

IFLA SECTION ON LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICES FOR PARLIAMENTS

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1. MESSAGE FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

It is only a few months since we were gathered together in Rome and Milan to discuss issues of relevance to parliamentary libraries and research services. I hope that you all travelled safely and well back to your homes and that you have begun to implement some of the ideas that you heard in Rome and Milan.

For myself, I travelled onto the United Kingdom in September and attended two further conferences of parliamentary libraries there. One was an **ECPRD Research services seminar** hosted at Westminster and the other was the **regional gathering of United Kingdom Parliamentary Libraries (IPRIN)** (photos from IPRIN in Cardiff here: <http://bit.ly/aaebhx>) Attending these conferences as well as those in Rome and Milan meant that I got home to New Zealand with my head very full of ideas and new understandings about our work.

In mid-October New Zealand welcomed Ms Claudia Lux, who has just ended her term as IFLA President, to the **New Zealand Library and Information Association conference**. Ms Claudia Lux asked me whether as parliamentary librarian I felt responsible for advocating to politicians the role and value of libraries in general. What do you think? Is that part of our role as parliamentary librarians?

In early November the **World e-Parliament conference 2009** was held in Washington, DC. It brought together Speakers, Secretaries-General, members of Parliament, officials, representatives of NGOs and academics to discuss the use of ICT tools in Parliaments. A sprinkling of parliamentary library people attended and spoke at some sessions. A common theme was openness and transparency, the need to increase public engagement to improve the people's perception of parliament and the potential for the use of social networking in discussing issues with citizens. I participated in a panel on "How important are international and regional networks to support the responsibilities of Parliaments?" talking about the work of our Section along with organisations such as the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

At the beginning of December the **"Guidelines for Legislative Libraries"** was approved for publication. The Guidelines is a complete revision of the earlier guidelines, mostly written by Keith Cuninghame, a former member of the management team at the House of Commons Library. Keith has done a superb job in producing the new edition which we hope will be very useful to parliamentary libraries around the world in establishing high quality research and information services in parliaments.

In December a workshop **"Strengthening the Cooperation among Parliamentary Libraries in the Framework of the Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN)"** was organised by the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament and the Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan assisted by our Section and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Once again, the Italian Joint Parliamentary Library hosted our meeting splendidly. There were 27 participants from African parliamentary libraries and a number of presenters from the Section, the Italian Joint Parliamentary Library and the UN Library. The meeting was very productive, and the co-operation has continued at a high level after the participants returned home. This is another successful collaboration between the Section and the Global Centre which is benefiting parliaments in Africa.

It was a surprise to me that the role of Chair would include so much travelling and attendance at international meetings. Right now, I am enjoying some summer weather at home and trying to focus upon our the Pre-Conference in Stockholm and the conference in Gothenburg. I wish all of you the very best for 2010 and in providing great research and information services to your parliaments.

Moir Fraser

Chair, IFLA Section for Library and Research Services for Parliaments.

2. SECTION INFORMATION

The IFLA Section on **Library and Research Services for Parliaments** aims to increase the effectiveness of parliamentary libraries and research services and promote transparency and openness in management and delivery of information in and by parliaments. It builds on activities aimed at sharing knowledge and experiences, promoting standards and best practices, in order to provide a basis for professional growth in the specific field of parliamentary librarianship.

It presently counts 111 members from more than 50 countries, an increase on last year's 92.

A membership directory is available on IFLA website at <http://www.ifla.org/en/ifla-directory>.

How to join the Section

a) **If you already are an IFLA member**, but not a Section member, please refer to the Section membership application page at <http://archive.ifla.org/III/members/form2a.htm>.

b) **If you are NOT an IFLA member** you have to become an IFLA member before joining any Section. To join IFLA you need to:

- Select the right category of membership and affiliation at <http://www.ifla.org/membership/categories>
- Identify the appropriate registration fee, where applicable, at <http://www.ifla.org/en/membership/costs>
- Apply for membership <http://www.ifla.org/membership/new-members>.

Note that **Institutional members are entitled, once they join IFLA, to register for two sections free of charge** (and are automatically entitled to be registered in the appropriate regional activities section). They may join as many Sections as desired but only two are free of charge.

Please contact the IFLA Headquarters and the membership team for further information:

<http://www.ifla.org/en/membership/contact>

3. HIGHLIGHTS

The new Guidelines for Legislative Libraries

In December 2009 the 2nd, revised and enlarged edition of the *Guidelines for Legislative Libraries* has been published and is now available for purchase.

Huge and rapid changes took place in the world of provision of information in the last fifteen years, especially related to ICT developments and the Web.

In order to allow the *Guidelines* to remain a valuable source of guidance for all people working in the field of providing research and information services for parliamentarians, Keith Cuninghame had to re-write them completely, although preserving the spirit of the original edition (1993).

He was supported in this challenging task by an advisory group of seven people from around the world, with a wide range of experience between them: Innocent Rugambwa, Donna Scheeder, Janet Seaton, Mary Seefried, Jarle Skjørestad, Ellie Valentine, William Young.

More information can be found at: <http://www.ifla.org/publications/ifla-publications-series-140>

4. THE NEXT ANNUAL IFLA CONFERENCE AND SECTION PRE-CONFERENCE 2010

As we all know last year IFLA decided to move the 2010 World Library and Information Congress to Gothenburg, Sweden. Following this change, the Swedish Parliament has generously accepted to host the Section satellite meeting.

