the country concerned. In fact, the compilation of a current national bibliography is the minimum bibliographical responsibility of each country. In the discussion of national library functions,<sup>161</sup> this was regarded as a fundamental or essential function.

The current complete national bibliography is central to all bibliographic activity and its ultimate aim should be the formation of a continuing universal bibliography.<sup>162</sup> The national library is in the best position to compile the current national bibliography, as it has a complete collection of national literature and employs staff trained in bibliographical work.

The current national bibliography should aim at total coverage of the country's production, irrespective of language, and list publications issued abroad which are of interest by reason of author or subject. It should also include various types of material such as official publications, maps, atlases, newspapers and periodicals, musical scores, microfilms, theses, prints, etc.

161. Refer Chapter 3, par. 3.3.1.4, p.51

162. LINDER, op. cit., p.18-19.

The use of a computer in the compilation of the current national bibliography and particularly in conjunction with a computer-controlled typesetting or photocomposition devices, will ensure that the current national bibliography is produced timely. In addition to the advantages of flexibility and adaptability inherent in machine-readable files, it could relieve libraries of a great deal of cataloguing effort, provide a compatible input for a union catalogue and serve booksellers and publishers. A computerised current national bibliography, in other words, provides a large bibliographical data bank. These are some of the arguments used in favour of a computer-produced current national bibliography. Many current national bibliographies are already being produced with the aid of a computer.<sup>163</sup>

#### 5.3.1.2 Retrospective national bibliography

The national library is best qualified to compile the retrospective national bibliography. It has copies of most of the material produced in the country since the earliest time and is able to trace material not in its own collection through its union catalogue.

163. WILLEMSE, J. Prospects for an integrated library network in South Africa. In South African Library Association. 25th annual conference, East London, 1970. Papers. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1970. p.50.

#### 5.3.1.3 Theses

If theses are not included in the national bibliography, they should be listed in specialized bibliographies. It is essential that a location be given for the original in the case of unprinted theses, as well as an indication of whether it is available for loan in the original or microcopy. It is further recommended that unprinted theses be deposited in a national or university library or a suitable library designated for this purpose.

#### 5.3.1.4 Specialized bibliographies

Specialized bibliographies fall outside the scope of national libraries. They should preferably be compiled by bibliographers who are specialists in the particular subjects.

National libraries should co-operate with bibliographers and subject specialists and promote the standardization of bibliographical work in their own countries.

##### 5.3.1.4.1 Current selective national bibliography

Current selective national bibliographies are a type of specialized bibliography which could be compiled by national libraries. A complete current national bibliography provides a solid basis for selective national bibliography, and the producer of the current national bibliography could, for instance, compile a bibliography of all new publications in a subject field or in a particular

language.

#### 5.3.1.4.2 Bibliographies of bibliographies

These are specialized bibliographies which fall within the scope of the national library. The national library should aim at publishing frequently and at regular intervals bibliographies of bibliographies appearing in its own country. By doing so, the national library will promote co-ordination of the country's bibliographical activities.

#### 5.3.1.5 Bibliographies based on its own collections

The national library should compile and publish bibliographies based on its own collections covering all kinds of special material, especially catalogues of manuscripts or incunabula.

#### 5.3.2 The national library as a national bibliographical information centre

In the discussion of national library functions, this was regarded as a fundamental or essential function.<sup>164</sup> This function can also be performed by an institution independent from the national library. There are, however, a number of reasons why the national library is best suited to this task.

The national library often has the most comprehensive collections in the country. This obvious fact is often overlooked;

164. Refer Chapter Three, paragraph 3.3.1.5, p.52.

in addition to the union catalogue, the national library usually possesses an excellent collection of bibliographies, works on librarianship and similar publications;

it has the trained staff necessary to offer a central service in bibliographical information;

the national library is often the only library in the country which combines the three basic requisites of stock, staff and catalogues.<sup>165</sup>

The national library as the national bibliographical information centre has the following responsibilities:

- 5.3.2.1 It should have full and accurate knowledge of all sources of bibliographical information.
- 5.3.2.2 It should publish or encourage the publication of a guide to sources of specialized information.
- 5.3.2.3 It should consider the possibility of establishing a central register of bibliographies compiled by other libraries in the country.
- 5.3.2.4 It should supply bibliographical information to private individuals and institutions. This is an essential function.<sup>166</sup>

165. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.74-75.

166. Ibid, p.114.

### 5.3.3 Co-ordination of bibliographical activities

Under this heading can be included such tasks as establishing standards for bibliographical work, proposing methods for the training of bibliographers, ensuring that bibliographical work is done in a satisfactory manner by the most suitable agency, etc.

Group II of the Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, proposed various ways in which bibliographical activities could be co-ordinated by national libraries.

5.3.3.1 The national library should co-operate with National Bibliographical Commissions where they exist.

5.3.3.2 The staff of the national library is competent to advise on bibliographical methodology and should take the lead in formulating standards of bibliographical description. (The national library would be able to do so more readily if it has computerised its own records, as standardization is a prerequisite of automation).

5.3.3.3 The national library can co-ordinate bibliographical activities, prevent duplication and draw attention to gaps in the bibliographical apparatus by dispatching questionnaires to bodies engaged in bibliographical work. It should also call conferences of people interested in the compilation of specialized bibliographies.

- 5.3.3.4 The training of bibliographers is of great importance, especially in a country where there is no school of librarianship. The national library can assist with practical training to supplement theoretical training.<sup>167</sup>

5.3.4 International co-operation in bibliography

The national library can contribute to international bibliographical information in the following ways :

- 5.3.4.1 The national library should maintain a regular exchange of information with other institutions on unpublished bibliographical tools in its possession.
- 5.3.4.2 It should report on its country's bibliographical activities in international journals, and also report on bibliographical work abroad in its local professional journals.
- 5.3.4.3 It should send lists of new periodicals published in its country annually to UNESCO.

National libraries should take an active part in international bibliographical activities. The use of computers in libraries and the production of machine-readable records has increased the scope for international co-operation. The establishment of computerised data banks of bibliographical information and machine-readable records promotes the

167. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.73, 114.

exchange of bibliographical information, for example, MARC tapes produced by the Library of Congress and the British National Bibliography Limited. The British National Bibliography Limited's latest undertaking Books in English, said to be the most complete English language current bibliography ever produced, is based on the Library of Congress and the British national bibliography MARC tapes.<sup>168</sup>

The Regional Seminar on the Development of National Libraries in Asia and the Pacific Area, described the bibliographical function of the national library as follows :

"A national library has the responsibility of providing or co-ordinating the bibliographical services of a country. Typical activities are related to : (a) a current national bibliography, including all published material both printed and audio-visual, with roman transliteration; (b) retrospective bibliography; (c) subject and selective bibliographies; (d) union catalogues facilitating inter-library co-operation; (e) contribution to national and inter-national bibliographical projects; (f) periodical indexing.<sup>169</sup>

168. Refer par. 5.4.4.5, p.180-182, for further information on Books in English and the activities of the British National Bibliography Limited.

169. REGIONAL Seminar on the Development of National Libraries in Asia and the Pacific Area. Final report. UNESCO bulletin for libraries, 18(4): 152, Jul.-Aug., 1964.

Strictly speaking, the establishment and maintenance of the union catalogue does not form part of the bibliographical function of the national library. The union catalogue could serve as a bibliographical tool.

The main function of the union catalogue is to locate material. It is, therefore, an important instrument in the bibliographical information centre of which the main task is the provision of information. The union catalogue is dependent on an extensive bibliographical apparatus, for example, national bibliographies, lists of periodicals, etc.<sup>170</sup>

The discussions of Group II and the main Conclusions and Recommendations on Bibliography of the Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, dealt with in this section, provide a useful framework for analyzing the bibliographical functions of specific national libraries in the next sections.<sup>171</sup>

For this purpose the author has compiled a checklist incorporating most of these recommendations with a few minor variations.

170. LARSEN, op. cit., p.57.

171. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.113-114.

The checklist, intended as a rough guide, represents the ideal. In practice it will be found that national libraries do not necessarily follow this pattern in the performance of their bibliographical function. The following are a few examples which illustrate this point: The establishment of standards or maintenance of contacts with bodies engaged in bibliographical work may be regarded as the responsibility of another body, such as the professional association; national libraries may have their own ideas on the subject of co-operation with other national libraries or international organisations, for instance, some national libraries may not consider it necessary to send lists of new periodicals published in their country to UNESCO, but will contribute to UNESCO's Index translationum, or provide UNESCO with information for publication in its surveys of bibliographical services; in some countries the bibliographical information centre may be an independent institution. Where this situation exists, reference will be made to the body performing the task of national bibliographical information centre, but its activities will not be analyzed in full. The object of this study is the assessment of the bibliographical function of the national library itself, not of other institutions performing national library functions. Other examples will emerge from the study of individual national libraries.

In some cases analysis of all the categories set out in the checklist will not be possible due to variations in practice, or difficulties in obtaining published information.

CHECKLIST FOR THE ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL  
FUNCTION OF A NATIONAL LIBRARY

1.      Compilation and publication of bibliographies
  - 1.1     Current national bibliography  
          Coverage, types of material included.
  - 1.2     Retrospective national bibliography
  - 1.3     Selective national bibliography
  - 1.4     Theses
  - 1.5     Serials (newspapers, periodicals, etc.)
  - 1.6     Subject bibliographies
  - 1.7     Bibliographies of bibliographies
  - 1.8     Bibliographies based on own collections
  - 1.9     Co-operative bibliographical compilations
  - 1.10    General/Other bibliographies (i.e. bibliographies not incl. in 1.1 - 1.9)
2.      National Bibliographical Information Centre
  - 2.1     Knowledge of sources of bibliographical information.
  - 2.2     Guides to sources of specialized information.
  - 2.3     Register of bibliographies compiled in the country.
  - 2.4     Provision of bibliographical information to private individuals and other institutions.

3. Co-ordination of Bibliographical Activities
  - 3.1 Co-operation with National Bibliographical Commissions (or professional associations).
  - 3.2 Establishment of standards and advising on bibliographical methodology.
  - 3.3 Maintaining contact with bodies engaged in bibliographical work, calling conferences of bibliographers and ensuring that bibliographical work is done by the most suitable agency.
  - 3.4 Proposals for training of bibliographers and providing opportunities for practical training.
4. International co-operation in bibliography
  - 4.1 Exchange of information on unpublished bibliographies.
  - 4.2 Publication of reports on bibliographical work in local and international journals.
  - 4.3 Providing UNESCO with lists of new periodicals.

## 5.4 The bibliographical function of specific national libraries

### 5.4.1 The National Library of Australia

One of the declared functions of the National Library of Australia is to act as a centre of national bibliography and of bibliographical and library co-operation.<sup>172</sup>

#### 5.4.1.1 Compilation and publication of bibliographies

##### 5.4.1.1.1 Current national bibliography

The Australian national bibliography first appeared in 1961. It includes material published in Australia and received on legal deposit, as well as material dealing with Australian subjects or written by Australians. Types of material included are maps, films, musical scores and the official publications of the Australian governments. The library also provides a card catalogue service connected with the Australian national bibliography.

The National Library of Australia is developing a computer-based system for the Australian national bibliography, as its first major application of automation. Although the bibliography is still being prepared manually at the time of writing, the data

172. AUSTRALIA. National Library. The National Library of Australia. Canberra, the Library, 1968. p.19.

has been prepared in MARC format since January 1972. A project for the development of an ANB/MARC which includes the computer production of the Australian national bibliography from MARC records, is being implemented.<sup>173</sup> The catalogue card service will also be computerised.

The computer-produced Australian national bibliography will be issued as a weekly classified list with an author, title and series index. Monthly cumulations will include a detailed subject index using the PRECIS subject indexing system.<sup>174</sup>

The library's proposed activities for the period 1972-1976 gives high priority to the creation, acquisition and use of machine-readable bibliographic data bases. Coverage of the national bibliographic record in machine-readable form will be extended to include maps, government publications and films. Other records, such as Serials in Australian libraries: social sciences and humanities, will be converted into a machine-readable form.<sup>175</sup>

173. AUSTRALIA. National Library. 12th annual report, 1971-72. Canberra, the Library, 1972. p.1, 21, 24-25.

174. PRECIS stands for Preserved Context Index System.

175. AUSTRALIA. National Library. 12th annual report, 1971-72. Canberra, the Library, 1972. p.24-25.

#### 5.4.1.1.2 Retrospective national bibliography

The period 1936-1960 was covered by the Annual catalogue of Australian publications. A bibliography to cover the period 1901-1935 is in progress.

Coverage for the early period is provided by Sir John Ferguson's Bibliography of Australia, 1784-1850, which was published between 1941 and 1969. In 1963 the library started publishing supplements to this work which will provide coverage up to 1900.

#### 5.4.1.1.3 Selective national bibliography

The publication of selective national bibliographies was favourably regarded by the Symposium on National Libraries in Europe.<sup>176</sup> The National Library of Australia publishes the following selective national bibliographies :

Australian government publications. This bibliography was published monthly between 1952 and 1960, and annually since 1961.

Australian books: a select list. This is an annual guide to representative works on Australia.

Current Australian serials. This is a subject list of serials published in Australia. It was first published in 1964 and a revised edition appeared in 1966.

176. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.77.

#### 5.4.1.1.4 Theses

A comprehensive list was published by M.J. Marshall in 1959. In 1967 the University of Tasmania Library published Union list of higher degree theses in Australian university libraries. This work covers the period up to 1965 and includes earlier lists.

#### 5.4.1.1.5 Serials

The National Library of Australia publishes a union catalogue entitled Serials in Australian libraries: social sciences and humanities. It complements Scientific serials in Australian libraries, published by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization.

#### 5.4.1.1.6 Subject bibliographies

The principal subject bibliography published by the library is Australian public affairs information service, which has appeared since 1945. This is a guide to material on Australian political, social and cultural affairs. It indexes relevant articles in a wide range of Australian and overseas periodicals.

#### 5.4.1.1.7 Co-operative bibliographical undertakings

The National Library of Australia, in co-operation with other Australian libraries, publishes :

Guide to collections of manuscripts relating to Australia, and

Newspapers in Australian libraries: a union list of which a second edition was published in 1967.<sup>177</sup>

#### 5.4.1.2 National bibliographical information centre

The Australian Bibliographical Centre was established at the same time as the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services (AACOBS) in 1956 to be the permanent organisation for the purposes of the Council. The Commonwealth Government accepted financial responsibility for the Centre which was administratively part of the National Library of Australia.

At the time of its establishment the Centre had two main functions. The first was to act as the Secretariat to the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services and to assist the Council and its committees in planning and making its policy effective. The Centre still acts as Secretariat to the Council. It edits and publishes the Council's

177. For general information on Australian bibliography, refer BORCHARDT, D.H. Australian bibliography. 2nd ed. Melbourne, Cheshire, 1966.

documents, organises surveys and projects adopted by the Council, disseminates information about the Council and maintains a liaison between the Council and its committees and libraries conducting projects of interest to the Council. These duties are performed by a Senior Liaison Librarian who is attached to the Development Services Section of the National Library of Australia for administrative purposes.

The second function performed by the Australian Bibliographical Centre was to act as a bibliographical information centre and clearing house. It did not compile bibliographies on particular subjects in response to individual requests, but directed enquirers to the sources of information they required.

This second function of the Australian Bibliographical Centre was taken over by the National Library of Australia as a result of the small amount of use which was made of the Centre's bibliographical services. The library also took over various bibliographical publications begun by the Centre, for example, Newspapers in Australian libraries: a union list. A second edition was published by the library in 1967.

#### 5.4.1.2.1 Knowledge of sources of bibliographical information

The Australian Bibliographical Centre was able to direct enquirers to sources of information by examining all material received by the National Library for bibliographies which were then indexed and used for answering enquiries.

#### 5.4.1.2.2 Guides to sources of specialized information

Various publications could be included under this heading some of which were compiled by the Australian Bibliographical Centre at the request of the Council on Bibliographical Services. One of the first major undertakings of the Council was a survey of the existing Australian bibliographical resources, activities and need in the various categories of bibliographical work. The information collected was subsequently published in an expanded form by the Australian Bibliographical Centre in 1960 as Australian bibliography and bibliographical services in 1960. This was followed in 1961 by Bibliographies and bibliographical services in Australian public libraries, published at the request of the Council. This is an annotated list of the principal bibliographies and bibliographical services available and most likely to be used in Australian public libraries.

The National Library has been issuing a Guide to collections of manuscripts relating to Australia, since 1964.

#### 5.4.1.2.3 Register of bibliographies compiled in the country

All those libraries and institutions compiling bibliographies in Australia were invited to send copies to the Australian Bibliographical Centre for indexing. The Centre thus had a record of bibliographies compiled in the country.

#### 5.4.1.2.4 Provision of bibliographical information

The Reference, Information and Research Branch (formerly Users' Service Section) of the National Library of Australia took over the work of the Australian Bibliographical Centre as bibliographical information centre and clearing house for bibliographical enquiries. The library provides information to all enquirers, private individuals as well as institutions.

The National Library of Australia is conducting an examination of the problems involved in a selective dissemination of information service (SDI) in the field of the social sciences. It is also implementing an ERIC research project.<sup>178</sup>

178. ERIC - Educational Resources Information Center of the United States Office for Education.

#### 5.4.1.3 Co-ordination of bibliographical activities

##### 5.4.1.3.1 Co-operation with National Bibliographical Commissions

The Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services has served as a co-ordination centre for bibliographical services in Australia since its establishment in 1956. Its functions are purely advisory. It plans and recommends to appropriate authorities the further development of Australian bibliographical services, library resources and library services. The Council's first concern after its establishment was with bibliographical resources and it conducted a survey which revealed gaps in the national bibliography and bibliographical services. It subsequently extended its activities to include library services and book resources. In December 1963, the Council, for example, appointed a National Book Resources Development Committee. The Council has, inter-alia, investigated standards for public libraries, microfilming of Australian newspapers, union catalogues, indexing services and communication between libraries.

A close relationship exists between the Council and the National Library of Australia which provides the Secretariat for the Council and undertakes projects or arranges for them to be undertaken by other bodies as recommended by the Council. A high degree of co-operation, therefore, exists between the Council and the library. John Balnaves emphasizes this when he states that the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services provides for the

library information about national services. As most of the Council's projects are conducted in appropriate sections of the library, the library provides for the Council a means of implementing its policies,<sup>179</sup> for example, the Council has asked the National Library to include selected holdings of public libraries in the national union catalogue with a view to improvement in bibliographical control of the national resources.

5.4.1.3.2 Establishment of standards and advising on bibliographical methodology

The National Library of Australia is expected to play a major rôle in the development of national information networks in Australia. It hopes to do this "by the adoption and promotion of international and national standards,<sup>180</sup> by providing links into and out of international systems, and developing systems which will enable other libraries to share the benefits of automation, both directly and indirectly."<sup>181</sup>

179. BALNAVES, J. The Australian National Library; a leader in co-operation. Library journal, 92(20): 4117, Nov. 15, 1967.

180. International Standard Book Numbers are being assigned to Australian books and International Standard Serial Numbers to Australian serials.

181. AUSTRALIA. National Library. 12th annual report, 1971-72. Canberra, the Library, 1972. p.24.

- 5.4.1.3.3 Maintaining contact with bodies engaged in bibliographical work, calling conferences of bibliographers and ensuring that bibliographical work is done by the most suitable agency

The National Library of Australia participates in these activities directly or indirectly through its close association with the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services. A seminar on central cataloguing services in Australia was held a few years ago at the instigation of the National Library which had been investigating the feasibility of in-source cataloguing of Australian books.

- 5.4.1.3.4 Proposals for the training of bibliographers and providing opportunities for practical training

Complete courses in librarianship and bibliography are offered at the universities and colleges in Australia. Training courses and seminars are occasionally arranged by the Australian Library Association and other institutions. Some libraries offer in-service training.

- 5.4.1.4 International co-operation in bibliography

The Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services maintains close contact with UNESCO and is represented on UNESCO's International Advisory Committee on Bibliography, Documentation and Terminology. The Council also nominates three members to the Australian UNESCO Committee for Libraries.

The National Library of Australia co-operates with other national libraries and contributes information to UNESCO's surveys on bibliographical activities. It also participates in the Shared Cataloging Program of the Library of Congress and acts as a national agency for MEDLARS,<sup>182</sup> thus co-operating in an international information network.

#### 5.4.2 The National Library of Canada

##### 5.4.2.1 Compilation and publication of bibliographies

###### 5.4.2.1.1 Current national bibliography

Canadiana, the current national bibliography was first published in 1951. It was designed to fit into the general pattern of world bibliography discussed at the UNESCO Bibliographical Conference held in Paris in 1950. Canadiana includes books published in Canada and received on legal deposit as well as books published in other countries by Canadian authors or relating to Canada. Canadiana is a bilingual publication in English and French.

