



National University of Ireland, Galway  
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh



inform

Nuachtlitir na Leabharlainne  
James Hardiman Library Newsletter

Issue 28, November 2006

## An Embarrassment of Riches

Significant recent increases in the provision of a broad and varied range of online resources have boosted research in the University. The IReL initiative for the Humanities and Social Sciences is bearing fruit with a number of publishing deals negotiated while the Library has also funded a number of excellent research tools.

One fascinating example is **Northern Ireland: A Divided Community 1921- 1972**. This digitised database of the complete Stormont records provides access to all levels of cabinet papers. It offers a unique administrative insight into the troubled functioning of the Northern Ireland State. Topics covered in 1970 include: arms and explosives, social need, road spiking, routing of Orange Day parades, riots and the roles of the UDR and the RUC. This is a wonderful resource for modern historians, political scientists and sociologists alike.

PRONI REF: MIC/686

CAB/4/1636

1 February 1972

Topics discussed:

- 1) **Events in Londonderry on Sunday 30 January 1972.** [Discussion re Public Inquiry and debate in Parliament]
- 2) **Electricity supplies.** [Update on impact in Northern Ireland of overtime ban at generating stations and the coal strike]
- 3) **Implications of Report of Joint Working Party on processions, etc., on the Belfast Urban Area Plan.** [Arrangements made to submit views to Public Inquiry]
- 4) **Northern Ireland Finance Corporation Bill.** [Approved]
- 5) **Education and Libraries Bill, school leaving dates.** [Agreed that concession be granted to school leavers going straight to approved apprenticeship training]
- 6) **Bar facilities in Civil Service canteens.** [Should apply in Northern Ireland]
- 7) **Cabinet Papers.** [Time for consideration of Cabinet Papers to remain unchanged]
- 8) **Visit of official abroad.** [Approved]

*Minutes for cabinet meeting following "Bloody Sunday"*

Another fascinating resource is the **Irish Newspaper Archive**. This provides digitised images of Irish national and regional newspapers, with some going back to the early 20th century. Check the *Connaught Tribune* for what happened in Galway during John F. Kennedy's visit in 1962 or the reaction to the 1916 rising. National papers include the *Freeman's Journal*, the *Irish Independent* and *Sunday Independent*.



*Connaught Tribune 7th July 1963*

A more typical e-journals database is **Academic Source Premier**. It is one of the largest online scholarly resources available, providing access to over 4500 full text journals in all subject areas with a further 3600 journals indexed. This is a fantastic multidisciplinary resource of relevance to researchers at all levels.

Suffice to say that we could produce major articles on many other new resources. The **Making of Modern Law** or **Wilson Omnifile** all deserve serious academic attention in their own right. The following is a consolidated list of new resources, all accessible via the Library's e-Knowledge portal:

Publisher/Title	Online Resources
Cambridge University Press*	110 journals
Academic Search Premier*	4500 journals
Making of Modern Law*	21000 e-books
SourceOECD*	OECD journals, data, reports
Wilson Omnifile*	1750 journals
Project Muse*	300 journals
Nature	Backfile to 1987
Eighteenth Century Journals Online	70 archived titles
Royal Society of Chemistry	Backfile from 1841
Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*	55,000 Biographies

\* Funded by IReL Humanities and Social Science Initiative

Hugo Kelly, Law Librarian

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## Focal ón Leabharlannaí

Another new academic year brings renewed efforts to ensure that the Library is a vital and enjoyable part of the university experience for all new students. This year, we have gone beyond the initial orientation programme to provide ongoing training and tours of the Library at any time of

the day throughout the semester – more of this in our LARK training programme inside. A further initiative to meet student needs will be evident in our three new bookable group study rooms on Floor 2 of the James Hardiman Library.

For those not so new to the Library, some of our new resources, particularly for humanities and social sciences, are also highlighted in the issue. Other notable acquisitions in archives and special collections include the Henry Library and also the archive of *Baile an Droichid* donated by the author, Joe Steve Ó Neachtain.

The work of the Library Space Working Group continues. A brochure to ensure an understanding of the need for an enhanced James Hardiman Library, identifying advantages for both the Library and the University, has just been completed and will be circulated widely. The recent undergraduate survey also highlights very strongly student views on this. Obviously fundraising is key to progress here and the brochure will guide a new promotional leaflet to support the efforts of Galway University Foundation.

