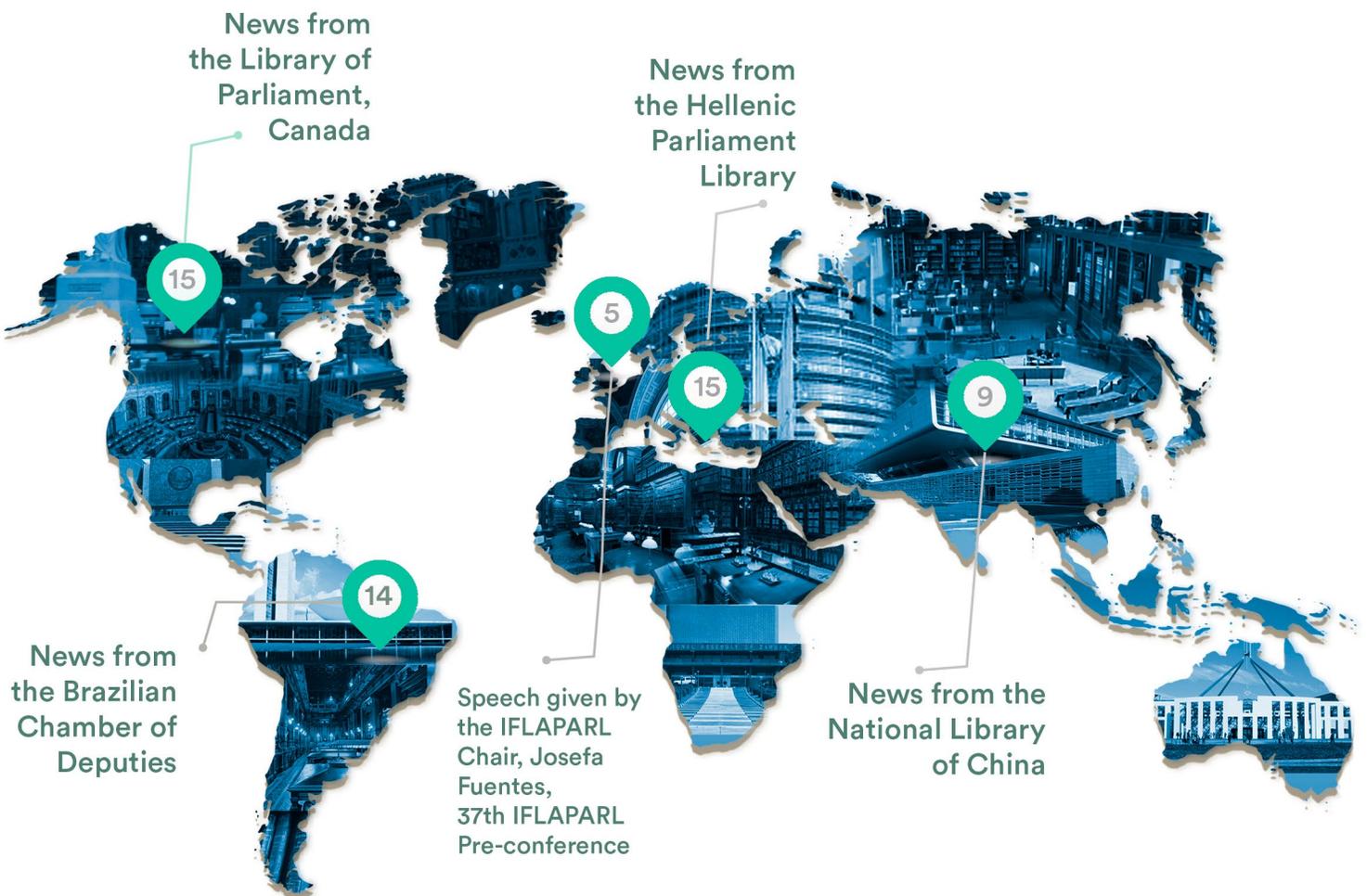


IFLA Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments **IFLAPARL**



**IFLAPARL Newsletter
DECEMBER 2022**

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



By Josefa Fuentes
IFLAPARL Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Come summer, as always, IFLAPARL concentrates its activities around the WLIC celebration. Last summer, at the end of July, IFLA boldly planned the traditional in person format of the WLIC 2022 in Dublin, and as a tolerable pandemic level was achieved, IFLA members from all over the world were finally able to attend the event after such a long time. Among them, the IFLAPARL members had the chance to attend both the WLIC 2022 and the section's satellite meeting, [IFLAPARL 37th annual Pre-conference](#), which was hosted by the Houses of the Oireachtas, on the 22nd of July, and focused on "The parliamentary life of information: how library and research services provide value for parliaments, Members and citizens".

The Pre-conference meeting was the first live, in-person event organized by IFLAPARL since the beginning of the pandemic. We dared the first hybrid IFLAPARL event, with the main conference sessions livestreamed to a virtual audience and virtual breakout rooms, parallel to the actual workshops taking place in Dublin, thanks to the efforts and the courage in taking this step forward on the part of the Houses of the Oireachtas.

A total of 73 participants attended the in-person event; this figure includes participants, presenters and the 14 Oireachtas staff and volunteers. The main Pre-conference consisted of 17 presentations, made both by IFLAPARL and by our hosts. According to the livestream providers there were 220 'views' of the livestream video. These numbers indicate that even when the circumstances regarding Covid-19, hopefully, ameliorate, we should be aware that some potential participants may still be unable to travel. Technology makes it possible not to lose the opportunity to take part in international professional events, using the livestream format that can provide the possibility of attending, chatting with colleagues, asking questions, and participating. In a word, we have the conviction that providing a live transmission of events from now on is more than desirable, since it enhances the numbers of those able to participate. As a result and a natural consequence, plans are being made to hold the 2023 WLIC in Rotterdam in a hybrid form, as an online/face-to-face event.

After the Pre-conference, during the WLIC 2022 sessions, we had the pleasure to be able to announce and promote the 3rd edition of the [Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries](#). The new *Guidelines* were edited and revised by a team of acclaimed professionals, published in co-operation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and endorsed by the IFLA Professional Committee in July 2022. Now in English, the *Guidelines*

are already being translated into other IFLA languages, expecting the publication of the first two translations, in French and Spanish, to come out shortly. With further educational and promotional intent, the Section, in collaboration with the IPU, is planning a webinar based on the contents of the *Guidelines* to take place, in short.

