



# IFLA Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments IFLAPARL



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# Message from Chair

**Carolynne Ménard**

**IFLAPARL Chair**

**Cheffe d'équipe – Responsable de la médiation, Service de l'information  
Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec, Canada**

## Dear Colleagues,

It is with great honor, enthusiasm, and humility that I assume the role of 2023-2025 Chair for the IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section (IFLAPARL). I extend my sincere gratitude to the members of IFLAPARL'S Standing Committee for their trust and I am eager to collaborate with you all in advancing our shared mission.

I strongly believe IFLAPARL'S strength lies in the collective expertise and experiences of its members. Collaboration, partnerships and sharing experiences are extremely important to ensure our profession continues to evolve. I invite all of us to get involved as much as we can in initiatives allowing us to share our challenges, opportunities, and best practices. Parliamentary libraries and research services are committed to provide timely, authoritative, and objective information to elected members, making them cornerstones institutions in the democratic process. Let's work together to keep them relevant, impactful, and aligned with the needs of our dynamic political environments. I look forward to working closely with each of you to pursue excellence and innovation within IFLAPARL. I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank my predecessor, Josefa Fuentes for her commitment and work as 2021-2023 IFLAPARL Chair.

Although the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic may be over, parliamentary libraries and research services still face many challenges. I do however believe that challenges can present us opportunities to rise and shine as professionals. Chat GPT's recent one-year anniversary reminds us of the importance of pursuing our reflection on AI's impact on parliamentary libraries and research services. Making our services known to our communities is also a continuous challenge. It demands innovative strategies to attract and retain new patrons. Reinforcing our place in the democratic process and within parliaments will always be vital. We need to be proactive in demonstrating our indis-

pensable role in informed decision-making. In addition, fighting against fake news and misinformation is a continuous struggle. Despite these difficulties, parliamentary libraries and research services remain strong protectors of knowledge and information, adjusting and developing to meet the changing requirements of their democratic institutions.

These reflections have nourished the development of the Section's 2023-2025 Action Plan during the past few months. This Plan includes continuation of previous years' actions and addition of new actions that hope to meet challenges previously mentioned. We have kept our main objectives in mind while drafting this important document that will lead the Section's initiatives for the next two years: to increase the effectiveness of parliamentary library and research services; to discuss and address emerging issues related to legislative processes; to promote openness, transparency and the strengthening of democratic participation through the provision of information about legislation and parliaments to citizens; to promote the establishment of library and research services as a fundamental component in the development of democratic legislatures throughout the world; to exchange experience, knowledge and problem-solving strategies; to promote networking amongst parliamentary library and research services; and finally, to develop and promote standards and best practices in providing information and knowledge to parliaments. Here is an overview of its main actions and their state of progress:

1. Development of the COMLAW Database: we recently met with Janium, the technological supplier of our project, to continue to the development of our world collaborative database compiling references to free and digital items of authoritative compared law. We invite you to send relevant materials from your jurisdiction to contribute to it.

2. Reinforcement of our relationships with international organizations concerned with strengthening democracy: we wish to draft an official communication plan identifying suitable organisations and establish contact with them.
3. Constitutions of the World project: we wish to provide access through an existing platform to the constitutions of the world existing in parliamentary libraries. The Library of the Mexican Congress recently provided a demo of that platform.
4. Reinforcement of relationships and networks between subnational parliaments: we wish to seek opportunities to support regional groups and to help establish new networks of parliaments based on their size and resources.
5. Update of existing published guidance: work has started to update the parliamentary guidelines.
6. Specialized course on parliamentary librarianship and research: we will continue the development of a specialized course/webinar series on parliamentary librarianship and research in honor of Donna Scheeder.
7. Promotion of the World Directory of Library and Research Services of Parliaments: contact was established with the Agora Portal for Parliamentary Development to see promotion possibilities on their platform.
8. History of IFLAPARL: to honor the work of the Section, we wish to draft a history of IFLAPARL and its officers, and to create a bibliography of useful books and resources for parliamentary libraries.
9. Reflection on AI's impact on parliamentary libraries and research services: we will continue the development of our knowledge on the impact of AI on our field and we wish to plan a virtual session on the topic with experts.
10. Literature on parliamentary libraries and research services: we want to encourage our members to contribute to the academic literature on our profession by contributions to the IFLA Journal or to other academic publications.

Even though the 2024 WLIC was cancelled, the IFLAPARL Standing Committee is currently discussing alternative ways for us to convene and connect, whether physically or virtually. We remain committed to fostering collaboration, sharing experiences, and addressing the unique challenges faced by parliamentary library and research services. Despite the current unknown circumstances, I am confident that we will find innovative solutions to ensure that our community can still come together. Stay tuned for updates on alternative meeting arrangements. As always, your input and ideas are invaluable and welcome.

To conclude this first message, I would like to invite you to contribute with your news and your perspectives to IFLAPARL'S newsletter. In addition, we're excited to embark on our 2023-2025 Action Plan and strongly encourage you to contact us if you wish to contribute to its success.

Thank you for your trust and dedication. Let us embark on this journey together, united by our shared passion for advancing the role of libraries and research services in parliamentary settings.



# Message from the outgoing Chair

**Josefa Fuentes**  
**Directeur of Documentation,**  
**Senate of Spain, Spain**

IFLA's Governing Board convened virtually on November 9, 2023, with a primary focus on strategizing for events in 2024, given the absence of a World Library and Information Congress (WLIC). Broader plans for 2024 were also prominently featured on the agenda. Managing such tasks within the multifaceted and diverse structure of IFLA is a substantial undertaking.

Looking ahead to the next strategic phase, it is crucial to evaluate the effectiveness of the [2019-2024 Strategy](#) for both members and volunteers. Concurrently, the Board will initiate the formal launch of the new Strategy development process during its December meeting. IFLA is seeking at present input from its members and volunteers regarding their experiences with the current strategy and ideas for the future, facilitating the official launch of the 2024-2029 Strategy development process.

IFLAPARL, our Section comprising librarians and professionals responsible for parliamentary studies and research, has cherished the commitment of IFLA global vision and quinquennial Strategies to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our action plans align with these goals, reflecting our dedication. The Section's Chair was invited to the WLIC 2023 President's special session to outline IFLAPARL's initiatives related to SDGs, particularly SDG 16 and 17, undertaken during my Officer period as Chair (2021-2023). I have been highlighting also these efforts through articles in IFLA's Journal September 2023 Issue ([Public access to Governments' information](#)) and in our IFLAPARL Section Newsletter ([July 2023 Issue](#)).

During our Pre-conference this year at the Tweede Kamer in the Netherlands, broadcasted globally, I articulated the Section's achievements over the challenging past two years. Despite global setbacks due to COVID, the Section successfully connected with the community through the streaming of its Pre-conferences and through social media platforms, overcoming in-person gathering challenges. IFLAPARL actively maintains accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter (nowadays X), LinkedIn, and YouTube Channel.

Celebrating our accomplishments as a noticeable IFLA Section is essential, evidenced by the publication and updating of our -coedited with IPU- [Guidelines](#), annual parliamentary pre-conferences, active presence in WLIC, and collaboration efforts with international organizations focusing on parliamentary strengthening, democracy promotion, notably IPU and ECPRD.

Engaging the community is paramount. Colleagues in parliaments must be made aware that the digital tools recently initiated by IFLAPARL ([COMLAW](#): comparative law database; [WDLRSP](#): World Directory of Libraries and Research Services in Parliaments, the directory of our units globally; [Bibliographical Heritage Platform](#): samples of the digitization work of bibliographical heritage in parliamentary libraries) thrive with shared contributions. This embodies IFLA's present motto: #BetterTogether.

Looking forward, the Section prioritizes the training and familiarization of young professionals in parliamentary roles, emphasizing the promotion of parliamentary service as a career option. Embracing technological advancements, the Section has organized online conferences, such as [IFLA-IPU Conference "Parliamentary library & research services: towards an agenda for the next decade"](#) and intends to delve deeper into the [Guidelines](#) both for parliamentary libraries and for research services through online webinars. The development of a specialized course on Parliamentary Librarianship and Research tailored to our distinct roles is envisioned for the future, aiming to be freely available and inclusive: collaboration with IPU on the soon to be released *Donna Scheeder Annual Seminar* signifies a joint effort to honor our missed and esteemed past Chair of IFLAPARL and IFLA, contributing significantly to the development of our professional community within democratic contexts.



# 3 Join Us

If you are already an IFLA Member and would like to join our Section, please go to Member Online Service to manage your membership account and join our Section:

<https://members.ifla.org/membersarea/login/login.asp?type=EXTRANET>

If you are not an IFLA Member, you must become one before joining any section. More information is available at

<https://www.ifla.org/become-a-member/>

## STAY CONNECTED

Visit the Section's website:

<https://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments>, which includes links to our Action Plan, previous Newsletters, publications, meeting minutes, and more.

Join our mailing list:

<https://mail.iflalists.org/wws/subscribe/iflaparl>

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT:

IFLAPARL Secretary Julie Anderson

[iflaparlsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:iflaparlsecretary@gmail.com)

or IFLAPARL Information Coordinator Iouliani (Lila) Theodosi

[infoiflaparl@gmail.com](mailto:infoiflaparl@gmail.com)

## PARTICIPATE IN OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



@iflaparl



<https://www.facebook.com/IFLAPARL>



<https://bit.ly/36u7szD>



<https://www.instagram.com/iflaparl/>



IFLAPARL Network: <https://bit.ly/3u1gosa>

# 4 The IFLAPARL 38th Pre-Conference

## The 38th Pre-Conference of the Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section of IFLA - House of Representatives of the Netherlands

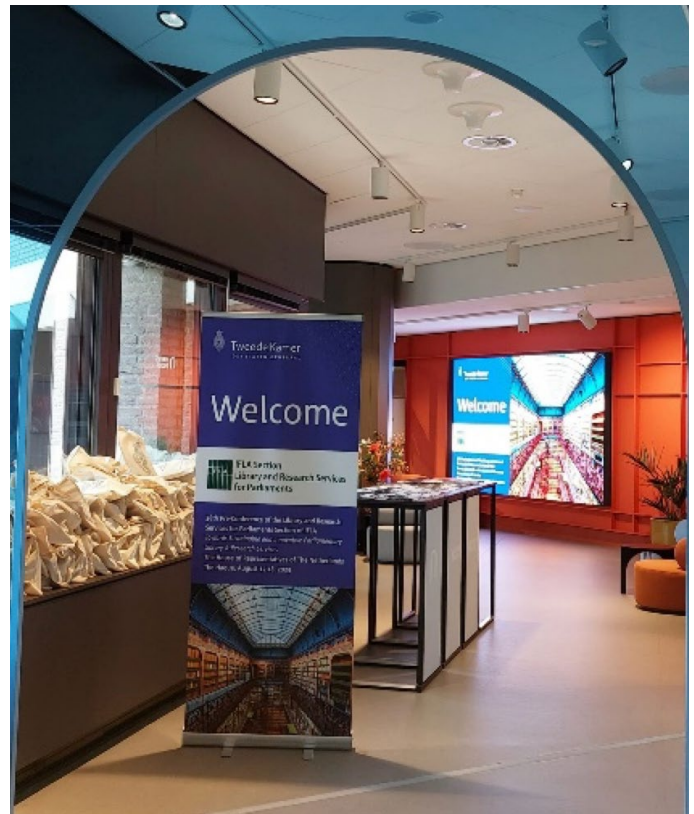
August 17-18, 2023 - The Hague, The Netherlands

**Louise Schets**

**Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal,  
Netherlands**

Around 130 participants gathered in The Hague on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of August to attend the 38<sup>th</sup> Pre-Conference of the Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section of IFLA. During the months of preparation, we decided on a couple of themes for this year's conference: sustainability, digital innovation, research services and cultural heritage. Even though there was plenty of time to network over a coffee and a Dutch delight, the two-day programme was packed with speeches and round table discussion. We also had a steady online following during the breakout-sessions, which made it a true hybrid conference.

