



NEWSLETTER

Genealogy and Local History Section

Newsletter Number 13/ January 2009



Scenes from the IFLA Congress, Quebec, 2008:

l-r: The Changing of the Guard at the Citadel; map of Grosse-Île, the quarantine station for immigrants to Canada, in the St Lawrence River, used 1832 to 1937 – venue for the GENLOC Study Tour; view towards the Château Frontenac, one of Quebec's principal landmarks

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IFLA Award for Melvin P Thatcher, Chair of GENLOC 2003-2007



At the final session of the IFLA Quebec Congress, Dr. Thatcher was awarded the IFLA Certificate of Merit in recognition of his work for the Association and especially for its Genealogy and Local History Section (GENLOC). He was nominated for this

award by the GENLOC Committee, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, FamilySearch and the Genealogical Society of Utah and the Shanghai Library, China.

Dr. Thatcher has worked for FamilySearch (formerly known as the Genealogical Society of Utah) for over 30 years, acquiring written and oral genealogical sources for the Centre. He has a BA in Chinese area studies and language, an MA in History and a PhD in ancient Chinese History.

Throughout his career, Dr. Thatcher has been devoted to the advancement of international genealogy and local history librarianship, especially through IFLA. In 1999, he was instrumental in forming the GENLOC Discussion Group as part of the Association. The Group members aimed to raise the consciousness of libraries and librarians as to the popularity and importance of genealogy and local history.

In 2000 at IFLA Jerusalem, Dr. Thatcher led the Discussion Group in providing a new international forum for the exchange of information about genealogical resources, services and professional development. Dr. Thatcher continually promoted the Group to the IFLA authorities until the Genealogy and Local History Section (GENLOC) was established in 2002 as an official IFLA Section, with himself first as Interim Chair and then, from 2003, as official Chair, until his retirement from that position at IFLA Durban 2007.



Celebrations after the presentation of the IFLA Award to Melvin P Thatcher.

L-R: Janice McFarlane (Treasurer, GENLOC), Dr. Thatcher, Ruth Hedegaard (present Chair, GENLOC)

Alongside the annual IFLA Open Sessions and Study Tours, Dr. Thatcher's many achievements as Chair of GENLOC have included vital co-operation with other IFLA Sections such as FAIFE, the Geography and Map Libraries Section, the Audiovisual and Multimedia Section, and the Reference Section; a recruitment drive; and a

survey of genealogy and local history facilities in national library associations. He has overseen the production of the GENLOC introductory leaflets in Afrikaans, Chinese, English, French, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish, and has encouraged the publication of the bi-annual Newsletter, 2002 onwards, in print and on the IFLA GENLOC website. He also supported the editing of the GENLOC Conference papers 2001-2005, published by KG Saur in 2008.

During his term of office, Dr. Thatcher also advocated the use of GENLOC electronic discussion groups, one for members and one for Committee business. He has also promoted IFLA, especially the work of the Section, at conferences in China, Australia and elsewhere, and has encouraged his colleagues at the Genealogical Society of Utah to do similarly.

The members of the GENLOC Committee are aware of the effort that Dr. Thatcher has put into expanding and encouraging the GENLOC Section. We thank him for his commitment and energy. This IFLA honour is little enough reward for his steadfast and experienced work for IFLA.

This article is a much-abbreviated version of one of the successful Citations sent to IFLA HQ 2008



The Montmorency Falls on the St Lawrence River. En route to Grosse-Île Quarantine Station with the GENLOC Study Tour

Annual Report 2007-2008

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

Chair: Ruth Hedegaard, Denmark

Secretary: Russell Lynch, USA

Treasurer: Janice McFarlane, Scotland

Information Co-ordinator: Janet Tomkins, Canada

Editor of Newsletter: Elizabeth Melrose, England

Committee members 2005-2009:

Richard Huws (Wales), Elizabeth Melrose (England), Paul Smart (USA), and Juergen Warmbrunn (Germany)

Committee members 2007-2011:

Anne Burrows (Australia), Lijing Chen (China), Ruth Hedegaard (Denmark), Antonio Lechasseur (Canada), Gerard Long (Ireland), Russell Lynch (USA), Janice McFarlane (Scotland), Wayne Metcalfe (USA), Mattye Laverne Page (USA), Janet Tomkins (Canada), Gui Won Lee (South Korea), and Hsiao-ming Yu (Taiwan)

Corresponding members:

Gu Yan (China), Marie-Louise Perron (Canada)
Susan Lugo (US Virgin Islands)



