



NEWSLETTER

Genealogy and Local History Section

Newsletter Number 9 / February 2007

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Interview with Mel Thatcher, Chair of GENLOC

Words from the Chair

Since the last issue of this newsletter we have held a very successful programme at the World Libraries and Information Conference which was

held in Seoul in August, 2006 of which more shall be said in the current issue. We wish to thank the presenters of papers at our open session on local history, who kept the attention of the large audience by giving very well done presentations. We are especially grateful for the unparalleled support that was extended by the National Library of Korea in organising a workshop on Korean genealogy with learned scholars, a bound bilingual volume of their papers, and simultaneous translation.

At the Seoul meeting the Governing Board and Professional Committee of IFLA presented a proposal for changes in the structure of IFLA that could dramatically affect small sections such as ours. A requirement of 50 section members and 10 standing committee members was proposed as the criteria for deciding the continuation of sections. Our Standing Committee opposed this requirement in a hearing in Seoul and has submitted its own suggestions for ways of strengthening IFLA in general and sections in particular.

Not knowing what the fate of the proposal will be, we are busy recruiting new section members and calling for more nominations to our standing committee. Good progress is being made on the latter, but at last count, only 36 institutions, associations and individuals belong to the section. Invitation letters have been mailed to more than 600 institutions and associations, and we anxiously await a positive result.

If your institution or association is not a member, we encourage your support through joining IFLA and our section as a personal affiliate. May we work together to effectively promote the recognition and development of genealogy and local history librarianship.

For information on IFLA membership, see www.ifla.org/III/members/index.htm

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

Richard E. Huws
Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
The National Library of Wales
GENLOC Committee member



Richard E Huws with Dr Guiwon Lee at IFLA, Seoul

The National Library of Wales, founded in 1907, which celebrates its centenary this year, has always been the most important centre of research for those who wish to trace their Welsh ancestry. The Library is unusual in that it not only caters for the printed word, but also acts as a repository for archives, manuscripts, mapping and graphic material making it a convenient one-stop shop for the researcher. The people of Wales have always had a bit of an obsession with their ancestry or *tylwyth* (family), and this may be attributed to the influence of the ancient pre-Norman conquest system of native Welsh laws codified by King Hywel Dda in the 10th century where certain rights were dependent on the individual knowing and being able to recite his family tree to the ninth degree! A 13th century illustrated Latin manuscript, *Peniarth 28*, which contains these laws is now one of the Library's most important treasures and a digitised version can be viewed on our website: http://www.llgc.org.uk/drych/drych_s006.htm

My initial involvement with genealogical resources arose during a period of 18 months when I was a junior assistant in the former Department of Manuscripts and Records in the early 1970s. Although the proportion of family historians using the Library was much lower then than it is today, significant numbers still visited the Library in pursuit of their ancestry. It was my job to retrieve and deliver parish registers, probate records, estate papers and archives to these readers. The experience I received in this work not only taught me a great deal about the wealth of resources that the Library held, but also kindled a personal interest in my family history, an interest I have retained and developed ever since.

Although I have been a member of the Library's professional staff since 1973, my involvement with genealogical services was minimal for the following 20 years. This period was spent in a variety of posts including cataloguing, periodical indexing and acquisitions with only a marginal genealogical content. However, since 1993 I have been directly involved with Reader Services, initially as Head of the Printed Books Reading Room, and since 2002, when the Library was re-organised along functional lines, I have been responsible for all reader and enquiry services. This has allowed the streamlining and centralising of many services, and the most important change from the user's viewpoint has been the creation of a single non-print reading room with substantially improved facilities for family historians. Planning and delivering this service, now provided in our spacious South Reading Room, was an exciting project, and the response to these changes, from both the staff and the public, has, in the main, been very positive.



