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

JULY 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

Very warm greetings to you all in what is, in London at least, a very warm summer!

It's that time of year again when our thoughts turn to the IFLA annual World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in August and our satellite meeting immediately beforehand. As you know, this year's theme for our section is *"Transforming parliamentary libraries and research services to meet changing clients' needs"* and I'm looking forward to hearing about some interesting projects and initiatives that colleagues have been working on. That's one of the great things about the Congress and our pre-conference – the opportunity to meet many of you, find out what's new, share experiences, see how you are tackling the challenges we all face, and, above all, learn from each other. You can probably tell that I'm starting to get excited by the new things I will learn from you all in Kuala Lumpur! But even if you are not able to join us in Kuala Lumpur you are still able to share in the experience and the learning – by following the sessions on social media or by reading the proceedings and presentations on the website afterwards. And don't forget the online discussion list, which provides easy access to all our IFLAPARL colleagues, one of whom may have exactly the answer to the question you want to ask.

In the meantime, please enjoy all the news from colleagues in this newsletter – maybe something here might spark an idea that could help you in your institution? I hope so. Very best wishes and I hope to see many of you next month.

Steve Wise Chair, IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

How to join the Section

If you are already an IFLA member, but not a Section member, please go to http://archive.ifla.org/III/members/form2a.htm to register as a member of the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments.

If you are NOT an IFLA member, you have to become a member before joining any Section, see http://www.ifla.org/membership/new-members

Share and connect

- Check out the Section's website: http://www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments

- Sign up for the IFLAPARL discussion list, which is open to all members as well as others interested in the Section; http: //www.ifla.org/services-for-parliaments

- Contribute with news about your library and/or research service: e-mail Steve Wise, Chair, iflaparl.chair@gmail.com or Karin Finer, Secretary, karin.finer@europarl.europa.eu

IFLA CONFERENCES 2018

IFLAPARL PRE-CONFERENCE

The Section will be holding its annual pre-conference in the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia, on 24th August 2018 (between 11:00 and 17:30). The venue is the same as for 84th IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), but there is no need to register or pay a fee to attend the pre-conference.

The pre-conference theme is **'Transforming parliamentary libraries and research services to meet changing clients' needs'.** There will be a presentation by our colleagues from the Malaysian parliamentary library, followed by two workshops on a) parliamentary research and library service ethics and b) understanding parliamentary clients' changing information needs.

You will find the draft programme and more information about the venue and the workshops here: https://www.ifla.org/node/37070. The day will finish with the first of the two Standing Committee meetings to be held during the Congress. All Section members are welcome to stay and participate.

As the pre-conference is only one day this year, the Section is also planning to arrange informal networking 'get-togethers' during the main congress. More news will follow shortly, so please watch out for e-mails from the IFLAPARL list and keep an eye on the Section's web pages.

Transform Libraries, Transform Societies -
"Reaching Out To The Hard To Reach"

84TH WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS (WLIC)

The 2018 WLIC will be held in Kuala Lumpur between the 24th and 30th of August. The IFLAPARL Section will as usual hold its own open session, this year entitled 'Transforming Library & Research Services for Parliamentary Impact'. It will be a knowledge sharing session, with a mixture of short presentations and group discussions. We can look forward to engaging and interactive presentations from Canada, Brazil, Japan, Philippines, UK and the European Parliament.

Below are Congress sessions that IFLAPARL members may find relevant and interesting;

Friday 24th August;
* 11:10-17:30. Session 003a: **34th Annual IFLAPARL Pre-Conference; 'Transforming parliamentary libraries and research services to meet changing clients' needs'** - including IFLAPARL Standing Committee Meeting I. Plenary Theatre

Saturday 25th August;
* 08:30-10:00. Session 068: Newcomers session. Ballroom 1
* 10:30-12:00. Session 069: Opening Session. Plenary Hall
* 13:45- 15:45. Session 074: Impact of recently approved IFLA standards. **Lillian Gassie and John Bagonza presenting on IFLAPARL guidelines**. Ballroom 1
* 16:15-18:00. Session 084: Opening of Exhibition - Party. Exhibition Halls 1 & 2