The Chair of our Section, Moira Fraser, supported by the Section Standing Committee, and the Swedish parliamentary Library, under the guidance of the Director, Gunilla Lilie Bauer, are now working hard on the conference organization and to design an interesting program, both for our specialized meeting and for the open session to be held during the general Conference.

A special number of the Newsletter will be published by the end of March with additional information related to the pre-Conference and the general Conference.

a) The 26th IFLA Pre-Conference on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

Stockholm, Swedish Parliament, 7-9 August 2010

Invitation letter from our host, Gunilla Lilie Bauer, Director of the Library of the Swedish Parliament.

Dear colleagues,

I am happy to invite you to the 26th IFLA Pre-Conference of Library and Research Services for Parliaments, to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 7 to 9 August 2010.

The conference theme - **Open Access to Parliamentary Knowledge, promoting sustainable progress** – is partly chosen in order to connect to the theme of the main IFLA Conference 2010 in Gothenburg: "Open access to knowledge - promoting sustainable progress", partly aimed to open up for many different aspects and interpretations of the words "openness" and "access" concerning parliamentary work, library and information management, research and knowledge as well within a parliament as concerning the task to open up the parliament for the general public.

The Library of the Swedish Parliament is well known as an accessible parliamentary library also open to the general public. The Swedish parliament and Government and the public authorities in Sweden are also well known as open institutions in a country with a long tradition of openness based on the principle of public access to official documents. And together with our Nordic colleagues, Scandinavia forms a strong actor within this area of openness and accessibility.

Let's hope the theme will attract many of you to contribute to the conference program with a presentation which can inspire your colleagues to increased openness and access to excellent services in your parliaments!

The IFLA pre-conferences are always unbeatable as a meeting-point for all of you who work within a parliamentary library or research service and are devoted to the task to enhance the quality of the services from "very good" to "excellent"!

Look forward to meeting you all in August 2010. The doors will be wide open for you at the Swedish Parliament, situated in the very heart of Stockholm, the beautiful capital of Sweden. Very welcome!
Gunilla Lilie Bauer, Library Director, Library of the Swedish Parliament

The Swedish parliament will soon announce the address for the **pre-conference website** where members will find all necessary information and forms for registration to the conference in Stockholm, and for hotel booking at concession rates.

Please check back soon the IFLA web page at <http://www.ifla.org/en/ifla76/satellite-meetings> to find more information on the pre-conference and for further reference to the pre-conference website.

To stay informed you can also subscribe to the e-mail list iflaparl2@infoserv.inist.fr

Call for papers for the 26th Section Pre-Conference / Deadline 15 march 2010

The IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section invites proposals for presentations at the Section's pre-conference program in Stockholm, 7-9th August 2010. The main theme of the Stockholm pre-conference is: "Open Access to parliamentary information". A session at the pre-conference will focus upon "Parliaments of the future" to think about how parliaments may change in the years ahead of us, and what that will mean for how parliamentary libraries will provide services. We would like several presentations, panels or workshops.

We invite proposals for papers, workshops or panels that present, analyse or discuss topics relating to Parliaments of the Future such as:

- How Parliaments will look in the future
- What that will mean for parliamentary libraries and research services
- What role for parliamentary libraries and research services in shaping how citizens will engage with parliaments in the future to participate in debating important issues or shaping legislation
- How will parliamentary libraries and research services support their parliaments in using new technology tools

Submissions

Send an **abstract** (1 page or about 300 words), in English, of the proposed paper and relevant **biographical information** of the author(s)/presenter(s) **by 15 March 2010**.

Send your proposal via email to:

Moira Fraser

Chair, Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

Email: moira.fraser@parliament.govt.nz

The abstracts will be reviewed by members of the Standing Committee. Successful proposals will be identified **by 12 April 2010**. Full papers will be due **by 14 June 2010** to allow time for review of papers and proposals for workshops or panels.

Depending upon the proposals received there may be a mix of short papers, and longer interactive sessions. Please indicate with your proposal how long you would like. The review committee will negotiate with proposers to ensure a balanced program.

Please note that the expenses of attending Conference will be the responsibility of the author(s)/presenter(s) of accepted papers.

b) The 76th IFLA World Library and Information Congress

Gothenburg, Sweden, 10-15 August 2010

The chosen theme for the general conference is *Open access to knowledge - promoting sustainable progress*. The general conference is the occasion to meet librarians from all kind of libraries and to enrich knowledge and professional development in a wide range of fields related to librarianship.

During the conference days in Gothenburg the parliamentary Section will manage an Open Session with a focus on the theme "The role of libraries in access to knowledge for democracy".

Call for papers for the 76th IFLA Conference / Deadline 15 march 2010

The IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section invites proposals for presentations at the Section's programme in Gothenburg. The main theme of the WLIC Conference 2010 is: "Open Access to knowledge – promoting sustainable progress".

The Section's programme will focus upon "The role of libraries in access to knowledge for democracy". We require several presentations on topics related to this theme.

We invite proposals for papers, that analyse or discuss related topics such as:

- How parliamentary libraries and research services provide access to citizens to knowledge about parliament
- What kinds of support do parliamentary libraries and research services provide for public participation in democratic processes
- How libraries in general provide access to knowledge that supports democracy

Submissions

Send an **abstract** (1 page or about 300 words), in English, of the proposed paper and relevant **biographical information** of the author(s)/presenter(s) **by 15 March 2010**.

