

NEWSPLAN in Ireland

The committee on Library Co-operation in Ireland (COLICO) set up the NEWSPLAN Project with the kind co-operation and financial support of the British Library, in 1988. Mr James O'Toole, BA (Mod.), DipLIS, was appointed Project Officer in early 1989 and the Project was based in the National Library of Ireland. Three years later, *the Report* was published. This contained information on holdings of about 1200 titles, held mainly by The British Library Newspaper Library, and the National Library, but also including holdings in public and academic libraries, and private collections, in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The implementation stage of the Project became the responsibility of a Committee for Northern Ireland, a Committee for the Republic

of Ireland, and a Co-ordinating Committee. Ms Jennifer MacDougall, ALA, was appointed by the Committee in the Republic to carry out a feasibility study into the microfilming recommended in the *Report*. She concluded that a microfilming unit should be setup. Premises are currently being refurbished in the National Library for this purpose, and funding is being sought at national and international level.

The Project in Ireland is especially grateful to Mr Geoffrey Hamilton, who recently retired as Head of Colindale, for his untiring support and encouragement, and we look forward to working with his successor, Mr. Geoff Smith.

**Dónall O Luanaigh
Keeper (Collection)
National Library of Ireland**



**Sad state of some hardcopy 19th century newspaper files
in the National Library of Ireland**

Union Catalog of the California Newspaper Project

The California Newspaper Project, a program of the Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research and a component of the U.S. Newspaper Program, is building and maintaining a database of newspapers, using the STAR system. STAR is a multi-user database management and information retrieval system produced by Cuadra Associates of Santa Monica, California. The system offers great flexibility to the user in defining search keys, reports and record structures.

The California Newspaper Project database currently includes 10,650 records representing California newspapers and their associated holdings, as well as approximately 4,000 additional U.S. titles catalogued by the project thus far.

The database is structured to accept import of MARC records originally entered into the OCLC online union catalog as part of the U.S. Newspaper Program Union List. As bibliographic and union list records are entered into OCLC by cataloguers at several locations, they are simultaneously downloaded to files which are copied into STAR. A strong advantage of the database design is that it can easily be modified to account for non-cataloging data. MARC records can be imported or, alternatively, can be keyed directly into STAR.

The California Newspaper Project database serves the following purposes:

historical societies, newspaper publishers and microfilming agencies and merges this information with cataloging records as they are constructed. Information as yet unverified by the project serves as a tool in directing the staff in bibliographic field work.

Records carry preservation data and physical condition data reports appended to union list records. This information will inform the project in making selections of newsprint for preservation microfilming in the future.

Records carry historical information which is of value to researchers, but which is not included in the cataloging record.

Records carry questions posed by project staff about the relationships of newspaper titles. These queries can be followed up by cataloguers in the course of field work when additional issues of a newspaper are located. Questions, as well as unconfirmed data supplied from secondary historical sources, are carried in temporary fields of the STAR record which will not appear in the database mounted publicly and which will be deleted from the project database once the work of the California Newspaper Project is completed.

The database of the California Newspaper Project has proven to be ideally suited for use as a project management tool suitable for future export and mounting as a union catalog.

Lynne M. Hayman
Deputy Director

It organizes the survey responses of libraries, museums,



NEWS FROM THE ROUND TABLE

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NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

No contributions for this column were received this time. Contributions however, are always welcome and in the next issue we hope to publish a piece on the Lenin State Library, Moscow

Conference of the US newspaper programme - 10th Anniversary Wash- ington D.C., April 1995

The 1995 business meeting of the Round Table on Newspapers was held in Washington, D.C. in April to coincide with the tenth anniversary conference of the US Newspaper Program. Members of the Round Table were invited to attend and participate in the conference. Both events were held at the Library of Congress and provided a valuable opportunity to learn about the progress and achievements of the US Newspaper Program as well as to discuss and take forward the projects and programmes in which the Round Table is involved. Reports on the events are given below.

