

Final (6-monthly) report of the Wikipedia Co-ordinator / Wikipedian-in-Residence at the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

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Introduction

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (the 'Welsh(-language) National College') is a public body established in 2011 for the promotion and support of university education through the medium of Welsh across the universities of Wales. The Coleg's membership consists of lecturers who teach through the medium of Welsh and students who study all or part of their courses in the language. The Coleg acts as a funding body for the creation of academic modules, the online components of which are stored on its e-learning platform *Y Porth* ('the Portal'). Students of the Coleg in all universities use the Coleg's Blackboard learning environment, where they can access its open educational resources (OERs).

My residency with the Coleg lasted six months, from mid-March to mid-September 2014. I had the opportunity to work for my first week at the head office in Carmarthen and was subsequently based at the Coleg's office in Cardiff. I found this arrangement very helpful for getting to know my colleagues in the central staff and would recommend it for any future residencies based at dispersed institutions, particularly considering the usually short time span of residencies.

The main emphasis of my residency was on identifying content on *Y Porth* which would be appropriate for releasing on Wikimedia projects under valid Creative Commons licences. I was tasked with producing a feasibility study into releasing content under open licences, which was accepted by the Coleg's senior staff. In it I proposed CC BY-SA licences for a range of projects which were to be hosted on the Coleg's *Esboniadur* wiki.

I also gave training in wiki skills to academics affiliated with the Coleg at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (Carmarthen), Swansea, Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities. I advocated the use of Wikipedia as a teaching tool and dispensed booklets on the subject prepared by Wikimedia UK.

My monthly reports of the project's progress were posted on a project page on Wikipedia (shortcut: WP:CCC). The project received some attention in the Welsh-language media, and the *Wikipedia Signpost* and Wikimedia UK's blog ran with news of the residency. (See Appendix 4.)

Finding content

Whilst searching for content that would be appropriate for use on Wikimedia projects, I did not find many appropriate media files. I was pleased to find one exception to this general rule: the 60 clips of interviews with film directors in the *Yn y Ffrâm* project. The distinction between educational and reference content is worth stressing here; many of the video clips on *Y Porth* are part of taught modules and are not suited to building a reference work like Wikipedia.

I was, however, able to find textual information from university course modules hosted on *Y Porth*, and I decided early on that this would be the best content to reproduce on Wikipedia. This seemed to have a close parallel in the Topic Pages by the Public Library of Science which have been licensed for use on Wikipedia.¹ A small number of modules had reference (as opposed to educational) content which seemed well-suited to this purpose. I therefore decided to re-format this content as entries on the *Esboniadur* wiki and concentrate efforts at re-licensing content on that site.

The *Esboniadur*

The *Esboniadur* (broadly translatable as 'the dictionary of explanations') is the Coleg's wiki for reference material contributed directly by its academics, which only registered users (in practice, the Coleg's academic and Information Services staff) can edit. It is part of *Y Porth* and can be accessed by students from a navigation panel when they log in to *Y Porth*'s Blackboard virtual learning environment.

When I began in the residency the wiki contained entries for two projects on geography (*Yr Esboniadur Daearyddiaeth*) and the creative industries (*Yn y Ffrâm*; this latter project was officially hidden). Early on in the residency it became clear that this wiki would be the best place to host content that had been appropriately licensed for sharing on Wikimedia projects, particularly as it was on a MediaWiki platform and so would require almost no formatting changes in the transition to Wikipedia.

I proposed to the Coleg that the wiki be given an enhanced prominence within the range of online resources on *Y Porth*, and that it be repackaged as a multi-disciplinary wiki edited by academics and called the *Esboniadur* (a name which previously applied only to the Geography project). I felt it desirable to downplay the website's nature as a wiki as there appeared to be a tendency to conflate the word 'wiki' with 'Wikipedia', with opposition to the concept of Wikipedia stemming from the fact that 'anyone can edit', which is not true of

¹ Martin Poulter, 'Publishing scholarly papers with, and on, Wikipedia'. WikimediaUK Blog, 28 March 2014. <https://blog.wikimedia.org.uk/2014/03/publishing-scholarly-papers-with-and-on-wikipedia/> (Retrieved on 15 September 2014)

the *Esboniadur*. When I stressed that the *Esboniadur* would be a reliable source which would feed into Wikipedia but whose content was created by the Coleg's academics, the proposal was not met with opposition.

