

## NEWSPLAN (WALES) - IMPLEMENTATION

Minutes of the second meeting of the Implementation Committee of the Newsplan (Wales) Project held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, at 11.00am on Thursday 17th March 1994.

### PRESENT:

Dr Lionel Madden (Chairman), Mr John Cosslett, Mr Iorwerth Davies, Mr Andrew Green, Dr Rhidian Griffiths, Mr Geoffrey Hamilton, Mr Richard Lewis, Mr Gareth Haulfryn Williams, Mr Iwan Jones (Secretary)

There were no apologies.

### 1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes had been distributed and were approved subject to amending 5.v to read "Mr Hamilton felt the National Library of Wales could make a strong case for a similiar venture." There were no matters arising other than those on the Agenda.

### 2. FILMING STRATEGY AND FUNDING

The Secretary, Mr Iwan Jones, explained that a list had been drawn up of the priority newspapers of the Newsplan (Wales) Report including nineteenth century and other newspapers in urgent need of attention (categories A, B and C). Estimates made using the BL guidelines identified priority newspapers in Wales requiring filming on 2,192 reels and priority newspapers in the British Library requiring filming on 1,665 reels. In addition it was roughly estimated that there was a need for 12,000 further reels of filming in Wales and 2,200 in the BL. The total requirement was therefore about 18,000 reels.

Mr Jones said that a draft business plan had been prepared, based on Scottish and Irish plans, which would allow for an extension of the newspaper filming capacity of the National Library of Wales. The plan proposed employing four extra staff to run two newspaper cameras for three years as a "pump-priming" venture. The unit would be expected to operate on a cost-recovery basis at the end of that time. The total cash requirement was £288,500. The Chairman explained that the proposal had been designed as the cheapest way of undertaking the filming for Newsplan within Wales.

It had been understood that the Mellon Microfilming Project administered by the British Library would support Newsplan, but Mr Jones said that he had been present at a meeting of the Mellon Steering Committee at the BL on 15th March when it had been clear that the decision to set up the Scottish Newspaper Microfilming Unit with a staff of ten people for three years had exhausted the funds available. An application for support for Newsplan (Ireland) had been turned down with the suggestion that Ireland as a sovereign state should approach the Mellon Foundation directly. Mr Jones saw no possibility of the Mellon Microfilming Project providing any further funds for Newsplan unless it could obtain additional funding from the Mellon Foundation or from elsewhere.

The meeting expressed disappointment with the news and it was agreed that the Chairman should write to Michael Smethurst, BL Director-General, to express the committee's concern that Newsplan was not likely to receive the support which it had been led to believe was forthcoming.

Mr Geoffrey Hamilton said the possibility of Mellon funding had encouraged a more quantified approach to the implementation of Newsplan, and that it was important to maintain the possibility of Mellon funding and the momentum of the work. The Scottish Unit represented a strengthening of facilities in Britain for preservation microfilming and he felt confident that units would also develop in Wales and Ireland given time.

It was agreed that the officers should continue to seek funding on a global basis and that this funding would be best directed at the filming of the priority newspapers. Gareth Haulfryn Williams drew attention to the heavy use being made of other twentieth-century newspapers. It was agreed that these newspapers were very important and that they would be suitable targets for local initiatives. Sponsorship could be sought at a local level and money raised by Eco'r Wyddfa was quoted as an example.

The Chairman said the National Library of Wales would continue to build up its microfilming facilities but that this would take time and would require a cooperative effort to fund a programme of work.

### 3. LISC(WALES) CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION GROUP

The Secretary reported that the LISC(Wales) Conservation and Preservation Group had been established and had held its first meeting at Gregynog on 3rd March 1994. The next meeting would be on 26th May, when the Group would be asked to nominate its representative on the Newsplan (Wales) Implementation Panel.

### 4. NEWSPLAN CONFERENCE, DURHAM

Mr Geoffrey Hamilton and Mr Iwan Jones reported on the Second Newsplan Conference which had been held at Durham, 7-8 March 1994. Mr Hamilton said the proceedings would be published. Mr Jones said he had been struck by the similarity of approaches adopted internationally: the problem of preserving newspapers was so vast that it could only be tackled on a cooperative basis. A cooperative project did require certain central services, notably a preservation microfilming unit, a long-term storage facility for master negatives and a register of preservation masters.

### 5. NEWSPLAN (WALES) SEMINAR

It was agreed that a Seminar represented the best way of maintaining the momentum of Newsplan. It was decided to hold one all-Wales rather than two regional seminars, although there could be additional meetings later. Mr Geoffrey Hamilton described the Newsplan (Ireland) Seminars held in 1993.

It was agreed that the Seminar should be held at DILS, Aberystwyth, on or about 14th July. It should aim to educate people in the aims of Newsplan, stimulate involvement, encourage sponsorship and establish

a way ahead. The speakers could include newspaper publishers, researchers and librarians and the topics covered could include the experience of a Newsplan region and an introduction to preservation standards for microfilm.

The target audience would comprise both senior staff of libraries and archives and those staff directly involved with newspapers. Representatives of newspapers, family and historical societies, the microform industry and potential sponsors should also be invited.

The Committee asked the National Library members to form a working party to organise the seminar.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i. Mr Andrew Green asked whether the data contained in the Newsplan (Wales) Report was available in a re-ordered form to list holdings by institution. Dr Rhidian Griffiths replied that he regretted that the information was not available in such a form.

ii. Dr Griffiths suggested that a Newsplan (Wales) Newsletter would help raise awareness of the work. It was agreed that the matter should be raised at the Seminar.

iii. Mr Gareth Haulfryn Williams said that a meeting of the Welsh Archivists had asked him to express concern at the inaccuracy of the Newsplan (Wales) Report. He said that the list of locations was unreliable and that the corrections made to the draft copy had not all been incorporated. The Chairman explained that, although it might contain inaccuracies, the Report provided a starting point for action. It was agreed that a procedure should be established to gather corrections and additions to the list. Mr Geoffrey Hamilton added that no Newsplan Report was completely accurate, nor indeed any newspaper.

iv. Mr Richard Lewis hoped it would be possible to microfilm an index of the Western Mail held at Glamorgan Record Office. It was agreed this would be most valuable.

## 7. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date and place of the next meeting would be arranged at or after the Seminar.