



## COALITION OF SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY CONSORTIA

*Promoting and Supporting National Co-Operative  
Initiatives*

### THE BACK GROUND OF COSALC

*The Coalition of South African Library Consortia (COSALC) which was established on 2 July 1999, committed to promote and support national co-operative initiatives. Its main focus is access to electronic information through the establishment of the national site licensing initiative, (SASLI) the South African Site Licensing Initiative.*

*COSALC's main operational and strategic focus is at national level. Its is specifically committed to promoting and supporting national co-operative initiatives, e.g. contribution to the S A National Catalogue (SACat) and interlending agreements, as well as proposed national initiatives such as the national site licensing initiative, SASLI*

*The vision of COSALC is: To enhance access to information and the sharing of resources to benefit the clients of library consortia in South Africa through national co-operation.*

**COSALC currently consists of representatives from the following bodies:**

<b>CHEC</b>	<i>Cape Higher Education Consortium</i>
<b>FOTIM</b>	<i>Foundation of Tertiary Institutions of the Northern Metropolis</i>
<b>eSATI</b>	<i>Eastern Seaboard Association of Tertiary Institutions</i>
<b>ECHEA</b>	<i>Eastern Cape Higher Education Association</i>
<b>FSHETT</b>	<i>Free State Higher and Further Education and Training Trust</i>
<b>SANRIC</b>	<i>South African National Research Information Consortium</i>
<b>NLSA</b>	<i>National Library of South Africa</i>
<b>LIASA</b>	<i>Library and Information Association of South Africa</i>

### THE ROLE OF SASLI

*In order to promote the sharing of information resources and to achieve economics of scale in South Africa, SASLI is managed as a project of COSALC (Coalition of South African library Consortia) to fulfil this role.*



*Currently higher education institutions and library consortia are individually approached by vendors and publishers of information. This leads to unnecessary duplication, is extremely expensive for individual institutions, widens the gap between the information rich and information poor, and does not contribute to the goal of information resource sharing and equitable access to information for all academic institutions.*

*SASLI's (South African Site Licensing Initiative) role lies in the area of establishing needs negotiating licenses and prices, co-ordinating access, delivery and training, and other issues related to the cost-effective use of electronic information.*

*SASLI will be modelled on International initiatives where national licensing is seen as a smart solution to providing equity of access and achieving economics of scale through special discounting.*