Since the WLIC successfully concluded, September brought several contacts with regional networks of parliamentary libraries:

The 3rd Congress of the Red de Bibliotecas Parlamentarias de América Latina y el Caribe (BIPARLAC) directly involved IFLAPARL [by inviting me, as the Section's Chair to provide salutations and updates](#). The commitment made to strengthen ties with regional associations is already proving fruitful; you will hear of more developments soon.

During the 29^o Congresso Brasileiro de Biblioteconomia e Documentação, held from 26 to 30 September I represented our Section in a round table discussion for Parliamentary Libraries (FEBAB), entitled "Libraries for a better World: experiences from parliamentary libraries". There, I had the opportunity to update about the actions of IFLAPARL and to promote the 3rd edition of the *Guidelines*.

The 28th of September is proclaimed by the UN Assembly and the UNESCO as the International Day for the Universal Access to Information. Some days before this celebration two IFLAPARL articles appeared in the September IFLA Newsletter, underlining the importance of ensuring public access to information, in accordance to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.10. My article "[Parliamentary Libraries & Archives: Providing information and related services](#)" analyzes some of the inherent challenges ensuring public access to information produced and attained by the libraries and research services in parliaments related to government information. Sonia Bebbington's (former Director General IDRS at the Library of Parliament, Canada, and IFLAPARL SC member) and Edward Wood's (Director Service Development at the UK House of Commons and one of the co-authors of the 3rd edition of the *Guidelines*) article "[Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services: it's complicated!](#)" discusses the work and the challenges parliamentary libraries face while contributing to democracy through the provision of information.

In the months to come, IFLAPARL is planning many new actions. Along with the IFLAPARL-IPU webinar on

the *Guidelines*, the SUNY Seminar for Parliamentary Development Project in Zimbabwe, organized by the African Union and UNESCO, is also in the schedule of the months to come; stay tuned for updates on this one. Edward Wood and Chama Mpundi Mfula (Chief Librarian at the National Assembly of Zambia and an IFLAPARL SC member) are leading the IFLAPARL segment of this Seminar. Along with our monthly SC meetings and proceeding with already established actions, such as the [World Directory of Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments](#), we aim to continue addressing the needs and specific professional interest of our members to the best of our abilities.

All the best for our dear readers,

Josefa Fuentes
IFLAPARL Chair

THE 37TH IFLAPARL PRECONFERENCE, DUBLIN, IRELAND



By Josefa Fuentes
IFLAPARL Chair

Speech given by the IFLAPARL Chair, Josefa Fuentes, at the dinner offered by the Houses of the Oireachtas, in celebration of the 37th IFLAPARL Pre-conference, 22 July 2022.

Dear Mr Errity, Deputy Secretary General of the Oireachtas, dear Ms Dennison, Head of the Library and Research Services for the Houses of the Oireachtas,

As Chair of IFLAPARL and Director of Documentation of the Spanish Senate, I wish to express my gratitude to you for welcoming us to this wonderful environment. I also wish to convey my congratulations to all the members of this organization who, with their effort, dedication, and many hours of work beyond those already occupied by the professional responsibilities, have made it possible for us all to be together again sharing our professional achievements and projects.

After two long years of not being able to share these moments in person –moments that have always left a mark on our profession and pleasant memories of having

met colleagues– here we are again. During that period, what once would have seemed unthinkable has happened: a virus in the XXI century paralyzed the world, but this has meant for our profession, as well as for many other different professions, that one cannot stop. Quite the opposite, in these circumstances we had to streamline and accelerate not only our ingenuity but also the application of all available technology. We continued then –and still do now– to serve our Parliaments with greater effort and dedication, if possible, with the electronic book, with access to databases and with new ways of dealing with knowledge management and sharing it. In a world where everything and everyone became more connected every day and where a virus spread to all nations, once again, experience has taught us, or rather reminded us that solidarity and sharing knowledge is the way to confront any deficiency or provide a solution to widespread problems.

Sharing and solidarity are my goals and commitment as Chair of IFLAPARL. We must be aware of the importance and usefulness of what is called the democratization of knowledge in a world, as I have said before, with common problems and common solutions.

The objective that led me to present myself for the presidency of IFLAPARL was none other than to contribute a small grain of sand of my experience and have the opportunity to work directly with all of you, to learn, to collaborate and to contribute together in common goals and, why not highlight it, in solving our current problems. Whenever and whether these objectives are achieved in whole, I personally have already achieved the objective of learning from all of you: I sincerely thank for their efforts each one of the Standing Committee members with whom I have the honor of working, sharing many hours in an environment that rises above the professional obligation. We have managed to make a family and not only share professional but also personal knowledge, and surely, with this empathy, we will achieve professional goals or at least we will leave a path for those who follow us. I also want to thank and acknowledge previous Chairs for their work and the legacy they have left us.

Balancing our daily tasks and professional positions with the responsibility of IFLAPARL is not easy, and it requires

a degree of generosity and effort on everyone's part. This effort and generosity are reflected today in the fact that we are all able to be here again, with this excellent organization in the Houses of the Oireachtas, which is surely the result of those extra hours of work.

All these efforts will lead us to remember this 37th annual Pre-conference as the moment that enabled us to share, in person and from a distance, virtually, our experiences, illusions and projects. This experience is invaluable; one of those things one fully appreciates when it is missed.

However, we must not stop only at this meeting, we must not just remain with the pleasant memory that we will surely all take home and to our jobs. We must continue working and materialize all the good intentions and projects. These meetings must be like the good harvest field in which we achieve the fruit of what is sown.

It has been a wonderful day and we will all take with us the unforgettable memory of this cordial and warm welcome that we have received. I encourage each one of you to enjoy and make the most of the WLIC event, to participate in the sessions and workshops, and transmit this experience and work of our multifaceted profession to the rest of your colleagues.

I would like to send affectionate greetings to all those colleagues who have not been able to be with us today in person but have followed us from their homes and offices, thanks to the fact that technology can make us feel together, now more than ever.