Sunday 26th August;
* 08:30- 09:15. Session 090: IFLA Highlights Session. Plenary Hall
* 09:30 – 12:00. Session 091: Motors of Change: Changing Ourselves to Change Our World. IFLA President's Session. Plenary Hall
* 13:45-15:15. Session 112: IFLA Global Vision. Plenary Hall. The launch of the next phase of the Global Vision
* 16:00-18:00. Session 126: Social networks – looking for the next big thing. Ballroom 2. Joint Division I and Division IV Session

IFLA CONFERENCES 2018, CONTINUED

84TH WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS (WLIC)- CONTINUED

Monday 27th August;

* 08:00-10:30. Session 132: **IFLAPARL Standing Committee Meeting II**. Room 303
* 11:45 – 12:45. Session 150: Role of government and law libraries in times of crisis and turmoil. Joint session between Law Libraries and Government Libraries — featuring conversation with new Law Librarian of Congress, USA. Plenary Theatre
* 19:00-23:00. Session 175a: Cultural Evening. Offsite

Tuesday 28th August;

* 09:30- 11:30. Session 187a: UN Sustainable Development Goals - Transforming Societies through Informed Policy. Conference Hall 2. **Joint session with Government Libraries Section. Presentations from the Parliament of Uganda and the National Diet Library, Japan**
* 11:45-12:45. Session 196: Knowledge Cafe 2018 – Continuous Learning for Successful Information Professionals in the Knowledge Economy. Ballroom 2. **Joint session with Knowledge Management & Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Sections**
* 13:45 – 15:45. Session 210: Transforming Library & Research Services for Parliamentary Impact. Conference Hall 1. **IFLAPARL open session – presentations from Canada, Brazil, Japan, Philippines, UK and the European Parliament**

Wednesday 29th August;

* 08:30-10:30. Session 222: Let's work together: collaborating and partnering to achieve IFLA's vision. Conference Hall 1. IFLA President-Elect's Session
* 16:15 – 17:30. Session 249: Closing Session. Plenary Hall

IFLA GLOBAL VISION

IFLA is continuing its innovative work on the Global Vision for a united library field! In this second year of the global vision discussions, the focus is on **ideas for actions**. The IFLA Global Vision report summary was launched the 19 March at the IFLA President's meeting in Barcelona. It reflects the views on how a connected library field can meet future challenges from over 31000 participants from 190 UN Member States across seven continents. Discover the top ten highlights and opportunities for the library field by downloading your copy.

Following the kick-off event in Barcelona, the aim is now to build a vaste 'ideas store of actions' to realise the opportunities of the Global Vision. As the next step, concrete action plans on how to put the vision into practice will be developed and presented during the IFLA congress in Kuala Lumpur (see timeline below).

From the start, our Section has taken a very active part in the Global Vision discussions. IFLAPARL's Standing Committee contributed recently by submitting a second report with ideas for actions, and many of you and your colleagues participated in the online voting and other activities last year.

Find out what's in store for Global Vision in 2018, follow the latest Global Vision news and keep the discussion going!

KICK- OFF WORKSHOP	6 REGIONAL WORKSHOPS	WLIC 2018 GLOBAL VISION OUTCOMES REPORT GLOBAL CALL FOR IDEAS	ANALYSIS & DESIGN OF GLOBAL VISION ACTIONS	LAUNCH IFLA STRATEGY 2019-2024
MARCH 2018	APRIL - JULY 2018	AUGUST 2018	SEPTEMBER 2018 - MARCH 2019	AUGUST 2019

GLOBAL VISION ACTION PLANS DEVELOPMENT

By Karin Finer. Secretary. IFLAPARL

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

ECPRD SEMINAR, LONDON

The annual European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) seminar in 2018 was a joint House of Commons and House of Lords event, held at the UK Parliament between 21 and 22 June, entitled **'Parliamentary Research in a Digital Age'.**

The conference was attended by around 70 delegates representing 35 Parliamentary bodies from around Europe. It was divided into four sections during which 14 speakers shared their knowledge on the following topics:

- **Marketing & Communicating Parliamentary Research** – looked at ways of marketing parliamentary research products and shared best practices about parliamentary blogs, websites and the use of social media.

