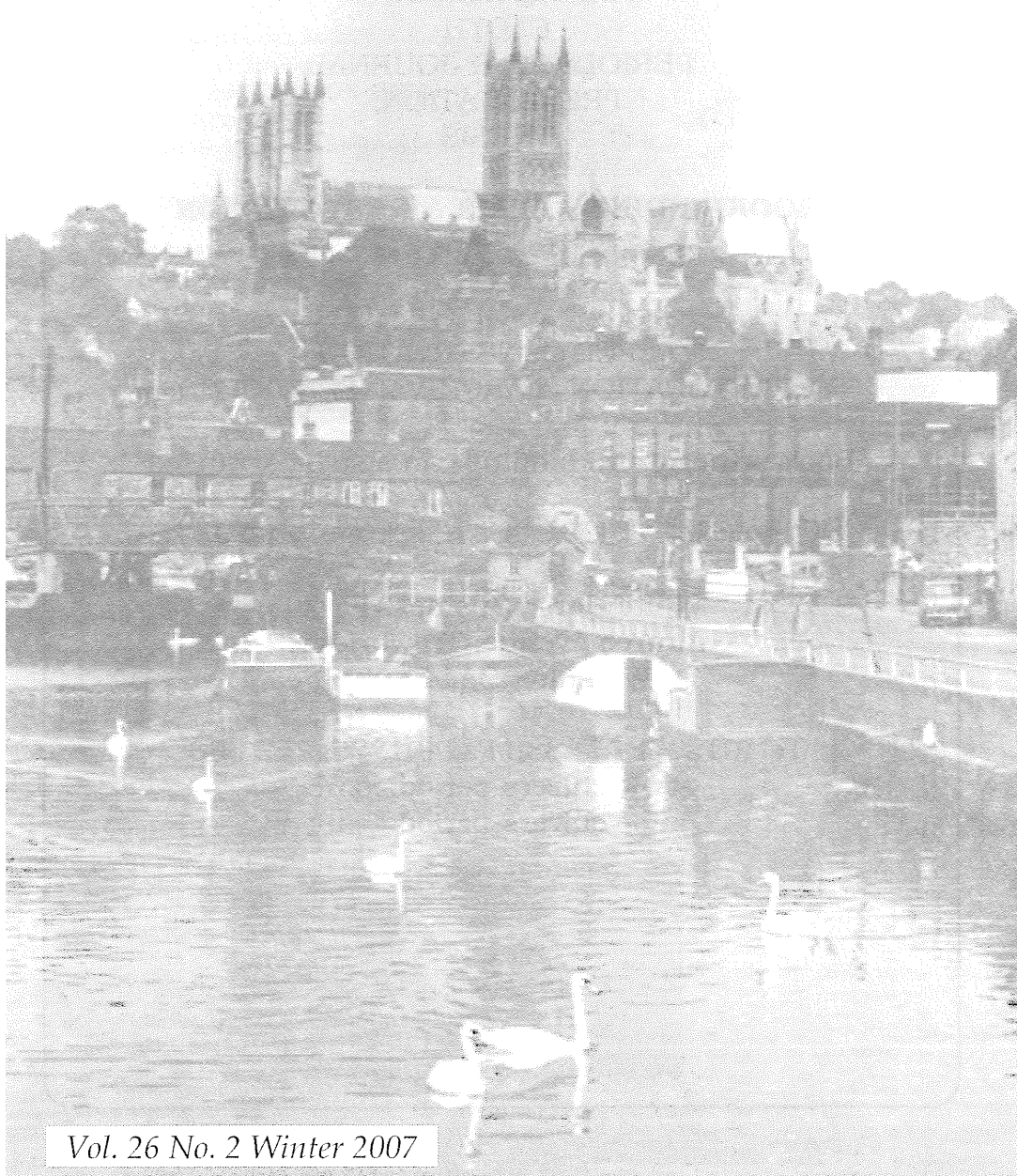


The Local Studies Librarian



Vol. 26 No. 2 Winter 2007

Chivers - Period **BOOKBINDERS**

ANTIQUARIAN,
CLOTH
PERIODICAL & JOURNAL,
PRESENTATION,
THESIS

BOOKBINDING REPAIR & RESTORATION

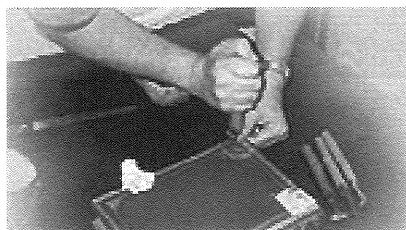
&

PAPER CONSERVATION
RESTORATION & ARCHIVAL SERVICES

Book printing and binding can also be arranged.

White Horse Business Park,
Aintree Avenue, Trowbridge,
Wiltshire, BA14 OXB

Tel (01225) 752 888 Fax (01225) 752 666
www.chivers-period.co.uk
info@chivers-period.co.uk



THE LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN
Vol.26 Number 2 2007 ISSN 0263-0273

The Local Studies Librarian, the official journal of the Local Studies Group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), is published twice per year - Summer and Winter. It is issued free to members of the group. Annual subscription to non members is £6.00 U.K. and £8.00 (or 16 International Reply Coupons) overseas.

Editorial matters:

Ian Jamieson, FCLIP
12 Grenville Drive,
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,
NE3 5PA
E-mail: imjamieson@c-pac.net

Distribution, Advertising, Subscriptions and Remittances:

Philip Thomas ACIB, MCLIP
Hon. Treasurer, LSG
25 Bromford Gardens,
2, Westfield Road,
Edgbaston,
BIRMINGHAM, B15 3XD
E-mail: PThomasPdt@aol.com

Cheques to be made payable to Local Studies Group.

CONTENTS:

Editorial	1
Do we need Webbed Feet?	2
Digitising Sloughs Heritage	6
Using your Initiative	10
Local Studies Librarian of the Year 2007	15
Honorary Treasurer Needed	16
A Subgroup for the North East?	16
LSG at UMBRELLA 2007	17
IFLA Conference 2007: a Report	18
From our Former CILIP Councillor	20
From our Subgroups	21
Notes and News	22

Cover Illustration: *Lincoln Cathedral from Brayford Pool.*
Courtesy: *From the Local Studies Collection, Lincoln Central Library,
by courtesy of Lincoln County Council.*



Riley Dunn & Wilson Ltd.

Expert Paper Conservators & Specialist Bookbinders

THE PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATION SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL

Our Conservation Services team are led by **John Penman** who is an accredited member of the **Institute of Conservation**, ensuring your collections are both assessed and conserved to professional standards

CONSERVATION

If you have paper and book conservation or binding & restoration needs then we have the proven expertise, experience and resources to ensure your books and collections will endure for your future users

SERVICE

Understanding your requirements and offering advice and options is at the heart of what we do.

