

Minutes of the second meeting of the
Newsplan (Cymru) Working Party
held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth,
on Tuesday 26 September 1995

Present: Brynmor Jones (Chairman), Eleri Jones, Susan Pugh, Beti Jones, Non Jenkins, Lynne Bryn Jones, Margaret A Griffiths, Dewi Thomas, David Shone, Pauline Morris, Kay Warren-Morgan, Gordon Reid, Iwan Jones (Secretary)

1. Apologies and personal matters

An apology for absence was received from Dr Rhidian Griffiths. The Chairman welcomed Eleri Jones (Gwynedd), Susan Pugh (Newport), Margaret A Griffiths (Mid Glamorgan) and Dewi Thomas (Dyfed) to their first meeting.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 23 May 1995 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting of 23 May 1995 had been circulated and were accepted as a correct record. As agreed at the meeting (Item 6) Mrs Beti Jones had updated the yellow sheet outlining microfilming plans which had been distributed at that meeting and the revised version was circulated. In future an updated sheet would be regularly circulated in the form of an appendix to the minutes.

3. Review of Progress in Individual Authorities and future plans

It had been agreed that each authority would prepare a Review of Progress document on the pattern of the East Midlands Model Plan

Powys

Gordon Reid said Powys had few complete runs and would probably order film of priority titles from the British Library or the National Library of Wales.

Rhondda

Kay Warren-Morgan presented the authority's Review of Progress. The authority had a run of the Rhondda Leader and was also interested in the Western Mail.

West Glamorgan

Pauline Morris was preparing a list of about twenty newspapers for filming. 1% funding had been allocated and would be spent on microfilming once the titles to be filmed were settled.

Clwyd

David Shone said that additions to the list circulated would be included in the Review of Progress. Local newspapers for filming were selected mainly on the basis of their physical condition.

Dyfed

Dewi Thomas said that of the Dyfed districts only Carmarthen had an ongoing microfilming programme. They had full sets of the Carmarthen Journal, the Carmarthen Citizen and the South Wales Guardian and intended to concentrate on these. They would also consider filming papurau bro.

Mid Glamorgan

Margaret Griffith presented the authority's Review of Progress. She said that some newspapers had already been distributed in anticipation of reorganisation. Most of these had been microfilmed already and the authority intended to buy further film from the BL and NLW of titles identified in the Review. She was concerned about the future location of the microfilm itself, particularly master negatives. She hoped to cooperate with South Glamorgan and Cynon Valley in filming certain titles.

Cynon Valley

Lynne Bryn Jones was involved in cooperative filming of the Pioneer with Merthyr Library and Tarian y Gweithiwr with others. Most of their bound newspapers had already been filmed.

National Library of Wales

Non Jenkins presented a Review of Progress. She said the National Library was able to give priority to cooperative filming and under the circumstances of local government reorganisation would award high priority to cooperative schemes which needed to be completed quickly.

Newport

Susan Pugh said Newport had a good collection of newspapers and a programme of microfilming copies which were in poor condition or heavily used. They were reviewing their collecting policy with regard to Gwent newspapers.

Gwynedd

Eleri Jones said Gwynedd contributed to filming the North Wales Weekly News with Clwyd, Bangor and NLW. They hoped to film 35 years of the Llandudno Advertiser before reorganisation. In the longer term she felt the new authorities would be interested in the North Wales Chronicle, the Caernarfon and Denbigh Herald, Herald Mon, the Daily Post and papurau bro.

South Glamorgan

Brynmor Jones presented Review of Progress. He said they hoped to continue to cooperate in filming the Western Mail. The Barry and District News, the South Wales Echo and the Penarth Times had been filmed through the BL since 1986. Future work included Tarian y Gweithiwr followed by the Cardiff Times to 1957, the Weekly Mail to 1932 and the Cardiff and Suburban News from 1930-60.

Margaret Griffiths emphasised the value of having in writing a 'wish list' of titles which libraries would like to see filmed. These lists would help persuade the new authorities to commit funds to the work.

