



SECTION 37: Genealogy and Local History Section,

**Minutes** of the Standing Committee meetings  
Durban, South Africa

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm>

**SC I: Saturday August 18, 2007 14.30-17.20**

**Attending committee members:**

Antonio LeChasseur, Colette O'Flaherty, Elizabeth Melrose, Russell Lynch, Wayne J. Metcalfe, Hsiao-Ming Yu, Lijing Chen, Janet Tomkins, Anne Burrows, Ruth Hedegaard, Mattye Laverne Page, Richard Huws, Melvin Thatcher, Paul Smart.

**In attendance:**

Joyce Jelks, retired, Atlanta; Asbjorn Hellum, Vejle City Archives, Denmark; Franceen Gaudet, Library and Archives Canada; Bau-Mei Cheng, National Central Library, Taiwan; David McQuillan and Anita Oser, Geography and Map Section; Elizabeth Tilly, Cambridge University.

**1. Presentation of Committee and corresponding members (Mel)**

Mel introduced the members by stating, that out of 17 committee members 14 were present in a country as far away for some of us as South Africa. Rather impressive. The members introduced themselves.

**2. IFLA HQ and Division business**

Ruth reported from Coordinating Board and stressed the importance of attending the Professional Committee hearing. IFLA HQ would much appreciate the committee members' presence at the newcomers' session.

**3. Financial report (Janice)**

Janice gave her report and presented a paper with the budget and the expenditures. If anyone wants to have it sent, please ask Janice

**4. Open Session status report (Janice)**

Janice reported on the changes to our program due to the fact that one speaker was not able to come. It is the first time we will get simultaneous interpretation

**5. Study Tour status report (Mel)**

Mel reported on the study tour. 27 delegates have already signed up.

**6. Future of the section and membership drive (Mel)**

Anita Oser and David McQuillan from Geography and Map Library Section will join this discussion

Preparation for the Professional Board hearing

Report on the membership drive and the strategy for increasing the Section membership.

7. Mel reported from last year's meeting with suggestions for change. At that meeting we gave our opinion both verbally and in writing. Our strong conviction was that other values than those suggested should be taken into account. We are especially worried about the rule indicating that Sections must have 50 members to survive. We believe that the activities of the Committee and the Section should be looked at, along with the fact that the number of people prepared to work voluntarily as Standing Committee members has increased from 9 to 17.

Ruth spelt out the criteria for a Special Interest Group, and indicated that there would be three options if we do not get the required members.

- Being closed down
- Being a Special Interest Group
- Merging with another section

There was a long discussion. Ruth proposed considering membership of the International Council of Archives, but several people spoke against this. Ending the discussion we had a vote.

- Fight on to stay as a Section. All in favour.
- Oppose the idea of becoming a Special Interest Group. All in favour. We would rather be closed down was one reply.
- We will still consider merging with another Section, but only if there is no other way.

#### 8. **Membership drive**

93 letters have been sent to National Library Associations and about 500 letters to institutions. The result has been maybe two new members, so that does not seem to be the way forward.

#### 9. **Publication of conference papers (Ruth – Elizabeth)**

Ruth reported that the manuscript has been given over to IFLA, who will send it to Saur Verlag - so for the moment our work is completed. She thanked Richard, Colette and Laverne for their proofreading. We were so grateful for this, as they did amend many mistakes.

#### 10. **Election of officers, Mel (Chair) and Ruth (Secretary) both end their 4 years' term.**

Mel was thanked for his long and outstanding commitment to and work for the Section, and we all hope that he will still be active and of help to us in the years to come.

Ruth was elected new Chair.

Russ was elected new Secretary.

Janice McFarlane was re-appointed Treasurer (she was appointed after the conference by e-mail votes with everybody in favour)

#### 11. **Any other business**

National Library of Wales, family history catalogue skin. Richard took advantage of the opportunity to show members of the Committee a prototype of the new Family History skin which the National Library of Wales is developing with VTLS as part of its information system.

