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Bamako (Rép. du Mali)

REPUBLIQUE DU MALI

Un Peuple – Un But – Une Foi

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ONLINE
NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN FRENCH-SPEAKING WEST
AFRICAN COUNTRIES

TECHNICAL REPORT

| N° | Heading | Information |
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| 1 | Project title | Bamako Seminar / international workshop on « The Development and Implementation of Online National Bibliographies in French-Speaking West African Countries » |
| 2 | Name and contact details of the signatory organisation | DIRECTION NATIONALE DES BIBLIOTHEQUES ET DE LA DOCUMENTATION (DNBD) <i>B.P : E4473</i> <i>Tél. : (223) 20.29. 94 23</i> <i>Fax : (223) 20.29. 93. 96</i> <i>E-Mail : dncd@afribone.net.ml</i> Bamako (Rép. du Mali) |
| 3 | Date of signature and end of report | 24 February 2011 |
| 4 | Effective start date of the initiative's activities | 22 November 2010 |
| 5 | End date | 27 November 2010 |
| 6 | Other project partners | IFLA |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ALP - National Libraries Section - Bibliography Section <p>UNESCO (Bamako multi-country office)</p> <p>Bibliothèque nationale de France</p> <p>Swiss National Library</p> <p>OCLC</p> <p>Ministère de la Culture du Mali</p> |
| 7 | Participating countries | Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea - Conakry, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo. |
| 8 | Project summary | <p>The seminar aimed to provide the state of the art of legislation and rules on legal deposit in the participating countries, bring out African specificities and suggest improvements. It also aimed to define a collection strategy for references to documents not covered by legal deposit or for which legal deposit has not been carried out. In addition, it planned to enable participants to study the IFLA recommendations, taking into account African specificities, especially in the field of multilingualism and with regard to the non-compliance of legal deposit. It sought to offer participants the opportunity to test a tool for data management (preferably free- or shareware) with the goal to set up and manage a national bibliography, Finally, the seminar aimed to formulate recommendations for the creation and regular online production of national bibliographies taking into account the new recommendations for the creation and maintenance of national bibliographies from the IFLA Bibliography</p> |

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| | | <p>Section. Regional cooperation (bibliographic data exchange, exchange of experience in the technical preparation and publication of national bibliographies) provided an underlying theme to the seminar's activities.</p> |
| 9 | Projet results | <p>The following results show that the project's aims were successfully achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Before the seminar, a questionnaire was sent out to the participating countries in order to collect information on their legal deposit legislation, on the current state of publication of their national bibliography, on the difficulties encountered in publishing the national bibliography on a regular basis. Analysis of the replies showed the need to update legal deposit legislation in nearly all the participating countries. This update should not only allow the inclusion of new media to be taken into account (optical discs, on-line documents) but also extend legal deposit to other types of documents such as audiovisual or sound material, multimedia etc. In addition, analysis of the questionnaire underlined gaps in the application of legal deposit (in some cases no ISBN agencies or ISSN centres, inadequate information or awareness raising about legal deposit among publishers, printer and authors). b. Document collection strategy was an essential point discussed in the seminar. The participants' presentations confirmed that compliance with legal deposit is low. Many national libraries do not have an |

acquisitions budget allowing them to acquire material published in the country. As a result a number of national publications remain little known. To these must be added those published abroad by nationals of the countries concerned or about the countries themselves. All these publications, which are of great interest for national bibliographies, remain marginalised. What can be done in these conditions? Publishers, printers and authors should be made more aware of these needs, increased cooperation with other national libraries as well as large international databases such as WorldCat needs to take place. This cooperation and awareness-raising will increase knowledge about the existence of publications and enable bibliographic references – or even copies – to be obtained. In Mali for example, when ISBN or ISSN numbers are assigned, publishers are informed about legal deposit. Its advantages are explained to them and they receive a copy of the law and the decree on legal deposit: In addition, during the preparation of the national bibliography, the Bibliothèque nationale du Mali visits bookshops, takes note of the publications available for sale, checks if they have been deposited and if necessary contacts the publishers. In terms of cooperation with other national libraries, the Bibliothèque nationale du Mali exchanges material with the Bibliothèque nationale de France thanks to which many documents

about Mali published in France or elsewhere are obtained.

- c. IFLA recommendations on national bibliographies : in order to gain a better grasp of this point, participants brought copies of their national bibliography to the seminar. An analysis of these showed that a good number did not contain the basic elements required for a national bibliography as recommended by IFLA. This is due to a number of factors including lack of expertise in the field, the rarity of opportunities to meet in circumstances such as the Bamako seminar in order to promote IFLA standards and recommendations among African librarians, and the question of multilingualism which makes creation and arrangement of the components of a national bibliography difficult. To overcome these shortcomings, the seminar developed a fact sheet of the components of a national bibliography. The use of this will promote compliance with IFLA's recommendations.
- d. Software: in the French-speaking West Africa region, the area covered by the Bamako seminar, UNESCO's Winisis software is widely used in the creation and publication of union catalogues and national bibliographies. Despite this widespread use, the software has some shortcomings, especially regarding the exchange of bibliographic data in UNIMARC or MARC21 formats. It also has shortcomings in the

management of headings. With regard to data exchange in UNIMARC format, the seminar carried out an interesting and useful experiment. Colleagues set up and explained a table of correspondence between a database in Winisis and the UNIMARC format. This opens the way towards import and export of Winisis databases and the UNIMARC and MARC21 formats. A further example of exchange between Winisis and UNIMARC formats (this one conducted in Senegal) was shared with participants. It comprises the design of a Winisis database using UNIMARC or MARC21 fields from the start. The solution works but also has some shortcomings.

