



ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007 – From Seoul to Durban

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS (GIOPS)

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 including corresponding members. Section membership stands at 115 members, including personal members.

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Memories of Durban





Planning for Durban 2007

Collaboration with other Sections

During 2006 and 2007 there was sustained collaboration between the **Government Libraries, Government Information and Official Publications** and **Library and Research Services for Parliaments** Sections on preparing and reviewing the *Guidelines for libraries of government departments*. Individual members wrote on specific topics and provided comments during the year, preparing a substantive revision in time for a combined tri-partite hearing on the draft guidelines in open session. While the lead was taken by the Government Libraries Section, the GIOPS members made good contributions and there were also many constructive comments and suggestions received during the open session where the Chairs of each Section made presentations.

GIOPS also collaborated fully with the Africa Section and FAIFE in preparing for the founding of the Access to Information Network Africa (ATINA) and for its first open session during the Durban Conference. There were excellent papers dealing with the [International copyright trends and access to knowledge initiatives in Africa](#) by Denise Rosemary Nicholson from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, with whether [Information management in Africa to undergo a change?](#), by Peter M. Sebina from the University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana, and with [The right of access to information: Civil society and good governance in South Africa](#), by Albert Arko-Cobbah from the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. The paper from Ghaji Badawi from Bayero University, Kano,

Nigeria stimulated much discussion. It was entitled [Public libraries as sources of information to the disadvantaged groups in societies: a study of the information and educational needs of prostitutes in Kano, Nigeria.](#)

The open session was concluded by a Town Hall style of discussion where a consensus was reached on the best way to take the ATINA forward and by distribution of the Proceedings on CD-ROM of the two Africa Seminars, produced by GIOPS.

Collaboration with the Science and Technology Libraries Section was also initiated to prepare for a joint IFLA Pre-Conference in Montreal in 2008 and meetings were held during the Durban Conference to map an action plan.

The very successful **2007 Government Information and Official Publications open session was based on the theme** “*Government and science: progress, development and partnerships for libraries of the future*” It was very well attended and there was also general audience appreciation for the fact that IFLA had been able to provide simultaneous translation.

The following excellent papers were presented:

- [Between the devil and the deep blue sea: how the publishing department of an international organization tries to address the challenges of information delivery in a changing environment](#)
VALENTINA KALK (The World Bank, Washington, USA)
- [In search of intergovernmental organisations: the development of an IGO search engine](#)
DAVID OLDENKAMP and AMALIA MONROE (Indiana University Bloomington Libraries, Bloomington, USA)
- [The United States Department of Agriculture and Albert R. Mann Library's Economics, Statistics and Market Information System](#)
NAN HYLAND (Cornell University, Ithaca, USA)
- [Creating library partnerships: the United Nations' changing role in disseminating information and knowledge](#)
LINDA STODDART (Dag Hammarskjöld Library, New York, USA)
- [Impact of e-government on management and use of government information in Kenya](#)
NERISA KAMAR and MILLICENT ONGO'NDO (Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya)

Ms. Jane Wu and Ms. Irina Lynden are in the final stages of editing the best papers from conference programs from past years with an emphasis on representing as many countries as possible. They have submitted a next-to-final version to the publisher and are awaiting finalization of some of the detailed text manipulation and formatting.

As outgoing Chair of GIOPS I wish to express my personal thanks for all the hard work and support of the membership, particularly of the other GIOPS Officers and the GIOPS Standing Committee. It has been a rare privilege and I am confident that GIOPS is now in very good hands with its new executive.

Jane Wu, Rome, ITALY October 2007