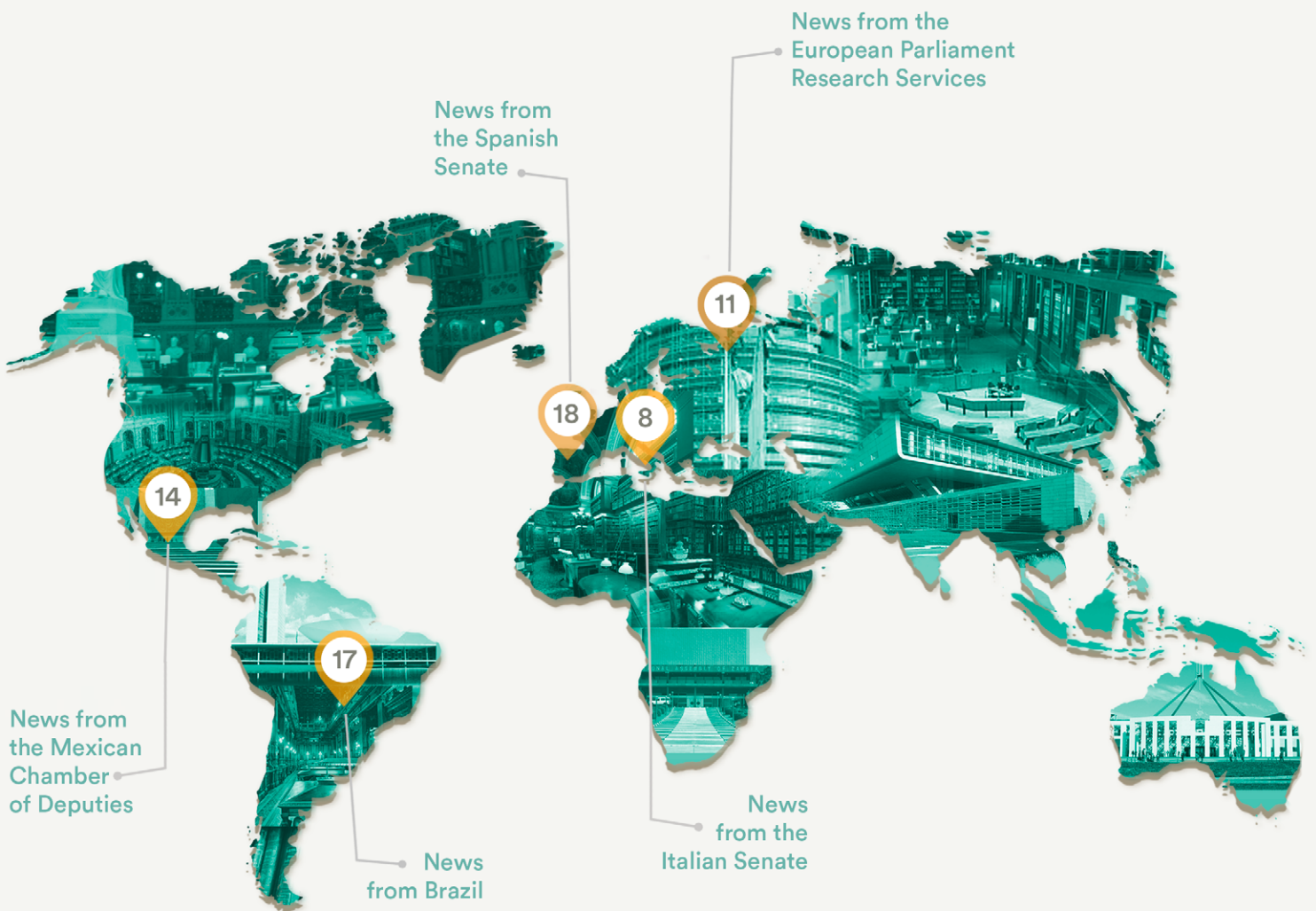




**IFLA Section  
Library and Research Services  
for Parliaments  
IFLAPARL**



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## Carolynne Ménard

IFLAPARL Chair

**Cheffe d'équipe – Responsable de la médiation, Service de l'information  
Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec, Canada**

Dear Colleagues,

2025 is already well underway, bringing with it renewed energy and fresh opportunities for collaboration within our community of parliamentary library and research professionals. As we move forward into this new year, IFLAPARL continues to grow, adapt, and strengthen its network. Our Standing Committee is starting the year well refreshed, ready to take on new projects and initiatives that will support our members and advance our shared mission. We are excited for what lies ahead and look forward to working with you all in the months to come.

Many of us had the pleasure of meeting in person at the [2024 Annual Conference of IFLAPARL](#), hosted by the Senado de España on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October in Madrid, Spain. Since then, IFLAPARL has been working to make the materials from this event available online, ensuring that the valuable discussions and insights shared during our sessions remain accessible to all. The entirety of the two-day event is already available on [YouTube](#), thanks to the remarkable work of our colleagues at the Spanish Senate.

This newsletter is the first of a two-part edition. In this issue, we bring you updates on IFLAPARL's activities and news from parliamentary libraries and research services worldwide. You will find information about IFLAPARL's first webinar in memory of the late Donna Scheeder, former Chair of IFLAPARL and President of IFLA, held on the 12th of November jointly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Our colleagues from Italy, Mexico, Brazil, Spain, and the European Parliament also provided valuable updates from their institutions and great examples of collaboration in our field. The second part of this newsletter, coming soon, will be dedicated to the papers presented at the 2024 Annual Conference, ensuring that the knowledge shared in Madrid is widely available and continues to inform our work.

