

	<p style="text-align: right;">Date : 05/06/2007</p> <p>BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL IN SOUTH AFRICA</p> <p>Prof Ina Fourie Associate professor Department of Information Science, University of Pretoria, Lynnwood Road Pretoria, 0002, South Africa Email: ina.fourie@up.ac.za</p> <p>Mrs Marlene Burger Department of Information Science, University of South Africa PO Box 392, 0003, Unisa E-mail: burgem@unisa.ac.za</p>
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Abstract: *The history of bibliographic control in South Africa is covered with regard to the legislation regulating legal deposits and a national agency for bibliographic control, as well as the various role players such as interest groups, bibliographic networks, the national archival service and service providers for bibliographic control tools. A selection of bibliographic control tools including union catalogues, bibliographies, indexes and databases, as well as advisory groups and research reports are also addressed.*

1 INTRODUCTION

National bibliographic control activities in South Africa have always been aimed at making publicly available information sources by South African authors such as books, journal articles, theses, archival documents, non-print media (Lor & Geusteyn 2003) and other types of indigenous sources. Since these form part of the heritage of the country that needs to be preserved for future generations, they are identified, described and listed in a systematic manner in such a way that we can be *aware* of the information (i.e. recording existence of these in national bibliographic control tools), that it can be *located for public use* (i.e. referring to physical access or holdings), that we can accommodate *resource sharing* and *document delivery*, and that the information sources can be *preserved* for future generations. This is very similar to other countries working towards national and Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC). According to Behrens (1991:42): “Effective national bibliographic control in South Africa ultimately contributes to universal

bibliographic control (UBC), and the success of both depends on the cooperation of individuals and institutions in the information community”.

A variety of bibliographic control tools and supporting services has been developed since South Africa's earliest attempts at national bibliographic control. According to Musiker (2005) Mendelssohn's *South African Bibliography* (1910) is a landmark work for South African bibliographies. The need for uniform cataloguing and a national South African bibliography was also stressed in the recommendations following the Carnegie Visit in 1929 (Walker 1993:61). Lor and Geusteyn (2005) offer an interesting review of the bibliographic control of books between 1796 and 1996.

For national bibliographic control to be effective, there need to be

- A legal deposit regulation.
- A regulating, controlling and advisory body.
- Supporting committees and investigations.
- A wide selection of bibliographic tools covering various facets of the national recorded heritage.
- Compliance with national and international standards as well as technological developments (e.g. computerization, use of the Internet).
- National support from institutions, consortia, professional associations, interest groups and qualified, dedicated individuals.
- Research programs and initiatives.
- Literature reporting on national bibliographic control.

The above will be used to reflect on the history of South African bibliographic control which forms the bases for current activities. Since it is not possible to offer a comprehensive review, sources for further information will also be highlighted. The following sources are especially useful: Behrens (1991,1997, 2000), Coetzee (1990, 1991), Coetzee and Boon (1988), Kalley, Schoeman and Burger (2005), Musiker (1997, 2000), and Viljoen and Zaaiman (1998).

2 LEGAL ENFORCEMENT OF NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

There are two main issues at stake in the legal enforcement of national bibliographic control in South Africa, namely:

- Regulation of legal deposits of all documents.
- Establishment of a national bibliographic agency.

2.1 Legal deposit

For effective national bibliographic control (i.e. of any object which is intended to store or convey information in textual, graphic, visual, auditory or intelligible form), responsible bodies must be aware of all such documents created and published in the country (documents with government information is especially important). They should also receive a free copy so that documents can be catalogued, incorporated into bibliographic control tools, preserved for future generations and national holdings indicated. In South Africa legal deposit, in some form or another, dates back to 1842. Currently it is regulated by the Legal Deposit Act, No. 54 of 1997. All publishers in the country must deposit copies of each document with the following agencies:

- National Library of South Africa (NLSA) (Pretoria and Cape Town Campuses) (formerly the State Library and the South African Library – as will be discussed in section 2.2)
- City Library Services, Bloemfontein, (new name: Mangaung Library Services)
- Library of Parliament in Cape Town (new name: Msunduzi Municipal Library)
- Natal Society Library in Pietermaritzburg.

It is also required that The National Film, Video and Sound Archives in Pretoria receive certain categories of documents.

Act No. 54 of 1997 repealed an earlier Act, No. 17 of 1982 – Legal Deposit of Publications Act. Lor and Guesteyn (2003) explain the reasons for the new act with special mention of the legal deposit of broadcast media and dynamic (online) electronic media, while Van Zyl (1999a, b) reports on audio visual publications.

The implementation of the Act is coordinated and promoted by a Legal Deposit Committee which consists of the heads of the places of legal deposit, the head of the Government Printing Works, a representative of all provincial official publications depositories, and two representatives of the publishing industry. In addition the act allows for the creation of Official Publications Deposits (OPDs) to ensure availability of government publications (De Beer 1998, Lor 2003; Tyobeka 1997; Van Zyl 1999a, b). More detail on legal deposits can also be found in Cillie (1997), Coetzee (1999), Fraser (1974), Lor (1995, 2000b, 2001), Lor and Cillie (1998), *Report of the first meeting of the new Legal Deposit Committee* (1999) and Willemse (1963). Westra (1997) reports on a court case on refusal to submit a book.

