

# IFLA GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES SECTION (GOVLIB)

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026



IFLA Section  
Government Libraries

## Contents

Message from the Chair .....	2
Inside GOVLIB: .....	3
Standing Committee Members 2025–2027 .....	3
GOVLIB officers .....	4
Committee Members .....	6
GOVLIB's work .....	13
IFLA resources for government libraries .....	13
IFLA standards and guidelines for GOVLIB .....	13
GOVLIB co-opted six new members for geographical and regional diversity .....	14
Standing Committee meetings .....	14
GOVLIB Annual Report (2024-25) .....	15
Shaping the future of libraries: IFLA strategy and trends.....	17
Feature article: Central Secretariat Library and Indian Digital Repositories .....	18
News and events.....	20
IFLA WLIC 2026 in Busan .....	20
Looking ahead to IFLA 100 (WILC 2027) in London .....	20
Rashtriya E-Pustakalaya: India's national push for digital reading access .....	20
In Memoriam: Sandra da Conturbia (1939–2025) .....	21

# Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings!!

Wish you all a very Happy New Year 2026!!

I have assumed responsibility of the Chair of IFLA-Government Libraries again in August 2025 after a gap of almost 10 years. I bring with me a passion to publish a newsletter again for our colleagues. This issue is published as an introductory issue and provide you valuable information about IFLA-GOVLIB Section. Government libraries and Librarians are facing one of the most demanding periods of our time. Governments are expected to make fast and evidence-based decisions, maintain information integrity, and communicate with transparency with the citizens. This is no longer a “good to have” responsibility for Government Librarians any more. Rather, it is the backbone of effective governance of any country.

In this issue, we highlighted the work of IFLA and the Government Libraries (GOVLIB) Section. We introduced our officers and members for 2025–2027 and shared updates from Standing Committee meetings. We also highlighted GOVLIB resources, guidelines, annual report and provided insights from WLIC 2025. A featured article on Indian Digital repositories at the Central Secretariat Library is included in this issue. You will also find news and events about IFLA and India’s Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya. In the end, please join for a tribute to Sandra da Conturbia, a former member of GOVLIB.

**Our community is growing, our visibility is increasing, and our commitment to government information excellence remains unwavering. I encourage every member to participate actively — contribute, join working groups, and help amplify the essential role of government libraries globally.**

Let us continue our efforts to support our colleagues’ informed governments and empowered citizens.

Warm regards,

**Sanjay K. Bihani**

Join the conversation with GOVLIB



[ifla.governmentlibraries@gmail.com](mailto:ifla.governmentlibraries@gmail.com)



[@IFLAGLS](https://www.facebook.com/IFLAGLS)



[@ifla-govlib](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ifla-govlib)



[@IFLA\\_GLS](https://twitter.com/IFLA_GLS)



[@iflagovlib](https://www.instagram.com/iflagovlib)

# Inside GOVLIB:

## Standing Committee Members 2025–2027

<i>Chair</i>	Sanjay Kumar Bihani	India	International Library Consultant (Ex-Diplomat), Delhi
<i>Secretary</i>	Llarina González Solar	Belgium	Head Librarian - Council of the European Union, Brussels
<i>Information Coordinator</i>	Deepak Kumar Shrivastava	India	Divisional Librarian & Head Government Divisional Public Library, Kota
<i>Member</i>	A Azli Abd Rahim	Malaysia	Chief Librarian, The National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN), Kuala Lumpur
<i>Member</i>	Ana Moce	Spain	Head, Innovation and Reading Promotion Programs Section, Library Service of the Department of Culture of the Generalitat, Catalonia
<i>Member</i>	Anna Mastora	Greece	Head, Department of Archives, Research and Documentation, General Secretariat for Communication and Media, Athens
<i>Member</i>	Bozena Adamiec	United Kingdom	Senior Librarian, UK Central Government, London
<i>Member</i>	David Alexander Smith	United Kingdom	Retired Senior knowledge and Information Management Professional
<i>Member</i>	Denis Clark	United State of America	Librarian, Library of Virginia
<i>Member</i>	Dolores Carungui	Philippines	Chief Librarian, Reference Division, National Library of the Philippines
<i>Member</i>	Harriet Susan Apio	Uganda	Senior Records and Information Officer, Uganda Registration Services Bureau, Kampala
<i>Member</i>	Jessica Carvajal	Chile	Head, Document Management and Customer Service Department, Santiago
<i>Member</i>	Mmaditshipi Seageng	South Africa	Library Manager, The National School of Government, Pretoria
<i>Member</i>	Lisa Massengale	United State of America	Deputy Assistant Director, The Knowledge Services Group (KSG), Congressional Research Service (CRS), Library of Congress, Washington, D.C
<i>Member</i>	Paola Lourdes Banegas	Argentina	Library Coordinator, Faculty of Humanities and Economic Sciences, Argentine Catholic University
<i>Member</i>	Saiyed Faheem Ali	India	Professor and Research Head, Department of Library Science, Madhav University, District Sirohi, Rajasthan
<i>Member</i>	Sunil Gorla	India	University Librarian, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lkhnow
<i>Member</i>	Vanessa Whittle	United Kingdom	Research Librarian, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Library, London
<i>Member</i>	Vincenza Lossa	Italy	Department of Education, Rome
<i>Member</i>	Zhang Shu Guang	China	Research Librarian, Department of Legislative and Reference Services, National Library of China

## GOVLIB officers



### **SANJAY KUMAR BIHANI, Chair**

Mr. Sanjay K. Bihani is a former Indian Diplomat and Library & Information Officer with over 35 years of service in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. His career includes assignments at the Ministry's Headquarters in New Delhi and at Indian Diplomatic Missions in Dhaka, Kathmandu, and London. He served as an Indian Diplomat in HCI London overseeing the Press & Information Department and India House Library during 2010-13, and later at HCI, Dhaka, where his responsibilities covered Consular and Cultural Affairs including Libraries during 2022-25.

