



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

The Information Point
(The Government Libraries Section Newsletter)

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Note from the Editor

This is the official newsletter of the Government Libraries Section of IFLA. It is published in December and June each year.

The newsletter may be reproduced and printed in electronic formats without permission, provided acknowledgement is made.

Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Section Officers or the Editor.

Copy or feedback can be submitted to the Editor Patrick.Ryan893@mod.uk in plain ASCII text format, MS Word format or in the body of an email message. Accompanying photographs are welcome.

FEEDBACK

We welcome your feedback to the newsletter editor at Patrick.Ryan893@mod.uk

We would like to see more representation from the continents and would welcome a volunteer from each continent to supply a continental update to the newsletter—are you interested and if so please contact the Editor.

Acknowledgement: Amarjeet Birdi for design.



CHAIR'S COLUMN

Dear Government Librarians,

Welcome from your Standing Committee. We have not had a Government Libraries Section Newsletter in a couple of years. So many exciting things have been happening, however, we want to bring you up to date, get you involved, and try to meet your needs as Government Librarians.

In the past couple of years we have had a pre-conference in London, an all day working session visiting libraries in Berlin, a pre-conference in Stockholm, and very well attended programs at all the IFLA conferences. We have great plans for Seoul already and are beginning our work on Durban.

Here are a few of the highlights and places where you can get involved.

Guidelines for Government Libraries

Elsewhere in this issue you will see a complete report on this exciting initiative. Many of the IFLA Sections already have guidelines – public libraries, young adult, children services – so we felt it is appropriate for us to take on this daunting task. If you would like to help with the guidelines, please contact me at nancybolt@earthlink.net.

Programs in Seoul and Durban

The theme for our program in Seoul is: *Customer Needs: the Engines of Change for Government Libraries and Information Centres*. A call for papers is on the Section Website <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s4/index.htm>. If you are interested in preparing a paper on this theme, watch the website for more information.

We are also hoping to arrange a visit to Government Libraries in Seoul and Durban. If you have contacts in either of

these cities, please let me know. Same e-mail as above.

Mid-term Meeting

Plans are also underway for a “mid-term” meeting between the 2006 Seoul Conference and the 2007 Durban conference.

We are looking at a European location, probably in the United Kingdom. Watch for more information on this event.

Newsletter stories

I'm sure Patrick, our Newsletter Editor will say more about this in his remarks. We are hoping to have some information about Government Libraries on all our continents. If you are interested in doing this or just writing something about your own library, please contact Patrick.

Recruitment to the Standing Committee

The Government Libraries Standing Committee is the group that conducts all these activities with your help and on your behalf. If you would like to be on the Standing Committee, we have openings. Let us know if you are interested and we'll help you get appointed/elected.

We look forward to working for you and with you to help you gain information about Government Libraries across the globe.





Section Members in Oslo and Stockholm



At Work



At Leisure



In Session



Reflections from the Departing Chair

Election year conferences are happy occasions and they are sad ones. At the outset, each IFLA Section greets and welcomes its newly elected members and at conference end, each Section thanks and says farewell to those who have served their four or eight years.

The Government Libraries Section has been blessed with a small, yet energetic and creative membership throughout recent years. The Section has produced several popular and well-attended paper sessions as well as having staged focused and thought-provoking workshops with such themes as "*Strategies for Recognition - How to Promote Government Libraries and Services*" (Boston 2001), "*Informing Government: Government Library and Information Services in the Information Age*" (London 2002), "*German Government Libraries Since Unification - Experiences and Perspectives*" (Berlin 2003), and "*How Government Libraries and Information Services Support the Strategies of Their Home Organisation in Practice*" (Stockholm 2005).

My four years as a working Section member and as the last two as chair afforded me the opportunity to work with a dedicated, "can-do", fun-loving group of librarians from eleven countries. Outside of the many scheduled and unscheduled meetings, I have fond memories of sharing lunches and dinners with Section members then dancing like we never danced before as in Buenos Aires. I will cherish the privilege of having been whisked away from the German Federal Ministry of the Interior in a

private armored, fully-loaded US\$ 250,000 VW Phaeton to the Federal Foreign Office then to stand in the German Chancellor's cabinet meeting room with a view of the Bundestag.



The tour of the German President's home and gardens in Berlin was a very special treat as this facility is closed to the public and even to German citizens.

I turn over the chairmanship to an extremely able, Nancy Bolt, who is a real firepower and one who will challenge each Section member to his/her limits. It is also an honour for the Government Libraries Section to have Ms. Bolt as chair of our own Coordinating Board, Division II Special Libraries, a member of the Governing Board as well as the Professional Committee. She will represent us well!

