



**International Federation of  
Library Associations and  
Institutions  
Government Information and  
Official Publications Section  
(GIOPS)**

**Newsletter [No. 8]  
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## **Greetings from the New Chair**

By: Eleanor G. Frierson (Chair, GIOPS; Deputy Director, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Maryland, United States. [Eleanor.frierson@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Eleanor.frierson@ars.usda.gov))

Greetings and best wishes from Washington, D.C., where we have had our challenges with ice and snow and have been sympathizing with those who are suffering because of earthquakes, mudslides, tornadoes, storms, and volcanoes. If any of us needed a reminder that we cannot control our environments, the past few months have certainly provided that reminder!

I have been impressed with the speed and thoroughness of government information available to those affected by environmental catastrophes. Even in our Internet-saturated societies, it takes precious time to determine the circumstances, identify what can be done, and start assisting people. Despite that, governments all around the world have been providing much valuable information about what has happened, is happening, and is likely to happen next.

It is also increasingly common for government information to be made available by the latest of Web 2.0 technologies. Here at the National Agricultural Library colleagues developed a Twitter account featuring the latest information about food safety. Within a very brief time, the account had more than a thousand followers and as of April 2010, had more than 6,000 followers, with about 7 new people joining every day. At the same time, all of us continue to pursue the traditional goals of identifying, collecting, processing, disseminating, and preserving government and official publications in all media. With the continuing expansion of new technologies, new formats, and new approaches to creating and disseminating government information, our jobs are more challenging than ever.

I hope to see many of you at this summer's World Library and Information Congress in Göteborg, Sweden. GIOPS is co-sponsoring two exciting sessions, described below, which our section committee believes will attract considerable interest.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Section committee, in particular Takashi Koga, the GIOPS Information Coordinator and Newsletter Editor, who has not only put the GIOPS Web site into the new IFLA format, but has also patiently encouraged Jackie Druery, the Past Chair, and me, while we have dealt with the effects of IFLA's new organization and many internal processes.

I wish you all a safe and healthy 2010 and great professional success.



## **Greetings from the Past Chair**

By: Jackie Druery (Chair, GIOPS, 2007-2009; Head, Learning & Research Services, Stauffer Library, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. [drueryj@queensu.ca](mailto:drueryj@queensu.ca))

Greetings from Canada where in our part of the country we have had the easiest of winters with little snow, relatively mild temperatures and just enough very cold days with bright sunshine to remind us of what winter can really bring. Several months have passed since the World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly was held in Milan – my last congress as Chair of GIOPS and the seventh consecutive conference that I have attended, my first being in Berlin in 2003. I am always amazed at how different each congress is, the diversity in the programmes, and the social events. I will not spend time here recounting the details of the GIOPS Programme, the Standing Committee meetings or the social events (which were amazing!) as they are recorded elsewhere in this newsletter. The Organizing Committee in Milan and IFLA did a fantastic job in the face of international financial challenges.

My position as Chair, GIOPS for the 2007-2009 term has afforded me the opportunity to attend the conferences, to meet people from the library community and beyond from all over the world, to visit amazing places that I may never have visited otherwise and has reaffirmed the notion that the issues, challenges and opportunities that we face in libraries and with providing access to government information in particular are not so different.

I want to thank the other members of the executive - Marcy Allen (USA); Peter Raggett (OECD) and Takashi Koga (Japan) who have done an excellent job in their positions and have been good colleagues. Congratulations to Peter who retired from OECD in January 2010 and thanks to him for all his work as Treasurer over several years. Takashi took on the formidable job of moving the GIOPS website into the format of the new IFLA website which hopefully will make it easier for the section to keep its information current. Thanks are also due to Jane Wu, previous Past-Chair, for her mentoring and for encouraging me to become involved in GIOPS at the executive level. I also extend thanks to Irja Peltonen (Finland) and Alice Ramohlola (South Africa); and, Nan Hyland (USA) and Eleanor Frierson (USA) for their work in organizing the GIOPS Programme for 2008 and 2009 respectively. And, of course, thanks and congratulations to Eleanor in her new position as Chair, 2009-2011. I am grateful to my institution, Queen's University, Canada for the support which they provided that allowed me to attend Congress each year.

