



IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2003 – September 2004

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The work for the Section has been made possible thanks to the active contribution, keen participation and commitment of Dr. June Verrier, Secretary of the Section and Gro Sandgrind, our Information Coordinator. The Conferences have been a success primarily thanks to organizers of specific meetings, rapporteurs, presentators, and the commitment of colleagues, friends and participants, and the commitment of the Chilean Library of Congress and the Argentinean Library of Congress. We are particularly thankful for receiving the Newsletter of the Year Award, with the invaluable work of June Verrier and her assistant, Ms. Katrina Arte. M.D.

SCOPE STATEMENT

In accordance with the mission and objectives of IFLA, 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 representing parliamentary libraries, the Section encompasses parliamentary and legislative libraries that provide information and documentation services to Parliamentarians and also those that include a research and analysis service. 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.

STANDING COMMITTEE

Standing Committee Executives 2003–2005

Chair/Treasurer:

Marialyse Délano Serrano
Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile
Head, Department of Information Resources
Huérfanos 1117, 2 piso
Santiago, Chile
e-mail: mdelano@biblioteca.congreso.cl
phone: +56 2 270 17 00
fax: +56 2 270 17 47

Secretary: Dr. June R. Verrier
Secretary / Editor of IFLA PAR Section
Head of Information and Research Services
Commonwealth Parliament
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Australia
Tel. +(61)(2)62772471
Fax +(61)(2)62772528
Email: june.verrier@aph.gov.au

Information Co-ordinator: Ms Gro Sandgrind
Information Coordinator of IFLA PAR Section
Parliamentary Librarian
Library of the Norwegian Parliament
Karl Johansgt. 22
N-0026 OSLO
Norway
Tel. +(47)23313685
Fax +(47)23313859
Email: gro.sandgrind@stortinget.no

Members of the Standing Committee, 2001-2005 and 2003-2007

- Andreeva, Irina, elected for a first term, 2001-2005; eligible for a second term
- Aranda Torres, Patricio, elected for a first term, 2001-2005; eligible for a second term, but since he no longer works at the Library of Parliament of Perú, and may or may not be nominated, since he indicated his interest in Government Libraries Section.
- Cuninghame, Keith: elected for a first term, 2001-2005; eligible for a second term
- Kulisiewicz, Wojciech, already completing his second term, not eligible.
- Mitrakou, Eleni: elected for a first term, 2001-2005; eligible for a second term
- Choi Moon Hyu: elected for a first term, 2001-2005; eligible for a second term
- Nzo-Nguty, Bernard: already completing his second term, not eligible.
- Paré, Richard: already completing his second term, not eligible.
- Sandgrind, Gro: elected for a first term, 2001-2005; eligible for a second term
- Ali-Abdel-Elah, Wafaaa: second term 2003-2007
- Almeida Maia, Cristiane: first term 2003-2007
- Delano, Marialyse: second term 2003-2007
- Karl Min Ku: first term 2003-2007
- Moesi, Josephine: first term 2003-2007
- Parker, Sara: second term 2003-2007
- Scheeder, Donna: second term 2003-2007
- Singh, N.K: term 2003-2007
- Verrier, June: second term 2003-2007

Corresponding Members, 2003 – 2007 are:

- Margarita Angelova
- Anita Dudina
- Tembi Chalabase Mtine
- Bharti Tiwari

MEMBERSHIP

The Section has 111 members representing 57 countries as of October 2003. Among the members there are 74 parliamentary libraries, 6 National libraries, 16 National Associations, 5 International Associations and other Institutions and 10 Personal Affiliates.

FINANCES

The Section received for the year 2004 an amount of 610 Euro from IFLA to cover the costs of running the Section's activities. Of the allowance, 172 Euros were spent on: photocopies during the Buenos Aires Conference, bank account transfer and handling charges, and 100 Euros for IFLA overhead charges for the Preconference. The Parliament of Australia sponsored the printing and distribution of the Section's Newsletter and the Chilean Library of Congress the Preconference; the Argentinean Library of Congress funded the Management Workshop at its premises. The remaining funds are for editing / translating preconference papers.

COMMUNICATIONS

For IFLA 2004, the Section prepared letters of request for support for approximately 85 members of the Section including some Standing Committee members. Members have been actively contacted during 2004 by the Section's officers, for participation, information and suggestions.

CONFERENCES

Prior to Buenos Aires 2004, the Section held its 20th Annual International Conference of Parliamentary Librarians in Valparaíso, Chile. The conference was hosted by the Chilean Library of Congress, as a Preconference to the 70th Meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in Buenos Aires. Due to a change in format of the Conference, to make the meetings shorter in time duration, the Research Meeting was held during the Preconference.

20th Annual International Conference of Parliamentary Librarians, Valparaíso, Chile, August 17th – 19th, 2004.

Overview

The Chilean Library of Congress hosted the 20th Annual International Conference of Parliamentary Librarians, in the city of Valparaíso, Chile, at the Library of Congress. Valparaíso is the seat of parliament, although it is not the capital of the country. It is a maritime port city with a special flavour and colouring,, as the houses and streets climb steep hills that surround the sea.

