



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na bÉireann, Gaillimh

Focal ón Leabharlannaí

Our Summer newsletter (new look, new title!) focuses on the Library's support for research. The quality of the Library and its collections is central to the University's research agenda and, while we cannot hope to compete in terms of physical collections, we now offer a level of electronic access which compares very favourably with major international research libraries. The recently acquired *Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)* has delivered 150,000 full-text volumes or 33 million fully searchable pages to the scholar's workstation – a superb resource, particularly for humanities researchers, while at national level a project to support researchers in Biotechnology and IT is nearing completion. Meanwhile, we continue to seek out and acquire relevant archival collections – and on a reciprocal basis ensure access for our researchers to the collections of other research libraries.

From the virtual to the physical, expect major environmental improvements in the Main Library by September. Nursing Students will move to a new Library in the Business Park and we are planning a welcome expansion of our electronic classroom.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Marie Reddan, Librarian



Marie Reddan, Librarian

inform

Nuachtlitr na Leabharlainne
Library Newsletter

Issue 21, July 2004
Special Issue: Research Support

At your service

Underpinning its support for research is the Library's team of Faculty Information Librarians who will liaise with you regarding any research needs, or specific queries you might have.

Activities include:

- Providing assistance and advice in identifying information sources
- Information on alerting services
- Training and advice in the use of electronic and print resources
- Collection development and evaluation to ensure that collections match research needs
- One-to-one or group meetings in your department or office
- Meeting new staff to introduce them to resources and support services
- Supporting departmental quality reviews

Niall McSweeney

Head of Information Services



(left, front to back) Marie Boran (*Special Collections*); Rosie Dunne (*Science*); Niamh Walsh (*Arts & Celtic Studies*); Trish Finnan (*Commerce*); Máire O hAodha (*Nursing*); Jane Mulligan (*Science & Engineering*); (right, back to front) Niall McSweeney (*Head of Information Services*); Ann Kelly (*Nursing*); Kathleen Burke (*Arts*); Hugo Kelly (*Law*); Tim Collins (*Medicine*).

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Research Survey: Progress Report

In April 2003 the Library conducted a survey of university researchers. The results of the survey (<http://digbig.com/4bhkp>) provided a clear picture of satisfaction levels and a definite mandate for action in terms of developing Library services in support of research. Follow-up actions are ongoing but have included the following:

- Improved facilities for training researchers in information handling; the Library Training Room now boasts a SmartBoard and enhanced projection services.
- You can now view the status of book orders through additional annotation on the Library catalogue.
- Chasing of book orders at regular intervals.
- A mini-survey of preferred journal holdings in Science and Medicine.
- Collaboration with academic departments in the funding of new information resources, notably the Times Digital Archive 1785-1985.
- Easier discovery of local print and online journal holdings through a variety of access routes, including alphabetical title listings and links from databases.
- Installation of more photocopiers and faster photocopiers.
- Improved access to other research libraries in Ireland and the UK.
- Faster delivery of inter-library loans, typically within three working days.
- A recently-launched newsletter to promote the Archives service.
- More frequent publication of this newsletter to support more timely awareness of Library developments.

A lot remains to be done, notably more space for printed collections, extension of opening hours, enhanced off-campus access to online Library services and better marketing.

John Cox

Deputy Librarian



Recommended Reading... ONLINE

Science Direct

Elsevier's flagship service, providing more than 1,200 journals in full text, primarily in science, engineering and medicine.

Times Digital Archive

Exact reproduction of the *Times* (London) newspaper, beginning in 1812 and running until 1985. A major resource for cultural, political and historical research.

Lexis-Nexis Professional

A world-leading resource, covering thousands of newspapers, magazines and journals as well as a vast repository of legal documents.

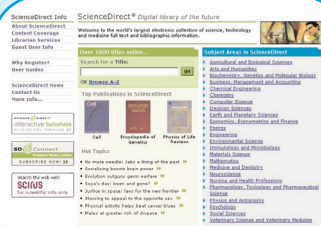
Early English Books Online

Incomparable collection of over 100,000 early printed books from the fifteenth through to the seventeenth century. Texts are provided as scanned images of originals.

Business Source Premier

This excellent database provides access to almost 2,000 full text journals in the general commerce/ business area, also overlapping usefully into European and political issues.

Please note that all of the above resources are accessible from the Library Web site at:
www.library.nuigalway.ie



Online and Print: the researcher's perspective

There is a perception that research is becoming dominated by electronic or online resources. The reality is that such issues are never that simple and researchers invariably apply personal methodology to their work.

