

**Minutes of the meeting of the Newsplan (Wales) Implementation Committee
held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth,
at 11.00am on Thursday 31 October 2002**

Present: Andrew Green (Chairman), Rhidian Griffiths, Edmund King, Nigel Soane, John Cosslett, Linda Tomos, John Woods, Iwan Jones (Secretary)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from John Lauder and Beverley Fletcher of the Western Mail, who had accepted an invitation to join the Committee. Contact details of members of the Committee and of the Working Party were circulated.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2002 and matters arising

2.1 The minutes had been circulated and were accepted as a correct record.

2.2 Newsplan (Wales) Report on-line (2.2)

Most Newsplan regions had now published their reports on the web in searchable form. It was agreed that the National Library should at least carry out a scoping study to identify what resources were needed to achieve this for Wales. Sources of additional funding suggested included the Catherine Cooks Fund, CILIP Wales, The Peoples' Network Wales and Cymal.

2.3 Newspapers on the web and approaching the Assembly (2.3 and 2.4)

The National Library of Wales was awaiting the Assembly's response to a bid for the funding of a digital preservation strategy. The *Wales on the web* project was to be launched at the Assembly in November and further approaches on issues relating to libraries and newspapers might follow. In regard to other publicity, Ed King commended the paper *Print, language and identity: newspapers in Wales since 1804* given by Professor Aled Jones at the 2002 IFLA Conference which had been published on the IFLA web site (<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/048-127e.pdf>). It was agreed to ask Huw Llewelyn Evans to draw attention to it in the CILIP bulletin.

2.4 Newsplan survey of newspaper use (item 4)

A Report by Ed King collating the findings of the surveys carried out in nine of the ten Newsplan regions was circulated. Ed King noted that the surveys revealed common concerns and provided powerful evidence of the demand for newspaper use throughout the United Kingdom. Linda Tomos said that it was important to link newspapers to online developments, since government investment was largely directed to on-line activities. Nigel Soane noted that newspaper data became far more tractable and more readily accessible once it had been scanned, and that scanning from microfilm was relatively easy. Another survey would be carried out once the films produced by the Newsplan 2000 Project had been distributed.

The report on the Newsplan surveys would be made available on the new Newsplan web pages which were part of the British Library Concord web site www.bl.uk/concord, details of which were circulated.

3. Minutes of the Working Party meeting held on 24 October 2002

The minutes of the last Working Party meeting were accepted. Ed King noted that the UK and Ireland Newsplan Panel (formerly the LINC Newsplan Panel) had considered the *Guidelines on Retention and Storage*, which would be made available on the Concord website. The guidelines, which now had the authority of a national panel, gave best practice guidance and might support a case for funding.

4. Report on Newsplan 2000 Progress

4.1 Project Director's Report

A report by John Lauder, Newsplan 2000 Project Director, was circulated, and progress described by Rhidian Griffiths and Ed King. Over 1000 reels of film had now been produced, including some Welsh titles. Problems at the start of the Project had caused some slippage to the filming schedule and although the level of productivity had increased, it was still not at the expected level. The quality of the film produced so far was high. A new edition of the Project Handbook was available on the Project web site www.Newsplan2000.org and the latest details of the schedule were also available there. Submissions regarding microfilm reading equipment had been requested from the Newsplan regions, and the Project would be seeking new publicity as the films were distributed to local libraries.

4.2 Arrangements in Wales

Rhidian Griffiths said that in order to make sure that as much microfilm as possible was distributed to local libraries he had written to libraries in Wales inviting them to claim the 'free copies'. There had been a good response. Of the 22 Welsh authorities, 17 were now acquiring film and 50% of all titles had been claimed. Some film had already been distributed and some filmed volumes had been returned to the National Library, which would be returning loaned volumes to the local library. Preparation of the volumes for filming had been undertaken by the National Library, and Rhidian Griffiths congratulated Brian Dafis, who was responsible for putting good order on what was a very complicated operation.

4.3 Publicity

Ed King emphasised the importance of publicity to support a further phase of Newsplan funding. John Lauder was ensuring awareness of Newsplan at higher levels by keeping in touch with the chief executives of newspaper groups. It was also important that there was awareness locally and that local newspapers were encouraged to draw attention to the local library when newspaper titles became available there. Rhidian Griffiths said that newspaper groups would wish their local newspapers to give attention to film that had been made available, and noted that authorities should be aware of this particularly if films were held at a central headquarters rather than in the locality of the newspaper. Linda Tomos asked how much input should be made to publicising Newsplan at the Assembly, particularly since elections would be held in March 2003. It was agreed that March 2003 would be a suitable time to seek broad publicity for Newsplan, after some film had been distributed. Rhidian Griffiths agreed to adapt to Wales (and to translate) a draft general press release which was on the Newsplan 2000 site. This would be circulated to the Working Party and John Woods agreed to circulate it to members of the Society of Chief Librarians. If there were to be a formal launch for Newsplan in Wales it was noted that 2004 represented the 200th anniversary of newspapers in Wales.

4.4 Microfilm reading equipment

John Woods had contacted all the Welsh authorities through the Society of Chief Librarians to find out their needs for microfilm equipment. He circulated a revised version of the original list, and was thanked by the committee for his work. He agreed to contact again those that had not yet responded and would provide Brian Dafis with his findings so that Wales could make a revised submission for equipment from Newsplan. The original list had suggested 104 readers and 6 reader-printers. The revised list identified more reader-printers and fewer readers, although authorities that had not requested any film would not be eligible to receive equipment.

5. Any other business

5.1 Scanning of newspapers

Ed King noted that there had been a quickening of interest in newspaper scanning in the USA. Gale Microfilm had agreed to scan the London *Times* from its early numbers to the present day, making it fully searchable and available to subscribers by the end of 2003. Proquest were also undertaking similar major projects with the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. This work, and the various business models involved, would have major implications for libraries. The question of joint procurement of subscriptions was discussed and the model of the consortium of ten South Wales libraries which formed a joint book-purchasing group was commended. Linda Tomos said that she was arranging a seminar on joint procurement early in 2003 and hoped to include some information about newspapers.

6. Date and Place of next meeting

2.00pm on Tuesday 6th May 2003 at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

The Chairman noted that following a recommendation in the Report of the Quinquennial Review of the National Library of Wales, he was reviewing his external commitments and was considering ending his membership of the Newsplan (Wales) Implementation Committee. Members paid tribute to his work and thanked him for his commitment to the Committee's activities. It was agreed that the Chairmanship of the Committee would continue to benefit from high-level representation from the National Library.