US Newspaper Program

All 50 states of the USA, plus the District of Columbia, are now participants in the programme. The aims of the program are the creation of bibliographic records and holdings statements for all extant US local newspapers, and the preservation through archival microfilming of selected titles. The program is organised state by state, with each state running a project and taking responsibility for its own titles. Central coordination

and support is provided through the Library of Congress. Each state project is funded separately. Almost all the funding is provided by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

After an initial overview by Bob Harriman, the LoC coordinator of the Program, George Farr, the Director of Preservation and Access at NEH spoke about the possible threats to NEH funding from the antagonism of the current Congress to federal spending programs. The NEH had already suffered a recession (claw-back) of \$5 million in the current fiscal year. This would not affect projects for which funding was already agreed, but could affect new proposals currently under consideration. The levels of appropriation for the next fiscal year had not yet been agreed, and were dependent on the reauthorisation of the continued existence of NEH which would be the subject of hearing in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The importance and value of USNP among NEH funded projects was widely recognised, and would be used in the arguments for the continued support of NEH.

There followed a talk on strategies for enlisting support for NEH and USNP activities, followed by discussion of lobbying and other methods for this. Many attendees had already been in contact with their Representatives and Senators, and others had made appointments to see them during the current week.

The afternoon session began

with a vivid illustrated report on the activities of the North Carolina Newspaper Project, describing the efforts of the project team to locate, record, borrow and microfilm the newspapers scattered around the state. The dedication and enthusiasm of the team, who made a joint presentation, were impressive as was their success in carrying out the project.

providing information and access through the Internet. There was a further useful talk on the practicalities of setting up information and WWW hypertext linkages on the Internet. The morning of the second day was devoted to detailed expositions of bibliographic issues, firstly relating to the integration of MARC formats

targeting of microfilm, Meg Bellinger of Preservation Resources Ltd spoke about the problems encountered in digitising newspapers from microfilm, and Errol Somay of the Virginia Project made plea for common sense and a practical approach to newspaper filming based on understanding of costs involved and of realistic expectations.

Helsinki University Library spoke of her institution's role as the Finnish National Library and about the newspaper microfilming, in particular joint projects carried out with USA institutions on the filming of Finnish - American newspapers. Galina Kislovskaya of the Library of Foreign Literature Moscow spoke of the resource problems faced Russia and co-operative initiatives in which they were involved. Hartmut Walravens of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin explained the library structures in Germany after reunification and the desirability of cooperative projects like USNP a NEWSPLAN, and Mary Jane Starr of National Library Canada spoke of the decentralised cooperative programme there. Geoffrey Hamilton closed the session with a description of the role of the IFLA Round Table on Newspapers in fostering communication and common practice on shared problems. The session was well received by the American participants and emphasised the common problems faced by countries with historic newspaper collections, and the need for common approaches to dealing with them.



Equally impressive was a demonstration of the information which LoC was making available via the newspaper services home page on its Internet World Wide Web server (URL: <http://lccweb.loc.gov/global/ncp/newsp.html>). The member of staff who gave the demonstration had put in a great deal of effort to set up useful information on LoC's own services, and to provide the necessary links to on-line newspaper related sources around the world. The power of WWW was made clear in the variety of sources that could be accessed easily via the home page. LoC's achievement offered a model for how other libraries might go about

for monograph and serial publications, secondly to the complexities of cataloguing electronic serials, including the problems of definition in this area. The talks assumed a very detailed knowledge of CONSER standards and US MARC and were somewhat bewildering to the outsider. They illustrated the American commitment to the creation of shared centralised bibliographic databases for recording and location~material. The afternoon concentrated on preservation microfilming issues. An entertaining talk by Walter Cybulski of the New York State Newspaper Project examined the supposed and real requirements for

