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Objet : Rapport de la Mission Bibliothèque Nationale au Liban

Votre Excellence,

Je vous prie de trouver ci-joint le rapport préparé par l'expert qui s'est rendu en mission au Liban en Avril dernier.

Ce rapport donne les indications utiles sur le cadre général permettant de rétablir une Bibliothèque Nationale au Liban.

A ce stade, avant toute décision quant à un appui de notre part, il serait souhaitable d'avoir la position des autorités libanaises compétentes.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Votre Excellence, l'expression de ma très haute considération.

Dimitris Kourkoulas
Chef de Délégation

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LA BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE DU LIBAN

PROPOSITIONS POUR UN PROJET DE REINSTALLATION

4 MAI 1999

SOMMAIRE

TERMES DE REFERENCES	p.3
RESUME DES PROPOSITIONS	p.4
LA BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE DU LIBAN PROPOSITIONS POUR UN PROJET DE REINSTALLATION	p.5
1/ - RAPPEL HISTORIQUE ET ETAT DES LIEUX	p.5
2/ - LA PROBLEMATIQUE ET LES INTENTIONS GOUVERNEMENTALES	p.6
3/ - QUELQUES PROPOSITIONS	p.8
4 / - ESQUISSE D'UN CALENDRIER.....	p.12
5 / - LES PERSPECTIVES D'AIDES	p.13
PROJET DE BUDGET PREVISIONNEL POUR LA PHASE 1	p.14
EN GUISE DE CONCLUSION QUELQUES PERSPECTIVES POUR UNE STRATEGIE A COURT ET MOYEN TERME.....	p.15
ANNEXE 1 LISTE DES PERSONNALITES RENCONTREES ET DES VISITES EFFECTUEES	p.16
ANNEXE 2 LE CENTRE TECHNIQUE DE LA BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE	p.19
ANNEXE 3 LA DESINFECTION DES COLLECTIONS	p.21

TERMES DE REFERENCES

DEFINITION D'UN PROJET DE BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE AU LIBAN (BNL)

1. L'objet de ces Termes de Références est de définir les conditions de faisabilité et les modalités possibles de l'établissement d'une bibliothèque nationale au Liban (BNL). L'établissement d'une bibliothèque nationale, dans le contexte de la reconstruction du Liban d'après-guerre, serait un élément important de la préservation et de la reconstitution du patrimoine culturel au Liban. Par sa nature même, la faisabilité d'un tel projet devra être étudiée en impliquant l'ensemble des acteurs intéressés par une action de cette ampleur.
2. Dans une **première phase**, la mission devra définir les objectifs et l'étendue d'un tel projet à travers :
 - l'examen de la politique nationale présente et des intentions à venir des autorités libanaises en matière de bibliothèques et dans les domaines limitrophes (éducation, culture, recherche, information, etc.) ;
 - un état des lieux comprenant l'analyse du rôle des bibliothèques existantes en termes de collections, d'acquisition, de conservation, de public cible et de coopération ;
 - un examen des options possibles en fonction des besoins existants et des demandes des acteurs concernés, ainsi qu'à travers une identification des types de publics potentiels pour la BNL, ainsi que d'une évaluation quantitative des catégories identifiées. Les données qui en résulteront serviront de base à une première définition des ressources documentaires envisagées pour la BNL, des services à mettre en place, des fonctions et des activités qui en découleront, voire des espaces nécessaires ;
 - d'une définition du contexte institutionnel public et privé : avoir une connaissance des institutions intéressées et les modalités institutionnelles (statuts) possibles d'un tel projet ;
 - d'un examen des modalités de financement d'un tel projet, en examinant les sources de financement potentielles aussi bien privées que publiques (donateurs étrangers et Gouvernement libanais).

A l'issue de la première phase, la mission remettra un rapport intérimaire examinant de façon aussi détaillée que possible les points ci-dessus.

Ce rapport sera présenté, pour approbation, au Ministère de la Culture libanais et à la Commission européenne. Le cas échéant, une réunion regroupant toutes les parties intéressées sera organisée.

RESUME DES PROPOSITIONS

Pour répondre à la volonté exprimée par le Ministre libanais de la Culture et de l'Enseignement supérieur de réinstaller et développer la Bibliothèque nationale du Liban, il convient de l'inciter à prendre un certain nombre de décisions d'ordre stratégique, dans un délai rapproché (d'ici l'été 1999).

Ces décisions concernent :

- la création d'un Etablissement public chargé de l'administration et du développement de la Bibliothèque nationale ;
- la création d'une Association support chargée de communiquer sur le projet, de collecter les fonds nécessaires à sa réalisation, de susciter les dons d'ouvrages et les aides utiles au projet ;
- la mise en place d'un Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale animé par une équipe de professionnels spécialistes de 15 agents dirigés par un chef de projet (nomination au 15 septembre 1999) ;
- la promulgation d'un décret pour réserver le bâtiment de la future Bibliothèque nationale ;
- l'ouverture d'une ligne budgétaire et la préparation d'un premier budget de fonctionnement pour le Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale en 2000.

Plus concrètement, et sur le plan technique :

- l'aménagement, d'ici la fin de cette année, d'un local d'accueil provisoire pour le Centre technique, d'une surface de 1000m² ;
- l'opération de désinfection des collections actuellement stockées à Sin-el-Fil.

Ce premier programme, déjà consistant, devrait permettre à la Bibliothèque nationale du Liban de retrouver une visibilité aux yeux de son public potentiel, et des institutions nationales et internationales. Il devrait également permettre la mise en route de la première phase du projet, celle de la préfiguration de la future Bibliothèque nationale.

Une seconde phase de la présente étude devrait préciser les contours d'un programme architectural ainsi que les exigences d'un tel projet en matière de nouvelles technologies de l'information (informatique, numérisation, transmission à distance, etc.).

Enfin, il semble indispensable d'étudier les conditions d'une assistance technique qui puisse accompagner l'effort des responsables libanais dans la conduite de ce projet jusqu'à l'ouverture de la future Bibliothèque nationale.

LA BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE DU LIBAN PROPOSITIONS POUR UN PROJET DE REINSTALLATION

1/ - RAPPEL HISTORIQUE ET ETAT DES LIEUX

1.1/ Quelques repères historiques

Issue du don des collections du comte Philippe de TARAZZI à l'Etat libanais en 1921, la Bibliothèque nationale du Liban n'a cessé d'enrichir ses collections jusqu'à la veille de la guerre en 1975. Des campagnes d'acquisitions de 1922 à 1928 en Europe et en Egypte, mais aussi l'apport du dépôt légal (créé en janvier 1924) ont permis un considérable développement de ses fonds, riches en manuscrits précieux et en littérature arabe (sources et ouvrages critiques).

A la veille de la guerre, la Bibliothèque nationale, installée dans la proximité du Parlement, comptait plus de 200 000 documents, dont 2000 manuscrits du XIIème au XIXème siècle, des archives de l'administration ottomane et des premières années du mandat français.

Quatre ans après le début des événements, le gouvernement constate officiellement l'arrêt de son fonctionnement (1979), suspend l'exécution de son budget et affecte son personnel à d'autres tâches.

En 1983, suite aux dégâts causés aux bâtiments du centre de Beyrouth par l'armée d'Israël, les collections sont déménagées dans un vaste local situé au rez-de-chaussée d'un bâtiment du "campus de l'UNESCO". Elles y resteront, dans un total état d'abandon jusqu'en 1997 (?).

1.2/ Etat actuel des collections

Les conclusions d'une mission dépêchée en septembre 1994 par le Ministère français de la Culture, préconisaient le sauvetage immédiat de ces collections et énonçaient la série de mesures à prendre de toute urgence.

Ainsi, les collections ont été déménagées dans un local plus étanche, dans un immeuble du quartier de Sin-el-Fil, au sud est de Beyrouth. Elles ont commencé à recevoir un premier traitement sommaire. Dans le même temps, et suivant les préconisations du rapport de la mission citée plus haut, les ouvrages reçus par le dépôt légal depuis 1997 ont pu commencer à être traités.

Mais l'inadaptation totale des locaux (répartition sur 4 niveaux de bureaux) et l'inexpérience absolue de l'équipe chargée du traitement, (due à une absence de formation dans le domaine), ont plutôt aggravé la situation : aucune mesure n'a été prise pour désinfecter les collections avant transfert. Une première ouverture des caisses, sans ordre préétabli, a permis d'extraire et de coter (en Dewey) 5 à 6 000 volumes toujours contaminés ;

les ouvrages neufs du dépôt légal ont été cotés et mélangés aux ouvrages infestés de champignons.

Aussi, le problème de sauvetage des collections reste entier et plus urgent que jamais.

Une enquête plus approfondie a permis d'apporter un complément d'information important sur l'histoire des collections de la Bibliothèque nationale. En effet, au moment du déménagement des collections, en 1983, une équipe du Centre des Archives Nationales a récupéré une grande partie des manuscrits, les archives détenues par la Bibliothèque nationale, ainsi qu'un millier d'ouvrages concernant le droit et le traitement des archives.

Le Centre des Archives Nationales détient actuellement 1600 manuscrits de la Bibliothèque Nationale dont 700 ont reçu un traitement catalographique. L'ensemble des documents est conservé dans de bonnes conditions, répartis entre une réserve et des magasins correctement équipés et climatisés.

Enfin, il convient de noter que le statut administratif de la Bibliothèque nationale demeure inchangé depuis 1935 : elle constitue toujours un simple service du Ministère de la Culture.

2/ - LA PROBLEMATIQUE ET LES INTENTIONS GOUVERNEMENTALES

2.1 / Les enjeux

Les enjeux qui président à la réinstallation de la Bibliothèque nationale sont de la première importance. On peut brièvement les résumer ainsi :

- Malgré les années de guerre, le rayonnement culturel du Liban sur le Proche-Orient et plus largement sur le monde méditerranéen ne s'est pas démenti. Il convient de noter que sont édités et/ou imprimés au Liban près de 70% des livres produits dans le monde en langue arabe. L'absence de Bibliothèque nationale ne permet pas de valoriser cette production.
- La variété des enseignements dispensés à tous niveaux (de l'école à l'Université), le développement accéléré du multilinguisme et l'explosion du multimédia dans le domaine des connaissances, plaident en faveur de la constitution et de la mise en valeur d'une documentation de référence pour un accès commun organisé au patrimoine national.
- De récentes enquêtes ont montré la chute vertigineuse des pratiques de lecture et ce, au sein de l'une des populations les plus scolarisées au monde. La Bibliothèque nationale devrait constituer l'épicentre d'un réseau à développer de bibliothèques publiques et de bibliothèques scolaires, et la source d'un dynamisme nouveau pour le développement de la lecture.

- Enfin, le Liban, où fut découverte l'une des formes les plus anciennes de l'écriture ne saurait vivre longtemps sans une atteinte à sa fierté, l'absence d'une institution nationale vouée à l'écrit et plus largement à l'information et à sa diffusion par les supports les plus modernes de la communication.

2.2 / Les objectifs

Dès aujourd'hui, et sur un plan très concret, plusieurs objectifs doivent être poursuivis :

- Mettre en œuvre de manière urgente les moyens efficaces pour sauver les collections en danger. L'état de ces dernières ne permet pas d'envisager un trop long délai pour la mise en œuvre d'une chaîne de traitement efficace. Nous verrons plus loin les nécessités concrètes d'une telle entreprise (cf. 3.2 et Annexe 2).

Cette remise en état des collections initiales de la Bibliothèque nationale constitue le préalable à la réintégration ultérieure des collections actuellement conservées par le Centre National des Archives.

- Préciser le concept d'une Bibliothèque moderne, en charge de la collecte, de la conservation, de la communication et de la valorisation du patrimoine écrit et documentaire de la nation. Cette Bibliothèque doit pouvoir utiliser les techniques les plus modernes pour communiquer les richesses de son fond à tous les publics, proches ou distants, qui en ont besoin : étudiants, enseignants, chercheurs à titre professionnel ou individuel, professionnels de l'information, etc.. Elle devrait enfin constituer le cœur d'un réseau documentaire national peu à peu élargi aux dimensions régionales de l'orient méditerranéen.
- Définir une nouvelle politique documentaire dont les éléments principaux seraient les suivants :
 - amélioration de la collecte du dépôt légal et réalisation de la Bibliographie nationale ;
 - politique d'acquisition visant à l'encyclopédisme, mais en concertation avec les bibliothèques des universités (Université libanaise, A.U.B, Balamend, L.A.U, U.S.J, Université arabe, etc....) ;
 - politique d'appel de dons. De nombreuses personnalités libanaises ont déjà proposé de confier leurs propres collections à la future Bibliothèque nationale ;
 - élaboration d'un projet de bibliothèque virtuelle permettant de donner accès à distance, via Internet et la numérisation, aux richesses documentaires libanaises ;
 - instauration d'une coopération régulière avec l'ensemble des partenaires documentaires libanais et du Proche-Orient.
- Préparer activement la réinstallation matérielle des collections et les conditions de leur accessibilité. Il s'agit de lancer sans délai les études nécessaires à la construction ou à l'aménagement du bâtiment définitif de la bibliothèque.

