



IFLA Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

IFLAPARL demonstrated its purpose with the successful virtual event on responses to the pandemic. Congratulations to all the contributors and to Sonia Bebbington and the other IFLAPARL volunteers who made it happen. Good job! That purpose – to enable global sharing of expertise and experience – is pursued by the IFLAPARL Standing Committee. But it can only be given life by you, the members and participants in IFLAPARL activities. Make 2021 the year that you get active in your global professional association. We have reached out to the regional associations of parliamentary library & research services, offering a shared communication space using the 'Basecamp' software provided by IFLA. It is an opportunity to connect the work at regional level to a global network – by increasing the visibility of regional activities and information everyone can benefit, the value of regional work is increased. I encourage you all to bring your regional association into that prospective network. Local action for global impact.

In IFLAPARL itself, we will offer parliamentary library & research service content to the IFLA global conference (the WLIC), held in August, and which this year will be virtual. The details for the WLIC have yet to be announced – we will pass on information when we have it. We will also offer at least one more IFLAPARL virtual event, in place of our usual Pre-Conference, probably in September. There will be opportunities to contribute and to participate without the constraint of travel costs, so a chance for all of you to get active in IFLAPARL and share your knowledge! You can get more involved in IFLAPARL's work by attending our open meeting in March (details in this Newsletter) where the Committee will discuss our plans and activities for the years ahead. We also need active parliamentary library & research workers to be part of the IFLAPARL Standing Committee. There will be vacancies from August 2021. The process to fill them will begin this spring. IFLA is deciding on the process for Committee elections now, we will communicate the details when they are finalised.

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You are strongly encouraged to become active in IFLAPARL – through deepening the connection with your work at regional level, by participating in knowledge-sharing events and by getting involved in the Committee to make things happen. You will benefit, your service will benefit, and the professional community worldwide will benefit.

Iain Watt, Chair of IFLAPARL

JOIN US

If you are already an IFLA Member and would like to join our Section, please go to [Member Online Services](#) to manage your membership account and join our Section.

If you are not an IFLA Member, you must become one before joining any section. The IFLA website offers more information on [new memberships](#).

STAY CONNECTED

Visit [IFLAPARL's website](#), which includes links to our Action Plan, previous Newsletters, publications, meeting minutes, and more.

All interested parties are invited to join us, and to register to our [mailing list](#).

To contribute to the Newsletter, please contact [IFLAPARL Secretary Sonia Bebbington](#) or [IFLAPARL Information Coordinator Ellie Valentine](#).

VIRTUAL EVENT: INNOVATION AND INSPIRATION DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Report on IFLAPARL's first Virtual Event: innovation and inspiration during a global pandemic

On the second and ninth of December 2020, IFLAPARL delivered its first virtual event, Library and Research Services for Parliaments: innovation and inspiration during a global pandemic.

These sessions featured a series of short and engaging lightning talks from colleagues around the world, discussing the impact, challenges, changes and innovations experienced and made by their services over the last months. The sessions were inspired by responses from nearly 30 services to the [IFLAPARL survey](#) on the same topic, and both sessions started with an overview of the survey results presented by Iain Watt, IFLAPARL Chair.

Each presenter discussed significant changes in services, and the learning and innovation made during this time, including increased / shifting media monitoring and research products and services, development and launch of virtual events, infrastructure and services to support staff and users, and

more. Sessions were divided into three panel discussions, alternating with moderated question and answer periods which proved to be active and engaged.

The [recordings and slides from the virtual event](#) are available on the IFLAPARL website. Please visit the site to learn from your colleagues Waleed Al-badi, Carolina Alonso Penafiel, Allan Campbell, Jennifer Carmody, Dr. Fotis Fitsilis, Alexandra Holle, Carrie Hull, Dr. Heather Lank, Paola Mandillo, Mary Mazanec, Isela Mo Amavet, Ahmed Moufid, Janice Silveira, Muyoyeta Simui, Anthony Teasdale, Antti Virankoski, Edward Wood, and Jinhee Yun.

Many thanks once more to the presenters, as well as to my Virtual Event teammates Julie Anderson, Karin Finer, Janice Silveira, Ellie Valentine, Iain Watt, and Karin Zaal.

Sonia Bebbington,
IFLAPARL Secretary.

