



Paper Presented at 20th Business meeting

IFLA Newspapers Section

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THE UK NEWSPLAN PROGRAMME

History, Present and Future.

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NEWSPLAN

- Is a co-operative program for the microfilm and preservation of local newspapers.
- Makes the newspapers accessible to users.
- Is an example of co-operation between national and local libraries and the newspaper industry
- See details of NEWSPLAN at :
<http://www.bl.uk/collections/nplan.html>

NEWSPLAN: REGIONS

- East Midlands
- Ireland
- Northern Ireland
- London and South Eastern Region
- Northern Region
- North Western Region
- Scotland
- South West
- Wales/Cymru
- West Midlands
- Yorkshire and Humberside

UK & IRELAND NEWSPLAN PANEL

The Panel comprises of representatives of:

- the regions (public libraries)
- the British Library, the National Libraries of Scotland and Wales
- National Preservation Office; Society of Archivists
- Chairman: Elizabeth Melrose of Yorkshire & Humber Region.

The function of the Panel:

- agree policy,
- consider issues and opportunities at the national level.

NEWSPLAN: ORIGINS

1986 Report by Rosemary Wells on South-West Region holdings

Identified scale of the preservation need arising from:

- heavy use,
- fragility of medium,
- inadequate storage conditions.

Decided that:

- Tackling the problem was beyond the scope of any single organisation.
- Co-operative program would make the most effective use of resources.
- Microfilm was the best medium for long-term survival of newspapers.

NEWSPLAN: PLANS IMPLEMENTED

- Research projects were set up in each region, funded jointly by relevant regional library systems and the British Library.
- Reports were published, 1986-1996.
- Lists of newspaper holdings for each Region
- Implementation committees have been established in each region to co-ordinate microfilm programmes and to encourage allocation of resources by member libraries.

NEWSPLAN: REPORTS

- NEWSPLAN research phase: completed 1996.
- 10 reports comprehensively list the existing files of UK and Irish local newspapers nation-wide.
- Listing of gaps; the condition of the collections.
- They identify the microfilming which has been done and recommend priorities for remaining work.
- Some regions have placed the lists on websites
- Full details of the published reports and links to those reports placed on websites at:
<http://www.bl.uk/collections/nplan.html>

NEWSPLAN:MICROFILMING

- Much of the microfilming has been carried out by the British Library Newspaper Library.
- Since 1992 the NL has offered a concessionary rate to NEWSPLAN.
- The NL catalogue is available at:
- Since 1980 over 14,000 reels of microfilm have been produced by the NL for NEWSPLAN.
- Guidelines for the Microfilming of Newspapers were published in 1994.

<http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/newspapers.html>

BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPER COLLECTIONS

- BLNewspaper Collections are the national archive of newspapers and magazines.
- BL holds archives of British national and provincial newspapers and weekly popular magazines, published after 1800.
- BL holds archives of major Colonial, Commonwealth and overseas titles.
- 32 kilometres of holdings; ca. 660,000 volumes and ;parcels; 330,000 reels of microfilm.
- BL one of the leading partners in NEWSPLAN.

NEWSPAPERS ON MICROFILM

- BL Newspapers has retrospectively microfilmed most British national newspapers.
- Since 1986 all British provincial newspapers have been microfilmed.
- Overseas newspapers now are purchased on microfilm, if available.
- Objective to microfilm those volumes of older runs of provincial newspapers which are most at risk of deterioration, but only limited funds to do so.
- BL has spent ca. £500K per year on microfilming of newspapers, for over 20 years.

BL Digitisation Projects for Newspapers

- Burney Collection of London and Provincial Newspapers published up to 1800. Scanning and OCR of the whole collection is underway.
- UK Newspapers, 1800-1900. Proposals to scan & OCR selected national and provincial newspapers. Up to 2 million pages to be digitised.

NEWSPLAN: COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION

- Seminars have been held in the individual regions.
- National NEWSPLAN conferences were held in 1991, 1994, 1998 & 2002.
- A NEWSPLAN Newsletter is published.
- Available at :
<http://www.bl.uk/concord/linc/newsplan.html>
 - Conference proceedings for 1998 and 2002
 - Newsletters
 - Minutes of UK Panel Meetings
 - Survey of Regional Usage of Newspapers
 - Digital Developments for newspapers on the Web, UK & other countries

NEWSPLAN: FUNDING(1)

- Funding for microfilming by each Region
- Funds provided for both current newspapers and older titles
- Collaboration with local newspaper publishers for microfilming

NEWSPLAN: FUNDING (2)

- In March 1999 a Heritage Lottery Fund Award of £5 Million, to microfilm Newspapers in Peril.
- Matching Funding is needed from Libraries and from the UK Newspaper Industry.

The
NEWSPLAN2000
Project now set
up to administer
the HLF Award of
£5 million

Project Director is
John Lauder.

NEWSPLAN 2000 Project

- Newsplan 2000 Project overview is at IFLA website:
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s39/39pconf.htm>
- NEWSPLAN 2000 website:
<http://www.newsplan2000.org/latest.html>
- Filming work began in Autumn 2002
- All Regions have compiled priority lists of newspapers for microfilming.
- A contract has been issued to carry out the microfilming of newspapers.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Willingness to co-operate essential to success
- Input to process from National Libraries
- Co-operation within regions necessary to achieve objectives
- Drive to fund initiatives over a long period

NEWSPLAN PROGRAMME: ISSUES

- Digitisation from microfilm; Indexing of newspapers
- Storage of newspapers
- Archiving of digital newspaper data
- Colour in newspapers
- Supplements; Advertising newspapers
- Free newspapers
- Multiple editions of national and regional newspapers

- Continue to look for solutions...