Annual Review
2017-2018

LLYFRGELL GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES
What is the National Library?
The Library is the memory of the nation and continues to collect materials in a variety of media, on the history and culture of Wales as well as knowledge relevant to a wide range of fields, due to its status as one of the five legal deposit libraries in the UK. It is multifaceted and its purpose and significance are as variable and exciting as the collections entrusted to its care. For researchers of all calibres, it serves as an inexhaustible mine of information for our nation and its people, leading to all sorts of exciting discoveries on intricate subjects as well as uncovering a wealth of long-forgotten knowledge about families, villages and localities. For commercial companies, television and education establishments it is a unique source of core information which can be repackaged for print and digital material and as programmes for broadcasting.

www.library.wales

Cover image:
A video projected on the front of the Library to commemorate Hedd Wyn - part of a project funded by ScottishPower
Foreword

This review is testimony to the fact that, once again, this has been a very successful and productive year for the Library as Wales’ leading research library. The highlights range from projecting a bespoke video on the face of the building to commemorate the centenary of the death of Welsh poet Hedd Wyn in the First World War, to the opening of an excellent exhibition on the work of Sir Kyffin Williams RA.

We have also embarked on an ambitious programme which will lead to the establishment of a National Broadcast Archive for Wales, the only one of its kind in the UK. We are confident that the new partnership between the Library and BBC Cymru Wales will achieve the exciting plans to provide public access at four centres located at Aberystwyth, Wrexham, Carmarthen and Cardiff, as well as publishing programme clips online for community use.

We are also pleased to report the productive and constructive relationship developed with the Welsh Government during the year. Shortly after his appointment as Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport, we had the pleasure of welcoming Lord Elis-Thomas AM here to the Library to open the Sir Kyffin Williams centenary exhibition, and we wish him well in his new post.

Once again, we are very grateful to our staff and Board members for both their commitment and enthusiasm during another exciting and successful year for us as an institution. The Library is also very fortunate to have its legion of loyal and diligent volunteers who provide us with priceless support, not only at our building in Aberystwyth but also on-line.

We hope that you will enjoy reading about the Library’s work during the year.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas
President

Linda Tomos
Chief Executive and Librarian
Being Excellent Custodians of Our Collections
The Welsh Music Archive

The National Library has a music archive which is second to none. In September 2017, the Welsh Music Archive Programme was launched in a special ceremony attended by a very dear friend, Phyllis Kinney, who is an expert on folk music. Phyllis, and her late husband Merêd, have made an immense contribution to the world of folk music here in Wales and further afield: knowing both over a long period of time has been a tremendous privilege for the Library.

The Library is particularly pleased that Merêd and Phyllis’ archive, which includes a lifetime of research into traditional music, has come to the Library, and is grateful to the family for kindly donating the collection to our care. The priority for our Welsh Music Archive Programme will be to provide anyone wishing to learn more about folk music with access to this new resource, and to provide online access. Merêd and Phyllis’ archive reflects their exhaustive knowledge of traditional music and also provides a route to further study of other collections at the Library such as the J Lloyd Williams collection, one of the founders of Cymdeithas Alawon Gwerin Cymru (The Welsh Folk-Song Society), and the Maria Jane Williams collection (a pioneer in recording folk songs).

It goes without saying that the Library is extremely grateful to its sponsors and funders, and for the legacies left by supporters. In establishing the Welsh Music Archive, we have been able to use some of the substantial legacy bequeathed by Mr Geoff Powell, a lifetime member of the Friends of the Library. Without the kind support of our friends, it would not be possible for us to undertake such important projects.

John Gurr, Eluned Evans and Phyllis Kinney with the Chief Executive & Librarian, Linda Tomos, and the President, Rhodri Glyn Thomas
Global Volunteers

The Library’s award-winning volunteering scheme has once again been very busy this year with over 100 volunteers of various ages and from a variety of backgrounds joining us on a weekly basis, giving us the equivalent of 8,000 hours of volunteering. Volunteers work on specific projects which will be of value to both the Library and to our users. The hard working volunteers worked on 24 tasks during the year, as well as testing new Library websites and systems before releasing them to the public domain. However, not all volunteers have to travel to Aberystwyth, as some are able to help us with our work from the comfort of their own homes, their local library and other locations connected to the web. The Library is extremely pleased to see this increase in the number of ‘virtual volunteers’.

torf.llyfrgell.cymru

Without a doubt, this year’s highlight was the launch of the Library’s crowd-sourcing platform torf.llyfrgell.cymru, a brand new resource which will enable us to engage with volunteers online, throughout Wales and further afield. We will invite volunteers to help us improve access to the national collections by transcribing, enhancing and tagging data. The vision has been realised through a substantial development grant from the Welsh Government and the Library’s crowd-sourcing platform has attracted widespread interest globally.

