



## Government Information & Official Publications Section (GIOPS)

### Annual Report 2007/2009

#### 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 13 standing committee members and 4 corresponding members. Section membership stands at 115 members, including personal members.

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## Activities, 2007-2008

- Several members completed their terms as members of the Standing Committee in Durban. We thank them for their work and support - Petrina Amonoo (Ethiopia), Sigrun Habermann-Box (Switzerland), Claude Lecrubier (France), Irina Lynden (United States), Sandra Peterson (United States), Junko Sato (United States), Emma Voskanian (Russia); and Jane Wu (Italy). A special thanks to Jane for her very able work as Chair.
- Several new members were welcomed to the Standing Committee to serve through 2011 - Marcy Allen (United States), Yu-jin Choi (Korea), Nancy Hyland (United States), Nerisa Kamar (Kenya), Takashi Koga (Japan), Alice Ramohlola (South Africa), Ursula Stanek (Germany) and Sylvia Teasdale (Canada).
- Section membership stands at 99 members from forty-two countries.
- We had an excellent response to our Call for Papers (see Appendix A) for the GIOPS program at the 74<sup>th</sup> WLIC in Québec, Canada. The following four presentations – with seven speakers representing four countries (Canada, Rwanda, USA, China) – were given :
  - Gillian Cantello and John Stegenga (Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Canada) presented their work on archiving Canadian government publications. Their paper "[Government web content in Canada: a national library web archive perspective](#)"
  - Andrea Singer (Indiana University Libraries, Bloomington, USA) talked about her work in ensuring permanent electronic access to international statistics. Andrea's paper "[Archiving foreign government statistical websites for all at Indiana University Libraries](#)"

- Anne-Marie Auger and Jonast Mutwaza (Tribunal penal international pour le Rwanda, Kigali, Rwanda) discussed very important issues around preserving the documentation of the international tribunal in Rwanda in their paper, "[La documentation juridique au Rwanda: l'accessibilité par le biais du numérique](#)"

- Starr Hoffman (University of North Texas Libraries, Denton, USA) discussed projects at her university to ensure permanent access to government websites that may no longer be current because agencies of the U.S. federal government have ceased to exist. Her paper, "[Preserving access to government websites: development and practice in the Cybercemetery](#)"

The following paper was not presented at Québec but was made available on the WLIC conference program website and the CD which was distributed at the conference.

"[Access to Government Information Resources via RSS: Digitalized Individual Files of Self-employees in China](#)", Xiaowen Ding (Library of Jiangsu Provincial Party Institute, Nanjing, China) but the paper is available online and on the CD that was distributed to conference participants.

We co-sponsored a program with three other IFLA sections – Law Libraries, Library and Research Services for Parliaments, Government Libraries – titled, *The seal of approval: official and authentic law in digital form*. The purpose of this program was to investigate technical and policy issues to ensure authenticity of legal information issued in digital form – not only the text of law, but also other kinds of legal information such as court opinions, administrative orders, and official gazettes. The papers can be found on the IFLA website at <http://archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/Programme2008.htm>

- We hosted a Satellite Meeting, *Science Policies and Science Portals* in collaboration with the Science and Technology Libraries Section. Jane Wu, Past Chair, GIOPS worked with members of the S&T Section for several years to make this program a reality. We were very fortunate to have Howard Alper, Chair, Science, Trade and Innovation Council of Canada as the keynote speaker for the satellite conference. Dr. Alper presented Canada's approach to shaping innovation through governmental policies and incentives. The other topics of this meeting were the paradigm shift of the information world and Alexandria Library, and issues of science policy and science portals in China, Korea, UK and France. The presentations are available at [http://lib.tkk.fi/ifla/IFLA\\_Science\\_Portals/](http://lib.tkk.fi/ifla/IFLA_Science_Portals/).
- Two new publications were released this year. Irina Lynden and Jane Wu's book, *Best Practices in Government Information: a Global Perspective*, published by K.G. Saur is an edited compilation of papers presented at GIOPS programs in the last five years. Nancy Bolt and Suzanne Burge completed, *Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments (IFLA Professional Reports: 106)*. This publication is the result of several years of planning, meetings, writing, and hearings by Nancy and Suzanne of the Government Libraries section with considerable input from Jerry Mansfield, Chair of the Government Libraries Section, and Jane Wu, Past-Chair, GIOPS.
- Work continued on the Africa Seminar Project and the distribution of the papers on the CD-ROM to libraries in Africa.

- Instead of updating the GIOPS brochure, we decided to produce a bookmark. The bookmark was designed by Judy Nesbitt, Queen's University, Canada. It has been distributed at conferences.

