

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a library aisle. The aisle is formed by tall metal shelving units on both sides, filled with books. The lighting is dramatic and colorful, with warm orange and yellow lights on the left and cooler blue and purple lights on the right, creating a vibrant, modern atmosphere. The perspective is looking down the center of the aisle towards a bright light at the far end.

# WHELF ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 15



Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum





# CONTENTS

Chair’s Introduction .....	Page 4
The Year in Brief .....	Page 6
Collaboration and Partnership .....	Page 9
Supporting Research .....	Page 10
Collections .....	Page 11
Widening Access .....	Page 18
Continuing Professional Development .....	Page 19
People .....	Page 20
Constitution .....	Page 21
Representing Wales .....	Page 22

**WHELF (Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum) is a collaborative group of all the higher education libraries in Wales, together with the National Library of Wales and the Open University.**

**WHELF actively promotes the work of higher education libraries in Wales and provides a focus for the development of new ideas and services.**

**WHELF's mission is to promote collaboration in library and information services, seek cost benefits for shared and consortial services, encourage the exchange of ideas, provide a forum for mutual support and help facilitate new initiatives in library, archives and information service provision.**

### Benefits of WHELF

- ▶ Raises the profile and value of services and developments in Welsh HE library, archives and information services in our own institutions, in Wales and beyond;
- ▶ Influences policy makers and funders on matters of shared interest;
- ▶ Provides cost benefits with regard to shared services, collaborative deals and service developments;
- ▶ Implements collaborative services and developments for the mutual benefit of member institutions and their users;
- ▶ Works with other organisations, sectors and domains in support of the development of a cooperative library network in Wales and the UK;
- ▶ Builds on the collaboration, partnership and advocacy role that WHELF has within Wales and produce guidance and strategic documents around student experience, research, globalisation and the importance of promoting reading and lifelong learning.

### WHELF Libraries

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ▶ Aberystwyth University          | ▶ The Open University in Wales            |
| ▶ Bangor University               | ▶ Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama  |
| ▶ Cardiff Metropolitan University | ▶ Swansea University                      |
| ▶ Cardiff University              | ▶ University of South Wales               |
| ▶ Glyndŵr University              | ▶ University of Wales                     |
| ▶ National Library of Wales       | ▶ University of Wales Trinity Saint David |





# CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION



I have just taken over as Chair of WHELF and I am very pleased to introduce this Annual Report in what has been an exceptional year for WHELF in raising our profile both nationally and internationally. The All Wales Library Management System (LMS) came to the forefront of everyone's attention with the first implementation going live in Swansea in July 2015 swiftly followed by Aberystwyth and culminated in us achieving the award for the Outstanding Library Team at the Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards (THELMA). My thanks particularly go to the Cardiff Team Janet Peters, Gareth Owen and Tracey Stanley for leading the selection and implementation of the system and to the wider team for all their hard work in making this happen.

As we continue to implement the Ex Libris library system across the consortia of libraries including the National Library of Wales and the Wales NHS Libraries, we are looking forward to working collaboratively together to maximise the benefits of the system. This will include the ability to have reciprocal borrowing across our institutions and opening up our collections, including our heritage collections.

WHELF are actively working together to open up our unique heritage collections and the "Treasures of Wales" in order to involve local communities in engaging with their history and identity. This supports the agenda for tackling poverty which is one of the Welsh Government's fundamental priorities and avidly supported by Ken Skates. The report by Baroness Kay Andrews, Culture and Poverty: Harnessing the power of the arts, culture and heritage to promote social justice in Wales published in March 2014 recognises the important part libraries,

archives, museums and historic monuments can play in engaging with and inspiring people to learn and gain new skills and in developing confidence and a sense of identity and involvement in history.

This is also an exciting time for everyone in libraries with the huge research agenda around REF2020, Open Access Publishing and Research Data Management. WHELF now has a Research Support and Scholarly Communication Group who are working together to examine and develop further collaborative support for research within our institutions.

This year the Gregynog Colloquium, which is jointly run by WHELF and HEWIT, was again a highly successful event and ran from June 15th-19th with a very apt theme of collaboration and partnership. I would like to thank the organizers of this year's event, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Cardiff University and the WHISD (Wales Higher Education Institutions Staff Development) sub-group for scheduling an excellent and informative programme of speakers and workshops and also thank all those who delivered talks. A sunny Gregynog welcomed speakers from SHEDL (Scotland), Jisc, Ex Libris, LIBISnet (Belgium), Orbis Cascade Alliance (USA), Pleiade Management & Consultancy (Netherlands) and many more from the WHELF institutions.

Again information and digital literacy are at the forefront of our work. This year the Welsh Information Literacy Project concluded and WHELF is now working with the Museums, Archives and Libraries Division (MALD) to set up a Community of Practice to continue to support information and digital literacy within our HE Institutions.

I could not conclude this introduction without mentioning my gratitude to the many committed and enthusiastic people who I have the pleasure of working with. I would particularly like to thank Aled Gruffydd Jones for his dedication, hard work, knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm in Chairing the WHELF Board during the last 18 months. We wish him all the best in the future. I am also very grateful to the other WHELF Officers Julie Hart as Treasurer and Rachael Whitfield as WHELF Development Officer, who does an exceptional job in supporting all of us. Thanks are due of course to all of the WHELF Representatives for their work during the year.

Finally, but not least, many congratulations are due to Mark Hughes, Head of Collections, Information Systems and Services, Swansea University who was the winner of the CILIP Cymru Librarian of the Year Award. The award, given by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals Wales, reflects the dedication and hard work that an individual gives to the profession. Mark's collaborative work style has driven projects and procurements to the benefit of HE libraries across Wales incorporating his work on the WHELF Shared LMS and as Chair of the Wales Higher Education Electronic Library (WHEEL).

**Sue Hodges MA CILIP**

Director of Libraries and Archives, Bangor University



# YEAR IN BRIEF

This year has brought about a landmark achievement for WHELF in fulfilling its long term strategic aim to procure a shared library management system (LMS) for Wales' higher education libraries, the National Library of Wales and the Welsh NHS libraries. The WHELF consortium selected Ex Libris Alma and Primo to deliver its next generation cloud-based system and following the contract signing at the end of 2014, the implementation process for Cohort 1 began. The shared LMS, its procurement and implementation has been the primary strategic aim of WHELF and the focus of our activities during 2014-15 and will remain so as we seek to take advantage of the greater efficiencies a shared system can offer. The following pages will also highlight many of the other activities in which WHELF has been involved during the year. We hope you enjoy reading this report.

