



## NEWSLETTER OF THE IFLA SECTION ON LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICES FOR PARLIAMENTS

JANUARY 2015



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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Dear Colleagues,

Only a few months have passed since we gathered in Paris and Lyon to discuss issues of relevance to parliamentary libraries and research services during the IFLA 2014 events. The warm hospitality extended to us and the conducive environment offered by the Parliament of France - to whom goes our sincere thanks - significantly contributed to the success of the Section's 30th annual Pre-Conference, along with the substantive inputs provided by each and every participant.

Attendance at IFLA conferences is an important part of the life of the community of parliamentary libraries and research services. It is there that each one of us gets a chance to learn from others and share knowledge with peers, exchange best practices with colleagues, and build fruitful and unique relations that can develop over time into effective cooperation and partnerships.

For these reasons, the Standing Committee of the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments is now working hard to build a rich and interesting program for the 81st IFLA Congress and related events, to be held in August 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa. Our goal is to ensure that the next gathering will provide each colleague attending with the opportunity to participate actively in a relevant learning and networking experience.

The Section will be directly involved in six sessions during the main IFLA Congress. Also, a rich program of activities is being developed for the 31st annual Pre-Conference, kindly hosted by and co-organized with the Parliament of South Africa, under the theme *Development, Transformation and Co-Operation in Library and Research Services in Parliaments*.

Planning and organizing these events and activities, as well as managing the work of the Section, is a great learning opportunity as it requires to constantly focus on the relevant aspects and needs of our profession. Being a member of the Standing Committee provides the opportunity to make a positive impact on the Section's work, develop new skills, and broaden the network with colleagues. As the process of renewing SC members of all IFLA Sections for the term 2015-2019 is currently ongoing - with the nomination deadline set at 11 February 2015 - I encourage you to make yourself aware of the election procedures available at <http://www.ifla.org/node/9123>. The commitment of IFLA members and colleagues to the work of the Section is crucial for the success of our mission.

I look forward to keep working with each one of you in the following months.

Raissa Teodori  
Chair, IFLA Section  
Library and Research Services for Parliaments

### SUMMARY OF THE 2014 PRE-CONFERENCE AND THE IFLA WLIC

By Lillian Gassie, Secretary, IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

The IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments held its 30th pre-conference in Paris, 13-14 August, 2014, in collaboration with the French National Assembly. One hundred and fifty-eight participants from 62 parliaments (and a few international/regional organizations) registered for the pre-conference. The event was preceded by a capacity building day on 12 August 2014, held in partnership with the NORIA program of the *Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie*. The Section was able to get participants from many countries who had never attended an IFLA or IFLA PARL meeting, especially francophone countries such as for example Burundi, Cambodia, Gabon, Madagascar, Mali, Tchad, and Togo.

The first day of the pre-conference, 13 August 2014, was opened by Mr. Michel Moreau, General Director of the Legislative Departments of the French National Assembly, representing the Secretary General, Ms. Corinne Luquiers. The Directors and Heads of Units from the different departments of the French National Assembly as well as the libraries of the National Assembly and the Senate gave presentations on the work of their departments and how they serve parliamentarians.



Participants of the 2014 pre-conference in front of the French National Assembly.  
Photo by Ross Becker

## Pre-Conference and WLIC 2014, cont'd

A highlight of the pre-conference was the tour of the *Palais Bourbon* and the presentation of collections and services in the Library of the French National Assembly on 12 August as well as the tour of the *Palais du Luxembourg* and presentation of collections and services in the Library of the Senate on 13 August.

The second day of the pre-conference was filled with presentations from different parliamentary libraries and research services, on the theme “*Research and Library Services working together to meet client needs*”. The topics included how to serve MPs in evolving institutional and organizational contexts, collaborating with external partners to improve products and services, service evaluation, strategic planning and synergies to face new challenges. Ms. Sonia L'Heureux gave a summary of the work in progress on the *Guidelines for the development of parliamentary research services*.

A new feature of the pre-conference is PARL Talks, an open session for pre-conference participants to share information and ideas related to parliamentary libraries and research services. Ten participants signed up for a 5-minute talk about their parliamentary library or service, a new program or to pose a question to the audience. The pre-conference closed with news from the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments, by Ms. Raissa Teodori (Chair), and Ms. Lillian Gassie (Secretary). Mr. Albert Ntunja (Manager of the Parliamentary Information Centre of the Parliament of South Africa) also gave a preview of the planning for the 2015 pre-conference in Cape Town.

