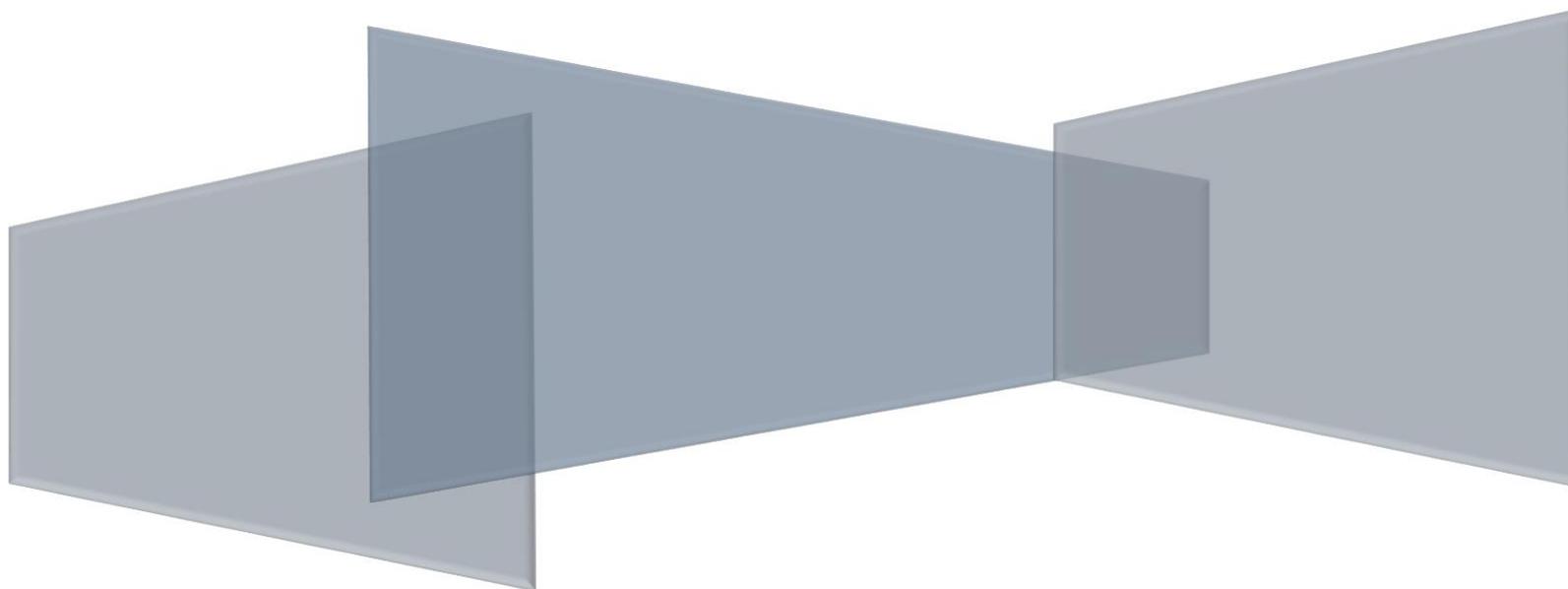


Strategic Vision 2021- 2026

Consultation Document



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Why we need your help

This is a consultation document where we invite your views on our vision for the future. The National Library of Wales is drawing up a Strategic Plan for the next five years during August and September. We are keen to consult as broadly as possible to ensure as we implement our Strategic Plan that we align not only with our purpose as an organisation but also with Welsh public policy. We also need to ensure that our vision addresses your needs as a current Library user or as a future Library user, and therefore your feedback and comments will be extremely useful to us. The Strategy itself will be operational from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026.

Who we are and what we do

The National Library of Wales is one of Wales' most valued cultural organisations. As the home to the memory of the nation, it ensures that Wales' history and heritage is safeguarded for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations. The National Library is a world-class research library and its collections and expertise sit alongside national libraries and archives around the world. It also plays a leading role in Wales' culture and heritage sector by setting good practice standards and collaborating in national initiatives.