Dr. Oliver Mills whose research interests include such highly topical areas as Patent and Biotechnology Law uses both media but leans in practice towards print. *"When I am evaluating different interpretations of judgment I like to have all the sources - major reports, journal articles, books - in front of me. I can move quickly between the different views and points expressed and that in turn helps to engender other ideas and insights."*

Oliver notes that the major law reports and journals in his area are still most commonly accessed through print. *"Not everything is completely available online and often the ability to scan and browse is not possible on screen."* For keeping up to date, however, he finds the electronic table of contents service available through Zetoc invaluable. *"Every month the contents pages of the major journals in my field are emailed to me. It is a simple and efficient way to keep track of developments in such rapidly changing areas."*

Dr Nathan Quinlan lectures in Biomedical Engineering. For sheer accessibility and efficiency, Nathan is a firm believer in the advantages of online research. *"I use online publications whenever possible for the simple reason that it saves a lot of time. In most cases it's possible to move seamlessly from the Library Catalogue to a desired article*

with just a few clicks. Many services provide HTML full-text which downloads more or less instantly, with low-resolution graphics, as well as a PDF facsimile of the print version."

The fact that the material is on screen doesn't put Nathan off. *"For documents that are very large, I find it useful to scan the article quickly before deciding to download the PDF. The whole process is a lot quicker than writing down all the volume and page numbers, trawling the shelves and queuing for the photocopier."* But like most researchers, Nathan recognises the value of coming into contact with the printed form. *"I have to admit it's a pleasure to be forced out of my shell to visit the physical library from time to time, and I've found more than one important document through serendipitous browsing of a kind which is difficult online."*



Dr. Nathan Quinlan

STAYING ALERT



A simple but highly effective way of keeping up to date with research is to use the alerting services available from publishers or other sources. For journals, you can have contents pages of new issues emailed to you. Often hypertext links will bring you to an abstract or, if the Library has an electronic subscription, to the full text of the article. Frequently, tables of contents appear ahead of the print publication.

Registration is straightforward. On the publisher's web site there will be a link to an alerting service with

a list of journals or subject areas from which you choose. Normally, all that is required is that you enter your email address.

The Zetoc service covers multiple publishers, allowing you to enter a profile of journals from over 20,000 titles available through the British Library. Significantly, Zetoc also allows you to set up keyword searches so that relevant articles from any of these journals will be emailed to you.

For more information on these services, please contact your

Information Librarian. A list of alerting services is also provided via the Library web site at
<http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/services/alerting/index.html>

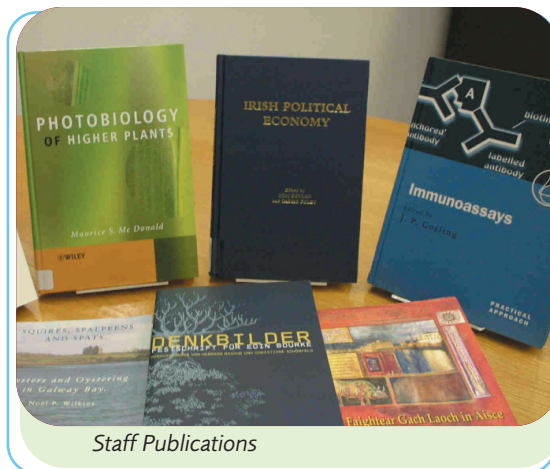
Most publishers will provide alerting services for new books in the same fashion. Closer to home, an innovative service from the Library Systems department uses RSS technology to show newly catalogued books on the Library home page each day, with links to the full catalogue record for each book. You can access subject lists from
<http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/resources/subjects/index.html>
A consolidated monthly listing is linked from the home page each month.

Hugo Kelly, Law Librarian

SPECIALIST SERVICES

The Library offers a number of specialist services in support of research. These include:

- A write-up room for PhD students on Floor 2. This is a new but so far under-used facility. It contains 5 PCs, each with word processing and other facilities, including full network access. PhD students can register to use a PC for a period of time, offering continuity of access and a quiet location for the write-up period.
- A collection of books published by members of staff. The Library acquires at least one copy and maintains a special collection of such works, as well as displaying a regularly updated selection of new titles in the Library foyer.
- The Library Special Research Fund. This is a source of funding to individual researchers for purchase of Library materials in support of work which has not been otherwise funded. Full details of the scheme, including an application form, are on the Library web site at <http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/services/budgets/lisrf.html>



Staff Publications

Where to Publish?

There is no shortage of outlets for publishing research and, for journals in particular, making a good choice can be a challenge in itself. A key issue is the impact of a journal in its field of research. The likelihood of a paper published in a given journal being cited is a major focus of the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* which can now be accessed from the Library Web site. You can use *JCR* to identify the most cited journals in a range of disciplines in the sciences and social sciences. Data include how quickly articles are cited in a journal and the length of time for which they typically continue to be cited. You can also find the number of articles published annually per title, journals by country and most likely journals for review articles. A handy supplement to *JCR* is *Ulrichsweb*, also available from the Library Web site. This service includes editor names, as well as the Web site for a journal and a link to its *JCR* data.