## Activities, 2008-2009

- This was the year to nominate and elect new members to the Standing Committee. We welcomed three new members for the 2009-2013 term – David Oldenkamp, USA; Narios Rankoto Mpholefole, South Africa; and, Satendra Singh Dhaka, India.
- This was also the year to elect a new executive – Eleanor Frierson, USA, was elected Chair; Marcy Allen, USA was elected as Secretary for a second term; and, Takashi Koga agreed to stay on as Information Coordinator. Congratulations, to all!
- GIOPS worked with the Law Libraries Section to plan a satellite conference in Sydney prior to the IFLA WLIC in Brisbane in 2010. The topic of the conference was the changing nature of depository programs and legal deposit. Space had been booked at the State Library in Sydney and negotiations were underway to begin the planning for the day with the State Library when the announcement was made that the conference would not be held in Australia but would move to Sweden. After much deliberation with the Law Libraries Section and discussions at the Standing Committee meetings of both sections in Milan it was decided not to pursue the satellite conference for Sweden because of concerns around attendance and location.
- We had an excellent response to our Call for Papers (see Appendix A) for the GIOPS program, *Government publications as cultural heritage: preserving the past, keeping up with the present, embracing the future*, at the 75<sup>th</sup> WLIC in Milan. The following five presentations were accepted – with six speakers representing five countries (Botswana, Libya, USA, India, China). The papers presented were:

-[Transformation of the U.S. International Exchange Service: Project Report](#) by Judy Mansfield and Beacher Wiggins, Library of Congress, Washington, USA

-[Botswana Government Publications: turning the pages of culture](#)  
Violet Radiporo, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana

-[Access to Government Information in India in the Digital Environment](#)  
Paramajeet K. Walia, University of Delhi, Delhi, India

-[Providing government information and services in the Chinese public library](#)  
Jin Xuemei, Shenzhen Science and Technology Library, Shenzhen, China

The following paper was not presented at Milan due to unfortunate last minute circumstances but was made available on the WLIC conference program website and the CD which was distributed at the conference.

-[General Guideline for design of a low cost digital library for special library users in developing countries and the Arabic speaking world](#)

Ramadan Elaïess (University of Garyounis, Benghazi, Libya)

## **Appendix A:**

### **Call for Papers, 2008**

#### **Government Information and Official Publications Section**

Theme: Globalization of government information: creating digital archives for increased access  
The IFLA Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS) invites submissions for its programme for the 74th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress 10-14 August 2008 to be held in Québec, Canada. In keeping with the IFLA conference theme, "Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding", the GIOPS sub-theme is "Globalization of government information: creating digital archives for increased access".

Government, non-governmental and intergovernmental knowledge resources play an important role in our global society. Increasingly these resources are either born digital or are being digitized for enhanced access by people everywhere. Governments at many levels, institutions, non-governmental and international organizations, and individuals are collaborating locally, nationally, regionally and internationally to make these resources available digitally and to ensure that they are properly preserved and archived for sustained use by future generations.

Submissions are invited which discuss collaborative digitization projects that make available historical or current official and/or government resources. Topics covered might include the project's development, content and content management, use of and adherence to digitization standards and benefits to a globalizing world. Submissions of a more theoretical approach will also be considered. Four papers will be selected for presentation.

### **Call for Papers, 2009**

#### **Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS)**

Theme: "Government publications as cultural heritage: preserving the past, keeping up with the present, embracing the future"

The Government Information and Official Publications Section invites submissions for its programme for the World Library and Information Congress 75th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress 23-27 August 2009 to be held in Milan, Italy. In keeping with the IFLA conference theme, "Libraries create futures: building on cultural heritage", the GIOPS programme theme is "Government publications as cultural heritage: preserving the past, keeping up with the present, embracing the future".

Government, non-governmental and intergovernmental knowledge resources are important components of the world's cultural heritage. They are often the largest and most valuable collections of primary source documents representing the history of a jurisdiction such as a nation, a time period, or the interactions between jurisdictions on a global scale. There have been dramatic changes in the way that these publications are created, disseminated, collected, accessed and preserved. This programme will address the historical importance of these publications, the issues surrounding the changing nature of legal deposit programs, and, the challenges of ensuring that this important part of our cultural heritage continues to be preserved and disseminated in the digital age.

Submissions are invited which discuss the publications of international organizations, non-governmental organizations, national governments, provincial/state governments or those that take a comparative

approach. Topics covered might include the historical significance of these publications; the history, importance and implications of the changing nature of deposit programs; preserving print publications in a digital world; or preserving, accessing and disseminating publications in jurisdictions without legal deposit programs. Submissions which take a more theoretical or broader approach will also be considered. Four papers will be selected for presentation.