Annual Report 2012 - 2013

WHELF

Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum

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. It is chaired by the Chief Executive and Librarian of the National Library of Wales and its members include Directors of Information Services and Heads of Library Services.

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 produces guidance and strategic documents around student experience, research, globalisation and the importance of promoting reading and lifelong learning.

WHELF Libraries

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

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Chair's Introduction

This has been quite a momentous year for WHELF, with a change of both Chair and Development Officer, and the creation of our very first written constitution. The external world in higher education has not stood still either, with institutional mergers coming to fruition and changes in senior personnel in many Library services.

Andrew Green was our august and wise Chair for 14 years while managing the National Library of Wales through a period of radical modernisation. He had the uncanny knack of seeming to let discussions run their course while concluding with an action to be taken forwards. One of these was the idea for the Wales Information Literacy Framework, which emerged from a WHELF discussion, and shortly afterwards took concrete shape as a project which has had far-reaching implications across all library sectors in Wales. I am not sure that WHELF can take the credit for the Online Digital Learning Resources working group established by the Welsh Government, but it is perhaps no coincidence that Andrew has been involved with both. His tireless efforts to create the Theatre of Memory for Wales encouraged WHELF members to collaborate to digitise, resulting in major projects such as Welsh Newspapers Online and the Welsh Experience of World War One web site. Andrew retired in March, and WHELF members assembled in Aberystwyth in February to say our farewells to an inspirational leader and very good friend.

We also bid goodbye to Jeremy Atkinson, Director of Information Services at the University of Glamorgan (now University of South Wales). For over 20 years, Jeremy was WHELF's link with Jisc, and our advocate for developing shared electronic resources. The current Wales Higher Education Electronic Library consortium (WHEEL) is just one outcome of Jeremy's unstinting work for WHELF.

In April Sue Mace, our Development Officer for six years attempted to leave WHELF to focus on her own business. However, she nobly agreed to continue supporting our activities for a few more months while a successor was appointed. Thankfully she was able to carry on until October, when we were delighted to welcome Rachael Whitfield as the new Development Officer, and Sue could finally hang up her WHELF boots. We are all very sorry to lose Sue's unfailing ability to keep WHELF running between meetings, ensuring that we could all achieve so much more.

In anticipation of these upheavals for WHELF, and thanks to new Library Directors coming into post in Wales, we decided to take a fresh look at how we operate. Sue Hodges as the new Chair of the Business Group led a strategy planning exercise which resulted in a written constitution, strategy and now an action plan. These will move WHELF forward to the next generation of activity, ensuring that we achieve more by working together on behalf of our organisations, while providing a mutual support network of the highest quality.

The following pages illustrate the enormous range of projects and professional support groups with which WHELF engages, but I think one area is worth highlighting. This year we have made progress on moving towards the procurement of a shared Library Management System across all Welsh universities (including partner NHS libraries) and the National Library of Wales. The benefits that such a service could bring to the sharing of information resources, workflows and expertise across all of our libraries would be immense; such an outcome can only be possible because of the solid foundations of collaboration which WHELF has built up over the years. Which brings us back to Andrew's period as Chair, during which these relationships were strengthened and consolidated.

Finally, WHELF welcomes our new Chair, the incoming Librarian of the National Library of Wales, Professor Aled Gruffydd Jones. Formerly the Vice President of the Council of the National Library, as well as a distinguished academic leader, Aled brings great enthusiasm and commitment to the role of libraries in supporting not only the educational, but also the cultural agenda, and we all look forward greatly to working with him over the coming years.

Janet Peters
Cardiff University
Acting Chair, WHELF (2013)

The Year in Brief

A sad year for WHELF as we said goodbye to Andrew Green, a founding member of WHELF and its Chair for many years. Andrew retired from the National Library of Wales in March 2013 after more than 14 years as Librarian. He has made a huge contribution to the world of libraries and his energy, expertise and commitment have left a lasting impression.

We look forward to welcoming his successor, Aled Gruffydd Jones, the new Chief Executive and Librarian of the National Library. Aled will be taking WHELF forward in 2014 as the new Chair of WHELF.

We also said farewell to Jeremy Atkinson who retired from his post as Director of Learning & Corporate Support Services at the University of Glamorgan. Like Andrew, Jeremy has been one of the chief pillars of WHELF for many years and very influential in both Jisc and SCONUL. Both will be very much missed in WHELF.

We welcomed the guest attendance at a number of WHELF meetings during the year including Ann Rossiter (Executive Director, SCONUL), Lis Parcell (Senior E-learning Advisor, Jisc RSC Wales), Amanda Wilkinson (Director, HEW) and Dr Helgard Krause (Director, UoW Press).

