



Genealogy and Local History Section Annual Report 2004-2005

The Genealogy and Local History Section had in August 2005 32 section members
After the election in Oslo The Standing Committee consists of:

Chair: Mel Thatcher

Secretary: Ruth Hedegaard

Treasurer: Janice McFarlane

Information Coordinator: Colette O'Flaherty

Editor of Newsletter: Elizabeth Melrose assisted by Richard Huws

Committee members 2003-2007: Mel Thatcher, Ruth Hedegaard Janice McFarlane, and
Colette O'Flaherty

Committee members 2005-2009: Elizabeth Melrose, Richard Huws, Paul Sharp, and Juergen
Warmbrunn.

During the year we have been working among other things with the following items:

E-mail conference:

Like the previous year we have arranged an E-mail conference as a start of our Section
Committee meetings in Oslo.

Using e-mail we put together an agenda and during a weekend we presented our views on the
different topics on the agenda.

This is a very good way of working, in this way we already had an idea of the topics we
would like to discuss further at our committee meeting in Oslo. We have saved precious time,
as we already could make preparation for the conference meeting.

It is a way of working that is recommendable in our situation where we do not have any
possibilities of meeting outside the conferences.

Open Session Program

In 2005 we decided to work together with the Geography and Map Section. Our common
theme for the conference was: *Navigating the world of our ancestors*. Working together with
another section meant that we had the possibilities of having twice as many speakers, and in
that way we had a good opportunity to have more speakers treating the same subject from
different angles and thus also have the opportunity to get deeper into the subject.

Another interesting advantage was that we had far the most attendants ever at our Open
Session, more than 200. Moreover it meant that we in both sections had the pleasure to see
people that not normally would attend our Sessions.

Attached is the list of the attendees of the Open Session.,

Study Tour

As normal we decided this year as well to have our own study tour. We arranged a study tour
to the archives of the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History and to The City Archives of
Oslo. Both places were part of the official program as well, but we wanted to focus especially



on the archive function and to be able to question and discuss the material from a local and genealogical point of view.

In the morning we had 17 attendees and in the afternoon 12. Concerning the fact that we have to arrange it all by ourselves we find the amount of attendants satisfactory. Using public transportation it would not be easy getting around with a very big group.

Section Committee Meetings

We have held two Section committee meetings at the IFLA conference in Oslo. With the starting point in our e-mail discussion, we made changes to our strategic plan and action plan. Our focus in 2006 will be on completing surveys of national library associations and national libraries and archives for the purpose of developing a plan for working with these institutions to promote genealogy and local history librarianship and services. We will also work closely with FAIFE on data protection and record access issues.) We decided on our theme for Seoul and made the first preparation for our activities.

Section Review

During the year we have spent much time on the section review. Both in our e-mail conference and at The Standing Committee meetings we collected ideas and items for the review. At the meeting several of us were asked to come up with input that afterward was put together by the secretary. After several additional changes etc. the review was finally sent off, and now we are very eager to know what IFLA headquarter thinks of our section. We really hope to stay as a section, we are confident that our work is of interest and use to our colleagues in the library world, and we want very much to continue working with our themes of interest.

Communication

Thanks to our editor Elizabeth Melrose and her co editor Richard Huws we have in our own opinion published two very nice and interesting newsletters. Thanks to Melvin Thatcher our section brochure has been translated into Korean and??, and thanks to Elizabeth Melrose we also have it in Norwegian translated by one of her friends.

GENLOC

Unfortunately we have not succeeded in making GENLOC our listserv into a discussion forum, but we use the listserv to send information from the section, our minutes, newsletter etc.

Seoul

In our Committee meeting in Oslo we decided on the theme for our Open Session being "Local History: A Dynamic Partnership of Libraries, Archives, and Museums" We have sent out Call for papers and are awaiting answers to our call.

January 2006

Ruth Hedegaard

Secretary of Genealogy and Local History Section