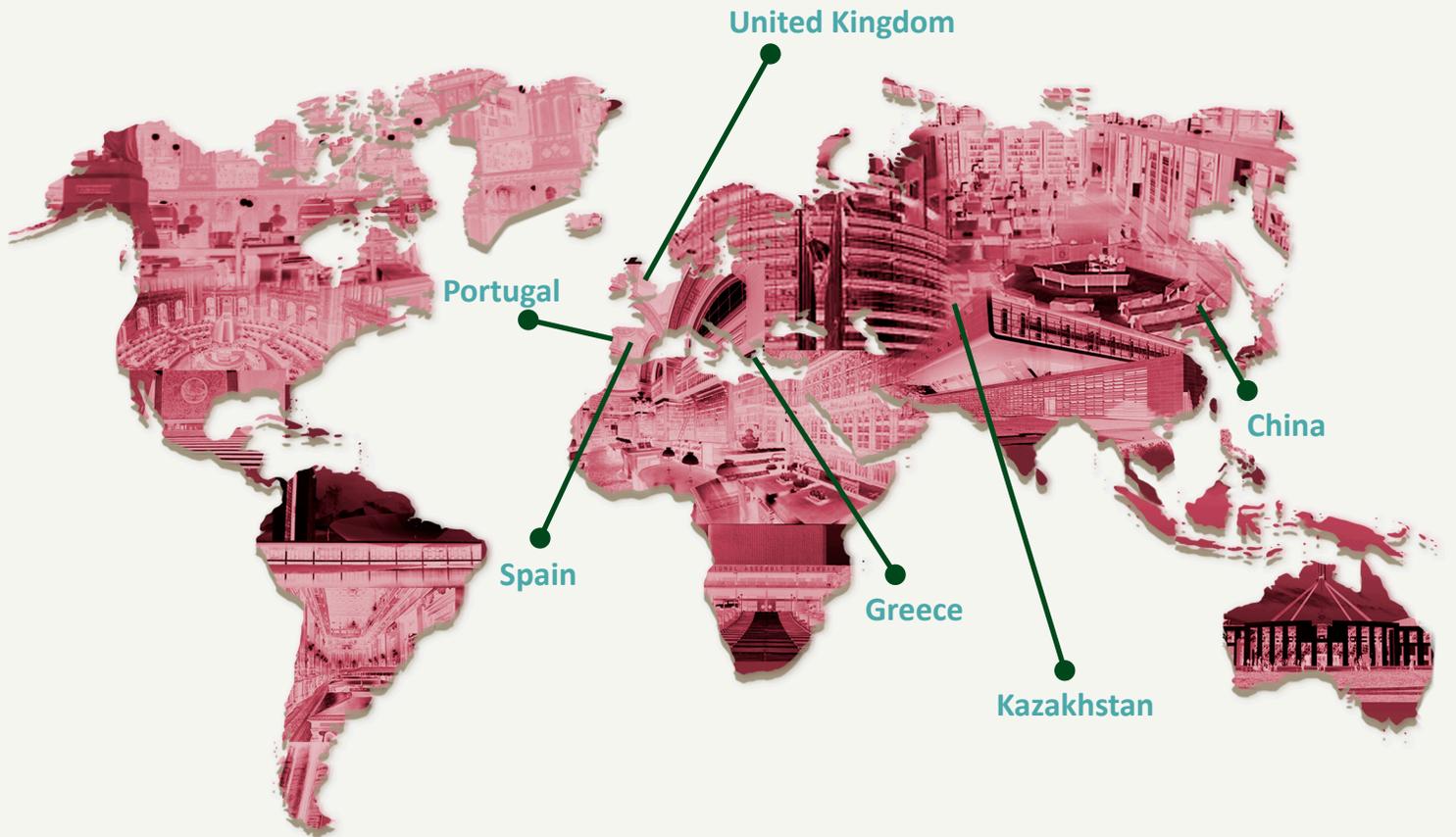




**IFLA Section
Library and Research Services
for Parliaments
IFLAPARL**



**IFLAPARL Newsletter
DECEMBER 2025**

- 1 MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
- 2 JOIN US
- 3 ASTANA 2025
 - 3.1 WLIC 2025: Knowledge café report
 - 3.2 WLIC 2025: 'IFLAPARL in their own words' and the IFLAPARL History project
 - 3.3 WLIC 2025: Dynamic Unit Impact Awards
 - 3.4 IFLAPARL 2025: the 39th Satellite Meeting at the Nazarbayev University
- 4 DESIGNING IFLAPARL ACTION PLAN 2025-2027
- 5 IFLAPARL PROJECT: THE DONNA SCHEEDER WEBINAR SERIES
- 6 THE IFLA100 AUTHORS' SYMPOSIUM
- 7 NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
 - 7.1 NEWS FROM CHINA: PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH REIMAGINED
 - 7.2 NEWS FROM PORTUGAL: 'THE SYMBOLS OF THE REPUBLIC'
 - 7.3 NEWS FROM GREECE: THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FACTORY PHAROS
 - 7.4 NEWS FROM THE UK: LIBRARY, KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE
 - 7.5 NEWS FROM SPAIN: THE 15TH ASSEMBLY OF ADMINISTRATORS OF RED PARLAMENTA
- 8 NEW PUBLICATIONS
- 9 IFLAPARL STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025-2027

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial team:

Iouliani (Lila) Theodosi, Greece | IFLAPARL Information Coordinator
Leonor Calvão Borges, Portugal | IFLAPARL Standing Committee member
Julie Anderson, Canada | IFLAPARL Standing Committee member
Alec Vuijlsteke, Belgium | IFLAPARL Standing Committee member
Louise Schets, The Netherlands | IFLAPARL Communications team partner
This issue was designed by: Yvar Verhoeven The Netherlands | IFLAPARL Communications team partner
Gabriela Magdalena Llull, Argentina | Spanish translations

- 1 MENSAJE DE LA CHAIR
- 2 UNIRSE A LA SECCIÓN
- 3 ASTANÁ 2025
 - 3.1 WLIC 2025: Informe del Café de Conocimiento (Knowledge Café)
 - 3.2 WLIC 2025: 'IFLAPARL en sus propias palabras' y el proyecto sobre la historia de IFLAPARL
 - 3.3 WLIC 2025: Premios al Dinamismo e Impacto de las Unidades
 - 3.4 IFLAPARL 2025: 39.º Reunión Satélite en la Nazarbayev University
- 4 DISEÑO DEL PLAN DE ACCIÓN DE IFLAPARL 2025-2027
- 5 PROYECTO IFLAPARL: SEMINARIOS WEB EN HONOR A DONNA SCHEEDER
- 6 SIMPOSIO DE AUTORES DE IFLA100
- 7 NOTICIAS DEL MUNDO
 - 7.1 NOTICIAS DE CHINA: RECONFIGURACIÓN DE LA INVESTIGACIÓN PARLAMENTARIA
 - 7.2 NOTICIAS DE PORTUGAL: 'LOS SÍMBOLOS DE LA REPÚBLICA'
 - 7.3 NOTICIAS DE GRECIA: INICIATIVA FÁBRICA DE IA PHAROS (AI FACTORY PHAROS)
 - 7.4 NOTICIAS DEL REINO UNIDO: CONFERENCIA DE LA COMUNIDAD PROFESIONAL BIBLIOTECARIA, DEL CONOCIMIENTO Y LA INFORMACIÓN
 - 7.5 NOTICIAS DE ESPAÑA: 15.º ASAMBLEA DE ADMINISTRADORES DE LA RED PARLAMENTA
- 8 PUBLICACIONES RECIENTES
- 9 MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ PERMANENTE DE IFLAPARL 2025-2027

TABLA DE CONTENIDO

Editorial team:

Iouliani (Lila) Theodosi, Greece | IFLAPARL Information Coordinator
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Carolyné Ménard

IFLAPARL Chair

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

Dear Colleagues,

As 2025 draws to a close, this edition of the IFLAPARL newsletter offers the opportunity to look back on a rich year for our community of parliamentary library and research professionals.

Since our last issue in July, so much has happened within IFLAPARL, as we closed our 2023–2025 term and opened the 2025–2027 term. A highlight of the year was, of course, our IFLAPARL Satellite Meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, held immediately after the 2025 World Library and Information Congress (WLIC). Over two days of presentations, colleagues from around the world shared examples of how parliamentary libraries and research services are adapting to new political, technological, and social realities while remaining committed to serving their institutions with impartial information. Our participation in the Division B Knowledge Café at WLIC 2025 also allowed us to connect with a broader cross-section of the IFLA community and to showcase the specific expertise of parliamentary librarians and researchers within the wider library field.

This year also brought a special recognition for our collective efforts: IFLAPARL received the [Dynamic Unit and Impact Award](#) in the category of Membership Engagement and Leadership Development. This distinction belongs first and foremost to you—our members and Standing Committee colleagues—whose commitment to sharing experience, mentoring new professionals, and contributing to our work has kept the Section engaged and relevant. Thank you for the time and energy you continue to invest in IFLAPARL.

Another important milestone in 2025 was the IFLA elections and the renewal of our Standing Committee for the 2025–2027 term. I am honoured to serve as Chair for a second mandate and grateful for the trust you have placed in me. I warmly congratulate Lila Theodosi (Greece), who continues as Information Coordinator for a second term, and Martin Reid (United Kingdom), our new 2025–2027 Secretary, as well as all members of the Standing Committee who were elected, re-elected, or who continue to serve in this new term: Julie Anderson (Canada), Leonor Calvão Borges (Portugal), Rodrigo Donoso-Vegas (Chile), Josefa Fuentes (Spain), Chifuyu Hiyama (Japan), Fabian Kapepiso (Namibia), Gabriela Magdalena Lull (Argentina), Judite Martins (Brazil), Bonnie Mathooko (Kenya), Mihyang Park (Republic of Korea), Elisabete Revez (Portugal), Fabiola Elena Rosales Salinas (Mexico), Johanna Smith (Canada), Daan Smolders (Netherlands), Julia Taylor (United States of America), Helong Tian (China), and Alec Vuijsteke (Belgium). Together, this team will guide the implementation of our priorities over the next two years, with your participation and support.

In recent months, the Standing Committee has translated your feedback and ideas into a new IFLAPARL Action Plan for 2025–2027. It is built around three priorities for the coming term: fostering collaboration with our members, partners, and other IFLA sections; delivering training and capacity-building activities; and ensuring effective communication and information sharing across our community. These priorities are closely aligned with the [IFLA 2024–2029 Strategy](#) and its three impact areas and will guide our work over the next two years. To learn more and find out how you can contribute, I encourage you to read the article featured in this newsletter which presents the Action Plan in more detail, and consider how you might connect your own initiatives to these shared goals.

Your dedicated Standing Committee has also been very active this Fall. So far since the start of the 2025–2027 term, our Section took part in IFLA 100-Year History Book Authors' Symposium at the Royal Library of the Netherlands in The Hague last November. Contributors to the forthcoming IFLA 100th anniversary volume gathered to discuss the global history of libraries and librarianship. IFLAPARL's involvement in this project is an opportunity not only to reflect on our own history as a Section, but also to highlight the role of parliamentary libraries and research services in supporting democratic institutions worldwide. In addition to this participation, we are already planning our 2026 IFLAPARL Satellite Meeting, which will be held in conjunction with WLIC 2026 in Busan, Republic of Korea. Building on the momentum from Astana, we aim to offer another programme that combines practical case studies, strategic reflections, and networking opportunities. More information will follow in due course, and we hope many of you will be able to join us there.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will find news and reports from recent IFLAPARL activities, updates from parliamentary libraries and research services in different regions, and information resources that could prove useful in your daily work. We hope these contributions will inspire you, spark ideas for your own context, and encourage you to share your experiences in future editions.