Day 1 started with a welcome speech [IFLAPARL Moving Forward](#), by Josefa Fuentes, who highlighted the 2021-2023 action plan and its finished projects: COMLAW, Digitize Heritage and the updated Guidelines. This positive start of the conference continued with the Icebreaking Event: Participants had been enthusiastically sending us pictures of their parliaments and libraries, which made the icebreaker initiative, led by Ellie Valentine, a great success.



After a presentation on the [history and work of the Dutch House of Representatives](#) by Daan Smolders and Natasha Stroecker, there was a brief overview of the regional updates. We were then very pleased to have Kirsten van den Hul, a former Member of Parliament and director of DutchCulture, giving the keynote speech. Her vast experience as an MP offered great insights in how our work matters in parliament. She addressed current trends and common issues that we all encounter in our daily work and shared ways to deal with them.

After the tour of Parliament and the group photo in the Plenary Room, the evening programme started with, among others, an animated speech by the Secretary General of the Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal, Mr. Geert Jan Hamilton. He also repeatedly emphasised the importance of the work of Parliamentary Library- and Research specialists. Even though it must have been a long day for those who came from far and had just arrived that morning, it was a fruitful first day!

## THE 38TH IFLAPARL PRE-CONFERENCE



The second day, Friday, started with a plenary session covering a variety of subjects: innovations in support and products, the impact of generative Artificial Intelligence, support for parliamentary diplomacy and more. The afternoon was dedicated to a series of breakout sessions divided by theme; Digital Innovation, Research Services and Cultural Heritage. This format proved to be successful as it gave all participants the opportunity to discuss the themes in smaller groups and share best practices. Below a quick listing of the themes and presentations:

- **Digital Innovation**

Building a Knowledge Information Network for Sustainable Information Services at the National Assembly Library of Korea (Anna Lee, Korea)

Providing self-service solutions through data visualizations of public parliamentary data (Jan-Paul Bernard, The Netherlands)

Near-time public Parliamentary data of the House of Representatives of The Netherlands (Dylan Menten-Degeling, The Netherlands)

The Virtual Experience: Leveraging New Technologies to Engage Citizens (Heather Lank, Canada)

- **Research Services**

How the knowledge agendas give focus in the work for committees: some examples (Natasha Stroeker and Jacob Pot, The Netherlands)

EPRS first, Google second: Integrating our products and services into Member's daily workflow (Wolfgang Hiller, EU)

Two recent Innovations in Government Oversight: Legislative Rapporteurs and Scientific Assessments (Manon Julicher and Myrthe van der Werf, The Netherlands)

The new green books: transforming our services to support the process of law-making in today's parliament (Miguel Bernad Calavia, Spain)

- **Cultural Heritage**

Heritage collections: treasures of our Library (Julie Rodrigue, Canada)

Conserving the historical book collections of the House of Representatives of The Netherlands (Henriët Graafland, The Netherlands)

The final drinks on Friday evening marked a successful two-day conference and hopefully all of the participants left with plenty of new ideas, echoing the sentiment of the opening speech of the conference: IFLAPARL, Moving Forward!

**All presentations can be found on the [conference website](#).**



## 5

# The IFLA Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments Section in the WLIC 2023

**Iouliani (Lila) Theodosi**

**IFLAPARL Information Coordinator -**

**Parliamentary Archives Department, Library of the Hellenic Parliament**



Family photo after the SC meeting in Rotterdam



Josefa Fuentes (second from the left) and Ellie Valentine (second from the right) in President's Session

After its 38<sup>th</sup> Pre-conference, the satellite meeting to the World Library and Information Conference held in Rotterdam in August 2023, IFLAPARL had a vivid presence in the WLIC 2023, during those few wonderful days:

## 1. Open SC meeting, 20 August

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of August, we had the once-a-year opportunity to have live, in person Standing Committee business meeting, which turned out to be a hybrid meeting, as friends/colleagues from around the world joined us in room Rotterdam B of the Rotterdam Ahoy, to talk about what we have achieved for the past two years, to discuss our 2023-2025 action plan to thank our outgoing members and officers, and other business. Most touching moments of the meeting: giving thanks to outgoing members (with strong promises to stay in touch), acknowledging the work done by them and outgoing SC officers Josefa Fuentes (2021-2023 Section Chair) and Fabiola Rosales (2021-2023 Section Information Coordinator), and welcoming the new members, along with the incoming officers. Most welcomed guests, such as Ms Anoja Fernando (outgoing Division B Chair), Ms Lisa Hinchliffe (incoming Division B Chair), Mr Steven Wyber (Director of IFLA Policy and Advocacy), also attended the meetings,

The minutes of the meeting can be found in IFLA Repository and the IFLAPARL webpage.

## 2. President's session, 22 August

IFLAPARL outgoing Chair Josefa Fuentes was invited to participate in the IFLA President Session, coordinated by Steven Wyber, a session organized in order to have a first-hand impression from colleagues about the work they have been doing in line with the IFLA Strategy, to discuss how far they have achieved on enhancing sustainability, and to draw lessons from their experience.

Ms Fuentes focused on the importance of developing tools as the *Guidelines*, since IFLAPARL published the revised 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries* last July (also in Portuguese, *Diretrizes para Bibliotecas Parlamentares*). She pointed out that the revised Guidelines is a product of strong work mobilizing all members of the field, combined with partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, thus setting a high standard and remaining relevant to everyone. Documents such as the Guidelines (like all [IFLA Guidelines](#)) are a reference point for professionals and a reliable guide to help Parliaments invest properly in their libraries. In long term, IFLAPARL's aim it that with the *Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries*, librarians in Parliaments will ensure more evidence-based decisions, which helps both in achieving more informed Parliaments (therefore strengthens democracy) and in achieving the SDG 16, for peace, justice and strong institutions.

Later on, in the WLIC, IFLAPARL Guidelines featured in the Annual Report presentation, during the General Assembly, on 23 August, filling the Section both with honor and the will to keep working as a team to achieve the IFLA goals.

### 3. Joint session on Artificial Intelligence, 22 August

Themed “Artificial Intelligence, Partner or Rival? Implications for Government, Information and the Law”, a joint Division B session was organized by Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group, Government Libraries Section, Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section, Government Information and Official Publications Section, and Law Libraries Section.



At the panel were Ms Anoja Fernando, Division B Chair, and Dr Andrew Cox, of the University of Sheffield – Information School, who coordinated the session. Nick Poole (CILIP, United Kingdom) gave the keynote speech, explaining his take on the impact of AI. Hilde Hardeman (Publications Office of the European Union, Belgium, representing GIOPS), Leslie Street (Wolf Library, William & Mary Law School, United States), Fotis Fitsilis (Scientific Service of the Hellenic Parliament, Greece, representing IFLAPARL, on a recorded presentation), and Aleksander Loesch (Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom, representing Government Libraries Section), exchanged views in a very fruitful conversation on how rapid digital innovation in AI will affect or be applied to the digital or digitised knowledge held/generated by organisations, libraries and information services across Division B.



IFLAPARL's work mentioned in the Annual Report presentation





#### 4. IFLAPARL session, 24 August

Themed “Leveraging digital to support inclusive, accessible and innovative parliamentary services”, the IFLAPARL open session in the WLIC 2023 had a full panel of presentations on what parliamentary services have done in the digital environment to ensure inclusivity, accessibility and to continue with innovations for the Parliaments, the Parliamentarians, the citizens they serve, and also to support staff within these services. There were five contributions on institutions’ innovations worldwide:

- Digitization as a strategy for access, preservation and services in times of pandemic (Maria Angelica Fuentes Martínez, Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile)
- Parliamentary digital services in response to new challenges (María Eva Del Pilar Soderó Nievas, Library of Congress of Argentina)
- Digital literacy awareness in the House of Commons Library (Anne-Lise Harding, Senior Liaison Librarian, UK)
- Leveraging on digital technologies to support inclusive, accessible and innovative parliamentary services in Cross River State Nigeria (Oluwaseun O. Akin-Fakorede, Department of library and information science, University of Calabar, Nigeria, and Adetoun A. Oyelude, University of Ibadan, Nigeria – [paper in English](#))
- Passos Manuel Library: a brief presentation (Maria João Amante, Portuguese Parliament Library)

-More information on the presentations [here](#).

After these presentations, the attendees had small group discussions with the presenters followed by short summaries/commentary by the facilitators:

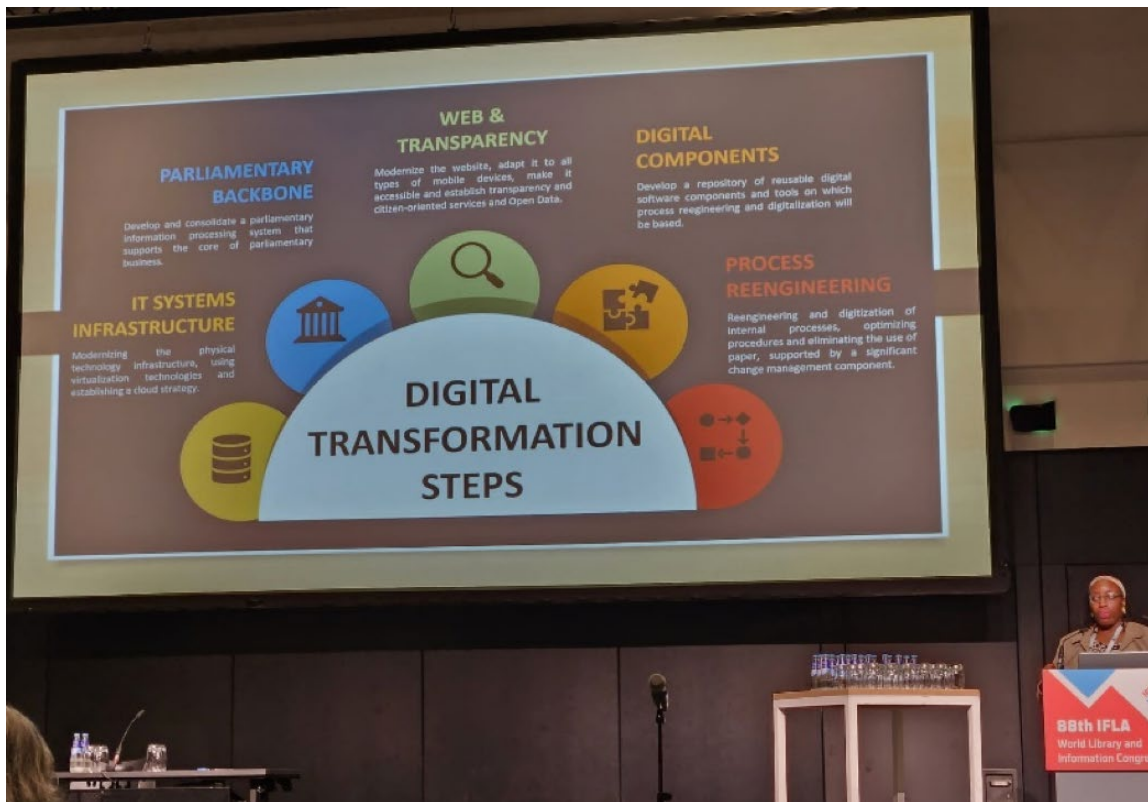
On parliamentary libraries and research services through and after the pandemic, facilitator Martin Reid noted that there was a big range of experiences during and after the pandemic; librarians and researchers had to pull documentation together, put the specifics in sites and get public engagement, while the focus of the information varied depending on the country (e.g. during the pandemic, in UK and US there was big interest around the vaccines and there were some complexities around that as it became politicized; also the mis/disinformation aspects of the issue were both interesting and challenging). The developments in digitization strategies raise considerations about licensing and subscription constraints.

