ANNUAL REVIEW
2018 – 2019
FOREWORD
Welcome to our review of another extremely busy and successful year at The National Library of Wales where we have welcomed old friends and made new exciting partnerships.

A major highlight was the centenary of the acquisition of the Mostyn Collection, which was celebrated with a fascinating exhibition and a series of well attended events and lectures. We were delighted that the remarkable eyewitness account of Tudor events, the Chronicle of Elis Gruffudd written around 1550, was inscribed within the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register, which recognises documentary heritage of global significance, at a ceremony in London.

The Year of the Sea was marked with popular events and exhibitions which included a family fun day with the RNLI to highlight the Jack Lowe Lifeboat Station Project. This innovative project is using Victorian photography techniques and cameras to record contemporary lifeboat crews and their lifeboat stations. Wales’ relationship with the sea also formed the theme of a collaborative touring exhibition Tra Môr Yn Fur: Cymru a’r Môr / Wales and the Sea and the annual Carto-Cymru Conference on mapping organised with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Manuscripts. In January, the Library celebrated our partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council when the Riverside Library Gallery was opened which enables people in Pembrokeshire and South West Wales to see items from the national collections in a purpose built state-of-the-art gallery in Haverfordwest.

Our strategy to establish a digital National Library made important moved forward with the submission of our collaborative proposal to establish the UK’s first National Broadcast Archive to the Heritage Lottery Fund for second round funding approval. The Library’s pioneering work in developing international standards for sharing digital images was acknowledged at an international conference in Washington D.C. and I had the honour of presenting a paper on digital developments at the prestigious 9th Shanghai International Library Forum hosted by Shanghai Library.

The success and future development of the Library is dependent on support from our hard working staff, the Board of Trustees, Welsh Government, our users, the Friends of the Library, our loyal volunteers and all our friends and partners, especially within the Historic Wales Strategic Partnership. We once again acknowledge our sincere thanks to everyone who has ensured that the National Library continues to serve the people of Wales and beyond through challenging times guided by our founding values and purpose. As we say goodbye to Linda Tomos and wish her well in her retirement, we also offer a warm welcome to Pedr ap Llwyd to lead the Library forward as the next Chief Executive and National Librarian.

We hope that you enjoy reading about our year and that it encourages you to learn more about our work.

President
BEING EXCELLENT CUSTODIANS OF OUR COLLECTIONS
Between June and December, the Library celebrated the centenary of the acquisition of the Mostyn family manuscripts, generously purchased for the Library by Mr A. Cecil Wright in 1918. The centenary was marked by an exhibition of important items from the collection, which included later purchases by the Library and also items still owned by the Mostyn family. Loaned items from Mostyn Hall included the original commission of 1567, granted under the authority of Queen Elizabeth I, instructing William Mostyn to organise an eisteddfod at Caerwys, and the magnificent silver harp - the earliest surviving eisteddfod award. We are very grateful to Lord Mostyn for providing the items on loan and for opening the exhibition with Lord Elis Thomas, Deputy Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport. This was a rare opportunity to view treasures from one of the finest private collections ever formed in Wales.

The exhibition also showcased the work of watercolour artist and engraver Moses Griffith who accompanied Thomas Pennant as an illustrator during his numerous tours of Wales and Scotland, and who lived at Gwibnant near Mostyn.

The Mostyn Season was a collaboration between the Library and Bangor University’s Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates, whose director, Dr Shaun Evans, is a native of Tre-Mostyn, and a specialist on the history of the estate.