Send your proposal via email to:

Moira Fraser

Chair, Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

Email: moira.fraser@parliament.govt.nz

The abstracts will be reviewed by members of the Standing Committee. Successful proposals will be identified **by 12 April 2010**. Full papers will be due **by 14 June 2010** to allow time for review of papers and proposals for workshops or panels.

There will be a mix of short papers, and longer interactive sessions. Please indicate with your proposal how long you would like. The review committee will make the final decisions about how long you will be allocated to make your presentation or run an interactive session.

Please note that the expenses of attending the Stockholm pre-conference will be the responsibility of the author(s)/presenter(s) of accepted papers

In order to allow all participants who will attend the conference to exploit the general conference days at best, and to attend a variety of sessions in Gothenburg, the SC has decided not to hold the [Management Workshop day](#) during the conference week in Gothenburg. The planning of the pre-conference may allow us to have the workshop during our time in Stockholm.

Please stay informed through the Conference website at: <http://www.ifla.org/en/ifla76>

5. THE IFLA CONFERENCE AND SECTION PRE-CONFERENCE 2009

a) The 25th IFLA Pre-Conference on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

Italian Joint Parliamentary Library, Rome, 19-21 August 2009

The 25th IFLA Pre-Conference of Library and Research Services for Parliaments - *Digital Information for Democracy: Management, Access and Preservation* - was hosted by the Italian Joint Parliamentary Library in Rome from 19 to 21 August 2009,. During the first two days, the Conference focused on cutting edge innovation and development tools for parliamentary libraries and documentation services. The third day of the pre-Conference concentrated on the sub-theme "Making the best of your resources to provide services".

The three-day program, jointly organised by the hosting Parliament and the Section Standing Committee allowed participants to exchange views and experiences on the challenges and opportunities of managing digital information in a

parliamentary environment. Participants were also exposed to the achievements of the Italian Joint Parliamentary Library in this area as a result of the ongoing process of integration of the libraries of the two Italian chambers.

Additional information on the Conference agenda, papers and presentations can be found at www.preifla2009.parlamento.it or at <http://bit.ly/aAZXLC>.

Pictures from the meeting can be found at: <http://bit.ly/aj5KqP>

b) Training "Leveraging Technology for Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services"

Italian Joint Parliamentary Library, Rome, 18 August 2009

On 18 August, the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, the Italian Joint Parliamentary Library and the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments, held a one-day training titled "Leveraging Technology for Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services".

The training focused on the use of new technologies to enhance the capacity of parliamentary libraries to respond to parliaments' information needs. Special attention was given to existing free and open source solutions for libraries and to the use of Intranet for digital information services. A specific session was dedicated to the negotiation and management of contracts for electronic resources.

The event, held at the Italian Joint Parliamentary Library, was directed at Heads of parliamentary libraries and IT staff providing support to the libraries from a number of parliaments in developing countries and economies in transition.

Additional information on the Training agenda and presentations can be found at <http://www.ictparliament.org/index.php/training-pre-ifla-2009>.

c) The 75th IFLA World Library and Information Congress,

Milan, Italy, 23-27 August 2009

"Libraries create futures: Building on cultural heritage" was the theme chosen for the general conference program. <http://www.ifla.org/annual-conference/ifla75/>

The parliamentary section organized an open session together with the Library History Section, titled "Changing visions: parliamentary libraries, past, present and the future". There were seven interesting papers, all of which can be read on the IFLA website at <http://www.ifla.org/annual-conference/ifla75/programme2009-en.php>.

The Section agreed to participate to a joint open session with Knowledge Management and Information Technology Sections, under the theme "Social computing tools for learning and knowledge sharing".

Our Chair, Moira Fraser, and Soledad Ferrero with Jose Miguel Muga from the Chilean Library of Congress delivered presentations in this session.

The **Management workshop day** was again an active session with a stimulating format that encouraged lively discussion and participation. Thank you to Susan Mansfield, Bushra Nazli and Milvia Priano, who organised the event. We were hosted by the Regione Lombardia, Giunta Regionale, in Milan, which was a very nice place to have the workshop.

Pictured from the Conference in Milan and the Workshop day can be found at: <http://bit.ly/9QdBFY> and: <http://bit.ly/bHUBuO>

6. OTHER GLOBAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS 2009

The World e-Parliament Conference 2009

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC,, 3-5 December 2009

The 2009 edition of the World e-Parliament Conference **took** place from 3 to 5 November 2009 at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. It was co-organized by the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the U.S. House of Representatives and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament

The Conference is the annual forum of the community of parliaments addressing, from both the policy and technical perspectives, how the use of information and communication technology can help improve representation, transparency, accountability, openness, and effectiveness in the complex parliamentary environment. The event brought together more than 400 delegates from about 90 countries.

Moira Fraser, Chair of the Section, was invited to deliver a presentation on the history and activities, future plans and goals of the IFLA Section during a special event held in plenary, titled "How important are international and regional networks to support the responsibilities of Parliaments?" The session was meant to inform delegates about the work of existing networks, such as ASGP, ECPRD, APKN, SGFAPP, NCSL, and IFLA, and their effectiveness.

Other Section members were invited to deliver presentations in a parallel session titled "Enhancing research services for members and committees through ICT". Raissa Teodori, Secretary of the Section, and librarian in the Italian parliament, presented on the achievements, discussions and outcome of the Section pre-conference held in August in Rome. John Pullinger, Director General and Librarian in the UK Parliament and Alim Garga, Deputy Director of Library and Information Services in the National assembly of Cameroon - both SC members of the Section – provided their experience and views through more specific presentations. They were joined in the panel by Santo Voeuk, Director of Library and Research Services of the Senate of Cambodia, and Rae Ellen Best, Librarian in the US House of Representatives.