## LIBRARIES: IMPROVING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Academic libraries in Wales continued to refurbish existing facilities and open new facilities to ensure that they give students the very best experience during the course of their studies.

Swansea University's Information Services and Systems took over the newly constructed Bay Library in the early summer of 2015; outfitting of the library and stock moves were completed over the summer. The first building to be officially opened on the new campus, the library held its grand opening on 1st September 2015. The new library provides learning spaces for 600 students, a dedicated postgraduate study room, zoned silent study areas, group study areas, a café, a computing and teaching room and a dedicated PC room. Support for students will be provided by a library, IT and employability helpdesk along with academic and research support services, Swansea Employability Academy and Swansea Academy of Learning and Teaching.

Library refurbishments have been completed in three of the libraries at Cardiff University, notably with a dramatic redesign of the entrance area in the Arts and Social Studies Library, and a new reception space for SCOLAR (Special Collections and Archives). The Legal Practice Library has been moved into the Arts and Social Sciences Library in order to combine the law library facilities. Cardiff University Information Services will be asked to contribute to a feasibility study later in the year prior to a major extension to the Arts and Social Studies Library possibly beginning in 2017. This will create a new University Library building for the Cathays campus, incorporating the existing libraries.

At Cardiff Metropolitan University, in response to student feedback, a team of Library and Information Services staff have undertaken a series of improvements at each Learning Centre with a focus on technology enabled study spaces and the creation of silent study space. The team have been very active in signposting the new services to students and aim to build upon this work in 2015-16.

The Open University has introduced a new library discovery and library management system. Ex Libris Alma and Primo has replaced several systems with a next generation cloud-based platform designed for the digital age. It has introduced the new Library Search system which includes improved relevance ranking and a new 'My Bookshelf' feature.

## RESTRUCTURING

Many of the WHELF libraries have been undergoing a restructuring process. At Cardiff Metropolitan University a proposed new library structure and plan to modernise all departmental job descriptions was approved for implementation throughout 2014-15. The focus of the restructuring was to ensure the department is best positioned to deliver the University's Corporate Strategic Plan objectives, inclusive of delivering a positive

student experience, responding to the challenges of internationalisation, as well as addressing the impact and opportunity of technology. The project has been considerable, issuing all staff with a modernised job description, applying a new functional matrix as well as seeking to embed and improve a culture of training, coaching and mentoring, as well as increasing succession planning and reducing risk.

The restructuring process at Glyndŵr University is now complete and includes two new teams reporting to the Head of Learning Resources and Information, namely Library and IT Service Desk and Learning Resources. This has led to a harmonised Library and IT Helpdesk and a new Learning Resources team which includes the University Librarian, Deputy University Librarian, Learning Resources Advisors, a VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) Technologist, IT Support Officer and Academic Study Skills Tutors.

Following the new appointment of Megan Wiley as Librarian for the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama restructuring has seen the Library move from within Academic Services to the (newly renamed) Student Experience division, with the Librarian reporting to the Head of Student Experience. This reflects the College's interest in the Library being more involved in the development of employability skills in students.

Post-merger integration at the University of South Wales has seen the completion of the harmonisation of

subscriptions and all students now have an account that is authenticated via a single identity provider. The Board of Governors has announced a number of key decisions relating to strategic investment in the university's estate. The University of South Wales future in Newport involves investment in the City Centre Campus whilst Caerleon Campus will not recruit undergraduate students after this year. The operation of services across the Treforest and Glyntaff Campuses will be reviewed with the aim of creating a single 'Pontypridd' campus. In Cardiff, completion of the Atrium2 development is planned for the start of the 2016-17 academic year. Work is underway to rationalise and relocate library collections and plan the effective use of space in the new campus configurations.

In anticipation of the new Bay Campus at Swansea University opening and beginning operations as a dual campus, the Library has made changes to the structure of its subject teams and ICT as well as made some new appointments.

Cardiff University has been implementing the outcomes of its Academic Liaison Review. The outcomes include the creation of leads for Education, Research and Collections along with a lead for each of the three College teams, and two Customer Service Managers. The restructuring of staff in the Arts and Social Studies Library following the introduction of RFID self-service has already been implemented and has enabled the strengthening of staff in some key areas such as reading list digitisation and special collections.



University of South Wales





WHELF Representatives meeting May 2015

Plans to create a new £100million waterside campus for University of Wales Trinity Saint David: Swansea on the SA1 Waterfront took a major step forward with the exchange of contracts with the Welsh Government. The project has now entered Phase 1 with plans to create a Waterfront Innovation Quarter encompassing the Dylan Thomas Centre.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

The Information Services Department at Aberystwyth University has achieved the Customer Service Excellence Standard (CSE) following a formal assessment in April 2015. This government standard is given in recognition of organizations who work to deliver outstanding customer services. Aberystwyth University now joins Cardiff University Library and Swansea University Library in holding this award.

We welcomed guest attendance at WHELF meetings during the year from Dr Sam Rayner (Director of the Centre for Publishing and Senior Lecturer in Publishing at University College London) presenting the AHRC/BL collaborative project on the Academic Book of the Future. We also welcomed Vice-Chair of Customer Services UK Group, Libby Homer (Associate Director, Library and Learning Services at the University of East London) to our July meeting.

And finally, WHELF has a new website. The focus and purpose of the redesign has been to develop the site in order to be able to include content in English and Welsh ([www.whelf.ac.uk](http://www.whelf.ac.uk)). WHELF would like to thank the Web Team at Swansea University for enabling this to happen by hosting the new website, organizing the site migration and assisting in the design and layout of the site.

# COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP



## WHELF SHARED LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

2014 drew to a close with WHELF being delighted to announce that a consortium of Welsh Universities, including the National Library of Wales, and the Welsh NHS Libraries, had selected the Ex Libris Alma unified resource management system and the Ex Libris Primo unified resource discovery and delivery system to provide a new shared Library Management System for the sector. The signing of the contract on 18th of December 2014 has brought to culmination several years of work in this area. During 2014 it has been the commitment, enthusiasm and hard work of the WHELF Shared LMS Programme Manager, Gareth Owen, together with the members of the Working Group that has brought about this tremendous achievement. Ken Skates AM, Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, met colleagues working on the WHELF Shared LMS project at the recent CILIP Cymru Wales Conference and commented that "working collaboratively on a shared library management system will bring significant benefits for students, lecturers and library staff, along with financial savings. I am impressed that this excellent example of Welsh institutions working together has received international attention, and I'm pleased that the Welsh Government has been able to support this initiative".

