



NEWSLETTER OF THE IFLA SECTION ON LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICES FOR PARLIAMENTS

FEBRUARY 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chair	1
How to join the Section	1
Share and connect	1
Planning for the IFLA conferences 2018	2
Recent and upcoming events	3 - 5
News from Parliamentary Libraries/Research Services & partners	6 - 10

Dear Colleagues,

Warm greetings to you all at the start of another year. I have no doubt that 2018 will be just as busy and eventful as 2017 but I hope it will also be equally rewarding for us all and as a Section.

Thinking back to last year, I would like to thank our colleagues in the Parliament of the Republic of Poland for all their work in hosting such a successful pre-conference for us in Warsaw. For those of you who were unable to attend or who would like to review some of the excellent presentations, these can all be found on the [Section's web pages](#), as can the report on [our sessions](#) at the WLIC. And just to wrap up our look back at the past year, please take time to read our [Annual Report for 2016/17](#), compiled by Lillian. It's good to remind ourselves of what was achieved by everyone – it sets the bar high for us this year! And this is also a good opportunity to thank Lillian for all her work as Chair of the Section for the last two years as well as organizing our wonderful pre-conference in Washington in 2016.

I hope you enjoy hearing the latest news from the Section and from colleagues in this newsletter. Please remember, if there is something interesting you think others would like to hear about please let Karin or I know so that we can include it in the next newsletters.

Very best wishes for 2018 and may you all have a successful year!

Steve Wise
Chair, IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

How to join the Section

If you are already an IFLA member, but not a Section member, please go to <http://archive.ifla.org/III/members/form2a.htm> to register as a member of the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments.

If you are NOT an IFLA member you have to become an IFLA member before joining any Section,

Share and connect

- Check out the Section's website: <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments>
- Sign up for the IFLAPARL discussion list, which is open to all members as well as others interested in the Section; <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments>
- Contribute news about your library and/or research service: email Steve Wise, Chair, iflaparl.chair@gmail.com or Karin Finer, Secretary, karin.finer@europarl.europa.eu

PLANNING FOR THE IFLA CONFERENCES 2018

The [2018 WLIC](#) will be held in Kuala Lumpur between the 24th and 30th of August. The IFLAPARL Section will as usual hold its own open session, this year entitled [Transforming Library & Research Services for Parliamentary Impact](#). It will be a knowledge sharing session, with a mixture of short presentations and group discussions, with the emphasis on **transformation of services** to adapt to changing customer expectations, **innovation** to find new and more efficient ways of meeting customer needs and ways to **measure impact** and **evaluate the success** of services. If you would like to make a presentation, the deadline for submitting a proposal is **16th March**.



We are also planning for the following joint sessions:

- with Government Libraries: [UN Sustainable Development Goals: Transforming Societies Through Informed Policy](#)
- with Knowledge Management and Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning, a Knowledge Café on 'The Knowledge Economy: How continuous learning can prepare information professionals for the future'.

In addition this year:

- the Committee of Standards issued a [Call for papers](#) mentioning, as potential topic, "case studies on the implementation or revision of services based on IFLA guidelines, such as ... [Guidelines for Parliamentary Research](#)". Lillian Gassie conducted a survey amongst IFLAPARL members on the use of the guidelines, and plans to submit a paper to the session based on its result. It is not too late to participate – if you have not responded to the survey, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3Z6NTNH>.
- there will be a special session bringing together all the Sections in Division 1 – the subject will be [Looking for the Next Big Thing: Libraries and Social Networks](#), (deadline for submissions **18 March**).

And what about our **Pre-conference**, we hear you ask? The Malaysian Parliament recently informed us that they are unfortunately not in a position to host our pre-conference, due to uncertainty around the upcoming general election in the summer and the subsequent sittings of the new parliament. That means we will try to move to an alternative venue in Kuala Lumpur at rather short notice – an approach approved by the Standing Committee. We are currently in discussion with our Malaysian colleagues in the National Committee for a potential new venue and suitable dates. To complicate things further, there are public holidays in Malaysia both just before and after the main conference.

