

Minutes of the fifth meeting of the Implementation Committee of the Newsplan (Wales) Project held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, at 11.00am on Tuesday 31st October 1995

PRESENT:

Dr Lionel Madden (Chairman), Mr John Cosslett, Dr Rhidian Griffiths, Mr Geoffrey Smith, Mrs Linda Tomos, Mr John Turner, Mr Gareth Haulfryn Williams, Mr John Woods, Mr Iwan Jones (Secretary)

Apologies had been received from Mr Andrew Green, Mr Richard Lewis and Mrs Elspeth Mitcheson.

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

i. The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October had been circulated and 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. It would not include photographs, advertisements, or stories by people not employed by the newspapers. The discs would be issued quarterly through Televisual Data Ltd. Details of the CD-ROM of The Scotsman, produced by the same company, were circulated.

iv. Copyright

Geoff Smith was asked whether the Newspaper Society could help clear the question of newspaper copyright. He explained that newspapers themselves had only the right to the initial print: any further reproduction would require new arrangements with all the original contributors, an impossibly involved task. EEC legal initiatives might eventually lead to simplification of the rules of newspaper copyright.

v. Free Newspapers

Geoff Smith said that a policy paper on free newspapers already existed and represented a formal recognition of the status quo, which was that the National Libraries of Wales and Scotland collected free newspapers within Wales and Scotland respectively. Rhidian Griffiths confirmed that the National Library of Wales collected all the free newspapers published in Wales of which it was aware.

2. Report on the LINC Newsplan Panel meetings

i LINC Newsplan Panel

Iwan Jones reported on the LINC Newsplan Panel meeting of 12 October 1995. He felt that Wales was now becoming as active as any Newsplan

region. Progress on developing cooperative microfilming projects would continue through the working party, but the coordinated structure of Newsplan also made it an ideal candidate for central funding. All regions had now accepted the East Midlands Plan as a model to follow. The Marshall Report on a central master microfilm store had showed a way to raise standards by safeguarding the master negatives centrally. Geoff Smith added that the meeting had also discussed a third Newsplan Conference, probably in 1997, noted its disappointment with the APT Review of Cooperation in Libraries, and welcomed the NPO's intention to draw up guidelines for record-keeping on the pattern of the Mellon microfilm records submitted to the Register of Preservation Microforms. He also intended to prepare a background information pack on Newsplan for submission to local authorities.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1995

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting had been circulated. Iwan Jones reported that the Working Party had made good progress. Cooperative microfilming had started on Tarian y Gweithiwr and other projects were under discussion. Three Plans had already been received: the Mid Glamorgan Plan was particularly impressive. Local government reorganisation made it difficult to plan ahead but the summaries of work achieved were most valuable and the 'wish-lists' of work not yet tackled should help persuade the new authorities to commit funds to Newsplan. The picture was somewhat patchy, in that some areas had not yet shown any interest in the work, but he hoped that even these areas might be brought in eventually.

John Turner asked whether additional pressure could be brought on the academic libraries to support Newsplan. The Chairman felt that Newsplan had proved to be rather too specific a project to enjoy wide support from the academic sector. He hoped to see the academic libraries supporting a general Welsh library and information body which might in turn give its backing to Newsplan.

The Working Party had expressed concern that Welsh editions of London newspapers such as Reynolds News and the News Chronicle had not been safeguarded and might be lost. John Cosslett and Geoff Smith felt it possible that the newspaper companies such as News International might have retained variant editions of newspapers which they had absorbed in their own titles. Empire News, for example, had been taken over by The News of the World (Associated Press)

### 4. IMPLICATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

#### i Relocation of Newspapers

Rhidian Griffiths reported that he had received news of relocation of some newspaper collections and would be grateful for any further information.

#### ii Service Delivery Plans

Service delivery plans were being prepared quickly and were likely to contain little detail because the Welsh Office expected brevity. When the whole library service was condensed into a few lines newspapers might not be mentioned. LISC(Wales) and the WLA had both commissioned studies of service levels. There was a fear that it would be difficult to compare future services in relation to the past: the declared aim was to maintain services without diminution

but in reality some reduction (particularly of the book fund) was expected.

iii Contacting the new authorities

The meeting discussed the best time to contact the new authorities. Not all relevant appointments had been made and it would be important to target the right person at the right time. Gareth Haulfryn Williams felt contact should be made soon so that funding would be allocated at the beginning. The Chairman agreed to write to the heads of library services in the new authorities to let them know of Newsplan and the 1% target for funding.

5. OTHER FUNDING POSSIBILITIES AND THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

i Mellon funding

The Chairman had attended a meeting of the Mellon Steering Committee on 5 September 1995 which had discussed applying for Millennium funding to support Newsplan. Mellon funding would end in 1995 and without additional moneys the future of the Steering Committee was unclear.

ii The Role of the Committee

The Chairman felt that the Working Party was proving a considerable success in coordinating the work and in encouraging cooperative microfilming at the operational level in local libraries. The role of the Implementation Committee continued, in overseeing the work and in seeking support in other ways such as through National Heritage Lottery Funding or Millennium Funding.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Rhidian Griffiths reported that the University, College and Research Group of the Library Association was arranging a seminar on cooperation in libraries which would include Newsplan as an element.

7. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at the National Library of Wales at a date in May 1996 to be arranged by the officers of the Committee.