



NEWSLETTER OF THE IFLA SECTION ON LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICES FOR PARLIAMENTS

JULY 2014



MESSAGE FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

The [30th Pre-Conference of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments](#), hosted by and co-organized with the French *Assemblée Nationale* in Paris (12-14 August 2014), and the [80th IFLA World Library and Information Congress](#) in Lyon (16-22 August 2014) will take place in less than one month.

I am very pleased to report that the Section received many submissions to deliver papers during both events. Participants will hear presentations on crucial aspects for our work: relations between library and research services, strategies for engaging with citizens, access to legislative data and legal information, professional development and growth. Also, workshops and knowledge cafés, we provide us the opportunity to work in smaller groups to share ideas on practices, lessons learned and future challenges. Details about the programmes are in the "Conference supplement" attached to this newsletter.

We will have the opportunity, on 13 August, to learn about [the parliamentary library of the Assemblée Nationale](#), founded in 1796, and visit its beautiful venue and collections. The collaboration with the *Assemblée Nationale* to prepare the Pre-Conference has been excellent. I believe that our days in Paris will greatly benefit from the intense preparation of the past months.

Ahead of the Pre-Conference, on 12 August, the Section will hold, in partnership with the [Noria Programme](#) of the [Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie](#), a capacity development activity especially directed at library, research and information services from Francophone countries. I look forward to welcome in our network those parliaments that, thanks to this activity, will have the opportunity to join our event for the first time.

In addition, in the morning of 15 August, we will hold a [Workshop on Managing and Evaluating Library and Research Services](#), under the guidance of Ms. Lillian Gassie, Section Secretary.

The Section Standing Committee meetings will provide the time to take stock of last year activities and discuss short and long term plans. We will report on the participation to events such as the [World e-Parliament Conference 2014](#) and the [15th APLESA Conference](#), and discuss ongoing projects such as the [Guidelines for the Development of Parliamentary Research Services](#). We will make plans for the 2015 IFLA Congress in Cape Town, discuss participation in future events other than IFLA meetings, and share ideas on how we want to work in the future, starting from cooperation with organizations such as the [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#), the [Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments](#) and the UN/IPU [Global Centre for ICT in Parliament](#). These partnerships helped the Section in recent years to broaden its geographical boundaries, perspective and range of activities.

I wish to stress all projects and initiatives currently underway are only possible because of the successful collaboration that the Sec-

tion has in place with IFLA HQs, other IFLA Sections, partner organizations, and the Parliaments hosting its events, and of the efforts and teamwork of colleagues who accept to lead sessions, deliver papers, provide advice, represent the Section at meetings and events, and work on publications that we believe are needed. We shall be grateful to these institutions and individuals who strongly believe in inter-parliamentary cooperation as a key element for the advancement of legislatures, as they allow the Section to be an active element of this process.

Finally, I take this opportunity to send warmest congratulations to Mr. John Pullinger, former Chair of the Section, who took up his new position as National Statistician of the United Kingdom. To carry out this high level duty he had to leave the Parliament and the Section. While there is no doubt that the Section and colleagues will miss him, we wish John a long and successful tenure and good luck with this new endeavour.

Raissa Teodori

A Note from John Pullinger, 26 June 2014



I am leaving my position as Librarian at the UK House of Commons this week after ten years. It has been wonderful for me to serve as part of our parliamentary community making a unique contribution to well-informed democracy. In our own countries there are not other organisations that share our challenges, trying to work out how best

to inform MPs and the serve the public. This can be quite daunting and it has been our IFLA Section that has provided me with the support that comes from being able to discuss problems and solutions with others facing similar issues. I have been grateful to so many of you for the encouragement you have given to me. I have also greatly valued the opportunity to give something back to the Section and its members.

Through individual projects in countries as diverse as Iraq, Nigeria and Myanmar I have been inspired by those members of our Section who face much greater challenges that I do in the UK.

