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1. MESSAGE FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am sure that many of you are now beginning to think more about the next time we will gather together in Sweden. It was very rewarding putting together the programme for two of the days that we will be in Stockholm and arranging the session for the main IFLA conference in Gothenburg. We had many submissions to give papers in both Stockholm and Gothenburg, so we will hear from parliaments from all around the world. We are also thinking about how to ensure that there is plenty of time for discussion and questions to help us all to understand what we hear and think about what is useful to apply in our parliaments once we are home again.

We have a mix of sessions that look ahead to the future and how parliaments might develop in the future and what that is likely to mean for libraries. And there are some sessions which will be more focussed upon assisting colleagues to solve the practical problems they face every day. We are trying a new idea - poster sessions. This will allow participants who wish to tell us about their library service, or some aspect of their library service, to prepare a poster to take to Stockholm. The posters will be displayed in the area where we have coffee breaks, so that we can all take some time to learn about what other libraries are doing. At some point in the programme, we have set aside time so that the poster owners can talk about their posters.

On Monday afternoon we are planning a session where we can talk about the way the IFLA section works together in the future, and our relationship with other regional groups of parliamentary libraries. Also we can discuss the way we work together and cooperate with other organisations who share an interest with us in working to benefit the parliaments of the world such as the IPU and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament.

The plan is to have something for everyone, whether you are from a large or a small parliamentary library or research service, one with the latest technology innovations or a library that is mostly a collection of books. The work of the IFLA section has changed a lot over the years that I have been attending the IFLA conferences as the range of countries who send delegates has widened. This makes our section feel truly global, but it also means that our needs are very diverse, so it is a challenge to put together a programme that will appeal to everyone.

I look forward to seeing many of you in person in Sweden in a few weeks time.

Moira Fraser
Chair, IFLA Section of Library and Research Services for Parliaments.

2. SECTION INFORMATION

The IFLA Section on **Library and Research Services for Parliaments** aims to increase the effectiveness of parliamentary libraries and research services and promote transparency and openness in management and delivery of information in and by parliaments. It builds on activities aimed at sharing knowledge and experiences, promoting standards and best practices, in order to provide a basis for professional growth in the specific field of parliamentary librarianship.

It presently counts aroun 110 members from more than 50 countries.

The official webpage of the IFLA Section is at the http://www.ifla.org/en/services-for-parliaments

A membership directory is available on the IFLA website at http://www.ifla.org/en/ifla-directory

How to join the Section

a) **If you already are an IFLA member,** but not a Section member, please refer to the Section membership application page at http://archive.ifla.org/III/members/form2a.htm.

b) **If you are NOT an IFLA member** you have to become an IFLA member before joining any Section. To join IFLA you need to:
- Select the right category of membership and affiliation at http://www.ifla.org/membership/categories
- Identify the appropriate registration fee, where applicable, at http://www.ifla.org/en/membership/costs
- Apply for membership http://www.ifla.org/membership/new-members.

Note that **Institutional members are entitled, once they join IFLA, to register for two sections free of charge** (and are automatically entitled to be registered in the appropriate regional activities section). They may join as many Sections as desired but only two are free of charge.

Please contact the IFLA Headquarters and the membership team for further information:
http://www.ifla.org/en/membership/contact

Mailing List

The Section of Library and Research Services for Parliaments has a discussion list, IFLAPARL2, open to members as well as to people interested in the work of the Section. To receive emails distributed through this list you must subscribe. Submissions to the list must be sent to: iflaparl2@infoserv.inist.fr
Any further information or help for subscription should be requested to the Information Coordinator of the Section, and administrator of the list, Stelina Maria Pinha: stelina@senado.gov.br

3. HIGHLIGHTS

The World e-Parliament Report 2010

The United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union just released the *World e-Parliament Report 2010*. The Report, prepared by the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, intends to help legislatures to harness the potential benefits of ICT for their work and establish key goals and priorities for exploiting this valuable resource. While providing evidence of the complexities of e-parliament, the Report suggests ways to overcome some of the obstacles to the effective use of technology in parliamentary settings. The findings presented in the *World e-Parliament Report 2010* are based on the results of the Global Survey of ICT in Parliaments conducted by the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament between July and November 2009, to which 134 parliamentary assemblies responded.

The rapid growth of information and communication technologies (ICT) is changing not only the economic, social and political landscape around the world, but also the environment within which parliaments operate, and it affects how they are perceived by the citizenry. In both developed and developing countries, parliaments are exploring ways to use technology to strengthen democracy and encourage political participation.

In 2008, the first edition of the World e-Parliament Report established a baseline of how parliaments were using ICT to help them fulfil their responsibilities and to connect to their constituencies. The *World e-Parliament Report 2010* builds on that groundbreaking work and evaluates the progress accomplished by parliaments during the intervening two years in their efforts to use modern technologies to strengthen their institutional role. The 2010 Report further provides a methodology that can serve as a tool for parliaments to improve their performance in key areas of e-Parliament.

The cruciality of managing information effectively to support the work of the parliament, the opportunities and challenges that ICT tools offer to achieve this result, and the role that **parliamentary library and research services** can play in leveraging tecnologies to the benefit of the institution they serve, are widely adressed in chapter 6 of the *Report*.
Based on the results of the survey, the *Report* provides an overview of how ICT supports parliamentary library and research services around the world, which services do they provide, in which activities are they engaged within the parliament.

The work undertaken by the **IFLA parliamentary Section** in making its members aware of the opportunities offered by applying technologies in the library context, and the need for a stronger committment in this area, is adressed in chapter 9 of the Report, focusing on Cooperation and Collaboration in the parliamentary context. The chapter stresses the importance of parliament-to-parliament exchanges, analyses the extent and modalities of participation in parliamentary

networks, pointing out the progress made by existing networks as well as the concern that a considerable number of parliaments still do not have current exchanges with peers.

The *World e-Parliament Report 2010* is also available for download, in English and French, at www.ictparliament.org

4. THE NEXT ANNUAL IFLA SECTION PRE-CONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE 2010

The 26th IFLA Pre-Conference on Library and Research Services for Parliaments: "Open Access to Parliamentary Knowledge - promoting sustainable progress"
Stockholm, Swedish Parliament, 6-9 August 2010

As we all know last year IFLA decided to move the 2010 World Library and Information Congress to Gothenburg, Sweden. Following this change, the Swedish Parliament has generously accepted to host the Section satellite meeting.

The Chair of our Section, Moira Fraser, supported by the Section Standing Committee, and the Swedish parliamentary Library, under the guidance of the Director, Gunilla Lilie Bauer, have developed a rich and interesting programme for the pre-conference.

Message from Gunilla Lilie Bauer, Director of the Library of the Swedish Parliament

"Dear colleagues,
There is still time to register to this year's pre conference of IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section at the Swedish Riksdag in Stockholm.

Information about the conference can be found on the website:
www.riksdagen.se/preifla10

The final version of the program will be available in a couple of weeks

For further information, please contact us at preifla10@riksdagen.se
Looking forward to meeting you all in 6 – 9th of August 2010.
Very welcome to Stockholm!"

Gunilla Lilie Bauer, Library Director, the Library of the Swedish Parliament

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You may also check for information on the IFLA web site at http://www.ifla.org/en/ifla76/satellite-meetings

The 76th IFLA World Library and Information Congress
Gothenburg, Sweden, 10-15 August 2010

The chosen theme for the general conference is *Open access to knowledge - promoting sustainable progress*. The general conference is the occasion to meet librarians from all kind of libraries and to enrich knowledge and professional development in a wide range of fields related to librarianship.