On parliamentary digital services in response to new challenges, facilitator Ellie Valentine reported on adaptations made by libraries and research services in parliaments to provide further accessibility to their patrons (efforts to summarize legal documents in plain language while retaining the full meaning, more “traditional” ways to render services to patrons less familiar with digital tools etc.)

On digital literacy awareness, facilitator Ida Kelemen reported on the experiences of colleagues using AI to facilitate their work, on a personal but not institutional level. All agreed on the importance of guidelines to use AI and the role that libraries can/should have in this.

Visibility of the library and “out of the box” solutions to reach to the public and serve better and more were discussed by the groups on Leveraging digital technologies and on the Portuguese Parliament Library presentation, summarized by facilitators Chama Mpundu Mfula and Alec Vuijsteke respectively (book clubs, library literacy groups, “marketing” of the proceedings or the decisions, regular email communication for the library/research service services, newsletter by email etc.). New services and innovative actions do help gain visibility, but smaller libraries, with limited staff have to put extra energy into it, in order to have results.

All in all, the WLIC 2023 was a great experience for all of us and the team IFLAPARL was very happy to have participated in this event, working together and meeting colleagues from around the world.







## Compared law database

IFLAPARL invites the community of parliamentary librarians and researchers to register digital publications on national and compared law studies at COMLAW, a free multilingual data base which aims to provide authoritative information for the parliamentary community.

The screenshot displays the website's search interface. At the top, it features the IFLA logo and the text 'IFLA Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments' alongside the Janium logo. A navigation bar includes 'Advanced search', 'Reference', 'Other catalogs', 'Alert services', 'User services', 'End', and 'Help'. The main search area is divided into 'Search by number' (with a 'Barcode' dropdown and a 'NUMBER' input field) and 'Advanced search' (with a grid of dropdown menus for 'AND', 'Keywords', 'Title', 'Author / Editor', 'Subject', 'Year', 'Controlled keywords', 'Countries concerned', 'Contributors', and 'Publication title'). To the right, a 'Restricciones de la búsqueda' (Search restrictions) panel includes dropdowns for 'Formato', 'Biblioteca', 'Colección', and 'Tipo del ejemplar'. A 'Search' button is located below these panels. Below the search interface, the copyright notice 'Copyright © 2001-2022 Janium' is visible. The second part of the screenshot shows a search result for a document with 528 records. It includes a world map icon, a 'bibliografía' button, and a 'despliegue etiquetas' button. The result details are as follows:

<b>Autor</b>	European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), Comparative Law Library Unit
<b>Título</b>	Ratification of international treaties, a comparative law perspective
<b>Descripción</b>	report
<b>Nota de Idioma</b>	English
<b>Materia</b>	INTERNATIONAL POLICY -- International law -- International treaties.
<b>Autor Secundario</b>	Spain. Congreso de los Diputados (Congress of Deputies)
<b>Liga electrónica</b>	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.2861/898971">http://dx.doi.org/10.2861/898971</a>

To contribute to COMLAW, please contact:

<https://iflaparl.janium.net/opac>

IFLAPARL Secretary Julie Andersonn [iflaparlsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:iflaparlsecretary@gmail.com)

or IFLAPARL Information Coordinator Iouliani (Lila) Theodosi [infoiflaparl@gmail.com](mailto:infoiflaparl@gmail.com)



# News from the Library of Congress, Argentina

**1983-2023:  
40 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC**

**Marcela Ellero**  
Dirección Servicios Legislativo,  
Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación



## Office of Legislative Services

On December 10th, 1983, the Argentine Republic regained democracy after the last military coup. The year 2023 marks 40 uninterrupted years of democracy since that event. In order to celebrate this historic event in our country, the Library of Congress of Argentina, among other commemorative events, through the Office of Legislative Services, published a new collection of its own entitled **“Dossier Legislativo - Edición Especial - 40 años de Democracia”** (Legislative Dossier – Special Edition – 40 years of Democracy), which is available to the public on the Library’s website <https://bcn.gob.ar/publicaciones/dossiers> . It is open to all users of the Library’s services, legislators and the community at large.

The new collection consists of two types of publications. The first type is called **“Dossier Legislativo - Edición Especial - 40 años de Democracia” - Selección de leyes nacionales, decretos del Poder Ejecutivo Nacional y fallos de la Corte Suprema de Justicia de la Nación.** (Legislative Dossier – Special Edition – 40 years of Democracy” - A selection of national laws, decrees of the National Executive Branch and decisions of the Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina.

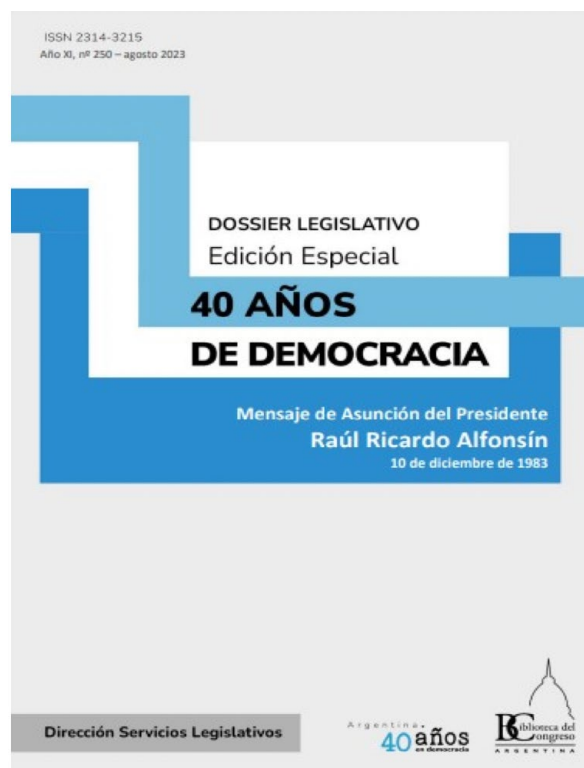
It is organized by presidential terms from 1983 to the present. It contains, in the first part, a selection of national laws passed by the National Congress, decrees issued by the Presidents of Argentina and judgments of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Argentine Nation. In its final part, it contains an Annex which includes a complete list of all the laws that were passed by the National Congress (enacted in whole or in part) and also the bills that were passed and then vetoed by the National Executive Branch, in exercise of the powers granted by the Argentine National Constitution.

Information is organized in numerical order. In all cases, the incorporated regulations contain an identifying reference of the document with its number, dates (of enactment, issuance, promulgation, veto and publication) with a brief summary that describes its content.

The second type of publication is called **“Dossier Legislativo - Edición Especial - 40 años de Democracia” – Mensajes Presidenciales** (Legislative Dossier - Special Edition - 40 years of Democracy – Presidential Messages). It contains all the speeches given by the Argentine presidents from 1983 to the present, at the time of their assumption of office, before the Legislative Assembly (joint meeting of senators and deputies, before whom the President takes the oath and assumes his office).

All the texts that make up this type of publication were digitized from the Official Congressional Records of the Argentine Congress.

With this special edition, the Library of Congress of Argentina reinforces the commitment assumed with the Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the 2030 Agenda, specifically with SDG 16, target 10, ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national laws and international agreements.





# News from the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Documentation and Information Center – Brazil

## 1. THE HUMAN LIBRARY PROJECT

**Camila Guimarães Pereira and Jair Francelino**  
Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Library, Brazil

In 2017, the Library of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies started the project “Human Library”, an idea inspired by The Human Library Organization, from Copenhagen, Denmark, with the purpose of bringing together people interested in sharing life experiences. The “human books” – people willing to narrate some life experience – simultaneously report their story to small groups of listeners gathered around them.

The first edition happened on October 26, 2017, in the library’s reading hall. Distributed on six tables, the “human books” simultaneously narrated personal stories of resilience, curious episodes from work and reports of cultural, community and assistance activities, for a small group of listeners in an intimate and relaxed way.

The second edition, held on November 5, 2018, combined the idea of celebrating the civil servant’s month to the 30th anniversary of the Federal Constitution. Then, five retired colleagues narrated personal experiences about being behind the scenes at the 1988 Constituent Assembly.



*Human Library – Third edition participants.*



## NEWS

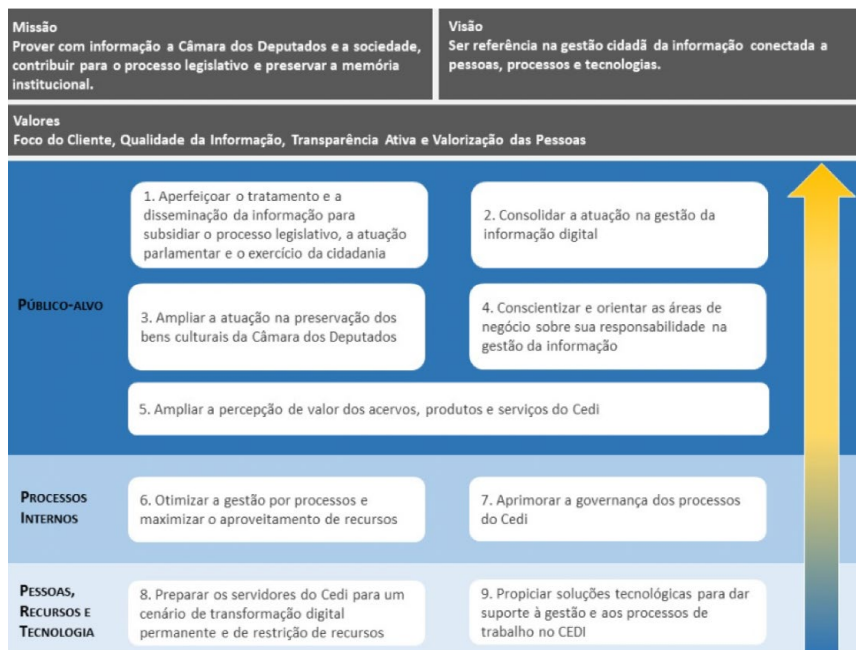


The third edition was held on October 20th, 2023 in the same place and format as the previous editions. This time, six people, who helped to contain and repair the damage suffered by the Chamber of Deputies due to the acts of vandalism occurred on January 8, reported their experiences to those interested in knowing more about this traumatic moment for society and democratic institutions.

