



The Information Point

the Government Libraries Section Newsletter

July 2013



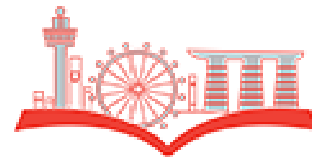
Government Libraries Section

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Conference Programs and Events

World Library and Information Congress. Future Libraries: Infinite Possibilities



IFLA WLIC 2013
SINGAPORE

Government Libraries Section will be involved in the following sessions:

Saturday 17 Aug.

15.15 - 17.45. Room: 322. *1st Standing Committee Meeting*

Tuesday 20 Aug.

09.30 - 12.45. Room: Summit 1. Session 126. *Open Access to official and authenticated legal information in Asia*

(Law Libraries with Government libraries and Library and Research Services for Parliaments)

<http://conference.ifla.org/ifla79/session-126>

15.00 - 16.30. Room: 308. *2nd Standing Committee Meeting*

Wednesday 21 Aug.

09.30 - 11.30. Room: Nicoll 3. Session 166. *Government Libraries as voices for open government* (Government Libraries with Law Libraries and Government Information and Official Publications)

<http://conference.ifla.org/ifla79/session-166>

Wednesday 22 Aug.

13.45 - 15.45. Room 4. Summit 2. Session 221 *Information for development action: governments, civil society and libraries*

(Government Information and Official Publications with Government Libraries)

<http://conference.ifla.org/ifla79/session-221>

Conference Session 166: Government Libraries as Voices for Open Government

We will be leading a session focused on Open Government during the congress in Singapore. It is open to all IFLA participants who wish to discuss the theme, its set of features and how could be applied on current information procedures in the government sector and as part of citizen services.

The format will be flexible and interactive. Selected panelists will introduce topics by way of a 5-10 minute presentation. They will then chair round table sessions with participants from the audience, discussing the impact of these topics on their library services, how to effectively put the plan introduced in the presentation in place, and more.

The outcome of each discussion group will be given by the original speaker or a Section member as a session wrap-up.

Selected Speakers:

Access to administrative information: an issue for better citizen participation

REYNA JOSVAH-RABIAZA (Committee for Safeguard of Integrity - CSI, Madagascar) and CAMILLE ESTHER RAHELIARISOA (Ministry of Fisheries and Halieutic Resources, Madagascar)

The demand side of open government

ARI KATZ (Beyond Access, IREX, USA) and MATEJ NOVAK (Bibliomist, Ukraine)

Voices for open government: open data as panacea

DUNCAN OMOLE (ERA Service Manager, Information and Knowledge Solutions, The World Bank Group)

Public Libraries – the government library you use most often!

PAUL NIELSEN (Albany Public Library, City of Albany, Western Australia, Australia)

Chair's Column

By Miguel Navas-Fernández
Chair 2011-13



Dear colleagues,

This is the second time that I write for this column. The first one was done for the previous newsletter, July 2012. This time is also the last, because I am leaving the Chair position.

Much happened during the last year. Sadly, the most important thing is that our colleague Maija Jussilainen passed away. We paid a tribute to her during our session at the last WLIC congress in Helsinki, her home land.

Our sessions there were quite successful, and the Standing Committee meetings were attended not only by the members but by some other attendees interested in our Section as well.

We settle down there two projects. First, we may help building an international online directory for government libraries. Second, use that tool to strengthen our community, know each other better, and write and maintain a world report on government libraries. Nevertheless, we did not receive neither funding nor logistical help from IFLA, so both projects were aborted.

During the year-time between the annual congresses, we have been active through our information tools. We have been following and sharing news of interest to our community - nevertheless, we would have liked to hear more from people from outside the Section.

We have been working very hard in order to organise interesting sessions in Singapore. Apart from our own programme, "*Government libraries as voices for open government*", we are co-sponsoring other two: "*Open Access to Official and Authenticated Legal Information in Asia*", and "*Information for Development action: governments, civil society and libraries*". We have been working with our usual collaborators, Law Libraries, Library Research Services for Parliaments and Government Information and Official Publications sections. All information is available at <http://www.ifla.org/government-libraries/conferences>

Our Guidelines, already available in English, Spanish, French, Russian, Japanese, German, Catalan and Hindi, have been translated into Arabic and Chinese as well. It is one of the IFLA guidelines that have been translated into more languages and we are especially proud of it.

Our Standing Committee members have been changing. Some are leaving (Lamine Camara, Mika Lawler, Pierre-Alain Tilliette), some staying (Ursula-Maria Goeckeritz, Margarita García-Moreno, Jerry Mansfield, Beacher Wiggins, Elina Kähö, Emma Voskanyan), renewing (María del Carmen Díez Hoyo, Anoja Fernando, Inger Jepsen) or becoming new officers (Sanjay K. Bihani new Chair, Anoja Fernando new Secretary, and Guillermo García-Capcha renewing as Information Coordinator).