*Minutes prepared by  
Ruth Hedegaard*

## SC 2: Friday August 24, 2007 11.00-13.50

### **Attending:**

Mel Thatcher, Ruth Hedegaard, Anne Burrows, Janet Tomkins, Wayne Metcalfe, Richard Huws, Janice McFarlane, Chedza Molefe, Meri Juula-Bruun, Elizabeth Melrose, David McQuillon, Paul Smart, Mattye Laverne Page, Lijing Chen, Anita Oser, Antonio LeChasseur, Russ Lynch.

Ruth mentioned that she received a greeting from Gui Won Lee from Korea who could not attend the conference.

Mel Thatcher welcomed everyone and explained that he would conduct the first part of the meeting and that Ruth would conduct the rest.

### **1. Old Business; Open Session Review**

At session #108-1, the attendance was 241.

At session #108-2, the attendance was 179.

Committee discussion: good comments about the sessions, some interpretation issues (the translators didn't get the scripts in time), presenters did not receive instructions about providing the speaker's version (6 copies).

### **2. Study Tour Review**

Committee discussion: well-organized, excellent, a good variety, timing went well, a wonderful day; librarians from many nationalities participated

We learned a lot for the amount of time that we were there; Mel suggested that touring two libraries would work smoother than three libraries.

*Action item:* Take our concerns to the coordinating board: difficulty of signing up for a study tour.

Mel explained the IFLA policy for registration options: sign up in advance, send an e-mail, or contact the secretariat

*Meeting Note:* Mel turned the meeting over to Ruth to conduct.

### **3. Report From Various Committee Meetings**

Professional Committee (Events #70, #81, and #160). The Coordinating Board meeting announced that the Professional Committee will lower the requirement for a section to have 40 members; any study group can have a program. At officer's training session they said it will be lowered. Sections will split to five divisions instead of four. We will request being part of the *Library Materials and Services* Division.

*Action item:* Recommend that Ruth contact the Professional Committee about the moving our Section from the *Library Types* Division. Ruth should send the letter to Nancy Gwinn.

*Action item:* Find out how to interpret the counting. Mel thinks they have to be separate. (Standing Committee is not coterminous.)

Division V (Collections & Services) meeting, Event #7. (Report from Elizabeth M.) We offered to help on a committee for data privacy and access. GENLOC will help with a conference at Brazil in 2008 for freedom of information. A revamp of the IFLA website, the office material will go up first (no section material or division materials.) Then central board will scope the phases for improvements to the website. FAIFE has funding from an organization called SIDA; Mel asked, "Will they fund travel to a conference?" FAIFE operations is going to IFLA Headquarters. Their world report for 2009 will be funded by SIDA money.

Mel encouraged all of us to comment when Antonio or Elizabeth put up messages (for comment) about information advocacy. Since this is part of our strategic plan, we need to comment and support it.

Reference and Information Services section meeting, Event #29. (Report from Janet T.) They wanted us to pick dates for the pre-conference;

Audiovisual and Multimedia section meeting, Event #37. (Report from Janice M.) They were very pleased working with GENLOC. They were happy with the program and the cooperation.

Session on copyright and IPR (as it relates to indigenous knowledge and expression.) Mel encouraged us to pay attention to this issue. Indigenous groups are being ripped-off by pharmaceutical companies. We want to watch that it doesn't happen in the cultural world. Some talk of taking cultural knowledge and expression out of the public domain and make it a copyright by person. The intent is to protect the indigenous group from commercial exploitation. We should watch the issue and take what ever positions seem to be prudent.

#### **4. Communication Discussion**

##### GENLOC listserv

If you have an item, feel free to share it on the listserv. In another meeting, Janet suggested making a coordinator assignment.

Ruth asked if anyone was interested in coordinating the listserv. The person can encourage by example. The committee also discussed the role of information coordinator (who manages our IFLANET page) and if that person could do both. The committee decided to make separate assignments.