Our aim is still to have a pre-conference programme that includes our usual news & presentations, alongside some interactive workshop sessions. We hoped to be able to give you more information in this newsletter, regrettably this is now running very late! More news will follow shortly, so please watch out for emails from the IFLAPARL list and keep an eye on the Section's web pages.

The work of the Section continues in a number of other areas;

- The new World Directory of Library and Research Services for Parliaments (WDLRSP) is now live. The WDLRSP is a collaborative project between IFLAPARL and the National Library of Congress, Chile. Please take the time to update the details for your Parliament. To get an account to add your institution to the Directory, please provide the information requested at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/52WVZ2Q>. The individual named in the form will receive an email with the password and instructions on how to create your institution's record.
- Courtesy of colleagues at the House of Representatives in Mexico, some of the previous newsletters have been translated into Spanish. They will appear very soon on the Section's website.
- A report from the lively round table discussions at the Knowledge café on continuous learning for information professionals, sponsored by IFLAPARL, at the IFLA conference in Wroclaw 2017, has been published. Read it [here](#).



RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

IFLA GLOBAL VISION

IFLA is continuing its groundbreaking work on the [Global Vision](#) for a united library field! Following the launch of the Global Vision discussions at the IFLA President's meeting in Athens last year, regional and self-organised high-level workshops in different parts of the world and global online voting - it is now time to kick-off the next stages of discussions and look at the achievements and the future plans. The [IFLA's Global Vision Report](#), will be launched during the [IFLA President's Meeting](#) in Barcelona, Spain, on Monday 19 March. The meeting will be followed by a two-day workshop to start to develop Action Plans to achieve the vision. The results, along with other regional workshops, will be made available at the WLIC in August.



IFLAPARL's Standing Committee contributed to the Global Vision by submitting a report last year, and many of you also participated in the online voting. Our Section has been very active in this campaign so far, so thank you very much for taking part! The online voting received over 22,000 votes from a total of 213 countries and areas of the world, a great response! You can continue to contribute and keep the discussions going by checking out the news on the [Global Vision](#) website - it provides the key information on new and upcoming initiatives and all [support materials](#).

ECPRD SEMINAR, BRUSSELS

On 21-22 September 2017, the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) for the first time hosted an event in the framework of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD), in its Library Reading Room. The seminar addressed 'The future of parliamentary research services and libraries in an era of rapid change: Optimising quality, service, delivery and relevance' and brought together over 70 participants from 33 ECPRD member countries as well as the European Parliament.

The first day focused on questions such as how best to strengthen and safeguard our role as high quality, neutral and trustworthy sources of research, analysis and information in a world of 'post-factual' politics and 'fake news'. Guido Heinen (Director of the Research Service of the German Bundestag) and Jérémie Leuthold (Head of the Library of the Swiss *Bundesversammlung*) shared their views on how best to respond to 'post-factual' politics and how best to strengthen and safeguard the role of parliamentary research services and libraries as high-quality, neutral and trustworthy sources of research, analysis and information. Naja Bentzen (Policy Analyst, External Policies Unit, EPRS) complemented this with her views on the challenges and opportunities linked to the democratization of the information sphere. In particular, this opening day covered the issue of how best to respond to changing client needs and increase the relevance of our work for parliamentarians where Karin Zaal (Head of the Parliamentary Information and Archives Department, Dutch Tweede Kamer), Gunnar Fors, (Head of Research Service, Swedish Riksdag) and Etienne Bassot (Director of the Members' Research Service, EPRS) headed up the debate.



To open the second day's proceedings, our Secretary-General, Klaus Welle, delivered a *tour d'horizon* of the challenges faced by the European Union and how best to address them. His address was followed up by a guest speaker, Anthony Gooch (Director of Public Affairs and Communications, OECD), who shared his perspective on how to survive in a world of 'post-truth politics'.

In an attempt to exploring new ways of cooperating among research services the agenda moved on in parallel sessions for which participants split into three break-out groups on current policy issues, namely Brexit, the circular economy and migration. Research papers provided by national parliamentary research services for each group had been translated by the European Parliament's translation service in advance, and their authors discussed the challenges in dealing with the particular policy area with participants, namely: how to follow up on and provide pertinent and up-to-date research on a 'moving target' like Brexit; how to input and benefit as a national parliamentary research service from the work carried out by EPRS throughout all the phases of legislative and policy cycle: from the agenda setting and consultation phases, during the legislative phase and the scrutiny of legislation; and how to maintain neutrality and objectivity when dealing with a politically divisive topic, such as migration. A final panel reviewed a number of existing regional research cooperation frameworks, namely the Visegrad Four, the Nordic parliaments and on the Western Balkans, and the extent to which they can serve as examples for improving research cooperation within the ECPRD network.