Work has continued apace in 2015 and at the time of writing three out of the four institutions from cohort 1 of the project have gone live on schedule with Alma and Primo: Swansea University, Aberystwyth University

and the University of South Wales. The system will be operational across all eleven WHELF institutions and the Welsh NHS Libraries (via Cardiff University) by the end of 2016. The value of the project has already been recognised with WHELF winning the "Outstanding Library Team" category at the recent Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards 2015 (THELMAs). The judges described WHELF as an "ambitious project" that "shows great trust, ability to develop a shared vision and achieve impressive cross-organisational alignment and coordination". Chair of WHELF, Aled Gruffydd Jones (Chief Executive and Librarian, National Library of Wales) commented that the "award is a tribute to the excellent collaboration that has been developed between library teams in very different kinds of institutions across Wales. The mutual trust and respect on which it is founded not only enhances the services we offer to our users, and at a lower cost, but also provides a very strong basis for further joint working in the future".

## ABERYSTWYTH/BANGOR STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Library services in both institutions are working together to deliver a Leadership Foundation funded project to explore models of effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of online reading list services. The project is being led by Bangor University.

## WELSH COLLABORATION IN ACTION

An annual joint event for "librarians supporting HE in FE" was held on the 23rd June at the University of South Wales. The morning session was dedicated to an exchange of information and updates from each attending FE and HE institution, whilst the afternoon session was facilitated by Nicola Robinson, Human Resources Partner at USW, and focussed on managing change.



# SUPPORTING RESEARCH

A key initiative that has arisen out of Strategic Aim 2 of the WHELF Action Plan: Research and Enterprise, is the formation of a WHELF Research sub-group. The group held its first meeting on 5th June and is Chaired by Janet Peters (Cardiff University), with Vice Chair Steve Williams (Swansea University) and members: Owain Roberts (National Library of Wales), Beth Hall (Bangor University), Helen Sharp/Lynette Summers (Cardiff Metropolitan University), Steve Smith (Aberystwyth University), Bronwen Blatchford (University of Wales), Alison Harding (University of Wales Trinity Saint David: Carmarthen and Lampeter), Sue Hodges (Bangor University), Susan Glen/Sam Oakley (Swansea University). The group's role and remit is to:

- a) Advise each other on relevant issues and share good practice in the support of research and researchers in Wales
- b) Present issues for discussion to WHELF
- c) Develop a WHELF Research Strategy for approval by WHELF
- d) Organise events to bring staff together to learn new skills.

A survey of WHELF institutions to review the current use of repositories for publications and data has been completed and will help inform future directions in this area. The group is now surveying the research support roles that are carried out by staff in WHELF institutions.

A TeachMeet event on supporting researchers "Information Literacy and the Researcher" was held at Cardiff University on 28th November. The event was the first collaborative venture between WHELF and the GW4 Alliance and an appealing programme of topics and speakers attracted delegates not just from within the WHELF/GW4 areas but also Edinburgh, Durham, Leicester and Oxford to name a few, providing a great networking opportunity.

Bangor University has set up a Research Data Management Service with associated web pages. The Library runs the service but has worked collaboratively on this with their Research and Enterprise Office and IT Services. The Library also now contributes and teaches on the Researcher Development programme and is conducting a major review of their Research Reserve working in particular with the College of Arts and Humanities.

A WHELF event run in collaboration with UKeIG (UK eInformation Group) explored the skills needed to support research data management. "Research Data Management for Information Professionals" presented by Andrew Cox took place at Cardiff Metropolitan University on 1st July 2015 and was attended by 14 staff from across WHELF institutions.

Library users are familiar with gaining access to the National Library of Wales via the catalogue and digital collections websites such as Welsh Newspapers Online. To complement these services National Library of Wales Data will offer a new way of accessing collections. NLW Data will focus on providing direct programmatic access to the various types of data held by the National Library of Wales. As a result users will be able to download datasets and use their own software tools to query datasets programmatically.

# COLLECTIONS

Bangor University can now boast the largest collection of Arthurian books in Wales and the north of England, following an agreement with Flintshire County Council, who have donated a rare and valuable Arthurian Collection to the University's Library and Archives. The collection is a valuable resource for students studying the Arthurian Literature undergraduate modules or the University's MA degree in Arthurian Literature, but will also interest anyone who wants to discover Arthurian studies more generally. Sue Hodges, Bangor University's Director of Libraries and Archives, commented: "this is a fantastic collection which will support Arthurian Studies research, teaching and learning within Bangor University and internationally and it augments and enhances our existing collection. We are very grateful to Flintshire County Libraries for this acquisition. Working closely with Dr Radulescu, we will manage, conserve, promote and digitise some of the collection so that it can be opened up further for the public and communities within Wales".

The Richard Burton Archives at Swansea University has recently acquired a "lost" Dylan Thomas notebook. The University successfully bid £85,000 at an auction in Sotheby's for the notebook, which lay forgotten in a drawer for decades before recently coming to light. It is one of five notebooks used by Dylan Thomas - the other four are in the State University of New York at Buffalo. The acquisition ensures that the notebook will remain in Wales and accessible to scholars. The notebook was on display at the University as part of the inaugural International Dylan Thomas Day on 14th May, the first time it has ever been seen publicly.

An ongoing collaboration at Swansea University between archivists, librarians and academic staff has developed the use of primary resources for learning and teaching. 'The Practice of History' is a compulsory module for all second level single honours and joint honours History students. It aims to teach students the essential skills required by historians but in the past had been primarily lecture based. Following student feedback, the module was redesigned to make it more practical and based around working with primary sources. Throughout the semester students are

introduced to a variety of sources through seminars, lectures and visits to archives and libraries across Swansea. The new module has provided an opportunity for library and archive services to interact with students and staff at a much closer level and contributes to raising standards (and grades) and improving the student experience.

A similar module collaboration has been ongoing for a number of years between Special Collections at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David: Carmarthen and Lampeter, and the Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts. The module provides an introduction to the handling, conservation, cataloguing and interpretation of primary source materials from the historic collections of the Roderic Bowen Library and Archives and is designed to help students understand the use of primary source material and encourage the use of special collections in assignments and dissertations.

