The 7th Biennial Conference on "The Role of Parliamentary Libraries in Enhancing Democracy in the Digital Age"

9-14 September 2002
Ankara-TURKEY

Report of the Conference
THE 7th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
9-14 SEPTEMBER 2002
ANKARA, TURKEY

"The Role of Parliamentary Libraries in Enhancing Democracy in the Digital Age"

Report of the Conference
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Group photo of Delegates of the 7th APLAP Conference, 
Conference Venue, the Turkish Grand National Assembly

Group photo of Delegates of the APLAP Conference, 
Outside the Turkish Grand National Assembly
OVERVIEW

The Seventh Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) was held in Ankara from 9th to 14th September 2002. The Turkish Grand National Assembly Library hosted the Ankara Conference. Previous biennial meetings of the Association were in Seoul, Islamabad, Bangkok, Canberra, Manila and Tokyo.

Twenty-two delegates from twelve different countries participated in the conference. - Australia, Australia (NSW), India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey. The participants shared their experiences and consolidated their efforts towards enforcing regional and international sharing of information resources.

The Conference was organized in compliance with APLAP's Constitution and By-laws. The program commenced with the official opening and welcome followed by the presentations of three keynote speakers. Working sessions and business meetings were held on the subsequent days. During the sessions, thirteen reports were presented on the role of parliamentary libraries in enhancing democracy in the digital age. Interactive discussions took place on various aspects of the theme, including the state of digitisation in the individual parliamentary libraries, various issues involved in formulating digital information policy and the impact of digitalisation on democracy.

In the APLAP's Business Meeting, APLAP's administrative concerns were taken up and new executive members of APLAP were elected.

As the social part of program, the participants were given every opportunity to get to know each other and exchange their ideas and experiences. Tours of popular historic sites in Ankara and Cappadocia were included in the program. Luncheons were hosted by the key officials of the TGNA and dinners by the management of the TGNA.

The eighth Biennial Conference of APLAP will be held in New Delhi, India 2004 hosted by the Lok Sabha.
Delegates of 7th APLAP Conference and the staff of the Turkish Parliamentary Library,
Outside the Turkish Grand National Assembly

In Cappadocia
PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Sept. 8th, 2002 (Sunday)

Arrival of delegates

Sept. 9th, 2002 (Monday)

10:00 Registration Snack and coffee
11:00 Opening of the Conference
   Sener, Hayati, Acting Secretary General of the TGNA
   Ahuja, Ramesh Chander, President of APLAP
   Cihan, Ali Riza, Director-Library and Documentation Centre of the
   TGNA
12:00 Lunch (Venue: Blue Hall, TGNA)
13:30 Session 1: Keynote speeches
   Aktas, A. Ziya, Member of Parliament
   Yurdadog, Berin U., Professor, University of Baskent
   Timisi, Nilufer, Assistant Professor, University of Ankara
15:45 Snack and coffee
16:00 Tour of TGNA Library and TGNA
17:00 Executive Committee meeting
19:00 Reception hosted by Secretary General of the TGNA
   (Venue: Ceremony Hall)

Sept. 10th, 2002 (Tuesday)

09:15 Snack and coffee
09:30 Session 2
   Chairman: Roslynn Membrey
   Paper 1: Turkey
   Paper 2: Japan
   Paper 3: Korea
   Paper 4: Papua New Guinea
10:45 Snack and coffee
11:00 Discussion
12:30 Lunch (Venue: Blue Hall, TGNA)
13:30 Session 3
   Chairman: Sait Poh (Ruby) Khoo
   Paper 1: Australia, Legislature of New South Wales
   Paper 2: India
   Paper 3: Indonesia
   Paper 4: Thailand
14:45 Snack and coffee
15:00 Discussion
16:00 Acceptance by the Speaker of TGNA
17:00 Tour of National Library
19:00 Dinner hosted by the Deputy Secretary General of the TGNA
   (Venue: Marble Hall, TGNA)

Sept. 11th, 2002 (Wednesday)
  09:15 Snack and coffee
  09:30 Session 4
     Chairman: Takenori Horimoto
     Paper 1: Taiwan
     Paper 2: Singapore
     Paper 3: Malaysia
     Paper 4: Australia
     Paper 5: Samoa
  10:45 Snack and coffee
  11:00 Discussion
  12:30 Lunch (Venue: Blue Hall, TGNA)
  13:30 Executive Committee meeting
  13:30 Visits to the Anitkabir Mausoleum and old Parliamentary Buildings
         (other delegates)
  19:00 Dinner hosted by the President of APLAP (Venue: Hilton SA Hotel)
Sept. 12th, 2002 (Thursday)

09:15   Snack and coffee
09:30   Session 5: Roundup of sessions
        Reports by chairpersons
10:00   Business meeting
11:15   Snack and coffee
11:30   Preparation for Communiqué
12:30   Lunch (Venue: Blue Hall, TGNA)
13:30   Closing ceremony
        Ahuja, Ramesh Chander - President of APLAP
        Cihan, Ali Riza - Director Library and Documentation Centre of the
        TGNA
14:30   Departure for Cappadocia tour
20:00   Dinner hosted by the Librarian of TGNA
        (Venue: Resort Cappadocia Dedeman)

Sept. 13th, 2002 (Friday)

08:00   Cappadocia tour
12:00   Lunch (Venue: Bindalli Restaurant)
17:30   Departure from Cappadocia
20:30   Arrival to Ankara

Sept. 14th, 2002 (Saturday)

Departure of delegates
OPENING SPEECHES
Opening Speech by Mr. Hayati SENER  
Acting Secretary General of the TGNA  
at the Opening Ceremony, September 9, 2002

Mr. President,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  

It gives me a great pleasure and honour to be with you at the opening ceremony of the 7th Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Asia and the Pacific (APLAP).

Taking this opportunity, I would like to convey to you the best wishes of the Speaker the of Turkish Grand National Assembly, his Excellency Mr. Omer Izgi, for having a successful conference.

As you know, APLAP aims at encouraging mutual understanding and cooperation between parliamentary libraries and research and information services in the Asia-Pacific region and enriching parliamentary services through cooperation among member libraries.

I hope that this conference will be a valuable opportunity for member libraries to exchange knowledge, to assess the latest developments concerning parliamentary libraries, to develop new ideas and to work out a vision as well as a plan for APLAP to attain its purposes.

The main theme of this year's conference is "The Role of Parliamentary Libraries in Enhancing Democracy in the Digital Age". I believe that the subject of this Conference is very timely. The Asia-Pacific countries have different socio-economic and political traditions, institutions and cultures which may found common ground in democratic forum. Given that enhancing democracy may be a common unifying goal for the all member countries, the role of parliamentary libraries in storing, processing and
delivering of information in digital form is of vital importance for the consolidation and deepening of parliamentary democracy. The digitalisation of parliamentary libraries, the main source of information of the parliamentarians, will directly affect the accuracy, speed and extent of information and in addition, will contribute to the participatory character of democracy.

I hope that your Conference will be a fruitful one, providing ample opportunity for sharing new ideas as well as developing mutual understanding and it becomes a source of inspiration open to the future.

I wish success to the 7th APLAP Biennial Conference. Thank you.
Address at the Opening Ceremony of the
Seventh APLAP Conference,
Ankara, 9 September 2002
by Mr. R. C. AHUJA, President of APLAP

Hon'ble Members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, Hon'ble Acting Secretary-General of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, Mr. Hayati Sener, Distinguished Dignitaries, Distinguished Keynote Speakers, Distinguished Delegates, Distinguished Colleagues from the Turkish Grand National Assembly Library and Documentation Centre, Distinguished Officers of the Assembly Secretariat and Various Ministries of the Government of Turkey, Ladies and Gentlemen:

First of all, I would like to join our gracious hosts in welcoming you all to this Opening Ceremony of the Seventh Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific, popularly known as APLAP. For us, APLAP members, visiting Turkey -a land renowned the world over for its glorious civilisation, culture and learning- and holding our conference here, is indeed a matter of great pleasure. We have been able to meet in this pious land because of the blessings of His Excellency Mr. Omer Izgi, the Hon'ble Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. On behalf of APLAP, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the Hon'ble Speaker and the Turkish Grand National Assembly for hosting this Conference.

The Biennial Conferences of APLAP reflect the recognition in the Parliamentary Library circles of the importance of exchange of views on information management and its techniques, the role of IT in this field, and the challenges posed by the objective of global sharing of the resources of legislative information. During more than a decade of our existence, we have deliberated on a wide range of issues including the legislative information networking, information resource-sharing, regional cooperation, impact of culture on parliamentary libraries and parliamentary research services, etc. Some of the themes discussed so far have been of vital importance not only for the overall functioning of parliamentary libraries but also for the vibrancy of our systems of governance. The theme of this Conference namely 'The Role of Parliamentary Libraries in Enhancing Democracy in the Digital Age' also falls in this category.
Nowadays, in democracies, people are concerned not merely about the institutional arrangements per se but also about how these institutions work and what these institutions deliver. They demand responsibility, accountability and transparency in the system. They also demand objective and authentic information about the working of parliamentary institutions so that they may evaluate their performance. It has, therefore, become necessary for our systems to evolve effective channels of transmission of the requisite information to the people both through media and directly by suitable means.

Parliamentary Libraries play a crucial role in this regard. They collect and disseminate information to the members of parliament and help them in discharging their duties. Further, as intermediary between the Parliament and the people, they act as an information base by making available to the media and the public authentic information about the various parliamentary practices and procedures, about the business being transacted in Parliament and also about the useful work being done by Parliament for the welfare of the people and development of the country as a whole.

Needless to say, the task of catering to the information needs of the parliamentarians and of the people is extremely challenging. The mass of diverse materials makes it difficult for the legislators to identify their interests with physically distributed information, available in conventional forms. Further, we also find it hard to keep track of information and also to generate user-profiles of demands and expectations. Digitalisation has emerged as a strategy to overcome these and other such problems relating to information management and dissemination. The easiness in accessibility, increased usability and erosion of physical barriers offered by the digital environment in parliamentary libraries increase its desirability manifold. Through digitalisation we can have a view of as many repositories as possible and also enable law-makers to connect and interact with information for the ultimate objectives of understanding public opinion and also to link the same with policies to be made.

Keeping in view the above scenario, one of the aims of APLAP and the objective of this conference is to encourage the establishment of necessary infrastructure in the member countries for initiating digitalisation programmes and also for fostering the exchange of legislative information over national and international borders. We must endeavour to
digitalize and strengthen the functional base and user services of our national Parliamentary Libraries and improve international availability of digitized parliamentary information for providing to ourselves the means for ensuring the much desired parliament-people interaction and ultimately for global resource sharing.

Friends, it is indeed a matter of great honour for us to be in this beautiful city of Ankara which is not only the capital city but also the spirit of modern, progressive and culturally rich civilization of Turkey. With its clean roads lined with beautiful trees, enchanting greenery in vast open spaces, and highly developed social conscience, Ankara presents the ideal setting for the Seventh Biennial Conference of APLAP. I am sure, we would have fruitful deliberations on the theme of this Conference here.

I would like to thank, on behalf of all APLAP members, the Hon'ble Acting Secretary General of the Turkish Grand National Assembly for his illuminating opening address and very encouraging words which would be a source of inspiration for all of us. I would also like to thank him for all the support so kindly given by him to the Turkish Grand National Assembly Library and Documentation Centre in hosting this Conference.

On behalf of APLAP, I would also like to thank the three Keynote Speakers, Hon'ble A. Ziya Aktaş, Member of Parliament, Mrs. Berin U. Yurdadog, Professor University of Baskent and Mrs. Nilüfer Timisli, Assistant Professor University of Ankara, who have very graciously agreed to address us in the afternoon session today.

I would also like to thank the Organising Committee of the host Secretariat under the leadership of Mr Ali Riza Cihan, Director, for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference.

On behalf of APLAP, I would also like to thank the distinguished gathering here for gracing this occasion.

Thank you very much.
Speech by Ali Riza CIHAN,
Director of the Library and Documentation Centre of TGNA
at the Opening Ceremony

Mr. President,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be with you this morning for the opening of the 7th Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP). I welcome all participants.

Let me begin with some information about our library. Although the beginning of the parliamentary democracy in Turkey goes back to 1876, the Turkish Grand National Assembly was founded on 23 April 1920, and five months later on 28th September 1920, the library was officially opened. After the parliament moved to its present building in December 1960, our library has served in its original place ever since. Carrying out the duty of providing information support to the supervision of the executive by the parliament and to the fulfilment of its legislative activities, the services of the library may be categorised under three headings: 1. Library services; 2. Research services; 3. Documentation services. The use of digital technology in the production, storage and delivery of information we produce has been one of our main goals. In order to remain up to date, recent developments in digital technology have been closely followed up. Thus, our parliament has its own web site since November 1996.

After this date we have been giving special importance to digitalise our services including the delivery of content management of book catalogue and such databases as regarding Turkish governments, Prime Ministers, Speakers and Political Parties.

Coming back to the conference, the theme of this year is particularly important to us, the parliamentary librarians. We are librarians, the engineers of information of the age of information in a world of global dimensions. It would be possible to diversify the
services we produce and to increase the quality of the content by making use of new digital technologies. The securing of reliable, transparent, and quick flow of information for MPs by the parliamentary libraries, without no doubt, would greatly contribute to the enhancement and strengthening of democracy in our countries.

We, the staff of the Library and Documentation Center of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, have done our best to organize a productive and successful conference. I hope we have managed it. The only thing that makes us concerned is that due to financial difficulties and long distance between Turkey and other member states, only 12 out of 30 member states could participate the Conference.

I am confident that the discussions and exchange of views among the participants who have come together in our country for this conference will shed much light on the future of parliamentary libraries. I hope that by the end of conference all the participants will have gained a deeper understanding and cooperative relations with each other.

I wish success to the conference and welcome you once again.

Thank you.
Session 1

Keynote Speeches
Ziya AKTAS, Member of Parliament
Berin U. YURDADOG, Professor, University of Baskent
Nilufer TIMISI, Assistant Professor, University of Ankara
Prof. Dr. Ziya AKTAS
Deputy of Istanbul in the Turkish Parliament (TGNA)
Chairman, TGNA Information and Information Technologies Group

INFORMATION SOCIETY and the LIBRARIES

Toward the end of the last century, *globalisation* has been among the key words that we have been debating together with information, knowledge, competition, transparency and total quality management, etc. Lately we realise that such powerful forces have paved the way; toward a new age called "**Information Age**". After agricultural and industrial societies, the new society, post-industrial society, is finally named as "**Information Society**" or "Knowledge Society" and it has a prefix of "e" almost for everything to imply e-Government or electronic government, e-Commerce, e-Governance, e-Health, e-Transportation etc: Libraries have been the source of data, information or knowledge for centuries long depending on the user, time and the relevant decision. I feel that it is very timely and proper, therefore, to have such a meeting here in Ankara to review the developments in the information technologies and try to find new ways of cooperation among the libraries of our respective countries toward e-Library of the information society.

As it is usually done, I hereby use the term *information* alone as a generic term to imply 'data' or *information* or 'knowledge', which may vary depending on time and on person.

Globalisation in the sense of international economic transactions is not a new phenomenon. What has happened in the last few years, though, is that economic policies have liberalized significantly and the cost of transportation and communications has fallen drastically.

Sustained development requires institutions of good governance that embody transparent and participatory processes and that encompass partnership and other arrangements among the government, the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGO's), and other elements of civil society.
Information is the only entity in the world that its value increases as it is used and shared. At the beginning of the new millennium, for the first time in human history, the number of countries that are ruled by democratic governments exceeds the number of non-democratic countries. According to one of the current approaches the transition from an industrial to a post-industrial society is an even more radical change than from preindustrial to industrial society. It is predicted that in the post-industrial society, that is, the Information Society, it will not be energy or muscular strength that lead development, but the control of information and knowledge. Recently the value of a company is to a lesser degree the value of its stock of raw material, its building or its advanced machinery, instead, the main value consist of less distinct components like the knowledge imbedded in the employees, the corporate culture, the design, the trademark, and the intellectual property rights. Hence, I strongly believe that the libraries for companies, for institutions, for communities and for countries have been and will be much more valuable than before in the human history.

The information society is a society for everybody. Its democratic nature must be noted and supported. It is vital to provide universal access to information for everybody. 'Digital Divide' or simply the division between the information haves and not- haves is a danger in the information society not only for countries but also for communities and regions in an individual country.

Transparency and openness in government activities will definitely help to improve the efficiency of public administration. Electronic democracy, improvement in education and training, betterment of employment, support of market economy, various legal and social benefits and finally research and development improvement may be named as a few of the advantages of information society.

On 8th of December 1999 the European Commission launched 'eEurope Initiative' - An Information Society for all' initiative by the President Romano Prodi. The initiative has aimed at accelerating the uptake of digital technologies across Europe and ensuring that all Europeans have the necessary skills to use them. The key objectives of the eEurope initiative are:
- Bringing every citizen, home and school, every business and administration, online and into the digital age;
- Creating a digitally literate Europe, supported by an entrepreneurial culture ready to finance and develop new ideas;
- Ensuring that the whole process is socially inclusive builds consumer trust and strengthens social cohesion.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Commission has proposed ten priority areas for action to be achieved by joint action by the Commission, the Member states, industry and the citizens of Europe.

In the Lisbon Summit of EU, in March 2000, the initiative has been approved as eEurope Project with an objective of developing EU to have the most dynamic and most competitive knowledge based economy of the world until the year 2010. eEurope Project has been, redefined as eEurope+ to include all candidate countries also Turkey for EU in March 2001. In Gothenburg Summit of EU in June 2001, Prime Minister Ecevit had declared that Turkey would also join eEurope+ Project. The government put a clause in the National Program for EU that is submitted to EU in March 2001 to initiate eTurkey Project in line with eEurope Project. The formation of a formal body responsible and having the authority in that field had also been put as an objective in that Program.

Good governance, competitive edge, transparency or open society, and total quality management, Internet, web sites and even information society are some of the concepts that we have been debating recently in Turkey.

We are all in agreement to put information and knowledge at the core of all our development efforts to get increased social benefits such as education, health, nutrition, and infrastructure investments and financial benefits such as better functioning markets in the fields of credit, housing, land etc. The information revolution that we are all witnessing makes us to understand the role and value of information and knowledge in our work or personal lives. In doing that close, cooperation and collaboration not only between EU countries, but globally seems inevitable and it is a must. Further
cooperation especially in the fields of information and information technologies will be mutually beneficial. Thus the cooperation among the libraries in the world becomes so crucial for the success of the information societies in our countries and also to prevent the deepening of the digital divide in the countries, regions, and in the whole world.

In the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM) an informal working group, **TBMM Information and Information Technologies Group (BBTG)** is formed nearly four years ago. The Group consists of more than 80 parliamentarians from all parties in the Turkish Parliament. In the Group some NGO's and high public officials are also represented. It has an objective of improving the information and IT capabilities in the Parliament. Another objective of the Group is to give expert opinion on the proposed laws or even to prepare some legislation in the field of electronics, information and IT (information technologies) or ICT (information and communications technologies) in Turkey. The Group also expects to create or help to create a public awareness in the field of information and IT in Turkey. We are also trying to form a formal committee in the Parliament named as 'Information Society Committee'. We also have prepared and submitted draft legislation for the establishment of the **Ministry of Information Society** in Turkey. Such a ministry will have the power and authority to prepare the national strategy and to establish and support cooperation and coordination not only among the public organisations but also among public sector, private sector, NGO's, Universities, and press/media organisations for the creation of Information Society in Turkey. This Ministry will also work in close cooperation with the **DG Information Society** in the European, Commission.

Finally, as a parliamentarian and as the Chairman of the Information and Information Technologies Group in the Turkish Parliament, I would like to express our best wishes for the success of General Assembly Meeting of the Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and Pacific Region. I hope such a successful meeting will help to develop information society not only in that region but also in the whole world.
Berin U. YURDADOG,  
Professor,  
University of Baskent

Mrs. Yurdadog began her speech by touching upon the importance of revolutions in human history. The industrial revolution changed the structure of economic production and enhanced the military industry. Later came the information revolution, quickly followed by the cyberspace revolution, which is drastically important because it bolsters the imagination of people. It gives a chance to the people to imagine and create new ideas.

The industrial revolution brought us the mechanization and economy of scale, as factories became the new locus of industrial production. Immigration from the countryside to the newly formed industrial cities characterized by the unhealthy living conditions, a lack of a social welfare system and the exploitation of cheap labour.

The cyberspace revolution, on the other hand, has introduced us to "virtual reality". The danger behind the cyberspace revolution, however, may be the increasing tendency towards more isolation of people, i.e., the emergence of asocial individuals.

Against this background, one may obviously claim that the digital age and the digital society too has its own benefits and drawbacks. The drawback is that all members of the community are no longer equal. Economic, social, educational and cultural levels are different. Rural people are more disadvantaged compared to urban people. Older people are more disadvantaged compared to the younger generation. The thing to be done is not only to improve the economic conditions but also to make up for all other difficulties that may prevent the access to Internet. This can be done by libraries easily.

Continuing her speech, Mrs Yurdadog talked about the importance of libraries. Their importance is accepted more than ever nowadays. Libraries are the places where one can find everything. One does not have to go a library building nowadays since the digital libraries are developing every day. When we have fully digital libraries more electronic
and less conventional material will be available. The important thing is to go beyond the barriers like time and place so that information can be accessed at any time from any place.

She also mentioned that it is possible to reach a library collection any time from anywhere if one has access to Internet via computer. She gave an example on choices and technical developments. We use electricity because it is more efficient than candles. But whenever we want to have a romantic dinner with our friends we use candles for the soft light. Therefore, electricity did not kill candles. For our daily information, education and recreational needs we will use digital material. However, if we want to read a poem, then we can have a book in our hands - possibly while listening to soft music, and having a nice cup of tea, or something a little stronger perhaps. In that way we can appreciate our poetry in a more relaxed and intimate environment. That is an added value also.

Mrs. Yurdadog concluded her speech by saying that libraries are the future. Parliamentary libraries will do try to conquer the digital divide first and then provide services which will continue to enhance democracy. There are three institutions which are very important for human beings: The family, all kinds of educational institutions and parliaments. The parliamentary library has two functions. If they give a good service, the members of parliaments will do their jobs better. If they provide service to the public, then members of the community will understand the legislative process and its products better. A good communication policy permits the parliamentarians and the people to understand each other. Librarians of parliament will help to support this communication policy.
Nilufer TIMISI, Ph. D.
Ankara University
Faculty of Communication

DIGITALIZATION, DEMOCRACY, AND THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES

The recent developments in communication and information technologies are seen as central transformations in the way in which we make sense of our social and political worlds, of the notions of "public" and "private," and, as the result, in the way in which we perceive democracy (Bryan et al. 1998). For the first time in the history of communication and information technologies, interactivity and thus reflexivity have become notions occupying the center stage. Recent contributions to the conceptualisations of democracy in the area of political science are also taking a reflexive turn. That is to say, many theorists are departing from a linear understanding of democracy, which can be defined as a process where citizens' involvement is basically limited with the election of their representatives. The outcome of the reflexive turn in the theory of democracy has many different names such as "strong democracy," "participatory democracy," "direct democracy," or "radical democracy" (Barber, 1984). Despite substantial differences, it is possible to point out a common aspect in all these forms: the increased role played by the ordinary citizens, or the civil society. The philosophical background of reflexive turn in political science can be seen as the departure from representative thinking.