Working with National Institutions, Local Studies Librarians and Individual enthusiasts – outstanding service is always our aim

GET IN TOUCH

So, if you have any material for preservation, conservation or binding, need advice or if you have books or items for estimation or collection please do contact us:

Charles Dunn
charles.dunn@rdw.co.uk
+44 (0)1484 534323

Almond Court, Falkirk, FK2 9HT
Tel: +44 (0)1324 621591 Fax: +44 (0)1324 611508

Red Doles Lane, Huddersfield, HD2 1YE
Tel: +44 (0)1484 534323 Fax: +44 (0)1484 435048



® Collective Trade Mark
of PACR Accredited
Conservator-Restorer

EDITORIAL

By the time you read this the various changes in the governance of CILIP will have taken place. These, however do not affect LSG in its day to day work. There will still be a Group representative to CILIP, though this representative will now report to the Policy Forum rather than the Council of Trustees, who have a role somewhat different from the former CILIP Council. So we can carry on with our activities as before, subject to the recent restraints in Group funding. A major change, too, has occurred in many members subscription levels with the changeover to a flat subscription rate. You can still, however, opt for membership of two subgroups free of charge. Please, when you renew, stay with the Local Studies Group. We believe that we give good value, with our representations to CILIP on behalf of members, *The Local Studies Librarian*, and our subgroups. You will note elsewhere that there is interest in the North East of England in starting a new subgroup: we hope that this will take off.

One problem which concerns your committee is an apparent unwillingness by employers to allow local studies librarians paid attendance at Umbrella and local day schools. Most local groups running such courses today try to attract delegates from allied professions such as archives and museums and try to keep fees low enough to encourage people to pay for themselves. However, even with very successful courses only a relative handful of people will benefit directly from the papers: hence the *Local Studies Librarian* is attempting to provide longer reports on day schools and conferences to help the speakers reach a wider audience. Thus there is an extended report on the Midlands and Anglia Day School and an important article by Jill Barber based on her paper at Umbrella. We will continue to do this within the limits of our space.

The Committee sees the *Local Studies Librarian* as the main medium of communication with its members. At the same time, LSL would like our members to communicate with us. Since the last time this was mentioned the flow of information has increased, including the offer of some articles. If you don't have time to write fully, about a new initiative or development for instance, at least send us a paragraph about it, with contact details for interested readers to get in touch with you.

All public libraries, and many other kinds of libraries, as well as for instance local museums, have local studies collections. All need support and information. This is where the Local Studies Group comes in: we can usually direct an enquirer to the right place for help. Tell colleagues in other libraries about us so that they can encourage employers at least to subscribe to the *Local Studies Librarian*. Local studies libraries, museums and archives are becoming increasingly interdependent: we need to know what each other is doing.

DO WE NEED WEBBED FEET? training for local studies librarians in the 21st century

Jill Barber

Editor's Note: This article is a summary of a paper given by the author at CILIP's Umbrella Conference, June 2007.

Training is one of the key issues facing the profession today. Why is it generating so much debate? What are the key needs? And what are we doing about it?

Diana Dixon (2001) stated that 'Local studies librarianship stands at the cutting edge of modern library and information work'.¹ Today we find ourselves wielding a double-edged sword, responsible for developing digital content, and helping users access and exploit online resources. Since the pioneering Knowsley History, winner of Best on the Web in 1998,² local studies librarians have been at the forefront of developing interactive websites, such as Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire's Picture the Past,³ Staffordshire Past Tracks,⁴ and Trafford Lifetimes.⁵ Online resources such as Ancestry.com are available in a growing number of local libraries, extending the need for training to all frontline staff. To make the most of Ancestry, users require not only IT skills, but knowledge of the sources and how to use them for family history research. Inadequate training has been blamed in the past for librarians failing 'to offer the best possible service to family and local historians'.⁶ Digitisation and the worldwide web require a great leap in acquiring new skills and techniques, in addition to the 'wide variety of skills and techniques' which have been traditionally required of local studies librarians.

Mind the gap

Over the last few years Local Studies has disappeared from the curriculum of virtually every professional education course in the country, creating a gap in specialist training. The *Local Studies Guidelines* (2nd ed, 2002) emphasise that local studies librarians should have 'completed a course on local studies work' as part of qualification, or attended other appropriate formal courses, but evidence suggests that an 'interest' in the subject is often deemed sufficient. A comparison of employers' requirements with the skills and competencies set out in the *Local Studies Guidelines* found no mention of 'detailed knowledge of local studies resources, both internal and external', which heads the list for the local studies librarian in the *Guidelines*.⁷ A recent online discussion by members of the Local Studies Group highlighted a clear distinction between skills and knowledge.

Key skills for Local Studies were identified as:

- ICT: digitisation & web development
- Learning & outreach
- Working with volunteers
- Marketing & promotion
- Staff training
- Customer care

Knowledge was seen as an essential requirement, including:

- Understanding of the range of Local History and Family History resources
- Use and interpretation of primary sources
- Types of material held by other heritage providers
- Acquisition, cataloguing and indexing of non-standard materials
- Preservation standards and techniques

It is interesting to note that skills are generic, and may be shared by other information professionals. Knowledge is more specific, which suggests that by focusing on skills rather than knowledge, a key area of training need is at risk of being ignored.

Skilling the workforce

Who are the current training providers, and how can we continue to skill the local studies workforce? There are three main patterns of provision: in-house training; day schools and events organised by professional societies e.g. CILIP (LSG) and Society of Archivists (AfEL); and formal education offered by higher education providers. How successful are these at meeting our needs? An overview of some case-studies is extremely encouraging.

a) In-house

Warwickshire Library and Information Service in partnership with Coventry Library and Information Service, have developed a workforce development programme accredited by the National Open College Network (2005-06). This includes two 10 hour modules: Local Studies, and Family History Basics, each designed to take seven hours directed learning (i.e. one day course) and three hours independent learning.⁸ These two modules, designed to be delivered by experienced Local Studies Librarians, are excellent examples which could be used as a model by other library services. In-service training may be particularly appropriate to meet the needs of frontline staff who are not able to access external courses. Hertfordshire has developed a module: 'Family History and the Internet', to help train library staff to deliver one-to-one taster sessions for the public.⁹

b) Day schools and events

CILIP's Local Studies Group (LSG) runs regional training events to support those working in the field. An analysis of topics covered in the last two years shows how successful the LSG is in engaging with current training needs:

- *Going digital: digitisation and the local studies library*; NW LSG (21 Nov 2007, Cheshire Record Office)
- *Using your initiative: connecting local studies with the regional and national agenda*; Midlands & Anglia LSG (19 Sep 2007, Nottingham Library)
- *Community archives and local studies*; Society of Archivists & CILIP LSG (26 Apr 2007, Conference Centre, Manchester)
- *Catch them young: using local studies material with schools and children*; Midlands & Anglia LSG (5 Oct 2006, Solihull Library)
- *Local studies in Wales*; Wales LSG (29 Mar 2006, National Waterfront Museum, Swansea)

c) Formal education

'Local Studies Collection Management' was launched as a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) module in February 2006 by the Department of Information Management at Aberdeen to address the gap in specialist training within the local studies sector.¹⁰ It is delivered by distance learning using Robert Gordon University's Virtual Campus. Susan Bell is 'probably typical of many practitioners in Local Studies whose knowledge has primarily been gained informally and 'on the job'.' She writes of being a student: 'I personally found the course valuable in consolidating my experience into an academic framework. I would recommend it to anybody in a similar position. I also think it would be very useful for newly qualified staff who would benefit from a structured approach to Local Studies.'¹¹

MLA East of England are piloting a Cultural Foundation Degree to be launched in 2008. Its modular structure is designed to provide opportunities for CPD as well as aiming to attract a more diverse range of people to work in museums, libraries and archives; provide vocational pathways that allow people to progress within the sector; and develop a work-based qualification that meets the needs of employers. Seeking to address the difficulty in attracting and retaining people with the right skills, this project also recognises that skills sets are becoming more complex, identifying an increasing need for new skills such as interpretation, education and learning; entertainment; marketing; and integration of collections with media and ICT. This may be a first step towards developing a new heritage professional.