Also, and with your permission, I would like to send my greetings to my colleagues archivists and librarians of the Spanish Parliament (Senate and Congress of Deputies) because without their work it would not have been possible for me to be here today as Chair of IFLAPARL.

At this point, I wish to remember with all my love and recognition all those loved ones – colleagues, family and friends– that we have all lost in this terrible pandemic.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone working in any health area around the world and, of course, the fellow documentary mates specialized in health issues; they have made an excellent work managing, disseminating and generously sharing the knowledge. And this made it possible for us to meet again today. For all of them my applause and our recognition.

Thank you.



IFLAPARL hybrid

Pre-Conference - Virtual Breakout Rooms

By Fabiola E. Rosales S, Janice Silveira & Iouliani Theodosi.



During the [IFLAPARL 37th annual Pre-conference](#), following the livestream presentations, the IFLAPARL Standing Committee organized a virtual workshop and breakout rooms. Ms. Fabiola Rosales (IFLAPARL Information Coordinator), Ms. Janice Silveira and Ms. Iouliani Theodosi (IFLAPARL Standing Committee members) were in charge of the procedure.

The workshop and breakout rooms were held between 15:00-14:05 (Dublin time). The virtual parallel event began with a short presentation of the [World Directory of Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments](#), a presentation of the Section's social media accounts, inviting colleagues to follow IFLAPARL on Facebook and Instagram, and a short presentation on IFLAPAL Listserv with instructions on how to subscribe.

After the presentations, two breakout rooms were formed, one for "Research Services" (hosted by Ms. Fabiola Rosales and Ms. Roxana Theodorou, colleague from the Hellenic Parliament Library) and one for "Library Services" (hosted by Ms. Janice Silveira and Ms. Iouliani Theodosi). Thirty participants attended the online breakout rooms, from different nationalities: Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Chile, China, Greece, Iran, Mexico, Thailand, and South

Africa. Nineteen people attended the Research Services room and nine people attended the Library Services room. At the "Research Services room", the attendees presented themselves and exchanged thoughts and ideas on the Pre-conference presentations and their own services, how they evaluate their services and how their services connect with MPs and society. At the "Library Services room", there were three short (3-4 minutes) presentations about the library services by: Dr Maria Kamilaki (Director of the Hellenic Parliament Library), Dr María Vázquez (Library Director from the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico), and Ms. Martha Rocío Castro (from Colombia, Coordinator of the Centro de Documentación del Parlamento Andino). After the presentations, the group had a conversation on digitization projects, on how the post-Covid era changed the services provided by the libraries and what new services are being developed and implemented.

The event, parallel to the actual breakout rooms in Dublin, gave the colleagues attending virtually the opportunity to engage in conversation on the Pre-conference theme «The parliamentary life of information: how library & research services provide value for parliaments, Members and citizens», and become more involved in the Pre-conference itself.

JOIN US

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/membership/new-members>

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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.

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TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT:

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or IFLAPARL Information Coordinator Fabiola Rosales infoiflaparl@gmail.com

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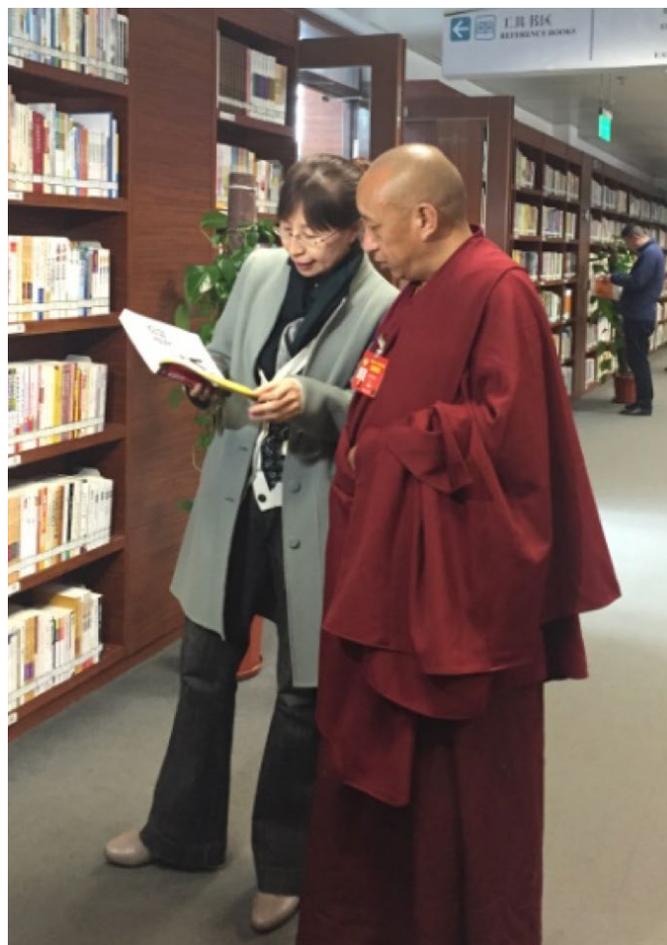
NEWS

National Library of China

The National Library of China completes its service tasks for the NPC & CPPCC Annual Sessions 2022

By Zhang Shuguang
and Chen Ning

With the conclusion of the National People's Congress (NPC) & Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) annual sessions, or the "Two Sessions", in mid-March, 2022, the National Library of China (NLC) accordingly completes its service tasks for this year's plenary sessions of China's top two political bodies, the legislative NPC and the advisory CPPCC. Since its launch in 1998, services for the "Two Sessions" has become a regular item on the agenda of NLC's library and research services for the legislative and decision-making bodies. The service items cover a reference desk, information inquiry hotlines, customized thematic reports and reference materials, as well as digital library services, offering information and reference support for NPC deputies and CPPCC members' work in the deliberation and administration of state affairs. Over the past two decades, with constant optimization in service quality and systematic development, the NLC has become a well-trusted information service platform for NPC deputies and CPPCC members.