In addition to the above, I am delighted to share that plans are already underway for our community to meet at the 2025 World Library and Information Congress, which will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from August 18 to 22. IFLAPARL is currently discussing possibilities for a Satellite Meeting dedicated to our Section to be held in the days following the WLIC. These events will provide valuable opportunities to discuss key issues, share best practices, and strengthen our professional community. Please stay tuned for more details, which will be announced in due course.

Thank you for your continued engagement with IFLAPARL. We look forward to a year of fruitful discussions, collaboration, and progress for our global community.

**Carolynne Ménard**  
IFLAPARL Chair

Message from the Chair

**If you are already an IFLA Member** and would like to join our Section, please go to Member Online Service to manage your membership account and join our Section:

 <https://members.ifla.org/membersarea/login/login.asp?type=EXTRANET>

**If you are not an IFLA Member**, you must become one before joining any section. More information is available at

 <https://www.ifla.org/become-a-member/>

**STAY CONNECTED**

**Visit the Section’s website:**

 <https://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments>

which includes links to our Action Plan, previous Newsletters, publications, meeting minutes, and more.

Join our mailing list:

 <https://mail.iflalists.org/wws/subscribe/iflaparl>

**TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT:**

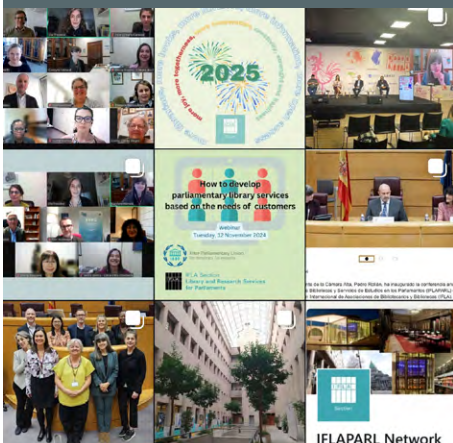
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## How to develop parliamentary library services based on the needs of customers

(online event, 12 November 2024)

**Martin Reid**

Director of Library Services, House of Commons Library, UK  
IFLA PARL SC Member

IFLAPARL's first webinar in memory of the late Donna Scheeder, former Chair of IFLAPARL and President of IFLA, was held on 12<sup>th</sup> November. This focused on the topic of 'How to develop parliamentary library services based on the needs of customers' and was the first in what is planned to be a series of online seminars based on the *Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries* (first published by the Section in 1993 and already in their [3<sup>rd</sup> edition](#)).

The webinar was led by Edward Wood, a former Director of Research of the UK House of Commons Library and one of the authors of the *Guidelines*, who covered key considerations in developing a service including:

- how parliaments work through their members,
- the multiple roles MPs have, the pressure they are under, and the importance of tailoring support to the specific role or task an MP is performing,
- the need to engage with MPs when planning a service, finding out about their working lives, identifying their information needs and testing strategic assumptions and hypotheses with them before developing detailed proposals.



The slide features the IPU logo (a laurel wreath with a building and the year 1889) and the IFLA logo (a green grid with the letters IFLA). The text on the slide reads: "How to develop parliamentary library services based on the needs of customers" in teal, followed by "12 November 2024" in a smaller teal font. Below this, the roles and names of the participants are listed: Moderator: Claire Sewell, House of Commons Library, United Kingdom; Speaker: Edward Wood, lead contributor, IPU-IFLA Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries (3rd edition, 2022); Panelists: Martin Reid (United Kingdom), Ellie Valentine (USA), Joanna Smith (Canada), Alejandro Santa (Argentina).

**Moderator:** Claire Sewell, House of Commons Library, United Kingdom

**Speaker:** Edward Wood, lead contributor, IPU-IFLA Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries (3rd edition, 2022)

**Panelists:** Martin Reid (United Kingdom), Ellie Valentine (USA), Joanna Smith (Canada), Alejandro Santa (Argentina)



IFLAPARL-IPU JOINT EVENT



The session was delivered twice at 10am and 4pm Central European Time to enable as many colleagues as possible from different time zones around the globe to participate, and thanks to our joint organisers, the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), who also hosted the event, we were able to provide simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Arabic at 10am and English and Spanish at 4pm.

Edward was joined by a distinguished group of panellists for each of the two sessions, who followed his presentation with reflections on their experiences of developing and delivering services in their own countries and regions. These were Lee Dong Young from South Korea and Isaiah Munyoro from Zimbabwe for the 10am session, and Ellie Valentine from the USA, Alejandro Santa from Argentina and Johanna Smith from Canada for the 4pm session.

The sessions concluded with questions to the panel from the online audience on a range of very interesting topics including how to respond to the development of AI when on a tight budget, and when is it legitimate to deny services to MPs.

There was excellent engagement from the 148 people who participated in one or other of the two sessions with the only disappointment being that there was not more time to explore the great questions from the audience and the fascinating

conversations these generated with both panels!

We will bear this in mind as we plan for the next webinars in the series and to help with that we would love to hear from you about what topics you would like to see covered next. Please do get in touch!

A recording of the second session is available on the IPU website: [How to develop parliamentary library services based on the needs of customers | Inter-Parliamentary Union](#).

**Donna Scheeder (1947-2022):** Deputy director of Information in the Research Service of the Library of Congress (USA), Director of Services in the Library of Law of Congress, active member of the Library and Research Services for Parliaments IFLA Section and Chair of the Section 2005-2007, and IFLA President 2017-2019.

Her commitment to library and information and research service in global development, and to the potential the profession can provide to communities -locally and globally- are widely acknowledged.