2.2 National bibliographic agency as regulating, controlling and advisory body

The Legal Deposit Act is closely linked to the forming of a national bibliographic agency. The National Library of South Africa Act, No 92. of 1998, legally enforced the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) (<http://www.nlsa.org.za>) as bibliographic agency by amalgamating the former two national libraries, namely the State Library in Pretoria and the South African Library in Cape Town. The NLSA's responsibilities include:

- Receiving legal deposits as stipulated by the Legal Deposit Act (No. 54 of 1997) and keeping statistics of the production of published documents.
- Creating bibliographic records, compiling catalogues, bibliographies, indexes and bibliographic databases.
- Attempting to build a complete collection of national documents by adding legal deposits to its collection, cataloguing and listing these with reference to holdings and preserving the documents for current and future use.
- Allocating International Standard Numbers to publishers in South Africa.
- Acting as a centre for interlending – for Southern African countries.
- Coordinating the compilation of a national periodical index, *Index to South African periodicals (ISAP)*. (Discussed in Section 4.2.4)

With regard to the role of the former national libraries, Lor and De Beer (1994) report on the State Library. Information can also be found in Cillie (1996), Fraser (1974), Lor (2000a) and Ritchie (2002) as well as publications of the former national libraries, *Quarterly Bulletin of the National Library of South Africa* and *Quarterly bulletin of the South African Library*.

In 1997 the State Library, predecessor of the NLSA established the MARC office to ensure that libraries can obtain advice on MARC21 and to provide training courses. The MARC training was to be co-ordinated with the Sabinet Online (section 4.3.2) Carnegie funded training and the IGBIS (section 3.1.4) training. BibSA (Bibliographic Standards in SA) was also established (De Klerk 1998).

Although not part of the NLSA, the South African Library for the Blind (BLIBLIB) in Grahamstown provides national library services to blind and print-handicapped readers.

3 SUPPORTING COMMITTEES, INVESTIGATIONS & SEMINARS

Setting national standards and adhering to these in compliance with international standards is important in ensuring effective national bibliographic control. Apart from the role fulfilled by the NLSA and its forerunners the State Library and the South African Library, a number of specialized committees and advisory bodies were formed and ad hoc investigations conducted into South African national bibliographic control. Behrens (1996a, 1996c, 1997) offers good overviews.

3.1 COMMITTEES

A few of the most important committees are briefly discussed.

3.1.1 SAILIS Committee for Bibliographic Control (CBC)

Under the auspices of the South African Institute for Librarianship and Information Science (SAILIS) the Committee for Bibliographic Control (CBC) initially acted as a standing committee to offer guidelines and recommendations on a national level. The committee consisted of the directors of the national libraries and local experts. It was responsible for the SAILIS awards for bibliography, projects on the problems concerning bibliographic control, etc. With the abolishment of SAILIS most functions of the CBC were taken over by the Interim Committee for Bibliographic Organisations (ICBO).

3.1.2 Advisory Committee on the State Library Bibliographic Services

The first meeting of the Committee was in February 1994. It tried to determine what the public at large want regarding bibliographic control. Other activities are described in more detail by Behrens (1997, 1996c). The Committee was disbanded in 1996 with the intention that ICBO would offer further advice.

3.1.3 Interim Committee for Bibliographic Organisations (ICBO)

ICBO was established in 1996 as an independent committee comprising professionals from libraries and related information services in South Africa. It had no direct powers, but acted in advisory capacity in overseeing bibliographic activities in the country. Its functions are discussed by Behrens (1996b, c, 1997), and included the following:

- Communicating bibliographic organisation needs to the South African government, raising awareness of the importance of bibliographic activities, making recommendations on bibliographic organisation to relevant bodies, and lobbying for funds for such activities.
- Monitoring the national bibliographic tools and prioritising bibliographic projects.

- Promoting standardisation in bibliographic activities.
- Coordinating bibliographic activities in South Africa and southern Africa.

Snyman (1997a, b) reports on an investigation initiated by ICBO on whether UNIMARC or USMARC should replace SAMARC, or whether the latter should be retained. The report of the investigation was submitted to ICBO and all delegates attending a seminar on a future MARC format for South Africa that was held in Pretoria, 24-25 April 1997. Seventy-six percent of the delegates voted in favour of USMARC.

3.1.4 Interest Group for Bibliographic Standards (IGBIS)

The Interest Group for Bibliographic Standards (IGBIS) (http://www.liasa.org.za/interest_groups/gbis/php) is a national interest group of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), formed in 1997. Although launched in 2001, properly constituted in 2002, IGBIS only became active since 2003. IGBIS has no powers of enforcement. It is aimed at the promotion and facilitation of bibliographic standards in South Africa which includes the promotion of standardisation in bibliographic work on national level, providing for the exchange of ideas and experiences with regard to the application of bibliographic standards among members, addressing issues which affect the application of bibliographic standards, identifying training needs in respect of bibliographic standards, conducting continuing education for information workers by arranging talks, meetings and workshops and supporting academics, researchers, students and the community through the provision of information about bibliographic standards. It has a newsletter, *IGBIS-in-Touch*.

