

**Minutes of the meeting of the Newsplan (Cymru) Implementation Committee
held at the National Library of Wales at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 10 May 2001**

**Present: Andrew Green (Chairman), Gareth Haulfryn Williams, Nigel Soane,
Simon Kellas, Rhidian Griffiths, Iwan Jones (Secretary)**

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from John Cosslett, Edmund King, Linda Tomos, John Turner and John Woods. The Chairman welcomed Simon Kellas to the meeting in place of John Lauder, Director of Newsplan 2000. It was noted that Elspeth Mitcheson had retired and had thereby left the Committee.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 25 May 2000 and matters arising

2.1 The minutes had been circulated and were accepted as a correct record.

2.2 Newsplan (Wales) Report on-line (2.3)

Rhidian Griffiths said that the National Library was still in the process of transferring the Newsplan (Wales) report to its web site.

2.3 BL policy on Welsh newspapers (2.4)

Rhidian Griffiths confirmed that the British Library was buying microfilm of current Welsh newspapers filmed by the National Library of Wales, in line with its new policy of acquiring microfilm of Welsh newspapers rather than paper copies. However, NLW was not able to film all Welsh newspapers. It was understood the BL would buy additional Welsh newspaper if NLW could increase the number it filmed.

2.4 Newspapers on the web (2.5)

Iwan Jones had investigated Welsh newspapers on the web with help from John Cosslett. Nearly every Welsh newspaper now had a web site. There was rarely much relation between the content of the site and the content of the newspaper, and the web sites of individual newspapers were usually linked to the web site of the newspaper group to which they belonged (e.g. Newsquest, Tindle). It seemed that the various newsgroups were developing their sites into web portals. Both the printed newspapers and the web sites were candidates for preservation. Andrew Green noted that the National Library of Wales would be setting up a project to collect and preserve web sites.

2.5 Newspaper indexes (2.6)

Attention was drawn to the List of Indexes to Welsh Periodicals prepared by William Howells and available on the WLA web site www.llgc.org.uk/wla/.

2.6 Approach to the Assembly (2.7)

It was agreed not to approach the Assembly until the time was right.

2.7 List of priority newspapers (3.1)

Rhidian Griffiths had written to the members of the Society of Chief Librarians enclosing the final list of Welsh newspapers to be filmed. Gareth Haulfryn Williams

felt that the list would be of interest to archivists as well. A full list of newspapers to be filmed was available on the Newsplan 2000 web site.

2.8 LISC (Wales) Report (3.2)

Andrew Green noted that LISC (Wales) would be publishing the Henderson Preservation Report on its web site and that it was hoped to arrange a meeting to promote the recommendations of the Report later in the year.

2.9 Third Newsplan Conference (4.1)

The third Newsplan conference which was to have been held in March 2001 had been cancelled because the timing was judged premature.

3. Minutes of the Working Party meeting held on 8 June 2000

3.1 LINC Newsplan Panel

Iwan Jones reported on the LINC Newsplan Panel on 19 April 2001. Funding for LINC had been extended for a further 12 months, but its long-term future was uncertain. Much of the work of the Newsplan Panel was being taken up by the Board of Trustees of Newsplan 2000.

3.2 Newsplan workplan

The Working Party had discussed the Newsplan workplan prepared by Ed King, identifying developments involving newspapers that were not part of the work of Newsplan 2000, including identifying newspaper indexes, carrying out surveys of the use of newspapers and promoting the use of newspapers in education. Although little of this work had been undertaken in Wales the Working Party had welcomed the paper. The Committee also welcomed the proposals in principle.

4. Report on Newsplan 2000 developments

4.1 Progress Report on Newsplan 2000

A paper by John Lauder had been circulated and Simon Kellas, Project Officer, reported on the progress of Newsplan 2000.

4.2 HLF discussions

After extended discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund there had been agreement on the Project Implementation Document and the Tender Document. The tender document would be published within weeks and advertised in the European Community Journal. Companies would have 53 days from the date of publication in which to tender.

4.2 Matching funding

It had not been possible to approach the newspaper industry for matching funding until all details of the Project had been agreed with HLF. Now that agreement had been reached, a clear request could be made to the industry to provide £1.3 million over the three-year period of the Project. It was understood that the Newspaper Society had discussed the Project and was minded to support it, but had not yet agreed the formula for contributions from the various newspaper groups. Ann Matheson, Chairman of the Newsplan 2000 Board of Trustees, and John Lauder were meeting representatives of Northcliffe and Trinity Mirror in London on 10 May.

