



Drafting of the Transformation Charter for the Library and Information Services (LIS) sector in South Africa

Presented to all nine provinces

on behalf of the

**National Council for Library and Information
Services (NCLIS):**

7 May - 9 July 2008.

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Mandate of the NLSA

According to the *National Library of South Africa Act 92 of 1998* [Section 4 (2)(b),(c),(f)] some of the functions of the NLSA are to:

- Provide leadership, guidance and advice to South African libraries and information services
- Undertake planning and co-ordination in co-operation with other library and information services
- Liaise with libraries and other institutions in and outside South Africa

According to the *NCLIS Act 6 of 2001* [Section 5 (1) (d)]:

- The National Librarian is a member of NCLIS



The purpose of the Library Transformation Charter

- To align the role of Library and Information Services (LIS) with the national strategic direction inspired by the spirit and values of the South African Constitution within the relevant policies and respective legislative framework
- To address issues of Equity and Redress, Democratisation and National Development, Equitable Access to Information, Diversity, Employment Equity and Skills Development, Quality, Efficiency and Effectiveness, Race Relations in the work place, Public Accountability, etc.

(see: <http://www.info.gov.za/whitepapers/1995/transformation.htm>),

(and: <http://www.info.gov.za/whitepapers/1997/educ3.pdf>)

- To serve as a rallying point for LIS to achieve broader representation and contribute towards socio-economic benefits to all segments of society including the Historically Disadvantaged communities
- To reinforce and enhance the role of LIS in advancing, promoting and supporting the culture of reading



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National Transformation Charters

- The current notion of transformation charters concept emanates from the [BBBEE Act \(53 of 2003\)](#)
- Example are the following sectors: Advertising; Agriculture; Building and Construction; Financial services; Forestry; Healthcare; ICT; Legal services; Maritime Transport & service industry; Mining; Petroleum & Liquid Fuels; Tourism; etc.
- NHC Charter is to be completed soon
- There is One charter, though, that stood the test of time, it is the Freedom Charter



National Transformation Charters: contact information

- Agriculture
- Construction
- Financial services
- Forest
- Freedom Charter
- ICT
- Legal Services Charter (draft)
- Maritime Transport & service industry
- Mining
- Nat.Health Charter
- NHC Charter (draft)
- Petroleum & Liquid Fuels
- Tourism BEE charter and Scoreboard

[See also: http://bee.sabinet.co.za/bee_charters.html]



The Freedom Charter

- Adopted at the congress of the people on 26 June 1955 at Kliptown, Soweto, Gauteng
 - Its relevance today gives an impression that it is a very recent document
 - It survived many tumultuous epochs: apartheid, cold war, struggles between capitalism and communism, etc.
 - The South African constitution was largely informed by the Freedom Charter
- The most relevant section to our sector is on:
Opening the “....*Doors of Learning*....”



The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall Be Opened

- "The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life;
- All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands;
- The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace".
- <http://www.anc.org.za/ancdocs/history/charter.html>



The Library Transformation Charter: the road map

- NCLIS Consultative workshop 30 August 2006
- Report to the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) Annual General Conference, September 2006
- Briefing the Minister to solicit political support (jointly done with the National Heritage Council)
- Allocation of a grant for the LTC process
- Appointment of Project Coordinator
- Appointment of an Events company to manage the logistical support during provincial consultations



NCLIS Responsibility

- Nominate a Reference Group with broader representation from the LIS sector
- Appoint a Technical Team of experienced experts to draft the charter
- Nominate NCLIS representatives to attend provincial consultations at respective provinces (whenever possible)
- Decide on the target date for the final draft and the date for a national summit to adopt the transformation charter



Terms of Reference for the Reference Group

- Provide intellectual and visionary leadership
- Provide philosophical base, principles and values that underpin LIS transformation
- Assist in the analysis of inputs from stakeholders prepared by the Technical Team
- Provide critical information and networks on stakeholders (and how to do things better)
- Provide quality assurance
- Review the draft charter and endorse the final product before it is submitted to NCLIS

In summary

- This is an inclusive and consultative process
- Presentations were made in all the nine provinces:

Date	Province	City
07 May 2008	Eastern Cape	East London
14 May 2008	Free State	Bloemfontein
29 May 2008	Kwa-Zulu Natal	Durban
04 June 2008	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit
11 June 2008	Limpopo	Polokwane
18 June 2008	Western Cape	Cape Town
25 June 2008	North West	Mafikeng
02 July 2008	Northern Cape	Kimberley
09 July 2008	Gauteng	Pretoria

- The project is a national initiative supported by government
- NCLIS is the legislative body driving this process
- The final draft of the charter will only be adopted after a national consultative forum

Thank you! Re a leboga! Siyabonga! Enkosi! Dankie!

We invite you to give us
your creative and innovative ideas
during this exciting and challenging process
in the transformation of
Library and Information Services
in South Africa



Please contact

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