A new university – the largest higher education institution in Wales – was officially launched in April 2013. The University of South Wales has been created by the merger of Glamorgan and Newport universities. It is the sixth largest university in the UK, with about 33,500 students and includes campuses in Cardiff, as well as Newport and Pontypridd.

Earlier in the year the Education Minister Leighton Andrews cancelled a consultation on the planned dissolution of Cardiff Metropolitan University. Despite reiterating his desire to see a single post-1992 university in South-East Wales, Mr Andrews said he did not want to hamper the "excellent progress" being made by Glamorgan and Newport.

Top right: Andrew Green. Copyright: NLW
Bottom left: Professor Aled Gruffydd Jones. Copyright NLW

Swansea Metropolitan University and the University of Wales: Trinity Saint David have now merged. "This historic development will allow the transformed University to enhance the already excellent student experience offered by its predecessor institutions and build on the existing achievements of the merged partners."

Swansea University secured £60 million funding from the European Investment Bank towards its Science & Innovation Campus development programme, plus a further £30m from the Welsh Government and the Wales European Funding Office (WEFO). Work is planned to commence on site in early 2013 with a view to opening the new campus and new student residences by the summer of 2015.

A new collaboration between Cardiff University and three of the South West of England's leading research-intensive universities will create a 'critical mass of knowledge' and help Cardiff and Wales 'better compete for more research income'. Known as GW4 (Great Western Four) the collaboration brings together Cardiff with the universities of Bath, Bristol and Exeter. The new collaboration will work alongside existing research-based collaborations between Cardiff and fellow Welsh Universities, for example, the St David's Day Group which includes Aberystwyth, Bangor, USW and Swansea.

In February 2013, the Chief Nursing Officer for Wales, Professor Jean White, opened a new learning centre at the St David's Park campus in Carmarthen. The Centre has been developed by the College of Health and Human Sciences at Swansea University to support undergraduate nursing along with postgraduate students in areas such as Health Science and Infection Control. Many students in the College follow their courses part-time, often combining their studies with a job. For these students especially, having more support for their learning available closer to home is a major advantage.

In June 2013 Huw Lewis was named as the new Education Minister in the Welsh government, replacing Leighton Andrews. In July he received Sir Adrian's Webb's review of higher education (HE) provision in North East Wales. He will consider the report and its recommendations in full and make a further statement before the end of the year.

The 40th Anniversary of the Open University awarding its first degrees took place at the beginning of June. OU Library Services supported the event showcasing, amongst other services and resources, its award-winning Being digital activities and Digital Information Literacy (DIL) Framework, highlighting the role it plays in providing a trusted library service at the heart of the OU learning experience.

Top of page: Swansea University Science & Innovation Campus. Courtesy of J.N. Morris
Right: St. David's Park campus, Carmarthen. Copyright Swansea University
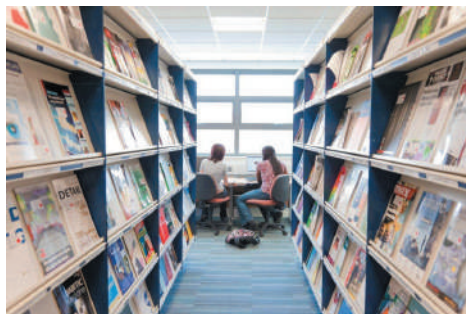
Libraries – improving the student experience

Libraries form an important part of a university's appeal and can be the difference between high and low levels of student satisfaction. Academic libraries in Wales continued to refurbish and open new facilities to ensure that they gave students the very best experience during the course of their studies.

The £6.1 million refurbishment of the Treforest Learning Resources Centre at the University of South Wales is scheduled for completion in December 2013. The erstwhile library building will in future house Student Services operations as well as library and some IT provision. The Centre will feature extensive flexible learning areas, student study pods, a staffed cafe outlet and a training suite.

At Cardiff Metropolitan University, the project to refurbish and upgrade the equipment, environment and guidance provided at each of the Campus Learning Centres made good progress. A newly created and equipped research room with journals rolling archive and ICT has been completed at Cyncoed, along with an additional quick access ICT hub on the ground floor, and a newly equipped open access student IT room.

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David has completed its library refurbishment on the Lampeter campus to provide a lighter and more modern study space. At the Swansea Metropolitan campus the Faculty of Business and Management moved into its new premises where staff and students benefit from a new Library with approximately 250 reader spaces.

The project to invest in and develop the Llanbadarn campus at Aberystwyth is progressing well. It will see three departments on the Campus and will include refurbishment of the Thomas Parry library.

Customer Service Excellence

At its first attempt Information Services at Cardiff University was awarded the 'kitemark' of the UK Government's national Customer Service Excellence standard, which recognises that customer services are at the centre of their IT, library, media and advanced research computing services.