The Roderic Bowen Library and Archives at University of Wales Trinity Saint David, ran a series of exhibitions throughout the year:

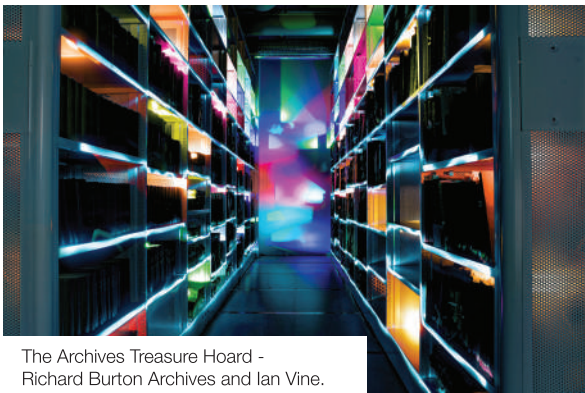
- A Lost Generation: St David's College and World War One
- Three Seasons with the Football Club (1962-64)
- Timothy Richard (1845-1919): Welsh Missionary, Educator and Reformer in China
- Alfred Bastien's Panorama de l'Yser
- Thomas Phillips (1760-1851): Bringing China to Wales (held at the Alex Building, Swansea)
- Lampeter: Birthplace of Welsh Rugby
- 350th Anniversary of Robert Hooke's Micrographia
- Interpreting China and The Art of Calligraphy (organised by the Confucius Institute).



The Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David was gifted the personal library of David Hay. David Hay wrote one of two seminal biographies of Alister Hardy and was the director of the Religious Experience Research Unit when it was housed in Oxford.

The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama now houses the largest lending collection of plays in English. The valuable collection of over 100,000 play texts, theatre literature and manuscripts, includes scripts from well-known playwrights such as David Hare, Harold Pinter and Terence Rattigan, to the less well-known, such as Rhondda Roundabout, by Jack Jones and the late Dannie Abse's Eccentric.

In the summer of 2015 the Richard Burton Archives submitted an entry to Swansea University's Research as Art competition. The Archives took this opportunity to showcase to the world how their collections support research, by creating the following image and supporting description.



The Archives Treasure Hoard - Richard Burton Archives and Ian Vine.

Researchers are looking for that hidden gem, that precious nugget of information. More than 50 individual photographs were overlaid to create this image of the Richard Burton Archives as a treasure trove filled with gems of ideas and information to be mined, polished and presented to the world. The image challenges stereotypes of archives as dusty, inaccessible places. Our state of the art facilities, preserving unique collections, are highlighted with jewel coloured illumination; just as archives throw light on the past. Archive staff map out the collections through catalogues, helping in the hunt for research riches. This could be about mining accidents in the South Wales Coalfield, copper smelting for global trade, or the purchase of diamonds in 'The Richard Burton Diaries'. Our collections have multi-disciplinary potential and we work with researchers to ensure that these priceless items can add to the wealth of knowledge.

WELSH NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

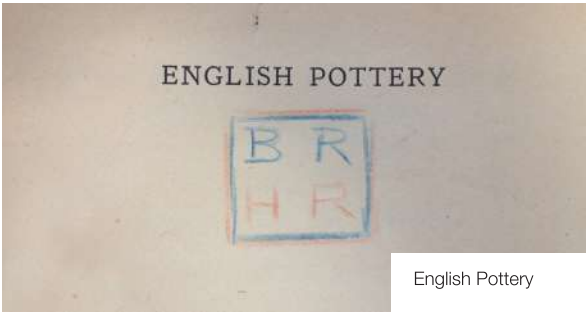
The new Welsh Newspapers Online website has recently been unveiled. The website contains 400,000 additional pages of digitised newspapers, some from new titles and others from titles that were already on the website giving access to 15 million articles and 1.1 million pages. The new website also responds to the device being used which improves the experience of accessing the resource on a tablet or mobile phone. In addition, the site has the facility to browse images in the newspapers based on five sub-categories (cartoons, graphs, illustrations, maps and photographs) and it is now also possible to run searches based on language.

WHELF'S TREASURES

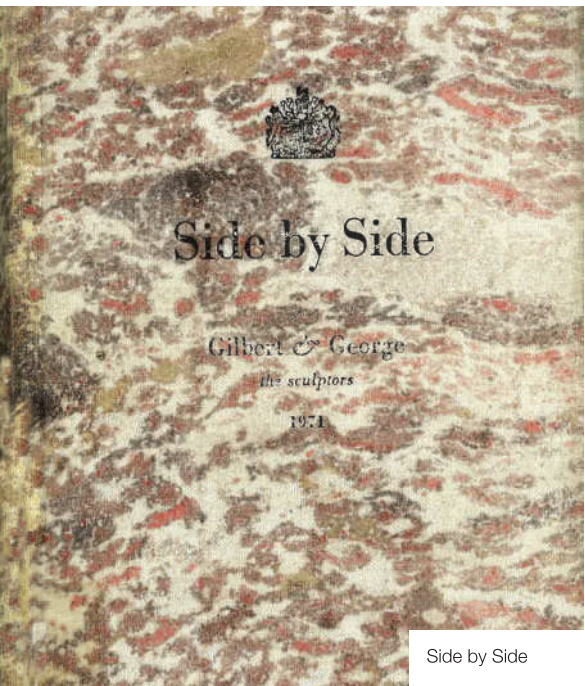
The Archives and Special Collections of the WHELF Libraries contain many rich and varied treasures. Here are just a few examples from these precious collections:

CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The image shows a publisher's proof of the book English Pottery by Bernard Rackham and Herbert Read, first published in 1924. This publisher's proof is marked in coloured pencil and these markings appear to indicate which parts of the book were written by which author. The proof sits within The Rackham Collection: a collection of over 70 books written or edited by Bernard Rackham (Keeper of the Department of Ceramics at the Victoria and Albert Museum, 1914-38), along with books from his personal collection and associated ephemera such as letters and notebooks, donated to Cardiff School of Art and Design by the Rackham family over a six year period from 2002 to 2008.



English Pottery

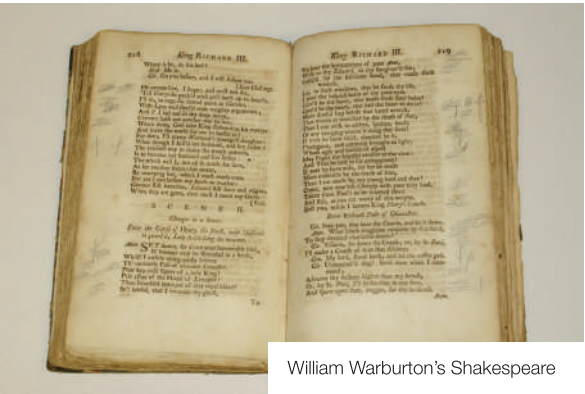


Side by Side

Side by Side is the first artists' book by British conceptual duo, "the sculptors" Gilbert & George. They state in their introduction to the book that: "These chapters together represent a contemporary sculpture novel. It is based on plans, intentions and experience. The form being abstract air brushes and the expression pure sculpture..." The library's copy, held in the growing Artists' Books Collection, is no. 398 of a limited edition of 600 signed and numbered copies.

ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Special Collections department houses a copy of William Warburton's edition of Shakespeare published in 1747, in eight volumes. This was used by Samuel



William Warburton's Shakespeare

Johnson in the preparation of his Dictionary (1755) and his own edition of Shakespeare (1765). Johnson employed amanuenses who copied material from the volumes and there are also a few notes in his own hand. Volume six comes from another set, owned by Edward Walpole and annotated by Styan Thirlby, which was lent to Johnson when he was working on his own Shakespeare edition. The volumes later passed through the library collections of George Steevens and Richard Heber before purchase by George Powell of Nanteos in 1862. His collection was later bequeathed to the University.

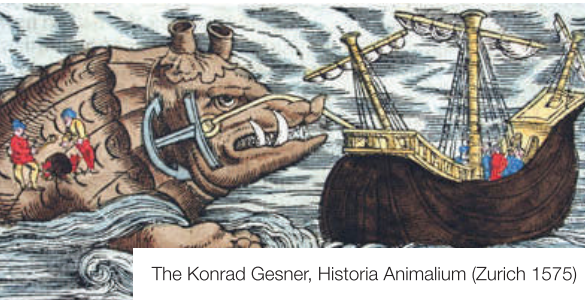
RODERIC BOWEN LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID

The Lampeter Bible in the Roderic Bowen Library and Archives is a remarkable manuscript for many reasons. It is signed by the scribe, who not only gave his own name, 'G. of Fécamp', but also the date, 1279, and the name of his patron, Abbot Jacobus (James) of the Benedictine Abbey of Saint-Pierre-sur-Dives (Diocese of Sées) in Normandy.



Lampeter Bible

Conrad Gesner (1516-1565) was arguably the greatest naturalist of his age. Between 1551 and 1558, Gesner published a four-volume masterwork, the History of Animals. His work was possible in a large part due to the web of correspondence he established with leading



The Konrad Gesner, Historia Animalium (Zurich 1575)



naturalists throughout Europe who, in addition to their ideas, sent him plants, animals and gems. At a time of extreme religious tension Gesner maintained friendships on both sides of the Catholic-Protestant divide. Gesner's extensive use of illustration was unusual for the period. The beautiful woodcuts were produced by the artist Lucas Schan of Strasbourg.



Jan van der Straat, Venationes ferarum, auium, piscium pugnae bestiariorum & mutuae bestiarum. (Antwerp, 1630)

Flemish Renaissance artist Jan van der Straat worked for most of his life in Italy as a designer of cartoons for tapestries. From 1553 to 1571 he was employed by Cosimo de'Medici to design a series of lavish representations of hunting, fowling and fishing for the adornment of twenty rooms in the Palace of Poggio-a-Cajano. The Venationes magnificently commemorates these designs (and others) depicting the traditional hunting methods of the renaissance with fanciful subjects of Eastern origin. The engravers of this work were trained by Peter Paul Rubens.

BANGOR UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

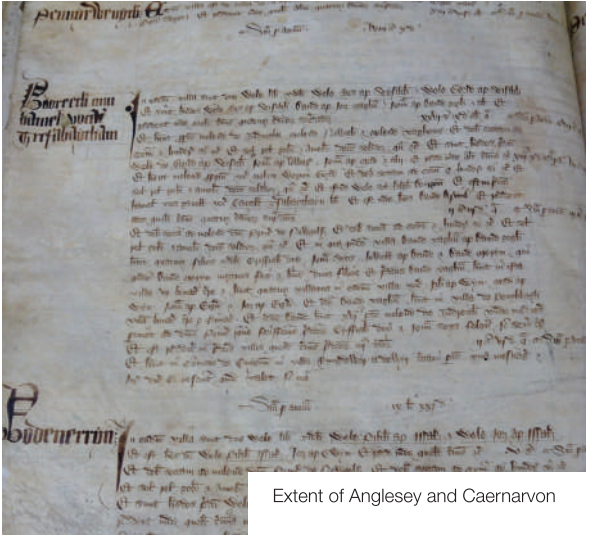
The Bangor Pontifical Project was an initiative of Bangor University's 125th Anniversary Celebrations in 2009 which represented a collaboration between the



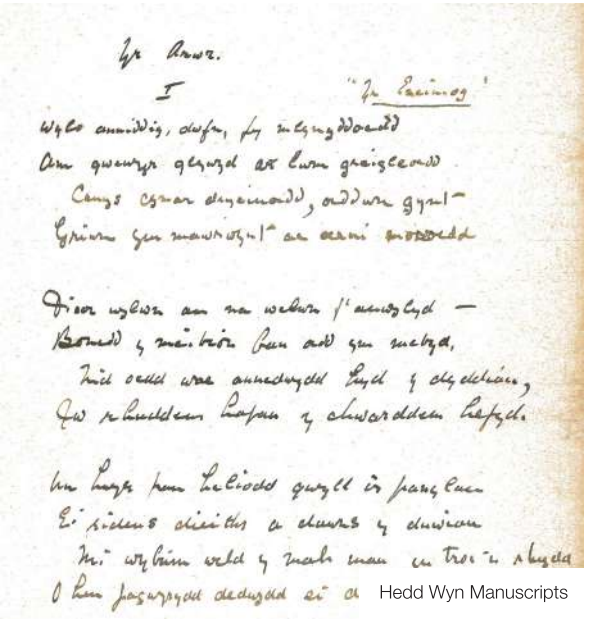
Bangor Pontifical

University and Bangor Cathedral. The project enabled a hidden and precious treasure of medieval Bangor - the Bangor Pontifical - to be made universally accessible via a state-of-the art permanent high resolution website. The Bangor Pontifical is an exceptional manuscript, being the only complete liturgical manuscript known to survive from the medieval diocese of Bangor, and one of just two extant books from medieval Wales as a whole to contain substantial plainchant notation. The Pontifical is owned by the Dean and Chapter of Bangor Cathedral and it is still brought to the Cathedral for special occasions, although it is now kept for safety in Bangor University Archive.

