



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

JULY 2017



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you are enjoying your summer. Summer is also the time when IFLA holds its annual congress, and when the Section has its satellite meeting, normally referred to as the IFLAPARL pre-conference. Working in the parliamentary environment can be challenging, as our clients' demands and requirements change and increase in the face of budget constraints. Yet we thrive under such challenges and find our work rewarding, as we see the impact of our efforts in the different ways parliamentarians serve their constituents and the nation. We are able to meet challenges and take our services up to the next level because we recognize the value of professional development/capacity building, picking up new skills, and learning from each other. These are the objectives of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) and the IFLAPARL Pre-Conference. Whether you will be present in person next month in Poland, follow the sessions on social media, or read the proceedings after, you are likely to find something that may be useful to your work. Even if you are unable to attend the events, participating in IFLAPARL activities, for example via the online discussion list, provides access to a network of colleagues who may have experiences you could draw upon.

This will be my last message as Chair. It has been a privilege to serve as Chair (and previously as Secretary) of a unique and active IFLA Section which has given me opportunities to meet and work with many of you. Steve Wise from the House of Commons Library in the United Kingdom will take over as Chair following the WLIC, with Karin Finer from the European Parliamentary Research Service continuing as Secretary, and Adama Kone from the Cote D'ivoire National Assembly as Information Coordinator. I will continue to be on the Standing Committee for the next two years and I look forward to interacting with you on our IFLAPARL network.

Lillian Gassie  
Chair, IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

### How to join the Section

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

## NEWS FROM IFLAPARL

### Upcoming Changes in the IFLAPARL Standing Committee

The following members of the current SC will end their terms in August 2017. We wish to thank them for serving in the SC, for their contributions to IFLA and the parliamentary library community:

Sonia L'Heureux (Canada)  
Ellie Valentine (United States)  
Innocent Rugambwa (Uganda)  
Alfonso Perez (Chile)  
Gert-Jan Lodder (Netherlands)  
Haiyan Lu (China)

The following will be remaining in the SC for 2017-2019:

Lillian Gassie (United States) – Chair, 2015-2017  
Karin Finer (Belgium) – Secretary, 2015-17, 2017-19  
Adama Kone (Cote D'ivoire) – Information Coordinator, 2015-17, 2017-19  
Steve Wise (United Kingdom) – Chair, 2017-19  
Dianne Heriot (Australia)  
Agata Karwowska-Sokolowska (Poland)  
Chama Mpundy Mfula (Zambia)  
Eduardo Goldstein (Chile)  
Hiroyuki Okuyama (Japan)  
Paola Mandillo (Italy)  
Cecilia Izquierdo (Argentina)  
Adolfo Furtado (Brazil)  
Ida Barlangine Kelemen (Hungary)  
Iain Watt (Belgium)

The following will join the SC as first term members (2017-2021) in August 2017:

Clara Bessa da Costa (Brazil)  
Emmanuel Maury (France)  
Christine Wellems (Germany)  
Mary Mazanec (United States)  
Shu Guang Zhang (China)  
Manik Bahadur Lama (Nepal)  
Laia Casares (Spain)

### Share and connect

- Check out the Section's website: <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments>
- Sign up for the IFLAPARL discussion list, which is open to all members as well as others interested in the Section; <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments>
- Contribute news about your library and/or research service: email Lillian Gassie, Chair, [iflaparl.chair@gmail.com](mailto:iflaparl.chair@gmail.com) or Karin Finer, Secretary, [karin.finer@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:karin.finer@europarl.europa.eu)

## 2017 PRE-CONFERENCE AND WLIC

The Section will be holding its annual Pre-Conference in Warsaw, hosted by the Parliament of the Republic of Poland, 16-18 August 2017. The full agenda is available online at the [pre-conference website](#).



The [IFLA World Library and Information Congress \(WLIC\)](#) will take place in Wrocław, 19-25 August 2017. Meetings of the IFLAPARL Standing Committee take place at the WLIC. For those who will be attending WLIC, below are the sessions that IFLA PARL members may find relevant and interesting.