- **Disappearing Information** – considered the key challenges and opportunities that parliamentary libraries, archives and research teams face in preserving information for the future.

- **Using Infographics and data visualisation** – explored novel forms of data visualization and how data science competences might be used in parliamentary research.

- **Parliamentary Libraries on the move** – reviewed the impacts, both positive and negative, on research and library services that relocation and new ways of working can bring to both staff and customers. This included a presentation of the anticipated implications of the Restoration & Renewal programme in the UK (intended to fully restore and refurbish the Palace of Westminster, the UK's Parliament building), along with the experiences of other parliaments who have undergone similar changes.

By Richard Cracknell. House of Commons Research Service. UK

WORKSHOP – PARLIAMENTARY & GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES, BERLIN

The German Section of Parliamentary and Government Libraries (Arbeitsgemein-schaft der Parlaments- und Behoerdenbibliotheken APBB) organised a workshop during the 107. Annual German Library Conference in Berlin in June 2018. The workshop was hosted by the Berlin State Parliament. Under the main topic **'Digital working environment - new roles for government librarians'**, five topics were discussed on round tables:

- the role of reading rooms and library offices
- new qualifications for government librarians
- new services in parliamentary and government libraries
- strategy and marketing
- cooperation and networking

Some examples of discussed questions: How can we deal with smaller spaces? How can we present our electronic media and services better? How can we attract users to the reading room? What qualifications do government librarians need in the future?

In the Conference Center the section held an open session on "Digital first for parliamentary and government libraries". Presentations gave an overwiew on national and international consortia, on the services "Ebook central" and "vub Paperboy" and about acquisition of electronic media in the German Bundestag Library.

You will find the presentations and outcomes here: www.apbb.de

By Christine Wellems. Information Service. Parliament of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. Germany

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED

18TH APLESA CONFERENCE, GABORONE

The Botswana National Assembly, in conjunction with the Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA), were honored to host the 18th APLESA Conference at the Grand Palm Hotel in Gaborone, Botswana from 28TH May to 1st June, 2018 with the theme: "**Realigning Parliamentary Library Services towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.**"

The Conference was attended by librarians from the Parliaments of Angola, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Mozambique, Pan African Parliament, Malawi, Seychelles, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zimbabwe. These Parliaments are the institutional members of APLESA.

A number of presentations were made and delegates participated through plenary discussions, and brainstorming sessions. Guided tours were organized that included a visit to Moremi Gorge and University of Science and Technology On-line library. The modern University library collection was all digitalized except for just 10% of collection being in print format. It was worth visiting , especially since parliamentary libraries need to re-align their services towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

One of the outstanding issues of the conference was the presentation and discussion of the draft APLESA constitution 2017. APLESA needed to amend its current constitution to address terms of reference for the Office bearers; Election Guidelines and Process and the financial management among others. The General Assembly failed to dispose of this issue and it was referred back the executive Committee so that it forms an item on the agenda for the 19th APLESA Conference 2019 in Uganda.

Secondly, it was observed by delegates at the conference that APLESA should be more visible in regard to benefits accruing from being a member. It was unanimously agreed that the next APLESA conference in 2019 in Uganda should have a pre-APLESA conference workshop on strategic planning. APLESA needed to do this to come up with a Strategic Plan. In conclusion therefore, the General Assembly made a number of resolutions as follows;

1) That Executive Committee should Plan activities that demonstrate benefits accruing from membership to APLESA (e.g organizing a Training Day as a Pre-APLESA Conference activity every year)
2) That APLESA should consider revising upward the annual subscription fees to meet the demands of the Association;
3) The Executive Committee should institute a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of APLESA activities and plans;
4) That the 2018 Annual Report, Work Plan and Budget be adopted putting into considerations the issues raised;
5) APLESA Executive Committee to resiliently communicate strategic issues, concerns and plans to authorities of member Parliaments in ample time;
6) That Uganda hosts APLESA conference 2019- and Zimbabwe in 2020. To that effect, the Executive Committee should officially communicate to the National Assembly of Zimbabwe to host APLESA in 2020.

