



NEWSLETTER

Genealogy and Local History Section

Newsletter Number 10 / July 2007

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Genealogy and local history

Genealogie en Plaaslike Geskiedenis

Slægs- og lokalhistorie

족보 및 지역사

GENEALOGI og LOKAL HISTORIE

Words from the Chair

The Section now has a membership of 31 associations and institutions and 6 personal affiliates. As a result of elections in February, the

Standing Committee is now comprised of 17 regular members and 4 corresponding members representing 14 countries. We need to increase section membership to more than 50 during the coming two years in order to ensure its survival as part of the formal structure of IFLA. Therefore, we ask you to consider how you can help us to attain this goal.

IFLA membership categories include associations, institutions, institutional sub-units, one-person library centres, school libraries, all personal affiliates, and also student affiliates (see www.ifla.org/III/members/index.htm for details and fees). Please support genealogy and local history librarianship in IFLA by encouraging your library association and work unit to join our Section or by becoming a personal or student affiliate.

The Standing Committee is preparing the publication of a volume of papers presented at its open sessions at IFLA's annual meetings from 2001-2005. The papers show the wide range of interests and concerns of genealogy and local history librarians from around the world. We hope that it will be a useful addition to your reference collection.

We look forward to another rewarding programme at the forthcoming World Library and Information Congress which will be held in Durban, South Africa, 19th – 23rd August, 2007. The programme, which is organised jointly with the IFLA Audiovisual and Multimedia Services Section, is focused on oral history and traditions.

Melvin P Thatcher, Genealogical Society of Utah. Chair of IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section

Genealogía e Historia Local

家谱及地方历史

New GENLOC Committee members 2007



Anne Burrows, Genealogy Librarian, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia



Antonio Lechasseur, Director, Client Services Division, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Canada



Russell Lynch, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA



Mattye Laverne Page, Area Specialist, Africa, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, USA

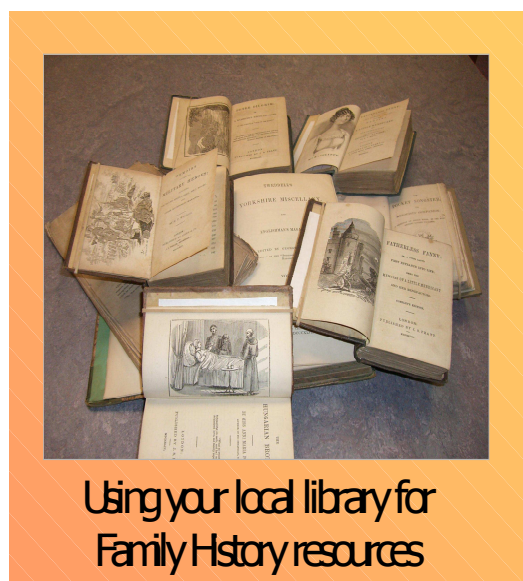


Janet Tomkins, Genealogy Librarian, Fine Arts and History, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

The Section has 37 members. It needs to reach a total of 50 members or more in the next two years.

There are 18 representatives on the Standing Committee and three corresponding members. On this page are just some of the new members of the GENLOC Standing Committee 2007. GENLOC is pleased to welcome them.

It is up to us all, officers, members of the Standing Committee and members of GENLOC, to persuade and encourage the many other institutions and libraries serving genealogists and local historians to join the Section.



ГЕНЕАЛОГИИ И КРАЕВЕДЕНИЯ
Geneologia & Historia Lokalna
Genealogie și Istoria Locală

The work of the Section taken from the minutes of the April 2007 e-meeting.

Summary of subjects not noted elsewhere in the Newsletter:

Ruth Hedegaard, the Section Secretary had the onerous task of collating the diverse strands of the e-meeting in April and the Committee thanks her for all her efforts over the past year. The Committee has two sessions at the annual IFLA Conference. However, as GENLOC does not yet have the funds to organise a mid-year face-to-face meeting, this extra structured e-meeting has been informative, and, through it, the Section has been able to respond to central IFLA documents. Thanks also to all the participants.