A highlight of my parliamentary career was the honour you gave me by electing me as your Chair from 2011-13. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know many of you much better and to represent our group to the wider IFLA organisation and beyond, especially with our friends in the Global Centre for ICT in Parliaments. I am disappointed that I will miss our events in France this summer. Raissa Teodori, with support from many of you, has put together a wonderful programme. I wish her and all of you every success this summer and beyond.

RECENT EVENTS

The World e-Parliament Conference 2014

National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, Seoul, 8-10 May 2014

The 2014 edition of the World e-Parliament Conference took place from 8-10 May 2014 at the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea in Seoul, co-organized by the [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) and the [National Assembly of Republic of Korea](#), in cooperation with the [Global Centre for ICT in Parliament](#). It built on the results of five previous conferences held respectively in [Geneva \(2007\)](#), [Brussels \(2008\)](#), [Washington D.C. \(2009\)](#), [Johannesburg \(2010\)](#) and [Rome \(2012\)](#), as well as on the activities undertaken by the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, a joint initiative of the IPU and the United Nations, since 2007.

Through these conferences, a forum of the community of parliaments on the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) was created and developed to address, from both the policy and technical perspectives, how ICT can help improve representation, transparency, law-making and oversight and increase parliament's openness, accessibility, accountability and effectiveness. Speakers of Parliaments, Secretaries general and high level decision makers, as well as representatives of national and international organizations, institutions and universities are members of this community and make sure that ideas, knowledge and experiences are shared at all levels.

The *WePC 2014* brought together about 300 delegates from 70 countries of all continents to discuss the theme "**Lessons learned and future horizons**", to share views on emerging and future challenges that parliaments will need to address, to keep pace with technological change in society, and to take stock of the capacity of parliaments to respond to citizens' calls for greater institutional openness and dialogue. Social media, open data, websites, access to documents and records, public information strategies, outsourcing, cooperation and ICT strategic planning have been the themes around which the event built its sessions and that animated the debate.

The IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments has been attending and contributing to all editions of the *World e-Parliament Conference* by organizing a Session in the program with a panel built around and by Parliamentary Library and Research Services from around the world. The *World eParliament Conferences* represent for the Section and its members a very relevant opportunity to meet colleagues engaged in the parliamentary environment on different issues, as well to make the voices of parliamentary library and research services heard by Speakers, Members of Parliament and Secretaries General.

For 2014, the Section was invited by the Inter-parliamentary Union to organize a Session under the theme **Innovation in research and library services: information discovery, organization and delivery**, focusing on ICT developments in the frame of evolving strategies to renew services to the benefit of an in-

formed Parliament. The session was introduced and moderated by Ms. Raissa Teodori, Chair of the IFLA parliamentary Section, and focused on two very interesting presentations delivered respectively by Mr. Alfonso Perez Standing Committee member of the Section and Director of the Library of the Chilean Congress and by Mr. Choi Young-Su, Director of the Legal Resources Development Division at the National Assembly Library of the Republic of Korea. A lively debate and Q&A session followed that raised interest in an audience made of MPs and parliamentary staff mainly from library and research, ICT and communication departments. Ms. Raissa Teodori, Chair of the Section, also had the opportunity to visit the National Assembly Library, and its magnificent location, to learn about its collections and the services offered to MPs and ordinary citizens, and to meet with the Chief Librarian, Mr. Changhwa Hwang.

Besides the session on libraries and research, IFLA and its members contributed in other ways to the success of the WePC.

John Pullinger, Librarian and Director General of Information Services of the House of Commons (UK) and former Chair of the Section and Standing Committee member, delivered a presentation in the session on **Adding social media channels to Parliament's communication strategy** providing an overview on the topic, with the [IPU Social Media Guidelines for Parliaments](#) in the background and with interesting examples of use in parliaments around the world, especially from the UK Parliament, including the Library.

At its highest level, IFLA was represented at the WePC 2014 by Ms. Donna Scheeder, IFLA President-Elect, who was a panelist in the plenary session on *Responding to new forms of citizen participation*, together with the Speaker of the UK House of Commons, Mr. John Bercow and a member of the Senate of Italy, Ms. Maria Mussini. Ms. Scheeder had the opportunity to present to the audience the [IFLA Trend Report](#) (right) and the work that IFLA is doing to keep track and analyze the changes in society linked to new technologies as well as to support and improve equal access to information around the world.