The NLC Unveils the Information Service Center for Intellectual Property

On April 26, 2022, which marks the 22nd World Intellectual Property Day, the NLC unveils the Information Service Center for Intellectual Property (IP) at the National Museum of Classic Books (NMCB). The establishment of this Center is a milestone in NLC's efforts to "improve knowledge service quality to better support the building of national innovation system and science and technology advancement". The Center offers retrieval, novelty search (patentability search), analysis and reference services in patents, trademarks, geographical indication, and other IP-related areas, for the central government, key research and education institutions, enterprises, as well as the general public. Additionally, with the National Coordination Network for Library Reference Services, the NLC is to promote best practices and share experience in IP information services among public libraries, so as to improve the overall IP information service level of Chinese library community.



To mark this occasion, the NMCB also held an exhibition themed “Library’s mission: Protecting Intellectual Property and Promoting Knowledge Sharing”. Presenting from the perspective of libraries, the exhibition offered a comprehensive interpretation of China’s IP culture values that advocate “respecting knowledge, encouraging innovation, promoting integrity, law-abiding, and fair competition”.

The NLC and the ISTIC sign a strategic cooperation agreement

On 17 June, 2022, the signing ceremony of strategic cooperation agreement between the National Library of China (NLC) and the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China (ISTIC) was held at the ISTIC. This marks the establishment of a strategic partnership to comprehensively deepen exchanges and cooperation on scientific and technological information. Striving for sustainable collaboration and guided by the principles of development, win-win cooperation, equality and mutual benefit, the two parties will give full play to their respective strength in joint procurement negotiation of databases, the construction and services of knowledge bases, reference services for legislatures and decision-making bodies, the sharing of collection information, as well as open access resources development and services.

“Reading together with CPPCC members”: Reading Promotion Initiative Launched

In partnership with the National Library of China, Guangming Daily, the reading promotion initiative of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) was launched at the headquarters of the CPPCC National Committee on July 18, 2022. Titled “Reading together with CPPCC members”,

this reading promotion initiative invites CPPCC members and the general public to jointly participate in reading events and share their thoughts on reading, in an effort to expand the influence of reading promotion and build a book-loving society.

The reading promotion initiative is scheduled to be held from July to December 2022 and it is estimated that over 700 participants are to take part in a series of reading events ranging from guided readings to online and onsite discussions. Furthermore, more interactions are expected to be held between CPPCC members and readers from the general public.

The Legislative Reference Service of NLC Launches Lecture Series on Think Tank

On August 15, 2022, the Legislative Reference Service of National Library of China launched the lecture series on “Think tank and legislative reference service”. The first lecture focuses on think tank theories and comparative study of think tanks in China and overseas. Invited experts offered their insights in the history and development of think tanks at home and abroad, briefed the updates on NLC’s endeavors to develop think tank services, and held discussions with the audience on the short, medium and long-range objectives and development paths of building NLC into a think tank for the legislature and decision-making bodies.

NEWS

EPRS-ECPRD

First hybrid EPRS-ECPRD seminar

By Etienne Bassot
Director-General, European
Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)
Director General, Information and
Document Resource Service

On 23 and 24 June, EPRS hosted its [sixth annual ECPRD seminar for parliamentary research services and libraries](#). What has now almost become a tradition, nevertheless featured a new aspect: after two years in online mode, for the first time since the pandemic we returned to a physical meeting with additional participants online. Organisationally, the hybrid mode turned out to be more challenging than a purely on-site or purely on-line meeting. However, we managed to combine the best of both worlds, enjoying lively interaction during the discussions between people in the room and renowned speakers online from around the world.

Seventy-nine participants from 27 countries, including the US, Canada, Jordan and Israel, discussed how 'Parliamentary research enters a new age, when increasingly focussing on foresight, strategy and innovation'. The conference was opened by the First Vice-President of the European Parliament, Othmar Karas, who sent greetings via a video message (at the very same time, he was welcoming the President of Zambia to the European Parliament) in which he outlined the role of parliamentary research services as indispensable support services to members of national parliaments and the EP.

A second novelty on the programme was the inclusion of a debate on foresight, featuring members of parliament, including our Vice-President for foresight, Eva Kaili. There were also sessions on strategies in parliamentary research services, the future of crisis-born innovations, the digitalisation of parliamentary libraries and a session on working with Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Commission, as a partner in research rounded off the programme. Ample time was given to update each other on the Conference on the Future of Europe, the implications of Russia's war against Ukraine on energy supply and the European Council, which was meeting in Brussels, just a few blocks away, during our seminar, and to discuss how to address these topics in parliamentary research.

After two days of intense meetings, we can conclude that, for bringing together participants from around the world, purely on-site seminars have come a full circle, and that – yes – we can successfully manage to combine physical and online presence in hybrid events.



NEWS

BIPARLAC

The 3rd meeting of the Parliamentary Libraries of the Latin America and Caribbean Network (Red de las Bibliotecas Parlamentarias de América Latina y el Caribe – BIPARLAC)

From the 19th to the 21st of September 2022, the 3rd Meeting of Parliamentary Libraries of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. The meeting was held with the participation of the libraries and information centers from the parliaments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico and Uruguay, as well as the legislatures of the Argentine provinces.

The meeting was organized by the Library of Congress of the Argentine Nation and the Network of Parliamentary

Libraries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to the sponsorship of the UN, the meeting had the support of the International Federation of Librarian Associations and Libraries (IFLA) and the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI).

It began with a plenary meeting of the Network and a reception gala at the Honorable Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine Nation.

The Public Reading Room and the Cultural Space of the Library of Congress of the Argentine Nation (BCN), were the venues chosen for the dissertations, workshops, papers and presentations of the different exponents.

The President of the Bicameral Administrative Commission of the BCN, National Deputy Carlos Américo Selva, opened the working sessions stating that “The Network of Parliamentary Libraries promotes the exchange of experiences and documentation among its members, with the aim of strengthening the work and citizen representation of legislators from Latin America and the Caribbean in their respective parliaments”.

All the participants agreed that the conference constituted a clear advance in the integration and common work among the members with a view to promoting compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations (UN).



The Network of Parliamentary Libraries was founded in March 2017, on the occasion of the signing of the Valparaiso Declaration in Santiago, Chile.

Alejandro Santa, BCN General Coordinating Director, stressed that at the time of its foundation there were only 3 members, and that “today we are already 16 countries, together with the Andean Parliament, which also joined as an associate member. We have a statute, social networks and we are launching our own website.”

