



National University of Ireland, Galway  
*Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh*

LEABHARLANN

*James Hardiman*

LIBRARY

# inform

*Nuachtlitir na Leabharlainne*  
*James Hardiman Library Newsletter*

*Issue 34, February 2009*

JAMES HARDIMAN LIBRARY

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## Library Launches Digitisation Service



The Library has recently acquired two new high quality scanners; a Kirtas 1200 book scanner and a Bookeye 3 A1 scanner. The Kirtas 1200, acquired in conjunction with The Moore Institute, is a high quality book scanner. This model, also used by Google Books, is capable of scanning over a thousand pages of a bound volume per hour using a robotic arm to turn the pages. The Kirtas scanner comes with powerful OCR (optical character recognition) software, which enables the user to capture the text from a scanned book or document and place it in a text file. Moore Institute researchers have used the scanner and OCR software to produce electronic editions of the works of Thomas Moore as part of the Thomas Moore Hypermedia Archive, and in the digitisation of Dublin Penny Journal as part of TEXTE: Transfer of Expertise in Technologies of Editing project.

The Bookeye 3 A1 scanner is suitable for scanning large format items such as newspapers, maps and ledgers.

It is also suitable for scanning loose archival material, letters for example, because it is capable of automatically detecting the dimensions of an item before scanning it.



If you are a member of NUI, Galway staff and are interested in using the Library's scanning equipment to support your teaching or research, please contact Institutional Repository and Digitisation Librarian, Fergus Fahey - email: [fergus.fahey@nuigalway](mailto:fergus.fahey@nuigalway) ext 5961.

**Fergus Fahey**  
Institutional Repository  
and Digitisation Librarian.



## Future Focus

Like other University departments, the Library has been busily engaged with the University's strategic plan for 2009-2014. The process is very much at the draft stage but some key action areas have emerged in relation to how the Library might contribute to the University's mission:

- An outward-facing and customer-centric approach to service delivery and marketing
- New roles in exposing and measuring research output to maximise the University's ranking
- A broader view of student and civic engagement activities
- Partnership campus-wide, regionally and nationally for maximum effectiveness and efficiency
- Empowerment of users to navigate a complex and increasingly digital information landscape
- Provision of high quality physical and digital library environments
- Active offer of designated services through Irish
- Strong focus on value for money in the use of all resources, recognising the imperatives of greater accountability and transparency

As mentioned, planning is far from complete and I would welcome any comments you might have, either by email: [john.cox@nuigalway.ie](mailto:john.cox@nuigalway.ie) or phone ext 3712.

**John Cox**  
Acting Librarian



## Undergraduate Survey

The Library will be conducting an online survey of undergraduate students at the beginning of March. We want to discover what students think about the Library and its services. In particular, we want to know where we can make improvements. The survey is part of an ongoing series – the last survey took place in 2006 – so that we will be able to measure progress in Library services over a period.

The Library would welcome a big response from students. We are especially keen to hear the views of part-time, distance and access students.

Results of the 2006 survey are available on the [Library website](#).

**Laurie Greenfield**  
Reader Services Librarian

## Stay Clued in with the HardiBlog

Have you ever felt in the dark about the happenings in the library? Well, if so, the HardiBlog is for you! The Hardiblog is the Library's new web blog where you can sign up to be notified with Library related information sent straight to your desktop as soon as it becomes available. This blog can be accessed through the Library home page and contains information on training on resources, notices, events, links to useful resources, handy tips and tricks to make your online life easier, quick

guides to all the latest web technologies... and anything else we think you might find useful! You can subscribe to the HardiBlog to receive emails or use your RSS reader to receive notification when a new article is added to the blog. Questions can be submitted by form or through email.

<http://hardimanlibrary.blogspot.com>

**Sonia Freaney**  
Cataloguing Librarian

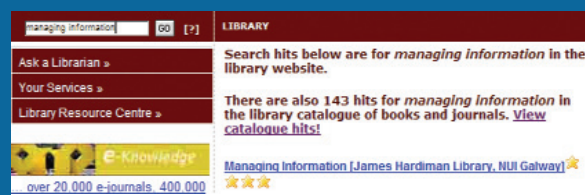




## Website: note the search box!

The search box located just below the University logo on the left side of the Library website is a real time saver. You can enter a word or phrase and locate matching pages on the site in an instant.

A new feature, illustrated below, enables automatic searching of your search terms in the Library catalogue as well.



