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Samevatting/ Ekserp

Hierdie studie het ten doel om die belangrikheid en vereistes van 'n Nasionale Inligtingsbeleid vanaf 'n Inligtingkundige oogpunt te bespreek. Die studie is uit 'n holistiese oogpunt benader en probeer om alle faktore en verwante beleide wat invloed op 'n Nasionale Inligtingsbeleid uitoefen te bespreek. Die konsep "Inligting" word in Derde Wêreld lande vanuit 'n unieke sosiale, ekonomiese, politiese en kulturele agtergrond aangepak. Met dit in gedagte, word die formulering van 'n Nasionale Inligtingsbeleid hier as 'n proses om inligting as hulpbron te bestuur, benader. Die bestuur van inligting as 'n hulpbron is dus 'n baie belangrike funksie vir die owerhede. Die studie fokus op die volgende:

- Wat 'n Nasionale Inligtingsbeleid behels.
- Redes hoekom 'n Nasionale Inligtingsbeleid benodig word, die geskilpunte en beleidsbeginsels.
- Moontlike voorstelle en metodes om 'n Nasionale Inligtingsbeleid in Suid-Afrika te implementeer word ook bespreek.

Weerstand vanaf die Derde Wêreld teenoor buitelandse en westerse betrokkenheid word ondervind. Dit is dus belangrik dat oplossings vanuit die Derde Wêreld self kom. 'n Ideaal waarna gestreef word is dat die leiding ten opsigte van die formulering van 'n Nasionale Inligtingsbeleid vanuit Suid-Afrika sal kom vir toepassing in die res van Afrika. Voorstelle word dus gemaak vir die formulering van 'n Nasionale Inligtingsbeleid in Suid-Afrika binne die weier raamwerk van tradisionele inligtingverskaffing en inligtingdienslewering. Die tradisionele rol moet ook nuwe dienste, bekwaamhede, en die gebruik van nuwe inligtingsbronne en programme in ag neem. Die uiteindelijke doel is dat Derde Wêreld lande self die waarde van inligting besef en hulle eie Nasionale Inligtingsbeleid formuleer. Sodoende word foute uit die verlede herstel, beter gebalanseerde dienste word verskaf en beter ko-ordinering vind plaas wat tot meer toegang tot inligting lei. Die gevolg is dat



profesioneel opgeleide mense inligting kan bestuur en gebruik om Afrika se sosio-
ekonomiese probleme op te los.

Summary/ Abstract

This study endeavours to produce an understanding of the necessity for a National Information Policy from an Information Science point of view. The study was approached from a holistic point of view and thus tries to encompass all factors and related policies that would influence the formulation of a National Information Policy. The concept of information in developing countries operates within a broader social, economic, political and cultural background. The formulation of a National Information Policy should however conform to certain information management principles and is thus treated as a process for managing information, a vital function for any successful government. In the empirical research the theory is applied to describe the fundamentals of policies and their necessity. The study focuses on:

- Exploration of what a National Information Policy encompasses.
- Principles of information, issues and reasons making such a policy a necessity.
- Possible proposals, approaches, and means of implementing a National Information Policy for South Africa are discussed.

From a Third World perspective resistance may be detected towards external and foreign involvement or models. Greater care should thus be given to indigenous practices, but with the necessary guidance, so that a correct balance can be created. It is therefore essential that the seed be planted, guidance given and that the process be driven from within the country in order to be successful. The ideal would be if this guidance could come from an African country such as South Africa. A National Information Policy should be formulated within a broader framework of meeting the traditional information provision needs and services. The traditional role should however also be extended to make provision for new services, skills and the utilisation of new information sources and programmes. The ultimate goal is for Third World countries to realise the value of information and develop their own concept of a National Information Policy. This is done in order to address the disparities of the past, improve and develop balanced services,

create better co-ordination, facilitate access and have adequate and professionally trained human resources. This will lead to better management and use of information to ultimately solve Africa's socio-economic problems. Conclusions and recommendations are thus formulated to act as a guideline for the proposed formulation of such a policy for South Africa.