



SECTION 37: Genealogy and Local History Section,
Minutes of the Standing Committee meetings
Quebec City, Canada

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

SC I (Event #37): Saturday August 9. 11.30-14.20

Standing Committee members in attendance:

Ruth Hedegaard (Chair), Richard Huws, Antonio Lechasseur, Gerard Long, Russ Lynch (Secretary), Janice McFarlane (Treasurer), Elizabeth Melrose (Newsletter editor), Laverne Page, Paul Smart, Janet Tomkins (Information Coordinator), Hsiao-ming Yu

Excused members:

Anne Burrows, Lijing Chen, Gui Won Lee, Wayne Metcalfe

Observers:

Elisabeth Freyre - *France*, Joyce Jelks - *USA.*, Richard Price - *England*, Anita Oser - *Geography and Maps Section*, Franceen Gaudet - *Reference and Information Services Section*, Amanda Duffy - *Reference and Information Services Section*, Mel Thatcher – *past Section 37 Chair*

1. Opening Comments (Ruth)

Status of Section: website, study tour, events are coordinated with other sections; a beautiful pre-conference, newsletter, committee meetings, leaflets, and a book. We have reached many goals this year.

2. Pre-Conference Report (Janet and Antonio)

Comments from Antonio: organized jointly with the Reference and Information Services Section; information is still on the website.

Janet called it “the little conference that could . . .” It all came together well.

Librarians attended from the countries of Japan and Trinidad. Other librarians were from Canada and the USA.

The Section did not prepare an evaluation. IFLA has an evaluation form (a basic form for all satellite conferences).

Janet's feelings about repeating it: A tremendous amount of work; GENLOC should take a break. The planning committee used teleconferences weekly.

Laverne asked how many we expected (some have 300 people).

We broke even. We received funds from Libraries and Archive Canada (LAC), FamilySearch, and ProQuest. We need to make sure institutions are on-board and will support us (rather than believe that they will). Some institutions did not. Registration and IT support is important—online registration is critical.

Comments from Franceen. How many satellite meetings should IFLA have?; we don't want IFLA to be too heavy-handed. LAC will put up the URLs from presentations.

Comments from Ruth. GENLOC has desired this for many years; so glad we had a successful event. Thankful to Janet and Antonio for agreeing to do all the work (even when they didn't know exactly what was involved)

3. Combining the Geography and Maps Section with the Genealogy and Local History Section

Anita's comments: Their section is older but seems to be losing energy. They have 44 members and we have 41 members. In some ways our small sections are not "viable" to IFLA.

The sections will be in different divisions in new structure that starts in 2010-Brisbane. Genealogy and Local History will be in the Library Types Division; Geography and Maps will be in the Library Materials, Functions, and Services Division.

Some concerns about combining:

- One part would not get attention
- The name (since we now cover 4 diverse areas)
- If IFLA doesn't see us a "viable", why not? We have many accomplishments.
- Making a large focus or scoping more.

Unique libraries for local history and geography are too small to afford IFLA.

If we merge, we may need two open sessions at some conferences;

The new structure has Library Types, Library Collections, and Library Services.

Janice said that a section with 80 members gets more budget than those under 80. A section can have 10-20 standing committee members and up to 5 corresponding members. If GENLOC doesn't have enough members in 2009, we would not be a section in 2010. Both sections need a membership plan; the options are disband, stay separate, or merge. (Neither section wants to be a Special Interest Group.) If we are in jeopardy, we'll need a time line from the IFLA Headquarters to know what to expect. (Franceen says, "Get it in writing.")

4. Presentation of Standing Committee members and corresponding members (Ruth)

5. Resolution with FAIFE on Data Privacy

FAIFE presented the resolution in the Professional Committee meeting yesterday; Mel said the committee asked the section to take it back to abridge it. Perhaps a revised version will be reviewed on Friday; Mel read part of the resolution. Stuart Hamilton is the contact person at IFLA-HQ. Mel believes many libraries and archives don't become concerned about this issue until it is too late.

6. Other Discussion Items

Newsletter: Janet asked if our newsletter has an index. Richard has one.

Leaflet copies are available. We will provide copies at the open session.

Dinner on Thursday. At Café de la Paix; 44 rue des Jardins near the Price Centre; Antonio marked the location on the map for the dinner and tour. 7 pm (19h00) Reservation for 18; we have 17 on the list.

7. Study Tour status report (Antonio/Janet)

Travel to Grosse-Ile (Event #137). 22 people are registered. On Thursday we go to Bassin Louise (9h00); at Wharf #19.

