



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

NUACHTLITIR NA LEABHARLAINNE

JAMES HARDIMAN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Issue 19, December 2003

FOCAL ÓN LEABHARLANNAÍ

It must be exam time since Library queues are getting longer and our space problems are highlighted once more. Library staff will try to ensure that study spaces are used to the full but we rely on fair use by students as well. The Nursing Library is acutely short of space storage and needs are critical. While pleased to welcome so many additions to our archival collections, we must also provide a secure and accessible environment

More of the John McGahern archive in this newsletter – a major coup for the University and thanks to all involved in the acquisition. Work on listing the archive will start in the New Year. News also of another superb acquisition - the Henry Library, currently housed in St Nicholas' Church, is to be transferred to the James Hardiman Library. Again, on another major research resource (and a first for any Irish University Library) we have acquired access to the *Times Digital Archive 1785-1985* in perpetuity –more inside.

Finally, in December please enjoy a little lunchtime music in the Library from the Con Tempo String Quartet – our antidote to exam pressure.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

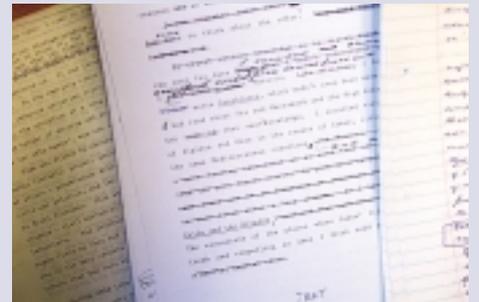
Marie Reddan, Librarian



THE JOHN MCGAHERN PAPERS

At a ceremony at NUI, Galway on 6 October John McGahern formally handed over his literary papers to the University, to be housed in the James Hardiman Library.

John McGahern's work needs little introduction. In a recent poll of the top hundred Irish novels of all time conducted by the *Irish Times*, his seminal novel, *Amongst Women*, appeared third (after Joyce's *Ulysses* and *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*), a remarkable achievement for an author who is still publishing. His work has attracted worldwide literary interest, and the availability of his literary papers will provide researchers with unprecedented insights into the formation of his work and the constant drafting and re-drafting of texts at the heart of his creative process.



Creative work in progress

The archive is enormously rich both in content and substance and includes the manuscripts of his works, personal papers, novella, short stories and correspondence. Included also is the manuscript of a novel – *The End or the Beginning of Love* – which, although accepted for publication, was subsequently withdrawn by the author. Also included in the collections are drafts of interviews he conducted for various people, as well as prefaces to books, book reviews, appreciations of other writers, and occasional pieces. These offer a unique insight into his views on a wide range of topics such as censorship, travel and rural matters as well as the writers and books that have interested him down through the years. This collection substantially complements the Library's existing archival holdings, providing a major resource for researchers in the fields of literature and Irish Studies. The literary papers are currently being processed and will be available for consultation in the near future.

Kieran Hoare, Library Archivist



(from left) Marie Reddan, President Dr. Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, John McGahern and Prof. John Marshall at the presentation ceremony

OPEN ACCESS: THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH PUBLISHING?

Our September 2001 issue reported on pressures for open access to published research which is typically available only by increasingly expensive subscription to journals. The Open Access Movement has become considerably stronger since 2001. The key developments have been the establishment by researchers of independent open access journals and the development at many universities of institutional archives.

Open access journals have many of the characteristics of commercially published titles. Articles are peer-reviewed, there is a regular publication schedule and the journal may exist in print format as well as online. Key differences are that there is no subscription charge, authors pay a fee for publication and copyright remains with the author instead of being signed over to the publisher. The *Directory of Open Access Journals*¹ currently lists over 550 titles, primarily in the sciences but also covering other disciplines. Twenty new titles were published last month.

Open access does not equate to loss of quality as evidenced by the insistence on peer review and by the involvement of prestigious institutions in open access titles. An interesting example is *PLoS Biology*², which includes editors who have formerly worked with *Cell* and *Nature*. The concept of author payment for submission of articles is also gaining support. *Biomed Central*³ is an

example. It publishes over 130 titles and institutional subscriptions automatically cover the article publication processing charges of local authors. The Library recently subscribed to this service, joining over 300 institutional members worldwide. Funding bodies, including the Wellcome Trust, have also declared support for researchers wishing to publish in open access journals. That the Open Access Movement is having an impact on commercial publishers is evident in that prestigious titles like *New England Journal of Medicine* are now offering free access on registration to original research articles six months after publication.