Outside the Conference Building, Quebec

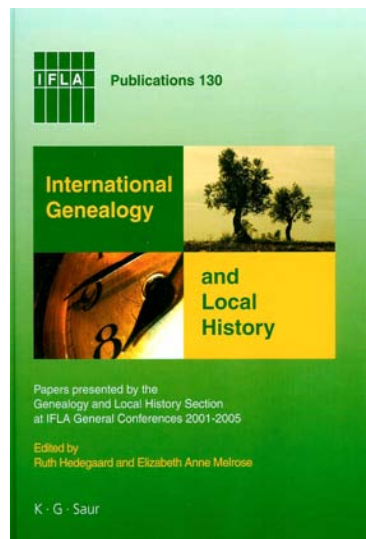
During the year we have been working on various activities and services:

Open Session Program

The theme of the 2008 programme in Quebec 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, 12th August 2008. Four speakers presented papers. Philippe Colombe's paper: *Protection des personnes et exigences scientifiques : les enjeux de la réforme sur l'accès aux archives en France*

was selected for submission to *IFLA Journal*.

The session papers can be accessed at: www.ifla.org/IV/ifa74/Programme2008.htm Scroll down to section 117 for the link.



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*. For more details see: www.ifla.org/V/pr/saur130.htm

During the World Library and Information Congress in Quebec, Melvin P Thatcher was awarded a Certificate of Service Award on 14th August, 2008 for working with librarians world-wide and for establishing the IFLA 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 Library and Archives Canada (LAC) on 6th/7th August, 2008. The title was *Genealogy and Local History for All: Services to Multicultural Communities*. Forty delegates attended the meetings held 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 this successful satellite meeting. see: www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/satellite-report-genloc-en.pdf

Study Tour

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

Section Committee Meetings

Full minutes for these meetings can be accessed on the Genealogy and Local History Section page on the IFLA website. see: www.ifla.org/VII/s37/annual/s37-2008-minutes.pdf

The standing committee also reviewed each item in the strategic plan during a spring discussion via email.

Membership Drive

One important goal of the section is to get more members in order to continue. We were pleased that the IFLA 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*. This was presented to Council for a vote of acceptance in Quebec.

Communication

Elizabeth Melrose continues to produce excellent Newsletters twice each year. The Newsletters are available through the IFLANET page. see: www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm

GENLOC Listserv

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

Publication of Conference Papers

The IFLA Publication Series, Nr130, was prepared by GENLOC. K.G. Saur published *International*

Genealogy and Local History ed. Ruth Hedegaard and Elizabeth Melrose, ISBN: 978-3-598-22036-4 - containing papers delivered at IFLA annual conferences, 2001-2005, covering a wide range of significant issues and trends in historical and family research. For details of how to buy this volume see: www.ifla.org/V/pr/saur130.htm



IFLA Milan, Italy 2009 Open Session

The theme for the GENLOC open session in Milan next year is *Opening up our Cultural Heritage through Digitisation and Collaboration*. We anticipate another successful programme with excellent presentations in Milan.

Off-site Session

GENLOC will also sponsor an off-site session about Ecclesiastical Libraries on Tuesday, 25th August, 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.

Russell Lynch

Secretary of the Genealogy and Local History Section

Genealogy and Local History for All: Services to Multicultural Communities: with a Danish Perspective



Lea Vivot: The Secret Bench of Knowledge sculpture.
Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa (Wikipedia)

This article is about the pre-conference held at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa before the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) conference in August 2008, and about the IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section. At the same time the treatment of general sources for genealogy and local history in Denmark is emphasised.

The 2-day conference was co-ordinated by the Genealogy and Local History Section (GENLOC) and the Reference and Information Services Section, two of the 48 sections of IFLA. The organisers succeeded in putting together a very diverse and exciting programme. Genealogy and local history were treated from several standpoints and important references were made to information about sources etc.

Library and Archives Canada, established in 2004, would in Denmark correspond to The State Archives and The Royal Library. It is remarkable to note that half a floor of the archives is occupied by the Canadian Genealogy Centre, and contains very many physical and virtual resources from Library and Archives Canada. To see genealogy capture such a prominent position in state libraries and archives is exciting news.

Earlier, at least in Denmark, there has been a tendency to place genealogical and local historical collections in small, rather unsatisfactory rooms with a minimum of resources and without any state attention. This seems on the edge of turning, and at the IFLA conference there were several references to both archives and genealogy and local history in combination.

GENLOC had its early start in 1997, and was recognised as a Section in 2002. I have occupied the post of Secretary since 2002 and was appointed Chair of the Committee in 2007.