The next few years will be challenging and interesting for the Section as the new IFLA structure unfolds and everyone defines and understands their role within it and the effect it will have on the operation of IFLA. Regardless of the structure the challenges in providing access to government information around the world will not lessen and GIOPS will continue to play a role in facilitating that access. I encourage everyone to attend the Congress if possible, the 76th Congress in Gothenburg will be another interesting and valued experience! ■

## Report on the GIOPS Program at the IFLA 2009 Conference in Milan, Italy

By: Takashi Koga\* (Information Coordinator, GIOPS; Associate Professor, Kyoto University Library, Kyoto, Japan. [tkoga@kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:tkoga@kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp))

### 1. Introduction

The IFLA 2009 Conference (World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly) was held on August 23–27, 2009 at the Fiera Milano Convention Centre (MIC) in Milan, Italy.

The Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS) program was held from 11:45 to 13:45 on August 26, under the title of “Government Publications as Cultural Heritage: Preserving the Past, Keeping Up with the Present, Embracing the Future.” The program was chaired by Ms. Jackie Druery, who is also the outgoing chair of GIOPS.

All the presentations at the program dealt with the challenges of managing and archiving digital government information. The speakers particularly stressed on the issues of policies and legislation concerning the management of and access to government information and official publications.

Papers presented at the program are available in their entirety at the IFLA website.

### 2. Presentations and papers

Five presentations by six speakers representing five countries—USA, Botswana, India, China, and Libya—were delivered at the program. Given below are brief descriptions of the papers in the order of their presentation.

- Judy Mansfield and Beacher Wiggins presented a paper titled “Transformation of the U.S. International Exchange Service: Project Report.” They discussed the challenges faced by the International Exchange Service as well as the progress in government websites and e-government. They also provided information on new programs including an international project for the exchange of electronic government information. Their paper is available at <http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/papers/ifla75/175-mansfield-en.pdf>.
- Violet Radiporo’s (University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana) paper “Botswana Government Publications: Turning the Pages of Culture,” concerned current issues pertaining to the management of and access to government information in Botswana. She suggested solutions, including the establishment of the “National Information Center,” to support online initiatives to increase the availability of government information. Her paper is available at <http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/papers/ifla75/175-radiporo-en.pdf>.
- Paramajeet K. Walia (University of Delhi, Delhi, India) discussed her detailed analysis of government websites in India and highlighted the imbalance in the creation and management of the websites with respect to different regions and subject matter. Her paper,

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\* The author received financial support from KAKENHI, Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists (B) from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in Japan, No. 21700272, to attend the conference.

“Access to Government Information in India in the Digital Environment,” is available at <http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/papers/ifla75/175-walia-en.pdf>.

- Jin Xuemei (Shenzhen Science and Technology Library, Shenzhen, China) introduced recent developments in the public availability of government information in the People’s Republic of China, including the national-level regulation passed in 2008, which designates national archives and public libraries as “public access points” to government information. She also pointed out the challenges in enforcing such regulation for public libraries. Her paper, “Providing Government Information and Services in the Chinese Public Library,” is available at <http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/papers/ifla75/175-xuemei-en.pdf>.
- Ramadan Elaieess (University of Garyounis, Benghazi, Libya) was unable to attend the program, but his paper “General Guidelines for Design of a Low-Cost Digital Library for Special Library Users in Developing Countries and the Arabic Speaking World” is available at <http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/papers/ifla75/175-elaieess-en.pdf>

#### Photos from the IFLA 2009 Conference



Conference venue: Fiera Milano Convention Centre



Opening greetings by Prof. Mauro Guerrini, President of the Italian National Committee, IFLA 2009



Presentation by Dr. Walia at the GIOPS program



Presenters and the Chair (Ms. Druery) at the end of the GIOPS program

## Report on the ATINA Program at the IFLA 2009 Conference in Milan, Italy

By: Jackie Druery (Chair, GIOPS, 2007-2009; Head, Learning & Research Services, Stauffer Library, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. [drueryj@queensu.ca](mailto:drueryj@queensu.ca))

The purpose of Access to Information Network - Africa (ATINA) is to aid, assess and promote free public access to government information and information about governments, freedom of expression and democracy through libraries and library professionals across the African continent ([www.ifla.org/en/atina](http://www.ifla.org/en/atina)). ATINA sponsors IFLA conference programs on African access to government information and information about governments and on the role of libraries in promoting freedom of expression and democracy. ATINA is a Special Interest Group sponsored by the Africa Section.

At the WLIC in Milan, ATINA sponsored a well-attended and interesting program, *From the classical community of knowledge to A2K: the commonwealth of information in Africa* - Le bien public de l'information en Afrique, dès la communauté grégoromaine des connaissances jusqu'à l'ère du droit d'auteur et du libre accès. Four papers were presented at the program.

