



National University of Ireland, Galway  
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

# inform

Nuachtlitr na Leabharlainne  
James Hardiman Library Newsletter

Issue 27, July 2006

Special Issue: Research Support

## IReL Launch



Seán Phillips (UCD), Mary Hanafin, TD, Paul Sheehan (DCU), Agnes Neligan (NUI, M), Robin Adams (TCD). (front row) Marie Reddan (NUI, G), Gonnait O'Riordan (UL), John FitzGerald (UCC)

Mary Hanafin TD, Minister for Education and Science, formally launched IReL, the Irish Research e-Library, on 6 June at the National Library of Ireland. IReL has established itself as an invaluable resource for researchers, as evidenced by some quotes from our 2005 research support survey:

*"IReL is the best thing to have happened in 10 years as regards research."*

*"The IReL initiative has helped greatly to improve access to most of the major research journals. Can it get better? Probably not."*

The good news is that IReL can and will get even better. As reported in our last newsletter, access to 5,000 journals in Science, Technology and Medicine will be supplemented in 2006-2009 by a further 20,000 in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The impact of IReL to date has been extremely positive. The national and collaborative nature of this initiative supports the ongoing expansion in cross-institutional and cross-disciplinary research. Measured by ISI Journal Impact Factors, IReL already provides access to between 70% and 85% of the top 20 world-ranking titles in the general Biomedical, Biotechnology and ICT areas.

Uptake by researchers has been enthusiastic. The IReL Monitoring Group has analysed usage data for 2005. The most used journal titles in 2005 were:

*Nature*  
*Applied and Environmental Microbiology*  
*Cancer Research*  
*Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications*  
*American Chemical Society (various titles)*

## E-Knowledge = Easy Knowledge!

Including the expenditure on IReL the Library spends almost €4.5 million each year on online information, primarily e-journals, databases and e-books. Usage of these resources continues to increase. For example, our survey of researchers in 2005 showed that over 77% of respondents access online services at least weekly, an increase of 10% on the 2003 survey.

Optimising access to these resources is a priority for the Library and the introduction of the *E-Knowledge* portal aims to offer easier discovery, more search options and personalisation features.

[e-Knowledge@nuigalway.ie](mailto:e-Knowledge@nuigalway.ie)

### Easier resource discovery

*E-Knowledge* enables you to locate an online information source alphabetically, by keyword or by subject, using the Find E-Resource feature. You have the option to display descriptive text about each resource too.

### More search options

You can search more than one source at once using the Cross-Search feature. This gives you the simplicity of Google but you are searching mainstream databases for your subject rather than the open Web.

No.	Rank	Author	Title	Year	Database	Action
1			2005 EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES: NOVEMBER.	2005	Business Source Premier (EBSCO)	
2		Maher, E.	A Long Way from the Celtic Tiger	2006	Zetoc	
3		Wells, Paul	A NEW IRISH MIGRATION.	2005	Business Source Premier (EBSCO)	
4		Clinch, J. Peter.	After the Celtic tiger : challenges ahead	2002	WorldCat (OCLC) NUI, Galway Library Catalogue	

Searching multiple databases

### Personalisation features

By logging into *E-Knowledge* you get not only cross-searching but also the chance to set up lists of favourite journals or databases for easy access.

Contd.

# E-Knowledge = Easy Knowledge!

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## Personalisation features

You can also store and group downloaded references using the MySpace feature. A further interesting facility is alerting which enables you to receive details via email of new publications in a designated research area

## Want to use E-Knowledge?

The insert accompanying this newsletter describes how to access and use this service; please contact your Information Librarian for more details. Note that you need to log into E-Knowledge to enjoy its full benefits. You will need your Library PIN; if you do not have this to hand there is a "Retrieve your PIN" link at the login screen. Alternatively, you can email [library@nuigalway.ie](mailto:library@nuigalway.ie) or call ext. 3005 for assistance.

Training on August 8 & 15 at 11.30 in the Library Training Room.  
Call 3915 to book.

John Costello  
Library Systems Technologist

## Focal ón Leabharlannaí



The Summer newsletter has a focus on research, a key strategic thrust of the University and undoubtedly the key indicator in university rankings. In this issue we highlight just some of the ways that the Library is endeavouring to support, as equal partner, the research excellence of NUI, Galway. Inside we highlight the rich resources to which we have access, many courtesy of IReL but also due to the serious investment in e-resources by the university in recent years. These resources must be easily discoverable and easy to use, and so – following huge work by the Library team - we are delighted to introduce the E-Knowledge portal in this issue. We see this as a key strategy for the Library in reaching out to the research community and we shall be promoting it vigorously over the coming months.

We were delighted to receive some very special Irish-language manuscript material from Eoin Newell, a grand-nephew of a former President of University College Galway, while on a recent visit from the US. On July 5th we celebrated the formal handover of the Henry Library by the Diocesan Church Council to the University on long-term loan. We shall feature this very special Library in a later issue.

Finally, our thanks to all the staff and especially the students who contributed to the success of the University's first "Buy-a-Book Day" on March 9th. We raised 5,809, which will be divided equally between Library Special Collections and the Universities United Charities Fund. A very special thanks to the organising Committee and to our two stalwart SU officers, Paddy Reilly and Adam Baker, both of whom will be sadly missed when we attempt to better this next year!

Marie Reddan, Librarian

## Facilitating the Research Cycle



Hugo Kelly, Law Librarian, at a recent legal research seminar held in the Library training room, which looked at resources of interest to the "Attrition Rates in Rape Cases" project currently being run in the Law Faculty

Surveys have shown that researchers have a range of library and information needs that will occur during the research cycle. Here we look at just a few services that we can offer the research community.

### Information Skills

Researchers may need training on databases, upskilling on new resources or simply a general introduction to the Library's information sources.

Your Information Librarian will be pleased to help with any of these needs and the Library is keen to take part in any seminars or events aimed at facilitating researchers within the University. For more information contact Niall McSweeney, Head of Information Services, on ext. 3915.

### Inter-library Loans

The Library's Inter-library Loan Service (ext. 2541) supplements our existing collections and ensures access to a wider world of research.

With the online form and the provision of quick electronic delivery of journal articles by the British Library, this is an invaluable service to the research community.

### Visiting other libraries

Even with the range of electronic resources, researchers may need to visit other libraries and avail of specific resources.

The Library participates in a number of excellent schemes such as ALCID and SCONUL Research Extra which ensure that researchers can have easy access to other institutions. For more information contact Readers Services at ext. 3353.



## Survey Actions

The 2005 research support survey identified a range of priority actions. Here is a brief update on progress to date on some of these.

Priority	Action
Facilitate online access and enhanced resource discovery	<i>E-Knowledge</i> portal developed
Simplify and promote off-campus access	<i>LibGate</i> launched, negating the need for browser configuration
Develop the online journals collection, minimising duplication of format	IReL coverage expanded; collection management policy revised
Market IReL further, with clearer branding of its resources	IReL logo developed
Increase the profile of the Information Librarian	Researcher-specific training programmes; chairing of faculty library user groups
Investigate the role and viability of a research support librarian	Contract research support librarian post advertised

*John Cox, Deputy Librarian*

## REMEMBERING THE RISING

On 19th May the Library hosted the launch of the seminar '1916 – Local Dimensions'. This two-day seminar was launched by Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh. The focus of the seminar was on tracing the Rising in Galway and in conjunction the Library ran an exhibition of related material.

Among the highlights from the Library's collections is a special edition of the *Connaught Tribune* reporting on "wild rumours" of a rising in Ireland. Also on display is a copy of Liam Mellows' last letter to his mother and a copy of the statement given by Mons. Patrick Browne, then President of University College Galway, to the Bureau of Military History 1913-1921.

Other material on display includes 1916 commemorative publications and books relating to the Rising. There are some items on loan from the Military Museum in Renmore, including the motorbike which was owned by Liam Mellows and which he used for transport when organising the volunteers around Galway.

*Marie Boran (Library), Dr. John Cunningham (NUI, G - seminar organiser), Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh (NUI, G), Professor Charles Townsend (University of Keele)*



## Early Ordering a Success!

We reported last year that the threat of the Library's clawback procedure resulted in an unprecedented deluge of ordering during the last weeks of May 2005. With 45% of the year's order requests submitted at that time, the knock-on effect was a much slower than desirable rate of ordering by the Library last summer. This year we promoted early ordering from the start of the academic year and academic staff have responded very positively. We are delighted to report a significant drop in the number of departments affected by clawback and the amount of money clawed back.

	2004/2005	2005/2006
Funds clawed back to Faculty	€76,626	€28,326
Number of departments affected	25	14

This more even spread of ordering has meant that the acquisitions staff are now placing orders with suppliers within an average of 8 working days of receiving the order request, compared to an average of 10 weeks last summer! Please keep the orders coming as the financial year is drawing to a close.