We hope to see you in Singapore and hear from you from then on!

Have a nice WLIC 2013. With kind regards

Information Coordinator's Report

By **Guillermo García-Capcha**
Information Coordinator 2011-13



Changes in the Standing Committee

Election year conferences are happy occasions and they are also sad ones. At the outset, each IFLA Section greets and welcomes its newly elected members and at conference end, each Section thanks and says farewell to those who have served their four or eight years.

Some changes are going to take place during the congress in Singapore. After an election period inside the Section, a new Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and Information Coordinator/Web Editor were appointed during elections in June/July 2013:

- Sanjay K. Bihani (India) – Chair
- Anoja Fernando (United Kingdom) - Secretary / Treasurer
- Guillermo García Capcha (Peru) – Information Coordinator

Additionally, there are members that are concluding their term serving to the Section. We thank their support and collaboration. It has been a joy to share cultures and experiences with them, learning that librarianship shares the same values around the world:

- Lamine Camara (Mali)
- Mika Lawler (Japan)
- Pierre-Alain Tilliette (France)

Stay tuned through our communication channels since we will announce the new members of the Section after the conference in Singapore.

Government Libraries Section Member Receives Prestigious Award from the American Library Association



Beacher Wiggins (center) receiving the Melvil Dewey Medal Award. Photo Source: American Library Association

Beacher Wiggins of the Library of Congress was recently awarded the 2013 Melvin Dewey Medal Award, one of the highest honors that a member of the American Library Association may receive.

As stated by ALA news:

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2013/03/beacher-je-wiggins-receives-2013-melvil-dewey-medal-award>

“Among the achievements noted by the Dewey jury and the many colleagues who wrote in support of his award nomination are Wiggins’s oversight in leading the historic merger of the acquisitions and cataloging functions at the Library of Congress; leadership in building a flexible and robust framework for sharing bibliographic and other

metadata related to cultural heritage objects; co-chairing the U.S. National Libraries RDA Test Coordinating Committee; co-leading the New Bibliographic Framework Initiative that will replace MARC; Convening the Library of Congress Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium and his mentoring of colleagues and the willing sharing of his knowledge”.

Mr. Wiggins has been an active member of the IFLA Government Libraries Section since 2011. During his period, he has helped us bringing new ideas and perspectives to the way in which the Standing Committee members could work together for government libraries. We'd also like to acknowledge him for his ongoing dedication to the Section.

Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments: New Translations

We are glad to inform that our **Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments** have been recently translated into Arabic and Chinese.

With many thanks to Miss Maria El Kady, who was in charge of the Arabic translation, with the coordination of Fatima Alloul, Corresponding Member of the Section. Equally, our thanks to Chen Ning of the National Library of China who made possible the Chinese version.

We are especially happy because it is possible now to access the Guidelines in the seven official languages accepted by IFLA. Additionally, as a way to extend our service to more communities of government libraries, the publication is also available in Japanese, Hindi and Catalan; meanwhile Greek and Urdu versions are in the making.

The guidelines are meant for managers and line staff of government libraries. It takes the shape of a working guide, where examples, models of behaviours, services and best practices are listed, and can be followed when they suit the situation. Now, we are glad to share this work with the library community from the Arab world.



The Guidelines are available at <http://www.ifla.org/publications/guidelines-for-libraries-of-government-departments>

Hindi Translation of Guidelines is available in Print

The Hindi Translation of Guidelines has been printed and published by Mrs. Sangeeta Bihani from London under an agreement with IFLA. Those printed copies are available in UK and India.

Contact details are given below to request printed copies:

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News

Cuba: II Congress on Health and Disasters

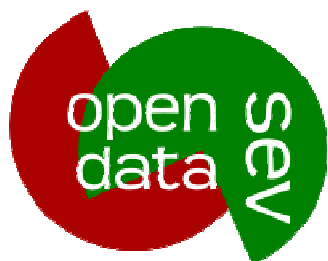
The II Congress on Health and Disasters, organised by the Ministry of Public Health of Cuba, was held in Havana on March 20-22, 2013.

The objectives were placed in the intersection between disaster risk management and public health: increase in good practices and lessons learned, and the promotion of new alternatives for international cooperation.

Since the congress had a multidisciplinary approach, information professionals were also invited to participate. Topics covered in the Congress included information management during phases of natural disasters, information literacy and disaster risk management in libraries.

Spain: Open data Sevilla

It is not a surprise to find open data events nowadays. One such event took place a few days ago in Seville, Spain. The II meeting on open government & open data (<http://opendatasevilla.org/>) was organised by Opendata Seville Group and Universidad Pablo Olavide. The purpose was to promote transparency, public information access and participation from the open government standpoint.