Some articles indicative of her impact on the field can be found [here](#) and [here](#). A glimpse of her in action during the IFLA WLIC 2017 can be found [here](#).



## COMPARED LAW DATABASE

IFLAPARL invites the community of parliamentary librarians and researchers to register digital publications on national and compared law studies at COMLAW, a free multilingual data base which aims to provide authoritative information for the parliamentary community.

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To contribute to COMLAW, please contact: <https://iflaparl.janium.net/opac>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

<https://www.ifla.org/g/services-for-parliaments/comlaw-compared-law-database/>

# 4

# COMLAW



# 5 NEWS

## 5.1 News from the Italian Senate

**Dr. Chiara De Vecchis**  
Italian Senate Library 'G. Spadolini'

### Parliamentary Libraries in the World in the Online Journal of the Italian Senate Library

In February 2011, an article on the Library of the European Parliament appeared in the first issue of the new series of *MinervaWeb*, the online journal of the 'Giovanni Spadolini' Library of the Senate of the Italian Republic ([www.senato.it/minervaweb](http://www.senato.it/minervaweb)).

*MinervaWeb* was launched in 2005 as a bimonthly newsletter and a communication tool focusing on the services, collections, and activities of the Italian Senate Library. However, within a few years, it redefined its purpose to become a journal for in-depth analysis and a virtual space where other libraries could also have a voice. To this end, a new section, titled 'Parliamentary Libraries in the World,' was introduced as a window into the libraries of legislative bodies. During its first 15 years, this section published 28 articles featuring 25 different countries across all continents.

Similar in function and objectives but diverse in service practices, parliamentary libraries vary as much as the institutions they serve. These differences stem from factors such as whether the legislature is unicameral or bicameral, whether the libraries are open to the public or reserved for MPs and administrative staff, and whether they are combined with parliamentary research and documentation services. Often participating in national or international network projects, parliamentary libraries play a vital role in supporting

### "Biblioteche parlamentari nel mondo" nella rivista della Biblioteca del Senato della Repubblica italiana

Era il febbraio del 2011 quando un articolo sulla Biblioteca del Parlamento europeo appariva sul primo numero della nuova serie di "MinervaWeb" ([www.senato.it/minervaweb](http://www.senato.it/minervaweb)), la rivista online della [Biblioteca del Senato della Repubblica italiana](http://www.senato.it) "Giovanni Spadolini", nata nel 2005 come strumento di comunicazione bimestrale su servizi, collezioni e attività della biblioteca, ma che ambiva a diventare, ridisegnando la propria impostazione e creando anche nuove rubriche, uno spazio di approfondimento e di apertura al confronto con altre realtà. Nasceva così la rubrica "Biblioteche parlamentari nel mondo": una finestra sulle biblioteche degli organi legislativi, che nei suoi primi 15 anni di vita ha prodotto 28 articoli e coinvolto 25 diversi Paesi, dislocati in tutti e 5 i continenti.

Analoghe per funzioni e obiettivi ma sfaccettate nelle pratiche di servizio, le biblioteche parlamentari sono tra loro tanto diverse quanto diverse sono le istituzioni da cui dipendono: monocamerali o bicamerali, aperte al pubblico o riservate ai parlamentari e allo staff amministrativo, unite o abbinate ai servizi parlamentari di ricerca e documentazione, spesso cooperanti nell'ambito di progetti di rete a livello nazionale o internazionale, le biblioteche parlamentari svolgono un ruolo delicato per il corretto funzionamento delle istituzioni e della



institutions and political processes. They recognise the importance of robust knowledge in political decision-making. This principle applies equally to their internal decisions: by better understanding the contexts in which they operate, the daily practices governing their operations, and their histories, these libraries can more effectively design initiatives that support MPs and citizens.

With this mission in mind, *MinervaWeb* has reached out to colleagues from parliamentary libraries worldwide, inviting them to share and disseminate news about their activities. Most contributions have come directly from foreign librarians and staff of parliamentary research and documentation services, with only a few articles written by the journal's editorial team using publicly available information or raw data provided by colleagues. These articles are typically concise, with sections dedicated to the libraries' histories, collections, and services. Each article concludes with contact details and other useful information.

Opportunities to establish contacts often arose during the IFLA World Library Conferences and satellite events of the IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section. These events – facilitated by the expertise and enthusiasm of the Standing Committee members – fostered lasting relationships among librarians from different institutions, underscoring the value of networks and associations for professional growth and development.

For similar reasons, the 'Parliamentary Libraries in the World' section has featured editorial articles on significant IFLAPARL achievements and internationally relevant documents. These include [Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries, 3rd ed.](#) (2022, n. 70, n.s.), the [IFLAPARL Report on the Response of Parliamentary Libraries to the Pandemic](#) (2021, n. 65, n.s.), and [Technologies in Parliamentary Libraries: Observations from the World e-Parliament Report 2012](#) (2012, n. 12, n.s.). Additionally, news about IFLA conferences has appeared in the 'Events' column of *MinervaWeb*. Some of these entries were authored by former Standing Committee members, such as Paola Mandillo's reports on the IFLAPARL pre-conferences in Dublin 2022 (*The 37th Pre-Conference of the IFLA Section 'Library and research services for parliaments'*, 2022, n. 70, n.s.) and Athens 2020 ([The](#)

politica e sono accomunate dalla consapevolezza dell'importanza di – come disse il secondo Presidente della Repubblica italiana, Luigi Einaudi – “conoscere per deliberare”. Questo motto, che fonda sulla conoscenza il dibattito parlamentare, vale appunto anche per le biblioteche, che conoscendo meglio i rispettivi contesti lavorativi, con le prassi connesse e la storia in cui si innestano, possono orientare meglio la propria azione a supporto dei parlamentari e dei cittadini.

