



ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004 - Berlin to Buenos Aires

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS (GIOPS)

I. Scope

Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and public non-governmental organizations generate large quantities of documents and information which shape our lives and mold the societies in which we live. The Government Information and Official Publications Section promotes the discovery, collection, bibliographic control, preservation, and dissemination of information from and about all these bodies. Persons interested in the Section are drawn from the world community of specialists in access to public documents, public data, and public policy. They share the mission of promoting the free and equitable access to quality information in order to assure accountability from governments and other public bodies to the people they serve.

II. Membership

The Section has 17 standing committee members and 4 corresponding members. Section membership is now 117 members.

III. Officers

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IV. Standing Committee Members

Petrina Amonoo (2003-2007)
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Eleanor G. Frierson, (2003-2007)
Chair, Conference Subcommittee,
Deputy Director, National Agricultural Library

Bruno Gnassi, (2001-2005)
University Librarian, Mount Allison University

Ms Sigrun Habermann-Box, (2003-2007)
UNOG Library, Palais des Nations

Claude Lecrubier (Mme) (2003-2007)
Bibliotheque administrative de la Ville de Paris

Irina L. Lynden, (2003-2007)
JSTOR/MacArthur Foundation Project / Russia
Professor, University of Rhode Island Library

Joaquin Miguel Camacho Marin (2001-2005)
Biblioteca de Andalucia, Spain

Irja Peltonen (2003-2007)
Information Manager, Ministry of Finance

Sandra K. Peterson, (2003-2007), Information
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Debbie Rabina (2001-2005)
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CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

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Sandra Fine
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Mrs. Matseliso (Tsidi) Moshoeshoe-Chadzingwa
Head, Documentation and Publications Division
Institute of Southern African Studies
The National University of Lesotho

V. Conference Programme - Buenos Aires

The priority for the year centred around planning an excellent programme for the Buenos Aires Conference. The theme of the Conference was *"Libraries: Tools for Education and Development"* and GIOPS accordingly chose the theme *"Societies' information toolkits: the role of government information in education and development"*.

A number of interesting proposals were received and evaluated. The best and most relevant were chosen, resulting in an extraordinary program and an outstanding set of speakers:

- The National Agricultural Library - providing tools for education and development in agriculture
YVETTE ALONSO (National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, USA)
- The Global Legal Information Network: fostering civic education and the rule of law
RUBENS MEDINA, JANICE HYDE and GRACIELA RODRIGUEZ-FERRAND (Library of Congress, Washington, USA)
- Instituto de Información Científica y Tecnológica: 40 años potenciando desarrollo social mediante servicios de información
EDUARDO OROZCO SILVA (Instituto de Información Científica y Tecnológica, Habana, Cuba)
- Iran's national ICT education plan: an overview of the possibilities, problems and the programs
KAYVAN KOUSHA (PhD Student, University of Iran, Teheran, Iran) MAHSHID ABDOLI (National Library of Iran, Teheran, Iran)
- The U.S. National Preservation Strategy: Challenges and Opportunities
A New Information Policy for International Organizations: brief overview of WTO developments
DIRK GLAESSER (World Tourism Organization, Madrid, Spain)

The GIOPS Standing Committee was so impressed with the presentations that they unanimously recommended all of these major presentations be included in the IFLA Journal. In addition the Committee expressed its appreciation that Emma Voskanyan offered to translate all of the papers into Russian and Pierre Tillette had done French translations.

VI. Standing Committee Meetings

The Standing Committee held two meetings in Buenos Aires.

Chair, GIOPS. At the first meeting it was noted that the Secretary had heard from the Chair of GIOPS, Bruno Gnassi, that he would have to resign as Chair due to pressing responsibilities associated with his new position. He did however wish to remain a Standing Committee member. The Secretary had reported this to the Division V Chair and it was agreed that GIOPS needed to receive advice from the Coordinating Board as to how to proceed. For this reason, the Chair, Division V, Edward Swanson also attended the GIOPS meetings to provide advice. It was later determined that should the Secretary wish to assume the role of Acting Chair that an Acting Chair and Acting Secretary could be appointed to cover the term until the election. Jane Wu thus became Acting Chair and Peter Raggett became Acting Secretary until the Oslo 2005 Meeting when elections would be held.

Seminars Subcommittee. Neither of the two members of the Seminars Subcommittee responsible for organizing a seminar at the Economic Commission on Africa in Ethiopia, planned for March 2005, were able to attend the Standing Committee Meetings. It was assumed the Africa Seminar would proceed.

Working with other Sections.

GIOPS welcomed the opportunity for joint programs with other Sections. The following proposal was accepted.

The Chair of the Government Libraries Section, Jerry Mansfield proposed the joint Government Libraries Subcommittee in which it was hoped GIOPS and the Parliamentary Libraries Section would participate. The Subcommittee has formulated a draft proposal for guidelines for government libraries and information centers, not intended to mandate operational procedures but rather to offer guiding principles for development of libraries at the national organizational level, such as ILO, World Bank, WHO, FAO. The GIOPS representative is Irja Peltonen. Nancy Bolt at Nancy.Bolt@earthlink.net can provide an electronic copy of the draft proposal. The first draft of the guidelines is to be ready in January 2005.

In addition, Frank Kirkwood, Parliamentary Library of Canada, was interested in any group that is working on “democracy”.

Recommendations regarding the IFLA Booth.

The GIOPS team serving at the IFLA Booth made the following recommendations which went forward to Division V:

- 1) A computer with Internet access should be available at the Booth to show visitors the websites of the various Sections.
- 2) Consideration should be given to producing a bookmark in one language for Oslo (English).

Conference Programme – OSLO 2005. The Subcommittee had met and developed the title/theme in harmony with that of the overall IFLA Conference of Voyage of Discovery. The chosen theme was “Sailing the treacherous seas of digital government information: from pamphlet box to digital library”. The Program Sub-Committee produced and distributed the following announcement:

“Libraries – A voyage of discovery” August 14th- 18th 2005, Oslo, Norway

Call for Papers: Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS)

THEME: “Sailing the treacherous seas of digital government information: from pamphlet boxes to digital libraries”

The IFLA GIOPS Standing Committee invites the submission of proposals for papers to be presented at the 71st IFLA General Conference and Council concerning the evolution of policies, strategies, technologies, and systems for managing digital government information of all types. The GIOPS two hour session will be comprised of 3-4 presentations followed by discussion.

Proposals may focus on, but are not limited to:

New challenges and opportunities concerning the management and provision of digital government information.
How new government information systems are accommodating information published in formats other than digital.
How many kinds of information are being integrated.
What new kinds of collaboration are being developed in relation to digital government information.
What and how new government policies are being put into place to govern digital government information and the effects of the new policies.

Many excellent proposals were received before 25 March 2005 for review by the GIOPS Program Chair Eleanor G. Frierson (efrierson@nal.usda.gov), the GIOPS Chair and the GIOPS Secretary (jane.wu@fao.org and peter.raggett@oecd.org) resulting in a superb Oslo program.