Il convient également de prospecter sans retard l'ensemble des nouvelles technologies que l'on souhaite voir utiliser pour le futur établissement : informatisation pour la gestion de la Bibliothèque, plus particulièrement pour le catalogage des documents et la réalisation de la Bibliographie nationale ; mais aussi numérisation pour la communication des collections sur place ou à distance.

2.3 / Les intentions gouvernementales

En poste depuis février 1999, Monsieur Youssef BEYDOUN, actuel Ministre de la Culture a repris à son compte l'intention de ses prédécesseurs, affirmée dès 1994, de réinstaller la Bibliothèque nationale du Liban.

Lors de nos entretiens, Monsieur BEYDOUN a ajouté à cette intention celle de créer à Tripoli une Bibliothèque Publique d'Information, confirmant ainsi le projet de développer un vrai réseau de bibliothèques publiques sur l'ensemble du territoire national.

Les nombreuses responsabilités du ministre, (en charge de la Culture et de l'Enseignement Supérieur, mais également de l'Enseignement technique, de la Jeunesse et des Sports et de l'Archéologie), en font le promoteur le plus assidu d'un projet qui intéresse l'ensemble des publics concernés par ses domaines de compétence.

3/ - QUELQUES PROPOSITIONS

La rénovation et la réinstallation de la Bibliothèque nationale du Liban doivent faire l'objet d'un certain nombre de décisions à prendre impérativement. Ces décisions concernent à court terme :

- la stratégie de mise en œuvre du projet ;
- l'organisation matérielle de la préfiguration de la future Bibliothèque nationale ;
- le problème de ses localisations provisoire et définitive.

A moyen terme, il convient de :

- constituer des équipes de personnels qualifiés ;
- opérer une recherche systématique de coopération technique avec des partenaires nationaux et internationaux.

3.1 / La stratégie du projet

L'urgence consiste à rendre visible et pérenne le projet de Bibliothèque nationale. Pour ce faire, les décisions les plus urgentes à prendre sont les suivantes :

1. **Création d'un Etablissement public** chargé, sous la tutelle directe du Ministre de la Culture et de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la gestion administrative et budgétaire du projet, et, à terme, du futur établissement. Cet Etablissement public sera doté d'un Conseil d'administration dont le Président sera nommé par le gouvernement sur proposition du Ministre de la Culture et de l'Enseignement Supérieur.
2. **Création d'une Association de soutien, Association des Amis de la Bibliothèque Nationale du Liban**, sorte de fondation chargée de la communication autour du projet, et de la recherche d'aides financières auprès des organismes publics, des entreprises ou des personnes privées. Le président de cette fondation, nommé par le Ministre de la Culture et de l'Enseignement Supérieur, sera choisi parmi les personnalités libanaises reconnues au niveau international dans le domaine culturel.

3. **Ouverture d'une ligne budgétaire spécifique dès l'année 2000** qui prenne en compte le travail de préfiguration : préparation des collections, études sur le bâtiment et l'informatisation (cf. 3.2).
4. Promulgation d'un **décret**, approuvé en conseil des ministres, concernant la **réservation de l'actuel bâtiment de la faculté de droit de l'Université libanaise** comme local d'accueil de la **future Bibliothèque nationale**.

3.2 / L'organisation matérielle de la préfiguration

Il convient de créer un **Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale du Liban**, véritable outil de préfiguration du futur établissement. Pour ce faire, il est indispensable de constituer une équipe de professionnels qualifiés de 15 agents :

- 1 chef de projet de haut niveau (Bac + 4 ou 5), titulaire d'un diplôme de documentation ou de bibliothéconomie (équivalent d'un conservateur général ou conservateur en chef dans la nomenclature statutaire française) ;
- 2 adjoints possédant une qualification identique ;
- 8 bibliothécaires (Bac + 2 ou 3) chargés des opérations de catalogage et de classement ;
- 3 agents de manutention ou magasiniers ;
- 1 secrétaire.

L'ensemble de ces agents, y compris le chef de projet, travaillent à temps plein sur le projet de la future Bibliothèque nationale.

Cette équipe aura pour missions essentielles :

- la remise en état et la sauvegarde des collections existantes (en étroite liaison avec le service technique de préservation du Centre national des Archives) ;
- l'exécution d'une véritable politique de gestion du dépôt légal (collecte et traitement bibliographique) ;
- la sollicitation, la réception et le traitement des dons ;
- l'initialisation d'une politique d'acquisition ;
- l'élaboration de la bibliothèque virtuelle ;
- la recherche de coopérations techniques nationales et internationales.

Le travail le plus urgent de l'équipe du Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale consistera à résoudre le problème de la désinfection des collections entreposées à Sin-el-Fil. Il s'agit de trouver au port de Beyrouth, dans un hôpital ou dans une entreprise spécialisée, une unité de désinfection qui puisse permettre un traitement de masse de ces collections à l'oxyde d'éthylène (cf. Annexe 3).

Il est indispensable de prévoir un local suffisamment vaste et adapté qui puisse accueillir le Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale, permettre l'installation correcte de l'équipe de professionnels, une manutention aisée des collections au retour de la désinfection, et leur stockage sur palettes après traitement (matériel et intellectuel).

Il s'agira naturellement d'une installation provisoire pour une durée d'environ 4 années, qui constitue le délai nécessaire aux travaux de construction ou de restauration du bâtiment définitif de la Bibliothèque nationale.

Ce premier local, d'une surface de 1000m², sera exclusivement réservé à la préparation des collections de la Bibliothèque, qui regrouperont les collections désinfectées, les livres et périodiques reçus au titre du dépôt légal, les nouvelles acquisitions et les dons.

On trouvera en Annexe 2 une proposition de programmation (surface, équipement, personnel) pour le Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale.

3.3 / Les localisations successives

Comme nous venons de le voir, l'urgence d'une intervention sur les collections existantes s'accorde mal avec les délais nécessaires à la réalisation d'un bâtiment d'accueil définitif de la Bibliothèque nationale. C'est pourquoi il convient de prévoir un phasage de cette réinstallation en deux étapes et l'utilisation d'un local provisoire pour une durée de 4 ans.

A cet égard, trois solutions se présentent :

1. La **réhabilitation** accélérée d'un bâtiment situé dans l'enceinte du Palais de l'UNESCO, d'une surface totale d'environ 1200m² répartis sur 4 niveaux. Ce bâtiment, fortement endommagé au cours de la guerre, doit faire l'objet d'une prochaine réhabilitation et d'un agrandissement, en vue d'une affectation à une activité culturelle (Musée des beaux-arts). Le Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale pourrait s'installer sur 2 niveaux (2x300m²) et dans un local attenant d'une surface d'environ 400m². (C'est dans ce local qu'avaient été stockées les collections entre 1983 et la date de leur installation à Sin-el-Fil).
2. La **construction**, dans le parc de la faculté de droit de l'Université libanaise (retenue pour être, après transformation, le bâtiment définitif de la Bibliothèque nationale) d'un bâtiment de 1000m², qui s'intégrerait ultérieurement au projet architectural de la Bibliothèque nationale.
3. La **construction** ou l'**acquisition** d'un bâtiment de type industriel de 1000m², susceptible d'être revendu à l'issue de son utilisation, à une entreprise industrielle ou commerciale.

Dans l'état actuel de ses réflexions, le Ministre de la Culture et de l'Enseignement Supérieur réfléchit à l'une des deux premières solutions et pense pouvoir engager, à très court terme, la somme de 650 000 \$ US pour la réhabilitation ou une construction.

Quant à l'édifice de la faculté de droit de l'Université libanaise proposé comme bâtiment définitif de la Bibliothèque nationale, il est d'une géométrie très simple (3 corps de bâtiments disposés en U autour d'une cour intérieure) ; il est entouré d'un parc qui permet d'envisager d'éventuelles extensions. Il semble offrir, sur trois niveaux, la surface minimum requise pour loger la future Bibliothèque.

Ce bâtiment sera libéré dans 18 mois environ, c'est-à-dire à l'achèvement de la construction de la nouvelle cité universitaire (New Hadath Campus) et donc disponible.

Une éventuelle phase ultérieure de la présente étude devrait permettre une meilleure évaluation de ce bâtiment, en liaison avec les services libanais concernés, et de ses possibilités d'adaptation au programme d'une bibliothèque nationale.

3.4 / La constitution d'équipes qualifiées

Il n'existe pas au Liban de corps de fonctionnaires spécialisés dans le domaine des bibliothèques et de la documentation. De plus, il semble que la création d'un tel corps se heurte à la tradition et à l'organisation de l'administration libanaise.

Mais, pour conduire avec succès le projet de réinstallation de la Bibliothèque nationale, et dans la perspective du développement d'un réseau de bibliothèques publiques au Liban, il est nécessaire de disposer, à terme, d'un contingent de cadres spécialisés de haut niveau (Bac + 4 ou 5) susceptibles d'encadrer les futures équipes de bibliothécaires.

A cet effet, il paraît éminemment souhaitable que le Ministre de la Culture et de l'Enseignement Supérieur prenne la décision d'envoyer chaque année en formation 2 ou 3 étudiants, ayant obtenu leur diplôme de documentaliste à l'Université libanaise, dans un centre de formation étranger du type de l'Ecole Nationale Supérieures des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques (ENSSIB), de Lyon. Ils pourraient y acquérir la formation complémentaire nécessaire à l'exercice des tâches d'encadrement d'un établissement documentaire public ou d'un département de la Bibliothèque nationale.

Compte tenu des perspectives de développement du réseau des bibliothèques publiques (Tripoli, Beyrouth, Bibliothèque nationale, nouveau campus universitaire, etc.), cette proposition devra être examinée très sérieusement. Nous verrons plus loin que des coopérations avec des partenaires extérieurs devraient faciliter sa mise en œuvre.

Mais une telle proposition a pour corollaire la revalorisation des carrières de la documentation et des bibliothèques dans le cadre du service public.

3.5/ Recherche de coopération technique au niveau national et international

On constate actuellement une dispersion totale du travail des bibliothécaires libanais. Chaque établissement documentaire, relevant d'une tutelle particulière (Université d'état, mais surtout nombreuses universités privées), se développe selon ses propres objectifs ou selon ceux de l'institution qu'il sert. La priorité est naturellement donnée à la documentation appropriée aux programmes d'enseignement ou de recherche de chaque université. Mais les pratiques de coopération sont très peu développées, voire inexistantes.

Il apparaît indispensable que la mise en œuvre du projet de la Bibliothèque nationale soit l'occasion de fédérer le travail de l'ensemble de ces bibliothèques, de créer les conditions d'une véritable concertation pour le développement des collections, l'utilisation des nouvelles techniques et la définition d'un service amélioré à l'ensemble des publics.

Deux indices permettent d'espérer une évolution positive : la ferme volonté de l'Association des bibliothécaires libanais de développer la solidarité des professionnels des bibliothèques, et l'utilisation commune (peut-être bientôt en réseau) d'un même logiciel de bibliothèque (BERYTOS) par trois universités : l'Université libanaise, l'USJ et l'Université de Kaslik.

Enfin, il est urgent de définir l'identité administrative et culturelle de cette nouvelle Bibliothèque, afin de la réinsérer dans les meilleurs délais dans le concert international des bibliothèques, où les perspectives de coopération scientifique et technique sont actuellement

très nombreuses et très prometteuses (notamment dans le domaine de la bibliographie ou du développement des bibliothèques virtuelles).

4 / - ESQUISSE D'UN CALENDRIER

Comme on l'aura compris, le projet de réinstallation de la Bibliothèque nationale se déroulera selon 2 étapes :

- **Une étape transitoire** (constitution d'une équipe, remise en état des collections, préparation du projet) qui nécessite une installation dans un local provisoire.
- **Une étape plus définitive** : installation et ouverture de la future Bibliothèque nationale. Cela suppose que soient achevés les travaux du bâtiment définitif de la Bibliothèque ainsi que son équipement.

De ce fait, il faut envisager deux niveaux d'échéance qui pourraient se décliner ainsi :

4.1/ A court terme

D'ici fin juin 1999 :

- création officielle de l'instance administrative (Etablissement public) et associative (Association des Amis de la Bibliothèque Nationale ou Fondation pour le patrimoine écrit du Liban) ;
- décret de réservation du bâtiment de la faculté de droit pour l'installation définitive de la Bibliothèque nationale ;
- début d'exécution des travaux pour le bâtiment d'accueil du Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale.

D'ici le 15 septembre 1999 :

- nomination d'un chef de projet et mise en place d'une équipe qualifiée de 15 agents ;
- préparation du premier budget de fonctionnement du Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale (pour l'année 2000).