È con questo spirito che «MinervaWeb» ha interpellato i colleghi di varie biblioteche parlamentari nel mondo per ricevere e diffondere notizie sulla loro attività: infatti, eccetto rari casi in cui gli articoli sono stati scritti dalla redazione della testata utilizzando materiali disponibili in rete o forniti dai diretti interessati, i contributi sono stati inviati da bibliotecari e dal personale dei servizi di ricerca e documentazione parlamentare. Si tratta di testi di lunghezza medio-breve (un paio di pagine) ma articolati in sezioni dedicate alla storia, alle collezioni, ai servizi delle biblioteche, di cui vengono infine forniti recapiti e informazioni di contatto.

A volte, l'occasione per stabilire un contatto è venuta dalla partecipazione alle conferenze IFLA e ai satelliti della Sezione IFLAPARL, che – anche grazie alle competenze e all'entusiasmo profusi dai membri dello Standing Committee – hanno saputo stabilire rapporti duraturi tra chi lavora nelle diverse istituzioni, a riprova dell'importanza del network e delle associazioni per l'aggiornamento e lo sviluppo professionale. Per lo stesso motivo, nella rubrica “Biblioteche parlamentari nel mondo” sono stati anche pubblicati articoli redazionali su alcune realizzazioni della Sezione IFLAPARL o su documenti di rilievo internazionale: *Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries, 3rd ed.* (2022, n. 70, n.s.), *Il Report IFLAPARL sulla risposta delle biblioteche parlamentari alla pandemia* (2021, n. 65 n.s.), *Le tecnologie nelle biblioteche parlamentari: osservazioni dal World e-Parliament Report 2012* (2012, n. 12 n.s.); resoconti di conferenze ed eventi-satellite hanno invece trovato posto nella rubrica “Eventi”, spesso a cura di passati membri della Sezione, come nel caso del report di Paola Mandillo sulle pre-conferenze IFLAPARL di Dublino 2022 (La 37.

[activities of the IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section in conference in Athens](#), 2019, n. 53, n.s.).

In 2023, the Senate Library celebrated its twentieth anniversary of opening to the public by listing reference materials on European parliamentary libraries in *MinervaWeb*. Numerous publications from 2003 to 2023 – focusing on the history, collections, digitisation projects, and citizenship initiatives of major European parliamentary libraries – were selected from the library catalogue and other bibliographic sources. These references were included in a bibliography, alongside online materials on similar topics. Consequently, two brief directories, dedicated to the [history and collections](#) of parliamentary libraries and their [digital strategies and services for citizenship](#), are now available for download in PDF format. These directories were supplemented by commentary articles published in the [May](#) and [November](#) 2023 issues of *MinervaWeb*.

Since 2022, *MinervaWeb* has become a quarterly publication, allowing for more comprehensive analysis. The section dedicated to parliamentary libraries is expected to be published more regularly, enabling a sort of ‘world tour’ of key institutions. We encourage those interested in collaborating to reach out! By sharing proposals for contributions and news about their activities, colleagues from around the globe can help enhance our mutual understanding and fulfil one of IFLA’s most inspiring mottos: ‘stronger together.’

Pre-Conferenza della Sezione IFLA “Library and research services for parliaments”, 2022, n. 70 n.s.) e Atene 2020 (Le attività della Sezione IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments in conferenza ad Atene, 2019, n. 53 n.s.).

Inoltre, nel 2023 la Biblioteca del Senato ha voluto festeggiare il primo ventennale di apertura al pubblico proponendo in “MinervaWeb” un doppio percorso bibliografico tematico su Le biblioteche parlamentari europee. Attraverso una ricerca nel catalogo del Polo bibliotecario parlamentare italiano e in altre fonti bibliografiche, sono state individuate pubblicazioni edite dal 2003 al 2023 riguardanti la storia, le raccolte, i progetti di digitalizzazione e le iniziative per la cittadinanza delle principali biblioteche parlamentari europee, includendo contributi disponibili online sui medesimi temi e la sitografia ufficiale delle singole biblioteche. Sono nati così due brevi repertori, scaricabili in formato pdf, dedicati a Storia e fondi delle biblioteche parlamentari e alle loro Strategie digitali e servizi per la cittadinanza, accompagnati da articoli di commento rispettivamente nei numeri di maggio e novembre 2023.

Dal 2022 “MinervaWeb” è diventato trimestrale, per consentire un maggiore approfondimento degli articoli. A maggior ragione, dunque, lo spazio dedicato alle biblioteche parlamentari vorrebbe diventare una rubrica fissa, per realizzare una sorta di ‘giro del mondo’ attraverso questa importante rete di istituzioni. Ci rivolgiamo per questo a chi avesse interesse a collaborare: se i colleghi di tutto il mondo vorranno inviarci proposte di contributi e notizie sulle loro attività, potremo migliorare la conoscenza reciproca per diventare davvero, secondo un’espressione cara a IFLA, “stronger together”.



## 5.2 News from the European Parliament

### EPRS-ECPRD SEMINAR ON NAVIGATING AND SUPPORTING CHANGE IN A NEW PARLIAMENT

**Yann-Sven Rittelmeyer**  
Linking the Levels Unit, EPRS

For the 8th consecutive year, the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) hosted an [ECPRD](#) seminar for national parliamentary research services and libraries. On 5 and 6 December 2024, around 60 colleagues from almost 30 different countries gathered in the European Parliament's Library Reading Room for this annual EPRS-ECPRD seminar, jointly organised by the EPRS and the European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments. This year's event focused on the topic of 'Navigating and Supporting Change in a New Parliament' and provided a forum for exchanging ideas about managing change in newly-elected parliaments. The seminar examined how research

services and libraries are adapting their working methods, products and services to give optimal support to their incoming Members of Parliament.