The Section aims to:

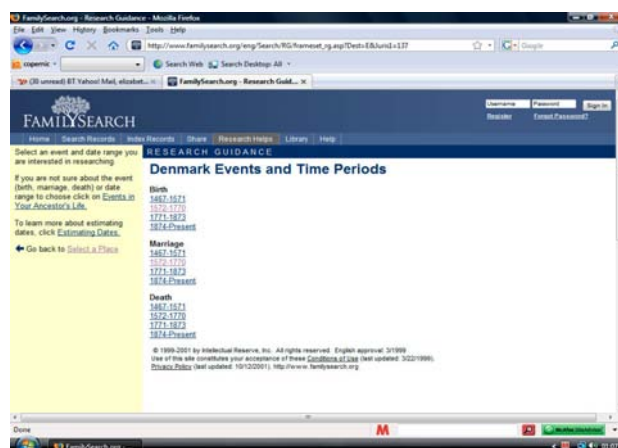
- provide a voice for genealogy and local history librarians in the international information community
- facilitate networking among subject specialists and libraries, archives, museums, and related societies and institutions
- encourage the development of genealogy and local history collections and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

These activities are to a great extent explored at the annual GENLOC sessions at the IFLA Congresses, where the committee organises

paper presentations, study tours and discussions. The 2008 pre-conference in Ottawa allowed delegates to dig deeper into specific topics relating to genealogy and local history services for multicultural communities.

The Mecca of genealogists internationally is no doubt the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. see the homepage: www.familysearch.org

Under the heading, *From raw records to digital images: making records more accessible at FamilySearch*, Paul Smart, Outreach Manager in Marketing at *FamilySearch* spoke about the initiatives of digitising even more material. The institution has made allies with volunteers, and, all over the world, data is put in the computer, and sources are indexed. *FamilySearch* has also started digitising the 2.4 million microfilm rolls from their collections, among others the many Danish sources that were microfilmed in the 1960s. A visit to the homepage of *FamilySearch* is recommended to see the great amount of material connected to Denmark that can be found there.



Denmark's Events and Time Periods on FamilySearch.org

On the main page is a reference, among other things, to *Research guidance by location* (under the heading *Start your family history*). When you have clicked onto *Denmark*, you find three headlines: *Birth*, *Marriage* and *Death*, divided into time periods. Note that the headings are somewhat misleading. Under any heading can be found information about many different sources.

The homepage does not only lead to national material. It is also possible to search for counties or cities. A search for *Frederikshavn* gave, among other things, the following result:

Brandtaksationsprotokoller, 1820-1877. Danmark. Byråd (Frederikshavn) Mikrofilmet fra manuskript i Landsarkivet for Nørrejylland, Viborg.

(Fire insurance and fire assessments records of Frederikshavn, Hjørring County, Denmark). Public records, Manuscript. Danish. Filmed for the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1962, 2 mikrofilmspoler

These examples are included to give an idea of the material on this website.

In the search system of the State Archives Daisy, it is possible to search for the sources that are mentioned in *FamilySearch*. From the homepage you can borrow archives to an approved loan-institution, unless these are withdrawn from loan. The two webpages complement each other. From *FamilySearch* you get an idea as to what Danish sources the Mormon Church considers the most essential genealogical sources, those that have been chosen for microfilming.

The website of the State Archives has to a great extent put the user in the forefront. There are many simple guides on the use of the archive materials, and ordering material is effortless and uncomplicated. On the website, among other things, there is an e-learning program to Gothic handwriting, which is indispensable for those students interested in reading original material from older times.

It is important to remind historians of the many city and local archives to be found around the country. The latest municipal reforms, where the number of Danish municipalities decreased from 275 to 98, have forced the establishment of city archives with the responsibility of municipal archives, resulting in more people being concerned with the protection, recording and the communication of the archives. The homepages of city and local archives have much material of great interest to genealogists and local historians. Many Danish archives have databases of original sources - material you can search on your own computer. One relevant database is the Odense database that holds information from many different sources about people from Odense in the 1700s.

Ending this article I shall mention some well-known and widely used Danish search databases.

- *Arkivalieronline* contains digitised church records up to 1925 and censuses 1787-1916 (with the exception of 1870, 1901 and 1911) from all of Denmark.

- *Danpa Denmark's National Private Archives Database* makes it possible to search for records of private archives that are kept in the local archives, in the State Archives, in the Royal Library and in different special collections, as, for example, the Library and Archives of the Labour Movement and the Danish collection of Folklore.
- *ArBiMus* is a cultural historical search database that makes it possible to search at the same time in archives, libraries and museums in the north of Jutland and in the region of Vejle.