Ruth gives a good flavour of the debate:

Our e-discussion has been collated under the headlines decided on at the start of the distance meeting. All the relevant comments were considered and covered in the final copy of the Strategic Plan. This Plan is included in this Newsletter and will be published by Saur as an

extra appendix within the volume of Conference Papers 2001 – 2005.

Mission statement

A discussion over the suitability of the wording in the Mission Statement – ‘genealogy’ versus ‘family history’ – ended as follows: The Section will continue on as GENLOC and make liberal use of the terms ‘genealogy’ and ‘family history’ in the Newsletter, strategic plans, and other supporting documentation.

GENLOC listserv

The Committee has not been able to move forward on this point. The listserv is desirable, but there is not much traffic and not much input. The members of the Committee must try to appoint a person who will be responsible for the listserv. This position could be separate to that of the information co-ordinator. Also, as the Chairman pointed out, the Standing Committee members must make a serious effort to be active participants in order to stimulate responses from other subscribers. All suggestions on the way forward are welcome.

WEB 2.0 and blogs

It was thought that further discussion on Web 2.0 and blogs could be one of the discussion themes at the Committee meetings in Durban.

Access to privacy material

There has been no specific reference to changing our goal, more an exchange of information.

Development of the Newsletter

So far both the content and style of the Newsletter have been satisfactory. It is challenging filling the Newsletter with appropriate features and the Editor requested that all Standing Committee members try to submit material – or send ideas for articles. She thanked everyone for their support.

Recruiting new section members

Thanks to Family History Library in Utah more than 500 recruitment letters have been sent out, and appeals have been posted on GENLOC and GENEALIB listservs, hopefully bringing in new members. GENLOC needs to include 50 members by the time of the 2009 elections to avoid being deleted as a Section. There is an option of joining IFLA as a Personal Affiliate or a Student Affiliate – persons in these categories may register free of charge for one Section. The difficulty is the fee barrier, since IFLA registration fees are too high for most genealogy and local history libraries and

librarians. However, Committee members were strongly requested to try to recruit more members.

Candidates for Chair and Secretary

At the Durban Committee Meeting, there will be elections for the Section Chair, the Secretary and the Information Co-ordinator. Russell Lynch of the Family History Library in Utah expressed his interest in the role of Information Co-ordinator.

Genealogy and Local History Section Strategic Plan 2007 - 2008

Mission

Our mission is to be a voice for genealogy and local history librarians in the international information community, to facilitate networking among subject specialists and libraries, archives, museums, and related societies and institutions, and to encourage the development of genealogy and local history collections and user services.

GOALS

Goal 1: Be a voice for genealogy and local history librarians in the international information community

(Professional Priority: supporting the role of libraries in society. Pillars: society, profession.)

Actions

1.1 Organize open session programmes on genealogy and local history topics and, where appropriate, do so in collaboration with relevant IFLA sections to reflect the relevance of these topics across the information community.

1.2 Develop and promote a unified response to major developments in the international information community, where they impact on genealogy and local history library services.

Goal 2: Facilitate and promote global networking among genealogy and local history professionals and between libraries, archives, and museums serving genealogists and family and local historians

(Professional Priority: developing library professionals, supporting the infrastructure of library associations. Pillars: profession, members. Partnerships: libraries, archives, and museums.)

Actions

2.1 Promote and increase active participation in the GENLOC listserv by making it a useful source of ideas and information for genealogy and local history librarians.

2.2 Improve content of the semi-annual issues of the Section newsletter by attracting articles from a broader range of contributors.

2.3 Promote Section membership by contributing articles to key genealogy and family and local history journals and speaking to interested user and professional groups.

2.4 Create an information packet and develop a strategy to promote the formation of genealogy and local history sections in national library associations.

