



IFLA Law Libraries Section Annual Report 2008

The further establishment of the Section has advanced well. It now has 42 members. Members of the Standing Committee try to attract more Section members in order to secure the future of the Section. It should be mentioned that it is, in times of ongoing economic uncertainties, not always easy to convince potential members that a Section membership is money well invested.

The Standing Committee met in Québec on August 9, 2008, in order to discuss the developments since the last meeting in Durban, and in order to pave the way for future activities. Details can be seen in the minutes of the meeting, prepared by Claire Germain, Secretary of the Section. It can be found on this site.

The annual congress is always the highlight of IFLA's activities, and so are the lectures offered by the Section during the IFLA congress the highlights of the Section's activities. (More information on former lectures can be found in the combined annual report 2001 to 2007, on this site). The Section was able, owing to the excellent preparation by Claire Germain, to offer not only its own traditional two hours slot of lectures, but also a co-sponsored program together with the Sections of Parliament Libraries and Official Publications:

On Wednesday, August 13, 2008, Daniel Boyer (Montréal) talked to the participants in the Section's own lecture about the legal system of Québec as a quintessential example of a mixed legal system, and Dominique Lapierre (Québec) discussed aspects of the law of Québec and digital libraries. Dominique Lapierre also was our host in the evening of August 13. Participants could enjoy a great reception with wine and fingerfood on the venerable premises of the Parliament Library of Québec. The Law Libraries Section does not possess own assets, according to IFLA's general rules. The reception could only be made possible thanks to the generous support of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL). The Section is grateful to these two Associations for their continuing support.

On Thursday, August 14, 2008, four lectures were given in the co-sponsored session. Mary Alice Baish (Chicago), Pascal Petitcollot (Paris), and Claire Germain and Sasha Skenederija (Ithaca) were talking to us about the problems and chances of the authentication of digital legal sources and of official documents. The lectures can be read on IFLANET.

The year 2008 was also marked by the first preparations for the IFLA congress in Milan 2009. It proved to be very difficult to find appropriate speakers in this holiday month of August. In spite of the difficult timing of the congress, the efforts to find two good and interesting speakers now (as of February 2009) seem to have been successful. There will be two lectures, one of Italian law libraries and librarianship, and one on new aspects of Italian law, with a special focus on the protection of cultural property.