Marie Reddan, Librarian

## Making the Most of e-Knowledge

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

E-Knowledge provides a simple and versatile gateway to the Library's online information services. Below are a few time-saving hints:

- Read the introductory guide at <http://tinyurl.com/y6xs2b> or ask for a copy at the Ground Floor Information Point
- Ask at the Information Point for help and details of upcoming training sessions
- To login or not to login? You get far more facilities (including almost all those below) if you login, but there is also a Guest option if you prefer. Please address PIN enquiries to the Information Point (x3005, [library@nuigalway.ie](mailto:library@nuigalway.ie)).
- Horses for courses: the *QuickSearch* and *Cross Search* options are ideal if you want to keep it simple and find some results quickly; if you want a comprehensive search, use *Find E-Resources* and click on the name of any resource listed for more search options
- Use the *MySpace* options to create your own lists of favourite databases, e-journals or references
- Stay up to date painlessly using the Alerts feature

John Cox, Deputy Librarian

### Add Alerts

You have requested an alert for this search:  
WRD=(celtic tiger)

Enter an alert name of your choice: \*

Enter recipient's e-mail for alert results: \*

Do you want a message even if there are no new results: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Run this alert every: \*  Days

Select resources for alert:

☒ Blackwell Synergy

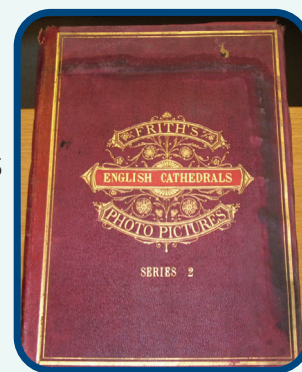
☒ Business Source Premier (EBSCO)

☒ EPrint.ie (NUI G)

\* Mandatory field

## The Henry Library

The acquisition of the Henry Library on permanent loan from the Church of Ireland Tuam Diocesan Committee in July 2006 had greatly enriched our Special Collections. The Library contains over 4000 volumes, many dating from the nineteenth century, as well as some earlier material. The nucleus of the Library was created



Francis Frith's plates of English Cathedrals

in 1885 when the Rev. Joseph Henry bequeathed his library to the diocese. The bulk of it still remains and is a fine example of a late Victorian library containing theological, biblical and classical studies, topography, history, geography and travel literature. The Library was added to by purchase and also by the deposit of bibles and prayer books from Church of Ireland buildings no longer in use for worship. Particularly interesting acquisitions for researchers include a fine set of Francis Frith plates of English Cathedrals and a set of the *Achill Missionary Herald*, the newspaper published by the Irish Church Mission based in Achill from the 1840s to the 1870s.

It is envisaged that details of the collection will be added to the Library catalogue in time. At present there is a printed catalogue arranged by author which can be consulted at the Information Desk or in the Special Collections Room.

Marie Boran, Special Collections Librarian

## Library with a View



Sinéad Magee monitoring the Library security cameras

The Library recently installed a CCTV System primarily to enhance safety for students, visitors and staff while also improving the security of the stock and assets of the Library. In addition, the system is intended to assist in deterring crime and when appropriate in the apprehension and prosecution of offenders. In its management and operation of the system the Library complies with the requirements of the Data Protection Act and all other relevant legislation.

Already the high quality footage generated by the system has successfully identified three thieves operating within the building. **Please note however, that it is still vitally important that you please take care of personal property while in the Library.**

Ann Mitchell, Head of Reader Services



## Undergraduate Satisfaction Survey 2006

An online survey of undergraduate students undertaken in Spring 2006 attracted 2778 respondents, giving a response rate of over 31%. The respondents were almost exclusively full-time students. A similar survey had been undertaken in 2004, enabling the library to draw comparisons where appropriate.

Key findings include a 4% drop in students visiting the library at least weekly. Usage of the Nursing Library has decreased noticeably since its move to Dangan. Satisfaction with library opening hours is up by 25%, reflecting the increase of 323 opening hours per year since the 2004 survey. Students continue to use the library book stocks heavily, with 82% using the library to borrow and 67% to consult books without borrowing.

There is also increased use of a wider range of information sources, notably online journals and the exam papers database. There are high levels of ownership of laptops and other computers, with increased uptake of wireless and offcampus access. Over 54% of respondents use library services or collections online at least weekly, an increase of 11% since 2004. Satisfaction with access to online services from home has grown by 17%.

Overall the majority of respondents feel that library staff are helpful and knowledgeable. An area of concern, however, is that awareness of the full range of services is low. Students want training in a range of aspects of library use and the LARK programme, featured in this issue, has attracted good attendances to date.

Further copies of the survey digest are available on request and the full report is available at <http://tinyurl.com/yddfnf>

Niamh Connolly, Assistant to Deputy Librarian

### Do you use these information sources often?

	2006	2004
Books	74%	77%
Web search engines	72%	69%
Library Catalogue	44%	38%
Exam papers database	42%	25%
Databases	33%	26%
Journals: online	27%	18%
Journals: printed	13%	14%
Newspapers: online	13%	11%
Newspapers: printed	8%	10%
Videos/DVDs	3%	3%

### PHOTOCOPYING IMPROVEMENT



MJ Flood Ltd. was successful with its bid to supply photocopying services to the Library in 2004. The company has provided robust copiers and supplemented their numbers at peak times. It is good to note an improvement in student satisfaction with photocopying services in our latest survey. Our thanks are also due to MJ Flood for their generous sponsorship of a digital camera as one of the survey prizes.