Finally, I would like to extend an open invitation to all our members: We welcome your participation in our activities, your suggestions for future themes and projects, and your presence at our monthly Standing Committee online meetings. If you are interested in contributing to our Action Plan, our Newsletter or simply learning more about how to get involved, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your continued engagement with IFLAPARL. I look forward to working with you throughout this 2025–2027 term and to building, together, an even stronger global community of library and research services for parliaments.

Carolyné Ménard
IFLAPARL Chair

Carolynne Ménard

IFLAPARL Chair

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

Estimada comunidad de colegas:

En vísperas de la finalización del año 2025, esta edición del boletín de IFLAPARL nos brinda la oportunidad de mirar atrás y reflexionar sobre un año particularmente enriquecedor para nuestra comunidad de profesionales de bibliotecas y servicios de investigación parlamentarios.

Desde el último número publicado en julio, IFLAPARL ha desarrollado un gran trabajo en el contexto del cierre del período 2023–2025 y la apertura del período 2025–2027. Uno de los momentos más destacados del año fue, sin duda, la Reunión Satélite de IFLAPARL en Astaná, Kazajistán, celebrada inmediatamente después del Congreso Mundial de Bibliotecas e Información (WLIC) 2025. Durante dos días de presentaciones, colegas de todo el mundo compartieron ejemplos de cómo las bibliotecas y los servicios de investigación parlamentarios se están adaptando a nuevas realidades políticas, tecnológicas y sociales, manteniendo al mismo tiempo su compromiso de servir a sus instituciones con información imparcial. Nuestra participación en el Café de Conocimiento (Knowledge Café) de la División B durante el WLIC 2025 también nos permitió vincularnos con un sector más amplio de la comunidad de IFLA y visibilizar la experiencia específica de la comunidad de investigadores y profesionales de las bibliotecas parlamentarias dentro del sector bibliotecario en general.

Este año también obtuvimos un reconocimiento especial a nuestros esfuerzos colectivos: IFLAPARL recibió el Premio al Dinamismo e Impacto de la Unidad (Dynamic Unit Impact Award) en la categoría de Participación de los Miembros y Desarrollo del Liderazgo. Esta distinción les pertenece, ante todo, a ustedes —nuestros miembros y colegas del Comité Permanente—, cuyo compromiso con el intercambio de experiencias, la mentoría de nuevos profesionales y la contribución constante a nuestro trabajo ha mantenido a la Sección activa y relevante. Gracias por el tiempo y la energía que continúan dedicando a IFLAPARL.

Otro hito importante de 2025 fueron las elecciones de IFLA y la renovación de nuestro Comité Permanente para el período 2025–2027. Me siento honrada de haber sido elegida como Chair por un segundo mandato y estoy muy agradecida por la confianza que han depositado en mí. Felicito cordialmente a Lila Theodosi (Grecia), quien continúa como Coordinadora de Información por un segundo período; a Martin Reid (Reino Unido), nuestro nuevo Secretario para el período 2025–2027; y a todos los miembros del Comité Permanente que fueron elegidos, reelegidos o que continúan prestando servicio en este nuevo mandato: Julie Anderson (Canadá), Leonor Calvão Borges (Portugal), Rodrigo Donoso-Vegas (Chile), Josefa Fuentes (España), Chifuyu Hiyama (Japón), Fabian Kapepiso (Namibia), Gabriela Magdalena Llull (Argentina), Judite Martins (Brasil), Bonnie Mathooko (Kenia), Mihyang Park (República de Corea), Elisabete Revez (Portugal), Fabiola Elena Rosales Salinas (México), Johanna Smith (Canadá), Daan Smolders (Países Bajos), Julia Taylor (Estados Unidos de América), Helong Tian (China) y Alec Vuijsteke (Bélgica). En conjunto, este equipo guiará la implementación de nuestras prioridades durante los próximos dos años, con la participación y el apoyo de todos y todas ustedes.

En los últimos meses, el Comité Permanente ha plasmado sus comentarios e ideas en un nuevo Plan de Acción de IFLAPARL para 2025–2027. Este plan se estructura en función de tres prioridades para el próximo período: fomentar la colaboración con nuestros miembros, aliados y otras secciones de la IFLA; ofrecer actividades de formación y fortalecimiento de capacidades; y garantizar una comunicación eficaz y el intercambio de información en toda nuestra comunidad. Estas prioridades están estrechamente alineadas con la Estrategia de la IFLA 2024–2029 y sus tres áreas de impacto, y guiarán nuestro trabajo durante los próximos dos años. Para conocer más detalles y oportunidades de participación, pueden leer el artículo incluido en este boletín que presenta el Plan de Acción con mayor profundidad, e invita a reflexionar sobre cómo vincular sus propias iniciativas con estos objetivos compartidos.

Este Comité Permanente también ha estado muy activo en estos últimos meses. Desde el inicio del período 2025–2027, nuestra Sección participó en el Simposio de Autores del Libro del Centenario de IFLA, celebrado el pasado noviembre en la Biblioteca Real de los Países Bajos, en La Haya. Los colaboradores y las colaboradoras del próximo volumen conmemorativo del 100.º aniversario de la IFLA se reunieron para debatir la historia global de las bibliotecas y la bibliotecología. La participación de IFLAPARL en este proyecto representa una oportunidad no solo para reflexionar sobre nuestra propia historia como Sección, sino también para destacar el rol de las bibliotecas y los servicios de investigación parlamentarios en el fortalecimiento de las instituciones democráticas en todo el mundo. Además de esta participación, ya estamos planificando nuestra Reunión Satélite de IFLAPARL 2026, que se celebrará en el marco del WLIC 2026 en Busan, República de Corea. Sobre la base del impulso generado en Astaná, aspiramos a ofrecer nuevamente un programa que combine estudios de caso prácticos, reflexiones estratégicas y oportunidades de trabajo en red. Próximamente compartiremos más información y esperamos contar con una amplia participación de nuestros miembros.

En esta edición del boletín encontrarán noticias e informes sobre actividades recientes de IFLAPARL, actualizaciones de bibliotecas parlamentarias y servicios de investigación de distintas regiones, así como recursos de información que pueden resultar útiles para su labor cotidiana. Esperamos que estas contribuciones les sirvan de inspiración, generen nuevas ideas para sus propios contextos y motiven el intercambio de sus experiencias en futuras ediciones.

Por último, quisiera extender una invitación a todos nuestros miembros: los y las invitamos a participar en nuestras actividades, esperamos sus sugerencias para futuros temas y proyectos, y su presencia en las reuniones mensuales en línea del Comité Permanente. Si están interesados/as en contribuir al Plan de Acción, al boletín informativo o simplemente en conocer más sobre cómo participar, no duden en ponerse en contacto.

Gracias por su continuo compromiso con IFLAPARL. Espero con entusiasmo trabajar con ustedes a lo largo de este período 2025–2027 y construir juntos una comunidad global aún más sólida de bibliotecas y servicios de investigación parlamentarios.

Carolynne Ménard

IFLAPARL 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.

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TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT:

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3.1 WLIC 2025 DIVISION B joint session

BY

**Julie Anderson, Canada | IFLAPARL; Anoja Fernando, United Kingdom | GIOPS;
Devika McWalters, USA | GIOPS; Daan Smolders, The Netherlands | IFLAPARL; Iouliani
(Lila) Theodosi, Greece | IFLAPARL; Alec Vuijsteke, Belgium | IFLAPARL**

IFLAPARL is proud to have been part of the joint [Division B](#) units' session in WLIC 2026 in Astana, Kazakhstan. What follows is a report written jointly by the rapporteurs appointed by the Division B organising team.

Knowledge Café: Libraries as Incubators for Civil Society. Strengthening Trust, Democracy, and the Future (WLIC 2026, [Session 135](#), 20 August 2025)

The session was organized by the Professional Division B Sections and Special Interest Groups: the [Government Information and Official Publication Section](#), the [Government Libraries Section](#), the [Law Libraries Section](#), the [Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section](#), the [Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group](#), and the [Women, Information and Libraries Special Interest Group](#).

The Knowledge Café aimed to explore how these types of special libraries and services contribute to civil society by fostering access to trusted information, supporting democracy, and promoting public trust, in combination with all the developments in the AI field and issues concerning women in the Information and Libraries field.

Through small, rotating discussion groups, participants engaged in five key themes:

- Libraries as trusted providers of legal and government information
- Libraries' role in democratic participation and access to justice
- Impact of AI on information integrity and public trust
- Strategies for strengthening libraries' civic role
- Inclusive access to knowledge for women, equity and social empowerment.

The approximately 55 participants had the opportunity to join discussions on three of the five topics by rotating in groups guided by facilitators from Division B Standing Committees. In all three rounds, colleagues from France, USA, Uzbekistan, Italy, Suriname, Iceland, Thailand, Malaysia, Canada, Greece, and many other countries around the world joined the discussions. Some of the types of libraries represented were national libraries, law libraries, children's libraries, bank libraries, parliamentary libraries, medical libraries, public libraries. The organizers had prepared an indicative set of questions for each topic to start the conversation amongst participants. Each group had its own rapporteurs who synthesized key takeaways at the end of the session.

The session was open to librarians from all sectors, and participants from several library fields attended, including government, parliamentary and law libraries, as well as public, academic, children's, medical and national libraries, and national and international institutions. The following summaries are a rich synthesis of fruitful discussions amongst engaging international participants:



ASTANA 2025





1. Libraries as trusted providers of legal and government information

Facilitator: Julia Taylor, Rapporteurs: Martin Reid, Devika McWalters

The discussion led to the following suggestions based on current best practices:

a. Providing Legal Information Accessibility and Support:

- Create packets for changing names with a small fee for printing.
- Offer legal clinics to help patrons with immigration issues, keep up with the latest legal information, and match patrons with law professionals.
- Conduct reference interviews and explain fundamental legal concepts to non-lawyers.
- Provide referrals to law experts and use platforms like Congress.gov for foreign law information.
- Host public forums, including current or historical topics, and use social media for briefings.
- Make complex Supreme Court decisions understandable in plain language.

b. Maintaining Trust and Authenticity:

- Write public-facing materials in plain language.
- Ensure easy access to parliamentary manuals on phones.
- Produce government information at minimal cost, using alerts for updates to laws and content.

- Use electronic seals on print versions and watermarks on branded electronic documents to indicate authenticity.

- Help researchers identify legitimate and authentic sites.

c. Adapting to Technology and Audience Needs:

- Explore the role of AI in public communication, while acknowledging its limitations and biases.
- Address the challenge of reaching younger generations who rely on social media for news and information.
- Teach literacy courses to help younger audiences recognize the limitations of social media as a news source.
- Rely on communications departments to inform patrons about available free and understandable legal and government resources due to staffing limitations.

2. Libraries' role in democratic participation and access to justice

Facilitators: Alison Shea & Joan Liu, Rapporteur: Julie Anderson

Through a lively conversation on the topic, three main themes emerged:

- Libraries do have a role and perhaps even a responsibility to educate patrons on civics, but there is tension, as taking on this role requires additional staffing and resource support and may clash with the mandate of other departments, such as Communication Units in the

Parliamentary sector.

b. Libraries also have a role to play in order to help patrons access legal and governmental information aiming to support their access to justice. It should be clear that library staff cannot provide legal advice, rather a baseline of information. Concerns were raised about the cost of accessing legal information, and how some information, specifically from governments has been disappearing. Libraries are in the position to provide access to legal information through paid databases, which their budgets can support the purchase of, and can preserve published government information through preservation initiatives.

c. Regarding the use of AI, there was agreement that it should not be used to understand case law. There were many questions raised about who is behind the AI, what information was crawled and for what purpose, and whether or not it can be trusted. It was pointed out that AI could be useful for helping people understand standardised legal procedures, to gain knowledge on what steps need to be taken.

