



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA



PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS
AND INSTITUTIONS

**TRAINING
FOR
PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES AND RESEARCH SERVICES OF THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION**

**co-organized by
IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments
Library of the Parliament of Singapore
Parliament of Australia**

**with the cooperation of
IFLA Information Technology Section
Global Centre for ICT in Parliament**

***on the occasion of the 29th Annual Pre-Conference
of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments***

**14 August 2013
Li Ka Shing Library
Singapore Management University**

AIDE MEMOIRE

Background

Parliamentary libraries and research services contribute to the parliamentary business by providing members with authoritative, independent, non-partisan and relevant information. As libraries and research services have evolved greatly in the last decades due to the emergence of new technologies, they have increasingly turned their focus to the role that ICT can play in delivering parliamentary information and explored key cross-cutting topics falling in between the traditional information challenges and the IT environments, such as websites (Internet and intranet) and digital reference/information services; digitization processes and preservation; social networking tools and collaborative work (federation of services); improved efficiency of library services through ICT; and, deployment of open source software.

Today, in fact, web technology allows libraries to design portals that give easy access to the text of bills, committee reports, plenary debates and to documents from outside the parliament that are highly relevant to proposed legislation. Collections of resources and digital archives organized and maintained by libraries can now be dynamic tools accessed on a daily basis to provide background and context to current policy debates. Technology also enables libraries to offer a wider range of services to members, such as: handling inquiries and interactions with members of parliament electronically; creating personalized alerting services delivered to a variety of stationary and mobile devices;

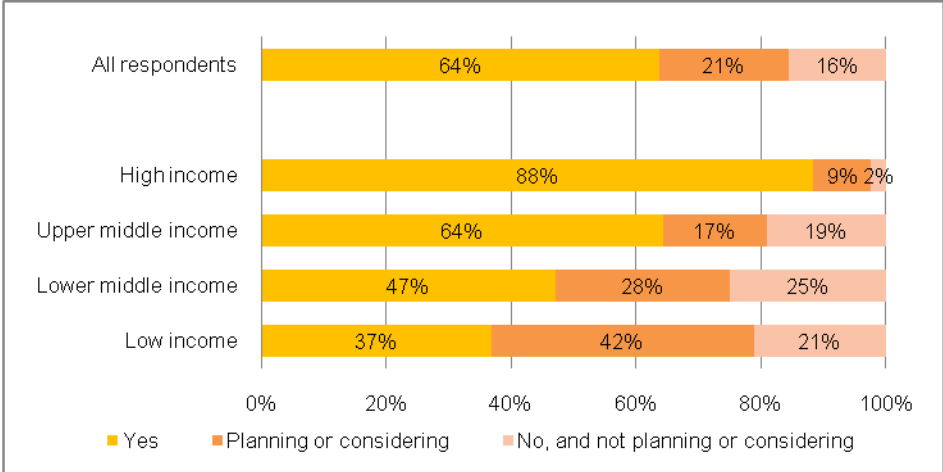
building websites that organize information based on the issues the parliament is dealing with; maintaining archives and permanent access to parliamentary documentation in digital formats; and, sharing their knowledge and experience both within the national parliament and with other parliaments.

While findings from the 2007, 2009 and 2012 surveys¹ undertaken by the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament indicate that many libraries have been able to adopt new technologies to support their traditional tasks of acquiring, organizing, and managing information resources, many still need to strengthen their digital capabilities and services².

The World e-Parliament Report 2012 suggests that a significant number of parliamentary libraries lack an adequate technical infrastructure to function at full capacity and have basic ICT-supported capabilities. Many still face problems related to the absence of preservation policies for digital resources and over 40% are not connected to a parliamentary intranet, even though LANs are in place in nearly all legislatures. This severely limits the nature and extent of e-services that libraries can provide, such as online access to information sources that are organized according to the policy issues that the parliament is addressing. Nevertheless, 50% of parliamentary libraries are able to offer this type of service and over 50% subscribe to online journals and databases.