Very briefly, representative thinking approaches the world and language, facts and discourses, life and ideas as sequential entities, that is, the second elements in these couples of concepts are seen as the consequence of the former concepts. The departure from representative thinking brings about a "constitutive" approach in which these terms, and others of the same sort, are seen to be in a mutually constitutive interrelationship. The constitutive approach to facts and discourses, and the reflexive turn in the theories of democracy bear a great significance in our understanding of the relation between digitalisation of information and democracy.

Reflexivity means a special understanding or making-sense of the world along with a self-understanding of the subject who is involved in this very process of making-sense.
Obviously, we should call it a "new subject" who is able to assess his/her role in the way things are, and also aware of the fact that this very assessment has a part in the things he/she is attempting to understand. Without doubt, this new subject is not passive.

He/she is not expected to be just another element of a working system, or, to put it differently, a mere "button presser." The new subject of the contemporary world is defined as the "actor" involved in the making of the system, political or otherwise.

The new information and communication technologies must be evaluated in light of these new definitions shaping our intellectual climate today and especially in light of the new subject. Otherwise we risk reducing the concept of "digitalization" into a technology alien to our social and political realities. I think what is needed is a comprehensive understanding of the new technologies and the new political philosophy instead of "technology worshipping" or other forms of reductionisms such as the instrumental approaches to technology, or, those technological historicisms which are inclined to evaluate every single technological novelty in its own right.

The comprehensive approach to novelties in political philosophy and digital technologies lead us to a line of thinking in the center of which we find the human subject. In contemporary political theories, as I mentioned before, there is a notion of citizen who is an active, participatory, and constitutive element of the democratic system. In the theories of digitalization we again face with a notion of "user" who is no more the passive recipient of what the technology could offer. The fundamental democratic idea of self-rule demands a political subject or a group of subjects to be connected. That is, the constitutive elements of a democracy must feel the presence of others who are parts of the same system. One major novelty in the so-called "digital age" is, as you all know, connectivity. Connectivity can be defined as the capability of elements of a system to reach each other instantaneously without external supervision of their communication. As it can easily be seen there is a striking parallel between the arguments of contemporary political theory and what the new communication and information technologies offer. In an age in which the problems that the citizens face exceed local, and even national boundaries, the significance of connectivity on a global scale gain an unprecedented importance. The demands for a direct/participatory/strong democracy place the
citizen-subject in the center stage and thanks to digitalization of information the new citizen-subject is not altogether helpless in the middle of an increasingly complex and sometimes chaotic world.

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The theme that brought us together today, "The Role of Parliamentary Libraries in Enhancing Democracy in the Digital Age," talks about two technologies, not one. Thanks to the popular media, we are now accustomed to the idea of digitalization with a false sense that everything is "going digital." This is as if we are about to say goodbye to our analog homes, analog refrigerators, and even to our good-old analog house-pets. What is really and extensively going-digital, however, is our libraries which traditionally house the technology of writing and print. This is the second technology involved in our theme in this meeting and I would like to talk about it however briefly. We should not forget that libraries' role in the digital age is digitalizing what has not been analog so far-do I need to remind anyone that I am talking about books, newspapers, magazines and other documents enduring their analog lives on dusty shelves?

The recent discourses on technological advances partially obstruct our vision of technology. From a non-popular perspective, writing and print, and speech as well are profoundly technological capabilities and the book is the basic form of information storage. The idea that a book is an information technology enlightens our understanding of digitalization and digital forms of information storage and access. I would like to emphasize with the metaphor of book that information storage and retrieval are fundamentally human activities. That is, in talking about the new information and communication technologies, we have to surpass once popular description of our age as the "space age" and the determining technology as the "space technology." Digitalization is vital, before all else, for the human beings and the outer space is only one of the rhetorical outcomes of digital technology in the service of humans. By the way of outer space/socio-political space contrast, I would like to emphasize the need for a serious demystification of digital technologies. In the contemporary world, which is aptly named as "the digital age," I see a strong need to re-establish the connection between human subjects and technology. I believe the connection is already there, in front of our eyes, embodied in the form of the book or the document.
In cultural theory, and more specifically in the philosophy of writing, the book is registered as something, which announces the death of its author. This announcement is based on an age-old fundamental distinction made between speech and writing. As it is well known, speech requires the live presence of the speakers whereas writing does not once an idea is written down, it starts a new life after the lively presence of its author. The book is now awaiting innumerable and indefinite readers whose identities can hardly be presupposed by its author. This negative life form of writing, which is based on the death of its author, is, I believe, behind another negative fiction about libraries. Libraries, if you pardon my analogy, is generally seen as a morgue of old ideas, the ideas of people who are dead immediately after they have written them down.

Of course, as academicians, librarians, and intellectual public in general we greatly appreciate our libraries. We know that like its cultural counterpart, the museum, library is one fundamental institution for any modern society. Because, this institution is devoted to the storage and dissemination of information, and this function is the strongest connection between a society's past and future. In Turkey it is commonplace to talk about how forgetful we are as a society. I would like to add a little twist to this perhaps truthful commonplace: how little attention we give to our libraries and museums. As an academician, I have a particular interest in the libraries, and the Library of Turkish Grand National Assembly occupies an important place in my academic career. I spent many months in this library when I was writing my dissertation. Yet, I must confess, I have a solid doubt that many of my students are not even aware of its presence. I don't think that the only factor in this disinterest is that this particular library is located in a high-security complex, the Grand National Assembly. The deeper reason is that the Turkish people, and especially the Turkish youth keeps libraries at bay in general. They think that libraries are, in general "boring." My students, for instance, make use of a library only when it is absolutely necessary-when they have an assignment or when they have to meet a term paper deadline-which is usually a day before it is due. I know I am exaggerating a bit in this matter, but I strongly believe that this situation must change. And I am not pessimistic on this issue either.

**Definition of the problem**

The main argument in the discussions of new communication technologies and democracy involves the idea that technology has a potential which paves the way for a powerful or direct democracy on the basis of citizen participation. Is this really true or
are we naively investing too much on "just another new technology"? Isn't it a well known historical fact that every new technology is seen as a savior for the social problems prevailing in a given historical period? I would like to argue that the kind of novelty we are talking about today, that is, the digitalization of information, has a peculiarity that separates it from the earlier advances in the technologies of communication. And this is why some historians of technology have argues that digitalization can only be compared to the industrial revolution. This peculiarity involves the fact that today information can be saved, stored, and retrieved by the user whenever it is necessary and wherever a medium of retrieval is available. In addition to this, the so-called "digital age" consists of a special medium, which is itself as a space where user-user interaction is possible in contrast with a mere user-machine interchange.

If we all agree that the need for a new political sensitivity, which is based on the discourses like "radical" or "direct democracy," demands active citizen-subjects consciously participating in the democratic process, we must also agree that the widespread belief regarding the libraries as "boring places" must change. The change that must be brought about in the popular perception of libraries can be realized with the aid of new communication and information technologies. The complexity of the contemporary issues faced by the modern democracies, and the ever-increasing need for speed in decision making processes seem to force us to reconsider the analog information technologies in a radical manner. In an age in which the need for information and knowledge is higher than ever, digitalization of information is actually handier than ever for two fundamental reasons: first of all, digitalization has the potential to break the spell upon the popular perception of libraries; and secondly, by its very nature, digitalization seems to have the potential most appropriate to the reflexive turn I have talked about in the beginning of my speech.

Then how can we explain the potential of this technology in terms of a better democracy? There are five points, which, I believe, are important in defining digital technology as a novelty with an impact on democracy. They are: (1) Easy access to information; (2) immunity from authority; (3) freedom of expression; (4) increase in political participation; and (5) expansion and globalization of civil society. Now, let me briefly go through these points one by one.
(1) Easy access to information: The speed and extent of information retrieval through the Internet exceeds traditional communication technologies substantially.

Theoretically speaking, for the first time in history, citizens could have immediate access to knowledge and information required by democratic participation (Arterton, 1987:21). Today, we are only able to "speak theoretically" for the countries like Turkey, for well known economic reasons. Nevertheless we can talk about a promising outlook on this matter since many political parties in Turkey are taking issues of digitalization seriously in their programmes. What is more promising, I think, is the very theoretical (that is, technological) possibility raised around the point of easy access. This potential is usually thought as lifting of the barriers of time and space in communication and thus makes it much easier for the citizens to participate in the processes of decision-making. When we go beyond the theory, however, we face major problems. Easy access does not mean equal access. Easy and equal access is vital for any theoretical/technological potential to be realized in a way in which we can see it as an input toward better democracy.

(2) Immunity from authority: According to the approaches that emphasize "Internet democracy," the kind of communication carried out on the net is not under the control of any particular and central authority. This is quite different from traditional means of communication where the technology itself appears as the locus of a certain authority based on ownership. Having said this, we should not forget the political and economic potential of the Internet, which make it an appetizing target for economic and political powers. However, the decentralized structure of the Internet does not allow it to be exploited as easily as, say, radio or television. In addition to its decentralized structure, the Internet, in fact, lack a concrete structure to be owned, leased or sold. It is a system open to expansion and participation at any given time. This, again, stands as another assurance against easy conquest.

(3) Freedom of expression: Freedom of expression is certainly an indisputable aspect of democracy. As it should be obvious from the former two points, namely, easy access to information and immunity from authority, freedom of expression is claimed to reach its pinnacle under the conditions of digitalization (Rheingold, 1995; Poster, 1997). As
there would be a multiplicity of channels of information topped with technical near-impossibility of censorship or supervision of communication, one would expect these new media to be the space in which a multiplicity of ideas and opinions bloom. Not without problems though. As with all grounds of freedom, democracy is vulnerable in terms of its fundamental normative premises such as "respect for the other." What if these new channels are filled with anti-democratic or thoroughly anti-human content such as child pornography? These concerns fuel a second-degree set of concerns that they can be used by the authority positions as pretexts to denounce or interdict with the very idea of freedom of expression. I believe and hope that the new media under our concern will eventually create its balance against authoritarianism and self-demolishing kind of pseudo libertarianism, if we keep in mind that no new technology emerge out of nothing. In other words, the Internet is a social medium of communication and even today we are able to observe initiatives of self-regulation toward such a balance.

(4) Increase in political participation: Under this topic I would like to share one of my observations about political participation in Turkey. It is usually thought that there are some barriers against organized political participation in Turkey. This might be true especially for a country where democratization is a process, which is hardly developing on purely social dynamics. In other words, being more democratic has hardly ever been a primary need for the people in Turkey who struggle with almost systematic economic crises. This, however, does not mean that Turkish people lack political opinions or that they have a weak will to participate in the political process. What is hoped for a higher degree of political participation is, ultimately, a social base for participation. In the previous topic, I mentioned the Internet as a "social medium," that is, it would be a serious mistake to approach the Internet as a mere new technology to give birth to miracles. With all the characteristics mentioned so far, I see digitalization as a model for political participation rather than an alien force making people do things, which they haven't done so far for some reason. In this respect, I would like to argue that if, in a country, the Internet can engender more political participation, the society at large should be expected to be open to political participation in general. The advantage of the Internet in this context is, of course, related to the technical ease that is brought in by its very nature (Adonis, Mulgan, 1994; Street, 1992).
(5) The expansion and globalization of civil society: The reverse function of easy access to information in the context of the Internet is the ease in providing information to those who have potential of involvement in the political (or otherwise) interest of an organization. In this respect, citizens' initiatives for instance, can break the spatial barriers and thus restrictions imposed by the traditional boundaries of locality. Many issues of local significance (environmental problems of a remote town in the Black Sea region for instance) can now be linked up with other "remote" locales with similar problems in order to establish a global network of environmental consciousness and action. It should also be noted that the potential of connectivity has a tremendous impact on the very definitions of local and global as well (Frederick, 1997).

The role of parliamentary libraries

When we sum up the position of the new citizen-subject vis-a-vis the democratic process in the "digital age," we encounter with one basic characteristic: the new subject has an active, participatory and constitutive role in the democratic system. On the other hand, we have the state mechanism on the recipient end of the new citizen's activity. Without doubt, another fundamental element of any modern democracy is the state apparatus, and it would be non-sensical to imagine an unchanging state within a system whose every major part is subject to change. In the context of the previously mentioned transformations of the political philosophy of our age, the state is also expected to adopt, and even guide these transformations. Thus the discussions of "e-state."

Transparency

One basic concept in the new political philosophy is "transparency." When we talk about "easy access to information," "expansion of civil society," and "increased political participation" fuelled with digitalization of information, we cannot imagine a state mechanism trying to endure its traditional "black box" mentality. In the very making of what I called "the new citizen-subject," we disclose a need for being "reflexive," that is, a need to position and invent himself/herself as part of a larger mechanism. A subject becomes a citizen-subject only when it is positioned against a common value system inscribed onto a given political territory. This common value system is nothing other than the state-or, we can call state the embodiment of this system. In order for a citizen-subject to be reflexive, he/she must operate within this structure of common value under perfectly transparent conditions. If we are talking about the citizen-subject's self-awareness within a political system, that very subject must have access to all the
information locating him/her in this system; from the state's revenue office to the military service system, from the school grades to retirement pension funds, all kinds of information must be laid open to relevant parties. When it comes to citizen-subject's relationship with the central authority, there emerges a substantial need for a regulatory mechanism providing guidance and assuring the transparency of the state. This regulatory mechanism can be the parliamentary library. There are good reasons why the parliamentary library can shoulder this significant task.

**Memory**

It is possible to define the parliamentary library as the memory of the state. As being one of the main engines of modern democratic systems, the parliament occupies an intermediary place between the state and the citizen-subject. People vote for their representatives and the representatives occupy the state administration on the basis of these votes. In other words, the parliament can be defined as the democratic bridge between the state and the citizens. A library under the roof of parliament should be taken as the most reliable source of information regarding the state administration.

**Symbolic significance**

Parliaments also bear a symbolic significance with respect to the regulatory role in the context of transparency. It is a body in which all the legal political tendencies are represented and thus it has the capability to embody the differences the political system. It should be the central organ of trust in the political system despite the common negative attributes to "politics" and "politicians." The good thing about parliament is that it transcends daily game of politics as a permanent institution. It is obvious that politicians leave the scene, but the parliament remains. The parliamentary library should operate with this basic consciousness of permanency. I think, the negative popular perception of politics disappears when parliament is appreciated as a permanent national symbol. The parliamentary library could be the only assurance of this permanence, if it provides the citizen-subjects with the chance to build their own memories or histories of the events that shape the state, and thus the country.

**Citizen's right to control**

Aside from the possible function of parliamentary library in assuring the transparency of state, it could also effectively engender the basic citizenship right to control the
representatives. In this respect, the web site of a parliamentary library could provide the necessary information consisting the e-mail addresses of the parliamentarians and government agencies, and the links to the web addresses of the state institutions.

Conclusion

The terms and conditions for access to information technology is increasingly defining one's right to access to information per se... Today, information that is particularly useful, relevant, and timely is increasingly tied to digital technology. The crucial point in this respect is equal access to technical facilities and the extent to which there is active interaction between equal participants. As in more traditional media, Internet can very well be used in such a way that might turn the mass of participants into passive consumers of information and services. This is true for both state agencies and businesses, which seek to sell or distribute goods, and for political actors who attempt to organise their constituency in an authoritarian way, using the computer technology for the purposes of sheer propaganda. The decentralising tendencies of the Internet do not guarantee economically and politically a more equal power distribution and a more democratic access to the political decision making process. Digital technologies do not create active, participatory citizen who is a major agent of a democratic society on their own, but it is closely linked to political and economic interests which will determine to what extent the democratic promise of these new media will be realized.

In this talk I tried to underline a number of basic technological and intellectual transformations, and the fact that those transformations are, in fact, converge on one fundamental issue: The formation of a new citizen-subject who is active, participatory, and constitutive of the democratic system. In order for this subject to realize its full potential, fast and equal access to information is crucial. In this context, we should realize the importance of the passage from analog to digital information storage and retrieval as human/social function. This idea brings libraries into focus, and parliamentary libraries play the central role when the political system and democratization in the digital age is considered.
References


Session 2

Chairman : Roslynn MEMBREY

Paper 1 : Turkey
Paper 2 : Japan
Paper 3 : Korea
Paper 4 : Papua New Guinea
DIGITAL VISION: TOWARDS THE REALIZATION OF VIRTUAL DEMOCRACY ON A NATIONAL/GLOBAL SCALE?

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Introduction

In this presentation, I will try to inquire on the impact of digitalisation on the development and evolution of democratic polity by emphasizing the role of parliamentary libraries in the process of the democratization of knowledge/information with special reference to the Turkish case. I will ask some preliminary questions, though with no conclusive answers.

The development of digital society and its growing effects on parliaments and democracy have given rise to a new vocabulary including such terms as digital, information, dialog, consultation, web library, interaction and media. The ongoing developments in the field are related to both information society and communication technology. One may see these developments from two different vantage points: (1) as technical ones that would leave parliaments untouched but more effective or, (2) ones that would radically change our way of social organisation, thus changing the role of parliament in the digital age. These two viewpoints are crucial in moulding one's position vis a vis the digital imperative. The relevant future in this regard is closely related with the socio-economic and political context we stand therein: whose future are we talking about? Do we talk about an homogenous and equalising developmental trend or an unequal development which would trigger the information disparity and hence the democracy gap among the rich and the poor or young and old, or literate and low literate.[1] In terms of the impact of digitalisation on the functioning of the parliamentary library and on democratisation, I will take the following questions as central:

- Can Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) serve to underpin the democratic process?
Can digital technologies serve not only members of parliament but also the citizenry?

To what extent is the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) using Internet as a means of communication with the public?

What kind of information is offered to the representatives and the public?

Is there one way or also two way communication?

What is the number of feedback mechanisms established to get return information from the citizens and other organisations?

Citizens vs MPs: Who is the Audience?

Although they are both the main audience of the parliamentary libraries in the digital environment, when we focus on deputies rather than the citizenry as our audience in the digitilisation process, the most practical point that strikes us is that parliamentarians need the right information at the right time in order to make correct analysis and insightful contributions to the parliamentary process. The promptness and accuracy of information is very important to MPs in fulfilling their legislative and supervision functions. MPs need to be up-to-date in their grasp of local, national and international socio-economic and political developments. Lack of proper information or inadequacy and delay in its provision may lead to heavily subjective or deeply distorted assessment of the factual situation, a detrimental condition for the preservation of public interest. The presentation of information in computerised, i.e. digital form rather than through traditional media, i.e. print form is of vital importance in the attainment of right information at the right time without any delay or inaccuracy.

TGNA and the Digitalisation Process

The introduction of digital technology via Internet to the Turkish Parliament in 1996 has led to varying effects on the prevailing popular perceptions of the parliament as well as the way it is functioning. Will the use of digital technology by the Turkish Parliament bring it closer to the people or will it serve to its further popular alienation? Given that the participation of citizens in the political decision-making process is a key factor for a successful and effective functioning of any democratic system alongside with the freedom and equality of access to the democratic process, this question is particularly important for a country like Turkey which has a long but fragile democratic tradition.

Given the fact that the rate of access to internet by the general public is not so low\(^1\), the digitisation of parliamentary information may lead to overcome "the information gap"
between the parliament and the citizenry on the one hand, and to further deepening of "the democracy gap" among the wealthy and educated and the poor and variously illiterate, on the other. This is because the democratizing impact of digitization is closely knitted with the presence of literate and technically informed population.

Digitalisation vs. Democratisation: "a situational condition"

In this context, the relevant question to be tested on empirical ground is the following: Does the use of digital information enhance and contribute to the consolidation of participatory democracy or not? To begin with, the use of digital information technologies are not inherently democratising or limiting. It has its pros and cons. Therefore, "the issue of ICTs and parliaments concerns the manner in which it is used and managed by institutions in conducting their business and whether the manner in which such technology is used to complement the objectives, values, principles and needs of parliament. The challenge for parliament can be said to lie in how it utilises and manages these technologies in support of its democratic values and principles."[9] In other words, the expedient instrumentality of ICTs may considerably further the democratisation process. In this context, the fact that the neutrality of technology is a myth becomes crystal clear in that the dynamics of the consolidation of democracy are closely interrelated with the media infrastructure the prominent of which being the digital media.

Digital Mode of Presentation

Another crucial point in terms of the digitilisation of information is the inevitable change that will occur in the mode of the presentation of information and the way we deal with the issues concerned. The question is: how does a digitalised information environment affect parliamentary deliberation and decision-making process? The adoption of the digital mind, i.e. new ways of information presentation by the professionals responsible for serving the information needs of parliaments, the prominent of them being librarians and information analysts, may have a strong influence on the extent, adequacy, accuracy and speed of delivering the information service. The on-line availability of legal documents and information do not mean, however, that this accessibility will make them understandable for all because the existence of the special jargon will continue but the openness and access in that terms would assume a new way:

The parliament is an infrastructure that organises resources to support the work of Members of Parliament. One side of that organisation concerns itself with content: the creation, edition, storage and dissemination of documents. Another deals with the
process of parliamentary activity: organising and coordinating meeting. In the next
couple of years both of these aspects will be supported by information systems. With the
easier availability of ICT the infrastructure will move from organisations to individuals.
Processing power, storage, servers, internet capabilities, but also software that searches
and retrieves information, coordinates activities between teams of people will be
available in such a standardized way that its use will be ubiquitous: the means of
production and organisation will be distributed. It will become easier for individual
Members of Parliament to have his or her own network of people and groups and to
maintain it, coordinating research, focus groups, poll people throughout society, and
coordinate activities in larger groups of people than is possible today. This makes
Members of Parliament more independent from central infrastructure, be that from the
Parliament or the Party. They can also more easily organise activities in their
constituency.\(^{(1)}\)

**Digitalisation and the Library of TGNA**

The provision of the efficient and up-to-date follow-up of the National Assembly
proceedings and events is one of the main tasks of the parliamentary library and
information services. Since 1996, we have a parliamentary website. The intranet server is
ready but will be operative next year. Digital services are open primarily to deputies but
also to journalists, researchers, other governmental institutions and the general public.

The preparation of projects regarding digitalisation is presently an ongoing process. In
this process, the necessary software is provided by the Information Service while the
content management is held by the departments concerned. Overall, the extent of
digitalisation and its form is fairly limited and document oriented, respecting the
legislative and supervision domains. Our website holds information on sessions, reports,
laws, and other proceedings and events. The document-oriented system is based on the
segregated folders of textual documents. For example, one folder contains documents
related to one law; another one contains its first draft to final vote. Still another one may
embody other related reports and proceedings.

