



# The Information Point

## the Government Libraries Section Newsletter

### July 2012



Government Libraries Section

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## Conference Programs and Events

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### IFLA WLIC 2012 Helsinki

#### Saturday 11 Aug.

15.15 - 17.45. Room 218.  
Session 47. 1st Standing Committee Meeting



#### Tuesday 14 Aug.

11.45 - 13.45. Room 1. Session 129. [Promoting global access to law: developing an open access index for official authenticated legal information. Part 2: Europe](#)

(Law Libraries with Government libraries, Library and Research Services for Parliaments, Government Information and Official Publications)

#### Thursday 16 Aug.

08.30 - 10.30. Room 4. Session 193. [The surprising world of government libraries: trends and prospect of new user services](#)

(Government Libraries with Government Information and Official Publications, Libraries and Services for Parliaments and Law Libraries)

10.45 - 12.45. Room 4. Session 203. [Empowering library users to solve problems: our stories](#)

(Social Science Libraries with Law Libraries and Government Libraries)

13.00 - 14.30. Room 203. Session 209a. 2nd Standing Committee Meeting

## Chair's Column

By Miguel Navas-Fernández  
Chair 2011-13



Dear colleagues,

I enlisted in the Government Libraries Section in 2009, been Information Coordinator/Web Editor for the last 2 years, and now I am saluting you as the Chair of the Section. It's a big honor and a great challenge to me, and I am trying to do my best.

It is also a big pleasure to present the latest issue of our newsletter, "The Information Point", that we begun publishing in 1999.

Nowadays, newsletters are not the best communication tools, since there are blogs, emailing lists and social networks. These bring information piece by piece in a quick and participative way.

We have all these tools, but, despite that, we would like to continue publishing the newsletter since it contains cumulative information in a printer-friendly format.

### Presence of the GLS in Helsinki

We are going to be very active during next WLIC in Helsinki (see p.1).

Our session, [\*The surprising world of government libraries: trends and prospect of new user services\*](#), will take place on Thursday 16 Aug.

There will be other 2 sessions co-sponsored by us, in collaboration with the Sections of Law Libraries, Library and Research Services for Parliaments, Government Information and Official Publications, and Social Sciences Libraries.

### Joining Government Libraries Section

2013 will be an election year at IFLA. 6 current members of our section may leave or renew their nomination, and yet there will be another 5 Vacancies to fill.

Therefore, the Government Libraries Section is looking for members. Interested? Just contact us and we will take care of your nomination!

[ifla.governmentlibraries@gmail.com](mailto:ifla.governmentlibraries@gmail.com)). Please do it before October 2012.



**WE WANT YOU!**

### Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments

During the last year, our **Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments** have been translated into Hindi, Catalan and French.



It means that this publication is available in 8 languages so far (including English, German, Russian, Spanish and Japanese).

We hope that this will be useful for the librarians community world-wide.

The Guidelines are available at: <http://www.ifla.org/en/publications/ifla-professional-reports-106>

### V Catalan Law Libraries Conference

I attended to the V Catalan Law Libraries Conference that took place in Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain) on the 15th November 2011.

The main intervention was the presentation carried out by Professor [Vicenç Feliú](#), entitled "The library, information and law documentation services for the judiciary bodies of the United States of America". The other



presentations were given by Eulàlia Sau (Coordinator of the Catalan Law Libraries network), regarding the procedures of the Working Group for Obsolete Materials, and by Ivet Adell (Coordinator of the Law Libraries of the Barcelona City), regarding the Law Libraries Promotion Plan.

All the materials, including presentations, full texts, pictures and videos are available online here (Spanish and Catalan language only):

[Program, presentations and full text](#)  
[Post in the "Knowledge Management" weblog](#)  
[Slideshare](#)  
[Flickr](#)

## Projects

In October 2011, we asked for project funds to undertake projects. We did not get the funds, but we are still considering some projects like an Online Directory, Selective Bibliography or Report on the state of GL worldwide.

You are welcome to contribute with ideas for the good of government libraries at: [ifla.governmentlibraries@gmail.com](mailto:ifla.governmentlibraries@gmail.com).

