

## **Minutes of the ninth meeting of the Newsplan Working Party held at the National Library of Wales at 11.00am on Thursday 11 November 1999**

**Present:** Brynmor Jones (Chairman), Annette Jones, Joy Thomas, Janet Karn, Lynn C Roberts, John Rees Thomas, Anita Thomas, Michael Allen, Marilyn Jones, Kay Warren-Morgan, Lawrence Rawsthorne, Non Jenkins, Rhidian Griffiths, Iwan Jones (Secretary)

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Tudfil Adams, Rona Aldrich, Beti Jones and Ann Rhydderch (for whom Lynn Roberts substituted).

### **2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 1999 and matters arising**

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

#### **2.2. British Library collecting policy (2.2)**

The British Library's decision not to collect Welsh local newspapers on paper made it more important to preserve complete sets in Wales. The National Library sought to co-operate with local libraries to ensure both that its own set was complete and that additional copies were held locally. Rhidian Griffiths said the National Library would be glad to know whenever newspaper files were being considered for disposal. It was agreed to keep the matter under review.

#### **2.2 Priorities for filming (3.1)**

Heritage Lottery Funding for the first phase of Newsplan would allow filming of about 40% of the titles listed in the original bid. A letter had been sent to local libraries giving details of the titles listed and asking them to indicate newspapers for which there was a particular demand. Some responses had been received. Further responses were welcome and should be sent to Beti Jones, Department of Printed Books, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3BU.

#### **2.3 Microfilm readers (3.2)**

It was hoped that shared funding from the newspaper industry would allow about 800 microfilm readers and about 40 reader-printers to be distributed throughout the UK. 104 readers had been provisionally allocated to Wales on the basis of two per authority plus one per branch library, although it was emphasised that the precise distribution of readers within the authority was the authority's own decision. The reader-printers would be allocated to large libraries.

#### **2.4 ISYS:web (3.3, 5)**

The National Library had acquired the ISYS:web software which would allow it to put data from the Newsplan(Wales) Report on the web. Rhidian Griffiths asked for amendments to the Report to be sent to Beti Jones.

#### **2.5 Western Mail (6.1)**

It was noted that publication of the Western Mail's CD-ROM had now ceased but that its web site ([www.totalwales.com](http://www.totalwales.com)) was still developing.

#### **2.6 Seminar (6.2)**

It was agreed not to proceed with another Newsplan(Wales) seminar until HLF plans were firmer. It was noted that there would be another Newsplan Conference, probably at Durham, in 2001.

### 3. Report on the LINC Newsplan Panel Meeting of 7 October 1999

#### 3.1 Heritage Lottery Funding

Iwan Jones reported on the LINC Newsplan meeting. There had been difficulties agreeing the conditions of grant with HLF and progress had been slower than expected. Nevertheless, some important decisions had been taken and there was now a clear way ahead. A Newsplan company would soon be set up and HLF had agreed to advertise the post of Newsplan Director, which it was hoped would be filled by the spring of 2000. The Director would supervise the tendering process for microfilming, and the filming contract would be advertised throughout Europe. At the same time, shared funding would be raised from the newspaper industry. It was hoped that phase one of the Newsplan programme funded by HLF would be operational by the autumn of 2000.

#### 3.2 Newsplan work plan

At the LINC Newsplan meeting Ed King had circulated a paper outlining a possible workplan for Newsplan, which identified developments which were not part of phase one of the HLF programme, including indexing of newspapers, surveys of newspaper use, storage of paper copies and master microfilm negatives, disposal of originals, education, co-operation with the newspaper industry and with museums and archives, and lobbying for funding. The paper, which had been circulated to the members of the Working Party, was welcomed and discussed in detail as follows:

**Indexing.** There was a need to distinguish between retrospective indexing and the indexing of current newspapers, which could be facilitated by access to the newspaper's digital data. Indexing work was in progress in Rhondda Cynon Taff and Swansea and it was agreed that the subject headings used at Swansea would be circulated to members before the next meeting. There was a need to establish the current position and identify common standards, and it was suggested that the Welsh Assembly might consider this a suitable topic for a feasibility study.

**Surveys.** It was agreed that surveys of newspaper use could be valuable in showing the importance of newspapers in libraries and the increase in their use. Copies of the LASER survey of newspaper use would be distributed before the next meeting.

**Storage and disposals.** The storage of paper copies of newspapers was a problem for some libraries, and the locations of master microfilm negatives should also be monitored. The National Library of Wales had good storage facilities for both paper newspapers and master negatives and it was possible that these issues were less problematic in Wales than they were in the English regions.

**Education.** It was felt that the role of local studies librarians (as well as the priority given to local studies within libraries) was the key to developing the function of newspapers in education. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to the officers of the WLA Local Studies Group (Rheinallt Llwyd and Susan Mends) to see if there was any scope for co-operation.

### 4. Progress in Wales

**Swansea:** Continuing filming the Western Mail and South Wales Evening Post.

**Pembrokeshire:** No developments.

**Anglesey:** No developments.

**Gwynedd:** No developments.

**Blaenau Gwent:** No developments.

**Wrexham:** Continuing filming current titles, including the Wrexham Leader and papurau bro.

**Neath Port Talbot:** Continuing filming the Neath Gazette.

**Rhondda Cynon Taff:** Continuing filming current titles, including the South Wales Echo and Rhondda newspapers. Interested in retrospective filming of Gwladgarwr.

**Flint:** Continuing filming current local titles.

**The National Library of Wales:** Continuing filming current newspapers; retrospective filming was largely postponed until Newsplan had started.

**Cardiff:** Continuing with co-operative filming of the Western Mail, also filming current issues of the South Wales Echo, Barry and District News and Penarth Times.

Some concern was expressed about the physical condition of microfilm in use. The location of master negatives was known in some cases but it was agreed that a survey of negatives would be useful.

### 5. LISC(Wales) Preservation Survey

The LISC(W) Preservation and Conservation Group was affiliated to LISC(W), which was a statutory body charged with advising the Welsh Assembly on library matters. The Assembly had recently funded a survey which would enable the Group to report on needs, policies and standards for the care of collections in Wales. Jane Henderson, who had been employed as a consultant to carry out the project, would be circulating a questionnaire shortly and the findings would be communicated to the Assembly through LISC(W). The study was felt to be particularly timely because of changes in government, including the establishment of the Welsh Assembly and of MLAC in England. Iwan Jones emphasised that a good response to the survey was important in order to transmit effectively the views of the library community.

## **6. The role of the Working Party**

Since 1995 the Working Party had succeeded in improving communication, but funding for co-operative filming had been badly affected by local government reorganisation and plans for co-operative microfilming had not developed as had been hoped. There was also some duplication of effort with the Implementation Committee. The meeting considered the future role of the Working Party, and whether it should deal with wider issues such as local studies or preservation.

Lawrence Rawsthorne felt that the Working Party had a role to play in maintaining effective communications at least during phase one of HLF funding. Michael Allen felt the focus of Newsplan should not be too narrow, and should include promoting access to newspapers generally. Rhidian Griffiths acknowledged that there was some overlap with the Implementation Committee, but felt the Working Party had the greater value in considering wider issues of newspapers in libraries. It was agreed that the Working Party should continue without major change for the time being.

## **7. Any other business**

It was agreed to invite Ed King, the new British Library Newspaper Librarian, to the next meeting, and also to invite Leith Haarhoff to show the National Library's facilities for microfilming and digitisation to the members of the Working Party.

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

11.00am on Thursday 8 June 2000 at the National Library of Wales.