The agenda of the WePC 2014, presentations, documents, list of participants, pictures and highlights are available the Conference website at: <http://wepc2014.org>

RECENT EVENTS, CONTINUED

The 15th APLESA Conference, Zambia, 7-11 April 2014

Report by Karel Sosna, Director, Parliamentary Library of the Czech Republic



Mr. Karel Sosna speaking at APLESA

The 15th Annual Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Eastern and Southern Africa (see <http://www.aplesa.net/>) was hosted by the National Assembly of Zambia at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Lusaka from the 7th to 11th April 2014. The conference, held under the theme "Legislative information and Parliamentary Libraries: pursuing frontiers of knowledge", drew participants from Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, East African Legislative Assembly, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and observers from Ghana and from the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments. Simultaneous interpretation in three languages, English, French and Portuguese, was provided. The official opening of the conference was preceded by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia Dr Patrick Matibini, with remarks by the Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education Dr John Phir, the Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia Mrs Doris K K Mwiinga and the President of APLESA Mrs Esther Kamau (Parliament of Kenya). The first day of the conference ended by seven expert contributions on parliamentary libraries and research services mainly in Zambia and partly in Zimbabwe from three points of view: firstly from MP's, secondly from university teachers and thirdly from parliamentary librarians themselves.

An academic analysis of the websites in the more than ten Parliaments of the Eastern and Southern Africa, including of the websites of their Parliamentary Libraries, if they exist, was very interesting and inspiring in the morning of the second day. Two special presentations of the parliamentary librarians from Uganda and Botswana followed after that. Country Reports of all participating countries took place during the afternoon. Everybody could obtain general survey about the parliamentary libraries and research services in the fields like human, financial and information resources, automation and digitization, training, cooper-

ation with other parliaments and institutions, possible attendance of IFLA events in 2014. On this same day, Mr Karel Sosna, who attended the Conference as representative of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments, had the opportunity to present basic data about the Czech Republic, Czech Parliament and Czech Parliamentary Library.

The entire third day of the conference was dedicated to the Strategic Training Workshop, at first theoretically on the basis of the Strategic Plan of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments and then in group discussions and finally group presentations.

Next an excursion day was organized as a study visit to Kafue Hydro Power Station and tour to the Kafue National Park.

Administrative and organizational matters, such as communication from the APLESA President, presentation and adoption of the 14th Annual Report by the APLESA Secretary General, presentation and adoption of the Treasurer's Report, consideration of amendments to APLESA Constitution, discussion and adoption of resolutions of the 15th APLESA Conference had their turn in the last Conference day. Mrs Esther Kamau, from the Parliament of Kenya, was confirmed as a President of the APLESA, and the next APLESA Conference, in 2015, will be in Kenya.

On behalf of the Chair of the IFLA Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments, Ms Raissa Theodori, as IFLA representative Mr Karel Sosna presented the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments Report and Activities 2007-2015 and invited all participants to attend both its 30th Annual Pre-Conference from 12 to 14 August 2014 in Paris and the World Library and Information Congress, 80th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, from 16 to 22 August 2014 in Lyon.

The 15th Annual Conference 2014 of APLESA in Lusaka (Zambia) was characterized by great hospitality of organisers, impressive participation of the countries involved, high quality of all presentations and very intensive and interesting discussions. The primary mission of APLESA to establish a forum for professional networking and resource sharing amongst parliamentary libraries in the African sub-region met these requirements fully.



