OPENING HOURS

Weekdays – 09.00 a.m – 16.00 hrs
Saturdays – 09.00 a.m – Noon
Sundays & Public Holidays – Closed

ADDRESS

1st & 2nd Floors
Fon Sing Building
12, Edith Cavell Street
Port Louis

TEL NO.: 211 9891/96

FAX NO.: 210 7173
210 7117

WEBSITE : http://national-library.gov.mu

EMAIL : natlib@intnet.mu
WHAT IS A NATIONAL LIBRARY?

A National Library is an institution which is responsible for collecting, bibliographically recording, preserving and making available the nation’s cultural heritage. It provides information on practically all branches of knowledge and functions as a centre of coordination, planning and stimulation of the country’s library system.

LEGAL ENTITY

The National Library was established by the Government under the National Library Act, 1996 (Act No. 32) as a body corporate, under the Ministry of Arts and Culture. It was officially opened to the public in January 2000.

VISION

To be the nation’s leading documentary resource on Mauritius and the apex library serving the public.

MISSION

To support the provision of, and access to, information for the nation. To collect and preserve the collective memory to best serve the nation and to provide access to the information resources of the world.

ROLE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The main role of the National Library of Mauritius is to build the most comprehensive collection of our national heritage and making same available to the Mauritian public for consultation. The National Library has also a mandate to preserve for posterity all literary output of Mauritius. The National Library acquires most of its materials through the legal deposit system as per the National Library Act 1996 which stipulates that every printer in Mauritius is required to deposit, free of charge, with the Director of the National Library six copies of each publication, be it a book, periodical, report, newspaper or any other printed document. The same rule applies to all the producers in Mauritius who have to deposit six copies of any non-print materials produced. To ensure that access is given to the most comprehensive collection of Mauritian materials, the National Library also acquires print and non-print materials published and produced abroad, whose subject matter is related to Mauritius. Besides the main functions, the National Library has the responsibility to offer to its users a rich and varied collection of foreign reference materials.

As an apex institution in the field of library and information services in Mauritius, the National Library functions as a central institution for coordination, planning and development of the entire library system of Mauritius.
STATUTORY OBJECTIVES

- To acquire library materials generally, and, in particular a comprehensive collection of library materials relating to Mauritius;
- To collect, process and preserve all library materials acquired through legal deposit system;
- To promote and encourage the use of library materials
- To make library materials available to the public for reference;
- To participate in planning library services in Mauritius and provide research in library fields;
- To act as the national bibliographic center and maintain the national bibliography and other bibliographies;
- To act as an organizing agency for national and international lending and exchange of library materials;
- To initiate and promote cooperation between the library and other libraries, both at local level and overseas.

NATIONAL LIBRARY’S COLLECTION

Over the years, the National Library has made remarkable progress in its collection development. In addition to a comprehensive collection of Mauritian covering a wide range of subjects such as agriculture, biography, botany, computer science, economy, entomology, geography, history, literature, politics, religion and science, the National Library is also the depository library for publications of the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Union and the Shanghai Public Library. Through EU info point, the public can access some 600 full text documents on http://bookshop.europa.eu and periodicals articles through EMERALD (http://emeraldinsight.com) and EBSCO (http://ebscohost.com) Thus, the public can easily get access to these invaluable, up to date and expensive documents for reference and research purposes.

The collection comprises of the following materials:
- Books, monographs and reference materials
- Periodicals, serials and magazines
- Annual reports
- Government publications
- Newspapers (1777 – till date)
- Maps
- Posters
- Manuscripts
- Stamps
- Theses and dissertations
- Photographs
- Audio-cassettes
- Video-cassettes
- CDs
- VCDs
- DVDs
- CD ROMs
- Private collections
- United Nations publications
- International Monetary Fund publications
- World Bank publications
- European Union publications
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

The National Library is a corporate member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) based in the Hague, Netherlands.

AWARDS

- Excellent Customer Service Award (2004) under the criterion “Quality” – Ministry for Civil Service Affairs
- National ICT Award (2005) under the category ‘Parastatal Bodies’ – National Computer Board
- MS ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System Certification by the Mauritius Standards Bureau

PUBLICATIONS

- Souvenir Magazine (1999)
- Directory of Libraries, Documentation Centres and Bookshops in Mauritius (2000)
- Une brève histoire du livre (2006)
- National Library : Brief History and Development (2009)
- Kaleidoscopic Conquest: Mauritius 1810 (2010)

WEBSITE

The National Library’s website (URL: http://national-library.gov.mu) is being completely revamped. However, important corporate information have already been inserted and made available online for greater accessibility. These include annual reports, strategic plans, the Directory of Libraries and Documentation Centres, Application forms for ISSN and Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP), the National Bibliography of Mauritius, the Union List of Periodicals, indexes and abstracts of journal articles from Business Magazine, Islander, Journal of Mauritian Studies and PROSI Magazine.

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

In line with one of its statutory objectives, the National Library has embarked on a programme to preserve for present and future generations, the documentary heritage of Mauritius. A bindery was set up in 2000 to repair and maintain books, newspapers, periodicals, Government Gazettes, annual reports, debates of the National Assembly and other print library materials.

In 2002, the National Library acquired a microfilm camera and a reader-printer with a view to preserve the content of old Mauritiana newspapers and rare documents on a regular basis. Moreover, our preservation policy also implies the control of temperature, humidity and light on a systematic basis to ensure the storage of library materials under optimal environmental conditions.
SERVICES

Public

- A spacious and air-conditioned Search Room for reference and research.
- Reprographic service at a nominal cost
- Free Internet service for one hour for academic and research purposes.
- The provision of an online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) on a 24/7 basis.
- The organisation of outreach activities such as the World Book and Copyright Day for the promotion of reading.

Printers

- Preparation of Cataloguing-In-Publication data for new publications, free of charge.
- Allocation of International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) to new serial publications, free of charge.

Libraries

- Consultancy in library and information services to organizations willing to set up or upgrade their libraries or documentation centres.
- The compilation of the National Bibliography of Mauritius and other bibliographies.
- The compilation of a National Union Catalogue of Mauritian.
- The compilation of a Union List of Periodicals.
- Indexing and abstracting of periodical articles available via the website.

MEMBERSHIP

Every Mauritian is entitled to benefit from the services of the National Library free of charge. The National Library is open to all users aged 18 and above. Secondary school students may be admitted upon presentation of an official recommendation from their respective institutions.

Foreigners and expatriates may also be granted access at the discretion of the Director.