In this article, starting with the Ottawa Conference on *Genealogy and Local History for All*, I have tried to describe some of the sources that are central for genealogists and local historians in Denmark.

Useful websites

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-200-e.html
www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm
<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>
www.sa.dk
www.vejlestadarkiv.dk/dk/default1.asp?what=dblist
www.odensedatabasen.dk
www.arkivalieronline.dk/
www.danpa.dk/
www.arbimus.dk

Ruth Hedegaard, Chair of GENLOC:
Translation of her article in 'Referencen'. Danish Union of Librarians 2008 vol38, no3, pp.18-21
rhe@stofanet.dk

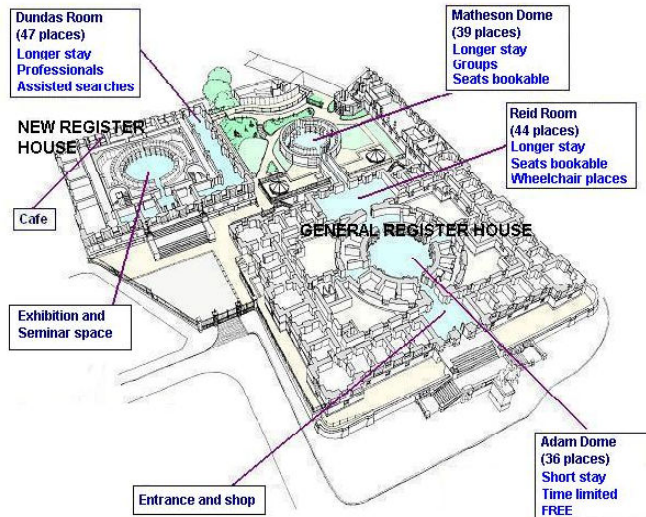
ScotlandsPeople Centre opens for business in Edinburgh

Some IFLA members may remember participating in the visit to the General Register Office for Scotland in August 2002, as part of the first GENLOC Study Tour. Our hosts provided an interesting talk on their resources and services, and we enjoyed an interesting tour of their historic building, and were able to view some original registers of birth, death and marriage as well as census records.

However, things have now changed, with the new ScotlandsPeople Centre officially opening to the public in January 2009
see: www.scotlandspeoplehub.gov.uk/

The facilities previously available at General Register House (National Archives of Scotland)

and New Register House (Registrar General Office for Scotland and Court of the Lord Lyon - Scotland's official heraldry office) have been combined to create a purpose-built family history centre. The Centre has four search rooms, a café, a shop and seminar facilities.



The ScotlandsPeople Centre, Edinburgh, Scotland

The ScotlandsPeople Centre will provide access to all key Scottish resources from the 16th century onwards. This includes birth, death and marriage registers; wills; census records; and coats of arms. Most of the records have been digitised and are available to view via onsite computers. A full list of the available records can be found on the website.



New Register House and General Register House

The cost of a full day's search will be £10.00, with free two-hour taster sessions available for new or inexperienced researchers. Staff will also be around to help or give advice to those that need it. Seats can be pre-booked by telephone, although it is hoped that an online booking service will soon be operational. Visitors will also be allowed to print

documents or download them onto a memory stick for a fee.

For those who are unable to visit in person, many of the documents are available on the online database see: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/. This is a pay-per-view service. However, many Scottish public and research libraries are providing a discounted voucher scheme, whereby registered readers can apply to use the database at a reduced charge.

The seal of approval on the new ScotlandsPeople Centre was granted by a visit from Her Majesty the Queen in July 2008, when she toured the new search rooms and viewed some of the original and digitised records. To commemorate the completion of the building work she unveiled a plaque and signed the visitor's book. Photographs of the visit can be seen on the website.

We are sure that this new facility will be well used and its opening in January 2009 will provide a welcome introduction to **Scotland's Year of Homecoming**, which aims to encourage expatriate Scots, and those of Scots' extraction to return and celebrate their roots.

*Hazel Robertson, Enquiries Assistant
Enquiries & Reference Services
National Library of Scotland*

*'For every single Scot in their native land,
there are thought to be at least five more
overseas who can claim Scottish ancestry'.*

**For more information on Homecoming
Scotland 2009
see:**

www.homecomingscotland2009.com/whats-on/default.html



Library Exchange: Australia/Canada

G'day! As a new member of IFLA's Genealogy and Local History Section I am writing about my latest career adventure: an Australia - Canada work exchange.