Mr. Bihani is elected as Chair of the IFLA Government Libraries Section (2025–2027). He previously served as Vice-Chair of the IFLA Regional Division Committee for Asia and Oceania (2023–2025) and as a member of the IFLA Governing Board and Professional Committee (2019–2021). During this period, he played a significant role in the IFLA Governance Review, contributed to the development of IFLA's new Statutes, and supported section action planning and funding mechanisms. As Chair of IFLA Division V, he strengthened engagement with regional sections across Asia, Oceania, Africa, and Latin America, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

His contributions to Government Libraries include leading efforts to translate IFLA Guidelines into twelve languages, substantially improving global accessibility. He also brings extensive editorial experience, having served for approximately eight years with the IFLA Journal, during which he

peer-reviewed more than 100 research papers. His recent work includes the translation of the IFLA Strategy 2024–2029 into Hindi and Bengali to enhance regional outreach.

Having actively engaged in IFLA since 2005 and an IFLA Officer since 2011, he was awarded the "IFLA Scroll of Appreciation" for his distinguished contribution to IFLA's Governing Board and Committees, and dedication to improving government Libraries, the IFLA Journal and enhancing collaboration and networking within the Asia and Oceania region during the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Dublin, Ireland in August 2022.

He has undertaken professional, diplomatic, and IFLA-related assignments in more than 35 countries across all continents.



### **LLARINA GONZÁLEZ SOLAR, Secretary**

Dr. Llarina González Solar is an experienced librarian and researcher, currently serving as Head Librarian at the Council of the European Union. In this role, she coordinates projects to enhance access to information, managing a multicultural team and overseeing digital transformation initiatives.

She holds a BA in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage, a BA in Documentation, an MSc in Information Science in the Digital Environment, and a PhD in Knowledge Society. Her thesis explored the role of marketing in

library services, proposing a user-centred service model focusing on research support services, data management, open access, and publication strategies.

She has worked as a librarian at the Galician Regional Government and at University of A Coruña, where she handled cataloguing and reference tasks while developing research support services for students and faculty.

She has worked across various library settings, including academic, special, and government libraries, and is fluent in English, French, Spanish, and Galician. This background enables her to bridge the gap between academia and practical library management. With a passion for promoting access to knowledge and supporting researchers, Dr. González Solar continues to contribute to international publications as an author, editor, and peer reviewer.

With a strong foundation in both library science and research methodologies, she brings a comprehensive perspective to her work, combining practical expertise with a deep understanding of the evolving needs of libraries and researchers. Since 2023, she has been involved in IFLA, holding the roles of Information Coordinator (2023-2025) and Secretary (2025-2027) for GOVLIB Standing Committee.



### **DEEPAK KUMAR SHRIVASTAVA, Information Coordinator**

Dr. Deepak Kumar Shrivastava is a public librarian from India. He is widely acknowledged for transforming public library systems through inclusive, accessible, and community-centric

models. He currently serves as Divisional Librarian and Head, Government Divisional Public Library, Kota. He is also a Nodal Officer for Public Libraries of Kota Division in Rajasthan. He has also served as Sabbatical Professor at Federal University, Dustin-Ma, Nigeria and as Visiting Professor at Career Point University and Jai Minesh University, Kota.

An INLEI India Innovator and South Asia Mentor, Dr. Shrivastava actively mentors emerging library leaders and drives capacity-building initiatives across the region. He was awarded the "Most Creative Thinkers Award" at the first INELI convention held at Melbourne, Australia in 2016. He has received ASLIP Best Progressive Librarian Award (2024), IFLA Wall of Fame (2020) and is also listed among the top ten Next-Generation trailblazing public librarians of India (MSSRF - 2022).

Dr. Shrivastava has authored 16 books and over 140 peer-reviewed research papers, and has supervised more than 25 Ph.D. scholars. His work focuses on accessibility, digital transformation, public library policy, and services for marginalized communities, including persons with disabilities and underserved populations.

Dr. Shrivastava currently serves as President, Rajasthan Public Library Association (RPLA), Jaipur, and Vice President, Aksham Kalyan Sansthan, Kota. He is a Life Member of ILA, ASLIP, RPLA, SALIS, LPA, and the Nigerian Library Association (NLA).

He is recently elected to IFLA-Government Libraries Standing Committee for 2025-2029 and is currently serving as Information Co-ordinator.



## Committee Members

### A AZLI BIN ABD RAHIM



A Azli bin Abd Rahim is the Chief Librarian at the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN), Public Service Department, Prime Minister's Department, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Information

Studies (Hons.) from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Malaya.