2.5 Promote co-operation between libraries, archives, and museums by developing relationships and joint projects with relevant international organizations.

Goal 3: Support and promote improved traditional and electronic genealogy and local history reference services

(Professional Priority: promoting resource sharing, developing library professionals, promoting standards, guidelines, and best practices. Pillars: society, profession.)

Actions

3.1 Survey national libraries for genealogy and local history services.

3.2 Collect guidelines for genealogy and family and local history collections and services via GENLOC and professional contacts.

3.3 Share information about genealogy and family and local history resources and best practices through IFLA conferences, the Section newsletter, the GENLOC listserv, links on the GENLOC home page, and joint programs with archives and museums.

GOAL 4: Proactively address data privacy and information access concerns that affect genealogy and local history collections and services

(Professional Priority: supporting the role of libraries in society, defending principles of freedom of information. Pillars: society.)

Actions

4.1 Use the GENLOC listserv to identify and share information about data privacy issues and legislation and other issues affecting access to information.

4.2 Work with FAIFE to develop a code of ethics or guidelines for responsibly providing access to genealogy and local history indices and source documents on the Web.

4.3 Establish communications with international and national archives, library, and museum associations to encourage working with the proponents of data privacy in developing legislation that addresses their concerns while preserving access to information for legitimate genealogical and local historical purposes.

Project to promote the Section in Genealogical Journals and Magazines



I did complete work on one of the commitments that I made at Oslo 2005, which was to submit a small article on the Section to some of the more popular genealogy magazines in order to promote the Section and its work. The intent was to make the wider genealogy community aware of the Section's existence, and hopefully to encourage organisations and other interested individuals to feed us information on issues like access to genealogical and historical information and so on. I sent a report on the project to the Standing Committee meetings in Seoul 2006, and there isn't a great deal to add since then. I have summarized below.

Overall, I am inclined to consider this project complete. It would require a huge amount of effort to follow-up with every magazine/journal that was contacted, and although it would be nice to know for certain exactly when and where an article was published, I am not sure if this is worthwhile. We

know that a focused effort was made, that the article appeared in some publications and that the Section did get some exposure.

The Popular Magazines

The 'popular' article was published in the high profile generalist magazines with a wide circulation, *Family History Monthly* (U.K.) and on *Eastman's Online Genealogy News blog*. I also understand that it was published in *Ancestors* (U.K.) and *Family Chronicle Magazine* (Canada) though I didn't actually see the articles as my own library doesn't receive these magazines.

The article, *A voice for Genealogists in the Library World*, appeared in Issue 59 (3rd quarter 2006) of *Irish Roots Magazine*.

Receipt of the article was acknowledged by *Newsleaf* (Ontario Genealogical Society, Canada).

Family: A Forum for Family History (Denmark) said that they might publish it in Summer 2006. Ruth saw the article in *Slaegten forum for slaegtshistorie*, nr. 35, januar, s. 62-64, 2007. This is the Danish journal for the Association of Genealogical Societies. The article had been given two bylines in the publication: *Greetings from the Vancouver Public Library in British Columbia, Canada* and *A voice for Genealogists in the Library World*.

Seven magazines did not reply.

Professional Journals

inCite (Australian Library and Information Association) and *Library Life* (Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa) said that they would publish the article, but I have not had the opportunity to actually look for or see the articles.

Receipt of the article was acknowledged by *Feliciter* (Canadian Library Association), but I didn't hear further.

I am not sure about the Welsh Library Association journal, *Newyddion*.

American Libraries (American Library Association) and *Library Journal* (U.S.) said that they would not publish.

I did not hear from four other journals, though I believe that the article may have been published by some of them.

Janet Tomkins, Genealogy Librarian, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Family history the Australian and New Zealand way

As a recently elected member of the Section Standing Committee I thought it would be useful to give librarians around the world some insights into the way major libraries in Australia and New Zealand provide services to genealogists. In this issue there is a focus on the recently redeveloped State Library of Queensland with an article by Stephanie Ryan, their Senior Librarian, Family History.

