

Minutes of the Meeting
29th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO)
1-2 November 2023, Qatar

Participants

Armenia

Anna Chulyan

Director, National Library of Armenia

Australia

Marie-Louise Ayres (online)

Director-General, National Library of Australia

Vicki McDonald (online)

President IFLA, State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer, State Library of Queensland

Azerbaijan

Adiba Ismayilova

Deputy Director, Azerbaijan National Library

Bhutan

Singye Samdrup

Deputy Director, National Library and Archives of Bhutan

Cambodia

Vibolla Khlot

Director of National Library of Cambodia

China

Huo Ruijuan

Deputy Director, National Library of China

Wang Yang

Director of Foreign Language Publications Acquisitions & Cataloguing Department

Li Xiaoming

Director of Stack Management & Reading Services Department

Zhang Yang

Deputy Director of Microforms Department

Yang Enyi

Librarian of Foreign Language Publications Acquisitions & Cataloguing Department

Indonesia

Muhammad Syarif Bando

Director, National Library of Indonesia

Dewi Kartikasari

Head of General Section

Opong Sumiati

Head of Librarian Development Center

Yudho Widiatmono

Librarian

Ofy Sofiana

Prime Secretary

Sri Marganingsih

Head of Bureau of Law, Organization, Cooperation & Public Relations

Yaya Ofia Mabururi

Librarian

Nur Cahyono

Head of School & College Library Development Center

Iran

Esmat Momeni (online)

Deputy, National Library and Archives of Iran

Japan

Takeuchi Hideki

Director General, Acquisitions & Bibliography Department, National Diet Library

Osako Takeshi

Assistant Director, Acquisitions Administration & Bibliographic Control, National Diet Library

Jordan

Nidal Ibrahim Mohammad Al-Ahmad

General Manager, Department of the National Library

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Abdulrahman Nasser Alasem

Librarian, King Fahd National Library

Korea

Youngjoo Cho

Director General of Knowledge & Information Management, National Library of Korea

Yunhye Yi

Librarian, International Cooperation & Public Relations Team, National Library of Korea

Kuwait

Saad N A KH Alenezi

Acting Director General, National Library of Kuwait

Nassar S H O N Abulabqah

Director of Information Services & Digital Library, National Library of Kuwait

Ghader M HM Alajmi

Director of the National Archives & Indexing, National Library of Kuwait

Lebanon

Gelnar Atoui

Executive Director, Lebanese National Library

Malaysia

Edy Irwan Bin Zulkafli

Deputy Director General, National Library of Malaysia

Myanmar

Kay Thi Aye

Director, National Library of Myanmar (Yangon)

Oman

Hamed Khalifa Said Alsooli

Director of Organizations & International Cooperation, National Records & Archive Authority

Philippines

Dolores Dolado Carungui

Division Chief of National Library, National Library of the Philippines

Palestine

Issa Ahmed Abdel Hamid Qaraqe (online)

Head of the Palestinian National Library

Nasser Suleiman Ameen Damaj (online)

Director of Foreign affairs

Zubayda Ibrahim Kamel Khaleel (online)

Public Relations Manager

Qatar

Tan Huism

Executive Director, Qatar National Library

Hind Al-Khulaifi

Director Strategic Planning & Projects, Qatar National Library

Rency Mary Thomas

Strategic Initiatives and Projects Specialist, Qatar National Library

Ibrahim Al-Buhashim Al-Sayed

Director General, Dar Al-Kutub Al Qatariya

Jawaher AlKuware

Specialist, Dar Al-Kutub Al Qatariya

Singapore

Ng Cher Pong

Chief Executive Officer, National Library Board

Alicia Yeo Kay Ling

Director, National Library Board

Michelle Lau Eng Gek

Regional Manager, IFLA Regional Office for Asia & Oceania, IFLA Regional Office for Asia & Oceania

Sri Lanka

Walimunige Sunil

Director General, National Library & Documentation Services Board

Thailand

Nawarat Panyangam (online)