The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

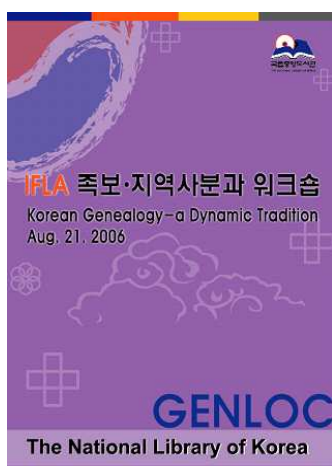
In parallel with improved facilities within the building, the Library is also developing its digital programme and implementing a new information management system. The digitisation strategy, which also involves partnership agreements with other organisations, will ensure delivery of full-text searching of probate and parish records on our website. Other useful print-based genealogical sources such as 20th century periodicals published in Wales are also being digitised over the coming two years in a JISC funded project. The new information system, which will be introduced in several phases over the next 18 months, will also include a family history 'skin' on its public catalogue. This will facilitate searching across a variety of formats, and the 'skin' will also include quick links to general websites useful to the family historian.

These are exciting times for the genealogical community. It has been a great privilege for me to have served on the IFLA committee, and to have met with so many other international colleagues also involved in delivering similar services. It has been fascinating to learn at first hand in formal conference presentations of the likely impact of new revolutionary developments, such as DNA profiling, on genealogical research.

And on a more informal note, new and lasting friendships, which I very much value and treasure, have also been cemented. All these aspects are the very essence of IFLA, and I, and the organisation I have represented, have been proud to have played a small part in facilitating this work, which encourages nations to co-operate to make the world a better place for all its citizens.

Richard E Huws: GENLOC Standing Committee Member

The Work of the Section taken from the Report 2005-2006 Summary:



The Section has 35 committed members. Raymond Wright is working on increasing this number to over 50, by promoting the Section to over 600 libraries world-wide

Open Session Program Seoul, 2006

The theme of the 2006 IFLA programme was *Local History: A Dynamic Partnership between Libraries, Archives, and Museums*.

The Genealogy and Local History Open Session in Seoul was successful - 5 speakers and 90 attendees. Wu Shushi's paper on *Co-operation on*

local history and the concept of network building between libraries, museums and archives in China was chosen for publication in the main IFLA Journal.

The GENLOC Workshop



Participants at the GENLOC Workshop

Guiwon Lee from Korea organised an excellent workshop on Korean genealogy at the National Library of Korea. The National Library provided simultaneous translation to the 85 participants and distributed the presentation papers in a bilingual volume to all the delegates. Moreover they had produced the most magnificent banners both outside and inside the building. The workshop was featured in the Conference newspaper, *IFLA Express* 7, Thursday 24 August.

The Study Tour

As in previous years the Section organised its own full day study-tour. In the morning we visited the Jongmyo World-Heritage Shrine to see the place where memorial services are performed for deceased kings. In the afternoon Section members went to the Royal Library to see the royal collections inherited from the Joseon dynasty (1392 – 1910). There were 16 attendees in the morning and 18 in the afternoon.

Section Committee Meetings

Minutes of Committee meetings can be seen on: www.ifla.org/VII/s37/annual/s37-2006-minutes.pdf

IFLA Review of Sections

Much time was spent on this subject in committee both before and during the congress in Seoul. Section members attended the Special IFLA meeting on the Review of Sections and made their voices heard. Two pages of suggestions and commentary on the subject collated from Committee comments were sent to IFLA HQ.

GENLOC Membership Drive

The section is encouraging more members in order to avert the threat of being closed down. Mel Thatcher, chair of GENLOC has organised the sending of recruitment packets to:

- 127 IFLA member national libraries
- 74 IFLA member library associations
- 30 IFLA non-member national libraries
- 24 IFLA non-member library associations.

Communication with members

The Newsletter has been well received. The editor, Elizabeth Melrose, and her co-editor, Richard Huws, were thanked.

GENLOC listserv

The listserv does not yet operate as a discussion forum, but it is still used to send out information, minutes, the Newsletter and so on.

Publication of conference papers

It has been suggested that previous Conference Papers from the Section's Open Sessions should be published. Ruth Hedegaard, Elizabeth Melrose and Richard Huws are working on this, planning publication for later in 2007.

Nearly all the Conference papers have been collected. IFLA and the publisher, K.G. Saur Verlag, have shown great interest.

Quebec 2008 Pre-conference Meeting

The Section is planning a pre-conference in Quebec. Janet Tomkins of Vancouver is looking into the matter.