### Recommended WLIC sessions for IFLAPARL members

#### 19 August 2017 (Saturday)

- 12:30-14:30, Session 045. Standing Committee I Meeting, Oval 11 (All IFLAPARL members are welcome to attend as observers)

#### 20 August 2017 (Sunday)

- 10:30-12:00, Session 071. Opening Session, Main Court
- 16:00-18:00, Exhibit Opening Party, Centennial Hall

#### 22 August 2017 (Tuesday)

- 9:30-11:30, Session 142. Parliament and the People: Transparency, Openness, Engagement, IASE 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. IFLAPARL main session.
- 19:00-24:00, Session 178. Cultural Evening, Main Court

#### 23 August 2017 (Wednesday)

- 9:30-11:30, Session 191. Government and Parliamentary Libraries: Supporting UN Sustainable Development Goals. Joint session with IFLAPARL, Government Libraries and Law Libraries, Multifunctional Hall
- 11:45-12:45, Session 200. New Librarians for New Times: Continuous Learning to Become Change Agents in a Changing World. Joint session with IFLAPARL, Knowledge Management, CPDWL, IASE 1<sup>st</sup> Floor
- 13:45-15:45, Session 211. Demonstrating Value and/or Assessing Impact of Different Types of Libraries and Information Services: Can You Spot the Difference? Division 1 Library Types, IASE 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. IFLAPARL Section will be doing a lightning talk about parliamentary libraries and research services.

#### 24 August 2017 (Thursday)

- 10:45-13:15, Session 225. Standing Committee II Meeting, Conference Room A (IFLAPARL members are welcome to attend as observers)
- 16:15-17:30, Session 247. Closing Session, Main Court

The IFLAPARL Chair and Secretary wish to **express their thanks to the Standing Committee and other members of the Section** who helped in organizing the upcoming events and sessions at the 2017 pre-conference and WLIC. We look forward to your continued support and participation in the 2018 IFLAPARL activities and conferences in Malaysia,

## RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### IFLA GLOBAL VISION MEETING, ATHENS

More than 300 librarians from all over the world came together in Athens the 3-4 April 2017 to talk about the changes and challenges that will face libraries in the future and how to tackle them. The [IFLA President's Meeting 2017](#) (3 April) and the initiation of the [Global Vision](#) set the frame for three days of intensive debate with representatives from all IFLA's professional units and interest groups.



The conversations focused on the importance of library values, strengths, objectives, challenges and solutions as part of developing a global vision for a united library field. Lillian Gassie and Karin Finer (Chair and Secretary of IFLAPARL) participated in the meeting, initiated the discussions with the IFLAPARL Standing Committee and reported back to IFLA on the outcome of these discussions.

For more informaton, see; website Global vision discussions - <https://globalvision.ifla.org/>  
Photos from all events - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ifla/albums>

*By Karin Finer. Secretary. IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments*

### IFLA GLOBAL VISION REGIONAL WORKSHOP, BUENOS AIRES

IFLA's fourth Global Vision Regional Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean was held at the historic Library of the National Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the 8 and 9 June 2017.

The event was inaugurated with a speech by the Vice President of the Argentine Republic, Lic. Gabriela Michetti. During her opening remarks, she stated: "We are very happy that the Library of the National Congress was chosen as one of IFLA's Regional Offices. This shows a deserved recognition to the work and the trajectory of the library in the country and in the region". It is worth mentioning that BCN Argentina has been selected as the LAC Regional Office for a two year term.

About the Global Vision Regional Workshop, she mentioned: "It is a pleasure to be here today, and to share this moment with you. I hope you have a very productive and fruitful meeting."

IFLA President-elect Glòria Pérez-Salmerón and IFLA Secretary General Gerald Leitner also shared their vision for the workshop, reinforcing the idea of the need of support from political representatives to understand the role of libraries for the development of societies.

The Public Library of the Library of the National Congress in Buenos Aires gathered representatives from library associations and national libraries from 27 Latin American and Caribbean countries for two very productive days to discuss how a united and connected library field can tackle the challenges of the future.

*By Cecilia Izquierdo. Subdirectora de Procesamiento Bibliográfico. Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación. Argentina*



## RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS, CONT

### 2017 APLAP CONFERENCE, SEOUL

The National Assembly Library of the Republic of Korea (Chief Librarian Dr. Eunchul Lee) hosted the 2017 APLAP (Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific) Conference from April 26 to 28, 2017. The theme of the conference was 'Moving towards a big data era: the role of parliamentary libraries and research services'. 57 delegates from Australia, Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Micronesia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Tonga participated.

APLAP was established in 1990 with the purpose of exchanging legislative information and experience, and strengthening cooperative network. It has currently 39 member nations.