The Preconference was held with the assistance of 78 participants representing 29 countries: : Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Netherlands, India, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Korea, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Czech Republic, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, European Union, United Kingdom, United States, as well as members from the Chilean Parliament.

After registration, the Conference was opened by the President of the Chilean Senate, Senator Mr. Hernán Larraín and the representative of the President (Speaker) of the House, Deputy Mr. Pablo Lorenzini. H.Senator, Mr. Larraín addressed the audience on the importance of knowledge and information for legislative activities, and his concerns as parliamentarian.

The program continued with a round table with two Senators and two Representatives, moderated by the Director of the Chilean Library of Congress, Ms. Soledad Ferreiro. The parliamentarians shared the world in which they must develop their activities, how their role has changed,, and what it means to be a congressperson in a world of continuous change.

Mr. José Miguel Muga, from the Chilean Library of Congress continued with a presentation on how the Library approaches the world and concerns of parliamentarians, strategic listening, working with the people and setting up teams of information coordinators.

Lunch was hosted by the Chilean Library of Congress.

After Lunch, Mr. Alfonso Pérez, Director Adjunct of the Chilean Library of Congress presented strategic services of the Library. The Territorial Information System, a statistical geographically referenced on line service, was presented by Mr. Juan Carlos Utreras. On the subject of Citizen Information and transparency of the legislative process, the Legislative System was presented by members of the library and committee secretaries; the Legislative Assistant was presented by legislative committee secretaries, as well as the bill tracking system.

The activities were focused upon sharing experiences between users / clients of the Chilean Library of Congress and were of great interest because of the opportunity for sharing experiences with members of parliament and committee secretaries, key actors in the legislative process.

After visiting the Congress Building, the inaugural reception was held in the evening hosted by the Honourable Chamber of Deputies, in the 14th floor, with a panoramic view of Valparaíso.

On Wednesday 18th, the Preconference continued with a presentation of the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN), from the US Library of Congress, by Dr. Rubens Medina and Ms. Graciela Rodriguez-Ferrand. This Network is a cooperative effort to have the laws of participating countries in a single database.

Following this presentation, a round table with participants from Latin America was held. Christine Coelho Paiva, from Brazil; Christine Sushek, from Argentina, Segundo Soto, from Peru, Luis Oporto from Bolivia, Cesar Polit from Ecuador and Guido Williams from Chile, shared their experiences with the audience. After lunch, invited by the Chilean Library of Congress, the Latin American representatives met to generate proposals on a Network of Latin American Parliamentary Libraries and an Association.

The meeting was moderated by Mr. José Miguel Muga and a major outcome of the Preconference was the creation of the Association and Network of Latin American Parliamentary Libraries.

The Preconference continued with a round table with Legislative Committee Secretaries. Four Secretaries shared their concerns and the support they request from the Library of Congress, with a future outlook and what would be the ideal services and products they would need from the Library.

The closing reception was held by invitation of the H. Senate of the Republic of Chile and the Chilean Library of Congress, at the 15th. Floor of the building.

On Thursday 19th., the Section held the Research Meeting, brilliantly organized and chaired by Dr. June Verrier. The first block of the day was “Case Studies and Management Strategies for dealing with the staff of Members of Parliament”. H. Senador Alejandro Foxley, Chile; Priscilla Baines, UK; Dick Toornstra, EU and Donna Scheeder from USA presented their experiences and outlooks.

Session Two was held on the subject: How can we be sure that the research we do is the research our Members of Parliament want? Dr Jacob Warshavsky from Israel; Bharti Tiwari from India; Barbara McPhee, New Zealand and Charles Brown from Ghana made presentations on this block.

At midday, lunch was invited by the H. Senate of Chile, on the 15th. Floor of the building.

Session Three held was on “Meeting the research needs of Senators and Members – some different national strategies.” Mr. Edmundo Serani, Chile; Ms. Yoshio Watarase, Japan; Ms. Yoo-Hyang Kim, Korea and Dr. Fereydoon Azadeh from Iran were the participants in this Section.

Session Four was on “Innovations Update/Windows of Opportunity”, with the participation of Andrea Sampaio Perna from Brazil and Gloria Sarku from Ghana.

Every session was followed by a lively discussion. Dr. June Verrier rounded up the Research Meeting and to finalize Ms. Marialyse Délano, Chair of the Section, Soledad Ferreiro, Director of the Chilean Library of Congress, addressed the participants closing the three days meeting.

During the three days there were 21 presentations as well as social activities to strengthen relationships between participants. A major outcome from the Preconference was the initiation of an Association of Latin American Parliamentary Libraries as well as an agreement between the Argentinean Library of Congress and the Chilean Library of Congress.

WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS, 70TH. IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL. Buenos Aires, 21- 27 August, 2004

On August 21st. Marialyse Delano Serrano and June Verrier, the Chair and the Secretary of the Section, participated in the meeting of the Co-ordinating Board of the Division of General Research Libraries, chaired by Cristóbal Pasadas.