3. AI's impact on trust in libraries and official information and publications

Facilitators: Andrew Cox, Daan Smolders, Rapporteur: Alec Vuijsteke

On the ability of AI tools to summarise content, participants observed that these systems still perform poorly when it comes to contrasting or evaluating different opinions expressed by various stakeholders (for example, in relation to a particular policy). Such contrasts are often absent from the generated summaries, even though the tools generally do a good job of capturing the 'facts' contained in the documents. This limitation affects the level of trust one can place in AI tools to provide reliable summaries.

Participants also mentioned the potential of AI to produce audiobooks and podcasts. This could be achieved with the help of volunteers, provided they receive adequate training to craft effective prompts. Regarding AI-generated audiobooks, some participants found the quality of synthetic voices to be very high, while others (particularly in non-English contexts) still preferred human voice actors for greater authenticity.

Several participants noted that their governments have already introduced clear rules governing the use of AI tools in official work and are even developing their own large language models (LLMs). At the same time, concerns were raised about a perceived 'Anglo-Saxon' bias, as AI systems often draw predominantly on Anglo-American sources.

Another trust-related issue discussed was the tendency of AI tools to 'please' users (sycophancy). Training these systems to avoid this behaviour remains a challenge. Furthermore, the case was made and mostly agreed upon, that it is necessary to 'keep a human in the loop' when using AI tools. The results should always be checked by a human and a human is accountable.

Finally, some participants observed

generational differences: younger people tend to adopt AI tools for a wide range of purposes, often without hesitation. While some libraries have struggled to maintain connections with younger readers, there is a sense that this generation may eventually 'rediscover' the (value of the) library and its collections.

4. Strategies for strengthening libraries' role in civil society

Facilitator: Ellie Valentine, Rapporteur: Anoja Fernando

Today, social media is a popular method of connecting, communicating, and engaging; an attractive channel of information gathering/sharing by young people. Libraries must, therefore, actively recruit younger users and adapt to their ways of engaging with Social Media to understand what attracts them and thereby, strengthen libraries' role in civil society. To achieve this, libraries must start by acknowledging, Social Media is considered 'good' by young people and this could be because it gets them information quickly without deep reading. So, there is an associated convenience factor.

School Libraries, therefore, have a significant role to engage with young people in their early years' interactions on their social media platforms to teach them strategies on evaluating several viewpoints. Social media learning should continue in school and in college and university too.

Libraries across the world use novel methods to encourage civil society. According to a participant in the session, a Library in Sharjah (House of Wisdom) they even have beds to rest. Yoga sessions and art exhibitions are held whilst younger people organise activities. It is a very big library spread over two floors and approximately 12,000 square feet.

It is a concept based on Libraries adapting to Civil Society. Strength of Social Media amongst youth is unparalleled and will grow. The question is 'how do you educate children to evaluate a second source?' Instead of relying only on 'one source'; encouraging children to

look at 'multiple sources' to form opinions and viewpoints is important. AI due to its novelty and quick access to information will only increase this growth in Social Media. This will have a huge impact on society, decreasing 'critical thinking' further; thus creating a skills gap in students who will carry this into adulthood. Students are aware of the dangers; but think they know to evaluate and so there is nothing to worry. They think 'there is no such thing as truth'. But it is worth persevering to demonstrate to the young people that 'News that aligns via an algorithm' is a silo of an echo chamber of for example 'fake news'.

By being active on Social Media Libraries can become a conduit of trust that resonates with children and young people. Instagram and Podcasts are platforms and adopting Strategies for strengthening libraries' role in civil society to engage with young people into adulthood.

5. Inclusive Knowledge Access: Libraries as Catalysts for Women, Equity and Social Empowerment

Facilitator: Carolyne Ménard, Rapporteur: Iouliani (Lila) Theodosi

During the discussion diverse strategies on creating inclusive access for women, children and other sensitive groups were highlighted. Some countries focus on dedicated collection development for women and children. Others, while not building dedicated collections, create thematic bibliographies and host events to promote works by marginalised creators, such as women composers and writers.

Some libraries are also implementing programmatic initiatives to engage marginalised communities. Examples include children's book bibliographies promoting positive female role models, reading programs for families to foster a welcoming environment, and legal rights seminars for women refugees. A key theme is the use of AI and technology for outreach, with some countries using AI to summarise legal information into accessible formats like cartoons and podcasts for public consumption.

The discussion also touched on the need for greater gender equity within the library profession itself, noting that while women constitute a majority of the workforce in some regions, they are underrepresented in leadership roles.



3.2 'IFLAPARL in Their Own Words' and the IFLAPARL History Project

BY

**Carolyné Ménard, Canada | IFLAPARL Chair 2025-2027,
and Iouliani Theodosi, Greece | IFLAPARL Information Coordinator 2025-2027**

During the WLIC 2025 IFLAPARL had the chance to work together with [IFLA Special Interest Group on Library History](#), in collaboration with the IFLA Sections on [Preservation and Conservation](#), [Information Technology](#), [Library and Research Services for Parliaments](#), [Library Theory and Research](#), and the Kazakhstan Library Union, to organize a session on 'Documenting Library Association Histories through Oral History and Born-Digital Archives' (WLIC 2025, [Session 165](#), 21 August 2025).

IFLAPARL both joined the preparations of this session and participated with a presentation titled 'IFLAPARL in Their Own Words: An Oral History of the Section through the Voices of Its Past Members'.

The Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments (IFLAPARL) being among IFLA's earliest and most globally connected sections has long exemplified the Federation's mission of advancing inclusive, forward-thinking library services. To contribute to IFLA's centennial celebrations, IFLAPARL has launched an oral history initiative aimed at capturing the voices and experiences of its former Standing Committee officers and members. These interviews explore key milestones in the Section's development, providing first-hand perspectives on its evolving role within IFLA and the international parliamentary library community.

The presentation offered an overview of the oral history project, which forms the foundation of a forthcoming book chapter commemorating IFLAPARL's legacy (#IFLA100 publication). Through personal narratives, the project documents IFLAPARL's responses to global and political change, including its actions towards democratisation around the world, and reflects on its long-standing relationships with international organizations such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD). The project also highlights IFLAPARL's role in supporting parliamentary libraries regarding the adoption of new technologies, helping them to modernise and better

serve their institutions. It provides a unique lens into how IFLAPARL fostered professional development, encouraged democratic access to information, and supported institutional growth even in times of uncertainty.

The presentation shared selected insights from the IFLAPARL Oral History project and aimed to explain how the methodology used while conducting the interviews adapted practices shared by the IFLA SIG on Library History, ensuring a structured and reflective approach to collecting and presenting these narratives. It also aimed to underscore the significance of preserving institutional memory and to illustrate how the voices of library professionals help shape and sustain the values that define IFLA's enduring legacy.



3.3 WLIC 2025: Dynamic Unit and Impact Awards

BY

Iouliani Theodosi, Greece

IFLAPARL Information Coordinator 2025-2027

As if the two successful sessions IFLAPARL participated in were not rewarding enough, on the last day of the Conference the section was awarded with one of the IFLA Dynamic Unit and Impact Awards (DUIA): The Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Membership Engagement & Leadership Development.

As it is stated in the [IFLA site](#), 'an IFLA dynamic Professional Unit has the greatest impact on IFLA's global work – engaging members, developing strong leadership and identity, delivering high-quality services with measurable impact, and communicating activities within IFLA and beyond'. The awards were announced during the Closing Ceremony of the WLIC 2025 and were presented to the sections by Te Paea Paringatai, IFLA 2023-2025 Professional Council Chair.

The Dynamic Unit and Impact Award Membership Engagement & Leadership Development has been presented to IFLA PARL in recognition of its impactful implementation and engagement in collaborative work. Between August 2024 and May 2025, the Section led major initiatives, including a successful Annual Conference

in Madrid, contributions to global conversations on AI, and the launch of a Memorial Webinar Series. IFLA PARL strengthened international collaboration, supported key projects in Malaysia and Australia, and advanced its communications strategy. With active leadership, inclusive representation, and effective coordination, IFLA PARL continues to be a driving force in the parliamentary library and research community.

Lisa Hinchliffe, IFLA Professional Division B Committee Chair for the 2023-2025 mandate, wrote on the occasion:

The Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section is a quintessential model of engaging members and developing leadership. The impact of its systematic and inclusive approach to establishing working groups for each of its Action Plan items is evident in the section's successful achievements of an ambitious set of activities and in its active membership representing almost all regions of the world: North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. IFLA PARL members also stepped into leadership roles within Division B, including organizing the Division's program at WLIC 2025. From the current



foundations and best practices, IFLA PARL is poised to continue to strengthen its impact in the field and in IFLA itself.

The 2025 Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Overall Achievement – excellence in all categories – was awarded to the [Equitable & Accessible Library Services Section \(EALS\)](#).

The Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Quality & Impact of Work was awarded to the [New Professionals Special Interest Group \(NPSIG\)](#).

The Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Effective Communication is awarded to the [Environment, Sustainability & Libraries Section \(ENSULIB\)](#).

IFLAPARL is grateful to have received this award, by which the efforts and the work of all its members gain recognition. The DUIA is an incentive to continue this work, in order to provide more both to the PARL community and to the wider IFLA community. We also wish to give our warmest congratulations to all the colleagues who have been candidates and recipients of the 2025 Dynamic Unit and Impact Awards.



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

WINNER

IFLA Dynamic Unit and Impact Award 2025 Engagement & Leadership Development

Awarded to

*Library and Research Services
for Parliaments Section*

for building and developing a strong and effective committee

Astana, Kazakhstan, 2025

Vicki McDonald
IFLA President 2023-2025

Sharon Memis
IFLA Secretary General

3.4 IFLAPARL 2025: The 39th Satellite Meeting at the Nazarbayev University

BY

Julie Anderson, Canada | IFLAPARL Secretary 2023-2025,
and Iouliani (Lila) Theodosi, Greece | IFLAPARL Information Coordinator 2025-2027

IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section organized its 39th Satellite meeting on 23-24 August 2025, in Astana. The meeting was successfully hosted by the [Nazarbayev University Library](#), following the WLIC 2025.

The event's theme was '[Fostering Collaboration and Innovation in Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services: Building Skills for a Connected Future](#)'. The event's aim was to provide its participants and the IFLA PARL community with the opportunity to discuss the most recent developments in the field and to explore essential skills required for parliamentary libraries' and research services' staff, in order to help their institutions to adapt their strategies and develop new practices to collaborate effectively and to drive innovation.

DAY 1: Saturday 23 August

The Meeting began with the **welcome address** by the Vice Provost of the Nazarbayev University Loretta O'Donnell, who presented the good practices the institution follows regarding the implementation of AI tools, expressed their interest in critical thinking development, and highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaborations to effectively share knowledge and to better prepare for the future.

The Chair of Division B 2025-2027 Vivian Lewis delivered the **opening of the conference** presentation by referring to the international participations and the inclusivity that the IFLAPARL section promotes, and by bringing into the discussion critical points on skills building, based on the [IFLA Trend Report](#) and the [IFLA Guidelines for Continuing Professional Development: Principles and Best Practices](#).





The **Chair of the Section presentation** by Carolyne Ménard followed the opening speeches. The presentation focused on AI literacy, the challenges and the opportunities created by AI tools in the library field, and on how to develop new practical, partnership and personal development skills.

The following short, **sponsored session** included a presentation by Wiley on Wiley Online Library and the AI tools the company offers for libraries and research, a **Poster session** and time for networking.