UPCOMING MEETING

Dear colleagues,

IFLA's Library and Research Services for Parliaments section (IFLAPARL) announces a mid-year open meeting of the Standing Committee on **March 23, 2021**.

As an open meeting, all section members and other interested parties are welcome to attend. We will host two instances of the same meeting at different times to encourage broad participation of our global membership. You need only register to and attend one instance of the meeting as the agenda for each instance will be the same.

Please register to **one** of the following:

March 23, 2021, 11:30am Amsterdam ([check what time this is for you](#))

Register at: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMpdeGurDqiGtQsxy_izawJkzkVnfgjiHOj

Or

March 23, 2021, 22:30 Amsterdam ([check what time this is for you](#))

Register at: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMucOmprijMiHdxCdkZYf5WzRsJegxmxLzDq>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. A final agenda will be shared one week prior to the meeting.

Many thanks for your support and participation,

Sonia Bebbington, IFLAPARL Secretary,
and on behalf of
Iain Watt, IFLAPARL Chair and Ellie Valentine, IFLAPARL Information Coordinator

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

News from the European Parliamentary Research Service

By Annamaria Forgacs

ECPRD seminar on parliamentary research services and libraries during the crisis: 'Corona, comeback and change', European Parliament, Brussels, 12-13 November 2020

The European Parliament hosted its annual ECPRD seminar on 12 - 13 November 2020. Due to the pandemic, the event was held online and it became the first virtual seminar for parliamentary research services and libraries in the history of the ECPRD. Besides panel discussions, the seminar featured various new meeting formats, including lightning talks with experts, collaborative brainstorming sessions and informal conversations over virtual coffee and lunch breaks. These new elements in the programme created space for direct interaction between participants and provided an opportunity for about 80 parliamentary staff from 25 countries in Europe and beyond to participate actively and contribute to the discussions.

The theme of the seminar was 'Parliamentary research in crisis mode: Corona, comeback and change'. In this framework, the parliamentary research services, libraries and documentation services held exchanges on how the coronavirus crisis affected their working methods, products, services and resources and how they innovated in order to ensure business continuity. In addition, they discussed the lessons learned during the crisis and the outlook for their services in the post-corona world.

The ECPRD seminar was opened by **Dita Charanzová**, Vice-President of the European Parliament and **Ida Kelémen**, ECPRD Coordinator and Head of the Information Service at the Hungarian National Assembly. This was followed by a conversation with another Vice-President of the European Parliament, **Rainer Wieland**, on how the EP continued its work during the Covid-19 crisis. The Brussels representative of the Italian Senate, **Beatrice Gianani**, joined the conversation to showcase an EU Member State's perspective on the subject.

Following the opening session, the participants had a virtual "coffee" conversation, facilitated by the four Directors of the EPRS, **Jutta Schulze-Hollmen**, **Etienne Bassot**, **Wolfgang Hiller** and **Franck Debié**. This meeting created a platform for informal and interactive exchange on how the first shock of the crisis was overcome by parliamentary research services, by parliamentary libraries, and by resource departments, to ensure business continuity in support of Members and parliamentary committees.

During the afternoon session, **Katrin Ruhmann**, Co-Chair of ECPRD and EP Director for Relations with National Parliaments, gave an overview of the ECPRD's activities in 2020 and the network's role during the coronavirus crisis. Afterwards, four 'lightning talks' (short presentations) were given by practitioners from national parliamentary research services, focusing on crisis-born innovations. **Suzanne Nollen**, Team Leader in the Analysis and Research Service of the Dutch House of Representatives, spoke about a new video app created by the Tweede Kamer, whilst **Giovanni Rizzoni**, Head of the Research Service in the Italian Chamber of Deputies, talked about a new section of their website to fight mis- and disinformation. **Marketa Novakova** and **Miroslav Jakab**, Policy Analysts of the Czech Parliamentary Institute, presented a new series of research papers they have developed, whilst **Edward Wood**, Director of Research of the UK House of Commons, outlined recent innovations at the UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST). As a follow-up, participants had a discussion, in parallel groups, on possible ways in which the innovative solutions presented could be introduced in their own service.

