



NEWSLETTER OF THE IFLA SECTION ON LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICES FOR PARLIAMENTS

MARCH 2014



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

We live in a fast evolving and increasingly inter-connected world where users of parliamentary information require a timelier delivery of impartial and reliable content through various channels of communications, and where the public's demand for transparency, openness and accountability in legislatures is growing. Parliamentary library and research services, regardless of their organizational structures, have their share of responsibility for ensuring that parliaments meet these objectives. And, to be most effective, they need to continuously reinforce their own ability to improve their delivery of services.

It is in this context that I see the added value of the [IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments](#) and of inter-parliamentary cooperation in general. The Section's annual meetings provide a unique opportunity to exchange both concerns and experiences among colleagues, offer advice and assistance to each other, identify emerging trends and strategies to address them, and build long-lasting working relationships based on personal trust and respect. In between meetings, the Section's growing network is becoming the worldwide hub

through which members are circulating content, building cooperation and exploring together ways for delivering more effective services to assist parliamentarians and engage with citizens.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage parliamentary libraries, research and documentation services from all over the world to attend the [next annual meeting of the Section in Paris](#), hosted by and co-organized with the French *Assemblée Nationale*, on 12, 13 and 14 August 2014, and the activities during the [80th IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Lyon](#), from 16 to 22 August 2014. The programme and sessions are being developed so to ensure a balanced mix between technical topics and policy and strategy issues. A combination of more formal sessions and workshop activities in smaller groups will be adopted, to ensure that all colleagues feel comfortable in making their voices heard during our deliberations.

Please read through this newsletter and explore the [Section's webpages](#) to learn more about the meeting programmes and the call for papers, how the Section's mission and future strategy is developing and which projects and partnerships the Section wishes to realize to reach its goals.



2014 IFLA PRE-CONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE PLAN

Pre-Conference, Paris

The Section's pre-conference is scheduled for 12-14 August 2014 in Paris. A call for papers has been issued, with a deadline of March 7 for submission of proposals: <http://www.ifla.org/node/8370>.

The Section is also planning a Management Workshop on the morning of 15 August.

For details and registration for the pre-conference, go to <http://preifla2014.assemblee-nationale.fr/>.

Main Conference, Lyon

The 80th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, will take place from 16 to 22 August in Lyon, France. All information regarding the Conference, registration procedures, programme and practical issues, can be found on the IFLA website.

The Section is engaged in the following sessions at the main conference.

- **Open Session of the Section: Libraries for Democracy: Engaging Citizens.** See <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla80/calls-for-papers/libraries-democracy-engaging-citizens>
- **Joint Session with Law Libraries and Information Technology Sections, and FAIFE: Access to law at the digital cross roads: innovative solutions to complex challenges.** See <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla80/calls-for-papers/access-law-digital-cross-roads-innovative-solutions-complex-challenges>
- **Joint Session with Continuing Professional Development and Knowledge Management Sections: Learning challenges for librarians and library managers (Knowledge Café)**

Details about the pre-conference and the main conference can be found at <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments/conferences>.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

4th International Seminar for Parliamentary Research Services, Seoul, Korea

Four years ago, Korea's parliamentary research service/ arm, the National Assembly Research Service (NARS), established the annual International Seminar for Parliamentary Research Services. Since then, the conference has grown exponentially, from five countries participating in 2010 to 17 countries in November 2013.

The 2013 International Seminar had two main themes. The first theme was "parliamentary research services' roles and functions." Dr. Mary B. Mazanec, Director of Congressional Research Service of the U.S.A., opened this session and delegates from different countries later shared their experiences and best practices in supporting members of parliament.

A second session, on "women's political participation," was opened by Dr. Ahn Myoung-ock, a former parliamentarian and professor at the Graduate School of Public Health and Welfare, CHA University. Both ses-

sions encouraged participation from the 60 delegates who were in attendance.

In addition to the seminar itself, delegates were also able to meet with NARS chief Dr. Koh Hyun-wook, and to engage in informative dialogue with colleagues from around the world. NARS plans on continuing to host these helpful seminars; look out for future seminars at <http://www.nars.go.kr/>.



Dr Mazanec (third from the left), USA, addressed delegates at the opening session of the International Seminar. Photo courtesy of the NARS

World e-Parliament Conference 2014



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

The World e-Parliament Conference is the biennial forum of the community of parliaments on their use of information and communication technologies (ICT). It addresses, from both the policy and technical perspectives, how ICT can help improve representa-

tion, law-making and oversight and increase parliament's openness, accessibility, accountability and effectiveness.

The overarching theme of the World e-Parliament Conference 2014 is "Lessons learned and future horizons". By focusing on this theme, the sixth World e-Parliament Conference intends to take stock of the progress made by the parliamentary community in responding to citizens' calls for greater institutional openness and dialogue. At the same time, it will look at the emerging and future challenges that parliaments will need to address to keep pace with technological change in society.

During the World e-Parliament Conference 2014 simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

The preliminary agenda, a document outlining the goals, expecta-

tations and structure of the World e-Parliament Conference 2014, a practical information note and the registration form are available on the web site <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/eparl14.htm>

As with the previous five editions of the World eParliament Conference, IFLA was invited to be a partner to this event. The agenda that has been drafted proposes a session on "Using ICT in research services: information discovery, organization and delivery". Besides this specific session IFLA and the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments would be welcome in other sessions as well.

The World eParliament Conference is an important event for IFLA members to attend. Besides useful professional interaction and exchange of ideas, it gives our Section visibility with other colleagues, with Secretary Generals, Members and Speakers who attend the meeting.

