



FROM THE CHAIR
CLAIRE GERMAIN



SALLY HOLTERHOFF
& MARISOL FLOREN



WORKSHOP
SPLIT, CROATIA
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LAW LIBRARIES SECTION

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Law Libraries Section Member, Greetings!

Welcome to this second issue of the IFLA Law Libraries Section Newsletter. As you will see, the Section has continued to be very active this year, thanks to the contribution of its members. Many thanks to everyone who made this second issue of our Newsletter possible.

Best regards,

Claire M. Germain, Chair, IFLA Law Libraries Section



REPORT ON IFLA 2013 IN SINGAPORE

Sally Holterhoff & Marisol Floren

Singapore, with its diverse blend of cultural traditions, provided an intriguing and hospitable setting for the 2013 IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) conference, held August 17-23. With 3,500 delegates from 120 countries in attendance and the theme of "Future Libraries: Infinite Possibilities," the meeting featured a wide array of educational programs and many opportunities for networking. In the Opening Session, delegates were greeted by local dignitaries, inspired by the welcoming remarks of IFLA leaders, and entertained by music, colorfully-



costumed dancers, and a ceremony with an LED dragon, all of which reflected Singapore's unique tapestry of Chinese, Malay, Arab, Indian, and English influence. The exhibit hall included nearly 100 vendors and library-related organizations displaying their products and services, as well as a display area of more than 100 posters for Poster Session presentations.

LAW LIBRARIES SECTION PROGRAM

Open Access to Official and Authenticated Legal Information in Asia was the title of the main program sponsored by the Law Libraries Section, with two other sections as co-sponsors. Six speakers gave presentations about trends in the online provision of legal resources by governments of countries in the region, to a large audience of nearly 130 delegates. [Note: Program slots at IFLA conferences tend to be longer than those to which AALL annual meeting attendees are accustomed. This one was 195 minutes, so a 10-minute break in the middle was welcome.]

Uma Narayan (Chief Librarian, "Judges" Library, High Court of Judicature at Bombay) spoke about the ***Indian Initiative to Provide Free Access to Authentic Legal Information***. She addressed projects undertaken by the courts and the government departments to provide free access to authentic legal information since 1990. The National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy of 2012 will further improve the access to government information in open format. A National Legal Repository of India with links to all types of legal information may be available in the near future.

Irene Shieh (Lui Che Woo Law Library, University of Hong Kong) and John Bahrij (Lee Quo Wei Law Library, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and member of AALL and FCIL-SIS) spoke on the topic ***Hong Kong Moves Towards Open Access to Authenticated Legal Information***. They highlighted the role that the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is playing in making legislation and decisions available online. They outlined the various sources where legislation and court judgments are available, the recent government initiative in moving towards digital authentication of official legal sources, and discussed the benefits and challenges of these digital initiatives. They



pointed out that the *Hong Kong Government Gazette*, a print series, is still the official source required for very new or amendment legislation. The online versions found in various free and commercial sources are not authoritative or completely up-to-date.

Le Thi Hanh (The Library and Information Centre, Hanoi Law University) gave a presentation on ***Open Access to Official and Authenticated Legal Information in Vietnam***. She reviewed the development, highlighted the achievements, and pointed out the challenges of open access to legal information in Vietnam. She recognized that the enactment of transparency laws and e-government information policies have been major factors in facilitating free and open access to legal information in Vietnam. The achievements are considerable but there are still many challenges, among which are upgrading the ICT infrastructure, and establishing a national legal information repository integrating different sources of legal information.

Carole L. Hinchcliff (Law Librarian, the University of Melbourne Law School, Australia, and member of AALL and FCIL-SIS) had prepared a presentation on the topic *Researching Australian, New Zealand and Papua New Guinean Law*. She was unable to attend the program due to a family emergency, so her presentation was delivered by Claudia Davies (Law Librarian at Legal Aid Queensland) and Megan Fitzgibbons (Faculty Liaison Coordinator for Law in Information



Services at the University of Western Australia). The content focused on selected free online sources providing open access to legal information in Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea. ComLaw, the official Australian government site for Commonwealth or federal legislation, provides acts, regulations and legislative instruments. Since 2010, all new Commonwealth legislation on ComLaw is authoritative. Official or authorized versions of law are designated by a map of Australia with a big red checkmark. The High Court of Australia website contains very useful Judgment Summaries, released on the day of the judgment, which provide an effective overview of the often very lengthy judgments on the site. Special attention was given to the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) and the Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute (PacLII) launched in 2001, offering all legislation as enacted, reported cases, and journal articles.

