



Newsletter

Volume 27, No. 1, Sept 2007

Welcome to the new-look Newsletter

This is the first edition of a new format newsletter and we hope that you like it. If not, please tell us! This new format will not include full-text documents—you will usually find them on the websites of the Section. The Newsletter will be in email format and this paper version is for colleagues with limited or no internet connections. A CD-ROM with selected Section documents will be sent, when available to the same members. If you got this on paper but would be happy just to have email, please tell us. You should receive this Newsletter three times a year— in September after the Conference, in January with the proposals for the next Conference and in June/July with the Conference details. Urgent news will usually be sent by email rather than in the Newsletter, so please subscribe to the IFLA Parl list (You can do that at this address: <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/iflaparl2>).

I would like to thank Margareta Brundin for her excellent work as editor of the newsletter for the last two years.

Gro Sandgrind, Chair of the Section

South African success

The Section's pre-conference 'Innovation and Creativity in Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services - Development Through Learning' was held 15 - 17 August 2007 in Cape Town, South Africa. The intensive programme was hosted with style by Albert Ntunja, Parliamentary Librarian, and his very welcoming and hard-working staff. Mr Ntunja's team provided a striking overview of a parliamentary library and research service in transition. As Secretary to Parliament Zingile Dingani observed, the Parliament is changing its emphasis from legislation to a more active oversight role and this implies significant change in the way its information services work. The services are also involved in the global changes brought by ICT. Highlights of the pre-conference included a thoughtful paper by Jeremy Cronin, Member of Parliament and former political prisoner, on parliamentary research and library services in an 'emerging democracy'.



Albert Ntunja, Chief Librarian, Parliament of South Africa

'The only thing constant is change itself' was what we heard from Dr Leon Gabriel of the South African parliament, and that might have been the motto for the 'Innovative Services Day' where we heard about projects bringing change in parliamentary libraries around the globe. On the last day of the Pre-Conference we heard from the Global Centre on ICT in Parliaments, notably about its work in Africa.

The papers from the Pre-Conference will appear at <http://ifla.parliament.gov.za>

Drawing the crowds in Durban

The theme launched by Jeremy Cronin in Cape Town was continued at the main IFLA Conference in Durban, where Soledad Ferreiro of Chile presented '[Understanding cybersocial network trends, for innovation in libraries](#)' to a large audience. Soledad's paper outlines how a parliamentary library can support and bring to the surface online citizen participation. It was followed by stimulating and highly-relevant presentations from [Innocent Rugambwa](#) and from William Young on the theme of effective partnership (the subject also of a paper by [Hugh Finsten](#)). This provoked a lively question and answer session. African participants expressed particular admiration for Innocent's achievements in Uganda.

The Section also contributed to a joint session with Government Libraries on their new draft guidelines. Section Chair Donna Scheeder expressed the view that parliamentary libraries required their own guidelines (see 'Agenda' below). She felt that guidelines needed to focus on the mission with quickly-outdated practical guidance presented in annexes.

The Programme and some papers of the IFLA conference are at

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/Programme2007.htm>

Management Workshops

In Durban, the Section held a full day of knowledge-exchange and debate on topics such as marketing, innovation and management of electronic resources. Reports on the workshops will appear later on <http://www.parlanet.org/>.

A challenge for Parliaments

"Parliaments and their support units, not least those involved in information management and research, need to take on the much more proactive role of facilitating society wide deliberation"

Jeremy Cronin

Section agenda for 2007-2010

Conferences in Ottawa and Quebec, Canada, in 2008

The Pre-Conference in Ottawa will explore how we can be more effective in assisting parliamentarians. It will focus on innovative approaches in smaller parliamentary libraries.

Through workshops and panel discussions it will provide an opportunity to share best practices and learn from each other. Interpretation French ↔ English will be available and contribu-



tions in either language are warmly welcomed. The main IFLA Conference will include at least one session prepared by the Section, and there will be a full day of 'Management workshops' for parliamentary libraries and research services.

Topics for future conferences

Some of the topics under consideration for future conferences include:

- ⇒ A workshop to examine approaches to **research**, taking a topic common to all or most parliaments - for example, energy
- ⇒ Different models of parliamentary library **mission**, what is the identity and what constitutes a parliamentary library (including collection policies)
- ⇒ Statistics -identifying standard **performance measures** for parliamentary libraries
- ⇒ **Branding** - how do we want to be seen?
- ⇒ **Understanding our clients**, the common traits and universal behaviour of lawmakers - a systematic approach
- ⇒ **Workforce planning**, competences
- ⇒ Digitisation, **digital documents** and issues of authenticity of official legal information
- ⇒ **Leadership** at all levels
- ⇒ Challenges of communication, especially **multilingualism**

Future conferences

The pre-conference in 2008 will be at the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa 6–8 August. (For more information go to <http://www.preifla2008.ca>)

The main IFLA conference will be in Quebec, Canada. (For more information go to <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74>)

In 2009 the conferences will be in Italy—the pre-conference at the Parliament in Rome and the IFLA conference in Milan.

The 2010 IFLA conference will be in Brisbane, Australia.

Section business and the Standing Committee

The Section will launch a project to produce revised Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries. (The 'guidelines' are a kind of service standard and were first published in 1993—so now much in need of revision). Keith Cunningsham has kindly offered to play a lead role in this project and has prepared an initial project plan, which will be discussed by the Standing Committee. The Committee will seek IFLA funding for the project. In the meantime, the Section will begin the collection of examples of standards and guidelines. Any member with documents to offer should send them to Moira Fraser at moira.fraser@parliament.govt.nz.

The Global Centre for ICT in Parliament is keen that parliamentary libraries are represented at the forthcoming World e-Parliament Conference 'Challenges and benefits of ICT in parliamentary processes' to be held in Geneva on 11 October this year. At least some Section members will attend. (The Global Centre site is <http://www.ictparliament.org/> and you can also find information on the conference on this page of the IPU site <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/e-parliament07.htm>).

The Standing Committee met twice in Durban. (The approved minutes for the first meeting, and draft minutes for the second, have already been circulated by email). It gave a fond farewell to several long-standing members, including the outgoing Chair, Donna Scheeder, and a past Chair, Marialyse Délano Serrano. A new Chair, Gro Sandgrind, was elected, together with a Secretary (Iain Watt) and Information Coordinator (Moira Fraser). Contact details for the office-holders appear below. Hugh Finsten has resigned from the Standing Committee and Esther Kamau has become a member.

Useful addresses

The official webpage of the IFLA Section is <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s3/sparll.htm>

We also have another information-sharing website for parliamentary libraries and research services under development at <http://www.parlanet.org/>

Chair of the Section:

Ms Gro Sandgrind
Library of the Norwegian Parliament, Stortinget
Prinsens gate 26
N-0026 OSLO
Norway
Tel. +(47)(23)313685
Fax +(47)(23)313859
E-mail: gro.sandgrind@stortinget.no

Information Coordinator:

Ms Moira Fraser
Head of Library, Parliamentary Librarian
Parliament of New Zealand, Library
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON
New Zealand
Tel. +(64)(447)19621
Email: moira.fraser@parliament.govt.nz

Secretary:

Mr Iain Watt
Head of Unit for Library Operations
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
B-1047 BRUSSELS
Belgium
Tel. +(32)(2)2843113
Fax +(32)(2)2306581
Email: iain.watt@europarl.europa.eu

Newsletter Editor: Iain Watt

Please contact at address on left if you want to unsubscribe, change your delivery details or want to contribute an item for the Newsletter.