With more than 25 years of professional experience in the Malaysian Public Service, Mr. Azli has served in prominent national institutions including the National Library of Malaysia, Parliament of Malaysia, and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). He is currently serving at INTAN on a secondment post.

Mr. Azli has played an active leadership role in the library profession at both national and international levels. He previously served as Assistant Honorary Secretary of the Librarians Association of Malaysia and as Secretary of the Library Visits Committee for the 84th IFLA World Library and Information Congress (2018) held in Kuala Lumpur. He was a Standing Committee Member of the IFLA Government Libraries Section (2019–2023) and is currently serving his second term (2023–2027).

In 2019, he presented the paper "Library2u@MITI: An Emerging Agent Towards Empowering Innovation" at the 85th IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Athens, Greece, and also contributed as a committee member to the IFLA WLIC Mid-Year Conference held in Westminster, London.

### ANA MOCÉ CERVERA



Ana Mocé Cervera is Head of the Innovation and Reading Promotion Programs Section in the Library Service of the Department of Culture of the Generalitat of Catalonia. She holds a Diploma in Library Science and Documentation from

the University of Barcelona and a Bachelor's Degree in Documentation, specializing in Information and Documentation Systems, from the Open University of Catalonia.

Her academic background is further strengthened by a Degree in Philosophy and Educational Sciences from the University of Valencia (Extraordinary Bachelor's Award) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Logic and Philosophy of Science from the same institution.

Ms. Mocé Cervera began her professional career in judicial libraries within the Department of Justice of the Generalitat of Catalonia, serving in the libraries of the Contentious-Administrative Courts of Barcelona, the City of Justice of Barcelona, and the Superior Court of Justice of Catalonia and the Provincial Court of Barcelona.

From 2017 to 2023, she was a member of the Generalitat's Commission of Specialized Libraries, contributing to the strategic reflection process on specialized libraries conducted between 2018 and 2020. Since November 2023, she has led programs focused on reading promotion, innovation in public libraries, support for specialized and school libraries, and the communication and promotion of library cooperation initiatives.

## ANNA MASTORA



Dr. Anna Mastora is the Head of the Department of Archives, Research and Documentation at the General Secretariat for Communication and Media, Presidency of the Government of the Hellenic Republic, Greece.

Her career includes prior roles at the National Library of Greece and the National Documentation Centre of the National Hellenic Research Foundation. She has also served as an adjunct lecturer at the University of West Attica and is part of the main teaching personnel at the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government.

Dr. Mastora contributes to professional standards as a member of the National Technical Committee (ELOT/TE22) for Standardization and participates in ISO/TC 46 subcommittees and working groups.

She holds a BA in Library Studies from the Athens Technological Educational Institute (Greece), an MSc in Information Management from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, and a PhD in Digital Libraries from the Ionian University, Greece.

## BOZENA ADAMIEC



Bozena Adamiec is a Senior Librarian within the UK Central Government, based in London. She leads a library services team and

provides strategic direction for information management, research support, and evidence-based decision-making across her department.

In her current role, she oversees information policy development, digital resource strategies, and service innovations that enhance access to authoritative, high-quality information for policymakers and operational staff. Prior to this,

she worked with the Royal Courts of Justice and the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, delivering specialized legal, policy, and justice-sector research services.

Ms. Adamiec holds an MA in Librarianship and Information Management and a Postgraduate Diploma in Arts Management. With extensive experience across justice and government environments, her professional focus includes information literacy, modernisation of library and knowledge services, and supporting policymakers in navigating complex information ecosystems shaped by mis- and disinformation.

## DAVID ALEXANDER SMITH



David Alexander Smith is a retired senior knowledge and information management professional with over 40 years of service in Government Library and Information Services. He previously served as Deputy Director of

Knowledge and Information Management in the UK Government and as the UK Government Head of Profession for Knowledge and Information Management.

His career spans extensive work across the UK Civil Service and the European Parliament, where he played a key role in strengthening professional standards, leadership, and knowledge governance within government information services.

Mr. Smith holds an MA from Dundee University and a Diploma in Librarianship (DipLib) from the University of Wales. He is a Chartered Librarian, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), and a Fellow of the Information and Records Management Society (IRMS). He also serves as a Trustee of CILIP.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Government Libraries, he was awarded an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the New Year Honours, conferred by King Charles.



## DENIS CLARK

### DOLORES DOLADO-CARUNGUI



Dolores Dolado-Carungui is Chief Librarian of the Reference Division at the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), where she oversees readers' services, the Children's Library, and services for persons with print disabilities.

She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of the East, a Master's degree in Library Science from the Philippine Normal University, and a Doctorate in Public Administration from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Manila.

Dr. Carungui began her professional career at the National Library of the Philippines and has remained a key figure in advancing inclusive and user-centered library services. Her international engagement includes active service with IFLA's Asia and Oceania Regional Division Committee (AORDC) and the Library Services for Persons with Special Needs Section since 2017. She also played a significant role in hosting the 2019 IFLA Mid-year Meeting in Manila, strengthening the NLP's global partnerships.