The third morning's programme consisted of presentations by the members of the IFLA Round Table on Newspapers on newspaper preservation and access initiatives in their countries. Geoff Smith spoke on the role of BLNL, as the national archive collection and on NEWSPLAN, drawing out the similarities and differences between British and US approaches. Beti Jones of the National Library of Wales spoke about NLW and NEWSPLAN in Wales. Else de Launay of the Bibliotheque Nationale spoke about their newspaper and periodical catalogues and their newspaper microfilming programmes. Majken Bremer-Lamanen of

**Ms. MacDougall
compiled
Guidelines for
the microfilming
of newspapers,
which was
published in
June of last year.**



IFLA Round Table on Newspapers

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ongoing and future projects being carried out by the Round Table and to discuss its programme for future IFLA conferences. Among the items covered were:

The production of an introductory leaflet on the Round Table. It had been translated into and was now available in the five IFLA 'official' languages, English, French, German, Spanish and Russian.

Round Table Newsletter. This was edited by Beti Jones of the National Library of Wales. The next issue was in preparation.

IFLA Guidelines on the Microfilming of Newspapers. The first draft of these had been prepared by Else de Launay of the Bibliotheque de France. They took into account the guidelines produced for NEWSPLAN and those used by the US Newspaper Program. They would be completed by the end of 1995, for publication in 1996.

International survey of newspaper collection policies and procedures.

A questionnaire had been produced for this survey, which would cover those institutions around the world which had national collecting responsibilities for newspapers in their countries. The questionnaire would be sent out in autumn 1995.

IFLA CONFERENCES: 1995: Istanbul. The Round Table was co-sponsoring an open meeting on 'Access to collections and services in a time of change'. Geoff Smith would give a paper on behalf of the Round Table on access to newspaper collections and services.

1996: Beijing. There would be a workshop on preservation issues, focusing on the IFLA Guidelines on the Microfilming of Newspapers. This would be arranged jointly with the IFLA Conservation section. There would also be an open meeting of the Round Table, focusing on Asian newspapers.

1997: Copenhagen. There would be a joint open meeting with the Serials and Rare Books sections, focusing on early newspapers.

Officers: Bob Harriman of Library of Congress agreed to continue as

Chair until 1997. Geoff Smith was elected as Secretary and Treasurer to succeed Geoffrey Hamilton, whose term of office was completed in August 1995.

Visits to Library of Congress

At end of the week members of the Round Table were able to arrange visits to various departments of the Library of Congress, including the Reading Rooms and microfilming department. These brought to a successful conclusion what had been an interesting, educational and enjoyable week.

Geoff Smith

Annual Bibliography on Newspapers in Libraries

How many published references to newspapers in libraries can you easily trace? If it is fewer than 84 for 1993, or 70 for 1992, make sure you have access to the annual bibliography compiled by Round Table member Wilbert Ubbens. It has appeared since 1982 in issue 3 of each volume of *Bibliothek: Forschung und Praxis*. The bibliography's coverage is international, including "grey literature" as well as books and journal articles.

If you are aware of relevant documents which may not reach the major bibliographic services, please send details or a copy of the item - to

Wilbert Ubbens, Staats-und Universitätsbibliotheken, Postfach 33 01 60, D-28331 Bremen, Germany.

UNION CATALOGUES OF NEWSPAPERS

The Round Table hopes to start work in 1995 which will result in published guide-lines for compiling union catalogues of newspapers. The editor will be pleased to receive information about existing or proposed union catalogues for publication in the newsletter and as input to the Round Table project. On the front page we print the first to be received.

BROCHURE

The Round Table's brochure detailing its various activities is now available in two more languages - German and Russian - in addition to the English, Spanish & French versions.

FUTURE IFLA CONFERENCES

- 1996 Beijing
- 1997 Copenhagen
- 1998 Amsterdam
- 1999 Thailand?
- 2000 Portugal
- 2001 Boston, USA or South Korea
- 2002 Edinburgh?
- 2003 St. Petersburg

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