D'ici fin décembre 1999 :

- mise en œuvre de la désinfection des collections ;
- lancement des études concernant la faculté de droit- Ouverture de la procédure de désignation d'un architecte.

4.2 / A moyen terme (d'ici fin 2000-juin 2001)

- démarrage des travaux sur le bâtiment de la faculté de droit ;
- revitalisation du dépôt légal - Amélioration de la collecte et du traitement - publication d'une bibliographie nationale annuelle ;
- définition d'une politique documentaire (acquisitions et dons) en concertation avec les bibliothèques libanaises ;

- envoi en formation complémentaire à l'étranger de deux étudiants diplômés de l'Université libanaise (12 mois de scolarité, stages d'application inclus d'octobre 2000 à septembre 2001) ;
- recherche de coopérations techniques au Liban et à l'étranger ;
- après retour de la désinfection, démarrage du tri et du traitement des collections ;
- élaboration du premier budget de fonctionnement de la Bibliothèque nationale réinstallée (ouverture à prévoir au cours du premier semestre 2003).

5 / - LES PERSPECTIVES D'AIDES

Comme cela a été évoqué plus haut, en matière de financement, la priorité consiste pour le gouvernement à ouvrir dès l'année 2000, une ligne budgétaire propre au projet de réinstallation de la Bibliothèque nationale. Elle consiste également à assurer le financement d'une réalisation urgente : la préparation du local d'accueil du Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale.

C'est cette décision, liée aux décisions administratives (création d'un Etablissement public, d'une Fondation patrimoniale et décret de réservation d'un bâtiment) et techniques (mise en place d'une équipe de professionnels, aménagement des bâtiments) qui rendra visible aux yeux des libanais mais aussi au regard du monde extérieur, la réelle volonté gouvernementale de ressusciter la Bibliothèque nationale du Liban.

On pourra alors envisager les diverses possibilités d'aides nécessaires à la conduite et au développement d'un tel projet.

Ces aides pourraient être de deux ordres. Elles peuvent être d'ordre financier, telles les aides potentielles des institutions et organismes internationaux dans le cadre réglementaire des programmes qu'ils développent et soutiennent en matière de culture ou d'équipement (UNESCO, Union Européenne, etc...).

De telles aides peuvent également être envisagées dans le cadre de relations bilatérales qu'entretient le Liban avec d'autres pays (pays de l'Union européenne, du Moyen-Orient, d'Amérique du Nord, etc...).

Mais les aides pourraient également prendre la forme d'apports non plus financiers, mais concrets, dans plusieurs domaines tels la reconstitution des collections, leur traitement bibliographique, l'expertise bibliothéconomique ou la formation.

Il conviendra d'étudier en temps utiles (et ce pourrait être un des objectifs essentiels de la seconde phase de l'étude) les aides à l'investissement pour la réalisation et l'équipement du bâtiment de la Bibliothèque nationale.

Mais, à ce stade de la réflexion, il s'agit simplement de prévoir le budget qui découle des actions à entreprendre à court terme (d'ici fin décembre 1999). Cette prévision s'exprime sous la forme du tableau de la page suivante. Elle ne prétend pas être des plus exactes, mais seulement donner, pour chaque poste de dépense, un ordre de grandeur et proposer des pistes de recherche pour des aides éventuelles.

PROJET DE BUDGET PREVISIONNEL POUR LA PHASE 1

Types de dépenses	Coût global	Dépenses à engager en 1999	Dépenses à engager en 2000	Perspectives d'aides à explorer
INVESTISSEMENT				
• Rénovation du bâtiment du Campus UNESCO	650 000\$	650 000 \$		
• Equipement mobilier et informatique du local du Centre technique de la BNL	130 000 \$	65 000 \$	65 000 \$	
FONCTIONNEMENT				
• Personnel (15x1 200 \$)x(4+12)	288 000 \$	72 000 \$	216 000 \$	
• Désinfection (150m ³ x50 \$)	7 500 \$	7 500 \$		UNESCO
• Fonctionnement courant (fluides, entretien, fournitures, divers)	23 500 \$	3 500 \$	20 000 \$	
• Etudes bâtiment définitif (APS+APD+consultation architecture)	180 000 \$	45 000 \$	135 000 \$	UNION EUROPEENNE
• Acquisitions de documents (6 500x30 \$)x(4+12)	195 000 \$	20 000 \$	175 000 \$	FRANCE, ETATS-UNIS, GRANDE-BRETAGNE
• Formation cadres (2x12)			0 \$	France
TOTAL	1 474 000 \$	863 000 \$	611 000 \$	

EN GUISE DE CONCLUSION

QUELQUES PERSPECTIVES POUR UNE STRATEGIE A COURT ET MOYEN TERME

A l'issue de notre séjour à Beyrouth, le Ministre de la Culture et de l'Enseignement Supérieur, informé par nos soins des premières recommandations qui figurent dans ce rapport, a affirmé sa volonté de prendre très rapidement toutes les décisions administratives concernant le projet. A partir de ce point de départ, qui devrait être pleinement effectif d'ici la fin du moins de juin prochain, il nous incombe de prévoir pour les mois à venir (mise en œuvre de la phase 1) la stratégie de l'Union européenne par rapport à ce projet.

Le présent rapport énonce les premiers éléments d'un schéma stratégique : liste des décisions à prendre, esquisse de calendrier, ébauche du budget pour une première phase d'installation.

Il est clair que les développements plus techniques, tels que la programmation et le calcul du coût d'objectif du bâtiment définitif, l'intégration dans le projet des nouvelles technologies (informatique, numérisation, etc.) devront faire, à brève échéance (d'ici la fin 1999) l'objet d'une étude beaucoup plus détaillée. Cela correspond d'ailleurs à la deuxième phase de la présente étude, telle qu'elle était initialement prévue.

Il est tout aussi clair que la mise en œuvre des actions proposées doit faire l'objet d'un accompagnement, d'un suivi qui pourrait prendre la forme d'une assistance technique extérieure jusqu'à l'ouverture de la future Bibliothèque nationale.

Cette assistance technique, tout en respectant l'originalité de la démarche libanaise, pourrait porter sur les points évoqués ci-dessus (architecture, nouvelles technologies), mais aussi sur la formation, sur la politique de préservation-conservation, ainsi que sur tous les développements d'ordre bibliothéconomique.

Une telle assistance, dont il conviendrait de délimiter les contours précis, pourrait être l'apport de l'Union européenne au projet de la réinstallation de la Bibliothèque nationale du Liban.

ANNEXE 1

LISTE DES PERSONNALITES RENCONTREES ET DES VISITES EFFECTUEES

• PERSONNALITES RENCONTREES

Ministère de la Culture et de l'Enseignement supérieur

Monsieur Youssef BEYDOUN	Ministère de la Culture et de l'Enseignement supérieur
Monsieur Mohammad MADI	Directeur général du Ministère de la Culture et de l'Enseignement supérieur
Monsieur Alexandre NAJJAR	Conseiller auprès du Ministre de la Culture et de l'Enseignement supérieur
Madame Afifa DIRANI-ARSANIOS	Conseiller auprès du Ministre de la Culture et de l'Enseignement supérieur
Monsieur Jean-Marc BONFILS	Architecte consultant auprès du Ministre de la Culture et de l'Enseignement supérieur

Bibliothèques libanaises

Madame Katia MEDAWAR	Bibliothèque de l'Université américaine de Beyrouth (A.U.B.)
Madame Nouhad SALAME	Bibliothèque orientale
Madame Aida NAAMAN	Bibliothèque de la Libanese American University, Présidente de l'Association des bibliothécaires du Liban
Madame Bughdana HAJJAR	Bibliothèque de la Libanese American University
Monsieur Ahmad TALEB	Jafet Library
Père Simon SALIBA	Bibliothèque de l'Université de Kaslik

Universités libanaises

Madame Hassana MEHEIDDINE	Faculté d'information et de documentation de l'Université libanaise
Madame Dolla ISSA	Faculté d'information et de documentation de l'Université libanaise
Madame Maud STEPHAN	Faculté d'information et de documentation de l'Université libanaise
Madame Gladis SAADE	Faculté d'information et de documentation de l'Université libanaise

Centre des Archives nationales

Monsieur Antoine KHAWAJA	Président du Centre des Archives nationales
Monsieur Walid ADRA	Chef du service de la documentation du Centre des Archives nationales
Monsieur Nabil SAIDI	Expert pour les manuscrits orientaux

Conseil pour le développement et la reconstruction

Monsieur CHAHROUR	Ingénieur, Chef de projet
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Délégation UNESCO au Liban

Monsieur R. SALAME	Adjoint au Directeur de la Délégation de l'UNESCO au Liban
Monsieur Renaud MEYER	Responsable de programme dans le cadre de l'United Nations Development programme
Madame Anna CZAJKA	Restauration spécialiste, volontaire dans le cadre de l'United Nations Development programme
Monsieur Joseph KREIDI	Chef de projet construction au sein de l'Office régional pour l'éducation dans les états arabes

Personnalités diverses

Monsieur Mtanios HALABI	Directeur général du Ministère de l'Education nationale
Monsieur Simon KARAM	Directeur général de la foire internationale de Tripoli
Monsieur Daniel LE GOFF	Responsable de la Bibliothèque du Centre culturel de France à Beyrouth
S.E. Monsieur Ronald MOLLINGER	Ambassadeur des Pays-Bas
Maître Phares ZOGHBI	Avocat, écrivain, bibliophile

• VISITES EFFECTUEES

- Dépôt des collections de la Bibliothèque nationale à Sin-el-Fil
- Centre des Archives nationales
- Bâtiment à restaurer, à proximité du palais de l'UNESCO
- Faculté de droit de l'Université libanaise
- Foire de Tripoli
- Bibliothèque de l'Université de Kaslik
- Bibliothèque de Libanese American University
- Centre culturel français

ANNEXE 2

LE CENTRE TECHNIQUE DE LA BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE

Rappel des objectifs

La phase de préfiguration de la future Bibliothèque nationale du Liban suppose la réalisation d'un certain nombre de travaux qui seront assurés par une équipe de professionnels spécialistes, au sein du Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale.

Le Centre technique, qui bénéficiera d'une installation provisoire dans l'attente de l'ouverture de la Bibliothèque nationale, a pour missions essentielles :

- Sauvegarder les collections existantes en les traitant matériellement (désinfection, tri, équipement) et intellectuellement (catalogage et classification).
- Améliorer la collecte du dépôt légal et le traiter (inventaire, catalogage, équipement, classement) et réaliser la Bibliographie nationale.
- Mettre en œuvre une politique documentaire : acquisitions, réception et traitement des dons, coopération scientifique avec les partenaires documentaires.
- Elaborer le fonctionnement de la future Bibliothèque nationale.

Les moyens à mettre en oeuvre

Le Centre technique fonctionnera à l'aide d'une équipe de 15 agents dont on peut décliner les qualifications et les tâches de la manière suivante :

- 1 chef de projet cadre A (Bac + 4 ou 5), spécialisé dans la bibliothéconomie, chargé de la direction du Centre technique. Il est en charge de l'administration générale (sous l'autorité du Président de l' Etablissement public) ; il a la responsabilité de la préfiguration de l'organisation de la future Bibliothèque nationale ; il dirige et anime l'équipe ; il assure la communication sur les aspects techniques du projet.
- 2 adjoints au chef de projet : d'un niveau de qualification identique à celui du chef de projet, ils le seconde dans sa tâche. Ils organisent et supervisent la chaîne de traitement des ouvrages (collections sauvegardées, acquisition, dons) ; ils assurent le suivi du travail scientifique (tri, catalogage, classement) ; ils préparent l'informatisation du futur établissement ainsi que la bibliothèque virtuelle.
- 8 bibliothécaires (Bac + 2 ou 3) chargés du travail bibliothéconomique (tri, catalogage, classement, etc.).
- 3 agents de manutention (magasinage et équipement des ouvrages).
- 1 secrétaire.