Jerry W. Mansfield



Section Members

Ms Nancy Bolt, Chair (2nd term ends 2007)

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BIOGRAPHY

Nancy Bolt has been a member of IFLA and on the Government Libraries Section for 6 years. She is now Chair of the Standing Committee and was also elected Chair of Division II, Special Libraries, of which the Government Libraries Section is a member. She also now serves on the IFLA Governing Board. Nancy was State Librarian in Colorado, USA for 18 years and now has her own consulting company, Nancy Bolt & Associates. Contact her at nancybolt@earthlink.net

Ms Maija Jussilainen

(2nd terms ends 2007)

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BIOGRAPHY

Knowledge Specialist, Government Information Management Unit. Administrator of the blog of the Government Libraries Section:
<http://iflagovlibstockholm2005.blogspot.com/>

Mr B.R. Klaverstijn,
Secretary (2nd term

ends 2007)

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BIOGRAPHY

Robert has been working in the information and documentation field for over thirty years. He has held (senior) management positions, mainly within Dutch government organisations and ministries. He has been a teacher and examiner at the Foundation GO, a private training centre for information professionals. At present he is a senior consultant within the Knowledge and Information Department of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. As additional functions he is on the board of the Dutch Librarian Association and of The Dutch Online Information Conference foundation.

Robert has been active in IFLA since 1996 and has been the secretary and treasurer of the Government Libraries Section (1997 - 2001). And - at present - is secretary / treasurer of that same section, as well of Division II (Special Libraries). He is also on the board of the National IFLA Committee in the Netherlands.

Ms Hye Kyeong Yi

(1st terms ends 2007)

Librarian (Assistant Director)

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BIOGRAPHY

Education

- February 2004: Bachelor of English Language & Literature, Korea National Open University, Korea
- February 2001: Bachelor of Law, Korea National Open University, Korea
- February 1988: Got the Librarian certification at the School of Library and Information Services, Sungkyunkwan University, Korea

Professional Memberships and Service

- Librarian, Supreme court Library, Oct 1983- Present
- Senior Librarian 1989-2001
- Assistant director 2001-present

Awards

- Excellent Public Official, by Supreme Court. 1994.

Ms Christine

Wellems, Information Coordinator (2nd term ends 2007)

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BIOGRAPHY

- since 1995 Head of Department "Parliamentary Information Services" in the Chancellery of the Parliament of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

- since 2001 Teaching at the University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg, Department of Library and Information Management "Information Services"
- 1992-1995 Deputy Head of the Department of Information and Documentation (Library, Documentation, national and international educational information networks) in the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Laender in the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn
- 1991-1992 Research Agency for Information Strategy: Rais, Hamburg, partner and project manager
- 1989—1991 Fraunhofer-Institute for Innovation Research (ISI), Karlsruhe, Information scientist in the project: Experimental supporting programme "Informationsvermittlung"
- 1991 Dr. Phil. (PhD), (social geography, information science, German literature), Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf
- 1986-1989 Lecturer, Department of Geography, University of Stuttgart
- 1986 Lecturer, Department of Geography, University of Duesseldorf
- since 1983 Member of the German Society of Documentation (DGI)
- since 2004: Member of the Standing Committee of the German Working Group of Parliamentary and Government Libraries
- since 2005: Member of the Editorial Board of the IFLA Journal

**Patrick Ryan,
Editor, Newsletter
of GL Section**

(1st term ends
2009)

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BIOGRAPHY

Patrick Ryan is currently Deputy Director Information Services at the Ministry of Defence. The role entails delivery of library and information services together with management and development of the Internet and Intranet. Patrick has held a number of positions in government libraries in the UK stretching from managing a small construction library, to a medium scientific library to large policy library at the Department of Education.

Associated Members

Lamine Camara, Mali
Maria Goeckeritz, Germany



This Plan can be found on the IFLA website but is reproduced below for easy reference.

**GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES
SECTION STRATEGIC PLAN
2006-2007**

The Strategic Plan of the IFLA Government Libraries Section supports all three pillars of IFLA.

Society: Government Libraries provided a critical service to the society of the country in which they exist. They organize information and documents from government parliaments and agencies, make that information available to government workers, and often ensure that the public is informed about the actions of its government.

Profession: The Government Libraries Section is now developing Guidelines for Government Libraries. This is designed to provide information and guidance that can benefit new and developing Government Libraries around the world.

Members: The Government Libraries Section allows government library staff to interact with each other and to attend programs that gives them vital information they can use in improving service in their libraries.

Strategic Plan:

GOAL 1. Promote government libraries and government information service.

(Professional Priority a: Supporting the role of libraries in society)

Actions

- 1.1 Hold an open session at every IFLA conference, recruiting widely from all continents.
- 1.2 Hold a satellite meeting or intensive government library visits at least every two years.
- 1.3 Hold a mid-term meeting in the spring of 2007 in Western Europe.

