



<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s3/index.htm>

## **REPORT to IFLA**

### **Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Australasia (APLA)**

**August 2007**

#### **APLA Activities**

We held a *Parliamentary History and Heritage: The Role of Parliamentary Libraries seminar* hosted by the Queensland parliament in Brisbane on 17 June 06.

On 26 July another very successful APLA conference - Innovation and Collaboration - was hosted by the Australian Parliamentary Library in Canberra. National experts in their fields and also three Federal parliamentarians presented papers at this conference which delegates found very stimulating and thought provoking – especially on opportunities being created for collaboration between parliamentary libraries and other major institutional libraries. Two themes which members put forward were the increased desire for regional and local news content, the news (sometimes independent) that is now on the web and also the need for timeliness in delivery and accessibility 24/7.

#### **APLA Website Redeveloped**

All the papers of this 2007 conference will soon be available on the redeveloped APLA website hosted by the NSW Parliament. <http://143.119.255.87/APLA/index.htm>

The website now has conference papers for many of the previous annual conferences held around Australia.

Investigation is being made to develop a Member's only area with a wiki and/or blog facility to assist the parliamentary librarians in Australasia communicate on relevant issues and also develop a knowledge archive.

#### **APLA Meeting on Media and Technology held in association with On-Line Conference February 2007**

A Media and Technology Workshop was held at the NSW Parliamentary Library on 2 February 2007 in order to take advantage of attendance at the On-Line Conference and also to provide a suitable forum for the technical professionals of each of our libraries to meet and discuss solutions to technical issues. Mary-Jane Stannus, Head of Content Services, Australian Broadcasting Commission attended the meeting.



## **APLA and Consortia**

As per the decision of the last AGM, Kate Curr and Juliet Scaife were tasked with approaching Media Monitors and Rehome as to whether they would be interested in any type of consortium pricing for the delivery of imaged articles. Subsequently Rehome was taken over by Media Monitors. AAP was therefore approached as well as Media Monitors and a report of initial pricings forwarded to each Parliamentary Library.

This matter was again on the agenda for 2007 AGM

An agreement was signed with CAVAL Training on 26 June 2006 to recognise APLA as a Consortium for Discounts on Training Services.

## **Representation on National Licensing Forum**

APLA was represented on the National Licensing Forum by Roxanne Missingham, Australian Parliamentary Librarian, ALIA President for 2007, and recently elected to the IFLA Standing Committee of IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section 2007-09.

The outcomes of the May 2007 meeting of the National Licensing Forum and the development of Electronic Resources Australia have exciting potential for APLA libraries. In August offers have been made for pricing on a select range of electronic journal products.

## **APLA - A Charter for Parliamentary Libraries**

A sub-committee of APLA has been working on developing a charter of services and resources associated with parliamentary libraries in Australasia. It is proposed that the document could be used for parliamentary libraries to ensure that they are meeting acceptable standards and benchmarks and for use by parliamentary libraries that are being developed in some of the Pacific island countries. Progress on the project has been slow due to the dispersed membership of the working group but it is hoped that a draft document will be available in 2008. The working group has as its members Mary Seefried, Queensland Parliamentary Librarian, Moira Fraser, New Zealand Parliamentary Librarian and Juliet Scaife, Tasmanian Parliamentary Librarian.

## **Major Organisational Reviews**

During 2006-07 the Queensland Parliamentary Library and Education Service was reviewed with the final report and recommendations being received from the Speaker on 15 May 2007. Implementation of recommendations is proceeding. Parliamentary Education Services is now no longer with the Library, nor historical project function and relevant staff have been transferred to a new Community Engagement Unit within the Queensland Parliamentary service.

The report of the review of the South Australian Parliamentary Library by an external reviewer was also delivered in August 2006 to the SA Parliament. Implementation of that report has proceeded during the year.

Across the board parliamentary budget cuts have also had an impact on staffing levels within the NSW Parliamentary Library.

In February 2007, the Australian Parliamentary Library undertook a Continuous Improvement Review of its Research Branch. The Report noted the continuing need for staff specialisation, but also noted the need for the Research Branch to be able to respond flexibly to new issues and subjects as they emerge. Implementation has commenced with consistent selection criteria and duty statements developed in consultation with staff and broad banding of pay scales and some review of classification levels of some staff.

A Review is being undertaken of the ACT Government and Assembly Library, and expected receipt of the report is in the next financial year.

### **APLAP Conference**

In November 2006, the New Zealand Parliamentary Library hosted the Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Asia and the Pacific 9 APLAP) Conference. Forty two delegates from 19 countries attended including 9 Pacific countries. Katherine Close, External Services Manager has been elected as the president of APLAP. A separate report will be given to IFLA

### **Welcome and farewell to colleagues.**

Dr Coral Stanley, a researcher within the SA Parliamentary Library was appointed to the position of Director, SA Parliamentary Library in January 2007. Jenni Newton-Farrelly is Deputy Director.

The Victorian Parliamentary Library has also seen significant change during this year, firstly with the resignation of Pat Gregory, Deputy Librarian in October 2006 and then followed by the news of Adrian Gallagher's resignation effective from 14 June 2007. We wish them both well in their new positions.

Ros Membrey, who has been so integral to APLA's development and made such a significant contribution firstly as WA Parliamentary Librarian and then in her position at APL finally decided to retire on 14 April 2007. We do wish her an enjoyable retirement and hope to continue to see her at APLA functions, as she will always be welcome.

Mary Seefried

President  
August 2007

At the July 27 2007 AGM , the following officers were elected.

President :	Mary Seefried ( Queensland )
Vice-President and Treasurer:	Juliet Scaife ( Tasmania)
Secretary:	Judy Ballantyne ( West Australia)