Interested members are encouraged to consider attending this important event in May, and to present a paper in the proposed IFLA-IPU Session or in other sessions that are proposed on the draft agenda.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES

130th anniversary of the Chilean Library of Congress



The Chilean Library of Congress celebrated 130 years of service during a commemoration ceremony on December 20, 2013, held in the hemicycle of the Chilean House of Deputies. The ceremony was attended by many distinguished guests. The Director, in his speech, emphasized the achievements of the Library during its 130 years and spoke about the present challenges, such as a strategic plan, the design process for a new Library building as well as aspiration to become the organization responsible for the official edition of the Constitution and the Codes of the Republic, in digital form and free, open access. He thanked the senators and members of the house that have integrated the Honourable Library Committee, for the unflinching support to make the Library into an institution that is recognized in Chile and abroad.

He emphasized that the Library aspires to become an inclusive public institution, with a wide outlook in facilitating access to information as well as adapting the physical infrastructure to persons who have different capabilities. The ceremony ended with the presentation of the Holderlin Ensemble Trio and with presentation of medals to library staff with long years of service, and recognition to parliamentarians and ex-parliamentarians.

Library of the Parliament of Finland's 100 years openness jubilee



The Library of the Parliament of Finland celebrated its 100th year openness jubilee in 2013. The Library staff organised customer events and participated in trade fairs to commemorate this achievement. The final event of

the year is the production of a video that tells the story of the Library, how it links with the history of Finland, about openness and freedom of speech – all those things that are important to the Finnish people. The project took about half a year to complete. See the video at :

http://www.kirjastokaista.fi/ekk_en

Cameroon's Parliamentary Library welcomes new Members

The Library stand at the induction for new Members to the *Assemblée Nationale du Cameroun* (National Assembly of Cameroon) proved very popular. Library Director Alim Garga (a member of the Section's Standing Committee) was at hand to greet 180 new Members of the 9th legislative period, at the induction held on 18-19 November 2013. Library staff showed the type of materials and the services that are available to Members to support their legislative duties. Members were presented with a documentation kit and a handbook for Members of the National Assembly.



OTHER NEWS FROM THE SECTION

John Pullinger honored



The British order of chivalry, the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, is named for the bath that a candidate for knighthood takes as part of the ceremony to become a knight. It is thought to represent the purity of purpose that a knight must achieve before becoming knighted.

It makes eminent sense, therefore, that our own John Pullinger, who has been deeply committed to serving his country, the United Kingdom's House of Commons, and the Standing Committee of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments, should receive the honor of being named a Companion of the Order of the Bath. Queen Elizabeth II released his name as part of her New Year's Honours List on December 30, 2013. John is the Librarian and Director General for Information Services in the House of Commons and has served this Section in many capacities, including as the Chair of the Section's Standing Committee. Congratulations to John for this well-deserved honour.

CONNECT AND SHARE

- Check out the Section's website <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments>
- Sign up for the IFLA PARL2 discussion list which is open to all members as well as others interested in the Section <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments/mailling-lists>
- Contribute news about your library and/or research service: email Raissa Teodori, Chair, raissa.teodori@senato.it or Lillian Gassie, Secretary, lgassie@gmail.com

How to join the Section

If you already are an IFLA member, but not a Section member, please go <http://archive.ifla.org/III/members/form2a.htm> to register as a member of the Section, 3. Library and Research Services for Parliaments.

If you are NOT an IFLA member you have to become an IFLA member before joining any Section, <http://www.ifla.org/membership/new-members>.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



The Evolving Value of Information Management and the Five Essential Attributes of the Modern Information Professional. In November 2013, Financial Times and the Special Libraries Association released a report on the value of information management and the disparities in the perceived value of information services between the service providers and their clients. The report also discussed how to enhance the influence and value of information professionals. <http://ftcorporate.ft.com/sla/>

The Handbook on "Information and Communication Technologies in Parliamentary Libraries" is now available in French, translated by the Parliamentary Services of the Federal Assembly of Switzerland. "***Technologies de l'information et de la communication dans les bibliothèques parlementaires***" is available at:

<http://www.ictparliament.org/attachements/handbook-libraries/handbook-libraries-FR.pdf>



THE BENEFITS OF ATTENDING IFLA CONFERENCES

Key Benefits

- Learn from others
- Get new ideas
- Identify future trends
- Benchmark services against others
- Professional networking

The Section recently published the final report on the benefits of attending the annual pre-conference and/or the main IFLA conference. The report was based on survey responses from 65 respondents from 44 countries from all the regions of the world.

Employers paid for 70% of participants to attend the conference, with relatively small numbers who paid for themselves, or were paid for by either a donor organisation or Library Association. Nearly 90% of participants rated the preconference which is focused upon the work of Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services as more useful than the more general IFLA conference focused on the work of libraries generally.

The report also noted what factors that would encourage wider attendance. Not surprisingly, these tended toward reducing the cost of attendance. Other factors included more relevant programming, a support letter from the Section Chair and language assistance.

The report noted recommendations to the Section's leadership as well as IFLA leadership on how to enable greater participation at the conference and the pre-conference. These included promoting the benefits of attending the events, posting an invitation letter on the Section website detailing the benefits, ensuring the relevance of the program, podcasting presentations where possible and considering the use of webinars.

The full report can be found at: <http://www.ifla.org/node/8164>

"It is more like education than training – your thinking develops, you get insights, arguments, evidence, bad examples as well as good. It isn't so much that you get products to slavishly reproduce as your practice is better informed, stimulated – not necessarily in a direct way. And the network has been very useful in informing/supporting initiatives between the conferences."