
UNITED KINGDOM: WALES

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

MR ANDREW M. W. GREEN — LIBRARIAN

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002

- 1 Building work has begun on the Library's new **Visitor Centre**. When fully complete in early 2004 this will consist of:
 - new exhibition spaces, including a 'World of the Book' area and a carefully-controlled 'sensitive materials' display
 - a 100-seat multimedia auditorium
 - educational spaces
 - new accommodation for the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales (enabling all parts of it to be brought together for the first time)
 - a restaurant
 - a reception area and shop
 - a new entrance suitable for those with mobility difficulties

All but the first two will be open in autumn 2002.
- 2 Work is also in train to reconfigure the **reading rooms**, reducing the number of service points, improving security, and offering readers a better study environment.
- 3 The reconfiguration of the Library's **organisational structure** was completed in January. This now very simple, with three main departments: Collection Services, Public Services and Corporate Services.
- 4 Between February and June 2002 a '**Quinquennial Review**' was conducted of the Library by GCL Management Consultancy Ltd on behalf of the National Assembly. The outcomes are generally supportive, although the reviewers' two reports make a daunting 70 recommendations in total. The most far-reaching proposals advocate radical changes to the system of government of the Library.
- 5 **Digitisation** work has accelerated. A digital image capture and metadata creation unit is now well established. Among other material large collections of historic photographs (John Thomas, Geoff Charles) are now available through the website. The unit is also providing digital capture services under contract to Gathering the Jewels, the all-Wales cross-domain digitisation project funded by the New Opportunities Fund and based within the Library.

- 6 A post of **Higher Education Liaison Officer** has recently been advertised, to investigate ways in which the Library can better serve researchers and students in Wales. The Library is also a partner in two current bids by the Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum (WHELF), to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and to Educational and Learning Wales (ELWa), on (respectively) collaboration between HE libraries, and opening the contents of HE libraries to external learners.
- 7 The **National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales** was officially launched by the Culture Minister, Jenny Randerson AM, in November 2001 in the Coal Exchange, Cardiff. The Archive brings together the Library's Sound and Moving Image Collection and Sgrîn's Wales Film and Television Archive. The Library manages the new Archive on behalf of both organisations.
- 8 The Library is leading a move on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales's cultural consortium Cymru'n Creu, to create '**Culturenet Cymru**'. This will promote Welsh culture online by increasing members' organisational capacity and by funding digital content creation programmes. It will approximate to Scandinavian models rather than 'Culture Online' in England.
- 9 Among hoped-for **future developments** are
 - the procurement of further space in the Digital Store, and of a Content and Digital Asset Management System
 - the establishment of a (real and virtual) Family and Community History Centre in the Library.

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