The Chronicle of Elis Gruffudd has been added to the prestigious UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register which recognises documentary heritage of global significance. The Chronicle was compiled between 1550 and 1552 by a Welsh soldier and administrator serving in the English garrison at Calais. It includes the history of the world from the Creation to his own time, and is the last great Welsh chronicle, combining history, a unique body of traditional Welsh legendary matter, and fascinating testimony of Tudor times. Elis was an eye witness at the stupendous tournament held at The Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520 between Henry VIII and Francis I of France and he shares court gossip about Henry’s ill-fated relationship with Anne Boleyn. The Chronicle joins five other items held by the Library which have been inscribed on the Register.
In April, over 500 visitors came to the Library as part of a Lifeboat Fun Day organised with the RNLI to celebrate the Jack Lowe Lifeboat Station Project, and to mark the Welsh Government’s Year of the Sea. Visitors enjoyed a range of experiences which included an opportunity to visit a fascinating exhibition of Jack Lowe’s photographs. Jack brought along his mobile darkroom, a decommissioned NHS ambulance, and used this to demonstrate a Victorian process to produce photographs on glass, reflecting the earlier tradition of photographing lifeboat crews. There were craft sessions, a performance of the Cantre’r Gwaelod legend, an opportunity to see a real lifeboat, a treasure hunt, face painting and a ‘welly wanging’ competition!
In January, a fascinating exhibition in association with an Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project, celebrated the life and work of Humphrey Llwyd (1527-1568). Inventor of Britain: The Life and Legacy of Humphrey Llwyd showcased some of his most significant work. Humphrey Llwyd, an antiquary and mapmaker born in Denbigh, is thought of by many as the "Inventor of Britain", having been credited with inventing the term British Empire, but he was also the man who put Wales on the map by producing the first published map of Wales as a country.

As a leading scholar of the Renaissance period, he produced a number of significant works including an English translation of the early Welsh Chronicle, Brut y Tywysogion. He was also instrumental in helping to steer the Bill for the translation of the Bible into Welsh through Parliament and popularising the story of Prince Madoc’s discovery of America.
The very popular annual Carto-Cymru: Wales Map Symposium was held in May. The symposium, which is jointly organised with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, explored topics under the theme of Charting the Sea and included the Cherish Project mapping the effect of climate change in the Irish sea, 19th century marine mapping, Welsh literature and marine geography, and the Library’s marine chart collection.

The Tra Môr Yn Fur: Wales and the Sea exhibition provided an opportunity to interpret Wales’ relationship with the sea and how it has shaped our history. The touring exhibition and programme of lectures was developed in partnership with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea.
ENABLING ACCESS AND ENGAGEMENT
A new website with improved search facilities and content was launched by Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer of the National Assembly for Wales and Ceredigion Assembly Member in November. The Dictionary of Welsh Biography includes authoritative articles on about 5,000 Welsh people who have made an important contribution to national life in Wales or beyond, including adventurers, scientists, politicians, campaigners, authors and artists. The website has been developed in partnership with the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, and with support from the Library’s Board of Trustees, the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion and the Colwinston Trust.

In September, our volunteers celebrated the completion of the first Library crowdsourcing project. Over 200 online volunteers supported the Library to unlock a hidden history of the Great War by transcribing and indexing the Cardiganshire First World War Tribunal (Appeals) Records. These tribunals dealt with appeals post-1916 against conscription on personal, economic, moral or religious grounds. In 1921, the Government ordered that all tribunal records should be destroyed, however, Cardiganshire County records survived. The archive is a unique one in Wales, and one of only three which survive across the UK.
During the year, the Library acquired through donation and purchase several notable items and collections including:-

• the Urdd Gobaith Cymru Archive
• the papers of novelist and dramatist, Eigra Lewis Roberts
• the donation of 24 letters from poet and artist David Jones to Louis Bonnerot 1960-1974
• a substantial addition to the Gwasg Gregynog archive including papers relating to the management of the press
• the papers of Peter Thomas, former Secretary of State for Wales
• the diary of the important Victorian photographer, John Thomas
• the archive of Coleg Harlech, Wales’ only adult residential college established in 1927
• six items relating to the First World War poet Edward Thomas including drafts of his poems *The Mountain Chapel*, *The Birds’ Nests* and *House and Man*, purchased with generous support from the Friends of the National Libraries
The Library continues to place the wellbeing of future generations at the heart of its activities, and by continuing its extensive digitisation programme, it will ensure that even more of the collections will be available for generations to come. The Library works with schools throughout Wales and provides digital educational and curriculum resources for the Hwb platform, and aims to increase this output by 10% by the end of 2019.

