



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Parliamentary library & research services: Towards an agenda for the next decade

Online conference, 6-8 October 2021
Jointly organized by IPU and IFLAPARL



Final programme

6 October

Introduction and two global issues facing parliamentary & research services

12:00 (noon) UTC	Welcome and opening remarks [Session 1- Recording] Andy Richardson, Programme manager, IPU & Iain Watt, former Chair of IFLAPARL
12:15 UTC	Introduction to IFLAPARL Message from Barbara Lison, President of IFLA [Video in English] Presentation by Josefa Fuentes, Chair of IFLAPARL [Video in Spanish]
12:25 UTC	Introduction to the IPU Message from Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General [Video in English] Presentations on IPU services and activities Andy Richardson, Programme manager, IPU [Video in English] [Slides - English]
13:05 UTC	Break
13:10 UTC	Library & research services and parliamentary strengthening - what works? [Session 2- Recording] A discussion of the experiences of receiving the assistance of parliamentary strengthening efforts and of providing the training, experience sharing, or mentoring. After a brief overview of global legislative strengthening efforts of the past few decades, panellists from different services and legislative strengthening programmes will discuss their experiences, after which all session participants will have the opportunity to respond to a poll and offer their experience and expectations reflecting on what has worked for them in the past and what kind of knowledge and practice sharing experience would be most beneficial for them in the future. A short Q&A with the panellists and summary recommendations will wrap up the session. Moderator: Ellie Valentine, Free-Lance Librarian and former Legislative Strengthening Practitioner [Video - English] [Slides - English]

	<p>Panellists:</p> <p>Donna Scheeder, former Deputy Chief Information Officer, U.S. Congressional Research Service. President 2015-2017 and Fellow, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)</p> <p>Susan Swift, former Director, Legislative Library and Research Services, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Canada.</p> <p>Eva Maláčková, Director of the Parliamentary Library, National Council of the Slovak Republic</p> <p>Innocent Rugambwa, Director, Library Services, Parliament of Uganda [Video in English]</p> <p>Alejandro Lorenzo César Santa, Director Coordinador General de la Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación, Argentina</p> <p>Natália Švecová, Director of the Parliamentary Institute, National Council of the Slovak Republic</p> <p>Muhammad Rashid Mafzool Zaka, Director General (Research & Library), Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services</p> <p>Ivo Balinov, Director of Program Development and Partnerships, Parliamentary Centre, Canada</p>
<p>14:45 UTC</p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p>14:50 UTC</p>	<p>Parliamentary library & research services respond to the pandemic – what’s new in 2021? [Session 3- Recording]</p> <p>IFLAPARL surveyed parliamentary library & research services on the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and their response to it. The original survey in 2020 had a follow-up in 2021 and the conference will receive an overview of the new results. The summary of results will be followed by a panel of case studies and a question and answer session with the panellists.</p> <p>Moderator: Janice Silveira, Director, Biblioteca da Câmara dos Deputados, Brazil</p> <p>Pandemic survey report: Iain Watt, independent at ‘Information@Work’, for IFLAPARL [Video in English] [Slides - English]</p> <p>Case studies: Mariam Stuurman, Digital Knowledge and Information Enhancement Officer, Western Cape Provincial Parliament, South Africa [Video in English] [Slides - English]</p>

	<p>Matthew Purvis, Head of Research Services, House of Lords, United Kingdom [Video in English] [Slides - English]</p> <p>Eliana Carvidón, Librarian, Biblioteca del Poder Legislativo, Uruguay [Video in Spanish] [Slides - English]</p>
15:45 UTC	<p>First day closing remarks/announcements</p> <p>Andy Richardson, Programme manager, IPU & Iain Watt, former Chair of IFLAPARL</p>
16:00 UTC	<p><i>Close of first day</i></p>

7 October

Issues in service strategy

12:00 (noon) UTC	<p>Welcome and opening remarks</p> <p>Andy Richardson, Programme manager, IPU & Iain Watt, former Chair of IFLAPARL</p>
12:15 UTC	<p>The role of data in Library and Research Services for Parliaments: challenges, opportunities and best practices</p> <p>[Session 4- Recording]</p> <p>Finding, using and visualising data in a clear and compelling way has become increasingly important. With a growing variety of data types and a massive growth in volume, new services and practices relating to data management planning, skills training, acquisition, long-term curation and visualisation are continuously evolving. How is the need for data best identified and how does it support parliamentarians in their work? What are the challenges in providing data, and what are the benefits?</p> <p>Moderator: Jonathan Curtis, Assistant Secretary, Research Branch, Australian Parliamentary Library</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <p>‘Making parliamentary procedure machine readable’ Michael Smethurst, Parliamentary Digital Service & Anya Somerville, House of Commons Library, United Kingdom [Video in English] [Slides - English]</p> <p>‘Spatial data and visualization in Canada’s Parliamentary Information, Education and Research Service’ Melanie Zahab, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst, Parliamentary Information, Education and Research Services. Library of Parliament, Canada [Video in English] [Slides - English]</p> <p>‘The evolution of mapping: data, software and other challenges’ Lyn Sebo, Senior Researcher – Mapping, Australian Parliamentary Library [Video in English] [Slides - English]</p>