In my recommendations to the Coleg I propose that the project managers of new resources be encouraged to contribute new collections of content to the *Esboniadur*. This is already underway, as a history lecturer at Bangor University has received wiki training skills in order to add content (which is expected to be licensed CC BY-SA) to the site. It will be necessary for the Coleg to notify Wici Cymru when new content such as this is added in order to enable the transfer of content to Wicipedia.

Liaising with content creators

At the Coleg I found a culture welcoming of open content among the administrative staff, but it was still necessary to liaise with the content creators themselves for content to be added to Wikimedia projects. Responses to requests for licensing varied, with some authors being very happy with the proposed licences, whereas others required more persuasion. In the event most content creators who responded agreed to CC BY or CC BY-SA licences for their content.

Choice of licences

Initially I proposed a CC BY-SA 4.0 licence for all content on the *Esboniadur*. I specifically chose the 4.0 suite of Creative Commons licences (at a time when 3.0 was still the standard on Wikimedia's projects) as they have been designed for multiple jurisdictions, which suggested the possibility of a translation into Welsh. I am now involved in preliminary discussions for a Welsh translation of the 4.0 suite of licences.

An unforeseen complication was the desire expressed by the project manager of *Yn y Ffrâm* to combine the licensed content with film stills and video clips in the future. This required a CC BY licence for the factual content of that project.

Indicating licences on Wicipedia

A template was created on Wicipedia, Nodyn:Esboniadur, to indicate the licence of work transferred from the *Esboniadur* to Wicipedia and thereby fulfil the terms of the licence. Equivalent templates (Nodyn:CC BY and Nodyn:CC BY-SA) also exist on the *Esboniadur* to indicate the licensing status of individual pages.

Projects

Collections on the *Esboniadur*

The collections of content on the *Esboniadur* have, with only one exception, been licensed for re-use on Wikimedia projects.

1. The **Geography** collection, originally *Yr Esboniadur Daearyddiaeth* (broadly translated as the 'dictionary of geographical explanations')

This is an OER hosted on the Coleg's wiki comprising (often very detailed) entries explaining key terms in physical and human geography for students. Although there was apparently opposition to the idea of content from the resource appearing on Wikipedia before my residency, in the event the members of the project's board agreed to a CC BY-SA 4.0 licence for all its content (of which 30 entries are currently published). Wiki skills training was then given to the project board members who contributed the entries, and the session was recorded for the benefit of contributors who were not present. A timetable is now in place to publish new geographical content on the *Esboniadur* under the CC BY-SA licence, which can be transferred to Wikipedia as has been done with the articles already published.

As a result of the relicensing of the Geography collection, 26 articles have been created anew on Wikipedia and two expanded from stubs; a total of 112,658 bytes of new content has been added to Wikipedia. (See Appendix 1.)

2. The **Welsh Film and Television** collection, originally *Yn y Ffrâm* ('In the Frame')

This OER comprises entries on films and television drama series either in Welsh or with a connection to Wales. It previously existed on a dedicated website but by the beginning of my residency it was hosted on the Coleg's wiki and its copyright situation, as well as its relation to the other content hosted on the wiki, remained to be formalised. This was the most complex project for obtaining permissions as it was the work of multiple creators and more than one project manager.

I observed that there were two different types of content in this resource: purely factual content that would be appropriate for appearing on Wikipedia and content of a more persuasive or analytical nature which would not suit the encyclopaedic tone of Wikipedia. I therefore proposed two different licences for this resource: CC BY-SA for factual content and a licence prohibiting commercial use for analytical content (though this only applied to two essays in the resource).

In the course of discussion it became clear that a CC BY-SA licence would be ill-suited to the database-style entries as there was a desire for it to be combined in future with copyrighted

material – i.e. film stills or clips. Therefore a CC BY licence was proposed for this content, which would impose no licensing restrictions on future use of the information.