Amongst all of the Library’s collections, the first to appear on the crowd-sourcing platform was the Cardiganshire First World War Tribunals (Appeals) Records. This represents a rare collection as the records of only three counties have survived throughout the UK. Funding was secured through the Heritage Lottery Fund First World War: then and now programme, to work with communities across Ceredigion to provide training in transcribing these precious records from the tribunals, which dealt with appeals against conscription for personal, economic, ethical or religious reasons. They are very important, interesting and revealing records and, thanks to the work of our virtual volunteers, in due course, the public will be able to access them remotely.

During January, the Tribunal Records collection was one of five projects which drew the attention of the press as part of a UK event called Transcription Tuesday, organised annually by Who Do You Think You Are? magazine. In addition, between January and March, 13 workshops were organised, teaching individuals how to use the crowd-sourcing website, and over 200 online volunteers transcribed half the collection. Our aim will be to transcribe the whole of the collection by September 2018.
Gwilym Livingstone Evans’ Collection of Photographs
This project is a crowd-sourcing volunteer project focused on Blaenau Ffestiniog in Gwynedd, which is part of the Gwynedd Fusion Partnership Area. It is based on Gwilym Livingstone Evans’ collection of photographs. Gwilym was a photographer who captured the lives of the people of the Blaenau Ffestiniog area from the 1960s and we intend to use his collection to work with several generations of the area’s residents, led by the Library’s Education Service, and with the support of the People’s Collection Wales service.

Living Memory
The Living Memory project works with Older People’s Mental Health wards at Hywel Dda Health Board, using the Library’s visual collection for therapeutic purposes; specifically to stimulate memories amongst older people and people living with dementia. The Library believes that numerous patients could benefit from such a scheme and consultations are underway with the health and care sectors to assess the level of interest with the intention of extending it beyond the Ceredigion area.
Turner in Japan
In the Autumn, the Library’s Aberdulais Mill by JMW Turner formed part of an exhibition which toured 4 venues in Japan. Led by the National Galleries of Scotland and major Japanese publisher Mainichi, this exhibition brought the work of one of the greatest British artists to a large international audience. Over 37,535 visitors saw the painting at the first venue, the Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art.

‘Art of the Nation’
In January 2018, the Library exhibited a Karel Lek painting at the Art UK exhibition ‘Art of the Nation – Five Artists Choose’ at the London Art Fair - a high profile event with an attendance in excess of 24,000 during the week. Drawing on the wide-ranging interests of contemporary artists, this ground breaking exhibition opened a window on the rich and varied public art collections across Britain. The painting from the Library collection was specially chosen by leading contemporary artist Oscar Murillo.

Kelmscott Manor
During the Summer 2017, the Library co-curated an exhibition with the Society of Antiquaries at Kelmscott Manor, home to May Morris the daughter of famous Victorian designer, poet and social thinker William Morris (1834–96).
Arthur and Welsh Mythology
In support of the Welsh Government’s Year of Legends, the nation’s treasures were assembled, including some items never before exhibited in public. This was one of the Library’s most ambitious exhibitions which included the Hengwrt and Gregynog Galleries and many centuries of material. The Library exhibited some of its earliest and most important Arthurian treasures, including The White Book of Rhydderch, Llyfr Aneirin, manuscript versions of Geoffrey of Monmouth’s Historia, and French romances from the 15th Century. Some later items from the striking art and audio collections were also shown to reflect the influence of legends on the landscape and imagination of Wales. The exhibition was launched in July by Visit Wales Ambassador, Cerys Matthews, who recited stories to children around the cauldron of re-birth.
Pete Davis: Observations, Collections
Recollections. A Lifetime in Photography

In March, the Library held a retrospective exhibition of photographs by Pete Davis spanning six decades as well as new work highlighting the photographer’s lifelong fascination with particular aspects of the world around us. Approximately 150 images were displayed, highlighting the photographer’s career alongside an interesting array of cameras and ephemera from his personal studio collection.
Kyffin Williams: Behind the Frame
2018 marks the centenary of the birth of one of the greatest Welsh artists of the 20th century - Sir Kyffin Williams RA. In February, the Library launched an exhibition and also held a whole host of connected events and activities throughout the year. The Library was a hive of activity on the day of the launch with over 300 people visiting the Gregynog Gallery to be amongst the first to view the exhibition.

“I was extremely lucky in getting in touch with the National Library...They have continually supported me. They of course have done a tremendous amount for art in Wales.”

Syr Kyffin Williams RA

Golau Isel, Snowdonia
Syr Kyffin Williams
The Library is home to a significant number of Kyffin Williams’ most prominent paintings. At the beginning of 2018, as we prepared for a busy year celebrating Kyffin’s life, the Framing the Future Campaign was launched, as a way of funding conservation frames for a number of his iconic paintings.

Not only does a frame protect a painting from damage, but it also affects the presentation of the finished work. Selecting the right frame for any work of art is a craft in itself. Kyffin had very specific ideas about how to frame his paintings, and we are confident, thanks to this campaign, that we will honour the artist’s vision.

Already, thanks to generous donations from the public, this key conservation project has financed a new conservation frame for Farmer Amongst the Rocks. With regular support of this kind, we look forward to being able to ensure that Kyffin’s works are cared for and appreciated by future generations.

Lord Elis-Thomas AM, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport, opening the Kyffin Williams: Behind the Frame exhibition
“Sinemaes”

One of the highlights of the year was our programme of Coast and Sea films digitised for the Britain on Film project. These films were shown twice daily in the ‘Sinemaes’ tent at the National Eisteddfod in Anglesey, in partnership with BAFTA Wales, S4C, Ffilm Cymru Wales, and others. This was a 90 minute programme of 24 films and also included clips digitised for the Unlocking Film Heritage project. The films, dating from the 1920s - 1970s, were a reflection of various aspects of coastal life from Prestatyn in the north east, along the coastline down to Ceredigion, around Pembrokeshire and ending in Penarth, showing everything from beach festivals to fishing and shipwrecks, water skiing, coracle racing and island life in the 1940s. Following the Eisteddfod, the Coast and Sea programme was shown at numerous coastal locations, e.g. Holyhead, Barmouth, Aberystwyth and Penarth, with the support of Film Hub Wales.

Wales on TV

As well as digitising television tapes and film cans to provide access to sound and screen archives at the Library and online, we also digitise archive material for television companies in order to produce new programmes to be broadcast nationally. Over 500 clips from the ITV Wales archive were digitised for the Wales on TV series broadcast between the Spring and the Autumn, with each programme watched by approximately 40,000 viewers. The content preserved at the Library reaches a variety of audiences, and hundreds more clips have already been digitised for a second series.

Wales’s Home Movies

During the year, the Library’s staff worked with television producer Dafydd O’Connor and his company Silent Movies, to produce the documentary entitled Wales’s Home Movies for BBC Wales. The programme included key home movies from our collections, as well as interviews with those who had appeared in films recently discovered in all areas of Wales, following a joint campaign. These new clips will be incorporated into the Library’s archive.
Adding to the wealth of our collections

**Brogyntyn Library Catalogue**
Following our success in purchasing a number of interesting items from the auction in March 2017 relating to Glyn Cywarch, the ancient and historical home of Lord Harlech in Meirionnydd, we succeeded in acquiring an item that we had been unable to purchase at the auction itself, which was the Brogyntyn Library catalogue, possibly the earliest complete catalogue from the library to have survived. The catalogue was produced by John Broster of Chester for Margaret Owen, wife of Owen Ormsby, in 1809. Brogyntyn, situated near Oswestry, was also the property of Lord Harlech’s family and there are treasures from this library amongst the Library’s collections.

**John Bowen’s Pedigree**
A roll created at the beginning of the 19th century showing the lineage of the Reverend John Bowen, a Welshman from Bath, was purchased during the year. This roll was presented - rather unusually - at the Eisteddfod in Carmarthen in 1819 for validation, but was based on an earlier pedigree from 1608 by Thomas Jones (Twm Siôn Cati), Fountain Gate near Tregaron.

**Medieval manuscript**
The Library’s Welsh Music Archive received a leaf from an Italian antiphonal of the 15th century as a gift from Eluned Evans, daughter of traditional music experts Meredydd Evans and Phyllis Kinney. We are extremely grateful to her for this most splendid gift.

**Prof Leighton Andrews’ Papers**
With regard to political archives, we received the papers of the former Assembly Member and government minister, Prof Leighton Andrews, including material relating to the *Yes for Wales* movement during the campaign for a Welsh Assembly, correspondence with other well-known individuals in the Labour Party and material relating to the opening of the Senedd building.
Eluned Evans presenting a medieval manuscript to Nia Mai Daniel, National Music Archive Project Manager
Ymadrodd newydd ar glefydau potatws

Ar glefydau POTATWS:

CYRL yn Nalennau POTATWS;

Gida Chlefydau Eraill.

Y Ffrodd i rwystro y Clefydau hyn wedi ei gofod i lawr, a Modd cymmwys wedi ei dorri allan, i ddangos y Ffrodd oreu i drin y GWREIDDIN GWASANAETHGAR hwn;

Gan mwyaf wedi eu castlu yngywd oddiwrth

BROFIADAU.
Frances Stevenson Family Papers
We received an addition to the papers of the Frances Stevenson family which sheds further light on her influence on Lloyd George and her status as a contemporary exemplar for women in work.

Literary archives
During the year, we were very pleased to receive two diverse literary archives: the archive of Nigel Jenkins, the poet, who passed away in 2014, and the Menna Elfyn archive. In addition to his numerous volumes of poetry, Nigel Jenkins was also responsible for *Gwalia in Khasia*, the book relating the history of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists in north-east India. Menna Elfyn has also published numerous volumes of poetry and has drawn international attention to Welsh poetry through her extensive travels abroad.

Early books
A number of early books were added to our collection, including the 1618 edition of *The ground of arts* by Robert Recorde, the Tenby mathematician who invented the = symbol. We also added *Ymadrodd newydd ar glefydau potatws* (A new expression of potato diseases), published in 1784, an item in *Libri Walliae* that we did not have in our collections, and which examines agricultural life in Wales in the 18th century.

Moving images
Amongst the moving image acquisitions which arrived at the Library this year were a collection of materials created by the producer/director Mike Andrews on his visit to Patagonia in the early 1960s, which served as the basis for the BBC programme broadcast in 1963, *Journey to Patagonia*; the home movies of the grandfather of film-maker Gideon Koppel; bird films from Skokholm from The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales; high quality copies of 15 films relating to Wales from Ffilm Cymru Wales and also over 150 film reels from the history societies of Skewen and Port Talbot.

Early maps
Two early maps were purchased this year; a map of Wales, *Cambriae Typus*, and a map of England and Wales, *Angliae Regni*, both by Humphrey Llwyd, 1573, and also four road maps by John Ogilby, from 1675. From Mr Richard Williams, we received the *R H Williams Associates Consulting Structural and Civil Engineers* archives of civil engineering plans and related documents from building sites, mainly in Wales, between around 1970 and around 2010.
Photographs
We received a collection of glass negatives from Pickford Photographic Studio, Aberystwyth as a gift from Mr Peter James Bowling, and we purchased a collection of modern photographs, *Wales At The Water’s Edge* by Jeremy Moore, illustrating the Welsh coast. A sobering photograph by Welsh photographer Abbie Trayler-Smith, *Fleeing Mosul*, was seen in newspapers and online this year. It shows a girl looking out of the window of a bus that is carrying her away from the city’s destruction. A print of this photograph, which won an award in the Taylor-Wessing Photographic Portrait competition, is now at the Library.

Paintings
The Dr H E and Mrs C Roese art collection is an interesting and significant addition of works by modern artists from Wales including Iwan Bala, Mary Lloyd Jones and Ernest Zobole amongst others. Another new painting added to our collections is the oil painting of the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, The Right Honourable Baron Thomas of Cwmgiedd, by David Griffiths.

Legal Deposit
As a legal deposit library, in 2017–18 we received over 37,000 individual books and monographs, and over 41,500 issues of periodicals. With the advent of electronic legal deposit, we have access to hundreds of thousands of e-books and e-journals and garnering the websites of the UK’s web domain reached 70 TB of data in 2017.