L'installation du Centre technique nécessite une surface de 1 000m², répartie comme suit :

- 1 bureau de direction (Chef de projet)	25m ²
- 2 bureaux adjoints	15m ² x2
- 2 bureaux pour les bibliothécaires	25m ² x2
- 1 bureau de secrétariat	15m ²
- 1 espace de réception des ouvrages (manutention, déballage)	160m ²
- 1 local d'équipement et de maintenance des ouvrages	50m ²
- 1 magasin de stockage	400m ²
- locaux divers :	
- salle de réunion	40m ²
- sanitaires (WC, lavabo+1douche)	15m ²
- foyer du personnel	15m ²
- circulations et divers	200m ²
	<hr/>
	1 000m ²

Pour l'équipement de ce local, il convient de prévoir :

- 12 bureaux (avec caissons)
- 2 tables de manutention
- 6 tables de réunion
- 12 sièges de bureau
- 20 sièges divers (réunion, réception)
- 6 chariots à livres
- 8 armoires de bureau
 - rayonnages pour bureaux
 - rayonnages pour traitement des collections (100m linéaires)
- 11 postes de travail informatiques et logiciels (bureautique, catalogage, gestion, lecture CD-Rom, liaison Internet)
- 5 postes téléphoniques
- 1 télécopieur
- 1 photocopieur
- 1 lecteur de micro-formes
- 1 fonds d'ouvrages de références (annuaires, bibliographies, dictionnaires, etc.)
- documentation professionnelle (ouvrages spécialisés, abonnement revues professionnelles)
- fournitures diverses (papeterie, fournitures de bureau et pour la conservation des ouvrages)
- 2 aspirateurs
- 15 bacs plastiques de manutention

ANNEXE 3

LA DESINFECTION DES COLLECTIONS

Nous avons souligné l'importance et l'urgence de la désinfection des collections entreposées à Sin-el-Fil.

L'infestation de champignons nécessite un traitement de masse des ouvrages par injection d'oxyde d'éthylène (500g/m^3). Ce traitement se fait dans un autoclave, équipement que l'on trouve dans tous les ports de marchandise ou dans les hôpitaux.

Les livres restent conditionnés dans leurs cartons pendant toute l'opération, afin de faciliter la manutention et le traitement.

D'autre part, il faut rappeler qu'au terme de l'opération, il convient de dépoussiérer les ouvrages. Cette opération de dépoussiérage est à inclure dans la chaîne de traitement, dès leur arrivée au Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale. Elle peut être réalisée par le personnel lui-même.

A titre indicatif, voici les contraintes et les coûts prévisionnels d'une opération de désinfection pour un volume de 150m^3 , ce qui représente, en gros, le volume à traiter des collections de la Bibliothèque nationale du Liban.

Contraintes

- nécessité d'utiliser un ou des autoclaves d'une capacité moyenne de 40m^3 (on peut utiliser des autoclaves plus petits, mais l'opération sera plus longue) ;
- temps de fumigation : 12 à 16 heures ;
- temps de désorption (évacuation du gaz) : 7 jours ;
- temps prévu pour traiter l'ensemble de la collection : 6 à 8 semaines ;
- en terme de calendrier, nécessité de faire coïncider le retour des ouvrages traités avec la livraison du local provisoire siège du Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale. Aussi, dans la mesure où le local provisoire ne serait livrée qu'en janvier 1999, il conviendrait d'entreprendre les travaux de désinfection à partir de la mi-novembre 1999.

Coût Prévisionnel

- $150\text{m}^3 \times 50\$ = 7\,500\$$;
- il faut noter que ce coût prévisionnel ne tient pas compte du transport (aller-retour) des cartons, dont le coût ne peut être calculé qu'en fonction de la distance de l'autoclave.

وارد في
٩ نونبر ١٩٩٤
وزارة الثقافة والتعليم العالي
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RCS Nanterre
B 351 559 018
Sarl au capital de
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Landis & Gyr Building Control
(France) Sarl, 92115 Clichy

Docteur METANIOS AL HALABI
Directeur Général
MINISTRE DE LA CULTURE ET DE
L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPERIEUR

Votre interlocuteur

Mrs Dan NAPAR/Roland MERCHAT

Téléphone direct

33 1 47 56 58 37

Date

11 Octobre 1994

Votre référence

Notre référence

Télécopie directe

33 1 47 56 17 62

Objet : Bibliothèque Nationale du LIBAN

A l'attention du Docteur HALABI

Cher Docteur,

Nous faisons suite à notre entretien du 10 octobre 1994 relativement à notre savoir-faire dans la gestion technique centralisée de bâtiments, et plus précisément notamment dans celle de la Bibliothèque Nationale de France, et nous vous informons que nous serions très heureux de vous apporter tout notre concours à l'élaboration du projet de la bibliothèque du Liban.

Nous considérons en effet que :

- une bibliothèque doit être à la mesure de la **Culture de son pays**.
- elle doit être le lieu privilégié de rencontre entre les grands débats culturels destinés à mettre en valeur la **Francophonie** et les relations multiculturelles.
- elle doit permettre le maintien de la mémoire culturelle qui est un devoir vis à vis des générations futures.
- elle doit donner l'accès à la culture (écrite et audiovisuelle) à la plus large partie de la population. C'est un acte d'Education et de conservation de l'identité d'un peuple.
- le bâtiment doit être à la hauteur de ses ambitions et les buts qu'un pays phare dans cette partie du monde doit se fixer.
- la vision de l'avenir (perennité) est très importante pour pouvoir concevoir un bâtiment qui doit traverser des siècles.
- c'est notre devoir que de faire partager l'expérience unique de notre participation à la construction de la Bibliothèque Nationale de France et de par sa promotion établir le lien

Date
11 Octobre 1994

Votre référence

Notre référence

Page
2

entre la Culture, l' Architecture et les Technologies de pointe pour la conservation et la consultation du patrimoine culturel de ce pays.

Nous avons le plaisir de vous proposer de vous organiser une visite de la Nouvelle Grande Bibliothèque de France, lors de votre prochain passage à Paris, soit du 27 octobre au 03 novembre 1994.

Cela pourrait être le point de départ d'une coopération permettant au Liban de partager notre expérience en la matière.

Nous vous serions très reconnaissant de bien vouloir nous permettre de rencontrer son excellence **Monsieur Michel EDDE** pour l'entretenir de tout cela, sachant que nous sommes à BEYROUTH jusqu'à vendredi prochain. Cette rencontre pourrait être l'occasion de présenter à Monsieur le Ministre notre projet de symposium relatif à la mise en place de la Bibliothèque Nationale du Liban.

Tout en vous en remerciant par avance, nous vous prions de bien vouloir agréer, cher Monsieur, l'expression de notre très haute considération.

Dan NAPAR



Roland MERCHAT



Public Relations and Marketing Efforts in National Libraries.

The National Library of Norway wishes to build up a collection of material and knowhow about public relations and marketing efforts in National Libraries with the scope of possibly turning this into a sort of clearinghouse for such information.

The membership of the CDNL is invited to share their views on these matters, and are also urged to send material and information they find appropriate to the National Library of Norway, c/o Mrs Elisabeth S. Christensen, who is the present secretary of the CDNL.

BR
30.6.94

"Memory of the World"

Enclosed you will find a short presentation of Unesco's "Memory of the World"-programme.

The National Libraries and the National Archives in the Nordic countries together with NORDINFO (The Nordic Council for Scientific Information) and the National Commission for Unesco in these countries, are planning a conference in Oslo in June 1996 as a follow up to the "Memory of the World" initiative.

The organizers will welcome suggestions from the CDNL that may be considered in the final programme for the conference, and it will also be appreciated if the CDNL would consider an active involvement in both this conference as well as other efforts made in promoting the "Memory of the World"-programme.

BR
30.6.94

CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES

Statutes
and Rules of Procedure

Approved by the Conference, August 1990

1. Objectives

- 1.1 The conference is an independent association of chief executives of national libraries, established to facilitate discussion and promote understanding and cooperation on matters of common interest to national libraries worldwide.
- 1.2 The Conference pursues its objectives through annual meetings of its membership, as well as through the initiation and support of research and development activities by its committees, ad hoc groups, and individual members.
- 1.3 The Conference also pursues its objectives through liaison with other international associations and organizations with which it shares common objectives.

2. Membership

- 2.1 Membership in the Conference is open to the chief executive of the national library of every country.
- 2.2 For purposes of membership in the Conference, a national library is one that conforms with the definition adopted by the 16th General Conference of Unesco in 1970 (see Appendix I).
- 2.3 Each country shall be represented by only one voting member. Where there is no single institution functioning as a national library for the country as a whole, or where the responsibilities normally carried out by a national library (as outlined in the Unesco definition) are shared between two or more institutions or officials, the government of that country may be asked to name a voting member to the Conference. In such cases, a second representative of the country will be permitted to attend the meetings of the Conference in a non-voting capacity.

shall extend only to the end of the term established prior to the vacating of that office. A Chairperson so elected shall be eligible for re-election to the next consecutive term of office.

4.10 The Executive shall have full power to act and speak on behalf of the Conference at any time between annual meetings.

5. Committees

5.1 The Conference may establish standing committees, task forces, ad hoc groups, etc. or designate individuals at any time to undertake studies, tasks or other responsibilities on its behalf.

5.2 Membership on such committees and groups, and the delegation of responsibilities to individuals shall not be restricted to members of the Conference.

5.3 All charges to committees, groups and individuals shall be set out in formal terms of reference approved by the Conference or by the Executive on its behalf.

6. Secretariat

6.1 The Chairperson shall make such arrangements as may be deemed appropriate to ensure that the support of a secretariat is available to organize meetings, record minutes of meetings, distribute documents, manage correspondence, etc.

6.2 The records of the Conference and the Executive officers shall be transferred by the secretariat at the end of the term of office of the Chairperson to the secretariat established by the newly elected Chairperson.

7. Finances

7.1 There shall be no fees for membership in the Conference.

7.2 Financial responsibility for the services of the secretariat shall rest with the Chairperson.

7.3 The Conference, or the Executive on its behalf, may solicit contributions from the membership or from outside sources to support approved studies or projects.

Appendix I

Unesco Definition of "National Library"

"Libraries which, irrespective of their title, are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a 'deposit' library, whether by law or under other arrangements. They will also normally perform some of the following functions: produce a national bibliography; hold and keep up to date a large and representative collection of foreign literature, including books about the country; act as a national bibliographical information centre; compile union catalogues; publish the retrospective national bibliography. Libraries which may be called 'national' but whose functions do not correspond to the above definition should not be placed in the 'National Libraries' category."

Unesco. Records of the General Conference, sixteenth session, Paris, 1970.
Paris, Unesco, 1971. 2 vols.

**CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES
TWENTYFIRST MEETING**

**August 25, 1994, 10:a.m.
Biblioteca Nacional "José Martí"
Havana, Cuba**

A G E N D A

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence
2. Adoption of the Agenda (CDNL 94/1)
3. Organizational Matters (CDNL 94/3):
 - 3.1 Statutes
 - 3.2 Election
4. Minutes of the 20th CDNL Meeting in Barcelona (CDNL 94/2)
5. Issues Related to Bibliographic Records (Warren Horton)
6. Legal Deposit and Electronic Publishing (CDNL 94/4) (Brian Lang)
7. Voucher System for International Interlending (CDNL 94/5) (Graham Cornish)
8. Access to Electronic Catalogues of National Libraries (Brian Lang)
9. Reports from Regional Conferences concerning National Libraries
10. Links between CDNL and IFLA National Libraries Section (Peter G. Scott)
11. Public Relations and Marketing Efforts in National Libraries (CDNL 94/7) (Bendik Rugaas)
12. UNESCO - "Memory of the World" (CDNL 94/8) (Bendik Rugaas)
13. UNESCO - The National and University Library of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Sarajevo (CDNL 94/9)
14. The Rushdie Appeal (based on comments from the membership) (CDNL 94/10) (Bendik Rugaas)
15. Time and Place of the 22nd CDNL Meeting
16. Miscellaneous

Organizational Matters

3.1 Statues

We enclose a copy of the CDNL's Statues and Rules of Procedure. In the later years we have witnessed a dramatic change on the global political scene, and a number of new nations have emerged with their own national library. This has also influenced the membership of the CDNL. For new members as well as for old we therefore send you the statues to ponder over in case you should feel that they could be made even better.

3.2 Elections

At the CDNL-meeting in New Dehli in 1992, Bendik Rugaas was elected Chairperson, and Peter Scott, Vice-Chairperson for the period 1992-96. At the same meeting Mariam Kadir was elected second Vice-Chairperson, to fill the vacancy after Stephany Ferguson who had left her job as national librarian of Jamaica to take up a new position.

According to the statues it says in 4.9: "In the event that any one of the offices is vacated prior to the end of term, an election shall be held to fill the vacancy as soon as is feasible. The term of office for the newly elected officer shall extend only to the end of the term established prior to the vacating of that office. A Chairperson so elected shall be eligible for re-election to the next concecutive term of office." In response to this Mariam Kadir has expressed her willingness to stand for re-election. No other candidates have been proposed so far. The formal election will take place in Havana.

BR
30.6.94



NASJONALBIBLIOTEKET

National Library of Norway

The National Librarian

Our date

Our reference

Your date

Your reference

TO: Members of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries

FROM: Bendik Rugaas, Chairperson

SUBJECT: **CDNL Meeting, August 25, 1994 - Agenda and Documentation**

Enclosed please find the agenda for the meeting in Havana on August 25, together with the following documents:

- Minutes of the 20th CDNL Meeting (CDNL 94/2)
- Organizational Matters (CDNL 94/3 and 90/14)
- Legal Deposit and Electronic Publishing (CDNL 94/4)
- Voucher Scheme to simplify Payment for International Interlibrary Lending: Progress Report (CDNL 94/5)
- Public Relations and Marketing Efforts in National Libraries (CDNL 94/7)
- UNESCO - "Memory of the World" (CDNL 94/8 with encl.)
- UNESCO - The National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CDNL 94/9)
- The Rushdie Appeal (CDNL 94/10 with encls.)