Two **keynote presentations** followed:

The first keynote presentation was given by Albina Tortbayeva (founder of 'Art of Research Lab' and NGO Arlab Research and Training, in Kazakhstan, currently of 'Grants Adviser Consulting') on the processes and challenges in preparing research for policy-makers in Central Asia. Based on the experience of a local community of researchers, Ms. Tortbayeva presented her ideas on strengthening regional researcher networks, building skills in policy

communication & data storytelling, and investing in youth and women-led research initiatives.

The second keynote was presented by Dr. Riccardo Pelizzo, Professor at the Graduate School of Public Policy of the Nazarbayev University, who talked about the current state of parliamentarism in Kazakhstan and the use of evidence for decision-making, legislation, and oversight, highlighting that the availability of tools for information and the power to use these tools is directly related to the quality of parliamentary work, and the challenges created by information asymmetry between the administrative part of the government and the parliaments.

For the second part of the first day, the attendees had the chance to hear **presentations by the Nazarbayev University Library** colleagues, about the history of the Library and its founder Aliya Sarseminova (1966-2017), the collections and the services it provides (a short presentation of the NU Library was published in the [IFLAPARL Newsletter, July 2025 issue](#)), and about the Artificial Intelligence application at the NU Library, with the NURIA assistant, an AI powered chatbot, created by the NU Library staff and fully controlled by the NU librarians being a most impressive application.

The **Regional Updates** followed after the host's presentations. The attendees heard updates by the [Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada \(APLIC/ABPAC\)](#), the [Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Eastern and Southern Africa \(APLESA\)](#), the [African Library and Information Associations and Institutions \(AfLIA\)](#), the [Congressional Research Services of the USA \(CRS\)](#), the [European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation \(ECPRD\)](#), and the newly founded Réseau Africain des Archives Parlementaires Francophones



(RADAR) (see the presentation of this network in the [IFLAPARL Newsletter, July 2025 issue](#)).

The **Poster session** and the **Session on Collaboration and Innovation in Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services** brought news on innovative practices and trends from the Kyrgyz Republic, South Korea, Canada and Portugal.

The first day ended with a dinner where all the attendees had the chance to network and exchange views and ideas in a less formal but very heartwarming atmosphere.

Day 2: Sunday 24 August

The second day of the event was dedicated to workshop and open discussion sessions.

The proceedings began with a half-day **Artificial Intelligence Workshop** aiming to address the needs of all levels of AI knowledge librarians and researchers in parliaments. During the opening presentation on AI tools and on how generative AI works, it was highlighted that there is on A[rtificial] I[n]telligence] without I[n]formation] A[rchitecture], while there was talk about the best practices for cross-checking and verifying the information, and the practical risks associated with AI and information. After that, a presentation on the 'AI for Her' programme shed light on the women in the Kazakh tech community and brought a good case study to the conference.

The workshop continued with two **hands-on break-out sessions**. The half-hour sessions ran in parallel and they were repeated, so all the attendees had the chance to participate in both, if they chose to. The one session was about **Web-scraping** (presentation of web-scraping tool and practical exercises), and the second included activities on **Multi-layer prompt engineering**, on **Cross-language legislative analysis**, and on **Structured monitoring & bibliographic query design**. The purpose of both sessions was to have attendees do practical exercises, guided by the presenters, and then discuss the results in groups, gaining a valuable hands-on experience.

A video presentation by Professor Dr Fotis Fitsilis on the **AI in today's parliaments**, and a presentation of a **Toolkit** for the integration of AI tools in parliamentary libraries and research services, followed by a wrap-up and a vivid discussion with all participants completed the workshop.

In the afternoon, all participants had the chance to be part of the **open Standing Committee Meeting**, which was planned to take place during the Satellite Meeting, in order to have as many members present as possible.



The Standing Committee members of the 2023-2025 term had the chance to present the section's Action Plan and report on the actions they were in charge of; the incoming Standing Committee members were introduced to the IFLAPARL community; all participants engaged in a discussion about the 2025-2027 Action Plan and the SC was able to collect ideas and recommendations directly from the section members present.

The last session of the 2025 IFLAPARL Satellite Meeting was a **round table discussion on Skills Building**. Three case studies, by the United Kingdom House of Commons, the European Parliament, and the Hellenic Parliament Library, were presented, followed by a discussion on the topic.

The 39th Satellite Meeting closed with a short wrap-up by the Section's Chair and a final networking session, where the participants exchanged their views on the Meeting and made plans for the next IFLAPARL events.

Meeting planning | Meeting logistics

The members of the IFLAPARL Organizing Team worked closely together with the representatives of the Nazarbayev University Library for several months to organize this two-day event. To promote the event, apart from the official IFLA channels (website and WLIC 2025

site), the communications teams of the two parties also worked closely together, connecting their social media for a joint promotion campaign.

Initial number of registered to attend: 92. Final number of attendees: 72.

Countries of origin: Angola, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechia, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Italy, Japan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Malawi, Namibia, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, South Africa, Thailand, The Netherlands, United Arab Emirates, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States.

Language: English with simultaneous interpretation in Kazakh and Russian provided on site by the host.

The host also provided the livestreaming of the event through the Nazarbayev University Library YouTube channel (recordings available [here](#) and [here](#)), with a total of approximately 250 views until mid-September 2025.

The event was partially sponsored by Wiley Online Library, and a presentation of the company's AI tools by a company's representative was included in the program.

Overall, the event was considered successful and all participants had the chance to attend innovative presentations, to join up-to-date workshops and to engage in professional networking. A special mention is owed to the Nazarbayev University Library, that provided the beautiful venue, an impeccable organization, and a heart-warming hospitality. The cross-sector collaboration of the parliamentary libraries and research services field with the academic libraries field was a great success. Finally, much appreciation is due to Ms. Tolkyn Jangulova, Acting Director of the NU Library, and to all her team!

For information on the event by the host, link [here](#).

4. Designing IFLAPARL's 2025–2027 Action Plan

Our Approach to Engagement and Impact

BY

Carolyne Ménard, Canada | IFLAPARL Chair 2025-2027

The transition to a new Action Plan offers an important opportunity for IFLAPARL to reflect on its progress, learn from its community, and position itself strategically for the future. As we look toward 2025–2027, this article outlines how the Standing Committee assessed community needs, identified priority areas, and translated feedback into a focused Action Plan aligned with the [IFLA 2024-2029 Strategy](#). In doing so, we also aim to share our experience and practices in the hope that they may serve as a helpful reference for other IFLA Sections or institutions engaged in their own action planning processes. The following pages present not only the substance of our new Action Plan, but also the approach and values that underpin it—collaboration, inclusivity, and purposeful design.

The article integrates key elements from the IFLA Planning for Impact training, which informed our approach to defining priorities, clarifying outcomes, and embedding impact measurement throughout the plan

Where We Came From: An Overview of Our 2023-2025 Action Plan

During the 2023–2025 cycle, IFLAPARL focused on strengthening its core programmes while expanding its global reach and enhancing its knowledge base. Progress was made in the development of COMLAW, our comparative law database: after re-establishing collaboration with Janium and integrating new materials, the Standing Committee promoted the platform internationally and explored broader dissemination, including a proposal now under review to integrate COMLAW into the IPEX platform.

The Section also invested in deepening relationships with key international partners. IFLAPARL advanced dialogue with key partners by organising a joint IPU webinar, supporting UNESCO Memory of the World nominations, and initiating contacts with ICA SPP and the AGORA Portal. Regional mapping of parliamentary library networks was launched and outreach tools prepared. Work continued on the Heritize Project, with a beta site showcasing parliamentary bibliographical heritage and an accompanying newsletter article; however, its public release remains on hold pending a memorandum of understanding with the Mexican Congress. Progress was also made in reviewing and updating the Section's existing guidance, with volunteers examining content and drafting updates on post-COVID practices, AI, ICT, and request analysis.

The memorial initiative honouring Donna Scheeder advanced through the co-development, with the IPU, of a first webinar on customer-centred parliamentary library services, which received strong participation and will serve as a foundation for future courses. Efforts to build a robust repository of Section resources continued, with past action plans, conference materials, and newsletters uploaded and gaps—such as meeting minutes—identified. Communications remained strong through regular newsletters, expanded social media presence, and updated content on the IFLA webpage.

In terms of events, IFLAPARL successfully delivered its 2024 Annual Conference at the Senate of Spain in Madrid, contributed to the 2025 WLIC programme, and secured Nazarbayev University Library as the host for the 2025 Satellite Meeting in Astana, which welcomed 72 participants. The World Directory of Library & Research Services of Parliaments was simplified through a new self-registration process, usability testing, and targeted outreach. The Section also advanced its history project, conducting archival research, creating bibliographic tools, expanding its oral history interviews, and preparing a

4

IFLAPARL ACTION PLAN



chapter for IFLA's centenary publication, presented at the WLIC 2025 LIBHIST Oral History Session. Reflection on the impact of artificial intelligence was pursued through multiple initiatives, including the POST webinar, a Division B panel, a presentation during IFLA's 24 Hours of Global IT, and AI-focused sessions at both the 2024 Annual Conference and the 2025 Satellite Meeting. Finally, the Section continued to encourage scholarly contributions on parliamentary libraries and research services by engaging with IFLA's Library Publishing SIG and promoting future submissions to the IFLA Journal.

Moving Towards 2025–2027: Community Needs Assessment

As IFLAPARL prepared to transition into a new planning cycle, the Standing Committee identified several guiding principles to shape the 2025–2027 Action Plan. Members emphasized the importance of reducing the number of actions to a focused set of three to five priorities, enabling clearer follow-through and greater impact. Ensuring alignment with the IFLA 2024–2029 Strategy's Impact Areas was considered essential for maintaining global relevance, while ongoing consultation with the broader IFLAPARL community was recognized as a cornerstone for a participatory and inclusive agenda. These principles provided a structured framework for transforming strategic ambition into a practical and effective plan.

Ahead of community consultation at the 2025 Satellite Meeting, the Standing Committee met in July 2025 to share initial reflections on the next term's priorities. Ideas included strengthening AI literacy across parliamentary environments through online skills workshops, completing the update of the parliamentary library guidelines, continuing the Donna Scheeder webinar series, advancing forward planning for WLIC 2026–2027 and their corresponding Satellite Meetings, addressing misinformation and disinformation, progressing the Section's history project, and expanding training opportunities in data visualization and statistics.

At the Satellite Meeting in Astana, these early reflections were complemented by the perspectives of participants gathered through an interactive Menti survey. When asked to capture the focus of IFLAPARL in a single word, respondents highlighted 'Proactive,' 'Training,' and 'Collaboration,' signalling expectations for an innovative, capacity-building, and partnership-oriented section. Using the Start–Stop–Continue model, participants further refined their views: they encouraged IFLAPARL to start offering more structured training and standards development, expand collaboration and information-sharing mechanisms, support regional initiatives,

continue hosting Satellite Meetings, and seek grants and partnerships. They suggested limiting or discontinuing activities with diminished relevance, such as COMLAW, the Directory, and Heritize. Strong support was expressed for continuing work on training and emerging trends in IT, international meetings and exchanges, established communication channels, and the Section's History Project. Finally, when asked what success should look like by 2027, participants pointed to an active and growing membership, deeper international collaboration and information-sharing, and increased recognition for the Section's achievements. Together, these insights formed a solid foundation for defining a focused, community-informed, and forward-looking 2025–2027 Action Plan.

Designing Impactful Actions: IFLAPARL's Priorities for 2025-2027

Drawing on the feedback and insights gathered from our community, IFLAPARL has defined three priorities for the next term: Foster Collaboration (with members, partners, and other IFLA sections), Deliver Training and Capacity-Building Activities, and Ensure Effective Communication and Information Sharing.