Types of material included are Canadian pamphlets, Canadian theses microfilmed by the National Library, new Canadian periodicals, federal and provincial government publications, phonograph records, audio

182. MEDLARS - Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval Systems, operated by the National Library of Medicine of the United States of America.

tapes, sound recordings, and films and filmstrips (although the library does not collect films).

The index to Canadiana is being compiled by computer and the book section will be produced by computer and photocomposition in 1973. Other sections of Canadiana will be computerised in due course as well as bibliographical aids of a serials nature.

The National Librarian has appointed a Task Force on Cataloguing Standards and a Task Force on Canadian MARC in preparation for computerisation. It was decided to introduce a cataloguing subsystem which includes Canadiana and which will produce a general bibliographical record in machine-readable form which can be machine-processed to produce catalogue cards, selected subject bibliographies, control tapes for the publication of the national bibliography by photocomposition and tapes for a Canadian MARC distribution service.<sup>183,184</sup>

#### 5.4.2.1.2 Retrospective national bibliography

The period 1923-1950 was covered by Canadian catalogue of books published in Canada, about Canada, as well as those written by Canadians, compiled by the Toronto Public Library.

183. SYLVESTRE, G. The developing national library network of Canada. Library resources and technical services, 16(1): 56-57, Winter 1972.

184. Information contained in a reply to a letter written to the National Library of Canada.

A retrospective bibliography of all Canadian publications from 1867-1900 is in preparation, to be followed by one to cover the period 1900-1950.

#### 5.4.2.1.3 Selective national bibliography

The National Library has subsidized the publication of the following works :

A checklist of Canadian imprints, 1900-1925  
Catalogue d'ouvrages imprimés au Canada,  
compiled by Dorothea D. Tod and Audrey Cordingley.  
(Ottawa, 1950).

Publications of the governments of Nova Scotia,  
Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, 1758-1952,  
by Olga Bernice Bishop. (Ottawa, 1957).

Publications of the government of the Province  
of Canada, 1841-1867,  
by Olga Bernice Bishop. (Ottawa, 1963).

Each year the Bibliography Section of the Library compiles a list Books about Canada for inclusion in the Canada year book.

#### 5.4.2.1.4 Theses

The library compiles Canadian Theses/Theses canadiennes, which lists theses accepted by Canadian universities for graduate degrees. The arrangement is by subject, university and by author. The information is provided by university libraries and schools of graduate studies and the theses are not necessarily in the National Library. This publication started with the academic year 1960-61 and a retrospective list to cover the period 1947-

1960 is in preparation. This will complement the list covering the years 1921-1946 which was published by the Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Canadian Social Science Research Council.

The National Library of Canada also publishes Canadian theses on microfilm. This service is offered to Canadian universities which would like theses to be published in this form. Microfilms of Canadian theses are listed in Canadiana.

#### 5.4.2.1.5 Serials

The National Library of Canada publishes union catalogues of periodicals and newspapers. Union list of periodicals in social sciences and humanities currently received by Canadian libraries, was published in 1967.

Since 1956 the library has been reporting to the Library of Congress Canadian holdings of serials which started publication after Dec. 31, 1949, for inclusion in the Library of Congress union catalogue New serial titles.

Since 1951 the library has also paid for the printing of the annual cumulation of the Canadian periodical index, compiled and published by the Canadian Library Association.

Union list of non-Canadian newspapers held by Canadian libraries, was first published in 1968.

Union list of Canadian newspapers held by Canadian libraries, is in preparation and is expected to appear in 1974. It will include ceased as well as current newspapers.

The library has contracted with a university library to compile a computer-based Canadian serials directory and a bibliography of Canadian periodicals up to 1971.

#### 5.4.2.1.6 Subject bibliographies

Bibliographies are compiled by the National Library of Canada for government departments and agencies and other organizations and official bodies with no adequate library service and, in rare cases, for individuals. The library also subsidizes bibliographies, for example :

Stephen Leacock, a checklist and index of his writings  
compiled by Gerhard R. Lomer, (Ottawa, 1954).

#### 5.4.2.1.7 Co-operative bibliographical compilations

In 1970 the Bibliography Division of the library in co-operation with the Historical Division of the Museum, prepared a bibliography of historical books and articles with descriptive annotations for inclusion in the annual Revista de Historia de America.

The library is assisting with the compilation of a Canadian serials directory and bibliography.<sup>185</sup> It is also assisting with a guide to Canadian reference books and has accepted responsibility for its up-dating through supplements and/or future editions.

#### 5.4.2.2 National bibliographical information centre

The National Library of Canada concentrates on being the bibliographic information focus of the country and on building gradually toward excellence in its collections in the humanities, the arts and the social sciences while the National Science Library acts as a national bibliographic centre for medical sciences.<sup>186</sup>

In Canada the Bibliographic Centre preceded the establishment of the National Library. The Canadian Bibliographic Centre, established in 1950, initiated two projects which became two of the major functions of the library: the publication of a current national bibliography Canadiana and the compilation of the national union catalogue. When the National Library was established in 1953, it absorbed the Bibliographic Centre.

##### 5.4.2.2.1 Knowledge of sources of bibliographical information

The library is building up a collection of reference works with a strong emphasis on bibliographies.

185. Refer also par. 5.4.2.1.5., p.146.

186. SYLVESTRE, op. cit., p.51.

#### 5.4.2.2.2 Register of bibliographies published in the country

The library's Central Bibliography File contains unpublished bibliographies compiled primarily by federal government libraries in the humanities and social sciences and prevents duplication among government libraries. The file contained some 500 bibliographies in 1970/71. It is hoped to expand this to include contributions from university, and provincial and federal legislative libraries.

Canadian current bibliographies on special subjects can be traced in the work Bibliographie des bibliographies canadiennes/Bibliography of Canadian bibliographies, compiled by Raymond Tanghe. This work is prepared under the auspices of the Bibliographic Society of Canada and published by the University of Toronto Press. The first edition appeared in 1960 and it is regularly brought up to date.

#### 5.4.2.2.3 Provision of bibliographical information

The National Library of Canada provides bibliographical information to private individuals and institutions. It will compile bibliographies for individuals only in very rare cases, but patrons using the library may request assistance from the staff who will guide them in the preparation of bibliographies. Photocopies of bibliographies contained in the Central Bibliography File are provided free of charge to any person on request.

Early in 1972, the library initiated a selective dissemination of information service (SDI) to any interested individual or organisation in Canada for a small fee. At present it is based on MARC tapes, but eventually it should include computer tapes for Canadiana, Psychological abstracts and such others as become available. This service forms part of the CAN/SDI of which the information on science and technology is handled by the National Science Library. 187

#### 5.4.2.3 Co-ordination of bibliographical activities

##### 5.4.2.3.1 Co-operation with National Bibliographical Commissions

A spirit of co-operation exists between the National Library of Canada and the Canadian Library Association.

##### 5.4.2.3.2 Establishment of standards and advising on bibliographical methodology

##### 5.4.2.3.3 Maintaining contact with bodies engaged in bibliographical work, calling conferences ...

In 1971 the National Librarian called a national conference on cataloguing standards. The conference unanimously approved a recommendation that :

187. Information contained in a reply to a letter written to the National Library of Canada.

"... the National Library, in consultation with Canadian libraries and library organizations, establish priorities and initiate task forces to investigate such topics as: (1) The expected uses of a machine-readable national union catalogue or a national bibliographic data bank including methods of cooperative contributions to such a bank and possible charges for use. (2) The relevance of the specifications of British MARC and of classed searching through the Canadian bilingual situation and the use of L.C. classification. (3) The exact content of a Canadian MARC format."<sup>188</sup>

The National Library of Canada gives professional and technical advice to other libraries, especially government libraries.

The National Librarian in collaboration with the Chief Librarian of the National Science Library, made a study of the Federal government libraries in Ottawa. The object of the study was to determine which of these libraries should form an integral part of the national library system and ascertain to what extent their sources supplement or duplicate the collections of the National Library and the National Science Library.

The National Library Act of 1969 allocated to the National Librarian the responsibility for the co-ordination of all aspects of library services at the Federal government level. As a result, the National Librarian established a Canadian Government Libraries Committee to obtain advice on better co-ordination of government libraries.

188. SYLVESTRE, op. cit., p.58.

No single body in Canada has full authority for the development of a national library policy which would govern all types of libraries. The National Library acts as the principal co-ordinating agency with special responsibilities assigned to the National Research Council.<sup>189</sup>

#### 5.4.2.4 International co-operation in bibliography

Since 1953 the National Library of Canada has reported to UNESCO titles of translations published in Canada for inclusion in the Index translationum. It also supplies statistics on Canadian book production for inclusion in UNESCO statistical yearbook and United Nations statistical yearbook. It also compiles a report "National bibliographical services and related activities in Canada" for inclusion in UNESCO's bulletin Bibliography, documentation, terminology and its survey Bibliographical services throughout the world.

189. SYLVESTRE, op. cit., p.55.

#### 5.4.3 The Library of Congress

The following statement has been made in connection with the bibliographical function of the Library of Congress :

"In no field has the progress of the Library of Congress been more noteworthy than in its development as a bibliographical clearing house and a leader in the struggle for bibliographical control of information."<sup>190</sup>

This statement made twenty-two years ago is as true today as it was then. In fact, the bibliographical function of the Library of Congress has developed so enormously that it should be the subject of an independent study and not be confined to the few indications of the wide range it covers which will be given in this section.

The Librarian of Congress in describing the functions of his library was obviously confronted with the same problem as the writer, and confined his description of the bibliographical function of his library to the following main indicators :

"Publishes in book form a national bibliography, or a major contribution thereto, such as the Library's National Union Catalog.

Has an active bibliographic program and makes the results of it widely available through publication.

190. METCALF, K.D. The Library of Congress as a bibliographic centre. A.L.A. bulletin, 44(9): 352-354, Oct., 1950.

Engages in national and international co-operative bibliographic projects and works with other national libraries and international organizations to achieve standardization of rules in order to increase the accessibility of the materials of knowledge without regard to national boundaries and language barriers."191

#### 5.4.3.1 Compilation and publication of bibliographies

##### 5.4.3.1.1 Current national bibliography

The Library of Congress does not compile and publish a current national bibliography in the true sense of the word.

Its National Union catalog: a cumulative author list representing Library of Congress printed cards and titles reported by other American libraries, is, however, a major contribution to a national bibliography and, in some respects, more comprehensive than many national bibliographies.

The National union catalog is a central record of the major North American research libraries, with a considerable contribution by other national libraries through Shared Cataloging Program operated by the Library of Congress.

The United States of America is rich in commercially published catalogues and lists of the national book

191. UNITED STATES. Library of Congress. Annual report... 1962. Washington, the Library, 1963. p.97-98.

production which, together with the National union catalog, serve the same purpose as a current national bibliography.

The Copyright Office which forms one of the six departments of the Library of Congress, has been publishing book catalogues since 1891.

The Catalog of Copyright entries lists works in which copyright has been claimed and completed by deposit of copies.

This catalogue appears in thirteen parts and includes the following types of material: books and pamphlets, including serial publications and contributions to periodicals, dramas, maps and atlases, music, motion pictures and filmstrips, works of art, etc.

Official publications are provided for in the Monthly checklist of State publications.

#### 5.4.3.1.2 Retrospective national bibliography

The Library of Congress does not publish a retrospective national bibliography, but it is preparing for publication the National union catalog on cards of pre-1956 imprints. This work represents the library's biggest bibliographical undertaking and will be the largest book catalogue in history. It is estimated that the completed work will run into 600 volumes of about 700 pages each, recording the location of significant research books in some 700 North American libraries. It is also estimated that it will take fifty people ten years to complete

the editorial work.<sup>192</sup> The first five volumes were completed in 1968. The completed catalogue will be an invaluable source of information on retrospective titles.

#### 5.4.3.1.3 Theses

Since 1961 the Library of Congress has been assigning index entries to summaries of dissertations submitted by American graduate schools for publication in Dissertation abstracts. The summaries of the dissertations contained in the abstracts are classified under headings suggested by the Subject Cataloging Division of the library.

Dissertation abstracts is a monthly record of abstracts of doctoral dissertations in microform submitted to University Microforms Inc. Dissertations listed in the abstracts are available for purchase in microfilm or Xerox copy. A cumulative issue appears at the end of each year.

Dissertation abstracts was preceded by the library's List of American doctoral dissertations printed in 1912-1938, published in 26 volumes in 1913-1940.

192. MUMFORD, op. cit., p.297.

#### 5.4.3.1.4 Serials

The Union list of serials is compiled by the Library of Congress and published by H.W. Wilson Co. The third edition, published in 1966, contained entries and locations for 156,499 serial titles held by over 900 North American libraries.<sup>193</sup> It is kept up-to-date by the library's New serial titles which is published monthly.

Serials are also recorded in the Catalog of Copyright entries.

The United States of America has a wealth of commercially produced indexes to periodicals and periodical directories, for example, Bibliographic index, Engineering index, Ulrich's periodicals directory, etc., to mention only a few.

In 1964 the Library of Congress published a bibliography of periodicals Union lists of serials; a bibliography. In 1968 a new edition of Newspapers currently received and permanently retained in the Library of Congress, appeared.

#### 5.4.3.1.5 Bibliographies based on its own collections

The Library of Congress published American prints in the Library of Congress, in 1970.

193. MUMFORD, L.Q. Bibliographic developments at the Library of Congress. Libri 17(4): 301, 1967.

The library with its strong collections relating to many geographical areas of the world, publishes many bibliographies for area-study programs.

In the field of Hispanic studies, for example, it publishes a Hispanic Foundation Bibliographical Series.

The Library of Congress also devotes considerable attention to African studies. Two works published in this field in 1970, are : Ghana; a guide to official publications, 1872-1968; and Sub-Saharan Africa; a guide to serials.

It has been issuing a Monthly index of Russian accessions since 1948. Other geographical area bibliographies include : Rumania, a bibliographic guide and Bulgaria, a bibliographic guide.

#### 5.4.3.1.6 Co-operative bibliographical compilations

The Library of Congress is so active in all fields of co-operative ventures that it is impossible to explore joint undertakings within the scope of this study. Many of the library's co-operative undertakings are concerned with bibliographical control, for example, the National register of microform masters, compiled by the library, the American Library Association and the Association of Research Libraries.

#### 5.4.3.1.7 Other bibliographies

One of the Library of Congress' most valuable contributions to American bibliography is the National union catalog of manuscript collections. This work was first published in 1962 and covers material reported since 1959 by libraries, archives and other institutions throughout the United States. The ninth volume in the series was published in 1972 and covers the year 1970. The index to this volume has a total of 33,265 references: 11,900 personal names, 4,180 corporate bodies, and 17,185 subjects and places. The nine volumes of this work record the location of 27,312 discrete collections in 805 repositories, and the 1970 volume includes information from 47 repositories reporting for the first time.<sup>194</sup>

The library has also prepared a machine-readable Master manuscript record.

As its contribution to the observance of the bicentennial of the American Revolution, the Library of Congress is preparing a guide to the manuscripts and rare contemporary printed materials in the library related to the Revolution. A bibliography of periodical literature has already appeared: Periodical literature on the American Revolution; historical research and changing interpretations, 1895-1970; a selective bibliography. A catalogue of manuscripts and printed maps is in progress.

194. MUMFORD, L.Q. The Library of Congress - twice as fast. American libraries, 7(3): 771, Jul.-Aug., 1972.

In concluding this section, the Library of Congress' book catalogues should be mentioned:

The National union catalog and its Registers of additional locations which include Motion pictures and filmstrips, Music and phonorecords and the National register of microform masters;  
National union catalog of manuscript collections;  
Library of Congress catalog-Books: subjects; and  
New serial titles.

The library's publications are listed in Library of Congress publications in print, which appears annually.

#### 5.4.3.2 National bibliographical information centre

##### 5.4.3.2.1 Knowledge of sources of bibliographical information

The Library of Congress Planning Committee in 1946 prepared a report which was designed to serve as a charter for the library. The report stated, *inter alia*:

"In order to give the bibliographical service which is a special responsibility of the Library of Congress, it should continue to acquire bibliographical material of all kinds on as inclusive a basis as is practicable."<sup>195</sup>

195.METCALF, op. cit., p.354.

This recommendation has been carried out by the Library of Congress. Its vast resources in many subject fields and in different languages, as well as its own large number of publications, enables it to offer excellent reference and bibliographical services.

#### 5.4.3.2.2 Guides to sources of specialized information

The library's major work on the United States is its monumental Guide to the study of the United States of America: representative books reflecting the development of American life and thought. This was published in 1960 and a supplement covering the years 1956 to 1965 is in progress.

The library has published the following two guides: A directory of information sources in the United States: Physical sciences, biological sciences and engineering (1965) and another directory dealing with the physical sciences and engineering in 1971.

For a while the library published the World list of future international meetings which appeared bi-monthly. This valuable publication had to cease publication as a result of lack of financial support and a staff shortage in the International Organization Section of the library's General Reference and Bibliography Division which had been responsible for its compilation.<sup>196</sup>

196. UNITED STATES. Library of Congress. Annual report ... 1970. Washington, the Library, 1971. p.39.

#### 5.4.3.2.3 Provision of bibliographical information

The library's primary function is to serve Congress. The Legislative Reference Service was recently renamed the Congressional Research Service. Its functions are described in the report of the Librarian of Congress for the year 1971.<sup>197</sup>

The Legislative Reference Service was established in 1914 for the sole use of Congress. As a result of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, it was transformed into a major information and research centre for Congress. This service has been developing during the past twenty years and many innovations have been introduced to render it more efficient. In order to keep abreast of the information needs of Congress, a machine-readable data base is in use to provide selected current information to members of Congress in the form of personalized lists of bibliographic citations. Terminals connected to the library's computer system are also used to provide information for Congress.<sup>198</sup>

The Library of Congress also provides information direct in person, by telephone or correspondence, to private individuals and institutions.

197. UNITED STATES. Library of Congress. Annual report ... 1971. Washington, the Library, 1972. p.33.

198. MUMFORD, L.Q. The Library of Congress - twice as fast, American libraries, 7(3):771, Jul.-Aug., 1972.

In 1962 the library introduced a new type of service known as the National Referral Center for Science and Technology, financed by the National Science Foundation.

The Center provides a central source of reference information by directing an enquirer to the source best suited to his needs. "Information source" is described as "any facility, collection, or service maintained on a continuing basis that provides data or material of any kind in any form that may help satisfy information needs."<sup>199</sup>

The Center regards the compilation and publication of directories of information as one of its basic tasks. It has, for example, published directories of information resources in the United States on the social sciences; water; physical and biological sciences and engineering;<sup>200</sup> and the Federal Government.

Through the National Referral Center for Science and Technology, the Library of Congress also prepares - often on a contract basis - bibliographical aids such as :

Space science and technology: a bibliography on the state of the art, 1955 - 1961;

199. Id. Bibliographic developments at the Library of Congress. Libri, 17(4): 300, 1967.

200. Also referred to in par. 5.4.3.2.2, p.160.

A guide to the world's abstracting and indexing services in science and technology;

International scientific organizations; a guide to their library, documentation and information services.

#### 5.4.3.3 Co-ordination of bibliographical activities

##### 5.4.3.3.1 Co-operation with National Bibliographical Commissions

There is no National Bibliographical Commission in the United States of America, but legislation to establish a National Commission for Libraries and Information Science was submitted to Congress in 1969.<sup>201</sup> The Bibliographical Committee of the Reference Services Division of the American Library Association does a great deal of valuable work.

The Library of Congress has always maintained close contact with the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries and other professional bodies. In contrast to other national libraries, it aims at pursuing a course of close integration with the American library movement. It frames its policy decisions in accordance with national interests and seeks counsel of library colleagues.<sup>202</sup> A good example of this is the

201. AVICENNE, P., comp. Bibliographical services throughout the world, 1965-1969. Paris, UNESCO, 1972. p.282.

202. EVANS, L.H. The strength by which we live. A.L.A. bulletin, 44(9): 339, October, 1950.

national preservation program. As a result of the problem of preservation of material which the Library of Congress was experiencing in common with other libraries, it agreed to take the lead in a national program of preservation in co-operation with other libraries, library associations and technical agencies and associations. A five-year training program for staff was introduced in 1967 and a research program was inaugurated in 1971 with the aid of a grant from the Council on Library Resources.

5.4.3.3.2 Establishment of standards and advising on bibliographical methodology

5.4.3.3.3 Maintaining contact with bodies engaged in bibliographical work, calling conferences of bibliographers and ensuring that bibliographical work is done by the most suitable agency

Rather than adhere strictly to these two categories, 5.4.3.3.2 and 5.4.3.3.3, the writer will describe some of the Library of Congress' projects which contribute directly or indirectly to realising the co-ordination of bibliographical activities in the United States of America, and which have also contributed to international bibliographical activities.