Deputy Speaker of the Korean National Assembly Shim Jaecheol, Secretary General Woo Yoonkeun, Australian Parliamentary Librarian and APLAP President Dianne Heriot, and IFLA President Donna Scheeder delivered their speeches at the opening ceremony to celebrate the second-time hosting of the conference since 1990. The conference provided opportunities for the participants to exchange information on their latest legislative support services and changes in roles, to strengthen the parliament support capacity, and extend the global cooperation network. Papers from the conference are available from the APLAP website at <http://asiapacificparlibs.org>.



During the conference, delegates elected the new APLAP executive committee:

- President: Ms Kazuko Sakata – Director General – National Diet Library, Japan
- Vice-President Pacific: Ms Asha Kumar – Senior Librarian – Research and Library Unit of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji
- Vice-President Asia: Dr Mhyang Park – Director of Acquisitions Division – National Assembly Library of Korea
- Secretary: Ms Rosemarie Balidoy – Chief Information Service Librarian – Congressional Library Bureau of the Philippines
- Treasurer: Dr Dianne Heriot – Parliamentary Librarian – Australian Parliamentary Library.

*By Anna Lee. International Program Officer. National Assembly Library. Republic of Korea and Dr Fiona Allen. Executive Information Officer. Parliamentary Librarian's Office. Australia*

### ECPRD SEMINAR, ROME

The annual seminar of the ECPRD (European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation) Area of Interest "Libraries, Research Services and Archives" was held on 8-9 June in Rome, hosted by the two Houses of the Italian Parliament. The meeting was attended by over 70 participants representing 42 Chambers from 37 ECPRD member countries, and the European Parliament.

The seminar was planned under the theme "Libraries, Research and Documentation Services in Parliaments: experiences, trends and perspectives". It aimed at addressing topics related to the strategic organization of library, research and documentation in parliaments, in order to assess the current situation and identify trends and possible future developments.

The seminar was inaugurated on 8 June in the Chamber of Deputies, opened by the Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Annibale Ferrari; on 9 June the seminar took place in the Senate, opened by the Deputy Secretary General, Federico Silvio Toniato. Both days were also introduced by Ms. Ida Kelemen, ECPRD Coordinator of the Area of Interest "Libraries, Research Services and Archives".

During the seminar, the Director of the Congressional Research Service of the United States of America, Ms. Mary Mazanec, and the Director General of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), Mr. Anthony Teasdale, delivered a keynote speech on the experiences, challenges and opportunities of their respective Service.

The seminar was structured around six panels covering the following main topics:

1. Research and analysis in Parliaments: principles, scope, responsibility;
2. Balance between support to Parliament and opening to the public;
3. Research and analysis within parliamentary processes;
4. Research products: sources, working methods, skills, quality;
5. External collaboration;
6. Evaluation of public policies.

## RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS, CONT

### ECPRD SEMINAR, ROME, CONTINUED

To introduce each panel of the seminar, researchers and officials of the Italian Parliament presented the results of the preparatory questionnaire that had been sent a few months before to the ECPRD Community to gather information on the Parliamentary Library and Research Service activities taking place in ECPRD member parliaments on the topics listed above.

Overall, 25 presentations were delivered during the various sessions, each followed by a lively and stimulating debate. An interesting discussion took place on how Research Services and Libraries may seek a good balance between responding to enquiries from MPs and opening up to the general public, including by providing new tools to promote communication towards MPs and citizens, as well as between MPs and citizens, in digital format and by using social media.

A stimulating debate also took place on how to recruit new skills to work in Research Services and raise the ability of providing products based on data analysis, and on how to manage collaboration with external bodies (such as academia, think tanks, other research centers or institutions). Participants were also very interested by the Session on public policies evaluation, a growingly topical as well as challenging issue for a number of parliamentary administrations around the world.

At the closure of the seminar, participants were invited to the ECPRD Seminar on the theme “Future of parliamentary research services in an area of rapid change” hosted by the European Parliamentary Research Service in Brussels on 21-22 September 2017.

*By Paola Mandillo. Standing Committee Member of the IFLA Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments*



### 17TH APLESA CONFERENCE, LUANDA

The Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA) held its 17<sup>th</sup> conference in Luanda from 11-22 May 2017. The Conference was organized by APLESA and the National Assembly of Angola and was attended by librarians of Parliaments of Angola, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) attended for the first time and was represented by The Clerk of Parliament Mr. Jean Nguvulu Khoji. The conference was in conformity with the provisions of article VII Sec. II of the APLESA constitution with the theme: Better Parliamentary Libraries, Better Parliaments and Better societies.