The last session of the day was a Management Forum, hosted by **Anthony Teasdale**, Director-General of EPRS, with senior managers of four parliamentary research services - **Heather Lank**, Parliamentary Librarian of the Canadian Parliament, **Guido Heinen**, Director of the German Bundestag Research Service, **Fotis Fitsilis**, Head of Department at the Hellenic Parliament, and **Dana Shea**, Assistant Director of the US Congressional Research Service, shared experiences on how they managed the crisis and discussed how the role of research services will change post-Covid.

Heather Lank said that the Canadian Parliamentary Library was well positioned to make the transition to full-time telework, which went more smoothly and quickly than expected. However, the Library was not expecting how long the crisis would go on. Therefore, it is in the process of carrying out an assessment of how to support its staff as the circumstances change and what kind of tools it has to give them so they can be effective long-term. Heather stressed that it is especially important to pay attention to the mental well-being of the staff.

Guido Heinen highlighted that the crisis had not only changed the working environment, but it also altered the role of the Bundestag's research service, which was becoming more visible, as Members needed legal advice in a fast-moving environment and a complex federal system, where the government and the states adopted many new measures that affected the everyday life. According to Guido, crisis is always the time of the executive; therefore, it is important to assess how the parliament can be more involved in the decisions.

Fotis Fitsilis said that parliaments, similar to corporations, should develop risk management plans in order to avoid disruption if unexpected events occur in the future. He explained that the Greek Parliament had dealt with the crisis surprisingly well and helped by its relatively compact size and the fact that its leadership had used 'soft law' successfully for taking measures.

Dana Shea underlined that, even though the CRS could make a relatively smooth and quick transition to full-time telework, it had faced a number of challenges since the start of the pandemic. One was the investment in the infrastructure required for the shift to successful telework. Another was maintaining confidentiality when interacting with Members, for which specific new procedures had been put in place. A third was the challenge of isolation of staff and the lack of informal interactions, which the CRS has tried to tackle by instant messaging and other collaborative initiatives.

The closing speech of the day was delivered by **Klaus Welle**, Secretary General of the European Parliament, who outlined how the EP had been grappling with the crisis and spoke about innovation in public administration more widely.

On the second day, experts from parliamentary research services had a thematic dialogue in two parallel workshops concerning the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on different policies. The first one focused on economic recovery and the second on the transformation of the global order.

Following this, **Gaby Umbach**, Director of GlobalStat and Professor at the European University Institute (EUI), gave a presentation on EUI research and resources, GlobalStat and the cooperation between the EUI and the EPRS. The seminar ended with three parallel 'lunch and learn' sessions, where the participants had the opportunity to meet informally with experts from EPRS and other research services and libraries to discuss practical questions on how to curate a newsletter to Members, how to visualise research and how to deliver training online.

News from the New Zealand Parliamentary Library

By Jill Taylor

Barbara McPhee, the Parliamentary Librarian and Deputy Chief Executive Research and Information is leaving on 29 January 2021. Barbara has been part of the Parliamentary Library for 17 years, initially as a Research Manager, and for the last nine years as Parliamentary Librarian. Barbara says the Parliamentary Library has been a truly fascinating place to work. 'I've had some unforgettable experiences and worked with some great people, so it's going to be a very hard act to follow. But now is the time for some new experiences and to learn some new skills.' Barbara oversaw a significant review of the Parliamentary Library collections in her time as Parliamentary Librarian, ensuring the collections are relevant, manageable and accessible for our clients. More recent changes that Barbara has led include the relocation of parliamentary library staff while earthquake strengthening is undertaken on the parliamentary precinct, the launch of a new service portal where clients can lodge requests and locate previous research responses, and closer involvement of library researchers in select committee meetings. Barbara will be greatly missed for her calm, supportive and positive leadership.

The Deputy Chief Executive/Parliamentary Librarian role has been advertised. The role will look slightly different with added responsibilities for Parliamentary Engagement (communications, digital content and social media, website, education, and inter-parliamentary relations) as well as library, research and information management functions.

News from the Republic of Korea National Assembly Library

By Anna Lee

The National Assembly Library of the Republic of Korea recognizes that Covid-19 restricts a large portion of the existing library services. It is also preparing to innovate library services that incorporate artificial intelligence technology in line with the accelerated digital transformation throughout the Korean society. To this end, various education programs are newly established for the National Assembly, as well as the library staff and general users, and new ideas are developed for library services and legislative support services beyond real-life application.



