



NEWSLETTER

Genealogy and Local History Section

Newsletter Number 5/ November 2004

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Words from the Chair

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



Mel Thatcher

I was born in Mesa, Arizona, USA and grew up on a farm in Idaho. I now hold a BA in Chinese

area studies and language, an MA in history, and a PhD in history from the University of Washington (Seattle). I am a long time employee of the Genealogical Society of Utah with responsibility for acquisitions in the countries of Asia, the Pacific Islands, and Africa.

I have been involved with IFLA since the discussion group on Genealogy and Local History was inaugurated in 1999. Now that we have become a recognised Section I am working with the committee to promote the importance and appeal of family history to all libraries and librarians.

I have six children and nine grandchildren. I also enjoy woodworking, vegetable gardening, and researching and writing about the history of ancient China.

Section Report

We must begin this report by expressing our heartfelt thanks to Harriet Kasow, Media Librarian, Bloomfield Library for the Humanities, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Mt. Scopus) for editing the first four issues of this newsletter. We wish her a happy and long retirement!

We welcome Elizabeth Melrose, North Yorkshire County Council (England), and Richard Huws, National Library of Wales, as the new co-editors of the newsletter.

We have just concluded another successful annual meeting during August in Buenos Aires. We wish to publicly express our appreciation to the speakers in our open session, which had the theme "*Resources for Immigrant History: Their origins, lives, and contributions.*" About ninety-five international librarians listened to their excellent presentations. We also thank the National Immigration Museum and the National Archives of Argentina for hosting our study tour

visits and taking the time to provide detailed introductions to their institutions and holdings.

We are joining with the Geography and Maps Libraries Section to organize activities for the next annual meeting of IFLA in August 2005. The theme of our open session will be "Navigating the World of Our Ancestors" (see the call for papers below). The workshop will focus on basic map (GIS) software and websites for genealogy and local history librarians.

The work of the Standing Committee during the coming year will focus on completing a survey of genealogy and local history in national library associations, collecting guidelines for genealogy and local history collections and services, and helping IFLA's Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) draft a document on data privacy and libraries. If you would like to share your thoughts on any of these topics, please subscribe and contribute to our listserv: genloc@infoserv.inist.fr.

Mel Thatcher, Chair, Genealogy and Local History Section

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

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



IFLA: World Library and Information Congress 2005, Oslo, August

Call for Papers

Papers are cordially invited on the theme: 'Navigating the World of Our Ancestors'

The Genealogy and Local History Section and the Geography and Map Libraries Section have joined to organize a programme at the forthcoming World Library and Information Congress, Oslo, Norway, August 14-18, 2005.

Relevant topics include, but are not limited to, migration and settlement, emigration and immigration, passenger lists, historical GIS projects, historical gazetteers and place names, maps and genealogy, molecular genealogy, etc. Papers introducing resources that are or will be available to librarians and researchers on the WWW or in other media are especially welcome.

Eight papers will be selected for presentation.

Please send the title and a brief synopsis of your paper to:

David C McQuillan
Thomas Cooper Library
University of South Carolina
Columbia
South Carolina
USA 29201

Tel: 1-803-777-4723

Fax: 1-803-777-4661

email: davidmcq@sc.edu

Mel Thatcher
Genealogical Society of Utah
50 East North Temple
Salt Lake City
Utah
USA 84150

Tel: 1-801-240-3048

Fax: 1-801-240-1448

email: thatchermp@gensocietyofutah.org

Deadlines:

Proposals must be received by January 20, 2005. Notification of acceptance will be sent by March 1, 2005. Full and final versions of accepted papers must be received by May 1, 2005. Papers may be in one of the official languages of IFLA, namely English, French, German, Russian, or Spanish.

Please note that all fees, including registration for the conference, travel, accommodations, etc. are the responsibility of the authors of accepted papers.

We sincerely hope that you will consider submitting a proposal for presenting a paper at our open sessions in Oslo.

