ANNUAL REPORT

September 1999- August 2000
(IFLA) Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

SCOPE STATEMENT

The Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments recognises the central role that information must play in the effective functioning of a democratic legislature. In some cases, the parliamentary library includes a research service; in others there is a separate department that provides research and analysis for legislatures. Moreover these services are provided to national legislatures in unitary states, and to both national and regional legislatures in countries with a federal system of government. The activities undertaken by those who provide library and research services for parliaments range from the identification, location, interpretation, synthesis, and timely delivery of information to in-depth analysis and development of choices for the legislature.

In addition to the library skills of acquisition, indexing, reference work and the use of information technology, there is often a need for subject and disciplinary expertise, significant presentational skills and an understanding of legislative procedures and official publications. The concept of service to members of the legislature, the primary clientele, is fundamental to parliamentary libraries and research services.

MEMBERSHIP

Richard Paré, IFLA Section Chair, reported that the membership of the Section was 110 in August 2000 registering people from 60 countries. The section now has 82 institutional members, 15 national associations, 12 personal affiliates and 1 international association. In 2000, all new members of the Section were added to the Section's listserv IFLAPARL2 for all Section Members.

Chair: Richard Paré, Parliamentary Librarian
              Library of Parliament, Parliament of Canada
              Ottawa, Canada
              e-mail: parer@parl.gc.ca
              fax: (613) 996-7297

Secretary: Jan Keukens
and Treasurer Library of Second Chamber
              The Hague, Netherlands
              e-mail: jc.keukens@tk.parlement.nl
              fax: 31-70-3182307

Information Co-ordinator:
              Marialyse Délano Serrano
              Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile
              Santiago, Chile
              email: mdelano@biblioteca.congreso.cl
              fax: 56-2-698-5121

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Action Plan 1999-2000
Many of the actions respecting the MTP goals have been implemented, through the content of Open Meeting papers, Research Seminars, Library Management workshops, through sponsorship and recruitment activities and electronic communications actions. The Action Plan is available at the following address on the IFLA Section's website: www.ifla.org/VII/s3/annual/projec-e.htm#2

Sponsorship
For the Athens Pre-Conference, the Section co-ordinated sponsorship with contacts within the European Union for approximately 30 members including some Standing Committee members. The Section is grateful to Mr. Dick Toornstra and the European Union for the financial support they provided to the 16th Annual International Conference of Parliamentary Librarians. As Section Chair, and on behalf of all my colleagues who attended the Athens conference, I want to express my thankfulness to Mrs Irini Eliopoulou and Mrs Eleni Mitrakou for making this successful conference possible.

Among other organisations that we recommended for financial support for both Athens and Jerusalem 2000 were the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the International Development Association (IDB) and the Central European Initiative (CEI). The CEI website at www.ceinet.org has information on project opportunities that appear to lend themselves to IFLA sponsorship initiatives. Also, some of the members were referred to the Danida Travel Grant for delegates from developing countries. Furthermore, some thirty letters of request for support for conference attendance were prepared on behalf of members to their respective Speaker and/or Secretary General.

Recruitment
In view of Boston 2001, we initiated a recruitment drive by sending more than 80 recruitment letters by e-mail and/or fax to the Parliamentary Libraries of the Americas and to US State Libraries in March 2000. We hope that the initiative will, at the very least, raise the membership of the Section and also the profile of both IFLA and the Section amongst Parliamentary and Legislative Libraries in the Americas.

Electronic Communications
As you may know, the Section had already set up a listserv uniquely for the Standing Committee members (IFLAPARL)

1. The Section created a new listserv including present and past members of the Standing Committee and all members of the Section. A message on IFLAPARL2 reaches approximately 80 members of the Section by e-mail and, if applicable, subsequent changes can be made to conference information on the Section's website on IFLANET. Some 300 messages were received on IFLAPARL2 since its creation in January 2000.

    IFLAPARL2 was used to promote IFLANET and the Section's website; to give updates on the Conference material available on the Section's website and on IFLANET such as Open Meeting and Research seminar papers and workshop programs and the June 2000 Newsletter; for conference updates among other information provided to members; to send requests for information on conference attendance and receive responses within minutes from all over the world; for immediate contacts for discussions and communications between members; to provide data which could be used by members for quality research and analysis. It also provides, at a glance, an interesting comparative picture of activities in parallel institutions in a good cross section of our IFLA group.