First of all, it is holding a monthly "AI and the National Assembly Forum" to devise a paradigm for new knowledge and information services that incorporate AI technology, and making preparations for the 10th forum next month. The topics covered in the forum include the era of artificial intelligence-the challenges and challenges of parliamentary information services, the current status and implications of AI policies in major countries, law, and artificial intelligence. Experts, including professors and researchers from various fields around the world, are seeking ways to develop AI use in cases, introduction and application of AI in parliamentary services, and matters related to legal issues. Due to the spread of Covid-19, the 4th forum has been conducted in an online non-face-to-face manner through video conference apps. However, the participation rate has increased because there are no restrictions on the venue.

The following is a knowledge class that uses lunch time on weekdays. It was also newly established to help develop insight and judgment to acquire knowledge related to new technologies in a lighter and

more interesting way than the aforementioned "AI and the National Assembly Forum". The course, which is held once a month during lunch, is already receiving positive responses from many participants until its eighth round. The topics covered here focus on combining artificial intelligence technology based on cultural skills, such as smartphone-born Phono sapiens, new language big data that reads the world, artificial intelligence music, artificial intelligence and democracy, and artificial intelligence and art.

The National Assembly Library was selected for the "Intelligent Government (Knowledge Platform)" project in the digital new deal, which the government announced last year, and 7 million books and electronic files owned by the National Assembly Library will be digitized and incorporated with artificial intelligence technology. In spite of the global crisis caused by the pandemic, the National Assembly Library is striving to create the value of artificial intelligence-based services by continuously expanding legislative support services based on artificial intelligence technology and digitizing collection data.

News from the Argentina Library of Congress and Mexican Chamber of Deputies' Coordination of Information, Libraries and Museum Networking.

By Carolina Alonso Peñafiel, Mexico, and Alejandro Santa, Argentina.

On December 15th, 2020, Argentina Library of Congress and Mexican Chamber of Deputies' Coordination of Information, Libraries and Museum, presented to both nations' Chairs of Joint Committees on Library matters, the first draft of a comparative law study on environmental regulations of both countries.

Valparaiso Declaration, signed in 2017, is meant to strengthen the exchange of experiences, legislative research and professional capacity building for librarians and research staff. On the road to meet these challenges, this event took place by "zoom" platform and was [broadcasted by the Argentina Library of Congress through its You Tube channel](#).

The event was organized in order to carry out the first meeting between MP Silvia Guadalupe Garza Galvan, Chair of Bicameral Committee for Libraries System of Mexico's Congress of the Union, and MP Carlos Selva, Chair of Bicameral Administration Committee for the Library of the National Congress of Argentina.

During this meeting, a study on comparative law on environmental matter was presented by Carolina Alonso Peñafiel, Coordinator of Information, Libraries and Museum Services of Mexico, and Alejandro Lorenzo Cesar Santa, General Coordinating Director of the Library of the National Congress of Argentina.

Written by the analysis and legislative information areas of Argentina and Mexico, this study stems from a series of enriching online meetings, that are the result of an unprecedented articulation of collaborative work, that allowed for an agreement to carry out this first joint study.

The goal is to analyze similarities and differences in the legal framework of Argentina and Mexico on environment regulations and to encourage other jurisdictions in Latin American region to write about this subject in the near future.

News from the Documentation and Information Center - Brazil

By Janice Silveira

1. International Conference 'Preservation of the Institutional Memory: strategies for the XXI century'

Between November 30th and December 8th, The Documentation and Information Center of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies promoted the International Conference 'Preservation of the Institutional Memory: strategies for the XXI century'. The conference gathered in virtual setting specialists from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Portugal, Italy and the United States. The conference focused on four main aspects: digital preservation, collections preservation, democratization of collections and institutional sustainability. The main goal was discussing the paths for adopting good management practices and best strategies for conventional and digital preservation in face of the recent challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

Several topics such as 'collections management in pandemic times', 'risk management', 'sustainability of public institutions: economy, environment and society', 'challenges of digital preservation in the 21st century' were discussed during the Congress.

Each lecture was attended by an average of 200 attendees. The lectures and workshops are now available on the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies channel on [YouTube](#).



The Chamber of Deputies with the institutional support of the Federal Senate, the Federal Court of Accounts, the Superior Military Court, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Cariniana / IBICT Network carried out the Congress.