## 2. CITIZEN MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION: A GOAL TO ACHIEVE

### Roberto Miranda

Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, Documentation and Information Center, Brazil



*Strategic Map.*

Source: Camaranet - <https://camaranet.camara.leg.br/web/gestao-estrategica/mapa>

laws and supervise the actions of the Public Administration, with the purpose of promoting democracy and national development with social justice". The focus here is to "represent the Brazilian people" and "promote democracy", two pillars of the Citizen Management of Information encompassing the culture of open data, which is data made available in an open and accessible format so that society agents can use it in creative and innovative ways. Furthermore, this approach values citizen participation in decision-making, giving people a voice and power to influence and evaluate public policies.

In the context of the strategic planning of the Documentation and Information Center (Cedi) 2023-2026, the citizen management of information is the main goal to the civil servants, seeking to better develop the mission of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies within the scope of promoting democracy. Citizen management of information is a concept related to the gathering of society's demands and the effective and active participation of the public sector in the management and dissemination of public information.

This scenario sets Cedi in a place to directly contribute to the mission of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, which is to "represent the Brazilian people, draft

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Cedi is fully involved with this approach and has established its vision as “being a reference in the citizen management of information connected to people, processes and technologies” in the 2023-2026 strategic planning.

The biggest challenge is consistently to improve the public access to information and promote transparency in public administration. In addition, the most important objective is to develop actions that encourage citizenship participation in public management, build trust and strengthen the relationship between public administration and citizens.

### 3. AGENDA BRASILEIRA RACISM

**Janice Silveira**

**Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Library Director**

Composed of ten articles written by Consultants from the Chamber of Deputies Office of Legislative Counsel, this publication examines diverse dimensions of racism, from its historical and structural roots to public policies combating racism and its manifestations in daily life.

The studies scrutinize pivotal topics such as the equivalence of racial insult to the crime of racism, the evolution of institutional racism, the trajectory of the Statute of Racial Equality, resistance in contemporary quilombos, the appreciation of Afro-Brazilian history and culture, the evaluation of affirmative action policies in education, the challenges faced by the Black population in the labor market, the struggle for Black representation in the Legislative Branch, and the construction of Black citizenship in Brazil.

This issue not only encourages reflection but also highlights legislative initiatives, reinforcing the commitment of the Chamber of Deputies to the fight against racism. The publication represents a significant contribution to the ongoing discourse on this topic in Brazil, serving as an essential tool for those seeking to understand and address this complex issue.

The articles provide a comprehensive and meaningful analysis, offering readers a deep understanding of the various facets of the racial challenge in Brazil.

- The publication is available for free download at the Chamber of Deputies [Digital Library](#)



# News from the Assemblée nationale du Québec, Canada

## 1. FROM VISION TO ACTION – THE BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE L’ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC’S STRATEGIC PLANNING EXERCISE

**Julie Rodrigue**

**Directrice**

**Bibliothèque de l’Assemblée nationale du Québec, Canada**

The years 2019 to 2023 were a significant turning point for the [Bibliothèque de l’Assemblée nationale du Québec](#). The Library drafted its first strategic plan and four-year action plan following the Assemblée nationale’s administration planning cycle. This experience taught us two crucial things: the need for team consultation in the planning process, and the difficulty of predicting all our actions over four years.

In 2022, the Library began a new planning cycle. The cycle guides actions from 2023 to 2027. Staff consultations proved crucial, giving employees a chance to share their perspectives, voice opinions on past and future challenges, evolving viewpoints, and necessary changes.

This exercise resulted in a revision of our vision and mission. Three fundamental principles were identified: the Library’s central role in providing parliamentary information, its function as a primary source of information, and its capacity to serve as a mediator between the public and parliamentarians. These principles underpin our vision for the next four years. “To become an essential reference at the heart of parliamentary information, for the legislative branch, its administration and civil society.”

Regarding our mission, we strived to enhance engagement and inclusivity across the Library’s four teams (reference, research, archives and records management and document processing). Four key activities were at the center of our deliberations: information and knowledge production, preservation, promotion, and dissemination. We also carefully considered the scope of our activities, ultimately recognizing the library’s role in fostering democratic vitality.

As a result, our mission statement accurately reflects our goals and values: “To promote democratic vitality by producing, preserving, promoting and sharing authoritative information and knowledge to parliamentarians, the administration and civil society.”

As part of our planning exercise, we have established four distinct directions for the upcoming four years:

- **The right information, at the right time, to the right person, in order to enhance democratic vitality**
- **More accessible collections and heritage**
- **Optimal management**
- **A rewarding, attractive and diverse workplace**

These orientations are carefully thought out and perfectly aligned with our mission and our customers’ needs.

Throughout our exercise, we ensured coherence with the Assemblée nationale’s process. Our orientations are therefore perfectly consistent with those of the administration of the Assemblée nationale du Québec. We have also made efforts to influence the administration to ensure that information and knowledge find a place not only in the Library’s planning, but also in that of the Assemblée nationale. We are proud to say that mission accomplished, information is now a pillar of the Assemblée nationale’s Administration strategic plan.

Based on past experience, the Library has implemented an annual action plan to adapt promptly to rapid changes in the environment.

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Through this exercise, the Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale is establishing itself as an efficient and proactive institution dedicated to the production, preservation, promotion and dissemination of credible information and knowledge. The institution's promising future is shaped by the lessons learned, the adjustments made, and the clearly articulated vision to serve democratic vitality. By 2027, at the end of the planning cycle, we aim to become an indispensable reference at the heart of parliamentary information.

It is hoped that our experience will inspire other institutions to engage in similar strategic planning efforts.

**For more information about our strategic planning, please contact:**

**Julie Rodrigue at [julie.rodrigue@assnat.qc.ca](mailto:julie.rodrigue@assnat.qc.ca)**

## 2. RENOVATION OF THE BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE L'ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Carolynne Ménard**

**Cheffe d'équipe – Responsable de la médiation, Service de l'information  
Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec, Canada**

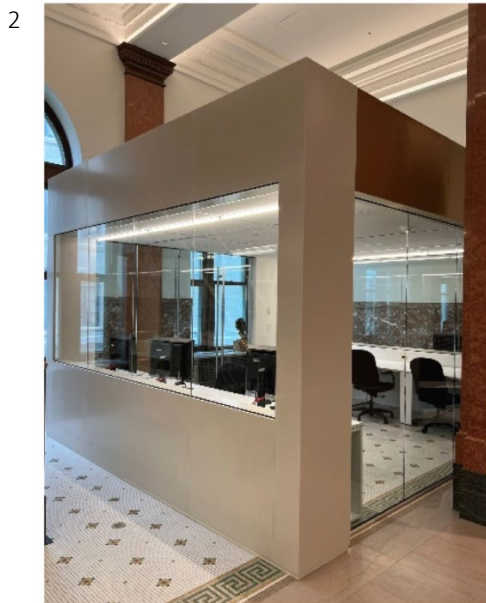
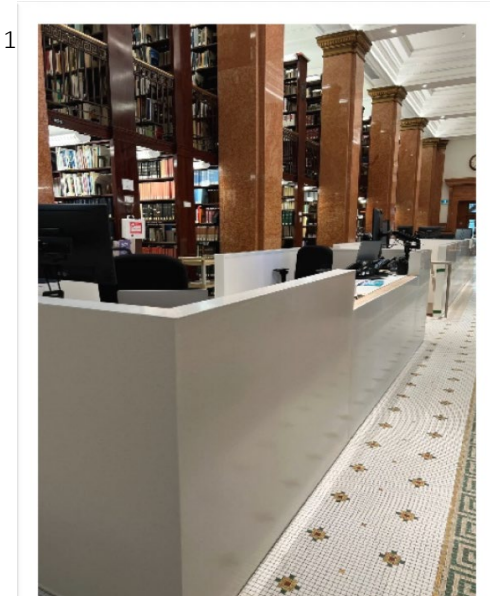
In August 2022, the Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec went through an important renovation process. After more than a year of construction work, the Library reopened its doors to the public on Monday, November 13, 2023.

Since the construction of the library's actual building in 1915, many changes affected the spaces used both by its staff and its patrons. Lighting went from low, dimly lit chandeliers in 1925 to aggressive neon lights in the 1970s. The main central hallway went from an empty space in the 1920s to a space crowded with employees' desks and microfilm readers in the 1990s. The Reception and Reference Desks also evolved through the years and became less relevant to the evolving needs of the library's users and evolving tasks of the library's staff. A major change happened in 2019 with the opening of the Assemblée nationale's Visitor Centre, as the Library went from 6,000 visitors a year to 50,000 visitors in eight months after the opening of the Centre in May 2019. This increased usage of our institution brought many challenges regarding the work environment of the staff and the patrons. Staff who worked in spaces accessible by the public found more disruptions in their work and patrons who came to the library to do research needed a quiet space to work. Security was also an issue, as the collection was not protected by an anti-theft system and books were thus misplaced or stolen by visitors.

Therefore, the renovation process aimed at three objectives: organize interior space according to use, clients, and overflow; update workspaces; and restore aging architectural features of the building. The Architecture firm identified the following institution's needs to be assessed: furniture change, updated finishes, better lighting, redesigned workspaces, security, and improvement of the exhibition space. Consequently, the central aisle was cleared of its furniture to facilitate circulation of people and a new entrance was constructed for visitors. Lighting was changed to a more esthetic choice that, while modern, reflected the initial choice for lighting in



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the 1920s. The Reception and Reference Desks were merged into one desk that was completely redesigned and the exhibition space was reimagined. The furniture in the reading space for visitors was also updated. Plus, a workspace for researchers was built as the form of a soundproof cube in the library. To make space for this new element, staff offices were relocated and renovated with brand new furniture such as sit and stand desks.

Throughout the project, different challenges needed to be addressed. In the design preliminary phase, the architecture firm had difficulty reconciling the desired esthetic while answering the occupants' needs. Lack of knowledge of library work made this challenge an important one. Internal management challenges such as heritage and document protection and collection access were also experienced by staff and users during the construction work. The library's staff did however succeed to maintain services through this project even though change management was necessary.

Despite these challenges, the Library finds itself today in a new environment which combines modernity and heritage while answering its constantly evolving users' needs.

**For any additional information on this project, we invite you to contact [Martin Pelletier](#).**

- 1- New reception and reference desk.
- 2- New workspace for researchers.
- 3- New central aisle.

# News from the European Center of Parliament Research and Documentation

## INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR HOSTED BY THE GEORGIAN PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH CENTER (GPRC): “PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCHERS: FACING CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES”

**Catherine Kardava**

**Director of the Georgian Parliamentary Research Center, ECPRD Correspondent, Georgia.**

On 28-29 September 2023, the Georgian Parliamentary Research Center hosted a seminar in collaboration with the ECPRD (European Center for Parliamentary Research and Documentation) on the topic of “Professional Development of Parliamentary Researchers: Facing Contemporary Challenges”.