The **Report of the World e-Parliament Conference 2009** will be published at the end of March 2010. It will be available for download in English and French on the website of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament at www.ictparliament.org

The Conference **program and presentations** are available at <http://www.ictparliament.org/wepc2009/presentations.htm>.

Videos of all sessions are available on the conference website at <http://www.ictparliament.org/index.php/videos/viewcategory/17/world-e-parliament-conference-2009>

AFRICA

The Workshop "Strengthening the Cooperation among Parliamentary Libraries in the Framework of the Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN)"

Italian Joint Parliamentary Library, Rome, 15- 17 December 2009.

From 15 to 17 December 2009, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament and the Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan, organized the three-day Workshop "Strengthening the Cooperation among Parliamentary Libraries in the Framework of the Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN)". The event was organized in cooperation with the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments and hosted by the Italian Joint Parliamentary Library in Rome.

The workshop brought together Heads of Libraries and senior Library staff of 23 parliamentary assemblies in Africa. The outcome of the workshop was the establishment of a Working Group on Information and Research within the APKN that will enable parliamentary libraries of African assemblies to join efforts and resources in order to enhance the quality of their services. Participants committed to undertake, by the APKN Speakers Conference, to be held in October 2010, the following main activities: a) Building a Directory of Parliamentary Libraries in Africa, b) Preparing common dossiers, c) Building a multilingual subject index for documents retrieval across languages, d) Building a repository of laws on Information Society-related issues.

The IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments participated actively in the planning and delivery of the workshop. Presentations were delivered by Moira Fraser and Raissa Teodori, respectively Chair and Secretary of the Section, and by Simon Engitu, Alim Garga, Gro Sandgrind, Donna Scheeder, Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz.

Additional information, programme and presentations of the workshop can be found on the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament website at www.ictparliament.org or on the APKN website at <http://www.apkn.org/conference-documentation/rome-library-working-group-dec-2009>. Pictures from the workshop can be seen at: <http://bit.ly/doFlhd>

The Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN) was established in June 2008 by African parliaments following a consultative process supported by the United Nations.

APLESA membership strengthens the APKN

Simon Engitu, newly elected Coordinator of the APKN Working Group on Information and Research and Chair of APLESA

Based on the knowledge I attained from the workshop held in Rome 15- 17 December 2009 organised by the African Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN) with the assistance from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), there are a lot of things that can be done to have Uganda parliament achieve its vision of becoming a World Class Parliamentary Service. The APKN is a network of African Parliaments which supports capacity building activities, common services, sharing experiences and best practices among African Parliaments. There are many thematic areas comprising APKN, but that of Information and Research is where the heads of libraries in Africa belong and hence it is of interest to me.

Issues in that workshop that that were of interest to me especially relate to the paradigm shift in the service delivery in the information sector. There is a need for librarians to adopt change and start using the Information Communication Technologies (ICT) for which the UN is willing to provide assistance in Parliaments in Africa. Librarians need to change from being managers of libraries to managers of knowledge because knowledge management has been made easy by the use of ICT. Librarians have to make collaborations and partnerships to promote access to information through resource sharing because alone you could manage libraries but NOT knowledge.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Australasia (APLA) annual meeting and conference.

Adelaide, Australia, July 2009

The APLA conference provided a very valuable opportunity to discuss contemporary issues. It was very well organised by a wonderful team from the Parliamentary Library of South Australia. Held on 30 July 2009, highlights included:

- a passionate speech from Hon. Bob Sneath, President of the Legislative Council who is a strong supporter of parliamentary libraries;
- reports on interesting digital developments in presentations by Dr. Edmund Balnaves, Principal and Founder, Prosentient Systems;
- a thoughtful presentation by Mr. Ian Macdonald, Senior Legal Officer, Australian Copyright Council “Beyond the copyright comfort zone: contracts, social networking” and
- analysis of users by Ms. Jenni Newton-Farrelly, Dr. Zoë Gill and Dr. John Weste, South Australian Parliament Research Library in a presentation titled “Library Clients: Changing needs and challenging expectations”.

The organising team were Jenni Newton-Farrelly, Tamara Rebbeck, John Weste, Alex Grove, Coral Stanley.



Presentations can be found at http://www.apla.org.au/information/conferences/adelaide_2009/index.shtml

The APLA annual meeting was held on 31 July and was attended by representatives from all parliamentary libraries in Australia and New Zealand.



Pictured here is the President at that time, Ms Mary Seefried, Queensland Parliamentary Librarian, cutting the cake to celebrate the launch of the new APLA web site which can be seen at <http://www.apla.org.au/>

In addition to reports we considered:

- APLA Twinning with Pacific Libraries;
- IFLA Conference and Parliamentary Library Section;
- Proposed international symposium for 2011;
- APLA Scholarship;
- Benchmarking;
- Strategic plan; and
- Conferences and events.

We agreed that a Symposium on e-services should be held in February 2010. The Parliamentary Library of Victoria offered to coordinate and host this event.