An important feature of the digitally provided information in this context is that it is
amenable to key word search. No tape recordings of the floor or committee debates are
accessible yet.

The general landscape of Turkish parliamentarians does not much reflect the impact of
the digital revolution.
In their dealing with legislative works and the politics in general, they are least involved in computers, internet, databases and so on. The number of MPs who holds a PC is around 300. Each deputy may have his/her own private/personal computer but they are provided with internet facilities. In the present parliament, each deputy has been offered an e-mail address but only 236 out of 550 MPs accepted to use the official e-mail addresses due to the fear of being overloaded by the influx of junk mails or mails containing unruly phrases or simply not to be involved with the addition of the digital workload.

Basic information about each deputy as well as their contact e-mail address can be found on the TGNA web site.

Turkish MPs are not so keen on the use of Internet. Out of 545 MPs elected to the parliament in the present legislative period (1999-2002), only 99 of them maintain a personal website and use internet in their contact with their constituencies. They are not provided any official help in their web contents. 446 MPs are still outside the space of digitized world, at least in terms of direct and active involvement, and continue to use traditional means of public relations. The distribution of MPs who maintain web pages according to the parties in the year 2000 was as follows: Democratic Left Party (DLP): 38, Motherland Party (MP): 9, Virtue Party (VP): 19, Nationalist Action Party (NAP): 18, and True Path Party: 15. [5]

In addition to the usual computerized information and access to all the documents stored in the web site of TGNA, deputies have at their disposal newspaper databases as part of a quasi-intranet digital media, all provided by the Library.

The National Assembly website is used annually by around 50 to 55 thousand people. For the time being, we are not able to identify the personal profiles of these users in technical terms. The use rate of the website by the MPs is not measured. Most information about the National Assembly, deputies, their work, laws in progress, etc. is accessible to citizens on the TGNA web site. Information about all MPs with their e-mails and party groups could be reached. Detailed history including recent developments of the National Assembly can also be found. On-line versions of some books published by the TGNA Publications for Culture and Art are presented on the web page. Additional hyperlinks are available to other National Assemblies.
As I pointed out before, the web page of the TGNA (http://www.tbmm.gov.tr) has been on the internet since November 1996. The following are some of the important databases and information sources on the website prepared partially by the Library of the TGNA:

- Parliamentary debates from 1996 onwards with full text availability. Minutes documentation services has been underway since 1991.
- The period since the XVIIth term (1983) has been indexed in full text digital form but unavailable on the Internet yet. The periods of Consultative Assembly, National Security Council, the Joint Sessions, National Security Committee, Constituent Assembly and Representative Assembly are also in full text digital form, again unavailable on the Internet. The Library continues to index the pre-1983 period. The Floor debates database is planned to comprise all the debates since 1877 in the long term.
- The Bills (full text);
- Recently adopted laws (full text);
- Oral and written questions (full text);
- Reports of the Basic Committees (full text);
- Personal information about members of Parliament, i.e. their short biographies and
- E-mails;
- Newspaper Database (five newspapers between 1991-1997 and majority of the daily press except local dailies since 1998) (full text). Newspaper Database is only available on the quasi- intranet of the parliament (190,000 records for the period 1997, 400,000 records for the period between 1997-2000). From the database including more than 590,000 newspaper items to which 200 are added daily a search can be made using options such as author name, subject, newspaper name, genre of writing and date interval.
- Documentation of periodical articles (Bibliographic) (indexed over 66,030 periodical articles up to 24 June 2002). Periodical documentation currently is underway on 290 selected periodicals. When the necessary software is provided it will be possible to access periodical articles as texts and to offer a "Selected Information Publication" service to meet the needs of MPs as well.
- The Book Catalogue of the Library and Documentation Center of the TGNA including some 253,967 books in Turkish and foreign languages (February 2002);
- Approximately 5.656 rolls of microfilm of Turkish newspapers and old script journals (February 2002);
• Information about governments of the Republican era;
• List of Prime Ministers;
• Information about Speakers (Biographies of some of them);
• Information about political parties.

The users may also find information on the following topics in Turkish on the same web-site: Historical Background of TGNA, Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, Rules of Procedure of TGNA, List and Composition of Governments, List of Political Parties in the Republican Era, Biographies and Mail addresses of Members of Parliament, Minutes of the Floor Debates, Daily Agenda of the Parliament (Gündem), Parliamentary Committees, Organisation for Security and Cooperation for Europe, National Palaces, Press Releases, Biographies of the Presidents of the Republic of Turkey, Speakers of TGNA and Regulation on Library and Documentation Center. The English version of the website is unfortunately extremely poor and contains information on Historical Background of TGNA, the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, searchable by content or article number, some publications by TGNA and National Palaces.

As a last point, it must be noted that the parliamentary website provides no interactive or participatory channels for users. Hence, the flow of information is mainly in one direction, i.e., from the National Assembly to the citizens and non-citizens. There is an extremely limited in-built feedback channels for citizens to influence the work and decision-making process of the National Assembly. Thus, we may say that the digitalisation of information has provided citizens with more in-depth information about the work and actions of TGNA. However, the citizens' opportunities to play a more direct and active role in the decision-making process have changed little so far. As a matter of fact, the possible influence of the internet on parliamentary politics will depend on the dynamics of democracy that characterises the environment. British, French, German or Dutch democracies all have different dynamics.

During their considerable history they built up their own participants, style of dialogue and role of the press and media. In each nation the developments will have a different effect. Then there is the important distinction between older and younger democracies. In older democracies the new systems will force a change in the existing dynamics bringing their own problems with that. In younger democracies the infrastructure of parliamentary information will create and catalyse democratic processes and procedures throughout the nation. It will structure the new democracy. So, judging the parliamentary future in relation to new technology developments depends on the situation.\[6\]
Conclusion

Control over information sources could be used in the closed societies as a means of manipulation over the citizens. The presentation of information via digital media, basically through internet, in this regard represents a revolutionary move towards a political "glasnost" in transition to as well as consolidation of democracy. Digital media could be used as an independent, neutral and powerful medium for dissemination of information, hence widening the possibility of public accountability of and political participation to the democratic governance, a qualitative jump in the democratic way of life. Moreover, internet is an interactive digital medium through which two-way communication can be established between the parliament and the citizens, a virtual occurrence of direct democracy.

It must be noted however, that the digital technology provides not only the means for MPs to carry out their jobs better but also redefines the way they perform their tasks. (7) Thanks to gathering and disseminating information through Internet and intranet facilities, MPs are provided with better quality service by the parliamentary library staff in that their workload has been lessened.

Last but not the least, we cannot comprehend the impact of digitalization in such pure categories as "good" or "bad" but rather view it as "situational". Digitalized information can stimulate and support democratic processes. The Turkish case, though in the embryonic phase of digitalisation, may be said promising in this regard.
Footnotes


[2] According to the millennium estimations by Istanbul Technical University, there are 2.5 million PCs in Turkey. The number of internet users is very promising: 2,000,000 people. Number of personal computers per 100 populations is 4 while the number of internet users per 100 populations is 3. In fact, the communication infrastructure of Turkey is more developed than many European Union countries. See Türkiye Bilişim Şurasi İletişim Altyapısı Raporu, 1 April 2002 at www.bilisimsurasi.org.tr. Also see Baki Günay, "Gelecek Bilişimde," Türkiye, 5 July 2000. According to the estimates, the rate of internet use per household would reach to %15 in 2005, and to %50 in 2010. That is, in the next ten years, half of the population would be internet users. In this regard, the development of web pages in Turkish would enhance the creation of a mass demand for internet use in Turkey. See Şeref Oğuz, "Son Kullanıcı," Milliyet, 7 July 1998. This state of affairs clearly reveals the importance of the development of government policies attesting priority to the extension of ICT infrastructure to the whole, or at least, to the majority of the population in order to overcome the possible "digital divide".


HOW THE STAFF OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY SHOULD SERVE THE PARLIAMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE?

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Introduction
To begin with, I would like to think about the theme of the conference. What is the role of Parliamentary Libraries in enhancing democracy in the digital age?

First of all, it may be possible for Parliamentary Libraries to promote democratization by strengthening the legislative support for the Parliament.

A Parliamentary Library primarily exists to serve the Parliament, a shrine of democracy. Taking the Japanese case for example, Article 130 of the Diet Law prescribes "The National Diet Library shall be established in the Diet … in order to assist Diet Members in their study and research."

As national representatives, Members of the Parliament should perform legislative activities and oversee administration to promote democracy. The Parliamentary Library shall support them by clarifying national policy issues, analyzing draft bills and identifying problems by making full use of library materials, which will lead to strengthening the Parliament and ultimately enhancing democracy.

Nowadays in the digital age, making full use of information technology is badly needed to improve our legislative support.

Another function of the Parliamentary Library in enhancing democracy is to help the Parliament to be more open and transparent through disclosure of information coming from the Parliament. Information technology also plays a big role here.

Based on these viewpoints, first, I would like to outline the IT in use and being developed in the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau of the National Diet
Library (hereafter referred to as "the Research Bureau."), and its benefits. Then I will also focus on the adverse effects which accompany the progress of IT.

Finally, I would like to suggest how we, the staff of the parliamentary library, should serve the Parliament in the digital age.

*Information Technology of the National Diet Library*

*Total System for Research and Information Service*

The Total System for Research and Information Service had been developed by the Research Bureau since 1996 and was made available in June 1997. This system has two roles. One is to assist our day-to-day support operations to the Diet. Another is to provide Members of the Diet with access to our research products in as timely and convenient a manner as possible.

In order to perform these two functions, this system consists of two sub-systems: the Tracking Request System and the Information Sharing System.

The Tracking Request System records Diet Member inquiries and how they are assigned to the staff, and their answers, statistics and approvals. This system makes it possible to monitor the status of inquiries, analyze the needs of the Diet Members and the operations of the Research Bureau, and make use of the results of past research.

The Information Sharing System stores a digitized version of the Bureau publications and research reports and provides it for the Diet via an intranet Web site named "Chosa no Mado", literally translated, "Window for Research" on the Diet WAN. "Chosa no Mado" is the gateway of our electronic information service to the Diet.

Four years have passed since this Total System was put into use. Because it has recorded too much data, i.e., 30,000-per-year requests from the Diet Members, answers and statistics on them, and other information including attached files of our research reports, the system has become overloaded and we are frustrated by the slow response time. We adopted five years ago a client/server model, OS Windows 95 and the database software Oracle 7.34 for the present Total System. Now all of them are out of date, and the manufacturers do not provide maintenance services for them any longer. Moreover, in the present system, "Window for Research" is accessible only from the Diet compound. We are now planning to construct a new Total System replacing the client/server model
by a web-based one, which will enable the Members of the Diet to read our reports via
the Internet from their constituencies.

The Full-Text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet
The National Diet Library also developed, jointly with the Secretariats of the both
Houses of the Diet (the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors), the
Full-Text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet.

The development initiated in 1996 and will be completed in March 2003. All the
minutes of the postwar Diet, for the period of 54 years from the first session in 1947 to
the present, have already been digitized and were made available to the Members and the
public as a database in 2001. The vast database contains 1.3 million pages of the
minutes of 86,000 meetings. The data are digitized in two formats. The proceedings part
is digitized as text data so that it can be retrieved by a Member's name, keywords and so
on, whereas whole pages of the minutes are scanned and fixed as image data which are
exact copies of the printed edition familiar to readers. The data are provided to the Diet
Members with a special retrieval system for the Diet, via the intranet, "the Diet WAN."
The general public can access the data through a general search system on the Internet.

From the viewpoint of democracy, the Full-Text Database System has two meanings:
strengthening legislative support and making the Diet more open and transparent.

For the former, the Members of the Diet can refer to the past proceedings of the Diet
easily, and the convenience in legislative activities has improved. We can also improve
efficiency in our research with easy access to the past proceedings of the Diet. Moreover,
since the related jobs of three organizations, the Secretariats of both Houses and the
National Diet Library, have become more streamlined in regard to processing the data of
the Minutes, we can now divert the remaining power to other Parliamentary services.

However, "The open Diet" has probably become the most meaningful. All the minutes
of the Diet have become speedily available to the public. There are two kinds of Diet
minutes: the minutes of committee meetings and of plenary meetings. The minutes of
plenary meetings have been published as special issues of the Official Gazette and are
relatively easy to obtain. The minutes of committee meetings, however, have not been
opened to the public until recently, and have been accessible only in the Statutes and
Parliamentary Documents Room of the National Diet Library and other limited facilities.
In addition, it took a long time before the minutes of the committee meetings were printed. Now anyone can read and print them out on a home or office computer. People have become familiar with the legislative activities of their representatives and will vote in an election after checking what work the candidates have done.

This year we are going to integrate the retrieval system for the Diet Members and that for the public and make it accessible through the Internet. It will enable Diet Members to use the database from their constituencies as if they were in the Diet building. The public will also be able to enjoy the same sophisticated retrieval and quick response as the Diet Members.

**NDL OPAC (National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog)**

From this October, the National Diet Library will be a unified operation consisting of the Tokyo Main Library, the International Library of Children’s Literature and the newly opened Kansai-kan. To provide service by three libraries in one united body, the National Diet Library is developing the foundation system of an electronic library. Part of this foundation system is NDL OPAC, the National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog. NDL OPAC enables a Diet Member to search for our library’s materials and apply for copies and loan via the National Diet Library Web site from anywhere in the world.

**Dnavi (Database Navigation Service)**

The National Diet Library is also releasing Database Navigation Service (Dnavi) this autumn. We are trying to collect and preserve online publications, especially Web resources. The billions of Web pages on the World Wide Web are only the tip of the iceberg. Deep Webs with great value are hidden beneath the surface. Our new experimental service, Database Navigation Service, will be a gateway to a wide range of databases on the Internet. It navigates users to the top page of each database. Users can search databases by titles, creators, descriptions, subjects and so on.

Through this service, users, researchers, and librarians will find Web databases more easily, effectively, and efficiently.

**WARP (Web Archiving Project)**

In 2002 our library will start another experimental project called WARP (Web Archiving Project) designed to preserve Web resources as cultural heritage for future generations. Preservation of Web resources is urgent. Vast useful information resources are published
on the Web and some printing publications of governments and international organizations have become replaced by data on Web sites. But most of them on the Web sites are modified or deleted everyday.

We collect and harvest various kinds of Web sites and archive them as valuable cultural property. In the first year, we will focus on the Web sites of the Japanese government, which are important for the Diet deliberations, and also sites of high cultural value such as those concerning the World Cup 2002. Through these experiments, we will explore legal and technical issues related to web archiving.

*Other Benefits Broght About by it Which Improve Efficiency of Research*

So far I have mentioned the original systems and projects of the Research Bureau or the National Diet Library. Besides them we enjoy many benefits of information technology.

*PC provided for each researcher*

What is most important is that since 1997 each staff member of the Research Bureau has been provided with a personal computer which is networked. The infrastructure to enjoy the benefits of IT has improved.

*The Internet*

Improvement in collecting information by the Internet has seen great progress. As I said when I referred to the Web Archiving Project, the data on the Internet have become vast and comparable in usefulness and necessity to library materials. We collect information from the Internet more often than from the paper media and shorten our research procedures. Efficiency in acquiring information has improved.

*Electronic journals and Commercial databases*

We introduced a package of electronic journals of about 800 titles called OCLC ECO. We have also made a contract for the database called ProQuest-Direct, Inside Web of the British Library and several other databases. Unlike paper media, electronic journals and databases can be retrieved easily and are convenient for research.

Electronic journals and some foreign magazine databases have been introduced to the Research Bureau in the Tokyo Main Library mainly because most foreign magazines have been transferred to the Kansai-kan, which is located 600 kilometres far from Tokyo. But of course, we have been striving to acquire the latest information both domestic and
international since before the Kansai-kan project took shape. The database we use most is the newspaper database called Nikkei 21 which enables us to search articles of main national papers and pull out contents.

For most databases, we can search data and read the contents from a personal computer on our desk.

Problems Remaining

Decline in the Predominancy of the National Diet Library

Because of IT, we can do our job more efficiently and provide a great deal of information to the Diet. But IT also causes problems. In the first place, the predominancy of the Research Bureau of the National Diet Library has relatively declined. Being the National Library as well as the Diet Library, we can acquire books and other library materials printed in Japan by the legal deposit system and exchange in addition to purchase, gift, bequest and other methods. In regard to collecting foreign materials by purchase, we have to select what meets the needs of the Diet. In these ways we have built a vast collection of 7.7 million books and 170,000 titles of serials. Nowadays everyone can easily get information of various governments, international organizations and think tanks from their Web sites. The Research Bureau of the National Diet Library is a institute with a large intelligence source, it is no longer dominant.

There are several powerful competitors in the world outside.

First on the list are the Secretariats and the Legislative Bureaus of both Houses. They are the legislative support organizations of our country in addition to the Research Bureau of the National Diet Library. The question arises, in the tide of the Diet reform, why there should be plural research institutes in the Legislature.

We are also competing with the private sector where there are many think tanks that have an outstanding capacity for analysis.

We have to keep in mind now that even an organization of legislative branch might be scrapped in the flow of governmental reform. Thus, we cannot afford to be complacent.

Informational flood

Meanwhile, information on the Internet actually benefits the National Diet Library itself as well as other organizations. As noted previously, we have to collect and harvest
various kinds of Web sites and archive them as valuable cultural property. Information on the Internet is added to conventional library materials. Thus, total information is overflowing even more than before.

We should not be content with the present service provision leaning on the name of the National Library, nor drown in a flood of information.

It is necessary for us to judge useful information, analyze it and provide it as intelligibly as possible.

**Means of Information Dispatch and IT Literacy**

In addition to providing information electronically through our system, we should also offer traditional services of briefings using paper materials.

Fortunately for each Member of the Diet IT infrastructure is consolidated. They are provided with several personal computers and almost all of them have set up their own Web sites. But I do not know how many of them operate their personal computer and visit our Web site by themselves. Their use of our Web site is another problem.

We need to devise an effective method of information dispatch. If the Members can get information on their personal computers through our Web site according to their personal interests or needs, incentives to visit our site will rise. Therefore we are now planning to design a new system which will provide an SDI (selective dissemination of information) service.

At this point I would like to touch on those people who are disadvantaged in IT literacy. The progress of IT benefits those who make full use of the Internet. On the other hand, there are quite a few "IT-challenged." According to the "Internet white paper 2002", the Internet population of our country was 46,196,000 at the end of February 2002. The diffusion rate among the population was 36%. This means 64% of the Japanese do not use computers or visit any Web site. When a periodical is digitized online and the paper version become discontinued, it becomes impossible for them to follow the articles. Actually some publications of the National Diet Library are now published only in electronic media. Those "IT-challenged." have been left behind as a result. Consideration for those people is needed all the more.
Providing information generated in the Diet: Cooperation among Japanese Legislative Support Organizations

There are several major items of information generated in the Diet such as minutes, bills, statutes, petitions, and explanations on them. It is useful for Diet Members and also for citizens if these items of information have links to each other on the Web and are provided in an integrated manner via the Internet.

As already stated, in our country, there are the Secretariats and Legislative Bureaus of both Houses and the National Diet Library as legislative support organizations. Each creates its own original Web site for the Diet and provides information. Cooperation in this field is yet to be seen except for the case of the Full-text Database System. For the Full-text Database System the demand of the Diet members was the major impelling force. This was also as the case in the U.S. with Thomas and LIS.

Now that all the legislative support organizations are urged to be more efficient under the wave of the Diet reforms, we should seek a way of cooperation in building a unified system and providing interlinked information on the Diet.

Can IT cut down staff?
Now we answer 30,000 requests a year, which are 10 times more than 30 years ago. IT-assisted efficiency in our work has softened the impact a little; we can easily refer to the research conducted before and search the Internet for information. IT may be compensating for the shortage of manpower in part.

Then, can IT cut down on staff?

On the Web site, high-quality contents are expected since they come under scrutiny. Great efforts for producing contents, underpinned by detailed study, are made behind the scenes. IT makes services for the Diet expand dramatically but it does not lead to a reduction in personnel. It seems that IT makes highly-motivated people work harder. It is curious that, while promoting IT, it is important to consider the health management of the staff.

Adverse effects of IT
There also occurs another problem. Researchers with seasoned technical skills have decreased. Previously it was very difficult to look for data and to find out information. Precious information was discovered by expert skills, and notable articles were born by using such treasured information searched from the gold mine.
When trying to explain an issue intelligibly, we can reach the conclusion that processing the information and writing a customized report is the best. Now that we can acquire information so painlessly with search engines, I am afraid that some of our staff may pass it on to the Members of the Diet without explaining it plainly or even understanding it themselves.

In Japan we use Chinese characters and also Japanese characters called Hiragana and Katakana syllabaries. The Chinese characters are the most difficult to read and to write. We begin to learn them from elementary school days and have memorized a lot by the time of the university entrance examination. If we use a personal computer to write sentences on the other hand, we only need to select and press hiragana keys and Chinese characters come out easily through the conversion function. Because of this, it is becoming difficult for even grown-ups to handwrite Chinese characters correctly.

The same pitfall is seen also in research. The more the Internet and other electronic search machines are improved, the more researchers come to rely on the easy means of electronic search. It seems that the speed-up in acquiring information is lowering the quality of our work.

As already mentioned, after selecting useful and relevant information out of an informational flood, analyzing it and explaining it intelligibly is what the staff in the Research Bureau are required to do.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, in the digital age the demand for better information from the Parliament increases all the more. In order for attractive information to be more accessible and service for the Diet to expand, the traditional and intimate approach to research is invaluable. In the digital age, we have to go back to the starting point of our research and services to the Parliament.

Information technology is important. But IT itself does not carry out our research work instead. I think what is most important is not IT itself nor making full use of IT, but the quality of the work which we provide by using IT. In this sense, IT also contributes to our considering how best to provide services and improving the quality of the legislative support for the Parliaments, in addition to its direct effects.
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DIGITAL LIBRARY OF KOREA

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I. Introduction
The National Digital Library is a system that developed for servicing the information that is needed study, research legislative activities from everywhere using the internet. The National Assembly Digital Library provides catalog, index, abstract and full text information.

II. National Digital Library Project
Background:
In 1997 National Assembly Library proposed "National Digital Library Project" and 6 major libraries and institutes had been participating in it. It has three main purposes: enlargement of national information capacity by linking with domestic major libraries, promotion of balanced regional development, and establishment of an information distribution system connecting nationwide libraries. The NDL (National Digital Library) intends to improve national competitiveness in the knowledge-information society by providing needed information for the general public as well as some researchers through online with national information sharing system in the digital library.