3.2 Investigations and seminars

Only a few of the most important investigations and interventions are mentioned here.

3.2.1 Inter- University Library Committee and the Fokker report

In 1986 the Inter-University Library Committee (IULC) of the Committee of University Principals requested various task groups to be formed including the IULC Task Group: Bibliographic Tools. Following a report by the Task Group at the SAILIS national conference of 1991 a new Task Group was formed which led to the Fokker report in 1993 that commented on the earnest commitment of library and information services to the national bibliographic tools, and the need to keep existing bibliographic tools complete and accurate. It suggested improvement of some of the bibliographic tools and the roles of the State Library and SABINET (Behrens 1997).

3.2.2 Expert Seminar on Bibliographic Control

In response to the Fokker report the Expert Seminar on Bibliographic Control was held in May 1994. Participants came from various sectors. Four discussion groups contributed a mission and vision for a national bibliographic service, the functions of such a service, the tools that were required, and how such a service should operate. To pursue the proposals a Continuation Committee was appointed (Behrens 1997).

3.2.3 Behrens report

In March 1995 the Committee for Bibliographic Control started a new investigation into the state-of-the-art of the national bibliographic services. This was addressed by the Behrens Report. Apart from addressing the state-of-the-art of several bibliographic tools, the report commented on the accessibility of the country's information sources, as well as factors affecting national bibliographic services.

3.2.4 Seminar on Bibliographic Standards

A seminar on Bibliographic Standards for the Promotion of Cooperation was held in February 1996. Several papers were presented on bibliographic standards, the role of tertiary education, in-service training, quality improvement, etc.

3.2.5 Seminar on Accessing Information Resources in Southern Africa

In September 1986 delegates from 14 African countries discussed the need and opportunities for collaboration between the Southern African Development Community countries at a seminar on Accessing Information Resources in Southern Africa.

4 BIBLIOGRAPHIC TOOLS

In the following section a number of South Africa's key bibliographic tools are briefly discussed. We distinguish between national union catalogues of monographs and serials, bibliographies and indexes, databases and a selection of other tools. The following discussion relies heavily on the work of Behrens (2000).

4.1 National union catalogues of monographs and serials

4.1.1 *South African catalogue of monographs, 1941-1975.* Pretoria: State Library, 1976.

Two hundred southern African libraries cooperated in the compilation of this union catalogue for which the former State Library took responsibility. The State Library started the catalogue in 1941 in traditional card form. In 1975 the original catalogue cards were filmed and microfiche sets (consisting of over 2 000 microfiche) of the entire catalogue were made available for sale. Alphabetical codes on the entries indicated the holding libraries. When closed the catalogue was superseded by another union catalogue which the former State Library started in 1971, then closed in 1995.

4.1.2 *SA joint catalogue of monographs, 1971 – 1995.* Pretoria: State Library, 1971-1995.

The *South African catalogue of monographs, 1941-1975* was superseded by the *SA joint catalogue of monographs, 1971 – 1995* which was also the responsibility of the former State Library. It formed part of the *South African cooperative library database (SACD)* which originated with the establishment of SABINET in 1983.

The *SA joint catalogue of monographs, 1971 – 1995* was published on microfiche in two series including *Title index* and the *Author index*. Holding statements were in number form. The computerization of the catalogue is discussed by Van As and Watson (1980).

It continued to publish after SABINET's new online union catalogue (*SACat*) became available since not all southern African libraries were members of SABINET and therefore still needed access to the microfiche version for interlending purposes. By 1995 it was no longer feasible to publish it and the microfiche version ceased.

4.1.3 *SACat*. Centurion: SABINET Online, 1983 – (<http://www.sabinet.co.za>)

SACat is a current union catalogue of monographs and serials held in South African libraries. It was previously known as the SACD. When SABINET was established in 1983, it started to create a national database by buying an existing database called WLN from the USA. WLN contained about 500 000 bibliographic records for books and serials. Through two conversion projects, the database of two existing union catalogues for southern Africa – *Periodicals in southern African libraries (PISAL)* and the *SA joint catalogue of monographs, 1971 – 1995* were matched against the WLN database. *SACat* is used for cooperative cataloguing of both monographs and serials. Members of SABINET Online either add new records to *SACat* or add their holdings to existing records. *SACat* is also used to find holdings for interlending purposes. Libraries can download records from *SACat* and *WorldCat* for inclusion in their own catalogues. Through *SACat* South African holdings are added to *WorldCat*.

SACat Plus which is available via SABINET Online's MagNet service, is the name given to the combined databases of the *SACat*, the *SANB*, the *UCTD*, *Navtech* and *Bookdata*.

4.1.4 *Periodicals in southern African libraries (PISAL)*. Pretoria: State Library, 1961-1998.

