



Government Libraries Section

Annual Report 2003-2004

Scope Statement

The section of Government Libraries encourages the growth and the development of government libraries, by means of assisting in their mutual co-operation, and by increasing awareness of the value of government information services to the administration and the citizenry. The section is aimed at the community of libraries, information centres, archives and documentation centres which are part of and work for a body with a governing task and which have, in any way, a political responsibility or connection.

Membership

Institutional, association and personal membership totals 81 members (October 31, 2004) from 37 countries.

Meetings

The 69th IFLA General Conference and Council met in Berlin, Germany from August 1-9, 2003.

Two working meetings of the Government Libraries Section were held.

At the Berlin meeting we welcomed three new Standing Committee members: Dario D'Alessandro (Italy), Maija Jussilainen (Finland) and Hye-Kyeong Yi (South Korea) and one corresponding member from Mali, Lamine Camara.

The first order of business was to elect officers and Jerry Mansfield was elected chair, Christine Wellem's was elected secretary and information coordinator and Robert Klaverstijn was re-elected treasurer.

The program for Section members and guests included visits and orientations to the Offices of the Federal Chancellor and the Federal President. We also were the guests of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Foreign Office where a workshop addressing *German government libraries since unification: experiences and perspectives* had been arranged by Christine Wellem's.

Our second meeting was held on August 8, 2003. At this meeting a proposal was submitted by Nancy Bolt and accepted to develop standards for government libraries. Nancy will seek volunteers to assist her in this effort as well as possible collaboration with another IFLA section.

We also selected as our program theme for Buenos Aires 2004 *The Role of information literacy in a democracy: how government libraries can help*.

Additionally, we began discussions on a pre-conference seminar to be hosted by the Swedish Government libraries in 2005 on *How government libraries support the strategies of their mother organisations*.

PROGRAM

The theme of our Berlin Open Session was *Changing Governments, Changing Libraries*. To support this theme we selected four papers from the many submitted to the Section. The program was as follows:

Democracy through access to legal information for newly democratising nations: the Kenyan perspective JOHN N. GATHEGI (Florida State University, USA)

L'impacte du changement politique sur le développement des bibliothèques et des services d'archives en République du Mali depuis 1991 (The impact of political change on the development of libraries and archives in the Republic of Mali since 1991) LAMINE CAMARA (National Directorate of Archives of Mali, Mali)

Regime change and the destruction of the Institute for Sexual Science Library, Berlin 1933 REBECCA KNUTH (University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii)

Changing government, changing libraries, changing librarians: Bulgarian public libraries as access points to government information SNEJANA TANEVA (American Center, Sofia, Bulgaria) and MARGARITA ANGELOVA (National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, Sofia, Bulgaria)

The 70th IFLA General Conference and Council was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from August 22-27, 2004.

We had two business meetings of the Standing Committee in Buenos Aires. One on Sunday, August 22, 2004 and the other on Saturday, August 28, 2004.

At our first meeting Christine Wellem's presented the published proceedings of our Berlin workshop entitled *Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Parlaments- und Behördenbibliotheken* which contained the papers and information about the various library visits enjoyed by the attendees.

We talked about our program for Buenos Aires and in the spirit of our host country, we decided that each of the five speakers would be introduced by a different Standing Committee member in Spanish. Brief Spanish language lessons and rehearsals followed.

Nancy Bolt reported that we have the blessing of IFLA headquarters for our “Guidelines for Government Libraries”. Nancy will host the first meeting of interested persons including some from other IFLA sections.

At our second meeting we applauded ourselves for a fantastic program at which nearly 280 attendees were present. Three of our five papers were presented in Spanish. Even though it was a success, we were pressed for time with five papers and decided that in the future we would limit our programs to four presenters so that there will be some time for audience discussion at the end. The Guidelines for Government Libraries Committee came up with 15 content areas and will present draft guidelines at the 2005 conference. For the 2005 Oslo conference we decided that our program theme will be *Destination unknown? Piloting innovation in government libraries.*

PROGRAM

In Buenos Aires, we had a full program with five excellent papers which echoed our theme: *The Role of Information Literacy in a Democracy: How Government Libraries Can Help*

Bibliotecas provinciales y departamentales para crear ciudadanía: La experiencia italiana y de otros lugares Europeos y Latinoamericanos DARIO D'ALESSANDRO (Biblioteca Provinciale G. D'Annunzio, Pescara, Italy)

Collaborative information literacy by government ANNE KAUKHANEN-SIMANAINEN (CIM, Communication & Information Management, Helsinki, Finland)

The information literacy of Chinese citizens and the development and utilization of government information TANG SHANHONG (Chinese Defense, Science and Technology Information Research Center, Beijing, China)

El rol de la capacitación en información en una democracia GLORIA MERCEDES LOZANO (Medellin, Colombia)

Construyendo equidad en el acceso a la información desde el sistema educativo para la formación de futuros ciudadanos GRACIELA PERRONE, SILVIA MEI and GRACIELA RODRÍGUEZ (Biblioteca Nacional de Maestros, Buenos Aires, Argentina)

All papers are electronically available on IFLANet.

Standing Committee

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 **Government Libraries Section:** <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s4/index.htm>