The Library building is located in Aberystwyth and it is intended to establish digital centres in Wrexham, Cardiff and Carmarthen during the lifetime of the strategy, and as part of the establishment of the National Broadcast Archive.

Since its foundation in 1907, the Library has continued to collect and preserve Wales' documentary heritage and pioneer new ways of enabling wider access to our rich national collections. The National Library's founding purpose and vision was to ensure that Wales' unique history, culture and heritage, which is documented in many different formats and media over time, will always be available to better understand who we are, to explain our shared historical and cultural legacy which has shaped us as a nation over many centuries, and to encourage research and learning. Our collections are also an important source of knowledge about the wider world, both historically and for contemporary society. The National Library of Wales is the only legal deposit library in Wales and one of only six in the United Kingdom and Ireland. As a result of this status, we have the right to claim a free copy of every new publication published within the United Kingdom, which forms the basis of a research collection of international standard. The Library is a registered charity and a Welsh Government Sponsored Body.

The Library is a vast treasure house of books, manuscripts, archives, maps, pictures, photographs, newspapers, sound and film that grows with each generation, and the long-term management of the collections for the well-being of future generations requires suitable and effective strategies and policies. The Library is responsible for over 20 million items with new material increasingly being acquired in digital formats including millions of websites that reach us through electronic legal deposit. The expertise of our staff to conserve, preserve, catalogue and interpret our collections and the commitment of our dedicated team of volunteers in providing added value to our work, are vital elements in ensuring long-term public access both in Wales and beyond.

The Library also has an important role to play in the Welsh economy. The need to develop a knowledge-based economy is absolutely essential if our nation is to prosper economically. Important functions for us are to remove barriers to knowledge, to ensure that the people of Wales have the skills to create knowledge, preserve knowledge and re-purpose knowledge, not only for the benefit of the current generation but also for future generations.

We will successfully deliver the Welsh Government's priorities for our Grant Aid, which will be outlined in a Remit Letter. We are eager to contribute towards strengthening the links between Wales and the rest of the world through encounters with other cultures and countries.

How can you have your say on the draft vision

The consultation period – the period when we will give you the opportunity to have your say - will run from **Monday 1 June** until **Monday 13 July 2020**.

You can have your say and make your comments by **completing the form** at the end of this document.

You are also welcome to record your response using another method, such as video or sound recording, should you wish.

We would be grateful if you would send your comments by email to strategy@library.wales or by post to: **2021-2026 Strategy, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3BU.**

We'll be inviting cohorts of stakeholders to respond to our strategic vision in meetings online, and you can also arrange a one-to-one discussion with a member of the Executive Team by contacting: Rhian Evans (rhian.evans@llgc.org.uk).

It is important that those who intend to have their say understand that the National Library is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and must consider any request for information made under the Act. Unless we are told otherwise we will give public access to the responses received to this consultation.

What happens next

Following the consultation deadline we will analyse the responses and consider them alongside other evidence to help us complete our 2021-2026 Strategy.

If you have not noted otherwise, the public will be able to see the responses on our website after we make sure they do not contain libellous or offensive material.

Comments

You are welcome to contact us with regards to how this consultation has been conducted. Email: strategy@llyfrgell.cymru

Our 5 Year Vision

Our Vision

To be recognised as one of the most valued, progressive and innovative national libraries in the United Kingdom, Europe and the world by using the wealth of our cultural resources to bring benefits to our users, and to ensure that we play a central role in the life of the Welsh nation now and in the future.

Our Mission

To provide information about Wales, the people of Wales and its history and culture to the world, and to serve the nation as its leading research library.

Digital Transformation

The next five years will be transformational for the National Library of Wales. Our core function and mission will remain the same as they have always been: to collect, preserve and provide access to all kinds of knowledge, with the aim of providing information about Wales, the people of Wales, its history and culture to the world. The transformation will be reflected in our approach to this role and our whole mind-set going forward.