Are Local Studies librarians an endangered species?

While these examples suggest that there are training opportunities for those who want to work with Local Studies, not least thanks to the efforts of Peter Reid at Robert Gordon University, what is our vision for the future? Will there be sufficient demand or resources for current models of provision to continue, or should we be considering more radical developments? The MLA's Action for Archives programme launched an interesting debate about where archives (and local studies) will be in 20 years time.¹²

- There will have been mergers and amalgamations, maybe regional archives, or mergers with libraries and museums.
- Much more material will be on-line, not just catalogues but digitised images downloadable to personal devices etc.
- Professional boundaries between archivist, librarian etc will have been broken down and merged; people will train as heritage professionals or cultural advisers/managers.
- Community engagement will ensure archive services are meeting the needs of all their users and users will be directly involved in deciding what is kept.
- Total privatisation of family history, as a leisure interest with a clear market and brand leaders – Ancestry etc.

The breaking down of professional boundaries was not welcomed by all, but I was interested by the response of one archivist: 'Worries that we're being turned into librarians is (a) offensive

to librarians who, it seems to me, are in broadly the same situation, and (b) missing the point that we are going to have to accept that we're all information professionals – always have been really'.¹³

A new kind of heritage professional?

The need for a new kind of information professional was raised by Mike Dewe, who recommended the establishment of a new cross-disciplinary qualification for those who work with library, archive and museum materials.¹⁴ Although a joint qualification is still some way off, there is growing recognition of current issues and challenges which affect museums, archives and local studies alike. Irene Lafferty states that 'many of the issues and challenges affecting museums are faced by the library profession', identifying these as workplace diversity, audience development and making effective use of new technologies.¹⁵ New opportunities, including cross-sectoral secondments and work placements, have highlighted the transferability of skills and positive outcomes from the cross-fertilisation of ideas. Lisa Peters, a librarian seconded to an archive based in a museum, adds: 'I am acutely aware of the many skills (marketing, cataloguing, customer service, management) that staff in the cultural sector have in common.'¹⁶

The benefits of creating a new heritage professional qualification could include better career prospects, and the sharing of expertise. Following a survey of staff experiences of integrated archive and local studies services, Alan Akeroyd concluded: 'Librarians seem to care for people and archivists for archives!'¹⁷ Traditionally archives have specialised in preservation, libraries in access to information, and museums in education and display. Combining these strengths could have a powerful impact on the delivery of services in the future.

Engaging in the debate

Working in partnership with other heritage providers may be a cost-effective way to meet the skills gap. The context of heritage services in the 21st century is very different from that of even 10 years ago. We are in a process of rapid change. Local studies libraries today share a common framework with archives and museums, and partnership working is central to funding opportunities that increase access to resources. Many local studies librarians would say that their role has more in common with archives and museums than the rest of the public library service. Others would want to stress the value of embedding local studies at local level, supporting lending collections in local libraries, and providing a current information service.

It is important that we engage with the debate to ensure that the unique value of local studies (whether or not collections are managed by librarians?) continues to be recognised. Here are some questions to consider:

- Should there be closer working between CILIP, the SOA and Museums Association to facilitate joint training? (e.g. joint membership?)
- What would be the advantages and disadvantages of a new heritage qualification?

- Would a new type of heritage professional replace the archivist, curator or local studies librarian, or be an addition?
- What about a 'pick and mix' approach? Should librarians be able to choose archive or museum modules as part of their professional qualification?

Learning for Change,¹⁸ states that: 'developing and sustaining the appropriate skills in the workforce is pivotal to the realisation of the learning, inclusion and access agendas for services and their users'. We need to send a clear message about the 'appropriate skills' needed for local studies librarians in today's changing world.

Jill Barber is Heritage Service Manager, Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies

¹ Diana Dixon (2001) *Local Studies Librarianship: a world bibliography*, p xii.

² <http://history.knowsley.gov.uk>.

³ <http://www.picturethepast.org.uk>

⁴ <http://www.staffspasttrack.org.uk>

⁵ <http://www.trafford.gov.uk/content/tca>.

⁶ D Paul, 'Training 2000? Local and family history in libraries', *Librarian career development*, 3(4) 4; cited in M Dewe (2002) *Local Studies Collection Management*, p 8.

⁷ An analysis of local studies job adverts in the Gazette identified the following skills: ICT; customer care; marketing, publicity and promotion; staff training and user education; organising activities and events; identifying external funding; working with community groups; partnerships; forward planning; ability to precipitate change; interest in and enthusiasm for local and family history. North Tyneside (May 2005), South Tyneside (Mar 2005), Medway (Apr 2005) and Cumbria (Feb 2006).

⁸ *Midlands and Anglia Local Studies Newsletter*, 3(2), Winter 2007, p 8. For more information see www.Warwickshire.gov.uk/supportinglearning.

⁹ Chosen by the Adult Learning Inspectorate in 2005 as an example of best practice, and featured on their website.

¹⁰ CPD Module: Local Studies Collection Management', *LocScot*, 4(7), Spring 2006, 11-12. It is based on 12 topics: philosophies and principles of local studies; scope, extent and topographical classification; user groups and communities; sources for local studies (2); genealogy and family history; local history research; information retrieval in local studies; local studies and education; digital development; training and staff development; promotion and marketing of services.

¹¹ Susan Bell (2007) 'Better late than never, a learning experience in Local Studies', *Locscot*, 5(1), 8-11.

¹² An internal briefing for MLA staff at the Action for Archives launch on 17 May 2007.

¹³ Discussion on the Archives-NRA list.

¹⁴ M Dewe (2002) *Local Studies Collection Management*, pp 169-70.

¹⁵ Irene Lafferty (2006) 'Cross-sectoral staff secondment', *Library and Information Update* 5 (1-2), 23.

¹⁶ Lisa Peters (2006) 'Call for training collaboration', *Library and Information Update* 5 (1-2), 23.

¹⁷ Alan Akeroyd, (2005) 'Integration between Archives and Local Studies: thoughts from the ARCHIVES-NRA list'.

¹⁸ Museum, Libraries and Archives (2004) Workforce Development Strategy.

DIGITISING SLOUGHS HERITAGE

Tony Pilmer

They say that there are two ways to damn Slough and the first one that comes to mind depends on your age. We cannot escape Betjeman's famous poem, whether it was at my library MA graduation ceremony when the Provost shook my hand and said "should Slough still be bombed?" or every five years when the local newspaper runs yet another competition to write a good poem about Slough – our clippings file is full of them. The second is BBC's sitcom *The Office*. Though nothing to do with the town, Slough's Central Library does at least appear on the opening credits (we are the big square building opposite the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady & St. Ethelbert's. The church dates from 1910.) However, as everyone who reads this article will know, even a place like Slough must have a fascinating history.

To help promote this heritage we bid for the National Lottery's New Opportunities Fund 'Sense of Place' money. Our plan was to digitise nearly 50 years of one of our local newspapers and put it onto the internet. The newspaper text, however, would not be searchable so in effect it was just like people browsing through the microfilm at Slough Library, except that it could be done from across the world. There were also to be a small number of local history stories, known as themes, to entice users to read the newspapers. Our bid was successful, and in alliance with five other local authority projects known as SoPSE (Sense of Place South East), we launched our website, www.SloughHistoryOnline.org.uk in 2005.