I have worked overseas once before at the Westminster Reference Library in London, England. That experience was so positive, both personally and professionally, that I was keen to repeat it - this time from a North American perspective. Another factor is my interest in genealogy and the current strategic direction of my home library in Sydney, which has recognised the significance of family historians among those client groups that we aim to serve.



State Library of New South Wales: Mitchell Library Wing

The exchange is between the State Library of New South Wales (NSW), Sydney, Australia, and the Cloverdale Branch of Surrey Public Library, British Columbia (BC), Canada. Stephanie Kurmey, my exchange colleague, is the genealogy librarian at Cloverdale, and was the recipient of my approach back in September 2007. Months of corresponding followed, resulting in policies being put in place to convert a dream into reality. I began the 10-month exchange in September, 2008.



Cloverdale Library, City of Surrey, British Columbia

Cloverdale Public Library, as well as serving its local community, specialises in genealogy. Regarded as one of the finest collections of Canadian genealogical materials, Cloverdale has the most extensive records in western Canada. Significantly, Cloverdale's collection was built in response to an expressed community need, the same need which has now been recognised to exist at the State Library, NSW.



Cloverdale Genealogy colleagues: Laurie Cooke (seated) flanked by Jacqui Haines and David Berry (Team member Tamara Nadon not present)

The State Library's Strategic Plan for 2007/08 is a fundamental realignment of the organisation from a collections based focus to a client-centred focus. Because family historians have been identified as one of six key client groups, the library's Family History Service is now a priority as never before. The majority of client information requests at the State Library concern family history, Australiana and intensive historical newspaper searching.

The State Library of NSW is both a public library and a research library. The Mitchell Library Wing houses the Australian Research Collections and is one of the nation's leading research libraries. As with other State Libraries the Mitchell Library is a deposit library and thus plays a key role in preserving the heritage of NSW. Many rare and unique items are held here both published and unpublished. Perhaps the most treasured items are the [First Fleet Journals](#). These Journals were kept onboard the convict transports that arrived in Sydney in 1788 to establish the Colony of NSW.

The State Reference Library is the library's other wing. This is a General Reference Library and houses the library's Family History Service (FHS). This is the starting point for family history research at the State Library of NSW. The FHS brings together the most frequently requested material

for researchers that enables them to assemble a family tree chart based on verifiable records. The scope of the collection is international, allowing clients to trace their ancestry to a country of origin. Clients with NSW ancestry are then referred to the Mitchell Library to flesh out this information from other sources.



NSW State Reference Library: Family History Service

There are differences between the two libraries. Cloverdale Library specialises as a Family History Centre. It has centralised its collection bringing all Canadian genealogical records together. This means the collection is visible and accessible. The advantage of this holistic approach is that one can observe client use of the collection, informing the librarian of the more popular and valuable genealogical resources.



Whilst the State Library of NSW provides a service run from its own Family History Service in the State Reference Library, genealogical resources are dispersed throughout the institution. Many lie hidden in library stacks across both libraries eg. cemetery records and newspaper notices etc. Thus there is a need to determine the scope of the family history collection and centralise resources to aid presentation and accessibility. Resources, which have hitherto been under-utilised, will be identified. Here the more holistic approach of Cloverdale could inform the State Library, enabling it to provide a more effective and consistent service.

One of the State Library's requirements for approving the exchange was to demonstrate how the experience will deliver service improvements to the Family History Service. This required the formulation of an academic or work based project. For this I turned to the *Action Plan* of the Independent Learners and Family Historians Team of which I am a member. Action Plans were required of all client service teams following the restructure of the Reader Services Division. These documents are tied to the Divisions' goals for delivering better library services to the people of NSW. It is my hope that the experience at Cloverdale will benefit and inform that process.

Another aspect that draws me to Cloverdale is the commitment to delivering genealogy services to First Nations peoples, assisting those of Metis, 'Indian' and Inuit heritage trace their ancestry. In September 2008 the Surrey Public Library formed a First Nations Team with the goal of connecting with local First Nations peoples, planning programs of interest to the community in conjunction with them. One of the team's initiatives is a *First Nations Genealogy Online Guide*. I will have the privilege of working with colleague Laurie Cooke in authoring this guide.



Genealogy Colleague, Laurie Cooke. Cloverdale Library

Working on this project will once again have the potential to enhance existing services at the SLNSW where indigenous information provision ranks among the world's best practices. The experience could also facilitate a closer working relationship between the Family History Service and the library's Indigenous Librarians, both of whom provide genealogy services.

