



Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
The National Library of Wales

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The National Library of Wales
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Annwyl Bethan

With apologies to Committee members for the delay in responding, I needed to discuss our appearance at the Committee meeting with the Board of Trustees. As requested in the minutes, I enclose further information on the work of the Library under the Welsh Government Fusion Programme, our partnership with Chinese institutions and our work to provide outreach activities. I hope that Committee members will find the information useful.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to the Committee to hold a future meeting in the Library. This would provide an opportunity for members to visit mid Wales and see some of the innovative projects which are being developed by the Library.

Cofion gorau

Rhodri Glyn Thomas

Llywydd, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru



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1. An Update of the National Library's Work for the Fusion Programme

The National Library of Wales is delivering work to support the Fusion Programme in all of the eight Fusion Partnership areas. The Library's Strategic Plan for 2017-2021, [The Nation's Memory: Informing the Future](#), notes that we will focus our work in Gwynedd and Carmarthenshire during 2017 and 2018, as well as preparing bilingual resources for the Programme.

Our offer to Fusion Partnership areas focuses on 4 performance indicators, F2 Gaining a qualification, F3 Regular volunteering as a route to work, F5 Improved digital skills, and F6 Improved attitude to learning.

The following activities have been completed recently or have been planned for the near future:

- Digitisation support and training to individuals and groups in Fusion Partnership areas through the People's Collection training programme
- Maintain a People's Collection Digital Heritage Station in partnership with local community and history groups in Fusion Partnership areas.
- Provide training to develop digital skills and confidence through the People's Collection as part of an Agored Cymru Accredited Unit.
- Deliver sessions on Harvard Referencing to pupils and students in Fusion Partnership areas that are studying the Welsh Baccalaureate.
- Deliver Kids in Museums Takeover Day with a school from the Carmarthenshire Fusion Partnership area.
- Deliver a Class Art project to a school from the Gwynedd Fusion Partnership area.
- Support partner schools that are identified by Gwynedd and Carmarthenshire Fusion Partnerships to visit The National Library of Wales.
- Support partner schools that are identified by Gwynedd and Carmarthenshire Fusion Partnerships with digital resources that are relevant to their area.

More details on some of the outreach work that contributes to Fusion Programme is provided in Section 3 below.

2. The National Library's Partnership with China

Collections

- The Library has extensive documentary collections of Wales' relationship with China, including the papers of Welsh missionaries such as Gwenfron Moss who worked in China from 1928 to 1964 and Griffith John from Swansea who worked in Wuhan, Central China for over fifty years in the 20th century. It also has archives relating to Welsh societies in Asia and businessmen including Dr J R Jones (1887-1976), legal

adviser to the Hong Kong Bank (later HSBC) and a leading figure in Hong Kong society.

- In 1983, Prof David Hawkes, an eminent Chinese scholar from Oxford University left his entire library of 4,500 volumes to the Library. Professor Hawkes taught at the University of Peking in the 1940s and early 1950s, it includes items ranging from the ancient Dynasties to the Republic and the early years of New China under Mao Zhedong. David Hawkes was a world-famous scholar of Chinese literature and history, a Professor of Chinese at Oxford University, and the most celebrated translator into English of the Chinese classic *The Story of the Stone* (石头记). The collection was catalogued in 1989 by Dr Wu Jianzhong, a distinguished former Director of Shanghai Library who completed a doctorate at Aberystwyth University.

Partnership

- The Library has developed a series of international partnerships with other research libraries in Europe, North America and Asia. The Library is a member of IFLA and contributes to international work on digital preservation, Celtic studies and professional issues such as foundation membership of the IIF Consortium for managing digital images with Cornell and Stanford Universities.
- In addition to professional collaboration, the Library has also supported Welsh Government initiatives to support trade and industrial links through promoting Welsh culture, heritage and history. The partnership with Chinese libraries began with a partnership agreement with Chongqing Library where the Welsh Government established an office in 2006.
- This was extended with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Shanghai Library in 2015. Shanghai Library is one of ten largest libraries in the world and the aim of the partnership is to facilitate access to research material held by the National Library to Chinese students working with the Confucius Institute, co-curate exhibitions and events to promote collaboration and understanding and ensure that relevant Chinese institutions have a positive and modern view of Wales.
- In March 2018, the President of the National Library Wales will accompany the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport on his trade mission to China. He will visit Shanghai Library and confirm the National Library's participation in Shanghai Library's '*Window on Shanghai*' international programme and discuss joint participation in the international 'Open Book' programme. The National Library will also participate in the forthcoming 9th Shanghai International Library Forum.
- During the visit, the President will also visit Hong Kong University with the aim of establishing a partnership agreement to promote collaboration and support for Chinese students. Hong Kong University (HKU) was established in 1911 and has grown to become one of Asia's leading research institutions. As an English medium institution, a partnership with HKU provides opportunities to bridge the relationship between West and East and link to other Chinese research bodies.
- Through its developing links with Chinese research institutions, the National Library will aim to support HE links across the sector in Wales, particularly through providing

research material for students of Chinese studies and for students from China studying in Wales.

3. The National Library's Outreach Work

The Library has developed, and continues to develop, several projects in partnership, and the following are examples of the most recent ones.