GOAL 2: Expand the ability of government libraries staff and the

members of the Government Libraries Section to communicate on issues, policies, and operations.

(Professional Priority h: Developing library professionals)

Actions

- 2.1 Actively develop and distribute Section newsletter.
- 2.2 Create a blog for continuing discussion among government librarians after the Stockholm pre-conference.
- 2.3 Identify and promote Government Libraries to the institutional members of the section.
- 2.4 Promote and assist government libraries to function successfully in internally politically complex environments.
- 2.5 Create a Government Libraries Section brochure.

GOAL 3: Promote government libraries and information centers with models and best practices for their operations and strategic planning.

(Professional Priority f: Promote resource sharing)

Actions

- 3.1 Develop "Guidelines for Government Libraries" which will be a model of principles, practice, and procedure.
- 3.2 Collaborate with GIOPS and Parliament Librarians Section (confirmed) and invite Division 8 to send representatives to the Guidelines Committee.
- 3.3 Cooperate with IFLA and other sections on programs and activities.

GOAL 4: Increase membership of the Section

(Professional Priority h: Developing library professionals)

Actions

- 4.1 Establish a Membership Committee to actively seek to

grow the section for 2007 elections.

- 4.2 Use the IFLA Membership Recruitment Manual to recruit new members for IFLA among Government libraries.
- 4.3 Actively seek to involve Section members to develop the activities of the Section.

Conclusion

The Strategic Plan of the Government Libraries Section supports the Presidential Theme of Alex Byrne: "Partnership." This is demonstrated in the collaboration with other Sections in developing the Guidelines as well as the international representation on the Guidelines Committee. The Section is also working with other Sections on conference programs.



Twinning with a tsunami-affected library in Sri Lanka

The Government Libraries and Information Group is a special interest group of CILIP the UK's professional body for librarians and information

specialists. GLIG has decided to twin with Hikkaduwa public library in Sri Lanka, which was badly damaged in the 2004 tsunami. GLIG has now started raising funds for rebuilding Hikkaduwa library.



Two UK government librarians, from the Department for Work & Pensions and the Home Office, concentrated on finding ways to assist devastated libraries in Sri Lanka. Using information from the Internet and the National Library of Sri Lanka website,



they presented a plan at the GLIG AGM in March 2005. The GLIG Chair,

Suzanne Burge invited Librarians to join a Working Party under the auspices of GLIG. Two government librarians, from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs and the Department for Trade and Industry, joined the project. Thus, the GLIG Tsunami Working Party was formed in April 2005, with a remit to explore an initiative to twin with a tsunami-affected library in Sri Lanka.

The Working Party established an e-mail dialogue with librarians in Sri

Lanka from the Twinning Task Force for tsunami-affected libraries and agreed realistic objectives for a twinning strategy. During a private visit to Sri Lanka in June, the Project Secretary visited five libraries, met with the Director General of the National Libraries of Sri Lanka and wrote a report. Following the report



findings and the Working Party recommendations, GLIG agreed to twin with Hikkaduwa Library.

To consolidate the international dimensions, a librarian from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office joined the Working Party. The Working Party contacted the Director General of the National Libraries of Sri Lanka and Chairman of the Twinning Task Force and the twinning initiative was formally accepted in September 2005.

On December 1st, GLIG launches its first fund raising event with a Sri Lankan evening at CILIP. This will include Sri Lankan food, a raffle and a talk about the project.

Further information about the project and details of how to contribute are available on the GLIG area of CILIP's website:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/government/>



Committee News

A short synopsis of the minutes of Government Libraries Standing Committee held on OSLO on August 13, 2005 and of the 19th August. The full minutes of both meetings are available on the Internet site.

Election of Officers

- Nancy Bolt was elected Chair of the Standing Committee
- Robert Klaverstijn was elected Secretary/Treasurer
- Christine Wellems was elected Information Coordinator
- Patrick Ryan was elected Newsletter Editor
- Jerry Mansfield, the outgoing Chair offered to mount a recruiting effort to get members for the Standing Committee.

The Committee agreed the contents for a forthcoming newsletter and agreed a mailed as well as an electronic version.

The Committee can provide for special project funds for special projects. These are decided on by the Professional Committee and submitted when the budget is submitted. The group decided that we might ask for Special Project funds for our Guidelines Committee.

The Guidelines for Government Libraries project was in first draft.