She currently serves as Vice Chair of IFLA RDCAO (2025–2027), is a Committee Member of the IFLA Government Libraries Section, and is part of the ASEAN–ROK Children's Reading Culture Development Committee. Notably, she was instrumental in the inclusion of the Philippines in IFLA's Library Map of the World in 2019.

## HARRIET SUSAN APIO



Harriet Susan Apio is a Senior Records and Information Officer at the Uganda Registration Services Bureau, Kampala. She brings extensive experience in records management, legal information services, and public sector documentation.

Prior to her current role, she served as a Documentation Officer at the Electoral Commission of Uganda and as a Law Librarian at the Law Development Centre, where she contributed to strengthening access to legal and institutional information.

Harriet holds an MSc in Information Science from Makerere University and is professionally committed to advancing effective records and information management practices within government institutions.

### JESSICA CARVAJAL LOBOS



Jessica Carvajal Lobos is Head of the Document Management and Customer Service Department based in Santiago, Chile. She is a librarian specialized in Systems Analysis, having graduated from the University of Playa Ancha in 1997, and

brings over 25 years of professional experience across the public and private sectors.

She is currently the President of the Chilean Librarians Association, where she leads national efforts to promote the development, recognition, and professional advancement of librarianship in Chile. Her expertise includes document management, collection development, service automation, digitization, and resource coordination.

Ms. Carvajal Lobos works in the Document Management Department of the Solidarity and Social Investment Fund (FOSIS), where she also contributes to the implementation of Chile's State Digital Transformation Law.

At the international level, she represents Chile as a member of the IFLA Government Libraries Committee and the IFLA Regional Division for Latin America and the Caribbean (IFLALAC), actively contributing to regional and global professional collaboration.

### LISA MASSENGALE



Lisa Massengale is Deputy Assistant Director of the Knowledge Services Group (KSG) at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. In this role, she

supports the delivery of authoritative research and information services to the United States Congress.

Previously, she served as Section Head of the Reference and Instruction Section within KSG, where she led multidisciplinary teams of reference librarians, law librarians, information technicians, and information specialists providing general reference and legal research support to Members of Congress and congressional staff.

Ms. Massengale holds a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her professional expertise lies at the intersection of knowledge services, research support, and evidence-based policymaking.

### MMADITSHIPI SEAGENG



Mmaditshipi Seageng is Library Manager at the National School of Government, Pretoria, South Africa. She brings over three decades of professional experience across academic,

government, research, and special libraries.

She began her career in 1988 as a Library Assistant at the former Medical University of South Africa, and subsequently served as Senior Librarian at the Department of Justice: Land Claims Court. Her career progression includes senior roles at Statistics South Africa, the Institute for Security Studies (Human Security for Africa), the University of the Witwatersrand School of Accountancy Postgraduate Library, and the Department of Water Affairs, where she served as Chief Librarian.

Ms. Seageng has made sustained contributions to professional leadership through the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA). She has served as an Executive Committee Member, National Chairperson of the Special Libraries Interest Group, and currently serves as a LIASA Board Member and Chairperson of the Special Library Sector.

In 2024–2025, she also serves as an Advisory Committee Member for the Department of Knowledge and Information Stewardship at the University of Cape Town, representing the Special Library Sector.

## PAOLA LOURDES BANEAGAS



Paola Lourdes Banegas (Argentina) has over 13 years of experience in Higher Education, Libraries, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). She holds a Bachelor's

Degree in Documentation and Information Management from the National University of Cuyo and is a Specialist in Higher Education Teaching in Education and ICT from the National Institute of Teacher Training.

Her academic background also includes postgraduate diplomas in Economics and Digital Transformation (Catholic University of Cuyo), Comprehensive Climate Change Management (National University of Quilmes), and Territorial Public Policy Management (National University of Salta), as well as an International Postgraduate Diploma in Public Policy Management. She holds a Data Science certification from the University of Pretoria, obtained through a scholarship. She is currently a doctoral candidate in Digital Transformation, Communication, and Education at the National University of Quilmes.

Since 2013, she has served as Library Coordinator at the Faculty of Humanities and Economic Sciences of the Argentine Catholic University (UCA). Since 2023, she has also been Library Coordinator at the Mendoza Agricultural Experiment Station and Data Curator of the Digital Repository at the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA). Previously, she worked as National Digital Repository Coordinator at the Argentine Geological and Mining Service (SEGEMAR) from 2018 to 2023. She is Coordinator of the Library at the Mendoza Experimental Agricultural Station of the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA).

In the academic field, she teaches "Professional Practice" at the Higher Institute of Networks & Informatics (ISRI) and "Management of Information Units II" in the Bachelor's Degree in Library and Information Science at the National University of Rosario.

At the international level, she was awarded Social Media Professional at the Infoawards 2021–2022. She is currently a member of the IFLA Government Libraries Committee – Regional Division for Latin America and the Caribbean, representing Argentina (2025–2029), and a member of the Steering Committee of Resource Sharing Collaborative and Voluntary Document Delivery (RSVCD) for the period 2025–2027.

## SAIYED FAHEEM ALI



Dr. Saiyed Faheem Ali is Professor and Research Head in the Department of Library Science, Madhav University, District Sirohi, Rajasthan, India. He is an accomplished academic in Library and Information Science (LIS), with

core research interests in information organization, digital libraries, and knowledge management.

