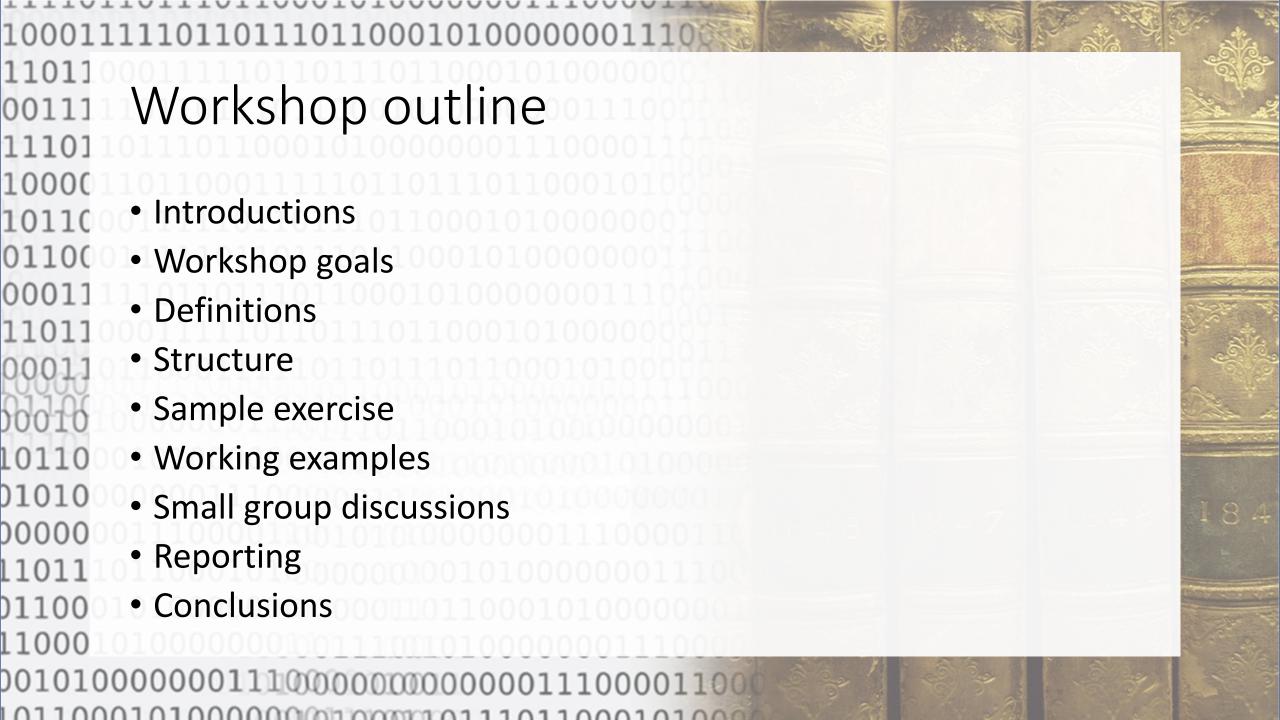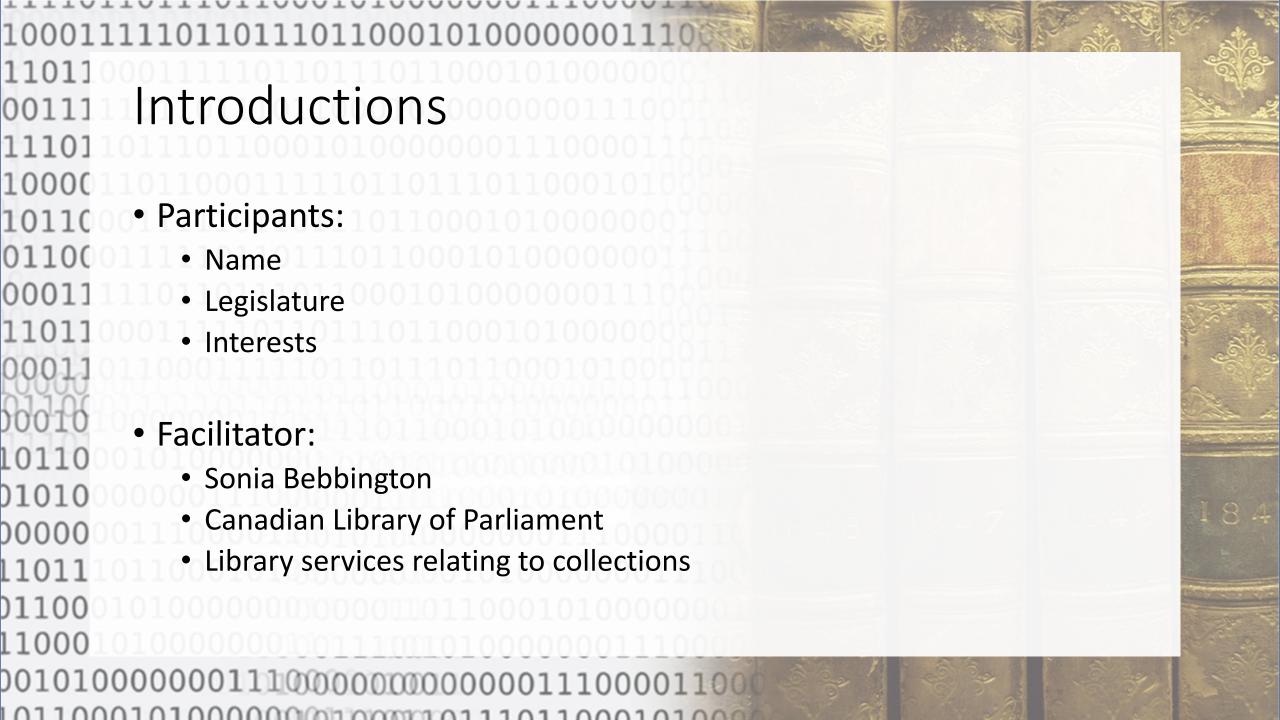# The Influence of the Digital Society on Parliaments