Main features
a. Providing a search function based on full text
   - Providing a specialized search service based on the full text by allowing search for searching conditions only when full text exists in integrated search

b. Providing meta search function in addition to z39.50 protocol
   - Providing integrated search service by meta search, when the data provided by web service but by Z39.50 service are more frequently used in a participating organization of the national digital library

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c. National digital library image viewer

- For a full text of the organization in which full text service is being made by standard document form (TIFF, PDF) and standard method, the image viewer of the national digital library for viewing the full text is provided without setting up an extra viewer

**Expected effect**

a. Information service to the public

- Service enhancement for the public with system stabilization and performance improvement of the national digital library
- Reduction in the publics' information procurement cost and effort by supporting a quick and convincing full text information service

b. Enhancement of national competitiveness

- Budget reduction by reusing the existing digital library system and removing inefficiency from national data construction and database operation
- Enhancement of efficiency and economy by minimizing repeated construction of national data (full text, contents, excerpts, etc.)
- Prevention of repeated investment by improving an information sharing system between libraries
- Contribution to the earlier establishment of the knowledge-information society by establishing consistent and stabilized service and management system about the national data

**III. National Assembly Digital Library**

**Digitalization**

National Assembly Library has been actively participating in the National Digital Library Project in Korea since 1997. This project became the basis of national Assembly Digital Library. The National Digital Library Project was a plan to make databases coordinated among various institutes and the National Assembly Library was to lead the digitalizing the social sciences and humanities materials. With this basic plan and the aid of the government policy to reduce the unemployment rate, the Library was able to implement two consecutive projects to digitalize tremendous amount of materials. Government funded for using the unemployed college graduates after the IMF Crisis, the Library was able to digitalize 16 million pages of full text government publications,
academic journals, social science theses, etc. as of 1999. This year, our Library has embarked on the project with the goal of digitalizing over 8.6 million pages. Currently, the Library offers online, through its web site (http://www.nanet.go.kr), more than 3 million items of bibliographical information and 33 million pages of full-text materials.

The digitalization materials that do not infringe on the copyright law can be accessed on Digital Library through our homepage.

**Transmission of digitalization materials**

The copyright law prohibited the library from digitalization of the library materials and transmission. In the late 1999 the law was revised. The new copyright law allows a library not to get the permission of an author when the library intends to copy works, for example, book with a digital form and transmit the copy for a perusal by an user in the library or another libraries. The new copyright law makes it possible for users throughout country to access the digitalization materials without making a visit to the National Assembly Library. Through the Digital Library and the new copyright law, it is possible to access the digitalization materials at the universities and the public libraries. The National Assembly Library agreed with most leading public libraries and those at public and educational organizations to mutual exchange of academic information through the Internet. Agreements between our Library and other institutions have allowed the sharing of the digitalization materials thereby preventing digitalization of the same materials between the institutions. All these measures contribute to improving the Library by helping us to provide public users with more accurate and up-to-date information. Currently, the latest development in the National Assembly Library is the Digital Library. Digital Library will play a major role in the knowledge-information society. Therefore, we will continue to improve the Digital Library.

We will continue to update and expand on our databases in the social sciences and the humanities for the public use. Through this project, we will continue to strive for the further digitalization of our Library.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA COUNTRY REPORT

Elesallah MATATIER
Parliamentary Librarian
Papua New Guinea National Parliament

Introduction
Established by an Act of Parliament, the Papua New Guinea National Parliamentary Service provides the administrative machinery necessary for the conduct of the business of the National Parliament and its Committees. As part of the National Parliamentary Service, the functions of the Parliamentary Library center around the facilitation of reference and research materials for Members of Parliament, their electoral staff, the Parliamentary Committees and the Parliamentary Service.

The Library in the Parliamentary Service Structure
Early this year, the Papua New Guinea Parliamentary Service organizational structure was revised. The Parliament Library is now part of the Advisory Services Branch of the Service. This branch includes, amongst others, the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel, the Library, a Research Unit and a new Information Technology Unit (ITU) to be established. The rational behind bringing all the above units under one umbrella was mainly based on the growing over lapping in functions of the units, and their dependence on Information Technology.

Library Services
Library holdings include approximately 12,000 monographs and 54 current periodical subscriptions. Parliamentary papers and reports total another 18,000 volumes.

Besides offering traditional library services such as book loans and reference services, the library also maintains a number of other services. These include a press clipping service, photocopying, sending and receiving facsimile and distribution of Parliamentary Papers to other institutions. So the library is a communication center as well.

Information Technology (IT) related developments in the Library
To date, the Papua New Guinea National Parliament does not have an Integrated Computer System that pools all IT related resources together; hence the establishment of
an ITU in the new Parliamentary Service structure this year. Once established, the first
task of the ITU would be to oversee the installation of a system for the whole of the
parliament.

However, in the Parliamentary Library, a few IT related developments have taken place
over the years. In 1993 the Papua New Guinea Parliament Library decided to convert its
card catalogue to electronic format. The software chosen was CDS-ISIS, a UNESCO
development software. CDS-ISIS was chosen firstly because it is available free of
charge. Furthermore, the National Library Service of Papua New Guinea supported its
use, and the Library Studies Department of the University of Papua New Guinea were
running short courses on the software.

In late 1999, a Local Area Network (LAN) in the Library was installed. This small
network has only 10 users in the Library itself, and extends to offices of Legal Officers
and also the Speaker, Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Parliament.

WINISIS, the Windows version of CDS-ISIS is now used on the LAN for users to access
Library databases.

The CDS-ISIS/WINISIS databases are produced by the Library include:

1. The Library Catalogue, from which book lists and accession lists are produced.
2. Biographical information of members of Parliament. The Library maintains records of
   Members of Parliament and is updated whenever they move from one committee to
   another.
3. Register of Bills and Acts. The Library maintains records of each piece of legislation
   from introduction to passage. Details recorded include when the legislation was
   debated on the floor of parliament because of the many requests from Members of
   Parliament and staff wanting to read into debate the intention of legislators when they
   passed a certain bill. It should be noted that this does not include the actual
   legislation - only details of its passage.
4. National and Supreme Court Judgements is another CDS-ISIS database that was
   created to record details of National and Supreme Court judgements. This database is
   actually produced by the Papua New Guinea Attorney general Library. We get a
   monthly update from them in exchange for a monthly update of our register of bills and
   acts database.
Besides CDS-ISIS/WINISIS, we use CINDEX to index two other publications.

The first publication we index using CINDEX is the National Government Gazette. This is the official publication of the government of Papua New Guinea. Notices of new laws, appointments, and other government announcements are published in the gazette. However, there is no index to this important publication. The Parliament Library started indexing the government gazette in 1999 out of necessity because there is no index for this important publication. We have not advertised the product because it was supposed to be an in-house project concentrating on a few selective areas. However, the presence of the index has spread by word of mouth and we are now receiving reference requests from people outside of parliament.

Since the Library commenced using CINDEX to index the government gazette, we also started indexing the daily Hansard in 1999. This project has now been taken on by our Reporting Division, and appropriately so because they produce the Hansard and Debates of Parliament.

**Other Electronic Products used in the Library**

Perhaps the product most used is the Papua New Guinea National Legislation and Case Laws on CD-ROM using Folio Views. This product is the result of an AusAID project which commenced in 1997 and has put all the existing Laws of Papua New Guinea onto CD-ROM. The CD is currently in its 5th version and is up-dated to all the laws passed to the 31st of March 2001.

The CD not only contains legislation, it also contains Case Laws including cases reported in the Papua New Guinea Law reports.

This is a very powerful tool and again it is available to all our LAN users.

Related to the use of the Papua New Guinea National Legislation and Case Laws CD-ROM, are plans currently underway by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel to use a Legislation Drafting software called EnAct. Because of the Library's proximity in terms of the Parliamentary Service organizational structure, we have been asked to participate in the viability of using the software. EnAct uses Standard Generalised Markup Language (SGML) which is basically a method for setting documents according to a prescribed structure. If EnAct is to be used, the Library would greatly
benefit from tapping into the finished legislation database, since the Library is the first port of call for most people seeking information on particular legislation.

**Internet Use and Web Site Development**

In 1997, Internet Access was introduced into our Library. Access was via a dial-up to a local Internet Service Provider (ISP). Members and their electoral staff were encouraged to use the service and it has since become an integral part of our Library service.

The ISP we were using in 1999 then offered to create a home page for the Papua New Guinea National Parliament with information provided by the library, since we did not have the capability, nor the expertise to create it. We registered our domain name and a prototype of the home page was created. However, the project never got past the prototype because of problems of funding the next stage and hosting fees.

In May of this year, we switched to another ISP. This time we have a 64 Kb leased line between the Parliament Library server and the new ISP and they have agreed in principle to assist in the building of a home page. However, a formal agreement has not been done as yet.

**Conclusion**

So far, in the Papua New Guinea National Parliament, the Library has enjoyed a better than average standing in terms of IT, then other areas within the Parliamentary Service. However, compared to developments in other Parliaments, we are advancing at snail pace. A lot more work needs to be done.

Like most developing countries, our problems in embracing new technologies are chiefly financial and lack of know-how.

Nevertheless, with the establishment of the ITU, we hope that in the Papua New Guinea National Parliament Library will work together with this unit, to improve our services to our national leaders.

Finally, I would like to thank AusAID and our colleagues from the Department of the Parliamentary Library of Australia for making it possible for the Papua New Guinea National Parliament Library to be represented in this conference after an absence of 6 years.
Session 3

Chairman : Sait Poh (Ruby) KHOO

Paper 1 : Australia, Legislature of New South Wales

Paper 2 : India

Paper 3 : Indonesia

Paper 4 : Thailand
NEW SOUTH WALES COUNTRY REPORT

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Reference Librarian
Parliament of New South Wales, Australia

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
Library

The Library delivers all its catalogue and reference databases to all users desktops from the Parliamentary Intranet. All internal and external databases are delivered from a single point so users do not have to remember where to find different resources.

The Library creates and maintains a number of digitised collections, these include a Newspaper Clippings collection, and Electorate Profile Collection and a collection of e-journals.

The Library maintains a strong presence on the Parliament House Intranet. The majority of our electronic services are delivered from this page.

67
Users can search the newspaper clippings collection using either keywords or author/title or subject headings.

A brief listing of results is displayed. Users can access the clipping from here or they can look at the complete catalogue record.
Search Result – Clippings Keyword Search

Viewing record 1 of 5183 from catalog. There are also related references. Jump to检索/availability information

Check here to mark this record for Print/Capture

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING
Prisoners of conscience
The Bulletin Tuesday 10th September 2002 p 15
Click here to view article

Headline: Prisoners of conscience
Byline: Oakes, Laurie

Colophon: The Bulletin Tuesday 10th September 2002 p 15
Electronic access: Click here to view article

Subject: COMMENT
Subject: PARLIAMENT - FEDERAL
Subject: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Subject: LAW AND LEGISLATION - FEDERAL

Personal Name: PYNE, Chris

Prisoners of conscience

Federal parliament's handling of the issue of embryonic stem-cell research has been widely praised. Because all parties have allowed a conscience vote, we have seen something very rare: a genuinely free-flowing debate in which MPs have been able to speak honestly about a matter of substance. People on opposite sides have treated each other's opinions with respect. Without the repressive influence of party discipline, there have been no attempts to browbeat or cajole.

This outcome, however, raises the question of what happens now. Will other issues that many MPs have expressed concern about be left in the same limbo or will they be brought to a head?

Images of the articles are delivered to the users' desktop

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The Library’s digital collections are available for browsing online.

The Electorate profiles contain demographic and voting information on each electorate.
NetRom Electronic Resources Gateway

For help, please contact the Library.

The Library maintains access to a range of electronic information resources including Online Journals and CD-ROM titles on NetRom.

Online journals are currently accessible NOW via our new version of NetRom.

**New SOE!!**

PC's signalled to the new Windows 2000 SOE **ONLY** have access to the online journal titles which are all highlighted in **BLUE**. Access to CD-Rom titles will return once all CD titles are re-installed under the Windows 2000 platform.

The Library maintains a gateway to information published in a variety of different formats such as CD-ROM, web-based and commercial databases.
Each month our users are sent an email that advises them that their newspaper clippings bulletin has been updated and gives them the URL. The subject coverage for the bulletins is individually tailored for users, and the bulletins are then generated automatically by the Library I.L.M.S software.

The Bulletin page is a list of citations with a link to the image of the article.
Current Info includes a listing of all the latest magazine articles selected by the subject specialists in the Library's Research Service. New Books which includes links by subject of new books and government publications received in the last month. Choose one of the following:

- Latest magazine articles
- New Books
- NSW Budget 2002-03
- Drug Summit Press Coverage
- Hot Topics Link
- The Media This Week

The Library maintains a number of different web pages devoted to current information.

Users are sent an email notice to alert them to the updated Current Information Service pages.
NSW Parliamentary Library Current Information Service August 2002

End

This is a complete listing of all the latest magazine articles selected by the subject specialists in the Library’s Research Service, covering developments in politics, Parliament, law, public administration and other major issues of interest to Members.

*** PLEASE NOTE: The full text of all articles is now available on-line. To access the full text articles, click on the underlined title in the entries below ***

For any inquiries contact Pauline Papadatos in the Library Research Service (tel. 9230 2093 fax 9231 1932).

Click here to search the complete Serial (Magazine) Indexing database.

Abstract No.081

Author(s): Blair, G.

Title: The role of the pub in Australian history

From: Address to the Australian Hotels Association Canberra, 7 March 2001

Abstract:

Current Information and Issues includes a listing of all the latest magazine articles selected by the subject specialists in the Library’s Research Service, New Books which lists by subject new books, journals, electronic and government publications received in the last month, and a Current Issues section.

Choose one of the following:

- Aborigines
- Agriculture/Rural Industry
- The Arts
- Biographies
- Commerce & Industry
- Consumers
- Crime/Prison/Police
- Disaster/Emergency Services
- Economy/Finance
- Education
- Employment/Unemployment
- Energy
- Environment/Planning/Heritage
- Foreign Affairs

New books bulletins are generated automatically by the Library software and updated each night.
Internet Links to Current Hot Topics.

An Internet page with links to web sites dealing with topics of interest is maintained on the Parliament web site by Library staff.

This page links you to newspaper articles relating to the NSW Budget 2002/2003. This list will be updated daily between 12:30 pm and 12:45 pm during Budget week.

The NSW Treasurer, the Hon M R Egan MLC, will deliver the NSW Government's 2001/2002 budget speech in the Legislative Assembly of the NSW Parliament on Tuesday, 4th June, 2002. A full text of the speech and all budget papers will be published on the NSW Treasury web site.

Choose one of the following:

- Newspaper articles on the NSW Budget 2001-02
- Finance
- Health
- Hospitals
- Rural Health
- Education
- Police
- Public Transport
- Railways
- Regional Development
- Climate Change

Automated searches on the newspaper clippings collection are generated on pre-defined topics and updated several times a day.
Users are alerted to breaking news stories by email. These emails are created from articles appearing on breaking news web sites of the major media publications in NSW.

Media Monitoring Unit

The Library’s Media Monitoring Unit monitors the electronic media and we use web pages to deliver both transcripts and audio files of radio news broadcasts and transcripts from the television news broadcasts. Audio files are digitised and individual requests for copies are delivered by email.
This is a listing of programs captured by the Parliamentary Library's Media Monitoring Service during the last seven days. Copies of programs are available from Media Monitoring on ext 2448.

**LISTEN TO THIS MORNING'S NEWS THIS AFTERNOON!**

The Media Monitoring Service is now providing access to the sound files of the 2BL 7:45am news service and AM and PM.

Click here to listen to [Program Name: Breakfast Radio, Source: Radio Station (Various), Date of Broadcast: September 5, 2002].
COUNTRY REPORT ON INDIA

R.C. AHUJA
Director
Parliament Library, India

I. COMPUTERIZATION OF THE PARLIAMENT LIBRARY IN INDIA

Information is of vital importance to members of Parliament in effectively discharging their responsibilities. Keeping this in view, Parliaments the world over have developed well-organised information management systems to cater to the multifarious information requirements of their members. In the Parliament of India, this task is assigned to the Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service, popularly known as LARRDIS.

The Service is presently divided into the following functional Divisions: (1) Library Division; (2) Reference Division; (3) Research Division; (4) Parliamentary Museum and Archives; (5) Media Relations Division; and (6) Computer Division. Each Division is further divided into several compact Sections or Wings to ensure efficient distribution and transaction of work.

The Parliament Library made a modest beginning towards automaton in December 1985 when a Computer Centre for managing the Parliament Library Information System (PARLIS) was set up with the help of the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

Over the years, the Computer Centre has played a key role in the modernization and computerization not only of the Parliament Library but also of the entire Lok Sabha Secretariat. Now, various services viz. Verbatim Reporting of Parliamentary Debates, Questions, Committees, Members' Service, Pay and Accounts, Administration, Recruitment, Reception Office, Security Service and LARRDIS have been automated to manage their activities. Three Computer Centres, one each in Parliament House, Parliament Library Building and Parliament House Annexe have been set up to provide necessary hardware and software support for managing different activities of the Secretariat and also to meet the instant information requirements of members of Parliament.
Hardware Installed in the Library and the Secretariat

At present about six Digital Server Computers (having UnixWare and Window -NT environment) and thirteen Compaq Proliant Server Computers (having Window-NT environment) have been installed to fulfil the software requirements of the various activities of the Secretariat including the Library. About 470 Compaq Multi-media Personal Computers, about 300 Printers (Laser, Dot-matrix and Line Printers), and 9 Scanners have been installed in various Branches of the Secretariat and the Computer Centre in a structured LAN having fibre optics backbone. In order to have speedy Internet connectivity, the computers are linked to an ISP through two numbers of 2 mbps MLDN circuit– and RF link which is backed up by ISDN circuits.

Software Programmes used to manage the Library functions

Library Management Functions such as Acquisition, Processing and Issue and Return of books have been computerised using the software package named "libsys". The web-based library catalogue has recently been launched and it can be accessed through Internet and Intranet.

Serial Control - This is a management module designed in Unix environment for all journals and periodicals received in the Parliament Library from 1989 onwards. Besides the title, subject and key words, information can be generated periodicity-wise and through the names of publishers and vendors. Information about missing journals and subscription due reports can also be generated.

Documentation Service has been computerized. A software programme in Unix environment has been developed to index important articles published in books, reports, periodicals and newspapers. The information can be retrieved through this database subject-wise. The data is also available on the Internet from 1998 onwards and can be accessed subject-wise.

Press Clippings Service which is the backbone of the Reference and Research Divisions is being computerized. Important press clippings of editorials, articles, important news items and other information on different subjects from various English newspapers are scanned daily. Keywords are also assigned keeping in mind the contents of the clippings. The online subject-wise retrieval of the press clippings is available on Intranet. Stex Software in Window-NT environment is being used to manage the database.
Databases

To make available non-partisan, objective and reliable information, and authoritative data on a continuous and regular basis to parliamentarians, a large number of index-based databases of information generated within the Parliament were initially developed in Unix environment which are currently available on Intranet. Some of these are:

- Select Parliamentary Questions (only indexes) from 1985 to 2000;
- Parliamentary Proceedings (only Indexes) from 1985 to 1993;
- Government and Private Members' Bills (only indexes) from 1985-2000;
- Directions, Decisions and Observations from the Chair from 1952;
- President's Rule in the States and Union territories from 1951;
- Council of Ministers from 1947;
- Obituary References made in the Houses since 1950.

Parliament of India Home Page on the Internet
(http://www.parliamnetofindia.nic.in)

The Parliament of India Home Page was inaugurated on 15 March, 1996 by the Hon'ble President of India. Some of the information available on the PARLIS database has been converted to Web enabled environment and released on to the Internet. The major components of the parliamentary information, now available on the Internet are:

I. The Constitution of India and the Constituent Assembly Debates
II. Business of the House

* List of Business of Lok Sabha from December 1999
* Bulletin Part -I from March, 2000
* Bulletin Part -II from March, 2000
* Synopses of Debates from July, 2000
* Parliamentary Questions and answers (with full Text) received from the Ministries from February 2000. The information can be retrieved by name of members, subject through keywords and date/year-wise/session-wise.
* Parliamentary Debates (Proceedings) with full text from July, 1991 can be accessed through subject/keyword, member and session/year-wise. The software to manage the information of Questions and Debates are developed in SQL environment.
* Resume of Work contains information about time spent by the House on various items of business from October 1999.
* Legislative Business contains Government Bills passed by Lok Sabha from December 1990.

**III. Members of Parliament**

* Biodata of Lok Sabha Members from 1991 onwards and Home Pages of the present Lok Sabha Members.
* Information about Previous Lok Sabha Members contains the names of the members, their constituencies/states and party affiliation from 1952.
* Statistical information about members contains the age-wise statistics from 1st Lok Sabha to 13th Lok Sabha.
* E-Mail Addresses of members of the present Lok Sabha
* Addresses & Telephone Nos. of members of the present Lok Sabha
* Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) provides information relating to funds allocated under the MPLAD Scheme and the utilization of the fund for the development programmes of their constituencies.

**IV. Parliamentary Committees** contain information relating to the constitution of the Committees, their Chairmen and membership, functions and their reports from the 13th Lok Sabha onwards.

**V. General information**

* Introduction to Parliament
* Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
* Directions by the Speaker
* Decisions from the Chair
* Handbook for Members

**VI. Parliamentary Catalogue** contains the bibliographic details about the publications received after 1992 which are available for online searching on Intranet and Internet. Online access of the Library Catalogue provides information about author, title, subject and keywords based searches.
VII. Parliamentary Documentation contains the subject wise access of the indexes of the articles published in books, reports, periodicals and newspapers and the articles on Burning Issues since 1998.

Computer facility to Members of Parliament
Members of Parliament have been provided with a Note-Book or a Desk-top computer each with Digital Versatile Disk (DVD) facility having fax/modem card along with a printer and scanner. Each Member of Parliament has been provided with a protected electronic mailbox for exchange of messages through E-mail and has access to the Internet. This helps members in getting instant and up-to-date information on a wide range of subjects through the internet; organize their office work; receive/send electronic mail; have quick and accurate information on legislative and parliamentary matters on their desks.

The Speaker's Home Page
The Home page of the Speaker, Lok Sabha contains his bio-data, political and personal achievements, important rulings/decisions, important speeches, information pertaining to the development of his constituency, tours proposed/undertaken and a photo-gallery. It also contains bio-profiles of all the previous Speakers. It can be accessed at the internet address http://speakerloksabha.nic.in. The Home Page has also been provided with a link to the Parliament of India Home Page.

MPs' Home Pages
Each member of Parliament has his own web page which contains his bio-data, information about his participation in the parliamentary proceedings, Questions, Bills, Motions and the information pertaining to the development of his constituency. The links of the members' Home Pages are available onto the Parliament of India Home Page.

The links to the Home Pages of Rajya Sabha (Upper House), the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister of India are also available at the Parliament of India Home Page.

Digital Library
A Digital Library has been set up in the Computer Centre to cater to the needs of members of Parliament and officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The collection of DVDs, CDs, tapes and floppies is being developed keeping in view the core areas of interest of members of Parliament and the latest technological advances.
Video Conferencing
The Video Conferencing facility has been provided at the offices and residences of Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, and the Offices of Joint Secretaries and the Computer Centre. In due course this can prove to be an effective instrument for better coordination with members of Parliament, Legislative bodies at different levels and also for managing information in Parliament.