Director, National Library of Thailand

Turkmenistan

Mekan Hojamyradov

Head of Specialised Art School named after Sakhi Dzhepbarov, Specialised Art School

United Arab Emirates

Hamad Slayem Rashed Obaid Alhemeiri

Director of Research & Knowledge Development, National Library & Archives

Sharifa Ali Abbas AlFaheem

Head of Emirates Library Section, National Library & Archives

Uzbekistan

Teshabaeva Umida

Director, The National Library of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi

Kabiljanova Gulbakhor

Head of International Relations Department, The National Library of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi

Viet Nam

Nguyen Xuan Dung

Director, National Library of Viet Nam

Nguyen Thi Thu Phuong

Head of General Administration Department, National Library of Viet Nam

Vanuatu

Betty Eni Williams

Senior Librarian/Archivist, National Library of Vanuatu

Nelly Caleb

Librarian, National Library of Vanuatu

Yemen

Abdulaziz Mohsen Salem Bin Barek

Manager, Yemen National Library

Rapporteurs:

Christine T. Afinidad and Lara A. Oliver, Qatar National Library

Theme - Collect and Engage: National Libraries and Their Collections

- Collecting Content Representative of our Communities (Physical and Digital)
- Preserving and Making the Collections Accessible
- Activating or Engaging Communities with the Nation's Collection

The conference was attended by 57 participants from 29 countries, including Australia, Iran, Palestine, and Thailand who joined online, along with the president of the International Federation of Libraries and Institutions, Vicki McDonald.

Wednesday, 1 November 2023 (Day1)
8:30 – 8:45 AM Registration and reception at QNL Auditorium
8:45 – 8:50 AM Opening remarks and safety announcements
<p>The meeting started at 8:45 and was moderated by Hind Al-Khulaifi, Director of Strategic Planning and Projects of the Qatar National Library (QNL). She noted that apart from the formal presentations, non-presenters will have 1.5 minutes to introduce their libraries. Ms. Al Khulaifi also shared that there will be a tour of the Letters of Faith exhibition.</p>
8:50 – 9:15 AM Welcome message by Tan Huism, QNL Executive Director
<p>Qatar National Library is honored to be the host of the 29th CDNLAO Conference. Ms. Tan introduced Dar Al Kutub as the first national library in Qatar and its Director General, Ibrahim Al-Buhashim Al-Sayed. She shared that collecting, preserving, and making collections accessible are roles of all national libraries around the world. She introduced three themes for the conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What national libraries are collecting to document heritage and represent communities. • How national libraries are preserving and making collections accessible. • What strategies national libraries are employing to engage with collections; how can we encourage new ways to engage users beyond academic reading and research? <p>Ms. Tan encouraged institutions to host the 30th meeting and submit their interests to Michelle Lau, Regional Manager, IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania before the end of the meeting. She then invited delegates to introduce themselves.</p>
9:15 – 9:20 AM Adoption of minutes of the 28th CDNLAO meeting
<p>Ms. Tan asked for any amendments to the meeting minutes. Mr. Zulkafli noted that his colleague from the National Library of Malaysia had attended. Meeting minutes were adopted.</p>
9:20 – 9:40 AM Address by Vicki McDonald, IFLA President
<p>Ms. McDonald gave her address through the online platform. She noted the critical role libraries will play for a sustainable future. The IFLA vision is for a strong global library field. IFLA represents the voice of the library field with its 1,700 institutional members from 140 country memberships. IFLA has strong relationships with UN and UNESCO and shares their goals for literate, informed and participatory societies. IFLA works to develop agendas, standards, access to information and heritage, and local global policies.</p> <p>The Athens 2017 conference kicked off IFLA’s global vision; Athens and Barcelona brought us together as a profession. IFLA affirmed the principles of access to information and works of imagination, that equitable access to information leads to social, education, and democratic wellbeing, and that high quality library services help to guarantee that access. IFLA also incorporated diversity, equity and inclusion into its policies.</p>

Ms. McDonald noted key documents:

- Public Library Manifesto, which has been produced as a poster and can be downloaded from the IFLA website. She shared that it was approved in Paris in 1949 when the world was recovering from the Second World War. The manifesto emphasized public libraries as gateways of knowledge and their importance in the promotion of peace and recognized PLs as venues for safeguarding a nation's heritage.
- 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which is an effective advocacy tool for libraries; it provides an opportunity for libraries to present to their governments about their work on SDGs.

