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To members of CDNL

Dear colleagues,

It was very good to see so many of you at the Annual Meeting recently in Milan. We had 89 participants from 69 national libraries (and equivalent institutions) in 61 countries: a good number, but of course we were all well aware that more members might have attended but for the very difficult economic situation.

We had a very successful meeting, with active participation in the general debates but also in the panel debate and the three discussion groups. I have written to thank the panellists and the discussion group leaders, and I wish to repeat here my thanks to them - and to all of you for your engagement with this participatory style of meeting.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the comprehensive and efficient arrangements made by our hosts, the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale (Florence), generously supported by the Municipality of Milan. Not only did they welcome us warmly to the historic castle, but the curatorial staff also took the time to show us some of the treasures in the collections. I have written personally to Dr Antonia Ida Fontana enclosing a gift as a token of CDNL members' appreciation.

The outcomes of the meeting were both tangible (agreement to do further work to clarify the various models of digital libraries) and intangible: wide-ranging but focused discussions on the new challenges facing national libraries. These discussions were an example of the international and particularly inter-regional networking for which CDNL offers such a valuable platform.

I have been informed that both CDNL-AO and ABINIA will report to their members, in Asia-Oceania and Latin America respectively, on the outcomes of the CDNL meeting. I trust that all participants, in fact, will provide such reports back to peer organisations and decision-makers at national and regional level.

The presentations made at the Milan meeting are now available on the CDNL website, for your use. The minutes (including reports from the discussion groups) will also be available soon.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Carnaby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Penny Carnaby,
Chair of CDNL,
National Librarian and Chief Executive,
National Library of New Zealand