Periodicals in southern African libraries (PISAL) is the national catalogue of serials and was previously compiled by the former State Library with the cooperation of participating libraries and information services. PISAL was first published under the title *Periodicals in South African libraries* in 1961. In 1977, when holdings of libraries from outside the borders of South Africa were included, the title changed to "southern". Although PISAL was originally published in hard copy, it later became available in microfiche format. It ceased publication in 1998 when it was superseded by *SACat*. The history of PISAL is traced by Kotze (2005).

4.1.5 *Union Catalogue of Theses and Dissertations of South African Universities (UCTD)*. Potchefstroom: Potchefstroom University for Higher Education, 1918 – .

In spite of the title, it is actually only a bibliographic list of completed titles for postgraduate research at South African universities. Honorary doctorates are also included. It is currently also available through the NEXUS database from NISC (<http://www.nisc.co.za/databases?id=7>). UCTD is updated annually.

4.2 Bibliographies and indexes

There is a number of national as well as subject and professional bibliographies.

4.2.1 *South African national bibliography (SANB)*. Pretoria: National Library of South Africa, 1959—

The NLSA is currently responsible for the SANB using legal deposit documents to compile this national bibliography which includes monographs (books), pamphlets comprising more than 5 pages, maps, technical reports, some official publications, periodicals, South African Bureau of Standards specifications and microforms. Their cataloguers do the cataloguing online on the *WorldCat*. Initially (1959) it was the responsibility of the former South African National Library. It covers the eleven official languages of South Africa. The *SANB* hard copy ceased publication in 1999. It is now available in electronic format through *SACat*. *SANB* entries are also available on the *WorldCat* as well as the NISC *South African studies* database (discussed in section 4.3.3). At some stage the *SANB* was based on *PRECIS*. This is discussed in more detail by Malherbe (1985). Von Beck (1989) offers an evaluation of the *SANB*.

4.2.2 *Retrospective South African national bibliography for the period 1926 – 1958*. Pretoria: State Library, 1985. 2 volumes. (RSANB)

The *Retrospective South African national bibliography* (RSANB) lists sources which were published in South Africa and Namibia during the period 1926 – 1958. The legal deposit collection of the former State Library was used as basis of the RSANB with additional bibliographies used to trace sources not found in this collection. It consists of two volumes in hard copy. The first volume contains the bibliographic descriptions for the sources entered alphabetically under the author or, where there is no author, under the title. Each entry is allocated a discreet number, and reference is made to this number in the index which is contained in vol. 2. The index includes authors, editors, compilers, translators, illustrators, series and titles in one alphabetical sequence.

Although considered an urgent responsibility the retrospective conversion of the South African national Bibliography took 20 years. Initially it was thought that the project could be completed in a year or two. Botha (1985) reflects on the reasons why it took so long.

4.2.3 *A South African bibliography to the year 1925, being a revision and continuation of Sidney Mendelssohn's South African Bibliography (1910)*. London: Mansell, 1979. Volumes 1-4. Cape Town: South African Library, 1991 and 1997. Volumes 5-6. (SABIB).

For many decades Mendelssohn's bibliography was the most comprehensive retrospective national bibliography for South Africa. In 1960 the former South African Library started with revising the bibliography and adding new sources to the sequence. This was published in 1979 in four volumes as *SABIB*. The first four volumes of *SABIB* include sources published before 1909 which were not listed in Mendelssohn's original bibliography and in addition list sources published up to 1925. A supplement, volume 5, was published in 1991. Volume 6 was published in 1997 and consists of detailed subject and title indexes to the work as a whole.

4.2.4 *Index to South African Periodicals (ISAP)*

The former Library Association of South Africa started *Index to South African Periodicals* (ISAP) in 1940. It was continued by the then Johannesburg Public Library in 1945. In 1986 the former State Library acquired authority over ISAP in terms of a ministerial decision. ISAP does not reflect all legal deposit for South African periodicals but comprises a comprehensive selection of mainly scholarly journals and technical and subject general periodicals. A limited number of popular magazines useful in schools or

adult basic education are included. The NLSA has contracts with specialised institutions and qualified individuals to prepare records for ISAP. Contributing institutions include:

- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- University of South Africa (UNISA) Law Library
- National Institute for Theology and Religion (NITR)
- Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

Kotze (2005) explains the operation of ISAP while Von Beck (1989) offers an evaluation.

ISAP went online in 1992. Entries date back to 1919, and it is regularly updated with the database providers, SABINET (sections 4.3.2 & 6.1) and NISC (section 4.3.3). Kotze (2007) offers a very useful explanation on how ISAP improved their standard and kept up with technological development by using NISCBASE indexing and management software. Winter (1967) deals with the history of ISAP.