Key funder supports open access

The other significant development has been the creation of institutional archives to secure and widen access to local research output. The logic here is that the local institution produces the research and should have its own freely accessible version of any publications by its staff. This does not preclude publication in commercial journals but requires the author to retain copyright. Over 400 such repositories are listed and can be identified in a new experimental database⁴.

A good source of current awareness on these developments is the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)⁵, of which the university is a member. Please consider fully the value of wider dissemination of published research via open access before signing off your copyright to publishers.

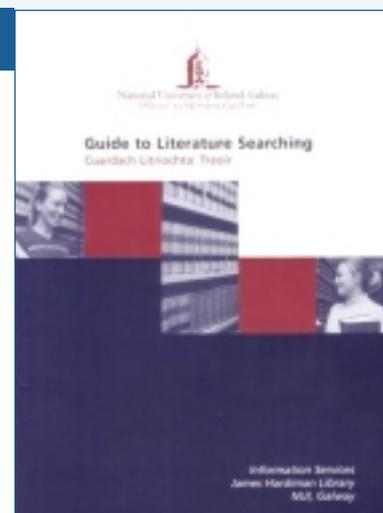
- 1 www.doaj.org/
- 2 www.plosbiology.org/
- 3 www.biomedcentral.com/ (or via Database list at www.library.nuigalway.ie)
- 4 oai.grainger.uiuc.edu/registry/
- 5 www.arl.org/sparc/

John Cox, Deputy Librarian

GUIDE TO LITERATURE SEARCHING

The Information Services division of the Library has recently produced a new booklet, a Guide to Literature Searching. This publication gives a clear step-by-step outline of the strategies involved in carrying out research. There are sections on using Library databases, tips on using the Internet, examples of citing as well as information on using other libraries.

There is also a useful bibliography of research books in the various subject areas provided. It is hoped that the Guide will be of value to both postgraduate and undergraduate students. Print copies are available from your Information Librarian. The Guide is also available from the Library Web site.



CHANGING TIMES

The James Hardiman Library has become the first university library in the world to purchase perpetual access to the *Times Digital Archive*, providing an online/digitized archive of every page published by *The Times* [London] from 1815-1985. Coverage from 1785 is imminent.

Students, researchers and staff now have access to this fully searchable primary source which provides an exact reproduction of each page, bringing every story, obituary and advertisement to life. Potential uses are limited only by the imagination, for example:

- the Great Famine in Galway
- the Easter Rising, 1916
- the death of John F. Kennedy

This major acquisition would not have happened without the generosity of



From Pomp to Punk:
200 years of world news coverage

the Faculty of Arts, Centre for the Study of Human Settlement and Historical Change and the Departments of History, English, Politics and Sociology, all of whom provided funding along with the Library.

The *Times Digital Archive* can be accessed directly from the Database List on the Library's website:
<http://www.library.nuigalway.ie>.
For further information, contact Niamh Walsh, Information Librarian for Arts & Celtic Studies, ext. 2095. Email: niamhw@nuigalway.ie

WIRED SPACES

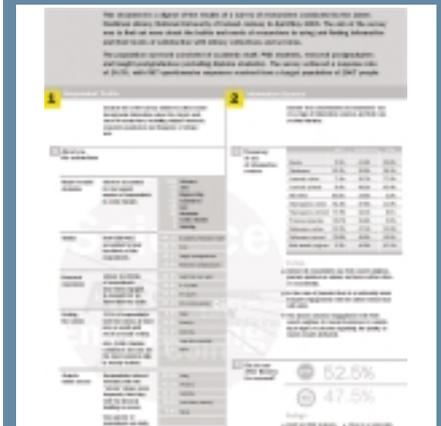
Over the past year the Library, with excellent support from Computer Services, has increased its number of functional "wired spaces". Floors 1 and 2 have seen the installation of computing zones containing 20 PCs each. These areas were fully wired as part of the most recent extension to the Library building in 1999. Since that time the use of electronic resources has become even more firmly established. A quarter of our journals budget is now spent on online services like *Science Direct* and, as described in this issue, the *Times Digital Archive*. These resources are vital for project work and research alike and complement our well-established printed collections.



