

Government Libraries Section

Annual Report

2011

Conference Programs

During the annual conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Section co-sponsored the following three programs:

Monday, August 15 13:45 – 15:45 – “Political and constitutional status of Puerto Rico: a continuing challenge” with the Law Libraries Section;

Tuesday, August 16 9:30 – 11:30 – “e-Government: the role of librarians” with Government Information and Official Publications Section;

and

Thursday, August 18 8:30-10:30 – “Promoting global access to law: developing and open access index for official, authenticated legal information” with Law Libraries Section, Government Information and Official Publications and Knowledge Management.

Reports

During last year 2011, our members sent the following reports, all of them published online at <http://www.ifla.org/en/news/45>:

- V Catalan Law Libraries Conference (by Miguel Navas-Fernández)
- Peru: National Library's Head confirmed in office (by Guillermo García-Capcha)
- Japan Earthquake: Libraries to Recover (by Mika Lawler)
- New publication: "2011 Best Practices for Government Libraries" (by Miguel Navas-Fernández)

Publications

The Section's publication, *Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments* (IFLA Professional Report No. 106), is available on the IFLA website at <http://www.ifla.org/en/publications/guidelines-for-libraries-of-government-departments>. The *Guidelines* provide advice, examples, and models of behaviors, services, and best practices to be used or adapted by government librarians worldwide.

In 2011, the *Guidelines* have been translated into Spanish and published as IFLA Professional Report no. 133. It is available in hard copy and online at <http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/publications/professional-report/133.pdf>.

They have been translated into French and Hindi as well, but will be published in 2012.

IFLA Journal (Quarterly journal of IFLA)

The section is proud to have two of its members serving on the editorial committee of the *IFLA Journal*. Jerry W. Mansfield and Sanjay K. Bihani regularly provide blind, peer review of the numerous articles submitted for publication consideration each year.

Members registered to the Section

On data 31 Dec. 2011, there were 52 IFLA members registered to the Government Libraries Section - 13 National Associations, 38 Institutions and 1 Student Affiliate, from more than 30 countries from all continents.

Standing Committee and Corresponding members

This year was an election year and during this biennial event we received three new members to the section and three new officers. The officers for the 2011-2013 term are: **Miguel Navas-Fernández** (Catalonia, Spain) - a member of the Standing Committee since 2009. He has served as Information Coordinator / Web Editor for the last 2 years and now he has been elected as the new Chair. He has been working in the government libraries field for 7 years. Currently, he is a librarian in the Law Libraries Network of Catalonia.

Sanjay K. Bihani (India), presently based in London (UK), has been elected as Secretary / Treasurer. Mr. Bihani has gained much experience in IFLA activities during recent years. He has been a member of the Section since 2007 and this is his 2nd term. He is also an Editorial Committee Member of the *IFLA Journal*. Previously, he was a member of CLM (Copyright and Legal Matters Committee) and RSCAO (Regional Standing Committee of Asia and Oceania) of IFLA during 2007-2011, being now part of the latter as a Corresponding member.

Guillermo García Capcha (Peru) is a new member of the Standing Committee. He had his first contact with IFLA last year, when he received a grant to attend the congress in Gothenburg, where he read a paper about the information management within a local government in Lima, Peru. He has been elected as the Information Coordinator / Web Editor.

Members that continue in the Standing Committee for the following 2 years or have been re-elected for 4 more years are: **María del Carmen Díez-Hoyo** (Spain), **Maria Goeckeritz** (Germany), **Inger Jepsson** (Sweden), **Mika Lawler** (Japan), **Jerry W. Mansfield** (Chair 2007-2011, Library of Congress, USA), **Patrick Ryan** (member since 2005, and former Secretary / Treasurer), **Pierre-Alain Tilliette** (France) and **Emma Voskanyan** (Russian Federation).

We welcome new members: **Margarita García-Moreno** (Deputy Director of Publications, Ministry of Defence, Spain), **Elina Kähö** (Information Specialist at the Information Services of the Ministry of Finance, Finland), and **Beacher Wiggins** (Director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access, Library of Congress, USA). We give them our warmest welcome, expect the best from them and hope that they will have a very exciting stay with us.

The following members are departing after having served one or more 4-year terms: **Rebecca Davies** (United Kingdom, former chair), **Laurie Atkinson** (Australia), **Gundula Felten** (Germany), **Maija Jussilainen** (Finland) and **Fonkam Azu'u Samuel** (Cameroon). We thank them for their valuable contribution to the work of the section.

Additionally, we have our full complement of corresponding members as follows: **Magdalena Biota** (Documentation and Information Center, Information Services, Ministry of Economy and Public Finance, Argentina), **Hannah Fischer** (Library of Congress, USA), **Pavel Kiselev** (Legal Assistant to General Director, Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library, Russian Federation), **Carmel Idim** (Library - Public Service Institute in Abuja, Nigeria), and **Fatima Alloul** (Center for Legal Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Beirut, Lebanon).

Government Libraries Section Outreach - Social Media

During 2011, the Section used different communication platforms and social networks such as the Blog, Mailing List, Facebook and Twitter, in order to best promote the Section's actions and help grow an international community of government libraries.

As for the Blog (<http://blogs.ifla.org/government-libraries/>), it began working in February 2010 and during 2011 it has had 17 entries. At the beginning, free comments were allowed, but after the amount of commercials and spam received, we decided to allow them only for registered users. The result of this action was that no comments have been received after we made the decision to require registration. Nevertheless, we know that the Blog is read and it is a powerful communication media.

The "GOVLIB" mailing list (<http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwsympa.fcgi/info/govlib>) has reached 70 subscribers. A mailing list is a basic way of communication, but still many people use email as the main resource to receive news and notifications.

Regarding the social networks, the Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/IFLA-Government-Libraries-Section/157802674302444>), during 2011 it has received 119 "likes" (followers), 7,611 interactions (times that our publications have been read) and 39 comments. As for the Twitter account (http://twitter.com/#!/IFLA_GLS), it was created on September, 85 people have been following us and we have been included by the users in 10 LIS lists.

Administrative funds

For the year 2011, the Section was allotted 400 Euros. They have been spent in the works of the translations of the “Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments”, this way:

- Revision of Spanish translation: 200 Euros (100 each to Miguel Navas-Fernández and Magdalena Biota, both members of the Section)
- French Translation: 100 Euros (Pierre-Alain Tilliette, member of the Section)
- Hindi Translation: 100 Euro (Sangeeta Bihani)

Project funds

Two proposals were sent to the IFLA headquarters in order to apply for projects funds for 2012. One was for translations of the Guidelines, and the other for the building of an international online directory of government libraries. Both proposals were refused, and therefore the Section will only have the regular administrative funds (400 euros) for 2012.

- Jerry W. Mansfield, Chair
January 1-August15, 2011
- Miguel Navas-Fernández, Chair
August 16, 2011 – present

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