The first two sections of this manuscript, the Extent of Anglesey and Caernarvon were compiled by John de Delves, the deputy-justice of north Wales, in 1352. The manuscript is regarded as one of the most important



Extent of Anglesey and Caernarvon



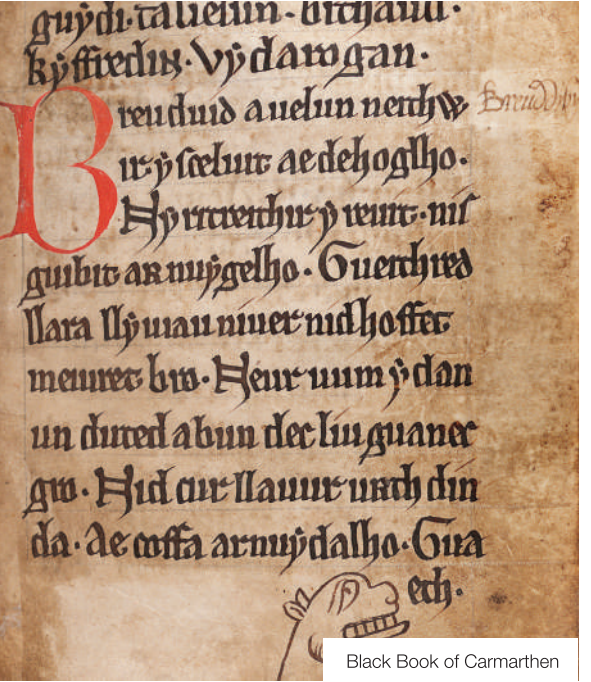
Hedd Wyn Manuscripts

sources for the economic and social history of medieval Gwynedd. It provides a detailed description of the rents and services which were due to the ruler or lord from his tenants.

A collection of poems, 1906-17, which were composed by Hedd Wyn for entry in Eisteddfod competitions. In particular, there are early versions of the winning ode in the Birkenhead Eisteddfod, Yr Arwr, which won him the Chair at the Birkenhead Eisteddfod following his death on the battlefield in Flanders in the Great War, and the recently discovered letter "Rhiwle yn Ffrainc" written in 1917. This letter provides a poet's view of the life 'behind the line' and yet heroically does not reveal the actual horrors of the trenches, but focuses on the few small moments of beauty that the poet finds to contemplate and share with the reader.

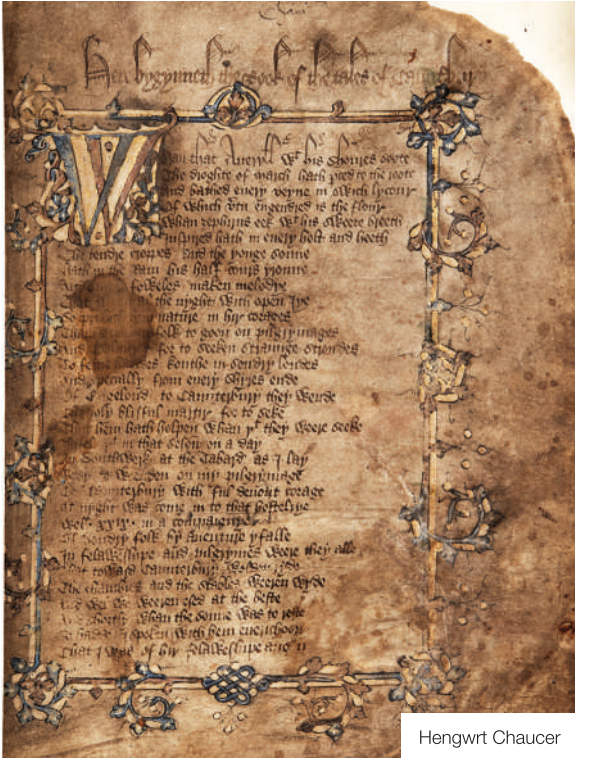
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

The Black Book of Carmarthen, so called because of the colour of its binding and its connection with the Priory of St John the Evangelist and Teulyddog, Carmarthen, is now thought by modern scholars to be the work of a single scribe writing at different periods of his life before and about the year 1250. This makes it one of the earliest surviving manuscripts written solely in the Welsh language. It was designated one of the 'Four Ancient Books of Wales' by William Forbes Skene (1809-92), although he believed it to have been written much earlier in the twelfth century.

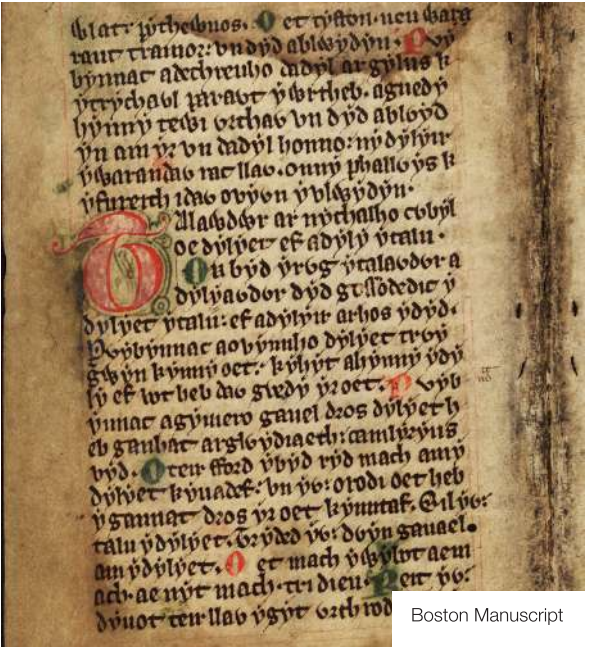


Black Book of Carmarthen

The 'Hengwrt Chaucer' is undoubtedly one of the greatest treasures of the National Library of Wales and one of the best known outside Wales. It is one of the most important texts of Geoffrey Chaucer's work to come down to us, and its importance has recently been magnified by the identification of its scribe as Adam Pinkhurst, one of Chaucer's London-based associates. The manuscript may have been written at the end of the fourteenth century.



Hengwrt Chaucer



Boston Manuscript



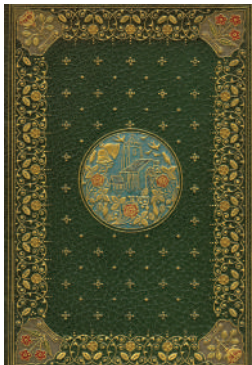
The Boston Manuscript of the Laws of Hywel Dda is a small Welsh manuscript dating from the second half of the fourteenth century, and contains the Dyfed version of native Welsh law. As the first medieval manuscript in the Welsh language to appear at public auction since 1923, it is one of the most important of recent accessions to the manuscript collections of the National Library of Wales.