	<p>‘Data visualization in practice: the experience of the Hungarian research service’ Alexandra Holle, Team Leader, Research Service, National Assembly, Hungary [Video in English] [Slides - English]</p>
13:25 UTC	<i>Break</i>
13:30 UTC	<p>Accessibility, diversity and inclusion in parliamentary library & research services - “Words Matter” [Session 5- Recording]</p> <p>Parliamentary library and research services strive to meet the information needs of elected members, a group that is increasingly more diverse and reflective of the citizens they represent. To support the accessibility of information we provide, respect diversity and strive for inclusion, this session will focus on the use of language. Practitioners will share the work being done regarding the use of plain language, the creation of inclusive glossaries and the ways different languages can be respected.</p> <p>Moderator: Julie Anderson, Manager, Content Management, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Canada</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <p>‘Inclusive and Accessible Language’ Eleanor Davis, House of Commons Library, United Kingdom [Video in English] [Slides - English]</p> <p>‘Reconciling cultures and sensitivities when representing issues studied by Parliament’ Alexandre Fortier, Library of Parliament, Canada [Video in French] [Slides - French and English]</p> <p>‘Bringing Parliament Closer to the Public’ Verónica Kulczewski and Manuel Alfonso Pérez Guiñez, Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile [Video in Spanish] [Slides - Spanish]</p>
14:25 UTC	<i>Break</i>
14:30 UTC	<p>Service strategy in the 2020’s [Session 6- Recording]</p> <p>Service strategy is about identifying where your service should go, and how to get there. Service strategy defines the perspective, position, plans and patterns that your service needs to execute to meet your clients’ (Members of Parliament) changing needs. Your service strategy might be in written form, or might be implicit, but it faces a new environment in the 2020’s. Practitioners will share how their strategy is changing due to the impact of the pandemic and due to their analysis of changing needs, challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>Moderator: Ida Kelemen, Head of the Research Service, National Assembly, Hungary.</p> <p>Presentations:</p>

	<p>‘Transform our services for a sustainable legislative process’ Claudia Cuevas, Analyst, Library of the National Congress of Chile [Video in Spanish] [Slides - English]</p> <p>‘The Responsiveness and Relevance of the House of Representatives Legislative Library and Archives in Times of Crisis’ Fairlyn H. Sarga, Chief Information Services Librarian, House of Representatives, Philippines [Video in English]</p> <p>‘How can parliamentary research services and libraries best identify and respond to client needs? The EPRS experience.’ Anthony Teasdale, Director-General, European Parliamentary Research Service, European Parliament. [Video in English]</p>
15:30 UTC	<p>Second day closing remarks/announcements Andy Richardson, Programme manager, IPU & Iain Watt, former Chair of IFLAPARL</p>
15:45 UTC	<p><i>Close of second day</i></p>

8 October

Workshops – developing managers and staff in parliamentary library & research services

12:00 (noon) UTC	<p>Welcome and opening remarks Andy Richardson, Programme manager, IPU & Iain Watt, former Chair of IFLAPARL</p>
12:15 UTC	<p>IFLAPARL guidelines for parliamentary library & research services – plenary session [Session 7- Recording]</p> <p>IFLAPARL prepares guidelines for professional practice in parliamentary library & research services. The guidelines for research services were published in 2015 with the participation of the IPU. A new version of the guidelines for parliamentary libraries is forthcoming and will also be published with the participation of the IPU. The new guidelines for parliamentary libraries will be introduced in this session.</p> <p>Participants will also vote on a topic for an open discussion during the plenary session.</p> <p>Facilitator: Edward Wood, former Director of Research, House of Commons, United Kingdom [Video in English] [Slides - English]</p>
13:15 UTC	<p><i>Break & choice of workshop session</i></p>

<p>13:20 UTC</p>	<p>Workshop sessions</p> <p>Participants will choose one of three sessions to join for a workshop of c. 90 minutes. Each workshop will have a short introduction by the facilitator and the participants will discuss scenarios and cases to explore the topic.</p> <p>Workshop 1 on 'User needs and engagement' will be a multilingual session with interpretation. Workshops 2 and 3 will run in English.</p> <p>1. User needs and engagement: are Parliamentarians' needs changing? (<i>with interpretation</i>) [Session 8- Recording]</p> <p>What changes are we seeing in the needs of our users and how are we responding to this? What are the best practices for user engagement?</p> <p>Moderator: Fabiola Rosales, Director of Specialized Information and Analysis Services, Chamber of Deputies, Mexico [Video in Spanish] [Slides - English]</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <p>Alec Vuijsteke, Head of Client Needs, Strategy & Innovation Unit, European Parliamentary Research Service, European Parliament [Video in English] [Slides - English]</p> <p>Dorothy Almanza, Head of Congressional Services Section, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, U.S [Video in English] [Slides - English]</p> <p>2. Impartiality in practice (<i>English only</i>) [Session 9- Recording] Parliamentary library and research service staff need to be politically aware, but work in a way that is politically neutral: how do we achieve this balance?</p> <p>Facilitator: Edward Wood, former Director of Research, House of Commons, Parliament of the United Kingdom [Slides - English]</p> <p>3. New staffing and working models (<i>English only</i>) [Session 10- Recording] What are the emerging best practices for staffing and working models? Are work practices flexible enough? What are the barriers to diversity?</p> <p>Facilitator: Sonia Bebbington, Director General, Information and Document Resource Service, Parliament of Canada [Slides - English]</p>
<p>14:50 UTC</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>14:55 UTC</p>	<p>Report back from the Workshops – plenary session [Session 11- Recording]</p> <p>Rapporteurs will present the main elements of the discussions from all three workshops</p>

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15:25 UTC	Closing remarks on the day and on the conference Andy Richardson, Programme manager, IPU & Iain Watt, former Chair of IFLAPARL Josefa Fuentes, Chair of IFLAPARL 2021-
16:00 UTC	Close of third day and the conference