She stressed that it is already halfway through 2030 and there is still much work to be done and national libraries have much that they can do to achieve the SDGs. IFLA strongly advocates that access to information has a big role in achieving the goals of SDGs and committing to its universal values - leaving no one behind (LNOB). This principle emphasizes how important the role of libraries is in ensuring that everybody has equitable access to information and a big part of this is safeguarding and preserving culture and national heritage to ensure it is accessible to clients today and in the future.

She shared key takeaways from the recent sub-Saharan libraries workshop:

- 70% of humanity will live in urban areas by 2050; libraries need to be advocating for roles they can play in achieving a sustainable future and livable cities.
- Preserving culture is critical to national libraries; Ms. McDonald noted the International Year of Indigenous Languages exhibition project at State Library of Queensland in 2019.

Thanked the group for the work they are contributing and wished the group a very fruitful discussion.

9:40 – 9:50 AM Presentation by Michelle Lau, Regional Manager, IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania

Ms. Lau explained the IFLA structure of the regional offices and the changes since 2021. She announced that QNL has been chosen as the first IFLA Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). She presented the roles of the regional offices as a first point of contact for members and in supporting events and implementation of the IFLA Strategy 2019-2024's direction, highlighting the four areas of focus in delivering its mission:

- Strengthen global voice of libraries
- Inspire and enhance professional practice
- Connect and empower the field
- Optimize IFLA by increasing visibility

Ms. Lau reminded the group about the Library Map of the World on the IFLA website and noted that IFLA collects stories about how libraries implement SDGs. She shared that CDNLAO has a newsletter managed by the National Diet Library of Japan and invited delegates to submit articles.

9:50 – 10:00 AM Coffee break

10:00 – 11:15 AM Theme: Collecting Content Representative of our Communities (Physical and Digital)

Presentations and Q&A

10:00 - 10:10 AM Azerbaijan National Library

Ms. Adiba Ismayilova, representative of Azerbaijan National Library, shared the library's services, collections, and recent projects. The national library was established in May 1923, as the spiritual memory of the people and the national depository of the national culture of Azerbaijan. Treasured items in the collection include one of the first printed books in the Azeri language, the first satirical magazine in the history of the Azerbaijani press, and a literary history of Homer from 1573. Recent projects include an electronic music project, and the 2019 Return of National Moral Values to the Homeland project. The library also has manuscripts in digital copies of Imadaddin Nasimi's (a 14th and 15th century Turkic poet) Facsimile editions in many languages including his native languages of Azeri, Persian, and Arabic.

10:10 - 10:20 AM National Library of China

Ms. Huo Ruijuan shared information about the library's collection. National Library of China holds 70% of all ancient books in Chinese, such as the Yongle Encyclopedia, Dunhuang manuscripts and Zhaocheng Jin Tripitaka which dates back to the Jin dynasty. Recent projects include the China Memory Project, which includes more than 5,000 hours of audiovisual recordings and literature, and the recording and promotion of events of intangible cultural heritage.

10:20 - 10:30 AM National Library of Palestine (online)

Ms. Zubayda Khaleel presented online. She shared that the National Library of Palestine was established by President Mahmoud Abbas on 5 June 2019 as a sovereign entity responsible for preserving and nurturing the cultural heritage of Palestinian Arab people. She noted the many challenges, projects, current services and goals of the library. Future projects include a bibliography of Palestinian detainees.