A special half-day workshop on Managing and Evaluating Services was conducted after the end of the pre-conference, on 15 August. Over 60 participants formed small groups to discuss sub-topics and were encouraged to switch groups frequently so that different viewpoints could be heard. There was lively discussion and exchange of information among the small groups.

Links to papers and presentations covered during the Section's 2014 pre-conference can be found at <http://www.ifla.org/node/8942>.

## The Section's Activities at the IFLA 2014 WLIC in Lyon, France

The IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments organized an individual session during the 2014 IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in Lyon, France and a number of joint sessions with other Sections. Five papers were presented at the session on *Libraries for Democracy: Engaging Citizens*. The Section's joint session with the Law Libraries, Government Information and Official Publications and Information Technology on *How Safe is the Law? Authentication of Official Gazettes: A Worldwide Report, with particular attention to the technical and practical aspects* was well attended and interesting. So was the Section's joint session

with Law Libraries, Information Technology and Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) on *Access to law at the digital cross roads: Innovative solutions to complex challenges*. All of the papers listed in these sessions can be found at <http://www.ifla.org/node/8943>.

Finally, the Section had a very successful and well-attended session with the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section and the Knowledge Management Section: *Learning Challenges for Librarians and Library Managers - a Knowledge Cafe* (see below the separate description provided by Ms. Christine Wellems).

The Section's Standing Committee met twice in Lyon, during the 2014 WLIC; minutes from the meetings are posted on the Section's website at <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments/minutes>.

The Chair and Secretary wish to express their thanks to all of the Standing Committee and other members of the Section who helped in organizing the events and sessions at the 2014 pre-conference and the 2014 WLIC. We look forward to your continued support and participation in the 2015 pre-conference and WLIC in Cape Town, South Africa.

## IFLA Conference - Knowledge Café

By Christine Wellems

On Thursday, August 21, the last day of the IFLA Congress, more than 150 participants met for the session “Learning Challenges for Librarians and Library Managers – a knowledge café”.

Under the main responsibility of Ulrike Lang, co-chair of CPDWL, and in cooperation with Knowledge Management Section (Catharina Isberg, Jane Dysart) and our Section (Raissa Teodori, Christine Wellems) the session had been organised with 11 working groups discussing on tables about different subjects. The Section was actively represented by discussion leaders (“Head of tables”) on three tables:

- Hannah Fischer for *Learning from others: Peer training best practices*;
- Moira Fraser for *Learning within the constraints of limited staffing and budgets*;
- Gert-Jan Lodder for *Digital libraries – digital futures: how to develop and keep up skill sets*;
- Karin Finer acted as rapporteur for Hannah Fischer's table;
- Chama Mpundu Mfula was rapporteur for *Learning together: when experts from developed libraries work with developing countries, everyone learns and everyone teaches*.

Some wrap-ups of the Knowledge Café have been posted in CPDWL Blog, <http://blogs.ifla.org/cpdwl/>.

## IFLA 2015, CAPE TOWN

### IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Cape Town (15-21 August 2015)

The World Library and Information Congress 2015, **81th IFLA General Conference and Assembly**, will be held from **15 to 21 August 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa**. All information regarding the Conference, registration procedures, program and practical issues, can be found on the IFLA website, at the following page <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla81>.

**The Congress theme is :** *"Dynamic Libraries: Access, Development and Transformation"*

The IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments will hold or be involved in a number of sessions during the Congress program.

- \* Open individual Session of the Section: **Parliamentary Libraries – Evolving to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century**. The call for papers for this session can be found at : <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla81/node/1017>;
- \* Joint Session with Law Libraries and Africa Section: **Access to legal information and legislative data in Africa: the role of libraries and librarians**. The call for papers for this session can be found at <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla81/node/1019>;
- \* Joint Session with Information Technology and Public Libraries Section: **Technology facilitating access to information: libraries for development**. The call for papers for this session can be found at <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla81/node/994>;
- \* Joint Session with Knowledge Management Section: **Continuous innovation and transformation of libraries and their communities** (Knowledge Café);
- \* Joint Session with Preservation and Conservation Section and Government Information and Official Publications Section : **Preservation and Access Challenges (PACS) for Government and Parliamentary Information** (Knowledge Café);
- \* Joint Session with Social Science Libraries Section : **How parliamentary libraries and social science libraries support social – economic policy and program development for societal improvements: products, marketing and access, and assessment** (Worldcafé).