At the meeting, stood out the presentations of Jonathan Hernández, member of the IFLA Governing Board; Luis Scasso, Deputy Director of OEI Argentina; Claudia Mojica, Resident Coordinator of the UN Argentina; Mateo Maciá, Director of Documentation, Library and Archives of the Congress of Deputies of Spain; Matías Sotomayor, Director of International Relations of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS) and Coordinator

of the SDG Project in Argentina; and Mónica Paz Torres, Secretary of Agreements of the Network of Parliamentary Libraries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The event also served to present the website of the Network of Parliamentary Libraries of Latin America and the Caribbean, through its official site www.redbiparlac.org. Likewise, it was announced that the mid-term meeting will be next year in Puerto Rico.

In addition, the certificates were delivered to the students of the Diploma in Parliamentary Libraries issued jointly by BCN and the Department of Information Science of the Faculty of Humanities of the National University of Mar del Plata. In this sense, Alejandro Santa pointed out that it is “the first diploma course in the world for parliamentary librarians, with the mission of preparing our colleagues better and better. In Argentina we are trying to consolidate a network

of Parliamentary Libraries that is not restricted only to the possibility of intercommunicating, but that also focuses on training.”

At the closing, the Commitment Act of the Federal Network of Parliamentary Libraries of the Argentine Republic was signed in the Chamber of Deputies of the Nation. Right there, the head of the Lower House, National Deputy Cecilia Moreau, stressed that “this library and all libraries have a fundamental role in access to knowledge spaces, so my congratulations for the work you do, so important and valuable for the development of our culture and our people.”

Finally, after three long and fruitful days of work, the Assistance and Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Library of Congress of the Argentine Nation and the “Antonio Maceo” Library and Documentation Center of the National Assembly of People’s Power of Cuba; the “Antonio Maceo” Library has joined the executive secretariats of the network.”



NEWS

Brazil Chamber of Deputies

By Janice Silveira

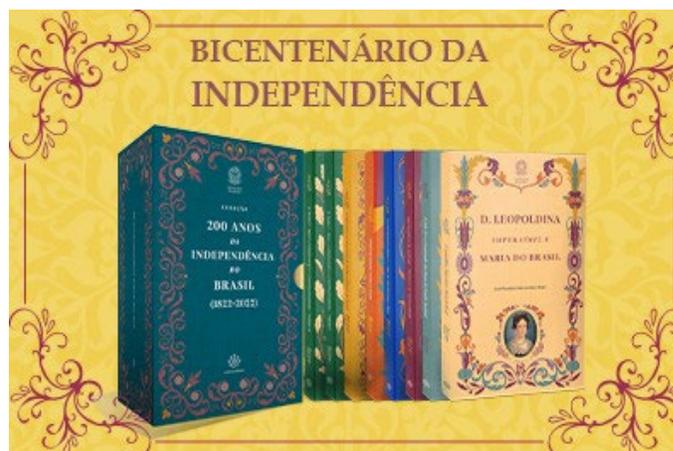
Library Director, Documentation and Information Center

On September 7, 2022, Brazil celebrated its independence

bicentennial. Several initiatives were implemented by the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies to celebrate the occasion. The Documentation and Information Center participated in some of those initiatives.

Two exhibitions took place at the parliament building, one of them being the exhibition of documents and books belonging to the Archives and Library of the Chamber of Deputies. This exhibition highlighted historical milestones and presented the different forms of political structures we had in Brazil. The official video about the exhibitions is uploaded in the official YouTube channel of the [Câmara dos Deputados](#).

In this context, Edições Câmara, the publishing house of the Chamber, released a special commemorative collection containing seven books published since 2017 describing a series of historical events that led Brazil to



the Independence from Portugal. A free digital edition of those books is available for download in the [Edições Câmara official website](#) and the [Câmara dos Deputados site](#), or in the virtual bookstores (Amazon, Apple, Google and Kobo).

Another important initiative was making available a digital version of the original documents received and produced during the period of the National Constituent Congress of 1890-1891 and a version of the first Brazilian republican constitution promulgated on February 24, 1891. All documents can be accessed on the Chamber of Deputies [Archives website](#).

NEWS

Library of Hellenic Parliament

European Documentation Centres: annual conference and training, Brussels, 16 November 2022

By Roxana Theodorou,
PhD, Hellenic Parliament Library
Parliamentary Library Department

On November 16, and for one and a half days, representatives of all the European Documentation Centres around the EU gathered in Brussels for an annual conference and training, and the Library of the Hellenic Parliament was amongst them.

A [European Documentation Centre](#) (EDC) is a body designated by the European Commission to collect and disseminate publications of the European Union for the purposes of research and education. There are more than 400 such centres in all member states of the EU. The mandate of an EDC is to receive all official EU publications, documents, contracts and electronic databases, and make them available to researchers, educators, students, and interested members of the general public. The centres are also legal depositories of *Acquis communautaire* (EU law). Although primarily academic in nature, anyone can visit an EDC to consult official EU publications.¹ European Documentation Centres were founded in 1963 by the European Commission.²

They are predominantly located at universities, university libraries, affiliated academic institutions, and non-university research institutes, both public and private. EU policy is that at least one EDC should be located in each region of a European Union member state. The European Documentation Centres collect documents and publications that they receive from the various official institutions of the European Union. They also provide training and advice on the organisation and use of electronic information generated by EU institutions. EDCs also provide direct support to the academic staff and employees at universities and institutions in their research and teaching on European integration process.

This November's event focused on engagement with the academic community, training in EU databases (e.g.: [The official portal for European data | data.europa.eu](#), [EU law - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#), [Legislative Observatory \(europa.eu\)](#), [CURIA - Search form \(europa.eu\)](#), [Historical Archives of the European Union \(eui.eu\)](#) etc.), social media, the European Elections 2024, and workshops on the roles of EDCs. More specifically, the upcoming European Elections are seen as an opportunity to raise engagement amongst the public, especially the younger generations and first time voters, and to introduce an array of tools that will help them stay informed about everything taking place, while allowing them, at the same time, to intervene and affect European policies.

It is a fact that although the European Commission has created a large number of tools that allow the public to stay informed on what is happening in the EU and the way the Union affects everyday life, the majority of the citizens are unaware of the existence of these tools, and thus their importance. Hopefully EDCs can play an important role in changing this and bridging the gap between the Union, the legislators, and the citizens.