2. Journal 'Estudo em Debate' - series of infographics on legislative studies

The Documentation and Information Center (Cedi) and the Legislative Consultancy Body of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies (Conle) signed a partnership and launched the "Study in Highlight" series, aiming at periodically presenting syntheses of studies published by Conle, providing a quick, clear and objective analysis.

The theme chosen to start the series was "Brazil's OECD membership: general aspects and environmental themes". The project has the participation of several areas of the Cedi. In addition to preparing the layout, Cedi curates the information and adds to the study, for example, items from the House's archival and bibliographic collections related to the theme.

Two other studies are already in preparation: "Women in Politics" and "Analysis of Federal Income Transfer Programs". The first edition of the series is available on the pages of the [Chamber Digital Library](#) , the [Livreria da Câmara](#) and the [Consultancy Services](#) .

ESTUDO EM DESTAQUE
Ano 1, n. 3, Janeiro de 2021

Consultoria Legislativa **CEDEI**

Acesso do Brasil à OCDE: aspectos gerais e temas ambientais

Maurício Schneider | Consultor Legislativo da Câmara dos Deputados

Quais as perspectivas de o Brasil se tornar membro pleno da Organização para a Cooperação e Desenvolvimento Econômico (OCDE), considerando as etapas já superadas e as dificuldades que se apresentam em função da situação do país no plano ambiental?

Quanto o Brasil já avançou?

- 1990** OCDE busca aproximação com quatro países latino-americanos: Argentina, Brasil, Chile e México
- 1996** Brasil junta-se ao Comitê do Aço, primeiro órgão da OCDE do qual o país participou
- 2000** Brasil adota a Convenção Antissuborno
- 2015** Brasil e OCDE assinam um acordo de cooperação internalizado pelo Decreto n. 10.109/2019
- 2017** Brasil requer formalmente acesso à OCDE
- 2018** Ministério das Relações Exteriores cria a Delegação do Brasil junto às Organizações Internacionais Econômicas Sediadas em Paris (Delbraepar)
- 2019** Câmara dos Deputados institui o Grupo Parlamentar de Amizade Brasil-OCDE (Resolução n. 8/2019), e participa da Rede Parlamentar Global da OCDE

7 passos para se tornar membro da OCDE

1. Processo de acesso proposto pelo Conselho ou por solicitação do candidato
2. Secretário-geral fornece ao Conselho informações sobre o país candidato
3. Conselho decide se abre as discussões de acesso ou se interage com o país por meio das instâncias da OCDE
4. Secretário-geral comunica a decisão do Conselho ao país
5. Se o Conselho concordar em abrir discussões de acesso, o secretário-geral determina a preparação do roteiro de acesso
6. Após avaliações técnicas, cada comitê comunica sua opinião ao Conselho, que decidirá por unanimidade, se aprovado, um acordo de acesso é assinado
7. O país deverá cumprir seu rito legislativo e depositar o instrumento de acesso à Convenção da OCDE, momento em que se torna membro

Como são tomadas as decisões na OCDE?

Embora o Brasil tenha solicitado a acesso, o processo formal ainda não foi iniciado. Quais são os principais desafios?

- Ações voltadas ao combate à corrupção;
- Ações voltadas à educação (Programa Internacional de Avaliação de Estudantes – Pisa)
- Ações de combate ao desmatamento e queimadas;
- Manutenção das leis e normas infra-legais em meio ambiente, sem redução das proteções;
- Atendimento às metas do Acordo de Paris sobre Mudança do Clima.

Seleção de artigos disponíveis na Biblioteca da Câmara dos Deputados

Perspectivas para a acesso do Brasil junto à OCDE: passado, presente e futuro. U. P. L. Zanetti. Revista Brasileira de Direito Internacional, 5 (1), n. 1, p. 26-32/20

O Brasil deve ingressar na OCDE (Iuperia Azevedo, In: 4, n. 42, p. 4-6, 2 abr. 2019)

A adoção da sustentabilidade dos grupos transnacionais, e os esforços da OCDE. S. E. B. Sabotia, E. R. Salene. Revista de Direito Econômico e Desenvolvimento Sustentável, 3 (1), n. 1, p. 23, 2019

Perspectivas Globais sobre o Financiamento para um Desenvolvimento sustentável 2019: Tempo de enfrentar o desafio (Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2019, s. 11, 2019, DOI 10.1787/72d0d71-p0)