## Information Coordinator's Report

By **Guillermo García-Capcha**  
Information Coordinator 2011-13



## Changes in the Standing Committee

As advertised in the last newsletter, there were elections inside the Section, and new Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and Information Coordinator/Web Editor were appointed:

- Miguel Navas-Fernández (Spain) – Chair
- Sanjay K. Bihani (India) – Secretary / Treasurer
- Guillermo García-Capcha (Peru) – IC/WE

In addition, some members left and some new arrived, and some have been replaced:

- Patrick Ryan by Anoja Fernando (UK), SC member
- Hannah Fischer by Jérôme Fronty (France), corresponding member

The group is well communicated and team working is excellent.

More information at:

<http://www.ifla.org/en/news/introducing-the-new-standing-committee-members>

## Papers to be presented in Helsinki

After several workings weeks, we have a final selection of papers to be presented in our main session in Helsinki. Voices from USA, Greece, India & Finland will cover a variety of issues related to the government libraries.

The full-text of papers are already available and translation to French, Chinese and Spanish are under way.

## Obituary: Maija



by **Sanjay K. Bihani**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
2011-13  
and **Elina Kähö**  
Member SC 2011-13



Last Easter we got sad news when our colleague **Maija Jussilainen** passed away due to cancer. She fought this battle for many years.



Maija started her career as a librarian in the beginning of 1970's. She graduated from the University of Tampere in 1980 and worked as a research assistant at the University of Tampere. In the 1990's she worked as an information specialist at the library of University of Vaasa and at the Parliament library in Helsinki. In 1997 she started working in the Prime Minister Office and later worked as a knowledge specialist in the Ministry of Finance and in the State Treasure. Maija retired in 2010.

Maija was a multi-talented, very soft spoken and a pioneer in the field of information management. she often thought how the persons who work for the same matters in different professions could understand each other better. Maija was

developing the network of information management professionals aiming to have high-quality information services for the Ministries, Departments, Parliament library and National Archives. One of the targets of Maija's interest was knowledge management. Around these matters she also had plans for doctoral thesis.

Maija was very active in many international organizations. In the 1990's she participated in the Nordic cooperation via NORDICOM network. During last decade she was very active in IFLA's Government Libraries and Government Information and Official Publications sections. She was a key person during 2005 Pre-Conference of Government Libraries Section in Stockholm.

Maija was making better world by inspiring people, whenever it matters libraries, garden, old houses or non-nuclear policy in Norway. Friends and colleagues remember her as a peaceful and warm person who loved the beauty, poetry and music.

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## Internet Librarian International 2011: The innovation and technology conference for information professionals

by **Sanjay K. Bihani**  
Secretary/Treasurer 2011-13



(Originally published in [IFLA Journal, Vol. 38, no. 1, March 2012](#), p. 86-87)

I recently attended the two-day conference organised by Information Today Group at Copthorne Tara Hotel, London on 27–28 October 2011. The conference is organised every year and this is the 13th year of Internet Librarian International.

Internet Librarian International's primary focus was case studies of innovation and technology in action in a variety of library settings. This year, more than 30 case studies were featured from around the world, including Australia, Belgium, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States.

This year's conference theme was 'Navigating the New Normal – Strategies for Success'. Conference Chair, Marydee Ojala explained that innovation and experimentation are still taking place. We are amazingly proficient at

revolutionising our work environments, understanding and utilising new technologies, and also bringing creative thinking to problem solving. The new normal isn't just about austere budgets, it's also about new technologies and new ways of working. It's about partnerships and transparency, about new ways to develop and disseminate knowledge, about the increasing importance of communication skills, and about opening up access to information, data, and knowledge.

The opening keynote address was delivered by Klaus Tochtermann, Director of the German National Library of Economics and Professor of Computer Media at the University of Kiel. Professor Tochtermann shared his vision of the future of the Internet and how it will affect information professionals and libraries, based around the four elements of the future Internet that he has identified: the Internet of content and knowledge, the Internet by and for people, the Internet of things, and the Internet of services. The second-day keynote speakers were journalist Kevin Anderson and social software consultant Suw Charman-Anderson. They focused on the evaluation and adoption of digital innovations, issues around data journalism, social media, semantic search, crowd sourcing, digital rights and press freedom.