2. The Section has made arrangements with IFLA HQ to send documents such as Open meeting papers, author forms, research seminar papers in Rich Text Format by e-mail to help meet deadlines and make and send changes on programme material in a fast and effective manner.

IFLA Program Content

- Three Open Meeting papers were made available in English, French, Spanish, German and Russian on the Section's website prior to the conference. (Linked to the General IFLA Mandate).
- Six Research Seminar papers were made available on IFLANET and on the Section's website in English prior to the conference.
- For the benefit of Section Members, the Section made provisions for four workshops on Library Management to be held at Jerusalem 2000.

PUBLICATIONS

The Guidelines for Legislative Libraries, translated in Russian and published by the Russian Duma are available by contacting IFLA HQ's publications committee or Irina Andreeva, Head of the Library of the Russian Parliament, the Duma who can be reached by e-mail at: andreeva@duma.gov.ru

For 1999-2000 two newsletters were published thanks to the Secretary Treasurer Jan Keukens and posted on IFLANET on the Section's web site. Both newsletters carried annual reports and summarised the previous IFLA Conference and pre-conference activities.

Please note that for the first time ever, IFLA presented, in Jerusalem, its **"newsletter of the year award"** Our Section was runner up for the best newsletter and I want to take this opportunity to stress the hard work done over the past several years by Jan Keukens in producing great quality issues for our Section's newsletters. Jan, in our hearts, you deserved the first place.

CONFERENCES

16th Annual International Conference of Parliamentary Librarians hosted by the Hellenic Parliament in Athens, Greece on Wednesday 9 August 2000.

Prior to Jerusalem 2000, the Section conducted its 16th Annual International Conference of Parliamentary Librarians in Athens, Greece. (77 people, 40 countries)
This conference was hosted by the Hellenic Parliament as a pre-conference in conjunction with the 66th Meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Prof. Panayiotis Th. Tzortzpoulos, Secretary General of the Hellenic Parliament, opened the conference which was held in the Senate Hall. His presentation created a motivating and interesting launch for the conference --the different presentations, the lunch and the tour of the Parliament building and Library. The evening was highlighted by a tour of Athens, a dance show and a dinner hosted by the Hellenic Parliament

The Program presentations in Athens included:

1. *Co-operation between the European Library and Research Department* by Mr. Dick Toornstra (E.U.);
2. *Basic and factual information about the Library of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania* by Mrs. Ioana Borocan;
3. *The Library of the National Assembly- a main information broker within the Bulgarian Parliament* by Mrs Margarita Angelova;

4. *Services offered to the Members of Parliament by the Research Service and Library of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania* by Mrs. Zana Bufi;
5. *Presentation on the Hellenic Parliamentary Library* by Mrs Evrydiki Abadji;
6. *The Directorate of Studies: role, function and organisation within the Hellenic Parliament* by Dr. Stavroula Vassilouni;
7. *New Technologies in the Service of the Hellenic Parliament* by Dr George Angelopoulos.

Conference: 66th Meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

Programs Presentations in Jerusalem included:

1. The *Library and Research Services in the Knesset* *(59 people 37 countries)*
This full-day seminar organised by Neomi Kimhi of Israel was held in the Knesset and proved to be one of the main highlights of the conference**.** Topics covered included: Library and information services of the Knesset; electronic collections; production and performance indicators; Internet as a tool for Democracy and a guided tour of the Knesset.

2. A special half-day meeting on Research Services (55 people, 35 countries)
This meeting, successfully co-ordinated by Hugh Finsten, Director of the Research Division at the Parliamentary Library in Canada received a good reaction from the participants. Panels were well conducted and question and answers led to productive discussions. Research Seminar papers are available on IFLANET and on the Section's website at: http://www.ifla.org/VII/s3/conf/66-98-e.htm
Topics included:
(1) *Establishing a Research Service* by: Alim Garga of Cameroon, Dulce Maria Liahut of Mexico and Dr. June Verrier of Australia.
(2) *Issues for Smaller Legislative Research Services* by: Marialyse Delano of Chile and Mr. Aare Kasemets of Estonia.
(3) *Quality Control* by: Bob Gardner of Ontario and Donna Scheeder of the United States.