During the conference days in Gothenburg the parliamentary Section will run an **Open Session** with a focus on the theme "Libraries providing access to knowledge that supports democracy". **The Session will take place on 14 August from 13:45 to 15:45 in Room F1-2.**

The **Standing Committee meetings** will take place as follows:

- SCI : Tuesday 10 August, 14:30-17:20 (room to be confirmed, between G1, G2, G4, F3)

- SC II : Friday 13 August, 15:00-16:30 (room G1)

We encourage Section members and people involved in our work to ask to participate to the meetings as observers!

In order to allow all participants who will attend the conference to attend all the desired sessions in Gothenburg, the SC has decided not to hold the Management Workshop day during the conference week in Gothenburg. Workshop time is planned during the pre-conference in Stockhm.

Please stay informed through the Conference website at: http://www.ifla.org/en/ifla76

> *"Iain Watt sends his greetings to all IFLA colleagues and is sorry that he will miss seeing them in Sweden. Iain has asked for leave from the parliament to take up a position in Kuwait from 1 August. The duration of this leave is 6 months in the first instance."*
>
> *Good luck to Iain for this new experience from all of us, and we look forward to have news from you soon!*

5. PAST GLOBAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS 2009-2010

The World e-Parliament Conference 2009: The Report is now published
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC, 3-5 November 2009

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the U.S. House of Representatives and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament recently published the *Report of the World e-Parliament Conference 2009* held in Washington D.C. in November 2009.

The World e-Parliament Conference 2009 took place at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., on 3, 4 and 5 November 2009. The conference, co-organized by the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the U.S. House of Representatives and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, brought together over 90 delegations from legislatures around the world.

The event provided a platform to exchange views on the latest trends and different modalities of implementation of new technologies in legislatures with a view to identify good practices in the areas of representation, transparency, accountability, openness, and effectiveness.

The Chair of the Section as well as other Section members were invited to deliver presentations regarding the Section history and activity, as well as research and information management in the parliamentary context.

The *Report* summarizes the presentations and practices showcased during the different sessions of the conference and highlights the main points of discussion.

The **Report** is available for download in English and French on the website of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament at http://www.ictparliament.org/wepc2009/documentation/reportWePC%202009.pdf

The Conference **program and presentations** are available at http://www.ictparliament.org/wepc2009/presentations.htm

Videos of all sessions are available on the conference website at http://www.ictparliament.org/index.php/videos/viewcategory/17/world-e-parliament-conference-2009

Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network: Conference on Open and Learning Parliaments
Pan African Parliament, Midrand, South Africa, 9-20 April 2010
Contribution by Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan

The APKN Conference held in Midrand mid April 2010 saw the participation of over 150 Members of the Pan African Parliament and over 40 Clerks and Secretaries General from parliaments across Africa. Speaking at the official opening of the APKN Conference hosted by the Pan African Parliament, the PAP President Hon. Dr. **Idriss Ndélé Moussa e**mphasized

the need for better collaboration and parliamentary cooperation to ensure that the people of Africa are well represented in their socio-political and economic spheres of life.

The APKN Conference on Open and Learning Parliaments, gave parliaments the opportunity to discuss some of the key issues affecting parliaments in Africa today. African Parliaments were urged to take advantage of mechanisms in place to foster collaboration and inter parliamentary cooperation.

One of the critical messages coming from the conference is that inter-parliamentary cooperation at regional level is highly valuable and potentially the most sustainable and effective way for legislatures to strengthen their capacity and further dialogue amongst themselves regardless of each country's development path and economic and social environment. The importance of the APKN in building the capacities and providing common information services to African parliaments was thus clearly appreciated and especially so with the realisation that many of the capacity gaps that exist are similar and can be addressed through a common approach.

Participants at the conference could appreciate how ICT can serve the purposes of APKN and how much parliaments can achieve by using technologies to acquire skills and exchange information and experiences to strengthen their representative, oversight and legislative responsibilities. In particular, the Conference addressed three issues of relevance in today's complex parliamentary environment:

- **Strategic Planning**: Parliaments in order to be able to deal effectively with the challenging citizens request and evolving technologies need to engage in broader institutional development plans through a strategic planning process. In this regard participants were appreciative of the fact that UNDESA is developing Guidelines for Strategic Planning in Parliaments as this will be a useful tool for all parliaments in Africa;

- **Importance of making available legislation on line for free**: Making legislation accessible on line for free can go a long way in supporting the rule of law and citizens' rights to legal knowledge. In this regard the conference commended the work of Kenya Law Reports and AFRLII (Africa Legal Information Institute)and proposed that an initiative be established to promote access to legal information and assistance to the deployment of tools required to build and support digital legal collections for Africa;

- **Open Source Information Systems and Open Standards:** Using open source systems and open standards for managing parliamentary documents is a sustainable way of ensuring that parliamentary information is accessible and preserved. To this end parliaments were encouraged to test and implement the Bungeni Parliamentary Information System and adopt Akoma Ntoso standards for parliamentary documents

The Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan, a project of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, and other development partners present, namely the Africa Capacity Building Foundation, UN Economic Commission for Africa, International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, reiterated their continued support for the APKN and were tasked by the APKN Executive Committee to explore a coordinated approach to building and resourcing a sustainable programme for the Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network with development partners and other parliamentary centric networks.

The Africa i-Parliament Action Plan initiative is also supporting the **APKN Federated Parliamentary Library**, a collaborative built, jointly owned, centrally managed collection of library resources of Parliaments of Africa. The library catalogues of the different member parliaments over Africa will be accessed from the APKN Library Portal, by searching a single catalogue or simultaneously the catalogues of all the participating libraries.

APKN portal: http://www.apkn.org/
APKN Federated Parliamentary Library: http://fpl.apkn.org/

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IFLA Parliamentary Library and Research Section Members participate in E-governance Days in Ukraine

Kiev, Ukraine, 28-30 April 2010
Contribution by Ellie Valentine, Director, Parliamentary Development Project of Ukraine II

At the invitation of the Parliamentary Development Project for Ukraine, colleagues from the parliaments of Greece, Latvia and the Czech Republic actively participated in a three-day series of meetings in Ukraine devoted to discussing e-governance and e-Democracy at the National Academy for Public Administration, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Participants of these meetings discussed the principles of E-Parliament and E-Government and E-Democracy in Ukraine and in Europe.

The Head of the Global Centre for ICT for Parliament Gherardo Casini shared the summary report of the World e-Parliament Conference held in Washington DC in November 2009 as well as the preliminary findings of a survey of 134 legislatures throughout the world. The Latvian Saeima's Head of IT Anita Dudina noted that there are two faces of IT in parliaments and shared the Latvian experience in meeting the needs of both the public and the organization in creating, storing and disseminating information on the work of parliament. Eleni Droulia of the Greek Parliament, referred to in Greece as the Voulia (The Will of the People), emphasized the importance of the preservation of parliamentary documentation for the current work of parliament as well as a historical record of a democratic nation. She noted that it is important to consider long-term preservation of documentation born digital as current electronic records are extremely fragile and potentially unstable in terms of preservation. Karel Sosna, the Director of the Czech Parliamentary Library, noted that special projects in developing digital parliamentary records can serve to emphasize the role of parliament in society and can serve to help the nation understand the role that parliament plays, in law-making, but also in ensuring both a national heritage and a contemporary dialog. Merab Gostridze, a guest of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy from the Georgian Parliament, shared what steps had been taken and challenges met in his parliament in recent years as it moves closer to an establishing an e-parliament.

In a series of presentations in sessions at the National Academy for Public Administration and in the parliament chamber and committee premises, Oleksiy Sydorenko, Head of ICT Division for the Ukrainian parliament and his team presented "The Draft Strategy for introducing an E-parliament in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine" for discussion by Ukrainian and invited international guests.

