



**International Federation of Library
Associations and Institutions**

**Government Information and Official
Publications Section**

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Government Information in the Knowledge Society

Although with the advent of the Internet, the means of accessing and delivering government information has been radically changed in many parts of the world, the importance of the information has not diminished and it plays a critical role in many aspects of the lives of ordinary citizens. The Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS) of IFLA recognizes this vital role in its Mission and activities.

GIOPS Mission Statement

Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and public non-governmental organizations generate large quantities of documents and information which shape our lives and mold the societies in which we live. The Government Information and Official Publications Section promotes the discovery, collection, bibliographic control, preservation, and dissemination of information from and about all these bodies. Persons interested in the Section are drawn from the world community of specialists in access to public documents, public data, and public policy. They share the mission of promoting the free and equitable access to quality information in order to assure accountability from governments and other public bodies to the people they serve.

Member and Officers of the Standing Committee, 2006/2007

Ms. Petrina G. Amonoo (Ethiopia)	Ms. Irina A. Andreeva (Russian Fed.)
Gason Bernier (Canada)	Ms. Jackie Druery, Secretary (USA)
Ms. Sandra Fine (Israel)	Ms. Eleanor G. Frierson (USA)
Ms. Sigrun Habermann-Box (Switzerland)	Ms. Claude Lecrubier (France)
Ms. Irana Lynden (USA)	J.B. Ojiambo (Kenya)
Ms. Irja Peltonen (Finland)	Ms. Sandra K. Peterson, Information Officer (USA)
Peter Raggett, Treasurer (France)	Ms. Junko Sato (United Nations)
Ms. Emma A. Voskanian (Russian Fed.)	Ms. Jane Wu, Chair (Italy)

A Word from the Chair

I. Strategic Planning

GIOPS has just finished formulating its Strategic Plan for the next biennium. The Goals and Activities are as follows:

Goal 1. Continue the Section's ongoing series of professional seminars and training programs in different regions of the world.

This relates to the following IFLA Professional priorities: (a) advocacy, (b) partnerships and alliances, (c) continuing professional development.

The following Action is planned in connection with Goal 1:

1.1 Continue work with our colleagues in the Africa Section and with FAIFE to develop and seek funding for an additional seminar targeted to government information specialists, data specialists, and their user constituencies in Africa (West or Sub-Saharan Africa) on the issues, challenges, opportunities, and requirements of print and electronic government services, programs, and information. The seminars will highlight the role these specialists can play in fostering the information literacy essential to maintaining and furthering sound governance practices, accountability, and effective use of these resources.

1.2 Carry out the already planned seminar and workshop in East Africa as initiated with the GIOPS member from the Economic Commission for Africa (EAC) on the role, place, challenges and opportunities provided by the Internet and digitized government information to foster improved regional governance. The seminar and workshop will also highlight how information and data specialists in the region, working cooperatively with their user constituencies and key decision makers, can help to shape the information agenda of governments and provide practical guidance on how to accomplish this.

1.3 Extend the collaboration with the Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) to implement the planned workshop and develop additional seminars and workshops on the creation, promotion, use, support, control, accessibility, preservation, and dissemination of government information globally.

Goal 2. Expand and enhance the educational tools to users and information professionals in the means of accessing, promoting, organizing, maintaining, using, and preserving government information.

This relates to the following IFLA Professional priorities: (c) continuing professional development.

The following Action is planned in connection with Goal 2:

2.1 Continue to review, promote and expand the Government Information and Official Publications Section's (GIOPS) Web-based guides and related resources. Continue to explore opportunities to leverage its potential and develop new products based on it.

2.2 Develop and extend the IFLA GIOPS electronic list-server to further market the activities of GIOPS, opening its membership to a wider audience in order to broaden the base of interest in the work of the Section.

2.3 Edit, consolidate and disseminate in print and electronic form a series of best practices culled from papers presented in the past five years at GIOPS open sessions, requesting updating from the authors as necessary.

2.4 Continue collaboration and participation with the Government Libraries Section in the development of a guide to promote standards and best practices for Government Libraries and Information Centers.

Goal 3. Examine methods of electronic access to information produced by governments, intergovernmental organizations and public non-governmental organizations.

This relates to the following IFLA Professional priorities: (a) advocacy.