We discussed study tour policies for IFLA; logistics; perhaps the SC officers need to tell Division leaders that we'll always have to charge for transportation.

8. Open Session status report (Ruth)

The open session is event #117 on Tuesday, August 12 at 13h45. Four speakers will present. The session is in collaboration with FAIFE. Both Janice and Russ will count attendance. We discussed the translation process and the speaker instructions.

9. IFLA HQ and Division business (Ruth/Russ)

We postponed this discussion until the second meeting.

10. Financial Report (Janice)

Janice distributed a report of the finance report.

Reimbursement for newsletter. Our annual budget is 325 Euro.

We discussed the Treasurer position. IFLA now handles the account. There are fewer duties for the position. There is a downside; we can't make a deposit; only get reimbursed after we pay. We have no check-book to use. One reason to keep the position separate is to involve more members of the SC.

11. Future of the Section and Membership Drive

This item was covered in topic #2 and we will discuss it more in the second meeting.

12. Publication of Conference Papers (Ruth, Elizabeth)

The book is finished and will be shown to the members.

The book (IFLA Publications 130) on International Genealogy and Local History was published this year by K.G. Saur Verlag. Elizabeth M. will present it in the IFLA Publications session (event #119) on Tuesday, August 12.

13. Other Business

Ruth reported on a conference in France. *Stage Courants*, sponsored by La Maison des Cultures du Monde. The conference runs for three weeks; a very good program. They had 20 people each from a different country. Ruth has the materials about it.

Janet wrote an article in CASIS (Canada). A promotion article for A Voice in the Genealogy World.

Someone needs to go to event #108, the president-elect's brainstorm session. Russ can go on Tuesday, August 12.

Minutes prepared by Russell Lynch, November 21, 2008.



SECTION 37: Genealogy and Local History Section,
Minutes of the Standing Committee meetings
Quebec City, Canada

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

SC I (Event #37): Saturday August 9. 11.30-14.20

Standing Committee members in attendance:

Ruth Hedegaard (Chair), Antonio Lechasseur, Gerard Long, Russell Lynch (Secretary), Janice McFarlane (Treasurer), Elizabeth Melrose (Newsletter Editor), Wayne Metcalfe, Laverne Page, Paul Smart, Janet Tomkins (Information Coordinator), Hsiao-ming Yu

Excused members:

Anne Burrows, Lijing Chen, Gui Won Lee, Wayne Metcalfe

Observers:

Myrian Grondin - *Canada*, David McQuillan - *Geography and Maps Section*, Mel Thatcher - *past Section 37 Chair*

1. Open Session Review

157 people attended the session.

Susan Lugo did a good job: a slide and text for the slide. Mel prefers this format.

Having a sign for “5 minutes more” or “1 minute more” is helpful.

Mel said the Ref. Section open session had a great program yesterday; they all did 20-minute PowerPoint presentations instead of just reading a formal paper. (It ended 25 minutes early and they had time for questions.)

2. Study Tour Review

We had a wonderful trip to Grosse-Ile. Those who attended said it was very interesting—especially the experiences of the Irish immigrants. Having a guided tour helped get a much better feel for what they experienced. We learned about the immigrants from Canada to USA;

valuable practical information. The guide tailored his remarks to our group. (An advantage of having our own study tours.)

Antonio is reviewing the receipts. We may have a surplus of \$300. We will keep it for any needs for the Italian WLIC.

Preconference idea. Put papers on website or publish them. Our first step is to put up a report that Russ will write. RIS section will post the website links.

3. Communications

- GENLOC listserv
- GENLOC2 standing committee listserv
- Homepage on IFLAnet
- Newsletter (Elizabeth)

We are still limited in the file attachment sizes for GENLOC2 list. The future e-mail (new IFLA website) will provide new features for committee work.

It is splendid that we have a newsletter twice a year.

Russ asked if we wanted a teleconference during the e-meeting? We decided that because of the time differences, we would not have a teleconference.

We should consider using Skype for small conversations.

Newsletter. Janice asked if we want to continue mailing our newsletter. We also discussed whether we should only provide it online. Preparing it is a lot of work.

Should we change the format of the newsletter? It depends on what we want to do with it. We should look at the behaviour of the committee members. Antonio likes the paper copy and finds it is easier to read.

We will continue to prepare the newsletter in print format until we see what the new website provides.

Richard Huws will make the index.

Russ will contact Allen County to put the index in PERSI.