The papers and presentations of the E-Parliament and E-Democracy section at the Thi Annual E-Governance Conference organized by the National Academy for Pub Administration were organized by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine with PDP II and a available on the PDP II website. www.iupdp.org

Presentations by Dudina, Droulia and Gostridze at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine E-Governance Day Roundtable on April 29 also emphasized the need to highlight integrity, transparency, and representation in governance.

On April 30 Anita Dudina and Eleni Droulia traveled to Simferopol with Ellie Valentine, PDP II Director in Ukraine, where they engaged the senior staff of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in dialog on what the strategy might be for the VR ARC to increase its accessibility and outreach through the use of E-governance tools. Four VR ARC staff who participated in the Kyiv meetings shared their impressions after presentations by Latvian and Greek colleagues. The strategy set out will include both improvements to document management and a review of the IT existing systems and its use in the VR ARC and by the public

A summary of the week's focus on "E-Governance" and "E-Democracy" was that, above all else, what is important is "Governance" and "Democracy." Good Governance and Democracy requires an informed and engaged citizenry and a civil service dedicated to serving the public. The "E" is simply a tool or set of tools which, like any other tool, will come into use as technology advances. Discussions during the three days of E-governance meetings in Ukraine revealed that the question is not "whether E-democracy" but rather what needs to be done to embrace these tools and use them effectively in order to meet the demands of democracy and good governance.

ECPRD Seminar on "Services Provided to the General Public by Parliamentary Libraries and Archives"
Athens, Greece, 28-29 May 2010
Contribution by Eleni Droulia, Head of Special Programs for the Hellenic Parliamentary Library

Within the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) seminars' tradition, people engaged in Parliamentary Libraries and Archives came to Athens in May 28th and 29th 2010. The topic announced to be explored was "Services Provided to the General Public by Parliamentary Libraries and Archives"; a theme that seems to be often under discussion. Ought Parliamentary Libraries and Archives be accessible to others besides parliamentarians, why, how and at which level of openness? The very unfortunate misunderstanding was that some thought that the theme

concerned only the Parliamentary Libraries and Archives that are at a certain degree open to the general public while it examined all aspects, even the closed ones.

Forty participants coming from thirty countries attended the Seminar. The first day was designed to introduce and familiarize the participants with the Greek environment, the human resources, the locations, the way services are organized and how resources are made available. At this point, it is worthwhile to mention that it was the first ECPRD Seminar undertaken by the Hellenic Parliamentary Library and Archives.

The second day included presentations of the libraries and archives of the French Assembly and Senate, the Croatian Parliament, the Spanish Congress of Deputies, the Italian Joint Parliamentary Library, the Turkish Grand National Assembly and the Parliamentary Archive of the Slovakian Parliament. The programme included three workshops addressing parliamentary libraries and archives at various stages and levels of openness. The participants but also other parliamentary libraries through the ECPRD site were asked to complete a relevant questionnaire; the results of this questionnaire will soon be processed and distributed and announced on the ECPRD site.

The Seminar provided guided tours of the Parliamentary Building, the Works of Art Collection and later in the evening the New Acropolis Museum.

The programme, the presentations and the family picture and other material are accessible on the Intranet of the ECPRD website www.ecprd.org

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The coordinator and contact person for the "ECPRD Area of interest of Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives" (LRA) is our colleague Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz, Head of the Parliamentary Library of Austria (Elisabeth.Dietrich-Schulz@parlament.gv.at)

Message from Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz, ECPRD Coordinator LRA, Vienna
I take this opportunity to thank the Greek colleagues for hosting the seminar "Services Provided to the General Public by Parliamentary Libraries and Archives" and name especially its Director, Mrs. Evridiki Abadji, and the organizer and soul of the event, Mrs. Eleni Droulia, who both motivated the whole Greek library team to welcome us and create a win-win-situation of mutual learning, listening and discussing. My thanks go to the Greek ECPRD correspondent George Sotirelis and his deputy Stavroula Vassilouni, who played active roles. As always the success starts with active participants, excellent lectures, impressive power point-presentations and preparations, dynamic workshop leaders and good rapporteurs. The idea of a panel with library and archive users was not only new, but excellent and refreshing.
Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz, ECPRD Coordinator LRA, Vienna

6. FUTURE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS 2010-2011

The World e-Parliament Conference 2010
Midrand, South Africa, 21-22 October 2010

The **Global Centre for ICT in Parliament** is pleased to announce that the 2010 edition of the World e-Parliament Conference will be hosted by the Parliament of South Africa in cooperation with the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, on 21-22 October 2010.

The Conference is the annual forum of the community of parliaments addressing, from both the policy and technical perspectives, how the use of information and communication technology can help improve representation, transparency, accountability, openness, and effectiveness in the complex parliamentary environment.
More details will be available on the website of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament at: http://www.ictparliament.org/

International conference for promoting legal information service to the parliament
Seoul, Korea, 6-10 September, 2010

Invitation message from the Korean National Assembly Library

The National Assembly Library of the Republic of Korea will host the 17th Annual Global Legal Information Network (GLIN) Directors' Meeting in conjunction with International Legal Information Conference under the theme of "The Future of Legal Information Service: Promoting the Global Open Access" from September 6 to 10, 2010.

The annual GLIN meeting has been held every year to reinforce the global network which includes over 32 nations since 1994 and this year is the first that has ever been held in the place other than the Law Library of Congress in the US. The events will include formal presentations by guest speakers, presentations on legal information service activities of respective countries and implementing new services, legal experts' lectures, and a plenary session.

The official website for the event is http://www.glin2010.go.kr, for further details of the events, please contact Anna Lee, International Affairs Officer at email (anna@nanet.go.kr) or phone (+82 2 788 4143).

We look forward to seeing you in Seoul where global legal information experts gather together and exchange information about legal information service and explore the ways of cooperation.

The Asia-Pacific Forum for Parliamentary Research Services (APFPRS)
Seoul, Korea, 24-27 November 2010

Invitation message from the Korean National Assembly Research Service

The Asia-Pacific Forum for Parliamentary Research Services (APFPRS) scheduled to be held at Lotte Hotel in Seoul, on 24-27 November, 2010. The Forum is organized by the National Assembly Research Service, or NARS, of the Republic of Korea to provide a venue for discussions on building a cooperative network among parliamentary research services in the Asia Pacific.
Participants will be the delegates from parliamentary research services in Asia-Pacific countries and guests from the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD). ECPRD offers a good example of a network for inter-parliamentary cooperation and information exchange.
The Forum program includes visits to the Korean National Assembly, historic sites, cultural attractions and industrial sites. NARS will provide accommodations and meals for 2 delegates per country for 4 days and 3 nights.
Registration form and further information will be posted on the APFPRS Website, and the website is under construction. If there is any question, feel free to contact to
E-mail: sywon@nars.go.kr
Tel: 82-2-788-4722, Fax: 82-2-788-4729.

"Fundamental to democracy: parliamentary research and library services".
Canberra, Australia, 1-4 March 2011

Message from Roxanne Missingham, Librarian of the Parliament of Australia

An International symposium and training event will be run in Australia supported by the IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section, Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) at the Australian National University, APLA and hopefully the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Global Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament. The event will take place in Canberra, Australia, from 1 to 4 March 2011.

More information, including the call for papers for the event, is now available on the website
http://symposium2011.aph.gov.au/

7. PROFILES, INITIATIVES AND NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICES

<u>AFRICA</u>

Library of Egyptian Parliament
Contribution by Heba Farouk Head of International Documents Department

The Egyptian parliamentary library is working on developing new tools and ways of work. We are taking many progressive steps to transfer all parliamentary documents into electronic form. Now we are taking over a great project "THE ELECTRONIC ARCHIVE".

This project could be one of the most important national project for the library as we are going to scan around one million page from the minutes and records of parliamentary sessions from 1866 till now, which means all the Egyptian Parliamentary life. This project includes many of hand script records.