IFLA 2004 Conference, Buenos Aires

The Study Tour

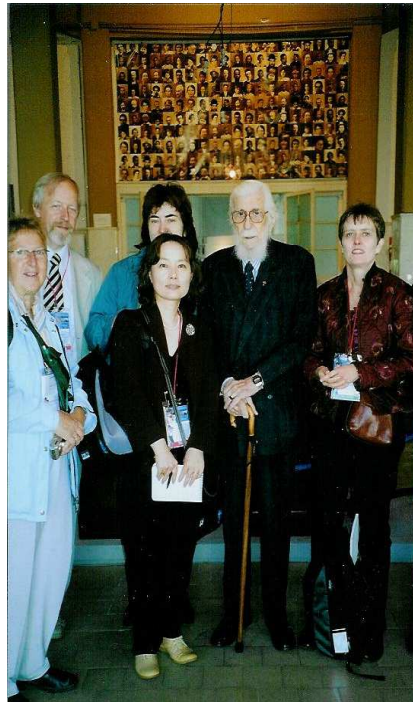
There was much to do and see in Buenos Aires, quite apart from attendance at the IFLA 2004 Conference, held in the impressive Hilton and Sheridan Hotels. However an enthusiastic group joined the Genealogy and Local History Section study tour to the Museo Nacional de la Inmigracion. Here we were taken round the 'Immigrants' Hotel', where scores of families stayed after embarking from a journey across the Atlantic Ocean of, on average, 30 days.



Crane unloading passengers to the dock

From the 1880s to the 1930s for economic and political reasons, many migrants, mainly from southern Europe, came to Argentina through Buenos Aires as the port of entry. Upon arrival, the immigrants had to produce proof of identity and, if they did not have immediate employment through family connections in the country, they would stay in the waterfront Immigrants' Hotel. Later they would create a workforce for the Country's agricultural industry and railway network.

The group saw a slide presentation of photographs and examined a database of the individuals who had stayed at the Hotel. A great honour was being greeted by the elderly founder of the museum, Professor Jorge Ochoa de Eguileor.



Professor Ochoa de Equileor (2nd on the right) with members of the Section Study Tour

After lunch the tour continued with an afternoon visit to the National Archives, where staff were doing their utmost in underfunded circumstances. Among other public papers we saw a document signed by Juan Peron and heard an original recording of Evita speaking to her supporters – a connection some of us afterwards continued by visiting her family mausoleum in the Buenos Aires Recoleta cemetery.

Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting 22 August, 2004

Participants from the Genealogy and Local History Section:

Melvin Thatcher, Genealogical Society of Utah
Ruth Hedegaard, Vendsyssel Historical Museum, Denmark
Richard E Huws, National Library of Wales
Joyce Jelks, retired Public Librarian
Lee Guiwon, National Library of Korea
Janice McFarlane, National Library of Scotland
Elizabeth Melrose, North Yorkshire County Council
Joel Plassard, Versailles Library, France

George Ryskamp, Brigham Young University
Paul Smart, Family History Library
Sok Hyeun Lee, National Library of Korea
Soo Eun Lee, National Library of Korea

Participants from the Geography and Map Libraries Section:

David C McQuillan
Anita K Oser

The Standing Committee Meeting



1. All persons present introduced themselves
2. IFLA HQ and Division business
Mel and Ruth reported from the Coordinating Board meeting on the previous day:
 - Volunteers had been found to act in pilot projects as part of the planning review of IFLA Sections. The IFLA Professional Committee will approve the final Review Schedule and appoint a Review Committee in December 2004
 - Next year is an election year, so election procedures will commence at the beginning of 2005

IFLA Coordinating Board has requested highlights from the work of each Section. Mel considered that the invitations extended to Ruth and Elizabeth to speak at conferences, and the publication of their papers in the journal, *New Library World*, could be considered highlights and these will be sent on to the Coordinating Board. Any other highlights should be reported to Ruth.

[Later: IFLA Journal accepted for publication Prof. George Ryskamp's paper on European immigration sources that he delivered at the Buenos Aires Conference Open Session 2004 for the genealogy and Local History Section. Another sign of accomplishment for our Section!]

3. Janice gave the financial report for the Section

4. Ruth reported on the Buenos Aires Conference Open Session

- There would be 5 speakers - two Spanish, two English and one French. One of the speakers, George Ryskamp would assist with the Spanish speakers.

