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Newsletter April – June 2019
Travelling the world to collect and share information

A number of staff from the Systems and Standards Unit have been on tour in recent months. At the end of May Siân Thomas and Vicky Phillips attended the ‘Fedora Camp’ course held at Emory University, Atlanta.

Representatives from a number of organisations around the world came together to learn more about Fedora, the digital repository platform which is used here at the Library. The aim of the team in attending this year’s event was not only to expand our existing knowledge of the system, but also to learn as much as possible about the most recent versions of the software in preparation of upgrading our current repository.

For the same purpose, Ioan Isaac-Richards was in Hamburg at the beginning of June to attend the Open Repositories conference. This is the largest conference for digital repositories in the world, and we have been able to gather much useful information and make new contacts that will feed into the upgrade and migration process during the operational year.

AHRC Project - Networking Research Scheme

Siôn England attended a meeting of the above project in London, where the UK’s national libraries are collaborating with Glasgow University and the HathiTrust in the USA to identify overlaps between collections/items of heritage collections that have been digitised, and to consider options for creating one data set for all digitised collections across the world. Our data have been sent to the HathiTrust who are currently reviewing the initial reports.
Updating data

Systems Unit staff have also been working on amending data in our catalogue, firstly the records for electronic Legal Deposit monographs, and secondly our archival records from the AtoM system. In the case of AtoM, this is the first update since going live with the AtoM system in 2015, but after overcoming a number of technical barriers, the update will take place much more consistently from now on.

LDIG meeting in NLW

A successful meeting of the Legal Deposit Implementation Group (LDIG) of the legal deposit libraries took place in the Library’s Council Chamber on 24 May. There were useful discussions on the future of non-print legal deposit with a particular focus on likely changes to the ways in which the libraries store and give access to the huge non-print legal deposit that we now have. Although we are in the early stages of agreeing these changes, it is likely that they will be significant to us and to all other legal deposit libraries. The guests were of the opinion that the Council Chamber of the National Library of Wales was one of the best places they had met as a group.
Visitor from Hong Kong

On 9 May, a former deputy librarian of the University of Hong Kong visited the Library. Dr Y. C. Wan studied for his doctorate in librarianship in Aberystwyth University. The visit was an opportunity to show him some of the Library’s treasures and some collections relating to Chinese culture, such as the Hawkes Chinese books collection. Dr Wan was very interested in many aspects of our work here, particularly developments in the area of non-print legal deposit.

UK Serials Group meeting

Robert Lacey, Head of Collections Development, attended the conference and exhibition of the UK Serials Group in Telford, 8-10 April. Despite its name, this large group meeting (over 900 attendees) is involved in all sorts of library developments, most of which relate to e-resources and relevant technology, and attracts a large number of suppliers and a substantial number of librarians from outside the United Kingdom, from the continent and some from the United States.

Training on the Document Harvester

On 21 May Jennie Grimshaw, an official publications librarian at the British Library visited NLW to deliver her long-awaited training on the ‘Document Harvester’. This software is intended to facilitate access to documents collected by archiving the web. This archiving
work creates huge collections that are sometimes difficult to handle. The harvester draws attention to specific documents and helps to create metadata for them, which should enable the user to find them more easily.

**Trysorau’r Teulu**

Timothy Cutts, our rare books librarian, gave an interview for an edition of the ‘Trysorau’r Teulu’ series, which was broadcast on S4C on Wednesday 20 June. A Latin book of Catholic doctrine printed in Antwerp in 1786 was discussed.

**New accessions**

New accessions to the Library include: *A narrative of the death of Captain James Cook* (1786) by David Samwell, a rare publication on the death of Captain Cook; a series of six Valentine cards sent by John Owen (d. 1889), Nantynod, Cwm Ceulan, near Tal-y-bont, Ceredigion, to Eleanor Pritchard (1845-1923), Carregcadwgan, Tal-y-bont, Ceredigion and 'Mabon' (1997) by Ivor Davies.

The Library has purchased over 3,500 cartoons from the cartoonist Mumph (Mal Humphreys). Most of the cartoons are political in nature and record the beginning of devolution in Wales. The collection includes the weekly cartoon strips *Just William* (recording William Hague’s tenure as Secretary of State for Wales), *The One Ronnie* (Ron Davies), *St Michael* (Alun Michael) and *Captain Morgan and his Political Organ* (Rhodri Morgan) for the Western Mail, and cartoons created for the Welsh Political Awards. Mumph’s cartoons for children, and related to sports, business and farming were also purchased.

As well as buying the original cartoons, the Library has also purchased the copyright so that the cartoons can be digitised and material produced for sale.