Rosaline Nyanjou ép Njike from the Bureau Sous Régional de l'UNESCO en Afrique Centrale, Cameroun, presented the paper *L'impact historique en Afrique du Nord de la Bibliothèque d'Alexandrie et d'autres bibliothèques de l'ère classique grégoromaine jusqu'en moyen âge musulman - The historical influence in North Africa of Alexandria's library and other classical Greek and Roman libraries down into the Muslim Middle Age*. This paper discussed how “the classical community of knowledge in the ancient world was centred at the Alexandria Library in Egypt. For 900 years this unequalled intellectual centre carried out research and exchanged manuscripts with libraries throughout the Mediterranean basin. The scholars of Alexandria pushed back the frontiers of historical, geographical and cultural knowledge far to the south in Africa, along the coasts of Ethiopia and as far as the interior of black Africa. Between the 5th and 7th centuries after Christ the library of Alexandria lost its intellectual primacy due to the prejudices of Christian fundamentalism and the Arab Muslim conquest, and in the end it disappeared. But a part of its fund of knowledge was transmitted by the churches, the monasteries and the Muslim scholars of western North Africa and Spain to aid the development of European civilization in the early Middle Ages” (Njike, Abstract, <http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/papers/ifla75/95-nyanjou-fr.pdf>).

Francis T. Kirkwood, Library of Parliament, Canada presented a paper on *Colonial knowledge pathways back to the European capitals and how to use them to recover the history of African knowledge in the early 20th century* - Pistes de recherche dans les capitales coloniales européennes pour dévoiler l'histoire des connaissances africaines dans la première moitié du 20ème siècle. Mr. Kirkwood discussed how “from the decline of the Library of Alexandria to the pan-African intellectual awakening associated with modern independence movements and

mass communications the commonwealth of knowledge was eclipsed in Africa. Muslim North Africa and Spain had high civilizations and great learning but were essentially the first and most successful colonial regimes to rule in Africa, with their centres of civilization outside the continent. The subsequent European scramble for African colonies fissured the African intellectual landscape into different language camps and exported African knowledge to the colonial capitals rather than keeping it and sharing it in Africa” (Kirkwood, Abstract, <http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/papers/ifla75/95-kirkwood-en.pdf>).

Denise Rosemary Nicholson, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa gave a brief overview of the African Copyright & Access to Knowledge Project (ACA2K), established in 2007 and funded by the International Development Centre (IDRC) in Canada and the Shuttleworth Foundation in South Africa, in her paper *The African Copyright & Access to Knowledge (ACA2K) Project: a brief overview* - Droit d’auteur et Accès au Savoir en Afrique (D2ASA): aperçus. This project is studying the relationship between national copyright environments and access to knowledge in eight African countries and the paper described the background and context of the project; the selection of countries and framework and methodology used in the research. The paper is available at <http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/papers/ifla75/95-nicholson-en.pdf>.

Assane Faye, Université Bambey, Sénégal presented the paper *L’impact du droit d’auteur sur l’accès à la connaissance au Sénégal* - *The influence of copyright on access to knowledge in Senegal*. The paper was an overview of the plans and projects for the provision of public and university access to knowledge in Senegal. A history of 20th-century copyright law in French Africa and in Senegal was also given as well as the current situation of compliance with copyright law in Senegal’s educational and research institutes and how copyright impacts access to practical knowledge in Senegal, within the framework of African Copyright & Access to Knowledge Project (ACA2K). The paper is available at <http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/papers/ifla75/95-faye-fr.pdf>.



## Recent development of the government information policy in Japan

By: Takashi Koga (Information Coordinator, GIOPS; Associate Professor, Kyoto University Library, Kyoto, Japan. [tkoga@kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:tkoga@kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp))

### Introduction

The author has followed up on Japan's government information policy issues as well as related activities of libraries and archives [1]. It is especially notable that Japan has only recently undergone such radical policy change. This brief paper explores several important topics.

### 1. Enactment of the Public Records Management Law

The issue of public records management and the related role of the National Archives of Japan (NAJ) has been a much discussed policy topic in Japan for recent years. The background for such keen interest includes strong criticism of poor records management, as revealed by a recent pension records scandal, as well as former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's strong policy leadership for such issues.