ILI 2011 was organised into six tracks to help delegates focus on topics of their particular interest:

Track 1 – 'Technology Developments and Trends' kicked off by UKOLN's Brian Kelly and Ake Nygren of Stockholm Public Library who explored what's on the technology horizon. The track includes a presentation from Andrew Woolfson of law firm Reynolds Porter Chamberlain LLP who explained how RPC have developed 'Edge', a new social platform designed to understand the way people work, married to the attributes of social media within the unique demands of a legal environment. Other speakers in this track include the Open University's Tony Hirst, the University of Huddersfield's Dave Pattern and Bryony Ramsden, and Rurik Thomas Greenall from Norway's NTNU.

Track 2 – 'New Models for the New Normal', included presentations from Linda Vidlund and Cecilia Petersson from Uppsala University Library, who talked about how they are experimenting with technologies such as QR codes to find out how digital materials can be made more visible in the

physical library, and how the library can become both a social and a learning space. Other speakers in this track come from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Wellcome Trust, National Library Board of Singapore, the Scottish Qualifications Authority and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (UK).

Track 3 – ‘Transforming Resource Management’ kicked off with a look at the e-book revolution in libraries. Kate Worlock of industry analyst firm Outsell revealed some of the publishing trends underlying the future development of e-books. Ceri Hughes of KPMG discussed experimenting with e-resources to keep a dispersed and highly mobile workforce informed. Trevor Dawes and Jennifer Baxmeyer of Princeton University talked about how university library prepared for a programme to circulate electronic devices such as Kindles and iPads to library patrons. Also in this track, Hugh Look presented the first comprehensive look at the JISC Collections review of its banding scheme.

Track 4 – ‘Search and Discovery’ featured presentations from conference favourites Phil Bradley and Karen Blakeman as well as an examination of the state of play of linked data and Web scale discovery.

Track 5 – ‘New Users, New Audiences, New Behaviours’ focused on new ways to engage and understand users, and to develop services accordingly. Joanna Ptolomey discussed a case study that looks at the information community journey of Long Term Conditions Scotland and asks if community members can effectively curate and moderate content for themselves.

Track 6 – ‘Teaching Others, Developing Ourselves’ featured presentation from Michael Stephens of San Jose State University with an overview of emerging literacy related to digital media, information exchange and education as well as presentation regarding teaching information skills and developing ourselves.

The conference was attended by delegates from more than 30 countries and from academic, public, corporate, government, medical, law and various other types of libraries. My most favourite sessions were:

- Rethinking Library Websites
- Efficient and Effective: Case studies for the new normal
- The e-book Revolution in Libraries

- On the Move: Library Services on Mobile Devices
- Experimenting with e-Resources
- Phil’s Latest Discoveries
- Searching Without Google
- Teaching Others / Teaching Information Skills

The Internet Librarian International conference ended with a panel discussion tackling the question of whether the new normal requires a new you. The panel was made up of three speakers from the conference, Michael Stephens, Ulla de Stricker and Joanna Ptolomey and was chaired by Marydee Ojala.

I attended really interesting sessions, met renowned experts on various fields and had engaging discussions in the field of current trends in library and information management during this conference. I personally feel that I don’t completely need to reinvent myself to work with the new normal, but I can use my existing knowledge and resources as a basis to adapt myself to meet new needs and challenges.

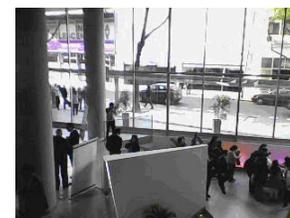
## IFLA workshop on transparency and good governance: Argentina



**By Magdalena Biota**  
Corresponding Member 2011-13

On September 28, 2011, simultaneously with the “Access to information day”, the Workshop on transparency and good governance was carried out in Buenos Aires. Cosponsored by IFLA LAC, IFLA FAIFE and the Library of Congress of Argentina, the workshop was delivered by Paul Sturges, from the University of Loughborough, England, and by Alejandra Martínez del Prado, from the System of Libraries of the School of Medicine (UNAM), contributing to the exchange of ideas on how libraries can facilitate to good governance and transparency.