As a bridge between the bi-annual ECPRD seminars, and to intensify and go beyond an exchange on methodological questions, a next step in building the European parliamentary research community will be multilateral expert meetings on policy issues as short one-day 'research hub' meetings which could be followed up in a video conference format and could result in common publications. A first such meeting of experts is scheduled for end of April in the European Parliament in Brussels on the topic of 'Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the future of European Defence'.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED

MEETING OF LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES OF LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTS, MEXICO CITY

The first meeting in a decade of Latin American parliamentary libraries was held at the Mexican House of Representatives (Mexico City) on November 14 to 16, 2017, as the result of the [Valparaíso Declaration](#). This declaration was signed by holders of the parliamentary libraries of Argentina, Chile and Mexico on March 15, 2017, and rests on three main aims:

- 1) To strengthen cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean parliamentary libraries;
- 2) To establish the *Parliamentary Libraries of Latin America and the Caribbean Network*, in order to share experiences, information, legislative research and to improve staff development with the explicit purpose to contribute to strengthening democracy in our countries; and
- 3) To convene the largest possible number of institutions to join the network.

The Meeting was opened by the President of the Political Coordination Board, Marko Antonio Cortés Mendoza, the leader of the largest party caucus, César Camacho Quiroz, and the Secretary of the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library, Francisco Xavier Nava Palacios. Luz Argelia Paniagua Figueroa, Member of the Committee on the library, IFLA President, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón, and the Speaker of Mexican Congress, Jorge Carlos Ramírez Marín, closed the event.

IFLA President, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón, highlighted: “The effort of parliamentary libraries in the creation of knowledge repositories, in addition to their open access policy, means that they are an excellent way to ensure this <<meaningful access to information>>. IFLA admires and supports this work, and is pleased to cite parliamentary libraries as an example of access to information.”

The Meeting was attended by 164 participants, with delegates from the parliaments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala and Uruguay, as well as staff from federal and some local legislatures of Mexico. Each national parliament presented its history, institutional organization, collections and services offered to MPs and citizens.

The Meeting also welcomed participants from international institutions such as the European Parliament, the Organization of American States and library associations. We appreciate the presence of Joseph Dunne, Director of the European Parliament Library, Marisela Castro, representative of IFLA-LAC and colleagues from the Civil Association of Law Librarians of Argentine.

The conference panels considered issues relating to information and parliamentary research services offered in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies and Senate; parliamentary information management for MPs and ways to strengthen transparency towards citizens, scholars and NGOs in relation to parliamentary information services. The most prolific Mexican author on issues related to parliament, Cecilia Mora-Donatto PhD, participated in a panel.

Some of the agreements reached at the meeting include;

- To strengthen library and research services through transparency, efficiency, professionalism and accessibility principles, taking advantage of new technologies.
- The Chilean Library of Congress engaged itself to design a directory, so updated contact information of parliamentary information services of Latin America can become available.
- The delegates of each parliament presented proposals aimed at strengthening the *Parliamentary Libraries of Latin America and the Caribbean Network*, e.g. to design and update an union catalog; to establish a repository from current digital libraries; and to socialize projects for the benefit of parliamentary libraries.

By José María Hernández Vallejo. Documentation, Information and Analysis Services of the House of Representatives. México.



RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED

IFLA PRESIDENT VISITS THE BRAZILIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

On October 16 2017, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón, the president of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), visited the Documentation and Information Center (CEDI) of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies.

During the visit she met with the deputy Head Director of the Chamber, the Legislative Director, the CEDI Director and the Library Director, and took the opportunity to stress the importance of the participation of information professionals in the process of changing and directing the future of libraries, museums and archives worldwide. She also highlighted that IFLA encourages the participation of professionals and institutions in the class associations. Furthermore, she proposed that we stimulate a tighter integration of Latin American parliament libraries and strengthen the Library Network of Latin American and Caribbean Parliaments.