My own experience in the genealogy field began at the State Library of South Australia in Adelaide in the early 1990s where for four years I was Family History Librarian. During my time in this role, I set up a small Family History Collection. This amalgamated a few collections, which had existed around the Library into one self-service collection containing basic items for anyone researching Australian or overseas family history.

In late 2000 I moved to the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne as Genealogy Librarian.



The State Library of Victoria, Melbourne

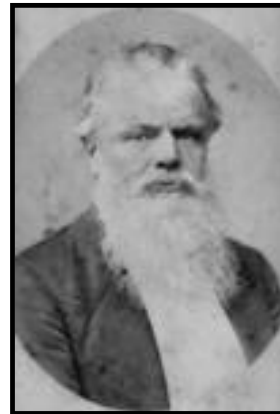
This position has responsibility for the collections and services of the Library's Helen Macpherson Smith Genealogy Centre, officially opened in October 2003 in its own dedicated courtyard space although based on a collection begun about thirty years earlier and located in a number of temporary homes.

One of the most popular destinations for Library users, the Helen McPherson Smith Genealogy Centre is the starting point for genealogy research, offering a range of Australian and overseas resources invaluable to anyone interested in researching their family history and

providing the means to locate individuals in a particular place at a particular time.

More on the Helen Macpherson Smith Genealogy Centre in the next issue of GENLOC Newsletter.

Anne Burrows, Genealogy Librarian, State Library of Victoria, Swanston Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000
<http://slv.vic.gov.au>
aburrows@slv.vic.gov.au



Sir Arthur Hunter Palmer, former Premier of Queensland c1870. John Oxley Library, from: Picture Queensland – image from the State Library of Queensland

Family history: the State Library of Queensland

In November 2006 an enlarged, refurbished State Library of Queensland opened on the South Bank of the Brisbane River across from the northern centre of the city. The building is situated in the precinct where Brisbane had its early 19th century beginnings. Each floor of the Library opens up to the river view and the city heart, though glass walls on the river side, while the subtropical vegetation around the Library gives it the distinctive subtropical Brisbane feel. New reader printers, a significantly increased collection, and many new visitors, marked the move back to the city after three years in one of Brisbane's suburbs!

The family history service has been relocated to where it was originally intended on Level 3 when the building was first constructed in 1988. (It was not placed there at that time because a new rare books collection claimed the space.) Air conditioning has been adapted in the area to maintain the collection in the best condition possible. The service is based around the State Library's microfilm and fiche collection which is grouped together regardless of whether it deals with material specific to the State or not.

There are distinct advantages in having a collection such as this in one format with one bank of machines in one location. Firstly, it makes the most efficient use of very expensive equipment. Secondly, as family history researchers are by far the major users of this material, it is a convenient arrangement by which they can check newspapers and other archival material in the same place as other more specific family history on microform. Researchers interested in local history as well as other historical and biographical topics also find the combination of resources useful. Cleaning, maintenance and trouble-shooting are also carried out more efficiently under this arrangement.



Adjoining the reading room is the Tim Fairfax Newspaper Room. A selection of current Queensland newspapers, major Australian dailies and overseas titles such as the *London Times* and the *New Zealand Herald* are available. For newspaper readers there is generally a seamless flow between hard copy and microform format unless the paper has not been filmed and it is quite old.