The Library believes that delivering equal opportunities for all is key to our sustainability, and by establishing a presence in Pembrokeshire with the opening of Riverside Library Gallery, Haverfordwest, and continuing to provide access to electronic legal deposit material at Cardiff University, we ensure that we reach larger and more diverse audiences.

Our award winning Volunteer Scheme has gone from strength to strength this year, and has benefited many of our volunteers, who have been able to secure paid employment as a result of their interaction with the Library and its staff.
In November, pupils from Ysgol Brynsierfel in Llwynhendy near Llanelli came to the Library as part of the Kids in Museums Takeover Day. This event was organised in partnership with the Carmarthenshire Fusion Programme Network. The activities for children included spending time in the reading rooms, digitising items, serving in the shop and helping out in reception, conservation work, working with IT, processing new items, security, and preparing items for display in exhibitions. This very popular annual event is hugely enjoyed by both pupils and Library staff and provides many positive outcomes for the kids, the schools and the Library.
In April, the Library delivered a Class Art project in partnership with the Gwynedd Fusion Programme Network. This project was part of a programme to commemorate and celebrate the centenary of the birth of the Ynys Môn artist, Sir Kyffin Williams. A total of ten of his original works were taken to two schools in Penygroes, and artists were commissioned to lead workshops based on his art and style. Catrin Williams led a workshop on Kyffin landscapes with Year 4 pupils in Ysgol Gynradd Bro Lleu, and Eleri Jones led sessions on his portraits with A level art students at Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle. Pupils from both schools were then invited to the Library to visit the *Kyffin Williams: Behind the frame* exhibition in Oriel Gregynog.
URDD EISTEDDFOD
The main theme of our unit at the 2018 Urdd Eisteddfod in Llanelwedd was the life and work of Sir Kyffin Williams, and over 1,200 people visited the stand during the week. Young visitors had an opportunity to help reproduce a number of iconic Kyffin landscapes using acrylic paint on canvas. A bilingual booklet about the life and work of Sir Kyffin Williams was distributed free of charge to children visiting the stand.

The artist Catrin Williams also delivered a workshop and during the day 62 children learnt how to sketch in his style of painting, and took part in producing a sketchbook. Activities at the Eisteddfod were part of a series of workshops delivered by the Library’s Education Service where nearly 900 children had an opportunity to learn more about the artist, many from schools in deprived areas of Wales.
ENSURING LONG-TERM ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL COLLECTIONS
The Library secured a grant from the Wellcome Trust for the ‘Medicine and Health in Wales before the NHS’ project. The project involves cataloguing over 4,000 items in the printed books collection, and those items published prior to 1900 will be digitised. The full collection of printed minutes and annual reports from the King Edward VII National Memorial Association, a precursor to the NHS which established an all-Wales free healthcare network to treat tuberculosis, will also be digitised. We hope that this project will shed light on a time when access to health care was very limited, and highlight the rich collections we hold.

The Library’s new crowdsourcing platform featured at the international IIIF conference in May. Over 250 librarians, archivists, IT specialists and academics from organisations around the world gathered together at the Library of Congress, Washington DC to present papers on how the IIIF (International Image Interoperability Framework) enables organisations to share digital images openly. As well as a presentation from the National Library on its crowdsourcing platform, the pioneering work the Library has undertaken with its newspaper digitisation was also widely admired.
Nearly 5,000 portraits from the Library’s collections have been imported onto Wikimedia Commons with the aim of increasing awareness of their creators and subjects, and encouraging further usage. By sharing the portraits in this way, they can be used to illustrate Wikipedia articles in any language, and thereby introducing them to new audiences on a web platform which has become one of the most popular in the world. The sharing of these portraits will encourage a wider audience to critically analyse the works, provide cross references and to re-purpose them in new ways.