Beside this we have the newspaper electronic archive, as part of the same project, to accomplish the analysis process for all Egyptian and Arab newspapers.

One of our activities is publishing every 15 days the CURRENT AWARENESS of recent library acquisitions, to be distributed to parliamentary members and staff.

Restructuring the Research Department of the Parliament of Ghana for efficient delivery of services
Contribution by Kwesi N. Eshun (Director, PRD, Parliament of Ghana)

The Parliamentary Research Department (PRD) is the epicentre or rather the hub for the constant search for intellectual as well as scientific knowledge which go to feed the Speakership, the Leadership and Management Staff of Parliament, Development Partners and the general public in their quest for knowledgeable information. The PRD therefore sustains the Parliamentary Institution with basically academic work, inter alia, founded on both theoretical or speculative knowledge and scientific or empirical data.

The Research Department therefore, responds to requests from the Speakers, Parliamentarians, Parliamentary Staff and other government officials on issues of variety of disciplines.

The vision of the PRD is of becoming a national and international centre of excellence in legislative research.
The PRD aspires to a leadership role for developing an innovative research agenda, strong relationships within the legislative research environment and for providing high quality information in furtherance of the legislation process, policy and practice in Ghana.

The *a posteriori* or the scientific method employed in our research endeavours take cognizance of application of modern scientific tools to arrive at the requisite empirical data that is the necessary bare facts which reflect social reality, for PRD to attain world class standard.

The new structure of the Research Department to accomplish the task so as to achieve the vision stated above comprises the following Units:
1. Finance and Economics,
2. Socio-cultural,
3. Legal and Governance, and
4. Environment, Science and Technology

Finance and Economics,
The finance and economics desk is headed by a professional finance expert and economist by training and practice. This desk responds to requests related to economic growth, inflation, exchange rates, budgeting and budget analysis. The desk is made of three additional research officers who are also specialist in economic policy management. Over the years this desk has received a lot of requests in view of the fact that, many political issues in the country hovers around the economy

Socio-cultural,

The socio-cultural desk is headed by an experienced social scientist with speciality in development studies. He is assisted by other research officers who are sociologist and political scientist. The desk responds to request related to cultural, gender and children, health and other social issues.

Legal and Governance

The desk is currently headed by a governance expert, and assisted by research officers with political science background. The desk responds to request from stakeholders in the area of good governance, legal and legislative drafting and analysis.

Environment, Science and Technology

This desk receives request relating to environmental management and planning, urban sanitation problems, degradation of the forest, land degradation and climate change. It is headed by an environmental scientist and assisted by a research assistant with specialisation in water resource and environmental management.

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ASIA-PACIFIC

Australian Parliament
Contribution by Roxanne Missingham, Librarian of the Parliament of Australia

Parliament of Australia adopts Creative Commons.

The Parliament of Australia is committed to open access to the resources it publishes to support a vibrant democracy. Recognising the important of ensuring access to its resources published on the website the parliament has approved publication under a Creative Commons 3.0 Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs license instead of copyright protection. Full implementation will occur when the new web site is released in late 2010. Until then a notice appears of the copyright page advising of this change.

The Parliament web site is the **first in Australia** to implement the 3.0 license. For more information about creative Commons licenses see http://creativecommons.org.au/licences

Hansard digitisation.

Access to the record of the Parliament is vital for community awareness and engagement with the Parliament. Digitising Hansards will enable the community to access parliamentary materials regardless of time or location and Senators and Members to access additional documents for their parliamentary work. Easy and immediate online access to the digitised collections will be provided. The currently digitised Hansards are a widely used resource, nationally and internationally. Only Hansards from 1981 have been available for the Parliament of Australia until the commencement of the digitisation project.

By 21 May 2010 the following had occurred:
   (a) All Hansard volumes have been sourced and prepared, exhausting and intensive work including marking every separate day' and chamber's Hansard records, disbanding and adding barcode identifier sheets. Only 4 volumes will be rebound (including Hansard no. 1) as surplus copies could not be located;
   (b) PDF's of 1953-1980 volumes have been created and are in the test system (comprising 255,579 content pages and 8,592 index pages. A total of 264,141 pages.); and
   (c) XML test file received.

In June the 1901 to 1953 PDF's will be completed. PDF's and full web marked up versions (XML) of 1953 to 1980 Hansards will be put into production. Over the following month the documents from 1901 to 1953 will be published on the production site in PDF and web mark up form. You will be able to see the Hansards from ParlInfo Search at http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/

Magna Carta

The Australian Senate has published a marvellous booklet on the Magna Carta owned by the Australian Parliament.

The Procedure Office has published this booklet chronicling the story behind the creation of Australia's Magna Carta, the mystery of its appearance in 1936 in a Somerset school and the machinations leading to its purchase by the Australian government in 1952 for £12,500. Also included in the volume is the account of the ground-breaking preservation work carried out on the manuscript by scientists of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and a full translation of the Latin text.
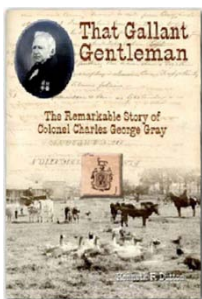
It is available now from the Senate Procedure Office (email research.sen@aph.gov.au) or the Parliament House shop for $5.00 (32 pp.; paperback).

Queensland Parliament
Contribution by Mary Seefried, Queensland Parliamentary Librarian

2010 is the sesquicentenary year of the Queensland Parliament. A week of special celebrations was held from 18 May and culminating in an Open Day for the public on Saturday 23 May.

On 18 May the Library celebrated its birthday by the launch by Speaker John Mickel MP of the biography *That Gallant Gentlemen* which is about the first Parliamentary Librarian (and Usher of the Black Rod), Colonel Charles Gray. He was a veteran of the Peninsula Wars and also fought at Waterloo, so was an ideal person to fill these two roles. The biography revealed a man who was indeed well educated and a lover of libraries. The 1000 pounds (A$100,000) he obtained through the Library Committee commenced the collections supporting the work of the Queensland Parliament. He also initiated the exchange arrangements with other parliaments.

The book can be purchased at http://www.outbackbooks.com/. A most entertaining Youtube clip is available about the author's detective hunt for the story of Colonel Gray at http://uoncc.wordpress.com/2009/07/29/that-gallant-gentleman-emeritus-professor-duttons-new-book/

The descendants of Colonel Gray donated their original photo portrait Colonel Gray which is now proudly in the possession of the Library.

The Library also published a commemorative brochure with a timeline of key events since 1860.

For the Parliament as a whole the Library produced two image/text displays, one on the Members of the First parliament, the second on the Parliament House Building as a symbol of democracy since 1860. Both will be shown on a large plasma television screen in the Foyer of Parliament House throughout 2010.

A very successful Open Day was held by the Parliament on 22 May 2010, the anniversary of the first sitting day of the Queensland parliament. Nearly 2500 public visited and over 1000 visited the heritage O'Donovan Library!

Hansard digitisation.
Another sesquicentenary project has been the digitisation of the Queensland Parliamentary Debates. From 1860-1863, proceedings in the Queensland Parliament were only recorded as third party reports in the major newspaper of the day – the *Moreton Bay Courier*. As the original newspapers were very fragile and the microfilm was not of a high quality, the Parliamentary Reporting staff agreed to rekey the reports form the original newspaper text. The first year, 1860, has been completed and by the end of this year 1861-63 should also be up on the parliament's website. ISYS software is being used for the search engine.
http://parlinfo.parliament.qld.gov.au/IsysHanSimpHis.htm

From 1864, Hansard was produced as a Parliamentary publication by the Parliamentary Reporting staff. Currently the parliament's website has digital Hansard from 1990.
http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/legislativeAssembly/hansard.asp?SubArea=searchBrowse

To start to fill the large gap between 1864 -1989, the period 1981-1983 is being scanned and OCRed through a joint project with University of Queensland. It is planned that 1981 -1989 will be completed by the end of 2010 and on the parliament's website.