Digital technology will play a central role in delivering this Vision. To some extent, digital media has been seen as additional to our core activities as a National Library. It is now ubiquitous, touching in some way or another on all our services and collections.

In all aspects of our society and economy, we see how digital enables organisations and businesses to achieve their objectives more effectively and efficiently for the benefit of their users and sponsors. Over the next five years, we as a Library will take on the challenge of embracing this opportunity to transform.

Collection and Preservation

One of the key challenges of the Digital Age is to secure long-term access to information at a time of rapid technological advancement: it is vital that we face this challenge with confidence, in collaboration with various partners within and outside Wales.

The Library's responsibility for the long-term collection and management of the national collections will remain, but we will keep under review the ways in which that happens. For example, as well as collecting historical material we will also prioritise the collection and preservation of modern archive material, before it is lost.

Our electronic legal deposit collection will continue to grow and we will work with partners to ensure that our website archive collection reflects contemporary Wales.

We will work in partnership with the Welsh Government to explore the possibility of establishing a National Archive in Wales and consider the Library's role in its development.

In partnership with Aberystwyth University and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales we will explore the possibility of establishing a national trusted digital repository for the arts, humanities and social sciences where information will be managed for long-term access.

The Library will continue to lead a national strategy for digital preservation that will support all public sector organisations that need to keep information secure and accessible.

The National Digital Library

We will ensure that the people of Wales and people of other nations not only have better access to our national collections, but are able to make creative use of the information they contain, particularly in support of activities such as crowdsourcing, open access, Wikimedia, creative practice and digital scholarship.

We will be recognised as an innovative and inclusive digital content organisation that facilitates access and reuse of the information and collections in our care.

Drawing on the experience and expertise of our staff and our Board, we will move towards developing the National Digital Library without delay.

Relevant to national life

This Strategic Vision recognises that our building in Aberystwyth needs to be adapted and developed into a cultural destination of national importance that showcases some of our nation's most important treasures.

We will seek every opportunity to take our collections out to those communities who are unable to make the journey to Aberystwyth by establishing permanent centres and organising activities at suitable sites.

Working with numerous partners, and especially our Historic Wales and Peoples Collection Wales partnerships, we will support local and national initiatives, and seek ways of improving individuals' life opportunities and helping them to realise their personal potential.

We will ensure that we are relevant to the life of the nation and put structures in place that allow us to speak and consult regularly with our users.

Support the Welsh language and Welsh speakers, and provide Welsh language services

All Library services will be provided in Welsh and English, both at physical access points and remotely. We will increase the number of Welsh language materials available online and develop bilingual approaches to managing digital services. As a thoroughly bilingual organisation where the Welsh language is used widely and naturally, we will make a major contribution to the Welsh Government's ambitious target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Well-being in Wales and worldwide

In line with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 we will carefully consider the long-term impact of our decisions, work better with our partners and users, to prevent and eliminate what should not be tolerated in our society, such as poverty, inequality, disease and climate change. We must also ensure that the Library, in all its activities, makes a positive contribution to global well-being.

We will work cohesively to create a country in which we all want to live, now and in the future. To this end, the Library will contribute to the seven well-being goals of the Act, making positive and lasting difference not only to the present generation but also to future generations.

Taking on the challenge

We will continue to invest in our staff to ensure the high quality of our services together with the expertise and advice we provide to others. In implementing our People Plan and Workforce Development Strategy we will ensure that Library staff have the necessary professional skills to fulfil their roles, developing new skills and passing on expertise to a new generation. In a time of uncertainty for public funding, we will need to ensure that our financial plans enable us to fulfil our core functions, and seek additional funding to innovate and develop new activities and services.

We will also ensure the Library's long-term resilience through financial planning that is careful and risk averse.