The PMB software (a freeware) was also studied during the seminar. Participants imported a small number of the 117000 records extracted from Worldcat (and kindly provided by OCLC as a reservoir for use during and after the seminar). These records cover publications in the different national languages of the participating countries as well as in other languages. Participants also entered new records in the PMB database and then followed the procedures required to publish this database online (carried out from the site of the Bibliothèque nationale du Mali www.bn.gouv.ml).

It should be noted that although PMB allows import and export of records in MARC21 format, it has shortcomings in the management of author headings.

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| | | <p>After the seminar, the organisers learned of ISISMARC. The Committee established to follow up the seminar's recommendations is currently examining this to see to what extent it can meet the requirements of a national bibliography.</p> <p>e. Sub-regional cooperation: during the seminar sub-regional cooperation was considered necessary in the collection of bibliographic data. The creation of a common portal has been proposed, building on the potential provided by ITC. This portal will enable the creation, supply and management of a common bibliographic database for participating countries of the seminar: a shared national bibliography.</p> |
| 10 | Impact | <p>The seminar was a successful experiment that IFLA could renew in other regions. First of all, from the organisational point of view, several institutions pooled their resources and efforts : IFLA, UNESCO, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Swiss National Library, OCLC, Ministère de la Culture du Mali through the Bibliothèque nationale du Mali. It would have been difficult if not impossible for one organisation to take care of all the costs of organising the seminar. Some contribution were directly financial (cash made available to the seminar), others bore the transport costs of international experts.</p> <p>In addition, the seminar drew on local expertise on one hand plus that of IFLA. Sharing tasks in this way reduces costs and gives credit to local expertise. It also facilitates the sharing of experience between experts from North and</p> |

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| | | <p>South. .</p> <p>The seminar aimed to be practical rather than purely theoretical. It set strict criteria of participation for the candidate countries (have a national library, have legal deposit texts, have experience in the publication of a national bibliography etc.).</p> <p>Finally, it brought together actors with a direct link to the development of the national bibliography : bibliographers, IT specialist and database managers, publishers / printers and an agency in charge of African languages.</p> |
| 11 | Training the trainers | <p>Seminar participants were selected based on their ability to relay the knowledge gained from colleagues (decision makers in libraries and staff involved in the development of the national bibliography). Although no specific plan for training of trainers was applied during the meeting, the seminar hopes that its achievements will be widely disseminated.</p> <p>The monitoring committee that has been set up will work not only to implement the recommendations of the seminar, but also initiate training activities, especially concerning software for creating and publishing online databases. It will also monitor changes in standards and standards of IFLA in its field and will initiate actions for their dissemination in the sub-region.</p> |
| 12 | Participants | <p>Participants included librarians / IT people in charge of the development of the national bibliography in their country. Selection was rigorous. This allowed the very full and rich seminar programme to be carried out in an optimal way.</p> |

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| | | <p>The participating countries were: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea - Conakry, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo. Niger was not included because it does not yet have a national library and legal deposit is not yet implemented.</p> |
| 13 | Comments on the project | <p>The project decided upon in the agreement signed between the DNBD and l'ALP has been correctly carried out as planned. All the modules in the programme have been widely and sufficiently studied. The seminar was held on the scheduled dates and all the participants (experts and trainees) attended.</p> <p>It should be noted however that the first drafts of the project aimed to bring together bibliographers from French-speaking Africa south of the Sahara. This goal proved too costly and too ambitious to carry out and had to be scaled down. Therefore the final version covered the West-African French-speaking countries. For a wider dissemination of the IFLA recommendations for national bibliographies similar initiatives should be carried out in the other French-speaking countries south of the Sahara, and maybe also towards North Africa.</p> |
| 14 | Project promotion | <p>The seminar received the support of two ministries : the Ministère de la Culture and that of l'Education, de l'Alphabétisation et des Langues Nationales du Mali, as was indicated by the presence of the Minister of Culture himself and a representative from the Ministry of Education at the opening ceremony. There was a strong media coverage of the event by national television, the Office des Radio et Télévision du Mali (ORTM), and three newspapers (le</p> |