A bioeconomia brasileira em números (Jairim Francisco de Oliveira e Silva, IN: ENDES semal, A. 47, p. 277-310, mar. 2018)

Agenda mundial da sustentabilidade: o papel da OCDE (V. K. Theodorou, C. R. Mota, IDIAS 7019 Working Paper Series from REPEC, 31, Luva 2018)

Processo de acesso do Brasil à OCDE (Estudo de Consultoria Legislativa)

Links relacionados

A OCDE e a América Latina e Caribe - Brasil (site da OCDE)

Projeto de Lei n. 2.546/2019 (Cancelamento do registro de produtores agrotóxicos e afins basados em países da Organização para a OCDE)

CÂMARA DOS DEPUTADOS **ACESSO À ÍNTEGRA DESTA ESTUDO**

3. Online Journal 'Agenda Brasileira'

The 'Agenda Brasileira' is a biannual publication that aims to address issues of social relevance under discussion in the Chamber of Deputies. The first edition of the journal was named "Agenda Brasileira Mulher".



Published by Edições Câmara (Chamber Press), the editorial arm of the Documentation and Information Center. The first edition gathers seven articles written by the Legislative Consultancy Body of the Chamber of Deputies as follows: Women and Social Security in Brazil; Maternity protection and parental leave in the world; Legislation on health care for Brazilian women; Gender quotas in elections: Brief analysis of data on women's candidacies in the 2018 elections; Violence against women and women and citizenship; The history of women's participation in Brazilian politics.

The publication aims at contributing to the enrichment of the national debate and to facilitate public access to the studies that take place in the National Congress. The [publication is available for download online](#).

4. The Brazilian Chamber of Deputies and the General Data Protection Law (LGPD)

Since September 2020, Law No. 13,709 / 2018 (General Data Protection Law - LGPD), establishes rules on collecting, handling, storing and sharing of personal data managed by organizations, has been in force in Brazil.

In December, the Chamber of Deputies regulated the application of the LGPD with three internal rules. The Documentation and Information Center (Cedi), together with other areas of the Chamber, actively worked on the drafting of these rules, including coordinating the discussion-working group.

The Chamber is an institution that deals with a large volume of personal information, which is why it must move forward in the actions provided for in the law for better governance of this type of data, and Cedi has an important role in these next actions.

News from the Library of the Hellenic Parliament

By Eleni Droulia

TELEWORKING: a new experience

The elevator lands at the 2nd floor; the corridor is unusually quiet. I open the door that leads the cataloguers' working room. The scene is of an empty space, whereas daily there used to be energy, movement of books all around, phones ringing. Automatically, the tale of *Sleeping Beauty* comes to my mind; everything is left intact, just the minute Aurora took the bite of the poisoned apple and every motion ceased in the realm. The same way COVID-19 crisis put a halt to work life. Next door, in the Main Reading Room one and only one colleague is struggling to respond to requests pouring in through emails and telephone lines. No one is allowed in the premises, not without previous notice anyway. It is obvious: other unknown challenges present themselves; things must be done differently but to succeed any change or shift from everyday practices, one basic element is crucial; to maintain communication amongst people; to support spirits resist from breaking. Right away staff was grouped into teams meeting by skype at least once a week or ten days; most participated eagerly, exchanging personal and professional news, and were happy to be assigned tasks that can be completed either by teleworking or simply working at their home PCs. In a couple of cases when colleagues did not have reliable PCs, they were equipped with the Library's portable devices. Such meetings are going on steadily promoting work, assigning new roles for all to explore and supporting interrelations during the health crisis that keeps all of us apart. We are all often dealing with reactions and suppressed emotions due to the unusually perpetuated conditions, without knowing what the future holds; in a word "insecurity."

A serious challenge was to prove, beyond the shadow of a doubt, the Library's usefulness and absolute necessity to be; to demonstrate the good it presents to society and its essential output for the organization and the general public, and that these services are given effectively, efficiently, timely, and objectively. Information needs never cease, on the contrary at times as the present, it is more vital than ever. The bet was set; could the Library operate remotely?