Once the website met the original objectives we were not under pressure to do anything more with it. However we thought that would be a missed opportunity because as well as image files, SoPSE's websites can store PDFs and sound files. Our new dream, therefore, was to convert *Slough History Online* into the electronic dimension of our Local Studies Collection.

Slough is the second smallest library authority in England and this brings both advantages and disadvantages. One great advantage is that our size means that all professional staff undertake a large number of different roles, any one of which would traditionally be the main responsibility of one person in a large county library service. For us it means that the day-to-day running of Slough History Online is carried out by a small team of librarians with the library's IT Manager acting as technical adviser. This means that if we see a need or a possible development on the ground we can act quickly: for example, if there is a borough-wide school project we can quickly upload material onto the website.

The great disadvantage of having a large number of responsibilities is that we do not have as much time to work on the site as we would wish. As with all local studies collections we have limited time to help readers and develop our collection. To help solve this we have recruited a surprising number of volunteers to help take Slough History Online forward.

We have an interesting mix of volunteers. Slough Library works with our local

volunteer bureau to bring in volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, such as helping readers with IT, manning our housebound library service and stock tidying. Local Studies also gets people with IT skills and that helps us with our projects. We also have had people who come through word of mouth and we have even managed to blackmail some current and former members of staff to volunteer. After all, it is much easier to teach a librarian who has catalogued books for over 35 years to catalogue a photograph than the average volunteer.

Some volunteers come for a few weeks and do not come again, though about half stay long enough to do some really valuable work and a few have become regulars. This means that we need continually to look for more volunteers so that we can keep the work going at a steady rate.

Our volunteers do not only bring us their time, but also expertise in different fields. For instance, we have a retired architect who is excellent at finding out information from photographs, we have talented photographers and we have experts on Microsoft Access who worked with me to transform a basic database into a brilliant one.

As indicated above, the first problem which Slough History Online faced was that the newspapers were not searchable. The average internet user is accustomed to typing a phrase into Google and the information they want will be only a handful of clicks away, so to help the newspapers to become more user-friendly we started by asking our volunteers to index the most used sections of our local newspapers, these being the births, marriages, deaths and memorials columns. Now Slough History Online users just need to type a name into a search box and if the name is in a column, the catalogue record will come up.

We finished indexing and loading the BMD columns earlier this year and now we have started indexing each local story. We realise that this is a long-term project, but in fact our very enthusiastic volunteers have already indexed six years of newspapers and we have now uploaded them to the website. Even though we have only a small number of years indexed, they are of great use - we have already helped two separate family historians to find ancestors who had appeared before magistrates for drunkenness.

Though indexing is the bread and butter task for our volunteers, other volunteers have started to do specialist tasks. As with many other local studies collections we are gradually digitising our illustrations collections - we now have over a thousand images in the online collection. A student from library school has helped to scan images and, as mentioned above, one volunteer has been able to combine his years of being an architect with his newly acquired local studies research skills, to give us lots of information about slides that have not been accessible before.

We also have volunteers and one of the council's NVQ trainees going to different parts of the borough and taking high quality digital images. Their instructions

are to go to the areas of the borough which are not well represented in our photograph collection and take photographs which give a flavour of the area. So far areas include a survey of historic Colnbrook, an area that only came into the borough ten years ago, a Sikh Temple, an Islamic Mosque and a bingo hall which still shows its origins as a 1930s cinema. The photographers then use a specially designed database to produce basic catalogue records for their work. In addition we have had postcard and photograph collections lent to us from members of the public and we have scanned, catalogued and uploaded these to the website.

We also ask our local studies researchers if they will donate an electronic copy of their work to our website. Although we cannot usually use the images in their original work, they are still very useful additions to the site. Pamphlet subjects include a local company, a local artist and a local park. We have also been given copies of pub paintings from an artist who used the Local Studies Collection to research his work. We also write up enquiries that we have answered and either add the information to a photograph catalogue record or load it up as a PDF file in its own right.

We also invite users to e-mail memories of their time in Slough and we then load them onto our website. By the end of this year we hope to introduce a reminiscence module which will enable users to read stories about Slough's heritage and then add their memories and photographs to the bottom of the page: these memories will also become items within the online collection.

We have added a mixture of themes explaining different aspects of the borough's history. Some themes cover important people and buildings, while others cover material like ghosts and the history of Slough Town Football Club. We have also given online exhibition space to a local photograph project run by our children's team. The photographs are now permanent items in the online collection: we hope that more such exhibitions will follow.

Slough History Online could have grown a lot faster, but we have always tried to take time to carry out each aspect to a very high standard. This not only contributes to making Slough History Online a good quality resource, but saves time in the long run and helps preserve items within our Local Studies Collection. For example, our digitisation standards ensure that each item is scanned to a very high level: this should ensure that each item will only be scanned once and delicate items such as photographs will not need to be put in danger again. Each catalogue record is also checked for typographical mistakes and by people who have knowledge of the town's history so that they can both find historical mistakes and can also add any other historical information they have close at hand.

We hope that this ever-evolving website will not only be of continual interest to researchers, local historians and family historians, but also to schools and school children. Material from the site has been well received by a couple of

local schools already and we will be working with the borough's museum to make this number grow.

What next for Slough History Online? Basically, we aim to continue along the same lines. We have another forty years of newspapers to index and we have not yet digitised and catalogued half of the library's photograph and slide collections. There are also areas in the borough and our wider collecting area that are not currently included in our photograph collection. We have plans to bid again to the National Lottery for a youth project which will digitise, preserve and extend one of our most important collections. We also have plans to get people to record their memories to the website and to a wiki. We are also looking for more libraries, museums and archives to join our SoPSE alliance. We have a fixed price for the website technology and server capacity and the more partners we have, the cheaper the project becomes for each of us. We also have experienced staff in our alliance who can give advice on getting your project off the ground. Have a look at Slough History Online and our partner's sites via www.sopse.org.uk and you are more than welcome to contact me for a chat via tony.pilmer@slough.gov.uk or Damon Guy, our IT Manager, for technical information at damon.guy@slough.gov.uk

Tony Pilmer is Local Studies Librarian, Slough Library

USING YOUR INITIATIVE: connecting Local Studies with the regional and national agenda

Note: This report on the proceedings of the Local Studies Group (Midlands and Anglia) Annual Day School, September 2007 has been compiled by Elizabeth Melrose.

One of the shining stars in the UK Local Studies Group programme of events is the LSG Midlands and Anglia Day School and Annual General Meeting, organised by the 2006 McCulla Award winner, Eleanor Nannestad, and other members of the Midlands and Anglia sub-group committee. Such is the reputation of this annual event that in September 2007 it attracted around sixty delegates from Humberside, London, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, Yorkshire and even Guernsey - all well outside the Midlands and Anglia area - to Nottingham Central Library.

Four members of the audience each agreed to give their comments on the main presentations for the *Local Studies Librarian*:

1: Looking at the bigger picture: the Local Studies Contribution

An excellent address from Brian Ashley, Services Director for Libraries, Information and Communications, Nottingham City Libraries and Information Services, got the day off to a good start. He threw down the challenge to demonstrate the value of Local Studies by relating everything we do to government agendas. To identify the key issues he posed a number of questions.

