
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 twice yearly.

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

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

Copy 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

Acknowledgement: Amarjeet Birdi for design.



Dear Friends,

This will be my last column as chair of the Government Libraries Section and my last IFLA meeting as a member of the Standing Committee of the Government Libraries Section. It has been an exciting experience.

I joined IFLA nine years ago, primarily to see the world! I thought IFLA would inspire me to go to places I might not go otherwise. I've been to Bangkok, Jerusalem, Oslo, Berlin, Glasgow, Seoul, Buenos Aires, and now Durban. I've been on 4 continents with IFLA. I've seen parts of the world I never thought I would visit.

What I didn't realize was the good friends I would make along the way. It has been a joy to share cultures and experiences and learn that librarianship shares the same values around the world.

I'm very proud at what our Section has accomplished in the last eight years. We've held pre-conferences in London and Boston and Stockholm. The past two chairs, Lena Olson and Jerry Mansfield helped deliver quality programs. In the last two years we have reinstated our newsletter thanks to the hard work of Patrick Ryan. We held our first mid-term conference in Wales this past April. I've had the privilege of working with Rob Klaverstijn as Treasurer and Christine Wellems as Information Officer all the years I have been involved.

I'm most proud of the Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments (which we are renaming "Recommendations and Best Practices for Libraries of Government Departments") that we have written over the last four

years with the help of people from the Library Services to Parliament and the Government Information and Official Documents Sections. This has been a more challenging project that we first expected but has been well received.

For the last two years I have been both the chair of the Government Libraries Section Standing Committee, the Chair of the Special Libraries Division, and a member of the IFLA Governing Board. I tried to represent the interests of our Section and our Division as IFLA considers programs and policies. I am proud to have worked on the IFLA Strategic Plan that recognizes the importance and value of the Sections in carrying out IFLA's programs and goals.

I'm proud to be a member of an international organization that fights for freedom of, and access to, information for all people around the world. The recent visit of an IFLA team to the Middle East to assess the impact of the ongoing war on cultural and library resources is one example. IFLA has always advocated the value of libraries and freedom of information in the international arena and increasing success.

Finally, I want to thank all the members of the Government Libraries Section Standing Committee that have worked to make our Section successful and valuable to its members.

Guidelines for Government Libraries

At the Government Libraries Section Mid-term conference in Wales we presented the draft Guidelines for the first time for review and discussion. The verdict - "*good start and now here are some suggestions for changes.*"

One change suggested is a new name! **Recommendations and Best Practices for Libraries of Government Departments: Guidelines for Library Development.** The general thought was that this best describes what we have

written and the role we hope it will play in the development of government libraries.

A second suggestion was to add examples of actual library practice (the Best Practices in the title) that can illustrate the various chapters in the document. We are looking for short case studies libraries across the globe, to celebrate the success government librarians like you or your colleagues have had in the following areas:

- Identifying and meeting the needs of government users
- Negotiating the politics of a situation/ staying neutral in a politically charged situation
- Using new technologies to respond to the needs of users
- Collection development
- Advocating for the role of government libraries
- Disaster planning/disaster recovery
- Marketing the library to government users
- Managing government libraries.

The case studies will be used as a platform for knowledge sharing, allowing librarians to model and adapt their service delivery to follow examples of best practice, and to give real colour and texture to this important, international, government library resource.

We'd appreciate a brief paragraph highlighting, with a few sentences each on the following:

- Which of the areas above the case study is in (example = Marketing the library to government users)
- What the situation was (example = New office opening, with no on site library, but wanted to highlight role of the central library)
- Your action
- The result/impact
- Brief contact details
- Some information about your circumstances:
The name of your country,

Region (if applicable)
Government department name & number of staff employed (approx).

Case studies should be sent to Rebecca Davies:
Rebecca.Davies12@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

If you have any colleagues in other government departments who might have a case study that we could include please forward this article to them.

The "Guidelines" will be presented at the Durban conference in South Africa and then revised one more time and published by IFLA. Please join our program in Durban and help us in this final stage.

Nancy Bolt

Editors note:
The new Chair will be elected at the Durban Conference in August.



Join us for the Government Libraries Program in Durban.
Government Libraries: Approaches to Multi-Lingual Collections and Services

Many government libraries are in countries with multiple languages. How does a government library deal with this challenge in delivering library service and materials to people who speak multiple languages? We have speakers from Great Britain, South Africa, Spain, and the United States discussing this important subject. See the IFLA conference program on line for details.



**Government Libraries
Section – Pre-conference
Wales 19 -21 April 2007**
By Patrick Ryan

Building on the success of the pre-IFLA mid-term conference in Stockholm 2005 the Section held the 2007 mid-term conference in Wales, April 19th-21st. With 32 attendees from as far as India, we represented, in microcosm, a cross-section of government librarians prior to the full IFLA conference in Durban, August 2007.

Our conference began at the Welsh Assembly Government in Cardiff, with a 'getting to know each other' session followed by a presentation from Mary Bone, Chatham House Librarian on the library and its long and illustrious history. Chatham House library was actually asked by Reuters on how to set up their news cutting service – and what an impact that has had and how global the librarian's influence!

A Tour of the Assembly Library and Publications Service followed by 'high tea' and Welsh cake. This prepared us for our next tour, that of the Welsh Senedd. There, we were shown the Senedd working spaces, gained an understanding of their modern ways of working and were given an overview of its architectural features the components of which were largely drawn from the Welsh countryside.

The following day, after a glorious trip through the Welsh countryside to Aberystwyth, Arwel Jones (Head of Digital Development, National Library for Wales) told us of their multi-media digital activities, such as 'Glaniad', a trilingual website containing over 2000 images recounting the story of the founding of the Welsh settlement in Patagonia and the Wales Ohio Project, illustrating experiences of Welsh settlers in Ohio. Arwel also told us of plans for the Library screen and sound archive as well as for their digital book and journal collection.

Small is beautiful indeed, the size of the NLW has given it the ability to bring together the cultural aspects of Wales in a cohesive coherent fashion and is a lesson to larger institutes of what can be achieved.

Later that morning Dr Geraint Evans gave a stimulating and thought provoking lecture on 'Government and information' leading to a conclusion that 'Governments can act as an exemplar ... by becoming leading technology users ... becoming significant providers of information on the WWW'. As government librarians this inevitably set our thought processes going as to how we might contribute to Government as an exemplar. A theme followed up in the second day of the conference.

After lunch we were given a tour of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth which we followed by focused discussions on specific chapters of the draft Guidelines.

Saturday found us at European Documentation Centre/South Wales Europe Direct Information Centre (SWEDIC) of the University of Wales where we were addressed by Claudia Lux, IFLA President Elect.



Claudia Lux, IFLA President Elect

Claudia led a discussion on her theme "Libraries on the Agenda" asking us how we might highlight what we do more prominently. Claudia outlined how libraries were identified primarily with Culture and Education but suggested to us that there

was far more to be identified with because librarians were involved in all areas of government and we looked after libraries within government to the extent that if these libraries did not function well we let down the image of libraries as a whole. Claudia's session was inspirational and ideas driven. We discussed the use of branding which was paramount; we should analyse government plans, programmes and strategy and understand how we can contribute; we should complain if we are not included; we should describe our processes to increase understanding of what we do. As professionals, we should be positive, define successful methods and analyse the possibilities to further our successes.

Claudia was followed by Ian Snowley, President of CILIP whose topic was, 'Creating Our Professional Future'.

Ian brought us through his career to date, highlighting the value of working in government libraries and the training opportunities they offered. Echoing



(L-R) Ian Thomson, Janet Peters, Claudia Lux, Ian Snowley

Claudia, Ian suggested government libraries were quite hidden – we must address this. Ian continued with a history of CILIP (a combination of Library Association and Institute of Information Scientists members) bringing us up to date with the recent governance review and the new business operating model.

Ian then brought us through his presidential themes:

- Governance
- Activism

- Professionalism
- Advocacy
- Professional mobility

Both Claudia and Ian's topics complemented each other and drove a common theme of the value and potential



Delegates in break-out group discussion

influence government libraries could exert. To close the session, Ian Thomson, Director of South Wales Europe Direct Information Centre 'Connecting Europe to its citizens', took us through the work of the Information Centre and its key role within the University.

And so, by early afternoon, we set off for our respective destinations, some staying on to see more of Wales, some returning home but all of us having learnt a lot and enjoyed Welsh hospitality, good food, good humour and abundant sunshine. All of us were grateful to the conference organisers and when thinking back on



Delegates in Wales

these conference days will be mindful of an international group brought together in the Welsh city and country and being able to work and relax together and understand the librarian's ability to be part of a global system for change and improvement.



Hikkaduwa Library Project - Update

CILIP Government Libraries & Information Group (GLIG), UK

By Anoja Fernando

The Hikkaduwa Library twinning project has achieved several milestones.

On the 3rd of April 2007, Jenny Patterson, Head of Trade at the British High Commission, Sri Lanka, handed over a cheque for 1 Million Rupees to Upali Amarasiri, Director General, National Library of Sri Lanka. The Chairman of the Hikkaduwa Urban Council was amongst the distinguished gathering and the event



Jenny Patterson handing cheque to Upali Amarasiri

was covered by the national media. The money will enable the Urban Council to commence renovation work on the library. In the spirit of twinning, the Urban Council will contribute 1/3rd of the final total whilst Government Library Information Group (GLIG) (UK) will contribute 2/3rd. The National Library of Sri Lanka signed a

Memorandum of Understanding with the Urban Council and the renovation project is supervised by the National Library of Sri Lanka. The anticipated date of completion is April 2008.

At the invitation of the Chairman of the Urban Council, Jenny Patterson and Anoja Fernando visited the Hikkaduwa library on the 7th of April. They were greeted by the Chairman, Librarian, Local Government officers and the Hikkaduwa reading public. A young boy aged 14 years, gave a speech, in English, thanking GLIG for the books we have donated which has enabled him to improve his English speaking skills. Other speakers offered particular thanks to GLIG, donors and friends. There was genuine appreciation, goodwill and acknowledgement that the project was entirely funded by the generosity of the librarian community and friends in the UK. Invitations were extended to donors & friends to visit Hikkaduwa, a thriving tourist resort before the Boxing Day Tsunami.

In April 2007, the CILIP President, Ian Snowley adopted the Hikkaduwa Library Project as his Presidential Charity during his term of office. This was a significant milestone and an affirmation of the professional dimension of the project. Ian is participating in running events throughout the year and you can support Hikkaduwa Library by visiting [our website](#) and sponsoring Ian or making an online donation to the project via the links provided. <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/government/appeal>

At Ian's inauguration reception we launched a book-mark "Fringe Wave" and raised £140 in aid of the project. It was embroidered for us by a librarian who has supported the project since the first fund-raising event. Every little helps towards our next target of £2,000.

Our next outing is at Umbrella, an event that brings together CILIP Special Interest Groups in the UK. We are participating in

the 'Recovering from Disasters – Sri Lanka' session which will give us the opportunity to share information and progress about the Hikkaduwa Library Project. We are also presenting a poster session and will be making the most of fund-raising activities.

In August 2006, we sponsored a Sri Lankan Graduate Trainee to work at the Hikkaduwa Library for six months. In the autumn of 2006 we held another fund-raising dinner at a Sri Lankan restaurant and raised £1,000. The popularity of Sri Lankan porcelain elephants and tea ensured the raffle generated much fun & interest to raise funds. A government department, Communities and Local Government organised a successful book-sale and raised £560 through the sale and a raffle, drawn by Lyn Brown MP (Chair of the UK All-party Parliamentary Group on Libraries).

Donors are inspired by a direct-action project which keeps them in touch with how their money is spent. We are pleased with the interest generated amongst the UK librarian community. We have established successful partnerships with colleagues from the National Library of Sri Lanka and the Hikkaduwa reading community. We have demonstrated how government librarians have combined specialist skills and networking opportunities to make a real difference to an international library project and thereby, give hope to a community.



MAKE RESEARCH FREE – the DRIVER project and the BASE search engine

By Sophia Jones and Mary Robinson, SHERPA – DRIVER, University of Nottingham, UK

Access to information has been revolutionised by the Internet and the World Wide Web. The creative application of these technologies has led not only to innovations in research but also in new

ways to discover, access and use research information. Much academic research is publicly funded. It follows therefore that the results of this research should be available to the public. The current system of academic publication hampers access to research articles because it is limited to only those who can afford to subscribe. A recent report commissioned by the European Commission called for publicly funded research results to be made available to the public shortly after publication*.

The Open Access movement aims to do just that by making research information freely available to everyone. In addition to research articles, open access materials can include book chapters, conference papers and also theses.

SHERPA is internationally recognised as a leader and advocate for the development of open access institutional repositories and associated services. SHERPA is collaborating on the major project, DRIVER (Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research). This is a high profile, major European project with 10 international partners, funded by the European Commission.

Through DRIVER we will make European Research articles available via Internet search services. Open access materials can be accessed via general search engines such as Google, Yahoo and others. DRIVER recommends that readers searching for full-text articles should use the specialised search engine BASE (www.base-search.net) which covers scientifically relevant web resources but also – unlike commercial search engines – offers the opportunity for a more refined search on full text open access material. Libraries can make use of this growing body of information by adding the BASE search engine to their library's public website as an additional resource. For more information on SHERPA and the DRIVER project, please visit <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/> <http://www.driver-support.eu>

or contact the DRIVER team directly:
driver@nottingham.ac.uk
*"Study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication

markets in Europe" Commissioned by DG-Research, European Commission. January 2006, page 11.



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Reminder on Main Meetings in Durban
All members are welcome to attend the meeting of the
Government Libraries Section

Standing Committees

Friday, August 17	Professional Committee and Governing Board meet
Saturday, August 18	Section Standing Committees meet; Division Coordinating Committees meet
Sunday, August 19	Conference starts
Friday, August 24	Section Standing Committees meet, Division Coordinating Committees meet
Saturday, August 25	Governing Board meets