

Minutes of the eighth meeting of the Implementation Committee of the Newsplan (Wales) Project held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, at 11.00am on Friday 13 June 1997

PRESENT:

Dr Lionel Madden (Chairman), Mr Paul Reynolds, Mrs Non Jenkins, Mr John Byford, Mr John Turner, Mr John Cosslett, Mr John Woods, Mr Iwan Jones (Secretary)

1. PERSONAL

Apologies had been received from Mr John Rees Thomas and Mr Gareth Haulfryn Williams. The Chairman welcomed to his first meeting Mr John Byford, the new British Library Newspaper Librarian. The Committee asked Mr Byford to express its best wishes to Mrs Pam Airey, the previous Acting Librarian, who is suffering from prolonged ill health.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

i. The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 1996 had been circulated and were approved.

ii. The Index to the Western Mail
No further orders had been received. Another circular could be sent.

iii. Mellon Funding
The National Library of Wales had received additional money from the remaining Mellon funds to allow filming of newspapers including The Cambrian News. All the master negatives produced by the Mellon Microfilming Project had now been received by the National Library of Wales and stored in the new Library building.

iv. Second Newsplan Seminar
The Chairman explained that because of the current depressed state of local library funding it had been judged inappropriate to proceed with arrangements for a second Seminar. The meeting approved the decision and agreed to wait for a more auspicious time, when a positive hope of new funding could make for a successful Seminar and give new impetus to Newsplan.

3. THE newspaper library IN THE new bl structure

John Byford explained that the British Library had restructured itself ahead of the move to St Pancras in a way that integrated work at London and Boston Spa. The Newspaper Library was now part of the Readers Services and Collection Development Directorate led by Mike Crump, itself part of the Collections and Services Division under David Bradbury, one of the two Directors General.

4. Report on the LINC Newsplan Panel meetings

Iwan Jones and John Byford reported on the LINC Newsplan Panel Meeting of 30 April 1997 which had focussed on two main issues: the Newsplan Lottery Bid and the Smethurst Report. The Report had

recommended that the British Library should limit its collecting of the paper copies of local newspapers and leisure journals, and the recommendations were being carried through at the BL by Andrew Phillips. John Byford said that the proposals had met with almost 100% resistance from the English regions and the consultative committee. In Wales and Scotland the national libraries were already collecting their own local newspapers so that the effect there would not be as great as in the regions of England. Nevertheless it would mean that two copies of Welsh local newspapers would not now be held by the copyright libraries, so that a disaster such as the Norwich fire could lead to the loss of the unique single copy.

In Scotland local libraries had agreed to cooperate in preserving the 'second copies' and it was suggested that a similar arrangement would benefit Wales. John Woods said that although Bridgend collected all three local newspapers insecurity of funding would make it difficult for the authority to take on an open-ended preservation role. He was able to maintain the target spending of '1% of bookfund' for Newsplan but this was barely enough to buy microfilm of the Western Mail.

The Chairman described other developments regarding legal deposit and said that the Department of National Heritage was preparing a new bill. It was important to show that collecting policies were reasonable and avoided unnecessary duplication. He agreed to raise the issue of keeping second copies of Welsh newspapers with the Welsh Group of the Society of Chief Librarians.

5. WORKING PARTY MEETING OF 11 MARCH 1997

i. Item 3: Review of Progress.

There was no sign that Newsplan was recovering from the set-back of local government reorganisation. 14 authorities had expressed an interest in Newsplan but few were able to make funding commitments and there was no prospect of re-establishing five-year plans to follow on those of the old authorities. Duplication of provision between the larger number of authorities was an additional burden. Although Newsplan was acknowledged to be the most successful library cooperative project little progress would be possible until new funding became available, probably through a Lottery bid.

i. Item 4: Report on Newsplan(Wales) Database.

John Byford said that the British Library had decided to waive copyright on the original Newsplan Reports. The Committee welcomed the decision and agreed that the Newsplan(Wales) database which was kept up-to-date by the National Library of Wales should be made available on-line through the Library's Web site.

6. FUNDING POSSIBILITIES: LOTTERY BID

John Byford reported that there had been discussions between representatives of the British Library and the National Libraries of Scotland and Wales on a joint bid for money for Newsplan from the Heritage Lottery Fund. An application to carry out a feasibility study had now been made. The Fund had agreed that the LINC Newsplan Panel could act as the lead body although it was not a 'collection-holding' body, and this was a welcome development. He hoped that the feasibility study could be completed in time to put in a full bid

before the November deadline. Matching funding of 10% was needed for bids below £100,000, and 25% for bids above £100,000.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Electronic access to the Western Mail

John Cosslett described developments in the electronic publishing of the Western Mail. A quarterly CD-Rom was issued regularly and an electronic mail service for current stories had now been established offering a general service, a rugby service and a Welsh-language service to subscribers world-wide. An Internet site would be set up within a few months. These services were all being developed on a commercial basis and offered access to material to which the newspaper itself had copyright.

8. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at the National Library of Wales at a date to be arranged by the officers.