



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

IFLA Law Libraries Section Mission

As an international policy forum for all law librarians, the Section on Law Libraries

- promotes understanding and cooperation among law libraries, and increases awareness of the value and importance of law libraries to the world;
- encourages growth in the development of new law libraries, with a particular focus on emerging nations;
- fosters the profession of law librarianship and legal research competencies worldwide;
- develops professional standards and practices;
- and provides leadership in the field of legal information policy, recognizing that equitable and permanent public access to authentic legal information is a necessary requirement for a just and democratic society worldwide.

Officers: Holger Knudsen (Germany), Chair; Claire Germain (USA), Secretary; Donna Scheeder (USA), Treasurer; Frank Hurinville (France), Information Coordinator.

Next meetings:

2008 August 10-15, Quebec City, Canada
2009 August, Milan, Italy
2010 August, Brisbane, Australia

How to Join IFLA:

1. **Institutional Members.** 2 free Section registrations included with membership

If your university library is a member, you can subscribe under them. 2008 fee is 425 euros for the university library (USA). Additional section is 50 euros

2. **Institutional Sub-unit.** 1 free Section registration is included with membership

You can subscribe as a law library. 2008 fee is 215 euros for USA

3. **Personal and Student Affiliates.** 1 free Section registration is included with membership

2008 fee is 125 euros. No voting rights. 55 euros for students.

More information at <http://www.ifla.org/III/members/form2a.htm>. Questions? Write to Claire M. Germain at cmg13@cornell.edu

Why join: to have a voice on international and global issues

- IFLA enhances knowledge useful for our law library profession because it covers all types of libraries and activities worldwide (government, public, school, academic, intellectual property, management, technology, etc.).
- If you want to have influence in the international arena, IFLA is recognized as the main policy forum on libraries and information policy by international organizations such as WIPO and UNESCO. As an example, IFLA played a key role in the recent World Summit on Information.
- Together with IALL and national associations such as AALL and SLA, IFLA offers incomparable professional development and networking opportunities at its annual conference. <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm>

IFLA Quebec City, Canada, August 10-15, 2008. Program Highlights

There are three major programs of interest to law librarians, in addition to a multitude of other offerings. The Law Libraries Section is entitled to one program slot. In addition, the Section has worked hard in its first year, and successfully proposed two other law-related programs, co-sponsored with other sections. Further, there will be a reception organized by our Quebec law library colleagues, and several library visits, including law libraries.

I. Program on Quebec Law and Digital Libraries

- Research in a Mixed Jurisdiction: A Québec Perspective. A description of the evolution of Quebec's unique legal system: Its private law through the Quebec Civil Code and the impact of English common law on its public law, with a focus on the unique requirements for researching Quebec law.
- The Center for Access to Legal Information (CAIJ *Centre d'accès à l'information juridique*) was created five years ago by the Quebec bar in order to transform its network of bar libraries into an effective information broker, centered on a virtual library. It was met with a very positive response from lawyers in Quebec. The evolution of the project; current services offered, and projects to come will be discussed.

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 (floppies, CDs, DVDs, videotapes, etc.) Co-sponsored with the Sections on Preservation & Conservation; and Inf. Technology..

- This is a topic of utmost importance in the legal field, and we hope to have a speaker talk about some of the law-related aspects. As an example, the U.S. Supreme Court recently cited to a videotape in its decision, saying "it speaks for itself," and put it as an attachment. How will that videotape be available 20 years from now? 1/08

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