10:30 - 10:40 AM National Library and Archives UAE

Mr. Hamad Slayem Rashed Obaid Alhemeiri shared information about the history, facilities and priorities of the library. Among the key priorities are improving the quality of life of the Emirati people, building a sustainable and dynamic economy, fostering innovation and tourism, celebrating Arabic language and culture, and supporting early childhood and the wellbeing of the family among others. Current projects include the Arabian Gulf Digital Archives (AGDA), a collaboration with the National Archives in the UK; a digital repository, an information portal and digital resource. He shared that the new building of the National Library and Archives will be in Abu Dhabi and the target year of completion is 2028.

10:40 - 10:50 AM National Library of Vanuatu

Ms. Betty Eni Williams, together with Nelly Caleb, introduced the country and the history, mission and objectives of the national library. She shared that the national library was established in 1961 and was called the Cultural Center Library. Ongoing projects include supporting remote islanders by seeking funds and setting-up rural community libraries, providing furniture, structure, school workshops, and

solar panels. The library's Healthy Kids/Pikinini Program is a slow food movement project where participants learn to prepare local dishes. The program promotes healthy diets and ensures the survival of the traditional knowledge of food.

10:50 - 11:00 AM National Library of Australia (online)

Dr. Marie-Louise Ayres delivered her presentation online. She shared the library's long-term program of intentional collection with diverse communities. The first two communities are Australians of Chinese Heritage and Australians of Fijian heritage. Ms. Ayres stressed the importance of collecting *with* communities, not *from* communities.

The library targeted their communication about these projects with community organizations, which they met in-person and sent all information in the language used by the groups. Promotion was done by social media, a web page, blogs, radio and print media. She noted that the growth in self-publishing means there are likely many works produced in a given community which need to be preserved. The library is encouraging communities to deposit publications with the library. The next group will be Australians of Indian ancestry. She shared that their approach in engaging and reaching out to non-English community members to share and leverage the collections has been a success. Focusing on their histories also leads to collection of other formats, which will also mean discovering what matters most to their communities and how they can be captured.

11:00 - 11:15 AM Q&A session

Mr. Nidal Ibrahim Mohammad Al-Ahmad from the Department of the National Library of Jordan noted the importance of cooperation among libraries to share resources for greater access.

Ms. Tan Huism noted that the Chinese community is very diverse; she asked the national libraries of Australia and China how they approached collecting diverse voices within the community.

- Dr. Marie-Louise: NLA is mindful of this and during the project it has tried to cover various language groups, commission photos and oral histories in all regions. She noted that communities have their own local interests and adaptations and that it is key to talk especially to people in cultural associations about how and who to interview. The library made sure projects were large enough to get a representative sample of the community. They also have trained oral history interviewers and photographers and take their advice.
- Ms. Huo Ruijuan: NLC has rules for source materials; they include cultural memories, collection memories, intangible cultural heritage, and collective memory. They interview volunteers from diverse communities, conduct oral histories of China, and choose notable figures from every region. For the individual memories project in 2014 they interviewed older scholars and preserved personal documents. There is a series of books based on oral history published for each interviewee.

Ms. Al Khulaifi closed the session and introduced Dr. Hamad bin Abdelaziz Al Kawari, Minister of State, President of Qatar National Library. He then welcomed each delegate.

11:15 – 11:30 AM Group photo session

11:30 – 11:45 AM Coffee and prayer break

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM Theme: Preserving and Making the Collections Accessible

Presentations and Q&A

11:45 - 11:55 AM Qatar National Library

Ms. Tan Huism started her presentation about the Library's vision and mission. She noted that QNL is the IFLA MENA Regional PAC Centre and that the Library provides capacity building on preservation. She shared the library's current projects:

- Collaborative project with QEERI to recreate ink and pigments referenced in old Islamic manuscripts; will assess corrosion and treatments and test on some manuscripts.
- Collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution on the use of inks and pigments; developing a database to determine place of creation of manuscripts.
- Manara Digital Research Repository - service to preserve and provide open access to Qatar's research outputs; have added 2,400 items from 30 institutions; 82,000 views and 39,000 downloads from different countries.