5. Mel reported on the upcoming Study Tour. He had made appointments with the Buenos Aires Immigration Museum and the National Archives

6. Future conferences:

IFLA Oslo 2005:

David and Anita from the Geography and Map Libraries Section agreed that we should discuss plans for a joint Open Session in Oslo. Many ideas were put forward including 'Navigating the world of our ancestors' and 'Voyages of discovery'. Members of the Standing Committee agreed on the first theme, and a variety of topics for the session papers were discussed:

- Automated passenger lists
- Emigration letters
- The African diaspora
- The mapping of migration patterns of three continents
- A demonstration of an online map creator, on which migration could be plotted
- Molecular genealogy and maps of origins

The Standing Committee also considered the possibility of an off-site workshop on map-related websites and their applications for family History librarianship. It was agreed that the discussion of the proposed themes would be continued at the second Standing Committee meeting.

IFLA Seoul 2006

Lee Guiwon reported that the National Library of Korea would be interested in hosting a pre-conference for the Section in 2006. It was agreed that preparations for such an event might prove too onerous for our small number of committee members. However, the Section would like to have an off site visit or workshop in cooperation with the National Library on, for example, Korean genealogy and publishing companies. Korea hosts many extremely active

genealogical publishing companies, both print and digital.

Christian missions in Korea could also be a subject of interest.

Mel will put some suggested changes into the Strategic Plan and Action Plan Review and send it to IFLA and IFLAnet

8. Any other business

- Mel will ask British Library and the National Library of Wales to nominate Elisabeth and Richard for the Standing Committee

Ruth will send the Officers' training session notes to the Committee



Ruth Hedegaard, Janice McFarlane and Mel Thatcher manning the IFLA stand on behalf of the Genealogy and Local History Section at the Hilton Hotel, Buenos Aires

Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting 28 August, 2004

Participants from the Genealogy and Local History Section:

Melvin Thatcher, Genealogical Society of Utah
Ruth Hedegaard, Vendsyssel Historical Museum, Denmark

Janice McFarlane, National Library of Scotland
Elizabth Melrose, North Yorkshire County Council

1. Ruth reported on the Genealogy and Local History Section Open session of the Conference. Despite the absence of one speaker who had not given any explanation for her non-attendance, the session worked very well with the four remaining speakers. There were about 85 participants, interesting papers and good discussion in several languages. Ruth will thank the speakers and the Standing

Committee thanked her for her efforts in putting the programme together.

Elizabth will investigate the possibilities of publishing conference papers from Genealogy and Local History Section.

2. The Study Tour organised by Mel was most interesting. Around 20 people from several countries joined the party visiting the Immigration Museum and the National Archives – from Argentina, from the UK and the USA, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland, Korea, Peru, Russia, and Sweden, In future, it was agreed, the Section should explain clearly who we are, our specific interests, and how much time the group can spend at any one site.

3. Section activities for Oslo 2005

The Committee agreed that there should be a joint session with the Geography and Map Libraries Section and a workshop on 'Aids for librarians working with map material for genealogy and local history'

Ruth will invite Frode Bakken, Chair of the Norwegian Library Association, to encourage the Norwegian Library Association to join the Section and to suggest places of interest for the Section Study Tour

Mel will take prime responsibility for the Open Session and Ruth will investigate possibilities for the Study Tour.

4. Communications

Elizabth will edit the Newsletter with the help of Richard Huws. The first step is to send a call for articles to Genloc.

5. Strategic plan and action plan review.

Mel will insert the proposed changes into the strategic plan

- Action Item 2.3. Recruit new Section members

Target 1: National Library Associations

Target 2: National Libraries

Janice will send an information packet containing a couple of newsletters, a leaflet and a letter, in the first instance to National Library Associations that are already members of IFLA but not members of GenLoc.

Everyone is urged to take initiatives in their own country.

▪ **Action Item 2.4. Survey National Library Associations**

Janice will continue the project to encourage non-IFLA National Library Associations to join IFLA and GenLoc, and to set up relevant sub-groups as required, after the initial mailing to IFLA members.

▪ **Action Item 3. Promote cooperation between archives, libraries, and museums**

Ruth will write an article on collaboration between archives, libraries and museums.

▪ **Action Item 3.1. Survey National Libraries**

Richard will ask National Libraries if they have genealogical and local history sections and services. He will try to collect contact names and addresses for a follow-up.