After a half-year discussion of legal plans by a commission of researchers and experts under the Cabinet in 2008, the Cabinet submitted a Bill of Public Records Management to the National Diet (Parliament) on March 3, 2009. In June, the Bill was passed unanimously in both Houses of the National Diet—*Shugi-in* (Lower House) and *Sangi-in* (Upper House)—with some revisions requested by the opposition parties. Finally, the Public Records Management Law was enacted on July 1, 2009, and it will come into effect by April 2011 [2].

The main points of this Law can be summarized as follows:

- This Law covers almost the entire lifecycle of records management, from current records management to selection and preservation of archival records.
- This Law regulates the records management of all national government agencies; earlier, each agency had its own records management policy. The Law also regulates the records management of quasi-government agencies, including national universities.
- Citizens have the right of access to current and archival records, with some exceptions (e.g., national security, foreign affairs, privacy of ordinary people).
- The Prime Minister, not the President of the NAJ, is ultimately in charge of the disposition of national government records.
- A Board of Public Records Management, with experts in records management and archival issues, is to be established to supervise government records management and handle public claims concerning access to the records.

While this new law is expected to promote public records management at the national level, concrete results are yet to be seen. The following are some of the challenges accompanying the enactment of the law: (1) the creation of public records for important government activities (as opposed to mere oral communication), (2) management and preservation of electronic records and collaboration and/or cooperation of the National Archives with the IT-oriented departments within the government, and (3) engagement of the staff at the NAJ and the Board of Public

Records Management in order to direct more efficient records management of government agencies. In addition, one of the significant flaws in this law is its failure to ensure education, employment, training, and promotion of professional archivists and records managers.

## **2. Strengthening the archive of government websites by the National Diet Library**

Since 2006, the National Diet Library (NDL) has operated WARP (Web Archiving Program) [3] for archiving select Web content in Japan (a 2004 pilot project). The sites covered by WARP include websites of electronic journals, national and local government agencies, quasi-government bodies, and universities. However, owing to the restrictions of current legislations such as Copyright Law, the NDL needs the permission of government agencies and other organizations to archive their web content for WARP. Such restrictions have curtailed the amount and frequency of web archiving, including archiving government websites, by the NDL [4].

Another recent legislation will partially overcome this limitation: recent revisions of the National Diet Library Law and the Copyright Law, July 10, 2009. The purpose of these revisions is to strengthen the website archiving of national and local government agencies, independent administrative agencies, national universities, and similar organizations. In fact, the publications of such organizations are the object of *Kancho Nohon* (legal deposit system of publications issued by governmental and local public entities), which is given special treatment as the deposit system of NDL, in terms of the number of copies and purpose of deposit (including international exchange)[5][6]. In this sense, the strengthened web archiving system is an extension of *Kancho Nohon*. The NDL will operate a web crawler system for the websites in order to conduct automatic web archiving; this is different from the current permission-based WARP system. In addition, the revised Copyright Law grants the NDL permission to copy (crawl) the websites without obtaining consent from government and similar agencies. It should be noted, however, that access to the archived content is a separate matter. In principle, access will be limited within the buildings of the NDL in Tokyo and Kyoto (Kansai-kan), and the NDL will need to get permission from the originating government and similar agencies to post the archived contents on the web and allow Internet users access to the contents. The abovementioned revisions came into effect on April 1, 2010.

## **3. Enhancing the effectiveness of Sec. 9 of the Library Law**

The Library Law in Japan, enacted in 1950, mainly covers the activities and management of public libraries. This law provides national and local governments' responsibility for disseminating its publications to public libraries in Section 9. The section states (the information within parentheses has been added by the author) [7]:

1. The [national] Government shall furnish public libraries established by prefectures two copies of the Official Gazette and other documents which are made available for public information published by the printing agency.
2. Agencies of the state [national] and of local public bodies may furnish public libraries free of charge, upon request, publications and other data and materials which they

publish.

This section has not been effectively complied with since the enactment. It was finally the target of criticism at the National Diet in 2008, when the revision of Library Law was discussed. Section 9 was not the object of the revision realized in June 2008, but the Japan Library Association (JLA) took advantage of this opportunity to promote the importance of free access to government publications at libraries and called for action to ensure effectiveness of this section. It is expected that such promotion by the JLA will result in greater compliance with Section 9 by national and local governments. In the author's view, however, the more important challenge will be to ensure preservation of and access to government publications on the web and other e-government contents. In addition, this challenge will have a lot to do with the NDL's web archiving activities concerning government and similar agencies, discussed above.