Dr. Ali is actively engaged in teaching, research, and academic mentoring, with a strong commitment to nurturing research aptitude and professional competence among students. His work emphasizes innovation, critical inquiry, and the evolving role of libraries in supporting research, learning, and community engagement.

In addition to formal academia, Dr. Ali contributes to open and inclusive LIS education through online teaching platforms, including YouTube, where he shares practical, easy-to-understand lessons and guidance for students and professionals. His outreach efforts focus on making LIS concepts accessible, relevant, and application-oriented for a wider learning community.

## SUNIL GORIA



Dr. Sunil Gorla has been serving as University Librarian at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University since 2015. He holds a B.Sc. (Mathematics), BLISc, MLISc, Ph.D. in Library and Information Science, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Computer

Science.

Prior to this role, he worked as Deputy Librarian at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, from 1999 to 2015. Dr. Gorla has authored more than 50 research papers published in national and international journals and conference proceedings.

He is a recipient of the Norman Borlaug Fellowship of the USDA, awarded in 2007 at the National Agricultural Library, Maryland, USA, and the Commonwealth Professional Fellowship at Middlesex University, London, UK, in 2011. His academic engagements have taken him to the USA, UK, South Africa, Brazil, Greece, Malaysia, and Russia.

Dr. Gorla's professional interests include academic libraries, information literacy, digital libraries, knowledge management, e-learning, semantic web technologies, database management, open-source systems, open access initiatives, and agricultural libraries.

He is a Standing Committee Member of the IFLA Government Libraries Section, serving two consecutive terms (2019–2023 and 2023–2027).

## VANESSA WHITTLE



Vanessa Whittle is a Research Librarian at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Library, United Kingdom. DWP is a major central government department responsible for employment support, pensions, and social welfare policy and delivery.

She holds a Bachelor of Horticulture from Massey University, New Zealand, and a Master of Library and Information Studies from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Shortly after completing her studies, she relocated to the United Kingdom, where the majority of her professional career has been spent working in government libraries.

Vanessa brings practical experience in supporting policy analysis, research, and evidence-based decision-making within government. She is currently serving her first term as a member of an IFLA committee, marking an important step in her international professional engagement.

## VINCENZA LOSSA

## ZHANG SHUGUANG



Zhang Shuguang is a Research Librarian in the Department of Legislative and Reference Services at the National Library of China. She holds a Ph.D. in Folklore and brings interdisciplinary expertise in Mongolian Language

and Literature, Library Science, and Folklore Studies.

With over 30 years of professional experience, Dr. Zhang has played a key role in reference services and legislative decision-making support, providing evidence-based literature analysis and specialized research assistance to national legislative and policy-making bodies in China. She



is actively involved in capacity building, regularly designing and delivering professional training programs in reference services and legislative consulting for libraries nationwide.

Dr. Zhang is a long-standing Standing Committee Member of the IFLA Section on Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services (IFLAPARL), serving from 2017 to 2025. Her research portfolio includes participation in more than ten national,

ministerial, and institutional research projects, and he is the author of notable monographs such as *A History of Reference Work* at the National Library of China and *The Modern Inheritance and Significance of Nadaam*. Her publications focus on reference services, policy advisory work, cultural heritage preservation, and festival studies.

## GOVLIB's work



As professional section of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), GOVLIB champions this important sector by providing resources, guidance, and a collaborative network. The section promotes the value and work of government librarians, libraries and information services to other librarians, stakeholders and decision-makers in the field. GOVLIB aims to bring government librarians and their stakeholders together to ensure that decision-makers fully recognise the value librarians contribute to effective governance.

It seeks to embed advocacy by and for government librarians, strengthening professional visibility, improving perceptions and supporting the achievement of shared goals. At the same time, GOVLIB promotes increased collaboration between government librarians and related communities, enabling the exchange of best practice and learning from successful initiatives across the sector.

[Learn more about the GOVLIB Section](#)

## IFLA resources for government libraries

IFLA offers a range of resources tailored to support government libraries in their day-to-day operations. These include practical guides, research reports, and case studies that cover key issues such as information management, digital transformation, and user engagement.

[Explore IFLA resources for government libraries.](#)

## IFLA standards and guidelines for GOVLIB

For those looking to improve their library operations, the **Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments** provide a clear framework for best practices. These guidelines cover areas such as library management, information governance, and service delivery, helping libraries ensure they meet the diverse needs of public sector users.

The Guidelines for GOVLIB have been published as Professional reports in 11 languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, German, Japanese, Hindi...) that you can discover.

[Access the Guidelines and GOVLIB publications.](#)



## GOVLIB co-opted six new members for geographical and regional diversity

In a rigorous exercise for co-opting of members, GOVLIB has co-opted 6 new members to strengthen the SC membership to 20. There were 9 nominations/EOIs received for GOVLIB SC through the call for co-option circulated by IFLA HQ. The new members are co-opted from regions of America, Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa for geographical and regional diversity in the committee. The new members are co-opted for the term 2025-2029.

Earlier, Mr Bihani has contacted all GOVLIB Section members, Regional Division Committees and Regional Offices to circulate the co-option call for getting nominations /EOIs. GOVLIB welcomes the new members and looking forward to work with them.