Ruth Hedegaard
Secretary of Genealogy and Local History Section

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

The theme for the IFLA Conference in Durban will be '*Stories without writing: local and family history beyond the written word.*' GENLOC is collaborating with the Audio-visual and Multimedia

Section and have already received very many exciting abstracts from the call for papers.



The Section Study Tour will be to the Durban Archives Depot and the Killie Campbell Museum.

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: English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Leaflets in African languages are being prepared

Spellbound in Seoul: the 72nd IFLA Conference, Seoul, South Korea, August 2006

Members of the IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section are committed to the organisation of the Section, especially at this moment when the central IFLA organisation is casting a searching eye on value for money, member numbers within the Sections and work accomplished. I am on the Section Committee, acting as the Newsletter Editor. I was also successful in having been chosen to give one of five presentations at the Section's Conference Open Session. I was involved in the official and unofficial Section meetings, an off-site afternoon programme at the National Library of Korea, the Open Session itself, and the all-day genealogical study tour to the Jongmyo Shrine and the Royal Kyujanggak Library at Seoul National University. Our Committee members also attended and spoke at the Special Session to discuss the future of IFLA's professional structure and I attended the FAIFE (Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression) Committee Meeting along with our

Chairman. There was not enough time to do much more apart from enjoying the official functions and dinners!

In May 2006, the Section Committee had conducted its now annual e-committee meeting. Preparation for the Conference had continued. The Chairman, Mel Thatcher (Family History Library, Utah) had sent out a call for papers on the subject of *Local History: a Dynamic Partnership between Libraries, Archives, and Museums*. Abstracts and prospective papers were scrutinised by the adjudicating committee and five presentations were chosen for the open session. Our Treasurer, Janice McFarlane (National Library of Scotland) collected the current leaflets promoting the work of the Section, including the new translations and Richard Huws (National Library of Wales) collated the current results from the Survey of National Libraries and their participation in genealogical studies.



Sightseeing in Seoul

The first Committee Meeting held the day before the start of the Seoul Conference considered the arrangements for the three events that the Section was hosting at the impressive COEX Conference Centre. More serious discussion then took place over our possible response to the Special Meeting of the Professional Committee on the future of IFLA's professional structure. The Section Committee, and our associate members present, took the view that to have only one criteria, that of a "minimum of 50 members", for continuance as a Section negated all the work in which the younger Sections were involved. In our case this would include work achieved in the few years since the Glasgow Conference in 2002: the increase in members and the efforts being made to advance the Section through the Newsletter; the survey of National Libraries and a campaign of promotion in genealogical journals; annual participation in the IFLA Conferences; the fact that two of the Section papers from previous Conferences had been published in the IFLA Journal and that

preparations are being made to publish the Section Conference presentations.



The National Library of Korea GENLOC banner

At the seminar, organised at the National Library of Korea by Committee member Guiwon Lee, simultaneous translation and a dual language book of the papers taught delegates about the private and public genealogy collections in Korea and the family *Jokbo*, (the Korean genealogical record equivalent to the family tree, held by each family and passed down through the generations).

The Open Session at the COEX building demonstrated how much could be achieved through continuing collaboration. One was by a member of the National Library of China speaking on co-operation and network building between libraries, museums and archives in that continent. Another session explored the way that one New Zealand resource centre at Puke Ariki is helping to conserve and describe the history of the Maori and the early settlers. A Japanese delegate commented on one of my slides of a Police Charge Book showing mugshots of 19th century delinquents. He wanted to know how genealogists reacted when they realised that their ancestors had been up in court for criminal activity. I was able to respond that modern-day family historians are very enthusiastic about such detail.

The Chairman and I attended the FAIFE Committee Meeting and we will be part of an international Working Group, corresponding by email, on the subject of what to do about balancing privacy concerns with the need for libraries to provide access to personal data for

totally valid library service reasons. This is a subject that has massive resonance in the field of genealogical research.

It was difficult to attend other Open Sessions, due to conflicting timings, but I did manage to meet up with friends from France, Japan and Hungary among many others. The conference location, Seoul, seemed so exotic with its mix of modern high-rise buildings juxtaposed with urban Buddhist temples. By chance I had been advised to book in at an apartment hotel which turned out to be only a street away from the COEX Conference Centre and the Airport Bus Terminal - very welcome after the security queues and the long flights from Gatwick. The Korean people continued to be helpful in every way when I was sightseeing on my own, visiting the ancient palaces and shrines as well as the no-man's land on the border between North and South Korea. They explained the Seoul Subway map, shepherded me out of the immense shopping Mall when I just could not find an exit, and took every opportunity of practising their language skill.

Learning about the genealogical and local history traditions of other countries and the way that such collections are being used with researchers and students was stimulating. Comparing different types of genealogical evidence was extremely useful, especially for those dealing with immigrant communities from the East. It proved that all peoples of all nationalities are curious about their past inheritance.

Elizabeth Melrose: Councillor, CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals)

Korea Genealogy Workshop Draws a Crowd

'Korean Genealogy: A Dynamic Tradition' – a workshop organized on 21st August by the National Library of Korea for the Genealogy and Local History Section at the National Library drew 80 international and Korean participants.



- Speakers of the Standing Committee -

Three papers presented by Korean scholars provided a comprehensive overview of the ancient Korean genealogy tradition, tracing the significant development of formats, contents, and modes of publication of family *Jokbo* from the 15th century to the present, from paper copies to the newest CD-ROMs and internet sites. Private

A full page of promotion in IFLA Express

Researching e-Genealogy

'Information behaviours, literacies and strategies of the users of UK e-genealogical resources and the implications for Local Studies Collections' is a project being undertaken at the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen by doctoral researcher Kate Friday. It is funded by RGU's Research Development Initiative, established to enhance existing research within the University. The study compliments work in the Local Studies field being carried out by Dr Peter Reid, also the project's Principal Supervisor. This paper will give an overview of the project, and progress to date.

Background

The profile and level of interest in genealogy and family history have never been greater, and the recent emergence of research resources on the Internet has effected an explosion in its popularity. Census results, parish registers, birth, marriage and death records and commercial databases are well established online, alongside a wide range of volunteer-run resources including mailing lists, newsgroups, discussion forums and co-operative transcription projects. The ease that these 'e-genealogical' resources bring to some parts of the research process has opened the discipline to a whole new audience. However, the majority of these provide only a search mechanism or raw materials lacking in context.

Local Studies Collections 'exist in order to recognise the social, economic and cultural activities of the local community' (Reid 2003), hosting and making available this information which can place names and dates in a wider historical context. The new expanded possibilities of remote access to information have opened up our collections to researchers all over the world. Collections are represented on the Internet to varying degrees, yet remarkably few UK Local Studies sites visibly break into the list of popular genealogy sites amongst governmental, commercial and volunteer-run offerings. Those within the profession are well aware of the work done with genealogists, but is this high profile enough and visible within the UK media and our working practices? Genealogy is visible within the names of the relevant IFLA and Irish Local Studies sections, but not within UK's Local Studies Group. Did this contribute to Webster's (2005) claims of a lack of support for family historians in UK libraries and subsequent heated debate in CILIP *Update*? Do we run the risk of new researchers missing the important role of Local Studies? What can Local Studies learn from 'branded' sites – how can we apply the same kind of visibility to our library resources?

Do researchers who, despite warnings within the genealogical instructional literature, expect all the

work to be done for them? How are genealogists looking for information on the Internet, and how do our conceptions of Information Literacy compare to what is happening in their 'real world'? How reliable and ethical are both Internet sources, and genealogists' use of information? Can we assist established genealogists who are adapting to new technology and resources? These are important questions for the information profession that this research seeks to address.

Richard Harvey (1992) observed that the issues in genealogical provision are grouped according to *'the subject and its sources, the people, and the librarian's response'*, and similarly the project's three central foci, e-genealogical resources, users, and Local Studies Collections. The wider research takes a phenomenological approach and investigates these resources and collections from the perspective of the users, in an attempt to discover how to make the 'added value' of the local studies collections more visible. The research seeks a better understanding of the users of these e-genealogical resources; how the users use the resources; and the resources themselves, in order to elucidate ways in which local studies collections can increase their visibility and encourage increased usage.

Project Aims

- To identify, examine and categorise sources of, and services for, e-genealogy within the United Kingdom.
- To investigate the information seeking strategies and information literacy competencies of users of e-genealogical resources.
- To formulate methods by which Local Studies Collections can, more visibly, enhance and add value to 'online family and community experiences'.

Objectives

- To identify UK sources of and services for e-genealogy, and scrutinise existing information source and Web site criteria applicable to these resources.
- To formulate specific evaluative criteria for e-genealogical resources, and apply these criteria to a purposeful sample of those resources earlier identified.
- To construct a demographic profile of the user community for UK e-genealogical resources.

- To evaluate the information and digital literacy, and information-seeking competencies of these users, and identify and explore factors influencing their behaviour in the 'real world' context of their research.
- To identify genealogical and e-genealogical resources provided by UK Local Studies Collections, and discuss practical methods of increasing the visibility of these to e-genealogy users.
- To identify methods by which these public library resources can add value to online family and community research.

Resources

What is the current status of UK genealogical information on the Internet? How can UK e-genealogical resources usefully be defined and categorised? What makes a good e-genealogical resource? Why are some more visible than others?

Increasing awareness and understanding of the particularities of e-genealogical resources among library professionals is considered key in adequately supporting researchers. Data collection has focussed on the examination of web resources, and library and genealogical literature. A category scheme has been devised and will be constructed. Categories based on the provider of the information. The evaluative criteria are under construction based on these categories and relevant sources.

Users

Which resources are being used, and how? Which resources are visible to users and why? Does the attraction of the commercially 'branded' genealogy websites pull users in? Why? Are Local Studies Collections visible online to researchers? Do users display knowledge of Information Literacy when researching in their own homes? How do new genealogists research compared to established family historians? What else affects researching behaviour?

Studying the users of UK e-genealogical resources is the largest area of primary data collection. Users took part in an online survey (between October 2005 and April 2006) which aimed to better inform Local Studies organisations of the scope of the potential user group that could benefit from their materials, and better knowledge of the group: who they are, where they are from, and their likely experience levels.

Results are explored here, with more details available at:

www.researchinggenealogy.co.uk/survey/surveyresults.pdf

Diary-keeping by researchers is currently underway (October 2006-March 2007), which hopes to gather data on resource use, while maintaining the 'real world' context of their information behaviour. Although limited use of the method has been made in Library and Information research (Goodall, 1994), it has been considered ideal for genealogists because of their renowned commitment to their research.

Shadowing and 'Think Aloud' techniques will supplement the diaries, obtaining a more detailed look at researching behaviour. Focus groups will take place in early 2007, which will examine issues and themes which have emerged from data analysis, and tentatively explore user attitudes and relationships with resources and libraries.

Results Summary of the User Survey

Of the 3949 usable responses received, the majority (59.7%) were UK resident. Respondents outside the UK were concentrated in the main Diasporas from the United Kingdom: USA (15.1%); Canada (10.1%); Australia (10.1%); New Zealand (2.5%); and Other countries (2.5%).

38.1% of respondents were Male, and 61.9% Female. Although genealogists are stereotypically considered predominantly female, these results do not present as distinct a difference as one would expect. Age distribution conformed more closely to a stereotype of 'older' persons: 78.8% of the genealogists were 45 or above. Although only 1.4% of researchers were under 25, this age group is not evident in similar studies. Women are more dominant in younger age groups, with a higher proportion of men in later years. The age distribution of UK respondents was in general younger than that elsewhere. Researchers were predominantly married, and 61.3% were educated above school level. Scottish researchers were 'over-represented' within the UK, although this is likely attributed to the Scottish origins of the research. This was mirrored by Scottish expatriots, who certainly anecdotally exhibit a strong Scottish cultural identity.

Most respondents (81.9%) had been involved with genealogical research for at least a year, the highest concentration in the 1-4 years category. The recent growth in genealogy's popularity is evident from the fact that over half the respondents have begun their family history research within the last 5 years, a higher

proportion compared to other studies. Is this a significant difference, or simply an illustration of the delay between the commencement of genealogical research in the present climate (most likely on the Internet) and going out to a library/archive/family history fair, or even self-labelling as a family historian?

It is important not to forget the significant proportion (46.7%) of highly experienced respondents who had been practising genealogy for over 5 years. Female genealogists were generally the more experienced, and concentrated in the middle of the range. There were more male beginners, but also a higher proportion of males with the more than 10 years experience.

Public Library Membership amongst the group was 78.2%. This is particularly relevant for Local Studies Collections and Public Libraries. Although all of these members may not currently be active library users, here we have a large potential library user group, of which nearly eighty percent are already receptive to what libraries have to say. With the exception of those under 25 (where rates were amongst the highest), membership rate increased with age and experience.

Ancestors in England were researched by 75.6% of respondents; in Scotland by 62.5%, Wales 20.1%, Northern Ireland 19.1%, and Channel Islands/Isle of Man 5.2%. The high incidence of respondents researching ancestors in Scotland is again evident, but also in Northern Ireland. It should be noted here that due to the political changes that have occurred in Ireland, it will be impossible to distinguish between Northern Ireland and Eire. English ancestors were most common amongst those in New Zealand and Australia, and Scottish ancestors with those from the USA and Canada.

Respondents generally had a great deal of computer experience, with 85.9% having 5 or more years use. Male respondents had slightly more computing experience: although not evident until above 3 years of use. Generally, respondents had not been using the Internet as long as they had computers (68.4% more than 5 years). Again, little difference was found between men and women until the top category of experience. In addition to the respondents feeling generally more confident using the Internet, they are feeling more confident more quickly.

Over half the respondents had been using electronic resources for over 3 years, with beginner users matching the numbers of new genealogists. Gardiner (2004) noted that men were much more likely to be using the Internet

within their Family History research, and indeed more likely to be using the Internet in general. Is the growth of Internet genealogical information the factor encouraging younger men into genealogy?

There were significant differences in the lengths of use of genealogical websites between the UK and elsewhere, with researchers outside the UK having been using the resources for longer. This reflects that genealogy's recent increased popularity has grown less quickly in the UK than elsewhere – eg the United States and Canada. Further investigation would be necessary to investigate factors which have an effect on this. As was the case with Length of Genealogical Experience, the Public Library membership rate increases as the Length of Resource Use increases.

The main location for e-genealogical research was at home (88.7%), with 1.2% of genealogists based mainly in a Library. 69.6% only used their main Internet connection for researching, which translates into nearly 80% of respondents researching exclusively from home. 78.9% of UK researchers are using broadband connections, significantly higher than anywhere else. That said, there is still a significant group of researchers (nearly 20%) using Dial-up Internet connections.

Local Studies

What is the current status of Local Studies Collections' Web presences and e-genealogical provision? How can the visibility of Local Studies Collections online be increased? What could and should Local Studies practitioners be providing in terms of e-genealogical provision?

The research (Local Studies area in particular) is very much a cumulative project, and the exact design of the methodology here will be dependent on the outcomes of the earlier strands. Local Studies Websites will be examined to verify what is currently available online. Some form of collaboration with practitioners will be vital in gaining insights into current practice and visibility, and in gauging what will be achievable in terms of recommendations for electronic information provision. It is also hoped to tentatively explore the attitudes and opinions of libraries and librarians towards genealogists and externally-provided resources.

Summary

The Internet has exponentially increased the potential audience of collections that once may have only attracted those in the local area to the whole country, and indeed the world. e-Genealogists are a group receptive to (if not

already aware of) the value that Local Studies materials can add to their family histories. It must be noted that our collections are not necessarily prepared or organised for remote access, either financially or philosophically. This research aims to address the question of how best to proceed in providing and promoting remote access to Local Studies materials, in order to enhance the genealogical research experience for those who cannot visit collections in person.

References:

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GENLOC

Making what we do relevant

The following exchange came through the GENLOC2 listserv. Of the two participants, one is an Enquiries and Reference Services Manager working in Scotland. The other is both a Librarian and the Secretary of a Genealogical Society in Belgium. It proves the worth of the listserv for reasoned commentary. Thank you to both.

I suppose one of the major difficulties is 'rising expectations'. Increasingly people expect all relevant records and information to be readily available over the internet in digital format. While such data is increasingly available it is highly unlikely that everything will be provided in digital form. I am frequently surprised by the number of people who do not appear to understand what a 'catalogue' is and who contact us to say they have found the bibliographic record, but can't find the (non-existent) digital item on our catalogue.

As a librarian and as the secretary of a branch of the Flemish Genealogical Society in Belgium, I can only acknowledge this statement.

It is sad to see that people expect more from the Internet than there is actually available. And it's even sadder that those same people apparently don't accept that they will have to search other, that is, printed sources to do their family research. One could call this the symptom of 'armchair genealogy'.

A similar thing happens when people are trying to find old books on family history topics. I often find myself reading questions from people who are asking for a digital reproduction of a particular volume on the Internet, since 'the original is out of print'. Or they look for it in antiquarian bookshops, sometimes willing to pay a lot of money for it. Most of the time it only takes me 5 or 10 minutes to locate the sought title in a nearby public or scientific library. Most people don't have the attitude to search in the available catalogues for themselves.

I also saw people intrude the copyright laws because they make available a digital copy of an out of print book that they own themselves, but that still is under copyright restrictions. Of course they act benevolently most of the time, but they really have no idea that such a reproduction is illegal without permission of the copyright holders. And when I tell them, they are highly surprised.

We are currently investigating providing a geographical search facility, to enable recovery of relevant data (in all formats) by geographical location. Here the major issue is the staff time required to create the necessary metadata.

Voluntary workers can create the metadata in some cases, but it will be necessary to give them proper training. And there will have to be a 'quality control' by competent and skilled staff.

Who knows where future technological developments will take us? Libraries are already providing services direct to mobile phones etc. Should we be providing family/local history blogs? Further development of 'digitisation on demand'?

Family or local history blogs already exist on an individual basis. I believe the scope of such projects is rather limited because the information is important only to small groups of people who do research on a particular family or branch. But libraries and genealogical associations can certainly adopt this technology to use it in a larger scope to serve a wide range of public users.

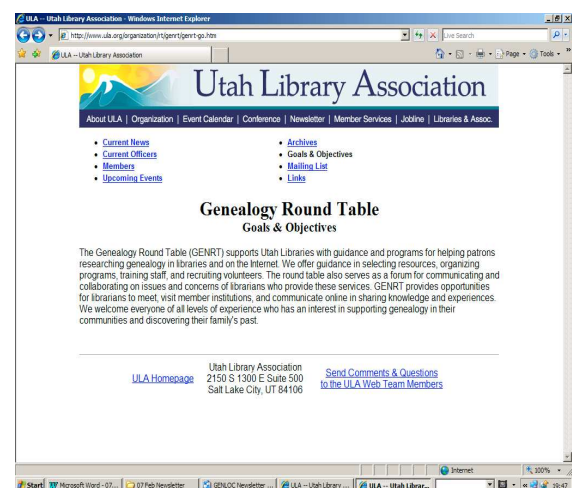
Other issues include the potential impact of data protection legislation on the retention of 'toddlies'

personal data for the use of future generations - and the trend for tightening such restrictions continues to grow – despite potential conflicts with all the freedom of information legislation.

This was a 'hot issue' on one of the Flemish genealogy fora a few days ago. In some cases, legislation makes it almost impossible to do family research, or make available particular data for the public, because of privacy matters. It is my opinion that genealogists shouldn't infringe the law because they find it restrictive, but that they should instead lobby (with the help of the genealogical organisations and the members of parliament as intermediates) to change the law and make it more appropriate for genuine and relevant historical and genealogical research.

