



**IFLA Section on Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services**

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## **1. MESSAGE FROM SECTION CHAIR, GRO SANDGRID**

Dear Colleagues

This is your invitation to begin planning for the conferences to be arranged in 2009. Both events are unique opportunities to meet colleagues from other parliaments around the world and to share experiences and best practices.

### **Rome**

The 25th annual Pre-conference for the Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section is to be held in the Italian Parliament 19-21 August in Rome. I am very grateful to the Italian Parliament for hosting the pre-conference which will give us an exciting opportunity to visit their Parliament and study their services.

The theme for the pre-conference in Rome is:

"Digital information for democracy: management, access and preservation". With a sub-theme for day three: "Making the Most of your resources to provide services".

This year we are also planning an extra one-day training day to strengthen the ICT-capacity of parliamentary libraries in developing countries. We will offer this together with the Global Centre for ICT in Parliaments. This optional extra day will be on the 18th August. The objective will be to strengthen ICT capacity so that the library can better respond to the information needs of its institution. I am happy to tell you that the program is being developed taking into account the results of the survey on learning and development needs ran by the Section's working group (see below).

### **Milan**

The 75th IFLA General Conference and Council will be held in Milan 23-27 August.

In Milan the theme is: "Changing visions, parliamentary libraries past, present and future". The IFLA conference in Milan is much more than the Section's session. Here you will meet librarians from all kinds of libraries across all continents - see: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/index.htm>

To stay informed please subscribe to the e-mail list [iflaparl2@infoserv.inist.fr](mailto:iflaparl2@infoserv.inist.fr)

This year I hope to see many of you and hopefully many newcomers in Rome and Milan.

If any of you need an invitation to the conferences, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will send you one.

Regards

Gro Sandgrind, Chair

## 2. FUTURE CONFERENCES

### (a) Pre-Conference in Rome

The Joint Parliamentary Library of Italy is working on the organisation of the 25th annual pre-conference of the Section, which will be held in Rome from Wednesday 19 to Friday 21 August 2009.

The conference programme, focusing on the challenges and opportunities implied in managing digital information in a parliamentary environment, is currently being planned, and a draft version will be available soon on the website of the conference: [www.preifla2009.parlamento.it](http://www.preifla2009.parlamento.it) [This site is due to go live online before 2 March]

The two libraries of the Italian Chambers are willing to share with colleagues from around the world, through conference lectures and practical demonstrations, their current experience of merging into one Joint Library, able to draw on the potential of new technologies to build up new services and create a wider access to information for a growing population of parliamentary users as well as for citizens, now able to freely access the library and its services.

A day of training on the use of new technologies in libraries and research services, aimed to raise awareness among developing countries on the benefits and potential of the use of ICT for their work, will be held just before the conference, on 18 August, co-organised by the Section, the Italian Parliament and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament,

Participants to the conference will be also involved, during the three days, in special social events that will allow everybody to admire and feel the unique historical and cultural heritage of the city of Rome and its beauties.

All necessary information and forms for registration to the conference and for hotel booking at concession rates (three hotel have been pre-booked), as well as other practical and travel information, can also be found on the website pages.

An email address has been created for you to ask any question about the Pre-Conference: <mailto:preifla2009@parlamento.it>

Call for Papers. Deadline: 13 March

"Digital information for democracy: management, access and preservation"

We invite proposals for papers, workshops or panels that present an analysis on the theme "Digital information for democracy: management, access and preservation" with the sub-theme: "Making the Most of your resources to provide services.

The deadline for delivering an abstract is 13 March 2009.

Please find more information on the IFLA website: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/satellite-parliaments-call-en.htm>

## **(b) IFLA conference in Milan**

23-27 August 2009, Milan, Italy

The homepage of the conference website: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/index.htm>

Deadlines: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/deadlines-en.htm>

There are no hotel rooms pre-booked for the Section. Information on the hotels available through IFLA: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/travel-accomodations-en.htm>

### Management workshops in Milan

The Section is pleased to announce it will, once again, be holding its popular 'Management Workshops Day' during the Milan conference. This year the Management Workshops Day will be on Wednesday 26th August. The Regione Lombardia, Giunta Regionale, in Milan, has kindly offered to be our hosts for the day and all workshops will be held there.