Swansea University's Information Services and Systems (ISS) Department continues to be re-accredited with the Customer Service Excellence Award which is given in recognition of individuals or teams who have gone the extra mile to deliver outstanding Customer Service.

For the third consecutive year ISS at Swansea won the national Welsh Libraries Marketing Innovation Award 2013 (HE category) for their "Parrots plagiarise…do you?" series of events.

Top of page: Cardiff University

The Work of WHELF

WHELF has a long history of collaborative working, encompassing the establishment of a Welsh Information Literacy Framework, the creation of a Welsh Repository Network, shared e-resource procurement, reciprocal borrowing schemes and the current ambitious project to jointly procure and implement a shared library management system for use in all Welsh higher education institutions, the National Library of Wales and the Welsh NHS libraries.

WHELF is developing a new strategy for 2013-14 which will set a new direction and culture following recent changes within Wales and within the HE sector generally. We are all working within an environment where there is a constant need to deliver innovative services within financial constraints. This new strategy will be an opportunity to reposition WHELF within Wales as a collaborative partnership: one which will help us meet the current political agenda and demands from our own institutions and one which will help us realise cost benefits via potential shared services and collaborative e-resource deals.

Collaboration and Partnership

WHELF is seeking greater collaboration amongst its members in line with the Welsh Government's expectations.

A Shared Library Management System (LMS)

In July 2012 WHELF successfully obtained funding from the Joint Information Systems Committee (Jisc) to explore the potential for a shared Library Management System across all higher education institutions and the NHS libraries in Wales.

The Library Systems Shared Services Feasibility Study (Wales) would provide a practical vision and roadmap for a shared model; exploring opportunities for integration and collaboration across the WHELF community.

In February 2013 the final report of the project including recommendations was presented to WHELF. The report was accepted in its entirety and WHELF have now agreed to pursue the option of developing a shared LMS in line with the report's recommendations.

The Project has recommended that setting up an All-Wales Consortium with formal governance is the best option for provision of a shared service. A cloud solution hosted by a vendor (or open source vendor) is the preferred choice, because this will provide the most cost-effective resilient solution. A clear direction on the vision of shared LMS services in Wales has been agreed in order to ensure clarity of purpose and to provide a compelling statement of intent for senior stakeholders and staff to achieve buy-in to the strategic direction proposed.

A major programme of work is now underway to procure and implement a shared Library Management System for all higher education institutions in Wales, plus the National Library of Wales, and the Welsh NHS Libraries, following production of a successful business case for a shared system.

Benefits of an all Wales Shared LMS

- *Shared environment and new opportunities*
- *Reducing effort and learning from one another*
- *Improving reliability*
- *A clearer view of the Library and 'big data'*
- *Greater access through shared content*

There are likely also to be some more subtle and unexpected benefits of the sharing approach adopted by WHELF. Within both the academic and library fields, there is a long history of sharing for the greater good. This step towards facilitating the environment for such collaboration can only bode well for the future in this fast developing yet critical area.

Link to the full report here: http://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/sharedlms/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2013/03/JISC-Shared-LMS-Report.pdf

Sharing our expertise

WHELF supports a number of specialist groups to ensure that expertise is shared between the various higher education libraries in Wales:

- The WHELF Copyright Group has a focus on sharing knowledge, advice and experience to the benefit of individual institutions.
- The WHELF Archives and Special Collections group is working collaboratively to map and digitise collections and develop shared bids for funding.
- ALIS Wales is a group of LIS professionals working towards the sharing and development of best practice in all aspects of disability support within library and information service provision in the higher education sector in Wales. This group will now operate as a WHELF sub-group.
- Online reading lists - a number of WHELF libraries are developing online reading lists and the experiences from the pilot projects have been shared throughout WHELF, as well as with academic colleagues.

Working in partnership

We continue to seek opportunities to work with similar organisations across the UK to share information and knowledge.

These include the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL), Jisc, the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL), the Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL) in Ireland, the Northern Collaboration, the North West Academic Libraries (NoWAL) and the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries.