The Chair and Secretary wish to express their thanks to all of the Standing Committee and other members of the Section who helped in organizing the events and sessions at the 2014 pre-conference and the 2014 WLIC. We look forward to your continued support and participation in the 2015 pre-conference and WLIC in Cape Town, South Africa.

### 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Pre-Conference of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments (Cape Town, 12-14 August 2015)

The 31<sup>st</sup> Pre-Conference of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments will be held in Cape Town, from 12 to 14 August 2015, kindly hosted by and co-organized with the Parliament of South Africa and its parliamentary Information Centre.

The meeting will focus on the theme *Development, Transformation and Co-Operation in Library and Research Services in Parliaments*.

The work will be developed through sessions in a traditional format, with papers and presentations, as well as through small-group discussions.

Capacity building activities, workshops and side events will be organized during the week.

The Website of the Pre-Conference developed Parliament of South Africa will all relevant information regarding the programme and registration, and the call for papers of the conference will soon be published.

Please look for news and updates on the Section website: <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments>

### Connect and Share

- Check out the Section's website <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments>
- Sign up for the IFLA PARL2 discussion list which is open to all members as well as others interested in the Section <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments/mailling-lists>
- Contribute news about your library and/or research service: email Raissa Teodori, Chair, [raissa.teodori@senato.it](mailto:raissa.teodori@senato.it) or Lillian Gassie, Secretary, [lgassie@gmail.com](mailto:lgassie@gmail.com)

### How to join the Section

If you already are an IFLA member, but not a Section member, please go <http://archive.ifla.org/III/members/form2a.htm> to register as a member of the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments.

If you are NOT an IFLA member you have to become an IFLA member before joining any Section, <http://www.ifla.org/membership/new-members>.



## RECENT EVENTS

### ABADCAM Meeting, October, Cameroon

The Cameroon National Library Association (*Association des Bibliothécaires, archivistes, documentalistes et muséographes du Cameroun* – ABADCAM, <http://www.abadcam.sitew.com/#Accueil>) organized a conference that ran from the 17th to 18th October 2014. This conference was organized in collaboration with the Goethe Institute, in the Goethe Institute premises in Yaounde the capital of Cameroon. The theme of the conference was, “Knowledge Management and Technology: Gateway to the Emergence of Cameroon”.

Over 100 participants came from various regions of the country. They included information and ICT professionals working with information services of the different Ministries, Universities, Private and International organizations in Cameroon. There were also some students from information training schools in the country in attendance.

A total of seven papers were presented on the first day one with two foreign speakers from Switzerland and Germany. Another speaker from UNESCO intervened. The seven papers were on the following sub-themes:

- Poverty and Libraries
- Pedagogic Perspectives for Libraries
- Legal Deposit
- Identifiers
- Conservation, Preservation and Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage
- Technological tools and Materials for Libraries and their Users in the Internet and Digital Age.
- University Libraries and Academic Excellence.

Day two of the conference had five workshops on:

- Professional Training
- Library and Society
- Preservation and Conservation
- University Libraries and
- School libraries.

At the end of the workshops, very exciting resolutions were proposed by each workshop. A committee has been put in place to reflect on these resolutions so that the outcome can then be worked into the plan of action for ABADCAM in the coming year (2015).

It was a well-attended, exciting and fruitful conference with great success recorded to the satisfaction of all who attended on the one hand and the organizers on the other hand.



Participants at the ABADCAM meeting

### The European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) Annual Conference of Correspondents, October 2014, Belgrade

The 2014 Annual Conference of Correspondents of ECPRD took place in Belgrade, at the National Assembly of Serbia, on 16-18 October 2014. As a tradition, during the Conference four Workshops have been organized and

chaired by the Coordinators of the ECPRD Areas of Interest: Economic and Budgetary Affairs; ICT in Parliaments; Libraries, Research Services and Archives; Parliamentary Practice and Procedure.

