

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Newsplan (Wales) Implementation Committee held at the University of Wales Bangor at 11.00am on Wednesday 31 October 2001**

**Present:** Andrew Green (Chairman), Rhidian Griffiths, John Turner, Edmund King, John Lauder, Nigel Soane, Gareth Haulfryn Williams, John Cosslett, Iwan Jones (Secretary)

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Linda Tomos and John Woods.

### **2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2001 and matters arising**

2.1 The minutes had been circulated and were accepted as a correct record.

#### **2.2 Newsplan (Wales) Report on-line (2.2)**

Rhidian Griffiths said that trials of the Newsplan (Wales) Report on-line using the ISYS:web software had shown that it was not easily searchable. The National Library was therefore looking for alternative ways to put the Report on-line. Ed King recommended as a model the work done in the East Midlands by Diana Dixon.

#### **2.3 BL policy on Welsh newspapers (2.3)**

Ed King confirmed that the British Library wished to buy copy film of additional Welsh newspaper titles filmed by the National Library of Wales.

#### **2.4 Newspapers on the web – preserving web sites (2.4)**

Rhidian Griffiths said that the National Library was now cataloguing web sites and that direct links to sites were available through the main catalogue. He drew attention to *Wales on the web – Cymru ar y we* which was developing as a portal of Welsh web sites and which would include links to newspapers. The Library intended to establish a post of Digital Preservation Officer and to contact publishers regarding the preservation of web sites. Some publishers wished to take responsibility for the preservation of their own sites, and John Cosslett noted that the Western Mail maintained its own electronic archive of material which was only available to staff at present but might become more widely available by subscription.

#### **2.5 Approach to Welsh AMs and MPs (2.6)**

It had been agreed to approach the Assembly to explain the importance of Newsplan when the time was right. John Lauder explained that it was hoped to relaunch Newsplan in the spring of 2002 with a meeting at the House of Commons. It was agreed that Wales should coordinate with the spring relaunch and try to include Newsplan as an element in the exhibition of all-Wales library projects being arranged for the Assembly by Huw Llewelyn Evans.

#### **2.6 List of priority newspapers (2.7)**

Rhidian Griffiths said that the list of priority newspapers for filming had been sent to libraries and archives and that he wished to record his gratitude for their support and cooperation in arranging loans of newspapers. The final filming schedule, to be

published on the Newsplan 2000 web site, would reflect a spread of areas within each year's filming schedule. Gareth Haulfryn Williams suggested that some Chief Local Authority Leisure Officers might not be aware of Newsplan, and Rhidian Griffiths agreed to liaise with them.

### **2.7 LISC (Wales) Report (2.8)**

The Report *The Future of our Recorded Past* had now been published on the Assembly web site. Future developments might depend on the Assembly's response to the creation of Re:source in England.

### **2.8 Newsplan Conference (2.9)**

A fourth Newsplan Conference was planned for April 2002. It was likely to be a one-day event held in London and linked to the relaunch of Newsplan.

### **2.9 Distribution of readers and reader-printers (4.5)**

John Lauder said he recognised that there was much more interest in obtaining reader-printers than readers. The purchase of the equipment would have to be put to tender because of the scale of the purchase, and since it depended on shared funding provided by the newspaper industry it would be best to wait until Newsplan was seen to be successful. There would be further consultation with the Newsplan regions concerning the formula for distributing the equipment, and it was felt that within Wales the opinion of the Working Party should be sought.

### **2.10 Future structure of Newsplan (Wales) (5)**

It was agreed that the Implementation Committee and Working Party would continue unchanged for the time being. The Working Party was developing an e-mail list which would facilitate communication while implementation was in progress.

### **2.11 Newsplan (Wales) Seminar**

A Newsplan (Wales) Seminar was not a priority and it was agreed to defer it.

## **3. Minutes of the Working Party meeting held on 18 October 2001**

### **3.1 Newsplan workplan: surveys of newspaper use**

It was a condition of HLF funding that the Newsplan regions should carry out surveys of newspaper use so that the effects of the project could be assessed. Ed King said that surveys were either in progress or had been completed in seven of the ten Newsplan regions. He advised that the surveys should be carried out as widely as possible within a region. The National Library intended to carry out a survey and Gareth Haulfryn Williams agreed that Gwynedd would also carry out a survey so that data would also be available from a non-national collection.