Etienne Bassot, Director of EPRS Members' Research Service, welcomed the participants and pointed out that 50% of the Members of the European Parliament elected in June 2024 are new to the institution. He added that the post-election period was crucial for EPRS to reach out to these members, but that 2024 was also a reflection period during which EPRS looked into its working methods, products and services to see how it can adapt them to meet the new needs of its clients.





The event was then officially opened by Martin Hojsík, Vice-President of the European Parliament who underlined the importance for research services of thinking about the wishes and needs of Members of Parliament. In his capacity as Vice-President with special responsibility for fundamental rights and the rule of law as well as artificial intelligence, and with his expertise in environmental issues, he highlighted that he regularly relies on EPRS and that its products and services are valuable for his work.

He was followed by Ida Kelemen, ECPRD Coordinator for the Area of Interest: Libraries, Research Services and Archives, and Head of the Information Service for Members of the National Assembly of Hungary. She emphasised how the

ECPRD network has been serving the cooperation of parliaments in Europe for almost 50 years through comparative requests and seminars.

The seminar started by a specific thematic session dedicated to a highly topical issue: the new EU political and policy agenda following the European elections. Practitioners and think-tankers exchanged on the main policy priorities for the EU in the next years as outlined in the strategic agenda 2024-2029 adopted by the European Council and set in the European Commission's President political guidelines.

The remainder of the programme tackled the main topic of the seminar from a variety of different angles including the promotion of research services to a new clientele, the role of research services in fragmented parliaments, innovative strategies for parliamentary library support, how to obtain and use qualitative feedback on existing products and services, and how to rethink products and services in order to respond to the new needs of members.

The high number of parliaments and the wide diversity of their settings led to lively exchanges. Thanks to great panels of speakers, the participants gained a deeper insight into various experiences and best practices on a very relevant topic for our work and development. While most of the countries that are members of the ECPRD network were represented,





we also had the pleasure to welcome a special guest from the Republic of Korea: Dr. Kyubeom Cho, Deputy Director-General for Political and Administration Research in the National Assembly Research Service.

Another notable presence was the one of a delegation from the [Research Service of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine](#). Five colleagues from the Ukrainian Parliament, including the Head of its Research Service, Lesia Vaolevska, attended the seminar as part of a one week visit to EPRS. This visit provided a great opportunity to learn about the functioning of and challenges facing this recently created parliamentary research service, but also to discuss specific policy issues. The Ukrainian colleagues intervened in the last session of the seminar which was about rethinking products and services in order to respond to the new needs of members. They explained their need to redefine their tasks in view of three elements: the martial law, the European integration and Euro-Atlantic processes, and the upcoming elections and the renewal of the Parliament.

The seminar ended with closing statements delivered by Anders Rasmussen, Deputy Secretary-General of the European Parliament and Director-General of the EPRS, and Sannaleena Lepola-Honig, Director-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships in the European Parliament. Anders Rasmussen stressed that the ECPRD network provides a great opportunity to maintain a strong parliamentary research community, allowing to share knowledge, to increase the quality of our work, and to tackle better similar challenges. Sannaleena Lepola observed that this seminar demonstrated that all parliaments around the world have to respond to similar needs, but that research services are the lifeblood of informed decision-making, connecting data to actions and insights to policies.

The EPRS looks forward to hosting the next edition of this annual seminar and hope to have the pleasure to welcome again such a great audience!



## 5.3 News from Mexico

**Fabiola Elena Rosales Salinas**  
 Directora de Servicios de Información y Análisis Especializados  
 FLAPARL SC Member



### HUNGARY AND MEXICO: KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE BETWEEN TWO PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES

On November 25, 2024, the Director and Deputy Director of Cultural Affairs from the Office of the Hungarian National Assembly met with their counterparts in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies, hosted by the Unit of International Affairs and Parliamentary Relations. Carolina Alonso Peñafiel, Coordinator of Information Services, Libraries, and Museum, and Patricia Nares Sotelo, General Director of the Institutional System of Archives, along with their expert staff, discussed key aspects of their work, including values, services, collections, challenges, and opportunities in preserving and disseminating parliamentary documentary memory and heritage. Through a productive exchange between the guests and hosts, the conversation highlighted the primary goals and the significant impact each area has on legislative work. The Directorate of Cultural Affairs

of the Office of the Hungarian National Assembly consists of five organizational units: the Parliamentary Library, the Museum of Parliament, the Information Service for MPs, the Public Relations Office, and the Tourism Office. The Director, István Bellavics, who oversees and coordinates professional activities in the fields of science, culture, and tourism, was accompanied by Gábor Szigeti, Deputy Director of the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, and His Excellency Zoltán Németh, Ambassador of Hungary to Mexico. During the visit, the Ambassador highlighted several shared connections between the two nations.

The presentations from both countries inspired the audience to reflect on the similarities in their objectives, operations, and institutional impact. This exchange not only showcased best practices but also generated ideas that will undoubtedly enrich both nations.

The knowledge exchange session was followed by a guided tour of the Legislative Palace of San Lázaro, which included a visit to the Chamber's plenary hall and one of the collections in the Legislative Library.