## IREL Impact Survey 2009

A survey to establish the impact of IREL, the Irish Research eLibrary, on researchers' work will take place in Spring 2009. This survey will build on an equivalent exercise in 2007 which generated a range of positive feedback about the value of IREL and has influenced continued funding of this resource by the Higher Education Authority and Science Foundation Ireland.



In 2007 one disappointment was the modest response rate of 19% nationally, and a considerably higher figure is the aim this time, not least because the current economic climate poses some threat to continued funding at current levels. It will be vital to send a strong signal to funders regarding the importance of IREL to the research community and high participation will help with this. The 2009 survey will be shorter and very tightly focused on impact issues, so should not take long to complete. More details will be provided soon.

It is worth noting that feedback from the 2007 survey facilitated a number of new subscriptions identified by researchers, eg *SPIE Digital Library*, *Environment and Planning A-D* and the *Irish Times* archive.



## Wickedpedia

How wicked is [Wikipedia](#)? It depends on your definition of 'wicked'. Some will prefer to define it as 'evil', but others will opt for the slang version – 'excellent'. There is certainly a division of opinion.

Many are concerned about the quality of the articles, and some academics have gone as far as banning the citation of Wikipedia articles in assignments. Concerns are raised because of the way in which Wikipedia is compiled. Basically, anyone can write articles, and anyone can edit articles, although Wikipedia itself refers to the need to follow its editing policies and any edits should be 'to an appropriate standard'.

Wikipedia is different to an established, published encyclopedia such as Britannica, which relies on experts to contribute articles. Wikipedia is an ongoing work, and its supporters claim that older articles tend to be more comprehensive and balanced, since a community of interested parties keep a close eye on quality. Also, it is possible to view how an article has changed over time.

The About Wikipedia pages warn that 'newer articles more frequently contain significant misinformation, unencyclopedic content, or vandalism', although there are checks to make

sure that such articles are removed. It seems that Wikipedia appears ready to introduce a system that prevents new and anonymous users from instantly publishing changes. The new system is called 'flagged revisions', whereby only registered, reliable users would have the right to have their contributions appear immediately on Wikipedia.

Other contributors would be able to edit articles, but their changes will be held back until one of these reliable users has 'flagged' the revisions.

Wikipedia has a distinct advantage over printed encyclopedias, since it is being continually updated. As long as it is used wisely, it is a useful source of information. Perhaps users need to be educated by academics and librarians, since any source should be checked against other known reliable sources. Common sense should dictate – check the citations listed and never use any encyclopedia as the sole source of information. An encyclopedia is a first port of call when it comes to researching for an assignment. It will set a topic in context and lead to further detailed reading.

**Laurie Greenfield**  
Reader Services Librarian

## Better Wireless and Laptop Facilities

In recognition of the increasing number of laptop users in the library we recently undertook a project to install an additional six wireless base stations, thereby ensuring optimal wireless cover throughout the building.

Simultaneously we installed 191 extra power points on study tables throughout floors One and Two. This initiative, in addition to supporting laptop use as a study/research tool also addressed the health and safety issue of trailing flexes resulting from the use of wall mounted power points.



## Update on E-Resources

The Library  
in Numbers94 the number of hours the  
Library opens weekly  
during [term time](#).the number of e-books accessible  
through the Library [catalogue](#)

346,657

351 the number of  
databases availablethe number of portals you  
need to access these  
databases e-Knowledge 11,645 the number of seats in  
the three Libraries

424,843

the number of books in stock

Following a period of intense negotiations, a new contract has been agreed with Elsevier that will give the seven Irish universities access from 2009 to 2012 to Science Direct. In order to secure a deal that all the Libraries could afford, given current budgetary constraints, it was necessary to convert existing subscriptions to Elsevier titles to online only access. This means that 86 journal titles will no longer be available in hard copy in the Library. However, they are fully available

electronically from the Library catalogue or e-Knowledge, and secure long-term access is guaranteed. Science Direct continues to be part funded by IReL.

Other new resources added recently, thanks to IReL funding, include: Grove Music Online, JSTOR Arts & Sciences VI Collection and the Irish Times Archive on Proquest, offering greatly improved search functionality than before.

## SCONUL Access

SCONUL Access is a reciprocal access scheme. It grants borrowing privileges to a range of university library users in Ireland and the UK. Each member library chooses which types of user to accept under the scheme. There are three bands of user

**Band A:** staff and researchers;

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**Band B:** part-time undergraduates and postgraduates,  
distance learning, placement and full-time undergraduates;

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**Band C:** full-time taught postgraduates.