#### ECPRD Areas of Interest on Libraries, Research Services and Archives.

#### Workshop “Role of Libraries, Research Services and Archives in the introductory program for the new members of parliament”

By Siiri Sillajõe, Coordinator of the ECPRD Area of Interest on Libraries, Research Services and Archives, and Deputy Head, Research Department, Chancellery of the Riigikogu, Estonia and Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz, Director and Head Librarian, Austria Parliamentary Library

#### Introduction

Most parliaments organize special induction programs and training sessions for new MPs at the beginning of their term. For instance, short practical briefings, workshops, seminars, courses, also information desks, one-stop-shops, welcome days and weeks, tours of the building, handbooks, guidelines, e-books, special web-

pages and applications.

The workshop invited participants to discuss the introductory programs in their countries and the role of the LRA services there. Colleagues were invited to share established practices and also try to provide answers to the following questions:

## RECENT EVENTS

### (ECPRD) Annual Conference, cont'd

- Do the parliaments have a special program for new MPs and new personal assistants? Or is this done on an ongoing basis? If they do have a program for the new parliamentary composition, what are the basic elements there? Has it changed with time? What is the general conception of the training program (if there is any) organized for the new members of parliament? Main topics, attendance at the training events and feedback.
- What kind of role do the LRA services in different European countries play in this process? Are they involved in this preparation program, and if yes, then how? Is the role of the LRA confined to organizing training and lecturing, or is it something else? Special attention is devoted to the training for new MPs and their personal assistants, during which they get informed of the parliamentary LRA services and products, etc. Major new developments in this context may also be reported.

Participants were encouraged to bring their ideas, examples and questions to the workshop, to be used as the basis for working in small informal groups.

#### Report of the Workshop

The group discussions with 28 participants were fruitful and intensive, with lots of established practices and practical ideas being shared. Some conclusions and a “mosaic of thoughts” are briefly summarised below.

First, few key findings from a recent comparative study were outlined. According to the results of this study, most parliaments organize special induction programs and shorter or longer training sessions for new MPs during the first weeks after the elections. However, many aspects depend on both the context and the traditions of the country as well as the number of the new MPs. In addition to the training and briefings, an important role is also played by special handbooks, leaflets, web pages, information desks, one-stop-shops, tours and informal social events. All these can complement and combine with each other to form a whole.

Quite clearly, the direction is more towards the practical issues and less about theoretical topics. Main topics usually include the rights and duties of MPs, legislative process, rules of procedure, international activities and parliamentary services (incl. library and research services). However, in some parliaments a presentation is also made on the unwritten rules of parliamentary work, for example. Former or re-elected MPs are also very often involved in the training programs as lecturers. Some parliaments have introduced pilot projects whereby new MPs get mentors appointed from among the parliamentary administration (especially in case of a new party group).

The role of the libraries and research services in different European countries is limited mainly to organising training sessions for



*Delegates of the ECPRD Annual Conference of Correspondents*

MPs and their staff, during which they are informed about the services and the products on offer. Welcome days, library tours or information on the intranet were also mentioned. Many libraries and research services are not involved in the general introductory program, but offer tailor-made seminars of one or several days on demand.

According to the participants, one of the lessons learned was that it was more useful to organize these training sessions by factions, by smaller groups, or even conduct individual trainings. For instance, an MP can book a personal meeting in the library or research service. This shows that the personal approach and face-to-face individual meetings are increasingly important. Courses for political staff and assistants are also important as they can later pass the knowledge on to the MPs. That is why some of the parliaments have focused on staff training.

Special attention was devoted to the problems related to time schedules and attendance. Timing is very often a critical factor. Training programs should not overlap with sittings, meetings and other responsibilities. It is important to organise a training session for MPs and their staff not too soon (difficult to concentrate when practical issues dominate, struggle to get the attention) or not too late during the term (busy time schedule and possible low attendance). It is also crucial to repeat the information during the term as people tend to forget it. The idea that “the moment they [MPs] need us is the best moment to train them” was heard more than once.

It was underlined that we have to adapt to the changing needs of the MPs, find new solutions and go where MPs already are (e.g. use more social media) or attend meetings of the political groups to present our services, if possible. It was also recognized that the change of the parliamentary composition also offered a good opportunity to conduct a revision of the services provided by libraries and research services, and a good starting position to clarify how we work and how we would like to work.