These priorities are closely aligned with the [IFLA 2024-2029 Strategy](#) and its three impact areas. By fostering collaboration, IFLAPARL strengthens Impact Area 01 - Libraries are connected and energised through vibrant, global professional communities, helping libraries remain connected and energised through a vibrant global professional community that shares expertise and builds partnerships across regions. By ensuring training and capacity-building, the Section contributes to Impact Area 03 - Libraries are enabled to deliver meaningful change at all levels, equipping parliamentary libraries and research services with the skills and tools they need to deliver meaningful change within their institutions and societies. By delivering effective communication and information sharing, IFLAPARL supports Impact Area 02 - Libraries are recognised, represented and valued as partners, enhancing the visibility and recognition of libraries as valued partners in democratic development and evidence-based policymaking.

The actions outlined in the following table translate these priorities into concrete initiatives, guiding the Section's work and impact throughout the 2025-2027 term. A new feature of this Action Plan is the inclusion of clear Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which will help track progress and demonstrate measurable outcomes.

Priority and Impact Areas:

- P1 = Foster Collaboration
- P2 = Deliver Training and Capacity-Building Activities
- P3 = Ensure Effective Communication and Information Sharing
- A1 = IFLA Impact Area 01
- A2 = IFLA Impact Area 02
- A3 = IFLA Impact Area 03

#	Output Name	Output Description	Key Performance Indicators	Priority and Impact Area
1	International Events 2026 & 2027	Organise and deliver high-quality professional programmes at the 2026 WLIC, the 2026 IFLAPARL Satellite Meeting, the 2027 WLIC and the 2027 IFLAPARL Satellite Meeting in collaboration with local hosts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Successful delivery of both events (programme, attendance, evaluation) ➤ At least 20% of participants from new countries or first-time attendees ➤ Positive participant feedback 	P1 A1
2	Alumni Meeting & Mentorship Network	To celebrate the 50 th anniversary of the Section, organise a virtual gathering of former IFLAPARL Standing Committee members to strengthen intergenerational links, share expertise, and identify mentoring opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Successful delivery of the event (programme, attendance, evaluation) ➤ Minimum of 15 alumni participants ➤ Positive participant feedback ➤ Creation of an IFLAPARL Mentorship Network 	P1 A1
3	Strategic Partnerships for Membership Growth	Strengthen partnerships with key international and regional parliamentary organisations to jointly promote membership and extend IFLAPARL's global reach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Communication plan including the following information: list of suitable organisations concerned with parliamentary strengthening, democracy, and the goals of UN SDG 16; list of national, regional, and sub-national parliamentary libraries associations; plan to establish contact with these organisations. ➤ At least 5% increase in membership ➤ At least 3 formal collaborative activities or agreements with external partners 	P1 A2

4	Standards and Guidelines Renewal	Review and update IFLAPARL's professional guidelines to reflect current practices, including AI, ICT, and new service models, ensuring broad consultation and final adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First draft to be presented by August 2026 ➤ Updated guidelines published by August 2027 	P2 A3
5	Donna Scheeder Webinar Series	Continue the development of the multi-session webinar series honouring Donna Scheeder, focusing on themes such as disinformation and fake news, data visualization and statistics, and marketing services for parliamentary libraries and research services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At least 3 webinars delivered over the term ➤ Average attendance of 50+ participants per webinar ➤ Participant satisfaction 80 % or higher 	P2 A3
6	AI Literacy & Innovation Series	Offer a series of online skills workshops to build AI literacy and train our community in practical applications of AI in parliamentary libraries and research services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At least 3 webinars delivered by August 2027 ➤ 75 % of participants report increased confidence in AI literacy 	P2 A3
7	IFLAPARL History Project	Continue documenting IFLAPARL's institutional memory through research, interviews, and writing, and contribute a chapter to IFLA's centenary history of professional units.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Participation to the IFLA 100 Year History Book Symposium ➤ IFLAPARL history chapter published in IFLA centenary book ➤ At least 5 oral history interviews conducted and archived 	P1 A1
8	Integrated Communications and Outreach	Implement a coordinated communications strategy through a dedicated team covering newsletter, social media, listserv, website, and repository, to improve outreach and visibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Communication Plan developed by December 2025 where all SC member play a role ➤ One responsible named for each communication channel ➤ Comprehensive list of missing repository items prepared, with timeline for upload and designated responsible persons ➤ Information on website updated at the end of each season ➤ At least 2 newsletters issued per year 	P3 A2

Communications Strategy for the Next Term

Effective communication is at the heart of IFLAPARL's mission, yet the range and volume of tasks involved have grown beyond what a single person can manage. To address this challenge, the actual task distribution in IFLAPARL's Communications Team has been improved. Each team member takes responsibility for one key communication channel—Facebook and Instagram, LinkedIn, Listserv, Website, Repository, or Newsletter—ensuring both specialized attention and shared accountability. This team operates under the leadership of the Information Coordinator, who oversees planning, ensures coherence across platforms, and delegates tasks. The Information Coordinator is to be responsible for calling meetings and to ensure effective communication between the team members, using Basecamp, WhatsApp, emails and other means of communication.

By distributing responsibilities in this way, IFLAPARL can maintain consistent, high-quality communication, expand its reach, and better support the implementation of its 2025-2027 Action Plan.

Evaluating What Matters: Maximizing Impact and Measuring Progress

To ensure steady progress and meaningful impact, each action in the 2025–2027 Action Plan is carried out by a small working group under the leadership of an appointed action lead. This collaborative model promotes shared ownership while maintaining clear accountability for delivery. Action leads convene their groups at least once a month to review progress, distribute tasks, and determine next steps, while fostering fluid communication and sustained motivation within the team. They also report monthly during Standing Committee meetings and maintain regular contact with group members to address issues promptly and keep the action on track.

To support structured implementation, the Standing Committee has developed a dedicated template that each

group will use to map out all steps required to complete the action by August 2027, including deadlines and expected deliverables.

Through this structured approach—clear timelines, frequent check-ins, and transparent reporting—IFLAPARL will be well positioned to turn its priorities into concrete results and to demonstrate measurable impact over the 2025-2027 term.

Embodying the Characteristics of a Dynamic IFLA Unit

IFLA defines a dynamic IFLA Professional Unit as a unit that 'has the greatest impact on IFLA's global work – engaging members, developing strong leadership and identity, delivering high-quality services with a measurable impact, and communicating activities within IFLA and beyond'. Our three priorities for 2025-2027 — Foster Collaboration, Ensure Training and Capacity-Building, and Deliver Effective Communication and Information Sharing — along with the specific actions we have proposed, map directly onto these criteria:

- Member Engagement and Responsive Programming** — By creating more opportunities for collaboration (with members, partners, and IFLA Sections), and offering training and workshops (including AI literacy, webinars, guidelines), we are responsive to what our community asked for. This fosters strong engagement and ensures that programs are aligned with members' needs.
- Strong Leadership, Clear Identity and Innovation** — The actions to update our guidelines, produce the history project, and promote standards establish a clearer identity and show leadership. Innovation shows in new formats (online skills workshops, updated tools), new areas of reflection (AI, misinformation), and new ways of sharing and collaborating.

IFLA Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments									
Action Title									
Action Description									
Action Lead									
People Involved									
KPIs									
Step #	Task / Milestone	Description	Deliverable	Responsible Person(s)	Start Date	Deadline	Status	Comments	

Image 1 – IFLAPARL's Action Schedule Template

- **Impactful Communication** — The commitment to more effective communication and information sharing ensures our work is visible, accessible, and valued. Through newsletter improvements, social media growth, repository updates, regular reporting and presentations, we intend that our achievements are shared within IFLA and beyond, enhancing recognition and influence.

Thus, the 2025-2027 Action Plan is designed to make IFLAPARL not only effective in its internal functioning, but also to embody the qualities IFLA expects in its Dynamic Units.

Conclusion

The 2025–2027 Action Plan represents both continuity and renewal for IFLAPARL. Built through consultation, grounded in community needs, and aligned with IFLA's strategic directions, it charts a clear path for the Section to strengthen collaboration, expand training and capacity-building, and enhance communication and visibility. Its implementation model — based on shared leadership, regular reporting, and measurable outcomes — ensures accountability while encouraging active participation from across the Standing Committee and the wider membership. As we enter the new term, our focus is not only on delivering activities, but on delivering impact: empowering parliamentary libraries and research services, deepening international partnerships, and fostering a vibrant global community of practice. With the collective commitment of our members and partners, IFLAPARL is well positioned to continue growing as a dynamic and influential IFLA Professional Unit.

5. IFLAPARL Project: The Donna Scheeder Webinar Series

BY

Martin Reid, United Kingdom | IFLAPARL Secretary 2025-2027

As part of its Action Plan for the next two years IFLAPARL will be continuing the Donna Scheeder Webinar Series. This is an initiative dedicated to sharing emerging good practices on topics that matter to parliamentary libraries and research services around the world.

We are planning four webinars on the following topics:

- Marketing and engagement with parliamentary libraries and research services
- Misinformation and disinformation: the role of parliamentary libraries and research services
- Data visualisation: how to improve communication of data in parliamentary libraries and research services
- 'Top tips in tight times': ensuring value for money without compromising standards in parliamentary libraries and research services

We are still at an early stage in planning the series but are already looking for up to three panellists for each webinar to give short, 15 minute, experienced-based presentations that address key questions and issues for each topic.

Accordingly, we would like to warmly encourage colleagues at all stages of their career to consider participating by presenting and sharing your successes and challenges with the parliamentary library and research community around the world.

If you are interested and would like to serve as a panellist, please contact Martin Reid, IFLAPARL Secretary, at iflaparlsecretary@gmail.com with your name, institution and country and the webinar or webinars you are interested in participating in, together with any specific aspects you would like to highlight.

We would love to hear from you!

NOTE: More information on the Donna Scheeder Webinar Series will soon be available on the IFLAPARL website. The [first webinar of the Series](#) was jointly organised by IFLAPARL and the [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) in November 2024 (Report on the event in the [IFLAPARL February 2025 Newsletter](#)).



6. IFLA100 and the IFLAPARL History Project

BY

**Iouliani (Lila) Theodosi, Greece | IFLAPARL Information Coordinator 2025-2027
& Ellie Valentine, USA | IFLAPARL Information Coordinator 2019-2021**

In early November 2025, a symposium took place at Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 5, The Hague, in the National Library (Koninklijke Bibliotheek) building and next door to the temporary location of the Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal (parliament): The IFLA100 Authors' Symposium.

The [symposium](#) provided an opportunity for all the authors and editors participating in a special publication to celebrate the IFLA Centenary in 2027 –a.k.a. IFLA100– to meet. This publication was conceived by the IFLA Library History SIG and its editors, Steven Witt (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA), Peter Lor (University of Pretoria, South Africa), Anna Maria Tammaro (University of Parma, Italy), and Jeffrey Wilhite (Oklahoma University, USA). As the editors stated in their call for contributions:

'IFLA was founded in 1927 during a period marked by intense interest and development in the potential for organised knowledge to advance individuals and societies, accelerate science and technology, develop economies, and promote international peace and cooperation. Efforts in the library and information science field spawned ambitious projects to catalogue human knowledge, standardize practices, and promote access to information through the proliferation globally of public libraries and information bureaus. In the ensuing 100 years, IFLA weathered economic depression, world war, the Cold War, regional conflict, and the continuing information revolutions. At the same time, libraries as institutions, cultural touchstones, and places of refuge played an important role in societies, advancing development, spreading literacy, and supporting governance at all levels. Libraries and the LIS professions have also served as cultural symbols that both inspire hope for social change and engender debate about the role of information and books in advancing contested values. In short, libraries and organisations such as IFLA have helped to shape both individuals and societies throughout the past 100 years.'

