

Minutes of the fourth meeting of the Implementation Committee of the Newsplan (Wales) Project held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, at 11.00am on Thursday 8th June 1995

PRESENT:

Dr Lionel Madden (Chairman), Mr John Cosslett, Mr Merlyn Brown, Dr Rhidian Griffiths, Mr Richard Lewis, Mrs Elspeth Mitcheson, Mr Geoffrey Smith, Mr John Turner, Mr Gareth Haulfryn Williams, Mr John Woods, Mr Iwan Jones (Secretary)

Apologies had been received from Mrs Linda Tomos and Mr Andrew Green.

The Chairman welcomed to their first meeting Mrs Elspeth Mitcheson and MR John Woods, representing CLWM, and Mr Merlyn Brown, substituting for Mr Andrew Green.

## 1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

i. The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October were approved.

ii. The Index to the Western Mail

Rhidian Griffiths said that the National Library would like to sell microfilm of the Index to other libraries who had expressed interest, with the aim of covering the cost of the work. Mr John Cosslett felt that all mention of the Western Mail was to be encouraged. He would be happy to see the Library sell copies to other libraries and would speak with the Managing Director to confirm that this was acceptable.

iii. Western Mail on CD ROM

John Cosslett said that the Western Mail, South Wales Echo and Wales on Sunday would be available on CD ROM very shortly. To avoid any copyright difficulties the CD-ROM would contain only the newspapers' own stories, and would not include stories by people not employed by the papers, photographs or advertisements. The discs would be issued quarterly through Televisual Data Ltd; he circulated details of the CD-ROM of The Scotsman, produced by the same company.

iv. Copyright

Geoff Smith was asked whether the Newspaper Society could help clear the question of newspaper copyright.

explained that

Geoff Smith said that the British Library considered that filming for preservation was not a breach of copyright. When researchers ordered copies of newspapers still in copyright they were required to obtain the permission of the publisher. A sale of copies of newspapers in any format could be challenged on copyright grounds because newspapers were composite artefacts with very involved residual copyrights. In fact the British Library had never yet been challenged.

## 2. Report on the LINC Newsplan Panel meetings and the East Midland model plan

i LINC Newsplan Panel

Iwan Jones said the meetings of the LINC Newsplan Panel were most useful in giving an idea of the progress in the different regions of

Newsplan. Progress in Wales compared favourably with that in other regions of similiar size. Procedures developed in other Newsplan regions could prove applicable in Wales and details of the East Midlands model plan had been circulated for that reason.

ii East Midlands model plan

Geoff Smith described the plan developed by the East Midlands Region to outline an authority's position on Newsplan. The LINC Newsplan panel had agreed to ask individual regions to consider presenting their plans on this common format. The Chairman said that a decision on the plan could be made after the next item on the agenda.

3. RESPONSE TO THE APPROACH TO AUTHORITIES AND THE WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY 1995

i Response to the appeal

The Chairman explained that he had written on behalf of the Implementation Committee to ask libraries and archives to identify priority titles for microfilming, allocate 1% of their purchasing funds to the work and name one person as a contact. There had been a good response and the representatives of those bodies which had allocated funds to the work and which were not already represented on the Implementation Committee itself had been invited to the meeting of the Working Party at the National Library of Wales on 23 May 1995.

The Implementation Committee welcomed the commitment of local authority libraries to Newsplan, but John Turner expressed concern that only one academic library was prepared to commit funds. Gareth Haulfryn Williams was similiarly concerned at the position of archives. John Cosslett said that newspaper companies were less supportive than would otherwise have been the case because of the stringency caused by the recent increase in the cost of newsprint. Elspeth Mitcheson said that even after April 1996 there would continue to be some confusion as to responsibility for archival and library functions and that it was important to discuss matters locally.

ii Working Party meeting of 23 May 1995

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting had been circulated together with a list of contacts and priority titles. The Working Party could make recommendations to the Implementation Committee and might also develop into a clearing-house for information and cooperation at the operational level. It had been agreed that the Chairman should normally rotate every two years. Mr Brynmor Jones of South Glamorgan Library had been elected Chairman and Mr Iwan Jones would serve as Secretary. The East Midlands model plan and had been discussed and welcomed as a means of promoting microfilm work within individual authorities. All the representatives had agreed to prepare documents for their own authorities on the pattern of the plan by the time of the next meeting of the Working Party on 26 September 1995.

It was agreed that the Working Party should be encouraged to proceed on the basis of the East Midlands model plan. It was important for local libraries to recognise Newsplan as part of their work now and under the new authorities. It would be possible for them to develop local initiatives in cooperation with academic libraries, archives and other bodies.

4. IMPLICATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

i Relocation of Newspapers

John Woods said there could be some relocation of newspaper collections. Rhidian Griffiths said he would be glad to know of possible movements both in order to update the Report and so that the National Library could offer to keep collections which might otherwise be disposed of.

ii Service Delivery Plans

Elsbeth Mitcheson said that, although it was still too early to see a clear pattern, the service delivery plans would be prepared by the officers of the new authorities once they were in post and a very important point would be the allocation of budgets between the new authorities.

The Chairman said that it was important to maintain an awareness of Newsplan at all levels. The operational contacts were already aware of Newsplan and the chiefs should also be aware of it. The Working Party had recommended pressing the DNH to include mention of Newsplan in their guidance notes for the new authorities and asking the WLA review of service delivery plans to bear Newsplan in mind also, and it was felt this would be possible. The LINC Newsplan Panel would be writing to the DNH and the new (English) Library and Information Commission. The Chairman would talk to Ann Matheson, Chairman of the Panel, and would raise the question of Newsplan with LISC and possibly with the Welsh Office to ensure that service delivery plans included mention of Newsplan.

5. OTHER FUNDING POSSIBILITIES AND THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

i Mellon funding

Geoff Smith said Mellon funding was coming to an end and that the Steering Committee was continuing to look for new funds from other sources.

ii National Lottery

Lottery regulations prevented the Implementation Committee from applying for funds to distribute to others. Lottery money would have to be sought on the basis of local initiatives whereby individual libraries made their own applications. The National Library of Wales would probably be making an application to film the newspapers identified as being of high priority in the Newsplan Report. The Implementation Committee could submit a dossier which would outline the background to Newsplan in support of individual applications.

Geoff Smith noted that the National Library of Wales could make an application for Lottery funding to establish a preservation microfilming unit on the pattern of the Scottish Newspaper Microfilming Unit.

iii The Role of the Committee

The Chairman reviewed the eight points which outlined the role of the Committee: 1, 2, 3 and 5 were being dealt with by the Committee itself and 4 and 8 were being dealt with through the Working Party. There was a British Library Research Project looking into the possibilities of a central store for microfilm (point 6) and the National Library of Wales would update the Newsplan Report (point 7).

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Geoff Smith said the British Library was preparing a policy paper on free newspapers. The matter would be discussed with the National Library of Wales and the National Library of Scotland.

#### 7. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at 11.00am on 31 October 1995 at the National Library of Wales.