Secretary-General Simon Engitu presenting the Draft Constitution

By Simon J. Engitu. Secretary-General. APLESA

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED

MEXICAN LEGISLATIVE MUSEUM RE-OPENING

As good law is superior to all men, those issued by our Congress shall be such that will oblige towards constancy and patriotism, to moderate opulence and poverty. Sentiments of the Nation, 1813.

When the first independent parliament was established, José María Morelos y Pavón, hero of Mexico's independence who called himself the Nation's Serf, proclaimed a document named "Sentiments of the Nation", which was a compendium of ideas for the country's freedom and human rights for its inhabitants. It is now considered one of the most important Mexican texts of politics.

The **Legislative Museum** was named **"Sentiments of the Nation"** and was inaugurated in 1994 in order to disseminate Mexico's parliamentary history, from the Pre-Hispanic period up to the Twentieth Century.

In 2006, this museum became part of the General Directorate that gathers the libraries, research services and archives of the Chamber of Deputies. The time's flow made it necessary to remodel the way its content was presented to the new generations. On February 28th 2018, the museum was reopened with the presence of outstanding personalities from the cultural and political spheres.

The Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Edgar Romo García, stated that the Legislative Museum is not intended just as an exhibition of items but, rather, the material should directly engage visitors and relate to their own experiences. Additionally, he said that it will be an invaluable centre of information - a living collection, open to everyone, and inclusive of everything that can enrich it, with the aim of enhancing public education and participation.

María Cristina García Cepeda, Mexican Minister of Culture, asserted that Mexico defines itself through its cultural diversity, which has formed our identity and is our inheritance, and stated that the Legislative Museum provides a new way to explore and discover the past, to better understand the present and to look towards our future.

By José María Hernández Vallejo. Documentation, Information and Analysis Services. Chamber of Deputies. Mexico

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SPAIN—MEXICO

Last year, during the second day of the annual IFLAPARL Pre-conference in Warsaw, there were our traditional interactive group discussions that allow participants to get to know each other. As a result of one of these activities, there was an approach between delegates from Mexico and Spain that enabled a joint venture.

On May 15th, 2018, in Mexico City, Mateo Maciá –Director of Documentation, Library and Archive of the Congress of Deputies of Spain - offered a keynote speech to librarians, researchers and archivists of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies.

The speech, under the title "**Spanish Parliamentary Documentation**", included a historical journey through the Spanish Parliamentary Library's services and heritage, as well as a description of the current information services offered. There was also the opportunity to listen to Miguel Angel Gonzalo –webmaster of the Congress of Deputies – who shared knowledge about the main contents of a parliamentary webpage. Furthermore, they offered a sample of the impact that transparency has had in the public sphere by talking about their experiences in answering citizens' requests on parliamentary information.

By Fabiola Rosales, Chamber of Deputies, Mexico

MEETING OF ARGENTINE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES, BUENOS AIRES

On April 27, the 1st Meeting of Argentine Parliamentary Libraries was held at the Library of Congress, Argentina. It was organized by the Library of Congress and by the the Association of Legal Libraries of the Argentine Republic. The meeting discussed "**Legislative Libraries in the Argentine Provinces**" and "The importance of networking".

There was also an exhibition on "**The Network of Parliamentary Libraries of Latin America**" by Verónica Kulczewski Vasquez (Chile), Avelina Morales Robles (Mexico) and Cecilia Izquierdo (Argentina).

By Cecilia Izquierdo. Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación. Argentina

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES/RESEARCH SERVICES & PARTNERS

BUILDING EXPERTISE NETWORKS IN A DIGITAL AGE

The Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, one of five research departments of the European Parliament that work directly for parliamentary committees, is using social media to strengthen and expand its expertise network.

The 'policy department' model is a European Parliament innovation, designed to support parliamentary committees by providing both in-house and contracted external expertise. The research programme is controlled by the committees themselves, and provides them with in-depth and independent high-level expertise. The Policy Department for Structural & Cohesion Policies is integrated with the committee secretariats in the Directorate General for Internal Policies.