4.2.5 Specialised bibliographies and indexes

Apart from the national bibliographies and indexes there is also a number of specialized bibliographies. The history of bibliography has been documented by R. Musiker (1980, 1997, 2000). Many of these are also discussed by Behrens (2000). The following are a few examples of bibliographies of importance:

- *Bibliography of overseas publications about South Africa, including publications by South Africans and translations of South African works published abroad.* Pretoria: State Library, 1973-181. 5 volumes. It complements the SANB.
- *Bibliography of the Tswana language: a bibliography of books, periodicals, pamphlets and manuscripts to the year 1980*, compiled by M.A. Peters and M.M. Tabane. Pretoria: State Library, 1982. The Setswana title is *Bibliokerafi ya puo ya seTswana*. Introductory material is written in both English and Setswana.
- *Bibliography of the Xhosa language to the year 1990*, compiled by M.A. Peters and C.P. Bothma; Xhosa text edited by G.T. Sirayi. Pretoria: State Library, 1992. The Xhosa title is *Ibhibliyografi yolwimi olusisixhosa*.
- *Northern Sotho bibliography to the year 1993*, compiled by C.P. Bothma. Pretoria: State Library, 1994. Northern Sotho language title is: *Bibliokrafi ya Sesotho sa Leboa go fihla ka 1993*.
- *Bibliography of the Zulu language to the year 1998*, compiled by N. Mokhonoana and M. Strassner. Pretoria: National Library of South Africa, 1999.
- *Guide to South African reference books*, R. Musiker & N. Musiker. 6th edition. London: Manssell, 1997.
- *South African Bibliography: a survey of bibliographies and bibliographical work*, R. Musiker. 3rd edition. London: Manssell, 1996. Contains a list of almost 1 000 bibliographies that deals with various aspects of South Africa.
- The Index for 1831 – 1921 to the *Grahamstown Journal* compiled at the Cory Library for Historical Research, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.
- Potgieter, PJJ. 1979. *Index to literature on race relations in South Africa 1910 – 1975*. Boston: Hall.
- *A list of South African Newspapers, 1800 – 1982: with library holdings*. 1983. Pretoria: State Library. (Reviewed by Musiker, R. 1984. *South African Journal of Library and Information Science*, 52(1):40).

4.3 Databases

A selection of databases including before-mentioned union catalogues, indexes, bibliographies and other South African bibliographic control tools are available through SABINET's *Magnet* (<http://www.sabinet.co.za>) and NISC's *South African Studies* (<http://www.nisc.co.za>). There is also *NEXUS*, the national research database.

4.3.1 NEXUS

The *NEXUS* database of research in progress and research completed is maintained by the National Research Foundation (NRF) (Pretoria) (<http://stardata.nrf.ac.za/>). *NEXUS* includes several databases namely:

- *Current and completed research projects database* with bibliographic descriptions of more than 70 000 research reports, including masters and doctoral theses. It provides all non-English titles with the English equivalent.
- *Talk conference database* with detail on national and international forthcoming conferences.
- *Human sciences professional associations database*.
- *Human sciences research networking database* listing over 3 000 biographical profiles of research experts.
- *Research methodology teachers and courses database*.
- *Periodical submissions and requirements database*.

The records of the Union Catalogue of Theses and Dissertations (UCTD) formerly maintained by the Library of the Potchefstroom University are also included.

Access to the various databases is free of charge on the Web except for the *Current and completed research projects database*. Tertiary institutions have free access to this by means of a user ID and password. Fourie and Van der Berg (2003) discuss problems experienced with searches on the *NEXUS* database and efforts for improvement.

4.3.2 Databases available through *Magnet* (SABINET)

A number of databases reflecting South Africa's efforts at national bibliographic control are available through SABINET's *Magnet* (<http://www.sabinet.co.za>). These include:

- *SA gazettes* which includes the full text of South African Government and Provincial Gazettes and Bills, the index to the *Government Gazette* as well as the weekly *Government Gazette Index* and the parliamentary bills. Contemporary Gazette, a fortnightly email notification service and website that focuses on new legislation and bills for business is also available. The possibility of indexing the South African *Government Gazette* was first put forward in 1959. Two initial attempts were unsuccessful. These attempts are discussed by Malherbe (1985). In 1978 the former State Library started with the indexing of the South African *Government Gazette* and the first publication appeared in 1979. It was decided that a book-type index was preferable to a PRECIS system. An in-house set of rules based entirely on pre-coordinate indexing was developed with two indexing tools to establish a controlled indexing language, namely a thesaurus and authority file. Malherbe (1985) report on the indexing principles and practices.

- *SA tenders* with full-text access to the Government Tender Bulletin, Provincial Tender Bulletins, private tenders which appear in newspapers and journals and news items from newspapers and journals.
- *SA citation plus*, an index of journal articles, research reports, chapters in books and conference proceedings that are available in South African libraries. The extended ISAP database is included and there are links to holdings in South African libraries. Document delivery options are also provided.
- *SA news* is a combination of two databases, namely the SAPA (South Africa Press Association) database of news reports and the *SA media* database, a collection of press cuttings compiled by the University of the Orange Free State. For *SA media* most cuttings are from newspapers such as the *Cape Times*, *Cape Argus*, *Rapport*, *Sowetan*, and *Star*. Its predecessor, the press-cutting service of the Institute for Contemporary History is discussed by Swanepoel (1984).
- *SACat plus* is a combination of bibliographic databases which can be used to support cataloguing activities and includes the *SACat*, the *SANB*, the *UCTD*, *Navtech* and *Bookdata*.
- *SA legal* focuses on legal information, including the database of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) and law reports.