To celebrate this centenary, the publication seeks to investigate the organisation's history, through broad and interdisciplinary perspectives that draw upon established historiographical methods and primary source materials. More than 20 chapters, by more than 30 authors will explore regional perspectives while also focusing on topics and themes of both information and transnational/global history as they relate to the impact and activities of IFLA on society, culture, and the information professions.

The symposium was organised by the Library History Special Interest Group and the publication's editors, and it was generously hosted by IFLA headquarters staff. For two days, on 5 and 6 November,



nearly 50 colleagues (authors, editors, organisers, and IFLA staff) came together, in person or online, to present their work, to discuss the development of the publication, and to plan the next steps. During these days, the participants had the opportunity to present their chapters, to discuss their methodology, to receive comments, and to exchange ideas on their work to date. IFLA Secretary General Sharon Memis opened the meeting with a heartfelt welcome, Louis Takács delivered a presentation on the IFLA Archives and the historical resources and also arranged a visit in the actual Archives. Some of the participants who were able to

extend their visit also had the unique opportunity to do research in the IFLA archives, with Louis's invaluable help as well as that of Aaron Tallon.

Members of the IFLAPARL Standing Committee (and friends) participated in the Symposium. Since 2023 the section has included in its Action Plan an activity regarding its own [history](#) and development within the organisation. It seemed the only logical next step was for the action team to submit a chapter proposal, which was accepted by the publication editors in the summer 2025. The team of co-authors of the proposed chapter are (in alphabetical order): Leonor Calvão Borges (Portugal), Carolyne Ménard (Canada), Janice Silveira (Brazil), Iouliani (Lila) Theodosi (Greece), and Ellie Valentine (USA). Some of the team members were able to travel and participate in person, some others participated on line, for the presentation of the chapter entitled 'A Century of Service: The Role of Parliamentary Libraries in Shaping IFLA and Global Librarianship'. We were also among the lucky ones to explore the IFLA Archives and to collect more information on the section's history.

This chapter is complemented by an ongoing Oral History project, presented at the Astana WLIC in August 2025 by Carolyne Ménard and Ellie Valentine, and is part of the continuing effort to map our section's past, in order to set a steady course for our future.

The whole experience was both exciting and inspiring. Meeting all these dedicated colleagues and being able to share insights and ideas gave new perspectives to the work underway. Combing the archives, we learned more about the founders of our section and their interaction among themselves and with other sections and IFLA headquarters. We are grateful for the invitation to participate in this publication and in the Symposium, and also for the warm IFLA hospitality we experienced. We hope to be able to accurately capture the evolution as well as the role of the section within the International

Federation of Library Associations, in order to contribute to the history of this organisation which is 'the global voice the library and information profession'.



7.1 News from China

Parliamentary Research Reimagined: USST Library's Multilingual, Multidisciplinary, and Mindful Approach to AI-Driven Services

BY

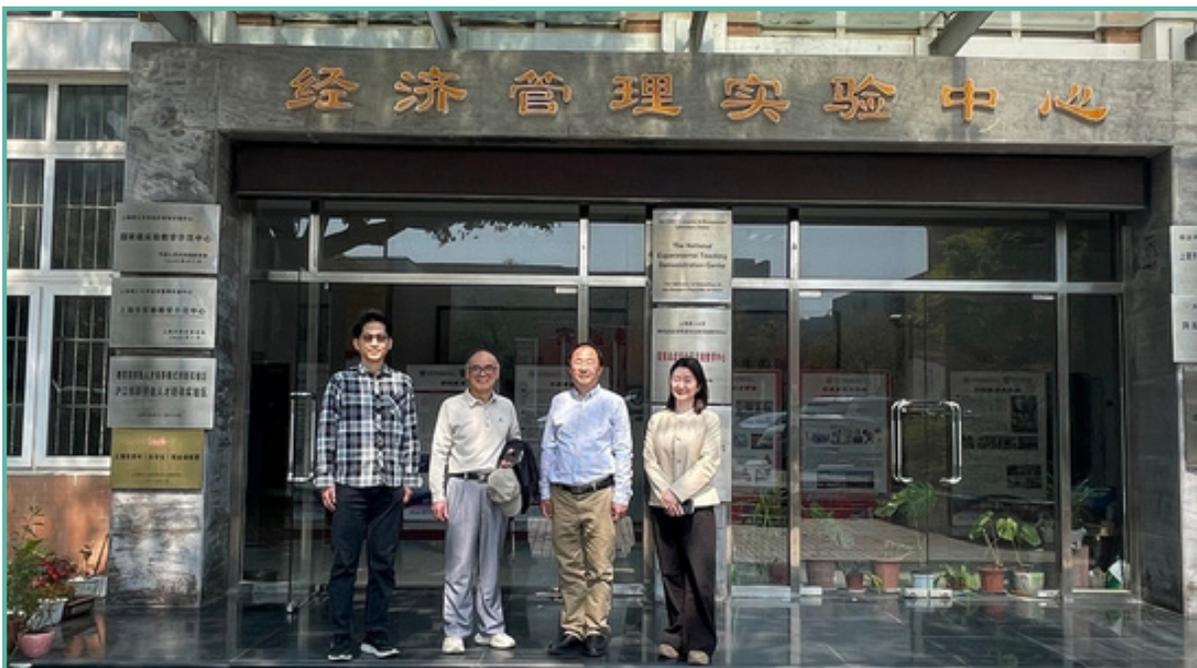
Li Rende, Subject Librarian,
University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST) Library

As parliamentary libraries worldwide grapple with the dual challenges of digital transformation and inclusive access, the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST) Library is piloting a new model of research support—one that integrates **multilingual accessibility**, **ethical AI**, and **user well-being**. Inspired by the evolving IFLA Guidelines for Multicultural Communities, USST's initiatives offer a replicable framework for parliamentary research services seeking to serve diverse, digitally engaged constituencies.

Case 1: Intelligent Governance – Bridging Language Gaps in AI Auditing Research

In March 2025, USST Library partnered with the Intelligent Accounting Research Group and *Finance & Accounting Monthly* to address a critical barrier in AI-driven audit automation: the **scarcity of non-English training materials**. Through a needs assessment with multilingual researchers, we identified that language barriers were limiting access to tools such as robotic process automation (RPA) and real-time XBRL reporting.

Using DeepSeek, we generated **1,400 machine-translated abstracts** on AI auditing, later curated by bilingual students into an **open-access corpus**. Hosted on the university's institutional repository, this resource is now freely available to researchers via VPN—demonstrating how **parliamentary libraries can democratize access to emerging policy-relevant technologies** across language divides.



Case 2: AI Literacy for Inclusive Policy Engagement

Recognizing that **AI literacy is foundational to informed civic participation**, USST Library launched a **three-part 'AI Empowerment' workshop series** (January–June 2025) tailored to diverse learner profiles: first-generation students, international scholars, and mid-career professionals transitioning into tech-driven roles.



Rather than segregating by language or skill level, the workshops emphasized **collaborative problem-solving**. Participants co-created **search prompts, bias-checklists, and citation templates** within a no-code AI sandbox. Post-workshop analytics revealed that **participants with the lowest initial confidence doubled their task-completion speed**, while advanced learners became peer mentors — forming a **sustainable, community-driven learning ecosystem**.

This model offers a blueprint for **parliamentary research services** aiming to **upskill both staff and constituents** in AI comprehension, ensuring that **policy engagement is not limited by language or technical background**.

Case 3: Multilingual Wellness Tools – Supporting Holistic Research Environments

In collaboration with the Department of Physical Education, USST Library developed a **mobile micro-tool** that converts wearable-sensor data into **personalized fitness coaching scripts** in **Mandarin, English, and German**. Designed for USST's globally diverse student body, the tool also addresses **mental well-being** — a growing concern in high-pressure research environments.

Beta-tested with **120 international exchange students**, the tool led to a **15% increase in daily physical activity** and a **9% reduction in injury-related anxiety**. By

integrating **open datasets, algorithmic transparency, and privacy-compliant APIs**, this initiative illustrates how **parliamentary libraries can support not only intellectual but also physical and emotional resilience** among researchers and policymakers.

Toward a New Paradigm for Parliamentary Libraries

These vignettes point to a broader evolution: **when librarians act as multilingual facilitators, AI ethicists, and wellness advocates**, libraries transform from static information hubs into **dynamic, inclusive research ecosystems**. As we look ahead, we propose that the next iteration of the **IFLA Multicultural Guidelines** include **metrics for technological accessibility, mental health support, and linguistic inclusion**—not as add-ons, but as **core criteria for modern library services**.

At USST, the library is no longer just a building—it is a **living interface between knowledge, technology, and human dignity**. We invite parliamentary libraries globally to join us in redefining what it means to serve **diverse, data-driven democracies**.



7.2 News from Portugal

'The Symbols of the Republic': An exhibition at the Portuguese Parliament, celebrating the establishment of the Portuguese republican regime

BY

João Carlos Oliveira, Head of Division | Library; Marina Figueiredo, Head of Division | Parliamentary Historical Archives, Correspondence and Document Management; Elisabete Moura, Head of Division | Heritage Enhancement and Conservation Portuguese Parliament

The Portuguese national symbols, such as the allegorical image of the republic, the national flag, the national anthem (*A Portuguesa*) and the former currency (the *Escudo*), are central elements of the country's collective identity and are closely linked to the establishment of the republican regime in the early 20th century.

October 5th, 1910 is a date of recognised historical and political significance, marking Portugal's transition from a monarchical to a republican regime which largely shaped the constitutional and democratic system still in force today. This event brought an end to nearly eight centuries of monarchy and established a new political and symbolic era for the nation.

Conscious of its responsibility as guardian of the symbolic, cultural and documentary heritage of Portuguese

parliamentarism, the Portuguese Parliament – Assembleia da República – celebrated this event with the exhibition '**The Symbols of the Republic**'. The exhibition was inaugurated as part of the 'Open Doors Parliament' initiative, through which the Parliament opens its doors to citizens, granting access to this central space for political debate and decision-making and offering a variety of activities. It could be visited throughout October.

The adoption of new national symbols in 1910 represented a clear strategy for asserting the republican regime and breaking with the monarchical past. Powerful in their identity and representative force, these symbols were clearly used as instruments of communication, propaganda and affirmation of the new regime. Remarkably enduring and resilient, they have remained unchanged through subsequent political changes and continue to this day as



central references of Portuguese national identity.

This bibliographic, archival and museological exhibition is organised into four thematic sections, each devoted to one of the symbols: the image of the Republic, the national flag, the national anthem and the currency.

Each section features a central piece that embodies the respective symbol, accompanied by supporting documentary materials that provide context and enhance understanding of the historical circumstances surrounding its adoption and establishment. These materials also highlight the role of Parliament in this process.

Visitors had the chance to discover that some of the republican regime's symbolic choices were influenced by the history of the Portuguese republican movement, such as the choice of green and red for the national flag and the option for *A Portuguesa*, written and composed in 1890 in response to the British Ultimatum, as the national anthem. Others followed international trends and models, such as the depiction of the Republic, which was clearly influenced by the iconography of the French Revolution.

A fifth complementary section presents editorial materials produced by the Portuguese Parliament which, over the past few decades, have contributed to commemorating and disseminating these symbols.

The exhibition involves the collaboration of three departments in line with their statutory responsibilities as defined in the Structure and Competences of the Services of the Portuguese Parliament: the Library Division; the Parliamentary Historical Archives, Correspondence and Document Management Division; and the Heritage Enhancement and Conservation Division. The Communication and Image Directorate also provided support.