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### What can happen after an IFLA Conference

*By Ellie Valentine, currently Chief of Party of the USAID Responsive Governance Project in Yemen.*

When giving a paper at the IFLA conference one hopes that ideas will resonate with the audience, pique someone's interest, or inform a group about something new and different. When I looked out into that expansive hall at the conference center in Lyon this past August, I was curious whether what I was presenting was hitting any of those marks with anyone out there. It was wonderful when I was approached after the session by Bridgette Hendrix, Convener of the IFLA New Professionals Special Interest Group who was kind enough to tell me personally that it had resonated with her.

I was especially delighted, however, when Bridgette approached me by e-mail a month later to ask whether I might agree to participate in a global webinar for the new professionals group on the topic that I had presented at the conference: "Engaging Citizens in Parliament - A Comparison of Parliamentary Information Services Extension and Library Networks."

On Tuesday, October 14, I joined Bridgette, and Matthew Vanderwerff from IREX and the "Beyond Access Project" for a one-hour live global webinar. About 30 young professionals from around the globe joined us. Matt started with his presentation on Information as a Human Right. I followed with the some practical application of how citizens and parliaments connect through libraries and the importance of access to information for democratic development based on my experience in Ukraine and Yemen. Bridgette summed up the event with a presentation on the Lyon Declaration and how it relates to libraries, development, and civic engagement.

I was so pleased that I had this opportunity to interact with young library and information professionals and to extend the reach of the presentation made in Lyon. I hope that these kinds of opportunities for the Library and Research Services of Parliament section might become more frequent and others section members might take part in such activities in the future.



## NEWS FROM THE SECTION



### The Use of Social Media

*By Hannah Fischer, reporting for the IFLAPARL Working Group on Social Media*

At the 2014 IFLA conference in Lyon, during the second IFLAPARL Section SC meeting, the potential use of social media by and for the Section was discussed. A number of members of the Committee were interested in using social media as a communication tool for the Section. A working group was proposed to research and recommend possible social media uses in the Section. The volunteers for the working group include: Clara Bessa, of the Brazilian Parliament; Claudia Cuevas, of the Chilean Parliament; Moira Fraser, Consultant for the Inter-Parliamentary Union and currently at the Parliament of Myanmar; Hannah Fischer, of the Library of Congress of the United States; and Ellie Valentine, currently heading USAID's Responsive Governance Project in Yemen.

The working group has started a virtual discussion over email. Among the issues we have discussed are:

- Who is the audience for our social media communications? Possibilities might include just Section members; Section members plus those who are involved with the Section and attend IFLA; anyone who works for a parliamentary research service; the world at large.
- Who (if anyone) will moderate the discussion?
- What platform should we use? Platforms that have received the most attention in our discussion include Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and LinkedIn.
- Should some platforms be used some of the time but not all of the time? For instance, it has been suggested that we use a WhatsApp group during conferences, but not at other times.

It seems likely that the working group will recommend a multi-platform approach to take advantage of the pros and cons of the various platforms: some platforms may lend themselves to a more private discussion, for instance, while others may work better for outreach. However, our discussion is still ongoing. If you are interested in this topic and would like to contribute, please contact me at [hfisher@crs.loc.gov](mailto:hfisher@crs.loc.gov) and I will forward on your suggestions to the working group. In addition, we may develop a formal survey soon to gather your opinions.



## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES & REGIONAL NETWORKS

### All proceedings from the Norwegian Parliament since 1814 are now online

By Jarle Skjørestad, Head of Section, The Parliamentary Research Service, The Norwegian Parliament

Article 85 in the Constitution of 17 May 1814 states: *The Storting shall meet in open session, and its proceedings shall be published in print, except in those cases where a majority decides to the contrary.*

The Constitution here provides for public sessions of the Storting and for printed reports of its proceedings. The purpose of this provision is partly to enable the public to keep in touch with the Storting's work, and partly to secure for posterity knowledge of what has taken place in the Storting. The principle of public sessions of the Storting constitutes an important guarantee for the proper functioning of popular government. The printed reports of the proceedings prevent a falsification of history, and these reports are the basics in the archive. The sessions in the Storting's committees were held in camera.