In addition there is also Sabinet Parliamentary Information (a daily customized alerting service), NetLaw (offering immediate access to updated South African principle acts and statutes), SA Legal (offering access to the latest legislation and judgements) and Law Journal Collection (abstracted records, and full-text documents of many law journals published in South Africa in a single user-friendly service).

4.3.3 South African Studies available through NISC SA

In 1995 NISC SA opened in Grahamstown. It is involved with the bibliographic activities in South Africa by improving national and international access to the national heritage through the databases it publishes and makes available on CD-ROM as well as on the Internet via the Web-based BiblioLine (<http://www.nisc.com>).

South African Studies is an aggregation of 17 databases that provides access to over one million records; some with links to full-text. Records include the majority of documents published in and about South Africa. These include theses, dissertations, conference proceedings, academic and popular magazines, reviews, foreign and local journals and current research. It covers a period from 1960 to current. For some, coverage dates back to the 19th century. Fourie and Behrens (1997) report on an evaluation of *South African Studies*. *South African Studies* includes the following:

- *Index to South African Periodicals*
- *South African National Bibliography*
- The National English Literary Museum (NELM) in Grahamstown which provides over 247 800 records from 1990 to current (comprehensive since 1990, retrospective to the 19th century) in six databases:
 - *Select Index to South African Literature in English, Critical Writings* which include critical articles and books, theses, dissertations, biographies, bibliographies, and book reviews.
 - *Select Index to South African Literature in English, Creative Writings* which covers books, short stories, poems, plays, essays, autobiographies, and travel literature.

- *NELM, Main Catalogue* comprising a bibliographic series on famous South African authors.
- *Manuscripts* including the NELM holdings of literary manuscripts, letters, and recorded interviews. Major collections include: Guy Butler, Hjalmar Thesen, Jack Cope ["Contrast"], Dennis Brutus, Eric Pringle, and others.
- *Literary Awards* offering information on contest rules, prizes, winners, and judges for 280 South African contests and non-South-African contests open to South African entrants.
- *A Bibliography of Anglophone Literature and Literary Criticism by Black South Africans* including listings of all the creative literature and works of literary criticism published by South Africans of colour between the years 1800 and 1990. The list includes only the first known instance of the publication of any such work. The National English Literary Museum in Grahamstown holds a copy of each of the items listed.
- *KnipKat*, a database from the Nasionale Afrikaanse Letterkunde Museum en Navorsingsentrum (NALN) (*National Afrikaans Literary Museum and Research Centre*). It is the indexed database of press cuttings from newspapers and magazines relating to Afrikaans language, literature and culture with information about writers of the Afrikaans language. *KnipKat* provides over 61 800 records, computerised since 1994. NALN also provides a bibliography of books, plays, poetry, manuscripts and sheet music relating to the Afrikaans culture.
- Witwatersrand University Management Research Reports, a database compiled by the Witwatersrand Library of Management database contains over 1 700 records on management in South Africa, covering from 1970 to current.
- The Centre for Rural Legal Studies Database covers from 1987 (and earlier) to current and includes 5 300 records. Subject coverage includes issues relating to agriculture and farm workers in South Africa and elsewhere. It concentrates on labour law and relations, working conditions, housing/tenure, socio-economic conditions and issues such as land reform, rural local government and gender.
- South African Legal Abbreviations, a database of abbreviations which is compiled by the Unisa Law Library to standardise legal abbreviations.
- Political Information and Monitoring Service Database (PIMS), a database compiled by the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA). It offers comprehensive, plain language summaries and key details to the bills, acts and amendments of the South African Parliament.
- African Journals OnLine (AJOL) covering research output of Africa.

4.4 Other databases of importance

There is also a selection of other databases covering the South African national heritage, including the following:

- *ISALLIS (Index to South African Literature on Library and Information Science)* (1974-). In 1974, the Research Centre for Library and Information Science of the Department of Library and Information Science (now Department of Information Science) at Unisa, instituted a research project that led to the development of an indexing system for South African literature on library and information science. Control over the project was shared between the Department and the Unisa Library. The subjects covered were mostly those taught by library schools in the country and therefore used as a guideline for the scope of the index. Since then,

- the information scene has changed, with new subjects emerging and curricula expanding to accommodate them. Thus ISALLIS now has a much broader scope and include subjects such as knowledge management and metadata. The following document types are included: all South African journals on Library and Information Science, theses, dissertations, monographs, research reports, conference proceedings, motions proposed at conferences, newspaper articles, general periodicals, inaugural lectures, laws, and so on. South African articles published in overseas journals, chapters in edited books and individual conference papers are also indexed. There are more than 15 000 indexed items in the database. Each term refers to a brief bibliographic record with an accompanying abstract. The index is available on the Unisa Library database network. ISALLIS is discussed by Burger and Stinnes (1984) and Burger (2002).
- *Waterlit* (discussed by Myburg 1997) was produced since 1975 by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). *Waterlit* covers all aspects of water and water-related subjects such as aquaculture, environmental issues, hydrology, industrial effluents, legislature, limnology, sanitation and wastewater, which is of particular interest to South Africa and developing countries. It is updated weekly with copyright held by the Water Research Commission.
 - *FishLit*: 1985 – current, is compiled by NISC SA in association with the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity Library, Rhodes University Library and Marine and Coastal Management Library. It covers all aspects of fish, shellfish, fisheries and aquaculture literature.
 - South African literature in the field of nuclear energy and related fields is contributed to the *International Nuclear Information System (INIS)* (<http://www.iaea.org/inisnkm/>) by NECSA (<http://www.necsa.co.za/>) formerly the Atomic Energy Corporation of South Africa. Wydeman (1989) provides more detail on the earlier years.
 - The DISA project (<http://disa.nu.ac.za/>) focuses on digital imaging projects in Southern Africa to make historical material concerning the Southern African struggle for democracy more universally accessible.