Gordon Reid asked how easy it was for the National Library to provide a number of estimates of the cost of filming. It was stated that estimates could be provided, although estimating was rarely straightforward, since it depended on the number of pages in a newspaper, its condition, the number of copies ordered cooperatively and the size of the order. Those interested were asked to contact Colin Venus, Head of the Library's Reprographic Section directly.

4. Implications of Local Government Reorganisation

Powys

No change: libraries and archives to come under Culture and Leisure.

Rhondda; Cynon Valley

Rhondda and Cynon Valley to join with the Taff District of Mid Glamorgan as 'Rhondda Cynon Taff'. Libraries expected to come under Education.

West Glamorgan

West Glamorgan to split into two: Swansea and Neath/Port Talbot. Libraries to come under Education.

Clwyd

Clwyd to split into four: Wrexham, Flintshire, Denbighshire and Abercolwyn. Libraries to come under Education in two of the new authorities. It was hoped there would be cooperation between them on certain issues (eg information technology).

Dyfed

Dyfed to split into three: Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, and Carmarthen joined with Llanelli, which was not represented on the Working Party but had good holdings of newspapers and some microfilm. Libraries to come under Education in Ceredigion and under Economic Development in Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire.

Mid Glamorgan

Mid Glamorgan to split into three: Bridgend and Ogwr, Taff with Cynon and Rhondda, Rhymni with Islwyn to form the new Caerffili. Libraries probably under Education in each.

Newport

No change.

Gwynedd

Gwynedd to split into three: Anglesey, Abercolwyn and Caernarfon/Meirionydd (which might retain the name 'Gwynedd'). Libraries and archives to come under Leisure in Anglesey, under Education in Caernarfon/Meirionydd and under the County Secretary's Department in Abercolwyn.

South Glamorgan

South Glamorgan to split into Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. In Cardiff libraries would come under Education.

Not represented

The new authorities of Monmouthshire, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil were not represented on the Working Party.

David Shone said that under the new arrangements a cooperative programme such as Newsplan was useful to public libraries because cooperation was also a means of obtaining demonstrable value for money. The national standard of 1% budgetary commitment also provided leverage when arguing a case for funding to the local authority.

5. Coordination and Communication

Beti Jones said she had started adding information to the Newsplan database. She asked members of the Working Party to send her any information in order to update the report and identify any inaccuracies.

It was agreed that the meetings of the Working Party itself were useful in making contacts for cooperation but that there would need to be further contact between members if the group were to operate as a clearing house in order to arrange cooperative filming.

It was emphasised that while it was not possible for all libraries to plan for the next five years ahead of reorganisation, it was particularly important for all the reviews to state the retrospective position and the achievements so far. It was particularly important to know the location of film, particularly master negatives.

6. Any other business

(i) Central Microfilm Store

The British Library had commissioned Vanessa Marshall to study the feasibility of a central store for microfilm master negative. While such a store would be valuable it was felt storage costs might deter some from using the facility.

(ii) British Library Newspaper Librarian

It was agreed to invite Geoffrey Smith, British Library Newspaper Librarian, who was involved in coordinating Newsplan on behalf of the British Library, to attend the next meeting of the Working Party.

(iii) Welsh editions and variant editions of Welsh newspapers
Brynmor Jones enquired regarding the survival of Welsh editions of newspapers such as Reynolds News, the News Chronicle and the Empire News. It seemed that most were lost. NLW received various editions of Welsh newspapers such as the Western Mail but it still did not receive Welsh editions of British newspapers through the legal deposit system. It was noted that variant editions of the Western Mail were no longer flagged, creating problems of identification.

(iv) Newsplan Database

Eleri Jones asked whether the Newsplan database was available on-line. Non Jenkins explained that the original Newsplan Report had not been prepared on that basis but that NLW hoped to transfer the information onto a database which could become on-line eventually. It was agreed that this would be a valuable step.

7. Date and place of the next meeting

The next meeting would be held at 10.30am on Tuesday 6th February 1996 at the National Library of Wales. [Because of snow the meeting was postponed until 30th April 1996].