The new APLA Executive was elected. Key contacts are:

APLA President Juliet Webster Parliamentary Librarian Tasmanian Parliamentary Library Parliament House Hobart TAS 7000 P 61 3 62336255 F 61 3 62233964	APLA Vice President Judy Ballantyne Parliamentary Librarian Western Australian Parliamentary Library Parliament House Perth WA 6000 P 61 8 92227256 F 61 8 92227859	APLA Secretary Coral Stanley Parliamentary Librarian South Australian Parliamentary Library Parliament House Adelaide SA 5000 P 61 8 82379405 F 61 8 2117672	APLA Treasurer Di Sinclair Manager Parliamentary Library Service Northern Territory Library Darwin NT 0800 P 61 8 89997442 F 61 8 89996920
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EUROPE

ECPRD Seminar on "Research and information for Parliaments – new challenges, new opportunities"

London, UK House of Commons and House of Lords, 17-18 September 2009

The Seminar was organised by the UK House of Commons and House of Lords in the framework of the ECPRD Area of Interest Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives, and aimed to provide an opportunity for all those concerned with research and information services to share experiences, knowledge and best practices. Three main sessions took place focusing on: New services, New products, New members, new staff. The sessions were followed by an Open Forum to allow participants to raise questions and discuss shared issues concerning information, analysis and research. The Chair of our Section, Moira Fraser, was as well invited to deliver a presentation on *Leadership and Innovation* in the "New members, new staff" session.

Pictures from the ECPRD meeting in London can be found at: <http://bit.ly/bloTcW>

The coordinator and contact person for the "ECPRD Area of interest of Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives" is our colleague Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz, Head of the Parliamentary Library of Austria (Elisabeth.Dietrich-Schulz@parlament.gv.at)

7. FUTURE EVENTS 2010-2011

The 11th Conference of APLESA (Association of Parliamentary libraries of Eastern and Southern Africa)

Blantyre, Malawi, 12-16 April 2010

Contribution by Simon Engitu, Chair of APLESA

The APLESA Executive committee in conjunction with the parliament of Malawi is organizing the 11th APLESA conference from 12- 16 April 2010 in Blantyre, Malawi. The decision to have the conference in Malawi arose from the resolution taken by the members during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the 10th APLESA conference in Kampala in May 2009. It was decided that the hosting of the APLESA Conferences and Meetings be open for competitive bidding.

The following countries won the bidding process to host the conferences and meetings in the next years

Year 2010

- 1st Malawi
- 2nd Zambia
- 3rd Swaziland

Year 2011

- 1st Mozambique
- 2nd Kenya
- 3rd Tanzania

Year 2012

- 1st Angola
- 2nd Namibia
- 3rd EALA (East African Legislative Assembly)

The International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) has promised support for a one-day activity in which a training workshop will be held, like it did last year when it sponsored a one-day workshop during the one-week

10th APLESA Conference. INASP will provide assistance for a workshop in **Proactive Librarianship for parliamentary libraries**.

APLESA has a vision to be an Association of excellence, advancing inter-parliamentary library co-operation within Eastern and Southern Africa, so it has continued to pursue its objectives through its mission of enabling Parliaments, through networking and information resource sharing, to make informed decisions. In 2011, we expect to meet in Mozambique for the Annual conference according to the three year plan as in the above table.

For further information on the conference please contact Simon Engitu, Chair of ApleSA: sengitu@parliament.go.ug

The Asia-Pacific Forum for Parliamentary Research Services (APFPRS)

Seoul, 12-15 May 2010

Invitation message from the Korean National Assembly Research Service

The Korean National Assembly Research Service is looking forward to your participation to NARS Forum on 12-15 May, 2010. The Asia-Pacific Forum for Parliamentary Research Services (APFPRS) is scheduled to be held at Lotte Hotel in Seoul, on 12-15 May, 2010. The Forum is organized by the National Assembly Research Service, or NARS, of the Republic of Korea to provide a venue for discussions on building a cooperative network among parliamentary research services in the Asia Pacific.

Participants will be the delegates from parliamentary research services in Asia-Pacific countries and guests from the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD). ECPRD offers a good example of a network for inter-parliamentary cooperation and information exchange.

The Forum program includes visits to the Korean National Assembly, historic sites, cultural attractions and industrial sites. The National Assembly Research Service will provide accommodations and meals for 2 delegates per country for 4 days and 3 nights.

“Fundamental to democracy: parliamentary research and library services”

Canberra, Australia, 1-4 March 2011

Invitation message by Roxanne Missingham, Librarian of the Parliament of Australia

Although we are not able to host an annual IFLA Section conference in Australia due to the cancellation of Brisbane as a venue for the 2010 IFLA conference, you should put **1-4 March 2011** in your diary. An International symposium and training event will be run in Australia supported by the IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section, Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) at the Australian National University, APLA and hopefully the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Global Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament.

Activities will include:

- (a) training day focused on developing ICT knowledge and skills and service delivery;
- (b) A three day symposium/conference with sessions including:
 - (i) formal presentations by clients – Senators and Members;
 - (ii) Presentations on topics of interest including innovations in ANZ Parliaments in research and library services;
 - (iii) Presentations on assessing client needs and implementing new services;
- (c) A meeting of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific to build networks; and
- (d) An APLA meeting.

The events aim to:

- (a) Assist in the development of parliamentary libraries and research services by providing an opportunity for sharing information, knowledge and experiences;
- (b) Encourage the strengthening of parliamentary libraries and research services within the region and their parliaments;
- (c) Support the development of innovation through sharing information on innovative practices;
- (d) Build the capacity of staff through training in information technology and service delivery; and
- (e) Strengthen the cooperation between the Section and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliaments, Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), Commonwealth Parliaments Association and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

We hope to see you there! More information will be provided at the section meeting in August and through future newsletters.