1 See also: European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, *European documentation centres: challenges for the EDCs' work in the 21st century*, Publications Office, 2014, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2775/10098>.

2 Ian Thomson, *European Documentation Centres: Their role in EC information provision, with particular reference to the United Kingdom*, Government Publications Review, Volume 17, Issue 2, 1990, p. 107-119, ISSN 0277-9390, [https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9390\(90\)90096-V](https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9390(90)90096-V).

NEWS

The Hellenic Parliament Library Press Collection

Current trends and future perspectives

By Dr Maria Kamilaki

Head of the Hellenic Parliament Library Directorate

Eleni Mouzouraki

Head of the City Library Department

Among the many and diverse collections possessed by the Hellenic Parliament Library in its long historical journey from 1846 to the present day, the Daily and Periodical Press Collection comprises almost 9,000 titles of newspapers and journals from the 18th century onwards, corresponding to a total of approximately 87,000 holdings – thus forming one of the richest Greek press collections. Taking into consideration that, within the current framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 Agenda, traditional aspects of libraries' mission, such as ensuring equal and unhindered access to information, contributing to literacy and education, promoting human rights and social justice, training users in ICT and e-government etc., are now being rebranded and recontextualized, the presentation of the Press Collection's formation, digitization and management offers a typical example of early alignment with values such as sustainability and openness, which are crucial for the future of our societies.

The diligent rescue and safeguarding of the Press Collection was recognized by the Hellenic Parliament Library as one of its basic responsibilities, not only because the press is a major means of meeting current information



needs, but also since it constitutes one of the most important historical sources. Thus, depending on the technological means available in each period, internationally applied practices were adopted by the Library to ensure the “sustainability” (this time in a “precursor” sense) of newspapers and magazines. After all, the digitization of press collections, especially of historical newspapers, was one of the oldest and first fields in which digital technologies were applied, making them accessible remotely to researchers, without the time-consuming procedures required to study physical copies and at a significantly lower cost. At the same time, the preservation of newspapers over time was ensured, given that their sensitive printing paper required special storage conditions, and also often hard-to-find storage space. Where the Hellenic Parliament Library is more specifically concerned, the rarity of the collection, the wear and tear from the passage of time and heavy use, the poor quality of the paper, especially with regard to the editions of the early 20th century, led from 1984 onwards to the establishment of a preservation microfilming program of the high-circulation Greek daily newspapers of Athens, Thessaloniki and the region, following the international practice of large libraries, such as the Library of Congress and the British Library.

The disadvantages of microfilm, a time-consuming medium to access, and tiring for the user's eyes to “page through”, were overcome by the transition to a digital medium, with high-quality scans. The Hellenic Parliament Library adapted to the international change, when in 2007 it proceeded to digital reproduction of the microfilm archive, based on EU-funding (3rd CSF 2000-2006, OP “Information Society”). The main strategic choice of the program was the mass digitization of all microfilms and not the selective digitization of specific titles, which radically changed the digital landscape for access to historical Greek newspapers and journals. Despite significant drawbacks, such as the lack of keyword search or the presentation of separate pdf files for each sheet of the newspaper, a large number of copyright-free newspapers became available for free via the website of the Hellenic Parliament Library, which would otherwise remain inaccessible and available only in microfilm format, with all the aforementioned limitations. Today, approximately 25,000 microfilms have been digitized, making the digital content of approximately 3,500 newspaper and journals titles from 19th and 20th century available to all, serving the principle of ensuring open and equal access.

Finally, the unprecedented conditions created by the pandemic have highlighted the great importance of intensive digitization and documentation, the offering of

new search possibilities (through browsing, metadata, and sophisticated OCR tools), as well as, in general, the potential of remote access services. In this context, the Hellenic Parliament Library is making its next digital leap: through European financial resources (ESPA 2014-2020, OP Public Sector Reform), a large-scale digitization program has been launched in June 2022, including digital processing with optical character recognition (OCR) and documentation, which will expand the scope of available sources freely accessible for research through the open source software repository currently under construction, while offering thematic search capabilities across a large volume of digitized materials, including the Press Collection. The repository will promote connectivity with Europeana through interoperable, innovative systems tools, thus enriching the European digital cultural heritage.



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Library of Parliament Ottawa, Canada

Resumption of on-site services

On May 20, 2022, the Library resumed [guided tours](#) of the Senate of Canada Building and the House of Commons at West Block after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The tours highlight the role and functions of each chamber while also showcasing the art and architecture of the spaces. We also reopened the on-site Parliamentary Boutique, and reopened our final branch – a process that had begun progressively in November 2021. In addition to public and client facing spaces, we have also focused on bringing employees back into the workplace in a new hybrid model.



House of Commons Guided Tours

Discover the history, roles, art and architecture of the House of Commons on this tour of the newly restored [West Block](#).

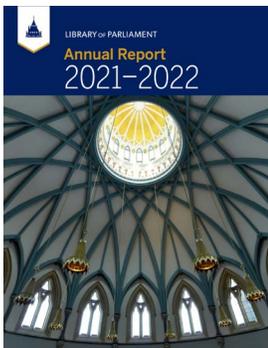
- Visit the House of Commons Chamber and learn about the work of Members of Parliament
- All tours begin in the new Visitor Welcome Centre, located between West Block and Centre Block on Parliament Hill
- Tours last approximately 40 minutes

VIEW AVAILABLE TOUR TIMES [➤](#)

Participation in Capital Pride

The Library was proud to march in the 2022 Capital Pride Parade in Ottawa this summer, side by side with our parliamentary partners. For the first time, 2SLGBTQ+ employees and their allies across Parliament Hill came together to celebrate pride in the National Capital Region.

services for parliamentarians and the public. This year, we continued to show resilience and flexibility by finding innovative ways to deliver the same high level of service while helping to keep our employees and clients safe.



