



Newsletter

Genealogy and Local History Section
Newsletter Number 20/ July 2012

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The 1940 U.S. census project is only one example of group projects throughout the world. The momentum from government archives, libraries, and museums continues to build. This can be a great force for good. These groups create a strong synergy when collaborating on digitization and databases. I look forward to using more collections in the future.

Due to my appointment to fill the vacancy as Chair of Division II, our Section will be reorganizing the Executive Officers prior to or at the Congress. IFLA's Professional Committee recommended having a Co-Chair for our Section. I want to continue serving as an officer but will not always be available in Standing Committee meetings.

Message from the Chair

Russell S. Lynch

Our Section has planned some interesting activities for the Congress in Helsinki, Finland this year. If you cannot attend the Congress, be sure to read the papers for our session with the Newspaper Section.

As an example of collaboration, I want to share an experience from my work assignment with the U.S. 1940 Census. On 2 April 2012, the National Archives in Washington, D.C. released digital images of the population schedules. I and other staff at FamilySearch helped publish the images and setup indexing projects for 48 states, the District of Columbia, and seven territories. With over 132 million individuals enumerated on the census, this is the largest indexing project in which I have taken part. What a fabulous resource for local history and family research between World War I and World War II! Thousands of individuals have participated in a community project involving commercial websites, not-for-profit organizations, universities, and government agencies.





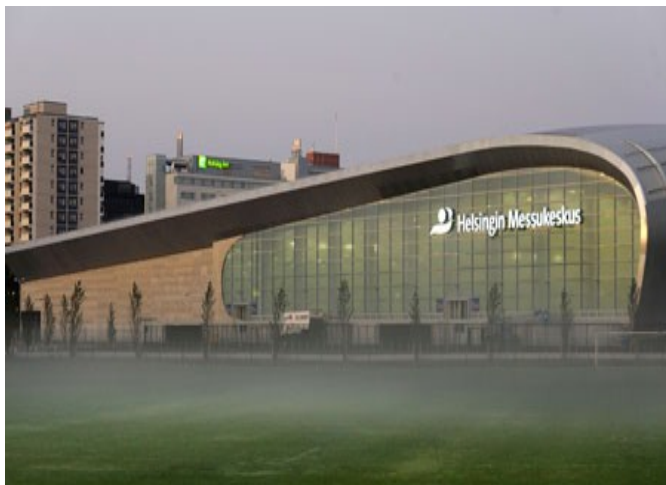
es that the IFLA Conference provides. The conference presentations and standing committee meetings also offer opportunities for networking with like-minded professionals from all over the world. The IFLA Nightspot represents a unique opportunity for networking. The "nightspot" is an afterhours venue where conference attendees can meet and mingle. It houses a pub, café, and an event hall with a stage. In Helsinki, the "nightspot" location will be at the Vanha Ylioppilastalo. It is an historical building built and owned by the student union of Helsinki University, but managed by a separate entity. It is well known in Finland, and it is a very popular meeting place and event venue.

During the week of the IFLA WLIC 2012, Vanha will be open to the general public, but Congress attendees will be

IFLA World Library and Information Congress

Excitement is mounting in anticipation of the 78th IFLA General Conference and Assembly to be held in Helsinki, Finland, on 11 –17 August 2012. The conference will take place in the beautiful Helsinki Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The Helsinki Exhibition and Convention Centre, the largest in Finland, is composed of 130,000 square meters of conference space. The Centre includes seven exhibition halls and 40 conference rooms, enough to handle large groups and dynamic conference activities.



GENLOC members are encouraged to attend and benefit from the rich array of professional and cultural experienc-



especially welcomed there. The venue will be open each day of the congress *except for Monday, 13 August*, when the venue will host a private event. The Vanha will host various events that might be arranged by the National Committee. Further information can be obtained at the Information Desk in the registration area.

GENLOC Presentation

GENLOC is cooperating with the Newspapers Section at the IFLA Conference in Helsinki during August 2012 in a three-hour presentation of topics relating to the theme: **Users and portals: digital newspapers, usability, and genealogy**. The joint IFLA Newspapers/GENLOC Conference programme will be held on Tuesday, 14 August 2012, from 09:30 to 12:45.

Ten papers have been chosen for this session by representatives from the Standing Committees of the Newspapers Section and GENLOC. The presentation should prove to be a very interesting one.

The chosen abstracts are:

- Eliane Blumer, Switzerland: *Usability, An evaluation of a digital library service using eye tracking and qualitative usability testing - case study ě-rara.ch*"
- Ulrich Hagenah, Germany: *Regional studies, regional portals and newspaper content in Germany*
- Maja Krtalic, Croatia: *Newspapers as a source of scientific information in social sciences and humanities: a case study of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Osijek*
- Randy Olsen & John Herbert, USA: *Historic papers: still delivering the news*
- Inci Onal, Turkey: *Here and everywhere: digital newspapers for historical research*
- Sonia Pacheco & Judy Farrar, USA: *The Portuguese-American Digital Newspaper Collection at UMass, Dartmouth*

- Sofija Zadavec, Renata Petrusic & Jasenka Zajec, Croatia: *Cooperative portal of 19th century Croatian historic newspapers and journals*
- Susan Reilly & Friedel Grant, Germany: *Building on partnership: European libraries*
- Ronghui Su, China: *The library construction of digital resources for local literature*
- Dijana Sabolovic-Krajina, Croatia: *from digitisation of local newspapers to the portal of hometown cultural heritage - a step by step digitisation strategy available to small communities*

GENLOC Standing Committee Meetings

The GENLOC Standing Committee meetings in Helsinki are scheduled as follows:

SC I Saturday, 11 August, 09:45 to 12:15, Room 215

SC II Thursday, 16 August, 11:30 to 13:00, Room 207

It will be important for all available GENLOC members to attend both standing committee meetings to conduct necessary section business.



Kudos

GENLOC has reason to celebrate the fine accomplishments of our members. Kudos go first to Russ Lynch, our Section Chair, for his recent appointment as Chair of Division II and as a member of the Governing Board. This appointment is a compliment to Russ and his willing service and leadership, but it is also a sign of the professionalism of our section members. Congratulations, Russ, on your appointment, and your GENLOC colleagues wish you the best in your new endeavors.

Kudos are also due to another of our members, Frank Kirkwood. Frank received the Conference Award for the best Session Coordinator at the Crimea 2012 19th International Conference in Sudak, Crimea in June (there will be more on this conference later in the newsletter). The award reflects Frank's tireless work to promote quality international programs. We congratulate you, Frank, on your award, and we applaud your efforts.



13th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry, Adelaide, 28 to 31 March 2012

From 28 to 31 March I joined almost four hundred keen genealogists and staff working in the field at the 13th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry hosted by the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society and held at the Adelaide Convention Centre in South Australia. Congress theme was 'Your ancestors in their social context'. Attendees came from all over Australia and New Zealand as well as a number of international representatives. More than thirty librarians and archivists

were present so the Congress also presented a great opportunity to network and discuss common issues. With eight plenary and 61 general sessions over the four days there was much to choose from covering a vast range of family history related topics.

Some highlights

Day 1 began with an enthralling presentation by American speaker Colleen Fitzpatrick, author of the well-known publication *Forensic Genealogy*. Perfectly timed with the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic approaching, Colleen outlined the long process of identifying the unknown child whose body was salvaged from the ship in late April 1912. The child was a boy about 2 years of age, probably a third class passenger. Using a mixture of DNA and traditional genealogy techniques, they were able to finally solve the mystery after some 90 years. The child's name was confirmed as Sidney Leslie Goodwin. A major clue proved to be the small pair of shoes worn on the voyage by Sidney and preserved at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax, Canada.

Day 2 began with an excellent overview by Jenny Higgins, Family History Reference Librarian at the National Library of Australia, on "Using the resources of the National Library and Trove to understand your ancestors in their social context". Jenny emphasised the importance of researching the social context of our families, and then went on to show how the wonderful National Library collections can assist with this research.

On Thursday afternoon, 29 March, academic historian and author, Dr. Noeline Kyle, outlined ways of finding Australian women in the records and writing more creatively about them, especially convict, immigrant and Indigenous women. She summarised at the end of her paper:



"...it is important to try and as family historians we are in a position to research, record, and write about our women ancestors who were brave enough to live the most extraordinary lives..."

The last day saw a focus on another major collection, The National Archives UK, given by Roger Kershaw, their Head of Military, Maritime, Transport and Family records. In April 2011 the National Archives launched the Discovery service, which enables you to filter search results by subject, date, and series origin, as well as introducing map-based searching. The popular *DocumentsOnline* has been integrated.

In summary, the Congress was well organized, the South Australian Society members were excellent hosts, and, given the number of papers, hopefully there was something to interest everyone. The 590 page Congress proceedings (available for sale from the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society <http://www.genealogysa.org.au>) provides a detailed record of almost all papers.

I look forward to the next tri-annual Congress which is going to be held in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, from 26 to 30 March 2015 and will be organized by the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra.

I'll give the last words to Jenny Higgins from the National Library of Australia, who perhaps best captures the theme of this year's Congress:

".. Social and historical context provides the material from which the family historian can construct a meaningful written family history..."

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Crimea 2012: 19th International Conference Sudak, Crimea 4-8 June 2012

This IFLA-supported International Conference has been held in the Crimea since 1994. The Organising Committee includes many eminent library personalities from the Russian speaking nations, including, as Chair of the Committee, Yakov Shrayberg, Director General of the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology.

On this occasion one of the Deputy Chairs of the Crimea organising Committee was Francis Kirkwood, member of the IFLA GENLOC Standing Committee – appropriately enough, since the Conference programme was to include a presentation on the work of GENLOC.



The conference was held in Sudak, a historic town on the Black Sea, 65 miles to the east of Simferopol, the Crimean capital and the nearest airport. Sudak was celebrating its 1800th anniversary. It had been an important port on the Silk Road in the 12th/13th centuries, and boasted an impressive 14th/15th century Genoese fortress overlooking the coastline, submitted to UNESCO as a possible World Heritage Site. A census of 1805 claimed that the population of Sudak had been tremendously reduced, but the present-day influx of tourists enjoying the fine weather and the diversions of the beaches gave a holiday atmosphere.



The Conference Centre itself also traded as a Health and Tourism Centre, allowing the delegates to take part in a competitive sports programme that included swimming, tennis, table tennis, chess and billiards alongside the Conference Sessions. For those in our accommodation block, meals were served in the splendid Consul Restaurant whose walls were covered with scenes from Ukrainian History.

Over a thousand delegates and exhibitors attended the conference from around twenty countries. There was a wide variety of meetings and discussions – the printed programme itself ran to over 200 pages – but I was immediately involved with the *IFLA Forum at the 'Crimea Conference'* – *the IFLA Bazaar: interesting new activi-*



ties of IFLA Professional Groups. This session suffered from being a late afternoon and evening event allowing many delegates to opt out, despite the opportunity of excellent simultaneous translation. However my presentation on the work of GENLOC examined and publicised the valuable work of our Section over the years. GENLOC does have an introductory leaflet in Russian about its activities. This may have been a revelation. One member of the audience stood up to ask why IFLA had no section dealing with Children's Libraries, so more publicity about the IFLA sections is crucial.

Ingrid Parent, President of IFLA, was unable to attend the conference due to an unexpected family illness, but Denise Nicholson of the IFLA Committee on Copyright did great work substituting for the President, as well as presenting her own papers within the programme of the IFLA Committee on Copyright and Other Legal Matters (CLM). Denise has also reported to IFLA HQ that it would have been constructive to have had more IFLA-participation in the Opening and Closing ceremonies and in all the competing sessions, especially those on Copyright and the *IFLA Bazaar*, to demonstrate that IFLA is indeed the overall and supportive International Federation of Library Associations.

My second session was during the *Silk Road 2012*, a special Subject Seminar and Round Table Conference of the Standing Committee of GENLOC. This programme had been organised by Frank Kirkwood, of the GENLOC Standing Committee and one of the Deputy Chairs of the Crimea Conference, to honour the 1800th anniversary of Sudak. I gave an address and PowerPoint on *The history and culture of the Silk Road as seen through Modern British scholarship and exhibitions*, opening up the amazing International Dunhuang Project website overseen by Dr. Susan Whitfield of the UK British Library. Other papers covered the extensive history of the Byzantine, Russian, Tatar, Genoese, Turkish and Ukrainian lands; Sudak in movie-making; the Italian medieval

presence in Sudak justifying the nomination of the Sudak fortress for UNESCO World Heritage status; and an in-depth talk on the history of the wines of the Crimea.

At the final Ceremony, Frank Kirkwood received the Conference Award for the best Session Co-ordinator of the 19th International Conference.



As at the annual IFLA Conferences, there were planned excursions for the delegates. I was able to go on a ten hour coach and walking tour along the coast to the *deepest and noisiest waterfall in the Crimea*, the Dzhur-Dzhur Waterfall, the Church Lighthouse and the Museum of Fatal Accidents on Waters. Denise and I made use of the excellent Conference translators on a very snaking coach trip through vineyards to the peaceful Nikitsky Botanical Gardens; to the Vorontsov Palace, at Alupka, where Winston Churchill had stayed while meeting with Roosevelt and Stalin at the 1945 Yalta Conference; and to Yalta itself. On another day we walked along the shoreline and climbed up to the Sudak Fortress overlooking the Black Sea.

Attending the Crimean Conference was an amazing experience for me and was one that I greatly enjoyed with the help of the organisers and the synchronized translation service. I was honoured to be part of the *IFLA Ba-*

zaar demonstrating the efforts that GENLOC has made in the last few years to enhance Genealogy and Local History practice within IFLA. I must also thank all those, within GENLOC and in the Crimea, who encouraged me to to



attend, including Alan Hopkinson of Middlesex University, Ksenia Volkova of the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology, the team of translators, and the taxi-driver who picked three of us up at 3.30 am for the two-hour journey to Simferopol airport in time to catch our early morning flights back to London.

Elizabeth Melrose
Secretary: IFLA GENLOC



National Library of Scotland Blog

The National Library of Scotland (NLS) has launched a family and local history blog <http://blogs.nls.uk/familyhistory/> Written by NLS staff in the Reader Services’ department, the blog will mainly highlight Scottish family and local history resources available in the Library and also digitally. It will also occasionally feature external resources which staff have come across in the course of answering enquiries in these areas and which they have found useful.

Louise McCarron
Head of Reference Services
National Library of Scotland



Newspapers Section Preconference

The Newspapers Section is sponsoring an IFLA 2012 pre-conference entitled "The Electronic Re-evolution - News Media in the Digital Age," that will be held in Mikkeli, Finland, August 7-9, 2012.

The Digital Age has turned the world of News Media upside down. Attend the pre-conference to hear all about the latest developments in the field and how the leading experts in the field have tackled the new challenges caused by the Electronic Re-evolution!

The pre-conference will deal with the impact of the electronic re-evolution in the newspaper field at large includ-



ing e-delivery, crowd-sourcing, digital environment, and copyright issues. The pre-conference is being co-sponsored by other IFLA sections.

Helsinki City

Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy the delights of the City of Helsinki while attending the IFLA Conference. Helsinki, originally founded by King Gustavus Vasa of Sweden, possesses a fascinating history. The city is now a bustling metropolis of more than half a million people filled with cultural and sightseeing opportunities. The local temperature should be pleasant in August (about 60 degrees F.) for activities outside of the convention centre.



The *New York Times* selected Helsinki as the second most interesting destination in the world. The International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (Icsid) also designated Helsinki as the World Design Capital for the year 2012. Innovative cuisine may be found in many areas of the city. Helsinki serves as a wonderful venue for the 78th IFLA General Conference and Assembly.

Terry Dahlin

Newsletter Editor