Being a parliamentary researcher is a complicated and at the same time extremely interesting assignment in the digital, informational era. Parliamentary researchers strive for excellence in a rapidly changing environment, and they need to be ready for modern professional challenges as well. It is important to keep up with innovative changes, which constantly need to be overcome with professional development. Parliamentary research centers of the ECPRD member countries have developed different approaches towards ensuring the professional development of parliamentary researchers – tools for quality assurance of diverse parliamentary research products, mechanisms for assessment of parliamentary researchers’ performance, and practice of using modern technologies in the process of conducting research. These interactions were the focus of the seminar, which included four thematic sessions according to the issues assuring the professional development of parliamentary researchers:

- ***Importance of quality assurance in diverse parliamentary research products*** - Topics of presentations included key quality assurance mechanisms applied by the parliamentary research centers, such as: an internal regulation/guideline on how to produce different types of products; the practice of reviewing the work of the researcher by his/her colleague(s), supervisor, outsourced expert (“4 Eyes Principle”); effective and efficient management of responding to submitted requests in limited time, etc. In general, it became clear that research institutions invest a lot of attention into quality-related matters - production of the high-quality research products.
- ***Challenges to parliamentary research: understanding Parliamentary needs and ensuring reliability and impartiality of research in the modern era*** – Speakers touched on the issues of meeting MPs’ needs and requirements, facing information warfare challenges, such as disinformation and malign propaganda; preserving impartiality during research activity; preparing parliamentary researchers with the necessary skills to meet contemporary challenges considering the modern social, political, and technological tendencies. Interventions made by the presenters revealed that today researchers are expected to do more than just analytical work; therefore, the number of skills and competencies required to be successful in this role increases. Among some of the most critical competencies named by the seminar participants were: the ability to detect fake information, defending the principle of impartiality for not letting their own personal/ political views nor the views of colleagues affect the quality of the work, analyses and interpretation skills, etc.



ECPRD LRA Seminar: Professional Development of the Parliamentary Researchers :  
Facing Contemporary Challenges  
28-29 September 2023 | Tbilisi, Georgia



- ***Assessing Parliamentary researchers' performance: quality assurance, standards, training, quality control*** – Presentations dealt with regulations/mechanisms for assessing parliamentary researchers' performance; need for specific tools for researcher's evaluation; mechanisms for standardizing training and measuring the impact; practices used by the European Parliament for professional development of researchers. Additionally, representatives from private companies were also given a floor to showcase practices applied in the private sector.
  
- ***The future of research: how to prepare researchers to use new technologies? What ethical issues to consider*** – Speakers touched on the issues of role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in conducting research, the perspective of AI technologies in the research field; the possibility of replacing parliamentary researchers with AI; advantages/disadvantages of assisting AI technologies in the process of conducting parliamentary researches; challenges associated with the use of innovative technologies for parliamentary researches, possible impact of AI on parliamentary research products and working process, etc.

The presentations on these topics were given both by representatives from the GPRC and by colleagues from ECPRD member countries. There was also a Breakout Session, which was dedicated to the motivation mechanisms of parliamentary researchers.

In total, 60 representatives from 18 national parliaments, the European Parliament, and organizations at the national/international level attended the event.

The seminar gave possibility to the participants to discuss issues related to the professional development of parliamentary researchers in depth and to enhance their connections. As participants were represented from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and institutions, it enriched the discussions, fostered the exchange of best practices, and strengthened the ground for further cooperation.

# News from the European Parliamentary Research Service

## FUTURE SHOCKS: ANTICIPATING AND WEATHERING THE NEXT STORMS THROUGH STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

**Eschel Alpermann**

**Head of Policy Foresight Unit, European Parliamentary Research Service, EP.**

For many years now, the European Parliament has been actively involved in Foresight activities, both in the areas of Science and Technology and Strategic Foresight more widely. This includes collaboration with other EU institutions in the framework of the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS, [www.espas.eu](http://www.espas.eu)), a joint undertaking of EU bodies, which is dedicated to strategic foresight. Under this umbrella, joint efforts are made to analyse key **global trends**, challenges for the coming decades, and strategic policy choices for mastering these.

Alongside this initiative, the European Parliament started monitoring future shocks during the coronavirus crisis, and has continued to do so during Russia's unprecedented war on Ukraine. We recently published the latest report, 'Future Shocks 2023: Anticipating and weathering the next storms' ([https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/751428/EPRS\\_STU\(2023\)751428\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/751428/EPRS_STU(2023)751428_EN.pdf)). The 'Future Shocks' series reviews global risks from an EU perspective. The second edition focusses on specific risks and the capabilities and resilience of the EU system in the face of multiple challenges. It considers risks related to geopolitics, climate change, health, economics and democracy that could occur in the coming decade and their significance for EU governance. A particular concern is to identify areas where capabilities need to be enhanced in order to assure an effective policy response. On the occasion of this publication, we would like to reach out to our counterparts worldwide to widen our network of parliamentary research services involved in strategic foresight, as a means to strengthen the role of parliaments in anticipatory governance. If you are interested in our work and would like to discuss our foresight work and methodologies, please contact us at [EPRS-PolicyForesight@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:EPRS-PolicyForesight@europarl.europa.eu).



# News from the Hellenic Parliament Library - Greece

## SPP JERUSALEM CONFERENCE 2023: THE FIRST SKETCH OF HISTORY. AUDIO-VISUAL COLLECTIONS IN PARLIAMENTARY AND POLITICAL ARCHIVES

**Aggeliki Karapanou**

**Head of the Parliamentary Archives Department, Hellenic Parliament Library, Greece**



From May 30th to June 1st, 2023, the 23rd Congress of the Section on Parliamentary Archives and Archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties of the International Council on Archives (ICA/SPP) took place at the Israeli Knesset in Jerusalem themed “The First Sketch of History”.

The Section of Archives and Archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties (ICA/SPP) was founded at the XII International Congress on Archives, held in Montreal in September 1992 and it was formally accepted in the ICA structure at the XIII International Congress on Archives (Beijing, September 1996). At present, the SPP consists of approximately 140 members, representing 32 countries, and is active in specialized issues concerning this archival community.

The recent scientific meeting was the first in-person event following the COVID-19 pandemic and brought together delegates and experts from all over the world to discuss issues related to audiovisual collections in parliamentary and political archives.

The congress was organized into five sessions based on the main axes of the central topic:

### Managing Photography Collections

Among the issues developed were the need for a thematic focus on the collections and the formation of a distinct identity. In contrast to the abundance and diversity of other photographic archives, parliamentary archives, as the main bodies responsible for preserving the visual memory of their institution, must ensure their uniqueness through rigorous and thematically oriented choices that prevent thematic fragmentation.

In contrast to the abundance and diversity of other photographic archives, parliamentary archives must ensure their uniqueness through rigorous and thematically-oriented selection that prevents thematic fragmentation.

In the same session, emphasis was given to ideal preservation conditions, conservation aimed at stabilizing the condition and prolonging the life of the documents, as well as systematic digitization which are essential processes for good management.

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For the documentation of materials, various databases were presented, as well as more or less specialized software with a key characteristic being interoperability assurance, as well as data communication and exchange based on modern description standards.

To promote the material, most archives presented various outreach activities they implement, such as exhibitions, publications, social media postings, etc.

Challenges related to this category of archives were highlighted, such as the rapid increase in produced photographs, the exhaustion of digital storage space, substrate degradation, and the obsolescence of reading media. For this reason, the need for a long-term digital management policy in collaboration with the IT services of organizations was highlighted.

### Audiovisual Documentation of Plenary Sessions

Presentations covered practices related to the archiving, documentation, and distribution of audiovisual material from Parliament Plenary Sessions and Committees.

According to most modern parliaments, there is video recording of public sessions, while advanced recording and speech recording systems ensure the automatic production of printed and/or digital Proceedings. Speakers emphasized the need for continuous updating of systems to ensure the long-term preservation of archives while highlighting the high demands for digital space. Additionally, the importance of ensuring uninterrupted access and adapting to the ever-changing informational needs of users regarding audio and visual archives was stressed. Regarding audio and visual archives on older substrates, emphasis was placed on the need to migrate content to digital substrates.

### Managing Special Visual Collections

In this session, special categories of collections were presented, such as pre-election posters and related audiovisual material (advertising spots, election campaign videos, sound archives, etc.), political caricatures, rare audiovisual documents, and more. These collections are an integral part of collective memory and political heritage, offering a variety of research approaches for political and social researchers, media professionals, and scholars of visual history. However, their management presents a series of challenges related to the diversity, specificities, and sensitivity of their substrates, technological obsolescence issues, migration costs, and the risk of a digital “black hole.” As mentioned before, digitization is not a panacea, since it creates new requirements, technical and financial challenges, and necessitates careful planning and priority setting.



The protection of intellectual property rights was also a subject of reflection, and the discussion focused on finding a balance between protecting the rights of creators and disseminating content and, consequently, knowledge to the global community.

### Parliamentary Oral History

During this session, the objectives, subject matter, methodology, and pioneering results of oral history programs were developed, along with the challenges related to preserving and disseminating their content. In particular, parliamentary archives collect testimonies from former and active members of parliament who narrate their personal political journeys and express their experiences and thoughts on specific issues, events, or periods of political life.

Often, employee testimonies are also utilized, creating a valuable research reservoir that is showcased in various ways: publications, documentaries, clips shared on the organization's multimedia platform (YouTube), on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), on Wikipedia, or in media spots operating within the parliament, among others. Similarly, programs are implemented in political party archives or research centers within their fields of interest.

### Managing and Digitizing Audiovisual Collections in Parliamentary Archives

In this session, issues related to the design of digitization policies were presented. Key elements include prioritization, process standardization, the combination of internal resources and external assignments, and the creation of specially designed high-quality workstations. Good practices regarding the public accessibility of audiovisual collections were also discussed. The importance of collaboration between archives and the national audiovisual heritage management authority for sharing expertise and resource savings was emphasized.

In conclusion, the latest SPP congress provided a broad-ranging forum on the management of audiovisual heritage. Theoretical approaches were combined with practical examples, and the scholarly dialogue reaffirmed the pivotal role of this category of archives in enhancing transparency and democracy. The next congress will take place at the Portuguese Parliament in 2025.





# News from the Cámara de Diputados, Mexico

## CEDRSSA PRESENTS THE WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL AWARD “DIP. FRANCISCO J. MÚGICA” 2023 ON SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

### Erika Rivera

#### Center for Sustainable Rural Development and Food Sovereignty Studies of the Mexican Parliament

The Center for Sustainable Rural Development and Food Sovereignty Studies ([CEDRSSA](#)) is the unit of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies that provides technical support services and analytical information on sustainable rural development and food sovereignty for Mexican Republic legislators, government bodies, commissions and committees of the Chamber. Among its functions is to promote collaboration with other national and international academic institutions through various activities, including the organization of the National Award “Dip. Francisco J. Múgica” on Sustainable Rural Development and Food Sovereignty, which is awarded to outstanding works and researches on the subject.