Publication of our Annual Report

The Library recently published the [Annual Report](#) highlighting accomplishments from the past fiscal year, including insights into how we delivered our orientation program for the 44th Parliament and resumed on-site

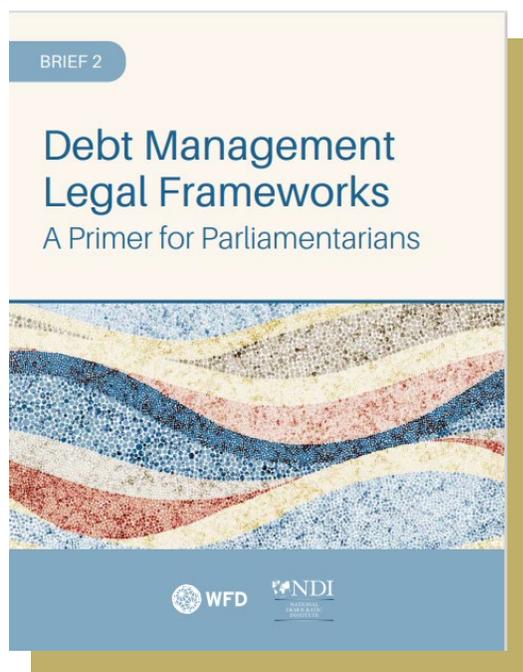
Access and Authentication for Library E-Resources

With the shift to hybrid work in March 2020, the Library saw a substantial increase in the number of users who were looking to access our resources remotely. Management of access quickly became time-consuming and issues with client access were consistent, but unpredictable. Earlier this year, we began using a new cloud-based software to manage authentication and access for Library resources, and we have seen a significant improvement in the reliability of access to our resources.

NEW BOOKS ARTICLES, REPORTS AND WEBINARS

Strengthening parliament's role with regards to public debt management

Franklin De Vrieze
Head of Practice Accountability,
Westminster Foundation for Democracy



Did you know that twenty-five of the poorest countries currently spend more on debt repayments than on education, health and social policy combined? Sixty percent of low- and middle-income developing countries are highly debt vulnerable. Public debt is currently at the highest level globally in over fifty years.

This has a dramatic impact on the fiscal space for any new policies. The origins of this situation are, among others, the Covid crisis and its economic and financial impact, and some debt management practices which might not have been very prudent.

While public debt has traditionally been managed by the Ministry of Finance and executive agencies, there is increasing recognition of the [unique roles for parliament in the governance of public debt](#). The role of parliaments is to ask questions, to scrutinize, to provide quality assurance of the process, and to ask what the priorities are.

But, as far as parliaments are concerned, there are [two challenges](#):

- Firstly, some parliaments might struggle with the technical nature of public debt questions. Some MPs or parliamentary staff might feel weary about or feel intimidated about the issue. How to master the complexity of the topic?
- Secondly, how to get full access to relevant information? MPs often don't have the data at hand to exercise oversight as it is not shared by the government. Even more, forty percent of low-income developing countries have never published public debt data or have not updated information in the past couple of years. So, there is a real need to bridge the information disconnect between the executive and the legislature.

To assist MPs in facing the complexity of the issue and bridge the information gap, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and National Democratic Institute (NDI) published four new policy briefs.

The briefs explain that, while most countries do have a financial administration act, far fewer countries have specific public debt legislation in place. Setting a legal framework for public debt management is one of parliament's key tasks. The briefs outline best practices in the implementation and monitoring of a legal debt framework and the ratification of loan agreements.

Beyond parliament's legislative role, the briefs also cover parliament's oversight role of public debt, and oversight over public debt in emergency contexts. The way how public debt was managed during the Covid crisis has informed the brief on emergency context, though it is applicable to other potential future emergencies as well.

They are accessible via these links:

Brief 1: Debt management for parliaments

Brief 2: Debt Management Legal Frameworks: A Primer for Parliaments

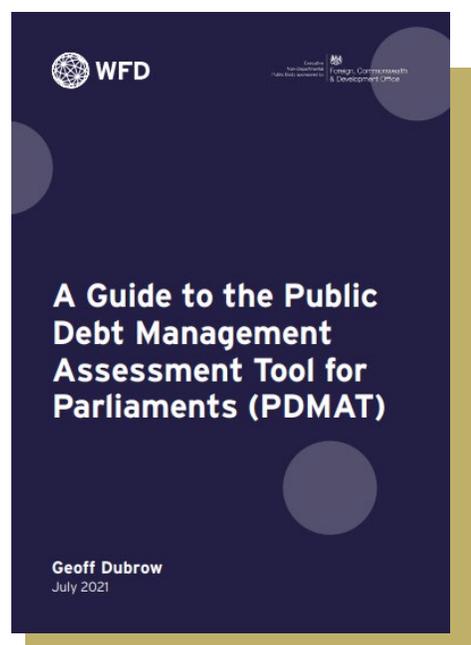
Brief 3: Role of Parliaments in Oversight of Public Debt Management

Brief 4: Debt Decision-Making and Oversight in Emergency Contexts

In addition, WFD developed an e-course on the same topic, for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and those engaged in public financial management. The e-course counts eight online modules exploring the key concepts, mechanisms and risks which impact public debt management. It brings together expert contributors, interactive examples and exercises, to provide a comprehensive resource for all those engaged in overseeing public debt.

The e-course is available free of charge on the WFD's online learning platform, WFD Learn. Following registration you will have access to all eight modules, which you can complete at your own pace – as many times as you wish! The modules can all be accessed through a web browser on mobile and tablet devices, as well as on laptop and desktop Mac or PC.

[E-course on Parliaments and public debt management](#)



Transforming Parliaments: Digital transformation in archiving webinar

Inter-Parliamentary Union, 5 September 2022

In 2021, the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament (CIP) first presented the [Transforming Parliaments](#) webinar series. The series is open to all parliaments and is part of the ongoing exchange of good practices since the [2021 virtual World e-Parliament Conference](#). It promotes peer exchange amongst senior parliamentary staff (including ICT directors, CIOs and others) on innovation and technology trends that are driving the digital transformation in parliaments. It is organized by the CIP's [Open Data Hub](#) and [IT Governance Hub](#), which are hosted by Brazil's Chamber of Deputies and the European Parliament respectively.

The [webinar on 5 September 2022](#) focused on how the digital transformation is leading to innovation in the archiving of parliamentary records. The Covid 19 pandemic having accelerated the process to enter the digital world, parliaments are now increasingly faced with questions of how much to digitally archive and for which purposes. Legal compliance should not be the sole aim; parliaments should also ensure the communicability of data for the sake of transparency. At the same time, data protection laws and needs to manage sensitive information have affected these aims.