This is obviously a long term project and the next step is to start to digitise by scanning the hard copy from 1864.

Digital Library Services of the National Diet Library of Japan
Contribution by Junko Hirose, Director, Overseas Legislative Information Division, Research Bureau, National Diet library, Japan. IflaParl Corresponding Member.

The National Diet Library (NDL) is the parliamentary library and at the same time the national library of Japan. The two functions work together to provide superior services. The huge library collection built by the legal deposit system underlies research and information services for the Diet (parliament). The recent Digital Library programs promoted by the NDL will benefit both members of parliament and the general public.
Digitization of collections
The NDL has digitized 156,000 volumes of books published in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Last year we obtained a supplementary budget of 12.7 billion yen (140 million US dollars add euros) which will enable us to digitize more than 620,000 volumes of books and 130,000 volumes of periodicals before the end of FY 2010. Among the materials to be digitized, some will be provided via the Internet after copyright clearance, and others will be provided within the library buildings.
Databases of Diet Information
The NDL has completed the digitization of all minutes of the Diet (both plenary sessions and committee meetings) from its beginning (1890) to the present. The minutes after WWII are provided as full-text databases and the minutes before WWII are provided in digital images. We have also developed the Index to Japanese Laws and Regulations. The database provides an index of all laws of Japan, both in force and abolished, and bills introduced in the Diet. The index itself links to the Minutes of the Diet database of the NDL and text databases of laws, treaties and bills maintained by governmental agencies.
The Internet archive
The NDL has been collecting, archiving and providing websites on permission basis since 2002. In July 2009, the National Diet Library Law was amended to enable the NDL to collect the websites of Japanese governmental agencies, including national universities, and local governments. (The amendment came into force in April 2010.) The new provision ensures permanent access to such resources by the Diet. The NDL is now studying a legal deposit system for online materials published in Japan.

EUROPE

Comprehensive overhaul of the Irish parliamentary library's collections
Contribution by Madelaine Dennison, Head of Library and Research Services, Houses of the Oireachtas, Ireland

Introduction
The Library & Research Service (L&RS) in the Houses of the Oireachtas (Irish parliament) recently completed a comprehensive overhaul of its collections. This was the first such review and reorganisation since the library was established in 1924. The three elements of this collections project were:
1. Selection and implementation of a new collection management system (Liberty) together with a digital repository (ArchivalWare).
2. Cleaning, cataloguing and digitisation of appropriate elements of the historical collections.
3. Identification and implementation of a storage solution to meet the Library & Research Service's needs for the medium-long term.

Project summary
➢ The three projects commenced between mid-March and July 2009. They were substantially completed by 31 December 2009. The digitisation project was completed by 31 March 2010.
➢ Seven specialist companies (plus the government department responsible for property management and their contractors) completed the three inter-related projects.

- 69,695 bibliographic records from the legacy collection management system were updated and imported into Liberty.
- 23 archivists/cataloguers worked on-site. One conservator worked off-site.
- 129,302 books, bound volumes and documents were individually assessed. Of these 49,610 were catalogued to professional standards.
- 100,000+ publications were cleaned and boxed in archival quality storage and moved from the various legacy locations to the new upgraded storage.
- 3.2 million page scans for 71,851 objects amounting to some 200 terabytes (TB) of offline data were produced. These master scans were converted into PDF-A, JPEG, MIX, and OCR TXT files and are held in the L&RS digital repository (ArchivalWare). These online digital objects are held in 2.5 TB of storage space.

Benefits

The collections have been transformed. This is important given their potential research value. The benefits of the collections project include

- Members, other users and L&RS staff have a single point of access (Liberty) for print and electronic resources. There are standardised catalogue entries for all holdings regardless of type or origin.
- Members, other users and L&RS staff have online desktop access (via Liberty/ArchivalWare) to approximately 70,000 Documents Laid before the Houses (deposited papers ranging from 1922-2009).
- L&RS staff can retrieve materials more quickly for Members and other users (because they now have accurate catalogue records, shelf plans and a single storage area).
- The Houses of the Oireachtas Service (the parliamentary administration) can have confidence in the condition, custody and preservation of the parliamentary library's collections. The potential risk to these collections from natural/man-made disasters has been minimised.
- The L&RS digital collections will integrate with future internal and external information management initiatives.

Next steps

The Library & Research Service's strategic plan 2010-2012 outlines the priorities for the development of the collections as follows:

- Fully utilise the functionality of Liberty, the collection management system. Develop integrated web 2.0 and other services with Liberty. Develop personalised services to Members using Liberty and other ICT tools.
- Amend the regulatory framework for Documents Laid before the Houses, streamline the related procedures and pilot the electronic submission of documents.
- Promote the collections to internal and external users. Provide access to elements of the catalogue and the collections to the public via the Oireachtas website.

The Library, Reference and Research Department in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

Contribution by Tanja R. Ostojić, Chief of the Reference and Research Division, Library, Reference and Research Department, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

The Library, Reference and Research Department in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia establishes a trend to provide a forum for trend watching and cooperation between the knowledge services for legislatures, in the global information society, in which legislative processes regulate the relations of a society, citizens and state powers. The Department serves to promote better laws and better lawmaking processes with the provision of information and knowledge services. We hope to achieve these aims by promotion of understanding and experience sharing of working in a politically complex environment. Our professional priorities are to continue sharing experiences on the particularities of requests from parliamentarians.

The Library, Reference and Research Department in the National Assembly of Serbia main tasks are:

- To serve as an instance of exchange of experiences, knowledge, problem solving situations and networking, particularly in serving a political environment;
- To promote best practices in providing information and knowledge to the National Assembly;
- To provide a forum for anticipation on issues relating to legislative processes.

In response to requests from deputies, the Library, Reference and Research Department carries out bibliographical or documentary research on all subjects relevant to parliament deputies. The information work usually consists of the extensive data basis and Internet research and information retrieval, in the purpose of an adequate

information support for the legislature work in the National Assembly. Also, the Department prepares back information sets related to the laws discussed in the National Assembly. The back information comprises statistics, relevant foreign legislature, relevant European Union documents and relevant positive national legislature. Also, the Department makes use of interlibrary loans with the National Library of Serbia and the University Library in Belgrade, as well as with other libraries in Serbia.

The Department comprises two sections: the Reference and Research Division and the Library.

The Reference and Research Division provides research, analysis and information to deputies, their staff, and other authorized clients. This section also produces a wide range of publications such as background papers and in brief documents, in both electronic and print format, in order to answer specific questions and to keep clients up-to-date on topical issues and developments. The Reference and Research Division carries out duties which allow the deputies, working bodies and the National Assembly Staff Service access to all acts in parliamentary procedure, draft laws and other acts of the Government and ministries, positive national legislation, foreign legal acts and acts of international organizations and the European Union. It prepares informative material on issues to be discussed at the National Assembly sittings. Also, it prepares expert analyses and information at the request of international organizations, national parliaments and institutions in the network of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation.

The Library of the National Assembly of Serbia is a specialized closed type library which collects, preserves and issues library material to deputies and the staff of the National Assembly. Two qualified librarians take care of the reception and classification of library material, develop the library's catalogue, provide expert assistance to the users when making and formulating requests for information, deal with the storage and circulation of library material, deal with the protection of old and rare books, provide inter-library borrowing services with the National Library of Serbia and other libraries for the needs of the deputies.

The library electronic catalogue is developing under the unified cataloguing program in cooperation with the National Library of Serbia. The unified cataloguing is developed under UNIMARC standard for electronic cataloguing and about 100 libraries in Serbia participate in its development.

