



ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005 - Buenos Aires to Oslo

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS (GIOPS)

Scope

The Section promotes the discovery, collection, bibliographic control, preservation and dissemination of information from and about governments, inter-governmental organizations and public non-governmental organizations.

Membership

The Section has 17 standing committee members and 4 corresponding members. Section membership stands at approximately 120 members.

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Other Standing Committee Members

Petrina Amonoo (2003-2007)
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Eleanor G. Frierson, Chair Conference Subcommittee, (2003-2007)
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Bruno Gnassi, (2001-2005), University Librarian,
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Ms Sigrun Habermann-Box, (2003-2007),
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Claude Lecrubier (Mme) (2003-2007)
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Irina L. Lynden, (2003-2007), Russian Consultant,
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Memories of Oslo...



GIOPS Open Session Speakers, Oslo



For the Oslo IFLA Conference, the IFLA theme was “Libraries – A voyage of discovery” and GIOPS chose the theme ‘*Sailing the treacherous seas of digital government information: from pamphlet boxes to digital libraries*’. The papers focused on new challenges and opportunities concerning the management and provision of digital government information; how new government information systems are accommodating information published in formats other than digital; how many kinds of information are being integrated; what new kinds of collaboration are being developed in relation to digital government information and what and how new government policies are being put into place to govern digital government information and the effects of the new policies. The following presentations were accepted:

- [Management and Planning Organization of Iran: Official Publications](#), by MARIAM ANSARI (Center for Scientific Documents & Publications, Iran)
- [The World Wide Web enhancing electronic government in the Caribbean](#), by FAY DURRANT (The University of the West Indies, Jamaica)
- [Government Publications and Information Dissemination: Indian Scenario](#), by DR. P.R. GOSWAMI and MRS. KALPANA DASGUPTA (National Social Science Documentation Centre, India and the Member Regional Standing Committee on Asia and Oceania)
- [Developing the Digital World of Government Information and Official Publications: View from the United States](#), by THOMAS F. LAHR (National Biological Information Infrastructure, Reston, VA, USA), ROBIN HAUN-MOHAMED (United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC USA) and ELEANOR G. FRIERSON (National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD, USA)
- [The challenge of creating and sustaining a socially inclusive e-citizenry: the proactive advocacy role of the National Library Board, Singapore](#), by RAJEN MUNOO (National Library Board, Singapore) and RAKUNATHAN NARAYANAN (Meridian Junior College, Singapore)
- [Informed Citizens in the Global Information Commons](#), by GEOFFREY D. SWINDELLS (University of Missouri-Columbia Libraries)

Once again the GIOPS open session attendees and the Standing Committee members were very impressed with the quality of the papers, leading to a discussion and decision to publish a compilation of at least the past 5 years of GIOPS papers.

GIOPS Standing Committee Meetings in Buenos Aires and Oslo

As usual GIOPS held two Standing Committee Meetings at each of the Buenos Aires and Oslo World Library and Information Congresses. It was at the first Buenos Aires Meeting that members learned that Bruno Gnassi had resigned as Chair of GIOPS. GIOPS received advice from the Coordinating Board as to how to proceed and the Chair, Division V, Edward Swanson attended the GIOPS meeting to provide advice. As one year was remaining in the term of Chair, the Standing Committee asked Jane Wu to move from position of Secretary to Acting Chair and Peter Raggett stepped in as Acting Secretary. Subsequently, at the Oslo GIOPS Standing Committee Meeting, Ms. Jane Wu

was elected Chair, Ms. Jackie Druery was elected Secretary and Peter Raggett elected Treasurer.

The GIOPS seminar was planned for March 2005 and was to take place at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Ethiopia. Due to unforeseen circumstances it had to be postponed. At the Oslo Standing Committee Meetings it was proposed that GIOPS collaborate with FAIFE and possibly the Africa Section to hold the Seminar in March 2006. Ms. Irina Lynden, Ms. Junko Sato and Ms. Jane Wu agreed to work on this and to investigate collaborating with the Africa Section of IFLA. Ms. Lynden and Ms. Jane Wu met with Paul Sturges, FAIFE, to discuss the possibility of collaboration.

Discussions were held both in Buenos Aires and Oslo with the Government Libraries Section regarding collaboration on the Guidelines for Government Libraries. A Subcommittee was formed from members from the Government Libraries and GIOPS and it was hoped the Parliamentary Libraries Section would participate. The Subcommittee formulated a draft proposal for guidelines for government libraries and information centers to offer guiding principles. At the Oslo Congress draft chapters were presented and Nancy Bolt, who is leading the project, envisaged that the chapters already written would be reviewed and remaining draft chapters written for presentation at Seoul in 2006. The final version would be presented to the IFLA conference in Durban in 2007. The GIOPS representative is Irja Peltonen.

Success stories and Recommendations:

GIOPS members who staffed the IFLA booth during these conferences had a number of recommendations:

- 1) A computer with Internet access should be available at the Booth to show visitors the websites of the various Sections.
- 2) GIOPS needs brochures, bookmarks, more things to hand out to visitors. We have German, Russian, French and English brochures, but we need the Spanish version.

There was discussion that GIOPS members were unable to participate in library visits because programs conflicted. It was agreed that Thursday afternoon was a poor time for the GIOPS open session program and we would like to have our program scheduled earlier in this conference week.

- The presentations had to compete with the only scheduled library tours and attendance was low, in the range of 100-125 attendees.
- This was a pity because the speakers were excellent and provided a different perspective from the published papers.
- The situation was embarrassing for the SC who had encouraged many high profile speakers to participate.
- The SC had therefore expected a large attendance and consequently had requested a large room and simultaneous translation.

It was agreed to discuss this matter at the Division V Meeting and to request the Chair of the Division to take it forward as a concern to the Coordinating Board.

It was agreed that:

- it was good to have interpreters; copies of the papers were provided to the interpreters to facilitate translation.
- The short presentations were a good model.
- Papers will be on the web site if they are not already.

Concern was expressed regarding the separation of the exhibit hall and the meeting rooms in Oslo. This made it difficult for the exhibitors and concerns were heard regarding the number of participants who attended the exhibits.

The Committee expressed its appreciation that Emma Voskanyan has consistently over a number of years translated all of the papers into Russian.

Appreciation was expressed by all to the Conference Sub-Committee Chair, Ms. Eleanor Frierson, for the excellent GIOPS program presented during her tenure. The program was well attended and the presentations were of a very high standard. One paper can be recommended for publication in the IFLA Journal. In Oslo it was agreed that the paper by Fay Durrant, The University of the West Indies, Jamaica, titled "*The World Wide Web: enhancing electronic government information in the Caribbean*" be recommended due to its substantive original research content. Ms. Sandy Peterson will send the suggestion to the IFLA Journal editors.

The conference program for 2006 will explore the use of digital government information by the business community. Ms. Jane Wu, Chair, GIOPS reported that Ms. Irja Peltonen had agreed prior to the meeting to take on the position of Conference Sub-Committee Chair. She and the Chair GIOPS will also investigate collaborating with the Parliamentary Libraries Section for the Seoul GIOPS Open Session.

It was suggested that GIOPS publish the best papers from the conference programs from past years with an emphasis on representing as many countries as possible. This could possibly be done in the IFLA green or red series. It was suggested that the Chair GIOPS investigate with Ms Lynden whether she wished to be editor.

Ms. Jane Wu thanked Elisabeth Sundholm for her service to the Committee for two terms and presented her with an IFLA Certificate of Appreciation.