In 1967 the directors of the three national libraries in the United States, namely, the Library of Congress, the National Agricultural Library and the National Library of Medicine, established a National Libraries Task Force on Automation to direct and co-ordinate

the development of their automation programmes.<sup>203</sup>

The National Libraries Task Force on Automation has achieved the following: standard format for transmission of machine-readable bibliographic data, an agreement on compatible descriptive cataloguing practices, an agreement on bibliographic codes, including a standard calendar code and a standard language code.<sup>204</sup>

Under the direction of the Library of Congress, the three national libraries have launched a Serials Data Program for the national bibliographical control of serials.

The aim of the Serials Data Program is to create a computer-based central store of data on all known serials which will result in a machine-readable inventory of serials. Such an inventory will be of great national value. The Library of Congress was asked to operate the program because of its large holdings of serials literature and experience in creating and distributing machine-readable data. The program was planned in four stages: preliminary design, reduction to practice, pilot running and planning for conversion, and conversion to and

203. UNITED STATES. Library of Congress. Annual report of the Librarian... 1968. Washington, the Library, 1969. p.3.

204. MUMFORD, L.Q. The Library of Congress - twice as fast. American libraries, 7(3): 772, Jul.-Aug., 1972.

implementation of the total program.<sup>205</sup>

The Library of Congress completed the first phase of the Serials Data Program and published a MARC format for serials. The National Serials Pilot Project was started in 1969, financed by the three national libraries, as a test-bed for continued investigation into problems of establishing automated control over serials literature.<sup>206,207</sup>

In 1966 the Library of Congress launched one of the most comprehensive co-operative programs ever attempted by a library, known as the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging (NPAC), in the United States and the Shared Cataloging Program abroad.

The Shared Cataloging Program is of national as well as world-wide significance, attracting the co-operation of libraries in the United States as well as libraries abroad. Through this Program, the Library of Congress shares its cataloguing information and acquires advance bibliographical information from other national libraries. This scheme enables the Library of Congress to provide catalogue cards for these materials within a few weeks. Apart from the value to other national libraries and bibliographical centres of having their books listed in the printed

205. Id. Bibliographic developments at the Library of Congress. Libri, 17(4): 301, 1967.

206, 207. UNITED STATES. Library of Congress. Annual report of the Librarian... 1970, p.7, 28, 1971, p.31.

National union catalog, the Shared Cataloging Program is a contribution to international bibliography.<sup>208</sup>

There can be no doubt about the Library of Congress' rôle in co-ordinating bibliographical activities on a national and international level, and its deep concern with bibliographical control.

Another project of the Library of Congress which deserves to be mentioned is the MARC tapes, which serve as an example of an automated system of centralized bibliographical control and promote the availability of national bibliographical data in machine-readable form from the country of origin.

A team of experts headed by Gilbert W. King and financed by the Council on Library Resources, Inc., studied the operations of the Library of Congress with a view to automation. Their findings were published in a report entitled Automation and the Library of Congress in 1964. The survey team concluded that automation of the library's central bibliographic record was technically and economically feasible and strongly recommended that the Library of Congress should establish a programme for automation which would ultimately incorporate large research libraries throughout the country in an automated library system.

208. MUMFORD, L.Q. Bibliographic developments at the Library of Congress. Libri, 17(4): 297, 1967.

The MARC (Machine Readable Catalog) Pilot Project was introduced in November 1966 with a weekly distribution of cataloguing data in machine-readable form to sixteen libraries in the United States. The original purpose of MARC was rather limited and produced poor imitations of the library's catalogue cards from the tape. The Library of Congress and participating libraries evaluated MARC which led to the creation of MARC II.

The object of the original MARC was to provide cataloguing data whereas the object of MARC II is to provide bibliographical descriptions on magnetic tape which could be re-formatted by the user for any purpose.

This then is briefly the history of the development of MARC by the Library of Congress.

The Library of Congress is also working on RECON (Retrospective Conversion) which will convert to the MARC format the English language monographs catalogued by the library. 209,210,211

209. MUMFORD, L.Q. Bibliographic developments at the Library of Congress. Libri, 17(4): 302-303, 1967.
210. Id. The Library of Congress - twice as fast. American libraries, 7(3): 770, Jul.-Aug., 1972.
211. SEMINAR on the U.K. Marc Project, University of Southampton, 1969. U.K. Marc Project: proceedings... ed. by A.E. Jeffreys and T.D. Wilson. Newcastle upon Tyne, Oriel press for the Cataloguing and Indexing Group of the Library Association, 1970. p.2.

5.4.3.3.4    Proposals for training of bibliographers  
and providing opportunities for practical  
training

The graduate curriculum for courses in librarianship in the United States of America which leads to a Master's degree in Library Science, includes bibliography.

5.4.3.4    International co-operation in bibliography

5.4.3.4.1    Exchange of information on unpublished  
bibliographies

Through its Shared Cataloging Project and its MARC tapes, the Library of Congress shares and exchanges bibliographical data with all types of libraries throughout the world. Libraries all over the world have benefitted and continue to benefit from the pioneering work done by the Library of Congress in the field of bibliography.

5.4.3.4.2    Publication of reports on bibliographical  
work in local and international journals

The Library of Congress publicizes its activities widely in its own country and abroad.

5.4.3.4.3    Providing UNESCO with lists of new  
periodicals

The Library of Congress co-operates with UNESCO in many ways. One of the best examples of this is the UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey. Under contract to UNESCO, the Library of Congress

spent three years (1947-1950) surveying major aspects of the problem of bibliographical control and published a report on its findings.<sup>212</sup>

The contents of the preceding pages serve as an indication of the bibliographical function of the Library of Congress. As the writer pointed out in the opening paragraphs to this section, the bibliographical function of the Library of Congress is a worthy subject for an independent study.

#### 5.4.4 The British Museum Library

The British Museum Library will become part of the British Library in about two years' time when the legislation establishing the British Library has been passed.<sup>213</sup>

This section will deal, firstly, with the bibliographical function of the British Museum Library, and, secondly, with the recommendations of the National Libraries Committee on bibliographical services.<sup>214</sup> The final paragraph of this section will deal with the British National Bibliography Limited which will form part of the British Library.

212. UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey. Bibliographical services: their present state and possibilities of improvement. Washington, the Library, 1950.

213. Refer Chapter Three, par. 3.4.4, p.68.

214. GREAT BRITAIN. National Libraries Committee. Report. London, H.M.S.O., 1969. (Cmnd. 4028) p.109-110.

#### 5.4.4.1 Compilation and publication of bibliographies

##### 5.4.4.1.1 Current national bibliography

The British Museum Library, like the Library of Congress, does not compile and publish a current national bibliography.

The British national bibliography made its first appearance in 1950. It is compiled and published by a non-profit making organisation known as the British National Bibliography Limited which is administered by a council on which the British Museum Library is represented. Until 1967 the British National Bibliography had its offices in the British Museum where the staff compiling the bibliography had free access to material received on legal deposit in the library.

The British national bibliography is a record of material published in Britain. This bibliography is being produced by computer and has been described as one of the best, fastest and most comprehensive national bibliographies.<sup>215</sup> It does not include maps and official publications. Her Majesty's Stationery Office publishes a list Official publications which is a record of British government publications. The British National Bibliography also provides a printed catalogue card service.

215. LINE, M.B. The developing national library network in Great Britain. Library resources and technical services, 16(1): 70, Winter 1972.

#### 5.4.4.1.2 Retrospective national bibliography

Britain has no retrospective bibliography. The General catalogue of printed books in the British Museum does to a large extent serve as a substitute for a retrospective national bibliography and is an important tool for scholars.

#### 5.4.4.1.3 Selective national bibliography

The British National Bibliography also publishes the British catalogue of music which is a record of music scores and works published on music in Britain.

#### 5.4.4.1.4 Theses

The Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux (Aslib) publishes an annual Index to theses accepted for higher degrees in the universities of Great Britain and Ireland.

#### 5.4.4.1.5 Serials

The British Museum Library has published specialized works on serials, for example, Handlist of music in some British and foreign periodicals between 1787 and 1848 and now in the British Museum.

The British union catalogue of periodicals gives locations for British library holdings of periodicals which first appeared or changed title after 1959. It is based on information supplied by libraries and is kept up to date by quarterly supplements entitled New periodical titles.

The work of the Council of the British Union Catalogue of Periodicals, formerly housed in the British Museum, was taken over by the National Central Library in 1962.

Several periodical indexes are issued under the auspices of the Library Association, for example, the British education index.

#### 5.4.4.1.6 Bibliographies based on its own collections

Under this heading are included catalogues of manuscripts, incunabula, etc. In this respect the British Museum Library has made an enormous contribution to bibliography. It has published catalogues on maps, manuscripts, early printed books, etc., too numerous to list here. Its main contribution to bibliography is its catalogues, for example, the General catalogue of printed books, regarded as one of the greatest bibliographical tools in existence.

#### 5.4.4.2 National bibliographical information centre

##### 5.4.4.2.1 Knowledge of sources of bibliographical information

The primary function of the British Museum Library is "to provide a national reference collection of books, contemporary and antique, British and foreign."<sup>216</sup>

The library has by far the largest collection of British publications of all periods and its range of foreign books and periodicals is exceptionally extensive by any standards.<sup>217</sup> The bibliographical services offered by the British Museum Library have, however, traditionally centered on its General catalogue of printed books.<sup>218</sup>

##### 5.4.4.2.2 Guides to sources of specialized information

##### 5.4.4.2.3 Register of bibliographies compiled in the country

These two categories are not applicable to the British Museum Library.

216, 217. GREAT BRITAIN. National Libraries Committee. Report. London, H.M.S.O., 1969. (Cmd. 4028). p. 9-10.

218. CHRISTOPHERS, R.A. Retrospective bibliographical services in the social sciences. ASLIB proceedings, 24(8): 470, Aug., 1972.

#### 5.4.4.2.4 Provision of bibliographical information

The British Museum Library has provided assistance to research workers, scholars, librarians and institutions for many years. It is regarded as an international centre of learning and has been described as being "simultaneously a library of last resort and a library of first instance."<sup>219</sup> The bibliographical information service provided by the British Museum Library is of exceptionally high standard. It receives enquiries by telephone, by correspondence and from users, by the thousands annually.

#### 5.4.4.3 Co-ordination of bibliographical activities

#### 5.4.4.4 International co-operation in bibliography

These two categories are not, strictly speaking, applicable to the British Museum Library. The library, does, however, co-operate with other national libraries all over the world in the exchange of bibliographical information.

The writer will deviate here from the checklist to deal with the general question of co-ordination of bibliographical activities in Britain, the recommendations of the National Libraries Committee for a national bibliographical service and the activities of the British National Bibliography Limited

219. GREAT BRITAIN. National Libraries Committee.  
Report. p.10.

which performs many of the important bibliographical activities normally associated with a national library.

The Library Association has emphasized the absence of a nationally co-ordinated programme of bibliographical activity and the lack of co-ordination between institutions with related interests. It has advocated the establishment of a National Bibliographical Council and a National Bibliographical Centre.<sup>220</sup>

The Library Association put forward its recommendations in a Memorandum of Evidence to the National Libraries Committee. It regarded the British Museum Library as the National Reference Library. The national bibliographical and information service of the National Reference Library should include the following functions. It should :

- "(a) Co-ordinate bibliographical services (including abstracting and indexing services).
- (b) Compile and publish detailed guides to sources of information.
- (c) Publish bibliographical guides of all kinds and stimulate and co-ordinate their publication by other agencies.
- (d) Control the development of national bibliographies.

220. LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. Access to information: a national bibliographical service. London, the Association, 1965. (3p).

- (e) Establish and maintain union catalogues.
- (f) Provide an information service, and machinery for transmitting requests from libraries and institutions in appropriate cases to suitable centres of information.
- (g) Sponsor and co-ordinate regional and specialized centres of information (which would support the national centre and lessen demands upon it).
- (h) Carry out library and bibliographical research.
- (i) Act as a clearing house for information in library and bibliographical research and techniques, and deal with inter-national bibliographical enquiries."<sup>221</sup>

Fourteen years ago the Director of the British Museum, commenting on the inadequacy of bibliographical services in Britain, advocated that the national library should co-ordinate such services.<sup>222</sup>

After studying the existing national library scene, the National Libraries Committee concluded that there was very little co-ordination of effort in the compilation of bibliographical aids - not even between the national libraries. The Committee

221. The National Library Service. Memorandum of Evidence to the National Libraries Committee... Library Association record, 70(6): 154,156, June 1968.

222. FRANCIS, F.C. The contribution of the national library to the modern outlook in library services. ASLIB proceedings, 10(11): 275, Nov., 1958.

recommended the establishment of a National Bibliographic Service which will combine, co-ordinate and develop the bibliographical activities of the British Museum Library, the National Central Library, the National Lending Library for Science and Technology, and the British National Bibliography Limited.

The main functions of a National Bibliographic Service would be "the compilation and publication of an index of all British publications, the production of catalogue entries, the answering of bibliographic enquiries, and the co-ordinating and bibliographic research functions which are defined below. The service should also continue and develop the B.N.B.'s catalogue card service, and further the B.N.B.'s contributions to international bibliographic development."<sup>223</sup>

The Committee also recommended that the feasibility of applying automatic data processing to the operations and services of the national libraries be studied.

The study commenced in January 1970 under the leadership of Maurice Line and the results of the study were published in 1972. A summary of this

223. GREAT BRITAIN. National Libraries Committee. Report. London, H.M.S.O., 1969. (Cmnd. 4028). p. xiv-xv, 109-110.

report deals with the application of automatic data processing under the following headings :

"Central ADP Team;

Co-ordination of cataloguing practices between the British Museum Library, Science Reference Library, and Bibliographic Services Unit.<sup>224</sup>

Use of ADP for all BML/SRL/BSU cataloguing.

Creation in BML/SRL of a placing and streaming unit and use of a master administrative record.

British Library serials file.

Patterns of output of bibliographic lists.

Records of books absent from shelves of BML.

Interlending services in the U.K.

Extension of central lending stock.

Rationalization and centralization of union catalogues.

Machine-readable numerical union catalogue for current U.K. and U.S. monographs.

Copying of articles in serials held by BML/SRL.

Lending non-copyright material from BML/SRL.

Implementation.

Computer requirements."<sup>225</sup>

224. A Bibliographic Services Unit of the British Library is hypothesized.

225. GREAT BRITAIN. The scope for automatic data processing in the British Library. London, H.M.S.O., 1972.

Very large sums of money will be required to implement the recommendations of this report.

Line makes the following interesting observation in an article :

"The possibilities of a computerized national bibliographic service include not only printed bibliographies such as BNB, but machine records which can be acquired by individual libraries, individual hard copy records... selective bibliographies subject catalogs covering major subject areas..."<sup>226</sup>

#### 5.4.4.5 The British National Bibliography Limited

The functions of the British National Bibliography Limited at the time of its registration in 1949 were defined as :

"to carry on the business of compiling, editing and publishing in appropriate bibliographic form lists of books, pamphlets and recorded material of whatever nature published in Great Britain, the Dominions and Colonies and/or foreign countries, together with such annotations or further information as may be desirable for the use of librarians, bibliographers and others."<sup>227</sup>

226. LINE, op. cit., p.70.

227. GREAT BRITAIN. National Libraries Committee. Report. London, H.M.S.O., 1969. (Cmnd. 4028). p.45.

The bibliographical services provided by the British National Bibliography Limited in Britain are of the greatest importance and cover a wide range of activities which include :

Compilation and publication of the British national bibliography and the British catalogue of music; the printed catalogue card service; participation in the Shared Cataloging Program of the Library of Congress, the development of the BNB/MARC format,<sup>228</sup> and its most recent major achievement Books in English.

Books in English claims to be the most complete current English language bibliography ever produced. It is a bibliography on microfiche produced by computer from the Library of Congress and British national bibliography magnetic tapes. It contains roughly 1800 titles per week in the English language catalogued by the Library of Congress and the British National Bibliography Limited.<sup>229</sup>

The British National Bibliography Limited is making a major contribution to British national bibliographical services as well as international bibliography. Its importance was acknowledged by the National Libraries Committee when it recommended

228. The development of the MARC format by the British National Bibliography Limited is described in Seminar on the UK MARC Project, University of Southampton, 1969. Proceedings... Newcastle upon Tyne, Oriel press..., 1970. p.98-103.

229. Nova 70. Books in English. South African libraries, 39(4): 291-292, Jan., 1972.

that the British National Bibliography Limited should be part of the British Library.

The White Paper on the British Library determined the principal functions of the British National Bibliography Limited in the new national library structure which it described as :

"providing central cataloguing and other bibliographical services related not only to the needs of the central libraries but to those of libraries and information centres throughout the country and in close co-operation with central libraries overseas."<sup>230,231</sup>

230. From the British Museum to the British Library. Times literary supplement, (3594): 54, 15 Jan., 1971.

231. HUMPHREYS, K.W. The British Library. Journal of librarianship, 4(1): 11, Jan., 1972.

#### 5.4.5 The National Library of New Zealand

The National Library of New Zealand, created by the National Library Act, 1965, came into existence on 1 April 1966. The Act created a National Library composed of three state libraries in Wellington which had been performing national library functions.

Under the Act the identity of the collections and the character of the services of the libraries forming the National Library was to be preserved. The three libraries constituting the National Library are :

The General Assembly Library which provides services to Parliament and has enjoyed legal deposit privileges since 1903. The General Assembly Library has a comprehensive collection of New Zealand material, including the country's main holdings of official publications.

The Alexander Turnbull Library was a bequest to the nation by Alexander Horsburgh Turnbull who died in 1918. Turnbull saw his library as the nucleus of a national collection. The Alexander Turnbull Library serves as a research and reference library.

The National Library Service, composed of the following divisions :

The County Library Service which is concerned with state support for the public library system of the country and the provision of services in areas not covered by local authorities.

The School Library Service which undertakes the distribution and circulation to schools of books for children at all levels.

The New Zealand Library School which offers a post-graduate course in professional library training.  
The National Library Centre which had operated the national inter-library loan service and offered bibliographical services.

Prior to the establishment of the National Library in 1966, the National Library Centre, in co-operation with the Library Resources Committee of the New Zealand Library Association, had assumed responsibility for bibliographical work which would normally have been the function of the national library.

The National Library Act made provision for certain statutory positions, including a Deputy National Librarian who, among other duties, was to assume responsibility for the tasks performed by the National Library Centre. The Act also stipulated that the National Library should assume responsibility for the publications issued by the National Library Centre.

The functions of the former National Library Centre had included : the maintenance of the national union catalogue of monographs and the Union list of serials in New Zealand libraries; and the compilation and publication of the Current national bibliography and the retrospective National bibliography.

This brief outline of the composition of the National Library of New Zealand is fundamental to an understanding of the functions of the library.

#### 5.4.5.1      Compilation and publication of bibliographies

##### 5.4.5.1.1      Current national bibliography

The National Library Centre had compiled and published the Current national bibliography which was cumulated annually as Part II of the Index to New Zealand periodicals and current national bibliography, and which had appeared since 1940. The National Library Centre had also provided a central cataloguing service for New Zealand books and pamphlets.

The General Assembly Library started publishing in 1934 a bulletin entitled General Assembly's Copyright publications, which was an important contribution towards a current national bibliography. It listed books, pamphlets, official publications, maps, new and ceased publications. The Current national bibliography had included only government publications which constituted separate monographs.

The National Library started publishing the current national bibliography, New Zealand national bibliography, 1966 - (Publication started in 1967 and the volume for 1966 followed later). New Zealand national bibliography, published monthly with annual cumulations, superseded the General Assembly Library's monthly Copyright publications and the annual Copyright publications, and partially

superseded the annual Index to New Zealand periodicals and current national bibliography.

#### 5.4.5.1.2 Retrospective national bibliography

The National Library Centre had published the retrospective national bibliography for the period 1890-1960.

#### 5.4.5.1.3 Theses

The Union list of theses of the universities of New Zealand is published by the New Zealand Library Association.

#### 5.4.5.1.4 Serials

The National Library Centre used to publish the Union list of serials in New Zealand libraries. This work is continued by the National Library which also took over the publication of the Index to New Zealand periodicals.

The General Assembly Library continues to publish Copyright periodicals currently received and Newspapers currently received.

#### 5.4.5.1.5 Bibliographies of bibliographies

The Bibliography of New Zealand bibliographies is published by the New Zealand Library Association.

#### 5.4.5.2 National bibliographical information centre

The former National Library Centre acted as a national bibliographical centre. This task was taken over by the National Library of New Zealand. The General Assembly Library provides this kind of service to Parliament.

##### 5.4.5.2.1 Knowledge of sources of bibliographical information

The National Library of New Zealand has been making an effort to build up a collection of bibliographies. It has available bibliographies of such countries as Iran, Madagascar, Iceland, Chile, Finland, and works such as French books in print, Italian books in print, etc.<sup>232</sup>

##### 5.4.5.2.2 Guides to sources of specialized information

##### 5.4.5.2.3 Register of bibliographies compiled in the country

The New Zealand Library Association undertakes the publication of certain kinds of information. As the compiler and publisher of the Bibliography of New Zealand bibliographies it must obviously maintain some kind of record of bibliographies compiled in New Zealand.

