



International Association of Library Associations and Institutions

**Law Libraries Section
Annual Report
January-December 2012**

Section Projects

The two Standing Committee meetings were held during the Conference in Helsinki, Finland. The Section grew to 45 members. Valerie Alonzo, the information coordinator, put up the list of the standing committee members with a GoogleMap (see below) on our Section website, to represent the geographical region of all the members of the committee. She also regularly updated the website. She posted various announcements including the call for papers, which was an innovation for the section, the minutes and a photo of the standing committee members. She sent some announcements about our program in Helsinki and also sent e-mails on the IFLA list-serv.

The Section budget of 200 euros was spent on modest gifts for speakers and for “lunch incentives” (fiber bars that were given at the conference which is held during the lunch hour).

Digital Authentication Project

IFLA has started a Committee on Standards. For the Chair, Patrice Landry, the concept of standards is related to the process of advocacy, to support all the actions that IFLA actually promotes. The Section is considering whether it would be helpful to develop an authentication standard for digital official legal publications, on the basis of the experiences of some countries, notably Chile.

At the SC meeting, Soledad Ferreiro, director of the Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional from Chile, shared her own experience with the influence of IFLA on information policy in her country. She explained that even though Chile had a strong history of access to legal information, at the moment there is no authentication of the legal database. She entered in contact with the speaker Aki Hietanen, Director of Information Services, Ministry of Justice in Finland, after the session. He provided her with the study of all the authentication processes in the countries of the European Union. This information was helpful to her to present the IFLA perspective and in order to make changes in her country. Soledad Ferreiro also commented on last year session in Puerto Rico, that it was very good and it was such a good idea to create a transparency index for each country. At the Congress held in Quebec in 2009, she heard about the issue with the crown copyright, which led them to put their material with the creative commons copyright. It was from the meeting in Quebec that they started thinking about the authentication of the digital legal database. The Section recognized Soledad for sharing her stories showing how the IFLA programs were effective.

Marisol Floren-Romero added that in the context of promoting free access to legal information, we were mentioning a standard regarding authentication. The concept of promoting access should also be to

establish an action plan in countries where there has not been any type of actions regarding access to legal information. Sally Holterhoff, with the help of Marisol Floren-Romero and Dominique Lapierre, will work on the feasibility of a standard. They will work on the index part and see if that converges with a standard.

Working Group on Increasing the Section Web Presence

The section decided to organize a working group to examine the feasibility of different ways to increase the Web presence. Valerie Alonzo, Elizabeth Naumczyk and Robert Newlen volunteered to look at this issue.

Working Group on Publicity and Recruiting

The members agreed that, with the upcoming election, it was time to expand the standing committee. The section decided to organize a working group on publicity and recruiting. Pascal Sanz and Yolanda Jones volunteered to take on this. In addition, the members proposed several strategies to increase the membership with a broader geographical representation.



Standing Committee Members, Left to Right: Marisol Floren, Sally Holterhoff, Robert Newlen, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Naumczyk, Bart Tuseth (IALI member, not SC), Blair Kauffman, Claire Germain, Dominique Lapierre, Pascal Sanz, Radu Popa.

Conference Activities and Programs

Aug 11-17, 2012 Helsinki, Finland

In Helsinki, the main program sponsored by the Law Libraries Section (with the co-sponsorship of three other sections) was: *Promoting global access to law: developing an open access index for official authenticated legal information. Part 2: Europe.* (<http://conference.ifla.org/ifla78/session-129>). It attracted 130 persons.

The Law Libraries Section co-sponsored four additional programs with other sections. The topics of three of those sessions were: copyright law and legal deposit for audiovisual materials; trends in government libraries and prospects for new user services; and empowering library users to solve problems. These programs provided perspectives on these topics from various countries around the world.

A fourth co-sponsored program (with the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments) was *Libraries for the Law and for Lawmakers* (<http://conference.ifla.org/ifla78/session-214>).

Reception

Members of the Law Libraries Section enjoyed a lovely reception at Kaisa House, the brand-new main library of the University of Helsinki, located in the City Centre, the reception provided a special preview of its beautiful and functional design and furnishings, all of which were quite impressive.



Program Details

Conference Session 129 <http://conference.ifla.org/past-wlic/2012/2012-08-14.htm>

Promoting global access to law: developing an open access index for official authenticated legal information. Part 2: Europe

Law Libraries with Government Libraries, Library and Research Services for Parliaments, Government and Official Publications

14 August 2012 11:45 - 13:45

- **Introduction**

ELIZABETH NAUMCZYCK (International Criminal Court Library, The Hague, Netherlands)

- **The source of law – doctrine and reasoning in Finland**

JUHA RAITIO (University of Helsinki, Finland)

- **E-law and free access to legislation in Finland and Europe**

AKI HIETANEN (Director of Information Services, Ministry of Justice, Finland, Helsinki, Finland)

- **Worldwide access to foreign law: international & national developments toward digital authentication**

CLAIRE M. GERMAIN (University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville, Florida, USA)

- **Improvement of free legal aid system in Croatia: twinning light project with Lithuania**

EDITA BAČIĆ (University of Split, Faculty of Law, Split, Croatia)

([Part 1](#) was held in San Juan, 2011.)

Law Libraries with the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments.

Libraries for the Law and for Lawmakers (<http://conference.ifla.org/ifla78/session-214>).

Sonia Poulin and Rhonda O'Neill (Alberta Law Libraries, Canada) shared their experience implementing a new model of governance, organization and structure for Alberta Libraries, which promotes greater communication and collaboration among the libraries.

Soledad Ferreiro and Christian Sifaqui (Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile) described their program to promote citizenship involvement and understanding of the lawmaking process in Chile as well as their implementation of open linked data services, including data from LeyChile.

John Pullinger (House of Commons, United Kingdom) and Robert Newlen (Law Library of Congress, USA) spoke about plans to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta in 2015

Standing Committee Membership

Standing Committee Members



IFLA Law Libraries Section members around the world

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