## Standing Committee meetings

The first Standing Committee meeting of the IFLA Government Libraries Section for 2025–2027 term was held online on 9th September 2025. The meeting brought together officers and committee members to set priorities for the new term and to align future activities following WLIC 2025.

The Chair outlined the Section's strategic direction, highlighting the need to strengthen regional representation, increase overall membership, and improve internal engagement through regular meetings and effective use of Basecamp. Members were informed that the GOVLIB Action Plan 2025–2027 would serve as the primary framework for capacity building, member engagement, and programme development.

A key priority discussed was the planned review and updating of the Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments, including possible restructuring of chapters and expansion to reflect emerging developments.

Communication strategy was a major focus of the meeting. Basecamp was confirmed as the sole internal communication platform, while external outreach will be strengthened through emails, coordinated use of social media and mailing lists. The creation of an Instagram account was approved, and shared responsibility for social media management was agreed.

Initial discussions were also held on WLIC 2026 in Busan, noting the shorter congress format and the importance of early coordination within Division B.

A second Standing Committee meeting was held online on 14 November 2025. The meeting brought together committee members from multiple regions to review progress, align priorities, and initiate preparations for the 2025–2027 term.



The Chair shared key updates from Division B, the Professional Council, and the Governing Board, highlighting IFLA's preference for in-person meetings around WLIC, upcoming structural consultations, and the importance of officer participation in digital skills and impact training. Members were also briefed on WLIC 2026 (Busan) and the milestone IFLA 100 Congress in London in 2027.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment. Significant progress was reported on the co-option of new Standing Committee members, with strong regional interest received from across Africa, Asia–Oceania, Europe, and the Americas. To strengthen geographical balance, the Chair was authorised to finalise selections.

A major focus of the meeting was the Section Review, a mandatory self-assessment covering achievements of recent years. Members committed to contributing content collaboratively through Basecamp, with a submission deadline of 2 February 2026.

Discussions on collaboration with regional divisions and other professional sections emphasised the need for joint congress session at WLIC 2026. Potential thematic areas included artificial intelligence, policy support, reference services, and accessible library services. A small focus group was formed to advance this work.



The Committee also initiated planning for the GOVLIB Action Plan 2025–2027, prioritising achievable goals such as completion of the section review, co-option, revision of the Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments, inclusion of new chapters on AI and advocacy, and wider translation of the guidelines.

Under communication strategy, the launch of a GOVLIB newsletter was endorsed, along with renewed engagement on social media platforms. Strengthening internal participation through Basecamp and forming a small communications subgroup is identified as immediate needs.

Additional decisions included reviewing the status of inactive members and introducing recognition initiatives, such as a “GOVLIB Member of the Year”.

## GOVLIB Annual Report (2024-25)

by Jonathan Ginn, former Secretary and Interim Chair

Overall, I think it’s fair to say it was a relatively quiet year for the section in terms of events. However, following the cancellation of the 2024 WLIC in Dubai, we did nominate a panellist Greta Braungard, Academic Library Department Chair at the US Army War College to take part in the IFLA 24 Hours of IT event on 28 August 2024, on a Division B panel: “Artificial Intelligence and government, parliamentary and law libraries and official publications: A cross-sector conversation.” I would like to record our thanks to Greta for taking part.

### Changes in Committee members

Over the last year there have been a number of changes to the committee outside of the normal election cycle.

I will begin by mentioning Julia Hiltz who became Chair in 2023. Despite her best efforts, various health issues affecting her and her family meant she was unable to continue as Chair. She did plan to step down as Chair and from the committee this August but she brought this forward to May, and after following IFLA processes I took on the role of Chair in an interim capacity for the few months until August, besides continuing as Secretary. I’d like to thank Julia for her contribution to the committee and wish her and her family better health.

I would also like to thank Llarina who has continued in her valuable role as Information Coordinator throughout this time and given me valuable assistance during this time of uncertainty and change, such as taking the minutes for this meeting to allow me to chair it. I’m very pleased that Llarina will be the Section’s Secretary for 2025-27.

As previously noted during the January meeting, Dominic Hartley from the UK retired in September 2024 and also stood down from the Section. Dominic was Secretary from 2021-23.

Brad Hinton who was a long-standing Committee Member stood down in January 2025 as he left his post in the Australian government. I will echo Julia's comments at the time in wishing both Dominic and Brad all the best for the future.

Others who did not seek re-election this year and can be considered to have stood down from the committee include Reka Ramillon- Torhany from Luxembourg, Antonmichele de Tura from Italy, Hyun Ju Kim from South Korea and Ajay Singh from India.

Last but certainly not least Neil Murray from Belgium and the European Parliament will also be leaving the committee this month. Neil was Chair for four years from 2019-23. Although this period coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic and the cancellation or changes to the annual WLIC, nonetheless we did achieve successful events for the WLICs that did happen, namely online in 2021, in Dublin in 2022 and then Rotterdam in 2023. I'm sure I speak on behalf of the entire committee when I wish Neil all the best. Looking

at the incoming committee, congratulations to those who are beginning a second term covering 2025-29 – I believe these would be Lisa Massengale from the USA and Saiyed Faheem Ali from India. And of course, we have a considerable intake of new committee members – Paola Banegas from Argentina, Zhang Shuguang from China, Vanessa Whittle from the UK, Ana Mocé from Spain, Deepak Shrivastava from India and Dolores Carungui from the Philippines.