## REDIPAL 2023-2024, SEMINAR OF PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCHERS ONLINE NETWORK

The Parliamentary Researchers Online Network (REDIPAL, in Spanish) was established in August 2004 as an online communication platform aimed at encouraging its members to exchange information on parliamentary matters. The network's purpose is to foster collaboration and, through the exchange of papers and professional experiences, provide participants with relevant documentation for their

work. Over time, REDIPAL has expanded to include academics and scholars from various fields who contribute their knowledge on a non-profit basis, within a peer-to-peer, horizontal environment. It has evolved into a true knowledge community, offering valuable resources not only to participants but also to MPs seeking expert perspectives.

REDIPAL currently brings together 1,165 individuals dedicated to parliamentary research and information. Its members are active in the Federal Congress of Mexico, local legislatures across the Mexican states, Mexican academics, or colleagues from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El





Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, and Uruguay. Since 2008, REDIPAL has organised seminars that provide a platform for presenting papers on legislative topics from the perspective of parliamentary research. The closing ceremony of the REDIPAL 2023-2024 Seminar was hosted by the Congress of Mexico City, thanks to the invitation and sponsorship of MP Víctor Hugo Lobo Rodríguez, Chair of the Normativity, Studies, and Parliamentary Practices Committee of this local assembly. The protocol portion of the event was attended by MP Xóchitl Bravo Espinosa, Coordinator of the majority political group, and MP Miriam Valeria Cruz Flores, Chair of the Health Committee, both of whom welcomed the data-driven analysis provided by REDIPAL members on parliamentary matters. At the presidium, Carolina Alonso Peñafiel, Coordinator of Information Services, Libraries, and Museum of the Federal Chamber of Deputies, highlighted the history of the network and its impact on the parliamentary community. As usual, REDIPAL was enriched by the respectful dialogue among its members, who had

the opportunity to exchange viewpoints during the presentation of 42 authors' papers broadcasted on the digital [television channel of the Congress of Mexico City](#). The papers are available for open access on [REDIPAL's web site](#).

To conclude this day full of knowledge, a guided tour of the Congress of Mexico City's Plenary Hall gave attendees the opportunity to step back in time, as the building once housed the former Federal Chamber of Deputies.

If you would like to participate in this parliamentary knowledge network, please fill in the [registration form](#) and follow the updates on [social media](#).

We welcome any questions or comments at: [redipal@diputados.gob.mx](mailto:redipal@diputados.gob.mx) and [redipal.mx@gmail](mailto:redipal.mx@gmail.com)





## 5.4 News from the Brazil

### THE BRAZILIAN CONGRESS OF LIBRARIANSHIP AND DOCUMENTATION – CBBB 2024

**Janice Silveira**

**Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Library Director  
IFLAPARL SC Member**

The CBBB 2024 was held in Recife from November 25 to 29, 2024, the city where the first edition took place in 1954. The Congress was organised by the Brazilian Federation of Libraries (FEBAB). It focused on emerging themes across various types of libraries in Brazil, including school, public, community, university, specialised and parliamentary libraries. The congress lasted for five days and featured lectures, round tables, workshops, guided tours, an exhibition fair, complementary events, and collaborative work sessions, in addition to fostering significant integration and knowledge-sharing.

The Working Group of Brazilian Parliamentary Libraries of FEBAB, coordinated by Janice Silveira, organised a round table aimed at connecting professionals in the field. The session focused on knowledge exchange, sharing best practices, and establishing a collaborative network to strengthen the integration between professionals and parliamentary institutions in the management and dissemination of legislative information.

The opening lecture, titled ‘Strengthening Legislative Libraries: IFLAPARL’s Global Impact and Initiatives’, was delivered by Carolyne Ménard, Chair of IFLAPARL and Head of the Reference Service at the *Bibliothèque de l’Assemblée nationale du Québec* (Canada). She provided an overview of the work carried out by this section of IFLAPARL

globally, highlighting its objectives and the initiatives undertaken by its members to develop, promote, and disseminate best practices in this specialised field of library work. At the conclusion of her presentation, she emphasised the importance of sharing experiences and ideas from around the world and invited the audience to become part of IFLA.

The speakers, directors of legislative libraries in Brazil, shared the work they have been doing within their libraries. Each of them presented the history of the library they manage, detailing the services provided, products offered, cultural events and programmes, as well as initiatives, innovations, and projects either implemented or in the process of implementation. A vibrant exchange of experiences took place, with some ideas converging on common points while others sparked new possibilities for future actions.

The closing lecture of the CBBB was delivered by Tracie Hall, an American librarian, author, curator, and advocate for the arts. She served as the executive director of the American Library Association from 2020 to 2023, becoming the first African-American woman to lead the association since its founding in 1876. In 2023, *Time* magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world. Her lecture, *Ten Reasons Why the World Needs Libraries ... Now More Than Ever*, was both motivating and impactful. She highlighted the crucial role libraries play today amid the overwhelming flow of information, newsfeeds, and their mission of social inclusion. Tracie outlined ten reasons why libraries are more essential than ever, focusing on the role of librarians as agents of potential social transformation, delivering a powerful and relevant message.

The conference proceedings are available [here](#).



## 5.5 News from the Spanish Senate

**Josefa Fuentes García**  
 Director of Documentation  
 Senate, Spain

On the occasion of the 2024 IFLAPARL Conference, hosted by the Spanish Senate in October 2024, the Director of the Library of the Assembleia da República of Portugal carried out a professional visit to the Documentation Directorate of the Spanish Senate on 21-22 October. During this visit, the representatives of both institutions discussed in depth topics related to the Spanish Senate Library's Collection Management Program, including selection criteria, acquisition procedures, preventive conservation, restoration of the historical bibliographic collection, the digitization plan, and methods for promoting and disseminating the collection.