The Policy Department relies for its work on a *network of expertise* that spans several boundaries - it connects with the committee Members, their supporting staff and the political groups; the other EU institutions; academic experts, thinktanks and consultancies; NGOs and stakeholder organisations; the mainstream media and published knowledge. Social media provides opportunities to strengthen and extend this network, and to communicate research products more effectively. Social media is used for:

a) **Keeping up-to-date** on current research and policy issues;
b) **Sourcing existing knowledge** as raw material and avoiding reinvention/ duplication;
c) **Identifying research contractors** and encouraging competition;
d) **Communicating products** to Committee Members (both directly and indirectly through the network);
e) **Exposing the products to scrutiny** (and use) by scientific/policy experts as well as stakeholders, NGOs and citizens.

European Parliament online services have value and are not replaceable by social media but social media provides a very useful complement. Corporate online services are more useful for broadcasting than listening - social media *listening* provides intelligence on new research and policy issues developing in the network. (It is a common first assumption that use of social media is just to broadcast products, but this is an under-estimation of its value). Corporate online also provides the repository of research products, but animating this and reaching a wider specialist audience can be done effectively with social media.

Research4Committees
Building expertise networks in a digital age

DG IPOL
Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies

www.research4committees.blog

In order to address these issues The Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies launched in late November 2017 a blog and sectorial Twitter accounts:
Blog: https://research4committees.blog/
Twitter;

https://twitter.com/PolicyAGRI	https://twitter.com/PolicyCULT
https://twitter.com/PolicyPECH	https://twitter.com/PolicyREGI
https://twitter.com/PolicyTRAN	https://twitter.com/PolDep_Cohesion

Twitter is widely used by Members, research communities and other components of the Policy Department network. Twitter allows the Policy Department to reach - and connect - all parts of its network simultaneously in a quick and easy way at low cost. Individual accounts created for each of the areas covered by the Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies allows for better targeting and avoiding overload of information that is outside of the scope of interest of stakeholders. It works not only for outbound communications - promoting publications and advertising contract opportunities - but also inbound, as a tool for learning about new research and policy debates, as well as for gathering feedback.

The blog allows for a more attractive presentation with clear identification of the Policy Department as source. Combined with Twitter it becomes an effective tool for building the expertise networks.

By Iain Watt & Kinga Ostanska. European Parliament. Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES/RESEARCH SERVICES & PARTNERS, CONTINUED

HELLENIC OCR TEAM

IFLAPARL member Dr. Fotis Fitsilis, Scientific Service of the Hellenic Parliament, and Prof. Giorgos Mikros, University of Athens, officially announce the birth of the **Hellenic Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Team**, a unique scientific crowdsourcing initiative for the processing and analysis of parliamentary data. It builds on the plain idea that a decentralized group of people can be more than the mere sum of individuals.

Text processing follows a well-defined streamlined process, which is developed in order to build quality corpora of parliamentary relevance. The resulting content is brought in an open and structured format, such as XML (eXtensible Markup Language), which enables the use of novel tools and methods from the exciting field of computational linguistics. The opportunities that arise from the study of well-defined and structured parliamentary corpora are tremendous, as they allow for interlinking of several - formerly distant - areas of research, such as history, political science and linguistics, thus opening up new horizons in the understanding of parliamentary data and discourse.

The team currently counts 15 members in 4 countries. Team members are virtually linked through an online exchange platform. Athens-based members gather regularly for monthly meetings, where problems are discussed and best practices are exchanged. Newcomers receive basic training upon entering the group, while more experienced members, called 'mentors', provide peer-to-peer advice and support. In exchange for a bit of their spare time, members join an international scientific network and earn early access to scientific projects, while having the opportunity to acquire valuable new skills and hands-on work experience on state-of-the-art tools and methods in the dynamic area of computational social sciences.

This small but growing interdisciplinary community of students, scholars and practitioners is working towards the preparation of a maiden **hackathon** in 2018, in order to make the young and dynamic team acquainted with new methods, strengthen bonds between members and foster their commitment to the general goals.

The Hellenic OCR Team is looking forward to cooperate with the IFLAPARL community towards a better understanding of the challenges involving parliamentary corpora and the creation of parliamentary open data. For membership and additional enquiries visit the Hellenic OCR Team website, www.hellenicOCRteam.gr, or send an email to info@hellenicOCRteam.gr.

