MGS Council Report
VP IT – Oct 22, 2016

It has been a busy summer with work on MANI fixes, the MGS Website fixes Facebook update and a lot of volunteers working on preparing and uploading records into MANI

MANI and Website upgrades have been progressing with programming changes to the MANI website PHP coding and the SQL database. Part of this has been the rebranding MANI with the MGS masthead background and MANI logo replacing the previous one. Changes to the text strengthens MGS as the owner of MANI. Changes to the text also identify the site as the MGS Members Only website of which MANI is one component. The programmers I have been working with are working on outstanding issues so more changes/repairs are coming.

I have also started to change the text on some of the pages such as the entry page text to clarify the "Free Search" feature and identify the site as the MGS Members Only site. Changes to the Research page are progressing and some background programming needs to be done before we can launch it. Work is also progressing on the MGS store site. Once the MGS Research Services and the MGS Store sites are ready they will be linked to from our MGS website www.mbgenealogy and will then be accessible to non-members.

We have made extensive progress in preparing and uploading the MGS indexes into MANI (see table attached). Our volunteers continue to do an amazing job and there are a number of additional indexes that should be uploaded before the end of the year. The volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday continue to prepare and upload records. Many of these volunteers are also working at home on the files.

On Wednesday Kenda, our membership chair is using MANI to manage our membership. She is planning on rewriting the MGS Membership procedures document to reflect the current processes. I am hoping to fix problems with the membership renewal/join email as well as the membership about to expire/expired emails soon. This will reduce the manual Membership processes further. The chart at the end of this report shows we have been able to reverse the membership loss trend we have been experiencing. With the launch of MANI we have been increasing membership.

Thank you to Ginnie for chairing a meeting of Wednesday volunteers to get the Cemetery Transcription Module process back on track. I am offering volunteer training Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays for the next few weeks. The training was requested at the meeting. We have another meeting scheduled on November 22 to work on finalizing the CT Module

The third draft for the Cemetery Transcription Module (CT Module) specifications was sent to all Council members for review. At the last council meeting The Southwest Branch requested that the it be able to store and sell cemetery tombstone pictures in the new MANI Cemetery Transcriptions Module. The majority of these sales will be credited to the branch that has done the work similar to what we do with the current Cemetery Transcription sales. The new CT Module will also keep track of sales and credit the branch account.

We have secured grants to proceed with the CT Module project (Heritage Grants Progran $2,000 and Winnipeg Foundation $5,000). We hope to be successful in our application to work with a group of

students from Red River College to design this module. If we are not successful we will need to do more fundraising as going to an outside programmer is more expensive.

The number of MANI users increased again this month. We now have 293 members who have activated their account in the MGS "Members Only" area which contains MANI as well as access to all past MGS magazine issues of "Generations".

The membership expired email were sent out manually for the end of August and again for September.

Computers

A new computer in order to run the high speed scanner in house. This is part of the CT Module process.

Network Drive Backup – The MGS network drive was backed up. This process takes about 10 hours currently.

Computer to Southwest Branch – Brandon Library. We have a computer that I will be reloading with windows 10, Office and MGS shortcuts. When it is ready I will take it to Brandon for their library. It will be set up to allow your patrons to use MANI without a password. We have a standard setup that we do on our MGS computers and have licenses to install on computers that we own.

 The computer will also have a link our **KOHA Library Catalogue**. Mary and I are interested in working with the Southwest Branch to expand KOHA to allow a branch Library and adding their collection. We can set up a search of the local Branch collection as an option. The software has that capability.

I have offered to do workshops on MANI for the Southwest Branch executive, Branch Volunteers and members. I hope to do so before Christmas.

MGS e-Mail system – We have correct errors found and the system now seems to be working. We need to move towards a system where e-mail is forwarded to the individuals concerned and then moved to the folder on the MGS computer. Many individuals still do not realize that they have an e-mail folder at MGS. By using generic names we never have out of date email addresses when volunteers change, we just change the forwarding to the new address.