Mrs. Doris K.K. Mwiinga, Clerk, and Ms. Chama M. Mfula, Chief Librarian, of the National Assembly of Zambia at APLESA

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES

Congressional Research Service Celebrates Centennial

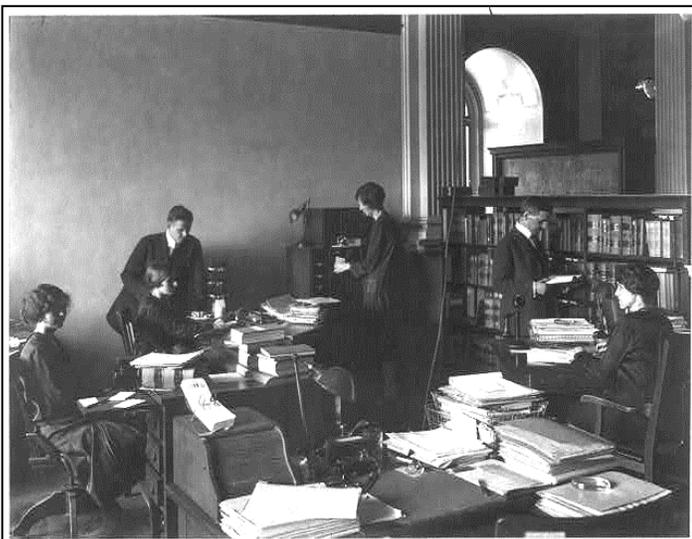


The United States' Congressional Research Service (CRS) celebrates 100 years of service to the U.S. Congress this month. When it was created as the Legislative Reference Service (LRS) on July

18, 1914, the small unit of the Library of Congress provided what its name conveyed: reference information to assist Members of Congress in their legislative work. Over 100 years, LRS evolved into today's CRS, a staff of more than 600 analysts, lawyers, information professionals and support staff who provide nonpartisan policy analysis to the U.S. Congress exclusively. Democratic governments throughout the world have followed the example set by the U.S. Congress, establishing professional, nonpartisan legislative research agencies that emulate the CRS model.

To commemorate the anniversary, CRS prepared a publication and exhibit about its history and held several internal events.

"CRS provides a unique service to all Members of Congress in their roles of both making laws and overseeing their implementation. CRS epitomizes the singular American tradition of practical wisdom by sharing disciplined thought without a partisan agenda, but with qualitative judgment that can be understood by all who work for the legislative branch," said the Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. "These distinguishing qualities place CRS at the heart of the Library of Congress's mission to support Congress and further the progress of knowledge and creativity."



LRS staff at work, 1925

Oireachtas Library & Research Launches OPAC

By John McDonough, Head of Collections, Oireachtas Library & Research Service



An Ceann Comhairle Seán Barrett TD at the OPAC Launch

Last November, the Oireachtas Library & Research Service (L&RS) launched its online public access catalogue (OPAC). The OPAC launch was the culmination of a series of works and policies progressed by the L&RS in developing its public fac-

ing role and services. The OPAC was launched by the Ceann Comhairle (Speaker of the House) and Diarmaid Ferriter, Professor of Modern Irish History, University College Dublin. Guests included senior managers from cultural institutions, historians and librarians in addition to departmental officials.

The launch of the OPAC was a major initiative for the Oireachtas. For example it :

- provides the research community and the public with access to a comprehensive body of reports, pamphlets, maps and other documents;
- promotes the accessibility and transparency of documents laid before parliament;
- promotes and facilitates self-service across government departments, academics and other users who contact us for copies of documents laid or historical material;
- enables the Oireachtas to leverage value from its investment in the parliamentary collections.

Background

The L&RS delivers information and research services to support the work of both Houses of the Oireachtas, Committees and individual Members in respect of their parliamentary duties. Like other parliamentary library & research services, the L&RS provides legislative briefings, in depth analysis of statistics or copies of the latest journal articles or newspaper articles. However we also hold a valuable collection of older material with historical or statutory significance.