232. OLSSON, A.L. Developing a selection policy for the National Library. New Zealand libraries, 34(2): 53, April 1971.

#### 5.4.5.2.4 Provision of bibliographical information

The National Library of New Zealand is working towards this service, and is building up its collection of bibliographies. It provides bibliographical information to individuals and libraries. As it took over the national union catalogue of monographs and serials from the National Library Centre, it is able to provide bibliographical information from these sources.

#### 5.4.5.3 Co-ordination of bibliographical activities

##### 5.4.5.3.1 Co-operation with National Bibliographical Commissions

Prior to 1967 the Library Resources Committee of the New Zealand Library Association was the only body acting as a national bibliographical commission in New Zealand. The Bibliographical Sub-Committee of the Library Resources Committee co-ordinated the bibliographical activities of New Zealand and for a period of twenty-five years it formulated policy on major national bibliographical projects.

In 1967 the Trustees of the National Library established a Committee on New Zealand Library Resources and Bibliographical Services. This Committee composed entirely of professional librarians, also acts as a national bibliographical commission and advises the Trustees of the National Library on the bibliographical services which the library should perform.

The Trustees of the National Library of New Zealand have also established an Acquisitions Committee. The Committee supervises the overall acquisitions policy of the National Library and co-ordinates the selection programme of each part of the library. The Acquisitions Committee co-operates with the Committee on New Zealand Library Resources and Bibliographical Services and defines the selection policies of the National Library in terms of national needs and the acquisition policies of other libraries.

The National Library of New Zealand aims at providing the machinery for co-operation and co-ordination in its country through the abovementioned committees.<sup>233</sup>

5.4.5.3.2      Establishment of standards and advising on bibliographical methodology

5.4.5.3.3      Maintaining contact with bodies engaged in bibliographical work, calling conferences of bibliographers and ensuring that bibliographical work is done by the most suitable agency

The Committee on New Zealand Library Resources and Bibliographical Services in its capacity as national bibliographical commission, will concern itself directly or indirectly with such matters.

233. ALLEY, G.T. The national library in the social process. New Zealand libraries, 30(5): 146, Oct., 1967.

5.4.5.3.4    Proposals for the training of bibliographers and providing opportunities for practical training

Training in bibliography is included in the fulltime diploma course in librarianship offered by the New Zealand Library School.

5.4.5.4    International co-operation in bibliography

5.4.5.4.1    Exchange of information on unpublished bibliographies

The National Library of New Zealand has established exchange programmes for the procurement of national bibliographies with national libraries abroad.

Co-operation should extend beyond national frontiers and the national library should act as a clearing house for bibliographical enquiries to other countries.<sup>234</sup>

5.4.5.4.2    Publication of reports on bibliographical work in local and international journals

The staff employed by the National Library of New Zealand contribute articles to journals. In 1971 a National Library Symposium was held and four of the papers delivered were published in New Zealand libraries. Three of the papers were by librarians employed in the National Library: H. Macaskill, National Librarian, A.L. Olsson, Chief Librarian,

<sup>234</sup>. Ibid., p.147.

Central Division, National Library and A.G. Bagnall,  
Chief Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library.<sup>235</sup>

5.4.5.4.3 Providing UNESCO with lists of new  
periodicals

The National Library of New Zealand does contribute information to UNESCO's surveys on bibliographical services. G.T. Alley who was National Librarian represented his library at UNESCO's Regional Seminar on the Development of National Libraries in Asia and the Pacific Area in February 1964.

In conclusion a brief note on the National Library of New Zealand's computerisation plans. In April 1969 the Bibliographical Work Study Group was set up within the National Library to consider problems related to the production of the Union list of serials in New Zealand libraries, the Index to New Zealand periodicals and the New Zealand national bibliography. As a result of the findings of the Group, it was decided to study the feasibility of automating the procedures involved in producing the abovementioned three works. It was also decided to investigate the possible use of the MARC service. As the British National Bibliography and the Library of Congress MARC tapes constitute the bulk of the world output of works in the English language, the National Library

235. National Library Symposium: Conference papers.  
New Zealand libraries, 34(2): 48-58, April  
1971.

proposed using the tapes for the selection, ordering and cataloguing purposes, and to act as the central national agency dispensing on demand, data from the tapes concerning batches of records or even individual records.<sup>236</sup>

The National Library of New Zealand is still in the process of developing its bibliographical function, but a good start has been made in this direction.

#### 5.4.6. Summary

No two national libraries interpret their bibliographical function in the same way. The examples given in the preceding sections illustrate this statement. The following is a brief summary of points of similarity and difference between the five national libraries used as examples.

All five these national libraries, namely, the National Library of Australia, the National Library of Canada, the Library of Congress, the British Museum Library and the National Library of New Zealand, are at different stages of development.

The National Library of Canada, for instance, was planned as a national library and has been steadily developing over the past nineteen years along the lines of the ideal national library.

236. MACLEAN, H. DeS. C. Automation in the National Library. New Zealand libraries, 34(2): 54-55, April 1971.

The Library of Congress and the British Museum Library represent the old, well-established national libraries. The Library of Congress has been experimenting with automation to render it more efficient and has taken the lead in this field. The British Museum Library is on the threshold of a whole new development which will change its character considerably.

The National Library of Australia started its life as a Parliamentary Library and remained almost exclusively the Library of Parliament for the first twenty-five years of its existence.

The National Library of New Zealand is the youngest of the five, although it was formed from three existing libraries, and is still shaping itself as a national library. It is faced with the difficult task of creating a national library from three administratively separate units.

All five these libraries have introduced, or are planning to introduce, automation to their procedures and services. Generally speaking the computerisation of the current national bibliography seems to be a good starting point.

So much then for the varying degrees of development of these five national libraries.

How do these five national libraries differ in the performance of their bibliographical function?

#### 5.4.6.1 Compilation and publication of bibliographies

All five these national libraries compile and publish bibliographies, some more than others. The most important bibliography is, however, the current national bibliography. The current complete national bibliography has been described as central to all bibliographical activity.<sup>237</sup>

The National Library of Australia has been publishing the Australian national bibliography since 1961.

The National Library of Canada has been responsible for Canadiana (started in 1951) since its establishment in 1953 and regards the publication of Canadiana as one of its main functions.

The Library of Congress does not compile and publish a current national bibliography, although the National union catalog is an excellent substitute for one.

The National Library of New Zealand started publishing New Zealand national bibliography in 1967, but also covering the year 1966.

237. LINDER, op. cit., p.18.

An unusual situation exists in Britain where an independent body, the British National Bibliography Limited has compiled and published the current national bibliography since its inception in 1950. The British National Bibliography Limited performs important national bibliographical work and will form part of the proposed British Library.

#### 5.4.6.2 National bibliographical information centre

In Australia this task was performed by the Australian Bibliographical Centre which, administratively, formed part of the National Library. As a result of the small amount of use made of its services, the National Library of Australia took over the function of acting as a national bibliographical information centre and clearing house for bibliographical enquiries.

In Canada the Bibliographic Centre preceded the establishment of the National Library. When the National Library of Canada was established in 1953, it absorbed the Bibliographic Centre.

The Library of Congress acts as a national bibliographical information centre and also offers a specialized information service, namely, the National Referral Center for Science and Technology.

A parallel exists between Canada and New Zealand. When the National Library of New Zealand was established in 1966, it took over the functions of the National Library Centre.

The British Museum Library offers a reference and bibliographical information service. One of the objectives of the proposed British Library will be to offer a national bibliographical service.

#### 5.4.6.3 Co-ordination of bibliographical activities

The Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services (AACOBS) co-ordinates bibliographical activities in Australia.

The National Library of Canada plays a leading rôle in co-ordination of bibliographical activities in Canada.

The Library of Congress is the most active of national libraries in the field of co-ordination.

The Trustees of the National Library of New Zealand established a Committee on New Zealand Library Resources and Bibliographical Services in 1967 to, inter-alia, co-ordinate bibliographical services in New Zealand.

An urgent need exists in Britain for a nationally co-ordinated programme of bibliographical activity. This will probably be achieved by the British Library.

Two points listed under this heading in the checklist<sup>238</sup> should be referred to here. The first is the question of the national library co-operating with a national bibliographical commission.

238. Refer p.130.

In four out of the five countries under consideration, such commissions do not exist, but in each case the national library co-operates with the equivalent of such a commission, for example, the Library of Congress co-operates with the American Library Association and the Association of Research Libraries, and other professional bodies. In New Zealand the Committee on New Zealand Library Resources and Bibliographical Services acts as a national bibliographical commission in co-operation with the Library Resources Committee of the New Zealand Library Association.

The second point refers to the national library's participation in the training of bibliographers.

In all five the countries under consideration training in bibliography is included in the courses for professional librarians. In Britain the Standing Conference on National and University Libraries (SCONUL) organizes regular courses in bibliography.

#### 5.4.6.4 International co-operation in bibliography

This is the most difficult category to assess in<sup>239</sup> terms of the suggestions set out in the checklist. Most of the national libraries discussed participate in some kind of international co-operation, for example, the Shared Cataloging Program operated by the Library of Congress. Most of the national

239. Refer p.130.

libraries also seem to have informal arrangements with national libraries abroad for the exchange of bibliographical information. The most active library in the field of international co-operation is undoubtedly the Library of Congress.

It is clear from the foregoing that national libraries have a definite responsibility in the field of bibliography; that they perform their bibliographical function to a greater or lesser degree; that the national library is a dominant factor in bibliographical coverage in its own country and should contribute to international bibliography; and that one central authority in a country should exercise general control in bibliographical matters.

## 6. THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL FUNCTION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Chapters Two and Three defined the national library and stated its functions. In describing national library functions, it was established that the national library has a bibliographical function to perform.

Chapter Four introduced the national library in South Africa and dealt with the functions of the South African Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria. The declared functions of these two institutions were compared with those national library functions proposed by the Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa,<sup>240</sup> under the headings of Fundamental or essential functions, Desirable functions and functions which are not necessary functions of a national library. This chapter concluded that the national library in South Africa has a definite responsibility in the field of bibliography.

Chapter Five described the bibliographical function of the national library in terms of the Recommendations and Conclusions of the Symposium on

240. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa. South African libraries, 30(3): 81-117, Jan., 1963.

National Libraries in Europe in 1958.<sup>241</sup> A checklist, based on these recommendations, was introduced and used for the analysis of the bibliographical function of a few selected national libraries abroad.

This chapter established that the national library is a dominant factor in a plan for national bibliographical coverage and should also co-operate in international bibliography; that it should co-ordinate bibliographical activities in its own country, and that one central authority in a country should exercise general control in bibliographical matters.

Chapter Six will deal with the bibliographical function of the national library in South Africa. The problem investigated is the interpretation and performance by the national library in South Africa of its bibliographical function evaluated in terms of the bibliographical function of national libraries generally. Bibliographical work completed and in progress will be analyzed according to the checklist introduced in Chapter Five. Reference will be made to bibliographical work undertaken by other institutions which forms an important part of the national bibliographical equipment.

241. NATIONAL libraries: their problems and prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 8-27 Sept., 1958. Paris, UNESCO, 1960. (UNESCO manuals for libraries, 11). p.113-114.

## 6.1 The bibliographical function of the South African Library, Cape Town

The South African Public Library, as it was formerly known, represented the early beginnings of the Reference and Bibliographical Centre. Today its aim is to act as the national reference library of South Africa in co-operation with the State Library, Pretoria.

After the establishment of the Cape Town City Library Service the South African Library could start concentrating on its national library functions. In reformulating library objectives and policies in 1955 the Trustees gave special attention to "the effective discharge of the Library's obligations under the Copyright Act as amended and the publication of lists and bibliographies based on the Copyright and Africana collections..."<sup>242</sup> The official statement of functions also included:

"To act as a national bibliographical centre, involving, among others, the following activities:

- (a) the provision and publication of information of bibliographical significance relating to Southern Africa, for instance, through the medium of the Quarterly Bulletin of the South African Library, the Grey bibliographies and other means

242. SOUTH AFRICAN Public Library. Report of the Trustees... 1 Jan., 1954 - 31 Dec., 1955. Cape Town, the Library, 1956. p.2.

- (b) the maintenance of depository libraries of international significance, such as those of the United Nations Organization and UNESCO, acting as a link with UNESCO and other bodies concerned with the promotion of library co-operation on the widest possible basis
- (c) the encouragement of co-operation between all libraries in Southern Africa and the provision of facilities for the exchange of books between libraries."<sup>243</sup>

The bibliographical function of the South African Library has remained substantially the same. It no longer publishes a list of its Copyright acquisitions, but assists in the compilation of the South African national bibliography by sending the State Library details of its acquisitions of South African interest which it purchases. This is in keeping with the recommendation of the Booysen Committee that the national libraries should publish only one list based on Copyright material.<sup>244</sup> The South African Library still publishes its Grey bibliographies, bibliographical articles in the Quarterly bulletin and the Mendelssohn Revision Project publishes its Bulletin.

- 243. FRIIS, T. The planning of library material for use from the organizational point of view. Part II. South African libraries, 27(4): 116, April 1960.
- 244. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staats-ondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1962. Deel 1 (Hoofverslag) par. 13.12.1., p.45.

In a recent statement of the functions of the Library the Trustees list the acquisition and preservation of various categories of material, for example, Copyright and ~~Africana~~, special material not available elsewhere in South Africa, books in foreign languages, etc., describing the bibliographical function as :

"the provision of information and advice to other institutions and individuals;

bibliographical research in connection with the abovementioned in co-operation with other libraries and the publication of the results thereof;"<sup>245</sup>

The bibliographical function of the South African Library will be analyzed in the following sections<sup>246</sup> according to the checklist designed for this purpose.

The checklist is based on four basic approaches to the bibliographical function :

The compilation and publication of bibliographies.

The national library as a national bibliographical information centre.

The rôle of the national library in the co-ordination of the bibliographical activities of a country.

International co-operation in the field of bibliography.

245. DE JAGER, P.J. Wat die nasionale biblioteke vir openbare biblioteke kan doen. In Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging 25ste jaarlikse konferensie, Oos-Londen, 1970. Referate. Potchefstroom, die Vereniging, 1970.p.67. Free translation from the Afrikaans.

246. Refer Chapter Five, p.129-130.

## 6.1.1 Compilation and publication of bibliographies

### 6.1.1.1 Current national bibliography

In 1946 the South African Library started publishing lists of accessions based on material received on legal deposit in its Quarterly bulletin. These lists were in the form of a classified bibliography. As from September 1958 to December 1969 they appeared in a separate publication entitled Africana nova which was a classified bibliography of material currently published in and about South Africa. Africana nova also included lists of new official publications as from the March 1962 issue. Africana nova ceased publication with the issue for December 1969.

### 6.1.1.2 Retrospective national bibliography

In 1960 a Mendelssohn Revision Project was launched at the South African Library, financed by the National Council for Social Research (now the Human Sciences Research Council) with the Director of the Library as editor-in-chief.

The main source for South African retrospective national bibliography for many years was Sidney Mendelssohn's South African bibliography, published in 1910, with 1909 as the terminal date for entries. As early as 1943 the South African Library Association advocated the need for a thoroughly

revised and greatly supplemented Mendelssohn.<sup>247</sup>

The aim of the revision is to include items published up to 1909 and omitted by Mendelssohn, plus corrections to his material where the error is significant, and material published between 1909 and 1925. Up to the end of 1970, 35,000 new or variant items had been recorded (the original bibliography contains 7,000 entries). The revision is limited in scope to items published South of the Limpopo or dealing with that area. The former Protectorates, South West Africa and the African islands, for example, St. Helena, Ascension, Tristan d'Acunha, Mauritius and Madagascar are included - the latter two up to 1850 only. Types of publications omitted are, for example, newspapers, periodicals, maps, printed music, manuscripts, pictures, government publications after 1854, and books in the vernacular.

This revised bibliography will be completed in 1973. It will take the form of a union catalogue, giving the location of copies found in various libraries inspected. The symbols used in the union catalogue of periodicals Periodicals in South African libraries, will be used for the names of libraries in the bibliography.<sup>248</sup>

247. Bibliographical desiderata for South Africa. South African libraries, 11(2): 39, Oct., 1943.

248. SMIT, D.E. The Mendelssohn Revision Project. South African libraries, 37(5): 256-259, April 1970.

An important bibliography for the period before 1952 which deserves to be mentioned here is South Africa in print. This excellent select list of Africana was issued in conjunction with a national exhibition to mark the van Riebeeck tercentenary and was based on an exhibition of books, atlases and maps held in the South African Library.<sup>249</sup>

#### 6.1.1.3 Selective national bibliography

The feasibility of publishing a South African Book prices current for Africana was considered, but the South African Library does not have the staff to undertake it and no support was offered by the book-sellers. The possibility of publishing such a list was referred to the South African Library by the Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association.<sup>250</sup>

#### 6.1.1.4 Theses

The South African Library is not responsible for the union catalogue of South African theses.

249. VAN RIEBEECK FESTIVAL. Book Exhibition Committee. South Africa in print... catalogue of an exhibition of books, atlases and maps held in the South African Library, Cape Town.. Cape Town, the Committee, 1952. xii, 187p.
250. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report... 1965-1966. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1966, p.21.

#### 6.1.1.5 Serials

Several bibliographies of serial publications have been published in the Grey bibliographies series. Handlist of South African periodicals, compiled by A.M. Lewin Robinson appeared in 1946 as Grey bibliography no. 1. This bibliography refers to periodicals received on legal deposit in the South African Library in December 1946. Newspapers, school and parish magazines and house journals were excluded. It was the most complete current list of its kind, enumerating by subject over 450 periodicals. It contained a title index and a list of publishers' addresses. A second edition of the Handlist of periodicals current in December 1951, was published as Grey bibliographies, no. 5.

Until June 1970 articles on South African serial publications used to appear in the Quarterly bulletin of the South African Library, giving information on new serials, changes of titles, address, etc., and ceased publications.

A Union list of South African newspapers, November 1949, was published in 1950 as Grey bibliographies, no. 3. It was arranged alphabetically by place of publication with an index of newspaper titles and included such useful information as date of first issue, date ceased, changes of title and locations with holdings. Some of this information is still useful, although the bibliography is very out-of-date.

The Classified list of South African annual publications, March 1951, was published in 1951 as Grey bibliographies, no. 4.

#### 6.1.1.6 Subject bibliographies

The South African Library issued Flora Africana; South African botanical books, 1600-1963: a selective bibliography, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the National Botanical Gardens, Kirstenbosch, in 1963. This bibliography was compiled by W. Tyrrell-Glynn with the assistance of M.R. Levyns and published as Grey bibliographies, no. 8. It lists some 244 books and 31 periodicals, mainly of historical interest.

#### 6.1.1.7 Bibliographies of bibliographies

A bibliography of African bibliographies covering the territories south of the Sahara is a standard work on the subject. The latest edition is the fourth published in 1961 as Grey bibliographies, no. 7. A fifth edition of this bibliography is in preparation, but it is not certain when it will be published as the vast amount of publications on Africa has made its compilation by one person no longer feasible and additional bibliographical staff is urgently required.

#### 6.1.1.8 Bibliographies based on own collections

The South African Library has a manuscript collection of unusual variety which represents the country's largest single collection. A guide to this collection is in progress.

A short-title list of the Library's incunabula was published in the commemorative book The South African Library, its history, collections and librarians, 1818-1968.<sup>251</sup> South Africa in print<sup>252</sup> can also be included in this category, as well as the catalogues of the Library's special collections published in bookform, for example, Dr. W.H.I. Bleek's catalogue of the Grey collection and the catalogue of the collection of the books in the South African Library compiled by Thomas Pringle and published as long ago as 1824.

#### 6.1.1.9 Co-operative bibliographical undertakings

The South African Library is not engaged in any such venture at present, although it is dependant on assistance from other libraries in the compilation of the union catalogue of unpublished material in South African libraries.

251. ROBINSON, A.M.L. The incunabula in the Grey collection. In Pama, C., ed. The South African Library, its history... Cape Town, Balkema, 1968. p.122-147. Short-title list of incunabula compiled by Gillian Nicholson.

252. Refer par. 6.1.1.2, p.206.

#### 6.1.1.10 Other bibliographies

The South African Library is the most active in the field of unpublished material and is engaged in the compilation of a national inventory of manuscripts. This project was initiated in 1966 at the request of the Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association.<sup>253</sup> This inventory will take the form of a union catalogue and will include manuscripts in libraries, museums, church archives, etc. and in the possession of private persons. It will also include correspondence, private papers, diaries, typescripts of literary works. A considerable amount of material has already been collected and work will be carried out when the guide to the South African Library's own manuscript collection has been completed.

The Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association requested the South African Library to compile a Joint catalogue of early printed books in South Africa which would consist of a short-title catalogue of incunabula, including those in private collections; a short-title catalogue of books published between 1500-1549, 1550-1599 and in the 17th Century; and to undertake a full bibliographical description of items included at a later date.<sup>254</sup> The Director of the Library is

253. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report...1965-66. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1966. p.21.
254. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report... 1969-70. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1970. p.25.

compiling a bibliography of early printed books, i.e. incunabula in South African libraries, up to 1550. The South African Library holds 197 items. The catalogue will consist of short-title entries with an index of places and presses.

