



IFLA Law Libraries Section

www.ifla.org/VII/s48/index.htm

Annual Report 2007 plus Report 2001-2006

The idea of a Law Libraries Discussion Group was originally launched by Roger Parent, then Executive Director of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), and by Holger Knudsen, then President of the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) in 2001. It was thought to be quite remarkable and unsatisfactory that different kinds of special libraries have their own Section at IFLA, while the by far more numerous law libraries are not represented with an own Section.

Law librarians have several opportunities to meet on an international level, to discuss mutual problems and to exchange their views. This is particularly true for the annual Courses of the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL), the Joint Study Institute of several English speaking associations, and the Foreign, Comparative, and International Special Interest Section of the AALL.

It is also true, however, that colleagues from many different countries and (legal) cultures can not attend these meetings, or at least cannot attend them regularly. Therefore a Law Librarians Discussion Group (with the perspective to eventually become a Section of IFLA) was set up in order to attract foreign colleagues who have a chance to attend the IFLA meetings but who are otherwise unable to travel further, in order to meet, exchange their views, and to eventually become part of a network.

The IFLA Governing Board granted the creation of a Law Libraries Discussion Group in 2001 for two years, which was extended for another two years in 2003.

The Law Libraries Discussion Group sponsored and convened programmes at the IFLA courses in Glasgow 2002: "Citizens' Rights to Free Access to Basic Legal Materials". Speakers: JOE URY (London) and ROSEMARY EVERETT (Edinburgh);
in Berlin 2003: "Legal Aspects and New Structures of Global Information Provision". Speakers: HARALD MÜLLER (Heidelberg) and ULRIKE JUNGER (Berlin);
in Buenos Aires 2004: "Argentina and Brazil: recent legal developments". Speakers: DÉBORA GOZZO (São Paulo) and TEODORA ZAMUDIO (Buenos Aires);
and in Oslo 2005: "The Internationalisation of Law: The Teaching, The Students, The Research and the Library". Speakers:

The success of these four meetings had confirmed the assumption that there was a need to create a focal meeting point for law librarians at the IFLA conferences. The number of participants fluctuated between 50 and 70 and most of them had not joined any of the other law librarians' meetings before.

Upon the request of Claire Germain, President of the American Association of Law Libraries and of Jules Winterton, President of the International Association of Law Libraries, following the Course in Oslo, the Governing Board of IFLA voted in favour of the permanent creation of a Law Libraries Section of IFLA on December 6, 2005, and appointed Holger Knudsen to act as a Coordinator until the elections in 2006.

The meeting of this new section took place in Seoul in 2006 and two lectures were given: "Establishing, Growing and Sustaining Law Library Associations" and "Building a Law Libraries Section at the International Federation of Library Associations - Chances, Problems, and Steps to take". Speakers: SUSAN FOX (Chicago) and HOLGER KNUDSEN (Hamburg).

In 2006 the Standing Committee members of IFLA's Law Libraries Section were elected by the membership which now stands at 34. The following individuals were elected and shared the incumbent tasks during their first meeting in Durban on August 18, 2007: [list of Officers and SC members](#)

The Section meeting on August 19, 2007 in Durban, South Africa had the title "Open Access Law and Free Legal Information for Democracy and Human Rights". Speakers were AMANDA BARRATT, University of Cape Town, South Africa (Introduction); RICHARD DANNER, Duke University (The Importance of Open Access Secondary Sources); MERLE RUFF, South African Legal Information Institute and SHERYL LUTHULI, South African Constitutional Court (The Importance of Open Access Primary Sources) and CECILIE BUTENSCHØN MARIRI, Southern and Eastern Regional Centre for Women's, Harare (The Dung Beetle Effect: Taking Law to the People in Southern and Eastern Africa). There were 73 participants attending.

The Section is still at its very beginning, and it will be the task of the new SC to attract more members in order to reach the minimum requirement of 40 members, and to devise a policy. A mission statement, and a flyer were already devised by Secretary Claire Germain and endorsed by the SC.

Claire Germain is also in charge of the preparations for the lecture in Québec, which are in full swing. There will be three major programs of interest to law librarians, and a reception organized by the Québec law library colleagues, and several library visits, including law libraries.

I. Program on Québec Law and Digital Libraries

Research in a Mixed Jurisdiction: A Québec Perspective. A description of the evolution of Québec's unique legal system and The Center for Access to Legal Information (CAIJ *Centre d'accès à l'information juridique*).

II. Authentication of Digital Law

Co-sponsored with the Sections on Library & Research Services for Parliaments; Government Libraries; and Government Information & Official Pubs: "The Seal of Approval: Official and Authentic Law in Digital Form." Moving toward Authentication of Official Digital Legal Information, the "Word of the Law." Long term access and preservation issues, in particular of born digital information which has no print equivalent. Reports on U.S. status (AALL 50 state survey/GLIN), on European countries, and on Canada.

III. Preservation and Conservation of Digital Objects. Co-sponsored with the Sections on Preservation and Conservation, and Information Technology.