

WALES

National Library of Wales

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2008

Having celebrated the Library's centenary throughout 2007 we're turning now to the future: to the new developments, both physical and electronic, described in our completely revised Strategy (May 2008)¹.

A new kind of study space

We're about to upgrade the large and venerable North Reading Room. Our plans include free WiFi facilities, multimedia and group discussion rooms and varied (and more comfortable) study spaces for readers.

All of Wales in print online

The Theatre of Memory programme² will make freely available, to be searched and read by anyone online, the printed record of Wales. It will open up a colossal reservoir of knowledge about Wales and its peoples. The first 'scene', the complete texts of the most important periodicals published in Wales since 1900³, will be available in 2009.

A new multi-format collection management system ...

On 11 July we celebrated the completion of the introduction of the Virtual and Vital components of the new VTLS collection management system. Virtua enables us to catalogue and give public access⁴ to records for all types of material – bibliographic, archival, audiovisual, graphic and electronic – on a single system.

Since the Library is Wales's main archive repository we needed Virtua to include a system to meet the specialist needs of archives. On the basis of pioneering development work in partnership with the Library VTLS released its Archive Management system publicly in June.

To support the specialist preservation and access needs of the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales the Library worked with VTLS to produce an enhanced workflow, which will support the Archive's film preservation work.

... and a Fedora-based digital store

As the Library's digitisation and digital collection work expands, Vital, its new digital store, is providing a solid core from which new and innovative services are built. Vital and Virtua are integrated through a single search and access interface. We have agreed a Digital Preservation Strategy and will soon be appointing staff to begin putting it into practice.

'library.wales.org'

The Library manages the 'library.wales.org' portal⁵ for a range of Wales-wide library services. It is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. Registered users living in Wales have easy access to centrally purchased electronic reference resources. The site also provides an online environment for Welsh libraries to add their own information through individual 'microsites'. One of the most exciting developments launched through 'library.wales.org' has been the 'CatCymru' cross-catalogue search⁶, which uses innovative technology provided by WebFeat Inc. A single search box provides access to the contents of most online catalogues in Wales: those of public, higher and further education, and government libraries, as well as the National Library. It will be the base for improved interlending across Wales and will help inform purchase and storage decisions.

¹ To appear on the Library's website shortly.

² http://www.llgc.org.uk/fileadmin/documents/pdf/theatre_of_memory.pdf

³ Welsh Journals Online: <http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=2244>

⁴ <http://cat.llgc.org.uk/cgi-bin/gw/chameleon?lng=en>

⁵ <http://www.library.wales.org/>

⁶ <http://library.wales.org/catcymru/>

Raising funds independently

The Library has launched a new patrons scheme, *Chapters*. It enables people to give the Library practical support through an annual membership fee. We acknowledge this support by organising an events programme including private viewings, dedicated keynote speaker events, behind the scenes tours and visits to other cultural locations.

Developing the staff of the future

As our principal means of preparing staff for new roles and new posts in the Library we have adopted a new coaching and mentoring scheme. It was piloted in 2007-08 and is now being extended to more and more staff.

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