Ms. Tan noted that given the tight resources, collaboration is key to success where each partner brings with them their expertise, and that any research or findings should be shared as widely as possible.

11:55 AM - 12:05 PM National Library and Documentation Services Board of Sri Lanka

Mr. Walimunige Sunil shared an overview of the library. Unique collections include their palm leaf collection, intangible cultural heritage, China and Iran book collections, map collection, legal deposit, and theses collection. He mentioned that these collections are strictly for reference purposes and not for lending. Preservation methods include book binding, leaf casting, fumigation, and digitalization. Recent projects include document archiving through the digitization of government collections such as the Gazette collection dating back to 1888 and rare books funded by the National Science Foundation. The library's challenges include a lack of resources, limited annual budget allocation for the renovation of the national library building, unreliable internet and poor infrastructure, use of standards and information exchange related to protocols, and content in local languages.

12:05 - 12:15 PM Department of the National Library of Jordan

Mr. Nidal Ibrahim Mohammad Al-Ahmad shared the history, vision, collection and services of the National Library. He noted that many library documents were obtained through mutual agreements including with national libraries in Iraq and Palestine. Projects include:

- A platform to collect valuable documents where any citizen can send documents or photos to this platform.
- Mobile exhibitions which take documents to schools and different places because not everyone has access to the national library so the library goes to them.
- Hussein bin Halal University partnership – curriculum related to the work of the library.

Challenges include limited funds and a lack of qualified staff to do the classification and cataloging work.

12:15 – 12:25 PM National Library of Kuwait

Mr. Saad N A KH Alenezi shared the history and projects of the library. Projects include:

- Memory of Kuwait, which started in 2017, documents history and culture, printed material about Kuwait and the region.
- Joint projects with member states to digitize rare books and manuscripts.
- Digitization of microfilm archive of newspapers and periodicals.

12:15-12:30 PM Q&A session

Ms. Anna Chulyan from National Library of Armenia asked Mr. Walimunige Sunil from NLDSB Sri Lanka for more information about their leaf collection.

Mr. Walimunige Sunil from NLDSB Sri Lanka answered that the library uses a special oil made from local materials to preserve the palm leaf manuscripts for a long period. They also provide oil to individuals in order to protect their family palm leaf collections.

Ms. Kay Thi Aye, Director, National Library of Myanmar, mentioned lemongrass oil being used in Myanmar to preserve manuscripts.

Mr. Sunil shared that they are using local materials for oil that when they are boiled at a high temperature, they can extract the oil they use for preservation.

Ms. Tan Huism noted that it would be beneficial for libraries who are preserving palm leaf manuscripts to connect.

Ms. Al Khulaifi invited the remaining interested delegates to also present about their libraries.

12:30 –1:00 PM Introductions

- Dar Al Kutub (Qatar) shared the history of the library and that the library is currently under renovation.
- South Korea shared a video about the library's discovery table which includes an immersive experience of old digital books and interactive old maps in high resolution.
- Philippines shared the mandate of the library and noted that they are the only library for the blind in the country; the library is authorized to allocate resources, training, and technical assistance to all libraries in the Philippines.
- Myanmar shared that the library underwent renovation from 2017-2019 and transitioned to a digital library system.
- Cambodia shared the history, projects and preservation efforts of the library.
- Oman shared that they will be part of a new cultural compound which includes a theater and other cultural activities.
- Malaysia shared the mission and values of the library.
- Japan announced their efforts to accrue ebooks and magazines published in Japan and that they have digitized 3.5 million Japanese materials to-date.