Following the very favourable feedback from last year we will once again be delivering a dynamic and interactive event with time to share our ideas, identify new approaches and strategies, explore solutions to key issues and learn from the experience of our colleagues. We will run a variety of workshop types (including our "Speed Dating" event) and we will offer a choice of topics within some workshops.

However, this will only work if you tell us what you'd like to talk about and learn about. Please send any suggestions you have for topics, with as little or as much detail as you want to include, to <mailto:milvia.priano@europarl.europa.eu> by Friday 20th March 2009. Later we will ask you to vote on all the suggestions and we will agree what the preferred topics for the day are.

Mark out Wednesday 26th August 2009 in your diaries now. More information about the Management Workshops Day will follow in the next Newsletter.

Susan Mansfield  
Milvia Priano  
Bushra Naqvi

## **3. GUIDELINES FOR LEGISLATIVE LIBRARIES**

The 'conference special' edition of the Newsletter issued in July 2008 (vol. 27 No. 3) included a brief report on progress on the production of a revised edition of Guidelines for Legislative Libraries. These were originally published in 1993 and were edited by Dermot Englefield, former librarian of the House of Commons, UK, and a former chair of the section. I am now editing a revised version. In fact an almost complete rewrite has been needed because of the enormous changes in technology in the intervening period. I am being assisted by an advisory group consisting of:

Soledad Ferreiro Director, Congressional Library, Chile Innocent Rugambwa Head of Library and Research, Parliament of Uganda Donna Scheeder Director, Law Library Services, Library of Congress, USA Jarle Skjørestad Head of Research, Parliament of Norway Janet Seaton Formerly

Head of the Scottish Parliament Information Centre Mary Seefried Parliamentary Librarian, Queensland, Australia Ellie Valentine Has worked on USAID projects in Pakistan, Armenia, Ukraine, etc William Young Parliamentary Librarian, Canada

Of the sixteen proposed chapters, twelve have been drafted. The advisory group has been given an opportunity to comment on these and some further revision will be needed. I hope to draft the remaining chapters over the next few weeks. After that, we will be looking for ways to give section members a whole the opportunity to comment and make some input. I am hoping to be at the Conference of Parliamentary Librarians in Rome in August and it will be possible to have a discussion on what by then will be a near-final version of the text. Meanwhile, if any one has any comments or queries or is interested in seeing any of what is written so far, please get in touch with me. I can be contacted on <mailto:keithgarry@yahoo.co.uk> Keith Cuninghame Feb 2009

#### **4. LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS SURVEY - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Section ran a survey of learning and development needs in December-January 2008/9

Respondents came from the research and parliamentary library areas - approximately 27% indicated that their role was "research", 73% "General management of library/research services".

Most participated in Section and IFLA major events. Approximately 73% of respondents attended IFLA Section pre-conferences or IFLA annual meetings regularly or occasionally.

Most preferred to have training and development provided at the Section's pre-conference (more than 86%).

The areas most highly desired for training and development are:

(Scales 1-5, with 5 being highest need)

##### Research and Library skills

- New digital technologies (web 2.0) 4.18
- Digitising material in your collection 4.12
- Intranet management 3.83
- Digitisation overview 3.8
- Digital collections- open source software 3.78
- Management and general job skills
- Statistics and evaluation 3.76
- Knowledge management 3.71
- Strategic management 3.68
- Change management and communications 3.67

Areas most suggested for subject/other training were:

- Statistics 5
- Government documents 5
- Law/legislative process/comparative law 4

Preferred delivery method.  
Group 4.45  
Practical exercises 4.38

Roxanne Missingham, Susan Mansfield, Raissa Teodori, Iain Watt Members, Working Group on Learning and Development Needs

## PAST CONFERENCES

### **(a) "Informing democracy: building capacity to meet parliamentarians' information and knowledge needs" Conference in Geneva (Switzerland) 16 October 2008.**

The Section joined the IPU and the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) or parliaments, in organising this event. The Conference focused on the evolving information needs of parliamentarians, the role that can be played by parliamentary library and research services, and the development of good practices.