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| | | <p>Guido, Bonne lecture et N’Ko, the latter being produced in the national Bamanan language). Articles and announcements of the event were published locally and on the site of the Bibliothèque nationale du Mali (www.bn.gouv.ml). Library and documentation professionals echoed this coverage. .</p> <p>In addition, the UNESCO multi-country Office and a representative from the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) also attended the opening and closing ceremonies. They received the recommendations and the report of the seminar.</p> <p>Also, the teachers who took part in the seminar passed on information about it to the Filière Métiers du Livre, des Archives et de la Documentation at the Faculté des Lettres, Langues, Arts et Sciences Humaines of the Université de Bamako.</p> <p>Finally, Mr. Amadou Sidibé will submit a presentation about the seminar to the next IFLA conference.</p> <p>Thus, we can say without risk of error that the professional world of literature, policy makers whether public, private or international organizations and the media were well informed about the organization and objectives of the seminar.</p> |
| 15 | Sequence of events | <p>As indicated above, the planning was respected :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All those taking part arrived on time <p>The following areas were studied in the seminar :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national bibliography and multilingualism : the relationship between publishers, printers, authors and |

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| | | <p>legal deposit,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation on legal deposit in the participating countries, • The role of ISBN agencies, ISSN centres and bibliographic agencies and their relation to legal deposit, • Switzerland's experience in the management of multilingualism, France's experience in the management of legal deposit , • IFLA recommendations on the creation and management of the national bibliography , • Bibliographic data exchange formats, • Study of the PMB and Winisis softwares in view of creating and publishing a national bibliography (online, CD-ROMS, or on paper), • National bibliographies and regional and international cooperation • Selection criteria for inclusion of documents in the national bibliography, level of cataloguing, types of documents to include, periodicity of publication, and a correspondence table between a Winisis database and a software accepting UNIMARC were defined or developed. |
| 16 | Difficulties encountered | <p>The main difficulty encountered was in the IT area. The software most widely used by participants has some significant shortcomings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Problems in encoding diacritics (ASCII instead of UNICODE), |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It does not allow data to be exported in UNIMARC or MARC21 exchange formats. These formats are indispensable for data exchange among libraries and with international documentation centres. Although there exists an ISISMARC, participants would have preferred that Winisis allow export directly in UNIMARC format or at least provide tables or a database allowing import and export in UNIMARC or MARC21. <p>To solve these problems, an option to transfer bibliographic data from Winisis to PMB (freeware) was studied. However, although PMB uses UNICODE and exports in UNIMARC it in turn has serious shortcomings in the field of the management of author headings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A further difficulty is that the librarians taking part, and, to a wider extent West-African libraries, are not well-versed in international exchange formats such as UNIMARC or MARC21. The UNIMARC format was briefly explained and compared to formats known in the sub-region. As an example, a correspondence table was established between the Mali REMADOC database and UNIMARC. |
| 17 | Perspectives and recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The publication and distribution of the seminar's proceedings : this will enable participants and other colleagues to have access to the communications and technical documents prepared for or during the seminar. (At the end of the seminar each participant received a CD containing the presentations, daily summaries, the OCLC records and photos). |

- **Checking on the regular publication of the national bibliographies in the participants' countries :** a monitoring committee has been set up to do this, made up of Mali, Benin, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Togo. It will promote exchange of data and experience and encourage and check on progress.
- **Setting up a discussion list :** to facilitate information exchange between the participants of the seminar, OCLC has set up and hosts a discussion list: afrbibl-1@oclc.org.
- **Implementation of a shared portal for national bibliographies:** the seminar investigated the possibility of setting up a shared database via a portal to which each country could contribute data.

Possible partners for future development of the project

- **UNESCO**

We recommend that UNESCO

- Seeks to adapt Winisis to the technical requirements of African national libraries, especially in the area of national bibliographies. An alternative could be to explore J-ISIS since this is compatible with Winisis,
- Support cooperation between the instances and structures in of the national languages and the national libraries of West Africa (coding alphabets, information dissemination),
- Encourage exchange of experience among professional colleagues in the south and between them and their counterparts in the north (support for

professional meetings, training courses..),

- Support initiatives such as the design and distribution of services, the development of national and sub-regional norms and standards, the design of IT solutions etc.

- **IFLA**

IFLA is requested to :

- Reinforce the distribution of its publications to African librarians,
- Enable African librarians to take part in IFLA's technical discussions so that they become actors in the development of library and IT norms and standards and not just consumers of these.

- **OIF**

The OIF should:

- Enable African librarians attend technical working groups and professional conferences in the field of library science,
- Support IT projects in African national libraries ,
- Strengthen its support for access to and use of FOSS in the French-speaking West African region,
- Support actions for the collection, processing and integration of publications in national languages in national bibliographies in Africa.

- **West African states**

The West-African states should :

- Take steps to update the laws on legal deposit,
- Support measures to facilitate compliance with legal

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| | | <p>deposit by publishers, printers and authors,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the collection, processing and insertion of publications in national languages in the national bibliographies, - Encourage the use of a common standard for the exchange of bibliographic and authority records as well as the creation of national name authority files with a view to sharing these and encouraging international and regional cooperation in cataloguing, - Establish acquisitions budgets for national libraries that allow them to acquire materials published in the country, abroad about the country or by nationals who have emigrated, - Encourage the participation of librarians in technical meetings held by IFLA the ISBN agency the international ISSN centre and others, - Support the integration / use of national languages in libraries (especially in IT), - Improve national libraries' IT infrastructure and Internet access |
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Bamako, Le Directeur national,