At the same time, new opportunities arose; neglected tasks are viewed under new light. Improving the quality of the Catalogue is one, for example. Machine made errors can now be dealt with; correcting mistakes rendered in foreign languages, adding new documentation, reorienting data to include links leading to full text documents. Thus, enhancing the [Open Catalogue](#), in other words the most powerful search tool and simultaneously, the public image of the Library.

Priorities are evaluated and reset; the "old ways" are transformed using new technology. Services are redesigned to include broader inter-department communication and cooperation, leading to better quantity and quality results. Multi-interactions are triggered to generate novel outcome. At the same time, new services are designed and offered; besides guidance to bibliography and information sources, users' education to new skills and limited research are added. The national libraries' and archives' net are both enlarged and strengthened. Broader cooperation, more inclusive and interactive, is gradually achieved leading to a higher level of needs' satisfaction. By building new services, trustful communities will be created. These expanded active and well-informed communities will be more

participative to decision making, more sensitive to contemporary human as well as environmental issues, more willing to act instead of letting others take responsibilities for the future strategies.

All requests are oriented towards a single [email entry point](#) and distributed accordingly. For the period from March to November 2020, over 2.100 requests have been remotely satisfied via e-mails and we-transfers. A statistical analysis of the requests' nature reveal the following results: 30% consists of pure parliamentary material, 30% have to do with the Press Collection dating from 1798, 10% asks for books extracts, 7% demand support (send books), 5% is about loans and interlibrary loans and the remaining 18% are general information questions concerning the Library's function.

New parliamentary and archives material has been added to the Library's webpage, a "COVID-19" [linkography](#)" was built comprising data bases, articles, and various documents, and surveys. A Parliament Press Release was issued on 29 April 2020. Presence on Facebook was re-evaluated as a means of communication putting up new information every three days instead of once a week. By the end of 2020, the Library's followers surpassed 10,000; among them a few coming from various countries (Cyprus, USA, Germany, UK, Italy, France and other).

It is of high importance that changes, new services or lack of old ones to be announced and publicized as effectively and efficiently as possible. Standing channels of communication have to be enhanced systematically without gaps, and at the same time improvise and find new ways to establish networks and avenues of information transmission.

Last but far from least, while people stay at home, they are encouraged to seek and acquire new skills and knowledge, foreign languages included. Spare time is dedicated to seminar attendance, self-improvement, and development by building new dexterities. Education is valued.

New challenges and approaches have been presented during a Library Committee Meeting (June 17, 2020) and announced via the Parliament's bimonthly Journal under the title "Library vs COVID-19" (December 2020).

We learn as we go along; improvise, act, evaluate, redesign and readjust. There is no standard practice to follow as the circumstances are unique. That is why ongoing communication among staff is essential; skype, a variety of platforms (webex, zoom or other), viber, messenger, Facebook, e-mail, and phones are all in high use. We all together move on to face this new reality. If somebody is left out, she/he will miss the information that explains and justifies decisions taken. And we do not want this to happen.

Parliamentary strengthening and library & research services

By Iain Watt, Information@Work

As preparation for planned work by IFLAPARL I created a directory of organisations involved or interested in parliamentary strengthening in relation to library and research services. I discovered **almost 60 bodies believed to have an interest in the field of parliamentary library & research services**, of which **almost half** had some trace in their public information of relevant activity or content. There is a case for more transparency and sharing of information/knowledge around this activity. Full details are [available online](#).

News from the Library of Parliament – Canada

By Sonia Bebbington

Parliament of Canada names Parliamentary Poet Laureate

On February 3, the Speaker of the Senate of Canada and the Speaker of the House of Commons, Canada, announced the nomination of Louise Bernice Halfe – Sky Dancer – to the position of Parliamentary Poet Laureate.

Louise Bernice Halfe – Sky Dancer was raised on Saddle Lake Reserve and attended Blue Quills Residential School. She previously served as Saskatchewan’s second Poet Laureate. She is widely recognized for weaving Cree language and teachings into her works. Her books, *Bear Bones and Feathers* (1994), *Blue Marrow* (2004), *The Crooked Good* (2007) and *Burning In This Midnight Dream* (2016), have all received numerous accolades and awards

Ms. Halfe is Canada’s 9th Poet Laureate. For more information about Ms. Halfe, and about the Parliamentary Poet Laureate program, please see the Parliament of Canada’s [website](#).