The main purpose of having digitized proceedings on the web is to take Article 85 further and to increase the availability to all these important political and historical sources.

Since 1814 the documents and proceedings has been the main source to the Norwegian political history. The documents representing the same formal role in treatment of cases at the Parliament are collected and placed in bound collection.

Broad knowledge of the institution and theme you are studying and good questions is always the key right use of the sources in the archives. To use the parliamentary archives in studying for example political issues after 1814, the user have to know how the Storting works and how the institution cooperates with other institutions. The different parts in the Parliaments documents are:

- Part 1 The budget
- Part 2 Propositions to the Storting
- Part 3 Bills
- Part 4 White papers
- Part 5 Documents
- Part 6 Recommendations to the Storting
- Part 7 Minutes from The Plenary Chamber / Stortinget
- Part 8 Minutes from Odelstinget and Lagtinget
- Part 9 The Register

This is how it was until 2009 when The Storting had a 2-chamber system including Odelstinget and Lagtinget. This system have gone through only minor changes during the 200 years since 1814, and that also made it easier for the digital version. Now the register is Part 7.

The documents from each part are all documents in a case. They represent the parliamentary treatment of each case within The Parliament and between The Parliament and the government.



Above: The Stortings' librarian Gro Sandgrind together with MP Rigmor Aaserud (Labour – former minister of Government Administration, Modernisation and Church Affairs) in front of the print proceedings that have been digitized.

These connections are presented in the registers. Since 1814 the parliamentary archive has developed and made the registers through document analyses, and then given the cases and documents headwords and topics. This work is the main success criteria in the digital version presented at the web site Stortinget.no.

The digitized parliamentary proceedings on the web include 13 volumes of main indexes containing 18 600 pages and nearly 3 million pages of documents from the political processes in the Storting in the period 1814 to 2000/2001. The work was organized as a project in cooperation with the National Library (NL). The parliamentary archives used Creuna AS to develop the technicality seats and the interface, and NL used CCS Hamburg as sub-contractor to create links between the index and the documents.

The main indexes are the entrance to the searches. This gives the user the ability to find individual issues and follow the entire procedure in the Parliament. In each match, there are links which lead to the related documents. To make the documents authentic, they have been scanned and presented as images of the printed pages. This also ensures proper reference to the documents, since it makes it possible to use the same references as with the printed version.

Three different inputs:

- Search the main indexes
- Search headwords and topics
- Search publications

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES & REGIONAL NETWORKS

### Norwegian Parliament proceedings, cont'd

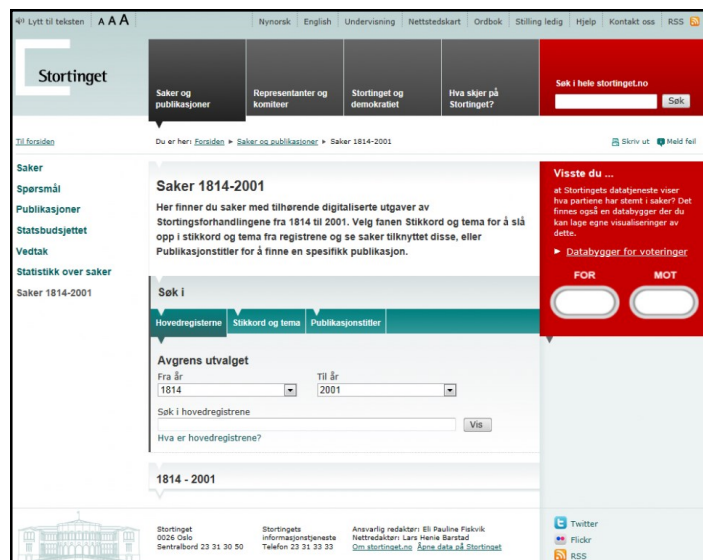
Searching the main indexes allows the user to navigate throughout the search base without regard to issues or topic in the indexes.

Headwords and topics are based on a search in the indexes' main topics and headwords. The headwords will lead the user to the correct topic. Search the topic makes it easier to narrow down the search and thereby increase the relevance of the matches.

The publication search is made to find individual documents from the parliamentary proceedings (propositions to the Storting, reports to the Storting, recommendations, and other documents).

The Parliamentary Archives, are also working on fourth input; namely search for speaker. This will be included in 2015.