8. PROFILES, INITIATIVES AND NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICES

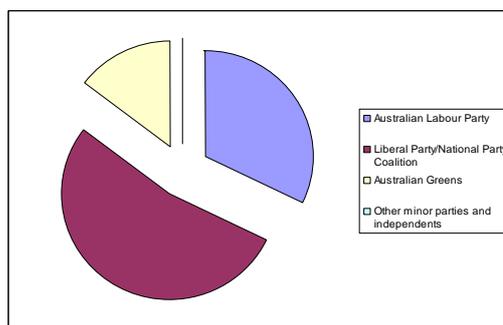
Australian members of parliament join the twitterverse

Contribution by Roxanne Missingham, Librarian of the Parliament of Australia

The Australian Parliament has become visible on Twitter through participation of Senators and Members (and their staff), the media, political parties and parliamentary organisations. The majority of users engaging in discussions on parliament and politics have joined and begun actively tweeting over the past 12 months.

Twitter accounts for members of the federal parliament as at 2 December 2009 are as follows, broken down by party:

	Number of MPs on Twitter	Percentage of MPs on Twitter
Australian Labour Party	11	9.57%
Liberal Party/National Party Coalition	18	18.45%
Australian Greens	5	100%
Other minor parties and independents	0	0%
Total	34	15.04%



Twitter membership of Senators and Members of the Australian Parliament by party

Australian parliamentarians on Twitter can (mostly) be found through tweetMP. It “documents all Federal Australian Members of Parliament on Twitter and encourages all MP's to join in order to make government more transparent. With your help, we can make Australia an even better democracy” (<http://tweetmp.org.au/about>). While it only lists about two thirds of the Senators and Members who have Twitter accounts, it provides very interesting analysis of use of Twitter.

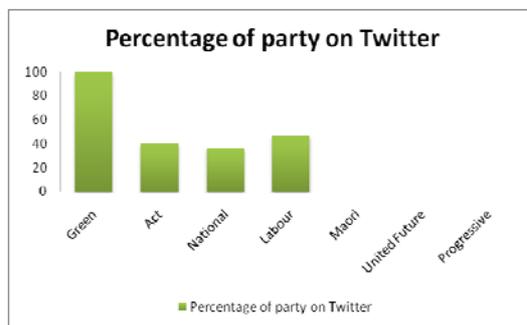
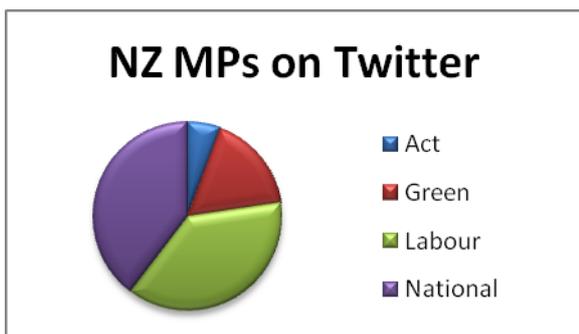
Fake accounts for prominent politicians abound. The Treasurer, the Hon Wayne Swan, is hoaxed by four fake Twitter accounts. There are more than 20 fake accounts for the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd. This proliferation of fake accounts, some clearly labeled as fakes and some not so clearly identifiable. What is remarkable about the fakes is that, although Twitter now takes steps to identify the “real” twitterers, there has been no outcry against those tweeting who are masquerading and prominent politicians, in fact there seems a degree of bemusement about it all.

Senators and Members tweeting at present seem to have the following characteristics:

- They are generally individuals who are enthusiastic about new technology and have been early adopters of technologies such as web sites and email;
- They comment on a wide range of issues and events;
- The tweets are written in an authentic “voice” of each individual, albeit it sometimes not reflecting the common language of the medium;
- They seek to engage not particularly with youth or first time voters through Twitter, but a broad range of Australians;
- They are keen to receive comments and feedback, rather than communicate one way to others;
- The use of Twitter varies from high users to very low users, with a general trend of increasing in the number of participants and tweets.

Parliament is also visible in Twitter through tweets from the Parliamentary Library (<http://twitter.com/ParlLibrary>) and the Department of the House of Representatives magazine *About the House*. Both of these are relatively new. At 2 December 2009 the Parliamentary Library had 237 followers and was on 22 lists. The Library streams news to Twitter through its RSS feed containing information about new publications and events. It will be interesting to see how audiences are engaged through this medium and whether new or existing audiences are the primary users.

Study from the New Zealand Parliamentary Library on Twitter use:



There are 122 MPs in the New Zealand Parliament. Of these 53 are using Twitter. There have been 7 new accounts since November. 39% of male MPs and 61% of female MPs are using Twitter. The majority of MPs using Twitter use the web, txt and mobile web to tweet. There are a smaller number who use Facebook and Twitterfeed. Of the 53 accounts, 5 of them are locked, so data on how and when they tweet is not known.

January initiatives 2010 at the NZ Parliamentary Library

January in New Zealand is when Parliament closes down for the summer adjournment and most people take their main holiday. At the Parliamentary Library this offers different opportunities from the rest of the year. It gives us a chance to explore and experiment, working in different groups from usual and trying out some new ways of working.

The scope of the January Initiatives has been limited to what can be done during January 2010, although some of the initiatives look likely to continue during the year.

In December all staff were alerted to this initiative and invited to indicate their interest in being involved. In early January a meeting was held where the main streams of work were decided and co-ordinators and leaders were selected. Staff then chose where they would get involved, depending on their interest and availability. A feature of the groups is that virtually all leaders and co-ordinators are non-managers. Currently people are working with fresh energy and enthusiasm on nine different streams of work.