Briefing Government Libraries Open Session

There were 80 people in attendance. The overall quality of the papers was high. Next year the number of papers

will be limited to four. This will create more time for discussion. We will also try and collect names and e-mail addresses of people who attend (maybe a basket for business cards). The paper of Gladys Ann Wells (From bibliographer to curator: archival strategies for capturing web publications) will be recommended for publication in IFLA Journal. Jerry Mansfield will inform the authors of the non-recommended papers (this gives them the possibility to publish their paper in non-IFLA journals). Summaries of the other papers could be published in the section's Newsletter.



Report from IFLA Coordinating Board and officers meetings

Nancy Bolt has been elected chair of Division II (Special Libraries). With this she becomes also a member of the Professional Committee and IFLA's Governing Board.

A new system for the handling of the Sections' finances was approved by IFLA's Governing Board last March. This applies to administrative money only and has no effect on the height of amount allocated to our section.



Selection of topic for Seoul (and Durban)

The theme of our Open Session is: Customer Needs: the engines of change for Government Libraries and Information Centres. Papers will focus on the determination of customers' needs, the actions taken to meet these needs and the results of these actions. Nancy Bolt will prepare the text of the call for papers to be published on the IFLA web. In Seoul we have an Open Session only. Together with our Korean contacts we will try to arrange a half day visit tour to government organisations and their library and information centres. Some preliminary

ideas about Durban were put forward. A pre-conference satellite in (maybe) another part of South Africa is considered.



Report of the Guidelines Committee

Draft of the different chapters is due on February, 1st 2006. Funding by IFLA for publication and translation is necessary. Nancy Bolt will send the minutes of the Guidelines committee meeting to all section members.



The Section has created a weblog for the participants of the Stockholm pre-conference. It is decided to extend participation to all members of the section. Non-members can join upon invitation of members. The address of the Web Blog is <http://iflagovlibstockholm2005.blogspot.com/>.



REPORT OF THE GUIDELINES COMMITTEE

The Government Libraries Section has taken on the task of writing Guidelines for Government Libraries. We have formed a writing committee that is currently developing the first draft of the guidelines. Our goal is to have them finished and approved no later than the IFLA meeting in Durban, Africa in 2007. Working with us on this effort is the Government Information and Official Publications Section and the Library and Research Services for Parliaments.

After much discussion, we have defined Government Libraries as:

Government Libraries are any libraries that are established and fully funded by government to serve government with the primary audience being government although the actual audience served

may be broader than government.

Under this definition, a public or academic library might be created by government and even serve government employees would not be defined as a "government library" because their primary audience would not be government officials or staff but rather the general public or faculty and students.

Currently, the Guidelines will cover the following topics:

- Types of Government Libraries
- Functions and services of Government Libraries
- Cooperation with other Government Libraries and other libraries or NGOs
- Access to information physically, electronically or through depositories
- Preservation and permanent access
- Common management, financing, and working practices
- Advocacy for the role of government libraries in developing information policies
- Privacy of users
- Organization of government information across agencies
- Determining the needs of elected officials and staff of government agencies
- Management of documents and publications and their dissemination
- Staffing and personnel
- Financial, technological, and material resources
- Marketing and public relations.

We are looking for people who will serve on a "review committee" to read the draft chapters once they are written. If you are interested in being on this committee, please contact nancybolt@earthlink.net.



LOOKING FORWARD TO KOREA

**World Library and
Information Congress: 72nd IFLA
General Conference and Council,
Seoul, Korea.
Libraries: Dynamic Engines for
the Knowledge and Information
Society, August 20-24, 2006**

CALL FOR PAPERS: GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES

The IFLA Government Libraries
Government Libraries Section
Standing Committee invites Library
and Information Science professionals
to submit paper proposals on the
theme:

CUSTOMER NEEDS: THE ENGINES OF CHANGE FOR GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS

Proposals should focus on one or more
of the following topics:

How your Library and Information
Service determines the needs of your
clients including any of the following:

- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Interviews
- Relation to the mission or plan of
the organization
- How the Library or Information
Service builds services to meet
identified needs
- How the Library or Information
Service measures the impact of
services to meet needs.

IMPORTANT DATES

Please e-mail abstracts (maximum
500 words) by **1 MARCH, 2006** to:
Nancy Bolt, Standing Committee Chair
nancybolt@earthlink.net

Accompanied by the following information:

Abstract
Names of presenter(s)
Position or title of presenter (s)
Employer or affiliated institution
Mailing address
Telephone/fax numbers
E-mail address
Short biographical statement and
resume

Notifications of abstracts acceptance
will be issued by **1 April, 2006**

The deadline for submission of full
papers is **15 May, 2006**

IMPORTANT NOTES

Regrettably, no financial support can
be provided, but a special invitation
can be sent to authors of accepted
papers.

Abstracts and papers must be
submitted in one of the official IFLA
languages (English, French, German,
Russian, and Spanish).