Touch Screen Information Kiosks
Twelve Touch Screen Information Kiosks having facility of accessing the data relating to Questions, Debates, Bio-data, Bulletins, List of Business, Bills, Parliamentary Committees, Telephone Nos., Postal and e-mail addresses of members, etc. have been installed at various vantage points in Parliament House and Parliament House Annexe.

Training
Regular training programmes for members of Parliament and Officers are organized by the Computer Centre, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Technology, National Informatics Centre (NIC) or any other agency nominated by the Secretariat to familiarize them with the computers and softwares provided to them. The users who are not familiar with the use of computers are expected to undergo the training. A new training Centre equipped with modern equipment is being set up in the Parliament Library Building to provide training to members of Parliament, their personal staff and Officers/Staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

A Query Booth has been set up in the Central Hall of Parliament House where all types of computer-related assistance is provided to members. It acts as a Centre for continuous training of members and other users by resolving their queries and enhancing knowledge and skills in the use of computers. Another Query Booth is being set up in the Parliament Library Building to give similar type of assistance to members.

Policy Framework
There is a planned computerization of all the activities of the Lok Sabha Secretariat with a definite policy to use advances in information technology for further improving the information management and dissemination system. The policy is focused on - (i) providing members of Parliament the required information instantly and (ii) generating, disseminating and storing information necessary to make the participation of members of Parliament more meaningful.
Presently, there are two committees which consider proposals regarding the future needs of computerization. One of them is the 'Committee of Officers on Computerization in the Lok Sabha Secretariat' which consists of Additional Secretary, Joint Secretaries and Directors, as may be nominated by the Secretary-General. Proposals relating to procurement of hardware and its distribution are placed before the Committee for its consideration and recommendation, and then submitted to the Secretary-General/Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha for approval.

The other Committee is the "Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Lok Sabha, Officers of recognized political parties in Parliament and Officers of Lok Sabha Secretariat", which consists of 15 members of Lok Sabha including the Deputy Speaker who is the ex-officio Chairman. The members are nominated by the Speaker after the constitution of the new Lok Sabha. The main function of the Committee is to assess the hardware and software requirements of the members of Lok Sabha. The proposals prepared by the Computer Centre relating to procurement and distribution of hardware and software and suggestions received from the members of Parliament with regard to the computer facilities are placed before the Committee for its consideration.

**Future Proposals under consideration**

The following proposals about computerization are under consideration which would ultimately facilitate better information management and working and easy interaction between members and the Secretariat on the one hand and between members and citizen on the other.

* **MPs Interactive System** to facilitate interaction among MPs and general public through the web pages of each member of Parliament.

* **Committee Information System** to develop a Citizen - Parliamentary Committee Interface having a web page and e-mail/id of each Committee so that citizens may send their suggestions/queries through e-mail.

* There is a proposal to forward parliamentary information in electronic form to the members and they may also be allowed to send parliamentary questions, notices and other communication through e-mail or other electronic media to the Secretariat in a secured environment.

* There is a proposal to develop an interactive web based system which will allow members to submit requests for and receive information on various topics of their interest from Reference Service of LARRDIS.
* There is a proposal to develop an integrated constituency information system covering various details of members' constituencies like population, literacy rate, number of villages, number of wells, irrigation facilities, etc. which could be very useful to members of Parliament for their constituency development work.

**II. THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES IN ENHANCING DEMOCRACY**

Now-a-days, in democracies, people are concerned not merely about the institutional arrangements per se but also about how the institutions of governance work and what these institutions deliver. The emphasis has actually shifted from the forms of democracy to its true spirit. People demand responsibility, accountability and transparency in the system. To form their opinion about the performance of these institutions, they also want relevant, objective and authentic information about their work. It is in the interest of these institutions also that people know that they are working sincerely for the welfare of the common man to bring about prosperity and progress in society.

In this background, broadly speaking, Parliamentary Libraries can play a vital role in strengthening and enhancing democracy:

* By collecting and providing factual, objective and latest information which helps the House, the Committees and the members of Parliament in discharging their duties.
* By making available to the media and the public authentic and relevant information about the various parliamentary practices and procedures, about the business being transacted in Parliament as also about the useful work being done by Parliament for the welfare of the people and development of the country as a whole.

The Parliament Library in India is meant for the exclusive use of members of Parliament. But in their own way, the Library and other Divisions of LARRDIS have been serving the public. The Parliament Library is one of the richest and well-organized libraries in India. With a view to helping Indian and foreign scholars and students in their research, the Library has been allowing them access to its collections for short duration during inter-session periods.

The publications and periodicals brought out by the Research and Reference Services for the use of Members of Parliament are reasonably priced and also made available for sale to the public.
The Media and Public Relations Division is engaged in a whole range of activities aimed at disseminating information about the Parliament and its working to the press and the public at large. It also attends the requests for information from journalists and the public, and coordinates work relating to telecasting/broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings with the Doordarshan, (the official television organization), and the All India Radio.

The Parliamentary Museum and Archives organizes for Members of Parliament and the general public exhibitions on different themes, mostly relating to the work and the achievements of Parliament. In the future, its records would be open to scholars. The Computer Centre of the Parliament Library as mentioned above has been instrumental in placing the "Parliament of India Home Page" on the World Wide Web Site of the Internet.

The Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, a division of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, organizes systematic training and orientation programmes in parliamentary processes and procedures for the members of Parliament, State Legislatures and senior and middle level officers of Government of India and Public Enterprises. Apart from these programmes, which are organized round the year, the Bureau also organizes, study visits to Parliament by students of schools, colleges and universities to have first hand knowledge of the working of the Parliament.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has instituted two Research Fellowships, one each in Hindi and English, awarded every year, to promote original studies on matters of parliamentary interest with a view to understanding better the functioning of our Parliament and identifying the changing nature and role of our parliamentary institutions.

Parliament Libraries could consider establishing Public Information Offices like the one they have in the United Kingdom. This office handles enquiries from the public, arranges visits to Parliament, issues various publications and fact sheets and also ensures that weekly information bulletin on the work of Parliament is widely circulated. The Education Unit of the Public Information Office provides information relating to the work of Parliament for schools, teachers, young people and educational bodies and organizations. With its various endeavours, this Service, makes efforts to instill in the public mind the importance of Parliament as the supreme legislative authority of the
country and the part played by the people's representatives in the august body. This does help in ensuring an enlightened electorate which is of immense importance to parliamentary form of democracy. Having an information service organized on these lines could certainly help in establishing a good rapport between the people and their representatives.

The Impact of Digitalisation on Democracy

Digitalisation has a great impact on democracy. It affects the way people live, learn and work and the way government interacts with civil society. It focuses on the new, evolving forms of governance, i.e., electronic governance. Digitalization of information/knowledge within network links every individual, including the decision-makers. It gives democratic freedom to everyone to access, share and make use of this knowledge which paves the way for digital governance.

Today the parliamentarians and the citizens individually and the collective body of the Legislature have the benefit of being better informed and as such the inputs going into the policy formulation and decision making processes, are more objective and the polices and the decisions arising out of such processes are more appropriate and more socially relevant.

In India, digitalization of information can be said to be helping to achieve these objectives. The Parliament Home Page and the Home Pages of the State Legislatures have been providing free and easy access to information on a wide range of subjects which is necessary for the effective participation of members and also for public at large in the process of policy formulation.

The 'India Image' Portal, which acts as a gateway to Government of India hosts around 600 Government Websites. These sites receive over 1.5 million hits per day.

Digitalization has not only helped the parliamentarians to access the requisite information at the relevant time for effective representation of their constituencies but has also opened up a new opportunity and channel for dialogue between the citizens and parliamentarians on matters of crucial importance.
Internet Users in India

India has the eighth largest telecom network in the world. Penetration of Personal Computers is targeted to increase from the present level of 6.2 per thousand to 20 per thousand by the year 2008. At present about 150 Internet Service Providers are catering to around 3.3 million Internet customers. Assuming an average of 5 users per Registered Internet Subscriber, estimated Internet users in the country are 16.5 million. The Government of India has taken a number of initiatives for promotion of Internet, especially in rural and remote areas in the country.
THE INDONESIAN PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY
TOWARDS DIGITAL LIBRARY

Tenny ROSANTI
Librarian
Lusida Rismaria SITOMPUL
Librarian
Parliamentray Library of the Republic of Indonesia

In the era of technology advancement currently, where the activities of societies, either in the field of trade, economy, employment, research, education and culture, shall depend on computer networking and Internet as an important part to relate with all those kinds of activities.

Accordingly the roles of library as center of information shall develop into more significant in sharing extensively its information for potential users, such as:

1. The community of library users needs the facility to access any information through websites and the ability to analyze it in order to obtain certain data which they really need.
2. The facility to access any information by users shall need to be improved through electronic library service by using Internet in computer networking so that they will get information easier, faster and more comfortable.

The Condition of Libraries in Indonesia
In this information era, the libraries in Indonesia are in still conventional library system. From the existing libraries, there are only some that have applied the semi-digital or electronic system. The digital library is only existing and being applied in the university libraries, such as: Bina Nusantara Library, UPT of ITB (Institut Teknologi Bandung) and etc.

At this time, the library system of the Indonesian Parliamentary Library is going towards the semi-digital system. The computer is restricted only for the activities of the library data processing unit, especially to process the bibliographical data easily. The more towards a digital library is still strong, but it may not be achieved yet. The obstacles and problems may occur because of these factors:
a. Human resources in operating the computers are limited.
b. Computer sets in our library are limited.
c. Financial problems.
d. The system of bureaucracy in the institution/institute is too long.
e. Part of library staffs are not get used to operate the computer system.

At this time, our parliament has already had its own sites. All information about parliament can be seen and accessed by all societies by using or opening this site: www.dpr.go.id

Library Websites Development
The Indonesian Parliamentary Library is under supervision of The Center of Research and Information Services Bureau. In performing its duties and functions, The Center of Research and Information Services Bureau shall supervise 4 (four) units:

1. Research and Analysis Services Unit
2. Facilities and Information Services Unit
3. Library Unit
4. Documentation Unit

At this time, The Center of Research and Information Services Bureau shall make and develop websites. In the first phase, it has developed intranet websites, which can be accessed through http://intranet/p3i/. This website can only be accessed in all parliament buildings. It shall contain the information of The Center of Research and Information Services products, such as:

1. The results of review from researchers/experts.
2. The collected works of the results of Parliament Members such as minutes of meetings, the process of discussion on some acts and so on.
3. Library collections, which emphasize on social sciences, such as: politic, law, government administration, social-culture and economy. Besides, the library also provides the products of regulation of laws.

By having intranet websites, we hope all existing information can be useful and obtainable immediately at all parliament buildings.
For the next phase, we plan to improve intranet websites in order to develop into internet websites. Thus we also hope that all information can be accessed by other institutions, or even other countries can access it.

As a part of library sides, we have an expectation that we also want to have our own websites for the future. We are really aware that it will take time and patience. Moreover, we should have to prepare our human resources.

The Indonesian Parliamentary Library hopefully can provide you the address of its websites for the next two years, and we will still to achieve the theme of the conference that it's the Role of Parliamentary Librarians in Enhancing Democracy in the Digital Era.
The Center of Research and Information Service
Intranet/Local Information Networking Secretariat General of The Republic of Indonesia

Date: [mm/dd/yy] 9/2/02 Time: 11:43:09 AM 9/2/02 11:43:09 AM

Research and Analysis Service
Facilities and Information Service
Library
Documentation

THE CENTER OF RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICE
SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF RI

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REFERENCE COLLECTION OF
THE INDONESIAN PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY - Microsoft Internet Explorer

REFERENCE COLLECTION

Law Reference

The State Gazette

State Gazette & Supplement to State Gazette

Collection of Rules of RI Laws

Law and Regulation based on subject

Encyclopedia Religion
Dictionary

Agrarian/Land Affairs

Speech of RI President

Personnel Affairs

Repelita Book

Criminal & Commercial Code

Map (Atlas)

Finance

Province Profile

Health

Manpower / Labor Affairs

Environment

General Election

Taxes

Banking
READING ROOM COLLECTION

I. SERIES EDITION
1. Tempo Magazine
2. Gatra Magazine
3. Forum Keadilan Magazine
4. Warta Ekonomi Magazine
5. Intisari Magazine
6. Amanah Magazine
7. Eksekutif Magazine
8. Time Magazine
9. News Week Magazine
10. Info Bank Magazine

II. NEWSPAPER

UNITED NATIONS

Provide books published by the United Nations. Types of collection consist of:

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http://intranet/library/
WORLD BANK

The collections consist of book and series editions, which are published by World Bank. The series collections of World Bank.

A Country Framework Report
Abstract and Current Studies
African Development Indicator
Agriculture Sector Symposium
Annual Report
Annual Report Bank Conference Development Economics
Atlas
China 2020
Comparative Studies
Conflict Prevention Post-Conflict Reconstruction
Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research
Country Study
Development Committee
Development Essays
Development Practice
Directions in Development
Discussion Paper
Economic Development Institute of the World Bank
Economic Review
Environment Paper
Environmental Sustainable Development
Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Studies and Monographs
Financial Flows and Development Countries
Foreign Investment Advisory Service Occasional
Free of Poverty
Global Development Finance
Global Environment Facility

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DISCUSSION PROCESS ON DRAFT OF LAWS

LAWS

PARLIAMENT MEMBER'S PROPOSAL
  Motion

REPORT
  Interpolation

SPEECH
  Statement of Opinion

DECREE
  Resolution

MEMBER'S CURRICULUM VITAE

ABSTRACT OF LAWS

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THE INDONESIAN PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY
TOWARDS DIGITAL LIBRARY

Tenny ROSANTI
Librarian
Lusida Rismaria SITOMPUL
Librarian
Parliamentray Library of the Republic of Indonesia

◆ At this present time, in sophisticated technology era, where all activities of our societies have used computers.

◆ Library is a source of information in globalization era. By having advanced in the area of technology, the library should follow the development and advancement in that kind of technology.

◆ By making websites in library system, the library and its staffs can easily get new information and access to shared-information needed by all people.

THE INDONESIAN PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

THE INDONESIAN PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, IS GOING TOWARDS SEMI-DIGITAL LIBRARY.

NEVERTHELESS, SO MANY OBSTACLES AND PROBLEMS OCCUR, SUCH AS:

1. LIMITED HUMAN RESOURCE TO OPERATE THE COMPUTERS.
2. LIMITED COMPUTER'S SET OWNED BY THE LIBRARY.
3. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.
4. THE BUREAUCRACY OF INSTITUTION IS TOO COMPLICATED.
5. THE LIBRARY STAFFS HAVE NOT GOT USED TO USE COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM (STILL HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED WITH MANUAL SYSTEM).
ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

P3I BUREAU
THE CENTER OF RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICE

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SERVICE UNIT

FACILITIES AND INFORMATION SERVICE UNIT

LIBRARY UNIT

DOCUMENTATION UNIT

P3I BUREAU HAS MADE INTRANET WEBSITES THAT CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH THIS SITE http://intranet/p3i

THE PARLIAMENT PROVIDES WEBSITES THAT CAN BE ACCESSED BY PUBLIC SOCIETIES THROUGH THIS SITE http://www.dpr.go.id
THAILAND COUNTRY REPORT

Boonreung BURAPAKDI
Director
Academic and Information Burean
House of Representatives of Thailand

To All Respective Guest

I’m Mr. Boonreung Burapakdi, the director of Academic and Information Services Bureau, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives, has new holding the position last 26 August 2002 since the formulation of the secretariat of the House of Representatives had shuffling. To make the legislation, administration, procedure, have efficiency and effectively with target goal to support the administration. As well as the development in proceeding the work, administration. Therefore due to Shuffling need to establish all formulation to correspond the plan and policy of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives, including the plan reform of the administration of the government of Thailand. Established to the administration of the nation to reform into new administration. Since formerly the government reform has widely progress and the most important factor of this work will further proceed in the future.

To maintain the level of incoming role of all parties to make the government system turn to be an essential mechanism for development and promote the potentiality of Thailand to support the reform.

The Academic and Information Services is a bureau that provides services about academic affairs, and technical research to members of Parliament Whose task and duty stated down below:

1. Study, research, analyze, organize the research and collecting data.
2. Provide data and proposal for research under the demand of the members of parliament, member of the House of Representatives internal office and respective person in the Secretariat of the House of Representatives.
3. Analyze, proposal and services for development, work procedure of legislation of members of parliament, committee and other related person.
4. Proceeding about administration and services under the principle of Librarian.
5. Development and analyze the information resources
6. Index and basic information applying the information technology for development and increase efficiency.
7. Preparing documentation for consideration of bills and motions.
8. Preparing the documentation of pamphlet, backgrounder, parliamentary document and publicize document administration and political government.
9. Research and development, also proceed in preparing the research for practical advantages.
10. Cooperation between the country and international library.
11. Museum exhibition, politics and serve the audience, exhibition.
12. Administration for the archives of the parliament.
13. Others designed task.

The work groups of this office at present have divided into 8 work groups namely:

1. General Affairs Work group.
2. Library work group.
3. Information Resources Development Work group.
4. Academic affairs 1 work group
5. Academic Affairs 2 Work group.
6. Academic Affairs 3 Work group.
7. Research and Development Work group.

Thus the Academic and Information Services Bureau has designed the concept for work development into international standard in contrast through the world over. To emphasize the government official be expertise at work, which the Academic and information Services Bureau has administration system integrity, high standard, accurate work system, efficiency and effective in all factors, administration, management, service and technical. Including human development to develop to be expertise and
skilled on specific manner and prompt to support practical duty of members of parliament with efficiency and effective in order to achieve the most benefit of the National Legislative Organization. Also provide services about information of work of each responsible use service in accelerate, precise and on time with the demand of the members of parliament. Applying the modern technology for proceeding development at work, develop the information and give information of important about Legislative act.

All of these are the new structure of the Academic and Information Services Bureau, I'm on behalf as the representative of Thailand. I would like to say thank to everyone of you who participate this activities and to all of you attended and support, thank you.
Session 4

Chairman : Takenori HORIMOTO

Paper 1 : Taiwan
Paper 2 : Singapore
Paper 3 : Malaysia
Paper 4 : Australia
Paper 5 : Samoa
THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY SUPPORTS A DIFFERENT DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE: A COUNTRY REPORT

Karl Min KU
Director General
Parliamentary Library
Chien-Yun CHIN
Section Chief
Information Technology Department
Hsien-Chung KUO
Section Chief
Parliamentary Library
Legislative Yuan, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

I. Foreword
The Legislative Yuan was originally founded in 1928. According to the Constitution, the Legislative Yuan shall be the supreme legislative organization of the state, to be constituted of members elected by the people, and exercise legislative power on behalf of the people. In terms of its competence, power and function, the Legislative Yuan is equivalent to a congress in other democracies.

The Fifth Legislative Yuan, which consists of 225 members, was elected on December 1, 2001. The members' tenure will start from February 1, 2002 to January 31, 2005.

Nowadays, every member of the Legislative Yuan has his/her own office in the Legislative Yuan. Each member is entitled to recruit six to ten assistants, who work at the office in the Legislative Yuan or in the electoral distinct.

In accordance with the official functions of the Legislative Yuan, the Department of Compilation with a library was founded in the Nan-jing period of government during the 1940's. In order to simplify the organizational structure, the staff of Department of Compilation was reduced and task-work teams were formed after the government moved to Taiwan, China in 1949. The Library & Information Service (LIS) was the resulting institute.
During the period of 1950's to the early of 1980's, the LIS had offered reading and library services for the parliamentarians only. In the mid-1980's, the LIS had launched its development project named officially as "Program for Development of Information and Research Services of the Legislative Yuan 1985-1989". Mr. Karl Min Ku had served as the program leader in which the new legislative reference services and computerized Chinese information systems were created, operated and managed. Therefore, the LIS had enlarged three functional units, i.e., the Law Information Center, the Computer Center and the Newspaper Clipping Center, to support the research and lawmakers functions of legislators, and to provide current information to conform to the modern trends of society. In addition to strengthening the original functions of library as "disseminating information and extending knowledge", the objectives of LIS included developing the legislative information service and the network system in the Legislative Yuan, as well as improving the efficiency of information freedom & access.

In January 12, 1999, the organic law of Legislative Yuan had been amended for congressional reform. Article 15 and Article 27 of the organic law of Legislative Yuan stipulated the foundation of Parliamentary Library. So, the library was officially launched in February 1999. And Mr. Karl Min Ku was appointed as the first parliamentary librarian.

Parliamentary Library of Legislative Yuan shoulders both the responsibilities of supplying information services to legislators and bridging the gateway between citizens and legislature for the public policy making in our current society.

II. Computer Application in Parliamentary Library, 1985-2000
The library planned and launched its legislative reference & information service in September 1985. In the first decade of modernized library service, "centralized processing, centralized service" was the computer-based development policy that some basic reference resources and sources were evaluated as the fundamental knowledge base of service system and it had gained high reputation for its stable growth.

Afterwards, the wide area network among legislators' offices and the remote access system had increased the use of legislative information system (LEGISIS) profoundly, which consisted of "Legislative Electronic Bulletin Board System", "Legislator's Interpellation Information System", "Chinese Code Information System", "Chinese
Code Amendment Information System", "Legislative Literature Information System", "Legislative News Information System", "Legislative Records Information System" and "The Legislative OPAC (On-line Public Access Catalog) System". The service strategy had changed to "centralized processing, distributed service" for expanding its service range as the computer-supporting system from points to larger areas including a few dozens of government branches. In recent years, the rapid development of World Wide Web has changed the structure of legislative network. Presently, with the new strategy that featured of networked internet/intranet, media/knowledge content, computer system/ various service platforms for "distributed processing, centralized management and personalized service", an on-site and prompt delivery service is provided to each user that either inside or outside of the parliament.

The weblibrary of Parliamentary Library was integrated in 1999. The development of web-site resources is based on the booming World Wide Web application and the modern trend of digital collections. The self-developed web of Parliamentary Library has been built up and opened to the public since September 1999. And then the second stage of website development is advanced to a bilingual version of interactive multi-media digital library. Parliamentary Library is dedicated to improving the legislative information system (LEGISIS) to provide a better quality service, as well as a more efficient service results.

III. Broadband Network in the Legislative Yuan
At the beginning of the new millennium, the Information Technology Department of Legislative Yuan was officially set up and in charge of the new information technology application and management for the parliament.

