

Minutes of the seventh meeting of the Implementation Committee of the Newsplan (Wales) Project held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, at 11.00am on Thursday 14th November 1996

PRESENT:

Dr Lionel Madden (Chairman), Mr John Cosslett, Mrs Non Jenkins, Mrs Pam Airey, Mr John Turner, Mr Paul Reynolds, Mr John Rees Thomas, Mr Iwan Jones (Secretary)

Apologies had been received from Mr John Woods and Mr Gareth Haulfryn Williams. The Chairman welcomed to their first meeting Mrs Pam Airey, Acting Head of the British Library Newspaper Library, and Mrs Non Jenkins, substituting for Dr Rhidian Griffiths.

## 1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

i. The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 1996 had been circulated and were approved subject to correcting the name of Gareth Haulfryn Williams in Para.6.

ii. The Index to the Western Mail

The National Library had received orders for the microfilm Index to the Western Mail from Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Newport. These four orders had now been completed and it was hoped more orders would be received.

iii. Free Newspapers

The collection of free newspapers was now being linked to the question of legal deposit in general in the light of the Smethurst Report which was under discussion at the British Library.

iv. Mellon Funding

The Mellon Committee had funded the filming of the Cambrian News at the National Library of Wales and had now distributed all funds available to it. The Committee had also agreed that all the negatives produced by the Mellon Microfilming Project would be stored together at the National Library of Wales, and the negatives had been received by the Library.

v. Accounting procedures

The Director of Finance of the National Library of Wales had agreed that, within certain limits, it would be possible for the Library to act as a 'banker' for Newsplan filming projects. Projects could begin if local authorities were prepared to commit themselves to spending the necessary money over a period of years, and it would also be possible for the Library to accept a sum of money in one financial year and spread the filming over the following year. However, there was a limit to the amount of money the Library could carry over from one year to the next.

## 2. Report on the LINC Newsplan Panel meetings

Pam Airey reported on the LINC Newsplan Panel meeting held on 15 October 1996. The Second Newsplan Conference was now likely to be held in 1998. All regions had now entered upon the implementation phase and consideration was being given to making applications for Lottery funding. The British Library was still considering whether

to make a bid for the funding of all of the priority newspapers in Newsplan or whether the applications should be made on a regional basis. The meeting had discussed the Smethurst Report on the legal deposit of printed materials and a presentation of MARC cataloguing for Newsplan had been given by Lyn Stagg of the Register of Preservation Microforms. Details of the Newsplan programme were available on the British Library's web site Portico and a print out was distributed. It was felt that the effect of reorganisation of local government in Wales and Scotland on Newsplan programmes had been more severe than expected. Reorganisation was now awaited in many areas of England.

### 3. WORKING PARTY MEETING OF 24 SEPTEMBER 1996

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting had been circulated. The Working Party had set as its first priority the identification of contacts within the new authorities. 14 of the 22 new authorities had now named their representatives and a list of contacts was distributed. The participating authorities had shown varying degrees of commitment but it was clear that reorganization had affected funding for Newsplan very severely. Although libraries had been able to maintain a number of existing standing orders for microfilming very little money had been made available for new filming. The National Library microfilming unit had received no orders for new filming since reorganisation. Communication needed to be further improved and a form had been distributed asking libraries to state their present filming commitments with the aim of identifying ways of increasing cooperation.

### 4. IMPLICATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Chairman summarised the position, saying that it seemed that the Committee's worst fears of reorganisation were being realised. In Wales most new authorities were very small and seemed to have hardly any money for filming. He felt that the true budgetary position was still unclear and hoped that within the next year the new local authorities would recognize the important part that newspapers played in local studies and find funds for their preservation. The Working Party was bringing people together and encouraging cooperation and partnership so as to use available funds in the best possible way.

John Rees Thomas described the situation in Anglesey. The new authority was starting from nothing: it had no microfilm readers, no existing collection of microfilm and few newspapers, since the main collections had stayed at Caernarfon or Llandudno. There was pressure to go along with the drive towards automated technology by having papurau bro scanned, but he recognised that this did not create a stable master copy for long-term preservation.

### 5. OTHER FUNDING POSSIBILITIES

The Heritage Lottery Fund was prepared to consider applications for microfilming priority newspapers. A joint bid had been discussed with the British Library and it had been agreed to support the British Library if it were prepared to act as 'lead body' for a general Newsplan bid. Reorganisation at the British Library had delayed matters and if a general bid could not be arranged then

regional bids with one library acting as a lead body in each region could be considered.

A discussion paper on a Newsplan(Wales) application for Heritage Lottery Funding was presented. The paper outlined the guidelines for applications for newspaper microfilming that had been set out by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and costed the work of filming the priority newspapers identified in the Newsplan(Wales) Report. The paper set out a five-year schedule for filming these newspapers jointly at the British Library and the National Library of Wales. Estimates indicated that the programme would be within the capacity both of the microfilming units themselves and the shared funding available for Newsplan (on a historic basis) from libraries in Wales. At least £500,000 spread over five years would be required from the Lottery Heritage Fund.

Non Jenkins noted that the National Library's Department of Printed Books would require adequate time and resources for the preparation of materials to be filmed, especially a project coordinator. Other matters, too, would have to be considered further, especially confirmation of the priority newspapers, the method of costing and the need to agree a consistent formula to be followed if regional bids were required.

It was agreed that the paper represented a good basis on which to develop a bid, but that a bid could not be made until matters were settled at the British Library. The Lottery Heritage Fund accepted bids from 'collection-holding bodies' only. This was a problem for Newsplan because there was a fear within institutions that leading a joint Newsplan bid might endanger the institution's own main bid.

#### 6. SECOND NEWSPLAN SEMINAR

It was agreed that there was a need for a Second Newsplan(Wales) Seminar to publicise Newsplan amongst the new Welsh local authorities. It was suggested that invitations should be sent to elected members of the new authority as well as the officers, and that consideration of new funding, such as a Lottery application, might encourage senior staff to attend. Topics suggested for the Seminar included the filming of the Cambrian News, the value of newspapers to local history, the indexing of The Cambrian, and the history of the press. Possible speakers included Aled Jones, Marilyn Jones and Colin Venus.

The Seminar could be at DILS, Aberystwyth, or at Llandrindod. It should not clash with the WLA Conference but might be held jointly with a meeting of the new Society of Chief Librarians. It was agreed to leave the matter of the date and location of the Seminar to the officers.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

#### 7. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at the National Library of Wales, probably in May 1997, at a date to be arranged by the officers.