One of the Mumph cartoons
National Assembly for Wales Legislation

The Library recently received the additional Acts of the National Assembly for Wales from 2017 and 2018 to add to the collection of Welsh legislation already held. Since the National Assembly for Wales has been granted primary legislative powers following the passing of the Government of Wales Act 2006, the National Library of Wales has been home to the legislation; Measures of National Assembly for Wales, and since 2011, Acts of the National Assembly for Wales. Recent Acts received included the Land Transaction Tax and Anti-avoidance of Devolved Taxes (Wales) Act 2017 and the Regulation of Registered Social Landlords (Wales) Act 2018. These are the certified versions of the laws themselves, signed by the Clerk of the Assembly and with letters patent, indicating Royal Assent. Although this is a distinct collection of legislation, it sits well with the National Assembly for Wales Archive in the Library.

One of the Letters patent

Carto-Cymru 2019: Humphrey Llwyd: Inventor of Britain

The fourth annual Carto-Cymru symposium was held in May. The theme was Humphrey Llwyd: Inventor of Britain to tie in with the Library’s current exhibition in Hengwrt: Inventor of Britain: the life and legacy of Humphrey Llwyd. Both the exhibition and this year’s Carto-Cymru are being held in association with the AHRC funded project of the same name.

The three speakers provided a fascinating insight into Humphrey Llwyd and his maps, ranging from geo-referencing, his links with Abraham Ortelius and his use of place-names. In the afternoon, there were a series of tours of the exhibition, followed by a talk in the Commission’s reading room by Richard Suggett on the Denbigh of Humphrey Llwyd.
The day was a great success with over 70 attendees and hundreds more watching the event online through Periscope:

https://www.pscp.tv/w/1YqGojXXbXyKv?t=44
https://www.pscp.tv/w/1MYxNdEEpywGw?t=4
https://www.pscp.tv/w/1YqxojXXDPZjv?t=2
https://www.pscp.tv/w/1kvJpOVqAbkGE

Speakers and presenters: Pedr ap Llwyd, Professor Keith Lilley, Huw Thomas, Joust Depuydt, Richard Suggett, Dr James January McCann and Sally McInnes

**Merioneth Historical and Record Society visit**

On 1 June, the Library welcomed a visit from the Merioneth Historical and Record Society. Hilary Peters, Assistant Archivist, delivered a lecture about the links between the Broglyntyn Estate and the county of Merioneth. The lecture was accompanied by an exhibition in the Summers Room, which provided an opportunity for the members of the society to inspect the items that Hilary had referred to in her lecture.
Visit by UK National Commission for UNESCO representatives

James Bridge, Chief Executive, UK National Commission for UNESCO and Colin McInnes, Chair, UK National Commission for UNESCO visited the Library on 5 June to discuss such issues as the year of indigenous languages, the Dyfi Biosphere project and the National Broadcast Archive. Following the discussion, they were given fascinating presentations by Huw Thomas, Map Curator, Mary Moylett, Cataloguer and Maredudd ap Huw, Manuscripts Librarian, concerning the items that have been inscribed on the UK Memory of the World Register.
Celebrating the birth of Mansel Thomas

Mansel Thomas, one of Wales’s consummate composers and musicians was born on 12 June 1909 in the Rhondda. He worked for the BBC for thirty years with the recently-formed BBC Welsh Orchestra and as the Head of Music for BBC Wales. This special occasion was celebrated with a multi-media lecture given by Terence Gilmore-James, his son in law, and an accompanying exhibition in the Summers room featuring items from the collection held at the Library.

Promotion and Marketing

Between April and June 2019 a total of 19 events were delivered to 1,250 people as part of the Library's official events programme. These included lectures, conferences and guided tours, activities at The Riverside Library in Haverfordwest, and activities for families, children and young people. One of the highlights of this quarter was the Carto-Cymru Symposium, which looked at the work and influence of the father of Welsh cartography, Humphrey Llwyd. Another highlight was illuminating the Library orange to celebrate Sali Mali's 50th birthday, an occasion which some of Sali Mali's most ardent fans celebrated with her!
The Promotion and Marketing Unit has been developing a new look and feel for our print publications while working on an events programme for the period July to December 2019. The new programme will be published shortly. There has been a significant increase in the number of people subscribing to our electronic newsletters as we establish a new format and timetable for these.

The unit has also played a central role in organising or co-ordinating work for two major launches during this quarter, the launch of the Treasures exhibition in Haverfordwest, and the event announcing sponsorship for the National Broadcast Archive.

Exhibitions and Loans

In April, we launched Collecting Contemporary in the Library’s Upper Central Hall. This exhibition celebrates new accessions to our contemporary Welsh art collection and includes a wide range of work by Welsh artists of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

At the end of June Record: Folk, Protest and Pop was launched in the Gregynog Annexe, an exhibition highlighting elements of Welsh music throughout the ages.