A heartfelt thank you
We are very grateful to a whole host of individuals, organisations and establishments who have donated or deposited items at the Library during the year, further enhancing our collections. It is truly astonishing how rare treasures continue to emerge, and long may the generosity of our friends last.
Contributing to the Well-being of Future Generations
Permanent access to the National Assembly for Wales Archive

In April 2017, the National Assembly for Wales Commission and the Library announced a partnership agreement, with the aim of creating an archival strategy to develop a bilingual, cohesive and accessible archive for the Assembly’s records. Over six months, two members of Library staff worked with the Assembly to develop the strategy and prepare guidelines on selecting and preparing records of archival value for permanent preservation.

The first records to be transferred to the Library were the secretariat files of the Second Assembly. Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer of the Assembly, launched the catalogue for the records on the Library’s website in February. Further records, including legislative papers, committee reports, Welsh Government statements and Records of Proceedings which are the equivalent of Hansard, will be transferred in due course.
Hedd Wyn Project

As part of our continuing programme of workshops and educational resources for pupils and students, one of the Library’s priorities during the year was to continue supporting the Welsh Government’s Fusion Programme. An example of this work was a project sponsored by the ScottishPower Foundation to commemorate the centenary of the death of the poet Hedd Wyn.

The project’s aim was to increase awareness of the horrors of the First World War, and the losses suffered by families, villages and towns across the whole of Wales, amongst a young audience. A bilingual colour booklet was produced, illustrating the life of Hedd Wyn, including his talent as a poet, his short career as a soldier and life in Wales during this period. The booklet was distributed free of charge amongst primary schools across Wales and was appreciated by teachers and pupils alike.

A facsimile of Hedd Wyn’s winning ode Yr Arwr which is kept at the Library, was produced and displayed on our stall at the Urdd National Eisteddfod at Bridgend. A full sized replica of the Black Chair, created by the Snowdonia National Park Authority and other partners with the support of the Welsh Government, was also transported to our stall and displayed next to the ode.

A core element of our work commemorating Hedd Wyn was to commission a one man show, Hedd Wyn, by the Mewn Cymeriad company, to educate primary school pupils about the life of the poet from Trawsfynydd, the nightmare of life as a soldier in the trenches, and the intense pressure on young men to enlist. Workshops were delivered to 18 primary schools in Gwynedd at Yr Ysgwrn, the bard’s home, which had recently reopened. It was an opportunity for the pupils to enjoy a performance, see a facsimile of Yr Arwr, learn about the war, the shepherd and the bard, and, of course, see the original Black Chair, and talk to Mr Gerald Williams MBE, Hedd Wyn’s nephew.

The workshops were adapted for delivery in English, and Library staff visited Birkenhead exactly a hundred years after the Black Chair embarked on its journey from Merseyside to Trawsfynydd. The workshop was delivered to pupils at Mersey Park and Woodlands schools in Birkenhead, and during the following week Hedd Wyn workshops were delivered to pupils at Glannau Dyfrdwy, Rhosllanerchrugog, Corwen and Bala schools, following the route travelled by the train carrying the Black Chair to Trawsfynydd.

During the project, over 800 pupils engaged in 26 workshops, and another 1,200 viewed the facsimile of the ode entitled Yr Arwr. To close the project, a dramatised event was held at the Library to commemorate Hedd Wyn and the tens of thousands of Welshmen and women lost during the Great War. On the Thursday evening before Remembrance Sunday, a video containing images of the poet and pupils from Ysgol Bro Hedd Wyn and Mr Gerald Williams MBE, reciting Hedd Wyn’s Rhyfel, were projected on a huge scale on the face of the National Library. Seeing an image of Hedd Wyn projected onto the building was a totally sobering and unforgettable experience for the audience, and served as a significant reminder of the horrors of war and the magnitude of our loss as a nation.

We are grateful to the ScottishPower Foundation for their sponsorship and their support over a number of years, enabling the Library to undertake many important projects.
Trimsaran School take over the Library!

In January, pupils from Year 6 at Trimsaran School took over a variety of activities at the National Library as part of the Kids in Museums Takeover Day. The pupils took over some of the staff’s day to day activities, including lending books to readers in the reading rooms, digitising items from the collections, organising and processing new acquisitions, helping to set up the Kyffin Williams centenary exhibition, and working with security staff. The event was organised in collaboration with the Carmarthenshire Fusion Partnership.
“Yesterday, we all had a very memorable day, which we will treasure. The children and staff talked about the experience all the way home, and into the evening. This is indeed the most valuable visit that we, as staff, can recall. A heartfelt thank you to you and your colleagues for your time and your patience, in preparing the groups for their various duties. We had a whole school assembly this morning, sharing photos and video clips from your website – it is such a pleasure to hear the children talking so enthusiastically about their unique experiences.”