The Conference employed oral and power point paper Presentations, Plenary discussions, and Brainstorming sessions; Guided visits to various institutions that showcase what was being discussed in the conference among others. Notably, visits to some of the Angola Media Libraries scattered all over the country, Museums and Special Economic zone were made. In addition, Elections of new APLESA Executive committee; Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the APLESA Executive Committee meetings were held.

In an attempt to align the discussions and presentations of the conference with the theme: Better Parliamentary Libraries, Better Parliaments and Better Societies, discussions were held along the following areas;

**(i) Information Management and its role in Legislative Process:** Presentations on documentation, information organisation, Information communication Technologies focussing on ICT set-up especially what issue to consider when setting up ICT platform, its operations and or functions, role of the Documentation and Information Division vis a vis other information Units play to improve legislation in Parliaments. This was an opportunity for participating parliaments to share experiences with others. In addition, participants from Angola were able to learn lessons to assist them in improving and strengthening their Documentation and Information Division together with the ICT.

**(ii) Parliamentary Archives and Digital Preservation and the National Library Network:** Members were introduced to the current archiving and digitization techniques and practices by the Angolan parliament. It was noted by many participants that the archival functions are being adopted in many parliaments for institutional memory and that digitization of parliamentary documents compliments the archival and library functions. Various techniques and systems in use were particularly of interest to the participants.

## RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS, CONT

### 17TH APLESA CONFERENCE, LUANDA, CONTINUED

Presentation was also made on the Media Library Network, a presidential initiative by H.E the President Eduardo dos Santos. The Media Library is the democratic space through which the intellectual property is being enjoyed by the Angolan populace. The aim of the project was to integrate ICTs to the Information Dissemination and Knowledge and to encourage the populations to use ICT based information services and products. 25 Media Libraries were set up. The project aims at covering 80% of the Angolan population. Currently, the project content is 70% digital as compared to 30% which still in physical format. Media Libraries are repositories of territorial knowledge that collect and manage not only information, but also knowledge with special emphasis on access and collection of indigenous knowledge, while providing access to exogenous knowledge.

The Media Library Network also provides for Mobile Libraries which keep moving from one region to the other spending just a month in one particular town in the region in order for the people to use the library services. The mobile libraries contain full internet connectivity and a number of publications covering a wide variety of disciplines and secured to meet the information needs of Angolans. The internet access costs are highly subsidized. In addition the Children's Libraries are also provided for. The children have a variety of activities, namely: storytelling, story books, games, leisure and playing areas. As a deterrent to those who might want to come just for playing, children are made to read a short story book and summarise for the Children's Librarian before proceeding to play.



**(iii) Reports of Country Parliamentary Libraries:** Member Parliamentary Libraries presented their report of performance during the previous year especially on development of their library services. Zambia presented a stunning report in which they indicated an innovation to extend library services to the constituencies spread all over the country. They had been doing it in a phased manner.

**(iv) Guided Tours/Visits:** These tours or visits took one full day and they aimed at showcasing what was presented at the conference hall at the Angolan parliament. Eduardo dos Santos Media Library located within Luanda was visited. The visit also targeted economic aspects including manufacturing, Tourist and Military/political sites. Among the key locations visited were Dr. Agostinho Neto memorial, Museum of the Military History and Slavery. We also visited the manufacturing of juices, bottled water and Tigma beer.

**(v) Election of the new APLESA Executive committee:**

Geraldo Cambiete/	President (Angola)
Chama Mpundu Mfula/	Vice President (Zambia)
Simon Joseph Engitu/	Secretary General (Uganda)
Zodi Pisira/	Member (Zimbabwe)
Figuereido Sengo/	Member (Mozambique)
Wilson Nkambule/	Member (Swaziland)

Others in the new committee by virtue of their positions are;  
Esther Kamau/ former President/ Ex-Officio (Kenya)  
Innocent Rugambwa/ Treasurer (Uganda)



From right: Simon Engitu, Cambiete Gerardo, Clerk of the Parliament of Angola, Chama Mfula

The 17<sup>th</sup> APLESA conference met the expectations of the member parliaments towards fulfilment of the theme of the conference hence has prepared participants to strive towards Better Parliamentary Libraries, Better Parliaments and Better societies.