This fall my wife and I visited Saskatchewan. I arranged to spend time at the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society with their staff. One of my priorities was to find out how they operate their remote services. The first thing that I found out is that Ancestery.com has shut down their system to allow members to access Ancestry from home. What they still have is sub licenses for some of their branches to use Ancestry for an annual fee. I will be looking into this with Proquest who is the vendor for the Ancestry Library edition to find out what it will cost. If you visit their website, http://www.saskgenealogy.com/ , you will notice that they are dealing with their own issues. They currently are trying to pay down their $40,000 deficit.

Oct 16, 2016 MANI and Membership statistics

2016 MANI Statistics									
	Apr-15	2015 Year-end total record	August			September			2016 YTD
MANI accounts	20	162	278			293			
new Members		57	50			13			99
MGS Members Active List			565			574			
Highest membership #		5542	5,635			5,648			
Life		58	57			57			
Individual		319	359			368			
Associate		14	14			14			
Instutional		14	16			16			
Total Active Members		405	389			455			0
No-Mailouts		47	46			46			
MGS Branches		16	15			16			
Journal Exchanges		57	57			58			
Generations Mail,		449	223			228			
printed						6			
Generations sent (eMail)		215	256			261			

		Year-end total records	New	Updated	Deleted	New	Updated	Deleted	2016 YTD NEW
Baptism		0	0	0	0				0
Births		0	0	1	0				0
Book record		178,336	4,490	1,820	2,049	14,590	11	9	19,081
Books		50	0	0	0	1			1
New Book Indexes added		0	0	0	0				0
Burial		0	0	0	0				0
Cemeteries		1,580	0	0	0				0
Cemetery Records		401,467	3,597	34	2,591	248	1,045	2	3,949
Cemetery Transcriptions		0							0
		0							0
Census 1827		673	0	0	0				0
Census 1831		480	0	0	0				0
Census 1834		621	0	0	0				0
Census 1870		10,160	0	0	0				0
Census 1891		19,997	0	0	0				0
Census 1901		16,318	0	0	0				0
Church		2	0	0	0				0
Churches Marriages		0	0	0	0				0
Countries		0	0	0	0				0
Marriages		0	0	0	0				0
Municipalities		132	0	0	0				0
Newspapers		83	25	2	0				25
Obituaries Rural		83,096	0	0	0	1,892	2,421	424	1,892
Obituaries Win Pap		129,250	0	0	0	16,312			26,328
Provinces		5	0	0	0				0
ServentRecords		0	0	0	0				0
Type Codes		17	0	0	0				0
Total Records		842,267	8,112	1,857	4,640	33,043	3,477	435	51,276
		0							0
Generations uploaded		159							0
Products		14	0	0	0				0
pdf for PPV		0	0	0	0				0
Transactions PayPal		30	14						55
Research requests		0							0

Historical membership trends

Membership Type	Oct-16	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
1 Individual	368	357	342	337	387	426	441	463	487	528
2 Associate (no *Generations*)	14	14	22	21	30	26	25	33	32	37
3 Institutional	16	15	15	18	19	20	18	14	15	15
4 Life (do not pay annual fees)	57	56	57	57	57	57	61	64	60	56
5 Journal Exchange (other societies)	58	56	58	75	75	73	75	77	78	80
6 MGS Branches, Libraries	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	14
7 Heritage Canada	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9 No Mail out (no *Generations*, letters)	46	47	46	28	28	31	29	36	31	26
Total	576	561	556	552	612	648	665	703	719	757

Branches (**all memberships may not be reported to MGS)										
Dauphin		8	6	2	6	8	6	29	13	14
Beautiful Plains		17	25	25	27	28	30	5	26	27
Southeast & Winnipeg		90	94	92	101	113	114	119	110	135
South West		53	57	55	66	59	60	67	71	80
Swan Valley		4	4	5	6	6	5	6	5	5
Total		172	186	179	206	214	215	226	225	261

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	576	561	556	552	612	648	665	703