

Minutes of the first meeting of the
Newsplan (Cymru) Working Party held at the National Library of Wales,
Aberystwyth, on Tuesday 23 May 1995

Present: David Shone, Gordon Reid, Lynne Jones, Brynmor Jones, Helen
Osborn, Pauline Morris, Jenny Gammon, Beti Jones, Kay Warren-Morgan,
Rhidian Griffiths, Non Jenkins, Iwan Jones

1. Welcome and introduction

Dr J Lionel Madden, Chairman of the Implementation Committee,
welcomed the group. He described the background: phase one of the
Newsplan (Cymru) Project had been completed with the publication in
1994 of the Report of the Newsplan Project in Wales. This was the
starting point for the Implementation Committee's work in ensuring
that preservation standard microfilm was produced of every newspaper
in Wales. Dr Madden then left the meeting and the chair was taken Mr
Iwan Jones, Secretary of the Implementation Committee.

2. Purpose and Composition of the Working Party

Mr Jones said that letters had been sent to libraries and archives in
Wales asking them to commit funding to Newsplan (aiming at a target
of 1% of the book fund), to name their priorities for filming and to
nominate a person as a contact. The Working Party included
representatives of all those bodies which had declared a commitment
to funding Newsplan but which were not represented on the
Implementation Committee itself.

The Working Party could make recommendations to the Implementation
Committee and might also develop into a clearing-house for
information and cooperative microfilming. Establishing the group
before the reorganisation of local government could help provide
continuity for microfilming programmes. The membership of the Working
Party might fluctuate according to involvement.

3. Election of Chairman

It was agreed that the Chairman should normally rotate every two
years. Dr Rhidian Griffiths proposed and Miss Helen Osborn seconded
the name of Mr Brynmor Jones as Chairman and this was agreed. It was
also agreed that Mr Iwan Jones would act as Secretary in future
meetings.

4. Progress in other regions and the East Midlands Model Plan

Mr Iwan Jones described the meetings of the LINC Newsplan Panel and
progress made in other Newsplan regions, some of which were further
advanced than Wales and some less advanced. Wales was one of the
larger Newsplan regions and progress here compared favourably with
other regions of similar size.

The East Midlands region was one of the furthest advanced and
procedures developed there provided a general model for other
regions. Copies of the East Midlands model plan had been circulated
and the plan was discussed. The main headings were:

1. Background
2. Budget and administration
3. Achievements
4. Five-year plan
5. Long-term prospects

Appendices:

- I. Newspapers filmed
- II. Newspapers for filming: High, medium, low priority and those for future consideration

It was felt this was a suitable pattern to follow. All representatives at the meeting agreed to prepare a document for their authorities or libraries by the time of the next meeting of the Working Party, setting out their involvement in this form.

It was felt such a document could prove useful to individual libraries in making the case for Newsplan to the new authorities and in persuading them to earmark the target 1% funding to the project. It might also prove useful to bring the documents together to support a case for further additional funding should an opportunity arise.

It was noted that Newsplan was a suitable project for Lottery funding and that individual libraries were able to apply independently and should do so, emphasising their involvement in Newsplan as a cooperative project and identifying their commitment to its funding. Lottery regulations appeared to prevent the Implementation Committee from acting as a means of distributing Lottery money for Newsplan.

5. Achievements and future plans

A paper was distributed giving the names of the libraries which had declared a commitment to funding Newsplan together with the titles of newspapers which the individual libraries had identified as priorities for filming in their response to the Implementation Committee's appeal. Representatives were asked to summarise their achievements, funding and plans.

National Library of Wales

Dr Rhidian Griffiths said the National Library had allocated £2500 (about 1% of its purchasing fund) and staff and material costs for microfilming representing an additional £20,000. Priorities were (a) newspapers not in the National Library and (b) newspapers identified as priorities in the Newsplan Report. The National Library was also interested in the priorities of others since it was often prepared to partner cooperative microfilming projects for most Welsh newspapers not already filmed to preservation standard.

Rhondda

Kay Warren-Morgan said the library had no old newspapers to film but was buying some film and was involved in cooperative filming of Tarian y Gweithiwr in addition to the title stated in the paper circulated.

Dyfed

Jenny Gammon, on behalf of the Carmarthen area, said there was an ongoing programme of filming the newspapers listed, including replacement of some old film of the Carmarthen Journal which was not

to preservation standard. A number of orders had been placed with the British Library Newspaper Library, Collindale.

West Glamorgan

Pauline Morris said West Glamorgan had concentrated on completing their microfilm stock of the Western Mail and the Swansea Evening Post in an ongoing programme. They would be involved cooperatively in filming Tarian y Gweithiwr and intended to review their priorities for local newspapers in the light of Newsplan.

Newport

Helen Osborn said Newport spent about £5000 on microfilming the titles listed and that this was over 1% of the book fund. In future she wanted to give more attention to free newspapers and to reconsider the library's approach to local (Gwent) newspapers.

South Glamorgan

Brynmor Jones said the Library had allocated about £7500 to newspaper microfilming, about 1% of the book fund. In addition to the priority titles listed they were involved in filming the Western Mail through Northern Microfilms and had a standing order for the South Wales Echo and Barry and Penarth Times. They had previously succeeded in filming their complete run of the South Wales Echo in cooperation with the National Library of Wales.

Cynon Valley

Lynne Jones said Cynon Valley had committed about £1500 to the project and had entered into cooperative filming of the Pioneer with Merthyr Library. The library was interested in free and other newspapers covering the area and. She was also concerned to replace damaged microfilm and to acquire the Western Mail on CD-ROM.

Powys

Gordon Reed said Powys had recently agreed to allocate £3000 to Newsplan, or 1.5% of the purchase fund, and the priority titles for filming were now being considered.

Clwyd

David Shone said that the newspapers listed represented the 'backlog' of filming on which Clwyd hoped to spend about 0.4% of the purchase grant. A further £2500 or 0.6% went on regular filming of the Wrexham Leader, the Rhyl Journal and the Rhos Herald (in cooperation with the local history society).

6. Coordination and communication

Dr Rhidian Griffiths said that Mrs Beti Jones would be updating the Newsplan Report at the National Library. Mrs Jones asked to be sent information to update the Report and to correct it where necessary. Dr Griffiths noted that the National Library would like to know if any library intended to discard original newspapers.

It was agreed that there was a need to communicate both with a view to update the Newsplan Report and to set up cooperative microfilming projects. In future it would become increasingly important to identify the location of master negatives and to know whether they were of preservation standard. There was a need to know:

1. Work already done - what films already existed

2. Plans and priorities for future filming

David Shone suggested that details of plans for filming should be circulated in the form of an appendix to the minutes of the meetings of the Working Party. In time this might develop into a clearing-house operation. Communications would become even more important after some present large authorities had split into smaller units. A newsletter and use of E-mail were also considered.

7. Implications of Local Government Reorganisation

The changes likely for individual authorities were discussed; some areas were little affected but others were faced with considerable uncertainty.

It was agreed that new authorities should be pressed to maintain the funding for Newsplan. Helen Osborn noted that the DNH were preparing guidance notes for the new library authorities and that it would be wise to see that this included mention of the 1% target. The WLA commission to review service delivery plans should also be asked to highlight the commitment of existing authorities to Newsplan. It was agreed to recommend that the Implementation Committee should raise the matter with the proper authorities.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting would be held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, on Tuesday 26 September 1995.