In the opening presentation, Ludovic Delépine (European Parliament, Head of Archives Unit) explained the importance of good document and data management. In the history of archiving, from the ancient archives engraved in stone, to the first computers and modern scanners in the '80s, the developments in this area also reveal the history of technology. Having a vast technology leap to follow, parliaments in the 2020s should also keep in mind, while considering what and how to archive, their regulatory frameworks and the democratic continuity, to be documented by the records kept in archives. In regards to the digital records and archives, parliaments should ensure a steady management system that begins with the documents' creation and concludes with the filing of the historical archives.

Gabriel Bertone (Amazon Web Services) presented the [AWS](#) system, which aims to provide with solutions of storing large amounts of data. Besides basic storage solutions, other services and mechanisms ensure the archives are accessible for the designated users, for the right amount of time, have interoperability and avoid fragmentation and loss of information.

Finally, Jean-François Lutz (Research Director, Deputy Director CNRS of Institute Charles Sadron) presented an innovative ongoing research project on storing information in digitally encoded polymers. Inspired by the DNA sequence, digital polymers are macromolecules that store binary information in the form of a controlled monomer sequence. A single file can be stored in a single molecule and a software is used to extract the information in readable form. The main advantage of this high tech method is the capability of long-term storage in room temperature, but there is still the challenge of organizing big data to be faced. While there is a great distance between research and actual practice and real-life application, the CNRS [PEPR MolecuArXiv](#) is a program about to bring big changes to the archiving scenery.

Navigating the ever-increasing demands in the digital era can prove to be quite challenging. The Transforming Parliaments webinar series takes the first step to equip parliaments with all new information on good practices and innovative techniques.

The webinars are held in English, with simultaneous interpretation provided in French and Spanish. The [first webinar series](#) was held in October and November 2021.

Call for content on IFLAPARL's Social Media

We strenghten our network, we strengthen our contact, we strengthen our knowlegde

IFLAPARL Standing Committee is inviting its members to share their news on research, innovative ideas, good practices in the sphere of parliamentary libraries and research services.

Want to share on a regular basis your current research, new publications, seminars/webinars/workshops you plan, an exhibition of your organisation, or even a short history of your institution? You can send photos and/or short videos, plus short pieces of information, to be uploaded in IFLAPARL Facebook page, YouTube Channel, Instagram and Twitter account and let all members know about it.

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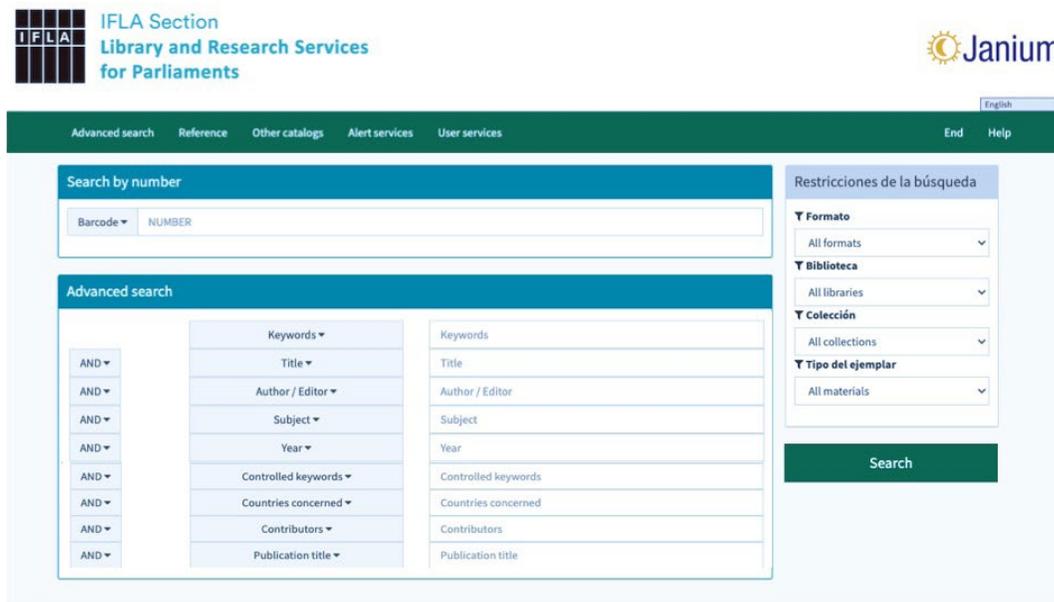
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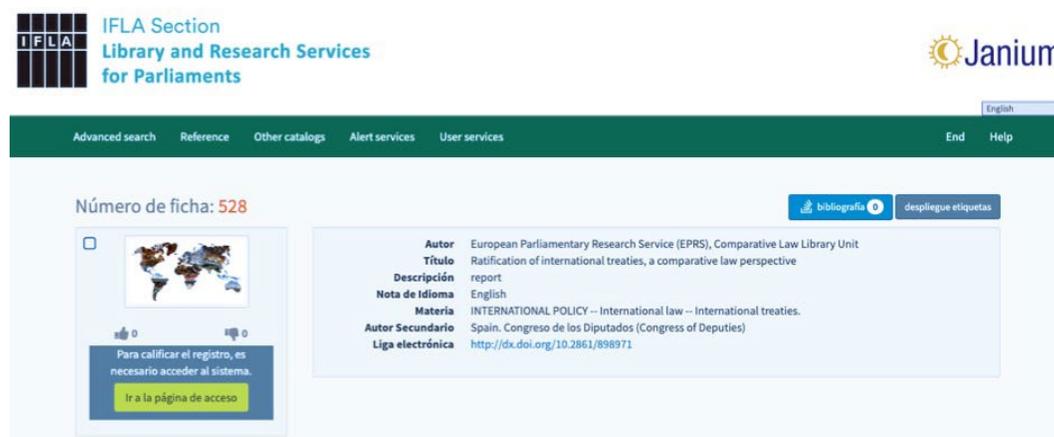
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Compared law database

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 that aims to provide authoritative information to the parliamentary community.



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