

Van: [Gerard Bouwmeester](#)
Aan: [CDNL](#)
Onderwerp: [CDNL] Message to all Directors of National Libraries
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Dear directors of National Libraries,

On behalf of Lily Knibbeler, current chair of CDNL, I'm forwarding this message to all of you.

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Dear colleagues,

When I said, in Athens, that we, as national librarians, share challenges, I sure did not have an imminent and medical one in mind like the current global COVID-19 crisis. The number of countries affected grew significantly over the last week and we must acknowledge that by now, all of us have to relate to this crisis in some way. Therefore, I think that we can use the strength, the wisdom, and the support of our community of directors of national libraries, even and perhaps especially in this case. It is one of those cases in which our positions can be lonely, making decisions many of us have to make these days as the sole national librarian in a country - do we cancel or postpone events, close our facilities, what services can we continue to offer, and first and foremost: what can we do to keep our employees and patrons as safe as possible?

I am sure many of your governments have given you regulations and suggestions to deal with all of this. In addition, I call upon all of you to contact each other if you want or need to discuss or reflect upon the often unique questions this crisis is raising for national librarians. For me, that is what a community of directors of national libraries is about.

Best of luck to all of you,

dr. Lily Knibbeler

Chair Conference / Community of Directors of National Libraries 2018-2021

Director General KB, National Library of the Netherlands

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