



## Museums, Archives and Libraries

### Introduction

- In 2005-06 there were 1,343,685 visitors to the sites of the National Museum Wales in Wales, slightly below the 1.4 million target<sup>i</sup>.
- In the same period there were 97,882 visitors to the National Library of Wales, above the target of 97,000<sup>ii</sup>.

The Welsh Assembly Government's support for museums, archives and libraries is split into two distinct areas:

- **National:** the policy and operational work relating to the two national institutions, the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth (an Assembly Sponsored Public Body (ASPB) which holds the world's largest collection of works about Wales and other Celtic nations) and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales (an ASPB dedicated to preserving, presenting and promoting the culture of Wales in a world-wide context). 2007 is the centenary year of these two institutions.
- **Non-national:** CyMAL : Museums Archives and Libraries Wales, which supports the development of local museums, archives and libraries services.

The National Library of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales are both issued with Remit Letters<sup>iii</sup> annually as a key part of the Assembly Government's sponsorship arrangements.

### Overview of current statutory powers of the Assembly

"Culture" is Field 3 of Schedule 5 of the *Government of Wales Act 2006*. This means that the National Assembly for Wales can seek Measure-making powers over cultural matters through Legislative Competence Orders.

The following secondary legislation responsibilities of the Second Assembly will transfer to Welsh Ministers in the Third Assembly:

- All activities of the National Museum of Wales and the National Library of Wales.
- Museum and library policy.
- Funding of cultural activities.

### Forthcoming EU and UK primary legislation

- The Heritage Protection White Paper was published on 8 March 2007<sup>iv</sup>.

### EU policy

The European Union aims to preserve and support Europe's cultural diversity and to help make it accessible to others.

- The Communication on Culture includes digitisation of cultural heritage and on how arts and culture can help to connect the citizens and the EU.
- The Culture 2007-2013 Programme will promote the cross-border circulation of works of art and culturally significant objects.

### Key Welsh Government documents and action plans from the Second Assembly:

- *Cymru Greadigol – Creative Futures*<sup>v</sup> is the Welsh Assembly Government's 10 year culture strategy, published in February 2002.

## Legacy issues from the Second Assembly

The Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee's legacy paper<sup>vi</sup> highlighted the following issues relating to museums and galleries for the attention of the Third Assembly:

- the development of a national gallery of art for Wales;
- continued support for the National Museum Wales' plans for its redevelopment of its Cathays Park site which include a national museum of art;
- the National Library of Wales programme of digitisation and of improving access for all;
- the work by the National Museum Wales on research and conservation and the need for its collections fund;
- the development of a Museum of People's History;
- the National Museum Wales pension fund and its implications for the Museum's finances;
- recognition that the National Library of Wales is one of largest libraries in the world and the need for it to be able to operate as such, with at the least, inflation proof funding;

## Useful Links

- Welsh Assembly Government website covering Museums, Archives and Libraries:  
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/museumsarchiveslibraries/?lang=en>
- National Library of Wales:  
<http://www.llgc.org.uk/>
- Final report to the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee from the National Library of Wales:  
<http://www.wales.gov.uk/documents/cms/2/CultureWelshLanguageAndSportCommittee/N000000000000000000007/161b5b7ba4bceac4f1ec18a838f5a657.pdf>
- Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales:  
<http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/home/>
- Final report to the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee from Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales:  
<http://www.wales.gov.uk/cms/2/CultureWelshLanguageAndSportCommittee/N000000000000000000007/dbd22d3ab8ab6b3572278fd2f774aa68.htm>
- CyMAL web-site:  
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/museumsarchiveslibraries/cymal4/?lang=en>
- Local Museums, Archives and Libraries in Community Life debate in Plenary on 10 May 2006:  
<http://www.wales.gov.uk/cms/2/ChamberSession/380313AC00046B17000028C300000000/N00000000000000000000044151.htm>

## Further information

For further information on any aspect of museums, archives and libraries, please contact Neil Cox, Members' Research Service ([Neil.Cox@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.Cox@wales.gsi.gov.uk)), 029 2089 8007

<sup>i</sup> National Museum Wales, *Annual Report 2005-06*  
[http://www.nmgw.ac.uk/media/1/9/6/2/Annual\\_Report\\_2005-06.pdf](http://www.nmgw.ac.uk/media/1/9/6/2/Annual_Report_2005-06.pdf)

The 8 main sites include National Museum Cardiff, St Fagans: National History Museum, National Slate Museum, National Roman Legion Museum, Big Pit: National Coal Museum, National Wool Museum, National Collections Centre, and National Waterfront Museum.

<sup>ii</sup> National Library of Wales, *Annual Report 2005-06*  
[http://www.llgc.org.uk/fileadmin/documents/pdf/adroddiadblynyddol\\_s.pdf](http://www.llgc.org.uk/fileadmin/documents/pdf/adroddiadblynyddol_s.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> Welsh Assembly Government, 1 March 2007, *National Library of Wales Remit Letter*  
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/departments/dlqc/localgovculturepubs/CSpublications/nlwremit0708?lang=en>  
Welsh Assembly Government, 1 March 2007, *Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales Remit Letter*  
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/departments/dlqc/localgovculturepubs/CSpublications/nmwremit0708?lang=en>

<sup>iv</sup> UK Government, 8 March 2007, *Heritage Protection for the 21st Century - White Paper*  
[http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference\\_library/Consultations/2007\\_current\\_consultations/hpr\\_whitepaper07.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Consultations/2007_current_consultations/hpr_whitepaper07.htm)

<sup>v</sup> Welsh Assembly Government, January 2002, *Cymru Greadigol - Creative Futures*  
[http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/Culture\\_publications/583637/?lang=en](http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/Culture_publications/583637/?lang=en)

<sup>vi</sup> 14 March 2007, Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee, CWLS (2) 04-07 (p3)