The Library continues to work in partnership with galleries across Wales to promote its collections. During the quarter it has lent more than 40 items for the Wales and the Modern
Movements Revisited School of Art Exhibition in Aberystwyth, and the Arts Centre's Welsh Illustrators exhibition, as well as other loans that are part of the loan programme.

The Riverside Library Gallery

In early June 2019, Treasures was launched at The Riverside Library Gallery, Haverfordwest. This exhibition contains many iconic items from The National Library’s collections, which have shaped the story of Wales. As part of the exhibition four unique items will be shown one at a time for about 6 weeks each, namely the Black Book of Carmarthen, Yny Lhyvyr Hwnn, the Laws of Hywel Dda (Peniarth 28), and the Book of Taliesin.

The exhibition also contains tens of important items that could be main items in themselves in any exhibition about Welsh history and culture. More information on these can be found on our website at https://library.wales/riverside. A programme of education workshops, events and family activities is also organised on the theme of Treasures at the Riverside Library Gallery.

This will be the second thematic exhibition to be held in the gallery, and follows the huge success of the Kyffin exhibition in terms of visitor numbers and positive feedback.

Volunteering

Between April and June 2019, the Library welcomed 60 volunteers on a weekly basis to work on the 20 tasks we currently have in place. In this period, the work of identifying images to enhance the Dictionary of Welsh Biography, and transcribing the ITV Archive news logs was completed. 600 people are now registered as volunteers on the crowdsourcing platform, and these have finished transcribing 4 years of Kyffin Williams diaries, and descriptions on 85% of the Gwilym Livingstone Evans photographic collection.
The Living Memory project continues to develop and promote the National Library of Wales’ visual and graphical collections to unlock memories and facilitate memory therapy with older people and those living with dementia. Representatives from 92 organisations have now attended the workshops, from community groups and charities to care homes and the Health Service, and the Library’s volunteer staff have been promoting the scheme through the Public Health Wales Network. We will also be holding a Film and Memory Therapy session at Sinemaes, Conwy National Eisteddfod, on August 10th.

Further information on the Living Memory project: https://www.library.wales/living-memory/.

Library volunteers prepare the Living Memory project packs

Skills For The Future

The Library is part of a programme led by Creative & Cultural Skills and Welsh Government to support young people to develop workplace skills in the heritage sector, through the HLF Skills for the Future grant. The second trainee has now joined us in the Library after spending three months with the Royal Commission.

Education Service

More than 100 people visited the Library as part of Gŵyl Ar Lafar, a Welsh language festival for learners delivered in partnership with The National Centre for Learning Welsh. Activities for visitors included the Taith yr Iaith show by In Character, a manual workshop based on the Cambriae Typus map, a Clonc a Chân session led by the NLW Choir, presentations by the author Zoe Pettinger, and behind the scenes guided tours.
Coleg Ceredigion students are working on producing a promotional video for the Library's Education Service. They have filmed visits from primary schools, interviewed education service staff and filmed spaces across the Library. The video, including filming, production and editing will be marked as a core part of the course work of second year Film and Media Studies students, and it is hoped that the finished version will be displayed on the Library's website and social media to promote the work of the Education Service.

The focus of the Library's stand at the Urdd Eisteddfod this year was an escape room, Llyfr-GELL, that had puzzles based on the Library's collections which included information to unlock a series of doors. During the week, more than 350 people tried to escape, and the escape room received publicity in the press and social media, and two items on television. More than 1,200 visitors came to the stand which also included a shop and information panels about the Library's services and resources. The Library's escape room will be rebuilt on site as an attraction for families visiting the Library over the summer.

The Reading Rooms

The renovation of the Library building has required that the services of both reading rooms are now provided in the South Reading Room and Annexe. Every effort is made to maintain our high quality service to the public while this work continues.
Presentations and activities

Between April and June, the Access to Collections team have represented the Library and held activities and delivered presentations at Family Tree Live! (London) and ‘The Genealogy Show’ (NEC, Birmingham) as well as the Family History Fair, a presentation to the Catalogue and the Family History Resources Module in the Library. Altogether, these events have reached over 600 participants.

Wales before the NHS project

Digitisation work has started on the Wellcome Trust funded ‘Wales before the NHS’ project. The project will deliver over 40,000 pages of monographs, journals, annual reports and minutes related to health services in Wales. The project has created two new posts in the digitisation team, and several thousand pages have already been scanned and processed.

BBC Scripts

Work has been completed on an income-generating external project for BBC Wales. The project was designed to help the BBC Wales Archive dept. move to a paperless solution for researching historic news programmes. The Digitisation team digitised scripts and programme notes from the late 60’s until the mid-90’s, supplying fully searchable PDF files.
The original scripts have now been deposited in the library collection and will become part of the National Broadcast Archive.