After the reception with the deputy Head Director, she visited the library facilities and the collections of both the library and the archive.

By Janice Silveira. Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Library



VISION PROCLAMATION CEREMONY TOWARDS THE 4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, SEOUL

On Thursday, February 1, 2018, the National Assembly Library of the Republic of Korea (Chief Librarian Heo Yongbom) presented the 'Vision Proclamation Ceremony' highlighting the Library's central role in the era of the 4th industrial revolution. Attendees included National Assembly Speaker Jung Sye-kyun, members of the 4th Industrial Revolution Forum of the National Assembly, Presidential Committee on the 4th Industrial Revolution, Ministry of Science and ICT, Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI), National Information Society Agency, NAVER, Google, IBM, Microsoft and honorable internal and external guests.

With over 230 million pages of knowledge data, NAL, a professional research information agency of the Republic of Korea, has responsibly and proudly led the way in introducing transformative changes toward the 4th industrial revolution. The Library established the Data Convergence and Analysis Division under the Information Management Bureau in 2017 to prepare for future information services. At the ceremony, two systems developed by the Library were launched: the National Research Information Cloud, which is the first integrated search system based on linked open data; and K-Scholar, which has about 1.2 million items of author data. Furthermore, Exobrain, a form of artificial intelligence developed in collaboration with ETRI, was demonstrated, while around 300 in-house books related to the theme of the 4th industrial revolution were exhibited at the Library's main hall.

The Library pledges to lead the way to the 4th industrial revolution by dealing with numerous tasks and challenges that may occur in the fields of library and information science. It is also promoting participants' understanding of advanced concepts in information services, such as cloud and big data through the Library's data convergence strategies.

By Anna Lee. National Assembly Library. Republic of Korea



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES/RESEARCH SERVICES & PARTNERS

HELP NEEDED TO PURSUE GOALS OF 2016 POLICY STATEMENT: IFLA ADDRESSES NEW RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENTS FOR PROVISION OF PUBLIC LEGAL INFORMATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The [IFLA Statement on Government Provision of Public Legal Information in the Digital Age](#), endorsed by the IFLA Governing Board in December 2016, is directed at the governments of countries around the world. Its message concerns **online publishing practices of governments as they make their primary legal materials available on the Internet**, specifically the issues of access, authentication, and preservation. Regarding these matters, some countries are doing an excellent job while others still need to acknowledge and address their new responsibilities in the digital age. In this statement, IFLA calls on national governments to provide no-fee, equal access to public legal information, to incorporate technology-based authentication tools to protect the integrity and trustworthiness of the content, and to implement effective strategies for long-term preservation and public access.

This 2016 policy statement is the result of years of focus and effort on the part of the relatively new Law Libraries Section (which was officially recognized by IFLA in 2005). The statement was developed and brought to the attention of the Governing Board by several members of the section's Standing Committee. They did this in consultation with IFLA Governing Board member Frederick Zarnndt, whose support and encouragement for several years was an important factor in the ultimate success of their efforts.

The Law Libraries Section is now eager to enlist the advice and expertise of members of the Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section. Guidance is needed on how IFLA members can best bring the issues addressed in the statement to the attention of appropriate officials in the parliaments of countries around the world. So far, the statement has been translated into Spanish, German, and French.

New Responsibilities for a New Situation

As noted in the Statement's introduction, there has been a change in the responsibility of national governments to provide "authentic and official versions of legal materials," including statutes, case law, and regulations. In the past era of print-only publication of public legal information by governments, libraries acted as repositories and keepers of the print volumes that contained this information, ensuring that the official content would be preserved, unchanged, for future use. In the current digital age, with governments now replacing print publication with digital provision of the same content, the situation has changed. This has created a new responsibility for the content providers: to provide access to authentic digital versions of public legal materials and to maintain and preserve that content for long-term use.

Some government entities have taken the necessary steps to address this matter, including France, the European Union, and the United States. However, there are a number of other governments around the world that have not yet acknowledged their new role in any meaningful way. In the words of the Statement, "...simply posting legal information online is not enough. Government providers also need to take responsibility for ensuring that the content they post is available to all, at no fee, that the content is authentic and trustworthy, and that it is preserved for public use over time in cooperation with memory institutions."