▪ **Action Item 3.2. Collect Family History Policies and Guidelines**

Several guidelines were distributed by Mel, who will send others out to the Committee. Elisabeth will ask Colette to work on them and send material to her.

Action Item 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.

Mel will write a paper on Data Privacy for FAIFE that he will send around for discussion.

[Since the Committee meeting, FAIFE was persuaded to take on the matter of Data Privacy. Mel has been asked to serve on a committee of four to draft a position paper to be presented to Council at the forthcoming meeting in Oslo next August.]

Reporter: Ruth Hedegaard, Section Secretary

If any member of the Section would care to comment on any item reported in the Minutes, the Section Committee will be pleased to hear from them. Please email the Chair of the Section, Mel Thatcher at thatchermp@gensocietyofutah.org

The Scottish Emigration Database

The Scottish Emigration database:

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/~his031/emigscot.htm>

has been developed to investigate patterns of external migration from Scottish ports during the period 1890-1960 using digitised copies of archives (lists of passengers) held by the National Archives in Kew, England. To date over 20,000 entries have been made and we have created a digital collection of materials for every vessel sailing from Glasgow, Scotland, in the years 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1940 and 1960. In addition we have also digitised those lists of passengers for the year 1923 (because of its importance in Scottish population history) and emigration via the smaller Scottish ports of Ardrossan, Oban, etc. One can search the database via the main fields such as place, name or occupation, or through searching the 'Ship Name' section of the database (which includes details of vessels sailing from various Scottish ports to transatlantic destinations).

Reporter: Janice McFarlane, Section Treasurer

News from Elsewhere

Genealogy in Győr, a Hungarian Library. Fashion? Business? Are our libraries lagging behind?

In the past decade in Hungary, there have been two specific periods of interest in genealogy.

At the beginning of 1990s I worked as a librarian in the local studies section of a county public library in Győr, Hungary. At that time we received several letters from abroad. The writers were former Hungarians who wanted to know more about their Hungarian ancestors. In Hungary public libraries traditionally collected printed documents but did not have collections of birth, marriage or death certificates, so we

tended to forward these letters to the county or to the church archives.



Győr, Hungary

At the same time my colleagues and I also met with this type of enquiry from the library users. The public wanted to know more not only about their places of residence but about their own history, family history too. Searching for the family tree was becoming more and more popular. To answer the users' requirements we set up a list of the most appropriate documents such as old local newspapers, reference books of family history, biographies etc. In the nature of our library collection all documents refer to the modern history.

Genealogical research did decline somewhat over the next few years, but it has become very fashionable once more.

However, an interesting fact: in 2000 the Association of Hungarian Librarians Local Studies Group organised a national user survey of local studies collections in public libraries. According to this survey 27.8% of library users were researching the local history of their locality in libraries, and of these only 0.2% were interested in their family trees.

What is happening? Searching the history of families has become good commercial business. The most relevant books are being re-printed, not only in the traditional way but on CD-Rom. There are full text versions on the internet. There are special websites, and there are specialists and entrepreneurs who use the collections from libraries and archives to make their own fortune.

And what should our librarians do? Are we failing ourselves and our public?

Erzsébet Gáncs, Committee Member, Local Studies Group of the Association of the Hungarian Librarians

Cooperation between the local Historical Archives and a Genealogical Society in Denmark

I work at the local historical Archives in Hjoerring, a city in the northern part of Jutland in Denmark. For several years we have had very good relations with the Genealogical Society in Hjoerring.

Some years ago the Archives extended its opening hours to include the first Saturday of each month for eight months a year.

On these Saturdays members of the Genealogical Society are always present in a voluntary capacity to guide our users and to share their knowledge of the genealogical art with them.

We are very satisfied with this organisation. On our 40th anniversary the Society gave the Archives extra working hours, so we responded to their Jubilee by giving their members five Saturdays in the Archives open to the public.

We are now in the middle of having these extra opening hours every Saturday from 10.00-16.00hours.

As well as having this public access we are taking different initiatives to make the Archives known to the public.

Apart from advertisements, press releases, posters in shops etc. about our events, we have organised two workshops, running throughout the five weeks.