3. Open Meeting (59 people, 32 countries)
Four members of the Section presented papers on topics of interest to all IFLA Section members; a question and answer period followed each presentation. The papers have been published by IFLA and are available in Russian, German, Spanish, Polish, French and English on IFLANET and on the website of the Section at: http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla66/66intro.htm

Papers presentations included:
a) **Wojciech Kulisiewicz of Poland** presented an informative paper co-authored with Barbara Karamac of Poland, on the *Relationship between Legislative Libraries in the European Community.*

Abstract
The paper discusses the most common forms of international co-operation between legislative libraries from the perspective of Eastern European legislative libraries. The focus is on experience sharing and on the present place of these libraries in expanded European and world-wide communities, as is represented by the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) and the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments. The issues covered range from traditional exchange of printed library materials to possible forms of future co-operation, the latter being illustrated by a description of the ELVIL 2000 project.

b) **Irina A. Andreeva of Russia, and Francis T. Kirkwood of Canada** alternated the Russian and English portions of their presentation with effective and efficient transitions. The English to Russian interpretation of the question and answer period also contributed to the successful format of this presentation on the topic of: *The role of Parliamentary Libraries in Eastern Europe in ensuring public access to government information: the case of Russia.*

Abstract
IFLA has committed itself to supporting the development of public access through libraries to government information and information about government, as a means of building democracy and civil society in the countries of the former Soviet bloc. This paper focuses not on the role of a typical Eastern European parliamentary library in serving its parliament, but rather on its responsibilities in the building of democracy. A parliamentary library in a country which is rediscovering democratic pluralism, such as Russia, has a special obligation to ensure wide public access to government information and information about the activities of government, and above all, to parliamentary documentation.

c) **John Joseph of India** presented an interesting paper on *The workings of the Parliamentary Library in India: How it responds to the needs for information and research support in the context of new information technology.*

Abstract

An attempt is made in this Paper to present a brief overview of the Parliamentary Library of India and how it serves the information needs of Members of Parliament. Mention is made of the different categories of Library collections. The description of the extensive databases created by the Library forms a major part of the Paper. The various tools of modern information technology currently in use are described to indicate the way the Library is collecting, processing, storing, retrieving and dissemination information. Computer linkages with outside agencies/organisations available for exchange of information and the home page of the Library on the Internet are also described.

4. Library Management Workshop (47 people, 32 countries)
The Section's Library Management workshops were held in the Knesset. For the second consecutive year, Workshops covered topics requested by Section members and included:

a) *Client expectations and evolving needs: current trends* -- Workshop Leader: Margareta Brundin. Rapporteur: Session 1 Margareta Brundin. Rapporteur: Session 2 Sara Parker.

b) *Marketing and evaluation of services and products* **--** Workshop Leader: Keith Cuninghame. Rapporteur: Session 1 Tuula Laaksovirta. Rapporteur: Session 2 Margarita Angelova.

c) *Core collections and electronic information resources* -- Workshop Leader: Anita Dudina. Rapporteur: Session 1 Gaston Bernier. Rapporteur: Session 2 Marialyse Delano.

d) *Co-operation, networking and sharing information in Parliamentary and Legislative libraries* -- Workshop Leader: Rob Brian. Rapporteur: Session 1 Bernard Vansteelandt. Rapporteur: Session 2 Richard Paré.

5. Evening at the Israel Democratic Institute (IDI)

The evening proved to be a remarkable farewell event for our Section's conference activities.

Dr. Amnon Goldenberg, Israel Chairman of IDI made a warm welcome address at this reception and dinner hosted by the Israel Democracy Institute (IDI), and organised by Mrs. Sandra Fine.

Concluding Remarks

According to comments from all the Section's members in attendance, IFLA 2000 was very successful and very profitable -- thanks to the IFLA Organising Committee, the Knesset's Parliamentary Library and the Israel Democratic Institute. As Section Chair, I offer thanks and appreciation to Ross Shimmon and his team at IFLA HQ for the help and support that they provided with the organisation of the Section's program. Feedback from the Section's members indicates that the program of the Conference as a whole, and specifically the program of the Section, proved to be most interesting and valuable. Needless to say that the Section is indebted to many people for the success of this Conference. I want to express my deepest gratitude to Neomi Kimhi, Yossi Kimhi and Sandra Fine, on behalf of all of those who participated in the Section's program and activities in the Jerusalem Conference. Without the commitment and the dedicated efforts of these individuals, the Conference wouldn't have been so successful. Thank you Neomi, Yossi and Sandra for everything that you organised for us.

Jan Keukens, the IFLA Section Secretary, is preparing the minutes of the Standing Committee meetings which will be made available to all Section members in December 2000.

Prepared by: Richard Paré
                   Chair, IFLA Section, September 2000.