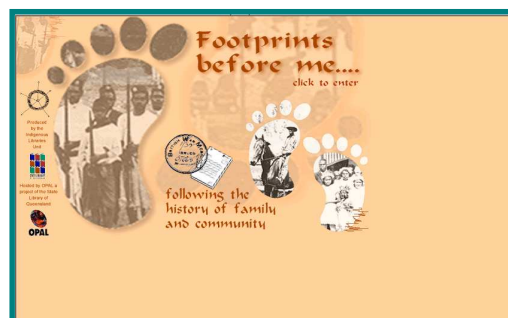
The new machines, which read and print film and fiche, allow researchers to scan a selected image and save it to a memory stick, burn it to a CD, email it or print it at a fraction of the previous cost while getting a much better print. This aspect of the service is extremely popular. There is only one printer in the reading room but researchers can go to an adjoining copying room to access their print jobs if there is a queue. Readers for either microfilm or fiche, which do not print, supplement the dozen reader printers.

While not all film and fiche materials are on open access, the popular items are. Films in the reading room are stored in trays which take 9-10 reels making the most efficient use of the space available. Fiches are stored in folders or in cabinets depending on the popularity and type of usage. Folders are used where there is a need to group items together with instructions, or material is in constant use. All microform and books in storage are in the building and can usually be retrieved within an hour.

The information desk with the collection is staffed from 10am-8pm Monday to Thursday; 10am-5pm Friday to Sunday and public holidays. From 10am-5pm on any day the Library is open, there are two staff on desk. One staff member has extensive family history experience and the other brings expertise from the State Reference service or from the John Oxley (Queensland) collection. Indigenous staff are part of John Oxley and they make a valuable contribution to family history reference advice.

Because there are four experienced family history staff working in the area, it has been possible to develop indexes and finding aids. These are increasingly in electronic format. Some may be found at www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh#electronic

The purpose of these aids is to assist the public in finding helpful information where they might not otherwise look and to do so as quickly as possible. Some of these indexes are on the State Library website. A major index of convicts sent to Australia compiled from the National Archives (UK) convict transportation registers and filmed as part of the Australian Joint Copying Project is currently in the process of being checked and will be available on the State Library website later this year.



Screenshot of website
www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/ind linked to State Library of Queensland webpage 'Information for Indigenous People'

The State Library has also compiled critiqued websites in an easily navigated site NetLinks. There is a collection for family history at <http://netlinks.slq.qld.gov.au/hufh.htm> Increasingly information on CD-ROM and on the web is making the search for family history a quicker process. It also means more resources are available in digital and electronic format. The State Library has doubled the CD-ROM collection available within the last year.

Family history staff provide a workshop and handbook for Queensland librarians in searching

family history on the internet. They also do presentations for the public at the Library and in local libraries and in society meeting rooms as well as taking part in combined events.

The family history service at the State Library of Queensland is a very popular one. Many new users have discovered the collection – and many former users have re-discovered it – since the State Library re-opened in November and the family history service returned to South Bank. The first priority is to provide a service to Queenslanders, and then to others from interstate and overseas who are seeking information which only the State Library holds. As the population of Queensland swells with those from interstate and overseas, resources which link them to other parts of the country and other countries are increasingly important. There is a limit of two hours free research per enquiry. Those living in the greater Brisbane area are strongly encouraged to visit the Library unless they are older or handicapped. The off-site reference service, *Ask a librarian* can be accessed via the State Library's home page www.slq.qld.gov.au under 'Quick links'.

There is a continuing challenge to keep up-to-date with the latest resources, changing technology and the needs of the public. Some of our new equipment and resources help us meet this challenge, but the commitment and expertise of the staff are the important factors in using what we have to the best advantage for our clients.
Stephanie Ryan, Senior Librarian, Family History, Client Services and Collections, State Library of Queensland, Brisbane

Publication of Conference papers

A volume of the GENLOC Conference Papers 2001 – 2005 is nearing completion. The text is going through a final editing process before being passed to K.G.Saur Verlag for publication.

Ruth Hedegaard and Elizabeth Melrose would like to thank all the contributors, along with Richard Huws, Colette O'Flaherty and Mattye Laverne Paige for their work in proofing the volume.