Ruth reported some of the items from the Coordinating Board meeting.

Standing Committee Election in 2009. Four people have a term up: Elizabeth M., Richard H., Paul S., and Jurgen W.

We would like Elizabeth M., Richard H., and Paul S. to serve again. We could invite Margaret Brill (Duke University) and Susan Lugo (Virgin Islands) to serve.

Section Officers. Should Information Coordinators be officers?

Yes, they can, but we still like involving many section members instead of consolidating the responsibilities into just a few people.

4. Result of E-mail Conference

Membership work.

- Ruth reviewed the members that we have.
- Russ will contact SLA in the U.S. to get a contact person.
- Contact Footnote.com and WorldVitalRecords.com (send out the fact sheet). Ancestry.com (MFT) (Paul will contact them after we tell them.)
- It would be nice for the fact sheets to be in English.
- We need to check if corporate entities can join sections.
- Russ will contact the Library of Congress (Anne Toohey of the Genealogy Reading Room)
- Antonio will contact the *Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec*.
- Sub-institutions can join one section for no cost. Ruth will send the instructions.
- Paul suggests: Put together a fact sheet for SC on membership that summarizes it. There is a membership toolkit. (Russ and Ruth will either find it or prepare it.)

Strategic Plan

- Survey (goal 3.1). We want to end the survey, summarize it and share the results.
- Is there a topic of interest that we want to interview people throughout the world?
- Perhaps access to records: how libraries have been involved
- We could survey libraries. Janet has access to Survey-Monkey at Vancouver Public Library.
- Another topic: Focus on public libraries, "What are they doing? What kind of traffic do they see? What is happening?"
- The plan needs to include lower level projects: What we will do in the short-term.
- We should look at each objective on the plan to see what we have already done. For example, item 2.4 is something intended for national associations.

- We could have “Friends of GENLOC” who for whatever reason could not officially join GENLOC.
- Antonio is interested in building more bridges in the genealogical community. ICA is an important group to interface with. The resolution should go to ICA too.
- The plan could mention broadcasting companies. (25 May 2008 email from Richard H.) We could create a 2.6 item that says “Promote cooperation between libraries, archives, and (public media) broadcasting companies by developing relationships and joint projects.”
- Paul S. says don’t forget the Intl. Soc. of Genealogical Writers
- The K.G. Saur is not really promoting the new book; we’ll need to promote it.
- Have a poster in the poster session. The deadline will sneak up on us, but there are many topics that we could offer for a poster. Laverne could take it on; especially the cost would stay low if it was of interest for Africa or the Middle East. Let’s decide to do it.

5. Plan Section activities for Milan 2009 conference

(Main theme is *Libraries Create Futures: Building on Cultural Heritage*.)

Coordinate with public libraries? Cooperating with Libraries and Archives. Empowering patrons to use both. On the Front Line of Cultural Heritage: Lib, Arch, and Museums.

Janice suggests a person from Nova Scotia who has done a local Celtic collection.

Bruce Royan suggested a session with Audio-Visual Section regarding what to do with multi-media materials for cultural heritage.

Another theme, “Open the world’s culture through digital access.”

Susan Tucker in Louisiana, USA with local history, art, and family history. Talk about the contribution of “memory” in cultural heritage.

Iceland: how they are all related.

Managing relationships online; FHL union catalogue.

Laverne mentioned the Uganda Cultural Heritage. They could present information too.

Because of the location, we should involve Africa and the Middle East.

Ruth asked if the committee was interested in having a digital collection theme? (The committee is interested.)

5.2 Activity for Brisbane.

We discussed a theme: Youth and how they find their identity. (Youth and global understanding) How to attract young people to get involved in genealogy and local history.

5.3 Study Tour in Milan

Wayne Metcalfe will arrange the study tour. Wayne knows some people in Milan, Italy.

5.4 Ecclesiastical Libraries

The Milan WLIC Committee requested that one of the sections in the Special Libraries Division sponsor an offsite session on Tuesday, August 25, 2009. We discussed it and decided to support it. Ruth will inform the Division Officers. (Russ told Mauro Guerrini in person on Saturday, August 16.)

6. Selection of Conference Paper for the Editorial Committee

After discussing the presentations, we selected the paper from the French Librarian Philippe Colombe.

7. Other Business

Geography and Maps SC. David M. requested Janice to contact the Geography staff in National Library of Scotland (Paula) to send a representative to their Standing Committee.

Minutes prepared by Russell Lynch; November 21, 2008.