Working with public libraries in Wales

Emma Adamson has organised several successful meetings between WHELF and Society of Chief Librarians (SCL Wales) representatives. Areas of shared interest between SCL Wales and WHELF have been agreed as:

- Library Management Systems (LMS)
- E-access
- Reading
- Workforce development / skills
- Promotion and advocacy

Widening Access

Access to shared electronic resources

A new steering group chaired by Mark Hughes of Swansea University has convened to look at further development of collaborative purchase of e-resources in Wales.
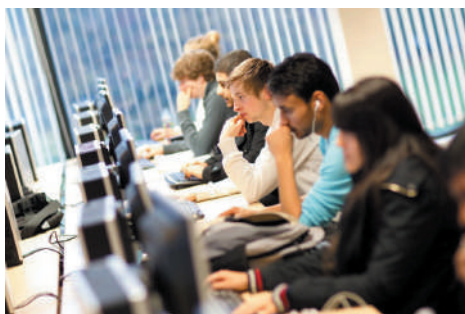
The groundbreaking deal with Oxford University Press is now in its third year. As members of the **W**ales **H**igher **E**ducation **E**lectronic **L**ibrary, all higher education libraries in Wales share access to the same collection of over 200 full text journals online.

Negotiations are underway with other journal publishers in order to extend this provision. As a result we would expect to see that access to content is widened, that there is parity of access across institutions, there is increase in usage, and there are efficiency gains, with reduced operational costs. Most importantly, for the user, there is access to more content, which is accessible at the point of need, and at any time.

European Sources Online – the way ahead

Subscribers in Wales were pleased to learn that ESO (based at Cardiff University) continued to be freely available to all public organisations and individuals for 2013.

From 2014 the business model and editorial strategy of ESO is changing so that it will become a free access service to anyone throughout the world.

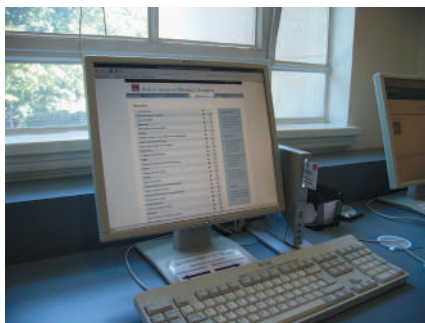Top right: Copyright Swansea University

Walk-in Access Wales

Many academic libraries are open to the public for consultation, and there are a number of regional partnerships in place which allow reciprocal borrowing between the various libraries. Walk-in Access Wales was a new WHELF project to enable members of the public to access electronic resources in Welsh HE libraries.

Walk-in Access Wales was funded by CyMAL: Museums Archives Libraries Wales and managed by WHELF. It was tasked with two objectives: to set up a walk-in access service at the campus of its lead institution, the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD); and to produce a toolkit to help other Welsh institutions launch walk-in access services of their own.

Representatives from six Welsh HEIs plus the WHELF Development Officer formed a steering group which met once a month for the duration of the project. The success of the Walk-in Access Wales project is largely down to the considerable enthusiasm and commitment of its steering group members. Having representation from the two institutions in Wales (Cardiff University and Cardiff Metropolitan University), which had already launched walk-in access services by the start of the project was invaluable.

UWTSD's own service was launched in February 2013 (http://www.trinitysaintdavid.ac.uk/en/walkinaccesswales/) and the Walk-in Access Wales toolkit was published in both English and Welsh on the project blog in March (http://walkinaccesswales.wordpress.com/2013/03/27/walk-in-access-wales-toolkit/). The toolkit is designed to help other academic libraries set up their own walk-in access services and provides a summary of each of the key considerations involved. It also provides case studies of the walk-in access services of Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the UWTSD plus sample documentation of terms of use, registration and feedback forms.

Since the launch of the UWTSD service and the publication of the toolkit, Aberystwyth University has launched its own walk-in access service and other Welsh HEIs are close to following suit. WHELF has also signalled its commitment to rolling out walk-in access across all Welsh HEIs. This brings us a significant step closer to a Wales-wide walk-in access scheme and the realisation of a goal to offer access to licensed e-resources for all Welsh citizens.

Bute Library, Cardiff University

Skills

Welsh Information Literacy Project

Information literacy is the set of skills and abilities a person needs to be able to recognise when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information. Acquiring these skills will help students to achieve academic success and improve their employability. There has been a concerted effort recently to strengthen the skills of learners and prepare them for the world of work. Libraries have an important role to play in this.

It was for this reason that WHELF initiated and continued to play a role in the Welsh Information Literacy Project (WILP). WILP is a cross sector project looking to embed information literacy skills across Wales and has been funded by the Welsh Government through CyMAL: Museums Libraries Archives Wales. One outcome of the project this year is an Academic Libraries Information Literacy Champions network for Wales, which will fall within the remit of WHELF.

Learning in Digital Wales

Chair of WHELF, Andrew Green, was a member of the Task and Finish Group which published its report entitled Find it, Make it, Use it, Share it – Learning in Digital Wales in March 2012. Leighton Andrews, the Welsh Government Minister for Education and Skills considered the wide ranging recommendations in the report and agreed an action plan for the use of digital technology to improve performance in schools.