Sharon Owen, Head of Trimsaran and Mynydd y Garreg Schools.
Ensuring Long-Term Access to the National Collections
New online resources

**Places of Wales**
The places.library.wales website was launched, providing access to the work of over 1,350 volunteers on the Cynefin project, a four year project to digitise and transcribe over 1,200 Welsh tithe maps as well as their accompanying apportionment documents.

**Welsh Journals**
In April, the new journals.library.wales website was also launched, containing 1.2 million pages of over 475 titles published between 1735 and 2007.
Leading on an international level and providing the public with digital access to cultural images

Work has continued on digitising the Library’s collections and providing online access. During the year, equipment was upgraded and workstreams reviewed in order to increase our capacity for digitisation, especially print materials, and to streamline shelf to screen processes.

During the year, the Library joined the International Image Interoperability Framework Consortium (IIIF-C), as a founding member. The Library adopted this pioneering standard early on, and now, as a member, we will join a select global group of leading research organisations. This framework has been adopted widely by cultural establishments in order to provide public access to digital images through the ability to share and annotate.

To date, the Library’s new use of the IIIF standard has included the pioneering Welsh Newspapers Online project (newspapers.library.wales) to digitise 1.1 million newspaper pages, and also the Cynefin project, which was the crowd-sourcing and georeferencing project that enabled the public to enhance Welsh tithe maps drawn in the nineteenth century. The Library intends to further develop its new bilingual crowd-sourcing platform based on open standards, including IIIF.

Becoming a founding member of the IIIF-C also supports the Library’ strategic plan and its ambitious vision to double the number of digital items available to the public by 2021.
10,000 new Wikipedia articles produced

355 engaged in the outreach programme

The Library’s digital images viewed 265 million times in Wikipedia articles

The Resident Wikimedian presented his pioneering work in Canada, Italy, Germany, Scotland and Ireland. Although the Wikimedia residency project has officially ended following a very successful two and a half years we are committed to a long term collaboration with Wikimedia, particularly with regard to enhancing the standard and the number of articles on the Welsh language Wikipedia. As a result, the Library created a full-time National Wikimedian post. The New York Public Library is currently the only other establishment in the world to have adopted this forward-thinking approach to digital engagement by supporting the use and development of Wiki platforms and resources.
The National Library Wikimedian led a project entitled Wici Iechyd (Wiki Health), sponsored by the Welsh Government, to improve Welsh medium health related information, specifically on the Welsh language Wicipedia. The Library collaborated with students and staff at Aberystwyth and Cardiff Universities to produce new articles, and with Bangor University’s Centre for Welsh Language Services, Research and Technology to pilot the use of machine translation to produce Welsh medical data. Three public editathons were held at different locations across Wales, and volunteers at the Library translated health-related information from English into Welsh. The Library also had an opportunity to collaborate with the mental health website meddwl.org, the British Lung Foundation and the WJEC in order to ensure access to Welsh medium health-related information of a high standard. All aspects of the project were successful. Over 4,500 new health-related articles were produced, representing an increase of 213%. These new articles have already been viewed over 25,000 times, highlighting the demand for Welsh medium health-related information on Wicipedia.
To commemorate 350 years since the death of Robert Vaughan (1591/2 – 1667), the antiquarian who established the famous Hengwrt library, the Library announced a long-term plan to digitise all the manuscripts from the internationally important Peniarth collection – 560 in all – which includes the Hengwrt manuscripts. Several have already appeared on the Library’s website, but the new scheme will ‘close the gaps’ and digitise the whole collection according to the latest digital standards. The aim will be to launch batches of manuscripts over the next three years, with access available from the Peniarth Collection page on the Library’s website.

Image: *Galfridi Monemutensis Historia Regnum Britannie* (History of British Kings, by Geoffrey of Monmouth), beginning of 13th Century, Peniarth MS 42.
UK Digital Maps

The UK Legal Deposit Libraries, including the National Library of Wales, are responsible for preserving, securing and sharing the UK’s digital cartographic output. Central to this collection is the annual snapshot of digital map data from the Ordnance Survey (Britain) and the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI). This huge map archive, which contains around 4Tb of data, includes digital map data on a large scale from 1998. OSNI archives date from 2004.