Généalogie et histoire locale

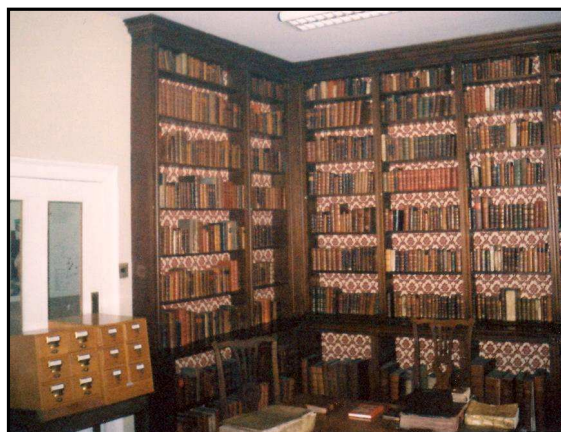
ASSKAN AK THIOSSANU REWMI

News from Elsewhere

A York 'treasure' –

The Bar Convent Library in York, England

The Bar Convent in York is the oldest living convent in England, established in 1686 by Francis Bedingfield, an early member of Mary Ward's Institute. Mary Ward (1584-1645) was a pioneer of education for women, championing the right of nuns to pursue a variety of ministries outside the convent walls. The early community in York lived during a time of turbulent history, suffering dire poverty, persecution and imprisonment. It survived to enjoy greater stability, and to give aid to refugees from the French Revolution, hoping to spread their ministry to continental Europe once the refugees returned safely home.



A corner of the Bar Convent Library, York
©2007 David Sant, Cookridge, Leeds, UK

Sister Gregory, a very sprightly 96 year old nun, organises planned visits from the magnificent entrance hall up the narrow stairs to the Library and Archives, the Catholic Study and Research Centre. The Library houses a rare collection of books dating from 1508 to 1850, devoted mainly to the history of the Catholic religion, along with the Annals of the Bar Convent and the Bar Convent School (letters, journals and registers) through its recusant period and up to the present day. A special collection of account books dating from 1733 gives a picture of school and convent life.

In a small ante-room of the Library, there are many examples of ancient prayer and other religious books – some donated by illustrious

visitors – kept by the nuns who lived there. Many of the books have their own story. One example is a small prayer book neatly bound in fine leather. This has very tiny seams patterning the cover, which could have been because book binding materials were hard to come by for the early nuns to repair their books, and possibly the nuns were not averse to 'recycling' a visitor's kid leather gloves (left by mistake, of course) to turn into a book cover!

The Convent also boasts a Chapel – a light, airy room, neo-classical in architecture, immaculately kept with fine gold leaf. Completed in 1769 by the York architect Thomas Atkinson, it was completely obscured from view from the outside to protect the then illegal worshippers. Leading off from the Chapel are eight doors, plus a priest hole below the floor, which, in the days of the recusants, provided a swift escape from the magistrate's untimely raids!

By permission of the author, Alison Harling, Editor of YLN Newsletter Summer 2007 in which this article first appeared.

The Editor of the GENLOC Newsletter would like to thank Alison Harling and David Sant for the use of this interesting material.

Who do you think you are? at Olympia, London, May 2007



Rolf & Alwen Harris with Lloyd-George at Olympia

The *Who do you think you are?* live Exhibition at Olympia, London, over the Spring Bank holiday was great success, with huge numbers of visitors. Over 12,000 people attended the event on Saturday, 6th May, the busiest day.

The National Library of Wales like all the exhibitors had a hectic time, and had the opportunity to welcome some very distinguished

visitors. The Library's stand concentrated this year on the family of Prime Minister David Lloyd-George. His great-grand-daughter, the very distinguished Canadian broadcaster Anne McMillan, together with her husband Peter Snow, another eminent broadcaster, were among the first to visit the stand.

Other visitors included Rolf Harris and his wife Alwen, both of whom have very strong Welsh roots. Rolf's grandfather, George Frederick Harris was a portrait painter from Merthyr Tydfil. He painted a portrait of King George V, which now hangs in the Mansion House in Cardiff. In 1920 he sold three of his paintings to pay for the family to emigrate to Australia, where they settled in Western Australia. Rolf's wife's family hail from north Wales.