Charlotte Gill (Research Librarian, Law, Singapore Management University) spoke about free and fee-based online sources for *Researching Singapore Law*. SingaporeLaw.sg is a legal portal maintained by the Singapore Academy of Law. LawNet provides fee-based access to case law, legislation, and legal journals. Singapore Law Watch is a source for daily legal news, including links to court decisions. Singapore Statutes Online states that it is the “official government website for online publication of legislation.” [Note: However, it contains a legal disclaimer

concerning accuracy of the contents.] The official “E-Gazette” is published daily and is available to the general public for viewing for 5 days. After that a subscription is required. Charlotte also mentioned legal research guides available on her library’s website.

Lilia (Lily) F. Echiverri (Law Librarian, College of Law Library, University of the Philippines) spoke about Open Access to Official and Authenticated Legal Information in the Philippines.



ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Another program of particular interest from the law library perspective was “**Government Libraries as Voices for Open Government**” (sponsored by the Government Libraries Section, with the Law Libraries Section and Government Information and Official Publications Section). One segment of this program featured the “open government” work being done in developing countries through partnership with the already-existing network of public libraries, using them as resources in new and innovative ways. The project, *Beyond Access*, is one of many initiatives developed by IREX, a global organization based in the United States, and is backed by a number of organizations, with support from the Gates Foundation. Speakers who have been doing such pilot projects with libraries in Ukraine and in Romania gave excellent presentations. The last part of the program was devoted to break-out discussions with individual speakers, then reconvening to report to the entire audience, which led to some very productive discussions.

MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE LAW LIBRARIES SECTION

As is customary, the Standing Committee (SC) of the Law Libraries Section held two meetings. During the first of these, held on Saturday before the official opening of the conference, Claire Germain was reelected to a second two-year term as Chair of the Law Libraries Section. Various items of business were discussed and newly-elected SC members were introduced and welcomed. Sally Holterhoff and Marisol Florén



presented the preliminary results of a working group project, “Report on Access to Digital Legal Information in South America.” This report covered the official gazettes of the ten countries of South America, focusing on the attributes of official status, open access, and authentication of these publications. The SC agreed that the report was very useful and the project should be continued,

incorporating findings from other regions (Europe and Southeast Asia), which have been the focus of Section programs. Several other SC members volunteered to join the working group, which will now be known as the Working Group on Access to Official and Authenticated Legal Information. A suggestion was made to contact the Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section, to make their members aware of this project and perhaps enlist their cooperation.

At the second SC meeting, held on Tuesday, discussion centered on future programs and on projects to be under-taken during the coming year. Plans are underway for next year’s IFLA conference, which will be held in Lyon, France, Aug. 16-22, 2014, with the theme “Libraries, Citizens, Societies: Confluence for Knowledge.” The Law Libraries Section will propose a program with the tentative title of “Law Libraries at the Digital Crossroads: Innovative Solutions and Complex Challenges.” The program will highlight both opportunities and challenges libraries are facing as the resources they provide change from print to digital format. A “call for papers” will be posted, and from responses to that, at least some of the speakers for this program will be selected. An additional program proposal was suggested, possibly focusing on authentication of digital legal information by the governments of France and Brazil.

SOCIAL EVENTS

With a large and varied group of delegates from around the world attending the IFLA conference each year, social events are particularly valuable for providing informal networking opportunities. On Monday evening, members of the Law Libraries Section, parliamentary librarians, and local law librarians enjoyed a reception hosted by the Singapore Management University (SMU) and sponsored by LexisNexis. Gulcin Cribb (University Librarian) and Charlotte Gill (Research Librarian for Law at SMU) welcomed the guests. Claire Germain, Section Chair, thanked our hosts on behalf of the Section. Vivian Sia, Associate Director of Marketing for Southeast Asia, LexisNexis, provided short welcoming remarks as well.

In addition to this reception, on another evening the caucuses of various world regions held receptions, including the U.S. Caucus reception (organized at a local venue by the Chinese American Librarians Association). On Tuesday delegates

enjoyed the traditional “cultural evening” that is part of each year’s IFLA conference but also unique to the host country. This year’s event took place at a private beach resort on Sentosa Island and featured Singaporean food and entertainment.



OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS

One headline event of the 2013 conference was the launch of the ***IFLA Trend Report***, the result of a year-long consultation with experts and stakeholders from disciplines outside of the library sphere. The full report (which unfortunately seems to be available only to members of IFLA) is presented as a set of online resources that library and information professionals can use to do some “big picture” thinking about how five high-level trends in society will affect the global information landscape of the future.

Those trends are:

1. New technologies will both expand and limit who has access to information.
2. Online education will democratize and disrupt global learning.
3. The boundaries of privacy and data protection will be redefined.
4. Hyper-connected societies will listen to and empower new voices and groups.
5. The global information economy will be transformed by new technologies.

