



Library and Research Services for Parliaments ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

The IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments (IFLAPARL) had an active year during the period September 2015 to August 2016. The Section completed the following activities that were aligned with its Action Plan for the year.

Capacity building activities

The highlight of the Section's activities was the [annual satellite meeting/pre-conference](#) that was held in Washington, D.C., hosted by the US Library of Congress, 9-12 August 2016. Over 145 delegates from 48 countries attended, including from parliaments participating in an IFLA event for the first time. Based on feedback from participants, the following were benefits gained from attending the pre-conference: (1) 98% learned about new ideas, new initiatives and what others were doing; (2) 67% liked networking and interacting with others around the world; and (3) 32% learned about the US legislative system and the Library of Congress. The pre-conference was preceded by a 2-day invitation only capacity building workshop sponsored by the US House Democracy Partnership (HDP) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The IFLAPARL sessions at the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in Columbus also received positive feedback. The Section convened an open session entitled "*Meeting the needs of parliamentary clients: a knowledge sharing session*". This was an interactive session, with six short presentations followed by group discussions. Each of the presenters provided a short and specific example of an innovative project, and left the audience with two questions for discussion in small groups. The presentations were highly engaging and the group discussions lively and informative. A report on this and the other joint sessions can be found at <http://www.ifla.org/node/10930>.

Following the capacity building workshop in Cape Town, South Africa, in August 2015, the National Assembly of Zambia made a proposal to the Inter-Parliamentary Union to sponsor a 5-day training workshop on building digital repositories using DSpace. The workshop took place 13-17 June 2016, facilitated by two IPU sponsored consultants, Dr. Edmund Balnaves, specialist in Library Systems and Services and former Chair of the IFLA ICT Section, and Mrs. Susan Mansfield, Editor of the Official Report (Hansard), Scottish Parliament. The highlight of the workshop was the actual setting up of a prototype DSpace repository.

Promoting of library and research services and information sharing activities

One of the goals under the Section's 2015/2016 action plan was to promote library and research services as well as the work of IFLA and the IFLAPARL Section to parliaments around the world, and to regional parliamentary networks.

During the period of September 2015 to August 2016, the Section shared news and information through the IFLA discussion list, the Section's page on the IFLA website, and the Section's newsletter. Two issues of the [Section newsletter](#) were published during the year. Contributions to the newsletter from members in the IFLAPARL community resulted in improved sharing of information, especially on what other libraries are doing for their parliamentarians. Papers and presentations from the annual conference and pre-conference were also posted on the section website.

Members of the IFLAPARL Standing Committee were actively engaged in regional networks. Presentations on IFLA activities were made at meetings of the European Centre of Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) in September 2015 and the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) in December 2015.

The recently published [Guidelines for Parliamentary Research Services](#) was distributed to participants at the above regional meetings to promote best practices and guidelines for parliamentary research. The IFLA-IPU joint *Guidelines* was translated into [Portuguese](#) in July 2016, courtesy of the European Parliamentary Research Service and the UNDP. In response to a request from the IFLA Standards Committee, the Section launched a survey on the use and usefulness of the Section's guidelines in July 2016. Forty-three individuals responded with valuable insight: a [report of the survey results](#) was published on the Section's website.

The IFLAPARL Section continued its collaboration with the IPU during the year 2015/2016. Members of the Section responded to the IPU call for input to the 2016 World e-Parliament Report. Eleven submissions were received on the innovative use of technology in parliaments and libraries. Some of selected for use [in the 2016 World e-Parliament Report](#), and the Section received acknowledgement of its contribution to the report. The Section also provided input and review of the agenda for the 2016 World e-Parliament Conference held in Valparaiso, Chile.

IFLAPARL Standing Committee

The IFLAPARL Standing Committee met twice in Columbus, Ohio, 13 August and 16 August 2016. [Minutes of both meetings are posted online](#). The Standing Committee also communicated via email and began using Basecamp, the online discussion forum made available by IFLA, for collaboration.