



{ BnF

## IFLA International Newspaper Conference

**“Newspaper Digitization and Preservation.  
New prospects.  
Stakeholders, Practices, Users and Business Models”**

11-13 April 2012  
BnF, Paris

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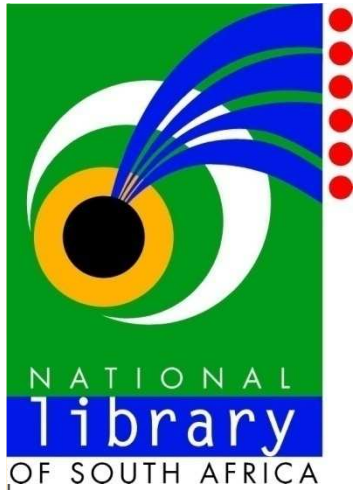
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# **The National Library of South Africa and the Digitization of the Early Years of the Black Press**

Douwe Drijfhout

# National Library of South Africa

- Cape Town campus (1818)
- Pretoria campus (1887)
- Newspapers on microfilm
- Original print copies





# South African Press

- Segmentation: society/press
- Race – not language, religion or culture
- Unique status
- Oldest, most extensive and varied collection



# Stages: Black Press

- 1830-1880: Christian Missionaries
- 1880-1930: Independent Protest Press
- 1940-1960: From Protest to Resistance

# Definition

- According to readership
- African, Indian & Coloured audience
- Not all owned or edited by
- Bi-lingual: English +
- Zulu, Xhosa, Tswana, Sotho

# 1830-1880

## Christian Missionaries

- Two publishing centres
- Lovedale Mission Press (Presbyterian)
- Morija Printing Works (Paris Evangelical)
- Lovedale -> Xhosa
- Morija -> Sotho



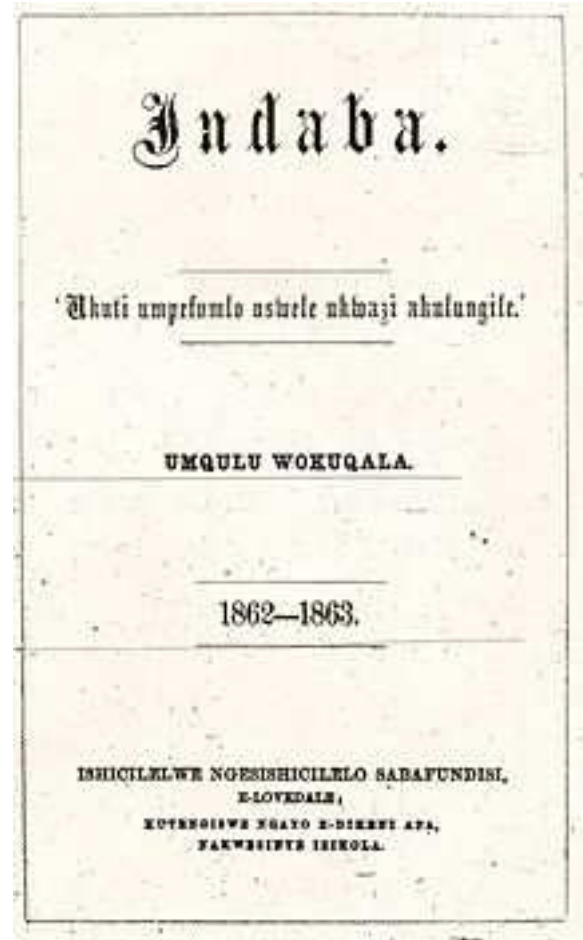




# Publications

- Umshumayeli Wendaba (1837)
- Indaba (1862)
- South African Outlook (1870)
- Isigidimi Sama-Xosa (1873)
- Lovedale News (1876)



