

IFLA's Genealogy and Local History Section is a relative newcomer, organising open sessions at IFLA conferences since 2001. This volume is a product of these sessions and contains papers with a truly international perspective – ranging from Argentina to Norway and partially reflecting the venues of the various IFLA meetings. For this reason a number of Scandinavian projects feature, with papers from Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The UK is well represented, and the Celtic fringe especially so, with essays from the National Libraries of

digitised photographic image project in North Yorkshire are clearly presented.

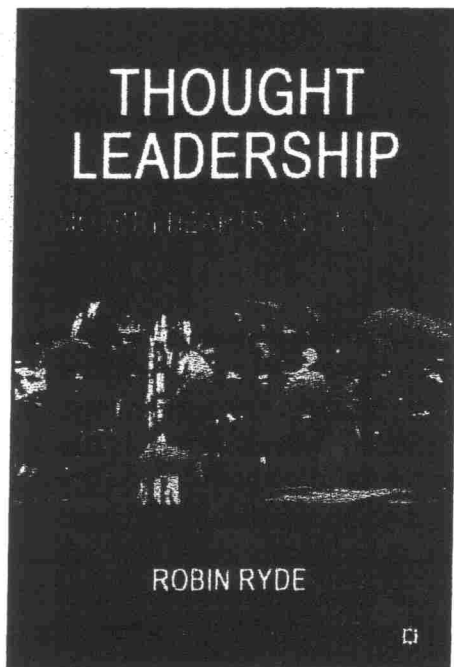
Immigration features prominently and includes Jewish settlements and immigration in Argentina, as well as Chinese-Canadian sources. Particularly poignant are the comments from genocide survivors which can be found on a community portal in East Renfrewshire.

Much of this book covers specific projects but there are several theoretical and general contributions. One of the most illuminating is a paper on the way in which DNA can be combined

covered in this volume demonstrates just how complex genealogical research has become as a result of technological advances. Inevitably in a work of this nature some papers are better than others but most are both informative and illuminating. Given the range of material, it is a pity that the work has no index. Overall, the message is that shared experiences can lead to wider implementation of good practice, which may inspire others to undertake similar projects.

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## Get ahead: examine your thinking



Ryde, Robin. **Thought Leadership: moving hearts and minds.** Basingstoke/New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. 180 pp. ISBN 978 0 230 52551 1. £25.

Robin Ryde asserts that 'the greatest tool' in any leader's toolkit is the ability to 'talk' (p. 103). In *Thought Leadership*, he sets out to show how mastery of the social thinking process can enhance a leader's ability to talk and therefore to influence.

Ryde begins by outlining some common thinking patterns we use without judging their effectiveness. He suggests strategies for breaking these and creating the right environment for high-quality thinking.

He offers techniques for changing the thinking pattern

if the 'conversation' needs to be moved on. Ryde then develops this theme further by exploring alternative thinking patterns. He attributes qualities to each pattern and demonstrates how they can be effectively employed at different stages in a 'conversation' or 'meeting'. At best, a full knowledge of these patterns can be used to steer 'conversations' skilfully towards the desired focus.

Ryde supports his exploration of thinking patterns with convincing empirical evidence, anecdotes and real-life situations with which one can easily identify. While this analysis is insightful, it is questionable whether our thinking can be so easily categorised without examining possible underlying factors.

This is a slim, easy-to-read volume divided into three chapters. Although there are useful summaries at various

points, further reference could be enhanced by more sub-headings and the provision of a 'how to' section. The numerous textual errors (e.g. the repetition on page 73) were disappointing and I would have expected them to have been dealt with during the editing stage.

This book contributes an interesting and valuable perspective on how we think and how that insight can benefit anyone adopting a leading role. Potentially it has far-reaching appeal and I would recommend it to anyone aspiring to improve their self-awareness, and general communication, meeting and change management skills.

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