Basic references;

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Kouklakis G., Mikros G. K., Markopoulos G. and Koutsis I., 2007, 'Corpus Manager: A tool for multilingual corpus analysis' in Matthew D., Rayson P., Hunston S. and Danielsson P. (Eds.), CL2007 Proceedings, 27-30 July 2007, Birmingham, UK. Retrieved from http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/publications/CL2007/paper/244_Paper.pdf

Fitsilis, F. and Bayiokos, V., 2017, 'Implementing structured public access to the legal reports on bills and law proposals of the Scientific Service of the Hellenic Parliament, Greece' in Knowledge Management for Development Journal, 13(2): 63 – 80. Retrieved from http://journal.km4dev.org/index.php/km4dj/article/view/352/439

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By Dr. Fotis Fitsilis. Scientific Service of the Hellenic Parliament. Greece

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES/RESEARCH SERVICES & PARTNERS, CONTINUED

THE DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION CENTER OF THE BRAZILIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021

In accordance with the strategic guidelines of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, the Documentation and Information Center (CEDI) recently completed the preparation of its strategic planning for the 2018-2021 cycle, defining the strategies to reach the goals for the period. Thus, with the vision of "being the preferred and reliable source of information of the Chamber for the world and the world for the Chamber" and always valuing its core values (customer focus, information quality, active transparency and appreciation of people), the Documentation and Information Center has established twelve strategic objectives that focus on the necessary actions of its team in order to achieve the vision of the future.

Goals were set to provide technological solutions, optimize work processes, improve human resources related issues, promote greater access to the collections, promote the use of products and services, and improve the service to the target public. These goals are intended to contribute to the Cedi acting directly in the management of information, which is its main institutional role. The fundamental goal is to "improve the treatment and dissemination of information to support the legislative process and parliamentary action". This goal aims to solidify the performance of this Center in the final activity of the Chamber of Deputies, and to guarantee greater reliability and quality in the information generated in the scope of the legislative process.

Strategic Planning (2018-2021)

INSTITUTIONAL ROLE
1. Improve the treatment and dissemination of information to support the legislative process and parliamentary activity
2. Promoting the dissemination of information that stimulates political debate and the exercise of citizenship
3. Improve the management of the Access to Information Law within the Chamber of Deputies
4. Acting on digital records and archives management
5. Expand preservation of conventional collections

TARGET AUDIENCE
6. Expand the interaction with the Deputies and the Presiding Board
7. Raise awareness and guide business areas about their responsibility in information management
8. Expand the dissemination of Cedi's collections, products and services

INTERNAL PROCESSES
9. Optimize process management and maximize resource utilization
10. Improve performance indicators for Cedi's critical processes.

PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGIES
11. Leading Cedi professionals in overcoming a period of resource constraint
12. Provide technological solutions to support the management and work processes in CEDI

As a way of operating the strategic planning, 22 projects were defined. Some projects aim to promote improvements in work processes and human resource management, for example: the knowledge management project, the project definition of critical processes, and the plan for the continuous training of the workforce. Other projects aim to contribute to the political debate and the exercise of citizenship, as in the case of the "Lei Fácil Project", which seeks to publish approved laws in a simpler and more understandable language, reaching a greater layer of society.

Finally, it is important to clarify that the entire process of defining strategies and monitoring their execution is published in a Wiki, an internal access tool, which allows all the servers of this Center to evaluate if they are being implemented and the proposed objectives are being achieved.

By Janice Silveira. Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Library

NEWS FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS LIBRARY, UK

2018 marks 100 years since the UK Parliament passed a law which allowed some women, and all men, to vote for the first time: the 1918 Representation of the People Act. Throughout the year Parliament is celebrating this important milestone in the UK's democratic history.

Lots of exciting activities are happening, including a major exhibition, talks and tours, plus events around the UK – all designed to engage citizens with the UK Parliament and the struggle for the vote. You can find out more about the range of activities and resources on the

VOTE100 website or follow #Vote100 on Twitter to keep up to date.

By Steve Wise. House of Commons Library. UK

VOTE100   1918   1928   1958   2018