The welcoming speech was delivered by Senator Roxana Latorre, who said to be glad that the workshop and the celebration of the “Day of access to information” were coincidental with the opening of the new library



building, before being officially inaugurated (see picture above). Regarding access to public information, Senator Latorre said the half-way approved bill is now being treated at the House of Representatives, pending definite approval. With the aim of ensuring access to public information by every citizen, the proposed law is based on a right that needs to be regulated: in practice, Legislative and Judicial information is less accessible than Executive information. With the new information technologies, which –she said– entail a change of paradigm, the possibilities of access are enhanced. “This confirms Mayan prophecy that the old world would culminate in 2012”, a phrase that Senator used to indicate that, according to her interpretation, we are experiencing the beginning of a new era ruled by new social devices and technological mediations to regulate relations between the people and the State.

Parallel to the enhanced possibilities of access to information and knowledge, the Library of Congress also enjoyed a marked growth in the number of readers; meanwhile its services reached a 90% of satisfactory responses, and measures have been taken to digitize library holdings, “in an ongoing process of digitalization”. The Senator also highlighted the importance of the recently launched *Digesto Legal* (a compendium of Argentinean laws), initiated as a bill aiming at reordering the laws in rule. With the efforts of more than 100 specialists, 300.000 laws were ordered and simplified, comprising them into a *Digesto* of only 3.600 norms, conveniently classified to make its free online access easier.

The challenge, she said, is to “regionalize, federalize and build a true Latin American and world network that strengthens us all”. To that end, she deemed necessary to think on every-day tasks as a work of projection, so that citizens are



connected even in the farthest corner of the world. After Latorre’s speech, there follow Paul Struges’ words. Struges spoke about IFLA UNESCO Manifesto, about the Internet and transparency. He reported that the Manifesto is based on Article 19 the United Nation’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which reads: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”. Increasingly, he said, libraries are places where people go seek information, where librarians seek information on behalf of the people, and where the information can be passed on to others.

While in the past, libraries were custodians of information, protecting the integrity of its interpretation and the unity of its sense, today librarians protect the values of freedom of opinion and expression, and should take article 19 as their belief and promote it to everyone.

Afterwards, the manager of the library services, Alejandro Santa, described the key aspects of the administration: open access, free services and equal opportunities. He thanked the presence of the staff, unions and representatives of other libraries. He mentioned the importance of promoting networks, increasing strengths and learning from weaknesses to improve performance. “The Parliament is the people’s administration”, he said, “and the role of the librarian is optimized with new technologies. Librarians will not disappear: googling is not magic”. He also said to be pleased at the recent creation the library’s cultural extension center, which will be complementary to the services and activities of the library, and serve as feedback to them.

The closing speech was delivered by Argentine historian Felipe Pigna, who took a retrospective glance at the issue of access to information, evoking the invention of writing, more than 6,000 years ago. The invention of writing meant a change in the way information was made accessible. However not until the late nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century did the number of literate people increase, as reading and writing skills had been banned to the majority of people as a way to preserve the power in the dominant elites.

He also mentioned the concept of “good

government”, originated in Spain, more specifically in the Siete partidas (Seven-part code) compiled during the reign of Alfonso X of Castile, a king who claimed that a good government responds to the expectation of the people, being the ruler necessarily at the service of the ruled—which, Pigna said, by no means justifies the invasion initiated in the Crusades and continued in the conquest and genocide of America.

In the region, the concept of good government reverberates in the anticolonialist claims of José Gabriel Condorcanqui, also known as Túpac Amaru II, who argued that a legitimate government should be established to avoid people from being charged unjust taxes. Condorcanqui’s rebellion is the most important and widely known upheaval of the colonial times in America. However, it was no later than 1493, with the Antillean rebellion, when people began to demonstrate against the conquest and genocide. With the independent movements in Argentina, Manuel Belgrano’s ideas began to spread. Pioneer of popular education, he said: “Without education there is no nation, no homeland; the economy and progress depends upon education of the people.” Since then, libraries have been the place where culture is socialized, and the measures taken by Mariano Moreno bear testimony to the efforts of these men to promote equal access to knowledge, regardless of caste, gender, age or race.