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OTHER INFORMATION

Help Update the World Directory of Parliamentary Libraries



The World Directory of Parliamentary Libraries is an electronic directory containing basic data on the parliamentary libraries of sovereign states

(at the moment: 192 states). Alongside information on contacting the libraries, it includes figures about collections, budget, services, special collections, etc. The Directory allows users to find the most important information about parliaments' libraries or research services and, by clicking on the links, to access the web pages of the libraries, where available, for further details. The Directory is useful to all only if it is kept up to date by representatives of parliamentary libraries. The Directory is maintained by the library of the German Bundestag. Members of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments are requested to check their records in the Directory, and update them if necessary, by going to the links below:

- http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/documents/library/wdpl (English)
- http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_f/documents/biblio/wdpl (French)
- http://www.bundestag.de/dokumente/bibliothek/world_directory (German)

Oireachtas Library OPAC, continued from p. 4

Public Facing Role

In 2011 we received permission from the Oireachtas Management Committee to develop our public facing role. The central element of the public facing role was to publish the library catalogue online.

As the Oireachtas ICT network placed all our online resources behind secure firewalls, there was a body of technical works required

to move the relevant collections to a new location on the network to ensure the material could be accessed. The OPAC module of our Library Management System was also customised to ensure it was appropriate for both internal and public usage and to ensure that there was clear demarcation between public and private documents.



Home screen of the L&RS OPAC (<http://opac.oireachtas.ie>)

The OPAC makes over 80,000 individual items and in excess of 6 million page scans available to the general public and it represents one of the largest digital archives in the State.

We are the only parliament or assembly in the British Isles to share its catalogue and online resources in such a comprehensive manner. Take up of the new service has been very positive with over 2000 downloads per month.

To coincide with the launch, three online exhibitions were prepared which focused on selected elements from the collections, under the themes of *Maps and Mapping*, *Ireland and the Crown*, and *Building Modern Ireland*. In 2014 we will explore the publication of more of our research papers on line to proffer the breadth of parliamentary documents and research papers to the general public.

Editor's note: The full version of this article is available at the Section's website: <http://www.ifla.org/node/8760>.

CONNECT AND SHARE

- Check out the Section's website <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments>
- Sign up for the IFLA PARL2 discussion list which is open to all members as well as others interested in the Section <http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments/mailling-lists>
- Contribute news about your library and/or research service

CONTACT US

Have a question?
Got news and photos to share?
Found an interesting way to do something?

Raissa Tedori, Chair (raissa.teodori@senato.it)
Lillian Gassie, Secretary (lgassie@gmail.com)

CONFERENCE SUPPLEMENT

August 2014 is conference time! The Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments has been preparing for both the IFLA conference in Lyon as well as the Section's pre-conference in Paris. Below are some of the events you can expect.

IFLAPARL Quick Guide to the 2014 Section Pre-Conference and IFLA WLIC

Paris, France

12 August	Training Day/Capacity Building Activity, all day (invitation only), 8:45-17:00 Pre-Conference registration, tour and welcome reception, 17:00 – 21:00
13 August	First full day of pre-conference, 09:00-18:00; Dinner reception, 20:00-22:00
14 August	Second full day of pre-conference, 08:45-17:30
15 August	Workshop on Managing and Evaluating Library and Research Services, 8:45 – 13:00, Hotel Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel

Lyon, France

16 August	Standing Committee Meeting I, Session 43, 15:15-17:45, Salle Rhône 4
18 August	<i>How Safe is the Law? Authentication of Official Gazettes: A Worldwide Report, with particular attention to the technical and practical aspects</i> , Session 102, 13:45-15:45, Forum 2
18 August	<i>Libraries for Democracy: Engaging Citizens</i> , Session 106, 16:00-18:00, Amphithéâtre
19 August	<i>Access to law at the digital cross roads: Innovative solutions to complex challenges</i> , Session 121, 09:30-12:45, Forum 1
19 August	Standing Committee Meeting II, Session 156, 16:45 - 18:15, Salle Bellecour 2
21 August	<i>Learning Challenges for Librarians and Library Managers - a Knowledge Café</i> , Session 225, 13:45-15:45, Forum 1

2014 IFLA World Library and Information Congress

The WLIC, 80th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, will be held in the Lyon Convention Centre, France, 16-22 August 2014. Standing Committee meetings are planned for Saturday, 16 August and Tuesday, August 19, while the opening ceremony and exhibition opening will take place on August 17.