Within the past three years, the Parliament Broadband Network System was built and operated. The PBNS, adopted the gigabit broadband, is sufficient for the requirement of transmitting audio and video data. It connects one T3 and four T1 lines for the external network connection. The PBNS has a series of programs as follows,

(1) Multimedia Agenda System
The electronic voting system displays the voting results that show the Bulletin Board or TV wall accurately and instantly. It provides printing, save and searching functions. The system enhanced the quality of members' performance and the efficiency of law-making process.
(2) VOD (Video On Demand) Proceeding System
The situation of each conference can be broadcasted on spot directly, scheduled for replay or for instant replay, or the file of the program can be saved. The proceeding of each conference at the same venue can be broadcasted at the same time, so the committee members can follow the discussion of each conference.

(3) Internet Information Service System
Public information network service which connected within the parliament to the global Internet communication system is available. It lets the committee member's service station in different areas be connected to Internet in order to obtain the information service of the Legislative Yuan.

(4) Virtual A-V Material Reading Room
Parliamentary Library also adopts the broadband network system to provide the A-V material & multimedia program to each member's office for introducing the government branch's business, cultural, educational and knowledgeable programs.

IV. The Weblibrary of Parliamentary Library
Digital media have grown rapidly since the digital revolution started in the early 1990's, so the weblibrary is not a sudden invention. The objective of this task is to create a virtual library service network able to meet the massive information demands of legislators. Till now, we have developed four modules for the provision of library service via the Internet. These were a reference question and answer service (QA), a selective dissemination of information service (SDI), a multimedia information storage and retrieval service (ISAR), and a general Internet access through the library's portal.

The weblibrary contents can be divided into five domains or zones, each with its own type of service suited to the different character of the information it supplies. These distinct domains of service and content could be called the browsing zone, the searching zone, the dissemination zone, the reference zone and the leisure zone. Their characteristics are presented in Table 1. In this table we have analyzed the nature of the information stores and data linkages within our weblibrary under six separate characteristics: (a) the type of resources available; (b) the function served; (c) the type or degree of interaction via the user interface; (d) the scope of the intended audience; (e) whether or not service requires subscription; (f) the availability of participation by a postings capability for network users.
Table 1: Content Domains and their Characteristics in the Weblibrary

The advantages of building a weblibrary according to fixed content domains are: (a) more efficient electronic access for library users, and (b) being able to offer user support services, value-added services and reference services via diverse e-collections.

V. Services from the Parliamentary Weblibrary

The digital revolution has influenced libraries to varying degrees. One phase has been the development of a digital library collection from electronic resources, parallel to the main collection; but another stage could see the digital collection becoming the core of the library and providing the personal information service path. The weblibrary can provide the following services:

(1) A Chinese E-paper for Library Clients

Our current information delivery service is a daily (in weekdays) electronic newspaper published by the Parliamentary Library and distributed to the public as well as library clients. Beginning on July 1, 2000, it had published five hundred twenty issues by August 8, 2002. Items in our e-paper include: (a) daily legislative news; (b) the latest laws; (c) legislative summaries; (d) a record of general policy questions (interpellations) to the government in the Legislative Yuan; (e) a parliamentary forum; (f) committee reports; and (g) a report from our international legislative awareness service.

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(2) Multilingual Legislative Awareness
Our multilingual, international legislative awareness service, or Dispatch of Current Legislative Information, is a daily report service providing major international news and updates on the status of legislation around the world. Translated from reliable sources in eleven countries, this report provides a Chinese edition of news and other materials which originally appeared in the Chinese, English, Japanese, German, Spanish and Russian languages. It is one of our most rewarding and popular services.

(3) Library E-mail Distribution Service for Press Clippings
News and commentary about the parliament & legislators from sixteen local Chinese or English newspapers will be selected and filed electronically each day through an extension of the Legislative Yuan News System. These electronic press clippings on parliamentarians are automatically send out to each legislator's individual e-mail box within the day.

(4) Information and Knowledge on Demand
The new system of our library automation project (or LA II) at the Parliamentary Library of the Legislative Yuan features an on-demand Internet information dissemination service on topics chosen by our clients. Users may easily select topics of interest and construct a research profile from our subject thesaurus. Then the LA II system will compile all the current website resources related to the chosen subjects and e-mail site references to users promptly. This subject access to websites is an individual subscription feature of our weblibrary

(5) Subject-oriented Information Packages
The subject-oriented information package service of our weblibrary draws on a well-organized and comprehensive online collection of web resources arranged by subject headings. The service collates and stores links to previously prepared research materials under an online menu, and thus makes them available for use by everyone, whether as a direct reference or as background for further research.

VI. Conclusion
Democracy is a faceted human system to each people in each way. In a democratic country, its situation, social, economic, educational, and cultural background that due to a society synthesized into a whole political performance as a feedback to the society itself.

Democracy is also based on various communication activities through different massive and private channels to get information and knowledge for the best decision-making management of a society. Therefore, parliamentary library is very important within a democratic society for collecting, preserving, processing and sharing those information and knowledge via the knowledge contents and context management.

In the digital age, the information and knowledge flow become even faster, and the popular value of knowledge necessities as well as the need of parliamentary library of any parliament member will require more quantity and higher quality. The digital approach such as building up a weblibrary is an inevitable change to any parliamentary library. And we need to keep the pace with digital development and digital applications in the future.

Parliamentary Library shoulders three responsibilities for parliamentarians and the general publics as well in the new century, as follows,

- Democratic memory
- Information freedom and access
- Knowledge management for the parliament

We believe that more human beings, more mature politics, and more developing of a parliamentary library; or from another angle, to develop a qualified parliamentary library is an important social infrastructure for enhancing the democracy in human life.
RESOURCES AND INFORMATION NETWORK IN PARLIAMENT; THE SINGAPORE EXPERIENCE

Sait Poh (Ruby) KHOO
Librarian
Parliament of Singapore

Introduction
First of all, I would like to give you a brief information of the Parliament of Singapore. The Parliament is unicameral. We are now at the Tenth Parliament, constituted by the General Election on 3 November 2001. The present Parliament consists of 84 elected Members, one Non-Constituency MP (NCMP) and 9 Nominated Members. The total Membership is 94 at the moment. The Library has 5 staff who provides general library and information services. Besides attending to Members' information need, we also serve about 20 Legislative Assistants, (who are Member research assistants) enquiries from other ministries officials and lawyers from some law companies.

During the past decade, librarians, information technologists, publishers and multimedia producers have been developing a diversity of computerised information resources. The rapid development of information retrieval systems and the digitised text has made Internet (or Intranet) an important search tool in libraries or resource centres. The remarkable technology of digital network provides easy access to the vast information databases of digital text, sound, images and video in a rapid and cost-effective manner. As computers become more powerful and advanced and the cost is now more affordable, the world has become a borderless community with a huge network of information sharing.

In the Parliament of Singapore, we have also developed various information systems:

(1) Singapore Parliamentary Report System: Basically this system was developed for the easy and speedy retrieval of the Parliamentary verbatim reports. At present, the SPRS consists of the full text verbatim reports from 1977 to date. It is a web-based system. Users can search the reports and appendices based on character or keywords search. It also provides 4 search parameters: date of parliament sitting, Member's name, subject and section of the reports.
We are now in the process of replacing the system, which is already 10 years old, with a completely new system. The new system will include earlier verbatim reports from 1955 till 1976 and improved and enhanced search features will be incorporated.

(2) Digitisation of tapes to CD format: The Library had preserved the open reel audiotapes of Parliamentary proceedings since 1959 to 1999 and the videotapes of the proceedings from 1986 to 2001. As these tapes are meant, for archival purposes, we have taken advantage of technology and converted the audiotapes to CDs and the videotapes to video compact disc (VCD). We now have approximately 6000 CDs and VCDs in the Library. We are now planning to create a central storage space in our computer system for effective management and speedy retrieval.

(3) Digitisation of photographs, slides and negatives of major parliamentary events: Our library has been considered as a central depository of photographs, slides and negatives of significant parliamentary events, eg, Parliamentary Opening ceremonies, moving to the new Parliament House and certain Parliamentary conferences. We have accumulated more than 1 000 of such records. In order to improve the recording and searching system, all these records would be digitised. Subsequently, a central storage system will be created. Once these records are digitised, they would become a useful resource for our parliamentary education programme and other projects.

(4) Development of Library portal: In order to have a one-stop library service to Members; a library portal has been developed for Members. For Phase I, the portal will contain an electronic Library guide, the latest library books acquired, contents list of the latest journals received and photographs of recent Parliamentary events. Members can access the information on the portal and email their request. Next year we shall launch Phase II wherein we will include the library catalogue, link-ups with some important websites or databases like Lexis-Nexis and the National Library catalogue, and some selective landmark speeches from our CN/VCD collection.

Information on Parliament Intranet and Parliament Internet
The Parliament Intranet is a resourceful network for the Parliament staff and Members. Besides the general information like calendar of events or Order papers, we also have the Constitution of Singapore, Standing Orders of Parliament, Papers/Reports presented to
Parliament, Members on Sessional Committees and Members Directory. Members can access the full text Parliamentary Debates for debates as far back as 1977. In future, when the library portal has been fully developed, Members can also access the portal via the Parliament Intranet.

The Parliament Internet is an open network for public to access. The website is www.gov.sg/parliament. Information on the net including Bills (full text) recently introduced, full text Parliamentary debates of the current year, map of the electoral boundary, Who is my MP, Parliamentary Education programme and so on. It is useful for researchers, students and general public.

Other Network

The effect of digital technology has changed our working and life style. We can feel the digital revolution is upon us. We have to effectively utilize the technology to efficiently organize the information and provide easy access to the system.
PUSAT SUMBER PARLIMEN AND DIGITIZATION

Fauziah Bte Abu HASSAN
Librarian
Malaysia

The vision of Pusat Sumber Parlimen maintains at being the center of excellence for the reference of parliamentary publications and resources to fulfil the requirements of the members of Parliament. Its mission is to facilitate the access and retrieval of the library materials which leads to the dire need on the use of information technology.

OBJECTIVE
The objective if the Pusat Sumber is to develop as a center of excellence for political, parliamentary and governmental publications collection through the use of modern information technology. Being a unit in the Department for IT and library it thus aim for the following goals, which are:-

1. The call for a new medium of communication
2. To enhance efficiency in the production of the hansards, order papers
3. To facilitate retrieval of the hansards, order papers and library collection

THE SCENARIO
The information and communication technology has created a new medium of communication which if we do not take up will overtake us and leave us far behind.

To keep abreast we have to be at par or be near it.

Our Malaysian government has set up its National Information Technology Council (NTIC) in the late eighties and has formulated its information technology policy and information technology master plan in 1990s. It has even set up the Multimedia Super Corridor and the Multimedia Development Corporation.

Accordingly many programmes and activities are set up to enhance the use of the new technologies including schools, hospitals, government and business agencies.
The Parliamentarians as our client will not escape the use of this new medium such as accessing the Internet to help them research and gather data for their speeches during parliamentary debates.

Responding to this need The Malaysian Parliament has accommodated such IT facilities as follows:

1. Creation of OPSARD software
2. Migration of library system from UNIX based to Windows based
3. Retrieval of information

1. Creation of OPSARD system

- Production of the Penyata Rasmi

In the early nineties the production of the Penyata Rasmi is manual. Prior the use of PC Doc the verbatim record is noted, transcribed, typed manually, edited and printed. It takes more than fifteen staff and about three days to produce one day's debate. Nowadays the Docs Routing and Docs Open of the PC Doc helps the Document Department to speed the process of Penyata Rasmi production. It not only speed up the process but also renders more efficient service especially the retrieval of the data inputted. The administrative process of the Documents Department is improved from its ability to produce the Penyata Rasmi in a quicker time range and a smaller number of officers involved.

The creation of the system for Penyata Rasmi also harness potential new technologies in the form of a system for the order papers.

- Production of the Order Papers

Similar to the production of Penyata Rasmi is the production of Aturan Urusan Mesyuarat. With the advent of the OPSARD system the Order of the Day may be accessed in the morn of the debate session.

Creation of the OPSARD calls for the ability to retrieve related and previous information from the Penyata Rasmi and Aturan Urusan Mesyuarat. Applications of the
system need to be extended to the archival resources. Thus the idea of digitization of the archival works of the Penyata Rasmi and other parliamentary documents The Pusat Sumber being the house of the archival works took the initiative to implement the project of scanning and optical character recognition of the Penyata Rasmi beginning 1990. It starts outsourcing the conversion into electronic format of the Penyata Rasmi beginning 1996.

2. Migration of Unix to Windows based library system
The Pusat Sumber Parlimen had acquired Geac Library System for its automation and technological development in 1996. Though the software is web-based and integrated nonetheless it is Unix based. This platform is different from the platform of Parliament as a whole. To enhance management, planning and control of information system functions, it is only appropriate that the library system platform be made similar to that of the parent body. Thus the migration to C2 library system was done this year mainly to add convenience to the maintenance management.

It overcomes the difficulty of administering different platforms and it simplifies the IT environment.

The C2 library system runs its application on Windows 2000. Being window-based it is easier to learn and handle the system and thus reduce the user- training requirement. Inputting is faster on familiar ground and verification and editing of data inputted is also simpler. The retrieval of information is also easy to handle.

3. Retrieval of information
The ability to identify, anticipate and quickly respond to the needs of the members of Parliament means that the librarian and the library staff must be conversant in the use of the retrieval system. Indeed the migration from Advance library system to C2 library system has helped ease not only the inputting of the data in the system but also the retrieval as well for we are no longer handicapped by the function keys. From the C2 library system we are able to speed up retrieval and inputting and raise the productivity of our service. There are many access points that we may use to trace our bibliographical details of a publication.
DIGITIZATION

The digitization project at Parlimen Malaysia consist the conversion of the Penyata Rasmi (Hansards), Rang undang-undang (Bills) and akta (Acts).

The purpose of digitization is in relation to the objectives of the use of information technology.

The main purpose is simply to increase access and also as a form of archiving the Penyata Rasmi and other parliamentary publications. It is imperative that before an act is implemented the basis of its come into being be understood and known. All these may be discovered in the debates of the members of both Houses.

OCR of Archived Penyata Rasmi, Rang Undang-undang and Akta

The Penyata Rasmi is public domain and it is considered useful for the people since the Bills that are debated upon will finally become the policy of the country. With such importance it is therefore beneficial for the collection to be of an online access quality type. It is open to the public, and it allows people to get quickly what they need. While the Members of Parliament are the users, the digitized resource could extend its benefit widely to the root as well that is the people of the member's constituencies. The digitization that is done by Parlimen Malaysia will provide contents in the Internet and will give the public information on the political situation of the country through both Houses debates.

The purpose of having the digitization project besides allowing more people to access the collection is the digitization's role of preservation. The OCR of the Penyata Rasmi and other documents means that the contents of the documents are being kept in digital format that may be archived in the server. This will act as a backup in the archiving process of the library.

The digitizing process in Parlimen Malaysia was given to the company that had earlier dealt with the conversion project. The source items which include the Penyata Rasmi, acts, bills are initially photocopied and scanned through Ascent Capture. The files are clean up by using DocsImaging. The files are then converted into PDF format using ABBYY Fine Reader. At this stage the editing of the spelling, font size, format and the
like is done. The index file for all the files that have been converted into the PDF format are prepared and later uploaded to the web by using DocsFusion. The project of conversion is done in stages due to the load of documents that need to be formatted, scanned, cleaned and edited. Thus the process of digitization is still ongoing.

**Retrieval facility**

The increase in usage of the Penyata Rasmi by new and young members of Parliament call for a greater demand in access of the Penyata Rasmi, bills, acts and other documents of the Pusat Sumber. Expectation for easy access of the materials is the common need. To facilitate such access then, digitization comes into play.

The facility of access provided by conversion of Penyata Rasmi from 1985 onwards is the reason for the acceptance of digitization decision by the administration of the Parliament.

**Staff training**

Information technology will no doubt influence our lifestyle and especially affect the demands the members will make on the Pusat Sumber. We have to ensure that the library remains viable in its fulfillment of the demands. Thus not only has the resources and the services be set at par with the needs the librarian and the library staff too need to go through the process of paradigm shift to be able to facilitate the modern services. Skills will constantly be upgraded through library and computer training of the staff.

**Conclusion**

With digitization the Pusat Sumber could provide contents via the use of information technology and thus increase access to the public. It moreover facilitates resource sharing and establishes linkage with other libraries or organizations. It is also a win-win situation for the Pusat Sumber and the users. If we digitize our resources we may survive and stay relevant in the information environment especially in response to the members' needs of direct, interactive and timely serviced information. The members and the public will be served wherever they are and they will be able to search for information and communicate with the Pusat Sumber via the Web at their convenience, insya Allah.

Each library with its own existing digital content can participate and collaborate to enrich the local digital content of the country. Pusat Sumber Parlimen is proud to be one of the content providers to the primary resources of the parliamentary debates.
THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES IN ENHANCING DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Roslynn Membrey

Head, Resource Development

Department of the Parliamentary Library

Australia

Introduction

The Department of the Parliamentary Library (DPL) in the Australian Parliament is one of five Parliamentary Departments. It is responsible for the provision of information, analysis and advice to Members, Senators, their staff, Parliamentary Committees and parliamentary staff. These services are tailored to meet the specific needs of Senators, Members, their staff and particularly committees using the Parliamentary Library's combination of specialist staff, collections, networks and access to national and international resources and expertise.

DPL receives an annual appropriation of around $A17 million from the Australian government Consolidated Revenue Fund. Of approximately 160 staff members around 100 are in the client services program and the rest of the staff are responsible for the provision of print and electronic resources to both staff and clients.

Early in 2002 DPL reviewed its strategic plan and business plan.

To what extent has DPL digitised information?

DPL has access to a very sophisticated computing network. The network is provided by our sister department the Department of Parliamentary and Reporting Staff and includes high-speed information and communications technology with standard Microsoft products and specialised services such as:

- ParlInfo (Hansard, chamber documents, library databases etc.);
- the Parliamentary website;
- live streaming of parliamentary proceedings; and
- common services such as word processing, spreadsheets, email etc. used by all of the parliamentary departments.
DPL has been able to exploit the parliamentary computing network in order to provide digitised services at the desktop of staff and clients. Since January 2000 DPL has provided the full text of selected newspaper clippings on ParlInfo. During 2001 DPL began digitising the full text of journal articles instead of merely providing an index entry.

The library databases have grown very quickly. Appendix 1 describes all of the databases and indicates the size and structure of each.

**Why are we digitising?**

Late in the 1990's DPL senior management realised that clients and staffers were quickly adapting to the use of material on the Internet and in computer databases. Like most parliamentary libraries DPL attempts to meet client needs by providing relevant, timely, accurate information analysis and advice. As most of our clients had access to computers and the Internet in both their parliamentary and electorate offices the logical step for DPL was to provide material which could be accessible at the desk top 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

However, as part of the planning process we also considered several factors such as:

- As clients will have access to material at their desk top the number of client requests to library staff and visits to the library may drop;
- The technology used needed to be robust, expandable and reliable;
- Work processes had to be fast, accurate and reflect client needs; and
- Staff would need to retrained in new work processes.

In other words by digitising information, and making it readily accessible to clients, we had to take into account the fact that staff of DPL would have to change their work practices.

**Websites of the Australian Parliament and parliamentary library.**

**Why are we on the net? New opportunities and challenges**

DPL has had a web site since 1996 and currently manages the website for the Australian parliament. This web site was reviewed in 2000 and has since undergone a redesign. The
new design was launched in March 2002. A copy of current web pages is available at Appendix 2.

DPL publishes a large number of papers which are written for Senators and Members. It was decided to add these papers to the web site and to develop new products such as e-briefs which have links directly to other web sites. These products are available not only for Senators and Members but any person with access to the Internet also has access to these general papers. You may wish to have a look at our web site at www.aph.gov.au/library to see the amount and variety of information that DPL makes available.

Originally DPL used the Internet to gain access to information on behalf of clients. However, the staff in all parliamentary departments realised that the Internet also provided the parliament with an opportunity to provide direct access to parliamentary proceedings, explain parliamentary procedures, highlight the progress of Bills and provide a resource for students of politics and parliament. The web site is now a widely recognised and popular source for information for governments, academic institutions, the media, students and interested citizens.

However, there have been some challenges in creating the web site. As all five parliamentary departments contribute information it was necessary to establish a standard web site. This required considerable discussion, negotiation and compromise to come up with a design that all departments were happy to use.

A member of DPL's staff is the web manager for the whole site as well as the library's own site. She has limited support from other staff members in DPL. Each of the other 4 departments has a web manager responsible for loading relevant documents on the web site.

Another problem was getting general agreement on the structure and language of the site. Those of us who work in parliament are used to using terms such as "Serjeant-at Arms", second reading stage, Question Time, Parliamentary sittings etc. Most members of the community are not familiar with these terms which need to be explained to make the site accessible.

There have been suggestions that the site should be made interactive but it has not been possible to implement because of staffing limitations.
The use of the digital media by MPs, the rate of MPs digital literacy
While more Senators and Members are information literate, many of them still rely on their own staff, or parliamentary staff, to access information for them.

DPL regularly analyses the use of in-house databases by Senators and Members, their staff, electorate offices and parliamentary departments. The following statistics indicate usage of ParlInfo in 2000-01 and 2001-02.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Client Usage of DPL Databases - ParlInfo</th>
<th>2000-01</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senators and Members in Parliament House</td>
<td>56856</td>
<td>41087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senators and Members in Electorate Offices</td>
<td>28550</td>
<td>1548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Total</td>
<td>85406</td>
<td>42635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Parliamentary Departments</td>
<td>248776</td>
<td>284722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of the Parliamentary Library</td>
<td>248599</td>
<td>295794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Total</td>
<td>497375</td>
<td>580516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>582781</td>
<td>623151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Without going into a detailed analysis, it can be seen that DPL's digitisation of data was received enthusiastically by our clients. However, direct usage has declined during the last year while parliamentary departments' use has increased. This could indicate that DPL's client find it difficult to access digital information, they have not been trained in the use of the databases or they would rather have parliamentary staff provide the information directly. DPL plans to conduct further investigations into these changes in user behaviour.

How digital are MPs? (do they have personal email, personal websites, the frequency in using them)
The parliamentary computing network provides each Senator and Member with an email address and personal web sites. However, some Senators and Members have set up their own websites and actively use them to receive information from constituents as well as to keep constituents informed of their own activities.
I have attached a recent news article on Senators' and Members' websites at Appendix 3. I have also attached Senator Lundy's home page as an example of a personal web site at Appendix 4 (b) and the web page created for her on the parliamentary computing network at Appendix 4 (a).

**Library staff and client training**

I mentioned earlier that DPL was aware that digitisation of material would mean that staff members would need to be retrained and would have to accept new tasks. Two of the biggest changes were to train staff to index digital material quickly, accurately and comprehensively and to have staff available to train our clients to use the databases efficiently and effectively.

While we have succeeded with the first change we have yet to implement an adequate training program for each of our clients. This is reflected in the usage statistics provided earlier. DPL has recently made some changes to the staffing structure and hopes to introduce a better training program than has been possible in the past.

**Frequency of use by outside readers**

As indicated earlier DPL's website is accessible to anybody who has access to the Internet. Some of DPL's databases can also be searched using a web interface to ParlInfo (WIPI). The following table indicates the number of internal and external hits on the website.