Pigna also mentioned the uses of history and its access as a preventive measure, referring to two polemic and emblematic figures: San Martín and Sarmiento, while recounting two events from the recent history in Argentina. The first one referred to the President of the Rural Society in Argentina, Hugo Biolcati, who usually quotes Sarmiento in his speeches to support institutional policies. However, the productive model in which Sarmiento believed was based on a medium-scale exploitation strategy, just as it was by the time developed in Chivilicoy, Province of Buenos Aires. Such a model allowed population settlements, better use of soils and a more sustainable development in the long term. On the other hand, the landowner oligarchy, gathered in the Rural Society, preferred the large estate exploitation, and underestimates Sarmiento’s reasoning arguing that it was against Argentina’s traditions of vast extensions.

The second one related to the bicentennial of the birth of José de San Martín, in 1978. In the commemoration speech, de facto president Jorge

Rafael Videla was quoted to have said more or less the following: “If San Martín were alive, he would be proud of the task undertaken by this sanmartinean army against subversion”. However, facts are eloquent: while San Martín created many libraries, the Junta Militar burnt more than a million books; furthermore, according to the code of honor of San Martín’s army, soldiers should be twice more respectful to civilians than soldiers by reason of the power vested in them. Therefore, he encouraged us all to read history in order to be warned.

Pigna valued the right to access, communication and creation, and highlighted the relevance of libraries. He talked about his experience in Colombia, and the importance of library parks in highly-risky cities such as Medellín. “Libraries are elements of the future, rather than the past”, he said, evoking libraries’ atmosphere and the idea of social and common goods: “the book in a library is something one should take care of so that others can later use”. He also mentioned microfilming and digitization as techniques that help both preserve knowledge and widen access through networks that democratize research.

To sum up, Pigna recalled Mayan codes’s metaphor and cataclysm and said: “Mayans thought that the end of the world was the beginning of a new era in which the people would be invited to the supper from which they had been excluded”.

With Pigna’s speech, the opening session was concluded, and afterwards attendees were invited to join the workshop to discuss the importance of librarians’ role in making information increasingly accessible.

During the workshop, emphasis was given to the need of developing the capacity of library associations and librarians’ networks, so that experiences are shared and good practices are promoted. The workshop encouraged participation, and during the second part teams were formed to analyze specific sections of the IFLA Manifesto. Final directions included the design of socially relevant projects, with a national or international scope, contemplating the creation of librarians’ networks committed to widening access to information and knowledge.

## Japan Earthquake: Libraries to Recover

By **Mika Lawler**  
Member SC 2009-2013



The Great East Japan [Earthquake](#) and subsequent tsunami on March 11th left massive destruction. Especially hard-hit are [libraries](#) in the coastal area; at worst libraries were wholly swept away, and many others report damaged premises and scattered, seawater-soaked collections. Library communities, government organizations, cultural institutions, private corporations and volunteers around the nation have been offering support for the libraries of the region.

[The National Diet Library](#) (NDL), the sole national library in Japan, located far away in Tokyo, had 1.8 million books on the higher floors of the stacks in the main building fall off the shelves at the time. The NDL has branch libraries in each Government ministry and in the Supreme Court. Some of those government libraries had to close for a while to restore order, but none of their damage was serious (one exception was the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Library, which had to close its reading room for several months. It kept providing library services for the government staff even during their closure).

What the NDL has been doing for the libraries in the disaster-hit area is such as dispatching its preservation specialists to affected libraries; providing specially-tailored reference and document-delivery services for the affected area.

The NDL has been archiving related websites immediately after March 11th and has been cooperating on the matter with institutions abroad. The NDL, which is also the parliamentary library, has been producing special reports on the disaster and recovery issues for the Diet (parliament) members. These are made available on its website for the public.

(Photo Source: @jing\_ke - Yfrog.com)

## News

### **The New European Library: a discovery service** (July 2012)

Collections exposed. A way to promote the collections available at specialized libraries is to aggregate them into the flow of a central provider. These days we can see an example of this strategy with the launch of the new [European Library](#), a result of an innovative partnership between the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) and three other leading library organisations: [LIBER](#), [CERL](#) and the [Europeana Foundation](#).