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES (SCOLAR)

In 1302 the Italian poet Dante Alighieri, author of the Divine Comedy, was permanently banished from his beloved Florence, the city of his birth. Forced to spend the rest of his life in political exile, Dante travelled throughout Italy wandering from city to city. Any scholar hoping to follow in Dante's footsteps would do well to study these beautiful hand-coloured maps, produced in 1892 by the English artist Mary Hensman. The maps were produced in London by Charles Robert Ashbee's Guild of Handicraft as coloured photolithographs.



Dante Map



Sangorski and Sutcliffe

Special Collections at Cardiff University also has a large number of exceptional bindings by some of the leading craftsmen of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including several outstanding examples from the famed London firm of Sangorski & Sutcliffe, the epitome of the book arts for the period. Formed by Francis Sangorski and George Sutcliffe in 1901, this bindery was best known

for producing elaborate bindings inlaid with gold and encrusted with precious stones.

In addition to their major private press books and fine bindings, Cardiff University also holds a range of modern illuminated manuscripts. This beautiful copy of Thomas Gray's Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard was written out and hand-illuminated by Sidney Farnsworth in 1910. Farnsworth was a painter, sculptor and illuminator, and also the author of a "how-to guide" for people wishing to learn the craft, Illumination and its Development in the Present Day.



Elegy Written in a County Churchyard

SWANSEA UNIVERSITY RICHARD BURTON ARCHIVES

The Richard Burton Archives is the corporate memory and archive repository of Swansea University and holds material of local, regional, national and international significance. The collections have strengths in the South Wales Coalfield (particularly records of miners and the organisations they were involved in such as trade unions), industrial and business records, Welsh writing in English, and the University. It is the home of the archives of the actor Richard Burton.

The South Wales Coalfield Collection is an internationally important research resource. The Collection provides a unique picture of life in the coalfield valleys during



Image reproduced by courtesy of the Co-operative Group

the late nineteenth and the twentieth centuries, concentrating on the workers themselves and the organisations they created. It contains records of trade unions, notably the National Union of Mineworkers (South Wales Area), miners' institutes, co-operative societies and individuals connected with the mining community. During the 1920s industrial unrest occurred in South Wales, with the mining communities being particularly hard hit by the strikes of 1921 and 1926. This photograph depicts the supportive relationship between co-operative societies, with gifts being sent by members of the London Co-operative Society to their fellow co-operators in Dowlais.

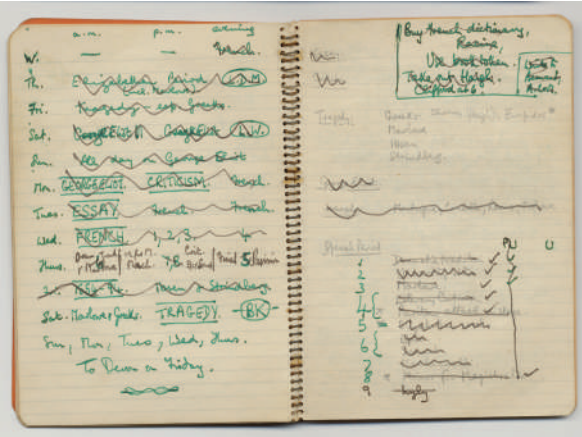


Image reproduced by courtesy of the family of Raymond Williams

The focus of the literary collections at the Richard Burton Archives are Welsh Writers in English. These included the papers of the renowned cultural critic and writer Raymond Williams (1921-1988). The collection consists of manuscripts and typescripts of novels, dramatic works, poetry and academic writings; correspondence; published reviews, lectures and articles. The notebooks are particularly important as Raymond Williams jotted down initial ideas for later development. His

publications, such as 'Culture and Society' (1958), 'The Long Revolution' (1961), and his other critical writings 'challenged conventional boundaries of thought and their academic compartmentalization', and Raymond Williams saw a unity between his non-fiction and fiction work, such as 'Border Country' (1960).

The Local Archive Collections are particularly varied and include the records of many local businesses. The metallurgical industries in the area are well represented, particularly copper, tinplate and steel. These patents were issued to Sir Henry Hussey Vivian, politician and industrialist (1821-1894), for his innovations in the manufacture of copper in the United Kingdom, and are accompanied by patents issued in Austria, Hungary, France, Germany, and Canada. It has been suggested that he was largely responsible for the expansion and diversification of Vivian & Sons, and that his influence was key to Swansea becoming 'the metallurgical centre of the world'.



Patents

<sup>1</sup> Dai Smith, 'Williams, Raymond Henry (1921–1988)', rev. Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Oct 2009 [http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/39847, accessed 24 Aug 2015]



# WIDENING ACCESS

Work carried out during 2013-14 on the WHELF Action Plan include surveying the library access and borrowing schemes offered by the WHELF institutions. This work was consolidated during 2014-15 to streamline and signpost the schemes that are on offer to our users via the WHELF website. HE students and staff can access most of our libraries via SCONUL Access. WHELF institutions are also members of a number of cross-sectoral and community borrowing schemes to allow access to their library for the general public and the local community. For further details see [whelf.ac.uk/access-and-borrowing-schemes](http://whelf.ac.uk/access-and-borrowing-schemes)

## WALK IN ACCESS

The University of South Wales has become the newest member of WHELF to become part of this scheme that enables members of the public access to electronic resources in Welsh HE Libraries. They join Aberystwyth University, Bangor University, Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and University of Wales Trinity Saint David: Carmarthen and Lampeter.

# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Gregynog Colloquium this year was again a highly successful event which ran from June 15th-19th with a theme of collaboration and partnership. WHELF would like to thank the organizers of this year's event, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Cardiff University and the WHISD (Wales Higher Education Institutions Staff Development) sub-group for scheduling an excellent and informative programme of speakers and workshops and also thank all those who delivered talks. A sunny Gregynog welcomed speakers from SHEDL (Scotland), Jisc, Ex Libris, LIBISnet (Belgium), Orbis Cascade Alliance (USA), Pleiade Management & Consultancy (Netherlands) and many more from the WHELF institutions.

