

Minutes of the third meeting of the Newsplan (Cymru) Working Party
held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth,
on Tuesday 11 March 1997

Present: Brynmor Jones (Chairman), Kay Warren-Morgan, Susan Pugh,
David Shone, Non Jenkins, Beti Jones, Rhidian Griffiths, Iwan Jones
(Secretary)

1. Apologies and personal matters

Apologies for absence were received from Susan Ellis (Conwy),
Christopher Edwards (Vale of Glamorgan), Gordon Reid (Powys), John
Rees Thomas (Anglesey) and Gareth Haulfryn Williams (Gwynedd).

2. Minutes of the meeting of 24 September 1996 and matters arising

(1) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 24 September 1996 had been circulated
and were accepted as a correct record.

(2) British Library Newspaper Library

It was reported that John Byford had been appointed to the post of
British Library Newspaper Librarian, reporting to Geoff Smith in his
new post of Head of Modern Collections.

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

The National Library of Wales. Non Jenkins reported that local
government reorganisation had reduced the funding available and had
severely curtailed the amount of cooperative filming undertaken. The
main work of the year had been the filming of the Cambrian News,
funded by the Mellon Microfilming Project. The newspapers being
filmed were the files of the newspaper itself. It was hoped to fill

the gaps in the sequence in order to film a complete run of the Northern Edition. Details of the film would be circulated when that had been done.

Cooperative filming undertaken during the year had been limited to the Abergavenny Chronicle (with Abergavenny Museum), the Herald of Wales (with Gwynedd Library and Archive Service) and the Barry Dock News (with Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan). The Library had also filmed a number of current newspapers. Mrs Jenkins emphasised that the Library was still prepared to change its own schedule to take advantage of cooperative filming with other libraries.

Flintshire. David Shone had brought a number of newspapers to be filmed at the National Library, including the Mold and Buckley Chronicle (the Chester Chronicle), the Evening Leader (Wrexham) and Papur Fama. Considerable interest was shown in Steel News (Shotton edition) of which Flintshire had an incomplete edition. The National Library and Cardiff agreed to check their own holdings.

Newport. Susan Pugh said that Newport were interested in filming recent years of local newspapers, particularly the Gwent Gazette and the Abergavenny Chronicle, and the National Library agreed to check their holdings of negatives. Newport had also paid for the Pontypool Free Press to be filmed at the British Library

Rhondda Cynon Taff. Kay Warren-Morgan said that Rhondda Cynon Taff would continue their involvement in filming the Western Mail and the South Wales Echo (Valleys Edition) and was interested in cooperative filming of the Rhondda Leader and its sister papers the Aberdare Leader and Pontypridd Leader.

Cardiff. Brynmor Jones said that local government reorganisation had affected Cardiff severely. They had been able to film the Penarth Times and Barry Dock News in cooperation with the Vale, and continued their involvement with the Western Mail.

East Midland Model Plan

Of the 22 new Welsh authorities 14 had nominated representatives. So far only a few of these were actively involved and meeting the 1% funding target. It was agreed that it was still too early to press representatives to meet the Newsplan guidelines or draw up the five-year plans which were envisaged by the East Midlands Model Plan (and which had been prepared by the old authorities). The priority was still to persuade more people to take an active part in Newsplan.

4. Report on Newsplan (Wales) Database

Non Jenkins explained that the National Library of Wales had transferred the Newsplan database onto an on-line database which had been modified to incorporate additions and amendments, and would be kept up-to-date. The Library had agreed to load the database onto the Internet, but had enquired regarding the copyright situation with the British Library, who owned the copyright of the original Newsplan reports. The database could be made available on Internet once the British Library had responded. Details of amendments to the Report, or news of changed locations or disposals of newspapers, should be sent to Mrs Beti Jones of the Department of Printed Books of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3BU.

5. Coordination and communication

Beti Jones said that she had sent out a questionnaire regarding current filming to the Welsh Library authorities and would report the findings to the next meeting. It was agreed that a survey of the location of master negatives was also required. Another subject of interest was indexes to newspapers.

David Shone said Flintshire was cooperating closely with the other ex-Clwyd authorities. Cardiff was in contact with the Vale. It was also understood that the ex-Gwynedd and ex-Dyfed authorities also maintained links one with another, and it was felt these connections were valuable for Newsplan.

Iwan Jones noted that the National Library's Reprographic Services Manager, Colin Venus, could contact libraries to offer various reprographic services. David Shone said lines of contact would be most useful if matching funding could be provided, or if film was available elsewhere.

6. Any other business

(1) Lottery Funding

Rhidian Griffiths explained that the Implementation Committee had intended to arrange a second Newsplan Seminar to focus on a joint bid for Lottery funding, which it had been envisaged would be made by the

National Library of Wales acting as lead body. However, representatives of the Newsplan LINC Panel had recently met with the British Library, which had agreed to lead a joint Newsplan bid for the whole of the United Kingdom. The National Library had agreed to support this bid, which would be preceded by a feasibility study involving Geoff Smith and John Byford.

It was hoped that the full application to the Lottery authorities would be made by November 1997, and that it would allow a total of about £5,000,000 to be spent on filming priority (pre-1939) newspapers. It was likely the money would be directed through the BL on the pattern of the Mellon Microfilming Project, with NLW and NLS involvement, but funds would not be available until 1998-99 at the earliest. It was anticipated that the Lottery authorities would accept a formula whereby the Lottery money would pay for the filming of the master negatives on the understanding that local partnership funding would be made available to pay for the preparation of the viewing prints. The meeting welcomed the proposals.

(2) Presentation of indexes of newspapers

Iwan Jones and Beti Jones agreed to prepare a short presentation for the next meeting to draw attention to indexes available for newspapers. Indexes mentioned included the Times Index (on CD-ROM), the Guardian Index (CD-ROM), the Western Mail Index (microfilm) and the Index of the Cambrian. The Western Mail on CD-ROM might also be of interest.

7. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 October 1997 at the National Library of Wales, and would be followed by a short presentation on indexes to newspapers.