Senators, Members, parliamentary committees and their staff and parliamentary departments record internal hits.

External hits are hits by Internet users who enter through the parliamentary web site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ParlInfo Web Searches</th>
<th>2000-01</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>41567</td>
<td>232593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External</td>
<td>3366311</td>
<td>3776476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3407878</strong></td>
<td><strong>4009069</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In contrast to the earlier table it can be seen that internal users have increased their usage by over 5 times the usage rate in 2000-01. This may indicate that users find it easier to use a web searching facility than the searching facility provided for the in house databases. Again DPL will need to investigate these figures before drawing any firm conclusions.

External users have not grown as much but indicate a steady hit rate of over 3 million hits a year.

**The new opportunities in the reference sources of libraries (e-books, e-journals etc.)**

While e-books have been of interest to DPL we have been cautious about introducing them as the technology has not yet stabilised to the extent where they have become a reliable source of information.

On the other hand DPL subscribes to many e-journals and makes them available to clients through the library's catalogue. However, they have proved to be a challenge to handle administratively and it appears that they are not used directly by our clients. While this technology has been slow to be accepted DPL is considering several options for exploiting this technology.

**Digitisation: random or planned (white paper, projections, policy)**

There are three major projects and several minor initiatives currently underway in DPL.

The first project is the Electronic Document and Record Management System (EDRMS). The aim of this project is to digitise all of the information used in DPL. This information is in two main streams - client information and administrative information. Over the next 3-4 years DPL hopes to develop a system which will ensure that all information used and developed by DPL staff in electronic format will be stored, organised and retrievable as required. This will include papers read, written or used by DPL staff when developing client work as well as financial, personnel and management data which is used by senior managers when reporting to the parliament.

The second project is the redevelopment of DPL's Intranet. At present DPL has an Intranet divided into two - client information and administrative information for staff (eg leave and other administrative forms, policy guidelines, and procedure manuals). DPL
also maintains a guide to services and has plans to provide better alerting services to clients. It is hoped to roll all of these products into a more interactive Intranet which will provide clients with easily accessible, up to date and relevant information on topics of current interest.

The third project is to convert the electronic media monitoring unit from the current analogue system (all programs are recorded and stored on video and audio tapes) to a digital system - perhaps using silo storage or DVD's. By doing this clients should be able to directly access the programs they need using the PCs connected to the parliamentary computing network.

Other projects include:

- The provision of audio briefs on CD-ROMs.
- These are briefs written on current issues and read by DPL's own staff.
- It is a product designed for clients who spend many hours driving to meetings or visiting their constituents in their electorates;
- plans to digitise all of the data stored on paper in the basements and off site.
- These include newspaper clippings, media releases and other records dating from as far back as the 1970's; and
- development of more streamlined services based on subject access.

Who decides?
All of DPL's strategic and business plans are developed by staff and managers and go through an approval process which involves the senior Management Group, Management Committee, joint Library Committee and the Presiding Officers of the Parliament. They are subject to client needs, adequate resources being available and funding.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Full text (no.)</th>
<th>Full text (%)</th>
<th>Indexed (no.)</th>
<th>Indexed (%)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>ParlInfo folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bills Digests</td>
<td>Bills Digests since 1990.</td>
<td>2179</td>
<td>2176</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>2179</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Articles</td>
<td>Data about journal articles, most of which are selected from over 700 core Australian and overseas journals as they are received in the Library, and from some electronic journals. Key articles selected by the Library's information and research specialists are also added to this database. 1989+</td>
<td>66195</td>
<td>13636</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>64908</td>
<td>98</td>
<td></td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Articles (1982-1988)</td>
<td>Data about key journal articles received in the Library in the period 1982-1988.</td>
<td>19669</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Closed. Indexed using LCSH</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Catalogue</td>
<td>Data about books, serials, reports, pamphlets, etc.</td>
<td>109273</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>56637</td>
<td>51.5</td>
<td>Continuously updated from Catalogue, Circulation system, and Serial check-in records. Older records indexed with LCSH, not counted here as indexed.</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Publications</td>
<td>Library publications (except Bills Digests) since 1990.</td>
<td>1005</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>72.8</td>
<td>1005</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Items</td>
<td>Documents which do not meet the criteria for inclusion in other ParlInfo databases or the Library Catalogue. Many are speeches by prominent people or on topical issues.</td>
<td>4085</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>3715</td>
<td>90.9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper Clippings</td>
<td>Data and images of clippings selected from newspapers published on or after 1 January 2000.</td>
<td>220903</td>
<td>220880</td>
<td>99.96</td>
<td>220832</td>
<td>99.96</td>
<td>About 2 million clippings from the mid-1960s to 31 January 2000 are in the Information Files.</td>
<td>Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Party Documents</td>
<td>Publications of Australian political parties.</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>99.5</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>Includes publications relating to 1998 election and to forthcoming 2001 election.</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Releases</td>
<td>Media releases issued by the following have been added since the dates shown: Governor-General (April 1996+), Ministers (1994+), Leader of the Opposition (May 1995+), Shadow Ministers (April 1998+), other Senators and Members (April 1998+), Parliamentary Committees (April 1998+), others (government agencies, lobby groups, and other organisations) (selectively, April 1998+).</td>
<td>53875</td>
<td>53875</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Press releases from the mid-1960s to 2000 are in the Information Files.</td>
<td>Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio Programs</td>
<td>Key current affairs and news radio programs. Program notes and transcripts.</td>
<td>74772</td>
<td>12935</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>3037</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Television Programs</td>
<td>Key current affairs and news television programs. Program notes and transcripts.</td>
<td>19018</td>
<td>6237</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>1733</td>
<td>9.11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>571356</td>
<td>309103</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>354704</td>
<td>62.08</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to Australia's Senate

For general information about the Senate and the Senate's web site, see Introduction to the Senate.

Note: This page contains links to PDF files for more information see Accessing files.

On the Senate calendar...

The Senate will next meet on 19 - 29 August 2002

- Senate sitting pattern for 2002 (PDF format 20kb)
- Watch the proceedings live via webcast

Senate Order of Business (the 'Red')

A guide to the business proposed for the Senate, published each sitting day.

Order of business - current issue (PDF Format 22kb)
More about this publication

Senate Daily Summary

A convenient summary of each day's proceedings in the Senate.

Senate Daily Summary - Current Issue (PDF Format 153kb)
Senate Daily Summary - Back Issues
More about this publication
Welcome to Australia's House of Representatives

The House will next sit from 19 August to 29 August 2002.

Watch proceedings - live via webcast.

The House of Representatives is where Australia's Government is formed, and the House from which the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition are drawn. For more basic information about the House and its role in Australia's parliamentary system, including Infoshets, see the House Introduction page.

- Information about the 150 Members of the House of Representatives, including contact details, can be accessed from the Members page.
- Information detailing the daily scheduled business of the House can be accessed via the The House at Work page. This page also includes links to the Notice Paper and the sitting schedule.
- Information about investigative House Committees and their inquiries can be found at the Committees page.
- A large part of the role of the House of Representatives is to pass legislation or amend existing legislation. The Bills link will give you access to Bills (proposed laws) passing through Parliament, and related information.
- A consolidated list of all publications issued by the House of Representatives is also available on the website. It includes the formal documents of the House, as well as informative and promotional documents.
- News and upcoming work of the House and its Committees, can be found at the House News page. You can also watch Parliament live via webcast, or read transcripts of every word spoken in the House (and to its Committees) as recorded in House Hansard.
- You can access information about the administration of the House, including employment opportunities and other corporate information. The Department of the House of Representatives provides administrative support for the conduct and operation of the House and its activities.

What's New from the House of Representatives provides an update of new or amended information on the House of Representatives website.
Information and Analytical Services from the Parliamentary Library include current and historical information about Senators and Members, Ministries, elections and referenda, papers produced in the Library's publications program, and guides to Internet resources.

Information made available here by the Parliamentary Library includes:

- Information from the Parliamentary Handbook
- Parliamentary Library publications - papers produced in the Library’s publications program, including Bills Digests, Background Papers, Current Issues Briefs, Chronologies ONline, Research Notes, Research Papers and Research Papers ONline.
- E-Briefs - electronic documents which provide background and commentary on current topics, as well as web links.
- Guides to Internet Resources - prepared by the Library's information specialists.
- Guide to Services - Senators, Members and Parliamentary Staff only
- Other Sources of Parliamentary Information
- Vital Issues Seminars
Range of styles on MPs' web sites

By John-Paul Moloney

Bob Brown's boasts about the time he won a regional schools hurdles final, Mark Latham's plugs a couple of books he's written and Jackie Kelly's features a little dog happily bounding across the screen.

These web pages are among 65 external sites owned by federal politicians which are linked to the official Australian Parliament House web site.

Created by office staff, supporters, family, paid web designers or the politicians themselves, the sites range in style and quality as much as the politicians they showcase.

Not surprisingly, the most impressive of the 51 House of Representative and 14 Senate sites belong to the Prime Minister and members of his Cabinet, whose sites are backed by well-funded government departments.

Some of the more interesting efforts belong to backbenchers and parliamentary newcomers, who seem to have the most to gain out of getting online, but in some cases struggle with limited resources.

A pioneer of personal web sites in the Federal Parliament is Senator Kate Lundy (Labor, ACT), the Opposition spokeswoman on information technology. She started her site in 1996 and still personally updates it every few days.

"The strength of the site is in the immediacy and the control of the content and I take full responsibility for my site's content," she said.

Although Senator Lundy's web page has been surpassed by more professional sites in the years since she created it, she's always pleased to see others joining her online. She believes more of the 226 federal Members should be online by now.

"I think that everyone who makes an effort in this regard is doing a good thing. I try to look at everyone's sites and if I have comments, they are constructive and positive," she said.

Senator Lundy wants IT support allocated to help all federal politicians get online and become more accessible to their electorates.

Parliament of Australia Senator Kate Lundy Parliament Home Page

Kate Lundy,
Senator for the Australian Capital Territory

Party: Australian Labor Party

Parliament Contact:
Tel: (02) 6277 3334
Fax: (02) 6277 3884
Email: senator.lundy@aph.gov.au

Electorate Office:
Unit A, Ground Floor, Law Society Building
11 London Circuit
Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6230 0411
Fax: (02) 6230 0413

Links
- Biography
- First Speech
- Date of Expiry of Senators' Terms of Service

External Links

By clicking on a link below you will leave this site
- The Australian Labor Party Home Page
- Senator Lundy's Personal Home Page
- Opposition Executive Home Page
Senator Kate Lundy’s Personal Home Page

Labor Senator for the ACT
SENIOR KATE LUNDY
Shadow Minister for Information Technology and Sport

Latest media releases...

- 24 August 2003 - Open and Up “World’s Biggest Library”
- 25 August 2003 - Media access to Soviet Ougmbiln Opin should end
- 25 August 2003 - Ougmbiln governnent standiend here a place to appeal
- 19 August 2003 - Creating a Government will pull Big Telecom’s support in this area
- 14 August 2003 - Senate inquiry into oem enterprise area
- 12 August 2003 - Creating a new role for senator with a role in IT development
- 11 August 2003 - Senator will now meet with Meltdown in order to pass

Children: Everyone’s Responsibility

For our victims, I need your feedback!

the future’s in the net

What does our future hold? I ask myself this question all the time. Are we confident, contented or标题? Let me know your thoughts! I have designed my web site to suit me to communicate with you. Contact me via email at kate.lundy@alp.org.au

navigation hints...

The blue text or at bottom of the page to link you to the contents of this web page. Specific links are available at the top of the page.

The following is an index to the topics which are covered throughout these pages.

Contacting me: kate.lundy@alp.org.au

Kate Lundy is the Australian Labor Party Senator for the Australian Capital Territory, Australia.
PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY - PARLIAMENT OF SAMOA

Seletuta TAUNUU

Assistant Parliamentary Librarian

Legislative Assembly of Samoa

Introduction
Talova lava! I extend to you all the greetings of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. I am Seletuta Taunu, Assistant Parliamentary Librarian for, the Parliament of Samoa. I am privileged to be here at this important conference and I hope that you will gain some insight into our Library operations. I assure you that any recommendation for improvements will be welcomed.

Brief Background
Samoa has a population of approximately 173,000 according to the 2001/2002 Census and is represented in Parliament by 49 Members. We have a unicameral Parliament elected under First Past the Post system. Currently, the Government holds 30 seats, the main Opposition party holds 12 and there are 7 Independents.

The Government of Samoa is a democratic one founded on Christian principles and Samoan custom and tradition. The Supreme Law of the nation is the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa and the Legislative Assembly of Samoa is constituted under Articles 42 and 44 of that Constitution.

Department of the Legislative Assembly
The Speaker of Parliament appoints the officers that work in the Department on the recommendation of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Our Department is independent of the public service which effectively means we are all responsible to the Clerk and the Speaker. The Parliamentary Librarians are directly responsible to the Deputy Clerk.

Parliamentary Libraries
There are 2 Parliamentary Libraries - one houses the Samoan Collection and the other the International Collection. I am responsible for the International Collection which comprise of a variety of foreign legislation, serials, reference books, New Zealand hansard etc...
There is no Internet in either Library but last month, the Clerk approved the installation of the Internet for the Library housing the International Collection for members use only. This will be very helpful for me as I feel that we are out of without the Internet.

We had requested assistance from the CPA for a professionally trained librarian to develop an effective system of indexing and cataloging for our libraries. One Juliet Scaife, Tasmanian Parliamentary Librarian visited us in April 2002 and made several recommendations one of which was to "heavily weed" the collections in both libraries and most importantly, installation of the Internet.

The task now being undertaken by some of our staff is weeding of both libraries including the Archives (part of Library one which houses the Samoan collection). It is hoped that once that process is completed, it will be easier to index as there will be more space on the shelves.

Currently we use the Dewey Decimal System (manual) to reference our books. However, we have since received one complete computer set and printer from AusAID and this should greatly assist us as we have also ordered the DBText Inmagic Programme which should greatly assist our indexing and the supplier promised that it should arrive by the end of September.

**Conclusion**

Although, we are not digitalized yet, I feel that we are moving towards the right direction with the approval of the installation of the Internet and the ordering of the DBText programme. I hope that training will be provided once these new things are installed 50 that Members of Parliament and staff can access the information they require. It will also provide the very important email service.

I feel that the main topics on the agenda for this conference are not very applicable to our library but I hope that by listening to the presentations this week, I will gain an invaluable insight into the roles of your libraries in enhancing democracy in the digital age.

Soifua.
Session 5
The last session allowed Mrs. Berin Yurdadog to evaluate the Conference and share her ideas with the delegates on Conference theme.

"Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen

This is the last day of our long but fruitful meetings; and we are all very happy to be able to share our ideas and experiments with each other in such a friendly atmosphere. During the meetings the problems discussed awakened the same sort of sympathy in our hearts, while the achievements shown made us all very proud of our colleagues.

To day we are in mixed feelings: We are happy, of course, to be able to put an end to the hectic period of getting up early, rushing to attend the meetings, looking up for the last minute distribution of papers. Yet in a way we are sorry to realize that these nice days of sharing will soon be over, and take their places among our cherished memories.

The theme of the 7th Biennial APLAP Conference was, as you all know "The Role of the Parliamentary Libraries in Enhancing Democracy in the Digital Age". To tell you the truth I was scared that in the frenzy of digitization; while everything was turning up to be e-something, this conference could be the victim of the mode, and end up to be an e-conference.

Please don't misunderstand me. I am not against digitization. I see it as a challenge. The digital revolution, like all other preceding revolutions, will enforce us to abide with its own rules and regulations. The digital age, the natural outcome of the digital revolution, enforces us to get digitized. But I don't think that getting digital in processes should be an excuse to lose the human touch as we interact with each other.

As you all know, the most effective type of communication is face-to-face as we have the advantage of obtaining feedbacks immediately. Sometimes a look, a twinkle in the eye, a raised eyebrow, and a half-formed smile can tell you a lot more than a whole book could. According to the feedback you get, you can modify your discussions to make them more meaningful.

It is a wonderful feeling to meet someone personally, whom you have already known by name. Knowing a person by name, by his or her writings, by the ideas put forward in those writings is fine; but knowing the person behind those ideas counts much more.
Conferences give wonderful opportunities to be friends with the people whose ideas are so near to yours.

I, personally, am very happy to be able to meet you all here, in Turkey. Though you are all much younger than I, I feel a warm friendship is established among us.

Therefore, I greet you all not as my colleagues only, but as my friends also. I greet you all as the distinguished members of the elite groups of your respective countries. You are the people "to address the changing and challenging environment for libraries and information systems and services in the digital age, with emphasis on examining contemporary problems, advances, and solutions... and how to change for the better" as it was pointed out in Dubrovnik, Croatia, last September. Digital Libraries belong to an emerging digital culture. Information seeking and information retrieval have to be integrated effectively. This year, again in Dubrovnik, Croatia, interactive, cognitive and relevance revolutions have been discussed. All the countries are aware of the danger called "the digital divide" so it is imperative that the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights is enforced. Everyone is talking about globalization, enhancing democracy, creating equity by means of recognizing equality etc. yet the gap between the "info-rich" and "info-poor"; between the "haves" and "have-nots" is getting bigger and bigger. The "information society" is oriented towards the accumulation of knowledge and increasing degrees of sophistication in information processing, which allows data to be organized and readily communicated. Within this information society networking logic allows libraries and information units to interrelate with users through a common digital language that prepares, saves, processes, retrieves and transmits information. As Patricio Aranda Torres points out, Parliaments and their libraries and information services can take opportunities to contribute to strengthening of democracy by providing information on the political process direct to citizens, meeting the demand in society for transparency with respect to policy making.

What is expected of you as librarians is overwhelming. But people believe in you and your profession. Because it is taken for granted that the librarianship is one of those professions which do not accept retirement. Let me clarify that! In librarianship, as in medical profession, you may retire from your post, but not from your service. Because librarians, like doctors, accept their jobs as missions, and they find themselves compelled to give service when and where a need is expressed. And to have a mission like that requires a high degree of dedication.

So once again, I want to thank and salute you all as the dedicated missionaries paving the way leading to goodwill, understanding, friendship, democracy, equity and equality! Good luck to you all, and bon voyage!"
CLOSING SPEECHES
Speech by Mr. R. C. AHUJA, President of APLAP at the Closing Ceremony of the Seventh Biennial APLAP Conference, Ankara, 12 September 2002

Respected Director of the Turkish Grand National Assembly Library and Documentation Centre, Mr. Ali Riza Cihan, Distinguished Delegates, Distinguished Colleagues from the Turkish Grand National Assembly Library and Documentation Centre, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have now come to the end of the Conference. It is the time to briefly review what we have done and also to say thank you to the hosts.

Friends, the Conference witnessed highly scholarly and informative deliberations on the theme "The Role of Parliamentary Libraries in Enhancing Democracy in the Digital Age." During the sessions, we have had interactive discussions on various aspects of the theme, the state of digitalization in the individual parliamentary libraries, various issues involved in formulating Digital Information Policy and the impact of digitalization on democracy. The collective deliberations of the Conference lead us to the conclusion that democratic institutions, norms and practices get strengthened by application of technology in information management.

The deliberations during the Conference were rewarding in more ways than one. The theme of the Conference was the first of its kind insofar as APLAP is concerned. It was a unique event not just because it was the first opportunity for us to address in a regional context issues and challenges facing us with regard to digitalized information, but also because it allowed us to appreciate the importance of developing cooperative mindsets.

For us, it was also an important occasion to share our experiences, compare our strengths and weaknesses and also to consolidate efforts towards enforcing regional and international sharing of resources.

Apart from highlighting the progress made in the digitalization of the conventional form of information management in our national parliamentary libraries, our deliberations
also focussed on the impact of digitalization process on democratic governance and helped us understand our contribution in ensuring interaction between the Parliament and the People.

The Conference was instrumental in providing a conceptual framework to evolve requisite strategies to combat potential bottlenecks in digitalisation of information.

Friends, I am sure, the lessons learnt during the Conference will equip us to respond to the complexity of technical challenges in the way of making parliamentary libraries compatible to requirements of information management and delivery in the digital era. The deliberations will also make us aware of the fact that by providing information and resources necessary for free and unrestricted dialogue on all issues of concern to the legislators and the people, we in a way facilitate preservance of intellectual freedom and make our humble contribution to the successful operation of parliamentary democracy.

We express our deep gratitude to the Honorable Speaker of Turkey, Mr. Omer Izgi, the Turkish Grand National Assembly and the people of Turkey for so graciously hosting the 7th APLAP Conference.

We are also grateful to the Hon’ble Deputy Speaker, Secretary-General and other dignitaries of the Turkish Grand National Assembly for the generous hospitality extended to us.

Dear delegates, but for your cooperation, understanding and meaningful participation, it would not have been possible to organize and conduct the proceedings in a smooth manner. I convey my congratulations to all of you for touching upon, during the proceedings, in a scholarly manner, the various sensitive facets of the role of parliamentary librarians in the digital age.

The conclusions reached at during the deliberations would certainly be very useful in understanding our duties and also the expectations from us.

I also express our gratitude to the members of the Organizing Committee for extending exceptional hospitality to the delegates and maintaining extremely high standards of arrangements for various events of the Conference.
The delegates are overwhelmed by the warm hospitality and graciousness of the Turkish people.

We hope to further strengthen the cordial relationship established amongst us during the Conference.

I would especially like to thank the respected Director, Mr. Ali Riza Cihan, for his tireless efforts in making this Conference a success. The Officers and staff of the Turkish Grand National Assembly Library and Documentation Centre also deserve wholehearted praise for working with tremendous dedication.

Before I conclude, I would like to invite all of you for the next APLAP Conference in India in 2004.

Thank you.
Closing Speech by Ali Rıza CIHAN, Director of the Library and Documentation Center of TGNA

Mr. President,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of the 7th Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP).

I would like to thank you, my colleagues, for your contributions by your presentations and comments to make our conference a more productive and successful one.

I hope the presentations of the key not speakers on the opening day, and the presentations you made during the conference, and lastly, the discussions and exchange of views among you, the participants have been beneficial for all of us to gain a comparative perspective regarding the digitalisation endeavours in our respective parliaments.

In the wake of this conference, as it is stated among the objectives of the APLAP, I have no doubt that new relations among our parliaments would be established on the basis of a more sound understanding and cooperation.

It was a pleasure and a real honour for us to host this conference and coming together with our friends from the Parliamentary libraries of the Asia and Pacific.

I think that you all would leave the Conference with new insights and beautiful memories of Turkey. To bring about such a conclusion is a marvellous achievement for us. In your high presence, I would like to thank all of my friends who participated in the conference and accomplished their tasks with a great zeal and sacrifice.

As you know, today is the last day of our Conference but in official terms only. We are going to make a nice trip to the Cappadocchia region and have joyful times for two days.