A number of issues were agreed upon that require urgent attention. They are;

**Strategic Plan;** A need to rejuvenate the idea of the APLESA Strategic Plan was agreed to be top on the agenda of the new APLESA Executive committee. The APLESA Secretariat was urged to spearhead the cause.

**Revision of the APLESA Constitution;** Specific areas of the APLESA constitution especially the election Process and guidelines were also listed as of concern that needs to be addressed and that wide consultation needs to be made on these issues. The APLESA Secretariat was tasked to lead the process.

**Operational Budget;** Members unanimously resolved that expenditures of any funds should be guided by an operational budget.

**Financial Guidelines and Procedures;** It was agreed that the Executive urgently designs the financial guidelines and procedures to guide in the inflows and outflows of any funds that are acquired and spent by APLESA. It was also agreed that an operational budget be made for each financial year. The APLESA Secretariat was tasked to lead the process.

**Communication between Members:** Members agreed to be prompt in responding to and on any issues concerning APLESA.

Members learnt lessons regarding establishment of Media Libraries and that it can be possible. The need to reach out to every community was seen as a good attempt by the Angolan government through the Presidential initiative on media Libraries. The participants also appreciated the experience by the Zambian Parliament in extending library services to constituencies which was seen to be a good thing for any APLESA member parliament to emulate.

## RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS, CONT

### OPEN ACCESS TO LEGAL KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP, ABIDJAN

This past May, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire law librarians from around the world came together to assist with a workshop on open access to legal knowledge in Francophone Africa. The workshop was organized through the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), in cooperation with the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL). It was sponsored by IFLA, IALL, Cairn.info, and the Assemblée Nationale du Côte d'Ivoire.

The librarian coordinators were Heather Casey (Georgetown University), Michel Fraysse (Université Toulouse Capitole), AdamaKone (Assemblée Nationale du Côte d'Ivoire), and Sonia Poulin (Alberta Law Libraries). Over the course of several months, we worked to bring together a group of African law librarians that came from the following countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Benin, Ethiopia, and Burkina Faso. We also had participants from Switzerland and France. This workshop was our second in Africa; in December we had held a workshop in Kampala, Uganda for Anglophone African Law Librarians.

The workshop convened with an address from the Secretary General of the Assemblée Nationale of Côte d'Ivoire. He later met with Sonia, Heather, and Adama during a tour of the Assemblée Nationale after the conference had concluded. The workshop was covered by the local paper in Abidjan and some of the organizers were interviewed by the local television news station there as well.

Goals for the workshop were to empower participants to utilize open access legal sources in legal research. The workshop served as a first step in building a network of law librarians across Francophone Africa in order to share knowledge and assist each other in solving practical legal research questions. Participation provided an overview of open access legal sources worldwide, the practical skills required to benefit from them, and an opportunity to establish contact with colleagues from different countries.

One essential component of the workshop was for every participant to give a presentation. Most were 5 minutes long and organizers spoke from 15 minutes to 45 minutes on various topics with Q&A sessions afterward. Our reasons behind having every participant give a presentation were several; first, it encouraged each participant to plan for the workshop and guaranteed active participation. Second, each participant shared information on the legal research environment in their jurisdiction, which allowed for other participants to learn more about jurisdictions outside their own. It also assisted with networking, as each presentation allowed participants to better acquaint themselves with one another. Getting up in front of their peers gave each participant a chance to exercise skills in public speaking that they may not have otherwise used over the course of the two-day workshop.

The workshop also contained four breakout sessions where participants were gathered into small groups to foster discussion. After 45 minutes to an hour of discussion, the entire workshop group would come together and people from each group would relay their group's findings. Discussion would ensue.

As organizers, we wanted to ensure that participants would continue to contribute to a network for African Law Librarians. To that end, we are in the process of establishing several online forums after the workshop for participants and organizers to engage in virtual and practical collaboration with international colleagues. The forums included an email group hosted through Google Groups and a website hosted through Google Sites (where slide and paper presentations from the workshop will be uploaded).

After the workshop, Sonia Poulin and Heather Casey travelled to Ghana, Togo, and Burkina Faso. We were able to meet with participants from the workshops we had held and tour their law schools and parliaments in each jurisdiction. We were welcomed with open arms by people associated with our workshop participants and were both truly humbled and appreciative of the warm welcomes we received in our travels. We have been pleased with the success we've seen thus far from these workshops and look forward to continue growth of law librarian networks within Africa.