## A LARK in the Library

LARK (Library and Research Knowhow) is the Library's information literacy programme, offering training sessions on a range of resources aimed at all levels of Library user.

Throughout each week there are introductory tours and Library catalogue training for new (or not so new) students, while themed resource sessions are offered by the Information Librarians covering broad research subjects of interest to students and staff.

Resource sessions include:

- e-Knowledge
- Introduction to E-Resources
- Web of Knowledge
- Rare and Antiquarian Books

The LARK programme can be obtained from the Library Information Desk (ext 3005) or online at <http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/assets/lark/lark.pdf>

### LARK in summary

#### Library Tours

Every Monday 12pm & Wed 3pm

#### Catalogue Training

Every Monday 12.30pm & Wed 3.30pm

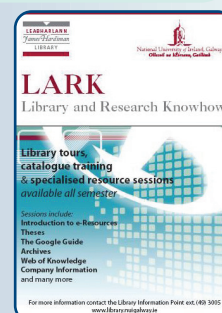
Evening & Saturday Tours and Catalogue Training  
Monday to Friday 7pm. Every Saturday 11am

#### Resource/Thematic Sessions

(Booking required)

See LARK programme (details above)

Hugo Kelly, Law Librarian



## New Library Web Site

To coincide with the start of the academic year, the Library released a new version of its web site, bringing with it many innovative changes and a brand new focus. From the outset, the vision statement for the new site emphasised a paradigm shift in terms of visuals and content organization. The visual change to the site coincided with the decision to adopt a generic template for all university websites.

The key changes for the new web site are minimalism, and user focus. A theme of simplicity and 'back to basics' makes any site easier to navigate, and aims to reduce the threat of 'information overload' for users, especially when the Library has so much to offer online. The site also contains more user friendly language and less formal fonts to help create a more friendly and inviting online atmosphere.

Most of the information on the site is now contained in three main strands:

- Ask A Librarian (for subject related information);
- Your Services (for the various services the Library offers to users);
- Library Resource Centre (for links to all the Library's digital collections)

The homepage has quicklinks to important areas, easy access to the e-Knowledge portal, a very visible noticeboard space, and a dynamic calendar feature to show opening hours.

We hope the new look Library site will build on the success of the old version.

Rónán Kennedy, Electronic Resources Librarian

### HOT TIP!

Use the site search facility below the NUI, Galway logo to find specific pages quickly.



The Library Web Site Group- missing from photo are John Costello and Laurie Greenfield

## Find that E-Journal with MARCIt!

Access to thousands of additional electronic journals, particularly through IReL, has delivered major advantages but also presented a huge challenge in cataloguing and linking to these titles. The implementation of the MARCIt facility has helped greatly in improving the Library Catalogue's e-journal coverage both in terms of quality and quantity.

MARCIt quickly generates lists of the highest quality MARC records to describe the Library's e-journals. As records are loaded to the catalogue you will have far better access to our full list of electronic holdings with access to full text and other services via the SFX menu. Details of print holdings are also incorporated where these exist. To date over 4000 records for journals from 28 online collections in SFX have been added to the catalogue. Enjoy the benefits of faster and more effective discovery of e-journals on the catalogue!

*Sonia Freaney, Assistant Librarian (Cataloguing)*



*On Tuesday 24th October the ConTempo Quartet kindly played a lunchtime concert in the Library Foyer.*

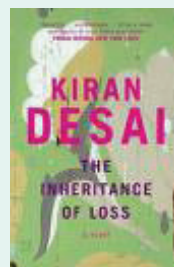


*A selection of the new Library Guides now available*

## A Good Read in the Browsing Room

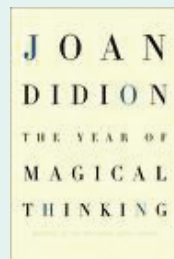
Over the summer as part of a general revamping of the Browsing Room we have introduced a new Popular Reading Collection. As the name suggests it is a broad collection offering an eclectic mix of new and interesting books, many of which will have been in the bestseller lists lately.

### Some newly arrived titles include:



*The Inheritance of Loss*  
by Kiran Desai

Set between India, New York, the past and the present, this is the deserving winner of the 2006 Booker Prize.



*The Year of Magical Thinking*  
by Joan Didion

One of the great American essayists tells her personal tale of grief and redemption.



*A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*  
by Marina Lewycka

Unlikely title but this immigrant family tale of jealousy, anger and tractors is a bestseller.



*The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*  
by Bill Bryson

Trademark humour and insight from this sharp writer about growing up in 1950's mid-America.

### More Browsing Room Improvements

Finally, there have been further efforts to make the Browsing Room a more pleasant environment. Attractive newspaper units have been installed and a new carpet now brightens the room.

*If students or staff have any recommendations for additional 'good reads', please email titles to **hugo.kelly@nuigalway.ie** or use the suggestions box provided in the Browsing Room.*

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