As revealed by study and investigation conducted by members of the Law Libraries Section, governments of countries around the world vary greatly in their recognition of these key issues and the steps being employed to address them as they digitize their legal materials and post them online. Some countries are doing a fine job of confronting the issues and putting procedures in place to address them. Others are failing to do so, despite the fact that neglecting to consider the key issues of access, authentication, and preservation for long-term use poses a risk to sustainable access to public legal information in the digital age.

IFLA's Response: the Statement on Government Provision of Public Legal Information

The IFLA Statement provides the following recommendations:

- Ensure that all public legal information produced in digital format is available to the public on an equitable, no-fee basis.
- Protect official publications of law in a digital format through authentication using technological measures, in order to ensure that the content is trustworthy, and make this clear to people.
- Incorporate technology-based authentication measures as part of the creation of online sources of public legal information rather than adding such technology later. Especially in the case of developing countries, addressing this concern from the start will save time and money in the long run.
- Develop and implement effective policies and programmes for the preservation of trustworthy legal materials in digital format, in partnership, as appropriate, with libraries, archives, or other memory institutions. When adopting new technologies to make legal information available digitally, ensure that these are built in such a way as to facilitate preservation for long-term public accessibility.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES/RESEARCH SERVICES & PARTNERS, CONTINUED

HELP NEEDED TO PURSUE GOALS OF 2016 POLICY STATEMENT: IFLA ADDRESSES NEW RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENTS FOR PROVISION OF PUBLIC LEGAL INFORMATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE, CONTINUED

- Make preserved materials permanently accessible to the public without charge.
- Incorporate strategies for providing online access to public legal information into national development plans to implement the UN 2030 Agenda.

The Statement is accompanied by two annexes, the first providing references and supporting documents and the second highlighting examples of three countries currently using authentication technology in order to protect the primary legal content that they provide online.

Promoting the Statement and its Principles

Effective promotion of the statement – particularly with governments – will be essential if it is to have its desired impact. One venue in which IFLA has already used the statement is in its discussions with UNESCO regarding the Sustainable Development Goals. Governments have a responsibility to provide access to public legal information in order to support transparency and accountability, civil engagement and a just society, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16.10.

IFLA has asked the ARTICLE 19 organization to post the statement as a resource on their website (www.article19.org). This NGO takes its name from Article 19 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which sets out the freedom to seek and receive information. This is particularly essential in the case of public legal information.

The IFLA statement also seems very relevant to the ongoing process of consultation on the European Union's Public Sector Information (PSI) Directive. A particularly relevant connection might be with their Feb. 2017 research report, *On-Line Publication of Court Decisions in the EU: Report of the Policy Group of the Project 'Building on the European Case Law Identifier'* (<http://ssrn.com/abstract=3088495>).

The statement has also been brought to the attention of the Open Government Partnership (www.opengovernmentpartnership.org), in hopes that it will be a useful resource for this organization of 70 member countries that are in agreement on the importance of citizen understanding and participation in government, as signatories of the Open Government Declaration.

If you have **suggestions or ideas** regarding promotion of the statement or advocacy for its goals, please contact: Stephen Wyber, IFLA Manager, Policy and Advocacy (stephen.wyber@ifla.org) and Sarah Holterhoff, Standing Committee Member of IFLA Law Libraries Section (sally.holterhoff@valpo.edu).



Frederick Zarndt, outgoing member of the IFLA Governing Board, received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Law Libraries Section at their reception during the 2017 WLIC in Wroclaw, Poland. The certificate recognizes the encouragement and support that Zarndt provided to members of the section for several years during the development and adoption of the *IFLA Statement on Government Provision of Public Legal Information in the Digital Age*. He is shown here being congratulated by Sarah Holterhoff, Standing Committee member, along with Sonia Poulin, Law Libraries Section Chair, on the right.