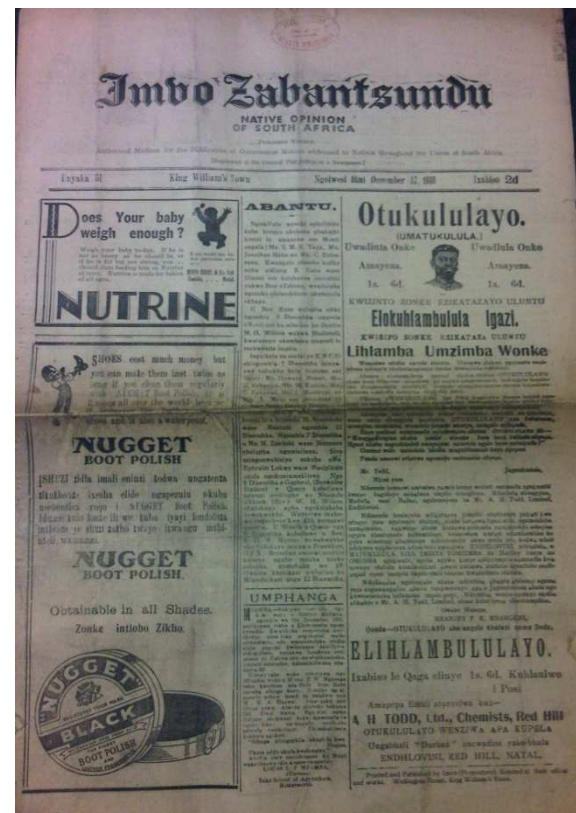




# 1880-1930 Independent Protest

- New generation
- African nationalist newspapers
- Black literary tradition
- First political bodies

# John Jabavu: Imvo Zabantsundu (1884)

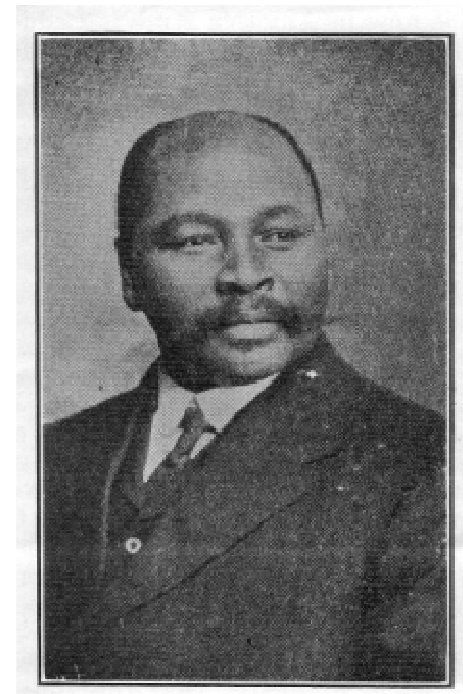


# Leaders

- John Jabavu: Imvo Zabatsundu (1884)
- Walter Rubusana: Izwi Labantu (1897)
- Solomon Plaatje: Koranta ea Becoana (1901)
- John Dube: Ilanga lase Natal (1903)
- Mahatma Gandhi: Indian Opinion (1903)
- Abdullah Abdurahman: APO (1909)

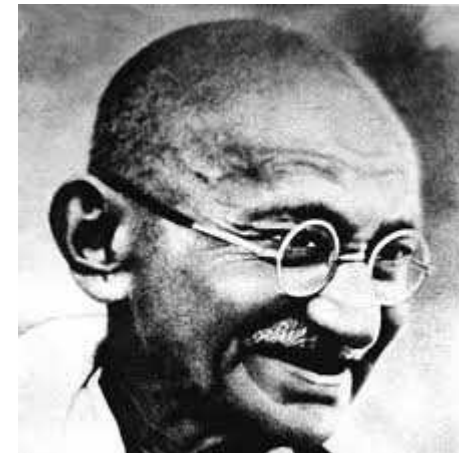


# Rubusana & Dube





# Abdurahman & Gandhi



# Union of South Africa 1910

- Black civil rights: British Parliament
- Anti-Union protest delegation
- Jabuvu, Rubusana, Abdurahman
- The Great Betrayal