Rolf Harris recently returned to Merthyr Tydfil as part of the BBC Wales Documentary series *Coming Home*. He brought with him his wife, daughter and grandson to introduce them to their Welsh heritage.

**Richard E Huws, National Library of Wales
GENLOC Standing Committee Member**



IFLA: World Library and Information Congress, Durban, South Africa, August 2007

The Section theme for the IFLA Conference in Durban in August is '*Stories without writing: local and family history beyond the written word.*' GENLOC is collaborating with the Audiovisual and Multimedia Section and the double Open Sessions include many exciting presentations.

- African oral genealogy: collecting and preserving yesterday for tomorrow
Osei-Agyemang Bonsu (Ghana) & Melvin P Thatcher (USA)
- Indigenous oral tradition in southern Latin America. Edgardo Civalero (Argentina)

- A library's efforts in a journey of salvaging the vanishing culture
Zhang Hongxia (China) & Zhan Changzhi (China)
- Earned wisdom: the library's role in encouraging inter-generational storytelling
Liz Weir (Northern Ireland)
- Oral histories online: the human perspective of historic Boston, USA
Maura Marx (USA) & John David Perry (USA) (Website only)
- Oral History and public outreach programmes in the KwaZulu-Natal Archives
Pumla Zodwa R Dlamini (South Africa)
- *'It was another Alexandria'*: an oral narrative of a cosmopolitan city
Sahar Hamouda (Egypt)
- Vancouver in 1907: a case study of archival film as a source of local history
Janet Tomkins (Canada) and Andrew Martin (Canada)
- Developing digital communities: the War Detectives project
Elaine Fulton (Scotland)

The IFLA Durban programme can be seen online at:

www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/Programme2007.htm

Scroll down the page to the programmes on **Tuesday 21st August 8.30am – 10.30am** and **Tuesday 21st August 10.45am – 12.45pm**.

The presentations can then be downloaded by clicking on the titles. But if you are coming to Durban, the GENLOC Standing Committee members will be delighted to welcome you to our joint sessions with the Audiovisual and Multimedia Section

The GENLOC Study Tour

This full day study tour will take place at the IFLA Conference in Durban on **Wednesday 22nd August 2007**, joining up with the Audiovisual and Multimedia Section. The Groups will depart from the Conference Centre at 8.30am, returning at 4.30pm.

The participants will visit the Durban Archives Depot and the Killie Campbell Africana Library in the morning and the Hidden Years Music Archive,

KwaZulu-Natal University, Howard Campus in the afternoon. Everyone will be welcome.

IFLA Quebec 2008

Satellite Meeting in Ottawa

The Section is planning a joint pre-conference satellite meeting in Ottawa, Canada, before the 2008 IFLA Conference in Quebec. Janet Tomkins is liaising with GENLOC Standing Committee member Antonio Lechasseur from Library and Archives Canada, and with colleagues in the IFLA Reference Section.

More details will emerge shortly. A possible theme could be *'Genealogy and local history for all'*, with a focus on inclusive genealogy, family and local history collections and reference services for multi-cultural communities. As Director of the Client Services Division at Library and Archives Canada, Antonio Lechasseur is responsible for the Canadian Genealogy Centre. And he says, *'In the Canadian context, the relationship with aboriginal and multi-cultural communities is of particular importance.'*

genealógia és helytörténet
Tarikh Mahali wa 'Ilm al-Ansab
Omorobero io y'ororeria
Abtirsino iyo taariikh degaan

For more information about the Section and its activities, please visit our website:

www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm

A leaflet promoting the work of the Section is available in the following languages: Afrikaans, English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Please email the Editor, GENLOC Newsletter at eam@freeuk.com with any comments on the Newsletter