Open government data are public data that can be released, used and reused by any citizen. This implies a logic where modes of information production and distribution at government should be intended to be open and transparent.

As other similar events, the exchange raised questions such as why civic service should open institutional data and how data should be released, putting the benefit of citizens as the main justification for these potential procedures in public agencies.

During this event, it is worth noting that information professionals with interest in libraries were part of the meeting (at the Speaker Corner Section). Since it is possible to find public data in some kind of libraries and there are librarians with experience in information management, it is important to have some of them involved and engaged in this kind of endeavour.

Winners of an Innovation Award for Contributing to Open Government announced

EIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL-PLIP) has offered an Innovation Award for Contributing to Open Government this year. The criteria of selection included only to public or community libraries located in a transition or

developing country, working in alliance with government agencies in offering e-government services or facilitating participatory democracy at local level.

The winners were announced by EIFL as following:

Šiauliai County 'Povilas Visinkis' Public Library in Lithuania for their e-government training programme which is creating dialogue between citizens and officials.

Public Law Library 'B. P. Hasdeu' Municipal Library in Moldova for their new online legal database which provides free public access to decisions of the Chisinau Municipal Council.

Central Library 'M. L. Kropyvnytskyi' and the Mykolaiv Centralized Library System for Adults in Ukraine, for their Citizen Service Centres which are empowering citizens to interact with local government.

More information at <http://www.eifl.net/eifl-plip-innovation-award/award-4-open-government>

Malawi: CSFLIP Seminar and General Meeting

The Civil Service Forum for Library and Information Personnel (CSFLIP) organised a two-day Seminar and General Meeting to be held at Mponela Agricultural Conference Hall, Malawi, from 13th to 14th December, 2012.

The theme of the Seminar was "Libraries are engine for Climate Change Information and Knowledge".

The CSFLIP Chairperson delivered a keynote address titled "The Role of Libraries in the provision of Climate Change Information for good livelihood in Malawi". Participants then were briefed on the current situation on the career structure for library and information personnel in the public service, the collection of Institutional Progress Reports for 2013 Consultative Conference, and the preparations for the Standing Conference for Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Librarians (SCECSAL) to be held in Malawi in 2014.

CSFLIP is the body for Librarians, Documentalists and Archivists working in the public service in Malawi, who come together to lobby with government on the best practices of providing information services and capacity building.

Post prepared over the basis of an official statement prepared by G.G. Makhalira, CSFLIP chairperson.

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Institutional, Association and Individual Members

Currently, there are 56 members of IFLA registered in the Government Libraries Section.

Distribution by categories

- 41 institutions
- 13 national associations
- 2 students affiliates.

Distribution by countries

Number of members from each country:

- Argentina 1
- Australia 2
- Azerbaijan 1
- Belgium 2
- Bosnia and Herzegovina 1
- Cameroon 1
- Canada 4
- China 3
- Croatia 1
- Cyprus 1
- Denmark 1
- Egypt 1
- Finland 3
- Germany 1
- Hungary 1
- Iceland 1
- India 2
- Ireland 2
- Italy 2
- Japan 1
- Namibia 1
- Netherlands 2
- Norway 2
- Portugal 1
- Republic of Korea 1
- Russian Federation 2
- Saudi Arabia 1
- Slovenia 1
- Spain 2
- Swaziland 1
- Sweden 2
- Switzerland 1
- United Kingdom 1
- United States 6

IFLA Government Libraries Section, Encouraging the Growth and Development of Government Libraries!



Government Libraries Section

Government libraries form a Section of their own within IFLA (Section 04) belonging to Division I: Library Types.

The section is aimed at the community of libraries that are part of and work for a body with a governing task and that may have a political responsibility or connection. The section encourages the growth and development of government libraries and their staff and promotes and facilitates open information sharing.

Objectives

- Promote government libraries and government information services.
- Assist government libraries in working with each other.
- Provide advice to librarians working in government libraries to better assist their customers in utilizing government information.
- Provide a means for librarians in government libraries to exchange information and communicate with each other.
- Develop and promote model standards for government libraries

The section is always interested in increasing our partnerships and membership. If you would like to hear more about

- How to join us
- Our publications, especially the Guidelines for Government Libraries
- Our conference programmes
- Our blog and social media
- How to get involved and in touch with committee members, then

Visit our website at

<http://www.ifla.org/government-libraries>



IFLA Government Libraries Section



@IFLA_GLS

Editorial Note

This is the official newsletter of the Government Libraries Section of IFLA. The newsletter may be reproduced and printed in electronic formats without permission, provided acknowledgement is made. Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Section Officers or the Editor.

We would like to see more global representation and would welcome a volunteer from each continent to supply a continental update or perspective to the newsletter – if you are interested please contact us at ifla.governmentlibraries@gmail.com.