##### GENLOC2 Standing Committee listserv

Committee discussion: We cannot attach a file over 100 Kb (which is very small) and so we also maintain a manual list of e-mail addresses.

*Action item:* Our information coordinator needs to tell IFLA that the file size is too small.

Discussion of appointments. (See part #9 below.) Remember that all can look at the IFLA site for officer training.

*Meeting Note: Antonio L. arrived at this point.*

##### Homepage on IFLANET ([www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org))

Ruth suggested putting up photos from the conference events.

Richard asked if can get feedback on the traffic on the page.

*Action item:* Ruth will check with IFLA to see what is available.

*Action item:* Russ will collect photos of the tour and other Section events. (Send items if you have it.)

*Action item:* Janet will find out what can go on the IFLANET page.

### Newsletter (Elizabeth)

Our newsletter is excellent. Elizabeth says it is very workman-like. Janice said we should focus on the section for new services and items.

## **5. Result of E-mail Conference**

Strategic plan and action plan review (two documents). All Standing Committee members need to review the documents when they come out.

## **6. Plan Section Activities for Quebec 2008 Conference**

Keep both the study tour and the preconference/satellite meeting. (Don't just do the satellite meeting because some can't attend before.)

Discussion on a study tour: Grosse-Ile, a landing station for immigrants (run by Parks Canada.) The Geography and Maps Section wants to know if it would be of interest to them. Ideas from Antonio and Janet; involve Archives staff in the study tour. Send any ideas to Antonio and Janet.

The ferry might be the limiting factor for attendance. They'll check on the ferry arrangement. We expect that the study tour could accommodate more than 40 people.

Discussion on an open session. Conference theme: "Libraries without Borders: Navigating Towards Global Understanding."

- A case study in how they released the 1901 census of Canada.
- Access and privacy: Australia cases, New Zealand cases. British process for BMD, in Asia they feel you may cause embarrassment (some cultural and social issues). Public education issue (current census, you "opt in.") Finland doesn't have restrictions like other countries; they have very open access. Select a country with few restrictions and contrast it with a country that has many restrictions.
- How libraries can make records available. ALM faces this on all kinds of materials.

Preliminary program form needs to be sent to IFLA in November 2007.

## **7. Plan for Preconference 2008 (Satellite Meeting)**

"Genealogy and Local History for all – focus on family and local history collection and reference services for multi-cultural communities" A joint meeting with Reference and Information Services Section. They suggest keeping it basic for all librarians and not get too specific to genealogy librarians.

The meeting is at the Canadian Genealogy Centre (with Libraries and Archives Canada) in Ottawa.

Suggestion to involve ALA's Genealogy Training program that Jack Simpson will have up on the Internet by the end of this year.

Suggestion to involve First Nations; reach out to the community that can't afford to join IFLA. Janet has a document about guidelines for preparing a successful IFLA satellite meeting.

The National Archives (Britain) has a program "Moving Here: Migration Histories" ([www.movinghere.org.uk](http://www.movinghere.org.uk)) We could have a lecture on that topic. Antonio will arrange for LAC space; probably do a tour of Gatineau Preservation Centre; IFLA suggests a tour of 75 to 150.

Proquest may be able to help with a lecture or lunch at the satellite tour.

Janice and Laverne will work to get the session paper work done.

### **8. Selection of Conference Paper for the Editorial Committee**

We need to recommend one paper of the six.

Janet suggested submitting Osei Bonsu's (Ghana) paper. Ruth said Bonsu's paper would not make the best article. She said Hangxia Zhang's (China) paper or Janet Tomkins' paper (Canada) would be the best to submit. Janice suggested that the Tomkins' paper fits well since our session was combined with the Audiovisual and Multimedia section.

We decided to submit Zhang's paper and Tomkins' paper.

### **9. Other Business**

Appointments:

Anne Burrows will coordinate content for GENLOC listserv.  
Janet Tomkins will be our Information Coordinator.

*Minutes prepared by  
Russell Lynch*