News from Elsewhere

GENRT: The Genealogy Roundtable of the Utah Library Association



www.ula.org/organization/rt/genrt/genrt-go.htm

The Genealogy Roundtable of the Utah Library Association was formed in the early 1990s to provide support for librarians throughout the State seeking to serve the needs of genealogists. The organisation's official objectives statement reads

"The Genealogy Round Table (GENRT) supports Utah Libraries with guidance and programs for helping patrons researching genealogy in libraries and on the Internet. We offer guidance in selecting resources, organizing programs, training staff, and recruiting volunteers. The Round Table also serves as a forum for communicating and collaborating on issues and concerns of

librarians who provide these services. GENRT provides opportunities for librarians to meet, visit member institutions, and communicate online in sharing knowledge and experiences. We welcome everyone of all levels of experience who has an interest in supporting genealogy in their communities and discovering their family's past."

There are currently 78 members of the Roundtable, with 24 in academic settings, 24 in public libraries, 27 in special libraries, and 3 who are not working in libraries. The institutions these librarians serve range from small rural libraries, to large academic libraries, to special libraries, such as the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Each year the Roundtable sponsors one or more educational activities. These have typically been genealogical presentations or tours of archives, cemeteries, and the like. During the Fall of 2006 the roundtable sponsored tours of the Salt Lake City Cemetery and the Utah State Archives. The most recent activity was a lecture where Michael Leclerc of the New England Historic Genealogical Society spoke on the topic of locating quality websites for genealogical research.

Steven M. Law GENRT Chair 2006-2007

The American Library Association: Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) History Section

www.ala.org/ala/rusa/rusaourassoc/rusasections/historysection/historysection.htm

The History Section of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) of the American Library Association represents the subject interests of reference librarians, archivists, bibliographers, genealogists, historians, and others engaged in historical reference or research. It brings together representatives of history collections in all formats from all types of libraries, archives, and historical societies.

History was the first section established within RUSA and is the only group within the American Library Association devoted to the discipline of history. Reflecting the Section's broad representation, its objectives are to identify common problems and to recommend solutions that can enhance service to users. Through its programs, committees, and projects, the Section helps to improve the materials and methods for historical reference and research services.

You may select membership in the History Section at no additional charge when you join or renew your membership in RUSA.

Local History Committee

This committee offers an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns related to the management of local history services and collections. Activities include writing guidelines that address services, collections, and preservation of local history materials. Programs sponsored by the Committee include newspaper indexing, house histories, and the care of photography collections.

Genealogy Committee

This committee provides a forum serving the interests of librarians whose work is in or related to the field of genealogy, and in writing guidelines to assist in creating and maintaining genealogical collections and instruction. Committee members represent large and small genealogical collections in public, special, university and society libraries. Its objective is to train and assist librarians serving genealogists. The committee has sponsored a one-day pre-conference entitled '*Behind the Genealogy Reference Desk*' for several years prior to the American Library Association Midwinter and Annual Conferences.

Stephen Young RUSA History Section



Killie Campbell in her Library c1950, Durban
see: khozi2.nu.ac.za/kcafricana.htm



Local History images, Durban, South Africa

Useful Websites

Helpers

<http://helpers.shl.lon.ac.uk:80/>

Helpers (Higher Education Libraries in your PERsonal history reSearch) is an online guide to using the resources held in London University's libraries and archives for family and local history research.

The following websites include lists of and links to Association members:

The Association of Family History Societies of Wales

www.rootsweb.com/~wlsafhs/index.htm

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc.

www.affho.org/

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

www.iajgs.org/

Federation of East European Family History Societies

feefhs.org/

Federation of Family History Societies

www.ffhs.org.uk/

FFSQ: Fédération des Familles-Souches

www.ffmpeg.gc.ca/

FQSG: Fédération Québécoise des Sociétés de Généalogie

www.federationgenealogie.qc.ca/

Scottish Association of Family History Societies

www.safhs.org.uk/

Sveriges Släktforskarförbund (Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies)

www.genealogi.se/index.htm

(United States) Federation of Genealogical Societies

www.fgs.org/

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If any member of the Section would care to comment on any item reported in the Newsletter, be willing to write an informative article for the next issue, or know of a colleague who would like to contribute, the Editor would be pleased to hear.

Please email the Editor, GENLOC Newsletter, at eam@freeuk.com



- We hope to see you in Durban IFLA 2007 -