During the summer of 2017, staff worked closely with thinkWhere to develop a bilingual interface for the digital legal deposit map portal. This is the first time a bilingual interface such as this has been released to the public domain.

The interface is user friendly and the split screen map function allows users to compare and contrast changes in the landscape in 2 different years.

Due to the requirements of the legal deposit regulations, this material can only be accessed in our reading rooms. This is another example of the wealth of knowledge available to those who visit the National Library in Aberystwyth or visit our access point at Cardiff University.
Being Central to National Cultural Life
Celebrating the life and works of William Williams, Pantycelyn

The Library was privileged to hold a special event at the Senedd in October to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of Wales’ greatest hymn writer and one of her greatest bards and literary figures, William Williams Pantycelyn. It was wonderful to see descendants of the hymn writer’s family and the First Minister present for the event, which was sponsored by the Presiding Officer of the National Assembly for Wales, Elin Jones AM. Côr y Gen, the National Library’s staff choir, performed several musical arrangements of Pantycelyn’s well-known hymns. A new painting of William Williams by Penarth artist, Ivor Davies, was unveiled. The Library was proud to collaborate with the Senedd to recognise William Williams Pantycelyn’s contribution to the life of the nation. This great gentleman was one of the leaders of the Evangelical Revival in the eighteenth century but he was also a poet, a hymn writer and a literary figure second to none, who deserves national recognition. To recognise the national importance of his work, the Library provided online access to nearly 90 books and pamphlets during the year.
Ukrainian Embassy Visit

In November, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Andriy Marchenko, Deputy Ambassador of the Ukrainian Embassy to the Library, to view an important collection of Gareth Jones’ papers. Gareth was an investigative journalist with the Western Mail who highlighted the plight and suffering of the people of the Ukraine during the Great Famine or ‘Holodomor’ in 1932-33 which was responsible for the deaths of between 7 and 10 million people. He was one of the first journalists to uncover Stalin’s policy of causing intentional famine, and he is still considered a hero in the Ukraine. Today, 17 countries, including Canada and the United States, have recognised the Holodomor in the Ukraine as genocide. Gareth Jones was killed by militants on the evening before his 30th birthday, whilst reporting on Japan’s occupation of Inner Mongolia in 1935. During his address on the day of his visit to Aberystwyth, the Deputy Ambassador stated that it was very important to ensure that the millions of victims of the Holodomor and the brave young man, Gareth Jones are remembered and to tell the whole world their story, which is one of the most tragic chapters in the history of the twentieth century. It was a privilege to remember Gareth Jones, the Welshman who sacrificed his young life opening up the eyes of the world to Stalin’s atrocities.

Also present with the delegation from the Embassy was Gareth Jones’s great nephew, Nigel Colley, a much respected friend of the Library. It is with great sadness that we note Nigel’s passing, very soon after his visit.
Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

On St David’s Day, we were pleased to support Wales’ first Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast and to share a few items from our collections with the attendees. The items represented some significant chapters in our nation’s rich history which were of particular interest in recording our country’s Christian heritage. Amongst the treasures on display were the Bibles belonging to Mary Jones and Evan Roberts the Revivalist, as well as the Bible buried in sand for twenty years which was found after reinstating the mission to Madagascar in 1862. During the event, Dr Maredudd ap Huw gave an excellent presentation outlining the history of the items. We would like to record our thanks to Mr Darren Millar AM and other National Assembly members for the opportunity to contribute to a very successful event.

Image: The Malagasy Bible which was buried in sand for twenty years.
In November, this year’s annual Welsh Political Archive lecture was delivered by Professor Dame Teresa Rees, a prominent social scientist and Professor Emeritus at Cardiff University. The Professor is a global authority on gender equality in education as well as on education, training and policies in the labour market. The focus of her lecture was unknowing prejudice against women, something which is found so often in a variety of circles. The audience was inspired by the Professor’s grasp of her subject and her incisive approach. This was certainly one of the highlights of the Drwm’s activities, in what was a year of exceptional lectures and presentations.
Ensuring Resilience for the Long-Term
The President’s China Visit

As part of a Welsh Government trade and culture mission, our President, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, visited Shanghai and Hong Kong as the year drew to a close. During the visit, the relationship between the Library and Shanghai Library was reinforced, and it was agreed that the Library would join Shanghai Library’s International Programme, Window on Shanghai.