On October 25th, 2023, CEDRSSA announced the winners of the 7th edition of this award. The First Place was for Guadalupe Pioquinto García, from el Colegio de Postgraduados, for her work *“Alcance del proyecto de desarrollo rural integral ‘Vicente Guerrero’ para la conservación de maíces criollos en localidades rurales de Tlaxcala”*, an investigation that identifies the scope of the Proyecto de Desarrollo Rural Integral Vicente Guerrero, A.C. in the conservation of creole corn in the municipalities of Españita and Ixtenco, in Tlaxcala, Mexico. The second place was for Carolina Sofía Navarrete García, from Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas-UNAM, for her work *“Influencia de las instituciones en los efectos del pago por servicios ambientales. Experiencias en tres ejidos en Durango”*, in which she explains how the institutions within the ejidos have an influence on the management of natural resources for common use, which should be considered in the implementation of the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) to achieve better effects. Third Place was for Ma. Teresa Tonantzin Ortiz Rodríguez, from the Universidad Intercultural del Estado de Puebla, with her research *“Patrimonios alimentarios locales: una propuesta de política pública encaminada a la seguridad, soberanía y salvaguarda alimentaria”*, in which she develops a proposal based on local heritage, decoloniality, sustainability, critical interculturality and solidarity circuits, to revitalize food culture and local agri-food systems

The content and contribution of these works will be public and freely available on the CEDRSSA microsite by the end of 2023. With this edition, the center reinforces its *raison d'être* of QUE EL SABER SIRVA AL CAMPO (May knowledge serve the countryside).

More information on the event, [here](#).





# News from the House of Commons Library, United Kingdom

## Martin Reid

Director of Library Services

House of Commons Library, United Kingdom

There have been some personnel changes in the House of Commons Library. Penny Young retired as Librarian and Managing Director of Research & Information in July 2022. She was replaced by Professor Grant Hill-Cawthorne, who was previously the Library's Director of Research and before that Head of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST). Dr Anna Dickson has since taken over as Director of Research. Anna was previously the Head of the International Affairs and Defence research section.

The Library has been undertaking a lot of work on people development over the last year. In conjunction with the Select Committee team it has created the Policy, Research and Analysis Community (PRAC), an initiative to facilitate closer co-operation and joint working between Library researchers and Committee specialists and others in policy and analysis roles across the House Administration. This includes sharing learning and development opportunities between departments as well as a facilitated moves policy to enable greater interchange of staff between departments. PRAC was supported by the creation of three subject hubs in March this year, each with a full-time head to act as co-ordinator. The three hubs are: Parliament, Public Affairs and Constitution; International Affairs and National Security; and Climate and Environ-

ment. They are also supported by three new Thematic Research Leads roles, academics funded by the Economic & Social Research Council to help connect the hubs with academic research.

The Library Services team has been developing a complementary community for the library and information profession in the Commons. This has involved working with the UK's representative body for libraries, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), to use their Professional Knowledge and Skills Base framework (PKSB) to assess colleagues' confidence and skills levels and then using the results to develop a comprehensive professional development programme for library and information teams in the department.

Other key initiatives include development of an Open Data Platform. This is a project to replace and integrate the existing variety of systems and platforms which manage parliamentary data with a single data integration platform which will enable the creation of more user-centric services, including a new Parliamentary Search tool which will make it easier for internal and external users to find parliamentary information. Designs for the platform have been approved and development is underway and it is expected it will be released in March next year.



Reference Room / Member's Library Room B / Member's Library Room C

# News from the Korean National Assembly Research Services - Korea

## NARS HOSTS THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH SERVICES

**Danbee Park**

**External Affairs Officer / Interpreter**

From October 16–18, 2023, the National Assembly Research Services (NARS) held the 12<sup>th</sup> International Seminar for Parliamentary Research Services. Despite the interruption caused by the pandemic, the avid participation of 37 delegates from 24 nations including 8 Asian, 10 European, 2 Middle Eastern, 2 African, and 2 Northern American nations made the seminar a successful event. It was the first in-person event of the annual seminar in four years since the outbreak of COVID-19.

National Assembly Speaker Kim Jin-pyo attended the opening ceremony, emphasizing the significance of cooperation between parliaments in situation where issues are similar or mutually influential among countries. In his opening remarks, Chief Park Sang Chul of the National Assembly Research Service expressed his expectation for highly productive discussions regarding legislative impact analysis and AI among the parliamentary research experts gathered from around the world at the seminar.



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The seminar, which took place at the National Assembly Members' Office, featured two themes: *Legislative Impact Analysis and Parliamentary Research Services* (Session 1) and *AI and Parliamentary Research Services* (Session 2).

At the first session, Wolfgang Hiller (Director for Impact Assessment and Foresight of the European Parliament Research Service) introduced legislative impact assessment within the European Parliament's legislative process and shared concerns and know-how about how to simultaneously deliver substantial assessment and prevent procedural delays. Inosentius Samsul (Head of Expertise Agency of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia) gave a presentation on Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) that revealed specific and detailed analytical figures and indexes of his country. Presenters from Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Mongolia, Uganda, and the Republic of Korea also shared their countries' legislative impact analysis and how the system is developing.

During the two-part second session, nine presentations were delivered. Gerlinde Wagner (Head of the Legal, Legislative and Research Services of the Parliament of Austria) presented about the spreading AI literacy within the Austrian parliament. Martin Kamprath (Advisor of Research Services of the German Bundestag) shared the experiences at AI workshops held in the first half of this year by the German Bundestag. Presenters from Czech Republic, Sweden, Malaysia, the Philippines, Türkiye, the USA, and the Republic of Korea also introduced the current status and prospects of AI in parliamentary research areas in their respective countries. A lively discussion was followed by an animated Q&A session afterwards.

Aside from the sessions, the delegations toured the Plenary Chamber of the National Assembly, as well as shared ideas and insights in informal discussion at a luncheon hosted by the National Assembly Secretary General and two dinners hosted by Chief of the NARS. The seminar delegates also reached a consensus on strengthening parliamentary research capacity by regularly communicating with each other, as Chief Park had suggested.





# Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services, a Centre of Excellence in Parliamentary Research

**Muhammad Rashid Mafzool Zaka**  
**Director General (Research)**  
**Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services**



The Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) is an internationally recognized premier institution to provide quality research, legislative, capacity building and outreach to individual

Members of Parliament, committees and cross-party caucuses. The need for such an institution was expressed in 2005 in country's National Speakers Conference. A Legislative Development Steering Committee (LDSC) started to work for setting up the Institute with the support of the Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Project (PLSP) by USAID. The Parliamentary Steering Committee visualized PIPS as an autonomous non-partisan entity. Hon. Marvi Memon, Member, National Assembly and Hon. Senator Muhammad Anwer Bhinder presented a private member Bill that was finally enacted in the 13<sup>th</sup> National Assembly in Dec., 2008. The establishment of the PIPS through unanimous support reflected the will of not only the National Parliament, but also of provincial (state) assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, who are all represented by their Speakers in PIPS Board.

## Beginning and Core Values:

Dr Fehmida Mirza, the then Speaker of the National Assembly led the Board of Governors as Founding President. PIPS started its mandated functions in November 2010 when a small four-member pioneering

team took reigns of the Institute led by Mr Khan Ahmad Goraya as the Founding Executive Director. Muhammad Rashid Mafzool Zaka steered research and training services as Incharge of Programs while Shara-fat Niazi Director HR, Niaz Muhammad Assistant Director (Admn.) and Mr Zahoor Ahmad Coordinator IT formed the Support Team. The smart team worked in unison voluntarily without pay for six months in a small make-shift office to commence PIPS Research on Demand Service for Members of Parliament in 2010 and later its training services in 2011. The full-fledged functions started on July 4, 2012 in the new campus in Islamabad. Institute has achieved rousing international recognition as a seat of Parliamentary Excellence in only a decade as its Team focused on five key values underlined by its Board:

**1. Integrity:** PIPS faculty are inspired by honesty and integrity as personified by the sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and emphasized in speeches of the founding father Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

**2. Non-Partisanship:** Institute's team works in non-partisan setting in provision of mandated services to assist Member of Parliament, provincial and legislative assemblies in making informed decisions to secure national interest as aspired by the people.

**3. Professionalism:** Team PIPS values humility to perpetually seek learning new concepts, keeping themselves abreast with essential skills-set to be effective professionals.

**4. Accessibility:** PIPS faculty is approachable for provision of timely services 24/7.

**5. Anticipation:** Institute team continues a vigilant appraise of national and international developments to duly assist MPs by technical support in anticipation of changing realities.





### **Internationally Recognized Centre of Excellence in Parliamentary Research:**

Leading scholars based in universities, think tanks and CSOs are members of PIPS' network of experts, who work closely with Inhouse Research Team to provide credible inputs in the form of in-depth papers, technical researches, policy briefs and legislative summaries on request as well as anticipatedly. Team PIPS has served more than 1800 research papers on imperative topics ranging from economic/financial management, foreign/security policy, sustainable development to legislative review. Standards of research – balanced, timely, credible, reliable and confidential researches are ensured in provision of all products.

The Institute has published 67 books covering all aspects of legislative work, such as law making, committee effectiveness, human rights, oversight tools, budget making, right to education, SDGs, so on so forth. The publications are not only placed on the website at [www.pips.gov.pk](http://www.pips.gov.pk) but disseminated amongst 28,000 readers including all Members of National Parliament and provincial (state) legislatures, academia, civil society and youth. Institute's law experts provided technical assistance to MPs in preparation of 225 private members bills, nine of which were actually passed as laws. *Since Jan., 2014, PIPS Parliamentary Research Digest is country's most widely read parliamentary publication distributed amongst 1500 readers every month including MPs, academics, diplomatic corps, CSOs and think tanks/universities.*

The Institute maintains repository of all laws enforced in Pakistan from 1812 till date (over 800

laws at the federal and 2700 provincial (state) laws. PIPS published two editions of Databook on Sustainable Development Goals for Pakistan (2017 and 2022), that is quoted as an authoritative source in Voluntary National Report at UN. As envisioned by the National Assembly of Pakistan, PIPS successfully introduced Parliamentary Studies courses in 20 universities nation-wide including two universities offering full-fledged degrees in BS Political Science and Parliamentary Studies. The Institute has held sessions on Constitution and Parliament for 12,000 youth from all over the country and ToTs with faculty of universities.

In this context, PIPS was recognized in March 2016 as a Centre of Excellence in Parliamentary Research in International Meet of Parliamentary Research from 12 countries in Amman, Jordan, by Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). Mr Muhammad Rashid Mafzool Zaka, Founder Member and Director General of Research PIPS was in prestigious 8-member panel in Int'l Conference by IPU and IFLA-PARL on "Parliamentary Research & Library Services – Towards an agenda for next decade," on Oct 6-8, 2021, inaugurated by Secretary General Inter Parliamentary Union IPU Martin Chungong and attended by over 300 delegates from 100 countries. In November 2022, the UK Parliament recognized PIPS in Top Tier of Global Mapping of Parliamentary Mechanisms providing academic research to MPs, amongst 173 similar institutions based on last five years of research services (2017-17 to 2021-22) amongst 192 IPU jurisdictions.

On 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, PIPS case study was presented at International Conference "Mapping and connecting parliamentary research services through the world," by AGORA-PARL, INTERPARES - Parliaments in Partnership – EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments, the UK's Parliamentary Office of Science & Technology, and the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (**ECPRD**) attended by 198 parliamentary researchers from 60 countries worldwide. In just over a decade with an In-House Team of only six researchers, Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services is undoubtedly an internationally recognized Center of Excellence for Parliamentary Research.