In December 2012 a digital "learning platform" designed to allow all pupils and teachers in Wales greater access to online resources was launched. The bilingual scheme, called Hwb, will allow users to access and share information and is to be accessible from any internet-enabled device. The introduction of Hwb follows the creation of a National Digital Learning Council last year.

In February 2013, the Minister for Education and Skills announced the establishment of the Online Digital Learning Resources Working Group. The Working Group is chaired by Andrew Green, and has been asked to advise the Minister on how Wales and Welsh institutions should take advantage of the rapid growth of large-scale online higher education courses. MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are the subject of much current debate, and the Group will be considering their significance and prospects, but it will also be looking at wider aspects of learning online, including open educational resources.

Top right: Cardiff University

Support for Research

"It is clear that as the nature of research within our institutions changes, so must the role of the library in supporting research. The increasingly competitive research environment demands greater collaboration (across discipline, institutional, and national boundaries) and generates greater quantities of data than ever before. In addition, funders are placing increased emphasis on the demonstration of the impact of research outputs and engendering wide dissemination of research findings."
David Prosser, Executive Director, RLUK

WHELF members continued to look in detail at researchers' information needs and how best these needs can be met by the library. We want to place the needs of researchers in the context of the libraries current offering, and look at how we must change to fulfil the new demands placed upon us.

Open Access

With the publication of the Finch report last year and the UK government's announcement to commit significant sums of money to help make research findings freely available, there has been a shift towards a more rapid movement into an open access world for the publishing of scholarly information.

A number of WHELF members led task groups within their own institutions to develop open access policy and to explore processes, support services and infrastructure to underpin compliance with funders' expectations. Bangor was included as a case study in the SCONUL Briefing on Mandatory Open Access Policies. In July WHELF members came together at a workshop in Swansea to review activity and to identify areas for joint initiatives to support researchers.

Awareness raising and engagement has been a key priority. At Bangor they are actively promoting the Green route and raising awareness of this. The Library has also developed an Open Access Publishing policy and Open Access web pages with FAQs. They held an Open Access week in May when they concentrated on open access publishing and research data.

Top right: Copyright Swansea University

At Cardiff University open access has well and truly taken off with additional government funding being given to the main research universities in the expectation of achieving a complete culture change over the next five years. The next stage will be to work out how to provide open access to the underlying research data and in order to achieve this Information Services have appointed a Programme Manager for a year.

Bangor University are working with Aberystwyth and the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) on an Access to Data Project. The Library at Bangor has conducted an institutional audit of data which is being followed up by an examination of specific research projects working with and employing PhD students. Work on research data has been ongoing for a year.

Welsh Repository Network

Developed under the auspices of WHELF, the Welsh Repository Network (WRN) was a collaborative venture between the higher education institutions in Wales to establish, develop and populate a network of interoperable institutional repositories. The vision that underpinned the network was to facilitate and encourage resource sharing across the principality and to maximise the impact of Welsh research across the globe.

Work continues on how we might further develop the network now that external funding has ceased. As part of the project The Welsh Experience of World War One a report was produced on The Future of Welsh Repositories. It is clear from this report that while the WRN project was very successful in setting up institutional repositories across Wales, provision for the long term digital storage of special collections materials is currently lacking as take-up and support for the WRN environment is inequitable between partner institutions, and is driven by local strategic priorities.

A conclusion to be drawn from this report is that without a consistent development path, the equitable repository environment set up through the WRN will begin to fragment, with some partners developing their environments at differing speeds and making future collaborative activity more complex.

Top left: Glyndwr University

Collections

WHELF Archives and Special Collections Group

The group had a very successful year, working on two major collaborative projects for which it had won funding: The Welsh Experience of World War One and Collections Wales.

Work continued on a new WHELF Digital Content Strategy to replace the current digitisation strategy:

WHELF's strategy is to collaborate, together or through particular alliances, in:

- creating new digital content (or enhancing the value of existing digitised content)
- sharing expertise and knowledge in digitisation policy and practices
- developing mechanisms and supporting materials to encourage take up for teaching, learning and research
- helping to make the research undertaken in Welsh higher education institutions more visible

The new document will continue to stress the value of collaboration as well as the value and impact of special collections.

The Welsh Experience of World War One

A project developed by the WHELF Archives and Special Collections Group and led by the National Library of Wales received £500,000 in funding from the Joint Information Systems Committee (Jisc) for mass digitisation of primary sources relating to World War One. Through digitisation and collaborative working this project has brought together an impressive array of scattered content into one place and promises to become a key reference point for researchers and students looking at the Welsh experience of World War One.

The project is making available a unique digital collection revealing the hidden history of World War One as it affected all aspects of Welsh life, language and culture. The project has digitised printed and manuscript sources as well as moving image, audio and photographic material. These source materials are presently fragmented and frequently inaccessible, yet collectively they form a unique resource of vital interest to researchers, students, and the public in Wales and beyond.