A new weekly blog series began on the Library’s website in June. The series is based on the Library’s contribution to The Rise of Literacy project for the European digital platform Europeana, working with 12 other partner institutions across Europe to explore the history of reading and writing in Europe. The project will enable users to access a wide range of material, much of which is being showcased on a digital platform for the first time. From manuscripts to newspapers, dictionaries to cook-books, and children’s literature to ballads; they all have something to offer when tracking the history of literacy. From the iconic to the unexpected, the works collectively give a multi-layered summary of the evolution of reading and writing in Wales and beyond, from the mid-thirteenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century.
In July, the Library hosted the international *Celtic Knot 2018 Conference* which aimed to bring together people working to support language communities. The conference was organised and managed by Jason Evans, National Library Wikimedian, following the success of the first *Celtic Knot Wikipedia* language conference last year in Edinburgh. There were many valuable and inspiring discussions about Wikipedia’s place in education, in libraries and in the community. A range of approaches to growing Wikipedia were highlighted and a number of technical workshops helped people learn more about the infrastructure of Wikipedia and how Wikidata can be used to improve content such as infoboxes. Throughout the conference the value of improving small or minority language Wikipedia was clearly evident.

We are extremely grateful to Baroness Eluned Morgan, AM, Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language, for opening the conference and for her support of the Library’s work.

Over 5000 individual volumes have been scanned, many containing handwritten notes and annotations. This resource will not only give an insight into Gladstone’s thoughts and opinions, but also provide scholars with an invaluable source for further study of the Victorian era.
BEING CENTRAL TO NATIONAL CULTURAL LIFE
The Library’s President and Dr Doug Jones, Printed Collections Project Manager attended the Shanghai International Library Forum organised by Shanghai Library, one of the world’s largest libraries. The President had been invited to present a paper on the National Library’s digital developments as part of the growing partnership which has developed between Shanghai Library and the National Library of Wales. Both libraries have agreed to jointly work on highlighting the National Library’s important Chinese collection, collected by Prof David Hawkes in the 20th century.

In November, we were delighted to welcome the distinguished historian and long time friend of the Library, the Rev Dr D. Ben Rees, to deliver the annual Welsh Political Archive Lecture on the role Aneurin Bevan played in establishing the National Health Service. The lecture marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the NHS and is available to read in Welsh on the Library’s website.
Significant steps were taken in realising our ambition to establish the UK’s first National Broadcast Archive during the year. Thanks to the Welsh Government and our partners, the Library was able to submit its application for second round funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund during March.
Exhibitions of the contents of some of the Library’s collections can now be seen in a new gallery in Haverfordwest as part of an exciting new partnership between the Library and Pembrokeshire County Council. The gallery is part of The Riverside Cultural Centre which includes a café, an advice hub, a public library and tourist information centre. The Library has a programme of thematic six month exhibitions, and a permanent exhibition on the history, culture and legends of Pembrokeshire at the gallery.

The first thematic exhibition, Kyffin: Land and Sea was opened by Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM, Deputy Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport in January. The Library is also delivering a programme of events and a series of education workshops in The Riverside Library Gallery to accompany the exhibitions.
In December 2018, the Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Pedr ap Llwyd as Chief Executive and National Librarian to follow the retirement of Linda Tomos in April 2019. At the time of his appointment Pedr was the Deputy National Librarian and Director of Collections and Public Services at the Library. During his time at the Library, Pedr has also served the organisation as its Secretary and Head of Governance.