The Union Serbian library catalogue COBIB.SR was made from local online catalogues of the National Library of Serbia, the Library of Matica Srpska, the University Library "Svetozar Markovic" in Belgrade and the Yugoslav Bibliographic Information Institute. At this moment [February 2010], it consists of about 2.000.000 bibliographic records of all library materials. It allows almost any user to make WEB OPAC (Open Access Catalogue) search of bibliographic materials on a local basis as in the union library catalogue, as well as for the all libraries that are connected to the system. If the search was made in the shared library catalogue, information such as the number of the copies and the place where the publications can be found, are available with the list of shelf marks. COBIB.SR interface in English: http://www.vbs.rs/scripts/cobiss?ukaz=GETID&lani=en

The collection of the National Assembly Library contains: 60000 books from the fields of law, political sciences, sociology, philosophy, literature, and from the field of fiction mostly reference and prize winning books; collection of regulations of republic bodies with registers from 1945 until present time; shorthand notes of the National Assembly of Serbia from 1889 until present time; considerable archival material (e.g. Protocols of the Extraordinary National Assembly from 1880, Official Gazette of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes from 1921); professional journals; daily press. The library also has an electronic database of legal regulations, INDOK, comprising the regulations of Serbia, the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the City of Belgrade in force from 1991 until present time.

The Library occupies an area of 150 square meters. It is equipped with three personal computers, photo-copy machine, laser printer and scanner. Microsoft Vista Windows operating program is installed on all personal computers, and 24 hour Internet access is provided. The opening hours are from 8, 30 A.M. to 16, 30 P.M. on non-sitting period and from 8, 30 A.M. to the end of the National Assembly sitting during sitting period.

The Library also anticipates the needs of clients and alerts them to sources of new and newly acquired information, including books, serials and periodicals and databases. In this line, the Library staff emphasizes the role of the electronic resources, basically the use of available electronic libraries and specialized services as EBSCO and others.

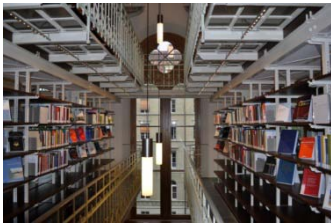## The new Parliamentary Library of the Swiss Federal Assembly

Contribution by Jean-Claude Hayoz, Deputy Head of documentation Services of the Swiss Federal Assembly, Head of the Parliamentary Library

Use

The Parliament Library is available to members of parliament and their personal staff, the Parliamentary Services, the staff of the federal administration and the secretariats of the parliamentary groups.

Collection

The Parliamentary Library maintains a collection of publications on all areas of politics. One area of particular focus is specialised works on national policy, law, foreign policy and contemporary history. The library makes a special point of obtaining documents of every sort concerning the issues dealt with in parliament, literature about the federal assembly and other parliaments, and publications by members of parliament or senior officials.

The library also makes a special effort to collect works and documents of all types that are not available through bookshops but are published by the federal assembly, the administration, bodies of experts or other institutions. A large part of this collection is available to people who are looking for information in pdf-form on the library catalogue.

The Parliament Library deals with around 450 specialised periodicals that are scrutinised by its scientific staff. Selected articles are added to the library catalogue.

Users have access to various electronic publications and databases, in particular the Documentation Service's press database.

Services provided

- Information Desk: The Information Desk provides information, receives mandates and, in collaboration with the Documentation Service's scientific staff, offers advice on all aspects of obtaining information.

- Library catalogue: Accessible via the internet; continually updated lists by subject; ordering facility and possibility for recommending new acquisitions.
- Courses: The Parliament Library and the Documentation Service organise workshops to promote the information literacy for all interested users.
- Multimedia:Audiovisual documents can be downloaded or consulted on the spot.
- Photocopying and scanning:Documents can be photocopied or scanned in the reading room.
- Biblio-Plus and Doc-Aktuell:Biblio-Plus, which lists new acquisitions and the most recently selected articles from periodicals, is published every month. Every two weeks, Doc-Aktuell offers a selection of the latest publications from parliament, the federal administration and other institutions in electronic form.

History

In its new form since 1 January 2009, the Parliament Library is in fact the product of an eventful history. It resulted from the merger of the Federal Assembly Documentation Service's library, part of the Federal Parliament and Central Library that was closed down under the reform of the federal administration in 2005-2007 and the library of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

The premises now occupied by the Parliament Library are in fact the chamber where the National Council sat between 1858 and 1902. It was converted into a library after the new parliament building was completed and both Councils moved in 1902. As part of the renovation of the west wing of the parliament building in 2009, the library was once again transformed and renovated, valuable historical aspects being carefully preserved.

Contact: Website: www.parliament.ch; E-mail: biblio@pd.admin.ch; Tel: +41 31 322 37 89;
Library catalogue (web-OPAC): https://biblio-parlament.ch

The Brazilian Senate Library Project on Digitization of Rare Books

Contribution by Stelina Maria Pinha, Deputy Director, Library of the Federale Senate of Brasil

Among the highlights of the 50th anniversary celebration of Brazil's capital city, Brasilia, last April 21 2010, the Senate Library presented the two CDs with the reports of the Exploratory Commission of the Central Plateau of Brazil that would delimit the territorial area of the Federal District where Brasilia is situated. These CDs are the result of other previous Senate Library projects which involved the restoration and digitization of rare books. Now, in digital format, precious rare books that are part of Brazil's history are made easily and readily available to the general public through internet search engines like Google or Yahoo.

Though the following news excerpts from the Senate Agency Press, we could trace the developments that led to this achievement:

Partnership between UnB and Senate has sponsored the restoration of 500 rare books. January 13, 2006

The partnership between the Senate and the University of Brasilia (UnB) has promoted the restoration of 500 rare books of the Library Academic Luiz Viana Filho. The contract for technical services was signed in 2003 and aims to sanitize, restore and maintain a collection of six thousand and five hundred rare books from the library, and train personnel for its maintenance. The expected duration of the contract is four years. Initially, the contract provided only cleaning and conservation works. However, due to the critical condition of many of them, it was also necessary to retrieve them.

The collection contains works by more than 300 years. The oldest, *Novus Orbis*: *his descriptions Indiae occidentalis*, by Johannes de Laet, dated 1633, is a geographical, scientific, ethnological and linguistic diversity description of America. De Laet, geographer, historian and director of the Flemish West India Company brings in this work reports and drawings of animals and plants in the region, with special emphasis on Brazil. In October 2009 this book was released as a DVD with the full content, including animations at the launching of digitization of the collection of rare books.

The rare books that have already been cleaned and restored are stored in the Library of the Senate in a room-safe heated to a temperature 18-20 ° C with humidity between 40 and 50%. The collection is open to public consultation, in the library and with the assistance of a librarian.

Senate will have Digital Library. March 19, 2007

The Digital Library of the Senate (BDSF) was presented to the public on March 20, 2007, at an event celebrating the Brazilian Librarian Day, on March 12. During the event, the Senate has signed technical cooperation agreements with the Superior Court of Justice (STJ) and the Institute of Information Science and Technology (Ibict) in order to encourage the dissemination of matters legal, legislative and academics on the Internet in order to increase the democratization of information. The state legislative, city councils and other public institutions of the country also will benefit from the Digital Library, since the information and documents can be shared among these agencies more efficiently.

The transition from traditional mode to digital began with technical journals of the Senate - as the Constitution, bylaws and legal texts. Secondly, the books published by the Senate Editorial Council were made available to the public, with observance to copyright.

