WHY WE NEED MORE MAPPING PROJECTS IN WELSH AND OTHER SMALLER LANGUAGES

Gareth Morlais, Specialist in Welsh Language Technology, Welsh Government

Why do we need more mapping projects in Welsh? How will we continue using the place names in our language unless we see them written down on maps? In the digital age, this needs to include interactive maps on our devices. The web versions need to be embeddable, slippable and able to show points of interest. This is a look at some of the challenges - from which names to use, how to cope with differing versions of names from different ages and localities, how granular to get, etc.

Taking what the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Technology Action Plan says about maps in Welsh and stories heard from the teams working on Mapio Cymru, Mynyddoedd Pawb's TRO and other Welsh mapping projects, the possible impact of small Welsh-language mapping projects on larger mappers, and the resources they devote to maps in smaller languages, will be discussed.

Gaps and next steps will be looked at and there will be a chance for the audience to share their experiences of mapping with bilingual needs in mind.

Digital Past 2020: New technologies in heritage, interpretation and outreach | 12 & 13 February 2020, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth

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Biography

As Welsh language technology specialist at the Welsh Government, Gareth Morlais (@digitalst) develops policy, works with ministers who fund innovation & development and tries to persuade big companies to do more for smaller languages like Welsh. Gareth was a part of the internationally recognised team which established the award-winning BBC Capture Wales digital storytelling project in Cardiff 2001-08 which helped people tell their own stories, using their own media archives. Gareth is a director of the Breaking Barriers Community Arts digital storytelling project, a trustee of the Welsh Broadcasting Trust and an advisory board member of Carers Trust Wales.

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