By Heather Casey. Int'l & Foreign Law Reference Librarian. Georgetown Law and Adama Kone. Documentation and Archives Services. National Assembly of the Ivory Coast



## RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS, CONT

### GERMAN SECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY AND GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

In 1957, at a meeting of parliamentary and government librarians during the *Bibliothekartag*, the German Library Conference, in Luebeck, the German Section of Parliamentary and Government Libraries (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Parlaments- und Behoerdenbibliotheken - APBB*) was established. This had become necessary as the problems and interests of these libraries were not seen and represented by the general academic library system. In the first decades, the Section was mainly concerned with the qualification of staff, level of payment for professional and qualified staff, discounting of booksellers, cataloging of government information and official publications and cooperation (interlibrary loan, exchange of duplicates). Furthermore, in the 1980s, the use of information technology, copyright issues and the operation of one-person libraries were discussed. The use of the Internet as a search tool, the use of Web 2.0 and the use of mashups was often the subject of articles and workshops. For 2017 continuing education courses on the subjects of "electronic journals" and "use of social media" are offered to the members.

At the German Library Conference, the central annual meeting of German librarians, the Section has continuously organised open sessions and in some years workshops on problems and topics relevant to parliamentary and government libraries. In addition, various continuing education courses were and are offered at different locations throughout Germany.

The Section has published two journals, the *Arbeitshefte* ("workbooks") with professional analyses and descriptions of library work processes and the *Mitteilungen* ("messages") containing shorter and up-to-date information. Starting in 2002, the *Mitteilungen* were only sent as electronic file. Since 2013 both publications have been merged into a new publication *APBB aktuell* ("APBB up-to-date"), which is published online in a design adapted to online publications.

In 2004, section members approved the "Leipzig Memorandum" ([http://www.apbb.de/memorandum\\_apbb%20engl.pdf](http://www.apbb.de/memorandum_apbb%20engl.pdf)), in which the need for, the importance of, and the function of parliamentary and government libraries is explained and made understandable for decision makers and the public.

Today the APBB has about 350 members, including libraries from the 16 State Parliaments and the German Bundestag, libraries from ministries in Berlin on the federal level and in the 16 States (Laender), from courts of justice, public authorities, the German armed forces and Chambers of Commerce. Most member libraries are small, with some being one-person libraries.

*By Juergen Kaestner. Library and Information Service of the State Parliament of Hesse / translated by Christine Wellems. Information Service. Parliament of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg*

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES & RESEARCH SERVICES

### THE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER OF THE BRAZILIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES—TRENDING TOPICS

The Chamber of Deputies celebrated recently five years of the Access to Information Act (Act no. 12.527 / 2011) with the launch of the Handbook of Procedures for the Treatment of Information with Restricted Access. Developed and published by the Center for Documentation and Information (Cedi), the book guides the Chamber of Deputies, in a practical way, to correctly identify the hypotheses of restriction of access provided by act, giving the information the appropriate treatment to safeguard it Access and disclosure. The manual is available for free download at the Chamber's bookstore "Livreria da Câmara" (<http://livreria.camara.leg.br/>).

The Cedi also highlights some issues related to the Access to Information Act during these five years. More than 259 thousand requests for information were received, mostly institutional issues and data on parliamentary bills. Of this total, 90% were answered within 24 hours and only 0.04% were rejected based on the mentioned act.

During this period, the institution also acquired a new CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system to facilitate the provision of responses to requests for information, bringing several improvements to users and allowing faster data collection.

In addition, The Chamber of Deputies improved the bookstore 'Livreria da Câmara' (<http://livreria.camara.leg.br/>), which, in less than 10 months of operation, sold more than 22,000 books at cost. All titles are also available in digital version for free download.

*By Janice Silveira. Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Library*

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES & RESEARCH SERVICE, CONT

### PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE OF GHANA—IDRIG CONCEPT PAPER

The Inter-Departmental Research and Information Group ('IDRIG') is a structure established within the Parliamentary Service of Ghana in 2016. As suggested by its name, the purpose of the establishment of IDRIG is to co-ordinate and manage research and information support services for the effective and efficient discharge of the constitutional mandate of the Parliament of Ghana. This brief presents a short history on the formation of IDRIG, its structural arrangement, functions and achievements.

