



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Genealogy and Local History Section

Genealogy and Local History Section Annual Report 2007-2008

The Genealogy and Local History Section had 38 section members at the end of the year 2008.

The Standing Committee consists of:

Chair: Ruth Hedegaard
Secretary: Russell Lynch
Treasurer: Janice McFarlane
Information Coordinator: Janet Tomkins
Editor of Newsletter: Elizabeth Melrose

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

Committee members 2007-2011: Anne Burrows, Lijing Chen, Ruth Hedegaard, Antonio Lechasseur, Gerard Long, Russell Lynch, Janice McFarlane, Wayne Metcalfe, Mattye Laverne Page, Janet Tomkins, Gui Won Lee, and Hsiao-ming Yu

Corresponding members: Gu Yan, Marie-Louise Perron, Susan Lugo

During the year we have been working on various activities and services, including the following items:

Open Session Program

The theme of 2008 program in Québec was “Access to Genealogical Records: Data Protection versus Unlocking the Records.” GENLOC held a joint session with FAIFE (Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression). 157 delegates attended the session on Tuesday, August 12, 2008. Four speakers presented papers. Philippe Colombe’s paper was selected for the IFLA Journal.

Elizabeth Melrose gave a short presentation at an IFLA session publicising the IFLA/K G Saur editions for 2008. She spoke about the specific volume edited by Ruth Hedegaard and Elizabeth Melrose – “*International Genealogy and Local History: Papers presented by the Genealogy and Local History Section at IFLA General Conferences 2001 – 2005*” (please see below and the IFLAnet website for more details.)



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During the World Library and Information Congress in Québec, Melvin P. Thatcher received a Certificate of Service Award on Thursday, August 14, 2008 for working with librarians worldwide and for establishing the Genealogy and Local History Section.

Satellite Meeting (Pre-Conference)

GENLOC held a satellite meeting for the first time as part of the World Library and Information Congress this year. The Reference and Information Services Section with the Genealogy and Local History Section held the very successful event in Ottawa, Canada at the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) on August 6 and 7, 2008. The title was “Genealogy and Local History for All: Services to Multicultural Communities.” Forty delegates attended the meetings near the beautiful Ottawa River and government buildings of Canada’s capital. Thirteen speakers presented information on the diverse cultures of Canada. The IFLANet site for GENLOC has a detailed report about the satellite meeting.

Study Tour

The section sponsored a study tour to Grosse-Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site near Québec in the St. Lawrence River on Wednesday, August 13th. Grosse-Île was a quarantine station from 1832 to 1937. Parcs Canada maintains the property. Twenty-two people attended the tour, booked through Cruises le Coudrier.

Section Committee Meetings

The meeting minutes can be seen on the Genealogy and Local History Section page on the IFLA website. The standing committee also reviewed each item in the strategic plan during a spring discussion via e-mail.

Membership drive

One important goal of the section is to get more members in order to continue as a section committee. We were pleased that the Professional Committee reduced the minimum number of members from 50 to 40. After contacting hundreds of libraries with a written invitation, we believe the best approach is still through personal contact.

Working with FAIFE on Record Access and Data Privacy Resolution

Our section has been working closely with FAIFE to produce a resolution on records access and data privacy called “Access to Personally Identifiable Information in Historical Population Records” that was presented to Council for a vote of acceptance in Québec.

Communication

Elizabeth Melrose continues to produce excellent newsletters twice each year. Copies of the newsletters are available on the IFLANet page.

GENLOC Listserv



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The Genealogy and Local History Section used the e-mail listserv to communicate with all section members and for administrative purposes within the Standing Committee.

Publication of conference papers

The monograph of the IFLA Publication Series, Nr130, was prepared by GENLOC. K.G. Saur published *International Genealogy and Local History* edited by Ruth Hedegaard and Elizabeth Anne Melrose, ISBN 978-3-598-22036-4. The book contains the papers delivered at IFLA annual conferences from 2001 to 2005. The papers cover a wide range of significant issues and trends in historical and family research.

Milan 2009

Open Session

The theme for the open session next year is “Opening Up Our Cultural Heritage Through Digitisation and Collaboration.” We anticipate another successful program with excellent presentations in Milan.

GENLOC will also sponsor an off-site session about Ecclesiastical Libraries on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 during the Congress in Milan. The Standing Committee approved the request from the Milan-WLIC Committee to sponsor the meeting.

Study Tour

The section is planning a study tour to various archives and libraries in Milan, Italy. Wayne Metcalfe of FamilySearch International is helping with the arrangements.

20 January 2009

Prepared by Russell Lynch

Secretary of Genealogy and Local History Section