The first stage of uploads from the Welsh Film and Television collection, namely articles on feature films, is now complete. A total of 37 articles on Wikipedia have benefitted from the upload, most of which were previously stubs created by a bot. (See Appendix 2.)

Unfortunately, I did not receive responses permitting CC licences for some of the resource's content, including the video clips of interviews with directors which represented the only content suitable for Wikimedia Commons.

3. The **Early Welsh Theatre** collection, originally *Llyfryddiaeth Theatr Cymru Gynnar* ('Bibliography of Early Welsh Theatre')

An OER with bibliographies of 13 playwrights in Welsh and English from the period 1880–1940. The project manager agreed to a CC BY-SA 4.0 licence with no objections whatever and content from the resource was the first to be added to Wikipedia. A total of 42,206 bytes of new content was added to Wikipedia as a result. (See Appendix 3.)

4. The **Radio Drama** collection, originally *Yr Archif Radio* ('The Radio Archive')

An OER devised for drama students. The part of the resource I identified as relevant for inclusion on Wikimedia projects was the content on radio dramas. Unfortunately the project manager was unhappy with the idea of content appearing on Wikipedia and we agreed that much of the content did not quite suit an encyclopaedia such as Wikipedia, being analytical in nature.

5. The **History of the Middle Ages** collection (*Hanes yr Oesoedd Canol*)

This will be the first resource to be added directly to the *Esboniadur* by its author. The project manager has received training in wiki skills alongside the contributors to the Geography project. Although discussions are in their early stages it is hoped that the project manager will agree to a CC BY-SA licence.

Projects which could not be added to the *Esboniadur*

Y Sgrîn Fach Gymraeg ('The Welsh Small Screen'):

An OER on television drama series in Welsh. This could not be added to the *Esboniadur* as it emerged that it was based primarily on doctoral research which had not been funded by the Coleg. The individual on whose research it was based was, however, perfectly willing for her contributions to *Yn y Ffrâm* to be licensed CC BY-SA as that project had received funding from the Coleg.

Training and presentations

In the course of my residency I held training in wiki skills for academic staff members at Trinity Saint David (Carmarthen), Swansea, Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities. I also gave a presentation as part of JISC's Summer Bytes event on 'How to use Wikipedia for teaching and learning'. Using training experience gained in the residency I gave the training session in basic wiki skills for educators as part of the Education Pre-Conference at Wikimania 2014 in London. I also put together a presentation on the Coleg's Online Resources for the National Eisteddfod. My session of training in wiki skills for the Geography and History of the Middle Ages contributors has been recorded for future use by other academics affiliated with the Coleg. I shall be giving further training in wiki skills as part of the Coleg's Academic Staffing Plan in 2015.

Establishing an institutional policy on open licences

The groundwork for an institutional policy on open licences at the Coleg had already been laid by a Welsh Government report, *Open and online*, advocating the use of open licences in the higher education sector in Wales. It did not, however, recommend specific licences, and this project has provided the opportunity to explore the implications of different licences. In my recommendations to the Coleg I outline what I think would be the best licences for future projects which will receive funding from the Coleg, permitting the transfer of some content to Wikimedia projects.

Conclusions

I feel that in a small way I have been able to change the attitudes of academic staff at the Coleg. I was still faced, on one occasion, with an academic staff member who was opposed to the concept of a Wikipedia in Residence at the Coleg on principle, but by and large I have encountered a level of broad support, particularly among administrative staff.

The agreements to openly licensing the Geography and Welsh Film and Television collections in particular represent a significant step forward for openly licensing the Coleg's content. Also, as the *Esboniadur* is a MediaWiki website, skills learned from editing it can be transferred to editing Wikipedia. In my remaining training session in the Academic Staffing Programme I will have the opportunity to further stress this link.

All in all, I am proud to have been the first Wikimedian in Residence in Wales and one of the first in the education sector in the UK. I am glad that substantial additions to Wikipedia have resulted from my work and that I have been able to develop an academic source which can feed into Wikimedia projects.

