

Minutes of the third meeting of the Implementation Committee of the Newsplan (Wales) Project held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, at 11.15am on Monday 10th October 1994

PRESENT:

Dr Lionel Madden (Chairman), Mr John Cosslett, Mr Iorwerth Davies, Mr Andrew Green, Dr Rhidian Griffiths, Mr Geoffrey Smith, Mrs Linda Tomos, Mr Iwan Jones (Secretary)

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Gareth Haulfryn Williams and Mr Richard Lewis.

The Chairman welcomed to their first meeting Mrs Linda Tomos, Director of LIP (Wales), Mr John Turner, Chairman of the LISC (Wales) Conservation and Preservation Group, and Mr Geoffrey Smith, Newspaper Librarian of the British Library and Mr Geoffrey Hamilton's successor as head of the Newspaper Library, Colindale.

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

i. The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 1994 had been circulated and were approved.

ii. Correcting and Updating the Report

It was reported that corrections to the Newsplan (Wales) Report had been received from Clwyd Record Office and Dyfed Record Office in regard to their holdings. Mr Andrew Green also presented corrections regarding the holdings of the University Library, Swansea.

iii. Filming the Index to the Western Mail

Dr Rhidian Griffiths reported that the Index to the Western Mail had been received by the National Library and that it was hoped to microfilm it and sell copies. Mr John Cosslett said the Western Mail was unlikely to seek any financial benefit from the project if appropriate acknowledgement was made to the Western Mail on the film produced. The news of the project was warmly welcomed by the members of the Committee and the Chairman agreed to write to the Western Mail to obtain formal approval.

2. REVIEW OF THE NEWSPLAN (WALES) SEMINAR

The Chairman reported on the Seminar which had been held at the Department of Information and Library Studies, U W Aberystwyth, on 14th July 1994. He regarded the Seminar as having been both successful and relevant: 66 people had attended. Papers had been given by Iwan Jones and Colin Venus of the National Library, Peter Jones of the Western Mail and Ruth Gordon of Derbyshire Library Service. Geoffrey Hamilton had chaired the morning session and Lionel Madden the afternoon session. Important points had been made at the Open Forum which had concluded the Seminar.

The Open Forum had made clear that those present considered that 1% of purchasing funds was a reasonable target for Newsplan to aim for and that there should be funding at a local level rather than through contributions to a central agency. It had thereby clarified the role of the Implementation Committee. LIP would also help the Committee.

The Chairman wished to formally thank Iwan Jones for arranging the event and DILS for providing the facilities.

### 3. FUTURE STRATEGY - THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

i. The Chairman outlined eight aspects of the role he felt the Committee should play in the light of the discussions at the Newsplan Seminar:

1. To ask library and archive authorities to allocate 1% of their purchasing funds to Newsplan.
2. To press authorities to declare their own priorities in the implementation of Newsplan, with a timetable.
3. To encourage the adherence to preservation standards and methods for filming and recording.
4. To develop a clearing-house to aid communication and cooperation for microfilming.
5. To promote preservation standards and facilities.
6. To seek a central store for master negatives
7. To update the Newsplan Report.
8. To produce a newsletter.

#### ii. Approach to authorities

The Committee agreed that the Chairman should write to the appropriate authorities asking them to allocate funds and set priorities. It was agreed that a slightly different letter would be sent to the higher education libraries as it was acknowledged that they might not award Newsplan as high a priority as would public libraries. Mr Iorwerth Davies stressed the importance of acting while the present county authorities were still in force.

#### iii. Communication

Mrs Linda Tomos explained that LIP planned a newsletter and it was agreed that this would be a helpful medium for Newsplan. It was felt that the updating of the Report was particularly important and Mr Geoffrey Smith said a number of regions had produced supplements. It was felt that the LIP Newsletter could provide a means of communication for Newsplan, particularly with a view to cooperative filming, and that the supplement would then update the Report as a matter of record.

#### iv. Conservation

Mr Iorwerth Davies raised the question of what priority should be attached to the conservation of newspapers as opposed to microfilming. The Chairman felt that the conservation of unique copies was extremely important and hoped that any library intending to dispose of stock would offer the copies to the National Library. Mr John Turner pointed out the danger of discarding files which might prove to be variant editions or the best surviving copies. Iwan Jones was invited to draw up guidelines on the preservation, conservation and discarding of newspaper files.

#### 4. FUTURE STRATEGY - ROLE OF INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATIONS

##### i. The National Library of Wales

It was agreed that the National Library had a central role in maintaining a preservation microfilming unit, and in maintaining records of master negatives, and possibly housing them. Through the Committee NLW staff would play an important part in updating the Report and in arranging a clearing house for microfilming activity.

##### ii. Other libraries and archives

Other repositories in Wales had a role in raising funds locally, both through their regular budgets and by voluntary means which might involve local societies, newspapers and collection boxes. These funds would allow the filming of the area's newspapers to proceed according to their declared strategy.

##### iii. Operational contacts

It was agreed to ask Chief Librarians for the name of a contact involved in planning microfilming work. In future it was likely that much of the work of implementing Newsplan would be carried out at the operational level; the Committee would continue to meet at least twice a year to oversee progress.

##### iv. Other bodies

It was agreed that it was important to maintain the impetus of Newsplan and to promote it through other bodies such as WHELF, CLWM, LIP and the proposed Council of Welsh Archivists.

#### 5. FUNDING POSSIBILITIES

##### i. Mellon

It had been hoped that the Mellon Microfilming Project would provide global funding for Newsplan but the Project had directed its funds elsewhere. Funding at the local level with central coordination would not necessarily ensure that the priority work identified in the Report was tackled, and some means of central funding was still required to support this priority filming. Geoffrey Smith said that the Mellon Steering Committee would continue to look for additional funding.

##### ii. National Lottery

Mr Smith also explained that the Newsplan project was well suited to an application for the Lottery money which would be allocated by the National Memorial Heritage Fund. The British Library was unlikely to promote any "pan-Newsplan" approach. Applications for Lottery money were required directly from the recipients rather than from intermediaries. Institutions should make their own applications for capital projects of £20,000 and above which were beyond the scope of their normal resources.

It was felt the National Library could make an application for Lottery money, either for filming projects or for an enhancement of the microfilming unit - profits from microfilming could be earmarked and ploughed back into Newsplan. Other libraries could also apply for funds to film their local priority newspapers. LIP was not an entity which could make an application. It was not clear whether or not the Committee itself, or a consortium, could make an application for funds which could be channelled either through WRLS or the National Library. The Committee should encourage and support

applications from bodies for Newsplan funding, but it should also emphasize the priorities for filming.

ii. Higher Education

Andrew Green drew attention to the funds totalling æ270,000 which were to be distributed by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. He understood microfilming work was eligible for funding and would contact WHELF libraries by E-mail to remind them of Newsplan.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i. Western Mail on CD ROM

John Cosslett reported that the Western Mail was very close to being able to provide access to the newspaper on CD ROM, with whole-page and keyword search. He would keep the Committee informed of developments, which it was agreed were exciting for librarians and the public as well as for journalists.

ii. Membership

The Secretary reported that Mr David Francis, representing Borough Librarians on the Committee, had been made redundant. It was agreed that there was a good case for having more than one representative of public libraries on the Committee. WRLS would be asked to select another member.

7. PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would probably be held in March 1995 at the National Library of Wales. Arrangements would be made closer to that date.