Who do I think I am?

(His personal answer was: a senior strategic manager in a major city; a professional librarian for 28 years; a history graduate; and a family historian for 29 years). After sharing with us images showing different places, types of people and learning contexts that reflect our communities, Brian made the point that despite our different personal and community identities we actually have a common set of needs.

What do we want?

- Jobs and disposable incomes
- Safe places, good homes
- Strong communities
- Clean and green – now and in the future
- Transport links
- Health and well-being
- Knowing about ourselves and our world
- Control over our own lives

These are the issues that motivate our leaders, both in local and national government, and they look to us to make these things happen. In responding to these agendas we are also doing the right thing.

What's this got to do with Local Studies?

The learning agenda is the most visible and obvious part of what we do. Resources enable us to learn from the patterns of the past (e.g. help us build homes in the right place to avoid flooding!). Another example is the recent murder of Rhys Jones, which highlighted relationships between different housing estates. The Local studies collection is the only place we might find sources such as community memories to learn how historical rivalries were overcome in the past.

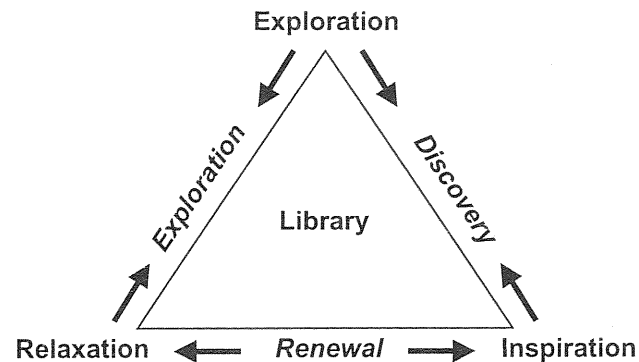
Local studies is about unlocking knowledge, creating understanding and making connections. Aerial photographs, for example, can help to show how current issues such as foot and mouth disease might follow historical patterns. By taking people back to the past and bringing them forward we can break attitudes and open people's thinking. A photograph of a cycling club in 1888 which includes a black face can be used to show communities living and enjoying themselves together.

Making it real - projects

Community engagement is a big current agenda. The challenge is to express the projects we are already doing in language our leaders will understand by linking them to these key agendas. Local studies projects can be connected to

- Cultural identity (e.g. how to trace African Caribbean family history; reconstructing a market place in old photographs).
- Health and well-being (e.g. reminiscence material for care homes, dementia groups)
- Community cohesion
- Strong communities (e.g. role models for black girls)
- Learning and creativity
- New communities

It's what we do ...



This model shows what libraries do! When exploration and relaxation interact we get enrichment; when exploration and inspiration interact we get discovery; and when inspiration and relaxation interact we get renewal.

Who do we think we are?

Passive custodians – No! We are communicators, enablers, bridge builders. Local Studies is about:

- Identity in a complex world (*Who Do You Think You Are?* and other programmes show the importance of finding identity)
- Personalised learning using a range of skills (local studies feeds this more than most through the skills needed to access resources)
- Community engagement
- Active participation (use of volunteers)

Never forget ...

It is our job to make a difference. It is not to pursue our own hobby - but we can enjoy ourselves along the way!

Jill Barber, Heritage Services Manager, Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies

2: Family History and the media: behind the scenes of the TV series, *Who do you think you are?*

Nick Barrett, the historian, outlined the development in his personal experiences of working with the media, highlighting the evolution of the portrayal of history on television from big set-pieces to more hands-on personal programmes. In the past, research was limited because in-house researchers had no experience of archives and had little time or desire to learn research skills. Ideas often came from the production companies that did not employ external consultants due to tight budgets.

This began to change with *Who do you think you are?* which is regarded by the programme-makers as social history rather than genealogy (though the celebrities

are usually more interested in their personal heritage than in illustrating a particular aspect of social history) The influence of such programmes on the use of archives/libraries could easily be demonstrated through increased usage statistics after each broadcast.

The trend now is towards programmes devoted to the process of research and to personal heritage stories picked up via the Internet. Nick advised that Libraries and Archives should take the initiative in liaising with local media in providing stories. However, in working with the media, librarians and archivists must ensure that they remain in control and charge production companies location fees when they wish to film in their buildings.

Nick is now involved in a new web-based initiative The Nation's Memory Bank, www.nationsmemorybank.com which aims to help people archive their lives, sharing memories and photographs for future generations.

Deborah Scriven, Cultural Officer, Local Studies (Families) Wakefield Libraries and Information Services

3: Involving the uninvolved: audience development and participation.

This is a subject that we are all, librarians, archivists, museum curators etc., concerned with – not only how to get the public through our doors, but how to engage their interest sufficiently to keep them coming back regularly.

The 'uninvolved' are, in the main, young people who can see no relevance to history, local or otherwise, in their lives. There are also the first and second generation immigrants who feel under-represented in this area of interest, the elderly, the unemployed, and other financially challenged groups to whom a lack of money and/or transport presents a barrier. All of these groups and more are absent from our various institutions and we need to be doing much more to encourage them.

Elizabeth Melrose dealt with this perennially difficult subject by reminding us why we were there in the first place, not only to make our resources readily available, but also to encourage people to use them. She then went on to give examples of several admirable and interesting projects aimed at teachers and young people.

The launch of a joint Cultural Prospectus by York and North Yorkshire authorities set out to make heritage more relevant to a broader audience, and a Cultural Officers' Heritage Sub-Group and Heritage Partnership, formed from representatives of many different services, seeks to share information about funding and heritage activities.

The *Reaching the Teacher Project*, created by the North Yorkshire County Record Office and the Library Service, had produced a CD-Rom with two imaginative lesson plans and information on how teachers can use historic material to engage their classes. North Yorkshire had also appointed an Audience Development Officer on a fixed-term contract, to attract new users, and work with archivists and librarians to develop new ways of accessing and enjoying the historical collections.

One of these was the *George Cayley Project*, a highly successful exercise based on the life of Sir George Cayley, an inventor and aeronaut, and claimed as the true inventor of the aeroplane. A fascinating subject, and one which ensured that the target audience of schoolchildren of all ages and abilities, had plenty of material to work with. Archivists, librarians, IT support and museums staff, all collaborated to produce a broad range of activities, and in doing so, discovered that they could link history with other subject areas, and draw in an audience who may not otherwise have been interested, or seen the relevance of, history as a subject.

All of these initiatives have come about through partnerships and collaborations between different agencies, and it is this fact that we need to keep reminding ourselves of when planning ahead – we don't need to reinvent the wheel, and ideas flow more freely when you share the burden!

Michele Lefevre: Local Studies Manager, Leeds Library and Information Service

4: Living Literacy: using local studies to develop Key Stage 3 literacy skills

Cathy Petersen, a librarian from Derbyshire County Council, described a project in which she was involved, working with low literacy secondary school children. The project was supported by the Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership and funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. A pilot scheme involving Key Stage 2 children initially took place, but it was only when the project was extended to include Key Stage 3 children that the library became involved.

Four schools expressed an interest in the project. The objective was to show the children why they needed particular learning skills and how to utilise them. Two groups combined a visit to a chosen site followed by a session in the library researching what they had encountered in greater depth using the many available resources. A wildlife nature reserve visit involved the special needs group and a tour of Shirebrook was undertaken by the second group. The remaining two groups spent more time in the library conducting research on a given local topic – including the oldest house in Alfreton and Bolsover Castle/ the Cavendish family, respectively.