On the same material the National Library has developed their own entrance to the documents based on free search in all the 3 million pages. These pages are not proof read, but the hits are still pretty good. The solution on NL's web site [www.nb.no](http://www.nb.no) complements the Storting's.



Screenshot of website where the digitized proceedings can be searched, <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Stortingsforhandlinger/>

### Government and Parliamentary Libraries in Germany - Be Visible!

By Christine Wellems, Head of Department, Parliamentary Information Services, State Parliament of Hamburg

The German Section of Parliamentary and Government Libraries (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Parlaments- und Behördenbibliotheken – APBB) has more than 100 member libraries. The APBB organises sessions and workshops during the annual Library Conference in Germany, offers continuing education seminars in areas which are of interest for the member libraries, and publishes “APBB aktuell”, an annual publication which came online in 2013.

In 2014 the Standing Committee decided to support its members in their effort to be visible within the organisation and their parent institution by publishing a leaflet which would inform about mission, goals, and services especially for government and parliamentary type of library and information services.

Published in May 2014 under the motto, “Decision-making based on facts,” the leaflet describes with regard to Government and Parliamentary Libraries:

- active library services
- professional tasks
- consequences of lack of information within the organisation
- framework of successful library and information services
- future developments – aims, strategies and success factors.

A few examples of the content: Under “Active Information Services,” it is said that the library offers timely and professional

information which is tailored individually to the profile and need of the users (government staff).

Under “Framework,” the statement is made that the library contributes actively to the “task fulfilment” of the institution.

Under “Aims and Strategies,” is described that the library and information service is the “hub” for information and knowledge within the organisation and

- builds an integral part of the organisation
- actively conducts the flow of information
- has a distinct user and service orientation.

The leaflet has been distributed among the member libraries and – according to several feedbacks – has proved to be useful to inform heads of departments or section heads, colleagues and clients. In one case it has already been used in a discussion about reorganisation and cutting staff resources in a government library.

Please find the leaflet (in German) here:

- [original layout](#)
- [version to print](#)





## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES & REGIONAL NETWORKS

### Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) builds web presence

By Alex Grove, Executive Information Officer, Australian Parliamentary Library

As agreed at its last business meeting in Singapore in 2013, the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) has been developing its web presence this year, with a new website and a Facebook group for members.

Dr Dianne Heriot, APLAP President, launched the Association's [new website](#) in July 2014, and the [Facebook group](#) went live in October.

The website is the result of nine months' collaboration and work by the APLAP Executive. For the first time in APLAP's 24 year history, all of the Association's resources and documents have been brought together in one place. The website is also designed to serve as a communication hub for Parliamentary Libraries in Asia and the Pacific. The website is complemented by the [Facebook group](#), a social forum for APLAP members to keep in touch and share ideas.



Above: Screen shot of the APLAP homepage

#### About APLAP

The Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) was founded in 1990 to encourage cooperation and knowledge sharing between bodies that provide library and research services to Parliaments in Asia and the Pacific. APLAP considers matters affecting the common interests of Parliamentary Libraries in the region, develops and shares methods and techniques to improve services provided to members of parliament, and organises conferences and training days.

National and State or Provincial legislatures from almost 40 countries are represented in APLAP's membership, and APLAP is an International Association member of IFLA.

#### Features of the new website

The [home page](#) features the latest news from APLAP and from Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services in the region. Contributions are invited from all member countries; please [contact us](#) if you have a news item that you would like to share.

Other pages present additional information [about APLAP](#), including its [Constitution](#), [Executive Committee](#) and [Members](#). Papers from all nine APLAP conferences, plus two training days, are gathered together in the [Conferences](#) section.

The site also has a [Members only area](#) featuring meeting papers and minutes from APLAP Business Meetings, a contact list for APLAP members, and a forum where all members can post topics or questions. Staff from [APLAP member institutions](#) are invited to [register for access to the Members Only area](#).

#### The APLAP Facebook group

The [APLAP Facebook group](#) is a closed group, which means that anyone on Facebook can find the group and see who's in it, but only members of the group can see posts. This gives members a degree of privacy when communicating with each other. All group members can post to the group, and invite other people to join the group.