It will be very interesting at the end of the month to see what has been achieved. From the activity so far it looks like there will be some very tangible results which will feed into our continuing work this year. It is also showing that sometimes it's good to just do something – make it happen – to test out a new idea. This can build momentum and bring results more quickly than is usual when changes are treated as 'projects'.

Below are the streams of work:

Improving our research capability

- Presentation of research
- Client needs
- Training and coaching

Marketing the Library Group's work

- Consolidate existing marketing materials
- Create new format marketing materials
- Organise promotional activities

Social networking and Parliament

- Create a toolbox
- Just do it
- Research paper

The National Parliamentary Library of the Republic of Serbia

Contribution by Radmila Stojanovic, Head of the Parliamentary Library

The Library of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia belongs to the group of the specialized parliamentary libraries. The premises of this parliamentary library were planned and intended for a specific purpose at the same time when the construction of the National Assembly was planned, in 1901. In 1936 when the construction of the National Assembly was over, the final arrangement, purpose and the name of the library premises, the room 16, together with the

additional rooms- number 17 and number 18, were legalized. Besides the Reading Room belonging to the library, there is a depot, where you can find most of the publications.

The interior of the National Assembly Library consists of the oak tree engravings and is one of the most beautiful accomplishments of The National Assembly anterior, due to Dragoje Barac, famous Belgrade carpenter. It is important to mention that library furniture is authentic and outstanding.

The National Assembly Library holdings was formed out of the National Assembly Library holdings of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, which in 1918 (when it was united) inherited the library holdings of the Principality and Kingdom of Serbia dating from 1889.

The National Assembly Library holdings consists of 60.000 books and periodicals in both local and foreign languages, covering legislation, history, politics, law, economics, statistics, sociology, philosophy etc; It also includes collections of manuals, encyclopedias, dictionaries, lexicons; as well as collection of stenographic records dating from the beginning of development of parliamentarism in our country (it is precious for its great historic value).

Today the National Parliament Library holdings has valuable publications:

- Protocols of Serbian National Parliament from 1859 to 1918 until today, as well as valuable collection of stenographic records from the Kingdom of Serbia parliamentary meetings in Nis and Corfu from 1914 to 1918; collection of the oldest rules and regulations printed in our country; collection of about 100 rarities; collections of official gazettes from 1945 till today:
- The First Serbian Constitution, known as Sretenjski ustav (The Constitution of Sretenje) from 1835.
- The Constitution of the Principality of Serbia from 1838, well-known as Sultanski Hatiserif (Sultan's Edict), as well as all local and some of the foreign constitutions till present time.
- It is interesting to mention that the cover page of the Constitution of Sretenje contains the illustration of some Mason's symbols- the all-seeing eye and the branch of a black locust.
- Considering numerous laws and legal codes, it is important to mention Dusanov zakonik (Dushan's Code), printed in 1898.

Besides books, the library includes six valuable periodicals, including Slavenoserbski magazin (Slav-Serbian magazine) from 1768, being the oldest and the most valuable publication belonging to the collection of the old and rare books.

It is important to mention that we have been inputting library holdings in electronic basis KOBISS since 2007.

Users of the library are : Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Groups, officials, employees of the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers, scientists, as well as other citizens of both our and foreign countries.

Staff training initiatives in the parliamentary Library of Uganda

Contribution by Simon Engitu, Assistant Director, Library Services, Chair of Aplea and of the APKN Working Group on Information and Research

Parliament of Uganda Library has embarked on a number of initiatives to strengthen the use of ICT to deliver services and prepare staff to this shift. Two very important workshops have been planned, one of them has already taken place.

a) Training workshop on the Application of Koha Integrated Library System (4-15 January 2010)

The training in the use and application of the Koha Integrated Library Management System was carried out from 4th to 15th January 2010. The training targeted mostly the new staff of the library. Other staff had already attended a similar training funded by the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP).

In Parliamentary democratic systems, the representatives of the people need objective, factual and timely information that enable Members make informed decisions and ensure executive accountability to the legislature. This pre-supposes that Parliament should have its own information reservoir and information management system, away from the control of the Executive branch of Government. Almost all organizations are using some form of resource sharing by using networks both within and outside the organizations, to join global society. There is need for access to information resources other than those found in one's establishment, region or country. One also needs to reach out and communicate with other colleagues in a faster and more efficient manner.

Koha is widely used in information management worldwide. This system is currently being used in many parliaments in Africa. One most unique feature of Koha is that it provides a number of modules that enable the performance of several

library functions namely Circulation, Cataloguing, Patron Management, Serials management, Acquisitions and report generation among others. Koha enables the clients to interact with the system for instance, to check the borrower's history, forward suggestions to the library management, update patron and records details and searching and browsing the library collection.

The Department of Information Communication Technology has a big work load of managing over 300 computers, and the numerous software programmes installed in these computers altogether. Koha therefore provides a unique challenge to the ICT staff as they have never had a formal training on library related computer systems like that of Koha in addition to the challenge of having hardly enough time to manage the Library computer systems.