**David Berry, Information Services Librarian,
Surrey Public Library - Cloverdale Branch, BC, Canada
DBerry@surrey.ca**

The National Library of Australia www.nla.gov.au

The National Library of Australia stands in the parliamentary triangle on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra. The building, opened in 1968, was constructed to house the National Library's growing collections, having been formally separated from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library in 1960.



The National Library of Australia, Canberra
(Loui Seselja, National Library of Australia, 2004)

The Library is a principal storehouse for the nation. Its role is 'to ensure that documentary resources of national significance relating to Australia and the Australian people, as well as significant non-Australian library materials, are collected, preserved and made accessible...'

The Library has seven reading rooms but family historians generally start their research in the Newspapers and Microforms Reading Room (NMRR) where the Open Access family history collection is located.



Family History Open Access Collection
(Paul Livingston, 2008)

This self-service collection comprises microform genealogical information from all Australian states and territories, Commonwealth electoral rolls from 1903 to the present time, pre-federation State electoral rolls, English and Welsh birth, death and marriage indexes and probate calendars, Irish transportation records, London Directories and some New Zealand material. The entire collection of Australian Joint Copying Project microfilms is part of the self-service collection in the NMRR.

The Library also holds the Society of Australian Genealogists' microfilm parish register collection.

A guide booklet, available in the reading room and at www.nla.gov.au/collect/genealogy/mfmopen/, lists drawer and call numbers, facilitating self-service use of the collection. The guide also indicates where indexes to material may be found. This is important with indexes increasingly being supplied on websites and other electronic formats and not necessarily located with the actual material.

The NMRR is equipped with 27 scanning microform readers. All microform readers are equipped to read and scan both microfiche and film. Readers may print the scanned images at a small cost or save/webmail at no cost. To facilitate the scanning process, each microform reader has an associated computer which also offers the full range of NLA web and internet facilities available on other public computers. Readers enjoy being able to use online indexes and microfilm concurrently.



Microfilm Readers (Paul Livingston, 2008)

The Australian newspaper collection, accessed via the NMRR, is comprehensive, with Australian newspapers being deposited under legal deposit requirements. Gaps in our holdings of historic Australian newspapers have been filled with microfilm copies. A range of current and historic overseas newspapers is kept in the collection. State capital daily newspapers and some larger regional newspapers are on self-serve access in the reading room, allowing easy use in conjunction with family history resources. A collection of family history guides and indexes in book form can be consulted in the reading room.

Popular family history resources on CD, such as birth, death and marriage indexes, immigration, convict and cemetery indexes as well as useful family history websites are networked to all public computers in the library through the eResources section of the NLA web at

www.nla.gov.au/app/eresources/

The Library currently subscribes to three major family history database services – *Ancestry.com*, *WorldVitalRecords* and *Origins Network*. Users may use these services on any public computer in the building. *WorldVitalRecords* provides convenient one-search access to hundreds of Australian items on CD which otherwise would need to be retrieved individually by call-slip.

A number of subscription databases are offered remotely to registered National Library users, free of charge. see: www.nla.gov.au/getalibrarycard. Remotely accessible National Library subscription databases popular with family historians are the *Times Digital Archive*, *Factiva* (current Australian and overseas newspapers), *House of Commons Parliamentary Papers* and *Making of the Modern World*.

Family historians find much to interest them in the broader collections of the National Library. The legal deposit requirement for Australian published books provides a broad and varied selection of Australian personal, family, local and military histories for family history researchers to fill the gaps in their story, as well as books on general subject areas. Oral histories, maps, pictures and manuscripts provide further scope for in-depth research. Maps, pictures and manuscripts are located in their own reading rooms.

The National Library's rapidly growing digital collection of pictures, maps, and manuscripts: see: www.nla.gov.au/digicoll/ is of great interest to family historians. We have received very positive feedback on a reader's ability to access the digital material remotely, completely free of charge. Especially popular is the newly launched *Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program* www.nla.gov.au/ndp/index.html with a rapidly expanding selection of historic Australian newspapers, fully searchable and digitised.

Printed guides for a range of family history subjects are supplied in the reading rooms and online at www.nla.gov.au/guides/. Additional online help is available at *For Family Historians* at www.nla.gov.au/infoserv/family.html. Further development of our online resources to facilitate unmediated family history research is planned.