Another session reported on a milestone treaty, the ***Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Other-wise Print Disabled***. This is the result of the June 2013 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) meeting in Morocco. It will

put accessibility provisions in place for 285 million print-disabled people around the world. AALL had previously joined IFLA and several dozen other organizations as signatories to a statement in support of the treaty. In Singapore, IFLA delegates were urged to lobby their nations to adopt this treaty, which will go into effect three months after being ratified by twenty countries.

Also announced in Singapore was the launch of the **IFLA Library repository**. It is designed to collect IFLA conference papers and other publications, to make them easy to locate and access, and to preserve them. Over 160 papers are already available.

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IFLA Law Libraries Section Project – Workshop in Split, October 2014

OPEN ACCESS TO LEGAL KNOWLEDGE: WORKSHOP FOR LAW LIBRARIANS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN REGION

The IFLA Law Libraries Section aims to bring together representatives of different types of law libraries, including court libraries, corporate libraries, law school libraries, and public libraries with a law collection. Here is what we intend to accomplish with this workshop. The Workshop will consist of presentations, panels and discussions on how we can build sustainable law library associations. Participants from several countries across the South East European Region will be invited to share their experiences and knowledge of working in law libraries and library associations. The Workshop will emphasize the importance of professional communication and open access to legal knowledge, and law library advocacy practice. With this workshop, the Law Libraries Section wants to promote understanding and cooperation among different types of law libraries, and increases awareness of the value and importance of law librarianship and legal competencies in this region.

Date of the Conference: 15 - 18, October, 2014 (Expected date of the workshop: 16, October)

Expected benefits for IFLA and Law libraries Section:

- The Law Libraries Section will have more knowledge about the problems faced by law libraries and librarians in areas where open access to legal information is not fully developed by modern standards.

- The Law Libraries Section will have better expertise for the development of similar models for future education designed for law and law-related librarians
- IFLA will have an increased impact on the current IFLA members in this region as well as potential members in this region, especially in the field of law librarianship. This is important because law librarians from this region are not very active in the work of IFLA.

Benefits for the participants:

- Workshop participants (primarily law librarians) from several countries across the region will have the opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge of working in law libraries and library associations. We expect about 30 representatives from the law library associations of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Slovenia.

Information About Workshop:

The workshop will be held in Split (Croatia) within the annual meeting of the 39th Croatian Library Association General Conference where the organizer expects over 250 participants, so with this workshop we can indirectly affect a number of law and related librarians and increase awareness of the value and importance of the law libraries in the region.

Accommodation and Conference venue:

Hotel Atrium - 5 stars hotel located in the centre of Split, Croatia. Domovinskog rata 49a, 21000 Split, Croatia

- T +385 21 200 000
- F +385 21 200 100

Reservations for the hotel rooms by e-mail at: info@hotel-atrium.hr

Keynote speaker at the opening ceremony of the Croatian Library Association General Conference will be Donna Scheeder, IFLA President-elect.

Speakers at the Workshop:

Claire Germain - Law Libraries Section Chair and Donna Scheeder, IFLA President-elect. From the region actively will participate several representatives from the Southeast Europe Association (SEALL). Law librarians from Bosnia and Herzegovina will present a regional project proposal - SEALL's Recommendation on core competencies for law librarians.

For more information:

Workshop organizer: Edita Bačić, Chief Librarian (Faculty of Law, University of Split)

Email: edita@pravst.hr

ABOUT THE LAW LIBRARIES SECTION

OFFICERS:

CHAIR: Claire Germain (USA)

SECRETARY: Edita Bačić (Croatia)

INFORMATION COORDINATOR /WEB EDITOR: Sonia Poulin (Canada)

OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.ifla.org/law-libraries>

WHAT WE DO: As an international policy forum for all law librarians, the Section on Law Libraries:

- promotes understanding and cooperation among law libraries, and increases awareness of the value and importance of law libraries to the world;
- encourages growth in the development of new law libraries, with a particular focus on emerging nations;
- fosters the profession of law librarianship and legal research competencies worldwide;
- develops professional standards and practices;
- and provides leadership in the field of legal information policy, recognizing that equitable and permanent public access to authentic legal information is a necessary requirement for a just and democratic society worldwide.

OUR MAILING LIST: The IFLA's law-l mailing is an electronic forum intended to foster communication between members of the IFLA Law Libraries Section, the international legal information community and IFLA. The goal in establishing this list is to facilitate information exchange as well as professional communication and development within the IFLA community. To subscribe: <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwsympa.fcgi/subrequest/law-l>

OUR NEXT MEETING:

**IFLA
2014
LYON** World Library
and Information Congress
80th IFLA General Conference
and Assembly
16-22 August 2014 Lyon