Top left: Copyright Swansea University
Bottom right: Swansea University, Richard Burton Archives

As an example of how the content can be used for teaching, as soon as the documents from the Richard Burton Archives had been digitised and returned to Swansea University, they were being used as part of a course for the Department of History and Classics. The Practice of History is a module which discusses the variety of historical sources explored by historians, how they can be used and the intellectual and practical problems that can arise from using them.

Welsh Newspapers Online

Welsh Newspapers Online is a major website from the National Library of Wales which will allow anybody with an interest in the history and people of Wales to browse and search over 100 titles from its rich collection of pre-1910 newspapers - completely free of charge.

This mass digitisation project is the largest ever undertaken by the National Library and contributes to its far-reaching vision of Wales as the first nation to have digitised all its published print material and made it available free of charge on the web.

Collections Wales – mapping the printed and digital heritage of Wales to improve access

Across Wales there are hundreds of special collections, all unique and distinctive. Many are held in university libraries. These special and historical collections form part of the national heritage of Wales: they are about Wales, or collected by Welsh scholars, and form a vast, often untapped reservoir for academic research, local study, and public display and exploitation.

The first and most difficult task faced by those undertaking research is to discover what material is available and where it is. There is currently no shared catalogue or listing of collections in Wales. This means that access to these collections is now limited so by mapping the collections across Wales, this project will begin to improve access and awareness, contributing to their visibility and encouraging outreach and community engagement.

Conservation and Digital Centre for Wales

WHELF supported the National Library of Wales in its application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to support the development of a Conservation and Digital Centre for Wales. The centre is intended to provide support for the conservation and preservation of digital and analogue material.

The Goldstein Library

A former student accommodation complex at Glyndŵr University has been transformed into a library featuring more than 13,000 books collected by a New York scholar who was forced to leave the United States in the 1960s due to his left wing views.

The Goldstein Library documents the vast literary interests of Leonard Goldstein and his wife, Marilou. The collection is predominantly made up of literature, social and political history texts but includes books on topics as diverse as photography, architecture, crime fiction, theology and philosophy.

Richard Burton diaries

There was worldwide media interest in the publication of Richard Burton's private diaries which form part of a bequest of his papers to Swansea University by Sally Burton and are held in the Richard Burton Archives and Research Centre. Professor Chris Williams, who edited The Richard Burton Diaries, and who spoke about them at the launch events in the USA, said: "Richard Burton was, and remains, a global name and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to speak internationally about his personal diaries, which reveal the deeply cultured, widely-read, intellectual man he was."

Archives Education Centre

The Archives Education Centre at Bangor University was set up this year in order to open up the archives for research and so that groups of students, children and members of the public can come and learn about the rich heritage and collections that the archives holds.
University Library and Archives staff welcomed almost 200 pupils from from 8 local primary schools in Anglesey and Gwynedd to introduce them to the world of student life and study.

R.S. Thomas Study Centre

The R.S.Thomas Study Centre at Bangor University has been relocated to a room within the Shankland Reading Room. The Study Centre is internationally acknowledged as the prime location for academic study of the poet, and is regularly visited by researchers from across the UK and overseas. It has the most comprehensive collection in existence of published material by and about R.S. Thomas, including limited and private editions of his work.

Top left: Copyright Swansea University
Right: Vice Chancellor John Hughes with local school pupils, teachers and staff. Archives Education Centre, Bangor University
Bottom left: R.S. Thomas Study Centre

Continuing Professional Development

Gregynog Colloquium 2013

Our annual conference for library and IT staff took place this year from 11 -14 June at Gregynog. It is jointly supported by WHELF and the Higher Education Wales Information Technology forum, HEWIT. Congratulations to Bangor and Glyndŵr Universities, who organised a full and varied programme which included sessions on open access, research, teaching and learning, learning spaces and learning centre design, open educational practice, and digital literacy.

Welsh Collaboration in Action 2013

Higher education libraries also have an important role to play in supporting higher education in further education, so each year WHELF organises an event for HE and FE staff – Welsh Collaboration in Action – to enable participants to share experiences, get up to date on recent developments and develop individual and shared programmes of action for the future. This year's conference took place on 25 June at Cardiff Metropolitan University's Llandaff Campus. Themes discussed on the day included equity and provision of training for FE partners, including FE staff; service reconfiguration and learning space provision; as well as access to electronic resources for FE partners.