5 COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The importance of standardisation is amongst others addressed by Snyman (1996). This includes standardisation concerning the use of the *Anglo American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2)*, *Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)*, and *Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)*.

Although the conversion of library catalogues through computerisation (e.g. as discussed by Merrett and Vietzen 1985) is closely linked to bibliographic control, we will focus only on the use of the MARC format and not the conversion history as such. In 1967 the South African National Library Advisory Council (NLAC) took responsibility for the development of a MARC format for South Africa. A subcommittee on Information Retrieval was established to look at developments abroad, and to do a survey on computerised services already available/in development in South Africa in order to determine whether libraries in South Africa already participated in international cataloguing services by using magnetic tape services such as MARC. In 1972 the Committee on Bibliographic Services was appointed. They had to do a feasibility study into possible subscription to MARC tapes and similar internationally available services.

The study, outcomes, etc. are discussed by Coetzee (1997). In 1973 the NLAC appointed a MARC Working Group that replaced the previous working group. In March 1980 the first edition of SAMARC was published by the NLAC. In accordance with the objectives set by Ilse Van Niekerk (her role is explained by Coetzee 1979) SAMARC was also used as communication format by SABINET. When Van Niekerk left SABINET, SAMARC was transferred to the SAILIS Committee for Bibliographic Control (CBC). Roos (1994) and Kingwell (1979) comment on the use of MARC in South Africa, while Snyman (1997a, b) also report on the future of MARC in South Africa. In 1997 the South African library community changed to the USMARC format from SAMARC. Coetzee (1997) discusses this decision and its rationale.

As part of efforts to ensure standardization in bibliographic control for subject description a number of local thesauri was developed, e.g. Merrett's (1993) *Thesaurus of South African socio-political and economic terms from an anti-apartheid perspective*, as well as the community information thesaurus (Roux & Rykheer 1980).

South Africa also has links with international efforts for bibliographic control and standards, e.g. through the SABINET Online Standards Committee and SABICAT's involvement with OCLC cataloguing. Sabinet signed a national cataloguing agreement with OCLC, Inc. in August 1998 offering South African libraries access to OCLC Cataloguing services, OCLC Interlending services and OCLC PromptCat services. Some libraries such as the University of South Africa (Unisa) and the University of Cape Town have received Enhanced Cataloguing Status from OCLC. The Enhance Program is designed to allow skilled cataloguers to improve the quality of the OCLC WorldCat database by upgrading WorldCat records, primarily from less-than-full level to full level. There is also contact through the IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/d4/dbc.htm>).

6 NATIONAL SUPPORT FROM INSTITUTIONS, CONSORTIA, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, INTEREST GROUPS AND QUALIFIED, DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS

Support from all affected parties is essential for effective national bibliographic control. Apart from the NLSA, deposit libraries, and libraries such as Unisa, the role of SABINET and the South African academic consortia, The National Archives of South Africa, professional associations and interest groups (apart from the advisory committees already discussed) and training service providers must be noted.

6.1 SABINET

SABINET Online (South African Bibliographic and Information Network) (<http://www.sabinet.co.za>) was founded in 1983 as a not-for-profit organisation. (Its history is well documented by amongst others Boshoff (1980) and Boshoff and Bergenson (1982)). It sold its operational activities in 1997 to SABINET Online. The administrative headquarters is in Centurion near Pretoria. Although initially aimed at supporting national bibliographic control it currently also caters for commercial and business sectors, providing access to an extensive list of information sources and bibliographic and full-text databases via the Internet. Apart from consulting services, training and Web publishing, it supports

- cataloguing services (SABICat)

- information retrieval services (MagNet) (access to a number of databases explained in more detail in Section 4.3.2)
- interlending support services (ReQuest). Through ReQuest the requesting library can do the interlibrary loan request and specify the method of document delivery required from the holding library or organisation (e.g. fax, mail or courier).