The Library of Senate Launched Its Digital Collection of Rare Books. October 27, 2009

"This is a breakthrough: we're putting the Library of the Senate, beginning with some of their rare works available to the country." This is how the Senate President José Sarney, welcomed the launch of the Digital Collection of Rare Books of the Academic Library Luiz Viana Filho, occurred on October 27, 2009. President José Sarney said he did not believe in predictions of the end of the book, after the appearance of their electronic counterpart. He pointed out that he is not against the electronic books nor technological advances, but opined that the paper book will never disappear and ranked as the most advanced technology man has ever discovered. First, because books do not need energy. Second, it is an extraordinary practicality: books do not break when they fall, no need of repair other than those of their conservation programs and they have all you can think of and imagine. Even those who have discovered these new technologies have begun to discover them from books - said Jose Sarney.

During the ceremony, the library director, Simone Vieira, also announced the integration of the Library of the Senate the integration with the International Collective Catalog of bibliographic records, WorldCat, the largest global network of libraries. She also explained that the integration to WorldCat, will give complete visibility to the Senate Library catalog, since it will allow Internet users to make searches in the archives via search engines like Google and Yahoo.

Simone Vieira also said the Senate Library will offer the most valuable portion of his collection: 340 of 6,500 titles that make up the collection of Rare Books. The books have been digitized and are available in electronic format on the website of Digital Library: **http://www2.senado.gov.br/bdsf/.**

Library of Senate launches CDs with reports of the Exploratory Commission of the Central Plateau to delimit the Federal District. May 3, 2010

From the late 19th century, explorer commissions studied the Brazilian Central Plateau in order to demarcate the area where the new capital of Brazil, Brasilia, will be established. The work of these commissions are contained in the two CDs released by the Senate Library on May 4, 2010, as part of celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of Brasilia and continuing the dissemination of its collection of rare books.

The first CD contains the technical reports of "Exploratory Commission of the Central Plateau of Brazil, led by Louis Cruls, the director of the Astronomical Observatory of Rio de Janeiro then. The commission visited the land in the state of Goias between 1892 and 1894 and proposed the division of an area very similar to what is now occupied by the Federal District. Also on the CD are the reports of the "Study of the New Capital of the Union", also headed by Cruls which, between 1894 and 1895, performed additional work to the first group.

The second CD brings together, among other documents relating to the transfer of capital, the reports of two commissions that have continued the exploration work during the 20th century. One was the "Technical Commission for the Study of Location of the new capital of the Union", chaired by General Djalma Polli Coelho and which operated between 1946 and 1948. The other was the "Commission on Location of New Federal Capital, led by Marshal José Pessoa Cavalcanti de Albuquerque between 1953 and 1956.

Digital Library And New Collection Development Policy In Brazilian Chamber Of Deputies
Contribution by, Dalvaleze Lopes de Oliveira, Elzuila Bastos and Janice Silveira, Librarians, Chamber of Deputies of Brazil

The Brazilian Chamber of Deputies' General Management has been changing its management methods since 2004, towards a better quality of services to Member of Parliament (MP) and Brazilian society. General Management worked with the Balanced Scored Card (BSC) methodology to define its strategic objectives.
The Chamber of Deputies' Information and Documentation Centre (CEDI) is playing a fundamental role in this new corporate strategy, that can be measured by the fact that CEDI is leading a very active part in six out of ten strategic corporate projects.
In this context, the Chamber of Deputies Library carried out the Digital Library project, using modern technologies in processing, dissemination and retrieval of information. The Digital Library was launched in October of 2009, available on the Chamber of Deputies Portal at http://bd.camara.gov.br/bd/ . The Digital Library, developed in the open source plataform called Dspace and customized by the Centre for Information Technology – CENIN, is a repository where you can find reports, lectures, technical studies, academic papers and other documents of interest and relevance to the institutional activities of the Legislative Power. In alignment with the strategic planning and new guidelines of the Center, the Library is also updating its collection development policy. The selection is a crucial process, through which other activities and routines are developed. Decisions about what should or should not be incorporated into the collection comes from a careful review, based on a carefull Collection Development Policy that reflects the informational needs of our users.
The Collection Development Policy is a formal document of technical and administrative features that ensures standarts to decision making on acquisition and development of the collections. In summary, it's a dynamic document that reflects needs of the moment, changes of profiles and group interests to which it serves and must be frequently updated. The Library has its Policy Development of Collections established in 2002, and no longer updated. The Conspectus methodology (developed in 1980 by the Research Libraries Group (RLG) as a means of systematically and qualitatively evaluating large library collections) is being used to update this policy, once it's flexible and can meet the specific needs of a Parliamentary Library, such as the Libraries of Chile and Australia Parliaments. A team is building the , based on the activities of parliamentary committees and the areas of Legislative Consulting of the House.The Centre has being working hard and is very grateful for the feedbacks from its clients. Also, check it out the new Portal at the website http://www2.camara.gov.br/ .

8. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Cooperation between the UK Parliament and the Iraqi Council of Representatives
Contribution by John Pullinger, Director General and Librarian, House of Commons, UK

Following productive discussions at the IFLA meetings in Italy in 2009 the UK Parliament and Iraqi Council of Representatives (COR) have worked closely together to deepen cooperation. In November 2009, Dr Mayada Hachami and Mrs Awfa Zuhair visited the House of Commons Library as part of a wider visit including the Secretary General, Mr Amjad. The visit included a very well received presentation by Mrs Awfa Zuhair to House of Commons Library staff about the role and work of the COR Research Service. This visit provided an opportunity to consider areas for future cooperation.

The visit to London in November was followed by a visit of UK colleagues to Baghdad in March 2010. John Pullinger, Ben Smith, Oliver Bennett and Adam Mellows-Facer led a series of workshops on Research Service and MP relations, managing library resources for research purposes, working with committees and using statistics. The visit also benefitted from the involvement of two parliamentarians Colin Breed MP and Lord Archy Kirkwood who joined several of the sessions.

Further exchanges of information are planned. Many thanks to the IFLA section for bringing our two services together to make this cooperation possible..

Support to the Establishment and Development of the Parliamentary Institute in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia : Project Update
Contribution by Robert Scott Heaslet, Program Director, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by Switzerland's Ambassador to Macedonia, Nicole Wyrsch, and the Assembly of Macedonia, represented by Speaker Trajko Veljanoski, on 17 May 2010, in parliament in Skopje signaled the official start of a three-year project to assist the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in establishing an independent parliamentary research institute to serve members of parliament (MPs), committees, and their staff. The National Democratic Institute (NDI or the Institute), together with its domestic partner organization Institute for Parliamentary Democracy (IPD) had worked closely with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Assembly over the past year and half to set up a legal framework and funding mechanisms for the creation of the future institute, which will be co-funded by the SDC and the Assembly. Over the next three years, NDI and IPD will assist the Assembly in creating and developing the institute's legal research and analysis capacities, its education and communication services and in strengthening parliament's archival and library resources. The institute will be physically located in parliament and employ some 24 staff, including legal and economic experts and library scientists.

During the ceremony, Speaker Veljanoski emphasized that the institutional strengthening of parliament, its legislative capacities, and oversight functions was of high priority and in all three aspects the institute would make a significant contribution. Ambassador Wyrsch for her part also emphasized the importance of the project as a tool for the Assembly. "One central objective of this project, respectively of the Parliamentary Institute, is to provide the Assembly with an independent and highly competent source of research and analysis.

Indeed, in the opinion of the Swiss government, the Parliamentary Institute can be a very useful instrument - a real opportunity for Macedonian decision-makers to move further ahead towards a full-fledged, transparent, well-functioning democracy. Switzerland, together with other supporters and friends of Macedonia, is proud to be part of this endeavor."

Since 1993, the National Democratic Institute has supported Macedonia's democratic progress and with previous funding from the United States Agency for International Development and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Institute helped establish a constituency office network throughout the country which is now managed by its partner organization, the IPD, with financial assistance from the Assembly and the SDC.