### **3.2 Arrangements at the National Library of Wales**

The National Library had agreed to coordinate Newsplan in Wales and had created a post to take responsibility for practical arrangements, including the preparation of newspapers for filming and the loan of titles which were not available in the Library's collection. The post was now filled by Brian Dafis. John Lauder thanked the Library for its support and noted that the creation of the new post had been particularly valuable. It was noted that the Library's microfilming unit continued its work under

its supervisor, Brian Richards, and that the post of Reprographics Unit Manager was vacant and unlikely to be filled.

#### **4. Report on Newsplan 2000 Progress**

##### **4.1 Newsplan 2000 Trustees**

Rhidian Griffiths, as a member of the Executive Committee of the Newsplan 2000 trustees, recorded his thanks to Ann Matheson, the Chairman of the trustees, and noted that it was her clear and resolute leadership that had brought the Project into being. He said the trustees were very pleased with the way Newsplan 2000 was developing under the supervision of the Project Director, John Lauder, and the Project Officer, Simon Kellas.

##### **4.2 Newsplan 2000 Director's Report**

A report on the progress of Newsplan 2000 was tabled by John Lauder, Project Director. Negotiation with HLF had been long and difficult. Numerous requirements had been made and some stages had been repeated. All requirements had now been met. There was agreement that the Project would run in the full sense from November 2001 to July 2004.

Of the three full tenders received for the microfilming contract, that from Microformat UK Ltd had been successful. Filming would start at Rochester, Kent, in March 2002, rise to a peak in 2003, and finish by July 2004. 75% of the newspapers to be filmed were at the British Library Newspaper Library, Colindale, and John Lauder expressed his gratitude to the Library for the support provided by Ed King and his staff. Within Wales arrangements would be coordinated by the National Library of Wales. Film produced by Newsplan 2000 would need to be checked by the receiving libraries within ten days of receipt to make sure that it was correct. Film ordered by libraries at the time of filming would be available at an especially low price, possibly as little as £16 per reel. It was felt that this low figure gave libraries a real incentive to support Newsplan and to keep up to date with the schedule for filming.

The web site [www.newsplan2000.org](http://www.newsplan2000.org) gave a full introduction to the Project and included a Welsh-language page [www.newsplan2000.org/cymraeg.htm](http://www.newsplan2000.org/cymraeg.htm). The revised microfilming schedule and project handbook would be published on the site. The aim of Newsplan 2000 was to provide access to funds and initiatives while keeping the infrastructure of the Project itself small. Further phases of the Project might be possible, but the work of each phase could not be repeated.

Newsplan 2000 had now won the support of the Newspaper Society and the Chief Executives of the larger newspaper groups. A target level of funding from large companies had been agreed, and negotiations continued on the level of funding to be provided by medium and small newspaper companies. Provision of microfilm readers and reader-printers depended entirely on shared funding of £800,000 to be raised from the newspaper industry, and this was therefore the most vulnerable element in the project. Delay in raising funds was preferable to outright rejection by a newspaper company and the dip in the market was also likely to slow the process. John Cosslett noted that fundraising in the USA might be easier while the United Kingdom was seen as a close ally, as it was during the current international crisis.

An element of digitisation had been included in the original bid, but little progress was likely until the value of Newsplan had been proven and good relations established with the newspaper industry. Newspaper companies had showed concern at the possible loss of ownership of backfiles that might be caused by uncontrolled digitisation, irrespective of the legal position. A memorandum of understanding on digitisation was being negotiated between the Chairman of the Trustees and the Newspaper Society. It was agreed that progress depended on maintaining the industry's confidence in Newsplan.

The Chairman thanked John Lauder for his heartening report. He congratulated the trustees and officers of Newsplan 2000 on their hard work and their achievement in establishing the largest preservation project ever launched in the United Kingdom.

## **5. Any other business**

### **5.1 Membership**

John Turner explained that he had retired from the Department of Information and Library Studies at the University of Wales Aberystwyth. He offered to resign from the Implementation Committee but was persuaded to continue his membership in a personal capacity.

### **5.2 [www.uk.olivesoftware.com](http://www.uk.olivesoftware.com)**

It was noted that after the meeting Ed King would demonstrate at the University Library the results of a recent research project on the automated indexing of newspapers which had been carried out for the British Library by Olive Software. The project had overcome problems met with in earlier automated indexing projects and had been widely welcomed as a major breakthrough. The results were available on the Olive Software web site.

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

11.00am on Thursday 23 May 2002 at the Western Mail Offices, Cardiff (if this were not possible the meeting would be held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth).