

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS IN PERIL AWARDED £5 MILLION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

The Trustees of the United Kingdom Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded a grant of £5 million as the first stage of NEWSPLAN's programme to save local newspapers in peril. This is by far the largest preservation grant ever made in the United Kingdom. The application was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund in April 1998 for funds to support a UK - wide programme to microfilm historical files (covering, in the main, the period from 1800-1950) of local newspapers at risk to archival standards; to provide microfilm readers to enable users to have convenient access to the text of these newspapers; and to investigate the digitisation of newspaper text through the preservation medium of archival - quality microfilm to provide enhanced on-line access to them.

The application was made on behalf of NEWSPLAN, the co-operative programme covering all the regions of the United Kingdom and Ireland, to preserve local newspapers by microfilming them to international archival standards and to ensure by this means that they continue to be accessible to all those who need to consult them. NEWSPLAN was first established in the 1980's and is regarded as a UK model for co-operation, not just for its preservation and access activities but also for the high level of co-operation between the four national libraries of the UK and Ireland and the public library sector. Increasingly, the newspaper industry is playing an active role in NEWSPLAN and the London Press Club has facilitated many of the developments in the lottery application.

The programme of work envisaged is a five year programme of work that would cover 3,460 titles, creates 83,816 reels of microfilms, and include the provision of 800 microfilm readers. The HLF award is for £5m as the first tranche of the programme; the participating libraries will make contributions in kind and another £2m is sought from the newspaper industry and other companies. The Freedom Forum, in conjunction with the London Press Club, has offered office accommodation at its London offices.



The award has been welcomed throughout the United Kingdom: Chris Smith MP, the UK secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, commented "Newspapers have been called history's first draft. The conservation of our stock of local newspapers, much of it suffering from acidity and thus difficult to handle, is incredibly important because it forms a considerable part of our nation's archives. The Heritage Lottery Fund's commitment to help save newspapers for the nation will not only prevent the loss of an irreplaceable piece of our history, but will allow far greater access than at present, without further damaging the originals."

Dr Ann Matheson, the LINC NEWSPLAN Chair, said that "we are absolutely delighted by the award and by the enlightened decision of the Trustees of the HLF ... it will fund the preservation of microfilming of local newspapers which are most at risk and in danger of disintegration, in every part of the UK and will be of enormous benefit to current and future generations".

The next stage in the process leading to the implementation of the programme is to confirm, with the Heritage Lottery Fund, arrangements for the setting up a charitable NEWSPLAN limited company and its management structure (including the appointment of a Project Director) and initiating and tendering for the microfilming contract. At the same time the ten NEWSPLAN implementation

committees will consider which newspapers, identified as being in peril, should be microfilmed as part of the first tranche.

The future objectives of NEWSPLAN have been considered in the light of the HLF award. A context paper was discussed at the NEWSPLAN meeting in April 1999; the following issues were addressed: access, promoting preservation, digitisation, funding, copyright, the newspaper industry, museums and archives, and staff training. It was agreed that a final draft would be considered at the next meeting in October leading to a programme of activities and work which in conjunction with the microfilming programme will enhance awareness of, and access to, collections of local newspapers.



In my paper during the third NEWSPLAN conference in March 1998 I wrote that NEWSPLAN is a continuous activity; it takes account of national and local priorities and needs. Preparation of the Lottery application has emphasised the need for adherence to the highest microfilming standards, until the preservation of our priceless collections can be confidently assured by other means archival preservation microfilming will continue to be regarded as the norm.

John Byford
British Library

Membership & Address List August, 1999

Prof. Dr Hans Bohrmann
Bibliotheken der Stadt Dortmund
Institut für Zeitungsforschung der Stadt Dortmund 41/ZI
Postfach 1050 53
4600 DORTMUND 1 Germany
☎ 00 49 231 50 23216
Fax: (231) 50 2601A8
e-mail: pbohrman@stadto.de

Ms Majlis Bremer-Laamanen
Helsinki University Library
Centre for Microfilming & Conservation
Sainaankatu 6
50100 MIKKELI Finland
☎ 00 358 15 157037
Fax: 358 15151228
e-mail: bremena@helsinki.fi

Mme Else Delaunay
5 rue Paul Luis Courier
75007 Paris
France
☎ 00 33 1 45 48 68 52

Ms Elza Erdelii
National & University Library
Ulica Hrvatske Bratske
Zajednice B.B.
1000 ZAGREB PP 550 Croatia
☎ 00 3851 6164128

Ms Elena Garcia-Puente Lillo
Seccion de Publicaciones Seriadadas
Biblioteca Nacional
Recoletos, 20-22
28071 MADRID Spain
☎ 00 34 1 5807830
Fax: 5775634
e-mail: i.torrecillas@bne.es

Geoffrey Hamilton
7 Frankscroft
Peebles, Scotland
EH45 9DX
☎ 01721 724150

Robert Harriman
LS/SRD (4160)
Library of Congress
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540 - 4160
USA
☎ 00 1 202 707 5946
Fax: 1 (202) 707 6333
e-mail: rharr@loc.gov

Beti Jones (Editor)
Department of Printed Books
National Library of Wales
ABERYSTWYTH
Ceredigion
SY23 3BU
Wales
☎ 00 44 1970 632890
Fax: 00 44 1970 632852
e-mail:
beti.jones@llgc.org.uk

Galina Kislovskaya
Deputy Director General
Library of Foreign Literature
Nikolajamskaya Street 1
MOSCOW 109189 Russia
☎ 00 7 095 55 32
Fax: 915 36 37
e-mail: gkisllov@libfl.msk.su

Svend Larsen
Statsbiblioteket
Universitetsparken
DK-8000
Aarhus
Denmark

☎ 00 45 89462022
Fax: 89462220
e-mail: kumsb@kumsb.dk

Lars Olsson
Head of Newspaper Section
Kungliga Biblioteket
P.O. Box 5039
S-102 41 STOCKHOLM
Sweden
☎ 00 46 8 4634066
Fax: 00 46 8 611 6956
e-mail: lars.olsson@kb.se

Mohamed Raouf Belhassen
Bibliothèque Nationale
20 Souk el Attarine
BP 42, Tunis 1008 Tunisia
☎ 00 216 1 249 902
Fax: 00 216 1 342 700

Isabelle Rollet
DIA/Department Droit
Bibliothèque nationale de France
Quai François Mauriac
75706 Paris Cedex 13
France
☎ 00 33 1 53 79 51 03
Fax: 00 33 1 53 79 51 25
e-mail: isabelle.rollet@bnf.fr

Mr Ed King (Secretary/Treasurer)
Secretary & Treasurer
Head of The British Library Newspaper Library
Colindale Avenue
LONDON
England
☎ 00 44 171 412 7362
Fax: 71 323 7386
e-mail: ed.king@bl.uk

Dr Henry Snyder
Center of Bibliographical Studies & Research
Rivera Library-016
University of California
RIVERSIDE
California CA 92521-0154
USA
☎ 00 1 909 787 5841
Fax: 909 787 4120
e-mail: hlsnyder@earthlink.net

Ms Mary Jane Starr
National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
OTTAWA
Ontario K1A 0N4 Canada
☎ 00 1 613 996 0680
Fax: 613 947 2706
e-mail: mjs@psb.nlc-bnc.ca

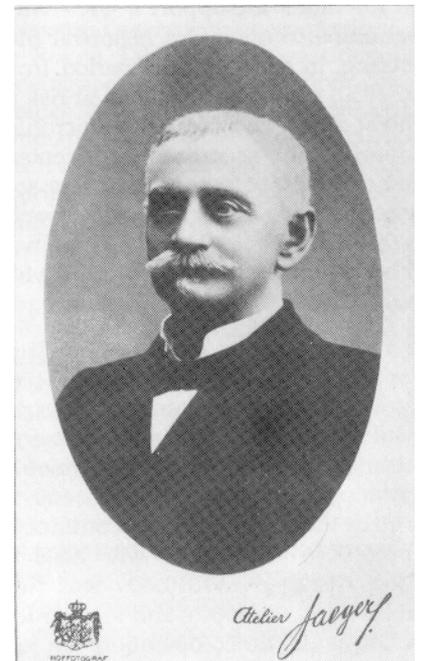
Wilbert Ubbens
Staats-und
Universitätsbibliothek
Bibliotheksstrasse
Postfach 33 01 60
D-28331 BREMEN 33 Germany
Fax: 00 49 421 218 2614

Dr Hartmut Walravens (Chair)
Abteilung überregionale bibliographische Dienste
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Preussischer Kulturbesitz
Potsdamer Strasse 33
D-10785 BERLIN Germany
☎ 00 49 30 266 2337
Fax: 30 266 2378
email: walravens@sbb.spk-berlin.de

Ms Olga Yadykina
Russian State Library
101000 Moskva, Vozdvizhenka 3
Russia
Fax: 00 7 095 2002255

The Rising of a New Lundstedt

Swedish newspapers and other periodicals from 1645 to 1899 are thoroughly described in the bibliographic work *Sveriges periodiska litteratur*, 3 volumes, Stockholm 1895-1902 by Bernhard Lundstedt (1846-1914), assistant librarian at the Royal Library in Stockholm.



For the twentieth century, however, there is no such bibliography, so there has been a strong demand among scholars and librarians for a continuation of Lundstedt's work.

When the Newspaper Section of the Royal Library started its regular microfilming of the current Swedish newspapers in 1979 it adopted Bernhard Lundstedt's bibliographic standards for the targets of the microfilm rolls, and thus a basis was created for a future bibliography in the spirit of Bernhard Lundstedt.



NEWS FROM THE ROUND TABLE

Sixteen years later, thanks to grants from the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation and from the Ridderstad Foundation, the Royal Library could start realizing the wished for bibliography - a newspaper bibliography at first, later on to be continued by a bibliography of other periodicals. In 1995 four people were added to the staff of the Newspaper Section in order to carry through the so-called New Lundstedt Project. The aim of the project is to create a bibliographic database covering all Swedish newspapers from 1900 to 1994. From 1995 and onwards the bibliography will be updated continually as matter of routine by the Newspaper Section in connection with its registering of deposit copies and preparing of bibliographic microfilm targets.

So far the New Lundstedt Project accounts for some 700 titles out of a total of about 1500. This work in progress can be seen on the Internet under the address:
<http://www.kb.se/nl/nlnav.htm>.

As a complement there will be a link to Bernhard Lundstedt's own *Sveriges periodiska litteratur*, which recently has been scanned from its printed medium into a digital one.

Lars Olsson
Head of Newspapers Section
Kungliga Biblioteket
Stockholm

PROMOTING ACCESS TO NORDIC HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS THE TIDEN PROJECT

To promote the use of older library collections - in digital form - the Helsinki University Library (Finland), Kungliga Biblioteket i Stockholm (Sweden), Nasjonalbiblioteket i Rana (Norway) and Aarhus Statsbibliotek (Denmark) are co-operating to study methods for the digital conversion of large quantities of material.

The project named '71DEN - Digitisation of historical newspapers in the Nordic countries' began in 1998 and will be finished in 2001. It is funded by the participating libraries and Nordinfo.

Nordic newspapers were chosen as an example of an extensive and important source material that can be found in libraries. In the Nordic countries newspapers have been produced since the 15th-16th century in all sizes and text types. Newspapers are also microfilmed for preservation. Thus microfilm will serve as a platform for digitising the Nordic newspapers until 1850.

AIM OF THE PROJECT

The aim of this project is to find economically viable and productive digitisation processes of large quantities of material. The participating libraries are testing Optical Character Recognition programs (OCR) and are examining productive search methods and access via the Internet. On the basis of these investigations the libraries will create a database of historical newspapers that will serve the public and researchers in all Nordic countries in a much more flexible way than is possible using existing search methods.

The project is divided into four phases:

- o Testing the quality of the microfilms and the suitability of different OCR programs for the conversion of large amounts of material in the Nordic languages.
- o Testing user-friendly search methods.

Investigation of copyright issues relating to newspapers published in the 17th century.

Access to historical newspapers from mid 17th century to the mid 19th century in the Nordic countries will be provided via the Internet.

The project will benefit all Nordic libraries interested in digitising their collections. The general methodology and production processes for large-scale digitising of older materials have both a Nordic and international importance.

This project is one step further in making it possible for the reader and the library to link together in accessing the old and valuable collections in the future.

Mails Bremer-Laamanen
Head of the Centre for Microfilming and
Conservation
Helsinki University Library

Random extracts from papers presented at last year's conference

The Hungarian Press 1987-97

Free!

The Hungarian press, as in other countries, has been subject to legal regulations since the middle of the last century. However, in a discussion titled *The Freedom of Press - the Press of Freedom*, the president of the National Association of Hungarian Journalists, István Wisinger, could declare that "in its political and legal sense the Hungarian press is free"

Title Changes

During the period following the political changes of 1989 many titles of periodicals and newspapers have changed due to political-social changes. When councils or 'soviets' were succeeded by municipalities in 1990, this was reflected by periodicals, with 44 title-changes occurring for this reason. From 1989, such designations as 'Red October', '1st of May', '4th April' disappeared from the name of factories, while the names of the leaders of the international and national working-class movement, such as Marx, Lenin etc. were removed from a number of institutions. As many as 37 title changes occurred as a result of this. There have also been geographical changes which stem from political changes. The town of Leninváros (*Lenin town*) reversed to its original name - Tiszaújváros - in 1990, which meant a title change for its local newspaper.

Statistics

In 1987 a few large publishing houses specialised in issuing newspapers and journals in Hungary, and they distributed the majority of public periodicals. The publishing house Lapkiadó issued 317 periodicals, the Newspaper Publishing House and the Statistical publishing House issued more than a 100 periodicals each, while the Youth Publishing House and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences issued 90 each. There was a significant increase in such publications following the changes of regime, but many private firms went into bankruptcy.

In 1987, 48 newspapers were available, all issued by the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, but due to activities of several different parliamentary parties after the political changes, as many as 175 newspapers were available in 1992. By 1997 this figure had settled at around 61 titles.

Changes in the political system also led to ideological freedom, and churchmen were restored to their previous role in society. Before the changes there were 41 religious periodicals available in the country, but by 1992 this figure had quadrupled and is still increasing.

Elizabeth Gazdag & Anikó Nagy
Országos Széchényi Könyvtár
Budapest

New Russian- Language Newspapers in Berlin

The Russian language newspapers published in Berlin (and in Germany in general) do not compare favourably with the international (traditionreich) papers *Russkaja mysl'* (Paris) and *Novoe Russkoe Slovo* (New York) as far as the intellectual level, the political statements and the potential audience, with regard to its intellectual literacy, are concerned. The mentioned two papers were genuine émigré papers: they contributed to finding the political and cultural truth, and they had a clearly defined function towards the repressed papers in the Soviet Union, or Russia, respectively.

The German Russian-language papers, on the contrary, are just papers for Russian readers abroad - they may be émigrés of the third wave but also any of the other mentioned groups of readers. There is no clear political profile. Dealing with recent history and critical reporting on the dubious political situation in Russia would qualify as one of the tasks of the Russian foreign press. Within Russia these questions are mostly unsolved. The juridical preconditions for researching Russia's terrorist past are given: the juridical reality looks sad, however. Rehabilitation of victims have happened, also some journalistic processing of documents from the old centres of power, albeit rather hesitatingly. Not a single case of punishment of delinquents is known and there has been hardly a change 'in the substance of the power elite' The papers published in Berlin have not taken over such responsibility, or only in an insufficient way. Therefore the Russian speaker - if he knows foreign languages which is not as often the case as one would assume - will have to form his opinion by reading German or English language or continue reading *Russkaja mysl'* or *Novoe russkoe slovo.*, The reluctance of improving communication by learning new languages seems to be one of the few parallels between the situation in the twenties and now. In my opinion, it corresponds to the behaviour of former members of an imperial super power.

The future development will depend on several factors. The most important one: the political move in Russia towards a functioning democracy which would not need a critical exile press, only information media for expatriates or foreign editions of Russian papers. Another factor is the growth of a still rather provincial Berlin to a real capital and cosmopolitan city. It seems that at least the nucleus of a resuscitated Jewish cultural centre is noticeable in Berlin. German Jewish bourgeoisie was eradicated by the Nazis, and not much of the tradition was left. What is developing in Berlin now (Museum, Centrum Judaicum, central archives, Jewish community with library and cultural activities) is a slow growing cultural bud. It receives its intellectual potential mainly from Eastern Europe, especially the Russian language area.

When the 'well-known names' will no longer pass Berlin by, this might be a force to fill the press with new life. On the other hand, it is quite normal that the editor make the best use of their business opportunities.

The Berlin State Library is not a legal deposit library but nevertheless ensures that the responsibility of acquiring the Berlin Russian newspapers as complete is as possible, in order to preserve source material. One aspect is the tradition of the twenties - and the library has considerable respective collections - the other to provide a documentation of today's Russian language scene. Newspapers are among the most sought after sources, and we consider it our responsibility to provide materials and services.

Walter Andreesen
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Berlin, Germany



A well-known sight at Round Table meetings! Recognise it?

Geoff Smith has taken up another post as Director, Co-operation & Partnership Programme, British Library.
We wish him well and thank him for all his work in the past.
You'll be missed, Geoff!

SURVEY OF SURVEY OF NEWSPAPER COLLECTIONS

The Round Table's questionnaire survey of libraries which hold significant newspaper collection was designed to gather quantitative and qualitative information about their collection policies and procedures. Over 100 replies were received, from more than 70 countries in the alphabetical range Albania to Zimbabwe. The survey reached several **countries with which the Round Table** had not previously been in touch. It was clear from the enthusiastic comments in several of these returns that the prospect of association with an international movement sharing the interest and concerns of local specialists who have been working in isolation was a source of considerable encouragement.

A statistical analysis has been prepared for the Round Table's Executive Committee drawing upon returns received from national libraries. Work is continuing to extract and summarise qualitative information upon which it may be possible to base a report showing how national and other libraries around the world are managing their newspaper collections, and to provide input when the Round Table's future work programme is being planned. While recognising that the replies received are neither comprehensive nor equally spread across all countries, the Executive Committee considers they could be the basis for a first attempt to create an International Directory of Newspaper Collections. The possibility of Mounting this Directory on the IFLANET is being pursued. The survey invited requests to be added to the mailing list for the Round Table's Newsletter. We welcome the new readers who are seeing this issue as a result of accepting this invitation.

Geoffrey Hamilton

65th IFLA Council and General Conference
Bangkok, Thailand, August 20 - August 28, 1999

Round Table Committee Meeting: Saturday 21st August
Open Meeting: Wednesday, 25th August 3p.m

Theme: South-East Asian Newspapers



1. *Problems of acquisition: access to and promotion of Southeast Asian newspapers in US libraries*
ALLEN RIEDY (Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA)

2. *Current Southeast Asian newspapers: an overview*
AMELIA MCKENZIE and **PAUL LIVINGSTON**
(National Library of Australia, Canberra, Australia)

3. *Thai newspapers*
TBA

FUTURE IFLA CONFERENCES
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