We also took the opportunity to present an elegantly bound copy of the Hawkes Collection catalogue to the Director of the Shanghai Library, Mr Chen Chao. The Library has been collaborating with the Confucius Institute in Wales to provide students and researchers with opportunities to access material from the Hawkes Collection. The Library was fortunate to receive the Hawkes Collection in 1983, when Professor David Hawkes, a distinguished scholar from Oxford University, bequeathed the whole of his library of 4,500 books to the Library. The collection is recognised as containing very significant items which are now rare in Chinese library collections. We intend to produce a bilingual online catalogue for this Collection and to digitise the most significant items to ensure their wider use. The Library looks forward to collaborating with our partners in China to realise this ambition.

Mr Chen Chao, Director of Shanghai Library with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport, Ken Skates AM and the National Library of Wales President, Rhodri Glyn Thomas.
Building the Future: The Collections Fund

During the year, we established our new Collections Fund inviting regular contributions to enable us to purchase items of great significance to the nation for our collections. This will ensure that we can purchase and preserve significant items which appear at short notice on the market. We hope that it will grow to be a valuable resource thanks to the kindness of the Library’s generous supporters. We are very grateful to those individuals who already contribute regularly to the Fund.
Developing the Workforce

Although the Library has seen a substantial reduction in its workforce over the past few years, it has a committed and talented workforce, and a substantial number of staff with a wealth of unique skills and competencies. We recognise the need to secure these specialist skills for the future, by investing in our workforce and thereby ensuring the continuing availability of such skills. For this purpose, with the cooperation of staff and the Trade Unions, we embarked on a skills audit and a future workforce planning exercise.

This will culminate in a Workforce Development Plan being agreed during 2018. This year has also seen excellent collaboration between ourselves and other national cultural institutions including activities carried out by the Historic Wales Partnership which includes Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), Cadw and representatives of Trades Unions. We also welcome the excellent working relationship which has developed with RCAHMW, located at the Library’s site.

It is a pleasure to report that 20 members of staff have joined a ‘Welsh at Work’ pilot scheme under the National Centre for Learning Welsh, which entails providing staff with half a day a week to learn and practice their Welsh. Five members of staff also attended Welsh at Work intensive courses at the Centre in Nant Gwrtheyrn, Cardigan Castle and the Old Library, Cardiff.
The Library takes its sustainability responsibilities very seriously and has committed to reducing its carbon footprint, and to conserving the environment for the future in a variety of ways. Installing new security and emergency lighting outside the building has halved the energy use which is now down to 10% during the night. Motion sensor lighting has been installed in parts of the building and the range of renewable materials used at Cafe Pendinas has been extended, as part of our efforts to reduce our harmful impact on the environment. In March, WWF Earth Hour was supported by switching off the Library’s lights in a global and visual display of commitment to tackle environmental issues which need urgent attention and to conserve our planet.

The Library has also pledged a #PromiseForThePlanet to ensure that sustainability is embedded in our planning processes, and to encourage staff to make their own pledges to change one thing in their everyday lives that will help conserve our planet.
Our Sincere Thanks

We wish to thank the Welsh Government and everyone who has supported us financially and given their time and their skills to volunteer with us during 2017-18. Such generosity ensures that the National Library of Wales continues to grow and to achieve its potential as a major national cultural institution in Wales. Now, more than ever, we need to identify and establish new and sustainable long term funding sources, in order to ensure that we contribute effectively to the life of the nation in future years. The Library was originally established not only by the far-reaching vision of pioneering individuals, but also by the financial donations of the people of our country, and we continue to benefit from the kindness of our faithful supporters. Together, we can continue this tradition, and ensure that the home of the nation’s memory is secured for the future.

We would also like to thank the National Assembly for Wales and a very large number of its members who have supported the Library’s work in various ways during the year, and the European Union for its support towards the Library’s digital activities.

We extend our special thanks to those individuals who have contributed generously during the year to the following campaigns and schemes:

- **Chapters Patron Scheme**
- **Framing the Future Campaign**
- **The Collections Fund**
- **Corporate Members**
  Castell Howell Foods Ltd
- **The Friends of the National Library**
  The Chair, the Reverend Canon Enid Morgan, and her fellow members.

**Legacies**
Jane Butler
Harold Evans
Edward Ronald Morris
Arglwydd Gwilym Prys-Davies

**Trusts and Organisations**
Heritage Lottery Fund
The Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion
Friends of the National Libraries
Colwinston Trust
ScottishPower Foundation

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