The following Action is planned in connection with Goal 3:

3.1 Develop a conference program for the upcoming conferences to promote and highlight the value of government information in fostering education and development, collaborating strategically with other Sections as appropriate.

Goal 4. Review the role and place of the Government Information and Official Publications Section within IFLA.

This relates to the following IFLA Professional priorities: (a) advocacy, (b) partnerships and alliances.

The following Action is planned in connection with Goal 4:

4.1 Continue to review the mission, mandate, scope and objectives of the Government Information and Official Publications Section to ensure that the interests, needs and concerns of international non-governmental bodies can be legitimately covered within the Section. Address any concerns identified.

Goal 5. Complete a review of the development and publication of position papers, including the Position Paper on Copyright, finalize and implement an approach.

This relates to the following IFLA Professional priorities: (a) advocacy, (c) continuing professional development.

The following Action is planned in connection with Goal 5:

5.1 Initiate a review of current GIOPS position papers and determine whether to carry forward in collaboration as appropriate with other IFLA Groups and Sections.

II. Oslo in 2005: IFLA Conference – Libraries – A Voyage of Discovery

The Government Information and Official Publications Section programme for Oslo was, all agreed, one of the best! In harmony with the Conference theme, the GIOPS programme was entitled: "*Sailing the treacherous seas of digital government information: from pamphlet boxes to digital library*". The programme was held on Monday, August 15th, 8:30-10:30 a.m. and was attended by about a hundred and twenty-five people.

Prior to the Conference the papers were all up on the web site and translations are being added gradually. The presentations were excellent, well delivered and covered a wide geographic area. They were:

- MARIAM ANSARI from the Center for Scientific Documents & Publications, Management and Planning Organization of Iran presented her paper entitled: *Management and Planning Organization of Iran: Official Publications*. <<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/papers/011e-Ansari.pdf>>
- FAY DURRANT from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica presented: *The World Wide Web enhancing electronic government in the Caribbean*. <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/papers/167-e_Durrant.pdf>
- DR. P.R. GOSWAMI and MRS. KALPANA DASGUPTA from the National Social Science Documentation Centre, India and Member Regional Standing Committee on Asia and Oceania were unfortunately unable to be present to give their paper entitled: *Government Publications and Information Dissemination: Indian Scenario*. <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/papers/012e-Goswami_Dasgupta.pdf>
- On behalf of himself and his co-authors, THOMAS F. LAHR from the National Biological Information Infrastructure, Reston, VA, USA, presented: *Developing the Digital World of Government Information and Official Publications: View from the United States*. Co-authors were ROBIN HAUN-MOHAMED from the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC USA and ELEANOR G. FRIERSON from the National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD, USA <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/papers/037e-Lahr_Haun_Frierson.pdf>
- RAJEN MUNOO from the National Library Board, Singapore presented *The challenge of creating and sustaining a socially inclusive e-citizenry: the proactive advocacy role of the National Library Board, Singapore*, on behalf of himself and his co-author RAKUNATHAN NARAYANAN from the Meridian Junior College, Singapore. <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/papers/105e-Munoo_Narayanan.pdf>

- GEOFFREY D. SWINDELLS from the University of Missouri-Columbia Libraries presented: *Informed Citizens in the Global Information Commons* <<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/papers/104e-Swindells.pdf>>

III. Upcoming Seminar in Addis Ababa March 29-30.

Mark your calendars for the following exciting seminar coming up in beautiful Ethiopia. If you act quickly there is still time to present an abstract for a paper.

CALL FOR PAPERS

for the Joint FAIFE/GIOPS Workshop

Strategic Management and Use of Government Information in Africa

United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

March 29-30, 2006

The IFLA Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS) and the IFLA Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE), in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa invite the submission of proposals for papers to be presented at the upcoming Addis Ababa Workshop entitled:

Strategic Management and Use of Government Information in Africa

Proposals may focus on, but are not limited the following:

- a) a strategic overview of the status of the management of government information in Africa;
- b) how reliable access to government information can strengthen democracy and lead to positive development outcomes; and
- c) professional networking among information professionals dealing with government information in Africa.

Expected outcome

The workshop will explore the possibility of launching a professional network on the promotion of greater access to government information in Africa (Access to Information Network – Africa) and linking it to similar

networks elsewhere.

Target audience

Senior and middle level policy makers and managers from African government departments, government document librarians, records managers, and academics in information management.

Please e-mail proposals for papers to the following: Petrina Amonoo at PAmonoo@uneca.org, with copies to Paul Sturges at R.P.Sturges@lboro.ac.uk; Irina Lynden at irina_lynden@msn.com and Jane Wu at jane.wu@fao.org

Proposals should be accompanied by the following information:

Abstract (maximum 500 words)
Names and position or title of presenter(s)
Employer(s) or affiliated institution(s)
Mailing address(es)
Telephone/fax numbers
E-mail address(es)
Short biographical statement(s)

Dates: March 29-30, 2006

Venue: United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

We hope to see you there!

Last minute submissions for papers for Seoul are still being accepted as this newsletter goes to press. Please see the GIOPS website for the latest information.

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Call for Papers – Parliamentary Libraries and GIOPS Sections

The Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS) and the Parliamentary Libraries Section are sponsoring a joint six hour session on two major themes linked by a bridging session on content management systems, information architecture and web design issues.

We invite proposals for papers addressing two major themes highlighting the role of libraries in the knowledge society:

Government Information: dynamic energy sources for business (2 hours)

The Model E-Parliament: Powerful Force for Positive Change in the Knowledge Society. (2 hours)

We also invite proposals for a two-hour session on information architecture, content management systems, web design and web usability issues. The challenge is to improve the presentation and design to make complex and difficult topics easier for information consumers.

Three to four presentations covering national and/or regional examples will be selected for each session. The presentations may be in the form of PowerPoint presentations and/or papers, however only full papers will be published. Presenters are expected to make their presentations in person, along with the use of slideshows and handouts. Proposals for presentations, in the form of one page summaries, should be sent by March 30, 2006, to Irja Peltonen, GIOPS 2006 Programme Chair, at Irja.Peltonen@vm.fi, with cc to jane.wu@fao.org, sandra.k.peterson@yale.edu and drueryj@post.queensu.ca.

The proposals should include the name(s), contact information and institutional affiliation(s) of author(s); a summary of the content to be presented; and an indication of the language(s) in which the presentation and any handouts will be made. All proposals will be evaluated by Section Officers who will inform applicants of the results by the end of February 2006. Final versions of the presentations must be submitted to the above addresses by the end of May 2006.

GIOPS at Oslo, August 2005



Left to right: Speakers Geoffrey D. Swindells, Rajen Munoo, Program Chair Eleanor G. Frierson, Speakers Thomas F. Lahr, Fay Durrant, and Mariam Ansari.



Mariam Ansari, Center for Scientific Documents & Publications, Management and Planning Organization of Iran (speaker) and Jane Wu, Chair, Government Information and Official Publications Section, IFLA, and Director, FAO Library, Rome.

Hubbertz Study Highlights Archival Needs for Web-Based Information

Andrew Hubbertz, Librarian Emeritus, University of Saskatchewan Library and former member of GIOPS, conducted a study under contract to the Canadian Association of Research Libraries entitled "Collection and Preservation of Web-based Provincial/Territorial Government Information: Report on a Survey of CARL and APLIC Libraries." It is available at:

http://www.carl-abrc.ca/projects/preservation/pdf/provincial_web-pubs_report.pdf.

CARL is Canadian Association of Research Libraries and APLIC is Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada.

He followed this up with a draft report containing recommendations. Although it has not been adopted as CARL policy, it is available at: http://www.carl-abrc.ca/projects/preservation/pdf/e-docs_report2.pdf. In the course of doing this work,

he discovered that many libraries were interested in collecting government web-based documents, but had no idea how to get started. The literature can be intimidating --just have a look at the OASIS Reference Model! Hence, he thought it would be useful to compile a 'cookbook' for a basic collection of such material. What he came up with is available at: <http://www.carl-abrc.ca/projects/preservation/pdf/Cookbook.pdf>. It addresses the critical issues. However, in the course of his survey he found that there were a number of provincial and territorial jurisdictions where nothing is being done, and where the resources are extremely limited, e.g. territorial legislature library with a staff of three or four. Rather than let material be lost forever, he thinks it is desirable to do what we can, even if that means making compromises.

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