More than a historical exhibition, **'The Symbols of the Republic'** is an invitation to reflect on the value of freedom, democracy, and collective identity.

By highlighting the enduring strength of the symbols that accompanied the construction of the Republic, the Portuguese Parliament reaffirms its role as the house of democracy and guardian of the country's civic memory.



7.3 News from Greece

The Hellenic Parliament becomes the first legislature in the world to be directly connected to a national High-Performance Computing infrastructure

BY

Dr Fotis Fitsilis, Scientific Service of the Hellenic Parliament, Greece



Photographer: Aiki Eleftheriou / copyright Aiki Eleftheriou and Hellenic Parliament.

A Historic Partnership

In May 2025, the Hellenic Parliament signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the Hellenic Ministry of Digital Governance, achieving a global first, that of becoming the first legislature in the world to gain direct access to national supercomputing infrastructure for institutional use. This partnership connects the parliament with Pharos, Greece's AI Factory that fuses Artificial Intelligence (AI) with High-Performance Computing (HPC). [Pharos](#) constitutes a key node in the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC).

The Hellenic Parliament's engagement with artificial intelligence is not new. Since 2020, its stenographic service has operated 'Demosthenes,' a speech-to-text system for transcribing parliamentary debates. This hands-on experience with AI implementation has provided

valuable insights into both the benefits and challenges of integrating advanced technology into standard parliamentary processes.

However, this new and more powerful initiative is much more ambitious and serves two main complementary objectives: first, to develop legislation that not only aligns with the EU AI Act and Greece's national AI strategy as well as promoting the ethical and secure use of national assets such as Pharos and; second, to explore new ways of leveraging this national and European infrastructure to strengthen parliamentary functions such as lawmaking, oversight and representation.

Moreover, once Pharos becomes fully operational, parliament will be able to transform from a purely

regulatory body into an active testbed, gaining practical understanding of the demands, costs and scrutiny mechanisms required for governing advanced AI systems.

Building a Greek Large Language Model with Parliamentary Resources

Through this Memorandum, the Hellenic Parliament became the first public sector institution in Greece to support the Pharos AI Factory by providing access to its extensive archives and materials produced on a daily basis. These resources will be instrumental in developing a Greek Large Language Model (LLM) trained and calibrated, among other data sources, on authentic parliamentary corpora. The training corpus draws from the [Hellenic Parliament Library Digital Repository](#), which includes 14 million digitised newspaper pages, nearly 800,000 pages of parliamentary archives, over 70,000 pages from personal archives of prominent Greek political figures and thousands of historical maps and photographs.

The tools and services to be developed aim to automate the processing and documentation of parliamentary material, enabling searches across the entire parliamentary archive for speakers, rapporteurs and thematic terms. They also include the creation of an intelligent digital assistant (chatbot) that can answer citizens' questions in Greek, providing easy access to legislative work, parliamentary oversight activities, speeches, committee proceedings and plenary sessions.

With such functionality at hand, time-consuming internal legal and administrative processes such as retrieving and cross-referencing legislative texts, preparing responses to citizens' and MPs' inquiries, compiling background materials for committee work and generating summaries or translations of parliamentary documents will be able to be automated, thus enhancing overall operational efficiency.

Beyond basic search capabilities, one could envision more sophisticated applications that integrate laws, explanatory reports, committee minutes and political statements, giving an overall picture and enabling, therefore, citizens and researchers to access and understand complex legal information more effectively.

Strengthening Democracy Through Digital Innovation

The initiative to link the parliament with the national HPC infrastructure represents more than a simple

technological upgrade. It is a strategic political choice to strengthen democracy by making parliamentary work more accessible and transparent, providing by default another layer of external oversight over parliamentary proceedings and decision-making.

Upon completion, all citizens will gain easy and direct access to targeted searches of legislative work, parliamentary oversight, speeches and interventions, as well as the proceedings of the Plenary and Committee meetings. This step forward positions the Hellenic Parliament as a modern, digitally mature institution that provides continuously upgraded information, greater transparency and more direct communication with society.



7.4 News from the UK

Library Knowledge and Information Professionals Conference

BY

Martin Reid, Director of Library Services, House of Commons, UK | IFLAPARL Secretary 2025-2027

On 24th September more than 50 colleagues from teams across the UK Parliament came together for the first ever Library Knowledge and Information Professionals in Parliament Conference (LKIP). This was the first time the organisation had held a conference focused on staff working in library and information related roles across different teams, and represented not only the culmination of months of hard work by a dedicated team of volunteers but also the launch of a broad and inclusive professional community that will support the growth and development of its members and enhance recognition of the critical role we play in achieving the mission of the organisation.

The idea for the conference grew out of the recognition that there are many people with a library or knowledge and information management background in Parliament, or who are working in library or information related areas and facing similar challenges and with similar professional development interests and needs, and that consequently there is a lot of value in getting together to get to know each other better and seeing what can be learned from each other. These areas include the House of Commons Library, the House of Lords Library, the Parliamentary Knowledge & Information team, which includes the Parliamentary Archives and covers information compliance and governance, as well as the Parliamentary Digital Service and colleagues from Heritage Collections and Strategic Estates.

As a result, the organisers put together a programme designed to enable people to learn from each other, to break down silos, to share knowledge and ideas, and to make connections and develop skills and expertise, as well as building a sense of shared professional identity. This included sessions on an impressive range of topics from digital preservation and metadata, to freedom of information, AI ethics, and the development of a Parliamentary Data Library, as well as the experience of newly qualified professionals and EDI in collections. The Conference was also an opportunity to connect with and learn from the wider library and information profession in the UK and included presentations from the CEO of the Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals



(CILIP), Louis Coiffait-Gunn, about the future of the profession and from the Bodleian Library's IPR expert, Chris Morrison, about copyright and AI.

But perhaps most importantly the Conference was about connection, with the networking and informal conversations it facilitated being just as important as the formal programme. In a profession that thrives on collaboration, we need opportunities like this event to come together, share insights, and build relationships because when we connect, we strengthen our collective capacity to support Parliament and the public we all serve.

The feedback we have had from those who attended the day was very positive with 90% saying they would recommend it and nearly everyone who completed a feedback form saying they would be interested in attending future events. This has inspired the organisers to keep the momentum going and so we will be planning a series of online events over the next few months for the LKIP community showcasing topics and expertise from colleagues and teams across Parliament, as well as thinking about when we can organise another in person event.



7.5 News from Spain

The 15th Assembly of Administrators of Red Parlamentaria Held at the Parliament of the Balearic Islands

BY

Elena Gili Sampol, Comité de Coordinación de Red Parlamentaria



On October 23 and 24, the Parliament of the Balearic Islands hosted the [15th Assembly of Red Parlamentaria Administrators](#). [Red Parlamentaria](#) is a network that connects the library and documentation services of Spain's regional parliaments, assemblies, and chambers. This annual meeting has become a vital forum for exchanging experiences, fostering professional collaboration, and addressing current and future challenges in parliamentary information and knowledge management.

The first day featured a public session designed to promote dialogue among professionals in the field. Attendees included representatives from the Library and Documentation Services of the Spanish Congress and the Senate, as well as experts from legal libraries, institutional documentation units, and other specialized institutions. The session was streamed live on the Parliament of Balearic Islands' YouTube channel, ensuring open access to all interested viewers in the topics discussed.

The working sessions, reserved for Red Parlamentaria members, brought together over 25 in-person participants and 20 virtual attendees, highlighting the network's strong engagement and vitality. During the meeting, the official handover was made to the Madrid Assembly, which will host the 16th edition in 2026, ensuring the continuity of this valuable space for knowledge exchange and collaboration.

Discussions on the opening day focused on two key themes: professional cooperation and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in parliamentary information and

documentation services. Miguel Ángel Gonzalo, Head of the Spanish Congress library, explored the current role of AI in automating documentation processes, improving information retrieval, and enhancing institutional knowledge management. Following this, Virgili Páez, Head of Bibliosalud, a health library, examined best practices from other professional networks -such as REBISALUD- which have made significant progress in areas that overlap with parliamentary libraries, including serving specialized user groups, managing specific sources, and designing tailored services.

As a result of the Assembly, Red Parlamentaria agreed to strengthen synergies in training, resources, and professional cooperation, with the goal of enhancing the collective capabilities of parliamentary library and documentation services. The Assembly also approved the creation of two new working groups: one dedicated to exploring new strategies for collaboration with other professional associations and networks, and another focused on Artificial Intelligence- initially to define their own goals, and later to apply AI tools in tasks such as cataloguing, document analysis, and user services. These new groups complement existing ones on social media and website content review.

In summary, the 15th Red Parlamentaria Assembly reaffirmed the importance of professional and interinstitutional collaboration, alongside technological innovation — especially Artificial Intelligence — as foundational pillars for the future of Spain's regional parliamentary library and documentation services. The network will continue working as a community to address these and other future challenges.





New publications 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 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.

Alexander, A. D. (2025). 'The contribution of parliamentary library and research services'. *Parliamentary Affairs*, Volume 78, Issue 1, January 2025, Pages 111–134, <https://doi.org/10.1093/pa/gsae008>.

This article explores the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), the Parliament's combined library and research service, investigating how the unit fulfils an expert function, but also its contribution to deliberative democratic efforts. I find that the PLRS staff member could contribute to supporting the quality of deliberative devices, by lowering the cost of information for participants.

Bernad Calavia, M. (2024). 'El sentido de los servicios de investigación parlamentaria'. *Asamblea. Revista Parlamentaria De La Asamblea De Madrid*, 47, 197-224. <https://doi.org/10.59991/rvam/2024/n.47/1007> (in Spanish)

This paper seeks, firstly, to identify and reflect on the specific information needs of the parliamentary institutions to which these services must respond, analysing some of the main studies dedicated to the subject in the last decades. Secondly, it identifies some features that may be used to characterise parliamentary research services and the products they develop, as well as to distinguish them from other information providers, with particular attention to accuracy, relevance and trustworthiness; independence, impartiality and neutrality; and conciseness, easy and fast access and proper adaptation to the needs and characteristics of parliamentarians. Finally, the main products and services they usually provide are pointed out.

Borges, L. C. (2024). Los parlamentarios como usuarios de servicios de información. En Gomez García, J. A., Mendo Carmona, C., Villaseñor Rodríguez, I. (Eds.), *Tendencias actuales en la investigación sobre usuarios de la información* (pp. 85-106). *Sindéresis* in Spanish)

This article explores the mediation of the information services of the Portuguese Parliament provided to MPs, with a case study of their needs and the overall satisfaction regarding the services.

Buckmaster, L. & Thomas, M. (2025). 'Helping Parliamentarians to Understand Complex Research' — *Australasian Parliamentary Review*, Vol 40 No 1

Parliamentarians are increasingly required to respond to complex matters in areas where they have limited or no technical understanding. As such, parliaments are becoming more and more reliant on the advice of experts and the institution of expertise. Given the daunting gap between expert and nonexpert understandings of technical issues, the question is, how can parliamentarians decide who are the relevant experts and which experts they should be listening to? This article outlines some conceptual strategies parliamentarians and parliamentary advisers can use to identify relevant experts and engage with their claims. In particular, the article highlights the role of 'meta-expertise' used by parliamentary research services and similar intermediary institutions in helping parliamentarians understand complex research.