Some of the contributions made at the conference can be found on the IFLA Section website [http://www.ifla.org/VII/s3/conf/geneva\\_16-10-2008.htm](http://www.ifla.org/VII/s3/conf/geneva_16-10-2008.htm) and the IPU website <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/asgp08.htm>

The report of the conference is nearing completion and will be posted on the two websites.

Particular thanks are due to Andy Richardson of IPU who initiated the event and made sure it happened (smoothly); and to Joseph Jackson of the Parliament of Canada who contributed so much to setting the programme and organising the speakers.

### **(b) "World e-Parliament Conference 2008" European Parliament in Brussels, 25 and 26 November 2008.**

The Conference was co-organized by the European Parliament and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament.

The Section was a key contributor. As Chair of the Section, Gro Sandgrind addressed a plenary session 'Opportunities for regional and global cooperation: benefits and barriers to parliamentary cooperation'. Gro introduced the Section and made some practical recommendations for future action:

[http://www.ictparliament.org/worldparliamentconference2008/Presentations/3\\_Regionalandglobalcollaboration/Sandgrind.pdf](http://www.ictparliament.org/worldparliamentconference2008/Presentations/3_Regionalandglobalcollaboration/Sandgrind.pdf)

Raissa Teodori (Italy) gave a summary of the Geneva conference as part of a session titled 'Meeting the information needs of Members of Parliament'. Soledad Ferreiro (Chile) presented a paper on 'Citizen empowerment for cultural change' on the work of her parliamentary library in supporting parliamentary engagement with citizens. The last paper can be found online: [http://www.ictparliament.org/worldparliamentconference2008/Presentations/E\\_Engagingcitizens/Ferreiro.pdf](http://www.ictparliament.org/worldparliamentconference2008/Presentations/E_Engagingcitizens/Ferreiro.pdf) Further information on the conference and some of the other presentations can be found at <http://www.ictparliament.org/worldparliamentconference2008/>

## **NEWS FROM AUSTRALASIAN PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES**

News from Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Australasia (APLA).

### **1. Redevelopment of APLA website**

APLA is currently undertaking a review of its website which will permit all members of the group to upload conference information and provide interactivity through member services such as a blog and new email list. Will keep IFLA Section members updated as to when we go live with our new site.

### **2. Conference and AGM July 2008, Tasmanian Parliamentary Library, Parliament of Tasmania**

APLA Conference and AGM June 2008

The annual conference of the Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Australasia was hosted by the Tasmanian Parliament in June 2008. In conjunction with the conference, the Annual General Meeting of the Association was held.

All Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand were represented at the conference and also participated in the business at the AGM.

The conference papers centred on digitisation and preservation, providing delegates with an insight to some digitisation programs currently in place. The policy and standards framework around the programs was also mentioned. Vicki Whitmell, Executive Director, Legislative Assembly of Ontario was an honoured guest at the conference and she spoke of some digitisation programs in Canadian Parliamentary libraries.

Four guests from the Parliament of Ghana attended the conference and shared their experiences with the delegates.

His Excellency, Mr Peter Underwood, Governor of Tasmania opened the conference in the Legislative Council Chamber and hosted a cocktail party at Government House for delegates and guests.

The executive of APLA was elected at the AGM and is as follows:

President: Mary Seefried, Parliamentary Librarian, Queensland  
Vice-President and Treasurer: Juliet Webster, Parliamentary Librarian, Tasmania  
Secretary: Judy Ballantyne, Parliamentary Librarian, Western Australia

The next conference and AGM is scheduled for June 2009 at the Parliament of South Australia.