**Repertory of Welsh Manuscripts**

The imaging work for the Repertory of Welsh Manuscripts has begun. The Digitisation team will supply nearly 900 images from over 700 different manuscripts over the coming months. This 3-volume work will be a detailed and comprehensive catalogue of all pre-1800 manuscripts in the Welsh language, or of Welsh provenance, together with a study of scribal hands in Wales during a period of seven centuries.

**Photo Albums**

Over 200 pre 1900 photographic albums have been prepared for ingest and will soon be available through the catalogue. The albums give a unique insight into the life and travels of members of Welsh society around the turn of the century. There will also be a new project using the NLW crowdsourcing platform, with an aim to enrich existing descriptive metadata.
Illingworth Cartoons Digital Exhibition

A collection of the work of cartoonist Leslie Illingworth has been presented anew as a digital exhibition (https://www.llyfrgell.cymru/illingworth/).

Leslie Gilbert Illingworth (1902-1979) was born in Barry and he became the foremost political cartoonist of Punch magazine in 1945, but continued to work for The Daily Mail until his retirement in 1969.

There are 4,563 of his cartoons in the Illingworth Collection at the National Library and they give a powerful and memorable visual portrayal of 20th century political events, from the Second World War and throughout a large part of the Cold War.

Story of Wales Series

The Story of Wales blog series (https://blog.library.wales/story-of-wales/) continues, and has now presented nine aspects on Welsh history based on the Library’s collections, through the medium of text, video and digital items. The subjects covered since the series began on 1 March include:

- What do we know about Saint David?
- The extraordinary life of Cranogwen: From mariner to poet and so much more …
- Pennal Letter: Wales’ important role in European politics
- Collecting Contemporary: Art from the National Collection
● Protecting the Story of Wales
● The Legacy of Humphrey Llwyd
● The Road to the National Assembly for Wales: #Devolution20 in Archives
● Street Literature: Welsh Almanacs
● Welsh Music: Folk, Protest and Pop

The series coincides with the Welsh Government ‘Year of Discovery’ and presents the National Library as the home of the nation’s memory.

https://blog.library.wales/story-of-wales/

Assessing the Impact of Cultural Heritage

The National Library has been among the first institutions in Europe to use ‘the Impact Playbook’, a resource developed by Europeana, and now has a prominent role in this international discussion and collaboration in the field of measuring and narrating the impact of cultural heritage on economy and society.

Here in Wales, presentations were given to the resource and how it has been used by the National Library at CILIP Cymru’s annual conference in May and at the Archives and Records
Council annual forum in June. The aim is to form a community of practitioners in Wales to share materials and learn from each other’s experiences, and present the impact made in Wales on an international level.

**WiciPobl Project**

The Library’s National Wikimedian has led a project funded by Welsh Government to improve the quality of information about people related to Wales on the Welsh language Wikipedia.

The project focused around the release of 4,862 Welsh portraits to [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/), with an emphasis on improving access to Welsh language content and providing opportunities for the public to engage through the medium of Welsh.

Bilingual Wikidata was created for each portrait. This data was used to help create nearly 1,500 new Welsh Wikipedia articles, utilizing 25% of the images. The images generated 1.6 million page views in 55 languages in the space of a month, greatly increasing access to information about Welsh people.

Working with Menter Iaith Môn, a series of events were held at schools highlighting how Wikipedia-based learning can contribute positively to schools’ targets for the Welsh language and digital literacy.

The entire project was planned using Europeana’s new [Impact Playbook](https://impact.playbook.europeana.eu/) with the aim of exploring and documenting the changes, or impacts, to different stakeholder groups of delivering a range of Wikimedia based activities focused around the Library’s collections. This was the first time that a project focussing on Wikipedia activities had been assessed in this way and the [full impact report can be read here](https://impact.playbook.europeana.eu/).
People’s Collection Wales

Since April, People’s Collection Wales training sessions and presentations (digitisation, oral history, general) have been delivered to many groups and projects throughout Wales:

- Portuguese Diaspora Wrecsam
- Living Seas Wales
- Cymdeithas Hanes Cilcennin
- Rhwydwaith Arloesi: Caerdydd
- Rhwydwaith Arloesi: Gwynedd
- Powys Pioneers
- Aberystwyth at War
- The National Botanic Gardens
- Hub 4 Mid Wales: Laura Ashley
- Glynneath Gunpowder Group
- Mynachlog Ddu
- Preseli Heartlands
- Jewish History Association South Wales
- Pembrokeshire Archives

The National Library leads the community engagement and content (together with moderation) strands of the People’s Collection Wales programme as part of a federated
partnership with National Museum Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

**New Catalogue interface**

During April a cross-departmental team saw the results of their hard work on the Primo Agile project come to fruition, with the upgrade to the main Catalogue ([discover.library.wales](http://discover.library.wales)). This upgrade allowed the team to provide a revitalised, user-focused interface with many improvements.