- The work on the Nature Reserves engaged pupils in learning how to use cameras and taking photographs of the old railway, monuments and birdlife. In the afternoon, more able children helped the less able to examine maps old and new.
- The Shirebrook project looked at key community buildings and gave a presentation at a Care Home involving dialogue with the older generation.
- The third group spent a whole day in the Alfreton Library looking at census returns, trade directories, maps and expressed outrage at the loss of fields to development in the community. Many returned to the library after the visit.
- The last group of 43 children from Tibshelf was initially going to visit the castle in the morning and come to the library in the afternoon, but a last minute request for research on the Cavendish family slightly altered the structure of the day. The benefit of the Library experience was two-fold, firstly to familiarise the children with the building and secondly to introduce the many sources that are

available to aid project work. Books, maps, directories and the Internet were just some of the resources encountered.

The £800 per group paid to the Library Service has enabled the purchase of digital cameras for use by future groups next year, when it is hoped that further funding generated under the scheme will enable the purchase of memory cards to complement the cameras.

Pamela J Martin, Senior Public Services Officer, East Riding Archives & Local Studies

The exchange of ideas is always a valuable part of any meeting. One innovation, from Solihull Library, was the "S-Factor" - a database of local luminaries ranging from ice-skater John Curry, author John Wyndham, comedian Jasper Carrott, and bands such as the Applejacks, Ocean Colour Scene and Napalm Death, loaded onto the Solihull website alongside an online poll inviting the public to choose their favourite celebrity. This attracted 21,000 votes and generated 18 newspaper articles!

One of the attendees at the Day School was Ian Snowley, President of CILIP. He had been invited to present Eleanor Nannestad with the 2006 McCulla Award for the Local Studies Librarian of the Year and Eleanor gave an excellent tribute to her colleagues on receipt of this well deserved honour. Later Ian Snowley agreed to take questions from the floor. This was an lively and important session at a time of change, hopefully demonstrating to the CILIP members (and others) present that the organisation can be relevant to their work, even if, at times, they may have felt that Ridgmount Street was distant or prescriptive.

All in all, another very successful Day School and the Midlands and Anglia subgroup committee can congratulate their members. Next year, the Albert Hall...

LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR 2007

The Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize has this year been awarded to Elizabeth Melrose, who recently retired from North Yorkshire County Library. She is very well known in the profession as a major enthusiast for local studies libraries in her posts in York and then at Northallerton in County Library Headquarters as well as in her voluntary work over many years for the Local Studies Group Committee where she has been both Treasurer and Chairman, and for the past few years has been LSG's representative on CILIP Council. She has been Chairman of the Yorkshire and Humberside NEWSPLAN and represented that group at the national NEWSPLAN meetings at the British Library. She has always been interested in local studies in other countries and has spoken at several meetings in various parts of Europe. She also has international connections through IFLA, where at present she edits the Genealogy and Local History Section Newsletter.

Elizabeth is a real enthusiast for local history and for organising and publicising local studies collections and is well known as an inspiring speaker. The Local Studies Group is delighted to make this well-deserved award: she will receive it officially at a meeting in 2008.

HONORARY TREASURER NEEDED

Philip Thomas, the Local Studies Group's Honorary Treasurer, is retiring from the committee at the end of March. We are now looking for a new Treasurer. The Local Studies Group is a friendly group and we would warmly welcome new committee members. Playing an active role in a Special Interest Group offers useful development opportunities, particularly for anyone who may be Chartering or Revalidating. You do not necessarily need financial experience to be Treasurer and there would be plenty of support from other committee members.

If you are an LSG member and would like to contribute to the work of the national committee please contact the Honorary Secretary, Helen Pye-Smith, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU (helen.pye-smith@nationalarchives.gov.uk).

In addition, the Editor would like to have an Assistant to work with him. The person appointed would need to be a working librarian as what is needed is someone to keep their ear to the ground for news about events and people in the field and to encourage people to offer contributions to LSL to make up a balanced mix of items. The post gives people a chance to input to the journal and the chance to widen their range of contacts and should be helpful to people to further their careers. Anyone interested should contact Ian Jamieson directly: he will be pleased to hear from you!

A SUBGROUP FOR THE NORTH EAST?

Interest has been expressed recently in the formation of a subgroup in the North East of England. The area has a vast and fascinating history and has inspired generations of historians, academic and from the community, to work on aspects of the region's history and there are local studies collections in libraries throughout the region. The potential of libraries, museums and archives to work with, engage and inspire new generations is unlimited. If you would like to work with, support, help care for, or learn more about local studies collections, and you live in the North East, a new North East subgroup of the CILIP Local Studies Group may be just what you are looking for. Active subgroup membership is open to members of CILIP, whether you are a local studies librarian, work for instance in a branch library handling local enquiries, or simply have an interest in the subject. We need to hear from you to see whether a subgroup would be viable. Visits, day schools and training courses are envisaged, as is cooperation with museums and archive services. Please do get in touch to register your interest. The contact is Anne Sharp, Local Studies Librarian at South Shields Central Library, email anne.sharp@southtyneside.gov.uk, tel 0191 424 7860.

LSG AT UMBRELLA 2007

The new venue at the De Havilland campus University of Hertfordshire with its impressive modern architecture, good food and attentive helpers made a welcome and pleasant change from previous Umbrella conferences. Although delegate numbers were slightly down the atmosphere was cordial and the programme excellent. LSG organised two sessions. The first by committee member Jill Barber 'The way forward for training of local studies librarians: do we need webbed feet?' was accompanied by endearingly amusing cartoons. Jill set the ball rolling by focussing on the nature of local studies and the skills required to meet the needs of our users. By examining recent job advertisements and an online discussion within the Group she concluded that the traditionally regarded local knowledge skills were regarded as less important than ICT, management and marketing skills. She concluded that local studies was all embracing and cut across disciplines but that knowledge of local and family history remains the preserve of local studies.

The second part of her talk focussed on training. She felt that local studies is facing a crisis of identity because it has disappeared from the curricula of library courses and more significantly it is not appearing in key policy documents. She warned us that we are in danger of losing out to archives as the Archives Task Force mentions local studies libraries and the MLA is offering local studies training under archives. All this confuses our users. She mooted the idea of closer cooperation with archives and the possible development of a joint heritage qualification that might lead to the rise of a new type of heritage professional with transferable skills.

Currently training is generally organised in-house or by attendance at day schools organised by the Local Studies Group. The only formal training now offered, since the demise of the distance learning module in local studies at Aberystwyth, is that offered by Robert Gordon University but it is dependent on having sufficient takers to run the course. We were admonished for not being pro-active enough, both in promoting local studies and organising training courses. This was an excellent and lively presentation, which deserved a much larger audience.

Our second session was shared with the Information Services Group and concerned access to an important resource – the newspaper. Ed King of the British Library Newspaper Library spoke on 'The digitisation of historic newspapers: lessons for all'. He was concerned with two projects: newspapers from 1800-1900 and the Burney collection of early newspapers. The former is a major initiative covering 48 titles and 2 million pages of text. He outlined with illustrations some of the difficulties in preparing old newsprint for digitisation and overcoming OCR problems involving each page being examined. Much of the material had to be refilmed because of conversion problems with older film. Considerable emphasis in this project has been placed on standards both of the text and its metadata.