4.3 Board of Trustees of Newsplan 2000

The Board of Trustees had been expanded to bring in ten representatives of the Newsplan regions. Second representatives for Wales, Scotland and England would not be chosen until the tender had been settled.

4.4 Arrangements for filming

Lists of titles had been received from all Newsplan regions and used to draw up three annual schedules of filming. Only complete newspaper files would be filmed, and only straightforward titles would be filmed in the first year. HLF required copies in the national libraries to be filmed where possible, since those were usually the best copies and the cheapest to process in terms of preparation and access. A preparation handbook would be distributed. A figure of £17 per reel for preparation had been agreed with HLF (this was unlikely to represent the full cost and details of costs should be kept for future use). In England regional libraries requesting titles would pay £8.47 per reel to the BL when it prepared the title for filming. In Wales NLW would absorb that cost.

Libraries requesting copies at the time of filming would have the opportunity to buy at a special low price, so it was important that all libraries should know of the newspapers being filmed in each year's schedule. Rhidian Griffiths agreed to contact all authorities to let them know the titles being filmed. Gareth Haulfryn Williams said it would be wise to have a regional spread in each schedule so that authorities would be able to spread their buying over the full three years.

4.5 Readers and reader-printers

It was intended that shared funding would be used to supply 800 microfilm readers and 60 readers-printers to local libraries, but widespread responses had indicated that libraries wanted reader-printers, not readers. The Committee agreed that the money would be best spent on reader-printers, although it acknowledged that it would then be challenged to find a fair method of distribution. It was agreed to write to John Lauder explaining that the Committee feared that public money would be wasted if readers were bought and not used.

4.6 Newsplan 2000 website and e-mail list

Simon Kellas drew attention to www.newsplan2000.org, the Newsplan 2000 web site, and to the Newsplan e-mail list. Everybody who wished to be on the list should contact him simon.kellas@bl.uk.

5. Future structure of Newsplan (Wales)

The Implementation Committee had been established in 1994 with representatives from the various sectors and the Chairman had written to libraries and archives asking for expressions of interest. The response had shown that only local authority libraries were actively working with newspapers, and in 1995 the Working Party was set up as a means of communication between local newspaper librarians, and (initially) to act as a clearing house for cooperative microfilming. The Working Party had discussed its role and saw itself as a useful channel for communication and cooperation for Newsplan and for other work involving newspapers. However, there was a need to consider the roles of the Implementation Committee and the Working Party so that

one did not duplicate the work of the other and in order to streamline communications.

It was agreed that Newsplan 2000 needed a body in Wales with which to liaise on matters concerning Newsplan. The National Library also needed to maintain contact with the local libraries working with newspapers. As Newsplan implementation proceeded there might be need for more local contact than had been the case while negotiations were being held with HLF. Gareth Haulfryn Williams felt there was a need for archives to be involved and that the Implementation Committee should continue in its present form. Nigel Soane suggested that there should be an 'exchange of experience' meeting. There was certainly a need for a network for communication regarding Newsplan and the other developments involving newspapers which had been discussed by the Working Party.

6. Any other business

6.1 Publicity

It was agreed that the work of Newsplan 2000 should be publicised as it got underway. Simon Kellas said he would welcome news stories to include on the Newsplan 2000 web site www.newsplan2000.org. Attention was also drawn to www.bangor.ac.uk/is/llyfrcym/newspapers.htm, which comprised a good database of Welsh newspapers. Rhidian Griffiths said that although the National Library intended to put the Newsplan (Wales) report on its own web site it would pass all other material on to the main Newsplan 2000 site. It was also suggested that a poster drawing attention to Newsplan would be useful.

6.2 Newsplan (Wales) Seminar

It was agreed that a second Newsplan (Wales) Seminar should be held in the spring of 2002. The seminar would cover work on newspapers generally and include a report on the work of the Newsplan 2000 Project. The meeting should also help establish a wider network for communication about newspapers.

7. Date and place of next meeting

Wednesday 31 October 2001 at the University of Wales Bangor.