#### **4. Conclusion**

As discussed above, very recent legislations and policy changes in Japan promote the management of and access to government information such as records, publications, and websites. One of the reasons for such legislations could be that the public, including the congressmen and government officials, have realized the importance of government information as evidence of the activities of the national and local government as well as society. This realization may have come about through scandals such as the mismanagement of pension records. It is important to note that whether the abovementioned legislations are reflected in real governmental activities, including financial backup and treatment of professions, will affect the trustworthiness of government information as well as the national and local governments themselves. Moreover, the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) won the lower house election in August 2009, thereby realizing the unlikely reality of a political power shift from the long-reigning Liberal Democratic Party. Given this political change, we need to look carefully at how the new government (under the DPJ and coalition parties) will deal with the many policy issues concerning the management of and access to government information.

Finally, the author hopes to conduct more detailed analyses on the issues briefly described in this paper and to share the results in the form of presentations and/or papers in the near future.

#### **Acknowledgement**

This work was supported by KAKENHI: Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists (B) by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in Japan, No. 21700272.

#### **Notes and References**

[1] See for examples: Koga, Takashi. "Innovation beyond institutions: New projects and challenges for government information service institutions in Japan." A paper for World Library and Information Congress: 71st IFLA General Conference and Council (Government Libraries Section), Radison SAS Plaza Hotel, Oslo, Norway, Aug. 15, 2005. <http://hdl.handle.net/2433/70380>, (accessed 2010-04-27); Koga, Takashi. "Overview of Archives and Archival Issues in Japan." A

paper for the Archives & Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ) 2007 Conference, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, Jul. 12-14, 2007. <http://hdl.handle.net/2433/72837>, (accessed 2010-04-27).

[2] For comments on this bill and law, see for example: “Accessibility to official documents.” The Japan Times, June 18, 2009; “Editorial: New archive law marks start of major change.” The Daily Yomiuri, Jun. 25, 2009.

See also, Tadaaki Matsuoka. “The architecture of archives.” The Japan Journal, June 2008 Issue. [http://www.japanjournal.jp/tije/show\\_art.php?INDyear=08&INDmon=06&artid=c5ef46f31f31ddd c559d1006ad5d849a](http://www.japanjournal.jp/tije/show_art.php?INDyear=08&INDmon=06&artid=c5ef46f31f31ddd c559d1006ad5d849a), (accessed 2010-04-27).

[3] National Diet Library (Japan). “WARP: Web Archiving Program.” <http://warp.ndl.go.jp/search/>, (in Japanese, accessed 2010-04-27).

[4] Koga, “Innovation beyond institutions...” “op. cit.”, p. 6-7.

[5] Ibid, p. 3

[6] See also, National Diet Library. “National Diet Library Law.” <http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/laws.html>, (accessed 2010-04-27). However, this text in English is as of Mar 31, 2002, and does not reflect later revisions of the law, such as the expansion of *Kancho Nohon*, including publications of independent administrative agencies, national universities, and similar organizations.

[7] Japan Library Association. “Library Law” <http://www.jla.or.jp/law-e.html>, (accessed 2010-04-27). This text in English does not reflect the recent revisions either, although Section 9 remains the same.

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## Brief Notes

### [1] Publishing Policies and Practices Project

The [Publishing Policies and Practices project \(PPP\)](#) is an ongoing project of the International Documents Task Force (IDTF) to document acquisitions and collection development information specific to international organizations, national governments and the vendors with whom they work. There is a list of the International Government Organizations (IGOs) and countries that will be represented; suggestions for IGOs and countries not listed here, and discussion about the project in general can be done on the [PPP Discussion page](#). Contributors are needed – if you would like to write a IGO profile or a profile for an individual country contact James Jacobs, Stanford University ([jjacobs@stanford.edu](mailto:jjacobs@stanford.edu)) or David Griffiths, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign ([dgriffi@uiuc.edu](mailto:dgriffi@uiuc.edu)).

The [IDTF](#) is a task force within the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) of the American Library Association (ALA). It provides a forum for the discussion of ideas, problems, and news in the field; serves as a force for initiating and supporting programs to increase the accessibility and use of this information; and works to improve bibliographic control and collection development for these information resources.

IDTF also publishes the [Agency Liaison Report](#). Published twice each year, in conjunction with the ALA Mid-winter and Annual conferences, the report outlines new publications and publishing developments of IGOs – an effective method for keeping up with what is new with these agencies.