6.2 Library consortia

The Coalition of South African Library Consortia (COSALC) (<http://www.cosalc.ac.za/>) was established on 2 July 1999. Its main focus was access to electronic information through the establishment of the national site licensing initiative, (SASLI), as well as the promotion and support of national co-operative initiatives, such as contributing to the SA National Catalogue (SACat) and interlending agreements, training, capacity building, communication, liaison and lobbying. It is governed by a Board of Directors and includes three membership categories, namely consortium membership, public entity membership and general membership resources. There are the following consortia members which are also linked to the academic consortia:

- CHEC (Cape Higher Education Consortium) linked to CALICO (Cape Library Consortium), established in 1992.
- FOTIM (Foundation of Tertiary Institutions of the Northern Metropolis) linked to GAELIC (Gauteng and Environs Library Consortium), establish in 1996.
- esATI (Eastern Seaboard Association of Tertiary Institutions) linked to esAL (Eastern Seaboard Association of Libraries), established in 1997.
- ECHEA (Eastern Cape Higher Education Association) linked to SEALS (South Eastern Alliance of Library Systems), established in 1998.
- FSHETT (Free State Higher and Further Education and Training Trust) linked to FRELICO (Free State Library and Information Consortium), established 1996/1997.
- SANRIC (South African National Research Information Consortium), <http://sanric.co.za/index.htm> established as LISSCO (Library and Information Services of Science Councils) in 1999.

The academic consortia are discussed in more detail by Thomas and Fourie (2006).

6.3 National Archives of South Africa

The National Archives of South Africa (<http://www.national.archives.gov.za/>) is the coordinating body for union catalogues for archival records. It is situated in Pretoria and has additional repositories in Cape Town, Pietermaritzburg, Bloemfontein and Durban. It undertakes four projects which are the equivalent of the union catalogues:

- *NAROS*: National register of oral sources: audiotapes, audio cassettes, video tapes etc. containing interviews.
- *NAREM*: National register of manuscripts: manuscripts, letters, diaries, etc. (i.e. hand-written or typed documents).
- *NAREF*: National register of photographs.
- *NAROM*: National register of audio-visual material (i.e. films, gramophone records, audio tapes, audio cassettes, video tapes and other audiovisual material, music pieces and scores).

The National Archives of South Africa has both a manual (*List of archivalia*) and electronic system (National Automated Archival Information Retrieval System (NAAIRS)). Ferrerai (1985) can be consulted for an overview of the computerisation of the information retrieval system of the Government Archives Section, and Fraser (1981) for a discussion of the subject analysis, cataloguing, preservation, storage and special problems experienced with photographs in archival collections.

6.4 Other professional associations and interest groups

Apart from the role of IGBIS as an interest group of LIASA as explained in Section 3.1.1, the following also contributes to bibliographic control:

- ASAIB (Association of Southern African Indexers and Bibliographers) (<http://www.asaib.org.za/>). ASAIB was established in September 1994 by Prof Reuben Musiker. The association is responsible for two directories, namely *Index of subject specialisation* and *Freelance indexers and bibliographers*. Awards for best indexes and bibliographies are made at ASAIB's annual conference.
- SAMA (South African Museum Association): <http://www.samaweb.org.za/>
- SASA (South African Society of Archivists): <http://www.archives.org.za/>
- PASA (Publishers' Association of South Africa): <http://www.publishsa.co.za/>.

6.5 Discussion lists

In sharing information concerning bibliographic control the SabiCat listserve (maintained by SABINET) allows for messages concerning issues, problems, etc. with regard to the SabiCat product as well as other general comments. There is also the Sabimusic Listserv for music cataloguers in South Africa.

6.6 Training services providers

Training forms an essential part of the preparation of skilled and committed individuals to support national bibliographic control. Behrens (1991:53) stresses the need for such individuals: "This responsibility should manifest itself in each individual: personal attention to cooperation, and personal adherence to standardized bibliographic requirements. Such individual commitment will naturally enhance institutional commitment and cooperation, and thereby show improvement on a national and ultimately international level."

Apart from training offered by tertiary academic institutions, a number of other training opportunities are offered by the NLSA, other libraries, Sabinet Ltd, private companies and individuals. Due to the limited scope of the paper current curricula in South Africa will not be explored. Earlier discussion on training and education affecting bibliographic control can be found in Döckel (1989) and Coetzee (1991, 1995).

7 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Preceding sections covered a number of investigations concerning bibliographic control. To ensure a high standard of national bibliographic control ongoing investigations are essential. Many are reported as Master's or Doctoral studies (e.g. Willemse 1963 and Myburg 1997). More recent studies include Dick and Burger (2004) and Marais (2004).

There are many more which due to time constraints could not be covered by such studies.

8 LITERATURE ON NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

To ensure continuing effective national bibliographic control we need to understand the past and learn from research efforts. At this stage the South African literature includes thesis, dissertations, articles in national as well as international periodicals, national as well as international conferences and a number of unpublished reports, minutes of meetings, etc. It is recommended that an in-depth content-analysis of the South African literature on bibliographic control should be completed to determine the *status quo* of the country's recorded knowledge on the topic.

9 CONCLUSION

South Africa has a rich history of bibliographic control as well as current bibliographic activities. Within the scope of this paper we could trace only developments leaving no room for reflection on problems, shortcomings, etc. and how these can shape our knowledge base for future decisions. Understanding these, as well as the full spectrum of our literature is however, important to ensure that we can meet with future challenges.

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