Cifuentes-Silva, F., Astudillo, H., & Gayo, J. E. L. (2025). Transforming parliamentary libraries: Enhancing processes delivering new services with artificial intelligence. *IFLA Journal*, 51(3), 814-835. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03400352251315844>

The integration of artificial intelligence in libraries can have a wide impact on the evolution of information access and management. It allows both the streamlining of internal processes and the transformation of the way users interact with information resources, thereby enhancing effectiveness and operational efficiency while enriching the user experience. This article presents the experience of incorporating several artificial intelligence techniques in the Library of the National Congress of Chile and describes three initiatives: (1) publishing legislation as linked open data with Semantic Web technologies, combining machine-readable comprehension with high standards of interoperability; (2) maintaining the history of legislation via the automatic tagging of legislative documentation with natural language processing; and (3) predicting law approval based on the current political context using machine learning. The use of these technologies has allowed the library to offer a wide variety of knowledge management services, providing useful and timely information for parliamentary work as well as automated human-based repetitive tasks for the efficient use of public resources.

Goldstein, S. & Harding, A.-L. (2023). Informed society and representative democracy -the role of Parliaments In: Brown, C. & Handscomb, G. (eds) *The Ideas-Informed Society: why we need it and how to make it happen*. Emerald Publishing Limited.

Information literacy contributes to democracy and society. Its relevance to democratic participation is increasingly recognised, particularly in the context of both the opportunities and the risks presented by information-saturated online environments. The chapter looks at the example of the UK Parliament, through the parliamentary policy, research and analysis communities.

Kwak, S.J. & Younghee, N. & Chang and Kang, Bong-suk and Ko Jae Min (2025). A Study on Strengthening the Role of the National Assembly Library in Building the National Knowledge Information System and Promoting Regional Balanced Development.

Journal of the Korean Society for Library and Information Science, 59, {1}, 33-57. doi={10.4275/KSLIS.2025.59.1.033} (in Korean)

This study aims to propose a plan for regional branches of the National Assembly Library to strengthen national knowledge capacity and promote balanced regional development. Through literature review, environmental analysis, and demand analysis, this study highlights the necessity of regional branches for several reasons. First, strengthening the national knowledge system is essential in preparation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the AI era. Second, regional branches are needed to address key social issues such as low birth rates, population decline, and regional extinction, contributing to sustainable development. Third, the creation and expansion of regional knowledge hubs are crucial for balanced regional growth. Fourth, the increasing demand for decentralizing national document storage highlights the need for regional branches, as demonstrated by advanced countries operating regional and preservation libraries. Fifth, decentralized preservation of analog and digital resources is vital for disaster preparedness. Sixth, balanced information services for supporting policy development by members of the National Assembly must be ensured. Lastly, enhancing the research library function is necessary to strengthen the legislative capacity of the National Assembly.

Nery, C. R. A. (2025) — *Instrumento de recomendação automática de ações com base em preferências*. <https://www2.senado.leg.br/bdsf/handle/id/768124> (in Portuguese)

In this work, the author presents an automated system for recommending legislative actions, considering the individual preferences of senators.

The information was collected and processed from the Federal Senate's open data portal. To assign each senator's interests to specific issues, machine learning algorithms were used – an area of artificial intelligence (AI) in which systems learn from data and improve with experience, without being programmed for each task.

The work shows that the developed tool is valuable for legislative advising, reducing the effort required to locate relevant topics and interests of parliamentarians.

Ouimet M, Beaumier M, Cloutier A et al. (2024) Use of research evidence in legislatures: a systematic review. *Evid Policy* 20:226–243. <https://doi.org/10.1332/174426421X16656568731041>

Although lawmakers play an essential role in policymaking, there is no systematic review on the use of research evidence in legislatures. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to examine types of research use and factors facilitating and hindering use in legislatures.

The review identified types of use of research evidence observed in legislatures and developed a new categorisation of factors that may promote, or hinder evidence use in this institutional setting. It highlighted a need for more research beyond the US, in unicameral legislatures and in countries with a parliamentary form of government. Content analysis of parliamentary debates in legislative assembly or committee to examine the use of research evidence seems to be underused.

Rizzoni, G. (2023). Parliamentary Administrations and the Provision of Scientific Expertise. In: Christiansen T, Griglio E, Lupo N (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Parliamentary Administrations*. Routledge

This chapter discusses the structure and functions of Parliamentary Research Services (PRSs). It provides a brief analysis of the historical evolution of these services and outlines the main organisational solutions adopted by parliamentary administrations to carry out these activities. Looking back on the history of PRSs, it is useful to understand some of the characteristics that still mark the organisation and work of these structures. The first administrative units dedicated to meeting the information needs of modern legislative assemblies were parliamentary libraries. The analysis of the status of PRSs within parliamentary administrations demonstrates a variety of different organisational solutions. Digitization processes are among the most significant factors that are currently transforming the work of PRSs.

Rizzoni, G. (2024). *Parliamentarism and encyclopaedism: Parliamentary democracy in an age of fragmentation*. Bloomsbury Publishing <https://doi.org/10.1332/174426421X16656568731041>

This book explores a specific aspect of modern parliamentarism: its ability to produce and organise political knowledge.

The book argues that the very meaning of modern parliamentarism cannot properly be understood without considering the cognitive value which is inherent in the representative function discharged by parliaments, vis-a-vis the political community. It does so by studying the 'encyclopaedic patterns' underlying modern parliamentarism. Exploring the concept from ancient times to modernity, it addresses the fundamental question of the relationship between knowledge and democratic decision-making.

Syväterä, J., Rautalin, M., & Magyari, A. K. (2023). From where do legislators draw scientific knowledge? Organizations as scientific authorities in four countries' parliamentary debates. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 74(2), 222-240

The paper examines how different organisations are used as scientific authorities in parliamentary debates over new legislation. Drawing on analyses of 576 parliamentary debates from Australia, Finland, Kenya, and the United Kingdom, we study what organisations are acknowledged as scientific authorities and the relative weight of different organisation types in the context of political debates over new legislation. The results reveal that while organisations in general are frequently evoked as scientific authorities in all four countries, there is remarkable variation in the types of organisations considered authoritative in different national contexts. We elaborate these findings by analysing ways in which politicians evaluate organisations as sources of scientific authority. While the same set of evaluative schemas are used in all four countries, each is typically applied to certain types of organization. The results suggest that both the supply of scientific policy advice and political culture shape legislators' rhetorical practices when drawing on organisations' scientific authority.

Viola, C. M. M. (2025) — 'Inteligência Artificial na Organização do Conhecimento do Parlamento brasileiro: um estudo aplicado aos dados e às informações legislativas'. ISKO Brasil. <https://isko.org.br/ojs/index.php/iskobrasil/article/view/52> (in Portuguese)

This work aims to map the application of Artificial Intelligence in the Knowledge Organisation of the Chamber of Deputies, aiming at the analysis of the objectives and expected results, for a responsible and effective implementation.

The research identified four key categories of Artificial Intelligence use in the Brazilian parliament: (1) public engagement and open parliament; (2) transcription and translation; (3) drafting of bills and amendments; and (4) classification systems.

The implementation of Artificial Intelligence in the Brazilian Parliament demonstrates a commitment to innovation, transparency, and efficiency in the use of emerging technologies for organising legislative data and legislative information. However, challenges such as continuous improvement of systems, accuracy and reliability of tools, and ethical governance require constant monitoring. The guidelines of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the initiatives of the Chamber offer a replicable model for other parliaments. As future research, it is proposed to investigate the Artificial Intelligence tools applied in the Brazilian Federal Senate.

Ward, V. & Monaghan, M. (2024). Bridging the gap between research and parliament' — POST final report (UK Parliamentary Office of Science & Technology). <https://www.ruru.ac.uk/files/2024/05/POST-final-report.pdf>

Despite their key role in enabling the use of research evidence, parliamentary research services (PRS) have been overlooked in debates over evidence-based policy making or evidence informed policy and practice (EIPP). The literature that we do have on the relationship between parliaments and research evidence can be broadly divided into two types. The first focuses on exploring and evaluating how research evidence is represented and used within parliamentary processes such as select committees or parliamentary debates. The second focuses specifically on the work of PRS with most of this literature focusing on individual services such as the now disbanded US Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the US Congressional Research Service, and the UK's Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology. This literature is heavily skewed towards the global north meaning that relatively little is known about the nature, role, and common challenges of PRS. Our project sought to address these gaps by identifying, mapping and analysing parliamentary research services across the world.

Ward, V. & Monaghan, M. (2025). Parliamentary research services: mapping the territory. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 12. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-025-05381-y>

There is growing interest in the relationship between parliaments and research. Researchers are increasingly viewing parliaments as key sites for studying the use of evidence and achieving research impact. Meanwhile, parliamentary practitioners are beginning to call for improved evidence regarding science advice systems and processes. There is, however, a relative lack of information on how parliaments engage with research. There is even less information on how research services within parliaments operate. This article addresses these issues by reporting on the first stages of a project mapping and describing global parliamentary research services. Drawing on publicly available data gleaned from a rigorous mapping exercise alongside documentary and survey data, it makes two key contributions to this emerging field. First, in the absence of clear criteria for explaining or understanding the role and function of PRS, the article introduces a typology to categorise and compare these services. Second, recognising that information on PRS is fragmented and difficult to obtain, especially for those working within these services, the article presents a global map of PRS. The map does not claim to provide a definitive picture of PRS but is a resource for facilitating further analysis of what PRS are and do, enabling PRS to connect with and learn from each other.

Special contribution by Dr Fotis Fitsilis, Scientific Service of the Hellenic Parliament, Greece

Karamanou, A., Kalampokis, E., Fitsilis, F., Theodorakopoulos, G., & Tarabanis, K. (2026). Evaluating Open and Proprietary Large Language Models in Law Interpretation: The Case of the EU VAT Directive. In: Lindgren, I., et al. *Electronic Government. EGOV 2025. Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, vol 15944. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-01589-1_24

This new publication is part of a series that aims to reveal how popular AI models 'think.' Several Large Language Models have been tested in the interpretation of EU legal texts in a zero-shot setting, meaning without prior examples. As expected, models can answer legal questions, but they mostly predict patterns rather than truly reason. Given that hallucinations occur, validation by human experts is paramount. The findings of this paper can contribute to the development of more trustworthy and responsible AI systems that operate safely and effectively in domains such as law and public policy.

Fitsilis, F., Szabó, Z., Smuk, P., Kalampokis, E., Vlachopoulos, S., Mikros, G., Cincunegui, J. de D., Gagnon, S., & Lamprianou, I. (2025). *Book of Abstracts: 4th Global Conference on Parliamentary Studies*, Athens, 13 June 2025. figshare. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.29687015.v1>

The 4th Global Conference on Parliamentary Studies under the general title 'Reinventing Democracy for the 21st Century' was held on 13 June 2025 at the History Museum of the University of Athens. The conference was attended by over 120 researchers and parliamentary staff from 30 countries. The scientific conference was organised by the Hellenic OCR Team and Széchenyi István University, featuring 70 scientific presentations in 17 sessions that covered a wide range of topics related to the evolution of democracy and parliamentarism in the digital age. This open-access Book of Abstracts presents the state-of-the-art of research in parliamentary studies and offers practitioners valuable insights and opportunities to engage with current developments in the field.

Fitsilis, F., von Lucke, J., & De Vrieze, F. (2025). Inception, development and evolution of guidelines for AI in parliaments. *The Theory and Practice of Legislation*, 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20508840.2025.2474791>

The article examines the development of Guidelines for AI in Parliaments, a comprehensive set of 40 recommendations published by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy in July 2024 to support the responsible integration of Artificial Intelligence in parliamentary work. It outlines the methodology behind their creation, involving an interdisciplinary team of 22 international experts and practitioners, and highlights strategies for ensuring global applicability across diverse political and cultural contexts. The paper also discusses the agile development process and the guidelines' potential to promote innovation and adaptability in parliaments worldwide, thus making them future-ready. Moreover, it offers a structured approach to AI governance that upholds democratic values and strengthens institutional capacity.



9

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