The meeting is organized by the Biblioteca Nacional José Martí and will take place at this library which is situated at Plaza de la Revolución in Havana. The meeting is scheduled to begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and to end by 5:00 p.m.

Those of you who will be represented by proxy at the meeting, are kindly asked to provide them with copies of relevant documents.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Havana.

Oslo, July 5, 1994

Bendik Rugaas
CDNL Chairperson



VOUCHER SCHEME TO SIMPLIFY PAYMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL INTERLIBRARY LENDING: PROGRESS REPORT

1. Background

In November 1993, work commenced on research into the practical implications of the voucher scheme. A number of areas of work were identified, and a progress report would be written by August 1994.

The objectives set were:

- i) Establish a Working Group to oversee the project and give advice.
- ii) Determine the sale/redemption value of the voucher and duration of validity.
- iii) Establish legality in international currency terms.
- iv) Decide the format of vouchers.
- v) Investigate the financial arrangements for a library "bank".
- vi) Investigate the use of the system in electronic format.
- vii) Decide on a group of countries to test the system.
- viii) Prepare a preliminary report.

2. The Working Group

- 2.1 A working group was established to oversee the work and give advice. The group has not met physically, but members have been consulted regularly by fax on all aspects of the project.
- 2.2 Members of the Working Group are: David Bradbury (British Library Document Supply Centre), Heinz Fuchs (University of Gottingen & IFLA Section on Document Delivery and Interlending), Niels Mark (State & University Library Århus and IFLA Section on Document Delivery & Interlending), Peter Lor (Director of the State Library, Pretoria, South Africa), Christopher Wright (Head of Interlending, Library of Congress, Washington), Svetlana Prosekova (Deputy Director, Russian State Library, Moscow), Abdelaziz Abid (PGI Programme, Unesco), Monica Guerrero (Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Economicas, Mexico), Graham Cornish (Programme Officer, IFLA UAP Programme).

6.3 The scheme would be administered from the IFLA Office, which would deal directly with the bank where the account is held. It is thought unlikely that British Library Finance Department would be involved in the running of the scheme.

7. Electronic use of the voucher

Work has concentrated on a paper voucher at present. It is possible that, once the scheme has become established using a physical voucher, the idea will be able to be transferred to electronic systems.

8. Testing the system

Initial discussions have taken place for pilot projects with:

8.1 Bavarian State Library. Project funded by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft to investigate the use of the voucher for interlending between German and east European libraries.

8.2 British Library DSC Worldwide Searches. WWS would act as a borrower, using the voucher to pay for certain Z-search transactions.

8.3 British Library DSC Customer Services. Request form purchasing section (PRF) have agreed in principle to accept vouchers in payment for loan request forms and international photocopy coupons.

8.4 All projects are proposals only, and would not begin until after August and the CDNL Meeting.

9. Preliminary report

A report will be written for August 1994 outlining progress made in the implementation of the scheme, and detailing the next steps to be taken.

IFLA Office
20 June 1994

CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES

LEGAL DEPOSIT AND ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

One of the main responsibilities of national libraries is to assemble comprehensive collections of the published outputs of their countries, record and organise them for use, and preserve them for posterity. National libraries have been able to develop their printed collections through legal deposit, a government provision which places a legal requirement on producers of publications to deposit their works in designated institutions. Governments across the world have shown their support for the legal deposit of printed publications on the grounds of ensuring the preservation, availability and recording of the published output of the country for the benefit of the nation.

The development of new carriers for the storage of information, traditionally produced on paper, has brought about a fundamental change in thinking within national libraries about future collection policies and storage requirements and an awareness that in order to maintain comprehensive collections of national publications for present and future generations of users, it will be necessary to obtain an increasing amount of non-print material. The Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) believes strongly that governments should provide statutory rights to enable national libraries to receive non-print publications through legal deposit. CDNL also believes national libraries have a duty to serve current and future generations of users to support scholarship, research and enterprise and their main interests should be concerned with the message, not the medium. However, CDNL recognises that in cases where equipment to 'read' non-print publications no longer exists or is prohibitively expensive to maintain, then decisions on selection criteria may be affected by the medium rather than the message.

CDNL will concentrate on matters associated with electronic publications because they offer national libraries the greatest challenges of all of today's publishing media and therefore provide the appropriate focus for collaboration.

Some national libraries have considerable experience in handling non-print publications. However, not all national libraries are given such responsibility. Some countries have dedicated national archives for those materials. CDNL believes future scholars and researchers will be assisted greatly if union catalogues are developed to provide access to the collections of the various archives.

**CDNL WORKING GROUP ON LEGAL DEPOSIT
AND ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING**

Minutes of the first meeting of the re-constituted Group, held on Tuesday 31 May 1994, at the British Library, 2 Sheraton Street, London, from 10.30am.

Present:	Dr B Lang	UK (Chairman)
	Mr H-M Fagerli	Norway
	Dr P Lor	South Africa
	Ms I Parent	Canada
	Mr B Rugaas	Norway
	Mr D Toll	Australia
	Ms A Clarke	UK (Minutes)

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

LDEP 94/02

5.1 Members considered the terms of reference of the original Group. They decided:-

- (a) not to review the EUSIDIC definition of electronic publishing.
- (b) to consider static and dynamic documents as two separate categories and to concentrate on issues associated with dynamic documents.
- (c) to monitor European Commission work on legal deposit and electronic publishing (see item 4 above) and develop model legislation.
- (d) to consider supporting pilot projects in the field of legal deposit and electronic publishing.
- (e) to assess copyright issues.
- (f) to consider the feasibility of establishing a clearing house for information on legal deposit and electronic publishing.

5.2 Ms Parent recommended that the Group should also propose a role for a national library at least at the minimum level in collecting, maintaining and providing services from legal deposit electronic publications. She also endorsed the view that the Group should produce guidelines towards the development of model legislation. Ms Parent referred to Jean Lunn's work "Guidelines for Legal Deposit Legislation", UNESCO, 1981. The Group would seek UNESCO support for its work.

5.3 The National Library of Canada had identified five electronic journals produced in Canada. Ms Parent hoped one of the Group's pilot projects might be to consider the handling and storing of electronic journals. Another project might be to explore the Internet to establish the types of material available on the network.

5.4 After considerable discussion, the Group decided its purpose should be to encourage the enactment of legislation across a broad international basis requiring legal deposit of non-print publications, by:

creating a systematic means of discussing ideas and comparing notes (ie providing a clearing house facility).

aiming to avoid unnecessary duplication of activity.

concentrating on issues unique to legal deposit and electronic publishing.

providing support for member nations' proposals for the legal deposit of non-print publications.

learning from one another's experiences.

Australia

The Australian Government is initiating a review of the Copyright Act which includes legal deposit legislation for printed materials. The review should be completed by December 1994.

The National Library of Australia receives a legal deposit copy of every Australian publication for reference purposes. It purchases an identical copy for loan.

Voluntary deposit of some electronic publications takes place.

The ground rules for access to CD-ROMs deposited at the Library of Congress are being considered as possible models for the National Library of Australia. The aim is to develop a single NLA contract for all electronic publications.

Traditionally, the National Library of Australia has used IBM computer equipment. It now receives non IBM-compatible publication media, requiring the acquisition of new equipment and new skills.

It is difficult for staff to be expert in both curatorial and technical issues, and future recruitment programmes will need to address this.

Two senior staff work full-time on policy issues associated with legal deposit and electronic media. Five staff work part-time on technical issues.

A strategic decision was made to reduce the number of overseas publications purchased because some of them are available over networks.

16k monographs per year are received through legal deposit.

20k serial titles per year are received through legal deposit.

The National Library of Australia expects to receive a supportive attitude from its Government on the legal deposit of electronic publications.

Canada

Legal deposit legislation forms part of the National Library Act.

The deposit of a "book" is assumed to apply to the deposit of a print or a non-print publication.

The National Library of Canada has only recently begun to exercise its right to collect electronic publications through legal deposit. CD-ROMs and CD-Is are collected.

The National Library makes arrangements for access to CD-ROMs on a case by case basis. Guidelines for use have been produced.

An ANC-affiliated think tank on education policy has set up a task team on library and information services, which has proposed that the Legal Deposit of Publications Act be extended to cover audio-visual materials as well as printed materials. At the same time it has proposed a reduction of the number of legal deposit libraries from five to two. This has led to bitter controversy. It will be difficult, and probably counter-productive, to remove existing privileges from any of the five legal deposit libraries.

Prospects for amendments to the existing legal deposit legislation are poor, partly because of current uncertainty, arising from recent political changes, concerning which ministry will be responsible for library services.

South Africa is at an early stage of electronic publishing but is well ahead of other sub-Saharan countries, which are handicapped by lack of connectivity. The State Library in Pretoria has traditionally served as a focal point for resource sharing in Southern Africa, and in the new political climate it hopes to assist in improving the flow of information in Africa.

United Kingdom

Existing legislation applies to printed publications only and enables six copies to be deposited.

The British Library is developing a case for the legal deposit of non-print publications.

Political and legal issues are considered to be more of a problem than technical issues.

National archives are being consulted about the Library's plans. Publishers will be consulted after a clear way forward has been reached with the national archives.

The UK Government recommends rationalisation of the existing legal deposit system for print before development of a legal deposit system for non-print publications.

Publishers wish to keep control of the use made of their electronic publications. They would appear not to be willing to allow remote access to their electronic publications.

Legal deposit legislation is the responsibility of the Department of National Heritage.

Over 72k monographs were received in 1993/94 through legal deposit. Over 6k serial titles (and 195k serial issues) were received in 1993/94 through legal deposit.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF THE CASE FOR THE LEGAL DEPOSIT OF NON-PRINT MATERIALS

LDEP 94/04

- 7.1 The Secretary introduced the paper which formed part of a draft proposal to be presented to the European Commission. It covered issues related to the development of

collection of Australian publications to grow. Mr Rugaas said the National Library of Norway had adopted a policy of collecting as many publications as it could and would ask its Government for additional resources if necessary. Members considered it would be worth preparing a statement in support of the need to examine resource issues and to seek UNESCO's backing for the statement.

9. ELECTRONIC ON-LINE PUBLICATIONS

LDEP 94/05

- 9.1 Mr Fagerli introduced the paper which recommended that national libraries should not attempt to collect on-line publications but should seek to provide access to them. He also recommended that frequently changing electronic texts be sampled; samples would require careful selection in order to ensure that a useful historic account of information was collected for posterity.

10. ACTIONS

- 10.1 The British Library would circulate the minutes of the meeting with agreed terms of reference and a covering note setting out key points of similarity and difference between national libraries. Members would be invited to comment on those items which would then be distributed to CDNL members at the end of June, for discussion at Havana, in August.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 11.1 The next meeting would take place on Friday 26 August, at Havana. The meeting after next would take place at the end of this year/beginning of next.

CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES

**Twentieth Meeting, held at the Biblioteca de Catalunya, Barcelona
August 29, 1993**

Chair: Bendik Rugaas

I. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attending the meeting were the following directors and representatives:

Warren Horton (AUSTRALIA), Hans Martc (AUSTRIA), Basiamang Garebakwena (BOTSWANA), Beatriz Helena da Costa Nunes (BRAZIL), Marianne Scott (CANADA), Ursula Schadlich Schönhals (CHILE), Sun Beixin (CHINA), Marta Terry (CUBA), Vojtech Balik (CZECH REPUBLIC), Steen Bille Larsen and Morten Laursen Vig (DENMARK), Riitta Maajärvi (FINLAND), Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie (FRANCE), Kurt Nowak (GERMANY), Banayotis G. Nicolopoulos (GREECE), Viola Batonyi (HUNGARY), D.N. Banerjee (INDIA), Budi S. Maswan (INDONESIA), Faramarz Masoudi (IRAN), Patricia Donlon (IRELAND), Jun Takei (JAPAN), Lee Kyung Moon (KOREA), Andris Vilks (LATVIA), Vladas Bulavas (LITHUANIA), Mariam Abdul Kadir (MALAYSIA), John B. Sultana (MALTA), Mu'azu Hamidu Wali (NIGERIA), Bendik Rugaas (NORWAY), Adam Manikowski (POLAND), Ivan Kanic (SLOVENIA), Peter Lor and P.E. Westra (SOUTH AFRICA), Carmen Lacambra (SPAIN), Upali Amarasiri (SRI LANKA), Erna Roos (SWEDEN), Altinay Sernikli (TURKEY), Brian Lang and I. McGowan (UNITED KINGDOM), Winston Tabb (UNITED STATES)

Also in attendance were the following:

Alix Chevallier (National Library of France), Abdelaziz Abid, Nathalie Dusoulier and Wolfgang Löhner (Unesco), Graham Comish (The British Library), Poori Soltani (National Library of Iran), Miekko Hirano (National Diet Library), H.T. Shin (National Library of Korea), Xavier Agenjo and Belen Altuna (National Library of Spain), Manuel Jorba (Biblioteca de Catalunya), Tuncel Acar (National Library of Turkey), Suzanne Santiago (ISSN Centre)

Apologies for absence were received from:

M. Aissa Ou Moussa Mohamed (ALGERIE), Gabriela Antunes (ANGOLA), Judy Blackman (BARBADOS), Alexandra Dipchkova (BULGARIA), Finnbog Gudmundsson (ICELAND), Israel Shatzman (ISRAEL), Kongdeuane Nettavongs (LAOS), Alois Ospelt (LIECHTENSTEIN), Francoise B. Thybulle (HAITI), John A. Aarons (JAMAICA), W. van Drimmelen (NETHERLANDS), Peter G. Scott

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

2.a Membership of CDNL

The Chair noted that it proved difficult to keep the CDNL membership mailing list updated and the list was passed around so that the members could note any changes regarding names, addresses etc.