Libraries in parliaments in low income countries continue to face significant challenges. Compared to those in high income countries, far fewer have systems to manage traditional library resources, are connected to the parliament’s intranet, and participate in networks for the exchange of information, ideas, and best practices.

Libraries that participate in networks, by income groups



(Source: World e-Parliament Report 2012, Figure 6.11, p. 123)

Nevertheless, the knowledge embodied in libraries still exists, and the opportunities are still there to leverage the library science to the benefit of all. Acquiring, organizing and integrating parliamentary and external information sources in a way that enables the creation of a parliamentary knowledge base has major value for legislative institutions. A solid ICT infrastructure combined with skilled library and research staff can greatly enhance member access to key information resources, whether they are from inside the legislature, from political bodies, or from a variety of outside sources.

In attempting to achieve this higher level of service one of the fundamental concerns shared by many parliamentary libraries is the lack of staff resources, both in terms of numbers and of training occasions, especially in technology. While this concern is legitimate, the increasing availability of ICT in parliaments offers the potential to begin to

¹ See World e-Parliament Reports 2008, 2010, 2012.

² See World e-Parliament Report 2012, p. 129.

address these issues. But to take advantage of the opportunities made possible through technology requires two critical elements: 1) access to the technology itself, with support from ICT specialists; and, 2) a library staff with the knowledge and skills to exploit technology to the benefit of the parliament. Also, it is vital to raise the understanding of the institution's senior management regarding the added value that libraries can bring to e-parliament and e-services.

Goals and objectives

The *Training for Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services of the Asia Pacific region* builds on the intense cooperation that since 2007 the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) has developed with the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, notably through the co-organization of training sessions on the occasion of the Section's annual pre-conferences (2009, 2011, 2012), regional training sessions for parliamentary staff of Africa, Latin American and Arab legislatures (2009, 2011, 2012), joint panels during the World e-Parliament Conferences (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012), and the publication of the Handbook *Information and Communication Technologies in Parliamentary Libraries* in 2012.

The *Training* intends to respond to some of the challenges faced by the parliamentary libraries of the Asia Pacific region by focusing on the strategic use of new technologies to provide more effective information services to the parliament and citizens, and on the creation, management and sharing of digital information/collections among parliamentary libraries of the region. It will also provide an opportunity for parliamentary libraries of the Asia Pacific region to discuss common tools to be developed within their Association.

Further information and the programme of the training day will be available on line in the following weeks on the dedicated page of the 29th Annual pre-Conference of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments at the following address: <http://ifla2013satellite.nlb.sg/parliament/>

Targeted Audience

The Training is directed at Heads of Parliamentary Libraries and/or Research Services from the Asia Pacific region.

The Parliament of Australia will support a limited number of participants from Parliaments of the Pacific to attend the training, as well as the activities of the IFLA's Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments in the following days.

Training sessions will be delivered by Librarians, senior staff and experts from the IFLA's Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments and Information Technology Section.

Observers

As in the past, parliamentary staff from libraries and research services from outside the Asia Pacific region who wish to attend the training will be accepted as observers.

Observers will need to register in advance by sending an e-mail request to raissa.teodori@senato.it

Requests will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until space capacity is reached.

Meeting venue

The one-day Training will take place at the Li Ka Shing Library of the Singapore Management University.

Organizers

The Training is co-organized by the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments, the Library of the Parliament of Singapore and the Parliament of Australia.

The IFLA Information Technology Section and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament will contribute to the preparation of the programme and to its delivery.

Languages

The language of the Training will be English. No interpretation will be available in other languages.

Useful Links

Parliament of Australia: <http://www.aph.gov.au/>

Parliament of Singapore: <http://www.parliament.gov.sg/>

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA):
<http://www.ifla.org/>

IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliament:
<http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments>

Global Centre for ICT in Parliament: <http://www.ictparliament.org/>

29th Annual pre-Conference of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments: <http://ifla2013satellite.nlb.sg/parliament/>

79th IFLA General Conference: <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla79>