

## **Digitizing, E-Publishing and Electronic Corpus: An opportunity to nominate title names to be digitized/made into e-books**

**Date:** 18 December 2012

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**To:** Heads of Higher Education Institutions in Wales, The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Consultative Group, Institutional Welsh Medium Provision Co-ordinators.

**Respond by:** 30 January 2013

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This circular invites nominations for text to be digitized in order to create a Welsh medium electronic corpus for the higher education sector.

[This document is available on the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol website](#)

# Digitizing, E-Publishing and Electronig Corpus

## Background

1. The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is a national institution that provides strategic leadership to the higher education sector through planning, supporting and developing Welsh medium education and scholarship. One aspect of this work is providing and facilitating access to a body of Welsh medium scholarly material for the benefit of students, staff and the wider academic community.
2. Many projects are funded every year through the Strategic Development Fund which have led towards producing a range of print and/or electronic outputs, and this work is on-going. These outputs include a wide variety of texts related to higher education – such as monographs, research volumes, journals, textbooks and other learning resources. As well as printed volumes such as *Y Cyfnod Sylfaen: Athroniaeth, Ymchwil ac Ymarfer* edited by Dr Siân Wyn Siencyn (University of Wales Trinity Saint David Publications, 2011), and *Cymru'r Gyfraith* by Professor Gwynedd Parry (University of Wales Press, 2012), the Coleg has also published as an e-book the volume *Ysgrifau ar Ffilm a'r Cyfryngau* edited by Dr Elin Haf Gruffudd Jones (2012) and is responsible for publishing the academic research e-journal *Gwerddon*, under the editorship of Professor Ioan M. Williams, which has now reached its twelfth issue ([www.gwerddon.org](http://www.gwerddon.org)).
3. Despite this, the Coleg is also aware that a significant number of Welsh medium academic publications are now out of print and students and staff do not have easy access to many of them. In order to overcome that problem the Coleg, in co-operation with the National Library of Wales, has supported many projects to digitize out of print texts, including over 90 Welsh language dramas, and a whole series of philosophy textbooks published originally in the 1990s by Gwasg Gee, namely *Y Meddwl Modern*. This material is placed on the Porth (the Coleg's e-learning platform) and is used on some university modules as learning resources.

4. With this in mind, this circular outlines an opportunity for those who teach and research through the medium of Welsh to nominate possible title names from their various fields to be part of the Coleg's Digitizing, E-Publishing and Electronic Corpus (DECHE).

### **DECHE Project**

5. The main aim of the project is to overcome the difficulties which arise when texts become out of print by digitizing them and offering them to students and researchers as e-books. Through this, texts are protected for the future, made more accessible to students and university staff, and it will also be possible to make texts work alongside electronic resources, e.g. make them 'searchable', and add technology to explain/translate unfamiliar terminology.
6. This will result in the creation of an electronic corpus of Welsh medium academic texts. As the rarity of Welsh medium resources is one of the main complaints from students, the corpus – including essential set texts within module bibliographies – will be a very valuable resource in order to support the learning of undergraduate and postgraduate students. The corpus could also result in a new research programme of textual study, understanding the idiosyncrasies of the language, different language styles, grammar and standardisation of terminology.
7. Similar work is already being done in Canada through the experimental website *Erudit*: <http://www.erudit.org/livre/>.

### **Nominating texts to be digitized**

8. Academic staff are invited to nominate Welsh texts to be digitized and to be part of the DECHE electronic corpus.
9. There will be a limit on the number of texts that can be digitized within a year, and it is possible that we will not be able to choose every nominated title. It would be useful if you could note the reason for nominating a specific text e.g. it is a set text for a Welsh medium module, it is on a student reading list, or it is a

key text for research or developing the subject's vocabulary. (The module code should be noted wherever possible if the text is used for teaching students).

10. Not every text is equal in terms of its usefulness as a learning or research resource. It is possible that some texts will have dated significantly and all that is needed is to facilitate access to them (and therefore it is not worth doing more than creating an electronic facsimile of them and placing them on the Porth) – **option 1**. Other texts will merit being 'cleaned' after they have been digitized, and then republished as an e-book (with full search characteristics and identification and explanation of unfamiliar terminology etc) – **option 2**. But it is also possible that some texts will need re-editing and a new version of the text prepared and published in print/electronically – **option 3**.
11. Every nomination will be categorised and prioritised to ensure the best use of resources. It is foreseen that most texts will fall into the second category above (option 2), but staff are asked when nominating texts to consider carefully which of the categories above best suit the value of the text as a learning and research resource.
12. Where the copyright holder gives permission, digitized text from option 2 will be included in a searchable corpus for text, language, dictionary and terminology research purposes. Also, where the format allows, electronic terminology resources will be added to the e-books to give students and academic staff an additional tool to learn and translate unfamiliar terminology.

### **Timetable**

13. Academic staff are asked to nominate texts to be digitized by **30 January 2013**. Nominations should be sent by e-mail on the attached form to the Coleg's Publications Officer, Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies:  
[g.lansdowndavies@colegcymraeg.ac.uk](mailto:g.lansdowndavies@colegcymraeg.ac.uk).