The South African Library compiles specialized bibliographies from time to time and publishes bibliographical articles in its Quarterly bulletin. Examples of such articles are numerous. Two worth citing are the articles by Professor L.F. Casson on the mediaeval manuscripts in the Grey collection<sup>255</sup> and the article by the Librarian of Parliament on the Mendelssohn collection of books.<sup>256</sup>

The following bibliographical projects are at present being pursued: the revision of Mendelssohn's South African bibliography; Bibliography of African bibliographies; Union catalogue of unpublished material in South African libraries (UMISAL); Bibliography of early printed books in South African libraries; A guide to the manuscripts collections in the South African Library. Some of these will be published in the Grey bibliographies series.

255. CASSON, L.F. The mediaeval manuscripts of the Grey collection... Quarterly bulletin of the South African Library, 14(1): 3-33, Sept., 1959.
256. QUINTON, J.C. The Mendelssohn collection of books. Quarterly bulletin of the South African Library, 22(4): 114-121, June 1968.

The South African Library is also engaged in a reprint programme. A Publications Sub-Committee of the Council was appointed in 1970 to be responsible for an enlarged publications programme. The reprint programme includes the reprinting of the Cape almanacs from 1801-1850 of which the African court calendar for 1801 was published in facsimile in 1970.<sup>257</sup>

The Friends of the South African Library, established in 1955, sponsor a publication programme. The Friends, for example, sponsored the publication of Flora Africana.<sup>258</sup>

#### 6.1.2 National bibliographical information centre

The South African Library lists as one of its functions "the provision of information and advice to other institutions and individuals."<sup>259</sup> In terms of the functions of a national bibliographical centre as outlined by Knud Larsen, the South African Library qualifies in two respects, namely, information

257,258. SOUTH AFRICAN Library. Report of the Council... 1969-1970. Cape Town, the Library, 1971. p.10; Report of the Trustees... 1962-1963. Cape Town, the Library, 1964. p.3.

259. DE JAGER, op.cit., p.67.

service and production of reference tools.<sup>260,261</sup>

#### 6.1.2.1 Knowledge of all sources of information

The aim of the South African Library is to act as the national Reference Library of South Africa in co-operation with the State Library, Pretoria. To achieve this end the Library places a heavy emphasis on the acquisition and preservation of different types of material :

"The acquisition and preservation of all publications in or about the Republic of South Africa, including those received under the Copyright Act, for reference purposes;

the acquisition and preservation of representative material on Africa South of the Sahara, for reference purposes;

the acquisition of basic reference material with emphasis on the Humanities and books in foreign languages;

the acquisition of special material not available elsewhere in South Africa with special reference to Mathematics."<sup>262</sup>

260. LARSEN, K. National bibliographical services: their creation and operation. Paris, UNESCO, 1953. (UNESCO bibliographical handbooks, 1). p.6-7.

261. For a description of publications cited in paragraph 6.1.1. see MUSIKER, R. South African bibliography... London, Crosby Lockwood, 1970 and Guide to South African reference books. 5th ed. Cape Town, Balkema, 1971.

262. DE JAGER, op. cit., p.67.

As the oldest library in South Africa, the South African Library also possesses the best and most complete collection of early South African material. It has a good collection of bibliographical works to which it is constantly adding new titles.

#### 6.1.2.2 Guides to sources of specialized information

The South African Library is at present engaged in the compilation of the union catalogue of unpublished material in South African libraries (UMISAL) and a guide to the manuscripts in its own collection.

A guide to official and statistical resources was incorrectly attributed to the South African Library by the Programme for future library development...<sup>263</sup>

This guide was compiled by G. Geertsema and published by the Bureau of Market Research, University of South Africa, in 1962.

#### 6.1.2.3 Register of bibliographies compiled in the country

No such register is kept by the South African Library. The nearest equivalent to such a register would be R. Musiker's South African bibliography<sup>264</sup> and the

263. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic... South African libraries, 30(3): 111, Jan., 1963.

264. MUSIKER, R. South African bibliography: a survey of bibliographies and bibliographical work. London, Crosby Lockwood, 1970.

various articles by him on bibliographical progress in South Africa published in South African libraries and the South African Library Association newsletter.

#### 6.1.2.4 Provision of bibliographical information

The South African Library acts as an information centre for bibliographical enquiries in consequence of its large stock and extensive collection of bibliographical source material. It receives requests for information from private individuals and institutions all over South Africa and abroad, and provides information by telephone and correspondence and across the counter to users of the library.

#### 6.1.3 Co-ordination of bibliographical activities

This is one of the bibliographical functions proposed by the Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa.<sup>265</sup> The South African Library co-operates with other libraries when called upon to do so.

##### 6.1.3.1 Co-operation with National Bibliographical Commission

The South African Library co-operates with the Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association of which the Director is a

265. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme... South African libraries, 30(3): 103, Jan., 1963.

member. At present the Library is engaged in certain bibliographical work at the express request of the Bibliographical Committee.<sup>266</sup>

6.1.3.2 Establishment of standards and advising on bibliographical methodology.

6.1.3.3 Maintaining contact with bodies engaged in bibliographical work, calling conferences of bibliographers and ensuring that bibliographical work is done by the most suitable agency

The Director of the South African Library as a member of the Bibliographical Committee, would be involved in these activities to the extent that the Committee is concerned.

A conference of South African bibliophiles, sponsored by the Friends of the South African Library was held<sup>267</sup> from November 28 to December 1, 1966 in the Library.

6.1.3.4 Proposals for the training of bibliographers and providing opportunities for practical training

Training in bibliography is provided for in the courses in Librarianship offered by South African universities. The Director of the South African Library lectures to students of Librarianship at

266. Refer par. 6.1.1.10, p.210.

267. SOUTH AFRICAN Library. Report of the Trustees... 1966-1968. Cape Town, the Library, 1969. p.5.

the University of Cape Town on Bibliography, and bibliographies are prepared under his direction. He<sup>268</sup> has also written a standard textbook on the subject.

6.1.4 International co-operation in the field of bibliography

6.1.4.1 Exchange of information on unpublished bibliographies

One of the functions of the South African Library is to co-operate with national libraries abroad. The Library receives many bibliographical enquiries from other national libraries and is clearly acknowledged as the place to which these should be directed.

6.1.4.2 Publication of reports on bibliographical work in local and international journals

6.1.4.3 Providing UNESCO with lists of new periodicals

South Africa is no longer a member of UNESCO and the South African Library does not contribute to UNESCO's Bulletin on bibliography, documentation and terminology. The South African Library publishes articles on bibliography in its Quarterly bulletin and contributes to the International current bibliography of the history of the book and of the library.

268. ROBINSON, A.M.L. Systematic bibliography: a practical guide to the work of compilation. 3rd rev. ed. London, Bingley, 1971.

A former Director of the South African Library was a corresponding member of the International Advisory Committee on Bibliography and contributed the article on South Africa to UNESCO's Bibliographical services throughout the world, 1950-1959.<sup>269,270</sup> The present Director attends the meetings of the International Federation of Library Associations General Council when possible and the Committee on Bibliography. He is convenor of the South African Committee to supply contributions to the International current bibliography of the history of the book and of the library (INCUBIB), sponsored by the International Federation of Library Association's Committee on Rare and Precious Books.<sup>271,272</sup>

- 269. SOUTH AFRICAN Public Library. Report of the Trustees... 1954-1955, p.7; Report of the Trustees... 1956-1957, p.6; Report of the Trustees... 1960-1961, p.7.
- 270. COLLISON, R.L. Bibliographical services throughout the world, 1950-1959. Paris, UNESCO, 1961. (UNESCO bibliographical handbooks, 9). p.135-138.
- 271. SOUTH AFRICAN Library. Report of the Council... 1969-1970. Cape Town, the Library, 1971. p.12.
- 272. Some of the information used in this section was obtained in response to a questionnaire completed by the South African Library.

## 6.2 The bibliographical function of the State Library, Pretoria

Since the establishment of the Pretoria Public Library in 1964, the State Library has been able to concentrate on its national library functions. On February 21, 1964, the Minister of Education, Arts and Science officially set out the aims and functions of the State Library. The bibliographical function is given as :

"To make the national literature better known by means of bibliographies, and to provide bibliographical information."<sup>273</sup>

The State Library interprets this bibliographical function as follows :

"By means of bibliographies, to record all South African publications appearing since and including the year 1926 according to internationally acceptable standards of bibliographical description.

To assist students and research workers in the use of published bibliographies in all fields.

To compile bibliographies, on request, in the interest of research.

To assist in the identification, when necessary, of publications required on inter-library loan.

273. STATE LIBRARY. Report of the Council for the year ended March 31, 1971. Pretoria, the Library, 1971. p.5.

The compilation and publication of a union catalogue of study and research books held by South African libraries."<sup>274</sup>

The bibliographical function of the State Library will be analyzed in the following sections according to the checklist designed for this purpose.<sup>275</sup>

#### 6.2.1 Compilation and publication of bibliographies

##### 6.2.1.1 Current national bibliography

In 1933 the State Library started issuing regular lists of accessions based on material received on legal deposit. These lists ceased in 1958 and in 1959 the State Library started publishing a proper current national bibliography entitled South African national bibliography. This bibliography appears at quarterly intervals with an annual volume which includes publications received during the fourth quarter for which a separate issue is not published. It provides coverage for all books, pamphlets, official publications, maps, sheet music, children's and school books, novels, books in Bantu languages, new periodicals published in South Africa and South West Africa. Reprints are also included so that the South African national bibliography also provides a

274. Information obtained in response to a questionnaire completed by the State Library.

275. Refer Chapter Five, p.129-130.

kind of South African "Books in print." All languages are included and in the case of books in Bantu languages an English and Afrikaans translation of the title is given. It also provides additional information such as book production statistics.

Since 1970 the scope of the South African national bibliography has been broadened to fill the gap left by Africana nova and to include: material about South Africa published overseas, publications by South Africans living abroad, works by South Africans published overseas, translations of South African material, and overseas publications in Afrikaans. This was introduced in the State Library's card service. A separate bibliography of this material covering the period since 1969 when Africana nova ceased, is in preparation.

In 1967 the State Library introduced a weekly South African national bibliography card service. As from the beginning of 1968 this bibliography has been produced with the aid of a computer which has reduced delays. A nine-year cumulation for the period 1958-1967 is in progress and a four-year cumulation for the period 1968-1971 has been completed.

#### 6.2.1.2 Retrospective national bibliography

A retrospective South African national bibliography for the period 1926-1958 has been in progress since 1965. The revised edition of Mendelssohn's South African bibliography will cover the period up to

1925. A bibliography of all books and journals in Bantu languages from the earliest time, is also in progress.

#### 6.2.1.3 Selective national bibliography

As a result of the computerisation of the South African national bibliography, it should be relatively easy for the State Library to produce selective national bibliographies if the demand exists.

#### 6.2.1.4 Theses

The State Library is not responsible for the South African union catalogue of theses.

#### 6.2.1.5 Serials

The State Library has published several bibliographies of serial publications. In 1966 it published Current South African periodicals: a classified list, July, 1965, which is kept up-to-date with annual supplements.<sup>276</sup> The State Library has published several periodical bibliographies in its Bibliographical series, for example, a bibliography of periodicals on classical antiquity, sociological journals in South African libraries, library journals

276. These supplements have been appearing annually since 1966. No. 1, 1966-

in South African libraries, etc.<sup>277</sup>

In 1970 the State Library published a directory of Current South African newspapers. This is a directory of 170 current South African newspapers giving full information for each, including date of first issue, imprint and price. It also contains articles on South African press-law and the history of the South African newspaper press. The library has compiled a list of South African newspapers on microfilm. It hopes to compile bibliographies of ceased South African periodicals and newspapers at some future date.

#### 6.2.1.6 Subject bibliographies

The State Library has published several such bibliographies. Its Bibliography of reprography was the latest to appear in its Bibliographies series.<sup>278</sup> The Bibliographic Department of the State Library has compiled a list of the bibliographies compiled by it for the period 1964-1970. This is a classified list of approximately 300 subject bibliographies.

- 277,278. STATE LIBRARY. Catalogue of State Library publications, 1969. Pretoria, the Library, 1969. Section C, p.1-5.  
The author obtained a copy of this catalogue which had been updated by the State Library, although a revised edition had not yet appeared at the time of writing this study.

The State Library is engaged in an active publication programme. In addition to its Bibliographies series, it has also issued several publications in its Contributions to library science series, including two publications on the subject of inter-library loans and an early history of the Library.<sup>279,280,281</sup> It also publishes a reprints series designed to produce inexpensive facsimiles of rare and out-of-print Africana.

In 1967 it first issued its catalogue of banned books which is kept up-to-date with quarterly supplements. This is a useful reference tool and supplements Jacobsen's index to objectionable literature.

The 25th annual conference of the South African Library Association held in 1970 adopted a motion "that the State Library be approached to consider the compilation of a list of conferences held and conference proceedings published in Africa south

279. HADLEY, Anne T. A survey of interlibrary loan service of the State Library. Pretoria, State Library, 1963. (ii), 43p. (Contributions to library science, no. 05).

280. Id. Trends in inter-library lending in South Africa...Pretoria, State Library, 1971. vii, 56p. (Contributions to library science, no.12).

281. ASCHENBORN, H.J. De Staatsbibliotheek der Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, 1887-1900. Pretoria, Staatsbiblioteek, 1971. xvi, 247p. (Biblioteekkundige bydraes, no. 11).

of the Zambezi (but including Angola, Malawi and Zambia) from and including 1965."<sup>282,283</sup>

Major bibliographies in progress at the State Library are: the retrospective South African national bibliography to cover the period 1926-1958, a cumulative edition of the South African national bibliography for the period 1958-1967, a comprehensive bibliography of all publications in the Bantu language, and a bibliography of foreign South African publications.

#### 6.2.2 National bibliographical information centre

The State Library performs the four functions attributed to a national bibliographical centre, namely, information service, production of national bibliography, establishment of a union catalogue and production of other reference tools. The basic functions of the information service are to give information on the national and foreign literature available in the libraries of the country and its first task must be to establish a national bibliography and union catalogue.<sup>284</sup>

282. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report, 1970-71. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1971. p.23.

283. For description of publications cited in paragraph 6.2.1, see MUSIKER, R. South African bibliography... London, Crosby Lockwood, 1970 and Guide to South African reference books. 5th ed. Cape Town, Balkema, 1971.

284. LARSEN, op. cit., p.6-7.

The State Library maintains a National Lending and Bibliographic Department. The responsibilities of the Bibliographic Division are described as :

\*To build up and maintain a comprehensive collection of bibliographies;

To assist research workers in the use of this collection;

To compile and provide bibliographies in answer to specific requests."285,286

#### 6.2.2.1 Knowledge of all sources of information

As the centre of the union catalogue and inter-library loans, the State Library should have the best and most complete bibliographical collection in the country. The library regards the bibliographical service as one of its most important auxiliary services.287,288

285. STATE LIBRARY. Report of the Trustees for the year ended March 31, 1966. Pretoria, the Library, 1966. p.19.

286. Information obtained in response to a questionnaire sent to the State Library.

287. ASCHENBORN, H.J. Die nasionale biblioteek van Suid-Afrika. Tydskrif vir geesteswetenskappe, 4:309, Des., 1964.

288. Id. Hulpfunksies van die Staatsbiblioteek. Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteke, 33(3): 109, Jan., 1966.

The purpose of the State Library's bibliographical collection is :

to provide isolated titles on particular subjects and to verify bibliographic details;

to provide the researcher with tools to make a general survey of the literature in his field. Members of the public will also benefit;

compilation of bibliographies on specific subjects in answer to requests from research workers.<sup>289</sup>

#### 6.2.2.2 Guides to sources of specialized information

In 1970 the State Library published its Handbook of Southern African libraries. This is a comprehensive directory of more than 800 libraries and service-points and a guide to the development and present state of the profession in Southern Africa, including the Republic, Botswana, Malawi and Rhodesia. It supersedes earlier directories of sources of information including the State Library's Directory of South African libraries (1965) and R. Musiker's Guide to sources of information in the humanities (1962) and its supplement (1965). The State Library intends publishing new editions of the Handbook every five years.

289. STATE LIBRARY. 2nd State Library Seminar on Library Co-operation. Aug., 1967. Proceedings. Pretoria, the Library, 1967. p.57.

#### 6.2.2.3 Register of bibliographies published in the country

The Bibliographic Division has prepared a bibliography of bibliographies compiled by it during the period 1964-1970. The South African national bibliography also includes bibliographies published in South Africa.

#### 6.2.2.4 Provision of bibliographical information

The State Library provides bibliographical information to government departments and agencies, research workers, institutions and private individuals and gives advice to those compiling bibliographies. It compiles bibliographies for any person or institution engaged in serious research, except where the research will lead to a university thesis or dissertation. In December 1969 it was decided to discontinue the compilation of bibliographies for students even if required for doctoral studies.<sup>290</sup>

The following list illustrates the type of enquirer and the fluctuation in the demand for bibliographies:

1965-1966 : 99 lists which included 6,500 items.

1966-1967 : 60 bibliographies including about 10,400 items compiled in answer to specific requests. 20 of the 60

290. STATE LIBRARY. Report of the Council...  
March 31, 1970. Pretoria, the Library, 1970.  
p.23.

bibliographies were compiled for government departments, 7 for industrial firms, 14 for libraries in the Republic, 5 for institutions and individuals abroad, and 12 for individuals of whom 4 were preparing doctoral theses. 2 for embassies.

1967-1968 : 49 bibliographies listing some 8,000 titles. 17 of the 49 were compiled for libraries in the Republic, 16 for private individuals, 12 for government departments and 4 for overseas bodies.

1969-1970 : 46 bibliographies listing some 4,500 titles were compiled of which 8 were for government departments, 8 for students, 19 for private individuals and 11 for the State Library itself.

1970-1971 : 4 bibliographies listing 1,592 titles were compiled. 1 was compiled for a university, government department and the State Library's Bibliography on reprography was completed.

1971-1972 : 25 bibliographies were compiled.<sup>291,292</sup>

### 6.2.3 Co-ordination of bibliographical activities

#### 6.2.3.1 Co-operation with National Bibliographical Commission

South Africa's equivalent of a National Bibliographical Commission is the Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association. The Director of the State Library acts as Chairman of the

291. STATE LIBRARY. Report of the Trustees/Council for the years ended March 31, 1966 - March 31, 1971.

292. Reply to questionnaire.

Bibliographical Committee and the library frequently undertakes bibliographical work at the request of the Committee, for example, the investigation conducted by the State Library into existing newspaper cuttings collections in libraries, government departments and institutions.<sup>293</sup>

6.2.3.2 Establishment of standards and advising on bibliographical methodology

As from 1st January 1971 the State Library has acted as the South African centre for International Standard Book Numbering. The Director of the State Library negotiated with the South African Publishers' Association in this connection.

6.2.3.3 Maintaining contact with bodies engaged in bibliographical work, calling conferences of bibliographers and ensuring that bibliographical work is done by the most suitable agency

Under the heading "Bibliographic functions" the Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa recommends :

"Assistance in the planning and co-ordinating of bibliographic services in the Republic."<sup>294</sup>

293. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report... 1967-68. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1968. p.45.

294. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development... South African libraries, 30(3): 103, Jan., 1963.

Since 1966 the State Library has been convening seminars on library co-operation where most useful discussions have taken place on topics of national importance, although these seminars cannot, strictly speaking, be described as conferences of bibliographers.

The first seminar on library co-operation was held on 27 May 1966 and informal discussions took place on problems connected with the joint catalogue and inter-library loan service.

The second seminar was held in August 1967. Papers were delivered on the microfilm project, inter-library loan service, etc.

The third seminar was held on 17th April 1969 and included papers on the Library of Congress' Shared Cataloging program and the MARC project.

On the 28th and 29th October 1971 the heads of major South African libraries met at the State Library where the main topic for discussion was the centralization and decentralization of the national bookstock. This meeting was attended by librarians from abroad and introductory papers were given by Gordon Williams, Director of the Center for Research Libraries, Chicago and Jack Wells, Director of the British National Bibliography Limited. Among the conclusions and recommendations reached by the participants were four points under the heading of bibliographical control.<sup>295</sup> The proceedings of

295. S.A.L.A. newsletter, 23(7): 218, Jan., 1972.

this conference are due for publication.

6.2.3.4    Proposals for training bibliographers and providing opportunities for practical training

Training in bibliography is part of the librarianship courses offered by South African universities. Vacation schools for non-European librarians provide training for librarianship generally and have been a boon to non-Europeans in the profession. The State Library annually gives the South African Library Association a sum of money for the organization of vacation schools.