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016, Parliament of Ghana signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) to strengthen its institutional capacity. As per the MoU, both institutions commit to training and providing platforms for sharing expertise on a peer-to-peer basis for Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Staff to enable Parliament to better serve the citizenry. An outcome of the MoU is the establishment of IDRIG as an inter-departmental structure to oversee the implementation of activities geared toward improving information support services to Members of Parliament and its relevant stakeholders in effective and efficient manner. The IDRIG, which commenced on a pilot basis in June 2016, consists of five (5) Departments, namely Research, Library, Hansard, Committees and ICT Departments. These departments hitherto, were operating in silos with a significant amount of turf protections and inter-departmental rivalry being the norm. This led to duplication and triplication of information storage systems and a lack of clarity on the roles of the departments among their primary clients – the Members of Parliament.

The structure of IDRIG has three levels – Top Level: governing committee, officially referred to as the 'Coordinating Committee'; Middle Level: Technical working committee known as the 'Technical Team'; and Lower Level: Departmental Committees referred to as 'Departmental Sub-Committees'.

**Coordinating Committee:** It is the highest decision-making Committee comprising Heads of the Departments that formed IDRIG. It coordinates and oversees the implementation of projects activities which are aimed at ensuring research and information flow within the Parliament of Ghana. It reviews and approves the outputs of the Technical Team. It also interfaces with the major sponsor, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, to ensure their funding objectives are in tandem with that of the Parliamentary Service.

**Technical Team:** It comprises Representatives from each Department. The Representatives are responsible of concept development and implementation following approval by the Coordinating Committee. It also coordinates and collates views and ideas on proposed plans of their respective Department Committees to feed the development of concepts on Projects of IDRIG.

The Technical Team is led by a **Coordinator** who also serves secretary to the Coordinating Committee and by extension acts as a liaison between the technical committee and the governing committee. The Coordinator manages the operations of IDRIG with the support of the Chairperson of IDRIG; programming of meetings and logistics.

**Departmental Sub-Committees:** These are sub-committees of the IDRIG in the respective Departments for drafting department proposals containing inputs and contributions for the implementation of approved programmes and projects. The usually consist of at least five staff of each department.

The current programmes which are being run by IDRIG are captured under two broad areas; namely information flow enhancement programmes and capacity building.

#### (a) Information Flow Enhancement Programmes

**Induction Exhibition:** This is an annual activity designed to introduce new Members of Parliament to the variety of research products and information support services available to them. The first of its kind was held at the lobby of the Chamber of Parliament from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2017. Pictures on the Exhibition are shown below. The new Members were very impressed. Most of them remarked that it was the first time they were being exposed to all the research and information support products and services available to them in the house of legislature.



The IDRIG Exhibition of Products and Services in February 2017

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES & RESEARCH SERVICE, CONT

### PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE OF GHANA—IDRIG CONCEPT PAPER, CONTINUED

*Research and Information Week:* This is an annual activity designed to enhance the knowledge of Members of Parliament and the General Public on the variety of research products and information support services. The week is observed with Exhibition and Seminar Series on topical issues.

#### *(b) Capacity Building Programmes*

This focuses on enhancing the technical knowledge of Officers in the discharge of their duties, knowledge in best practiced information dissemination within parliamentary environment. Periodic meetings, technical training sessions, seminars, research studies, training of trainers sessions, working retreats and quiz competitions are some of the activities organised to strengthen the knowledge of officers in the provision of information services as well as improve upon their team building capabilities.



The IDRIG Planning Retreat

Funding for the activities are largely from Departmental Budgets approved for the financial year and significant supported by WFD.

The institutionalisation of IDRIG has led to the following:

- Improvement in the coordination and harmonisation of work plans of the various Departments whose mandate borders on research and information services delivery;
- Realignment of departments such as Committee's Department which hitherto have not been part of the Legislative Management Division, the Division of the Parliamentary Service charged with research and information services delivery;
- Pooling of resources from the various Departments to fund bigger projects.
- Practicing of complementary relationships among the cognate departments in the provision of evidence-based information support to the MPs.

IDRIG main challenge is getting timely approval for holding its activities. The Council of the Heads of Departments have agreed to invite the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to its meetings on major projects early enough to engender early ownership at the Management of Parliamentary Service level.

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