

Minutes of the meeting of the Newsplan (Cymru) Working Party held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, 10 April 2002

Present: Brynmor Jones (Chairman), Brian Dafis, Rhidian Griffiths, Gwyn Jenkins, Lynn C Roberts, Beti Jones, Non Jenkins, Kay Warren-Morgan, Anita Thomas, Joy Thomas, Gillian Fraser, Lucy Williams, Marilyn Jones, Iwan Jones (Secretary)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from John Rees Thomas, Janet Karn, Susan Mends and Simon Kellas. The Chairman welcomed to his first meeting Gwyn Jenkins, Director of Collection Services at the National Library of Wales.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 24 October 2002 and matters arising

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

2.2 Price of film (2.2)

Newsplan 2000 had announced that the price of film was to be raised from £17 to between £25 and £39 per reel depending on the quantity and time of ordering. The increase had occurred because the tender document had not specified the contractor's responsibility for organising the despatch and invoicing of orders. Rhidian Griffiths, a trustee of Newsplan 2000, explained that he had protested to Newsplan 2000 and had negotiated a special price of £22.45 per reel for film ordered as a bulk purchase through the National Library. Brian Dafis explained that the Library had agreed to take on the extra work of distribution and invoicing in order to keep the cost to local libraries as low as possible. Libraries could still order directly from the Newsplan 2000 Project Office but the price would be higher.

2.3 Distribution of microfilm reading equipment (3.2)

John Woods had raised the question of the distribution of microfilm reading equipment with the Society of Chief Librarians and a revised list based on the responses had been submitted to Newsplan 2000. Copies of the list were circulated and members were asked to raise queries about the equipment requested with their own librarians or with John Woods directly. Members raised a number of questions about the equipment, including the likely date of distribution, the make and size of machines, and the availability of maintenance contracts. It was understood that the contract would be put out to tender by Newsplan 2000 and that the specifications would be stated in the tender document. The machines would be bought out of shared funding raised by the newspaper industry and Newsplan 2000 hoped to start distributing equipment before the end of 2003.

3. Report of progress on Newsplan 2000

3.1 Newsplan 2000 Trustees

Rhidian Griffiths reported that the trustees were concerned that Microformat Ltd was still not keeping up with the filming schedule. In order to complete the project by the scheduled time (July 2004) 1600 reels a month were required and current output was about 1000 a month. The HLF was involved in these discussions. The trustees were also continuing to raise funds for the project, mainly from the newspaper industry. A number of newspaper groups had already contributed generously but some were reluctant to contribute and other sources of funding might be approached in future.

3.2 Newsplan 2000

Simon Kellas, Project Officer of Newsplan 2000, had prepared a report on progress which was circulated. It drew attention to the Project's web site www.Newsplan2000.org where the up-to-date filming schedule and the Project Handbook was available, and to the Project's listserv.

3.3. Newsplan in Wales

Brian Dafis described the situation in Wales. He explained that Wales had now received 1033 reels out of its total of 5060. 60% of the Welsh newspapers had now been prepared ready for filming; 1000 volumes had already been despatched for filming, and 600 had been returned. The constantly slipping

filming schedule had caused problems and he urged members to keep checking the changing list on the Newsplan 2000 web site so that they could order titles at the right time.

All the authorities represented at the meeting said that they had by now received some film and all of the 22 Welsh authorities had expressed an interest in acquiring film from Newsplan 2000, either as 'free copies' or as additional copies. Local libraries had now claimed over 100 of the newspaper titles as 'free copies' for which a fee of £8.47 per volume was payable for the cost of preparation either to the British Library or the National Library of Wales. Brian Dafis said that NLW would be organising the orders and payments to both Microformat and the British Library, and invoicing local libraries for the appropriate sums. Most of the microfilm received had been of excellent quality but there had been some problems with obscured 'gutters'. He urged libraries to check the film they received and report any problems to him as soon as possible.

3.4 Publicity and future funding

Brian Dafis noted that it was helpful to give publicity to newspaper titles received in order to encourage future funding for Newsplan. Joy Thomas said that the *Wrexham Evening Leader* and the *Wrexham Leader* had already run a story on the films of those newspapers which had arrived at the library.

Non Jenkins noted that because Brian Dafis had now taken on the additional work of organising the bulk order for Wales, NLW's contribution to Newsplan was greater than had been expected. This increased contribution towards the shared funding of Newsplan 2000 should be noted in case HLF was prepared to make an additional contribution in respect of it.

4. Any other business

4.1 IFLA Conference Papers

Iwan Jones drew attention to the paper by Professor Aled Jones, *Print, language and identity: newspapers in Wales since 1804*, which had been delivered at Glasgow in 2002 and was now available on the IFLA web site www.ifla.org (under the Wednesday Session of papers). The paper showed a depth of knowledge of newspapers and of Welsh culture and had been well received by the Conference.

4.2 IFLA Newspaper Section

Beti Jones reported on the meeting of the IFLA Newspaper Section, held in South Africa in March 2003. The meeting had prepared the Section's Strategic Plan for 2003-06 and had made preparations for its contribution to the 2003 Berlin conference programme, on the theme of *Newspapers and Copyright Development: future access and preservation*. Beti Jones said she had been gratified to see the Newspaper round table promoted to the status of an IFLA 'section' in 2002. She was also congratulated because the group's newsletter, which she had edited since 1992, had been commended as one of the top three IFLA newsletters.

4.3 National Library of Wales microfilming programme

Iwan Jones distributed a list of current local Welsh newspapers filmed by the National Library of Wales. Copies of these newspapers were available at £30 per reel (plus v.a.t.) and enquiries should be made to Brian Richards, Microfilm Manager, National Library of Wales (01970 632849).

4.4 National Library of Wales Collection Policy

Non Jenkins drew attention to the draft NLW collection policy document which had recently been circulated for consultation. There was no change with regard to Welsh local newspapers but in future NLW might be more selective in collecting UK newspapers.

4.5 On-line access to newspapers

Gillian Fraser drew attention to the consortium which was being set up in order to negotiate favourable terms for subscriptions to on-line services for libraries in Wales. It was agreed that the development was most welcome.

5. Date and place of next meeting

11.00am on Thursday 30 October 2003, at the National Library of Wales.