

**Van:** [Mab van Wijk](#) namens [CDNL](#)  
**Aan:** [CDNL](#)  
**Onderwerp:** CDNL - Looking back to the (online) CDNL annual meeting of September 8, 2021  
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Dear colleagues,

September is already over; the month of which for me at least our CDNL congress was one of the undisputed highlights. A good time to look back on that.

On September 8, 2021 the national librarians of 40 national libraries virtually met, after a year without, for the annual Conference of Directors of National Libraries. The theme this year was **'Uncertainties: how national libraries deal with risks & opportunities'**.

This theme was discussed from different angles during the virtual conference. Roly Keating (UK) and Marie Louise Ayres (Australia) shared their experiences and perspectives on dealing with uncertainties in short videos (which can be viewed on our [site](#) ). After these peer papers, it was the turn of Dr Martin van Staveren, a specialist in the field of modern risk management and eminently capable of making connections between theory and science on the one hand and practice on the other. In his contribution, he introduced the concept of risk leadership and gave those present a number of very concrete tools to implement that risk leadership in their organizations. The topic of the day was then further explored in group discussions, in which the groups had a very diverse composition. At five virtual tables, the directors of national libraries reflected on how uncertainties affect their careers, how they deal with them, what they have learned from them, what they have learned from the contributions of Keating, Ayres, and Van Staveren, and which lessons they want to pass on to their colleagues (and themselves?). Those lessons were then summarized in tile wisdom (you will find some examples on our site). Finally, we were treated by the National Library of Indonesia to a video (also available on our site) in which Mr Bando showed how a national library positions and profiles itself to the outside world in a world full of uncertainties, risks and opportunities. I already mentioned this during the congress as a 'text book example' of how a national library can show itself to the world and recommend everyone to watch this video again.

At the end of the congress, our secretary was able to report the results of three elections. Three times, to my delight, the result was unanimously affirmative: Janne Andresoo was elected vice chair (second term), as was Marie Louise Ayres (Australia), and I was awarded an additional year as chairman, so I could transfer to a new chairman in what will hopefully be a less pandemic-ravaged year.

All in all, a good congress to look back on, and certainly a congress that 'tastes for more'. I am very much looking forward to exchanging ideas with you 'in vivo' again next year in Dublin under the hostess of Sandra Collins.

Sincerely,  
Lily Knibbeler