2.b Guidelines for Twinning of National Libraries

At the request of the Chair, Ms. Scott reported on the topic. She underlined the need for guidelines to regulate the process of twinning. Referring to the draft guidelines already worked out by Robert Doyle, she proposed that UNESCO/PGI continue their work. Ms. Scott also underlined the need for a clearing house to follow up this work.

Mr. Löhner stated that he had noted the proposal of Ms. Scott and that the UNESCO/PGI would continue their work on such rules and suggested that a joint proposal from UNESCO and CDNL should be worked out. Mr. Ladurie referred to the French multilateral linkage with frenchspeaking countries and stressed the importance of a multilateral approach in this matter.

Ms. Scott referred to the relations between CDNL and IFLA's Standing Committee of National Libraries and commented that some members of the Standing Committee were not aware of the role of CDNL. She recommended that CDNL should strive to become more action-oriented in the future, for example concerning the question of twinning. As requested, she also reported on the meetings of the committee held during IFLA. The Standing Committee is proposing to hold a workshop during the IFLA meeting in Havana to discuss twinning and possible bilateral and international action. The participants should represent national libraries on a senior level in order to facilitate the decision making process. Ms. Scott also referred to the workshop arranged by the IFLA Section of National Libraries earlier this week, the theme being "Cooperation, networking and resource-sharing between national libraries", and the project of an International Conference on National Bibliographic Services in 1997, planned by the IFLA Section on Bibliography. It would be most important that CDNL, representing national libraries, should take part in the planning of this conference as a co-sponsor. She also underlined the importance of national libraries working actively concerning questions regarding bibliographic records, including machine readable records, and that CDNL keep hold of these questions and deal with them.

Mr. Westra noted that many developing countries cannot afford to publish their national bibliography and suggested help on a donation basis to ensure

In response to a question from Ms. Scott as to the possibility of sending the CDNL members the tables that have been worked out, Mr. Horton answered affirmatively and said he would do so very quickly.

The Chair noted that the members, being national librarians, naturally are interested in this work and that further studies should be made. One way of taking the matter further would be for the CDNL to approach the IFLA Section on National Libraries and the Section on Bibliographic Control which are both interested in this work, to explore the possibility of cooperating in this respect. He asked the members to consider such a procedure until CDNL's next meeting in Havana in 1994.

3.b Preservation of Serial Literature

The Chair noted that he had received no communication from the Working Group prior to the meeting. He therefore proposed that the matter be postponed.

3.c Legal Deposit and Electronic Publishing

The Chair noted that the Working Group was appointed some years ago to discuss how, if at all, national libraries may collect electronically published material. A report, prepared by Mr. Hans Martin Fagerli, Norway, was presented at the CDNL meeting in Stockholm in 1990. This report is still available from the secretariate.

The Chair underlined that these are important questions which should be considered by CDNL. He informed that some of the members of the Working Group, among them Mr. Horton and Mr. Fagerli, met on August 24 in Barcelona, and that he had received minutes of the meeting made by Mr. Fagerli. According to these minutes, there are several ways to approach the question of legal deposit and electronic publishing (see enclosed minutes of meeting, August 24, 1993). The Chair presented the conclusions from the meeting and asked the membership to voice their comments.

Mr. Lang underlined that these are important questions to which one should strive to find solutions. He expressed the hope that CDNL would continue this work, admitting that there were considerable problems involved, for instance the existing copyright system, and that the British Library would appreciate support from other countries. He also confirmed that the British Library would be interested in finding solutions to these questions within the CDNL framework. Mr. Ladurie informed that also France would be interested in participating in such work.

transactions and flow of information between libraries. The Library of Congress would like to take part.

Mr. Ladurie noted that CDNL could not be the sole partner in such a scheme. He proposed that IFLA or UNESCO should be properly involved.

Mr. Bille Larsen described the situation in Denmark, where it would be necessary that national interlending is free of charge. To this, Mr. Cornish remarked that it would be possible to accommodate special arrangements on the national level within the universal system proposed in the voucher scheme.

Mr. Filippov expressed support of the scheme and informed that the Russian State Library would like to take part in the project.

Mr. Lang noted that the scheme had been discussed for some years and that now was the time for action. The British Library will support the scheme and funds will be made available for an upstart period.

Mr. Horton noted that he still had to be convinced of the viability of the scheme before he could give it his support.

Ms. Scott suggested a system of special rates for developing countries and raised the question of how to carry out payment. Mr. Cornish replied that these questions are open for discussion, but noted that a system of uniform price for vouchers sold and redeemed at the same price, would facilitate payment.

Mr. Abid offered to send free copies of the UNESCO report on a voucher scheme to the members who would like to have a copy. He underlined that the proposed scheme will improve the situation and should be tried out under IFLA. The scheme will not replace other arrangements, but will provide improvements. IFLA is ready to cooperate and UNESCO/PGI will also provide help.

Mr. Ladurie wanted to know which currency to use for payment. Mr. Cornish replied that the vouchers had to be linked to one currency and proposed that the coupons have a limited lifespan.

Mr. Nowak said that Germany will support the scheme which should be handled carefully within IFLA.

The Chair concluded that the members were in support of the scheme and that he would communicate this to IFLA and UNESCO, together with the questions and remarks made at the meeting.

Mr. Cornish thanked the members for taking their valuable time to discuss

Congress, the Bibliotheque Nationale of France, the British Library, the National Library of Greece and the National Diet Library of Japan declared immediately their willingness to cooperate with the International Expert Commission and to nominate, as soon as possible, an expert who would be closely associated to, and work under the direct responsibility of the national librarians. It was understood that other libraries would declare their interest of cooperation to UNESCO within the next four to six weeks.

Mr. Filippov from the Russian State Library expressed his thanks to both UNESCO and the CDNL, and gave a short presentation of the status of the library.

Mr. Löhner expressed his great satisfaction for the spontaneous and positive reactions from the membership and indicated that the work of the Commission would enable to coordinate efficiently the bilateral assistance programmes which, of course, should continue to be carried out.

The Chair concluded that the CDNL will stay in close touch with the members prepared to assist in this matter, as well as with UNESCO/PGI, and act as a liason in trying to facilitate the work carried out whether this be bilateral or through multilateral schemes through UNESCO.

5. Report of the 5th Conference of Directors of National Libraries of Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO)

Virgina Betancourt, Venezuela, gave a report on the activities of ABINIA, an association of 21 national libraries from the Iberian peninsula and from all Latin American nations, except Bolivia. The report is enclosed.

Mariam Abdul Kadir reported on CDNLAO. See enclosed report together with the paper on "National Libraries Group - Southeast Asia (NLG - SEA)".

6. Access to Electronic Catalogues of National Libraries

At the request of the Chair, Mr. Lang reported on the work of the British Library concerning access to electronic catalogues of national libraries. The British Library have invested heavily in this work over the last years. As of next week an Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) will be available in all reading rooms of the Library, and in October the OPAC will be accessible over the UK academic network, JANet, for a twelve month trial period. One of the next major projects will be to provide software which conform to both the European and American standards available in order to provide access for other libraries. By mid-1994 the Library hopes to have in place a demonstrator project involving the staff of up to six national libraries. Network access requires expertise, and Mr. Lang invited members to join with the British Library in setting up pilot projects. He informed that the National Library of Australia is interested, and, referring to his report

work load is increasing. A major problem is the fact that not all the members of the ISSN are equally prompt in paying their membership dues. She underlined that any problems that cannot be solved by the national ISSN centres, can be dealt with in Paris. Further information is also available from ISSN headquarters upon request.

The Chair concluded that ISSN is an important tool, but it is heavily dependent on the active support from the ISSN membership. The CDNL members should all seriously consider their relations with and their support of the ISSN Centre.

9. Time and place of the 21st CDNL Meeting

The Chair noted that the next IFLA Conference and CDNL meeting will take place in Havana, Cuba. In 1995 the conference will take place in Istanbul/Ankara, Turkey.

Mrs. Terry wished the membership hearty welcome to next year's meeting which will be held at the National Library in Havana. She had also noted the proposition of the Chair and will try to arrange a get-together the evening before the meeting.

The Chair, on behalf of the membership, thanked Ms. Terry for her kind invitation. Referring to previous discussions of the possibility of holding the CDNL meeting during the week of the IFLA Conference, the Chair said he would look into this together with IFLA and the local organizers. He will also get in touch with the Turkish colleague with a view to solving the question whether the 1995 CDNL meeting should take place in Ankara or Istanbul where the National Library of Turkey is situated.

10. Miscellaneous

10.1 NGO Roundtable, Tokyo 1994

The Chair, on behalf of CDNL, has received an invitation from FID to take part in the above meeting which will be held during the 47th FID Conference and Congress, 2-9 October 1994. Leading international and regional associations and non-governmental organizations dealing with different aspects of information will be invited. All NGOs together would prepare a future oriented Resolution which would constitute a "manifesto" or reference document for future decades. It is hoped that the Roundtable will strengthen the collaboration between the information oriented NGOs and associations in the "information age".

The membership expressed general agreement that CDNL should take part in this endeavour, and the Chair will attend the meeting in Tokyo.

The Rushdie Appeal.

Last year the Chairperson - after having been approached in in this matter by representatives for the authors, publishers, and booksellers organizations in Norway on behalf of their European organizations - sent out the text for an appeal on the Rushdie case to the CDNL membership. This resulted in a total of 27 replies. 24 support the appeal and 3 do not support the appeal.

Some of the replies in favour have referred to official statements made by their governments, and underlined that the National Library will have to follow the policies chosen by the government. Canada can serve as an example, and I cite from a statement made by Canada at a seminar of the Human rights Commission in Geneva: "Canada therefore views most seriously the recently reiterated declaration by authorities in one of our state-members of a purported "death sentence" on author Salman Rushdie. This concern is unrelated to the contents of any authors works, or to the highest respect in which the Canadian government and people hold the religion of Islam and its teachings. However, as Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, moted in February 1993, "Salman Rushdie has become a symbol of the universal right to freedom of expression". We urge Iran to rescind this declararion, demonstrating its commitment to the basic principles for which this Commission stands."

Similarly the Library of Congress has referred to official statements made by the President, and I have received the enclosed summary from the US Embassy in Norway.

From Austria I have received a proposal for an additional paragraph between the second and the third one in the appeal, to read as follows: "CDNL deeply respect all confessions and religious beliefs but is also convinced that death warrant is a very wrong and inhuman way to enforce acceptance of religious confessions".

The three libraries that do not support the appeal underline that the book is banned in their country and that the author is persona non grata. I enclose the covering letter form our colleague in Pakistan that gives us a more detailed background for not supporting the appeal.

At our Havana meeting I suggest that we decide on the position to be taken by the CDNL in this matter.

BR
30.6.94

CLINTON MET WITH RUSHDIE TO REAFFIRM FREEDOM OF SPEECH

(But not to indicate support for attack on Islam) (430)

By Alexander M. Sullivan

USLA White House Correspondent

Washington -- President Clinton says he met recently with author Salman Rushdie to reaffirm the right of free speech, even for those expressing unpopular views.

"I did it," Clinton said November 30 of the meeting, "to make the point that in our country -- in countries who respect the freedom of speech -- freedom of speech includes especially the willingness to respect the rights of people who write things we do not agree with."

The meeting did not mean "that I agree with the attacks on Islam in the book that Mr. Rushdie wrote," the president said, but, rather, that authors should not have their lives or their rights threatened because of their writings.

The president said he has been studying the culture and history of Islam for more than 20 years to gain an appreciation of beliefs held by millions of people.