I believe this will be a very strong committee going forward and wish you all the best. Sanjay has considerable experience as a leader within IFLA and not least within Government Libraries. Llarina has been an excellent Information Coordinator since 2023 and I am sure will bring the same enthusiasm to the role of Secretary, and although Deepak is new to the Section I believe he is the right person to take on and continue to develop the communication strategy as Information Coordinator.

# Shaping the future of libraries: IFLA strategy and trends

IFLA has launched its **Strategy for 2024–2029**, guiding the Federation through its centenary in 2027 and towards the end of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Developed with input from members and volunteers worldwide, the Strategy reflects the priorities, challenges and aspirations of the global library field.

At its heart is a new vision: **Sustainable futures for all through knowledge and information**. It focuses on three impact areas:



**Impact Area 01: Libraries are connected and energised through vibrant, global professional communities**

**Impact Area 02 Libraries are recognised, represented and valued as partners**



**Impact Area 03 Libraries are enabled to deliver meaningful change at all levels**

This work is supported by a commitment to futureproofing IFLA, ensuring effective, transparent and innovative governance and partnerships.

The Strategy provides a flexible framework that libraries, associations and partners can adapt for their own planning. It emphasises international collaboration and positions libraries as key actors in supporting their communities.

[Discover IFLA's Strategy for 2024–2029](#)

The IFLA Strategy 2024–2029 is available in all seven official languages of IFLA. Six additional translations are available at the moment

[Access the IFLA Strategy translations](#)

The IFLA Trend Report 2024 and its follow-up survey “Trends and IFLA” explored how global trends may affect the achievement of the Strategy. Seven key trends were identified: changing knowledge practices, the transformative impact of AI, shifts in trust, growing complexity in skills, uneven digital access, environmental

pressures on information systems, and the importance of community connections.

Respondents highlighted the impact of technological change on capacity-building work and noted that trends affect different regions and activities in varied ways. This report serves as a tool for reflection and planning, helping libraries and associations anticipate change and respond effectively.

[Learn more about the IFLA Trend Report](#)

[Read “Trends and IFLA”](#)

Together, the Strategy and Trend Report provide a clear view of the future of international librarianship. The Strategy defines the goals and direction, while the Trend Report shows the emerging forces and challenges. Both emphasise collaboration, innovation and the role of libraries in promoting sustainable development, digital inclusion and equitable access to knowledge, supporting the field to make informed decisions and deliver meaningful impact worldwide.

# Feature article: Central Secretariat Library and Indian Digital Repositories

by Dr Ajit Kumar, Director, Central Secretariat Library, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi

The Central Secretariat Library (CSL) under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is one of the largest tangible treasures of knowledge next to the National Library, Kolkata, for Indian and foreign document resources. The resources of the Imperial Secretariat Library, Calcutta, which was established in 1891 during the reign of Lord Curzon and was recognised by the Imperial Library Act of 1901, are among the numerous ancient institutions that make up CSL.

The Act stated that

*It was intended that it should be a library of reference, a working place for students and a repository of material for the future historians of India, in which, so far as possible, every work written about India at any time can be seen and read.*

F.W. Forester, Curator of the Imperial Records Office, assembled about one thousand volumes lying about in the Writer's Building, Calcutta, received under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. The Imperial Library was established on May 11, 1891, and included this collection as well as a number of collections from other secretarial libraries housed in that building. The Home Departments collection, which together with the Imperial Library, was the most significant.

Books formerly belonging to the libraries of East India College, Fort William College and the East India Company Board in London formed part of the collection. When, under the Imperial Library Act, a new Imperial Library was established, the entire collection of the erstwhile Imperial Records Office was not transferred to the new library; rather, a portion of the collection was with the Imperial Secretariat Library, to distinguish it from the Imperial Library, and which continued to function in the Writers' Building.

On 1st April 1948, the library was named the Central Secretariat Library. In 1969 the library was shifted to the newly constructed Shastri Bhawan, housing the Ministry of Education; the 'G' wing of the building was allotted to CSL.

There are 8.48 lakh documents in the library's resources and collection, including books, reports, government publications, and international publications. There is also a section dedicated to rare books with 5,545 titles, the oldest of which was acquired from the Imperial Secretariat Library in 1702. It is located in the 'G' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, with two branches in R.K. Puram Library (Textbook Branch); Tulsi Sadan Library (TSL) – Hindi and Regional Languages Branch.



Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. [Source](#)



## Indian Digital Repository:

- Gazette of India: The Gazette of India is the official publication of the Government of India that carries the statutory orders and notifications. The Central Secretariat Library has digitised the Gazette from 1950 to 2002, and the data has been uploaded to the Department of Publication for online search for the benefit of the user and general public on [Gazette of India website](#).
- Committee /Commission Reports: The Indian Official Documents (IOD) Section of the Central Secretariat Library has a rich collection of (2827 approx.) reports of different committees and commissions established by the Government of India from pre-independence to post-independence. These resources have been digitised and are available through the [Central Secretariat Library digital collection](#):
- Rare Books: The rare book collection of CSL pertains to the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. CSL has a collection of 5545 such books which have been kept in closed access, i.e., the rare book collection in the Area Study Division of the Library. Out of these 5545 rare books, CSL has digitised 5395 rare books. [Access these digitized rare books](#).
- Gyan Bharatam: Gyan Bharatam is a national program to locate, save, digitise, and disseminate manuscripts in the National Digital Repository as living sources of knowledge for future generations. An important step in the preservation, digitalisation, and dissemination of the nation's vast manuscript history is the establishment of the National Digital Repository on February 1, 2025.