The Library took part in Wales Week in London in March showcasing exclusive products based on Sir Kyffin Williams’ works at the Welsh Emporium event in collaboration with the Welsh Books Council. Sponsored by Lord Aberdare, a Library Trustee, a reception in the House of Lords to highlight the Library’s work, particularly the Welsh Political Archive, attracted many contemporary politicians and representatives of the Welsh diaspora in London. We were grateful to the Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP, Secretary of State for Wales for supporting the event and also welcomed Lord Elis-Thomas AM, Deputy Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport, Welsh Government, which sponsors the Library.
The Library’s annual Christmas celebration is now eagerly looked forward to by both staff and visitors. This year, as usual, we were supported by the Library’s staff and volunteers who arranged seasonal Welsh food and drink, a visit by Father Christmas and music from a ukulele band. Local craft companies provided creative ideas for Christmas presents and we are very grateful to everyone for once again contributing to a very successful event.
In January the Library was proud to sign up to the Trades Union Congress’ *Dying to Work Charter*. It shows that we are committed to treating our staff with the dignity and respect they deserve should they be diagnosed with a terminal illness. The Library has always supported its staff in the best possible way, and by signing this Charter it strengthens that commitment even more.

The completion of the *People Plan* and *Workforce Development Strategy* were important milestones in achieving our objectives as outlined in our Strategic Plan 2017-21. The success of the Library is intrinsically linked to the support provided to our staff to develop and grow in the workplace. Working closely with the staff and unions, a draft succession plan was developed during the year. However, the Historic Wales Strategic Partnership group later concluded that a sector wide plan was needed and that its development should be prioritised in its skills sub-group operational plan.
The Library was pleased to receive the Valuable Partner Bronze Award with Careers Wales for our work in providing work experience opportunities for secondary school pupils.

The Library is also the lead partner for the Cultural Ambition Project for Creative Skills in Ceredigion. This project provides students with work experience in the cultural sector while they work towards an NVQ Level 2 in Cultural Heritage with Cardiff and Vale College. Tomos James, the Library’s first student under the project, was shortlisted as a runner up in the Cultural Ambition Special Recognition Award.

One donor who deserves particular mention this year is Murray Chapman, whose kind generosity has enabled the Library to conserve some of the Montgomeryshire Court of Great Sessions “Prothonotary Papers” that are housed at the Library.

Mr. Chapman, has a particular interest in files dating from the 1620s containing information on a raid by supporters of the Herberts of Powis Castle on Llwydiarth, the residency of the Vaughan family. The papers were in a poor, degraded and soiled condition that made it almost impossible to access their content. In order to access all the information, remedial conservation treatment of these documents was undertaken by Dilwyn Williams, one of the Library’s most experienced senior archive conservators.

Murray Chapman has given a further generous donation to the Library which will enable us to carry out further conservation work on the Great Sessions documents.
As part of its ongoing programme to promote sustainability the Library has introduced e-bike charging points, the only place in Aberystwyth to have such a facility, and is further considering electric charging points for cars.

The percentage of total waste reused, recycled or composted by the Library in 2018/19 was 75.8% compared to 32.5% in 2017/18 while the amount sent to landfill reduced by 58.4% in 2018/19. The Library has also decreased its water, electricity and gas consumption from the previous year.

A large scale Capital Building Programme will see major maintenance and renovation work being undertaken on the main building to make it more sustainable and to ensure its safety for future generations.
We wish to thank the Welsh Government and all those who have supported us financially and given their time and skills voluntarily during 2018-19. Such generous support ensures that the National Library of Wales continues to grow and achieve its potential as a major cultural institution in Wales. Increasingly, we need to identify sustainable long-term funding sources, in order to ensure that the Library remains relevant to the life of the nation and to ensure that important information is available to future generations.

The Library was founded by the financial donations of the people of Wales and we continue to benefit from the generosity of our dedicated and faithful supporters. Together, we continue this tradition and ensure that the nation’s memory is secured for the future.

We would also like to thank the National Assembly for Wales and 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:

- Framing the Future Campaign and 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

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Trusts and Organisations
- Friends of the National Libraries
- Aurelius Charitable Trust
- Wellcome Trust