

## **Country Report : Ethiopia**

**Kebenesh Gebreselassie**

**Dept. Head, National Archives & Library Agency**

The provisions of library services started in 1944. The organization by proclamation 191/1999 has been authorized to receive three copies of every material published in the country includes visual and audio visual materials. As legal deposit on the basis of which the library publishes the Bibliography entitled Ethiopian Publications, which is intended to develop a national bibliography. And also register ISBN, Repository a different materials. In the process of creating a union catalogue in the country. In addition to the legal deposit the library acquires documents through purchase and donation. To make available these collected documents to users. The organization has microfilms, manuscripts, books, journals, audiovisual materials archives newspapers etc, more than 130,000 readers have access to those Library and Archives annually. The National Library prepares the national bibliography:

- Classification system used: Dewey Decimal Classification
- Cataloging rules used : AACR 2, SERIS LIST of SUBJECT HEADING
- Scripts used : Amharic (Ethiopian language) and English
- CIP Program : No
- Standard Number; ISBN but ISSN not yet

### **Ethiopian National Archives & Library Agency (NALA)**

#### **Objectives**

The objectives of the organization are to collect systematically organize, preserve, and make the information resources of the country.

## **Powers and Duties of the Organization**

- Operate as national repository center of printed matter, gray literature, non-printed documents, manuscripts, historical archives and records, tradition and oral history, audio recordings, video recordings, audio-video recordings and other documentary heritage, endeavor, by making use of state-of-the-art technology, to preserve them for study and research purposes;
- Make efforts to bring to the country the original or copy of literary documents which were taken out of the country;
- Acquire and preserve records of defunct government offices or institution as well as archives without owner;
- In cooperation with archives, libraries, documentation centers and other information centers, establish, organize, create a database of a national information system which enable an integrated, proper and efficient utilization of the information resource of the country;
- Initiative issuance of regulation and directives regarding the national archives and national library and the record center; as well as the handling and study of records in reventants; and also inspect the implementation of same;
- Ensure the original archives and documentary heritage of the country and not taken abroad on permanent basis inspect copies and permit for their being taken out of the country;
- Prepare, published and distribute the Ethiopian National Bibliography and Periodical index Publication;
- Serve as a national registry center of ISBN and ISSN of the country;

- Serve as repository center for publication of international and national organizations as well as research institution;
- Work in collaboration with state archives and libraries as well as public libraries established in regional administrations;
- In cooperation with information centers, create a national information system which enable a proper and efficient utilization of the information resources of the country;
- Collect priceless and rare ancient manuscripts and icons, take a microfilm on microfiche copy of the manuscripts and make them available for study and research purpose;
- Work closely with national and international organization in order to develop and promote professions pertaining to archives and library affairs.

The National Archives & Library Agency in Ethiopia has a new modern building and it has 4/four/ floors consisting of the two reading halls and 1/one/ exhibition hall, Microfilm room etc. and the different offices.

### **Library Association in Ethiopia**

In Ethiopia the existence of professional association in the field of information, library and archives can be traced back to 1958. Professionals had tried to get organized in the name of Library Club of Addis Ababa. The Club had grown to a professional association called Ethiopian Library Association (ELA). As it had been witnessed by Gupta 1993 the publication was comparable with professional journals. Again around the early 90s the renaissance of ELA has been heralded by the name of Ethiopian Library and Information Association (ELIA). ELIA had also a quarterly bulletin that had been used as a means of

communication (ELIA Bulletin, 1996). August conference decided boldly to reestablish the association in a new name “Ethiopian Information, Library and Archives Professional Association (EILAPA). It was agreed that the name, constitution and organizational structure of the newly established association are subject to possible changes that will be recommended by the general assembly to be called in March 2007.