Ministry of Culture has organised the Gyan Bharatam International Conference on "Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy through Manuscript Heritage" from September 11–13, 2025 with the goal of preserving Indian manuscripts.

During this conference, the [Gyan Bharatam Portal](#) (National Digital Repository) was launched.



Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Shri Gajendra Singh Sekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Culture.

[Source](#)

Ministry of Culture has signed Memorandums of Understanding with roughly 20 institutions across the country on October 25, 2025, for the preservation, upkeep, and digitisation of manuscripts. Asiatic Society Kolkata, Government Oriental Manuscript Library in Chennai, University of Kashmir and Hindi Sahitya Sammelan are a few of these institutes.



# News and events

## IFLA WLIC 2026 in Busan

The 90th World Library and Information Congress (WLIC 2026) will take place in Busan, South Korea, 10–13 August 2026, at Busan Exhibition and Convention Centre (BEXCO). The Congress theme, “Libraries Powering Transformation,” reflects the crucial role of libraries in today’s rapidly changing world: promoting sustainability, digital literacy, inclusion, and access to knowledge for all.



Busan, a vibrant city where tradition meets innovation, offers a rich cultural backdrop for the Congress—from Haeundae Beach and historic Beomeosa Temple to the bustling Jagalchi Market. The programme will include peer learning, practical case studies, and presentations by leading experts, providing a unique opportunity for exchange, collaboration, and inspiration across the global library community.

Registration is now open:

- Early registration until 14 May 2026,
- Standard registration until 8 August 2026,
- Onsite registration available from 9 August 2026.

Follow #WLIC2026 and [WLIC2026 webpage](#) for updates and detailed programme information.

## Looking ahead to IFLA 100 (WILC 2027) in London

Looking further ahead, IFLA will celebrate its centenary in 2027 with WLIC 2027 in London, UK, returning to the country where the Federation was founded in 1927. Both events promise exciting opportunities to connect with colleagues worldwide, share knowledge, and explore the evolving role of libraries in building a sustainable and inclusive future.



## Rashtriya E-Pustakalaya: India’s national push for digital reading access

Ministry of Education, Government of India has launched Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya (ReP) as a key national digital reading initiative under the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) framework. The initiative reflects India’s strategic commitment to equitable, technology-enabled access to reading and learning resources.

ReP functions as a free, open digital library platform, offering curated e-books across age groups, subjects, and Indian languages. Designed for children, youth, and lifelong learners, the platform is accessible via web and mobile applications, ensuring nationwide reach regardless of physical library infrastructure.

Aligned with the principles of NEP 2020, Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya promotes reading culture, multilingualism, and digital inclusion. The initiative is supported institutionally through collaboration with the National Book Trust (NBT), strengthening content quality, governance, and sustainability.

For the global library community, ReP stands as a scalable model of state-supported digital public library service, demonstrating how national policy, publishing partnerships, and digital platforms can converge to reduce knowledge inequity—particularly in developing and multilingual contexts.

#### Relevance for IFLA members

- A replicable model for national digital public libraries
- Strong alignment with IFLA’s access, inclusion, and literacy agendas
- Demonstrates policy-driven integration of libraries into digital education ecosystems

## In Memoriam: Sandra da Conturbia (1939–2025)



The GOVLIB Section learned with great sadness of the passing of Sandra da Conturbia, who died on 23 August 2025 at the age of 86.

Born in Milan in 1939, Sandra built an outstanding international career spanning languages, political science and librarianship. Trained initially as a translator and interpreter of English and French, she later obtained a Master’s degree in Political Science from the University of Turin. Following her move to the United States in 1977, she pursued librarianship and earned a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Texas at Austin.

Sandra spent the latter part of her professional life at Texas A&M University, where she served in several senior roles at the Sterling C. Evans Library. She retired in 2006 as Director of the Policy Sciences and Economics Library, having previously worked as Senior Documents and Microtext Librarian. Her work reflected a deep commitment to access to government information, public policy resources and professional service.

She was an active member of the IFLA Government Information and Official Publications Section (1993-1997 and 1997-2001), where she contributed her expertise, international perspective and strong professional values. She also indirectly supported IFLA Government Libraries Section, her engagement was marked by collegiality, intellectual rigour and generosity of spirit.

Sandra will be remembered for her intelligence, wit and kindness, as well as for her dedication to librarianship and public service. She leaves a lasting legacy within the professional community and among the many colleagues and friends who had the privilege of working with her.

The GOVLIB Section extends its sincere condolences to her family and loved ones..

#### EDITORIAL TEAM

Sanjay K Bihani

Llarina González Solar

Deepak Kumar Shrivastava