6.2.4    International co-operation in the field of bibliography

6.2.4.1    Exchange of bibliographical information

The State Library maintains contact with libraries abroad and offers the South African national bibliography in exchange for other national bibliographies, for example, the National union catalog is received on exchange from the Library of Congress. Since 1968 the State Library has also participated in the Shared Cataloging Program.<sup>296</sup> The Library of Congress receives many sets of the South African national bibliography catalogue cards for this purpose.<sup>297</sup>

296. Reply to questionnaire.

297. MUSIKER, R. The bibliographical scene in South Africa. South African libraries, 38(5): 279, April 1971.

6.2.4.2 Publication of reports on bibliographical work in local and international journals

6.2.4.3 Providing UNESCO with lists of new periodicals

The Director of the State Library and his staff contribute articles to the official organ of the South African Library Association as well as other local and overseas journals.

The State Library provides UNESCO with lists of translations for inclusion in the Index translationum. It also contributes information to Halkett and Laing's Dictionary of anonymous and pseudonymous English literature.

The Director of the State Library is a member of two committees of the International Federation of Library Associations, namely, the Committee on Cataloguing and the Committee on Universal Bibliographical Control. He also attends meetings of the International Standards Organization.<sup>298</sup>

6.3 National bibliographical work performed by other institutions

This section is not intended as a survey of all bibliographies compiled by institutions other than the State Library and the South African Library, nor are the bibliographies listed here the only ones attributable to the institutions to which reference

298. Reply to questionnaire.

will be made. Only the kind of works which are frequently compiled by national libraries and which form an important part of the national bibliographical apparatus, are listed.

### 6.3.1 Selective national bibliography

#### 6.3.1.1 Official publications

Bibliographical coverage of South African government publications is inadequate. Current official publications are listed in the South African national bibliography and in the monthly mimeographed lists of new publications issued by the Government printer. These lists also appear in the Government gazette but are, unfortunately, never cumulated. A consolidated annual list of South African government publications will be a useful addition to the national bibliographical equipment.

The State Division of Library Services has started compiling bibliographies of South African official publications of which the first volume appeared in 1969.

South Africa (Republic). Division of Library Services. South African government publications: Department of Statistics, 1910-1968. Pretoria, Government printer, 1969.

Since the publication of this bibliography, the Division of Library Services has been engaged in the compilation of a bibliography on Agriculture. The next bibliography planned is a list of South African

official commissions, 1910-1970.<sup>299</sup>

In 1964-1965 the Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association requested the Chief Librarian of the Civil Service Libraries to undertake the compilation of a bibliography of the individual government departments since 1910 in collaboration with the State Library. The abovementioned publications are the beginnings of this series. A bibliography of the publications of all provinces including the period before 1910, will be undertaken when the bibliography of individual departments has been completed.<sup>300</sup>

One major tool exists for retrospective bibliography of official publications. This is a cumulative index entitled Index to the manuscript annexures and printed papers of the House of Assembly, including Select Committee reports and bills, and also the principal motions and resolutions and Commission reports, 1910-1961. Pretoria, Government printer, 1963.

299. S.A.L.A. newsletter, 23(8): 252, Mar., 1972.

300. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report, 1964-65. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1965. p.21.

A request from the Bibliographical Committee to the Secretary of the House of Assembly that the Index should be published at shorter intervals met with no success.<sup>301</sup>

The Johannesburg Public Library has a departmental library which specialises in local government publications and has published a useful bibliography of South African municipal publications :

Johannesburg. Public Library. Southern African municipal publications : a list of holdings in the Reference libraries. Johannesburg, the Library, 1965.

The manuscript of a bibliography Cape official publications 1864-1910, has been finalized by Mr. R. Musiker.<sup>302</sup>

### 6.3.2 Theses

The national library in South Africa is not concerned with the listing of theses, unlike the National Library of Canada which compiles an annual bibliography of theses accepted by Canadian universities. Reasonable coverage exists for South African theses and dissertations. The standard work is the Union catalogue of theses and dissertations of South African universities, 1942-1958, compiled by

301. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report, 1964-65. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1965. p.22.

302. Id. Annual report, 1971-72, Potchefstroom, the Association, 1972. p.25.

S.I. Malan and published by Potchefstroom University. It is kept up-to-date by annual supplements which have appeared since 1959. The latest supplement covering the year 1971 is the thirteenth in the series.

This catalogue was the result of a research grant by the National Council for Social Research to Mr. S.I. Malan to compile a supplement to an earlier bibliography:<sup>303</sup>

Robinson, A.M.L. Catalogue of theses and dissertations accepted for degrees by South African universities, 1918-1941. Cape Town, the Author, 1943.

This work and the Union catalogue are complemented by :

University of South Africa. List of dissertations and theses accepted by the University of South Africa, 1919-1958, compiled by A.M. du Preez and H.O. Zastrau. Pretoria, the University, 1958.

An annual supplement Summary of theses accepted... has appeared since 1959.

Doctoral theses for the period July 1968 to June 1970 are listed in Doctoral theses in the Human Sciences accepted by South African universities.<sup>304</sup>

303. Id. Annual report, 1955-56. Pretoria, the Association, 1956. p.18.

304. Published In Humanitas: Journal for research in the Human Sciences, 1(1): 89-96, 1971

Separate bibliographies list theses and dissertations in the field of librarianship :

Kruger, J.A. Research for theses and dissertations in Library Science at South African universities up to 1967.<sup>305</sup>

This bibliography is divided into two sections. Section A deals with completed research and Section B with current research, i.e. in 1967. Doctoral and Masters theses are listed separately in each section, arranged alphabetically by author. It has been supplemented by reports by Mr. R. Musiker published in the S.A.L.A. newsletter on theses in progress and recently completed at South African universities in the field of Library Science. The latest report updates to January 1972 and supersedes all previous reports in this series.<sup>306</sup> Registers of current research also provide a record of theses.<sup>307</sup>

### 6.3.3. Serials

#### 6.3.3.1 Newspapers

The lists of South African newspapers published by the State Library and the South African Library have already been mentioned. The Johannesburg Public Library issued a Union list of non-South African newspapers in South African libraries, edited by

305. Published In South African libraries, 35(3): 95-98, Jan., 1968.

306. S.A.L.A. newsletter, 23(8): 257-265, Mar., 1972

307. Refer MUSIKER, R. Guide to South African reference books. 5th ed. Cape Town, Balkema, 1971. p.26.

M. Galgut, in 1965.

#### 6.3.3.2 Periodicals

The union catalogue of periodicals in South African libraries was modelled on Scientific serials in Australian libraries and has been described as the greatest co-operative achievement in South African library history.

Periodicals in South African libraries: a revised edition of the Catalogue of Union periodicals. Pretoria, South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Human Sciences Research Council, 1961 -

It will supersede Freer's Catalogue of Union periodicals when complete.<sup>308</sup>

A few subject bibliographies of periodicals have been published :

South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. National Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences. Periodicals with mathematical content in South African libraries. Pretoria, the Institute, 1969.

Johannesburg Public Library. African serial publications currently received, as at March 1967; compiled by A. Clifton. Johannesburg, the Library, 1967.<sup>309</sup>

308, 309. MUSIKER, R. South African bibliography: a survey of bibliographies and bibliographical work. London, Crosby Lockwood, 1970. p.68.

South African periodical literature is indexed in the  
Index to South African periodicals, 1940 -

The Johannesburg Public Library has been responsible for this work except for the first few years of its existence when it was published by the South African Library Association. In 1966 the library launched a project to index South African periodicals for the period 1900-1939,<sup>310</sup> at the request of the Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association. It was suggested that this index should be followed by another for the period 1800-1900 thereby filling a major gap.<sup>311</sup>

The preceding pages described the bibliographical function of the national library in South Africa and the contribution made by other institutions to the national bibliographical equipment.

310. RICHARDS, M. Index to South African periodicals, 1900-1939. South African libraries, 37(5): 260-261, 263, April 1970.

311. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report... 1964-65. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1965. p.21-22.

## 7. EVALUATION OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL FUNCTION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN SOUTH AFRICA

The aim of Chapter Six was to describe how the national library in South Africa interprets and executes its bibliographical function. Bibliographical work completed and in progress was analyzed according to the checklist which had been introduced in Chapter Five, and reference was made to bibliographical work performed by other institutions which forms an important part of the national bibliographical equipment.

The aim of Chapter Seven is to evaluate the bibliographical function of the South African Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria. The bibliographical work of these two libraries will be assessed against the background of the national bibliographical equipment, indicating their contribution towards filling important lacunae and showing which lacunae still exist. This will be followed by a description of the rôle of the national library in bibliographical control in South Africa. The final section of this chapter will contain conclusions and recommendations.

### 7.1 Introduction

It has been established that the national library performs its bibliographical function in a limited and wider sense. In the limited sense, it is responsible for compiling bibliographies and providing bibliographical information, that is, the

exploitation of its resources. In the wider sense, it is responsible for the co-ordination of bibliographical activities in the country and co-operating in international bibliography.

In evaluating the bibliographical function of the national library in South Africa, it will be seen that both the State Library and the South African Library practise their bibliographical function in the limited rather than the wider sense.

Three out of the four bibliographical functions assigned to the national libraries by the Programme for future library development... describe the bibliographical function in its limited sense :

"The preparation and publication of a national bibliography.

The establishment and consolidation of a strong collection of bibliographic tools.

The preparation and publication of special bibliographies."

A fourth function states that the national libraries should assist in the planning and co-ordination of bibliographical services in the Republic, i.e. assist the proposed South African Bibliographic Bureau. As one of its auxiliary services, the national libraries should co-operate with national libraries in other countries.<sup>312</sup>

312. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities. Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa. South African libraries, 30(3): 103, 110, Jan., 1963.

Two committees of enquiry have made recommendations with regard to the division of duties between the two national libraries, and the Co-ordinating Committee of the South African Library and the State Library ensures that unnecessary duplication of bibliographical services does not occur.<sup>313, 314</sup> Neither library embarks on a bibliographical project without informing the other.

## 7.2 The national library in relation to South Africa's bibliographical equipment

The South African Library and the State Library's own interpretation of their bibliographical function was described in detail in the previous chapter. The performance of this bibliographical function will now be evaluated in relation to the national bibliographical equipment.

313. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1962.

314. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Kultuursake. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1968.

This report was used with the permission of the Department of National Education, formerly the Department of Cultural Affairs.

### 7.2.1 Compilation and publication of bibliographies

As has been pointed out, the current national bibliography is the most important bibliography that the national library should compile.<sup>315</sup>

The South African national bibliography, published by the State Library provides South Africa with a current national bibliography, but it should be issued more frequently. It appears quarterly with annual cumulations whereas many national bibliographies appear weekly with monthly cumulations, for example, the British national bibliography and the Australian national bibliography. The de Villiers Committee recommended that the South African national bibliography should be published monthly.<sup>316</sup> Although the State Library has been compiling this bibliography with the aid of a computer since 1968 and is able to produce a weekly card service, it has not complied with this recommendation.

315. Refer Chapter 5, par. 5.3.1.1, p.119-120.

316. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Kultuursake. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1968. par. 3.2.1. p.202.

This report was used with the permission of the Department of National Education, formerly the Department of Cultural Affairs.

The revision of Mendelssohn's South African bibliography by the South African Library is a commendable project and will fill an important gap in the national bibliographical equipment. Work on the retrospective South African national bibliography has been in progress since 1965 and is expected to take another seven years to complete, as the division of the State Library responsible for its compilation has closed down due to a shortage of staff.<sup>317</sup> This is not a very encouraging sign as the Mendelssohn revision which the retrospective South African national bibliography will complement, is expected to have been completed by 1973. When both these bibliographies have been published, South Africa will possess a strong retrospective national bibliography.

The State Library's proposed bibliography of foreign published South African material to cover the period since 1969 when Africana nova ceased publication, could equally well be done by the South African Library which has all the material from which to compile such a bibliography.

The State Library is also planning two selective retrospective national bibliographies, namely a bibliography of all material published in the Bantu language and a bibliography of foreign South African material.<sup>318</sup>

317, 318. Information obtained in reply to a questionnaire completed by the State Library, and during a personal interview.

As the South African Library no longer publishes a current national bibliography, it should perhaps compile selective national bibliographies.

The South African Library has done some excellent bibliographical work. Through the medium of its Quarterly bulletin it has published information of bibliographical significance to South Africa. The purpose of its Grey bibliographies series is to gradually record significant sections of the library's holdings and to fill lacunae in the national bibliographical equipment. To date eight bibliographies, including five titles, have appeared. They are the following :

- No. 1. Handlist of South African periodicals.  
1st ed. 1946.
- No. 2. Bibliography of African bibliographies.  
2nd ed. 1948.
- No. 3. Union list of South African newspapers.  
1950.
- No. 4. Classified list of South African annual  
publications. 1951.
- No. 5. Handlist of South African periodicals.  
2nd ed. 1951.
- No. 6. Bibliography of African bibliographies.  
3rd ed. 1955.
- No. 7. Bibliography of African bibliographies.  
4th ed. 1961.
- No. 8. Flora Africana. 1963.

The latest bibliography in this series appeared as long ago as 1963, and the Bibliography of African bibliographies is more than twelve years out-of-date. The library has advanced shortage of staff and the enormous increase in the publications on

Africa in recent years as a reason for the delay in publishing the fifth edition.<sup>319</sup> The bibliographies of South African newspapers and periodicals are equally out-of-date. The latest one appeared more than twenty years ago in 1951. Some of the bibliographies in progress at the library at present will, however, be published in the Grey bibliographies series.

Both the Booysen Committee and the de Villiers Committee commented on the bibliographical function of the national libraries. The Booysen Committee stated clearly that the South African Library should be regarded as the main repository of the literary treasures of the country and the most important centre for bibliographical services.<sup>320</sup> The de Villiers Committee confirmed that the South African Library should conduct bibliographical research and publish the results of such research. It also stated that the library should financially be enabled to carry out bibliographical research based on its more complete collection of South African material. The South African Library should, for example, compile bibliographies of South African newspapers and annual publications, ceased newspapers and periodicals and publications of Southern African states.

319. Information obtained in reply to a questionnaire completed by the South African Library.

320. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1962. Deel 1 (Hoofverslag) par. 3.6, p.41.

"Die Komitee beveel aan dat die Raad van Kuratore aandag skenk aan die aktivering van hierdie aspek van die bibliografiese funksie en die daarmee samehangende publikasieprogram van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek."<sup>321</sup>

Until June 1970 the South African Library regularly published lists of new and ceased serials, in its Quarterly bulletin. The library should, therefore, be able to compile the bibliographies suggested by the de Villiers Committee.

The State Library has been publishing subject bibliographies of periodicals as well as bibliographies of South African serial publications since 1960 which include bibliographies of current South African newspapers and periodicals, and South African newspapers on microfilm. It also hopes to compile bibliographies of ceased South African newspapers and periodicals at some future date. The de Villiers Committee found no justification for the compilation of these bibliographies by the State Library. It also felt that subject bibliographies of periodicals could be compiled more readily and economically by the compilers of Periodicals in South African libraries, at the University of South

321. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Kultuursake. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1968. par. 3.2.2, p.225.

This report was used with the permission of the Department of National Education, formerly the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Africa and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.<sup>322</sup>

The responsibility for the collection of material on Africa has been divided between the State Library, the South African Library and the Africa Institute. The responsibility for compiling bibliographies on various African states should also be divided.<sup>323</sup> The State Library, should, for instance, compile bibliographies on North African states for which it is responsible.

The de Villiers Committee further recommended that the question of specialized bibliographies of South African publications be considered by the Co-ordinating Committee of the South African Library and the State Library.<sup>324</sup>

322, 323, 324. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Kultuursake. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1968. par. 3.2.2, p.203.

This report was used with the permission of the Department of National Education, formerly the Department of Cultural Affairs.

### 7.2.2 National bibliographical information centre

The de Villiers Committee regarded the information service provided by the South African Library as important.<sup>325</sup> The State Library as the national inter-library loan centre maintains the joint catalogue of monographs and provides bibliographical services pertaining to this function. The practice of compiling and providing bibliographies on request was regarded by the de Villiers Committee as very demanding on staff time. The Committee questioned the desirability of compiling bibliographies for university students and state departments when the university libraries and state libraries should offer this service.<sup>326</sup> The Board of Trustees of the State Library decided in December 1969 to discontinue the compilation of bibliographies for students even if required for doctoral studies.<sup>327</sup>

### 7.2.3 Co-ordination of bibliographical activities

From the detailed examination of the bibliographical function of the national library in South Africa, it is clear that neither the South African Library

325,326. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Kultuursake. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1968. par. 3.2.1, p.224; par. 3.2.3, p.203-204.  
This report was used with the permission of the Department of National Education, formerly the Department of Cultural Affairs.

327. STATE LIBRARY. Report of the Council...1970. Pretoria, the Library, 1970. p.23.

nor the State Library are geared to the co-ordination of bibliographical activities in the country. They tend to concentrate on bibliographical activities in the limited sense, namely, the compilation and publication of bibliographies, and the provision of bibliographical information. Both the South African Library and the State Library are, however, represented on and co-operate with the Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association.

#### 7.2.4 International co-operation in the field of bibliography

The Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa,<sup>328</sup> regarded co-operation with national libraries abroad as an auxiliary service of the national libraries. The South African Library lists this as one of its functions, and exchanges bibliographical information with overseas national libraries. The State Library co-operates with national libraries abroad, for example, it participates in the Shared Cataloging Program of the Library of Congress. The Directors of both the national libraries attend meetings of the International Federation of Library Associations and serve on some of its committees. Attendance at the conferences and committee meetings of this

328. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic... South African libraries, 30(3): 103, Jan., 1963.

Association is important and it is essential that the Directors of the South African Library and the State Library should maintain personal contact with international organisations.

Reference has already been made to several surveys of the South African bibliographical equipment which have appeared during the past thirty years.<sup>329</sup> The national library in South Africa has been an important factor in filling the lacunae to which these surveys drew attention.

#### 7.2.5 Existing lacunae in the national bibliographical equipment

The task of completing the remaining gaps in the national bibliographical equipment will devolve to some extent on the national libraries. The following are some of the existing lacunae :

##### 7.2.5.1 Serials

###### 7.2.5.1.1 Newspapers

The need for an index to South African newspapers was expressed as long ago as 1943 in the conspectus on bibliographical desiderata for South Africa.<sup>330</sup> The lack of an index, current or retrospective, to a South African newspaper or newspapers is still

329. Refer Chapter 1, par. 1.1, p.2-4.

330. Bibliographical desiderata for South Africa...  
South African libraries, 11(2): 40, Oct., 1943.

a serious one. Retrospective indexing of at least one representative South African newspaper would be a great boon to libraries and research workers alike.

The Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association has made several attempts to remedy this situation and engage the interest of the newspaper industry in the project. The Newspaper Press Union decided at its annual meeting held in October 1967 against financial support for the retrospective indexing of one or two South African newspapers.<sup>331</sup> As a possible alternative the Committee started considering the compilation of an index from existing newspaper cuttings in libraries, government departments and institutions.

The Bibliographical Committee requested the State Library to collect the necessary information about existing newspaper cutting collections and to publish the findings. The forty-five newspaper cutting collections which were examined and about which information was obtained, have been described in a standard form. Indexes for the newspapers from which the cuttings were taken and a subject index were compiled.<sup>332</sup> This publication was recently issued by the State Library.

331. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report... 1967-1968. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1968. p.45.

332. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report... 1971-1972. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1972. p.23.

A revised and up-to-date edition of the Union list of South African newspapers is still a pressing necessity.

#### 7.2.5.1.2 Periodicals

The Johannesburg Public Library is engaged in the compilation of an index to South African periodical literature for the period 1900-1940. The index for the pre-1900 period should really be compiled by the South African Library which has the most complete holdings of this material in the country.

#### 7.2.5.2 South African books-in-print

The 25th annual Conference of the South African Library Association adopted a motion :

"That the South African Library Association take immediate steps to investigate the possibility of compiling:

- (a) an annual list of South African books in print, and
- (b) an annual list of second-hand book prices, especially for Africana, similar to Book auction records and Bookman's price index."333

This motion was referred to the Bibliographical Committee for investigation.<sup>334</sup>

- 333. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association, 25th annual conference, East London, 1970. Papers. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1970. p.23,25.
- 334. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report... 1970-1971, p.21; 1965-1966, p.21.

The possibility of publishing an Africana book prices current was referred to the South African Library several years ago by the Bibliographical Committee for investigation. The South African Library found that such a project would be impractical without the support of the booksellers who did not favour the proposal.<sup>335</sup>

The publication of an annual South African books in print should be within the scope of the State Library as the compiler of the current national bibliography, particularly as the bibliography is being produced with the aid of a computer. The State Library should also be able to publish a select list of annual output comparable with the Australian books; a select list, published by the National Library of Australia.