This exchange fostered the sharing of best practices and sparked ideas that will undoubtedly enrich both countries.

In addition, the Director of Documentation hosted an episode of the series 'Colloquiums in the Library', featuring MBE Ms. Anoja Fernando, a prestigious Knowledge Exploitation Lead in His Majesty's

Government of the United Kingdom. Ms. Fernando was also the keynote speaker at the 2024 Annual Conference of the IFLAPARL Section, titled 'Leveraging Collective Expertise for Innovation and Impact in Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services'. Her visit to the Spanish Senate provided an excellent opportunity to include her as a guest in this series of colloquia, which the Library organises to discuss historical events related to parliamentarism and their accompanying bibliographic exhibitions.

On this occasion, the discussion focused on the 75th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, commemorated worldwide in 2024 and celebrated by the Spanish Senate through an archival-bibliographic exhibition.

The colloquium recording is available in English and in Spanish.

👉 English hyperlink: <https://bit.ly/4i5b4Y3>

👉 Spanish hyperlink: <https://bit.ly/41n5uuz>



## FROM RESOURCES TO RESULTS: CAPTURING INTEREST WITH DYNAMIC LIBRARY PRODUCTS. THE SPANISH SENATE PRESENTATION AT THE ECPRD SEMINAR IN BRUSSELS

The 2024 ECPRD Seminar, hosted by the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) and jointly organised with the EP Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, took place on the 5-6 December 2024, at the European Parliament in Brussels. It was a privilege to be invited to speak at this important event.

The seminar, themed 'Parliamentary Research and Libraries: Navigating and Supporting Change in a New Parliament', served as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences among parliamentary research services and libraries. The discussions focused on how these institutions are adapting their methods, products, and services to optimally support newly elected Members of Parliament.

On the second day, Session 4 was dedicated to Innovative Strategies for Parliamentary Library Support and took place in the European Parliament's Library Reading Room. My presentation was part of this session, which concluded with a vibrant question-and-answer session.

Titled 'From Resources to Results: Capturing Interest with Dynamic Library Products' the presentation focused on the complex task of engaging parliamentary users in today's highly connected environment. It showcased a range of tools and library products developed by the Spanish Senate, including:

- » *Selective Dissemination of Information (DSI)* tools,
- » *Tutorials* designed to maximize resource use (e.g. Harnessing AI for smarter research and analysis or Making the most of the parliamentary website's search engine),
- » *Global dossiers* reviewed and updated at regular intervals throughout the year,
- » User-friendly *Newsletter* featuring newly acquired holdings, which also provide context for Spanish legislative initiatives by aligning them with the framework and timeline of the European Commission's Work Program.

These tools and products aim to make parliamentary work more efficient and informed while adapting to the fast-changing needs of our legislators.

The session featured a wealth of inspiring contributions from colleagues across Europe, highlighting innovative strategies and forward-thinking projects in parliamentary libraries.

The slides presentation can be found [here](#).





## New publications, upcoming events

**Leonor Calvão Borges**  
Research Division,  
Assembléia da República, Portugal  
IFLAPARL SC Member

**Iouliani (Lila) Theodosi**  
Hellenic Parliament Library  
IFLAPARL Information  
Coordinator

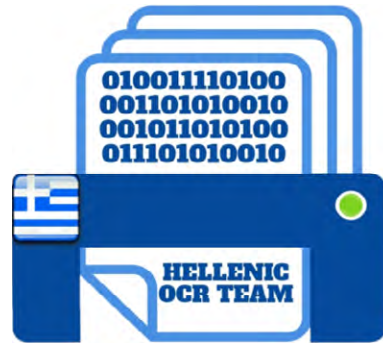
### 6.1 4th Global Conference on Parliamentary Studies

The Hellenic OCR Team and Széchenyi István University, in cooperation with International Journal of Parliamentary Studies and Brill, are organizing the 4th Global Conference on Parliamentary Studies, a unique event to be held in Athens, Greece, on June 13, 2025. The conference topic is “Reinventing Democracy for the 21st Century”.

This international parliamentary conference in Athens aims to explore and discuss how technology, media, and international dynamics intersect with democratic practices within parliamentary institutions in the 21st century. With rapid technological change, the rise of artificial intelligence, the spread of disinformation and complex geopolitical realities, democratic institutions must adapt to remain resilient and effective. This conference invites leading parliamentary experts from around the world to examine the intersection of technology, policy and societal change within parliaments, and to propose innovative solutions for reinforcing democratic principles.

Key themes will include the transformation of parliaments into digital bodies, the influence of artificial intelligence on policymaking, the role of social media and the metaverse in civic engagement and the proliferation of disinformation. In particular, the conference aims to strengthen dialogue on sustaining democratic resilience, maintaining transparency and trust in an age of AI, while exploring and investigating the intersection of technology and parliamentary governance. Sessions will also cover strategies for combating disinformation and ensuring that technological progress enhances rather than undermines democratic principles.





## CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference organizers invite scholars and practitioners from around the world to submit abstracts related to the following themes and associated topics:

- ***The evolution of the digital parliament***

- » The transition to digital parliamentary systems: benefits, challenges and the future of electronic governance.
- » The potential and risks of incorporating AI into representative institutions, establishing standards and ensuring transparency.
- » Strategies for leveraging digital tools to improve institutional efficiency and public engagement.