Photo credit: Margo Jeske, Standing Committee Member, Law Libraries Section

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES/RESEARCH SERVICES & PARTNERS, CONTINUED

POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY: HOW PARLIAMENTS REVIEW THE IMPACT OF LEGISLATION

Parliament has a responsibility to monitor that legislation is implemented as intended and has the expected impact. 'Post-Legislative Scrutiny' can help increase government accountability and fulfill parliament's oversight role. But how exactly do parliaments review the impact of legislation? Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), the UK leading democracy assistance organization, studied the parliamentary experience across different democracies and identified shared principles.

In many countries, major political efforts and resources are invested in drafting, debating and approving legislation, but then, often, there is little follow-up on the implementation, or even little precise knowledge on the state of implementation of legislation. Isn't it the job of government to implement legislation, one can wonder? Yes, it is; but it is the role of parliament to oversee, monitor and evaluate to what extent the government has implemented the legislation and how successful it is. Therefore, Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) is an important tool for increasing government accountability.

PLS is a broad concept, which consists of two dimensions. Firstly, PLS looks at the enactment of the law, whether the legal provisions of the law have been brought into force, if secondary legislation has been enacted, and how courts have interpreted the law. Secondly, PLS looks at the impact of legislation, whether the intended policy objectives of the law have been met and how effectively.

Throughout 2017, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) worked with partnering parliaments to help expand their internal capacity to review how a new law has worked in practice. WFD developed three tools on PLS: [Comparative Study on Post-Legislative Scrutiny](#) in parliaments in 10 countries; [Principles for Post-Legislative Scrutiny by Parliament](#); and, a [Guide for Parliaments on Post-Legislative Scrutiny](#). WFD supports emerging practices in the conduct of Post-Legislative Scrutiny in the parliaments of Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Lebanon and Algeria, and deepened its cooperation on Post-Legislative Scrutiny with the UK House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament and the Swiss Parliament.

For 2018, the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the University of London and WFD are cooperating on the organization of an Academic Seminar on Post-Legislative Scrutiny, which will result in the publication of a Special Issue of the 'European Journal on Law Reform' dedicated to Post-Legislative Scrutiny, published by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the University of London.

Call for Papers on Post-Legislative Scrutiny

As part of the preparatory process for the seminar, there is a Call for Papers.

- Academics, parliamentarians, senior parliamentary staff and researchers, parliamentary development practitioners, and legal / governance experts are invited to respond to the Call for Papers.
- WFD invites submissions of abstracts (approx. 2 pages or 1,200 – 1,400 words) and full papers (8 to 12 pages or 4,500 to 6,000 words). Abstracts should be submitted by 5 April 2018. Abstracts will be reviewed, and the authors of accepted proposals will be notified by 15 April 2018. They will be expected to submit full papers by 15 June 2018.
- The abstract should specify and motivate the research question, describe the methods and data used, and give an indication of the findings. Submission of the abstract should be accompanied by a cover letter describing the author's research interests, a CV and list of publications.
- Papers should focus on one or more issues under any of the following three themes: 1/ the enactment of laws and the legal aspects of Post-Legislative Scrutiny (including bringing the primary legislation into force, the balance between primary and secondary legislation), 2/ how to conduct ex-post assessment of the policy impact of legislation (including ex-ante and ex-post impact assessment, criteria and indicators for legislative impact assessments, structures and procedures shaping parliaments ability to conduct PLS), 3/ thematic review of impact of legislation (including how incorporating gender equality and equality impact assessment into the legislative process affects the framework for PLS).
- A more detailed description of the three themes envisaged for the Papers, requirements for submitting a Paper and the organization of the Academic Seminar can be found on the WFD website: www.wfd.org
- In addition to the Papers, WFD also welcomes a short blog text of 500 to 700 words related to legislative processes and Post-Legislative Scrutiny.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES / RESEARCH SERVICES & PARTNERS, CONTINUED

POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY: HOW PARLIAMENTS REVIEW THE IMPACT OF LEGISLATION, CONTINUED

The Academic Seminar on Post-Legislative Scrutiny will take place on **Tuesday 10 July 2018** in London. Parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, academics and researchers, parliamentary development practitioners and legal / governance experts are invited to participate.

There is no registration fee, though online registration of all participants prior to the seminar is required. Registration for the seminar opens on 5 April 2018 at the WFD website.