The Uganda Parliamentary library is a member of the Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA). APLESA has a vision to develop a union catalogue using Koha. If the staff can get adequate skills in the use of and maintenance Koha, then it could be a pre-cursor to the creation of the APLESA Union Catalogue. The development of a union catalogue will play a central role in enabling APLESA realize both its vision and mission. This union catalogue will enable parliaments in the region to make informed decisions for it will enable parliamentarians identify more information resources from one single location. This is in conformity with the plan by APKN to have libraries in Africa to install Koha for managing the library resources and Dspace for the repository purposes.

b) Training in the application and use of Web 2.0 Technologies in Libraries (1-15 January 2010)

The second training workshop is scheduled for 1st to 15th February 2010. The Parliamentary Library should seize every opportunity presented by the web 2.0 technologies in order to develop personalized Online Public Access Catalogues (OPACs). Web 2.0 technologies include wikis, blogs, social networking, folksonomies, podcasting & content hosting services. Many of the most popular Web 2.0 sites are Wikipedia, YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, Flickr, Blogs, wikis and RSS. Using these technologies will enable libraries transform into a place where one can not only search for books and journals but also interact with a community, a librarian and share knowledge and experience with colleagues.

With Web 2.0, information can be pulled from a number of different sources, and it can be personalized to meet the needs of a single user. Applications can be built on the existing applications that comprise the Web 2.0 interface, hence, it could be said that Web 2.0 will allow the library users to communicate with each other and spread ideas rather than receiving their information from a single authority. Based on the descriptions above, it should be easy to see the advantages of this system. Information will flow freely, and Users can express their ideas without fear of repression. Web 2.0 would make the Internet a true democratic system, a digital democracy which could be adopted by parliament as a tool for use in its representative function.

The Parliamentary User community together with the electorate as a whole would become more informed if this technology can be promoted. Instead of getting information from once source that could have an agenda, they can receive their information from multiple sources, and this will allow them to make better decisions about the world around them. A good example of this is the ability to read newspapers from various countries other than the one you reside in. You can view events from more than one perspective, and this allows you to be a better informed person.

Another powerful reason for adopting Web 2.0 is for purposes of communication. It has become obvious that the Internet is one of the greatest communication mediums in the world. The Web 2.0 technology surpasses even the telephone and printing press. The reason being that the masses can communicate with each other without the oversight of governments or corporations. This has created an environment where ideas and freedom is allowed to flow unrestricted. People can communicate from around the world for a fraction of the cost they would pay to make an international phone call. Web 2.0 will make the Internet more personalized. Everyone has different needs, and Web 2.0 will allow each individual to have information that is tailored to their needs and interests. Adopting social networking and Web 2.0 technology therefore can be useful as a marketing tool for the promotion of library services.

9. CONTACTS AND STANDING COMMITTEE INFORMATION

At present the Standing Committee of the Section counts 19 members, 7 of which elected in 2009. SC members are elected through ballots every two years, as current members complete their term. Each term has a four year duration and can be renewed only once.

During the first Section Standing Committee meeting held in Milan, September 22nd, new officers were elected. Moira Fraser, former Information Coordinator of the Section, was elected Section Chair, Raissa Teodori is the new Secretary, and Stelina Maria Martins Pinha is the new Information Coordinator.

Our warm thanks go to Gro Sandgrind and to Iain Watt, who served respectively as Chair and Secretary for the term 2007-2009.

Officers and Standing Committee Members OF the IFLA Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments *after election 2009*

NAME	Parliament/Institution and country	Email	SC Terms
Moira Fraser / Chair 2009-	Parliamentary Library, New Zealand	moira.fraser@parliament.govt.nz	1st term: 2005-2009 2nd term: 2009-2013
Raissa Teodori / Secretary 2009-	Library of the Senate of Italy	raissa.teodori@senato.it	1st term: 2007-2011
Stelina Maria Martins Pinha / Information coordinator 2009-	Federal Senate of Brazil	stelina@senado.gov.br	1st term: 2009-2013
Anita Dudina	Saeima (Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia	adudina@saeima.lv	1st term: 2005-2009 2nd term: 2009-2013
Andrzej Dziubecki	Chancellery of the Senat of the Republic of Poland	dziubeck@nw.senat.gov.pl	1st term: 2009-2013
Alim Garga	National Assembly of Cameroon	a_garga@yahoo.fr	1st term: 2007-2011
Lu Haiyan	National Library of China	luhy@nlc.gov.cn	1st term: 2009-2013
Eunhee Hyun	National Assembly Library, Republic of Korea	leahyun@nanet.go.kr	1st term: 2009-2013
Esther Kamau	National Assembly, Kenya	ekamau@parliament.go.ke	1st term: 2005-2009 2nd term: 2009-2013
Sonia L'Heureux	Library of Parliament, Canada	lhours@parl.gc.ca	1st term: 2009-2013
Elisabeth Malmhester	The Riksdag Library, Sweden	elisabeth.malmhester@riksdagen.se	1st term: 2007-2011
Roxanne Missingham	Parliamentary Library, Australia	roxanne.missingham@apl.gov.au	1st term: 2007-2011
Daniel P. Mulhollan	Library of Congress, United States	dmulhollan@crs.loc.gov	1st term: 2007-2011
John Pullinger	House of Commons, U.K.	pullingerj@parliament.uk	1st term: 2009-2013
Innocent Rugambwa	Parliament of Uganda	irugambwa@parliament.go.ug	1st term: 2009-2013
Ellie Valentine	Parliamentary Development Project for Ukraine	ellieval@aol.com	1st term: 2009-2013
Iain Watt	European Parliament	iain.watt@europarl.europa.eu	1st term: 2007-2011
Christine Wellemms	Parliament of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg	christine.wellemms@bk.hamburg.de	1st term: 2007-2011
Guido Williams Obreque	Chilean Library of Congress	gwilliams@bcn.cl	1st term: 2007-2011