*Book Ordering and Receiving Staff;  
(l-r) Jonathan Richardson, Rioghna Moggan,  
Deirdre Garvey, Geraldine Clarke*

## ONLINE BOOKS

Book publishers have been wary of offering books online, afraid of potential loss of income. In recent times, however, some publishers are seeing the benefits and some interesting services have developed.

### Google Books Search

Last year Google launched their *Google Book Search* service in beta format ([books.google.com](http://books.google.com)). It is the largest of the full-text book search engines available and covers:

- *In Print Books (Limited view)*
- *Out of Copyright Books (Full text)*
- *Out-of Print Books (Snippet view)*

Google have not given figures for books digitized or indeed a listing of titles covered. Nevertheless it is a very useful resource, supplementing print with its search facilities rather than attempting to replace it.

### Amazon Books Search Inside

In partnership with participating publishers, Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) have developed the 'Search Inside' facility. By clicking on the book cover, you can browse sample pages or search the contents inside.

### NetLibrary

The Library through its *NetLibrary* subscription offers 16 titles online which are completely full-text and searchable. These high-demand books cover a range of subjects, from law to management science and psychology.

### Global Books in Print

Finally, a related source is *Global Books in Print*. This is the most comprehensive resource for bibliographic data available, covering over 11 million titles. It comes with a host of functionality providing subject headings, synopses and first chapters of some titles.

Both *Net Library* and *Global Books in Print* can be accessed through E-Knowledge.

The image shows a Google Books search result for the book 'The Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland'. The book cover is visible on the left, with the title 'THE PARLIAMENTARY GAZETTEER OF IRELAND' and a subtitle 'ADAPTED TO THE NEW POOR-LAW, FRANCHISE, MUNICIPAL AND ECCLESIASTICAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND COMPILED WITH A SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE LINES OF RAILROAD AND CANAL COMMUNICATION, AS EXISTING IN'. On the right, there is a search interface with a search bar containing 'galway famine' and a 'Go' button. Below the search bar, there are links for 'About this book', 'Title Page', 'Index', and 'Copyright'. There are also links to 'Buy this book' from 'Abebooks', 'Alibris', and 'Amazon', and a link to 'Find this book in a library'. At the bottom, there are links to 'Page 4', 'Page 19', and 'Page 29'.

Hugo Kelly, Law Librarian

## A Vision for the James Hardiman Library:

The Library Space Planning Group, chaired by Dr. Elizabeth Fitzpatrick from the Archaeology Department and mentioned in the last newsletter, presented an interim report to Library Committee in May. The Group has worked hard to present a new vision for the Library as a vibrant learning space - a quality space responsive to the needs of our increasingly diverse community. It will be busy, buzzy and noisy - but it will also have quiet zones. It will offer inspiring work space for the researcher and it will be a stimulating environment for staff and students alike. It will not be a monolith; our vision is fully grounded in the reality and impact of technology, but for the University it should be a flagship building on Campus - a cultural centre in which we can showcase our treasures, and record our achievements for future generations.

We don't think this unrealistic for a university with serious research intentions. Virtually it will be THE library for off-campus users - whether at home, on placement, on sabbatical or learning from a distance. Most importantly we see this "new" James Hardiman Library as a key strategic asset for the University.

*"Taking the crucial step now to create a library designed for modern learning... will raise NUI, Galway to a new level"*

Big visions do not come cheap, and we are realistic. We know that there are other demands on University capital budgets. We do need a champion and we need the support of the academic community. In the next semester we will be consulting widely, and will seek every opportunity to engage with all of our constituencies. Meanwhile, the interim report is at <http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/libvision.doc>

## New Resources

**Embase** is a comprehensive bibliographic database indexing over 3,500 titles in the biomedical and pharmaceutical fields. Produced by Elsevier, it is funded through the IReL initiative

### International Political Science Abstracts

Produced by the International Political Science Association, this database provides abstracts of political science articles published in scholarly journals and yearbooks worldwide from 1989 onwards.

### Justis (Law Reports)

Provides access to a complete range of Irish and UK Law reports reproduced perfectly online including for the first time, the Irish Reports from 1919 onwards.

### Sociological Index with Fulltext

This full-text database covers sociology and encompasses all sub-disciplines and closely related areas of study. It includes journal articles dating back to 1895 as well as books and conference papers.

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