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Full-time undergraduates are offered access, but not borrowing privileges. For more information, visit the SCONUL website: [www.sconul.ac.uk](http://www.sconul.ac.uk). Also check the Library's website for advice on [using other libraries](#)



## National University of Ireland Centenary



The 100th anniversary of the founding of the National University of Ireland (NUI) was celebrated last year. This included the publication of two books:

**The National University of Ireland 1908-2008: Centenary Essays.** Dublin: UCD Press, 2008. ISBN 9781904558842. Shelf Number 378.417 NAT



**A Century of Scholarship: Travelling Students of the National University of Ireland.** Dublin: National University of Ireland, 2008. Shelf Number 378.3409417 CEN

There are two NUI Galway connections of note with the first of these titles. An tOllamh Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh is one of the editors and has contributed a chapter entitled "The Position of the Irish Language", and there is a chapter on the National University of Ireland, Galway by Dr. Séamus Mac Mathúna. Both books are available in the Library at the shelf number given above.

## IUISC in Galway

The Irish Universities Information Services Colloquium (IUISC) will take place at the Radisson Hotel in Galway on 4-6 March this year, with NUI Galway and Dublin City University as joint organisers. This year's theme is "The Changing Service Relationship" and staff from the libraries and computer services of both host institutions have worked hard to provide a varied programme and range of speakers, reflecting a broad sectoral and geographic spectrum. Online registration is linked from the conference [website](#).





## SFX Error Report



The Library has recently added a little feature to the Find E-Journal service to help you help us if you spot a mistake.

With thousands of e-journals to administer, from time to time the information in the SFX box might not be fully accurate. For example, you might not have access to a volume of a journal, even though the screen says you should. With our new automatic error report feature, you can now tell us if you spot inaccuracies quickly and easily.

So the next time you use Find E-Journal, if the information in the menu does not match what you can access in the journal, just click on the 'report content error' link at the bottom of the screen.

We will automatically get a notification with all the details about the journal you were looking for. Please include your contact details too – so that when we have fixed the problem we can let you know straight away.

### Find e-Journal

And remember: if you cannot find the journal you are looking for in Find E-Journal, it is worth doing a search in the Library catalogue too.

**Ronán Kennedy**  
Electronic Resources Librarian

## Arts Research Support Librarian



Gwen Ryan has taken up the newly created post of Research Support Librarian for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

This position is the last of three relatively new Library posts created to support the University's strategic research objectives. Researchers in the Sciences, Technology & Medicine will be familiar with Rosarie Coughlan. Fergus Fahey started in his role as Institutional Repository & Digitisation Librarian last year and he has created a system to store and make openly accessible the University's research publications as part of the national IReL Open project. For more information see Fergus Fahey's article on page two.

Gwen is eager to meet and start working with researchers throughout the Humanities and Social Sciences to support their information needs, and to advise on the effective use of library resources throughout the research process. She will also have a key role to play in assisting researchers make best use of current research performance measurement tools relating to publication and citation counts.



You will find Gwen in the Research Support office on the first floor of the James Hardiman Library and she is contactable at [gwen.ryan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:gwen.ryan@nuigalway.ie) or ext 5959.



## Budget Efficiencies: University advice to budget holders on Library spending

To maximize efficient budget deployment, the University issued a number of points of advice in early November to budget holders (also posted to University Intranet) regarding a range of expenditures, including the following points specific to Library spending:

- Limit new subscriptions to journals and maximize the use of those available through the Irish Research eLibrary (IReL) which delivers over 25000 e-journals, satisfying most demand.
- Eliminate duplication of content between print and online formats; the Library takes about 1500 journals in printed format, some of which are also accessible online.
- Develop a policy towards the use of online journals only. Online journals reduce the need to bind, cost less and do not require expensive storage space.
- Use your books budget allocation wisely – consider carefully the number of copies needed and encourage students to purchase copies of core texts where appropriate.
- IReL should continue to reduce Inter-Library Loans as material previously unavailable locally is now available online.

The second and third points refer to non-duplication of print and online formats, and this is something we have already begun to implement. This practice is already common at other libraries as there are considerable additional costs associated with handling and, especially, storing both print and online journals. Online access for many journals is secure post-cancellation, or in the event of the publisher going out of business. We will therefore be favouring the online format on its own to the maximum extent for journals. Library Committee discussed this issue at its December 2008 meeting and it was agreed that secure online access would be an essential prerequisite in any transition to electronic-only access.





**[www.library.nuigalway.ie](http://www.library.nuigalway.ie)**

Published by James Hardiman Library,  
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Issue Editors: John Cox, Sonia Freaney, Laurie Greenfield; Production and Illustrations: Niamh Connolly