IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

Steve Wise
Chair, IFLA Section
Library and Research Services for Parliaments
IFLA - International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Website: www.ifla.org

• Founded in 1927
• International body representing the interests of library and information services and their users
• Approximately 1,400 Members in 140 countries
• Publishes guidelines, specialized bibliographies, professional reports and creates standards
• Annual conference: World Library and Information Congress (WLIC)
• Specialized sections, core activities and special interest groups
IFLA - International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Website: https://www.ifla.org/globalvision

- Global vision discussion
- Contributions from over 30,000 colleagues from 190 countries and all 7 continents
- Sets out challenges & opportunities facing libraries worldwide
- Shapes future IFLA strategy
IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments (IFLAPARL)

Website: https://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments

• One of the 44 specialized sections of IFLA
• Active since 1984
• Only global professional network dealing with library and information services in the parliamentary environment
• Around 90 members from more than 50 countries worldwide
• A larger network of colleagues participating in Section activities
Mission of IFLAPARL

- Promote the establishment of strong parliamentary library and research services as a fundamental component of democratic legislatures
- Increase the effectiveness of legislatures through professional information support (timely, accurate, reliable, non-partisan)
- Promote the values of openness, transparency and democratic participation by encouraging institutions to ensure open access to parliamentary information to citizens
IFLAPARL Objectives

- Share knowledge and experiences, promote standards and best practices to develop professional competencies
- Provide a forum for identifying and discussing emerging issues, common challenges and concerns
- Promote networking amongst parliamentary library and research services and cooperation between legislatures
- Assist and support the development of parliamentary libraries
- Encourage programs that support the capacity of parliaments to engage citizens
IFLAPARL Activity & Work

- **Annual conference** held in conjunction with the IFLA Congress
- **Capacity building** through workshops, training & staff exchanges
- Professional reports, **publications** and guidelines
  - Including contributing to publications developed by other organizations
- **Dissemination of information & networking**
  - Website
  - Mailing list
  - Newsletter
  - Social media
IFLAPARL Activities: Conferences

Website: [https://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments/conferences](https://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments/conferences)

- Annual pre-conference / satellite meeting
  - Presentations by host parliaments & section members
  - Workshops / seminars
  - Networking

- IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC)
  - Open session with presentations from section members
  - Joint sessions with other IFLA Sections
  - Knowledge café
IFLAPARL Activities: Capacity Building

- Sponsored places at pre-conference / WLIC
- Dedicated training seminars attached to pre-conference
- Working with partners in country or region-specific programmes
- Participating in regional parliamentary networks and associations
- Providing expertise and guidance in response to requests
IFLAPARL Activities: Publications

Website: https://www.ifla.org/publications/44


• Information and Communication Technologies in Parliamentary Libraries, 2012 (available in English, French, Spanish)

• Guidelines for Parliamentary Research Services, 2015 (available in 5 languages)

• Contributed to:
  o Social Media Guidelines for Parliaments (IPU, 2013)
  o World e-Parliament Reports (IPU, 2008- )
IFLAPARL Activities: Other Projects

Website: https://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments/projects

- World Directory of Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services
- Parliamentary Research & Library Service Ethics
- IFLAPARL Action Plan
IFLAPARL Partnerships

- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP)
- United Nations
- Regional parliamentary networks and associations
  - APLA, APLAP, APLESA, APLIC, ECPRD, Nordic libraries, REDIPAL
- Other IFLA Sections
- Other organisations building capacity in parliaments
  - DfID, HDP, SUNY/CID, USAID, WFD
How to join IFLAPARL

IFLA membership is required to be a member of the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

- To become a member of IFLA
  - Select the right category of membership and affiliation at the following page - [https://www.ifla.org/membership/categories](https://www.ifla.org/membership/categories)
  - Identify the appropriate registration fee, where applicable, at [http://www.ifla.org/membership/costs](http://www.ifla.org/membership/costs)
  - Apply for membership - [http://www.ifla.org/membership/new-members](http://www.ifla.org/membership/new-members)
Contacts for further information

• For further information on IFLA membership please contact the IFLA Headquarters and the membership team: http://www.ifla.org/membership/contact

• Requests for information/assistance can be addressed to any of the following:
  o Chair – Steve Wise (UK), iflaparl.chair@gmail.com
  o Secretary – Karin Finer (European Parliament), karin.finer@europarl.europa.eu
  o Information Coordinator – Adama Kone (National Assembly of the Ivory Coast), adama.kone@gmail.com
Thank you
Additional Slides
IFLAPARL Action Plan 2019

• Create case studies for IFLAPARL capacity building
• Extend the self-population of the World Directory
• Plan IFLAPARL Pre-Conference & WLIC Sessions
• Improve communication within IFLAPARL community
• Update the Section’s publication: *Guidelines for Legislative Libraries*
• Complete work on ethics checklists for Parliamentary libraries & research services
• Workshops and capacity building activities
  ○ 2009 (Italy): APKN (Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network)
  ○ 2011 (Chile): ENPLAC (Exchange Network of Parliaments of Latin America and the Caribbean)
  ○ 2014, 2015: NORIA programme of the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie
  ○ 2016 (USA): USAID / HDP (House Democracy Partnership)
  ○ 2017 (Poland): Secretary General of the Sejm / WFD (Westminster Foundation for Democracy)
  ○ 2019 (Tunisia): SUNY/CID (Center for International Development)
IFLAPARL Activities 2007 – 2019

- **World e-Parliament Conference**
  - Organized session on value of libraries and librarians to parliaments

- **Meetings with IPU / ASGP**
  - 2008: Co-organization of the IPU / ASGP /IFLA meeting “Informing Democracy: Building capacity to deal with Parliamentarians’ Information and Knowledge needs”, Geneva
  - 2012: Session on Social Media in Parliaments (Parliamentary representation and communication, and the role of social media) in Quebec City (Canada), at the 127th IPU Assembly
  - 2016: Workshop on building digital repositories with Dspace, Lusaka