Some points of interest from the 2008 AGM

\* APLA Scholarship

It was agreed to initiate a bi-annual scholarship for all eligible staff members of Parliamentary Libraries of up to \$1,500 to support a study tour or research project within Australia, New Zealand or overseas. The first call for applications closes at end of March 2009.

#### \* Strategic Plan 2008-2010

A Strategic Plan for the Association which harmonises with the vision and strategic goals of the Strategic Plan of the Section on Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services was developed through a workshop session at the AGM. It is intended that this plan be reviewed regularly and provide the framework for setting the annual operational plan of the Association.

#### \* Staff exchanges program

A policy is being developed to facilitate exchanges or placements of staff between parliamentary libraries for purposes of staff development. The overarching policy will include a checklist which those staff and parliaments contemplating an exchange can follow to initiate a placement.

#### \* Pacific Nation Parliamentary Libraries twinning project

Australasian Parliaments are already involved in supporting Pacific countries through associations like the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). In addition, Australia (through AusAid) and New Zealand provide support funding and training programs to these nations. The meeting agreed on the same twinning basis as the CPA.

ACT with Kiribati

NSW with Bougainville and Solomon Islands

NT with Niue

Qld with Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu

SA with Tonga

Victoria with Fiji, Nauru and Tuvalu

Tasmania with Samoa

WA with Cook Islands

It is understood by the CPA that the Australian and New Zealand national parliaments provide assistance to all of these Pacific parliaments. This twinning program will be further progressed during 2008-09. Each APLA library to determine what commitments or relationships have been made by their respective parliaments already to these nations.

### **3. Research and Reference Symposium - NSW Parliamentary Library 23 January 2009.**

This was the second Reference and Research Symposium, and hosted by Greig Tillotson Parliamentary Librarian, New South Wales Parliamentary Library, Sydney. The inaugural Symposium was held in Melbourne in February 2008 and the aim of this annual event is to enable reference librarians and research officers to discuss issues of common interest and concern in the delivery of their services in a parliamentary context. It is also chance to get to know colleagues from other parliamentary libraries and develop networks.

The Sydney Symposium was held in the New South Wales Parliament's historic Jubilee Room, formerly the main reading room of the Parliamentary Library, and the theme was "Innovation and Collaboration".

Attending the Symposium were staff from the Australian and New Zealand parliamentary libraries, all the Australian state parliamentary libraries and the Australian Capital Territory government library.

A number of workshops were held in which participants discussed technological innovations in the delivery of services and resources, while options for improving co-operation and collaboration were also canvassed.

The centrepiece of the day was a panel of three Members of the New South Wales Parliament, who discussed their information and research needs. There was a lengthy and useful dialogue between the Members and the staff of the parliamentary libraries.

This is likely to be an annual one day event as feedback from attending staff has been very positive.

Mary Seefried  
President  
APLA

Composition of Australian Parliaments by Party and Gender. The Australian Parliamentary Library has produced and updated version of this table, which covers all Australian Parliaments, including states and territories. It contains a detailed break down by state and territory and party, including any by-election results and any casual vacancies filled since the most recent general election in each jurisdiction, It can be found at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/intguide/pol/currentwomen.pdf>

Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Australasia are considering collaboration to produce further information on women in Australian parliaments.

Libraries were also a topic of discussion at the Australian and New Zealand Parliamentary Information Technology Forum with papers given on Visioning the future 2020 (including issues in accessing information resources) and ParllInfo by staff from the Australian Parliamentary Library.

Roxanne Missingham  
Directory

The official webpage of the IFLA Section is <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s3/sparll.htm>

News & information exchange is by email. For communication between members please subscribe to the IFLAParl list at this address: <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwsympa.fcgi/info/iflaparl2>

The newsletter is distributed via a separate mailing list for technical reasons - contact Iain Watt <mailto:iain.watt@europarl.europa.eu> if you wish to be added or removed from the newsletter list. We also have another information-sharing website for parliamentary libraries and research services under development at <http://www.parlanet.org/>

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