



LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES TRANSFORMATION CHARTER: AN UPDATE

In April 2008, the Department of Arts and Culture, in cooperation with the National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS) and the National Library of South Africa (NLSA), appointed the following individuals to draft the Library and Information Services Transformation Charter:

- Prof Muxe Nkondo (Chairperson),
- Prof Archie Dick,
- Prof Genevieve Hart,
- Prof Mary Nassimbeni,
- Prof Yonah Seleti and
- Prof Lesiba Teffo.
- Ms Segametsi Molawa was appointed to work on the 7th draft.
- Ms Anna Brown was appointed to work on the 7th draft.

The Terms of Reference of the Technical Writing Team were to define the challenges facing the Library and Information Services (LIS) sector, to provide a clear framework of principles and mechanisms to eliminate illiteracy and inequality, as well as to build an informed and reading nation.

The NCLIS and the Department co-opted specialists in the field of Library and Information Services (LIS) as Reference Team members who served as an additional resource of information for the Technical Writing Team. A process of public consultation was followed since 2008 during which the sector and many other stakeholders were briefed; amongst others, the Ministers of Arts and Culture and Basic Education, Higher Education and Training, the Select Committee on Education and Recreation and the Portfolio Committee for Arts and Culture, the MINMEC,

SALGA, LIASA, etc. A national Summit was held with stakeholders in Pretoria on 5 December 2008. Six drafts of the Charter were produced and distributed amongst the sector and the 7th and last draft was released in February 2014.

The Charter identifies the next steps that the government, i.e. the Department of Arts and Culture, the Department of Basic Education, and the Department of Higher Education and Training, the Department of Science and Technology, the Library and Information Services sector, the private sector and civil society should take towards broadening access to library and information services in the most cost-effective manner.

A national workshop was held on 3 November 2014 at the National Library of South Africa, Pretoria to brief and consult with the sector on the 7th draft of the Charter. The national workshop was attended by approximately 103 delegates. The purpose of the national workshop was to raise awareness of the LIS Transformation Charter and to update the sector on the finalization of the Charter. A copy of the 7th and final LIS Transformation Charter is available on www.dac.gov.za/guidelines-documents.

The LIS Transformation Charter, 7th draft, lists 39 recommendations. The following recommendations were identified as priorities during the national workshop and were adopted by the National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS) during its meeting on 4 Nov. 2014:

PRIORITY NO.	NATIONAL PRIORITIES: RECOMMENDATION/S
1.	National library strategy to guide development of sector as a whole (1).
2.	A national school libraries policy (2).
3.	LIS Transformation Implementation Plan (4).
	NCLIS is an executive body, an agency of government with the power to take executive decisions, with a dedicated budget and well-resourced secretariat (9).
	Norms and standards (10).
4.	Statutory regulated status for the profession (17).
5.	Teacher education in colleges and universities to include modules in

PRIORITY NO.	NATIONAL PRIORITIES: RECOMMENDATION/S
	<p>school librarianship and in children's and youth literature (21). Information literacy education to be embedded in all teacher education programmes (22). Update LIS education and training (23). LIS qualifications to be reviewed (24). Provision of bursaries to increase the enrolments in library schools (25)</p>
6.	<p>All public, school & post-school LIS should have sufficient and dedicated bandwidth and computer capacity for management and service delivery. (27) Ensure current and future access to dedicated broad band connectivity in LIS of all types. (28)</p>
7.	Funding model for whole sector. (31)
8.	Literacy and Information literacy campaigns & programmes. (35)
9.	A communication strategy to popularise the revised LIS Transformation Charter and promote the adoption of the ecosystem approach to the management of the LIS sector (37).

The priority list will be taken further by the next Council during its term that will be from 2015 to 2017.