Reader Education is offered on a weekly basis for a wide range of skills and subjects across the Library's subject areas, with family history being the focus of a session once a month. Some sessions are held in computer training rooms as hands-on sessions, teaching skills in a particular database or subject area such as *Ancestry*,

Origins Network or immigration resources. A monthly drop-in session provides an opportunity for readers with a particular research problem to seek assistance from a librarian. Monthly training sessions are held for the microform equipment.

Readers are assisted by the reading room counter staff with reference enquiries and equipment instruction and troubleshooting. Demands on staff can be quite challenging, especially with those readers with limited computer skills. Regular short skills sharing sessions take place within the Reader Services area and longer training sessions in the Reference Awareness program for staff include family history subjects.

National Library staff have participated in family history training days and displays including the National Archives' *Shake your Family Tree* in 2008 and the Heraldry and Genealogical Society of the Australian Capital Territory's annual training courses, providing speakers and information booths.

For many years, the National Library has had a steadily increasing clientele of family history researchers. These include regular locally based researchers, visitors/tourists and special interest groups. The airing of the *Who Do You Think You Are* programs on TV in the UK and Australia, precipitated a 25% rise in family history readers in February 2008. Provision of service to readers is sometimes hampered by unfamiliarity with technology. However, a study is currently underway to ascertain best practice in family history services and developments in other libraries and archives.

**Jenny Higgins, Family History/Reader Education Librarian,
National Library of Australia jhiggins@nla.gov.au**

Wales at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival 2009



Smithsonian Folklife Festival
(www.folklife.si.edu/festival/2009/index.html)

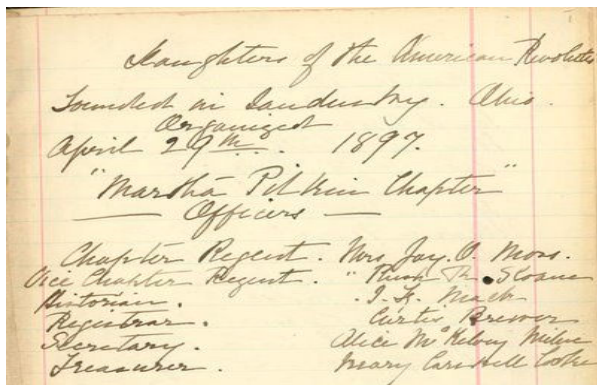
Wales will be the featured nation at the internationally renowned Smithsonian Folklife Festival held in the heart of Washington, DC on 24-28 June – 1-5 July 2009. The National Library of Wales has been invited to lead on the Family History area of the Festival. Members of staff with expertise in this field will be present throughout the Festival to give advice on researching Welsh ancestry as part of the Wales Smithsonian Cymru 2009 team funded by The Welsh Assembly Government.

www.folklife.si.edu/festival/2009/Wales/index.html

Archives of the Sandusky Library, Ohio, USA

sanduskyhistory.blogspot.com/

This features the collections of the Archives of the Sandusky Library and The Follett House Museum in Sandusky, Ohio, United States using materials from their Local History Collections. One item (below) shows an excerpt from the Book of the Secretary of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1897.



Resources available to all members include:

- Certificates Collection and Pedigree Collection
- Pre-1856 New Zealand Marriage Records Collection and First Families Collection
- Obituaries Collection

Auckland, New Zealand 12th Australasian Congress on Genealogy January 2009

See: www.affhocongress2009.org/index.html for the programme and speaker profiles. An article on this conference will appear in the next issue of the GENLOC Newsletter.

Anthony Holmes sends the following from Invercargill, New Zealand, one of the southernmost cities of the world.



St Mary's RC Basilica, Invercargill

Join the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (Inc), Southland Branch if you live in Invercargill or the surrounding districts.

www.geocities.com/nzsg_southland/

The research room/library is on the first floor of the Invercargill Public Library.



New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.

www.genealogy.org.nz

The National Library of Wales - report

In response to demand the Library intends to introduce free Wi-Fi service in its Reading Rooms and will be running a pilot project from January 2009. The introduction of Wi-Fi will be the first of a number of developments leading up to the opening of the newly renovated North Reading Room during the summer of 2009.

2009 will also see the wills of the National Library of Wales being made available online. The first

stage will provide access to the digital images in the Reading Rooms and this will be followed by remote access for users from all around the world.

As a result of increasing financial pressures, the Board of the National Library of Wales has decided to close the building to the public on Saturdays from 1 April 2009.

The Library Board was forced to take this unfortunate decision due to the steady decrease in the value of its budgets over recent years and the further cuts anticipated over the next few years. The implications of this for the public will be not only losing the service of the reading rooms but also access to the exhibitions, restaurant and shop which form a popular tourist and conference destination for people from all over Wales and beyond.