On August 22nd, SC I meeting was held, at the Conference venue. Unfortunately, not known by the officers of the Section, interested participants were not permitted to enter the room by floor ushers, so assistance was reduced to SC members and a few other participants. The SC meeting transpired fluently according to the previously set agenda: approval of the agenda, officers' report, future elections, news from the coordinating board, discussion of the strategic plans 2004-2005, reports by regional associations, subjects of interest for future conferences, booth schedule and other issues. During the meeting, the officers stressed the importance of active participation in the Section and upcoming future elections.

On Monday, August 23rd, the Section held a program meeting on "Democracy enabling initiatives by Parliamentary Libraries". Margareta Brundin from Swedish Parliament; Ana María Pino, Chilean Library of Congress and Frank Kirkwood from the Canadian Library of Parliament, presented papers on the subject. Some Parliamentary Libraries have outreach and citizen information activities included in their mission and others develop projects that encourage citizen participation. Parliamentary Libraries have an important role in getting the legislative process to people, in showing and teaching about the legislative process and thus promoting democracy.

On the evening, the Section held its yearly dinner, at a tango restaurant in old Buenos Aires. Approximately 55 members shared a lively and very animated evening.

On Tuesday, August 24th, our Section had three presentations with a discussion period. The major theme was the vision of an outgoing Parliamentary Library Director, an incoming Director and an ongoing outlook. The presentators were: Priscilla Baines, Director, Library of the House of Commons, UK, on changes, innovations from the point of view of an outgoing Director, showing a consolidated parliamentary library; Soledad Ferreiro, Director, Chilean Library of Congress on innovation and innovative services; Cristina Suschek, Sub-director of documentation and foreign information, Library of Congress of Argentina, on "The Library of Congress facing society".

Thursday, August 26th was kindly hosted by the Argentinean Library of Congress. The programme was opened with welcoming words by the Director, General Coordinator of the Argentinean Library of Congress. It was followed by a round table with members from the Honourable National Senate, and then a second round table with members from the Honourable National House of Representatives. After lunch, invited by the Library, the General Reference Director, The planning and modernization Director, the Culture Director and the Legislative Reference Director presented their services and activities. An institutional video was presented, and the session was closed.

On Friday August 27th the traditional management workshop of the Section was held, at the premises of the Argentinean Library of Congress, who kindly supported this initiative. The Management Workshop was wonderfully organized by Chris Maia, Brazil and Keith Cuninghame, UK. The format of the workshops is to have repeat sessions of the same subject blocks so members can attend more than one. The workshops are small, to strive for participation and active work, and are very sought after by our members. They provide management skills, exchange tips, ideas and outlooks relevant to parliamentary libraries, and members feel free to comment on their concerns in a friendly environment.

Session one, was held with the following leaders: Customizing electronic services: why and how to do it, by *Yoonjung Kim (Korea)*; How can we organize access to legislative texts to ensure our staff and users can find them? Using experience of keeping track of the Brazilian code as a starting point. by *Edilenice Passos (Brazil)* And Think tanks: what are they? Who are they? What do they do for our Parliaments? *Sandra Fine (Israel)*

Session two included: Ideas for interdisciplinary projects within the Parliament: working with other parts of the organization, by *Donna Scheeder (USA)*; From background information provision to research services: what makes a service 'research' and how to deal with the transition, by *Ellie Valentine & Clay Wellborn (Armenia and USA)*; and Think tanks: what are they? Who are they? What do they do for our Parliaments? By *Sandra Fine (Israel)*

Session three was on Customizing electronic services: why and how to do it, led by *Yoonjung Kim (Korea)* ; How can we organize access to legislative texts to ensure our staff and users can find them? Using experience of keeping track of the Brazilian code as a starting point. By *Edilenice Passos (Brazil)*; Ideas for interdisciplinary projects within the Parliament: working with other parts of the organization. By *Donna Scheeder (USA)*, and

From background information provision to research services: what makes a service 'research' and how to deal with the transition by *Ellie Valentine & Clay Wellborn (Armenia and USA)*

Standing Committee Meeting II August 28th

The second Standing Committee Meeting was held at the Conference venue on August 28th. The meeting was open and after the consent of the members present, the representative from Brazil briefly showed some of their services.

The main issues discussed were the coming elections, the length of the Conference which makes further participation difficult, the need for active work and commitment from the members, and the upcoming Conference in Oslo.

C B II Meeting

Marialyse Délano attended the Coordinating Board meeting, chaired by Cristóbal Pasadas.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

It has been an important concern, both the length of the Conference, the reduced time slots for the Section and the required 100 Euros to be paid to HQ for the Preconference. All of this at a great cost to members who pay the institutional fees, the attendance to the Conferences as well as the time consuming voluntary work to participate in the Section. Networking, sharing and the greater organization as being part of IFLA are acknowledged as an asset and an important value, and our members attendees show interest and commitment to participate.

Marialyse Delano Serrano, Chair of Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

The annual report is also available at: