

**Minutes of the meeting of the Newsplan (Wales) Implementation Committee, held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, at 2.00pm on Tuesday 6 May 2003**

**Present:** Gwyn Jenkins (Chairman), Rhidian Griffiths, Linda Tomos, John Turner, Beverley Fletcher, John Woods, John Cosslett, Iwan Jones (Secretary)

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Gwyn Jenkins, Director of Collections Services, National Library of Wales, had succeeded Andrew Green as Chairman, and welcomed Beverley Fletcher, Library Services Manager, Western Mail and Echo, to her first meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from John Lauder and Edmund King.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2002 and matters arising**

**2.1 Minutes**

The minutes had been circulated and were accepted as a correct record subject to correcting 'Catherine Cooks Fund' to read 'Kathleen Cooks Bequest' (para 2.2).

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

The reports of most Newsplan regions were now available on the web in searchable form and it was agreed that the Wales Report should be kept up-to-date and available on-line. Gwyn Jenkins agreed that the National Library would prepare a plan identifying the work that needed to be done by the time of the next meeting. Linda Thomas suggested sources of funding which might allow the initial work to be carried out. It was agreed that the Library should then maintain the site.

**2.3 Approaching the Assembly and other publicity (2.3 and 4.3)**

It was agreed that an approach to the Assembly regarding Newsplan should bear in mind other approaches relating to libraries. The members welcomed the publicity given to Newsplan by the *Wrexham Leader* and *Wrexham Evening Leader* after microfilm of the titles had reached Wrexham Library. Other libraries were encouraged to seek similar attention. It was felt that the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of newspapers in Wales (*The Cambrian*, first published on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1804 at Swansea) would be a good opportunity for publicity such as delivering a newspaper to Rhodri Morgan. Iwan Jones agreed to contact Peter Gaw or Marilyn Jones of Swansea Library to check whether that library had any plans in mind.

**2.4 Newsplan survey of newspaper use (2.4)**

Ed King had prepared a standard questionnaire intended for general use in the next survey of newspaper use. It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Newsplan Working Party which had carried out the first survey most successfully.

**2.5 Microfilm reading equipment (4.4)**

John Woods had, through the Society of Chief Librarians, prepared a revised list of microfilm equipment requested by Welsh libraries, which had been submitted to Newsplan 2000. He was thanked for his work and copies of the list were circulated.

## **2.6 Newspapers on-line and newspaper scanning (5.1)**

Linda Tomos reported on collaborative arrangements in Wales for joint subscriptions to on-line newspapers. The Assembly had paid for a 12-month all-Wales licence to allow access to Oxford Reference on-line. 18 Welsh local authorities were also negotiating a further subscription, probably to Gale Microfilm. It was noted that it was important to check the fine print in subscription agreements: some sources could change the content offered and others did not always allow access to entire newspapers (e.g. photographs and some text might not be part of the on-line service for copyright reasons). Scanned microfilms were usually more comprehensive. Iwan Jones noted that the British Library had secured from the higher education sector funding of approximately £2,000,000 intended primarily for the scanning of newspapers which were out of copyright.

## **3. Minutes of the Working Party meeting held on 10 April 2003**

The minutes of the last Working Party meeting were accepted. It was noted that the price of film offered through Newsplan 2000 had risen from £17 to between £25 and £39 per reel depending on the quantity and time of ordering. The increase had occurred because the tender document had not specified the contractor's responsibility for organising the despatch and invoicing of orders. Rhidian Griffiths, a trustee of Newsplan 2000, explained that he had negotiated with Newsplan 2000 a special price of £22.45 per reel for film ordered as a bulk purchase through the National Library. The Library had agreed to take on the extra work of distribution and invoicing in order to keep the cost to local libraries as low as possible.

Copies were distributed of a list of current newspapers filmed by the National Library which had been circulated to members of the Working Party. Copies of the films were available at the special price of £30 per reel (plus v.a.t). Beverley Fletcher asked whether the Western Mail was filmed by the Library: Iwan Jones said it was not, and that a consortium of libraries originally set up by Brynmor Jones of Cardiff Library, ordered film of the Western Mail jointly from a commercial supplier. It was believed that the master negative was held in Cardiff Library.

## **4. Report on Newsplan 2000 Progress**

Rhidian Griffiths and Iwan Jones reported on progress as relayed to recent meetings of the Newsplan 2000 Trustees and the UK and Ireland Newsplan Panel. Copies of a progress report to the Working Party by Simon Kellas, Newsplan Project Officer, were also distributed.

### **4.1 Filming schedule**

Progress on the filming schedule was still not up to date, but a meeting between Newsplan 2000 and the Dutch parent company of Microformat had agreed a revised schedule which, if maintained, would lead to the completion of the project within the time allowed. It was understood that the facility at Rochester was now fully equipped and staffed and that production was in full flow, with 11 cameras working double shifts. Quality of the film was generally excellent, although there were some problems with obscured gutters which were being discussed with the library suppliers. Supply from libraries had been reliable and timely.

#### **4.2 Shared funding and distribution of microfilm equipment**

Progress in raising shared funding from the newspaper industry had been slower than expected. Some newspaper groups had already contributed the promised moneys but others were proving more difficult. John Lauder was in contact with Chief Executives in order to secure their contributions. Because of the slow progress it would be necessary to delay in putting the contract for microfilm equipment out to tender. Newsplan 2000 wished to secure maximum funding and to set up one tender only for equipment, so no equipment was likely to be distributed before 2004.

#### **4.3 Newsplan 2000 Project Office**

The Newsplan 2000 web site [www.newsplan2000.org](http://www.newsplan2000.org) was continuously developed with updated versions of the project handbook and the filming schedule. Marc21 catalogue records of newspapers filmed would also be produced by the Project Office.

#### **4.4 Storage of Master Negatives**

It was intended to store the Newsplan 2000 master negatives at the National Library of Wales, where there was a high quality storage cell for master microfilm negatives.

#### **4.5 Newsplan Trustees**

Rhidian Griffiths explained that because of his new duties he would be stepping down as Newsplan Trustee during 2003 and would not therefore be attending further meetings of the Implementation Committee. The Chairman and members thanked him warmly for his valuable service to the Committee and to Newsplan generally.

### **5. Arrangements in Wales**

Following Rhidian Griffiths' letter inviting libraries in Wales to claim the 'free copies' of microfilm John Woods had, through the Society of Chief Librarians, further encouraged libraries to acquire film. All 22 Welsh local authorities were now claiming film and were thereby qualified to receive free equipment in addition. 1033 reels of film of Welsh titles had been received (out of the Welsh total of 5060) and it was understood that most Welsh authorities had now received some film. Brian Dafis of the National Library of Wales was arranging the preparation and distribution of newspapers and film, and, in order to keep the price as low as possible, had taken on the additional work of coordinating a joint order for film and invoicing all the partners. Over 1000 volumes had been despatched for filming, of which about 600 had already been returned. Brian Dafis was commended for the efficiency of this complex operation.

### **6. Any other business**

There was no other business.

### **7. Date and Place of next meeting**

Iwan Jones agreed to contact John Lauder and Ed King before confirming the date of the next meeting, which was provisionally set for 11.00am on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2003 at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEXT MEETING WILL NOW BE HELD AT 11.00 AM ON THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2003**