Recommendations to Wikimedia UK

- Residencies in academic institutions should be timed according to the academic year to enable interaction with students.
- Encourage continued support of Wikimedia in universities in Wales through Campus Ambassadors in individual universities; as the position is part-time and voluntary it might not suit a dispersed institution such as the Coleg.
- Multiple events in single universities are likely to be more successful in encouraging contributions to Wikipedia by academics and students than single events in multiple institutions.
- Consider ways of establishing closer contact between host institutions and Wikimedia UK, perhaps by increased visits from the chapter's staff or induction in the Wikimedia movement's vision for line managers.

Recommendations to the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

- Establish training in wiki skills as part of the Academic Staffing Programme, to enable new contributions to be made to the *Esboniadur* and to encourage the incorporation of content creation on Wikimedia projects into teaching.
- Encourage the managers of new projects to consider the ways in which they would like their content to be re-used, and apply the appropriate Creative Commons licences to their output. A CC BY-SA licence is recommended unless there is a desire to combine the content with copyrighted works (e.g. film stills or clips), in which case a CC BY licence is preferable.
- Encourage new project managers to consider whether any aspect of their project could take the form of a collection on the *Esboniadur*, preferably under a CC BY-SA licence. Wici Cymru should be notified when a new project becomes available on the *Esboniadur* in order to facilitate the transfer of content to Wikimedia projects.
- Support staff who wish to incorporate Wikipedia into their teaching by distributing the recording of a wiki skills training session; also distribute Wikimedia UK's booklets on the subject to branch officers, and direct queries to Wici Cymru or JISC where further support is needed.
- Investigate the possibility of openly licensing database-based resources, such as the Catalogue of Translations into Welsh and the Dictionary of Higher Education Terms, as Linked Open Data.
- License new additions to the Coleg's Flickr account as CC BY-SA; this would require an agreement beforehand if a professional photographer is taking the pictures.
- When Welsh translations of the Creative Commons 4.0 licence suite become available, the Coleg should adopt these.

Appendix 1

New Geography articles on cy.wikipedia.org (26)

New articles on cy.wikipedia.org	Equivalent articles on en.wikipedia.org (term translated in italics if there is no English article)	Bytes added
Afon syth	<i>Straight river</i>	1,243
Carst	Karst	3,809
Cenfetreg	Lichenometry	7,345
Cerlan	Terrace (geology)	3,491
Cludiant aeolaidd	Aeolian processes	6,146
Cwaternaidd	Quaternary	3,627
Cydbwysedd (geomorffoleg)	<i>Equilibrium (geomorphology)</i>	3,563
Daearyddiaeth ymgorfforol	<i>Embodied geographies</i>	3,518
Damcaniaeth adeiledd cymdeithasol	Social constructionism	5,554
Damcaniaeth anghynrychiadol	Non-representational theory	3,485
Hinsoddeg	Climatology	1,759
Hydrograff	Hydrograph	3,295
Llen iâ	Ice sheet	4,054
Mapio llifogydd	<i>Flood mapping</i>	4,498
Mas-symudiad	Mass wasting	3,570
Modelu hydrolig	<i>Hydraulic modelling</i>	4,831
Naddlin	<i>Trimline</i>	5,265
Osgiladiad Gogledd Iwerydd	North Atlantic oscillation	5,949
Palaeosianel	Palaeochannel	3,051
Peiran	Cirque	4,210
Sianeleiddio	<i>Channelisation</i>	3,948
Sianeli dŵr tawdd	<i>Meltwater channels</i>	4,293
Til	Till	4,066
Tirffurf ffrwdrewlifol	Fluvioglacial landform	4,841
Torlannol	<i>Riparian</i>	2,147
Trothwy (geomorffoleg)	<i>Threshold (geomorphology)</i>	3,781
Total		103,339
Substantially improved articles on cy.wikipedia		
Improved articles on cy	Equivalent articles on en	Bytes added
Osôn	Ozone	4,964
Rhewlif	Glacier	4,335
Total		9,319
Total number of bytes of new content on cy.wikipedia.org		112,658