CILIP Cymru Wales Conference 2013

In providing the Keynote Address at the 2012 Conference, the Welsh Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage, Huw Lewis AM, indicated that government funding would be available for library projects that demonstrated a partnership or collaborative approach to delivering services in innovative, efficient and effective ways, to improve the lives of communities in Wales. The conference theme this year was therefore Rising to the Challenge: Developing Library and Information Services through Partnership and Collaboration.

John Griffiths AM, with WHELF Chair Janet Peters and library colleagues

The recently appointed Welsh Minister for Culture and Sport, John Griffiths AM, whose portfolio now includes responsibility for libraries in Wales, attended the 2013 Conference and said that it was his "chief task" to continue the Welsh Government's support and protection for libraries in Wales, even given the current financially challenging times. Mr Griffiths noted that many good things are currently happening in Welsh libraries. Technology, creativity and innovation combine to enable exciting projects such as the All Wales Library Management System projects in public and higher education libraries and shared online services.

Speaking about the inaugural **Welsh Librarian of the Year Award** established by CILIP Cymru Wales, Mr Griffiths recognised how lucky Wales is to have such talented, professional, committed, innovative and productive library staff. The winner was Lori Havard, Head of Academic Services, Information Services & Systems at Swansea University. Lori received the award for her work changing the perception of librarians and promoting the University library's services. Congratulations to Lori and all the other finalists.

New initiatives

WHELF welcomed a number of positive developments this year:

The formation of the new **Academic and Research Libraries Group (ARLG) Wales**, which held its first Members' Day on 24 June.

A new group, Cataloguers in Wales, supporting collaborative training and events. It held its first workshop on RDA (Resource Description and Access) at Cardiff University on 22 August.

Interlend 2013 in Cardiff

The Forum for Interlending and Information Delivery (FIL) held the only UK annual conference specifically for and about the world of inter-library loans in Cardiff on the 27-28 June. It was an essential opportunity for inter-lending staff to meet, exchange news and share best practice experiences with their colleagues across the public, academic and special library sectors.

Fifth birthday of a new approach to LIS education in North Wales

The foundation degree in Library and Information Practice at Glyndŵr University is nearly four years old and has now seen two cohorts of students successfully graduate, twenty one new professionals altogether. The FDSc Library and Information Practice has always emphasised how important it is for new professionals to be flexible, adaptable individuals who can manage change innovatively, imaginatively and proactively, recognising new opportunities and grasping new challenges.

Winner (Lori Havard, centre) and nominees Welsh Librarian of the Year Award. Courtesy of Dan Staveley.

WHELF: Business

WHELF meetings

WHELF met four times this year. Twice at Gregynog, the University of Wales conference centre where an evening meeting was followed by a morning seminar; and twice via videoconference.

4-5 October 2012 at Gregynog
7 February 2013 via videoconference
2-3 May 2013 at Gregynog
4 July 2013 via videoconference

WHELF Business Group

Responsible for the WHELF action plan and communication plan, the Business Group met four times this year. Members of the group also produced a new strategy and constitution for WHELF.

Membership for 2012-13:
Chair: Sue Hodges, Bangor University

Andrew Green, National Library of Wales (WHELF Chair, until March 2013)
Janet Peters, Cardiff University (Acting WHELF Chair, from April until October 2013)
Julie Hart, Aberystwyth University (WHELF Treasurer)
Sue Mace, WHELF Development Officer (until April 2013)
Emma Adamson, Cardiff Metropolitan University
Mark Hughes, Swansea University
Paul Jeorrett, Glyndŵr University

WHELF Action Plan

The WHELF Action Plan 2011- 2013 has been completed, and a new Action Plan for the year ahead is currently in preparation.
The Action Plan is available on the website: http://whelf.wordpress.com/

WHELF: People

This year we said goodbye to Andrew Green as he retired from the National Library of Wales. Andrew made a huge contribution to WHELF over the many years he chaired the group. His energy, expertise and commitment to WHELF will be very sadly missed. Andrew will not be idle in retirement. He has been asked to chair a group to report to the Welsh Education Minister on the significance of and prospects for MOOCs and has been invited to give various distinguished lectures.

His successor at the National Library is Aled Gruffydd Jones, previously Sir John Williams Professor of Welsh History and senior Pro-Vice Chancellor in Aberystwyth University. We look forward to welcoming him to WHELF, particularly as he has been elected to the role of Chair.
Sue Hodges (Director of Libraries and Archives, Bangor University) has been elected as Vice-Chair.

We also said farewell to Jeremy Atkinson who retired from his post as Director of Learning & Corporate Support Services at the University of Glamorgan. Jeremy was very influential in setting the direction of WHELF, working on the Higher Education Libraries in Partnership Project (HELP) in 2004. He chaired the new WHELF Development Group from its inception and was the driving force behind WHELF's collaborative work on electronic books and electronic journals.