The challenge is to ensure adequate access to all media, particularly for those who do not have ready access to a computer. The additional PC provision seeks to support the fullest exploitation of Library resources. A key feature is the economical use of desktop space through the deployment of slimline monitors, facilitating the concurrent use of printed materials with high quality online sources and word processing software.

SURVEY REPORTS

The main findings of the Library's recent survey of researchers were indicated in the last issue of this newsletter. Since then the full survey report has been supplemented by two more targeted summaries. The first of these is a printed digest, summarising the key results and proposed actions. In addition there are lists of charts showing survey results by faculty. You can access all reports on the Library Web site at <http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/news/researchsurvey.doc>



Survey in a nutshell

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

The Library's Assistive Technology Centre is offering an enhanced range of services to users with disabilities and special needs following refurbishment work carried out during the summer months.

The most prominent developments are:

- Three sound proof booths have been erected and fitted out with flat screen PCs, scanners and software packages tailored to the needs of users with visual impairments and dyslexia.
- An open area adjacent to the booths offers users three height-adjustable tables with networked PCs, two with large screen monitors.
- A scanner is available in this area, along with a networked printer.
- Four standard study tables, two of which are height-adjustable, offer students with special needs a quiet study space in which to work either using printed materials or their own laptops.

Other facilities include a CCTV machine, a low-level photocopier, easy seating area, and a wide range of software packages.

Adjacent to all these facilities is the Assistive Technology Office from which Brid McGann provides a personalised service to meet the needs of all students registered with special needs. Brid offers a range of services including scanning, photocopying, brailleing, and the retrieval of material from the shelves. A large element of her work involves training readers in the use of the various software packages and the sourcing of materials in a format suitable to meet specific readers' needs. There is a suggestions box located outside Brid's office and we welcome any ideas or suggestions for improvement. The Assistive Technology Centre is situated on the Ground Floor of the James Hardiman Library.

Ann Mitchell, Head of Reader Services



Brid McGann (right) providing support in the Assistive Technology Centre

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Galway Press and Information Office

OPENING HOURS

MAIN LIBRARY

Dec 1 – Dec 18
Monday - Friday 0900-2300*
Saturday 0900-1700
Sunday 1300-1800

Dec 19, 22, 23
Fri, Mon, Tue 0900-1730

Jan 5 – Jan 10 2004
Monday - Friday 0900-1730
Saturday 0900-1300

Jan 12 – March 27
Monday - Friday 0900-2200
Saturday 0900-1300

March 29 – May 22
Monday - Friday 0900-2300*
Saturday 0900-1700**

(April 4 – May 9)
Sunday To be arranged

*22.00 -23.00 will not apply Friday

**13.00-17.00 will not apply May 22

MEDICAL LIBRARY

Dec 1 – Dec 18
Monday - Friday 0915-2200
Saturday 0900-1300

Dec 19, 22, 23
Fri, Mon, Tue 0915-1730

Jan 5 – Jan 10 2004
Monday - Friday 0930-1730
Saturday 0900-1300

Jan 12 – May 22
Monday - Friday 0915-2200
Saturday 0900-1300

NURSING LIBRARY

Dec 1 – Dec 18
Monday - Friday 0900-2000
Saturday 0900-1300

Dec 19, 22, 23
Fri, Mon, Tue 0900-1700

Jan 5 – Jan 10 2004
Monday-Friday 0900-1700
Saturday 0900-1300

Jan 12 – May 22
Monday -Friday 0900-2000
Saturday 0900-1300

All Libraries closed:

Saturday 20 December
Wednesday 24 December – Sunday 4
January inclusive
Wednesday 17 March
Friday 9 April – Monday 12 April
inclusive.

Medical and Nursing Libraries closed:
Monday 3 May