# Discriminatory Legislation

- Restricting African voter rights (1892)
- Pass regulations bill (1905)
- Ownership of land (1913)
- Urban Areas Act (1923)

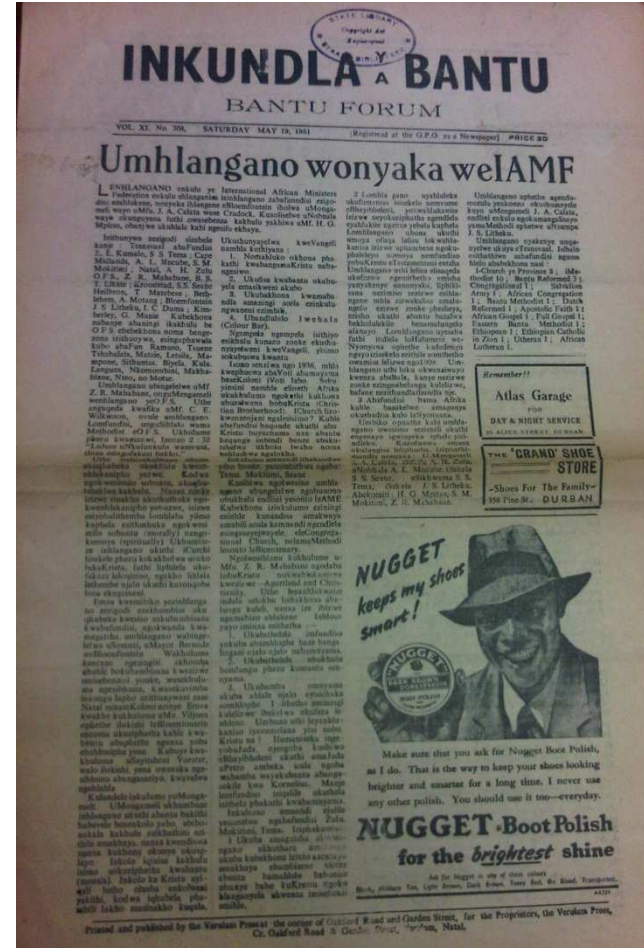




# 1940-1960 Protest to Resistance

- Great Depression mid-30s
- Critical years
- Trek to cities
- 1948-election

# Govan Mbeki: Inkundla ya Bantu (1938)



# Apartheid

- Institutionalise segregation
- Re-tribalize Africans



# White business interests

- Potential market
- White entrepreneurs
- Black commercial press





# Bantu World

- Bertram Paver – 1932
- Argus Group
- From elite to mass audience
- Black creative writing



# The Guardian

- Non-African generation
- Mobilized resistance
- Organized labour
- Fighting mouthpiece of African aspirations
- Banned often





# Ruth First





# Digitisation at NLSA

- 1997-2009: DISA
- Implement digital technologies in libraries
- Socio-political interest
- SA Freedom Struggle
- DISA: training and support
- Journals (40+)
- Archival collections
- 220 000 images/pages

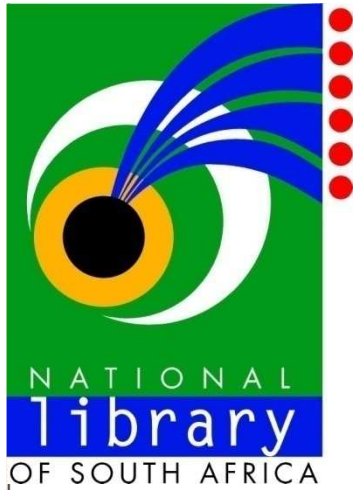
# Reprographic Services



# Future plans

- SA historical newspapers
- Approx 7.5 million pages
- Black Press
- 200 000 pages





**Thank you!**

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