Appended are a few documents and a web link from the MoU signing ceremony:

☐   SDC one-page description of the project (English, Macedonian and Albanian)

☐　　Press Release from the Signing Ceremony (English)
☐　　Link from the Assembly website (http://sobranie.mk/en/default-en.asp?ItemID=7D5A4F13472A274595F019A9DDDAD89F) with the Speaker's remarks (English)

With the signing of the MoU, NDI and our domestic partner IPD have been officially entrusted with supporting the establishment and development of an independent, efficient, professionally resourced Parliamentary Institute. It is the aim of this project to leave behind an effective and impartial quality research, education and communication service which will fulfill the needs of members of parliament and the parliamentary services. The implementing partners have begun work drafting Job Descriptions and Person Specifications for the twenty-four Parliamentary Institute employees, drawing on the good practices from the parliaments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Norway, Slovakia and the United Kingdom. We are also working with a human resources consultant that has extensive experience in the public and commercial sectors in Europe, as well as in the Macedonian public sector, to draft Job Descriptions and Person Specifications fit-for-purpose for a twenty-first century parliamentary research service.

We are planning a visit to Bern, Switzerland with the Speaker of the Assembly and representatives of the Parliamentary Institute Steering Council later this month. During the visit the delegation will meet with the President of the Council of States; formally hand-over the MoU to the SDC; and, hold meetings with Swiss parliamentarians.

We intend to keep you informed on the progress of the Parliamentary Institute with email updates similar to this. If you do not wish to receive these updates please let us know. With kind regards, I am, Sincerely, **Robert Scott Heaslet**, *Program Director, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, str. Dimitrija Cupovski n. 5, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia*.

Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Gift of Democracy and the Frost-Solomon Task Force by the Polish Senate and Sejm
Contribution by Katalin HARASZTI, Head of the Research Service, Hungarian Parliamentary Library

In the wake of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the United States House of Representatives' Task Force on the Development of Parliamentary Institutions in Eastern Europe, commonly known as the "Frost-Solomon Task Force," provided technical support to parliaments in newly independent countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). From 1990 through 1996, the Frost-Solomon Task Force, working in conjunction with the House Information Systems Office and the Library of Congress' Congressional Research Service (CRS), would reach legislatures in *Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Poland and Slovakia.*

With its "Gift of Democracy," the U.S. Senate – through the Office of the Secretary and the Senate Computer Center – provided equipment and technical assistance to the Polish Senate and Sejm. Under a separate mandate, the Library of Congress and Congressional Research Service provided assistance to the legislatures of Ukraine and Russia. These programs helped to establish democratic institutions and build lasting partnerships and bonds of friendship between the US Congress and many of the participating parliaments, including the Polish Sejm and Senate.

The success of the Frost-Solomon Task Force led to the creation of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), a bi-partisan congressional commission that carries on the traditions of the Frost-Solomon Task Force through partnerships with thirteen legislatures around the world. These partnerships facilitate the exchange of expertise and experience among legislators and legislative staff in order to bolster the professionalism with which legislative work is conducted and fortify the democratic principles of transparency and accountability within partnering institutions.

Location: Polish Sejm and Senate, University Library; Warsaw, Poland, 7, June 2010

Program of the event: Research Services On the Agenda
- Opening Panel: Congressional assistance for the development of democratic parliaments in CEE countries
- Discussion: Frost-Solomon Task Force countries
- Lessons learned from CEE experiences - developing parliamentary research services around the world
- Lessons learned from research services in Frost-Solomon Task Force countries
- Building political support for professional research services: 1) the client perspective, 2)the perspective of research services
- Management and oversight of parliamentary research services
- Getting started: strategic planning for parliamentary research services
- Staff management: quality assurance and recruiting, training and managing staff

- Ethics in parliamentary research
- Research services and budget analysis
- Designing and advertising product and services
- Research services and libraries: working together to provide legislative information
- Cooperation between committee staff, research services and experts: working together to provide legislative information
- Supplementing small research services: drawing on non-governmental sources of information and contract staff and utilizing international resources and networks
- Research services and the Library of the Sejm of Poland / Research services of the Senate of Poland
- Concluding problem-solving session: challenges of the next decade

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UNDP launches the AGORA Portal for Parliamentary Development

At the beginning of March 2010, the United Nations Development Programme officially launched **Agora**, a virtual multilateral platform for knowledge sharing on parliamentary development. The Portal aims to bring together parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, donors, academics, civil society and the media to develop a relevant resource for information on parliamentary development.

AGORA promotes national and local parliamentary institutions as potential drivers of development by highlighting the crucial role of parliamentary assemblies within democratic political systems. AGORA emphasizes the responsibilities of these institutions in such policy areas as the following:

- Crisis prevention and recovery
- Development and Implementation of Pro-Poor Policies
- Children's Rights
- MDG Awareness
- Policies on Gender and Minorities
- Sustainable Development

To know more about AGORA http://www.agora-parl.org/

For more details on the launch event of AGORA, see
www.undp.org/eu/successstories/agora_portal_for_parliamentary_development_launch.shtml

9. CONTACTS AND STANDING COMMITTEE INFORMATION

At present the Standing Committee of the Section counts 18 members, 7 of which elected in 2009. SC members are elected through ballots every two years, as current members complete their term. Each term has a four year duration and can be renewed only once.

Officers and Standing Committee Members OF the IFLA Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments *after election 2009*

NAME	Parliament/Institution and country	Email	SC Terms
Moira Fraser / Chair 2009-	Parliamentary Library, New Zealand	moira.fraser@parliament.govt.nz	1st term: 2005-2009 2nd term: 2009-2013
Raissa Teodori / Secretary 2009-	Library of the Senate of Italy	raissa.teodori@senato.it	1st term: 2007-2011
Stelina Maria Martins Pinha / Information coordinator 2009-	Federal Senate of Brazil	stelina@senado.gov.br	1st term: 2009-2013
Anita Dudina	Saeima (Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia	adudina@saeima.lv	1st term: 2005-2009 2nd term: 2009-2013
Andrzej Dziubecki	Chancellery of the Senat of the Republic of Poland	dziubeck@nw.senat.gov.pl	1st term: 2009-2013
Alim Garga	National Assembly of Cameroon	a_garga@yahoo.fr	1st term: 2007-2011
Lu Haiyan	National Library of China	luhy@nlc.gov.cn	1st term: 2009-2013
Eunhee Hyun	National Assembly Library, Republic of Korea	leahyun@nanet.go.kr	1st term: 2009-2013
Esther Kamau	National Assembly, Kenya	ekamau@parliament.go.ke	1st term: 2005-2009 2nd term: 2009-2013
Sonia L'Heureux	Library of Parliament, Canada	lheurs@parl.gc.ca	1st term: 2009-2013
Roxanne Missingham	Parliamentary Library, Australia	roxanne.missingham@apl.gov.au	1st term: 2007-2011
Daniel P. Mulhollan	Library of Congress, United States	dmulhollan@crs.loc.gov	1st term: 2007-2011
John Pullinger	House of Commons, U.K.	pullingerj@parliament.uk	1st term: 2009-2013
Innocent Rugambwa	Parliament of Uganda	irugambwa@parliament.go.ug	1st term: 2009-2013
Ellie Valentine	Parliamentary Development Project for Ukraïne	ellieval@aol.com	1st term: 2009-2013
Iain Watt	European Parliament	iain.watt@europarl.europa.eu	1st term: 2007-2011
Christine Wellems	Parliament of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg	christine.wellems@bk.hamburg.de	1st term: 2007-2011
Guido Williams Obreque	Chilean Library of Congress	gwilliams@bcn.cl	1st term: 2007-2011