Our good wishes go to other WHELF retirees: Josephine Burt, retiring from her post as Business Development Manager, Library Services at the Open University and Madeleine Rogerson, Head of Learning Support (Caerleon) at the University of Wales, Newport.

Our thanks go to Rebecca Davies who has been looking after WHELF finances very ably for the past few years as Treasurer. We are grateful to Julie Hart (Assistant Director for Library Services, Aberystwyth University) who has now taken on the role of Treasurer.

Thanks also to David Learmont Director of Business Improvement at Bangor University who has been on the WHELF Respresentatives Group and was Chair of the Archives and Special Collections Group.

Wendy Xerri (Executive Head of IT/Systems, University of Wales Trinity Saint David) and Emma Harvey-Woodason (Lampeter Campus Librarian, University of Wales Trinity Saint David) are both moving on to new roles and we wish them them well.

A warm welcome to Dr Andrew Dalgleish, Assistant Head (Library Services) at the new University of South Wales; Ann Davies, Associate Director (Business Performance & Management), Library Services at The Open University; and to University of Wales Trinity Saint David Carmarthen Campus Librarian Alison Harding.

WHELF members old and new.

Congratulations to Sue Hodges, Director of Libraries and Archives, Bangor University who has accepted co-option to SCONUL's Executive Board, representing WHELF and is on the SCONUL Academic Content and Strategy Group.

Congratulations to Steve Williams, Deputy Director, Information Services and Systems, Swansea University who was elected to the SCONUL Board at the recent AGM in Dublin.

Finally, WHELF said goodbye to one Development Officer, Sue Mace and welcomed another, Rachael Whitfield. Sue picked up the mantle six years ago, following work for CILIP Wales. Sue is impressively well informed about professional library issues and has been able to engage with and support the whole range of WHELF's activities and groups, from Special Collections to Copyright, via Information Literacy and many others in between. Her superb organisational skills and unfailing cheerfulness have kept us on track while promoting WHELF positively to many external agencies (she leaves us with a comprehensive marketing plan and a well populated blog!). Rachael has arrived with perfect timing to help with the implementation of the new strategy and action plan, and we are looking forward to working with her.

Grants and Funding

Work continued on these projects during 2012-2013:

- CyMAL: Museums Archives Libraries Wales
  Sharing a Library Management System: research, scoping and
  specification study.

- CyMAL: Museums Archives Libraries Wales
  Walk-in access to electronic resources in Welsh academic libraries.

- CyMAL: Museums Archives Libraries Wales
  Collections Wales – mapping the printed and digital heritage of
  Wales to improve access.

- Jisc
  The Welsh Experience of World War One 1914-1918.

- Jisc
  Shared LMS: Business Case Evaluation.

Representation

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 Council
Andrew Green, National Library of Wales (to March 2013)

CILIP Cymru Wales Executive Committee
Andrew Green, National Library of Wales (to March 2013); Paul Jeorrett, Glyndŵr University

CyMAL Advisory Board
Andrew Green, National Library of Wales (to March 2013)

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

CyMAL Libraries Inspire Marketing Advisory Group
Sue Mace, WHELF (to April 2013)

Jisc Collections Stakeholder Group
Jeremy Atkinson, University of Glamorgan (to October 2012)

Jisc Resource Discovery Taskforce
Andrew Green, National Library of Wales (to March 2013)

Joint Committee on Legal Deposit
Andrew Green, National Library of Wales (to March 2013)

Legal Deposit Libraries Committee (Chair, Implementation Group)
Andrew Green, National Library of Wales (to March 2013)

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

Research Libraries UK Board
Janet Peters, Cardiff University (Chair April 2012- March 2013); Andrew Green, National Library of Wales (to March 2013)

SCONUL Executive Board
Jeremy Atkinson, University of Glamorgan (to October 2012); Sue Hodges, Bangor University (from October 2012); Steve Williams, Swansea University (from June 2013)

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, University of Wales Trinity Saint David

SCONUL Events Group
Jeremy Atkinson, University of Glamorgan (to October 2012)

Strategic Content Alliance Wales Forum
Jeremy Atkinson, University of Glamorgan (to October 2012); Andrew Green, National Library of Wales (to March 2013); Janet Peters, Cardiff University

UK Research Reserve Phase 1 and Phase 2
Janet Peters, Cardiff University

University of Wales Press Board
Janet Peters, Cardiff University

Welsh Government: Digital Inclusion Management Board
Andrew Green, National Library of Wales (to March 2013)

Welsh Government: Digital Teaching Task and Finish Group
Andrew Green, National Library of Wales (to March 2013)

Welsh Government: Digital Wales Advisory Board
Andrew Green, National Library of Wales (to March 2013)

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

More Information

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