Effective promotion

We will ensure that our promotional work effectively describes what the Library has to offer to diverse audiences and communities, including a Welsh diaspora beyond Wales who can benefit from our online activities and services. As a national cultural organisation, we will ensure that people are aware of the services we provide by reaching out and enriching lives, supporting learning and improving life opportunities.

Covid-19

Covid-19 will influence our plans for the future and we very much hope that the worst will be over by the time the Strategic Plan is published in September. The pandemic is likely to make a significant impact on public finances. We will also need to assess how we as a cultural organisation can contribute constructively to the recovery of individuals and communities from the suffering caused by it. Measures to control the spread of Covid-19 have led to our increased use of technology for home working and remote meetings, which we will explore and develop further when the Library building reopens.

Our current Strategic Plan

In relation to performance and what the Library has achieved during the lifetime of the current strategic plan, we refer you to the performance indicators and annual reviews which can be found at www.library.wales.

Our Strategic Priorities 2021-2026

1. Collecting and Safeguarding National Collections

Use innovative ways of collecting and safeguarding the national collections in our care for the benefit of future generations as well as our existing users.

<p>We will collect, protect and provide access to all kinds of recorded information which highlight and celebrate the diverse experiences and lives of Welsh people throughout the years.</p>	<p>We will work with other organisations in Wales and beyond to safeguard collections, to support research and digital projects that provide new ways of interpreting collections to diverse audiences.</p>	<p>We will explore the possibility of developing a trusted repository for the digital archives and information in our care as part of a long-term policy initiative, and we will prioritise the collection of modern digital records.</p>	<p>We will strive to ensure that our collections represent every aspect of Welsh life, and especially the life of people and communities that are currently under-represented in our collections.</p>
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2. Facilitating Access to Information

We will aim to give the widest possible access to our collections.

<p>We will increase the collections and other information available digitally.</p>	<p>We will continue to facilitate access to our collections through our websites, external platforms and electronic resources, within the building and in other places where we have a presence.</p>	<p>We will establish the National Broadcast Archive, working in Partnership with users and providing digital access in four centres across Wales.</p>	<p>We will promote the Library's collections and services to a wider audience. Particularly among individuals and communities supported by the Fusion: Creating Opportunities through Culture programme and other Welsh Government programmes.</p>
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3. Playing a Central Part in the Nation's Life

We will ensure that the Library's collections and activities inspire and educate people, improve life opportunities for individuals and enable them to fulfil their personal potential.

Through outreach activities and educational projects, we will work with communities, schools, colleges, universities and other organisations to bring people together to celebrate and promote a common interest in our collections and in the heritage and history of Wales.	We will create cohesive partnerships, especially with colleagues within the sector, including local libraries and record offices to help people find themselves and their communities, and promote a sense of continuity and belonging.	We will provide leadership by establishing a coherent digital infrastructure strategy for the library and archive sector in Wales.	We will continue to promote and encourage the use of Welsh in all our internal and external activities.
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4. Digital Transformation

We will ensure that the Library's digital transformation builds on work already undertaken on providing digital access to our collections.

<p>We will work with others to establish and manage the National Digital Library, based on a coherent infrastructure and professional principles, as a long-term strategy.</p>	<p>We will be alert to technological advances and will make the most of them, ensuring that we maintain our reputation as a centre of sectoral excellence.</p>	<p>We will ensure that our internal structures and technology are appropriate to deliver our strategic vision and equip our staff with the essential skills they need.</p>	<p>We will develop new relationships and partnerships in order to improve our services, especially in education and in the context of the new digital curriculum.</p>
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5. Supporting Learning and Research

We will encourage and support learning, research and discovery

<p>We will encourage the discovery and sharing of new knowledge through Hwb: Digital learning Wales and other platforms, and by developing national and International research collaborations.</p>	<p>We will provide different pathways to our collections for research and learning in support of the Curriculum for Wales, lifelong learning, creative practice and continuous professional development.</p>	<p>We will develop our digital scholarship programme and build a team of cross-disciplinary experts in the areas of digitisation, librarianship, digital history and humanities, computer and data science, to assist users with digital research.</p>	<p>We will provide opportunities both within and beyond the Library, for informal learning and activity that promotes well-being for all ages.</p>
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6. Developing the Organisation

We will ensure that the Library, in the years ahead, has the resources needed to fulfil its strategic aims and develop innovative new ways of providing wider access to our valued national collections.