"I respect the religion and I respect the culture enormously," the president said. "I mean no disrespect to the people who have that religious faith, but I do think it's important that here in the United States we reaffirm" the need to "protect the physical well-being and the right to speak of those with whom we may intensely disagree."

The president said he understands that "our view...of free speech is different from that held by many Muslims throughout the world, including many who are our friends. I understand that."

Clinton acknowledged disputes among his advisers on the advisability of meeting with Rushdie, who is under sentence of death pronounced by the late Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran. Rushdie was accused of blasphemy in his novel, "The Satanic Verses."

Rushdie had come to the White House to meet with Anthony Lake, Clinton's national security adviser, and the president said he dropped by "to see him and shake hands with him and visit probably for a couple of minutes."

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees Americans the right to worship according to their individual beliefs, and the right to speak out on a broad array of matters, including criticism of government or of an organized religion.

The amendment, part of the Bill of Rights, states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

CHRISTOPHER MEETS WITH AUTHOR SALMAN RUSHDIE

Secretary of State Christopher met November 24th with British author Salman Rushdie at the White House, following a short meeting between Rushdie and the president, McCurry said.

"The secretary's intent was both to underscore the death threat that exists against Mr. Rushdie and the bounty that has been offered for him by Iran," he noted, and to "stress to him and to make the point publicly that such threats and such bounties are incompatible with basic standards of international conduct."

McCurry added "the meeting reflects the U.S. conviction that freedom of speech is a fundamental human right, and there's probably no better example of those rights being threatened than the author Salman Rushdie."

NNNN



From:- Mr. Abdul Hafeez Akhtar,
Director General.
Phone:214523.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
(Ministry of Education)
DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES
NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING,
Constitution Avenue

Islamabad. the. 29th. Dec., 1993.

No. 1503/93-D.G.

Dear Madam:

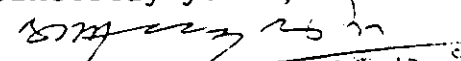
This is a well known fact that if any attempt is made to erode the authority, sanctity and integrity of our Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) then the whole edifice of Islamic philosophy, culture, civilization will crumble down. We believe in Allah (God) today as He was told by our Prophet. Allah Himself made the Holy Prophet "mercy" for the whole universe. The Muslims know how dear Muhammad (PBUH) is to Allah and for that matter Allah would not care for the lives of hundred thousands infidels who do not pay respect to His beloved Prophet.

Rushdie's novel "Satanic Verses" has no educational or research value but is a deliberate attempt to hurt the religious feelings of millions of Muslims around the world. The publication and possession of such literature has created hatred among various segments of humanity which is not the objective of libraries. Blasphemy against the most sacred, revered, valued, and counted upon personalities of different religions is the worst kind of violation of basic human rights of millions of fellow beings possessing a particular faith.

We the librarians are supposed to work for peace and harmony in the communities we serve and should avoid being played in the hands of pressure groups. I therefore regret that I do not support the appeal issued by CDNL regarding the FATWA on Sulman Rushdie who is accused to blasphemy against the Holy Prophet of Islam.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,


(ABDUL HAFEEZ AKHTAR)
27.12.93

Original: French

Paris, July 1993

First meeting of the International
Consultative Committee of the
'Memory of the World' Programme

Regional Consultation on the
Conservation, Protection and
Promotion of the Documentary
Heritage of the Countries of
Central and East Europe

Pultusk, Poland, 12-14 September 1993

'MEMORY OF THE WORLD' Programme

Suggested guidelines for the
protection of endangered manuscripts and archives

by

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

General Information Programme
and UNISIST

(PGI-93/WS/14)

PREFATORY NOTE

This document was prepared by Jean-Marie Arnoult, Technical Director of the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, under a contract entered into with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

As the time available for this task was limited, the author could not consult as widely as planned the professional organizations and experts concerned with the protection of the documentary heritage of the world.

So this is just a rough outline or suggestion, as indicated by the title, as to guidelines for the protection of endangered manuscripts and archives. The document is limited to the sketching out of the general framework of the 'Memory of the World' programme. The aim is to provide participants in the two Pultusk meetings with a basis for discussion. A version revised in the light of the discussions and recommendations of these two meetings will be published by the General Information Programme (PGI), UNESCO, and circulated worldwide.

CONTENTS

PREFATORY NOTE

0. INTRODUCTION

1. THE HERITAGE: NATURE AND DIVERSITY

1.1 Forms taken by the heritage

- 1.1.1 Manuscript documents
- 1.1.2 Printed documents
- 1.1.3 Audiovisual documents
- 1.1.4 Computer disks

1.2 Location of the documentary heritage

- 1.2.1 Archives
- 1.2.2 Libraries
- 1.2.3 Private collections
- 1.2.4 Legal statutes

2. FRAGILITY OF THE HERITAGE

2.1 Principles of conservation

- 2.1.1 Buildings
- 2.1.2 The environment
- 2.1.3 The consequences

2.2 Loss of the documentary heritage

- 2.2.1 'Natural' causes
- 2.2.2 Accidental causes
- 2.2.3 Inventory of losses

2.3 Remedies

- 2.3.1 Preservation
- 2.3.2 Protection of originals
- 2.3.3 Restoration

0. INTRODUCTION

The 'Memory of the World' programme represents a new approach to the preservation, restoration and making known of the heritage. While the documentary heritage of libraries and archives has to be made available to a wide range of users, since it may be regarded as so deeply engraved in our collective memory that there is a clearly expressed will not to let it sink into oblivion, the technical and financial facilities required to reach this wider public, to involve the authorities responsible, to restore this heritage, or at least ensure its conservation under the best conditions, have to be found too.

The object of this guide is to explain what led up to this new approach and to suggest elements for discussion in accordance with the terms of reference. First, the heritage concerned is presented in its context (Section 1), then the reasons why it needs protection are given (Section 2). In Section 3 the objectives of the 'Memory of the World' programme are set out, with suggestions as to the main criteria for the selection of collections and documents. In Section 4 methods of operation are proposed for the programme, while in Section 5 a technical and financial set-up is suggested, and in Section 6 a legal framework. Concomitant action is examined in Section 7.

The concept of heritage is therefore dependent on the approach adopted: either the emphasis is laid on the content, which determines a particular identification (an archive holding or a library, for instance), or the emphasis is laid on the nature of the object (the materials of which it is composed, for instance). These two approaches are often mixed up in the study of documents. For the sake of clarity, a simple identification resting on the use of the materials of which the documents consist will be adopted here.

1.1.1 Manuscript documents

Chronologically, manuscript documents are the oldest and their supports are the most diverse. From the clay tablets of the Assyrians, the papyri of the Egyptians and mediaeval parchments to present-day paper, manuscript documents have assumed many forms reflecting methods of manufacture and production related to particular intellectual, historical, economic and social contexts.

So the most illustrious document by reason of its form or its substance will be found alongside the most mundane. However, each one will in its own way bear testimony worthy of the closest attention. It is the specific character of the manuscript document which makes it so valuable for the collective memory.

1.1.2 Printed documents

The simultaneous development in Europe at the end of the fifteenth century of paper manufacture and printing techniques using movable types revolutionized methods of distributing and transmitting information.

It is of the nature of a printed document that it is not unique but exists in a number of copies. This is its strong point, enabling as it does an indefinite number of users to use the same information at the same time in different places. The speedy development of manufacturing techniques made the printed document the sole vector of distribution right up to the end of the nineteenth century.

As with manuscript documents, the heritage value of printed documents rests as much on their aesthetic as on their intellectual significance. The fragility of these collections is also their most specific characteristic. Paper is particularly subject to deterioration and newspapers and periodicals, though they are of little value when they first appear, soon become of such interest that the care lavished on the conservation of these collections is commensurate with the difficulties encountered in this task. Discriminating between documents that form a part of the 'Memory of the World' and documents of secondary importance requires an examination based on the study of rigorous criteria.

1.2.1 Archives

Jean Favier defined archives as 'all the documents received or put together by an individual or a legal entity, or a public or private body, as a result of their activities, arranged accordingly and stored with a view to possible use'.

This definition shows very well the diverse nature and quality of the documents which can be regarded as belonging to archive collections: manuscripts, printed matter, audiovisual documents, computer supports. An archive document thus becomes such by virtue of the function attributed to it and not because of its nature, or physico-chemical composition.

Special institutions, public or private, may exist for the purpose of collecting such documents, inventorying them, conserving them and making them available to anyone desirous of having access to them.

1.2.2 Libraries

Unlike archives, libraries exist for the purpose of collecting, conserving and making available to users works considered singly. Their heritage function is exercised at several levels, depending on the mission of the institution concerned. Some libraries might be entrusted more especially with the dissemination of knowledge, whereas others might exist for the purpose of conserving heritage collections.

1.2.3 Private collections

One of the foremost characteristics of the heritage is of course that it is not governed by any particular statute subjecting it systematically to a public institution. It may therefore be private, which sometimes makes access to it difficult, or even impossible. However, its status as a private collection should not be regarded as a reason for unconcern: its heritage value will increase all the more and will be consolidated at the time when this heritage becomes part of a public collection.

1.2.4 Legal statutes

The major heritage collections around the world are generally public collections belonging to States. In this case their legal status is clear. Libraries (national or large public libraries) and archives (national and public archives) are subject to regulations governing the financial and technical aspects of their operation, which make their collections accessible to the public concerned and protect them from possible aberrations.

2. FRAGILITY OF THE HERITAGE

2.1 Principles of conservation

Whatever form it takes, whatever its nature, the library and archival heritage is particularly fragile (Flieder and Duchein). Composed in the main of organic materials (paper, parchment, leather, etc.), in the case of traditional documents, or synthetic materials that are often unstable (magnetic tapes, disks, etc.), it is liable, in particular, to suffer damage due to physico-chemical causes. It is also exposed to all manner of accidental deterioration which jeopardizes its chances of remaining intact. A number of recent surveys have drawn attention to the difficulties encountered by libraries and archives in conserving their collections in satisfactory conditions (1986 Survey). In the light of this information, one is obliged to conclude that the documentary heritage is exposed to the danger of 'natural' destruction due to inaction or ignorance, and accidental destruction due to powerlessness to intervene.

2.1.1 Buildings

The safety of collections begins with the quality of the buildings, which must guarantee both their security (protection against theft) and their physico-chemical integrity. Buildings should enable one to organize the storing and consultation of collections under adequate conditions. In particular, they should protect the collections from humidity and extreme temperatures. They should also be designed to withstand as far as possible accidents likely to affect them as a result of their geographical situation - rain, wind, earthquakes, etc.

2.1.2 The environment

The quality of the environment is a determining factor in the satisfactory conservation of collections. Whether it be a question of relative humidity, temperature or light, the most sensible, indeed the most elementary precautions must be taken (Principles), having regard to the nature of the documents.

Care should be taken not to forget that pollution of the air seriously affects collections: gaseous pollutants and dust contribute to the deterioration of the materials of which documents are made. This is a general problem of which the consequences are as yet little known and difficult to control inasmuch as it is clearly a worldwide phenomenon.

2.1.3 The consequences

The materials of which documents are made quickly deteriorate under unfavourable conditions of conservation. The more chemically unstable the materials are, the faster they deteriorate. Paper, since the second half of the nineteenth century, quickly deteriorates as a result

hard to fight except by adopting preventive measures designed to mitigate the effects on the collections. Each year brings its round of disasters with the monsoons and other climatic variations.

(b) Avoidable disasters

A number of accidents are due to an oversight or carelessness on the part of those responsible for the collections. It would appear that the lack of maintenance of buildings is sometimes the cause of minor incidents with serious consequences: everyone knows that a hole in a drainpipe leads to the seeping of water into the wall and the proliferation of mould with disastrous effects on collections. By means of regular supervision of buildings and equipment, constant attention to fire prevention installations, monitoring of climatic conditions to detect any dangerous extreme, it is possible to avoid incidents which, though sometimes not important in themselves, have adverse effects on the collections.

It happens too that seepage leads to remarkable discoveries: It was owing to a leak in the roof of the Great Mosque of San'a that fragments of manuscripts of astonishing historical value were discovered after heavy rains.

(c) Acts of war

It would be tempting to include acts of war in the category of avoidable disasters. Unfortunately, recent experience shows that although wars are no doubt avoidable, they are none the less a blind reality and libraries are not spared any more than are human lives. The list of libraries destroyed or heavily damaged by acts of war, bombing and fires (whether or not started deliberately) is long.

2.2.3 Inventory of losses

No list has yet been drawn up of library and archives collections which are lost, or endangered owing to the poor conditions in which they are placed. The Alexandrian Library is no doubt the most famous historical example. There have been others since that time and unfortunately the list is not closed.