### [2] Open Government in the United States

Very shortly after entering office in January 2009, U.S. President Barack Obama issued a memorandum that announced his seriousness about making government information more easily accessible to all. Some key phrases from this memorandum include:

(See: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/TransparencyandOpenGovernment/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/TransparencyandOpenGovernment/))

“My Administration is committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in Government. We will work together to ensure the public trust and establish a system of transparency, public participation, and collaboration. Openness will strengthen our democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in Government.

**Government should be transparent.** Transparency promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their Government is doing. Information maintained by the Federal Government is a national asset. My

Administration will take appropriate action, consistent with law and policy, to disclose information rapidly in forms that the public can readily find and use. Executive departments and agencies should harness new technologies to put information about their operations and decisions online and readily available to the public. Executive departments and agencies should also solicit public feedback to identify information of greatest use to the public.

**Government should be participatory.** Public engagement enhances the Government's effectiveness and improves the quality of its decisions. Knowledge is widely dispersed in society, and public officials benefit from having access to that dispersed knowledge. Executive departments and agencies should offer Americans increased opportunities to participate in policymaking and to provide their Government with the benefits of their collective expertise and information. Executive departments and agencies should also solicit public input on how we can increase and improve opportunities for public participation in Government.

**Government should be collaborative.** Collaboration actively engages Americans in the work of their Government. Executive departments and agencies should use innovative tools, methods, and systems to cooperate among themselves, across all levels of Government, and with nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individuals in the private sector. Executive departments and agencies should solicit public feedback to assess and improve their level of collaboration and to identify new opportunities for cooperation.”

A little more than one year later, many concrete steps have been taken to advance these goals and can be followed at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/open>. A blog, information about new policies and actions, related initiatives in organizations such as The World Bank, and progress in specific initiatives such as [www.data.gov](http://www.data.gov) are available at the open government Web site. Speaking of [www.data.gov](http://www.data.gov), this is the Web site where agencies across the U.S. government are increasingly making available all kinds of data. In May 2009, Data.gov had just 47 data sets. Today, it has more than 168,000.

Government libraries have been very involved in open government work. The National Library of Medicine and the National Agricultural Library have posted data sets, and links to other data sets, on [www.data.gov](http://www.data.gov). Federal librarians have helped develop open government plans for their agencies. Federal librarians have also been active in promoting open government and training customers in how to access and use the vast quantities of data and information that are becoming available.

### **[3] Library of Congress Liaison to GIOPS**

We are delighted to inform the membership of GIOPS that the Library of Congress has named an official liaison to our section. Mr. Beacher Wiggins, Director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access, will serve as the Library of Congress liaison. Those who attended last year's WLIC in Milan will recall that Mr. Wiggins co-authored a presentation with Ms. Judy Mansfield for the GIOPS program. Welcome, Beacher!



## **Announcement: Joint Special Session Programs at IFLA 2010 in Gothenburg, Sweden**

At IFLA 2010 in Gothenburg, GIOPS is joining with other sections to present two programs.

The first program, titled:

### **Creating and International Legal Policy Agenda: Issues and Challenges**

is being co-sponsored by GIOPS and the Government and Law Libraries section. This program will take place on **Thursday August 12, from 13.34-15.45**, place to be determined.

The second program, co-sponsored by the sections of Government Libraries, Government Information & Official Publications, Knowledge Management, Preservation & Conservation, and Law Libraries is entitled:

### **Librarians in Action: Information Policy & Human Rights.**

Case studies around the world show why information policy is important in human rights issues, and illustrate how librarians can contribute to human rights issues in capturing and using information from short term tribunals, commissions, and interventions. Examples include the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the South Africa Truth Commission, the U.S. 9/11 Commission, the Chilean and Argentinean commissions, work associated with the former Yugoslavia, and many others around the globe. Sustaining the legacy of short term tribunals, commissions, and interventions is as important as the original intervention. The following aspects will be addressed:

- Legal and ethical issues.
- Policy issues, choices to be made.
- Information management issues.
- Preservation of print and electronic archives. The outcome is information retention, and how to continue to disseminate for education purposes.

This program will take place on **Friday, August 13, from 9:30-12:45**. Simultaneous interpretation services will be available.

**World Library and Information  
Congress: 76th IFLA General  
Conference and Assembly in  
Gothenburg, Sweden  
Aug. 10–15, 2010**

For more information about the  
conference, please visit:  
<http://www.ifla.org/en/ifla76/>



## Standing Committee Members of IFLA Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS) 2010

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