In the morning we have a workshop about pictures and the handling of them. In the afternoon another workshop on the old Gothic handwriting that you have to learn to read if you want to consult the sources of our history.

Luckily we have, up till now, had visitors with an interest in genealogical matters but also others, who have found out about the Archives and the possibilities they have of finding historical material here.

One of our visitors came to consult the protocols of one of our professional photographers. We hold the protocols from the start of the firm in 1882 till the closure in 1969, in all about 125,000 glass negatives.

In these protocols are listed the name of the person who ordered the picture, and when it was taken - information that often takes you further in the chase for information about the past.

Another visitor was interested in photos of a specific house in the town, and, seeing them, she could actually feed us with more information about one of the pictures.

We have been happy about this initiative and are sure that more people now know about the Archives and their holdings. It has been interesting to work with people from outside of the Archives, and it is fun to try another form of communicating our holdings to the public.

Ruth Hedegaard, Librarian at the Historical Archives of Vendsyssel Historical Museum, Denmark

<http://www.vhm.dk/engarch.htm>



Vendyssel Historical Museum (Denmark)

News from the Library Association of Ireland

In Dublin, the organising committee of the Library Association of Ireland's newest Group – the Genealogy and Local Studies Group – is busy planning their inaugural seminar, which is set to take place in February 2005.

This is an exciting new Group, founded in response to an initiative of the Genealogy and Local History Section of IFLA, and whose primary aim is to provide a forum for Library Association of Ireland (LAI) members working, or with an interest, in genealogy and local studies.

The Genealogy and Local Studies Group can help members to:

- meet other people working in libraries and information centres with similar concerns and interests

- promote the continuing professional development of genealogy and local studies staff
- promote best practice in the delivery of traditional and electronic genealogy and local studies reference services
- foster the use of genealogy and local studies collections within the broader community
- facilitate networking among those working with genealogy and local studies collections in libraries, archives and museums serving genealogists and local studies researchers
- promote international cooperation in the preservation, conservation, and dissemination of Irish genealogical and local studies sources

The LAI Genealogy and Local Studies Group welcomes contact from anyone involved or interested in Irish genealogy and local studies. While membership of the Group is open only to members of the Library Association of Ireland (LAI), non-LAI members may join the mailing list for a fee.

If you are interested in knowing more about this new Group, we invite you to contact one of the following:

Sile Coleman / Kieran Swords

County Library, South Dublin County Council,
Town Centre
Tallaght, Dublin 24. Tel. (01) 462 0073
email: scolemans@sdublincoco.ie

Monica Cullinan

Main Library, University College Dublin, Belfield,
Dublin 4. Tel. (01) 716 7100.
email: monica.cullinan@ucd.ie

Dr. Crystal Fulton

Department of Library and Information Studies,
University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4.
Tel. (01) 716 7593.
email: Crystal.Fulton@ucd.ie

Colette O'Flaherty

National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street,
Dublin 2. Tel. (01) 603 0230.
email: coflaherty@nli.ie

Colette O'Flaherty, Section Information Coordinator

Genealogy and the Family History Center, Wichita, Kansas

I have worked in and visited Family History Centers in the states of North Dakota, Utah, New Mexico, Missouri, Texas, and Washington. Each has a collection of materials which is unique to that Center, depending on the composition of the community. However, the patrons seem to be the same from place to place--fun loving, kind, focused, and full of unique personal and family stories. And they are always a joy to work with.

Family history research is changing rapidly because of the Internet. Genealogical research is much more readily available to the average person because of sites such as FamilySearch, Cindi'sList, USGenWeb, Cornell University's 'Making of America' and because of the large number of individuals who are sharing information about their families, as well as the availability of millions of microform records through Family History Centers. Almost-instant access to people who are half the globe away, through email and chat rooms, makes exchanging information fun and enlivening. It is through the magic of these modes of communication that I sit in my office in Kansas and send this message to the UK, reaching halfway around the world in a matter of minutes.

The Wichita, Kansas, U.S., Family History Center, where I live, recently installed rapid-access Internet connections. Training of staff has greatly increased in focus on computer use, particularly Internet research. The Center has eight computers. Seven networked computers have internet access and are loaded on the hard drive with FamilySearch so that CDs do not have to be used. Access to Ancestry.com is free to our patrons, as it is in other Family History Centers, a real boon if one is researching family in the United States. We also have free access to AncestralQuest.com through the Kansas Library system.

