



GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s17/index.htm>

Annual Report 2005-2006 – From Oslo to Seoul

Scope

The Section promotes the discovery, collection, bibliographic control, preservation and dissemination of information from and about governments, inter-governmental organizations and public non-governmental organizations.

Membership

The Section has 17 standing committee members and 4 corresponding members. Section membership stands at approximately 120 members.

Officers

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Memories of Seoul...



Other Standing Committee Members

Petrina Amonoo (2003-2007)
Chief Librarian
Economic Commission for Africa

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

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

Claude Lecrubier (Mme) (2003-2007)
Conservateur en chef
Bibliothèque administrative de la Ville de
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Emma Voskanyan (2003-2007)
Chief of Department of Official Publications
Russian State Library

**Irina L. Lynden, (2003-2007), Russian
Consultant, JSTOR, MacArthur Foundation
Project for Russia, Adjunct Assistant
Professor,**
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Irja Peltonen (2003-2007)
Tietopalvelupäällikkö / Information Manager
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Junko Sato (2003-2007)
Chief, Acquisition and Indexing Section
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Corresponding Members

Irina Andreeva, 1, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**Gaston Bernie, Directeur, Bibliothèque de
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**Sandra Fine, Director Legislative Information
Center, Israel**

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

GIOPS Activities

The Government Information and Official Publications Section had a very productive year beginning with the Oslo Conference and the Standing Committee meetings where a number of projects were launched, including the proposal for a seminar on access to government publications in Africa in collaboration with FAIFE and the Africa Section and a publication of the Best Practices in Government Information, a compilation of papers updated from their original presentation at the GIOPS Open Sessions.

The Standing Committee also discussed the collaboration with the Government Libraries Section on the "Guidelines for Government Libraries". Nancy Bolt, who is leading the project, attended the GIOPS Standing Committee Meetings and explained that the chapters already written would be reviewed and remaining draft chapters written for presentation at Seoul in 2006. The final version would be presented to the IFLA conference in Durban in 2007. It was intended to broaden the participants to include those who could not attend IFLA conferences. The GIOPS Standing Committee discussed this additional project and as there were some Standing Committee members willing to work on it, agreed to accept this additional project as well.

The acting administration of GIOPS was stabilized as the Acting Chair, Jane Wu was elected Chair and Jackie Druery was elected Secretary. Peter Raggett was elected

Treasurer. Appreciation was expressed to the outgoing officers. Appreciation was also expressed by all to the Conference Sub-Committee Chair, Ms. Eleanor Frierson, for the excellent GIOPS programs presented during her term. The ongoing work of Ms. Emma Voskanyan was acknowledged in ensuring Russian translations of open session papers, including doing many of them herself. Elisabeth Sundholm was presented with a scroll in recognition of the work on the Committee for two terms.

Collaboration with the Library and Research Services for Parliaments

The combined Library and Research Services for Parliaments and Government Information and Official Publications collaboration resulted in an incredible six hour show-stopping session with stimulating speakers and excellent speakers highlighting the importance of user access. The full session included the following papers:

The Model e-Parliament: dynamic engine for democratic engagement

- The Joint Czech and Slovak Digital Parliamentary Library
KAREL SOSNA (Parliamentary Library of the Czech Republic, Czech Republic) and EVA MALACKOVA (Parliamentary Library of the Slovak Republic, Slovak Republic)
- Sharing best technology practices around the globe: Initiatives of the global center for information and communication technology in parliament
ANDY RICHARDSON (Parliamentary Resource Center)

Technology Strategies and Tools for Dynamic Information Delivery

- Content Creation and Management: What's Next for Government Libraries and Information
STEPHEN ABRAM (Sirsi Dynix and Special Libraries Association)
- Improving the User Experience: Tips and Strategies for Success
JANE DYSART (Dysart Jones and Associates)
- Policy issues regarding electronic government and web accessibility in Japan
TAKASHI KOGA (National Institute of Informatics, Japan)

Government Information, Dynamic Success for Business:

- Accessibility of Government Information as a Determinant of Inward Foreign Direct Investment in Africa
ABRAHAM A. AZUBUIKE (ECA Library, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
- Better for Business: How the Welsh Assembly Government Library and Publications Service has transformed its services to fit business policy/programme delivery and business people in Wales
REBECCA DAVIES (Assembly Library and Publications Service, Welsh Assembly Government/Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru)

- The YritysSuomi (EnterpriseFinland) portal as one-stop-shop for public information to small and medium sized enterprises in Finland
JAANA KAAKKOLA (Prime Minister's Office, Finland)
- Government Information and Business and Legal Centers in Russia
EMMA VOSKANYAN (Department of Official Publications, Russian State Library)
- Statistics for Decision-making: Building Awareness and Facilitating Access.
VICKI CROMPTON (Communications and Information Services/Communications et services d'information, Statistics Canada/Statistique Canada)

Collaboration with FAIFE and Africa Section on Africa Seminar

Ms. Irina Lynden, Ms. Junko Sato and Ms. Jane Wu worked on establishing the collaboration between GIOPS and the Africa Section of IFLA and FAIFE as work continued during 2005 on the preparations for the Africa Seminar and sponsors were sought. The Subcommittee was led by Ms Petrina Amonoo, GIOPS Standing Committee member and Chief Librarian at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Addis Ababa. Through her efforts the necessary funding was secured for this regional follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society recommendations. With this critical milestone achieved, planning, organizing and fine tuning the Seminar began in earnest and it was then scheduled for March 2006. Ten countries were represented and excellent papers were presented on the challenges and issues surrounding access to government information in Africa. The speakers and their papers were chosen to give a broad geographic and thematic coverage. The Seminar was a resounding success with three times more attendees than originally anticipated!

The GIOPS Standing Committee discussed ideas about how to move forward using the political momentum of WSIS and providing a follow-up program in Durban in 2007 in collaboration with the same partners. The resolution on “The formation of Access to Information Network-Africa (ATINA)” was presented and approved. ATINA initial membership would consist of the participants of the Africa seminar and it would seek status as an IFLA discussion group. There was consensus to support the discussion group and the 2007 follow-up seminar.

It is inevitable that the Seminar will have enduring benefits because, as noted in the Report by F. Kirkwood, posted on the GIOPS website, a major outcome of the tri-partite collaboration is the formation of an African network, ATINA as a Discussion Group of IFLA. Ms Amonoo and her excellent team at the ECA Library, along with FAIFE and the Africa Section deserve the credit for making the Seminar a wonderful success.

It was agreed that part of the GIOPS project funds balance should be used to produce and distribute a CD-ROM of the papers of the Africa Seminar to members.

Best Practices in Government Information

While it was agreed that GIOPS programs were generally quite well attended and the presentations were of a very high standard, it was thought unfortunate that these papers were not all available in paper format as only one paper can be recommended each year for publication in the IFLA Journal. After some discussion it was agreed that approval should be sought from IFLA Headquarters to publish these best practices as a separate monograph. Irina Lynden and Jane Wu agreed to work on this project which was then also incorporated in the GIOPS Strategic Plan.