The Burney collection posed different challenges. Although this collection of early newspapers and other material had been scanned between 2001-2003, the project had lain dormant until 2005. The second stage was intended to edit the work and make it available. Ed stressed that projects of this nature require considerable technical expertise as representing pages of newsprint in a digital environment is complex. He conceded that it was impossible to please everyone because of the way the project is funded and that initially access would be confined to the higher education sector. His paper stimulated a lively and often technical discussion. LSG is extremely grateful to both its speakers.

Diana Dixon

Editor's note: an article by Jill Barber, based on her Umbrella paper is published elsewhere in this issue.

IFLA CONFERENCE 2007: a report

Elizabeth Melrose

IFLA is not just about exotic venues or meeting up with international colleagues – it is this too, but for me this Conference, held in Durban, South Africa, in August was the culmination of committee work spread over the whole year. Recently, the Committee has been augmented by personnel from Australia, Canada, China, Korea and Germany, which has made our 2007 e-meeting more lively.

The pressure exerted by IFLA to ensure that each Section has a viable fifty members continues to take up much space on our committee emails. Our Section is vocal about this restriction since it appears to take no account of the many achievements of the present membership. However there are other topics to discuss, such as the issues within the Strategic Plan 2007-2008, data privacy affecting genealogical studies, and the need for networking through the use of the GENLOC list-serv.

For the Durban Conference, the Genealogy and Local History Section (GENLOC) joined the Audiovisual and Multimedia Section (AVMS) for a double programme of papers, *Stories without writing: local and family history beyond the written word* - a relevant subject for Africa, noted for its traditions of indigenous oral history and genealogy. This was a popular choice. Under the eye of the joint programme directors, Janice McFarlane (GENLOC) and Bruce Royan (AVMS), we moderated many prospective abstracts sent in from several parts of the world. Both Sections felt that our joint sessions would be popular and educational.

Alongside our Danish Section Secretary, I had, over the early part of the year, been co-editing a volume of the previous Conference papers from our IFLA sessions 2001 - 2005. The publishers, Saur-Verlag, needed camera-ready copy, so this task included many late-night emails flying between Aalborg and York. We delivered the completed script to IFLA in Durban and hope to see the published book in Spring 2008, giving all our previous Conference presenters more exposure and furthering local history, genealogy, and map studies. Once my part in this project was concluded in July, I was, as Section Newsletter Editor, able to complete our tenth Newsletter, now published on IFLAnet www.ifla.org/VII/s37/news/genloc-Newsletter10-07.pdf

GENLOC has kept contact with the Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE). Family history students are concerned with the varying balance between a citizen's right to privacy and a citizen's right to access to information - access to personally identifiable information in population and census records for the purpose of genealogical study. I attended the FAIFE Committee meetings as a GENLOC observer along with Antonio Lechasseur of Library and Archives Canada. FAIFE agreed that a tabled resolution, that our Section had helped to formulate on this subject, should be refined and that Antonio would represent GENLOC on an organising committee for a future FAIFE Conference. Other GENLOC members attended other Section Committee meetings, notably the Reference and Information Section Committee meeting, since we plan to hold a collaborative satellite meeting in Ottawa with this Section in 2008 on the subject of genealogy for everyone.

Our main GENLOC/AVMS programme had a good audience. The sessions were supplied with simultaneous translation and worked well despite late changes to the programme. These resulted from last minute funding difficulties in the case of two of the chosen speakers – a substitute speaker from South Africa also failed to

appear and our Canadian speaker was bedevilled by unexpected problems with the multimedia equipment. Her archival film of Vancouver in 1907 could only be seen on her laptop. A video showing historical memories of Boston, USA, sent by one of the absent speakers was repeated at each session. Surprisingly, the video even warranted a second viewing for those delegates who had seen it earlier. The subject matter of other presentations included a project on inter-generational storytelling from Northern Ireland; the collection and preservation of African oral genealogy in Ghana; a fascinating description of a library's efforts in preserving the culture of the Li people of Hainan Island in China, people who have had unique tattooing customs; the digital War Detectives Project from Scotland; and an archival film of old Alexandria as the cosmopolitan city that it was. The programme showed the diversity of local history research that has been undertaken and preserved in multimedia and on the internet. The programme presentations are held on IFLAnet in several languages www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/Programme2007.htm

This year I also made a concerted effort to see the stimulating Poster Sessions in the Conference Centre – our Committee member from Vancouver had a poster in place promoting a new website featuring Chinese Canadian Genealogy www.vpl.ca/ccg/ Other highlights included the inspirational IFLA opening keynote address by Justice Albie Sachs; finding six free comic books, published by the Nelson Mandela Foundation for distribution through newspapers and to schools, telling the story of Mandela's life up to his release from the Victor Verster prison; and watching the sun come up over the Indian Ocean from my hotel window.

At the IFLA Conference, GENLOC always organises a separate Study Tour and this year was no exception. Travelling by minibus, our group visited the Durban Archives Depot, to be shown, among other items, 19th and 20th century Shipping Lists with details of immigrants from India come to work in the South African sugar-cane fields. From there we went on to the Killie Campbell Museum and Africana Library of magnificent Zulu Kingdom artefacts before finishing the day at the KwaZulu-Natal University where delegates were able to see the workings of the Hidden Years Music Archive. This was a long but very interesting and satisfying day, enlivened by an exhibition of wonderful beadwork and artists' pictures at the Killie Campbell mansion, dinner in an Indian Restaurant and tea at the University campus.

Security was an issue in Durban. A member of our committee had her Blackberry stolen. However the South African authorities made great efforts over the safety of delegates - on a late-night stop-over in Cape Town I was ushered to the airport staff-room by the Airline Head of Security to await my early morning onward flight. Sightseeing in Durban both before and after the Conference, I had no problems - I stopped by the Natural History Museum and Art Gallery and the Botanical Gardens, which boasted some amazing trees. Especially impressive was a visit to the uShaka Marine Park, so much so that I went there twice. Later, with a Croatian friend, we went on a walking City Tour organised by the Tourist Office and this informed us about the buildings and history of central Durban. After the Conference I was able to take part in the tour to Hluhluwe Game Reserve and I have the photos to prove exactly when the impressive elephant decided that it was time for us to move on!

Should anyone wish to learn more about the Genealogy and Local History Section of IFLA, please access the webpage www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm

Elizabeth Melrose is an IFLA GENLOC Committee member and Newsletter Editor

FROM OUR (FORMER) CILIP COUNCILLOR

This is a very abbreviated report since, by the time that you read this, much will have changed at Ridgmount Street. The final meeting of the former CILIP Council will have been held in mid-December 2007 – the supporting Standing Committees and Panels have already been dissolved. The new governance structure of CILIP will be in place from 1st January 2008 onwards.

The results of the election for the CILIP Council of twelve Trustees have just been published. Several of the successful candidates claimed in their Election manifestos that they were eager to reflect on the aspirations of the Groups and Branches, so we can but see. What is more alarming, and this is something that the elected Trustees – and Group and Branch committees also – must consider very seriously, is that the percentage of CILIP members who actually exercised their right to vote on who would take the Association forward over the next important years was far too low – 21.8 per cent. This attitude must be reversed and Group and Branch committees have a positive responsibility for drawing librarians into their communities and for encouraging them to participate in section activities.