The eighth computer is reserved for users of the "Digitizing Center" -- the computer is connected to a laser printer, flat bed scanner, and state-of-the-art microform scanner. The system converts hardcopy and microfilm/fiche images into digital image files. Digitizing Center users can print the scanned images or save the files to floppy or CD. (This same type of technology is also available now at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.) This machinery

operates quickly and is very reliable. It has few moving parts, and is much less expensive for patrons than previous microform printer output. Images of censuses, books, periodicals, pictures, etc., can be taken home for leisurely review, and used for documentation and sharing with other family members. We waited for 18 months for this system, and the wait was well worth it! It is amazing!!!



As in all Family History Centers, our printed collection of materials is limited. A few shelves of books concerned with family histories, indexes, and such, and several shelves of research aids for worldwide locations, enhance our collection of approximately 1700 rolls microfilm and tens of thousands of microfiche sheets. Four microfilm readers and several microfiche readers complete the inventory of our equipment.

Rebecca Wright, Staff Trainer, The Wichita, Kansas, Family History Center, United States

Links to Kansas, U.S., Genealogical and Historical Societies are listed online at:
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/society/index.html>

They are listed alphabetically by county.

Websites listed in the article by Rebecca Wright are:

AncestralQuest.com

<http://ancestralquest.com/>

Cyndi'sList

<http://www.cyndislist.com/>

Cornell University's 'Making of America'

<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/>

FamilySearch

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

The USGenWeb project
<http://www.usgenweb.org/>

Information Disclosure and Privacy Protection in Japan

At an International Congress on Archives in Vienna, Austria, August 2004 a Japanese archivist, Yasushi Umehara, of the National Archives of Japan, gave a presentation on the *Protection of Personal Information and Information Disclosure at Public Archives in Japan* - about the need to protect the privacy of deceased persons when providing access to historical materials. see:

<http://www.wien2004.ica.org/fo/speakers.php?ctNv1=48&ctNv2=&IdSpk=485&AlphSpk=&p=&SpkV=2>.

The position of Japanese archivists is culturally specific. They say that the feelings of the living for their deceased must be respected; therefore, information providers may have to restrict access to records for longer periods and/or use methods such as masking names to protect the privacy of the dead in historical records. They are aware of the need of genealogists for access to such records.

However I would be interested to know to what extent this is an issue in other countries. Please share your thoughts and experiences by posting your response to this listerv:

genloc@infoserv.inist.fr

Mel Thatcher, Chair, Genealogy and Local History Section

Review

Reid, Peter H. *The digital age and local studies*. Oxford, Chandos Publishing (Oxford) Limited, 2003. xix, 237pp. ISBN 1-84334-051-8 £39.00 (paperback)

This book gives support to those managers who are aware that the growth of global interest in local, family and community history has been underpinned by the internet and website development. Use of local studies departments and archive repositories has increased dramatically over the last two decades. Even more important, local studies practitioners must accept not only the elaborate progress of electronic development, learning how it impacts on the delivery of source material to the public, but they must also welcome and understand these developments, in order to fulfil the greater expectations of their clientele.

In eight chapters, Dr Reid discusses the basics of local studies librarianship and collection building. Specific collections, when digitised, can be part of an international network of historical assets. The author reviews not only what can be put onto a website, but also the electronic reference material from other centres that can be accessed. Other aspects of electronic delivery are considered - electronic enquiry services, including email, electronic forms, weblogs and, of course, content creation.

There are very many essential genealogical websites, such as FamilySearch, which Dr Reid assesses, alongside that of other important electronic resources such as the Origins.network website. Useful material, such as monumental inscriptions and valuation rolls, have yet to be digitised and co-operation with local associations could be the way forward.

Indeed the best way to develop modern local studies services, especially digital services, is to explore what other leading colleagues are doing and to evaluate whether these have been successful – and whether these would translate into one's own environment.

There is a bibliography and the chapters end with extra notes and references. The author has described models of good practice and gives examples of evaluation criteria. This will become an important local studies reference textbook.

Reporter: Elizabeth Melrose

Standing Committee Members

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