2.3 Remedies

Today modern techniques allow of making good certain deficiencies. In particular, greater attention is given to the quality of new buildings and to the renovation of old ones. Preventive conservation is dealt with in studies which are distributed among library and archives professionals and authorities to alert them to these aspects. Considerable efforts have been made to encourage basic and applied research, real investments to discover the causes of the deterioration of collections, to explain them and to introduce preventive measures. Technological

2.3.3 Restoration

Restoration techniques have for decades now benefited by research carried out in specialized laboratories on the materials of which documents are made. As a result, much more is known about these materials from both the physico-chemical and the historical standpoints. The effects of climatic conditions and pollution have been carefully analysed. Techniques for treating documents with greater regard to their archaeological interest have been developed. Whereas restoration has sometimes been considered an end in itself, it is now seen as a means not only of conserving documents but also of learning more about them.

The policy of the main restoration workshops is therefore to select methods of treatment carefully and to reserve them for documents which really need them. More scientific restoration based on fuller awareness of the historicity of the object is undoubtedly a guarantee of faithfulness in the eyes of researchers, who want above all to be in contact with the reality of the object and the materials of which it is made.

2.4 The means

The preservation and the conservation of collections demand special financial and technical means and human resources. With the realization of the fragility of the materials, the cost of repair, the amount of the investments required, considerable efforts have been made for some years now. Information is circulated periodically and seminars, study days and symposia are organized to alert professionals and persons in charge of institutions. These efforts need still to be continued, so that the goals may be attained of course, but above all so that the library and archival heritage will not be irremediably lost.

Realistically, efforts should be brought to bear on such essential aspects as staff training and the circulation of relevant information.

2.4.1 Staff training

Staff training is necessary, indeed indispensable, for two complementary reasons: awareness that, in view of the goals set, the task is so great that increasingly large numbers of qualified staff of different categories will be required; awareness that technicians must be trained to have a more pragmatic and holistic approach in keeping with the new needs of conservation. Conservation rightly understood presupposes that all the techniques, including the merely protective ones, are assimilated and applied correctly.

Projects should therefore deal with initial training in schools for librarians and restorers. They should above all provide for further training for staff in service to improve and maintain their level of proficiency.

3. THE 'MEMORY OF THE WORLD'

3.1 Presentation

The library and archival heritage is a form of memory of the citizens of the world, an active memory of such importance that constant care is required to keep it always accessible in the form most convenient for the needs. This requirement was the starting point of reflection on the 'Memory of the World' programme, viz. bringing to light and making known heritage collections so as to contribute to their safekeeping.

3.1.1 Definition

Any document, whether manuscript or printed, whether intrinsically an archive document or part of a library collection, may be regarded as an element in our collective memory in the widest sense.

The importance and the value of such collections vary considerably, nevertheless, and all are not of a nature to belong to the memory of the world on the same footing. So we must ask ourselves from a more selective standpoint which archive and library collections are likely to constitute the most representative part of our collective memory, the 'Memory of the World'.

3.1.2 Objectives

The purpose of UNESCO's 'Memory of the World' programme is to save from destruction or abandonment archive and library collections whose value and importance as a testimony to human genius are considered such as to make their protection essential.

The protection of these collections has two objectives:

- making them known at two levels, having regard to the needs of university research and the interest of a wide public;
- finally conserving and restoring them.

To attain these objectives attention must be given to the implementation of means of :

- selecting collections,
- identifying needs for the protection of the collections selected,
- working out programmes to cover the scholarly, technical, financial and staffing aspects.

3.2.2 National criteria

1. Historical interest
2. Literary interest
3. Documents relating to a particular event of great importance to the nation.

3.2.3 Physical criteria

1. Material and physical interest of the document, which must be conserved in its original state as an example of a technology.
2. Aesthetic and artistic aspects - distinguished binding, unusual decoration or other elements adding to the value of the document.
3. Documents unique on account of the materials of which they are made.
4. Physical state of the collections and documents (need to act quickly to save them).

3.2.4 Contextual criteria

1. Importance of a series of documents (archive collection).
2. Importance of a series of documents in a particular setting (archive or library collection including the premises).

3.2.5 Criteria related to a dangerous situation

1. Emergency rescue of documents in a serious state of disorder owing to some incident.
2. Emergency classification: rescue of documents in anticipation of a dangerous situation likely to disturb them.

3.2.6 Other criteria

Other criteria might be put forward on the basis of the importance of certain documents or certain collections. Only criteria for the 'vertical' selection of documents and collections have been proposed here. There are examples to show that it is no doubt possible to effect 'horizontal' selections in order to group collections on national or even international themes or subjects.

As an instance of a 'vertical' selection, one might quote the Archives générales des Indes in Seville (reproduction of traditional archive documents on paper, without prior thematic selection), and as an instance of a 'horizontal' selection the 'American Memory Program' of the Library of Congress, which effected a selection based on the illustration of the history of the United States independently of the material support of the information.

4. OPERATION OF THE 'MEMORY OF THE WORLD' PROGRAMME

The proposed chain of decision-making is organized in accordance with simple principles and links. At the first level a working group would examine the documents and collections on the basis of the criteria accepted. At the second level a working group would make a technical assessment of the dossier received and submit it to UNESCO for approval.

4.1 First level: Selection of the documents

At the first level a working group, or committee, would select collections subjected to a 'Memory of the World' investigation. This would be a national-level scientific committee made up of library and archive professionals, researchers, specialists and experts known for their competence in the field of the documentary heritage and representatives of the authorities in charge of the institutions concerned or representatives of the owners or persons in charge of the collections or documents.

The task of this committee would be to select dossiers from among those submitted and to seek other dossiers on the basis of any information it may obtain concerning collections which would appear to come within its scope. It would then investigate these dossiers, paying special attention to the following aspects:-

1. Advisability of selecting the dossier for the 'Memory of the World'.
2. Consistency of the proposal with potential user needs (study of the unmet demand).
3. Study of technical solutions for the reproduction of documents and circulation of the products obtained.
4. Preparation of the scientific phase of the dossier.
5. Study of the financing of the operation on the basis of the technical solutions adopted.
6. Proposed conservation treatments for the collections concerned and cost evaluation.
7. Proposed plan of action.

Members of this committee would be appointed by the national authorities in agreement with UNESCO.

Once the dossiers had been investigated they would be forwarded for consideration by an international committee.

4.2 Second level: Putting together of the dossiers

An international committee made up of representatives of the professional associations and of experts appointed by UNESCO would be entrusted with putting together the technical dossiers forwarded to it, checking their consistency with the objectives of the 'Memory of the World' and the feasibility of the financial set-up proposed.

5. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SET-UP

The purpose of the 'Memory of the World' programme is to make it possible to consult documents and collections which are difficult of access owing to their physical state or their location and to promote the documentary heritage by means of wide distribution. For this purpose the reproduction techniques best suited to the needs must be resorted to. The necessary financing and partnerships would be sought on the basis of the solutions adopted.

5.1 Technical solutions advocated

Photographic reproduction is considered the most flexible technical solution and the one best suited to the needs of libraries and archives. The reasons for this choice are as follows:-

1. Photographs can be taken easily even under unfavourable conditions.
2. The material support of photographs is both reliable and durable.
3. A duplicate, working copies or copies for consultation are quickly to be had.
4. Many copies can be made from the same negative.
5. By-products can also be made.
6. The pictures are legible with high-performance readers that are reasonably priced.

The weak points of photographs must be mentioned, however. These are:-

1. Their conservation is rather tricky.
2. The quality of the reproduction is sometimes indifferent.
3. The search for a particular picture is long and tedious, even with an automatic retrieval system.
4. The cost per picture is fairly high owing to the cost of the raw materials and the labour required for its production.

Nevertheless, attention should be drawn especially to item 5 of the advantages of photography - the possibility of obtaining by-products derived using other technologies which are evolving very fast. Digitized pictures of satisfactory quality and definition can now be obtained from a photograph.

The advantage of digitization is that digitized information can be processed in accordance with anticipated needs, whether the complex needs of researchers or the idle curiosity of the public at large.

To conclude, the procedure proposed may be outlined as follows:

- A photograph would be taken of the document to be protected.
- Prints would be made for consultation and eventual publication.

2. From the standpoint of the partners:

- the estimated cost of making and distributing the products decided on;
- the estimated amount of the rights of reproduction and use of the pictures and other products made;
- the estimated amount of the profits likely to be gained over a stated number of years.

Technical and financial partners' proposals conducive to the adjustment of the ambitions of the owners of the collections concerned would therefore have to be carefully studied when the budget was being drawn up.

5.2.2 Identification of partners

The scientific committee, for its part, would have to prepare a budget estimate and an appeal document designed to facilitate contacts with possible partners.

Partnerships may be of two kinds:

1. Technical/financial partnerships. Contacts could be established more quickly, but the joining of the two aspects of the dossier might be detrimental to transparency;
2. Financial partnerships on the one hand and technical partnerships on the other. With this solution the two aspects of the dossier are dissociated, but a consortium or other managing body of that kind would have to be set up to avoid ambiguities in the sharing of responsibility.

5.2.3 Guidelines for the financial management of the dossiers

Each 'Memory of the World' dossier should exist distinctly from the financial standpoint. It seems obvious that common management of the dossiers could only be unnecessarily complex and adverse to the 'Memory of the World' programme as a whole. In other words, it does not appear advisable that a dossier which is in deficit should become a liability to one which is profitable.

Each dossier should be independent as regards both its substance and its administration and financial management.

6.3 Legislation applicable

In the case of public collections, the legislation of the country concerned would be applicable, in conjunction with UNESCO's rules of procedure. In the case of private collections, the legislation applicable would be agreed between the owner of the collection and UNESCO.

Should the project involve collections located in several countries (as, for instance, with transverse projects) or in the hands of different owners, as many contracts and conventions would have to be drawn up as there were partners concerned.

6.4 Administration of the receipts

A contract between UNESCO and the owner of the collections and documents would lay down the way in which the receipts were to be administered (see 6.2 above). These funds would be earmarked for the protection of the collections reproduced in accordance with the plan of action submitted to the scientific committee. At all events these funds would be administered under the supervision of UNESCO, which would see that they were put to good use and which should be able at any time to ascertain that the collections concerned were benefiting from the funds intended for them.

In the case of private collections, the administrators of the funds would be placed under the direct authority of the scientific committee. In the case of public collections, the funds would be administered by the administrative and financial authority governing the institution responsible for the collections and documents reproduced.

8. CONCLUSION

The 'Memory of the World' programme fits into a series of activities undertaken by UNESCO, or by the professional associations and other bodies with UNESCO support, to preserve the documentary heritage. These activities have proved useful, so those who initiated and promoted them should be reassured that their efforts need to be continued in the long term.

The purpose of the 'Memory of the World' programme is not to duplicate these efforts, but to complement and extend them by introducing different concomitant action. If it were a question of proposing a microfilming campaign, the existing workshops could just be strengthened and there would be no need for any new structure. If it were merely a question of training staff in some aspect of librarianship, the existing training centres need only be given additional means. If it were a question of promoting or holding exhibitions on the heritage, it would be unnecessary to mobilize so many efforts for an isolated and short-lived activity.

What is involved is a new approach to the heritage. Emphasis is laid on the accessibility of the most precious and the most illustrious part of what must be called the 'Memory of the World'. At the same time, this involves the seeking of means of conserving the heritage in a fashion worthy of the importance attached to it. Recourse to techniques whose advantages are already recognized by the specialists is a deliberately forward-looking choice, which should contribute to the development of the working tools essential for the research of the future. These means should also allow of making products which will enable a wider public to get to know the heritage.

The combining of these aspirations with commercial processes that are just out represents an attempt to solve the serious economic and financial problems encountered in the protection of the documentary heritage. Failing almost immediate attention, and failing the funds required for the mere conservation of the documentary heritage of many developing countries, a part of the 'Memory of the World' will have vanished before the twenty-first century dawns, and we shall bear that heavy responsibility.

We must use our imagination to devise at the same time 'Memory of the World' projects each of which has to have its own spirit and independent existence within a 'Memory of the World' scheme. This is perhaps the only prerequisite for the success of the programme.

République Libanaise
Bureau du Ministre d'Etat pour la Réforme Administrative
Centre des Projets et des Etudes sur le Secteur Public
(C.P.E.S.P.)

**THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA (NUB)**

From UNESCO we have been informed that the initiative taken at the last CDNL meeting in Barcelona concerning the Russian State Library has been most productive; for these reasons and despite different circumstances, Unesco would find it most useful if similar arrangements for NUB could be made during the forthcoming CDNL meeting. The problems to be handled are: the building, the management/personnel, the collections.

In view of the particular conditions in Sarajevo, books already collected or still to be collected cannot be easily channelled to Sarajevo. Unesco would therefore support that consideration should be given to the establishment of an electronic library (at least for the University library function). This and the other tasks to be performed, could require physical presence of at least one expert for a longer period.

A representative from Unesco will give further details at the meeting.