#### 7.2.5.3 Regional bibliographies

One of the urgent tasks which the Programme for future library development...<sup>336</sup> assigned to the proposed South African Bibliographic Bureau was the compilation of regional bibliographies. Regional

335. Refer Chapter 6, par. 6.1.1.3, p.206.

336. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic... South African libraries, 30(3): 111, Jan., 1963.

bibliographies should include :

bibliographies of material relating to specific regions (for example, a comprehensive Eastern Cape bibliography);

bibliographies on certain subjects within those regions (for example, a bibliography of legal works in the Witwatersrand region).

#### 7.2.5.4 South African English literature

A consolidated and up-to-date bibliography of South African English literature similar to P.J. Nienaber's bibliography of Afrikaans books, will be a useful addition to the South African bibliographical apparatus. The universities of Rhodes and South Africa are undertaking this project as a joint venture.

#### 7.2.5.5 Other

Other bibliographical works which will fill gaps in the South African bibliographical equipment are trade bibliographies, bibliographies of South African musical works, bibliographies of unpublished academic publications, etc.

### 7.3 The rôle of the national library in bibliographical control in South Africa

It was necessary to assess the existing national bibliographical equipment in the previous section in order to put forward suggestions for its improvement and devise means for its control.

Completeness and control go hand in hand, therefore the lacunae in the South African bibliographical apparatus should be eliminated at the earliest opportunity. The national library is an important factor in providing national bibliographical coverage and control.

The UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey defined bibliographical control as "... the mastery over printed and published records which is provided by and for the purposes of Bibliography ('Bibliographic control' is synonymous with 'effective access through bibliographies')".<sup>337</sup> The term 'bibliographical control' covers the compilation of national bibliographies, the centralised provision of cataloguing data and the provision of union catalogues.<sup>338</sup> R. Musiker in an article entitled Bibliographical control in South Africa, has described the essential requirements of national bibliographical control. He divides these into three basic requirements, namely, an efficient union catalogue of books, periodicals, newspapers and theses; an adequate range of subject bibliographies; and the national bibliography which is the most essential requirement.<sup>339</sup>

337. UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey. Bibliographical services: their present state and possibilities of improvement. Washington, the Library, 1950. p.1.

338. WELLS, A.J. National and international bibliographic control. Address to the Southern Transvaal Branch of the South African Library Association, 27th Oct., 1971. p.1. (Unpublished).

339. MUSIKER, R. Bibliographical control in South Africa. International library review, 4(2):149-151, Apr., 1972.

How does the national library in South Africa contribute to these essential requirements?

7.3.1 Essential requirements of national bibliographical control

7.3.1.1 National union catalogues

7.3.1.1.1 Union catalogue of monographs

The State Library is responsible for the joint catalogue of monographs which, although incomplete, is representative of the country's bookstock. Ideally the national union catalogue should be printed the cost of which would be prohibitive, or it should be reproduced in a machine-readable form. A true national referral and loan network presupposes a sufficient knowledge of the location of the desired material: "with a machine-manipulated union catalog (or catalogs) and a properly designed communications network, requests could be routed automatically to potential lenders. In addition, up-to-date corrections to the union catalog - possible because of the computer - could result in higher success ratios (sic) on inter-library loans. With a sufficiently responsive configuration of equipment, procedures, and personnel, such a network would allow a library user anywhere in the country to obtain the material he needs within a reasonable time."<sup>340</sup>

340. WILLEMSE, J. Prospects for an integrated library network in South Africa. In South African Library Association, 25th annual conference, East London, 1970. Papers. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1970.p.51-56.

The State Library has closed off the joint catalogue as the maintenance of 2½ million cards had become very difficult and expensive. In the course of 1972, the library announced the appearance of the Unicat, that is, the South African joint catalogue of monographs on microfiche, using International Standard Book Numbers as identifiers.<sup>341</sup> This is the first step in establishing a loan network for South Africa, as the Unicat can be available in every major library in the country.

#### 7.3.1.1.2 Union catalogue of periodicals

A computer is being used in the production of the Periodicals in South African libraries, and the whole alphabet should shortly be available in bookform at a reasonable cost within the means of every library.

#### 7.3.1.1.3 Union catalogue of newspapers

An up-to-date revised union catalogue of newspapers is urgently required. The union list of South African newspapers, published by the South African Library, is more than twenty years out-of-date, and should be revised as soon as possible.

<sup>341</sup>. Circular issued by the State Library announcing the appearance of the Unicat.

#### 7.3.1.1.4 Union catalogue of theses

The Union catalogue of theses and dissertations of South African universities is compiled by Potchefstroom University Library. The use of this catalogue with all its supplements has become cumbersome. A definite need exists for a consolidated and up-to-date union catalogue of theses.

The State Library Conference on the Centralization and Decentralization of National Bookstocks held in October 1971, made the following recommendations with regard to union catalogues :

"Joint catalogues for books, periodicals and newspapers should be published wherever possible, and should be kept up to date.

The publication of the joint catalogues should be regarded as a co-operative venture as regards costs, indication of ISBN's in book entries and the purchase of microfilms of entries.

The joint catalogue of newspapers should be re-issued as soon as possible, and kept up to date."<sup>342</sup>

342. News from the State Library. S.A.L.A. newsletter, 23(7): 218, Jan., 1972.

### 7.3.1.2 Subject bibliographies

A subject approach is of the greatest importance and, unfortunately, neither the union catalogue of monographs nor of periodicals make provision for this approach. South Africa requires an adequate range of subject bibliographies. Two useful instruments of bibliographical control are :

Bibliography of African bibliographies (South African Library).

South African bibliography (R. Musiker).

Beinart's revision of A.A. Roberts' South African legal bibliography, will also be a useful instrument of bibliographical control. This bibliography is a good example of private bibliography, i.e. bibliography practised by enthusiasts both amateur and professional, as distinct from the bibliographies compiled in libraries.<sup>343</sup>

### 7.3.1.3 National bibliography

The South African national bibliography has already been described. The fact that this bibliography is compiled with the aid of a computer is important. As previously stated, a comprehensive and timely national bibliography could be produced with the

<sup>343</sup>. BORCHARDT, D.H. Australian bibliography. 2nd ed. Melbourne, Cheshire, 1966. p.64.

appropriate use of computers, particularly with the use of computer-controlled typesetting or photo-composition devices. The advantages inherent in machine-readable files have also been described.<sup>344</sup>

A retrospective national bibliography is also an important instrument of bibliographical control. Reference has already been made to the two retrospective national bibliographies in progress at the South African Library and at the State Library.<sup>345</sup>

#### 7.3.1.4 Centralized provision of cataloguing data

This should be included under the term<sup>346</sup> bibliographical control. In 1967 the State Library introduced a weekly South African national bibliography catalogue card service to which libraries and booksellers subscribe. The Library of Congress also receives the weekly card service for inclusion in its MARC tapes. The centralized provision of cataloguing data in South Africa needs to be developed. Reference will be made to this in the final section of this chapter.

<sup>344</sup>. WILLEMSE, op. cit., p.50.

<sup>345</sup>. Refer Chapter 6, par. 6.1.1.2, p.204-205;  
par. 6.2.1.2, p.221-222.

<sup>346</sup>. WELLS, op. cit., p.1.

From the foregoing it is obvious that the national library in South Africa is contributing to the essential requirements of bibliographical control. In discussing bibliographical control, it must be remembered that South Africa is geared to a plan for building up a decentralized national bookstock and subject specialisation. Responsibility for participation in and co-ordination of the decentralized national bookstock has been allocated to the national libraries by the de Villiers Committee<sup>347</sup> and by the Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa. The Programme states that the national libraries should in collaboration with various national committees, act as a co-ordinating centre for library co-operation with regard to the building up of the national bookstock.<sup>348</sup>

The building up of the national bookstock will be carried out under the guidance of the National Library Advisory Council, but what about the control?

347. SUID-AFRIKA (Republiek). Dept. van Kultuur-sake. Verslag van die Komitee van Onderzoek na die Behoeftes van Staatsondersteunde Inrigtings. Pretoria, 1968. par. 3.1.2.2, p.200-201; par. 3.1.2.2, p.224. This report was used with the permission of the Department of National Education, formerly the Department of Cultural Affairs.

348. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic... South African libraries, 30(3): 102, Jan., 1963.

Ideally one central authority in a country should exercise general control in bibliographical matters.<sup>349</sup> This principle is confirmed by Musiker who states that control over the decentralized national book-stock should present no problem provided that the national bibliographical apparatus is strong and well co-ordinated.<sup>350</sup>

The Conference on Centralization and Decentralization of National Bookstocks made the following recommendation on bibliographical control :

"South Africa urgently needs a national bibliographic agency and a system similar to the Australian Bibliographic Centre to co-ordinate the country's bibliographical standards, to serve as a future centre for bibliographical inquiries and to encourage co-operation in bibliographical work."<sup>351</sup>

What are the implications of this recommendation?

#### 7.3.2 A national bibliographical agency for South Africa

The first problem to be considered is that of a national bibliographical agency or a national planning body.

349. STOKES, R. Bibliographical control and service. London, Deutsch, 1965. p.41.

350. MUSIKER, op. cit., p.156.

351. News from the State Library. S.A.L.A. newsletter, 23(7): 218, Jan., 1972.

The main recommendation made by the UNESCO Conference on the Improvement of Bibliographical Services in 1950 was that a recognized planning organisation should be established in each country which would perform the following functions :

- "(a) to promote the development of bibliographic and information services;
- (b) to stimulate research in the field of bibliographic methodology and to serve as a clearing-house of information about research completed and progress made in this field;
- (c) to co-ordinate effort and assist in the determination of priorities; and
- (d) to act as a link with international bodies concerned with the planning of bibliographical and information services."<sup>352</sup>

The functions of a national bibliographical agency are being performed in South Africa by the Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association. The Committee was first established in 1949 as a standing sub-committee of the Association to consider the various reports drawn up by the UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey and to consider the bibliographical needs of South Africa. The report

352. VARLEY, D.H. and Spohr, O.H. Some proposals for the development of national bibliographical services in South Africa. South African libraries, 22(3): 80, Jan., 1955.

which resulted from this study was submitted to UNESCO for the Conference on Improvement of Bibliographical Services, referred to above.<sup>353</sup> A grant was received from UNESCO for the secretarial expenses of the Bibliographical Sub-Committee which was requested to act as a liaison between various agencies engaged in bibliographical work in South Africa.<sup>354</sup>

The Bibliographical Sub-Committee was subsequently reconstituted on a permanent basis as a full committee with the following terms of reference :

- "(i) to act as a clearing-house for bibliographical information and projects;
- (ii) to co-ordinate effort and help determine priorities in work being done by individual institutions and bodies;
- (iii) to act as liaison with international bodies in the bibliographical field;
- (iv) to act in an advisory capacity on questions of technique, including modern methods of reproduction; and where feasible,
- (v) to undertake bibliographical projects or pilot schemes."<sup>355</sup>

353. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Bibliographical Sub-Committee. First report of the Working Group on the UNESCO/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey. Cape Town, Bibliographical Sub-Committee, 1950.

354. Id. Annual report... 1949-1950. Cape Town, the Association, 1950. p.11.

355. Id. Annual report ... 1954-1955. Pretoria, the Association, 1955. p.30.

The Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association has been doing excellent work as a planning body, launching new bibliographical projects and ensuring that lacunae in the national bibliographical equipment are filled.

The exact meaning of the recommendation of the Conference on Centralization and Decentralization of National Bookstocks is obscure, particularly in view of the fact that the proceedings of the Conference have not yet been published. Does the recommendation "South Africa urgently needs a bibliographic agency and a system similar to the Australian Bibliographic Centre..."<sup>356</sup> imply that the Bibliographical Committee should be declared redundant and a new body be established to replace it; or should the Bibliographical Committee be remodelled on the lines of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services and stand in the same relationship to a South African bibliographical centre as does the Council on Bibliographical Services to the Australian Bibliographical Centre?

The functions of the Australian Bibliographical Centre and the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services have already been discussed.<sup>357</sup> To recapitulate briefly, the Centre acts as Secretariat to the Council and its committees.

356. News from the State Library. S.A.L.A. newsletter, 23(7): 218, Jan., 1972.

357. Refer Chapter 5, par. 5.4.1.2, p.135-136; par. 5.4.1.3.1, p.139-140.

The Council's functions are purely advisory. It plans and recommends to appropriate authorities the development of Australian bibliographical services, library resources and library services.

There are points of similarity and difference between the Bibliographical Committee and the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services. Like the Bibliographical Committee, the Council started its career with a survey of Australian bibliographical resources, activities and needs, and in recent years the Council has also been investigating the indexing of Australian newspapers.<sup>358,359</sup> The main difference between the Bibliographical Committee and the Council on Bibliographical Services is the latter's relationship with the Australian Bibliographical Centre.

Two different recommendations have already been put forward with regard to the Bibliographical Committee.

The Action Committee of the South African Library Association resolved in 1961 that the Bibliographical Committee be reconstituted as a National Advisory Committee on Bibliographical Projects -

358. AUSTRALIAN Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services. Library services for Australia; the work of AACOBS, 1956-70. Canberra, National Library of Australia for AACOBS, 1971. p.8,4.

359. Refer Chapter 7, par. 7.2.5.1.1, p.252-253.

for what reason was not made clear.<sup>360</sup>

Some years after the National Conference of Library Authorities in 1962, the South African Library Association decided that the Bibliographical Committee would continue to function until after the establishment of the proposed South African Bibliographic Bureau which would incorporate and develop its work and activities.<sup>361</sup>

The question of a national bibliographical agency is linked with that of a national bibliographical centre which will be discussed in the next section.

### 7.3.3 A South African national bibliographical centre

The second problem to be considered is that of a national bibliographical centre. South Africa has already considered two solutions to this problem.

The Action Committee of the South African Library Association which was appointed in 1959 to improve library co-operation, resolved that :

"The Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association be reconstituted as a National Advisory Committee on

360. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Action Committee on Library Co-operation. Aspects of South African Libraries. Pretoria, the Association, 1962. Report and recommendations on bibliographical needs, (p.1).

361. Id. Annual report... 1963-1964, p.17; 1962-1963, p.16.

Bibliographical Projects and the Board of Trustees of the South African Public Library be requested to agree that the South African Public Library should house the bibliographical centre with the librarian of the South African Public Library as Honorary Director."<sup>362</sup>

This resolution directly involved one of the national libraries, namely, the South African Library. At the time this resolution was put forward the State Library was still performing the dual functions of a national library and a public library.

The National Conference of Library Authorities, 1962, recommended the establishment of a South African Bibliographic Bureau, independent from one of the national libraries. The proposed Bureau is described in the Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa,<sup>363</sup> as a central body for bibliographic and information services with the following objectives :

"The planning, promotion, co-ordination and administration of bibliographic services in the Republic, and the maintenance of contacts with similar organisations overseas, of which interested bodies should be kept informed.

- 362. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Action Committee on Library Co-operation. Aspects of South African Libraries. Pretoria, the Association, 1962. Report and recommendations on bibliographical needs. (p.1).
- 363. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic... South African libraries, 30(3): 109-112, Jan., 1963.

Investigation, standardisation and co-ordination of documentation and information services and the provision of advice relevant to such activities.

The promotion and administration of research activities in this field."<sup>364</sup>

The Programme also describes the form of control, finance and functions of the South African Bibliographic Bureau. Under functions it lists a few examples of work that should be undertaken by the State Library and the South African Library under the guidance of the Bureau. In describing the bibliographical functions of the national libraries, the Programme states that they should assist in the planning and co-ordination of bibliographical services in the Republic, but no indication is given of the relationship which should exist between the national libraries and the Bureau.<sup>365</sup>

Reference has already been made to the South African Library Association's decision that the Bibliographical Committee should continue to function until the formation of the Bureau,<sup>366</sup> with the following terms

364, 365. NATIONAL Conference of Library Authorities, Pretoria, 1962. Programme for future library development in the Republic... South African libraries, 30(3):110,109-112,103, Jan., 1963.

366. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report... 1963-1964. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1964. p.17.

of reference :

"to accept responsibility for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and initiation of bibliographic services, activities and methods in the Republic and to keep abreast with similar activities abroad and to keep interested institutions informed of these activities; the investigation, standardization and co-ordination of documentation and information services and rendering of advice about such activities; the furtherance and initiation of research activities in this field."<sup>367</sup>

It was also decided that the Bureau will, after its establishment, incorporate and develop the work and activities of the Bibliographical Committee.<sup>368</sup>

Ten years have lapsed since the Bureau was proposed and it has still not been established. Many of the functions attributed to the Bureau have been carried out by the Bibliographical Committee or by libraries under the direction of the Committee, for example, the State Library started compiling the retrospective South African national bibliography for the period before 1959, in 1965. The National Library Advisory Council has also been performing some of the functions attributed to the Bureau,

367. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report... 1965-1966. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1966. p.22.

368. Id. Annual report... 1962-1963. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1963. p.16.

for example, the investigation of national library and information services.<sup>369</sup>

The Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa today serves only as a guide to the principles of library co-operation. South Africa should think afresh about the question of a bibliographical centre.

The Conference on Centralization and Decentralization of National Bookstocks recommended... "a system similar to the Australian Bibliographical Centre..."<sup>370</sup>

What system should South Africa introduce similar to the Australian Bibliographical Centre or, conversely, how can South Africa benefit from the Australian experience?

The Australian Bibliographical Centre was established at the same time as the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services in 1956, with financial support from the Commonwealth Government. The Centre was established to perform two main functions:

369. SOUTH AFRICAN Library Association. Annual report... 1970-1971. Potchefstroom, the Association, 1971. p.15.

370. News from the State Library. S.A.L.A. newsletter, 23(7): 218, Jan., 1972.

To act as Secretariat to the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services and its committees in planning and in making its policy effective.

To act as a bibliographical information centre and clearing-house for bibliographical enquiries.

This second function has been taken over by the National Library of Australia as a result of the small amount of use made of the Centre's bibliographical services. The sole function of the Centre today is to act as Secretariat to the Council on Bibliographical Services and its committees.<sup>371</sup>

#### 7.3.3.1 Comparison between the Australian and the South African situation

In viewing the Australian situation in relation to South Africa, the following points should be considered:

- 7.3.3.1.1 The financial support given by the Commonwealth Government to the Australian Bibliographical Centre. The main stumbling block to the establishment of the South African Bibliographic Bureau, or any other form of national bibliographical centre which South Africa may wish to establish, has been and still is, lack of financial support

371. AUSTRALIAN Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services. Library services for Australia... Canberra, National Library of Australia for AACOBs, 1971. p.12-13.

from the central government on whose generosity such a scheme would depend. Appropriate here is the following statement :

"Bibliographical activities cost money and we can have as much bibliographic control as we can afford."<sup>372</sup>

- 7.3.3.1.2 The close relationship existing between the National Library of Australia, the Australian Bibliographical Centre which is administratively part of the library, and the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services. The National library is the vital, cementing element in the relationship; it provides the Secretariat without which the Council cannot function, and undertakes projects or arranges for them to be undertaken by other bodies as recommended by the Council.
- 7.3.3.1.3 Australia has one national library as opposed to South Africa's two national libraries.
- 7.3.3.1.4 Although there are points of similarity between the Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association and the Council on Bibliographical Services, it is not the exact equivalent of the Council.

372. ROBERTS, N. Desiderata for national bibliographical services. ASLIB proceedings, 24(8): 475, August 1972.

### 7.3.3.2 The South African situation

The question arises whether South Africa should model its national bibliographical centre on the Australian Bibliographical Centre as it was or is today. Either way it would involve one of the national libraries. The following factors should be taken into account in considering one of the two national libraries as a home for the national bibliographical centre:

- 7.3.3.2.1 The idea of attaching the national bibliographical centre to one of the national libraries had been considered and was rejected in favour of an independent body.
- 7.3.3.2.2 Both the State Library and the South African Library offer a bibliographical information service. If a bibliographical centre were established to act, inter-alia, as a bibliographical information centre and clearing-house for bibliographical enquiries, would sufficient use be made of this service, or would the Australian experience repeat itself in South Africa.
- 7.3.3.2.3 Both the State Library and the South African Library are inadequately housed and suffer from a chronic shortage of staff and funds.

Arguments can be advanced in favour of either the South African Library or the State Library, Cape Town or Pretoria, as the seat for the national bibliographical centre.

If one accepts the functions ascribed to the national bibliographical centre, namely, provision of information service, production of the national bibliography, establishment of a union catalogue and the production of other reference tools,<sup>373</sup> then the odds are in favour of the State Library, Pretoria, which complies with these four requirements.

An important factor in favour of the South African Library, Cape Town, is the wealth of its resources, particularly early South African material, and a reputation for scholarship. There is a tendency to regard the South African Library as South Africa's British Museum Library.

#### 7.3.3.3 Questions to be answered for South Africa

If one rejects the recommendation of emulating Australia by attaching the national bibliographical centre to one of the national libraries in favour of an independent institution, then three basic questions still remain to be answered :

- 7.3.3.3.1 What relationship should exist between the national libraries and the national bibliographical centre, and how should they divide or share their functions?

373. LARSEN, K. National bibliographical services: their creation and operation. Paris, UNESCO, 1953. (UNESCO bibliographical handbooks, 1). p.6-7.