Publishing in an open access journal is an increasingly viable option. This newsletter has featured open access regularly, most recently, in the December 2003 issue (<http://digbig.com/4bhfh>). As their name implies, open access journals are made available to the research community and general public at no subscription cost. Articles published in this way can reach a wider audience and recent studies have indicated that such articles may be cited more quickly and frequently than those in traditional subscription-based titles. A good source for identifying open access titles is the *Directory of Open Access Journals* (<http://www.doaj.org/>) whose coverage has doubled from 550 to 1127 titles since last December.

Rank	Abbreviated Journal Title (linked to full journal information)	ISSN	2003 Total Cites
1	J BIOL CHEM	0021-9258	384393
2	NATURE	0028-0836	343528
3	P NATL ACAD SCI USA	0027-8424	326389
4	SCIENCE	0036-8075	311593
5	J AM CHEM SOC	0002-7863	212938

Most cited science journals in 2003

Recommended Reading... PRINT

McGahern Archive

A major acquisition by the University of the literary archive of arguably the most important living Irish writer. Contains previous drafts of novels including an unpublished work.

Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation.

(Hayes Index), 21 volumes. The most detailed account of the individual holdings of the National Library of Ireland and other repositories.

Theatre Archives

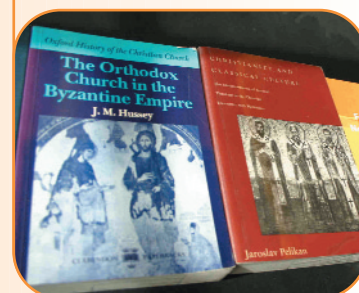
The Library has developed a speciality in Theatre Archives with archival material from the Druid Theatre Company, the Lyric in Belfast and the Taibhdhearc.

European Documentation Centre

A collection of publications provided by the European Union. Includes legislation, reports, journals and statistics.

Official Publications

Often overlooked but unique collection of Irish Government documents, some hailing from the establishment of the state.



Recommended Reading... MICROFORM

Ireland: Politics and Society through the Press, 1760-1922

More than 45 newspapers chronicling a crucial period in Irish history from the accession of George III to the throne in 1760 to Irish independence in 1922.

United Nations Human Rights Collection

A unique collection in Ireland of the major Human Rights treaty and charter bodies, including the International Law Court. Covers the period 1946-1992.

British in Ireland: Dublin Castle Series

Drawn from surviving records of the British Administration in Dublin Castle, British in Ireland chronicles the rise of Parnell and the "Land War" to the establishment of the Irish Free State.

Ordnance Survey of Ireland

1st edition Map series, published 1838-1842.

A remarkable collection of nineteenth century maps of all Irish counties, Scale 6" to 1 mile, providing a unique snapshot of the country.

House of Commons Parliamentary Papers

This collection contains parliamentary documents of Irish relevance for 1801-1900 with complete papers available for 1901-1921.

The Bigger Picture

The university is rightly proud of its research activity. Library staff also contribute strongly to innovation in their field. A recent example is the presentation of a poster session at the North American Aleph Users Group conference in Boston by Peter Corrigan, Head of Library Systems. Peter has developed novel approaches to keeping users informed of the status of books they have on loan, replacing paper with attractively formatted e-mail notifications (which usually include an image of the book cover) and even text messages.

Other Library staff are playing a leading role in a range of national projects. These include:

- Consortium purchase of electronic information resources at reduced rates
- Good practice in teaching information skills
- Evaluating the viability of electronic books for teaching and learning support
- Collaborative approaches to developing and managing printed collections
- Digitisation of manuscripts through the *Irish Script on Screen* project

The opportunity to contribute to activity outside the immediate local context is enriching in itself and promotes staff and service development.



Peter Corrigan presenting a poster session in Boston

Access to Other Libraries

Summer is the peak time for pursuing research at locations outside the university. In this regard you may find two reciprocal library access schemes of particular interest. ALCID enables certain categories of staff and student to use a range of participating academic libraries in Ireland. SCONUL Research Extra offers eligible users access to, and borrowing rights in, over 150 participating institutions in the UK and Ireland. For more information please contact the Reader Services office on the Ground Floor or call ext 3353.

Published by James Hardiman Library, National University of Ireland, Galway.
Tel.: +353 91 524411 ext. 2540
Fax: +353 91 522394
E-mail: library@nuigalway.ie
Web: www.library.nuigalway.ie

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If you have any comments or suggestions on what you would like to see in the Library newsletter, please email us at library@nuigalway.ie.