- ***Media and disinformation in the digital age***

- » Technological approaches to identify and counteract disinformation, enhancing public trust and media literacy.
- » Parliaments and the role of social media platforms in mobilizing or polarizing the public, algorithmic influences and regulations to ensure fair discourse.
- » The metaverse as an emerging space for democratic engagement: opportunities, challenges, and regulatory considerations.

- ***Geopolitical shifts and democratic stability***

- » Strategies for upholding democratic norms within parliaments in the face of global challenges and shifting power dynamics.
- » Inter-parliamentary cooperation and the influence of international conflicts and alliances on democratic processes and resilience.
- » Approaches to strengthening collaboration between democratic institutions to safeguard against external and internal threats.

The organizers also encourage submissions on related topics that contribute to the development of parliamentary practices and the evolution of democratic systems.

- **The deadline for submission of abstracts is 28 February, 2025.**

- **For more information, visit the [Conference site](#).**

## 6.2 Parliamentary Libraries: a list of recent publications

IFLAPARL brings you a list of recent publications of interest to the parliamentary libraries and research services professionals. If you have a recent publications that you want to share with the community through the Newsletter, send it to the IFLAPARL Information Coordinator Iouliani (Lila) Theodosi at infoiflaparl@gmail.com.

Abdullah, H. A. (2024). The culture of artificial intelligence and its role in building and developing the skills of a smart society in parliamentary libraries: The Egyptian House of Representatives Library as a model. *Scientific Journal of Libraries, Documents and Information*, 6(17), 312–348.

<https://doi.org/10.21608/jslmf.2022.166232.1140> (in Arabic)

Cormier, V., & Falardeau, M. (2024). La gestion des collections en contexte parlementaire : un aperçu du corpus documentaire de la Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale. *Documentation et Bibliothèques*, 70(4), 43–49.

<https://shs-cairn-info.acces.bibl.ulaval.ca/revue-documentation-et-bibliotheques-2024-4-page-43?lang=fr>.

De Vecchis, C. (2024). La Conferenza IFLAPARL 2024. Madrid, 17-18 ottobre. *MinervaWeb: Rivista Online Della Biblioteca "Giovanni Spadolini,"* 78.

[https://www.senato.it/4800?newsletter\\_item=19007&newsletter\\_numero=1533](https://www.senato.it/4800?newsletter_item=19007&newsletter_numero=1533)

Geddes, M. (2024). Comparing evidence use in parliaments: the interplay of beliefs, traditions, and practices in the UK and Germany. *Policy and Society*, 43(4), 447–462.

<https://academic.oup.com/policyandsociety/article/43/4/447/7678842>

Grinc, J., Hrotková, B., & Neumann, M. (2024). Mapping the Current State of Parliamentary Research: Report from the 3rd Global Conference on Parliamentary Studies. *International Journal of Parliamentary Studies*, 4(2), 261–267.

<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1163/26668912-bja10083>

Lucke, J. von, Fitsilis, F., & Gagnon, S. (2024). Comparative Analysis of the Relevance and Priority for Artificial Intelligence Tools, Services and Open Questions in the Hellenic, Argentinian and Canadian Parliaments. *International Journal of Parliamentary Studies*, 4(2), 182–212.

<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1163/26668912-bja10089>

Mittelstädt, R. M. (2025). Knowledge is Power: An Explorative Study of Knowledge Work Among European Members of Parliament. *The Electronic Journal of Knowledge Management*, 23(1), 34–46.

<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.34190/ejkm.23.1.3735>

Nery, C. R. de A. (2024). *Instrumento de recomendação automática de ações parlamentares com base em preferências* [Trabalho de conclusão do curso de mestrado profissional do Programa de Pós-Graduação do CEFOR., Câmara dos Deputados].

<https://bd.camara.leg.br/bd/handle/bdcamara/41861>

Parliamentary Digital Service. (2025). Artificial intelligence: Guidance for Members.

<https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/mps-lords--offices/offices/parliamentary-digital-service/ai-guidance-for-members.pdf>

Vargas Huerta, A. (2024). Bibliotecas de los congresos locales de México: explorando sus políticas de información. *Investigación Bibliotecológica*, 37(97), 111–134.

<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.22201/iibi.24488321xe.2023.97.58828>



# WORLD DIRECTORY OF LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICES FOR PARLIAMENTS

7

WORLD DIRECTORY

➤ **WDLRSP is the Directory of IFLAPARL, a virtual space to share your data with the world!**

➤ **Not registered yet? To add your Library or Research Service to the Directory, follow these steps:**

1. Register at: <https://www.bcn.cl/wdlrsp/map>
2. Receive your password at the email address stated
3. Login.
4. Choose the “Institution data management” red button
5. Enter or update the information of your library or research service

**Become part of the IFLAPARL community!**

The screenshot displays the WDLRSP website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "WDLRSP" and "World Directory of Library and Research Services for Parliaments by IFLAPARL". On the right side of the navigation bar, there are options for "Select your Language" and "Login".

The main content area features a world map with numerous red location pins indicating the presence of library or research services in various countries. The map includes labels for major regions and countries such as Canada, United States, Mexico, Central America, Caribbean Sea, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

On the left side of the map, there is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: REGISTER HERE, HOME, WHO WE ARE, INSTITUTIONAL LIST, LIBRARY/RC AUTHORITIES, IFLA MEMBERS, IFLAPARL, and IPU'S PARLINE. Below the menu, there is a text box containing the following information:

"Every country in the world has some form of parliament. Parliamentary systems fall into two categories: bicameral and unicameral. Out of 193 countries in the world, 79 are bicameral and 113 are unicameral, making a total of 272 chambers of parliament."



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IFLAPARL Newsletter  
FEBRUARY 2025



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