# WORLD DIRECTORY OF LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICES FOR PARLIAMENTS

**WDLRSP is the Directory of IFLAPARL, a virtual space to share your data with the world!**

**Not registered yet? To add your Library or Research Service to the Directory, follow these steps:**

1. Register at: <https://www.bcn.cl/wdlrsp/map>
2. Receive your password at the email address stated
3. Login.
4. Choose the “Institution data management” red button
5. Enter or update the information of your library or research service

**Become part of the IFLAPARL community!**

The screenshot displays the WDLRSP website interface. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with the text "WDLRSP" and "World Directory of Library and Research Services for Parliaments by IFLAPARL". To the right of the bar are links for "Select your Language" and "Login". On the left side, there is a vertical menu with icons and text for: "REGISTER HERE", "HOME", "WHO WE ARE", "INSTITUTIONAL LIST", "LIBRARY/RC AUTHORITIES", "IFLA MEMBERS", "IFLAPARL", and "IPU'S PARLINE". The main content area features a world map with numerous red location pins indicating registered institutions across various continents, including North America, Europe, Africa, and South America. A text box in the bottom left corner of the map area contains the following text: "Every country in the world has some form of parliament. Parliamentary systems fall into two categories: bicameral and unicameral. Out of 193 countries in the world, 79 are bicameral and 113 are unicameral, making a total of 272 chambers of parliament."

# 8 KALEIDOSCOPE

## LA PROFESIONALIZACIÓN EN LA INVESTIGACIÓN PARLAMENTARIA: PRIMER FORO INTERNACIONAL

### León Aceves Díaz de León

**Director General de la Unidad de Capacitación y Formación Permanente  
Cámara de Diputados de México**

Durante los días 7 y 8 de diciembre de 2023 la Secretaría General de la Cámara de Diputados, organizó el “1er Foro Internacional sobre Investigación Parlamentaria”, mediante la Unidad de Capacitación y Formación Permanente que implementa el servicio de carrera en la institución (UCFP) y el Centro de Estudios de Derecho e Investigación Parlamentaria (CEDIP).

Es la primera ocasión que este tipo de evento se realiza en la institución legislativa. Sus características y resultados han sido de un gran provecho para incrementar las competencias profesionales de quienes se dedican a la labor de la investigación parlamentaria en este órgano.

El Foro cumplió con el objetivo de convertirse en un espacio para la reflexión y el intercambio de buenas prácticas en torno a las características, metodologías, productos y gestión de los servicios de investigación parlamentaria en las instancias legislativas.

Se consideraron los diversos factores en los que intervienen los servicios de investigación como el propiamente legislativo y los que implican la temática presupuestal, financiera y fiscal. Asimismo, se trataron otros ámbitos en los que la labor parlamentaria tiene indudable influencia como son el ambiental, el social y el político, entre otros.



Diputado Juan Ramiro Robledo Ruiz, Presidente de la Comisión de Puntos Constitucionales y Graciela Báez Ricardez, Secretaria General de la Cámara de Diputados, con invitados especiales de Chile y España.



## KALEIDOSCOPE

La intervención de ponentes nacionales y extranjeros que participaron presencialmente y a distancia, contribuyó a la riqueza de los contenidos de las mesas de trabajo, ya que expusieron sus experiencias profesionales en la dirección operativa de los servicios dedicados a la generación de información, análisis e investigaciones en el ámbito parlamentario, en congresos e instancias legislativas de Canadá, Chile, EUA, el Parlamento Europeo, España, Grecia, Reino Unido y México.

Se hicieron ejercicios comparativos de la mayor relevancia tales como la gestión de la información, el uso de diversas metodologías y la elaboración de distintos tipos de productos que, en distintos países, han sido utilizados para que los legisladores obtengan un apoyo de la más alta calidad técnica, la mayor facilidad en su manejo y el mejor ámbito de objetividad y neutralidad partidista en su trabajo legislativo.



Igualmente se expuso el uso de herramientas de la investigación parlamentaria en las tareas que desarrollan las y los diputados en referencia al control parlamentario. Esta labor les permite fortalecer el peso del órgano legislativo y con ello colaborar en el equilibrio de poderes de nuestra democracia.

Otro elemento destacable del conocimiento que circuló durante el Foro, fue la importancia que han tenido, en otras latitudes: los estudios elaborados por los servicios de investigación parlamentaria en la concreción de agendas legislativas para el diseño de políticas públicas que atiendan las demandas de la sociedad; las indagaciones que han permitido la comprobación de si esas políticas han sido efectivas; así como la evaluación del impacto legislativo que han tenido en diferentes materias, tanto del tipo ex ante, como del ex post. Todo ello con el objeto de contribuir en las decisiones sobre los ajustes a las políticas ya implementadas, la cancelación de las que tienen valoraciones negativas o el diseño de nuevas estrategias de intervención.

En el programa del Foro, también hubo un espacio para reflexionar sobre uno de los temas fundamentales para el desarrollo de los servicios de investigación parlamentaria y que, además, permite incrementar permanentemente su calidad: la profesionalización de quienes laboran en los centros y unidades que prestan los servicios de investigación y que forman parte de la institución legislativa.

El desarrollo del servicio de carrera como política de profesionalización de los servicios de investigación parlamentaria, fue destacada por las y los ponentes como condición indispensable para que los estudios realizados y la gestión de la información se caractericen por su calidad técnica, su utilidad para los legisladores y por su imparcialidad partidista.

Se concluye que la profesionalización es un tema central para lograr la maduración institucional de estos servicios, para incrementar el equilibrio entre los poderes de la Unión y para que prevalezca la pluralidad en nuestra democracia.

En el Foro Internacional se constató que la línea seguida por las LXIV y la LXV legislaturas, e implementada por la Secretaría General de la Cámara, en el sentido de impulsar decididamente la profesionalización de





los servidores públicos de la institución mediante el servicio de carrera, es una política necesaria y correcta, ya que en otros países ha sido de gran ayuda para que los parlamentos cuenten con los recursos humanos preparados que han sido esenciales para mostrar la solidez y peso específico de sus instituciones legislativas.

Entre otras cosas se expusieron: las mejores prácticas, metodologías y herramientas para lograr concursos de ingreso rigurosos; las principales temáticas para definir programas formativos especializados en investigación parlamentaria caracterizados por su pertinencia y calidad; los mecanismos más adecuados para el desarrollo de evaluaciones del desempeño del personal del servicio de carrera que han permitido diagnosticar y proponer las vías para superar las carencias y optimizar los servicios ofrecidos a los legisladores; y, finalmente, los conocimientos y usos para aplicar estímulos, promociones, ascensos y prácticas para el desarrollo de las carreras del personal del servicio.

El Foro Internacional, nos ha dejado la enseñanza de que este tipo de eventos aporta beneficios a la institución y a sus integrantes, ya que nos abre posibilidades, enriquece la perspectiva de la Cámara al considerar otros puntos de vista y nos permite proponer soluciones viables a problemas y retos que enfrentamos cotidianamente.

Será importante dar continuidad al Foro Internacional, cultivar la relación con los contactos que estuvieron presentes en sus mesas de trabajo y fomentar la realización de otros eventos similares para profundizar en cuestiones de la investigación parlamentaria. Igualmente pueden hacerse otros foros para discutir detalles de otras funciones fundamentales de la Cámara de Diputados y su servicio de carrera. Indudablemente serán de utilidad para mejorar nuestras prácticas y nuestro Poder Legislativo.

# Segundo seminario “Retos en la investigación parlamentaria. Innovación frente a la Inteligencia Artificial”

**Hasuba Villa Bedolla**

**Directora General del**

**Centro de Estudios de Derecho e Investigaciones Parlamentarias**

**Cámara de Diputados de México**



El pasado 11 de diciembre, se llevó a cabo la segunda edición del seminario “Retos en la investigación parlamentaria”, convocado por los centros de estudios de Derecho e Investigaciones Parlamentarias (CEDIP) y de Opinión Pública (CESOP) de la Cámara de Diputados. En esta ocasión, la conversación giró en torno a la “Innovación frente a la Inteligencia Artificial”

La sesión inaugural estuvo presidida por las y los directores generales de los centros de estudios de la Cámara de Diputados, así como por la Dip. Celina Tánori Córdova, integrante de la Comisión de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación. En su mensaje de bienvenida, la Mtra. Hasuba Villa Bedolla, Directora General del CEDIP señaló que el seminario representa

un espacio privilegiado para el intercambio de ideas y la exploración profunda de cómo la integración de la innovación y la inteligencia artificial puede impactar positivamente en el análisis parlamentario que realizan día a día los investigadores, pues, la convergencia de la investigación parlamentaria con la IA no solo representa una oportunidad para potenciar la eficiencia en la toma de decisiones, sino también un desafío que demanda una cuidadosa reflexión ética y una preparación estratégica para asegurar su aplicación responsable y efectiva.

En la conferencia magistral, denominada Retos en la investigación parlamentaria. Exposición general, el Mtro. Ricardo Álvarez Arredondo, advirtió que la interacción es clave para el desarrollo positivo o





negativo de la inteligencia artificial. Señaló que los investigadores parlamentarios están llamados a tener una mayor interacción entre ellos, a generar espacios para el desarrollo de la trans y la multidisciplinaria; advirtió la necesidad de que se acerquen a los legisladores y a las comisiones, y que, sean piezas clave en el análisis de la legislación, ya que, de lo contrario, los investigadores podrán ser sustituidos, en el largo plazo, por la IA.

En su intervención, la Dip. Tánori Córdova, señaló que los diputados se encuentran en la encrucijada de fomentar la innovación y al mismo tiempo garantizar que el desarrollo de las nuevas tecnologías se genere respetando los derechos fundamentales, la privacidad y la seguridad de todas las personas.

La Mtra. Ana Gabriela Núñez Pérez, encargada de la Dirección General del CESOP, presentó el *Radar comparativo*, como una innovadora herramienta desarrollada por ese Centro de Estudios, misma que constituye un ejemplo de la integración de la inteligencia artificial en la investigación parlamentaria, y de cómo la innovación puede potenciar la eficacia

y la calidad de los procesos de toma de decisiones políticas.

En el desarrollo del seminario, se abordaron en dos mesas de discusión y análisis los siguientes temas: *Principales aplicaciones de la inteligencia artificial en el análisis parlamentario*, cuyo objetivo fue analizar y debatir el panorama actual de la inteligencia artificial en el análisis parlamentario; *El futuro de la investigación parlamentaria. Integración de la innovación y la inteligencia artificial*, en la que se analizaron los desafíos potenciales que podrían surgir al integrar la innovación y la inteligencia artificial en la investigación parlamentaria, incluyendo aspectos técnicos, éticos y sociales. En estas mesas participaron investigadores de todos los centros de estudios de la Cámara de Diputados y la Mtra. Fabiola Elena Rosales Salinas, Directora de Servicios de Información y Análisis Especializados.





# IFLAPARL: Digitized Parliamentary Bibliographical Heritage Project

Aiming to highlight and widely disseminate the digital bibliographic heritage of the parliamentary libraries around the world, IFLAPARL has been working on a new project for the past year: The Parliamentary Libraries' Bibliographical Heritage Platform (ParLBHP).

The platform aims to function as an aggregator of the digital treasures of Parliamentary Libraries, collecting and sharing with all its members the collections uploaded and freely accessible in the websites of the parliaments that wish to contribute to it.

The first collection, a prototype for the rest of the project, is that of the Constitutions of each country participating in this platform. An introductory note on each country's constitutional texts aims to provide users with both basic historical information on their constitutional history and the links to historical, as well as in force Constitutions that are digitised and available through the institutional websites, in each country's own language and in translation, where it exists.