Once again, I thank all of you for your participation and contributions in the Conference and convey my regards with the hope of meeting in the 8th APLAP Conference in India.
BUSINESS MEETING
Business Meeting  
Thursday 12 September at 10:30  
Turkish Grand National Assembly, Ankara, Turkey

Draft Minutes
The President, Mr. R. C. Ahuja (India) welcomed members to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of Business Meeting held at 6th Biennial Conference.
The Minutes of the Business Meeting held on 5 October, 2000 Tokyo were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Treasurer's Report
The Treasurer, Mrs. Sait Poh (Ruby) Cheah-Khoo tabled her report (Appendix A). In summary total revenue was US$7,100.00 and total expenses US$1,971.50 which, when taking into account the previous balance of US$8,489.61, leaves APLAP with a balance of US$13,618.11.

The Treasurer pointed out that bank charges were reduced considerably as many members are now using electronic funds transfer to pay their subscriptions. She encouraged all members to use this method.

President's Report
The President tabled his report (Appendix B). The President summarised activities which had occurred since the 6th Biennial Conference including:

- Distribution of the Communique from the 6th Biennial conference;
- Production of the report of the 6th Biennial conference by Mr. Horimoto and his colleagues in the National Diet Library;
- Requests for help from the Fiji Parliamentary Library and some responses from members of APLAP;
- Presentation of a plaque to Mrs. Boonruksa Chomchuen of the National Assembly of Thailand in recognition of her service to both the National Assembly and APLAP;
- APLAP Newsletter;
• The draft new constitution for APLAP;
• Offer from the Honorable Speaker of the Lok Sabha to host the next APLAP conference in India, and
• Thanks to all members and office bearers for their contribution to the work of APLAP.

Presentation to Mrs. Boonruksa Chomchuen
In her absence the President presented the plaque for Mrs. Boonruksa Chomchuen to Mr. Boonrueng Burapakdi, Director of the Academic and Information Services Bureau of the House of Representatives of Thailand.

Draft Constitution
The new draft constitution submitted by the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, headed by Mr. Rob Brian and the views/comments thereon received from members were circulated for discussion.

As the draft constitution was such an historical and significant matter the President announced that he would poll each member at the meeting. Members were asked to indicate their support or otherwise for the new constitution. The poll revealed that 10 representatives did not support the new constitution, one did support it, one left the matter to the decision of the Executive Committee and one abstained.

Dr. Karl Min Ku then moved the following motion:
"I move that this meeting is pleased to have had the opportunity to discuss the proposed new constitution but wishes to confirm that APLAP will continue to use the constitution currently in place. The draft constitution and the views received thereon will remain in our records for future considerations if required. Mr. Rob Brian and Mrs. Jean Chapman Mason are to be commended for their excellent work on the draft constitution."

The motion was approved with one abstention.

The General Body also decided not to re-constitute any Committee on this subject.
Election of Office Bearers
The President noted nominations received for new office bearers. However some nominations were invalid as those nominated had not indicated their acceptance of nomination, other nominations were for office bearers who had completed two terms and, according to the constitution, they could not stand for the same office again. Therefore, with the approval of the General Body, after calling for the nominations from the floor, the following office bearers were elected.

President : Mr. R.C. Ahuja (India)
Vice President (Asia) : Dr. Karl Min KU (Taiwan)
Vice President (Pasific) : Mrs. Jean Chapman Mason (Cook Islands)
Secretary and Treasurer : Miss Roslynn Membrey (Australia)

Communiqué
The draft Communiqué (attached) was approved. Members agreed that it should be sent to all member parliaments as soon as possible.

Committee on the Training and Promotions of Parliamentary Librarianship
The Committee on the Training and Promotion of Parliamentary Librarianship was reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Karl Min Ku of Taiwan, Mr. Takenori Horimoto of Japan, was also elected a member. Other members will be appointed by members of the Committee.

Next conference
The President announced that the 8th Biennial Conference would be in India in 2004. The theme and dates would be decided closer to the time.

Closing
The President closed the meeting after thanking all delegates and particularly noting the kindness, generosity and good organisational skills of the staff of the Library of the Turkish Grand National Assembly.
APPENDIX A

Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for FY 2001 and 2002
(as at 5.9.2002)

FY 2001-2002

A. BALANCE FORWARDED                        US$  8,489.61

B. REVENUE
   Institutional Membership Fee Collection
   a) Developed countries @ US$1,000 each  6,000.00
   b) Developing countries @ US$100 each   1,100.00

   Total Revenue                          7,100.00

C. EXPENSES
   1. Gifts                              200.00
   2. APLAP reception in Ankara           1,500.00
   3. Bank charge and commission          171.50
   4. Miscellaneous                       100.00

   Total Expenses                        1,971.50

   Total                                   5,128.50

   Balance                                13,618.11

Prepared by:
Ruby S P Cheah-Khoo
Treasurer

Noted by:
President, APLAP

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APPENDIX B

President's Report

The President, Mr. Ramesh Chander Ahuja reported on the matters and issues raised after the sixth Biennial Conference as follows:

"Distinguished Delegates,

I welcome you to this business meeting and thank you for all the cooperation you have extended to the Executive Committee in conducting the proceedings of the Conference so far. During the years under review, your Executive Committee attended to its various functions. I would briefly mention some of the items in this report. Soon after the conclusion of the 6th APLAP Conference in Tokyo in October 2000, copies of the communique along with letters from the President and the Secretary of APLAP were sent to all the member countries for their information. Our able Secretary-General Mr. Takenori Horimoto and his colleagues in the APLAP Secretariat in Tokyo brought out the report of the 6th APLAP Conference held in Japan which was circulated to all the members. I hope all of you have received the copies.

Request for help to the Fiji Parliamentary Library:

In May 2001 Ms. Veronica Qurau, Librarian of the Parliament of Fiji informed the APLAP that their Library had been severely damaged and all computers etc. had been destroyed during the coup there. She appealed to the APLAP for help in producing work manuals etc. and in setting up the collections. Prior to the coup, the Library had computers and was in the process of computerising its collections. The letter was addressed to Ms. Aurora, former President of APLAP, who forwarded the letter to all the Executive Committee members and to Dr. Karl Min Ku and Mr. Bruce Davidson. The Secretary-General circulated the letter to all the members requesting for extending assistance to the Fiji Parliamentary Library. We understand that some parliamentary libraries are in the process of extending help to the Fiji Parliamentary Library. Those members who have not yet responded to the request may consider doing so. No delegate from Fiji has come to participate in this conference. It would have been better if the librarian of the Fiji Parliament could have attended the conference and personally apprised the delegates about the present state of work in the Fiji Parliamentary Library.
Plaque
A few days back Mrs. Boonruksa Chomchuen sent a mail to the Executive Committee members informing that the name of the National Assembly Library of Thailand had been changed to be the Academic and Information Services Bureau and that she had been appointed an Advisor on Legislative System and that the new Director of the Bureau is Mr. Boonrueng Burapakdi. Following this, one of our distinguished colleagues, Dr. Karl Min Ku, requested the Executive Committee of APLAP to present a plaque of appreciation to Mrs. Chomchuen during this Conference as a mark of honour to her for her long-term contribution to the National Assembly Library of Thailand and for her loyal support to APLAP. The Executive Committee has considered the request and decided to present a plaque of appreciation to Mrs. Chomchuen on behalf of APLAP. The plaque would be handed over to Mr. Boonrueng Burapakdi for being given to Mrs. Chomchuen with our good wishes.

APLAP Newsletter
Four years ago the Australian Parliament Library agreed to publish the newsletter for APLAP. I have been advised by Roslynn that staffing changes made it difficult to produce the newsletter. However, Roslynn tells me that some changes have now been made and the newsletter will be published before the end of the year. Roslynn has also agreed to investigate the possibility of maintaining the APLAP web site

Constitution Committee
You may recall that during the business meeting of APLAP on 5 October 2000, the Chairman of the Committee on Constitution and by laws, Mr. Rob Brian had distributed a Paper proposing amendments to some provisions of the Constitution. The then President Miss. Simandjuntak proposed that the member countries write to Mr. Brian if they had any views in the matter and she had also proposed that the proposals about the amendment to the Constitution could be decided in Ankara in 2002. The Committee on Constitution was to be chaired by Mr. Rob Brian and had two other members, Mrs. Jean Chapman Mason from the Cook Islands and a member from the Korean Parliament. As conveyed by Mr. Rob Brian, the member on the Committee from the Korean Parliament retired before the Committee could consult. Mr. Rob Brian and Mrs. Jean Chapman Mason, with the help of her husband who is a lawyer, have drafted a new constitution for APLAP. Copies of the draft Constitution were circulated to all the Executive Committee members for their consideration. The text of the new Constitution was e-mailed and sent by post by Mr. Horimoto to all APLAP members on 3 September 2002
requesting those who are not attending the Ankara Conference to respond with their comments and opinions by September 5, 2002 and those who are attending the Conference to express their opinions and comments during this Conference. Mr. Rob Brian and Mrs. Jean Chapman Mason have really put in a lot of hardwork to come up with the draft in time for consideration by the members. The draft would be considered by the business meeting later in this session. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I thank Mr. Rob Brian and Mrs. Jean Chapman Mason for all the endeavours made by them.

**Venue of the next APLAP Conference**

Friends, so far APLAP has held 7 Conferences. These Conferences were hosted by Korea in 1990, Pakistan in 1992, Thailand in 1994, Australia in 1996, Philippines in 1998 and Japan in 2000. Turkey is hosting the present 7th Conference. When the matter relating to finding the next host was being considered, it came to the notice of Mr. G.C. Malhotra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. I may mention that we in the Indian Parliament Library are fortunate to have had him as our Director for several years. As many of you would recall that as the Director of our Parliament Library he participated in the IFLA and APLAP Conferences. I am very happy to inform you that on Mr. Malhotra's suggestion, the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Mr. Manohar Joshi has very kindly consented to host the 8th APLAP Conference in India in 2004. We would be very happy to welcome all the APLAP members - those who are present here and also those who could not come to the Conference - to India for the 8th APLAP Conference in 2004. The theme of the Conference and the month in which the Conference would be held would be decided later in consultation with the Executive Committee and the members would be informed well in time about this.

As you know the number of countries attending this conference is very less. It would be our effort to encourage as many more members as possible to attend our future conferences.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank all of you for the trust you reposed in me and the Executive Committee and also for the kind cooperation we received from each one of you during the last two years.

Thanks."
COMMUNIQUE

OF

THE 7th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
COMMUNIQUÉ

The objectives of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) are to:

- Encourage understanding of, and cooperation between, parliamentary libraries and research and information services attached to the National and State/Provincial Legislatures in the region.
- Consider any matters affecting the common interests or operations of Parliamentary Libraries.
- Initiate, develop, establish and support ideas, methods and techniques likely to result in the better functioning of Parliamentary Libraries generally, and in particular their effective provision of information relevant to the needs of the Parliamentarians they serve.
- Foster a clearer understanding of the respective needs and roles of members of Parliament and their Parliamentary Libraries by establishing a forum for better communication between the two.
- Provide a body which can speak and act on behalf of its several constituents on matters coming within the ambit of its authority.
- Advance the cause of Parliamentary Librarianship generally and liaise closely with IFLA and other bodies and associations with common interests.

The 7th Biennial Conference of APLAP was hosted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly in Ankara from 9th to 14th September 2002.

The theme of the conference was "The role of Parliamentary Libraries in enhancing democracy in the digital age".

Three distinguished keynote speakers were invited to address delegates on the conference theme. Their contributions expanded the theme and helped delegates to place their work in a wider context.

Delegates from each country represented at the conference presented a report on the conference theme.
Delegates have concluded that:

Recent developments in technology have made it possible for Parliamentary Libraries to have an important and valuable role to play in enhancing the Parliaments and their library services.

Parliamentary Libraries have two important functions:
1) They must preserve the memory of parliament and its proceedings.
2) They must ensure that all members of parliament have access to freely available information, analysis and advice.

Digitized information makes it possible for Parliamentary Libraries to provide improved services to legislatures and through them to the wider community, thus enhancing democracy in our member countries.

Therefore, the delegates at the 7th APLAP Biennial Conference will continue to work together to achieve the objectives of APLAP and to provide timely, relevant, accurate and accessible services to members of our parliaments by continuing to develop digitized services in their parliaments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President for Asia:</td>
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<td>Vice President for Pacific:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary and Treasurer</td>
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</table>

CALL FOR SUPPORT
The APLAP Executive Committee respectfully calls upon the Presiding Officers of the parliaments in the Asia Pacific region to support the work of APLAP and individual parliamentary libraries in their endeavors. All parliamentary libraries should be encouraged to provide digitized information, thus improving services to legislatures and through them to the wider community and enhancing democracy in our member countries.
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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY
LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PASIFIC
CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

1. NAME
The name of the Association is the 'ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC' It may be known by the acronym APLAP.

2. PURPOSE
The Purposes for which the Association is established are to

   i. Encourage understanding of, and cooperation between parliamentary libraries and research and information services attached to the National and State/Provincial Legislatures in the region.
(See Note 1)

   ii. Consider any matters affecting the common interests or operations of Parliamentary Libraries.

   iii. Initiate, develop, establish and support ideas, methods and techniques likely to result in the better functioning of Parliamentary Libraries generally, and in particular their effective provision of information relevant to the needs of the Parliamentarians they serve.

   iv. Foster a clearer understanding of the respective needs and roles of members of Parliament and their Parliamentary Libraries by establishing a forum for better communication between the two.

   v. Provide a body which can speak and act on behalf of its several constituents on matters coming within the ambit of its authority.

   vi. Advance the cause of Parliamentary Librarianship generally and liaise closely with IFLA and other bodies and associations with common interests.

3. MEMBERSHIP
   i) Institutional Members
   The chief librarian or equivalent in each of the legislatures in the Asia Pacific region is eligible for institutional membership of the Association upon payment of the prescribed subscription. Where a legislature does not have a
chief librarian or equivalent the Presiding Officers may nominate another officer as Member.
(See Note 2)
ii) Associate Members
Other interested administrative, library, research and or information staff employed in or working with the legislatures in the region may be associate members upon payment of the annual associate membership subscription. Membership subscriptions are prescribed in the By-laws.

4. OFFICES
In a General Business meeting held during each Biennial Conference Institutional members shall elect:

President
Vice President (Asia)
Vice President (Pacific)
Secretary and Treasurer

These office holders shall form the Association's Executive Committee and may coopt up to two Institutional members to serve ex officio on the Committee.

No person shall be eligible to serve longer than two consecutive terms of two years in the same office.

An Executive Committee member shall cease to hold office if s/he
i. ceases to be a member of the Association
ii. ceases to be employed in a legislature in the region
iii. resigns from the office
iv. is requested in writing to resign by no less than one third of the members in good standing.

5. CASUAL VACANCIES
Where a position on the Executive Committee falls vacant between biennial conferences, it may be filled for the remainder of the allotted term through a postal ballot of members to be conducted by the remaining members of the Executive Committee with nominations being called within 30 days of the vacancy occurring.
6. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICE HOLDERS
   i. President
      The President, on the authorization of the Executive Committee, shall issue
      statements, enter into negotiations on behalf of the Association and represent its
      views and opinions.

      Where the President undertakes such activities without prior agreement on
      policy at a biennial meeting, statements made on behalf of the Association shall
      be subject to ratification at the next general business meeting.

   ii. Other office bearers
      Powers of other office bearers are set out in the By-laws.

7. MEETINGS
   A conference of the Association shall be held biennially at such times and at such places
   as the Executive Committee shall determine following consultations with the host
   librarian/Director.

   During the course of the biennial conference, at least one general business meetings shall
   be held.

   The procedures and rules for meetings are set out in the By-laws.

8. STANDING COMMITTEES AND OTHER SUBORDINATE BODIES
   The members present at a General Business meeting may appoint Standing Committees,
   Working Parties, Task Forces, or make other appropriate arrangements, for carrying out
   studies or special tasks determined by the meeting.

   The Standing Committees and other bodies shall operate in accordance with the
   Association's By-laws.

   Note 1 - State or Provincial legislatures eligible for membership of the Association are
   those legislatures where powers are defined or established in conjunction with the
   national constitution.

   Note 2 - The Chief Librarian or Director may designate the Deputy Librarian or Deputy
   Director or equivalent to represent the legislature as Institutional Member.

   The designated person must have full authority to speak and act on behalf of the library.


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BY-LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY
LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

1. PROCEDURES FOR BIENNIAL CONFERENCES AND BUSINESS MEETINGS

1.1 Biennial conferences shall be held in alternate years, commencing in 1990 for
the purposes of.
   a. Determining Association policy, strategies and action
   b. Promoting interpersonal contact between members of the Association
   c. Permitting members to discuss matters of common concern and interest,
   d. Election of office bearers of the Association, and
   e. Discussion papers and presentations by participants and/or guest speakers.

1.2 Conferences shall be times, wherever possible, to coincide with a common
parliamentary recess and shall be hosted, by agreement, by each of the
participating Legislatures in rotation. The order shall be determined by the
Executive Committee in consultation with the host Librarian/Director of the
prospective venue subject to the endorsement of the respective Presiding
Officer and/or Library Committee.

1.3 Participants
   The following individuals may participate in a conference?
   a. Members
      In addition to Institutional and Associate members of the Association, members
      of the respective Secretariat may, with the concurrence of their Librarian
      or Director, attend open sessions of the conference and participate in the
      proceedings.
   b. Observers
      Attendance at open sessions by persons making application to attend shall be
      subject to the prior consent of the Executive Committee.
   c. Guest speakers
      The Host Librarian/Director may, at his or her discretion and with the
      concurrence of the Executive Committee, invite attendance at open sessions of
      such persons as are able to contribute by their professional expertise or special
      knowledge to the purpose and proceedings of the conference.
Conference fees
The Executive Committee may determine a conference fee for participation by non-members in APLAP conferences. No fees shall be charged to Institutional members.

1.4 Procedures
1.4.1 Not less than 90 days notice of every Biennial Conference specifying the place and dates of the conference and the business to be dealt with shall be given to members, the communication being sent to each members official address.

1.4.2 Chairperson
The President, or in the absence of the President, a Vice President shall take the chair at biennial conferences. In the absence of these officers, the members present shall choose someone of their number to be Chairperson.

1.4.3 Voting
Voting for offices shall be by secret ballot. Other voting shall be by show of hands. Where there is a tied vote, the motion shall have failed. A motion may be put by any member present and shall be seconded, but only one representative from each parliamentary institution shall be entitled to vote upon it. The Chairperson shall have the option of requesting that a motion be submitted in written form before accepting it for debate.

1.4.4 Quorum
A quorum shall be constituted by the presence of no less than one third of the institutional membership. No motion shall be accepted if a quorum is lacking.

1.4.5 Minutes
Minutes of the general business meeting, which shall be circulated to all members within 30 days of the meeting, shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be confirmed at a subsequent meeting.

1.4.6 Annual Report
The President shall present an annual report of the Association's activities and financial accounts in the first issue of the APLAP newsletter of each calender year.
1.4.7 Conference Organization
    The host librarian/Director for each conference shall in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Association:

1.5.1 Convene the conference, draw up its program, solicit contributions and papers and keep members informed of progress. Tours to libraries and information facilities of particular interest may be included in the program.

1.5.2 Conference papers shall be submitted in advance and shall be distributed to participants prior to the conference sessions. Papers are not to be read but are open for discussion following a brief address by the author.

1.5.3 The Executive Committee shall decide which papers are to be published as part of the permanent record of the proceedings of the conference. The Conference Chairperson shall be responsible for producing and distributing such record.

1.5.4 Conference proceedings may be taped or otherwise recorded, provided that conference participants shall have the right to have materials withheld from the permanent record.

1.5.5 A conference dinner will generally be arranged to coincide with the conference. Delegates may be required to meet the cost of the conference dinner themselves.

1.5.6 The conference organisers shall not be responsible for the expenses of conference participants.

2. SUBSCRIPTIONS
2.1 Subscriptions shall be due on 1 July each year.
2.2 Membership of either an Institutional or Associate member shall lapse if the annual subscription remains unpaid for twelve months.

2.3 The Annual Subscription shall be determined at each biennial conference and can be varied by vote of a simple majority of those Institutional members present.

2.4 The subscriptions for 1990/91 and 1991/92 shall be
   Institutional member - (US) 100.00
   Associate member - (US) 10.00

2.5 The Treasurer will circulate a subscription renewal notice in June of each year with full payment details.
3. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICE HOLDERS

3.1 The President chairs all meetings of the Executive Committee and at least the formal or business sessions at the biennial conference.

3.2 Vice Presidents
The Vice Presidents are required to act for the President as necessary and may be required to fulfil other duties, for example, Newsletter Editor.

3.3 The Secretary
The Secretary is responsible for the minutes of all business meetings of the Association and Executive Committee and for all correspondence and action agreed by a business meeting or the Executive Committee. The secretary maintains the roll of members and ensures that all meetings are convened in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws.

3.4 Treasurer
The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining the Associations financial records and for making payments with the authorization of the President of the Association. The Treasurer prepares an annual financial report on behalf of the Executive Committee and recommends the subscription fee schedule to each biennial business meeting.

3.5 Secretariat
Initially, the Secretariat shall be in the National Assembly Library, Republic of Korea.

4. ROLL OF MEMBERS

4.1 The Secretary shall compile and maintain a Roll of Members containing details of the name and position held by the member, the member's postal address and telephone, FAX and TELEX numbers where appropriate.

4.2 The Roll shall be used to prepare a membership list for distribution to all members at each biennial conference.

5. NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5.1 The Secretary shall call for nominations for the positions on the Executive Committee three months (90 days) prior to the date of the Biennial Conference.
5.2 Nominations, which do not require a seconder, may be made by Institutional members who are willing to stand for office. If a member wishes to nominate another member for office, the nomination must contain a statement by the nominee that he or she is willing to stand.

5.3 Nominations must reach the secretary 1 month (30 days) prior to the date of the Biennial conference and the secretary will immediately notify all Institutional members of the names of all nominees and will circulate a proxy form to enable those unable to attend the conference to vote.

6. VOTING BY PROXY
6.1 Institutional members unable to attend the biennial conference shall be permitted to vote for members of the Executive Committee by proxy. Proxies must reach the secretary prior to the official opening of the Biennial conference or business meeting, whichever is held first.

7. OPERATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND OTHER SUBORDINATE BODIES
7.1 Standing Committees and other subordinate bodies shall operate under terms of reference approved by the Association at a General meeting.

7.2 The Chairperson or Convenor of each Standing Committee or other subordinate body shall be an Institutional member of the Association.

7.3 Members of Standing Committees and other subordinate bodies may be drawn from the staff of Institutional member libraries in order to bring all available expertise to the benefit of the Association's affairs.

7.4 Standing Committees and other subordinate bodies shall be required to report to the President and the Association upon the completion of particular tasks, or annually, in relation to on-going activities.

Accepted in principle, 10 May 1990, Seoul, Republic of Korea