<p>People: We will continue to invest in our people to develop and retain their professional skills, acquire new skills and transfer expertise to a new generation.</p>	<p>Property: We will continue to invest in our building, and respect it not only as the home of our collections, but also because of its stature as an iconic building of national importance.</p>	<p>Sustainability: Sustainability will be central to all our considerations and we will continue to achieve our well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p>
<p>Funding: We will ensure the financial resilience of the Library to deliver its core function through a strong relationship with funders, by seeking to innovate and develop new opportunities, and by attracting additional funding.</p>	<p>Relationships: We will work with a number of strategic partners within and outside Wales, including Historic Wales partners and Welsh higher education establishments, to develop new opportunities to work on projects, share skills and promote heritage and culture together.</p>	<p>People: We will be seen as a caring employer that values the well-being and health of our staff, providing a safe workplace, a stress-free environment where diversity is respected and celebrated.</p>

Respondent Information Form

This form must be completed and returned with your response. For full details of how the National Library of Wales will hold and use your information, please see the information on the [General Data Protection Regulation](#) on our website, particularly our [privacy statement](#).

You can also [complete and submit this form online](#).

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual

Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone
Number

Address

Postcode

Email

The National Library of Wales would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

Publish response only (without name)

Do not publish response

Information for organisations: The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published. If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with those involved in finalising the strategy. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the National Library of Wales to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes No

Questions

1. **Our 5 Year Vision: do you believe that our 5 Year Vision will allow us to deliver our core purpose in a way that will bring benefits to Library users and to those members of the public who wish to use our services?**

Please provide your answer below:

2. **Taking on the challenge. Do you agree with our approach to investing in our staff, financial planning and promotion?**

Yes No

Please provide a reason (or reasons) for your answer.

3. **Collecting and Safeguarding National Collections: We are the guardian of the published and recorded memory of Wales for current and future generations. Do you believe the objectives outlined within this strategic priority will ensure the safeguarding of collections?**

Yes

No

Please provide a reason (or reasons) for your answer.

4. **Facilitating Access to Information: We seek to make it easier for people to access the collections. In your opinion, will our plans within this strategic priority help us to improve access for all?**

Yes

No

Please provide a reason (or reasons) for your answer.

5. **Playing a Central Part in the Nation’s Life: We put people at the heart of everything we do, offering a rich variety of ways for people to participate and engage with their heritage. In your opinion, will our plans within this strategic priority help us to retain existing audiences and engage new ones?**

Yes

No

Please provide a reason (or reasons) for your answer.

6. **Digital Transformation: We will ensure that the Library’s Digital Transformation programme builds on work already undertaken on providing digital access to our collections. In your opinion, will our plans within this strategic priority meet our aims to provide wider access to our collections?**

Yes

No

Please provide a reason (or reasons) for your answer.

7. **Supporting Learning and Research: We encourage and support learning, research and discovery. In your opinion, should we give priority to support learning and research?**

Yes No

Please provide a reason (or reasons) for your answer.

8. **Developing the Organisation: We aim to be a great organisation to work for and with by developing new ways of working, delivering and partnering. In your opinion, are we taking the organisation in the right direction?**

Yes No

Please provide a reason (or reasons) for your answer.

9. **Priorities. Which strategic priorities are most important to you? Number accordingly, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.**

Collecting and Safeguarding National Collections

Digital Transformation

Facilitating Access to Information

Supporting Learning and Research

Playing a Central Part in the Nation's Life

Developing the Organisation

10. **General comments. Please use this space for anything else you wish to contribute.**