

Minutes of the fourth meeting of the Newsplan (Cymru) Working Party held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, on Tuesday 24 September 1996

Present: Brynmor Jones (Chairman), David Shone, Joy Thomas, Betti Jones, Non Jenkins, Kay Warren-Morgan, Rhidian Griffiths, Christopher Edwards, Iwan Jones (Secretary)

### 1. Apologies and personal matters

Apologies for absence were received from Susan Ellis (Conwy), Gordon Reid (Powys), John Rees Thomas (Anglesey) and Gareth Haulfryn Williams (Gwynedd). The Chairman welcomed to their first meeting Christopher Edwards, representing the Vale of Glamorgan, and Joy Thomas, representing Wrexham.

### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 30 April 1996 and matters arising

#### (1) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 30 April 1996 had been circulated and were accepted as a correct record apart from noting that the postcode for the National Library of Wales was SY23 3BU and not SY24 5AE (item 7, para 3).

#### (2) British Library Newspaper Library (Item 3)

It was reported that Geoff Smith had moved from the post of British Library Newspaper Librarian to become Head of Modern Collections in the Reader Service and Collection Development Directorate of the British Library. Pam Airey, Head of Services and Collections at the Newspaper Library, was the new acting Head.

#### (3) Mellon Funding (Item 4)

Rhidian Griffiths reported that the National Library of Wales had received a sum of money from the Mellon Microfilming Project in order to microfilm two editions of the Cambrian News which had been donated to the Library by the newspaper's proprietor. The Library had not found partners to extend the filming project and it was likely that many local authorities were unable to commit funds because budgets were still uncertain.

#### (4) Newsplan Report (Item 6)

Rhidian Griffiths explained that the WRLS had been restructured and that the National Library of Wales would take on the distribution of the Newsplan Report.

### 3. Review of progress, future plans and work in progress

The National Library of Wales. Non Jenkins reported on progress in the National Library of Wales and outlined work completed, work in progress and future possibilities (yellow paper dated 19 September 1996 circulated). She emphasised that the Library was able to change its own schedule to take advantage of cooperative filming with other libraries.

Flintshire. David Shone said the chief librarians of the new authorities formerly in Clwyd had agreed on the general principle of cooperation especially since overlap of provision could reduce costs. An automation and reference subgroup was now considering priorities

with a view to drawing up detailed plans. David Shone was hopeful that Flintshire would achieve its target of allocating 1% of the bookfund for microfilming in the current year.

Wrexham. Joy Thomas said that Wrexham was chiefly interested in the Wrexham Leader which was being filmed by Profile on an ongoing basis. She was also interested in Y Clawdd, the local papur bro, and hoped to acquire missing issues and film the complete run in the next financial year.

Rhondda Cynon Taff. Kay Warren-Morgan said that Rhondda Cynon Taff would continue to film the Western Mail on an ongoing basis in cooperation with others and that Lynne Bryn Jones would be considering cooperative filming of the Rhondda Leader and its sister papers.

The Vale of Glamorgan. Christopher Edwards said the main newspapers of interest to the Vale were the Barry Dock News (later the Barry and District News) and the Penarth Times and Penarth News. There were also some free newspapers such as the Vale Post and the Barry Post. The cooperative filming of the Barry Dock News was being discussed with the National Library.

Cardiff. Brynmor Jones said that Cardiff had also been engaged in the cooperative filming of the Western Mail. He hoped to continue the filming and to consider other additional projects.

Indexes. The Western Mail's own index to the paper had been microfilmed by the National Library of Wales. Copies of the index were available from the Library at a reduced price for a limited time. Attention was also drawn to the work of Marilyn Jones, Swansea Local Studies Librarian, in indexing The Cambrian.

Negatives. Brynmor Jones noted that Cardiff Central Library held the master negatives of the Western Mail from 1960 onwards. The location of the negatives for 1948-1960 was unknown. Non Jenkins suggested that a survey of the location of master negatives should be carried out at a later date.

Rhidian Griffiths asked for amendments to the Newsplan Report, or news of changed locations or disposals of newspapers, to be sent to Mrs Beti Jones of the Department of Printed Books of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3BU.

Because of the disruption caused by local government reorganisation priority had been given to identifying contacts in the new local authorities before pressing for the commitment of funds or the setting out of plans for future filming (based on the East Midlands Model Plan). It was hoped more authorities would join but it was unlikely that all authorities would take part in Newsplan. 14 of the 22 new authorities had now nominated representatives and a list of contacts and addresses had been distributed (green paper).

David Shone said that the precedent set by the old county authorities in supporting Newsplan would be useful to the new authorities as they turned to the allocation of funds for filming and the setting out of plans. He believed that Newsplan would receive support from authorities who wished to establish their own identities while at the same time pulling their weight cooperatively in a Welsh context.

#### 4. Coordination and communication

Mrs Beti Jones distributed a form which would be sent out to all the new authorities asking for details of their microfilming work. The findings would help identify exactly which newspapers were being filmed by whom and would help update the yellow form distributed.

Means of communication were discussed. It was agreed that E-mail and the Internet could be a useful way of communicating although not all those present had access to it at the moment. The National Library of Wales had transferred the Newsplan Report to an on-line database and intended to make the updated database available via the Library's Web site.

#### 5. Any other business

It was reported that the Chairman of the Implementation Committee, Dr Lionel Madden, had raised the issue of a second Newsplan Seminar at a CLWM meeting, and that the proposal had been welcomed. It was therefore intended that the Implementation Committee would arrange a Seminar in 1997 and that this would include consideration of a Lottery application for Newsplan. The restrictions of Lottery funding suggested that the most suitable form of bid might be a joint bid with the National Library of Wales acting as a lead body. An element of partnership funding could be introduced by a commitment from participants to pay for copies of microfilm while the proposal itself might concentrate on the filming of priority newspapers together with enhancement of the microfilming facilities at the National Library.

The Working Party welcomed the proposals and it was felt that the method of shared funding was practicable. David Shone said that a possibility of new funding would help draw senior staff to the Seminar.

It was agreed that Geoff Smith's successor should be invited to a meeting of the Working Party when plans for filming were better established.

#### 6. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 11 March 1997.

The meeting was followed by a presentation by Colin Venus, Head of the National Library's Reprographic Unit, on Microfilming Standards and Shortcuts.