Beryl Evans, Family History Co-ordinator, National Library of Wales

FAIFE/GENLOC Connection - International Seminar

GENLOC Committee member, Antonio Lechasseur, Associate Director General, Strategic Office, Library and Archives Canada, was invited by FAIFE (IFLA Section on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression) to give a presentation at an International Seminar of Genealogy and Local History, *Challenges for libraries and archives: hidden histories*, held at the National Archives, Rio de Janeiro on November 6 and 7, 2008. Antonio is acting as the GENLOC liaison with FAIFE.

His presentation was entitled *Services for Multicultural Communities - Initiatives Developed by the IFLA Section on Genealogy and Local History (GENLOC). Why is GENLOC interested in this topic?* He explained that the work that GENLOC is involved with intersects very much with the fundamental commitment of IFLA/FAIFE towards a balance that would allow for access to personal data (information) and rights to privacy all around the world. This is somehow an important foundation that should allow for genealogy and local history to continue to flourish in the future.

Antonio was asked to comment on what GENLOC had been doing recently in the field of services to multicultural communities. He defined the excellent work accomplished over the last few years; including the planning and presentation of the Section's first satellite conference, held

successfully in August 2008 in Ottawa; and the support GENLOC provided to the World Library and Information Congress in Quebec City, when GENLOC organised a joint session with FAIFE on this very topic. At the Congress, Antonio also spoke about the resolution that FAIFE and GENLOC drafted for the protection of personal information for the consideration of IFLA as well as promoting pertinent papers from the published volume of IFLA GENLOC presentations

Susan Laura Lugo, President of the Caribbean Genealogy Library, Inc., US Virgin Islands, and a member of GENLOC, also gave a presentation on the obstacles and challenges for genealogy research in the Caribbean region – *What a Pistarckle! Access to Caribbean records for Family History Research*.

One of the goals of the seminar was to provide awareness in the Latin American community of how personal information is important for research, genealogy, and so on. For this purpose IFLA/FAIFE continually enjoys key support from the National Archives of Brazil and the Swedish International Development Agency who co-sponsored the Seminar.

Antonio Lechasseur, Libraries and Archives Canada
antonio.lechasseur@lac-bac.gc.ca

Correspondence

I am writing to show great interest in your International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). I am one of the staff in the Capital Library of China, Beijing's Local Literatures department, which is a core sector in our library and specialises in the study of Beijing's local history and culture.

I have received a brochure talking about the history, objectives, and activities of IFLA, as well as an application form for applying for members of the group. My department and I would also like to know more information about the IFLA Group - what qualifications do you need to become members of the group? what are the responsibilities we should have? and what is the application procedure?

We'll do our utmost to promote free international communications in this field.

Yu Jialu (Ms), The Capital Library of China
lulucia@126.com

Ruth Hedegaard, GENLOC Chair of GENLOC responded and invited Ms Yu Jialu to join GENLOC

Email to the GENLOC Section Committee from the Co-ordinator of Professional Activities, International Federation of Library Associations, The Hague, Netherlands

This is to inform you that in its meeting yesterday, 3rd December 2008, our Governing Board endorsed the **Resolution on Access to Personally Identifiable Information in Historical Records**, following a recommendation of the Professional Committee. An earlier version of this resolution was submitted jointly by the FAIFE Committee and the Genealogy and Local History Section to the Professional Committee in Quebec City in August this year.

You will soon see it appear on the IFLA website. Congratulations to you, the FAIFE Committee and the Genealogy and Local History Section. Could you please distribute this news to your committees?

Sjoerd Koopmann, IFLA HQ

For the IFLA Statement (December 2008) on Access to Personally Identifiable Information in Historical Records please see:

www.ifla.org/faife/policy/personal-historical-records.htm



GENLOC Ottawa Pre-Conference
A paper conservator explains her work
(Janet Tomkins, 2008)

INDEX TO THE NEWSLETTER

An extremely useful Index to the Genealogy and Local History Section Newsletter (issues 1-12, November 2002 – June 2008) has been compiled by Richard E Huws, Section Committee Member. We have to thank Richard for all his work on this Index.

The Index can be found on the IFLA GENLOC Section webpage at:

www.ifla.org/VII/s37/news/genloc-Newsletter_index-issues1-12.pdf



GENLOC Ottawa Pre-Conference
(Janet Tomkins, 2008)

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

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

Please email the Editor, GENLOC Newsletter at elizabeth.melrose@btinternet.com with any contributions for or comments on the Newsletter