Blaenau Ffestiniog project

The National Library is currently developing a digital volunteering project in Blaenau Ffestiniog which is part of the Gwynedd Fusion Partnership area. The Gwilym Livingstone Evans photographic collection will be published on the Library's new crowdsourcing platform on crowd.library.wales, and will be used to deliver a cross-generational project that will include the following:

- Young people being trained as mentors on the new crowdsourcing platform;
- The mentors training community groups and older individuals on how to add content to the crowdsourcing platform;
- The older volunteers tagging and adding data to the Gwilym Livingstone Evans photographs;
- Collecting oral history from Blaenau Ffestiniog residents about the content of the photographs, and publishing these on The People's Collection website.

Hedd Wyn

The National Library of Wales Education Service secured a grant from The ScottishPower Foundation in 2017 to fund part of its outreach work. The money was awarded to work with schools on a project to commemorate the centenary of the death of Hedd Wyn who won the chair at The National Eisteddfod in Birkenhead in September 1917.

Our presence in the 2017 Bridgend, Taff and Ely Urdd National Eisteddfod was themed around the story of Hedd Wyn. It included a facsimile copy of the ode *Yr Arwr* that was produced by The National Library for this event, the 3D printed replica of Hedd Wyn's original Black Chair on loan from Welsh Government / The Snowdonia National Park Authority, an exhibition on the life and work of Hedd Wyn, and education resources and activities for young people and families that were distributed free of charge to those attending the eisteddfod.

During June 2017 more than 300 KS2 pupils from primary schools in Gwynedd had the opportunity to visit *Yr Ysgwrn* to learn more about Hedd Wyn. Their visit included:

- a Hedd Wyn show by In Character drama company that was commissioned by the Library;

- working with a facsimile copy of the ode *Yr Arwr*;
- a tour of the redeveloped and newly opened *Yr Ysgwrn*;
- an opportunity to meet Gerald, Hedd Wyn's nephew, and see the famous Black Chair;
- a workshop delivered by National Library education staff;
- a free copy of a pack on Hedd Wyn written by National Library education staff.



A century after the chairing ceremony at the Birkenhead Eisteddfod in September 1917, NLW Education Service delivered a series of workshops that followed the journey of the Black Chair from Birkenhead to Trawsfynydd, working with schools on Merseyside and across north Wales.

To celebrate the success of the Hedd Wyn Education Project the ScottishPower Foundation commissioned a unique video project that was beamed onto the National Library of Wales building at the end of the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday. This can be viewed online on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUmpNsAIBZQ>

Kids in Museum Takeover Day

Pupils from Ysgol y Felin, Llanelli a school within the Carmarthenshire Fusion Partnership area took part in our 2017 Kids in Museums Takeover Day.

Another takeover by Ysgol Trimsaran and Ysgol Mynyddygarreg, also in the Carmarthenshire Fusion Partnership area, took place in January 2018. Activities for pupils will include working in the Reading Rooms, digitising items, receiving and processing new accessions, assisting with the production of the Kyffin Williams centenary exhibition, and working with NLW security staff.



Class Art

As part of the Kyffin 100 centenary commemorations the National Library will deliver a Class Art project in 2018 that will take original Kyffin Williams portrait and landscape paintings to a primary and secondary school in the Gwynedd Fusion Partnership area. This will build on the success of last year's Class Art project when we took an original Turner painting of Dolbadarn Castle to Ysgol Dolbadarn in Gwynedd, and Ysgol Coed Efa in Cwmbran.



The Welsh Bacalaureate

The National Library of Wales Education Service delivers workshops both in Aberystwyth and across Wales to support the Welsh Bacalaureate Qualification. In 2017 it produced a new guide on Harvard Referencing that uses items from NLW collections to demonstrate how to cite and reference sources for the Welsh Bacalaureate Individual Project. This is distributed free of charge to each Welsh Bacalaureate pupil that visits the Library or is part

of its outreach programme, and is promoted as part of our offer to the Gwynedd and Carmarthenshire Fusion Partnerships.

Themed outreach work with schools

As well as supporting specific projects The National Library of Wales Education Service delivers themed outreach workshops to support schools in Wales with the delivery of the curriculum. [Examples of themed workshops](#) can be found on our website, and these are usually delivered using original items in the Library building, and using facsimiles outside the Library.

Preparing for the new curriculum

The National Library of Wales Education Service has worked to implement the principles included in Professor Donaldson's report *Successful Futures* since its publication in February 2015. At that time we were leading a major Welsh Government DfES funded project to develop digital learning resources on The First World War in Wales, and worked closely with Welsh Government advisors to future proof these materials for the new curriculum.

All of our workshops, both in the Library and externally, have been developed to reflect the ethos of the Donaldson report and the four purposes of the curriculum for Wales. They are focused on the development and application of knowledge and skills in literacy, numeracy and digital competence, are designed to encourage stimulating and engaging teaching and learning, and emphasise the Welsh language and culture where this is appropriate.

We also work in partnership with National Museum Wales, Cadw and The Royal Commission to develop digital learning materials. As part of our current project, National Library and National Museum education staff are leading a project with support from Cadw and RCAHMW to develop digital learning materials on The Age of The Princes in Wales.

They include primary and secondary resources sourced from Wales, and look at Welsh history during this period from a Welsh, British and European perspective, not just the relationship between Wales and England. They are designed to support the new curriculum in Wales, with an emphasis on developing literacy, numeracy and digital literacy skills. The first two sets of resources were published on Hwb in September 2017 and were viewed more than 1,600 in the first two months:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/resources/resource/f2b3ae86-7de5-493a-8d99-165b7c36525e/en> .