The next tier of governance will be the Policy Forum. Details of how this Forum will operate are, to date, still being worked out. It will be a larger grouping, including representatives chosen by the committees of the Groups and Branches, each Home Nation, the Affiliates and the Retired Member's Guild. It is on this advisory body, chaired by the CILIP Vice-President, that the Local Studies Group will play its part looking at the many large issues in which CILIP is involved.

There will be no changes in the governance of Groups and Branches and their committees will report to the Policy Forum on matters of professional policy. However, Groups and Branches will have to take a much more proactive role, reading the issues on the CILIP website, consulting with their Policy Forum representative and, via that representative, using their expertise to inform the Policy Forum.

Finally there will be the Office of the President and within this Office will sit a number of Panels such as those that will deal with Elections, Discipline, Ethics and Audit.

I would like to thank the Local Studies Group for allowing me to be the Group's representative on Council over the past few years. I hope I have reported fairly. I found the Council was perhaps too large a body and time was too limited for wide-ranging discussion, but I certainly gained much experience in the smaller forums of the Policy Development Committee and the International Panel. I was involved in a period of great change, but there is an opportunity for all members of CILIP to take steps forward into a stronger future. The Local Studies Group as a whole must now consider its own purpose, its structure and, more important than all else, its relationship with its members.

Elizabeth Melrose.

Tel: 01904 644335, email eam@freeuk.com

FROM OUR SUBGROUPS

The **Midlands and Anglia** subgroup reports that most of its energies during summer and autumn were directed to arranging their very successful Day School in Nottingham in September. Delegates came from a wide area and the course was fully booked. A report of the proceedings appears elsewhere in this issue. The subgroup's AGM was held at this meeting and CILIP President Ian Snowley presented Eleanor Nannestad with her well-earned McCulla Award for 2007. Various changes in the Committee are also reported: Terry Bracher, the subgroup's Secretary since its inception about nine years ago, has resigned on moving to a post outside the area and Margaret Beard resigned on her retirement. Two new members joined the Committee: Christina Raven-Conn from Nottingham City replaces Roger Parish who has left local studies work and Phillip Lindley from Hinckley Library will be the new Treasurer, replacing Philip Thomas, who is retiring. The subgroup's representative on the main LSG Committee next year is still to be appointed.

The **North West** subgroup held a *Going Digital* Day School at the Cheshire Record Office which attracted 26 delegates. While this number was satisfactory, the committee was surprised not to have had more for such a relevant subject. Speakers included Paul Newman on the Cheshire Tithe Map Project, Ian Smith of House of Images on digitising photographs, Diana Rushton on Blackburn's Cotton Town NOF project and Gay Oliver giving a family historian's view on websites. The AGM was also held during the day. Ideas for 2008 include a possible day school on Lancashire dialect, possibly at Rochdale to coincide with the Tim Bobbin anniversary and something on special collections in Liverpool to mark its year as European Capital of Culture. The committee wishes to pay tribute for all his work over the years to Keith Burrows, who has now left the subgroup committee. He has been replaced by Cath Duckworth.

LOCSCOT, our Scottish subgroup, has been asked to take an important role in the development of Scotlandspeople, the Scottish National Database of statutory registers, old parish registers and other family history bases. The Scotlandspeople website is extremely popular, but is quite expensive to access, so East Dunbartonshire and three other Scottish local authorities carried out a trial, in 2006, of means of cut-price access to the website in public libraries. The trial was a success and the scheme will now roll out over Scotland. LOCSCOT will handle the initial stream of training: this will cover the enrolment of users, use of vouchers and the organisation of taster sessions and local training. It is noted that the LOCSCOT website is hosted by SLAINTE, the cilips website, but that LOCSCOT is keen to organise a link with the main LSG website. It is also reported that LOCSCOT held its Autumn Day School at Linlithgow, the topic being "Hot metal and cold print: 500 years of Scottish printing". This theme will be continued in the 2008 Local History Week. It had formerly been planned to stage a major re-launch of Local History Week in 2008, but this has been postponed until 2009, when the re-launch will have a family history topic to link with the Scottish national "Year of the Homecoming" that will be celebrated that year.

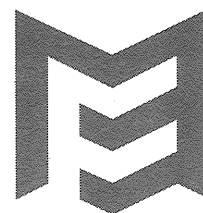
NOTES AND NEWS

Many people will be sad to hear of the death on June 15th 2007 of Judith Swarbrick, for many years a member of the Local Studies Library staff at Lancashire County Library Headquarters in Preston. Judith joined the County Library Service at the beginning of her working life and remained there until her retirement in 1998: for the last fifteen years of her service she was a member of the local studies library staff. Very quiet but warm, approachable and very knowledgeable, she was also a keen linguist, a skill put to good use even in the local studies section. Her voice became familiar to many local studies librarians, especially in the north west, whose enquiries she dealt with cheerfully and efficiently. She is remembered by her colleagues with much affection.

The East Lothian Fourth Statistical Account continues to progress. Volume Five, covering the parishes in the far west of the county, has recently been published by East Lothian County Library. The Account is a local venture dealing with changes since the Third Statistical Account was published some fifty years ago. It covers the period 1945 – 2000 and provides a snapshot of the county written by local specialists. Still to come is one more parish volume and then a volume of reminiscences of growing up in East Lothian. There will then be a CD Rom version of the whole work and this will include some additional information and some longer versions of some of the material.

The Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto (LOtC) was launched by the Secretary of State for Education in November 2006. Its aim is to bring together everyone who sees the benefits to young people - regardless of their age, circumstances and ability - of high quality learning experiences outside the classroom: everyone who shares this vision is invited to sign up to the Manifesto. The LOtC is being carried forward through an Action Plan which aims to develop guidance for schools on how to provide learning outside the classroom opportunities and to develop a training framework for schools and provider organisations; and to develop a safety and quality accreditation scheme for provider organisations. To ensure that the widest range of interests are covered eight sector partnerships have been set up, one of which is the Heritage Sector Partnership (HSP), which is being coordinated by Fenella Hunt. Fenella is keen to ensure that those working in the heritage sector are kept informed about LOtC activity and wishes to develop a network of interested organisations and individuals: the network could help, for instance, in publicising LOtC and gathering best practice case studies.

It is important that LSG should contribute to the HSP to highlight the valuable contribution that local studies libraries can and are making to formal and informal learning for children and families. LSG Committee member Jill Barber will be representing archives and local studies on HSP, and would like to gather together best practice case studies or be pointed in the direction of people to contact, and will then coordinate our responses for presentation to HSP. Many of you may be involved with LOtC at some stage and this note is to let you know what is envisaged. Jill will keep us up to date as the Action Plan proceeds.



MicroFormat

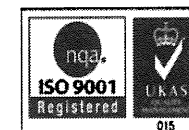
..... securing the future of the past

**preservation microfilming
and digital imaging**

MicroFormat UK Ltd
Image House
344 High Street
Rochester
Kent ME1 1JE

Tel: 01634 813751
Fax: 01634 831557

archiving@microformat.co.uk
www.microformat.co.uk



ISSN 0263-0273



Chartered Institute of
Library and Information
Professionals

Reg. Charity 313014

Typeset and Produced by

IMPRINT SERVICES

Telephone (01609) 779142 • E-mail: imprintservices@btconnect.com