The group has already proved popular, with 30 members joining in the first week. If you work for a Parliamentary Library or Research Service in the Asia Pacific region, and would like to join, please [visit the group on Facebook](#) and click on the green "Join group" button. We'd love to have you!

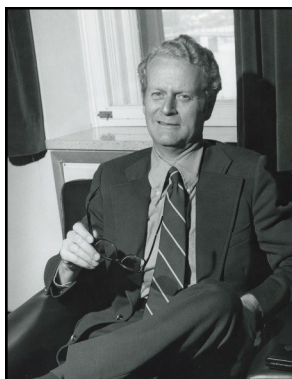
#### Red Parlamenta website open to the public

[Red Parlamenta](#) is a network of documentary and information services of 17 Spanish regional parliaments. Its website, configured as an access portal to parliamentary activity of participating institutions and their resources and collections of documentation services, has been remodeled and is now available to the public.

For details, see the article published in Spanish and English on the Section's website at:

<http://www.ifla.org/node/9282?og=44>

## IN MEMORIUM



### Erik Spicer, Former Section Chair

*By Sonia L'Heureux, Parliamentary Librarian, Parliament of Canada*

Former Canadian Parliamentary Librarian Emeritus, Erik John Spicer was a leading figure and active member of the Canadian and international library community. Erik died in Ottawa on 27 September 2014, at the age of 88.

Erik Spicer served as Canada's Parliamentary Librarian for over 33 years. As the longest continuous serving Parliamentary official, he reported to 12 Speakers of the Senate and 10 Speakers of the House of Commons, saw the creation of the Library's research branch and began the transition of Canada's Parliamentary Library to accommodate technology to better meet the needs of parliamentarians. Erik was an icon on Parliament Hill, and a mentor to many colleagues and employees. Upon his retirement in 1994, he was made Parliamentary Librarian Emeritus and Honorary Officer of both Houses of Parliament by resolution of the Senate and the House of Commons.

On the international front, he was active within IFLA for 35 years, starting in the mid-1960s (for additional information, please see: *The Canada IFLA Adventure*, Saltman, Judith et al, published by the Canadian Library Association, Ottawa, Canada, 2013). Among

his many contributions, Erik served as:

- Director (1967-1973) and Standing Committee Member (1973-1976) of the Special Libraries Section;
- Chairman (1972-1980), Standing Advisory Committee Member (1972-1975) and Standing Committee Member (1981-1989, 1993-1997) of the Parliamentary Libraries Section;
- Standing Advisory Committee Member (1973-1977) of the Administrative Libraries Section;
- Member of the Committee on Official Publications (1972-1978); and
- Vice-chairman of the IFLA 50 Year Anniversary Program Planning Committee (1975-1977).

Erik was an official Canadian delegate to dozens of IFLA annual meetings and received a Tabula Gratulatoria from IFLA in 1977 in recognition for services rendered.

Early on, Erik wrote a paper for IFLA on the need for better communication among parliamentary librarians and campaigned to establish a section to represent parliamentary libraries. Many parliamentary librarians, past and present, benefitted from his vision of a strong network within our IFLA Section.

### Pedro Padilla Rosa

*By Ellie Valentine*

In 2011, the IFLA meetings were hosted in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Robert Newlen and I volunteered to work with our colleagues at the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly to organize the Section pre-conference. We were lucky enough to meet Pedro at the IFLA meeting in Gothenburg where he offered us his readiness to help in anyway. Well, "anyway" turned into "every way" and in December when Robert and I flew down to San Juan to meet our colleagues at the legislature, Pedro was with us every step of the way. Not only did he connect us with colleagues at the legislature, he introduced us to wonderful culture and cuisine. We departed San Juan knowing that we would have a great conference in August.

It is with great sadness that we learned in late September that Pedro Padilla Rosa passed away in his home in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, after some period of illness. I would like to share the note our colleagues at the Law Library Section sent soon after learning of Pedro's passing:

*Pedro was a true friend and colleague, a diplomat and consensus-builder, and a vibrant presence in all parts of his life. He worked as a law librarian at the University of Puerto Rico Law Library, also as an adviser on international programs at his law school. He was very involved in several different professional associations, in particular ACURIL, AALL, IALL, and IFLA. He was a Standing Committee member of the IFLA Law Libraries Section, and a member of the National Committee which organized IFLA in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2011.*