IFLA-PARL Pre-Conference Workshop,

Athens, 2019.

Workshop facilitated by Sonia Bebbington, Library of Parliament, Canada.

Workshop outline

- Introductions
- Workshop goals
- Definitions
- Structure
- Sample exercise
- Working examples
- Small group discussions
- Reporting
- Conclusions

Introductions

- Participants:
  - Name
  - Legislature
  - Interests

- Facilitator:
  - Sonia Bebbington
  - Canadian Library of Parliament
  - Library services relating to collections

Workshop goals

- Discussion-based workshop in which:

  - Participants will explore with their international counterparts the aspects of the digital society which have an influence on the people, content and processes of Parliament;

  - Through small group discussions, participants will develop a greater understanding of the nature and extent of the influence of digital shifts in their own and others' jurisdictions.

Definitions

Defining the digital society

- Knowledge society, information society, technological revolution, digital society…

- Digital is more than just technology, it's how the technology can help us connect and collaborate with each other, and with the information and services we need and want, in a trusted way. It's a shift in mindset that allows us to seek and harness opportunities to work and live smarter within and across our communities.
  - Queensland Government Chief Information Office, 2018

Definition

Defining the e-Parliament

- An e-Parliament places technologies, knowledge and standards at the heart of its business processes and embodies the values of collaboration, inclusiveness, participation and openness to the people.
  - IPU World e-Parliament Report, 2018

The e-Parliament

- The IPU e-Parliament report identifies four components:
  - People, Process, Architecture and Data

- It identifies common guiding principles
  - Transformation (of processes)
  - Timeliness (of dissemination or decisions)
  - Transparency (of information)
  - Openness (of access)
  - Cost efficiency (reduction)

Workshop structure

- Identify elements of the digital society

- Discuss the impact of the identified elements on each of the following areas of consideration:

  - People

  - Content

  - Structures and services

Workshop structure

- **People**:
  - Members as legislators and as representatives: what is the impact?
  - Citizens: engagement, and in communication with members : what are the expectations?
  - Administrations and support, including libraries and research services

- **Content**:
  - Parliamentary Publishing and data: think about standards, openness
  - Impact on library collections and research products
    - Consider acquired collections, incl. parliamentary collections; the library's own publications and research products and services

Workshop structure

- **Structures and services**:
  - Parliamentary processes (e.g. committee work): who is responsible for what?
  - Services (including library research and reference services; committee/associations support/member support)
    - How do these evolve?
  - Infrastructure and platforms, including social media
    - How is social media used by the administration? By the members? What are citizens' changing expectations in the face of social media availability?
    - What is required of modern ICT infrastructure? What skills are required?

Sample exercise

- The decline of traditional publishing models (books and periodicals), and the emergence of new information formats (e-publishing, datasets, visual content, etc.)

    - What is the impact on people? How is it different for each group?

    - What is the impact on content? As a type of content, what other impacts does this have? Is there a process or financial impact?

    - What is the structural impact?

Further examples

- 24/7 news cycle and social media as news source
- Expectations around openness and transparency
- Social media, citizen engagement and expectations
- Committee support (administrative, research, communications)
- Parliamentary publishing and data
- Other library services
- … Others?

Small group discussions

Select one of our examples, and discuss the impact on:

- People
  - Members; citizens; administrations and support

- Content
  - Parliamentary publishing and data; library collections and research products

- Structures and services
  - Parliamentary processes ; services including library research and reference services; committee/association/member support; Infrastructure and platforms (incl. ICT requirements; may incl. social media)

Reporting

- Identify one person from your group to report back on your discussion

- For each example, name three or four key observations made by your group during the discussion

- Which of the three areas (people, content, structures/services) was most affected by the example?

Conclusions

- Digital is more than just technology, it's how the technology can help us connect and collaborate with each other, and with the information and services we need and want, in a trusted way. It's a shift in mindset that allows us to seek and harness opportunities to work and live smarter within and across our communities.

  - Queensland Government Chief Information Office, 2018

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How is your experience reflected in these definitions?

Did we achieve the goals set out of developing our understanding of the influence of the digital society on Parliament across our jurisdictions?

Thank you / Ευχαριστούμε

Key references:

Inter-Parliamentary Union *World e-Parliament Report 2018*

(available in English, French and Spanish)

Queensland Government CIO Glossary

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