48 National Libraries have an agreement to expose part of their holdings (rare books, images or manuscripts) through a single point of access. The goal is that research communities can have access to metadata or full-text documents related to cultural heritage.

You can read more information about the project [here](#).

### **The Finnish library system: open collaboration for an open society** (July 2012)

Latest [IFLA Journal issue](#) is available! We recommend the first article, *The Finnish library system – open collaboration for an open society*. It presents a short history of Finnish libraries and librarianship. Very interesting reading before getting to Helsinki!

### **Spain: Ministry of Defense launches a digital library** (June 2102)

Recently, under the Madrid Book Fair, the digital library [Biblioteca Virtual de Defensa](#) has been introduced in Spain.

With this start, it is being afforded not only the preservation of the most important works of the library, archive and museum heritage from the Ministry of Defense, but it is also a definite step towards giving open access to the Defense electronic publications and cultural expressions of the ministry.

## Government Information: Inputs for Learning (April 2012)

Information from government departments aimed exclusively at adults? A suggestive direction is offered in the [latest issue of IFLA Journal](#) (March 2012, p. 68-77). There we can find the article The Gov Doc Kids Group and free government information, written by Tom Adamich, Martha Childers, Katy Davis, John H. Faria and Antoinnette W. Satterfield (published also as a [paper](#) at the IFLA WLIC 77 in Puerto Rico).



Drawing by: Eui Min Kim – Grade 9–12 / Age 16 / Kadena High School, Kaneda, Okinawa, Japan

The [Gov Doc Kids Group](#), located in the United States, was formed to promote the use of government information to children, as a way of supporting their learning process in subjects such as history or science. Members of the Group describe the formation of the initiative, international and country websites useful for children, and present means of opening the doors of government information to this target group. The paper also provides an indepth description of how a Government Documents Children's Collection could be formed. Although the examples discussed here are United States-centric projects, the authors say that these ideas could flourish in almost any country.

## Publication “2011 Best Practices for Government Libraries” (July 2011)

Last edition includes around 70 articles and communications by more than 60 authors from libraries of public bodies, courts, armies as well as professional associations, advisors, etc., from the United States.



It has 279 pages and the content is divided into the following 6 sections:

- Embracing new avenues of communication
- Adapting to new and evolving technologies
- Altering our places and spaces
- Tackling changing expectations, resources, and job descriptions
- Preserving what we have and preparing for the future
- Expanding horizons

It has been compiled and edited by Marie Kaddell, from LexisNexis, and it is available [online](#).

2010 edition is also available [online](#).

## Members of the Government Libraries Section

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First Term: 2011-2015

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First Term: 2011-2015



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First term: 2007-2011  
Second term: 2011-2015

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First term: 2009-2013



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**Distribution by categories**

- 42 institutions
- 13 national associations
- 2 students affiliates.

**Distribution by countries**

Number of members from each country:

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  - Bosnia and Herzegovina 1
  - Cameroon 1
  - Canada 2
  - China 3
  - Croatia 1
  - Cyprus 1
  - Denmark 1
  - Egypt 1
  - France 2
  - Finland 3
  - Germany 1
  - Hungary 1
  - India 2
  - Ireland 1
  - Italy 1
  - Japan 1
  - Namibia 1
  - Netherlands 1
  - Norway 2
  - Portugal 1
  - Russian Federation 1
  - Saudi Arabia 1
  - Slovenia 1
  - Spain 3
  - Swaziland 1
  - Switzerland 1
  - Ukraine 1
  - United States 1
  - Canada 2
  - Iceland 1
  - Ireland 1
  - Italy 1
  - Netherlands 1
  - Republic of Korea 1
  - Sweden 2
  - United Kingdom 1
  - United States 5
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## Editorial Note

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We would like to see more global representation and would welcome a volunteer from each continent to supply a continental update or perspective to the newsletter – if you are interested please contact us at [ifla.governmentlibraries@gmail.com](mailto:ifla.governmentlibraries@gmail.com).

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