1:00 – 1:30 PM Tour of Qatar-Indonesia Year of Culture 2023 exhibition

1:30 – 2:30 PM Lunch and prayer break

2:30 – 3:30 PM Presentations and Q&A continued

2:30 - 2:40 PM National Library of Armenia

Ms. Anna Chulyan shared the importance and uniqueness of architecture in Armenia and its unique language. Projects include:

- Digitization of all Armenian books from 1512 to 1940 – all fully accessible on website; not only books but newspapers, magazines from Armenia and the diaspora.
- Open Access Digital Repository - includes theses and abstracts, NLA publications, Armenian non-book publications.
- Endangered heritage of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh).
- Armenian language integration into cyberspace (search engine indexing (SEI), text recognition, speech recognition).
- New website specially containing accessible books for people with print disabilities.
- Upcoming conference: Heritage Preservation for a Digital Future.

2:40 - 2:50 PM National Library and Archives of Bhutan

Mr. Singye Samdrup started with a brief introduction about Bhutan and the National Library and Archives, its history and collection which includes 16,000 classical texts, English or modern language collection, archival collection of 2,400 printed materials, xylographic blocks – 11,000 wooden blocks used for printing of materials such as Buddhist textbooks, and 700 metal blocks and digital collections that includes Buddhist scriptures. He also shared the library's preservation efforts include the legal deposit system, digitization of rare books on foreign and Buddhist languages, donations of personal collections, and manuscript conservation and fumigation. Among the library's services are the provision of a basic library management program for religious personnel (monks), services focusing on young adults, free use of facilities, and making resources available on their website for access. Challenges include lack of funding, technical skills, lack of storage capacity in servers for online data, and lack of public involvement. He also expressed his concerns about the public who are unaware and discard old books that may contain historical information about the country.

2:50 – 3:00 PM National Library of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi

Ms. Teshabaeva Umida started her presentation on the library's history. The library's collections include maps, gramophones, music sheets, posters, newspapers, microfiche, microfilms, and manuscripts and rare publications that are stored in a temperature and humidity-controlled library. For preservation efforts, they do phase preservation depending on the type and size of documents and in accordance with the GOST 7.50-2002 "System of Standards on Information, Librarianship and Publishing. Document Conservation. General Requirements". She also shared the following projects:

- Published the information library journal "INFOLIB", and the scientific and methodological Journal "KUTUBXONA.UZ".
- Digitization of gramophones records through special device and software.
- Electronic archive that provides access to 698 rare collections of newspapers published at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries.
- Database of rare books

3:00 – 3:30 PM Q&A session

Ms. Al Khulaifi opened the Q&A session. No one raised any questions.

Thursday, 2 November 2023 (Day 2)

8:45 – 8:50 AM Welcome and safety reminders

Ms. Al Khulaifi opened the 2nd day's session.

8:50 – 9:45 AM Theme: Activating or Engaging Communities with the Nation's Collection

Presentations and Q&A

8:50 – 9:00 AM Lebanese National Library

Ms. Gelnar Atoui started her presentation about the short history of the national library as it has only been a cultural institution since 1921. Her discussion focused on the 2 phases:

- Phase 1 – Main headquarters was established in 2018 and it remained intact after the 2020 explosion. Library visits, conference meetings, and research were allowed but loans were not available during this time. Challenges in the 1st phase include non-circulation of library materials, indices did not include all collections, logistical difficulties due to not enough funding for additional hours of work; no internet service available in the reading rooms; and, due to the sensitive state of some materials, they had to be digitized.
- Phase 2 – This phase focused on the maintenance of the library collections. Some collections were not affected by the August 2020 explosion because they were in underground storage. Those affected were restored when the building was renovated. Agencies, institutions, individuals and volunteers helped in the renovation, which made it possible for the national library to reopen in 2022. Ms. Atoui especially thanked Qatar Foundation. Internet access and quiet spaces for reading were restored, and cultural activities and workshops and training were held and attracted many people. Challenges include operational costs, internet issues and electronic indexing.

Since the beginning of the reopening of the library, many people have learned more about its roles, functions and activities. It has now received donations for its heritage collection and legal deposits.