This year's conference theme is "Libraries, Citizens, Societies: Confluence for Knowledge". In keeping with the theme, our Section is participating in the following sessions:

- [Session 102, 18 August](#), 13:45-15:45 – *How Safe is the Law? Authentication of Official Gazettes: A Worldwide Report, with particular attention to the technical and practical aspects* – Law Libraries with Government Information and Official Publications, Library and Research Services for Parliaments and Information Technology
- [Session 106, 18 August](#), 16:00-18:00 – *Libraries for Democracy: Engaging Citizens*—Library and Research Services for Parliaments
- [Session 121, 19 August](#), 09:30-12:45 – *Access to law at the digital cross roads: Innovative solutions to complex challenges* – Law Libraries with Parliamentary Libraries, Information Technology and Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE)
- [Session 225, 21 August](#), 13:45-15:45 – *Learning Challenges for Librarians and Library Managers - a Knowledge Café* – Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning with Library and Research Services for Parliaments and Knowledge Management

We hope to see many colleagues from parliamentary libraries at these and other sessions at conference. Information about the full programme, registration and travel/hotel reservations can be found on the IFLA website at <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla80>

CONFERENCE SUPPLEMENT, CONTINUED

2014 Annual Pre-Conference and Activities of the IFLA Section for Library and Research Services for Parliaments

In conjunction with the WLIC, the Section is planning its annual pre-conference activities that will take place in Paris, graciously hosted by the French National Assembly. As with past practice, there is no registration fee to attend the pre-conference, but participants must register via the pre-conference website, <http://preifla2014-en.assemblee-nationale.fr/>. Additional information on the program, events, travel and lodging is also posted on the site. The Section is grateful for the sponsorship of the French National Assembly and looks forward to visiting the National Assembly and learn about its services and activities.

The preconference includes multiple events.

Training Day, 12 August 2014

In partnership with the Noria Programme of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, the Section will hold a capacity building activity titled "Management and development of parliamentary information centres". This activity will focus on requirements and strategies to enhance the capacity of parliamentary libraries, research services, information and documentation centres to respond to parliaments' information needs. Special attention will be given to management, promotion and innovation of services. The event, is directed at parliamentary libraries, research services and information centres, with special regard to francophone countries.

Welcome tour and reception, 12 August 2014, evening

The pre-conference will begin on 12 August 2014 with a tour *Palais Bourbon*, with a presentation of rare books in the Library of the French National Assembly, followed by a welcome reception.

First full day of the pre-conference, 13 August 2014

Our host, the French National Assembly, will present information about the French Legislature, the Library and Archives of the National Assembly and the activities and services offered. The day will end with the pre-conference dinner and reception.

Second day of the pre-conference, 14 August 2014

This will be a very busy day, filled with presentations on the theme "**Research and Library Services working together to meet client needs**". Participants will hear from colleagues across the world on how both research and library services are aligned to serve parliamentarians.

To allow for even greater participation, attendees are encouraged to take part in **PARL Talk**. PARL Talk is an open session for participants to share information and ideas related to parliamentary libraries and research services. Participants may sign up for a 5-7-minute slot to talk about any topic that may be of interest to other participants. The topic may be about the participant's library, an announcement, a new service or development, a special project, or even a question that the participant would like to get answers from the audience. Participants may sign up in advance of the pre-conference; if additional slots are available, potential participants may sign up during the pre-conference itself. Participants are welcome to use audio-visual materials, and may distribute handouts at the session. If you are interested in participating in PARL Talk, please contact Lillian Gassie at lgassie@crs.loc.gov.



Additional Workshop, 15 August 2014, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

This half day Workshop on **Managing and Evaluating Library and Research Services** will cover practical issues related to the management of parliamentary libraries, in particular the 2014 Workshop will discuss two important topics: (1) understanding client requirements and managing client expectations, and (2) evaluating library and research services. The Workshop will be held at the Hotel Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel

