



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

**Newsletter [No. 6]  
January 2008**

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## **Greetings from the New Chair**

By: Jackie Druery (Chair, GIOPS; Head, Learning & Research Services, Stauffer Library, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada)

I would like to begin by thanking Jane Wu, the outgoing chair of GIOPS, for her hard work during her eight year term on the GIOPS Standing Committee, five of those years spent as Chair. Jane has led GIOPS in initiating and completing several projects during her term and in presenting varied and important programs at the annual congresses both independently and in conjunction with other sections.

Thanks also to the outgoing members of the Standing Committee for their work and support – Petrina Amonoo (Ethiopia), Sigrun Habermann-Box (Switzerland), Claude Lecrubier (France), Irina Lynden (United States), Sandra Peterson (United States), Junko Sato (United States) and Emma Voskanian (Russia).

We have several new members of the Standing Committee and I welcome them – Marcy Allen (United States), Yu-jin Choi (Korea), Nancy Hyland (United States), Nerisa Kamar (Kenya), Takashi Koga (Japan), Alice Ramohlola (South Africa), Ursula Stanek (Germany) and Sylvia Teasdale (Canada). Overall GIOPS has ninety-nine members from forty-two countries.

The 2007 World Library and Information Congress in Durban was a wonderful experience. Congratulations to the organizers – the programs were exciting, the library tours exceptional and the social events invigorating. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about the successful GIOPS program, the ATINA program and the other activities in which GIOPS engaged. And South Africa was a welcoming host, many of you I know had exceptional experiences either before or after the Congress enjoying the beauty and the cultural and natural environment of the country.

This newsletter is very important for the section and I hope that under the able direction of Takashi Koga (Japan) our new information coordinator we will be able to publish two issues per year. We would like to publish more reports, such as the one in this newsletter about the FAO Library in Rome, that outline activities and initiatives in your libraries and in countries around the world. If you would like to write something for publication in the GIOPS newsletter please send it to Takashi ([tkoga@nii.ac.jp](mailto:tkoga@nii.ac.jp)) for the next issue.

I look forward to working with the members of the Standing Committee executive – Marcy Allen (Secretary), Peter Raggett (Treasurer) and Takashi Koga (Information Coordinator) in my role as Chair through 2009. I welcome your suggestions for initiatives and activities that you would like to see GIOPS undertake. I can be contacted by email at [drueryj@queensu.ca](mailto:drueryj@queensu.ca). ■

## **Report on Programs concerning GIOPS at the IFLA 2007 Conference in Durban, South Africa**

By: Takashi Koga (Information Coordinator, GIOPS; Assistant Professor, National Institute of Informatics, Tokyo, Japan)

### **1. Introduction**

The IFLA 2007 Conference (World Library and Information Congress) was held on 19-23 August, 2007 at the International Convention Centre Durban in Durban, South Africa. The Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS) held three meetings: the main program, open hearings on the draft Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments, and a program on the Access to Information Network - Africa (ATINA).

### **2. Main program**

This program, titled “Government and science: progress, development and partnerships for libraries of the future”, was held in the afternoon of August 21. The chair was Ms. Jane Wu, the outgoing chair of GIOPS. Most of the speakers spoke about services and issues concerning information in international government organizations.

The presentations were as follows:

- Valentina Kalk (the World Bank, Washington, USA) “Between the devil and the deep blue sea: how the publishing department of an international organization tries to address the challenges of information delivery in a changing environment”  
< <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/119-Kalk-en.pdf> >
- David Oldenkamp and Amalia Monroe (Indiana University Bloomington Libraries, Bloomington, USA) “In search of intergovernmental organizations: the development of an IGO search engine”  
< [http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/119-Oldenkamp\\_Monroe-en.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/119-Oldenkamp_Monroe-en.pdf) >
- Nan Hyland (Cornell University, Ithaca, USA) “The United States Department of Agriculture and Albert R. Mann Library's Economics, Statistics and Market Information System”  
< <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/119-Hyland-en.pdf> >
- Linda Stoddart (United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library, New York, USA) “Creating library partnerships: the United Nations' changing role in disseminating information and knowledge”  
< <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/119-Stoddart-en.pdf> >
- Nerisa Kamar and Millicent Ongo'ndo (Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya) “Impact of e-government on management and use of government information in Kenya”  
< [http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/119-Kamar\\_Ongondo-en.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/119-Kamar_Ongondo-en.pdf) >

### **3. Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments: hearing on the draft guidelines**

This hearing was held on the morning of August 21 in conjunction with the Government Libraries Section and the Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section.

The draft “Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments” was developed through five years of preparations by the members of the Government Libraries Section and GIOPS. This draft incorporating views heard during the open hearings in Wales in April 2007 was made public in August 2007.

In the beginning of this hearing, Ms. Nancy Bolt, the chair of the Guidelines Committee and the chair of the Government Libraries Section, briefly explained the guidelines and their development process. Then, Ms. Jane Wu introduced several quotations and articles for the reference of the guideline. Ms. Nerisa Kamar commented from the viewpoint of African librarians. Finally, Ms. Donna Scheeder, the chair of the Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section, explained the standpoint of her section, which decided to develop the guidelines for parliamentary libraries separately. In addition to these presenters, many other attendees to the hearing raised questions or commented on the draft.

The Guidelines Committee accepted public comments until Oct. 1, 2007, and will publish the official “Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments” soon.

#### **4. Access to Information Network - Africa (ATINA)**

This meeting was held on the morning of April 22. ATINA was established in August 2006 as a project lasting until August 2008 under cooperation of the Committee on the Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE), GIOPS, and the Africa Section. The aim of ATINA is to promote “knowledge-centric development and democracy in Africa” and to promote free access to information of all kinds, including government information, through libraries in Africa.

First, Mr. Abraham Azubuike from Ethiopia, Mr. Francis T. Kirkwood from Canada, and Ms. Jane Wu gave the respective views of the Africa Section, FAIFE and GIOPS. After that, the following presenters talked on the theme of “New horizons for public information access in Africa.”

- Denise Rosemary Nicholson (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa) “International copyright trends and access to knowledge initiatives in Africa”  
< <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/135-Nicholson-en.pdf> >
- Peter M. Sebina (University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana) “Information management in Africa to undergo a change?”  
< <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/135-Sebina-en.pdf> >
- Albert Arko-Cobbah (University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa) “The right of access to information: Civil society and good governance in South Africa”  
< <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/135-Arko-Cobbah-en.pdf> >
- Ghaji Badawi (Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria) “Public libraries as sources of information to the disadvantaged groups in societies: a study of the information and educational needs of prostitutes in Kano, Nigeria”  
< <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/135-Badawi-en.pdf> >

Dr. Badawi's presentation had a huge impact on attendees; the pictures she showed during her presentation stressed the hardship of prostitutes in Nigeria, including the risk of violence and HIV. She also advocated the role of public libraries in empowering women involved in prostitution by promoting access to information.

After the presentations, the attendees joined in a discussion on the future activities of ATINA.

<Photos from IFLA 2007 Conference in Durban>



Conference venue: International Convention Centre Durban



Presentation by Ms. Kamar and Ms. Ongo'ndo at the main program of the GIOPS



Exhibition place



Beach party on Aug. 20



## **Report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s David Lubin Memorial Library**

By: Jane M. Wu (Former Chair, GIOPS; Chief Librarian, David Lubin Memorial Library, FAO, Rome, Italy)

Our Library is named after David Lubin, a Polish-born self-educated American, who had to go out to work at a very young age. He held many different jobs, the least successful being associated with agriculture. His successes and particularly his failures helped him develop a profound understanding of the value of information and he had a vision of helping poor farmers improve their lot by increasing their access to information. He was able to realize his dream in partnership with the King of Italy when, in 1905, forty nations approved the establishment of the International Institute of Agriculture. This Institute became operational in 1908 and developed a superb Library of almost 400,000 volumes, including many rare works donated by governments and institute presidents, and even 32 incunabula, by 1946.

It became the foundation of the FAO Library when the Organization was moved to Italy from Washington shortly after it was founded. The Organization decided to name its Library in honor of David Lubin and this was approved by member nations at the FAO Conference in 1952. At the present time, the FAO Library collection has over a million volumes comprised of FAO publications and documents (nearly 170,000 catalogue records), over 14,000 journals, of which over 3,000 electronic and the remainder being knowledge resources from around the world in all FAO's subjects. The Library Catalogue is available at <http://www4.fao.org/faobib/>

Thanks to the Italian government, the David Lubin Memorial Library was recently renovated. Following are some of the images showing a very different David Lubin Memorial Library from what visitors may remember. This is at the entrance to the Library.



The architect designed display cases to surround the cement structural pillars thus creating quite a number of pleasant exhibit spaces and concealing the unattractive pillars. The renovation included attractive shelves for frequently used materials for the Reader's Area illustrated below. As there were greater than anticipated expenses in the earlier stages, these are still forthcoming pending the funding.



The preceding image shows the compact shelving installed below grade. Although extensive weeding projects were carried out it was still necessary to install ladder-height shelving to accommodate the important knowledge resources.

The David Lubin Memorial Library continues to face many challenges. Due to continued budget reductions the Library staff is now a third of what it used to be ten years ago. The cuts are normally through attrition, which means posts are frozen or cancelled upon the retirement of the incumbent. This loss was exacerbated by continual loss of experienced staff. Costs of staff and non-staff items are increasing as budgets are decreasing and with the decline in the American dollar we are faced with additional operating costs and continued system inefficiencies. One of the elements in the planned renovation was a modern integrated library management system but these plans have been delayed due to the already expended budget (from the Italian government) and an inability to compensate from our own budget. We are attempting to cope by utilizing the FAO Volunteers Program for special projects as well as in-house partnerships, collaboration with external partners, partner libraries within the United Nations system and non governmental organizations. We have had to cut back on services and are trying to optimize use of Web 2.0. We invite you to have a look at our blog and use of del.icio.us links at <http://www.fao.org/library> and to visit us physically at the Viale delle Terme di Caracalla in Rome, Italy.



Thank you for your attention. ■

## Call for Papers – IFLA Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS) for IFLA 2008 Conference in Québec, Canada

The Government Information and Official Publications Section invites submissions for its programme for the 74th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress 10-14 August 2008 to be held in Québec, Canada (<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm>). In keeping with the IFLA conference theme, “Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding”, the GIOPS sub-theme is “**Globalization of government information: creating digital archives for increased access**”.

Government, non-governmental and intergovernmental knowledge resources play an important role in our global society. Increasingly these resources are either born digital or are being digitized for enhanced access by people everywhere. Governments at many levels, institutions, non-governmental and international organizations, and individuals are collaborating locally, nationally, regionally and internationally to make these resources available digitally and to ensure that they are properly preserved and archived for sustained use by future generations.

Submissions are invited which discuss collaborative digitization projects that make available historical or current official and/or government resources. Topics covered might include the project’s development, content and content management, use of and adherence to digitization standards and benefits to a globalizing world. Submissions of a more theoretical approach will also be considered.

Four papers will be selected for presentation. Proposals for papers must be submitted **by 15 January 2008** to Alice Ramohlola ([Alice.Ramohlola@wits.ac.za](mailto:Alice.Ramohlola@wits.ac.za)) with copies to Irja Peltonen ([Irja.Peltonen@vm.fi](mailto:Irja.Peltonen@vm.fi)), Jackie Druery ([drueryj@queensu.ca](mailto:drueryj@queensu.ca)) and Marcy Allen ([mallen@psu.edu](mailto:mallen@psu.edu)). The proposal should include a title, 200-400 word abstract and relevant biographical information of author(s)/presenter(s). Successful proposals will be identified by 15 February 2008 and presenters notified. The full paper is due by 15 April 2008. Please note that all fees, including registration for the conference, travel, accommodation, etc. are the responsibility of the author(s) of accepted papers. For additional information, please contact any of the above. ■

**IFLA 2008 Conference in Québec, Canada**  
**Aug. 10–14, 2008**

**For more information about the conference,**  
**please visit:**

**<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm>**



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

**<Chair>**

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