9:00 – 9:10 AM Yemen National Library

Mr. Abdulaziz Mohsen Salem Bin Barek started his presentation about the library's history. He mentioned that the library's legal deposit was established in 1988 following an executive decision in 1987. He shared that the activities of the microfilm department ended in 1994 when all contents were burned during the war, including manuscripts from renowned institutions. The library also experienced looting but books have not been stolen. Collections include manuscripts, books, Arabic language references, a Yemeni collection, and newspaper archives. Bilateral relations with other libraries also include exchanges and donations. The Book General Authority was also established. He stressed that the participation of the youth community in their initiatives is a priority because they will lead the coming phase in Yemen.

9:10 – 9:20 AM National Library Board Singapore

Ms. Alicia Yeo Kay Ling started by stating that the National Library of Singapore has the same mandate as all national libraries, to build and conserve the national collection for the needs of the next generation. She highlighted the NLB's LAB25 (Libraries and Archives Blueprint 2025) project that seeks to work with its community to co-create initiatives. One of its key roles is inspiring Singapore Storytellers to encourage people to remember stories and contribute their own. To encourage the creation of new works and new knowledge from different artistic disciplines inspired by the collections of the national library and the archives collection, NLB offered digital, creative and research fellowships. One of these is the Creative Residency that started in 2021. She emphasized the importance of collecting Singaporean experience physically and digitally and unlocking the collections through data to enable new insights. She also shared that the library is reaching out to the online community and deepening in-person engagements at public libraries by integrating experiences of Singapore within their collections.

Other projects highlighted were:

- Discover Maps, Unlock the Past: A collaborative project with Yale-NUS College to unlock map collections, which includes collections from Leiden University Libraries and the Bodleian Libraries.
- Curiosity: A website to discover and rediscover Singapore's streets, places and spaces through maps and photographs. It also features story maps and digital stories.
- Ongoing projects and those being planned: ExploreSG (a web app for guided tours or a school learning journey. The plan is to work with coders from Open Government Products); Glue (a real-time visualizer of photos to share experiences with others to "make it sticky" using maps and hashtag crawling); GenAI prototypes in collaboration with local companies (Pedia-Gen and ChatBook, where one can chat with a book to ask what it is about).
- Novel programming to attract new audiences such as Art Out Loud, a spoken-word poetry competition.

9:20 – 9:45 AM Q&A session

Ms. Al Khulaifi opened the Q&A session. No one raised any questions. She said that access links to the group photographs will be sent through emails.

9:45 – 9:50 AM Announcement of host country - 2024 CDNLAO Annual Meeting

Ms. Tan announced that Ms. Lau received several interested hosts for the 30th CDNLAO. Ms. Lau will reach out to all delegates by the end of the year regarding this. It was emphasized that a host country will need more time in the preparation stage and should consider looking forward two years to allow more time for fundraising or arrangements. Ms. Tan asked the group for anyone interested in hosting the 2025 meeting. Kuwait mentioned their interest since it will be the capital of Arabic culture in 2025.

9:50 – 10:00 AM Closing remarks by QNL Executive Director Tan Huism

Short video of the conference was presented.

Ms. Tan expressed gratitude to all presenters, delegates, and QNL staff. She shared her observation that some national libraries have been enlarging their focus beyond books like sound, oral history, music, and websites to represent more holistically the intangible aspects of culture. Working with community is an important way to enrich diversity in the collections. Capacity building is extremely important because digital repatriation projects, digitizing and making collections accessible are often not traditional skills taught in library schools. She empathized the need to tackle issues in the future concerning digital collections such as issue of larger/increasing/expanding storage space, migrations needed to make sure formats will not be obsolete, needing cyber-security, and sustainability of the collections. The value of the collections can only be determined when communities are allowed to engage with them. She also stressed that the power of libraries to impact lives is why all libraries do what they do despite disasters, war, financial difficulties; the libraries face them as challenges to overcome.

Several delegates also expressed their appreciation to QNL staff for the smooth organization of the event and the warm hospitality. The meeting concluded at 10:00am.