With this project we aim to connect and engage all our Parliamentary Libraries members and bring them together symbolically through the most iconic text of all: the supreme law of each country held in and curated by their Parliament's Library. Next step to the project, the quintessence of the organisations' function: The Standing Orders.

More details on the project will soon appear in the Section's webpage.

**Each country member of IFLAPARL can contribute to the project, by contacting**

**-the Standing Committee Chair [Carolyne Ménard \(iflaparl.chair@gmail.com\)](mailto:iflaparl.chair@gmail.com),**

**-the IFLAPARL Secretary [Julie Anderson \(iflaparlsecretary@gmail.com\)](mailto:iflaparlsecretary@gmail.com),**

**-or the IFLAPARL Information Coordinator [Iouliani \(Lila\) Theodosi \(infoiflaparl@gmail.com\)](mailto:infoiflaparl@gmail.com).**

# 10 NEW BOOKS, ARTICLES, REVIEWS

## GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY

### Franklin De Vrieze

Head of Practice Accountability, Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

Contact: [franklin.devrieze@wfd.org](mailto:franklin.devrieze@wfd.org)

Parliaments make and change laws. They also have a role in checking the implementation of laws and evaluating whether they achieve their intended outcomes. Implementation is complex and does not happen automatically. What is more, parliaments and elected representatives often have little information on what happens after a law is adopted. So, parliaments need mechanisms to effectively monitor the implementation of legislation.

- **Evaluating the impact of laws**

Post-legislative scrutiny (PLS) is the practice of monitoring the implementation and evaluating the impact of laws. The aim is to ensure that laws benefit citizens in the way originally intended by lawmakers. PLS is often carried out by parliamentary committees. As PLS is recognized as an integral part of the legislative cycle, it is emerging as a new dimension within the legislative and oversight role of parliament.

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) has helped parliaments around the world pioneer PLS and has suggested two approaches. The first is an institutional approach to PLS, whereby one focusses on strengthening parliament's capacity for PLS. The second is a thematic approach, focusing on gender-sensitive and climate-proof PLS, among others.

- **A new Community of Practice**

Recently, a new Community of Practice on Post-Legislative Scrutiny (CoP-PLS) has been established, bringing together the various PLS initiatives as developed over the past years and upscaling them in a more systematic and structured level.

At its core the CoP-PLS is an opportunity for those working in the field of law making and evaluation to engage and build a network of associates from which collaboration, information exchanging, and learning can occur. The CoP-PLS is an opportunity to share knowledge about how PLS works in one's national context, its successes, and challenges, and to discuss how to overcome these challenges. The CoP-PLS can contribute to peer-to-peer learning among PLS practitioners and inform comparative studies and other knowledge products on PLS.

Deriving from the knowledge sharing, the CoP-PLS may also be an opportunity to define and promote standard practices in the area of legislative evaluation. The 2017 'Principles on PLS' and the 2022 'Indicators on PLS' can be considered examples of standards setting, which can be developed further through the CoP-PLS. The CoP-PLS can be an opportunity to consider innovative work on legislative evaluation and PLS, to test and try, and to gather lessons learned to allow PLS work to evolve. Examples of innovative PLS approaches can be found in the work on gender-sensitive PLS or climate-proof PLS.

In addition, the CoP-PLS can be a venue for advocating for the role of PLS within the legislative cycle and within the legislative and oversight roles of parliament, and for PLS inquiries on specific legislation as relevant in a national or regional context.

So far, the CoP-PLS has launched online clinics, annual courses on PLS in cooperation with the Institute of

Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) of the University of London, support to parliament in piloting PLS inquiries by Committees and advising on the institutionalization of PLS in parliamentary structures and procedures.

Interested individuals can join the CoP-PLS by signing up to The PLS Pulse – the new newsletter around PLS. Link: <https://www.wfd.org/accountability-and-transparency/post-legislative-scrutiny>

### Parliamentary innovation

To support parliaments in initiating PLS activities, WFD published a new manual for parliaments, which is called parliamentary innovations through post-legislative scrutiny. This manual provides practical guidance preparing, organising and following up on post-legislative scrutiny activities. The manual proposes new or additional parliamentary practices to improve the efficiency of PLS and/or its outreach to the public. This document is a revised and updated version of WFD's PLS manual from 2017.

Resource: Maria Mousmouti and Franklin De Vrieze (2023), [Parliamentary innovation through post-legislative scrutiny - Manual for parliaments](#), 64 p.

### New evaluation framework

As a contribution to the CoP-PLS Dr Maria Mousmouti drafted a new publication, exploring the significance of evaluating PLS activities in parliaments. She proposes an evaluative framework, drawing on previous work by WFD, that incorporates traditional criteria, while also integrating important principles like inclusivity and democratic governance impact. Throughout, Dr Mousmouti provides valuable insights and practical examples to guide the evaluation process, emphasising the importance of transparency, accountability, and building public trust.

Resource: Maria Mousmouti (2023), [Evaluation framework on the results of post-legislative scrutiny \(PLS\) activities by parliaments](#), 40 p.





## VALENTINE BERTHET, BARBARA GAWEDA, JOHANNA KANTOLA, CHERRY MILLER, PETRA AHRENS, ANNA ELOMÄKI, GUIDE TO QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN PARLIAMENTS. EXPERIENCES AND PRACTICES, PALGRAVE MACMILLAN CHAM, 2023

### Leonor Calvão Borges

Senior Adviser at the Research Division  
Assembleia da República, Portugal

Published this year in open access by Palgrave Macmillan, the Guide to Qualitative Research in Parliaments: Experiences and Practices aims, as stated in its introduction, “to provide concrete tips on how to overcome fieldwork obstacles as well as serve as invaluable background or context material for anyone who aims to research the European Parliament, with useful pointers for anyone who wants to work on political institutions and do qualitative interviews”.

Based on an experience carried out at the European Parliament (EP), which provided the setting and context between 2018 and 2022, for gathering a large and significant volume of interviews (140), ethnographic fieldnotes and data, the book seeks to provide answers to how are large data sets, which combine interviews, ethnographic observation, and document data, gathered from parliaments, intending to constitute a hands-on guide about doing qualitative research in parliaments.

Organized into 7 chapters, the book contextualizes the objective and data collected in the European Parliament, then seeks to define how the data was collected using interviews and ethnography and how these data are coded and interpreted, advocating qualitative methodology to the detriment of positivist and quantitative methods.

To this end, the book highlighted the main advantages of conducting qualitative research in parliaments as a way of better understanding of the everyday dimensions shaping democratic practices and policymaking in parliaments, whilst also providing concrete, user-friendly advice on how to conduct such research in practical terms. Likewise, it highlights its usefulness for assessing parliaments regarding their gender equality policies and practices, insofar as, rather than measuring variables, it captured affective atmospheres in parliaments.

The book is available for free download here:

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-39808-7>





# AI in Parliaments: a list of some recent publications

## Leonor Calvão Borges

Senior Adviser at the Research Division  
Assembleia da República, Portugal

*Artificial Intelligence is gaining ground every day and it is certain to affect information services, the search landscape and the information literacy. AI was the central topic of several sessions and discussions in the WLIC 2023, and IFLA has already issued [a list of resources](#) to get up to speed with the developments, selected by the [IFLA Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group](#). IFLAPARL joins the discussion presenting here some of the latest publications on AI in/for parliaments and libraries and research services for parliaments, aiming to update this list regularly as new resources, publications and studies appear.*

Fitsilis F. (2021), Artificial Intelligence (AI) in parliaments – preliminary analysis of the Eduskunta experiment, *The Journal of Legislative Studies*, 27:4 (2021), 621-633.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13572334.2021.1976947>

Silva, N., et al. (2021), Evaluating topic models in Portuguese political comments about bills from Brazil's chamber of deputies. In: Britto, A., Valdivia Delgado, K. (eds.) *BRACIS 2021. LNCS (LNAI)*, vol. 13074, pp. 104–120. Springer, Cham.

[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-91699-2\\_8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-91699-2_8)

Zuiderwijk, Anneke and Chen, Yu-Che and Salem, Fadi (2021), Implications of the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Public Governance: A Systematic Literature Review and a Research Agenda, *Government Information Quarterly*.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2021.101577>,

Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3813865>

Fitsilis, F., Koryzis, D., & Schefbeck, G. (2022), Legal Informatics Tools for Evidence-Based Policy Creation in Parliaments, *International Journal of Parliamentary Studies*, 2(1), 5-29.

<https://doi.org/10.1163/26668912-bja10031>

von Lucke, J., Fitsilis, F. (2022), Using artificial intelligence for legislation - thinking about and selecting realistic topics. In: Janssen, M., et al. (Hrsg.), *EGOV-CeDEM-ePart 2022 - Proceedings of Ongoing Research, Practitioners, Workshops, Posters, and Projects of the International Conference EGOV-CeDEM-ePart 2022*, 32–42.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/364087312\\_Using\\_Artificial\\_Intelligence\\_for\\_Legislation\\_-\\_Thinking\\_About\\_and\\_Selecting\\_Realistic\\_Topics](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/364087312_Using_Artificial_Intelligence_for_Legislation_-_Thinking_About_and_Selecting_Realistic_Topics)

Fitsilis, F., von Lucke, J., & Frank, S. (2023), A Comprehensive Research Workshop on Artificial Intelligence in Parliaments, *International Journal of Parliamentary Studies*, 3(2), 316-324.

<https://doi.org/10.1163/26668912-bja10074>

Fitsilis, F., von Lucke, J., Mikros, G., Ruckert, J., Alberto de Oliveira Lima, J., Hershowitz, A., Philip Todd, B., & Leventis, S. (2023), Guidelines on the Introduction and Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Parliamentary Workspace (Version 1), figshare, 2023.

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.22687414.v1>.

Koryzis D, Margaris D, Vassilakis C, Kotis K, Spiliotopoulos D. (2023), Disruptive Technologies for Parliaments: A Literature Review, *Future Internet*, 15(2), 66.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/fi15020066>

von Lucke, J., Fitsilis, F. (2023), Using Artificial Intelligence in Parliament - The Hellenic Case. In: Lindgren, I., et al, *Electronic Government. EGOV 2023. Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, vol 14130. Springer, Cham.

[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-41138-0\\_12](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-41138-0_12)

Maruri, K. (2023), Lawmakers Experiment with ChatGPT to write Bills, Governing the Future of States and Localities, Folsom.

<https://www.governing.com/next/lawmakers-experiment-with-chatgpt-to-write-bills>.

Also, the OECD Global Parliamentary Network has created a thematic parliamentary group on Artificial Intelligence, with a networking and educational component to help inform national legislative processes.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development: The OECD Global Parliamentary group on AI.

<https://oecd.ai/en/parliamentary-group-on-ai>.



# Call for content on IFLAPARL's Social Media

**We strenghten our network, we strengthen our contact, we strengthen our knowlegde**

**IFLAPARL Standing Committee** is inviting its members to share their news on research, innovative ideas, good practices in the sphere of parliamentary libraries and research services.

Want to share on a regular basis your current research, new publications, seminars/webinars/workshops you plan, an exhibition of your organisation, or even a short history of your institution? You can send photos and/or short videos, plus short pieces of information, to be uploaded in IFLAPARL Facebook page, YouTube Channel, Instagram and Twitter account and let all members know about it.

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## And contact:

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