Appendix 2

New Film and Television articles on cy.wikipedia.org (5)

New articles on cy.wikipedia.org	Bytes added
House of America (ffilm)	3,559
Little White Lies (ffilm, 2006)	1,750
A Run for Your Money	4,242
Under Milk Wood (ffilm)	3,269
A Way of Life	3,176
Total	15,996

Film and Television articles substantially improved on cy.wikipedia.org (32)

Improved articles on cy.wikipedia.org	Bytes added
Aderyn Papur	2,423
Yr Alcoholig Llon	1,785
Branwen (ffilm)	3,707
Byw Yn Dy Groen	2,243
Cameleon (ffilm)	3,180
Dafydd (ffilm)	1,552
Dal: Yma/Nawr	3,468
Diwrnod Hollol Mindblowing Heddiw	2,338
Eldra	2,030
Elenya	2,984
Y Fargen (ffilm)	2,170
Gadael Lenin	3,131
Gelert (ffilm)	1,239
Gwenoliaid	874
Grand Slam	4,047
Hedd Wyn (ffilm)	5,912
How Green Was My Valley (ffilm)	5,968
Joni Jones (ffilm)	2,158
Y Mabinogi (2003)	3,482
Y Mapiwr (ffilm)	2,308
Milwr Bychan	2,403
Y Mynydd Grug (ffilm)	2,025
Newid Gêr (ffilm)	1,496
O'r Ddaear Hen	2,080
Oed Yr Addewid, 2002	2,785
The Proud Valley	4,502
Rhosyn a Rhith	3,217
Separado!	3,990
Sleep Furiously	1,421
Solomon a Gaenor	4,412
Teisennau Mair	1,608
Un Nos Ola Leuad	2,885
Total	89,823
Total number of bytes of new content on cy.wikipedia.org	
	105,819

Appendix 3

New Early Welsh Theatre articles on cy.wikipedia.org (5)

New articles on cy.wikipedia.org	Bytes added
R. G. Berry	2,176
D. T. Davies	2,876
Thomas Scott Ellis, 8fed Barwn Howard de Walden	2,873
J. Tywi Jones	2,390
Total	10,315
Early Welsh Theatre articles substantially improved on cy.wikipedia.org (9)	
Improved articles on cy.wikipedia.org	Bytes added
Eic Davies	1,492
James Kitchener Davies	2,910
Beriah Gwynfe Evans	2,959
David Mathew Williams	1,514
Albert Evans-Jones	7,453
J. O. Francis	2,662
William John Gruffydd	6,802
Thomas Gwynn Jones	5,013
Thomas Parry (ysgolhaig)	6,086
Total	35,891
Total number of bytes of new content to cy.wikipedia.org	
	46,206

Appendix 4

Attention online and in the press

- 'Coleg Cymraeg to employ a Wikipedian in Residence'. Wikimedia UK Blog, 28 January 2014
<https://blog.wikimedia.org.uk/2014/01/coleg-cymraeg-to-employ-wikipedian-in-residence/> (Retrieved 15 September 2014)
- 'Penodi Wicipediwr Preswyl i'r Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol'. BBC News, 10 April 2014
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cymrufyw/26973876> (Retrieved on 15 September 2014)
- 'Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol yn Penodi Wicipediwr Preswyl'. Lleol.net, 10 April 2014
<http://www.lleol.net/blog/coleg-cymraeg-cenedlaethol-yn-penodi-wicipediwr-preswyl.html> (Retrieved on 15 September 2014)
- 'In brief' note in the *Wikipedia Signpost*, 30 April 2014
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wikipedia_Signpost/2014-04-30/News_and_notes#In_brief (Retrieved on 15 September 2014)
- '20:1' (interview), *Golwg*, vol. 26, no. 33, p. 16 (1 May 2014)
- 'Six weeks in at the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol'. Wikimedia UK Blog, 7 May 2014
<https://blog.wikimedia.org.uk/2014/05/six-weeks-in-at-the-coleg-cymraeg-cenedlaethol/> (Retrieved on 15 September 2014)