

Local Studies Group Aims and Objectives

Aim of Group

The Local Studies Group (LSG) is a Special Interest Group of CILIP. The object of the Group is to further the aims of CILIP within the Local Studies field by uniting those members of CILIP and the Group engaged or interested in Local Studies, fostering communication, facilitating exchange of experience and continuing professional development, and by promoting relevant work.

Overall Objectives

- **Membership**
 - Maintain and develop membership of the Group
 - Actively seek new members of the Group
 - Identify what members want from the Group and how they can be supported
- **Advocacy**
 - Provide a strong voice to advocate local studies at a national level drawing on expertise and views of members
 - Provide support for local studies services under pressure
 - Monitor local studies activity across the country
 - Respond to national and regional consultation documents especially where they relate to local studies services
- **Communications**
 - Proactively communicate with members of the Group to keep them informed of current activities and issues using tools such as the journal, the website and email
 - Engage with national and local issues relating to local studies, contributing to CILIP responses and discussions
- **Regional Support**
 - Develop regional Sub-groups to encourage active participation in the Group and to engage with regional issues in the field
- **Cross-sectoral working**
 - Promote cross-sectoral working with other relevant areas such as family history, archives and museums, and other local history groups and CILIP groups
- **Publications**
 - Publish two issues of *Local Studies Librarian* per year
 - Maintain and develop a website for the group via CILIP's content management system and following their guidelines
 - Support and encourage the production of newsletters by the Sub-groups
- **McCulla Award**
 - Celebrate, publicise and support excellent and innovative services in the local studies field by annual provision of the Dorothy McCulla Award
 - Promote awareness of the award through relevant channels

- **Training and networking**
 - Hold regular events, workshops, meetings, visits to support continuing personal and professional development, knowledge of the local studies field and provide opportunities to meet others working in local studies and other relevant areas
 - Encourage Sub-groups to continue their programme of events
 - Ensure all events cover their costs

- **International Activity**
 - Enhance knowledge of international activity in the Local Studies field by support, and where possible, involvement in, initiatives
 - Support the IFLA Genealogy and Local History section representative to actively participate in and promote the work of the section

- **Participation in CILIP Policy Forum**
 - Actively participate in and initiate debate through CILIP's Policy Forum
 - Provide a Policy Forum representative and a back-up representative from the Group.

Specific objectives for three/five year action plan

- Publish two issues of the Local Studies Librarian and consider publishing in electronic form as well as print
- Continue to develop the LSG website, keeping it current and relevant to the work of the Group, and using it to publicise events and other activities
- Hold a national group event in conjunction with the AGM to encourage more communication with members and better participation and engagement with them
- Support the establishment of the LSG South Sub-group
- Continue to investigate sub-groups in areas not already covered, for example the North-East and Wales
- Develop a policy statement about the future of local studies collections and/or their staff
- Publicise activities in the CILIP Gazette and other relevant places

Approved by AGM on 8th June 2009