## CILIP CYMRU LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

The winner of this year's award was Mark Hughes, Head of Collections, Information Systems and Services at Swansea University. The award, given by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Wales (CILIP Cymru), reflects the dedication and hard work that an individual gives to the profession. Mark's collaborative work style has driven projects and procurements to the benefit of HE libraries across Wales incorporating his work on the WHELF Shared LMS and as Chair of the WHELF sub-group WHEEL (Wales Higher Education Electronic Library).

A number of other staff development events have also been run across the year and WHELF thanks the staff of its institutions for their commitment and enthusiasm in running these events:

- Datacite Workshops (Bangor University, 21st April; Cardiff University 5th May)

- The institution as academic publisher (Cardiff University, 9th July)
- Librarians developing digital literacies (Cardiff University, 17th July)
- SCONUL ACCSG training event "Copyright Challenges: understanding the recent legislative changes and how to use them effectively" (University of South Wales, January 26th)
- The 46th ARLIS UK & Ireland Conference (Art Libraries Society) (Cardiff Metropolitan University, 15th-17th July). The conference launched a new book entitled Art Researchers' Guide to Cardiff and South Wales edited by Louise Carey, Kristine Chapman (National Museum of Wales), Jenny Godfrey (Cardiff Metropolitan University), and Peter Keelan (Cardiff University).





# PEOPLE

We welcomed a new WHELF representative to our meetings, Megan Wiley, Librarian of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Megan joins us from the University of Bristol where she was in her most recent role Acting Head of Information Services and Careers Service. One of Megan's professional interests is in the role that information specialists have in developing employability skills and her literature review on this topic was published by Sconul in 2014.

We also welcomed back Bronwen Blatchford, Librarian of the University of Wales and would like to express our thanks to Mark Lester for his contribution to WHELF whilst Bronwen was on maternity leave. Mark has now returned to his role at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Beth Pearce, Copyright Officer at the University of South Wales has left to explore a new opportunity as Copyright Officer with a private education company in Dubai. We wish Beth well in her new venture and thank her for her work and support on the WHELF Copyright sub-group.

We bid farewell to two long standing members of staff in Archives and Special Collections; Einion Thomas, University Archivist at Bangor and Elgan Davies, Head of Collections and Resource Management at Aberystwyth University. Their knowledge and experience will be very much missed and we would also like to thank them for their support and work on the WHELF Archives & Special Collections sub-group.

We also thank Lorna Hughes for Chairing the WHELF Archives and Special Collections sub-group and we wish Lorna well in her new role as Chair in Digital Humanities at the University of London's School of Advanced Study. WHELF welcomes Sally McInness, Head of Collection Care at the National Library of Wales as new Chair of the Archives and Special Collections sub-group and Sian Williams, Librarian South Wales Miners Library into the role of Vice-Chair.

Finally, we bid farewell to Chair of WHELF, Aled Gruffydd Jones. We have very much enjoyed working with Aled and have benefitted from his enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment. We wish Aled all the very best for the future.

# CONSTITUTION

## WHELF MEETINGS

- WHELF met four times during the year:
- 9th - 10th October 2014 at Gregynog Hall
  - 12th February 2015 via videoconference
  - 30th April - 1st May 2015 at Gladstone's Library
  - 13th July 2015 via videoconference

## WHELF OFFICERS GROUP

The Officers Group meets four times a year ahead of the main WHELF meetings.

### Membership for 2014-15:

- Chair: Sue Hodges, Bangor University
- Aled Gruffydd Jones, NLW
- Julie Hart, Aberystwyth University (WHELF Treasurer)
- Rachael Whitfield, WHELF Development Officer

## WHELF ACTION PLAN

A yearly action plan sets WHELF's targets and timescales and is structured around the four themes of the WHELF Strategic plan in order to bring our Strategic Aims in to effect. A WHELF representative fulfils the role of Strategic Aim Lead for each area as follows:

- **Aim 1** Student Experience: Emma Adamson (Cardiff Metropolitan University)
- **Aim 2** Research and Enterprise: Janet Peters (Cardiff University)
- **Aim 3** International and Globalised University: Paul Jeorrett (Glyndŵr University)
- **Aim 4** Workforce Development: Julie Hart (Aberystwyth University)
- Promotion and Marketing (WHELF Officers)

Support to achieve the objectives of the action plan is provided by other WHELF members, the WHELF sub-groups, the WHELF Development Officer and partner organisations.



# REPRESENTING WALES

WHELF members are represented on a wide range of national and UK organisations. These include:

Academic and Research Libraries Group (ARLG)  
Conference Organising Group  
Paul Jeorrett, Glyndŵr University

AWHILES - the All-Wales Health Information and  
Libraries Extension Service  
Janet Peters, Cardiff University

BIC / CILIP RFID in Libraries Group  
Mark Hughes, Swansea University

British Library Advisory Board  
Janet Peters, Cardiff University

CyMAL Libraries Inspire Advisory Group  
Julie Hart, Aberystwyth University; Anne Harvey,  
UWTSD: Swansea

EIRWG (Electronic Information Resources Working  
Group - Jisc)  
Janet Peters, Cardiff University

Jisc Knowledge Base+ Technical Advisory Group  
Mark Hughes

North Wales Library Partnership  
Sue Hodges, Bangor University; Paul Jeorrett,  
Glyndŵr University

SCONUL Executive Board  
Sue Hodges, Bangor University; Steve Williams,  
Swansea University

SCONUL Academic Content and Communication  
Strategy Group  
Sue Hodges, Bangor University

SCONUL Performance and Quality Strategy Group:  
Quality sub-group  
Paul Jeorrett, Glyndŵr University

SCONUL Performance and Quality: Statistics sub-group  
Ann Davies, Open University; Julie Hart,  
Aberystwyth University

SCONUL Access Steering Group  
Alison Harding, UWTSD: Carmarthen & Lampeter

SCONUL Shared Services Strategy Group  
Mark Hughes, Swansea University

Welsh Information Literacy Project Steering Group  
Alison Harding, University of Wales Trinity Saint David;  
Nicola Watkinson, Glyndŵr University



For further information please contact:

**Rachael Whitfield**

WHELF Development Officer  
Library & Information Services  
Swansea University  
Singleton Park  
Swansea SA2 8PP

**Email:** [r.b.whitfield@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:r.b.whitfield@swansea.ac.uk)

**Web:** [www.whelf.ac.uk](http://www.whelf.ac.uk)

**Twitter:** @whelfed

**Cover Image:**

The Archives Treasure Hoard -  
Richard Burton Archives and Ian Vine.