7.3.3.3.2 Where should the national bibliographical centre be located? It seems a fair assumption that it should be established in either Pretoria or Cape Town.

7.3.3.3.3 The most important question of all - how will financial support for the establishment and maintenance of the centre be secured?

An attempt will be made to answer these questions in the following section.

There can be no doubt that South Africa needs a national bibliographical centre to develop and co-ordinate bibliographical services, establish and maintain standards and conduct research pertinent to these services; to exercise control over South Africa's decentralized national bookstock and compile regional bibliographies.

What then is the solution for South Africa? In the words of Guy Sylvestre, National Librarian of Canada:

"... each nation must find for herself those solutions best suited to her particular needs which the human, financial, and other resources available to her at a given time make possible."<sup>374</sup>

374. SYLVESTRE, G. The developing national library network of Canada. Library resources and technical services, 16(1): 48-49, Winter 1972.

#### 7.4 Conclusions and recommendations

The national library in South Africa has two branches, namely, the South African Library in the south and the State Library in the north. As background to the understanding of the national library in South Africa, its characteristics, functions, and the main stages in its development were described.

The problem investigated was the interpretation and performance by the national library in South Africa of its bibliographical function, evaluated in terms of the bibliographical function of national libraries generally. Both the South African Library and the State Library have defined their bibliographical function, and a Co-ordinating Committee of the two libraries ensures that unnecessary duplication does not occur. Bibliographical work in progress and completed was fully examined in accordance with a checklist. The checklist was divided into four categories based on the principle that the national library performs its bibliographical function in a limited and a wider sense.

After describing how the South African Library and the State Library interpret and perform their bibliographical function, their performance of this function was evaluated in terms of the national bibliographical equipment and the essential requirements of bibliographical control.

## 7.4.1 Conclusions

### 7.4.1.1 General

- 7.4.1.1.1 The bibliographical activities of national libraries are closely related to three important aspects of national library functions: acquisition, preservation and utilization.
- 7.4.1.1.2 The day of the comprehensive national library which collects in depth in all subject fields, is over. National libraries should concentrate on collecting and preserving the national literature - a task which falls outside the scope of other research libraries in the country.
- 7.4.1.1.3 National libraries should, however, take the lead in organizing a system of national co-operation with other research libraries in the country and co-ordinate efforts to obtain the foreign literature the country requires.
- 7.4.1.1.4 As the repository for the national literature, the national library should compile the current national bibliography which is the only means by which the literature of the nation can be made accessible on the national

as well as the international level.

- 7.4.1.1.5 As the national library is frequently the only library in the country which combines the three basic requisites of stock, staff and catalogues, it is well-equipped to act as the national bibliographical information centre.
- 7.4.1.1.6 The national library is an important factor in achieving national bibliographical coverage and control, and in the co-ordination of bibliographical activities in the country.
- 7.4.1.1.7 The application of computers to library techniques during the past ten years has also assisted national libraries by increasing their scope for improved bibliographical services and control, and has promoted the development of networks.
- 7.4.1.1.8 The general principles underlying the proposed British Library could profitably be studied by other national libraries, especially the newer institutions. With the establishment of the British Library, Britain is aiming at an integrated library structure, consisting of reference services, lending services and bibliographical

services. The proposed National Bibliographic Service will combine, co-ordinate and develop the bibliographical activities of the institutions constituting the British Library.

#### 7.4.1.2 South Africa

- 7.4.1.2.1 Both the South African Library and the State Library perform their bibliographical function in the limited rather than the wider sense. Between them they compile many of the essential bibliographies expected of a national library, for example, current and retrospective national bibliographies, bibliographies of bibliographies, bibliographies based on their own collections, etc., and compare favourably in this respect with the five overseas national libraries examined in this study.
- 7.4.1.2.2 In certain categories of bibliography, for example, selective national bibliographies they should, however, extend their bibliographical activities and assist in filling existing lacunae and improving the essential requirements of bibliographical control.

- 7.4.1.2.3 The State Library, like many other national libraries, has realised the value of automatic data processing as an aid to bibliographical control and information service, and has computerised the current national bibliography and is producing the joint catalogue of monographs in machine-readable form, thus taking the first steps towards building up a national bibliographical data bank and establishing a loan network.
- 7.4.1.2.4 Both the South African Library and the State Library offer a bibliographical information service and have built up collections of bibliographical source material for this purpose.
- 7.4.1.2.5 Bibliographical activity in South Africa, as in other countries is decentralized to a certain extent. Institutions other than the two national libraries compile important bibliographical works, for example, theses, union catalogues of periodicals, etc.
- 7.4.1.2.6 Bibliography in South Africa has entered a period of consolidation. Many gaps have been filled through the activities of the national libraries and other institutions, as well as interested

individuals.

- 7.4.1.2.7 For the practice of the bibliographical function in the wider sense, South Africa requires one central authority to develop and co-ordinate bibliographical activities in the country; to co-operate in international bibliography; to establish and maintain standards; and to exercise bibliographical control over the country's decentralized national bookstock through the compilation of regional bibliographies, etc.

7.4.2 Recommendations

- 7.4.2.1 The Co-ordinating Committee of the South African Library and the State Library should establish priorities for bibliographical work in order to use staff time to the greatest advantage.
- 7.4.2.2 Neither of the two libraries should embark on new bibliographical projects until the work in hand has been completed.
- 7.4.2.3 The State Library should give prime consideration to publishing the South African national bibliography monthly with quarterly cumulations.

- 7.4.2.4      The completion of the retrospective South African national bibliography for the period 1926-1958, should take precedence over the nine-year cumulation for the period 1959-1967; it should also take precedence over the selective retrospective national bibliographies which the library is planning.
- 7.4.2.5      The South African Library should give top priority to the revision of two important instruments of bibliographical control :
- 7.4.2.5.1    The Union list of South African newspapers which is more than twenty-years out-of-date. This bibliography in its revised form should be published or reproduced in machine-readable form.
- 7.4.2.5.2    The Bibliography of African bibliographies which is more than twelve years out-of-date. This important bibliography not only presents a subject approach to bibliographical control, but also serves as a register of bibliographies compiled in the country. The fifth edition of this bibliography should be published as soon as possible and should be kept up-to-date. The amount of material published on Africa has obviously increased enormously during recent years,

but the longer the delay between editions the more difficult the task of revision.

- 7.4.2.5.3 One of two possibilities exist for speeding up the compilation of this bibliography, namely, limiting the scope of the work; or issuing annual supplements with a revised consolidated edition appearing every five years.
- 7.4.2.6 The South African Library should consider issuing bibliographies of South African serial publications, for example, bibliographies of ceased South African newspapers and periodicals. The Library should also consider compiling the pre-1900 Index to South African periodicals, if the Johannesburg Public Library is unable to do so.
- 7.4.2.7 The State Library as the producer of the current national bibliography should be able to publish selective national bibliographies as the South African national bibliography has been computerised for some years now and is being produced locally (previously done in Germany).

7.4.2.7.1 The following selective national bibliographies will be a useful addition to the national bibliographical equipment:

7.4.2.7.1.1 A South African books in print;

7.4.2.7.1.2 a bibliography of South African government publications. The monthly lists appearing in the Government gazette are not consolidated annually, and the progress made by the State Division of Library Services with its bibliographies of official publications appears to be very slow;

7.4.2.7.1.3 a select annual list of South African books on the lines of Australian books; a select list, compiled by the National Library of Australia and/or a bibliography of books about South Africa. As the South African book production is relatively small, the State Library will have to consider whether selective national bibliographies should be published annually or at longer or shorter intervals.

7.4.2.8 The State Library which has already embarked on a computerisation programme should continue its developments in this direction and its investigations into a South African MARC service, as well as the centralized provision of cataloguing

and bibliographical data to other libraries.

- 7.4.2.9 Neither the State Library nor the South African Library should undertake bibliographical projects which could be done more conveniently and economically by other institutions.
- 7.4.2.10 The institutions which are contributing to the national bibliographical equipment should be encouraged to continue their services to the country. In a country like South Africa with limited resources and a young library profession, co-operation is essential not only in building up the national bookstock, but also in building up the national bibliographical equipment.
- 7.4.2.11 The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the University of South Africa as the compilers of the union catalogue of periodicals, should consider the publication of subject bibliographies of periodicals for greater bibliographical control.
- 7.4.2.12 The Ferdinand Postma Library, University of Potchefstroom, as the compiler of the union catalogue of South African dissertations and thèses, should consider

publishing a consolidated and up-to-date version of this catalogue, as well as a bibliography of South African theses and dissertations on microfilm or microfiche.

- 7.4.2.13      The South African Library and the State Library should continue to practise their bibliographical function in the limited sense, assisted by the other institutions and individuals in the country who compile bibliographies.
- 7.4.2.14      As neither of the two national libraries are actively concerned with the co-ordination of bibliographical activities nor possess the staff and financial means to expand their bibliographical activities in the wider sense, South Africa should establish a national bibliographical centre for this purpose. The principle of a national bibliographical centre has already been established. Three basic questions were posed in this connection at the conclusion of the previous section. An attempt will be made to answer these questions now.

#### 7.4.3 Suggestions for a national bibliographical centre

South Africa should establish a national bibliographical centre as an independent body, but situated close to one of the national libraries.

##### 7.4.3.1 Location

Pretoria should be considered as the seat for the national bibliographical centre because of the high concentration of library resources and activities in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand area. Concentrated within this area are :

- 7.4.3.1.1 The State Library which operates the inter-library loan system, houses the joint catalogue of monographs and compiles the current national bibliography;
- 7.4.3.1.2 the compilers of the union catalogue of periodicals;
- 7.4.3.1.3 Pretoria which has two large university libraries, namely, the Universities of Pretoria and South Africa;
- 7.4.3.1.4 the State Division of Library Services, the Pretoria Public Library, the headquarters of the Transvaal Provincial Library Service, and the Library of the South African Council for Scientific

and Industrial Research which performs a national function in the field of science and technology;

- 7.4.3.1.5 Johannesburg, with the libraries of the University of the Witwatersrand and the Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit and the largest public library in the country;
- 7.4.3.1.6 many special libraries and information services, including two large ones which serve African Explosives and Chemical Industries (AE&CI) and the South African Iron and Steel Industrial Corporation (ISCOR).

A high degree of co-operation already exists between these libraries, and a working group consisting of the representatives of the libraries of the University of the Witwatersrand, the Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit, the University of South Africa, the State Library, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the Johannesburg Public Library are conducting a feasibility study into the application of MARC data bases in South Africa.

#### 7.4.3.2 Relationship with the national libraries

A close, well-defined relationship should exist between the national libraries and the Centre. The national libraries should continue to compile and publish bibliographies of national importance, and offer bibliographical information service, but the

bibliographical function in its wider sense should be the responsibility of the Centre.

#### 7.4.3.3 Functions

7.4.3.3.1 Develop and co-ordinate bibliographical services and act as a centre for the national library network when it is established.

7.4.3.3.2 Establish and maintain standards and conduct research pertinent to the above services.

7.4.3.3.3 Exercise control in all national bibliographical matters, and over South Africa's decentralized national bookstock and initiate projects for the compilation of regional bibliographies.

7.4.3.3.4 In view of South Africa's large geographical area, investigate the possibilities of establishing bibliographical information bureaux in other centres, for example, Durban or Port Elizabeth, if the need exists.

7.4.3.3.5 Take over and develop the activities of the Committee on Bibliographical Services, established by the National Library Advisory Council in 1971, to conduct investigations into library mechanization;

and act as an advisory body to  
libraries investigating computerisation.

7.4.3.3.6 Take over and develop the activities of  
the Bibliographical Committee of the  
South African Library Association.

7.4.3.3.7 Co-operate in international bibliographi-  
cal activities and maintain a liaison  
with international bodies.

7.4.3.4 Finance

The problem of finance should be referred to the  
National Library Advisory Council and the Human  
Sciences Research Council for investigation.

The establishment of the national bibliographical  
centre should be a National Library Advisory Council  
project which should enjoy top priority.

The impact of automatic data processing and the  
concept of library networks is being felt in South  
Africa. At this very early stage it is difficult  
to predict what form developments in South Africa  
will take. The national libraries may, however,  
not remain aloof from these developments.

"National libraries have an obligation not only towards the treasures of the past, but also a responsibility towards the shaping of the library system of the future."375

375. MAGNUSSEN, I. The functions and planning of a national library. In National libraries: extracts from the proceedings of the University and Research Section Conference, Bangor, April 1963. London, Library Association, 1963. p.25.

## APPENDIX

### SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY, CAPE TOWN

#### Questionnaire on bibliographical work

1. In reformulating library objectives and policies in 1955, the Trustees gave special attention to certain points, including "the effective discharge of the Library's obligations under the Copyright Act as amended, and the publication of lists and bibliographies based on the Copyright and Africana collections..."  
(South African Public Library. Report of the Trustees... 1 Jan., 1954 - 31 Dec., 1955, p.2).

The Trustees in setting out the functions of the library list the acquisition and preservation of various categories of publications, describing the bibliographical function as "bibliographical research in connection with the abovementioned in co-operation with other libraries and the publication of the results thereof;"

(De Jager, P.J. Wat die nasionale biblioteke vir openbare biblioteke kan doen. In South African Library Association, 25th annual conference, 1970. Papers. p.67).

- 1.1 Do the above two statements still apply?
- 1.2 How does the South African Library define or interpret its bibliographical function today?
- 1.3 To what extent does S.A.L. co-operate with other libraries in bibliographical research?

2. The Booysen Committee report refers to an undesirable duplication of bibliographical services by the State Library and the South African Library.

Paragraph 13.12.2 recommends that the Co-ordinating Committee of the two libraries devotes attention to this duplication of bibliographical services.

- 2.1 Has the Co-ordinating Committee formulated a policy dividing responsibility for bibliographical services between the State Library and S.A.L.?
- 2.2 If so, which bibliographical tasks are regarded as the specific responsibility of the South African Library?

3. The Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa under the heading "National libraries. Bibliographic functions" states:

Paragraph 4.5.2.4.1 "Assistance in the planning and co-ordination of bibliographic services in the Republic"

Paragraph 4.5.2.4.4 "The preparation and publication of special bibliographies."

- 3.1 Has the South African Library given any practical interpretation to these two paragraphs?
4. What bibliographies has S.A.L. published other than the ones appearing in the Grey Bibliographies series?
5. Is Flora Africana (Grey Bibliographies no.8, 1963) the latest in this series?
6. What is in progress or being planned for future publication in the Grey Bibliographies series?

7. When will the 5th ed. of A bibliography of African bibliographies be published?
8. When will the Mendelssohn revision be completed?
9. The S.A.L. is engaged in the compilation of a national inventory of manuscripts.
  - 9.1 What is the correct title of this work, its scope and when will it be completed?
10. Is it correct that a guide to the S.A.L.'s manuscript collection is in progress?
11. When will the Short-title list of early printed books in South African libraries, appear? Is this the correct title?
12. According to the Annual report of the Bibliographical Committee of the S.A.L.A., 1965/1966, p.21: the feasibility of publishing a Book prices current: Africana was in the hands of the South African Library. The same report also refers to a guide to unpublished material which was being handled by the library.
  - 12.1 What progress has been made with the compilation of these two works?
13. The Programme for future development... paragraph 6.4.7.2 states "South African Library in collaboration with the Division State Library Services should revise and supplement its Guide to official and statistical sources."
  - 13.1 When was this guide first published?
  - 13.2 Is it being revised?

14. "Co-operation with national libraries abroad" is listed as one of the library's functions.
- 14.1 To what extent does the S.A.L. co-operate with national libraries abroad, particularly with regard to the exchange of bibliographical information?
15. Is the Director of the South African Library a member of any international committee on bibliography?
16. Although South Africa is no longer a member of UNESCO, does the South African Library contribute to UNESCO's Bulletin on bibliography, documentation and terminology, or any other publication dealing with bibliography which is international in scope?

## STATE LIBRARY, PRETORIA

### Questionnaire on bibliographical work

1. In 1964 the Minister of Education, Arts and Science determined the purpose and functions of the State Library, describing the bibliographical function as :
  - (b) "Bibliographical work  
To make national literature better known by means of bibliographies, and to provide bibliographical information."  
(State Library. 2nd Seminar on Library Co-operation. Pretoria, August 1967. Proceedings. p.7).
- 1.1 Does this still apply?
- 1.2 How does the State Library define or interpret its bibliographical function?
2. The Booysen Committee report refers to an undesirable duplication of bibliographical services by the State Library and the South African Library.  
Paragraph 13.12.2 recommends that the Co-ordinating Committee of the two libraries devotes attention to this duplication of bibliographical services.
  - 2.1 Has the Co-ordinating Committee formulated a policy dividing responsibility for bibliographical services between the two libraries?
  - 2.2 If so, which bibliographical tasks are regarded as the specific responsibility of the State Library?

3. The Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa, under the heading "National libraries. Bibliographic functions" states :

Paragraph 4.5.2.4.1 "Assistance in the planning and co-ordinating of bibliographical services in the Republic."

Paragraph 4.5.2.4.4 "The preparation and publication of special bibliographies."

- 3.1 Has the State Library given any practical interpretation to these two paragraphs?

4. The responsibilities of the Bibliographical Division of the State Library were described as:

- "(i) To build up and maintain a comprehensive collection of bibliographies;
- (ii) To assist research workers in the use of this collection;
- (iii) To compile and provide bibliographies in answer to specific requests."

(State Library. Report of the Trustees for the year ended March 31, 1966. p.19).

- 4.1 Does the Bibliographical Division still perform the abovementioned tasks?

- 4.2 For whom - private individuals and/ institutions- does the State Library compile bibliographies on request?

(The Report of the Council for the year ended March 31, 1970, p.23, states that it was decided in December 1969 to discontinue the compilation of bibliographies for students even if required for doctoral studies).

5. In noting the numbers of bibliographies compiled by the State Library over a period of time, there appears to have been a sharp decrease, for example, from 46 in the year 1969-1970 to 4 in 1970-1971.

(State Library. Reports... 1965/1966-1970/1971)

- 5.1 What is the reason for this decrease?
6. When is the nine-year cumulation of the South African national bibliography, 1959-1967, expected to appear?
7. When will the retrospective S.A.N.B., 1926-1958, be completed?
  - 7.1 When did work on this bibliography commence?
  - 7.2 What progress has been made?
8. Is the Bibliography of reprography (State Library. Bibliographies, no. 15) the latest in this series?
9. Does the State Library still intend publishing:
  - 9.1 A list of ceased South African periodicals
  - 9.2 A list of ceased South African newspapers?
10. What bibliographies has the State Library published other than the ones appearing in the Bibliographies series, and the S.A.N.B.?
11. Is the author list on cards of banned books and the catalogue of banned books the same thing?
12. Does the State Library compile or intend compiling guides to specialized sources of information?
13. Does the State Library keep a register of bibliographies published in South Africa?

14. To what extent does the State Library exchange bibliographical information with national libraries and other institutions abroad?
15. Since when has the State Library participated in the Shared Cataloguing Programme of the Library of Congress?
16. Although South Africa is no longer a member of UNESCO, does the State Library
  - 16.1 still provide information for the Index translationum
  - 16.2 contribute to the Bulletin on bibliography, documentation and terminology
  - 16.3 or any other publication on bibliography which is international in scope?
17. Is the Director of the State Library a member of any international committee on bibliography?

## SUMMARY

The problem investigated is the interpretation and performance by the national library in South Africa of its bibliographical function, evaluated in terms of the bibliographical function of national libraries generally.

Most countries today have a national library or a library which is regarded as national. After an examination of definitions of the national library and a description of its characteristics, one definition is selected as a basis for this study.

The national library's bibliographical function should be seen in relation to all its functions and its rôle in the modern world. The national library today should concentrate on those functions which it is eminently qualified to undertake, namely, the collection of the nation's literature and the publication of the national bibliography. The functions of six national libraries, including South Africa, are listed to illustrate this point.

National libraries have a definite responsibility in the field of bibliography. Criteria for the evaluation of the bibliographical function are established by a theoretical examination of this function, followed by a description of the bibliographical activities of the National Libraries of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the Library of Congress and the British Museum Library. A checklist is introduced for purposes of analysis,

incorporating the principle that the national library performs its bibliographical function in a limited and a wider sense. In the limited sense, it is responsible for compiling and publishing bibliographies and acting as a national bibliographical information centre. In the wider sense, it should co-ordinate bibliographical activities in its own country and co-operate in bibliographical matters on the international level.

The conclusion reached is that the national library in South Africa performs its bibliographical function in the limited sense. It is recommended that the national library should continue to compile and publish bibliographies of national importance and offer a national bibliographical information service. A South African Bibliographical Centre should be established to assume responsibility for the bibliographical function in the wider sense. The functions of the proposed Centre should include: the development and co-ordination of national bibliographical services; establishment and maintenance of standards; the exercise of bibliographical control; co-operation in international bibliographical activities, etc. A close, well-defined relationship should be established between the Centre and the national library.

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