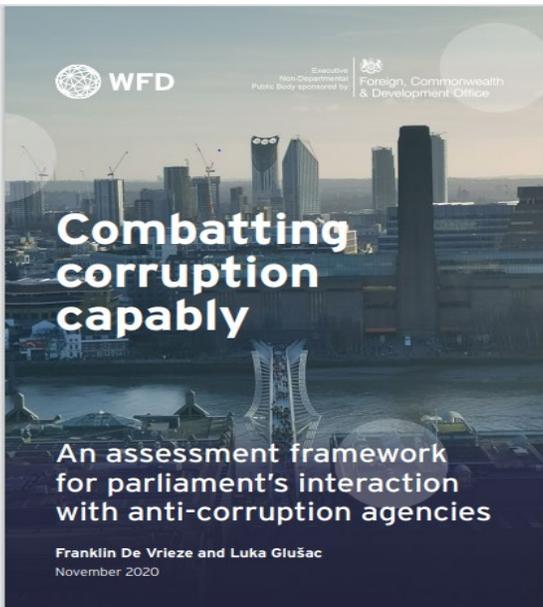


The Library of Parliament of Canada – Serving through the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Library of Parliament of Canada is featured among the articles in the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*'s November 2020 edition, [Parliaments in a Pandemic](#).

In addition to [the article](#) written by Parliamentary Librarian Dr. Heather Lank and colleague June Dewetering, the edition features articles about the impact of the pandemic on parliaments across Canada, as well as across the different parliamentary functions and operations.

NEW BOOKS & ARTICLES



De Vrieze, Franklin and Glušac, Luka (2020), **Combating Corruption Capably: An assessment framework for parliament's interaction with anti-corruption agencies**, Westminster Foundation for Democracy

There exist more than 150 specialised anti-corruption agencies (ACAs). However, in some instances, ACAs have been a disappointment and their effectiveness has been questioned.

In response to this disappointment, WFD's Senior Governance Adviser Franklin De Vrieze and Luka Glušac wrote, 'Combating Corruption Capably: An assessment framework for parliament's interaction with anti-corruption agencies.'

The publication provides an insight into parliaments' role in combatting corruption by exercising their legislative and oversight role in support of the effectiveness of ACAs. To ensure that parliament's relationship with ACAs is constructive for anti-corruption efforts, it needs to be clearly defined in a way which is measurable.

The publication outlines a framework for assessing parliament's relationship to ACAs based on five criteria: 1/ Parliament's role in establishing the legal framework and mandate of the ACA; 2/ Parliament's role in the selection, appointments and removal of the leadership of the ACA; 3/ Parliament's role regarding resources allocated to the ACA; 4/ Parliament's consideration of and follow up to annual and other reports of the ACA; 5/ Parliament's policy and awareness-raising cooperation with the ACA.

These five criteria are applied using 26 indicators, enabling better understanding of the relationship between parliaments and ACAs, both theoretically and in practice.

The full report [Combating corruption capably](#) is available online.



It's complicated:

Parliament's relationship with anti-corruption agencies in Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Maldives

Franklin De Vrieze and Luka Glušac
Westminster Foundation for Democracy

February 2021

De Vrieze, Franklin and Glušac, Luka (2021), **It's complicated: Parliament's relationship with anti-corruption agencies in Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Maldives**, Westminster Foundation for Democracy

The purpose of this publication is to highlight the role of parliaments in three Asian countries in relation to ACAs. It provides an insight into parliaments' role in contributing to combatting corruption by exercising their legislative and oversight role in support of the effectiveness of ACAs while ensuring their independence.

In analysing parliament's relationship with the ACAs in Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Maldives, the authors took note, firstly, that all three ACAs have a strong legal foundation and a clear mandate, though the degree of their independence varies. In all three countries, the leadership of the ACA is

appointed by the President, although following different parliamentary procedures. The authors noted considerable fluctuations in annual budget allocations. However, in all three cases, the parliamentary follow-up to the ACAs' reports is the weakest part of the overall relationship between parliaments and ACAs.

Parliaments in the three countries have an opportunity for investing more time and efforts in establishing regular and structured relationships with the ACA. This means going beyond parliament's legislative function and demonstrating that parliaments are fully invested in anticorruption campaigns, by discussing ACAs' reports, making sure the ACAs have an optimal budget, and by providing public backing to the ACA work.

The full report [It's complicated](#) is available online.