There is free accommodation available for 3 nights at students' residencies at the University of London. This will be open to registered seminar participants travelling from abroad and for UK-based participants who have submitted a paper. Free accommodation can be requested when completing the online registration for the seminar.

Queries about the Academic Seminar and Call for Papers can be addressed to: Events@wfd.org

By Franklin De Vrieze. Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). London

NEWS FROM THE COMMONS LIBRARY (UK)

2018 is an important year for us – we are 200 years old! It was in 1818 that Benjamin Spiller was appointed as the first Librarian of the House of Commons. We think this deserves some celebration and are planning ways to mark the occasion. More later in the year.

Other things going on:

- While we are on the subject of anniversaries, 2018 marks 100 years since the UK Parliament passed a law which allowed some women, and all men, to vote for the first time: the *1918 Representation of the People Act*. We will be celebrating this important milestone in the UK's democratic history throughout the year, in the [VOTE100](#) project. As part of this we will be releasing some new short films, [#YourStoryOurHistory](#), that explore how the laws passed by Parliament have changed the lives of women.
- Both Lords and Commons Libraries have just successfully migrated to their new Integrated Library System, Koha.
- We are creating a new Evaluation & Insight service to help us gather and analyse information on our customers and how they use our services so that we can provide a better and more tailored service based on understanding their individual needs.
- Over the next few months we will be carrying out a Capacity Review within the Library to help us understand the costs and value of our services better and allocate resources accordingly.
- The Research team's new blog site, [Second Reading](#), has been launched.

Those of you who were at our pre-conference last year in Warsaw, Poland (or the capacity building workshop immediately beforehand) may have heard about the Research Handbook we have developed for parliamentary officials here at Westminster and beyond. The Handbook is designed to give practical guidance on how to answer enquiries from Members and includes sections on sourcing information, effective writing, analysis, using statistics & graphs, quality control, legislative briefing, and committee research.

The Handbook is now available online on the UK Parliament website at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/parliamentary-research-handbook/> - for now only available in English. Please let me know if it is helpful or there are other topics you would like to see covered in future editions.

By Steve Wise. (wisesa@parliament.uk)



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES/RESEARCH SERVICES & PARTNERS, CONTINUED

THE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER OF THE BRAZILIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES—TRENDING TOPICS

The Documentation and Information Center (CEDI), in a joint initiative combining the Library, the Press and the Pro-Equity and Gender and Race Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, in November launched a publication with bibliographic references on the history of the African-Brazilian citizens in Brazil.

The publication consists of important sources of information not only for legislators and scholars of the subject, but also for the whole Brazilian society for showing the way to a set of meaningful texts that inform, debate, analyze, reflect, and highlight the history of the African-Brazilians in Brazil. The publication is divided into the following parts: Newspaper Articles; Books; Theses and Dissertations; Federal Legislation. It meets the United Nations 2030 Agenda, reaffirming the Information Center's commitment to such initiative.

In 2017, the Chamber of Deputies in Brazil provided citizens and staff with a new way of requesting enquiries to the House via its institutional website, within the philosophy of customer relationship management (CRM). According to the data provided by the system, last year, the Documentation and Information Center (CEDI) responded to 16.941 information requests, nearly 1.400 per month. 77% of the enquiries were answered within one day. Most of the requests were about the functioning of the Chamber, requests for bibliographical items and information about public laws. Most of our internal users were Chamber administrative Staff (27%), followed by Legislative Consultants (25%) and Congressman (19%). Talking about our external users, 91,7% were regular citizens and 8% were institutional or governmental clients. 64% of our clients were male, 42% were 31 to 50 years old, 48% had a higher education degree. The new system provided the House of Parliament with information on the Documentation Center (CEDI) users' profile, which will be very useful for defining our strategic planning for 2018-2022.

In 2017, Câmara Press (Edições Câmara) carried out its strategic planning having defined mission, vision, values, slogan and the strategic map for the 2017-2018 cycle based on the Balanced Scorecard. The main purpose of planning was aligning editorial production with the institutional mission of the Chamber of Deputies.

Mission: Publish books that contribute to the ideals of citizenship and the strengthening of democracy.

Slogan: Câmara Press: citizenship on every page

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By Janice Silveira. Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Library

