Special Collections
FL3013: Resources in Special Collections for Irish Folklore & Archives

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Key:
- Books are italicised e.g. The Hobbit
- Shelfmark / Call number # in bold e.g. TR 912.4 ORDN Index
- Location underlined: e.g. Range 28 Shelf 6

Contact Us
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Background
- In 1935 the Irish Folklore Commission was established. This was responsible for the collection, preservation, classification and study of all aspects of Irish folk traditions until 1971 when it was replaced by the Department of Irish Folklore and incorporated into University College Dublin. The centre in UCD is known as the Seamus Delargy Centre in memory of the man who started the Folklore Collection in Ireland.
- Collections were done from 1937 – 1970.
- The collections were formed using Scandinavian templates. This is why some subjects, such as the famine, were not covered. Information relating to this can be found in the questionnaire instead.
The Folklore collection is a manuscript collection. It is primary source material and therefore it is not necessarily neat and tidy like a book.
There are two collections: Main Collection which was collected by professionals & Schools which was written down by school children.

Forms for Using the Collections
UCD requires UCC to keep a record of the material used as UCC does not own the material. If anyone needs to publish as this is unpublished material the person needs to contact UCD for permission. If someone prints something off the reader-printers then the form must be filled in.

Whichever collection is used forms need to be filled in. There are two sets of forms: UCD & UCC (2 pages). They are available in English or Irish. These are:
- Application for Accreditation
- Application to Consult

Also a Record of Usage form needs to be filled out each time microfilm is used. This Record of Usage form is held for each user at the Special Collections Desk and staff will provide it when each user comes in.

Microform
The Schools Collection is in Location: Microfilm Room Cabinet 6.
The Main Collection is in Location: Microfilm Room Cabinet 7 – 9.

The material is catalogued using a card index. This card index system is on microfilm under subject headings with the box number of microfilm. Location: Microfilm Room Cabinet 6 Last Drawer Boxes 1 – 32
- There is an index to the baronies Location: Microfilm Room Cabinet 6 Last Drawer Boxes 33 – 34
- There is an index to the collectors Location: Microfilm Room Cabinet 6 Last Drawer Box 35
- There is an index to the storytellers Location: Microfilm Room Cabinet 6 Last Drawer Boxes 36 - 39

From this card index the imleabhar (volume) number or book or journal reference is found. To match the microfilm box go to the black binders Location: Range 28 Shelf 7. Search for Dublin, University College Dublin, Main Folklore Collection and match the imleabhar number to the UCC Box number.

There can be multiple imleabhar on a reel.

Identify Area or County
- Example: Area around Clonakilty.
- Consult the OS Survey of Ireland Indices to the 6” maps TR 912.4 ORDN Index Location: Range 25, Shelf 17. (red book)
- The OS Survey of Ireland Indices to the 6” maps: Clonakilty is on sheet 135.
- The General alphabetical index to the townlands and towns, parishes and baronies of Ireland: based on the Census of Ireland for the year 1851 TR
914.15 GENE Location: Range 8 gives the alphabetical index of the townlands, stating the name of the barony and the parish. This information is also important for further research using the Griffith’s Valuation.

- TR 914. GENE is also available online at http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/placenames
- Example: For Clonakilty, the barony is East Carbery (E.D), the parish is Kilgarrif and the townland is Kilgarrif.

If you cannot find your place-name go to the Directory of Townlands, Districts, Electoral Divisions and Ancient Baronies of the County of Cork. Location: Range 28 Shelf 6. The place-name you are looking for could be the name of the parish. There is an alphabetical index of parish-names towards the back of the book, which will give you the name of the townland.

- If you still cannot find your place-name try looking for an adjacent place name.
- Note: Some places have reverted to Irish names since the creation of the Index (TR 912.4 ORDN Index). The spelling of place names may differ on various maps in another publications. Consult the Ordnance Survey Name Books TR 912.4 OSI NB Location: Range 4 to find out about different spellings. (See section on ‘Further Information.’)
- Once you have found your townland, confirm the sheet number for the 6 inch OS map.
- For Co. Cork you can also consult Townlands (alphabetically arranged) County Cork: With Parish, Postal District, District Electoral Division, Registrar’s District and Rural or Urban District. TR 914.195 TOWN Location: Range 8
- For calculating distances use the Index One Inch to a mile TR 912.4 ORDN Index Location: Range 25 Shelf 17 (green book).

Lewis, Samuel. The Topographical Dictionary of Ireland (1837) 2 vols. TRF 914.15 LEWI Location: Range 28 Shelf 4. It contains a description of each civil parish as well as most towns it is a very useful depiction of Ireland before the Famine.

Using the UCD Schools’ Folklore Collection
This collection was formed from material from 1937 – 1938 (26 counties). Collecting was carried out by children in 5th and 6th class in primary school under the direction of their teachers.

Guidelines for teachers were set out by the handbook in English and Irish Irish Folklore and Tradition and Bealoideas Eireann. TR 398 IRIS Location: Special Collections Desk

This collection is searchable by county and school only. There is no subject index.

Search by using the Index to the Schools Folklore. TR 398 UCD INDEX (blue landscape book) Location: Range 28 Shelf 1

Search by county and then school. The list of counties is at the start (just inside the page for 'Roinn Bhealoideas Eireann) and it tells you where to go. The
number is the imleabhar (volume) number e.g. 274. It is not the page number. E.g. Cork / Corcaí first and then the list of schools. This list also gives information for the parish / barony / teacher. It is easier to find the barony first and then the school.

For each imleabhar number there is a corresponding UCC BOX Number (on microfilm). Take the imleabhar number for each school and match it with the microfilm box number. The microfilm box numbers are in the black binders on Location: Range 28 Shelf 7. Search under Dublin, University College, Dublin and match your school’s imleabhar no. to the UCC Box Number.

There is a subject index to each imleabhar 11 volumes TRF 398 UCD (A4 blue book) Location: Range 28 Shelf 1. The material collected by the individual schools is listed here. Consult this to get an idea of the subjects covered for the schools you have selected. Page numbers for given for each subject written about in the school.

If A.T. is present at the bottom of a page in the Subject Index then this refers to Aarne-Thompson and the The Types of International Folktales 398 UTHE pts.1 – 4 Location: Q+2.

**Example of UCD Schools’ Folklore:**
- **TR398 UCD Index** Imleabhar 274
- Black Binders: Dublin – UCD – Schools’ Folklore Collections – Imleabhar 274 matches UCC Box Number 88. It’s in the middle of the reel for found Imleabhar 272 – 275. The boxes are separated on the reels by black divides.
- UCC Box Number 88 Location: Microfilm Room Cabinet 6 Drawer 3
- At the end of each entry there are the details of the recorder and from where the information comes.

**Using the Main Folklore Collection**
Consult Ó Súilleabháin, S (1980) *A Handbook of Irish Folklore*, which serves as a guide to material in the collections. The subject index to the Main Manuscript Collection is based on the index of this book, which was in fact used as a field guidebook by Irish Folklore Commission Collectors TR 398 OSUI Location: Range 8.

Read through the chapter headings and subheadings and select one you are interested in, e.g. Chapter VI, Nature, “Rain lore”.

Go to the Special Collections printed list “Folklore Index on Microfilm: Subject Headings”. Location: Special Collections Desk. This is a shorter version of what you will find in Ó Súilleabháin, S (1980) *A Handbook of Irish Folklore*. This list will give you a Subject Index Box number to search by subject.

Find the Subject Index Box number by looking up the heading “Nature” and “The Weather” on the box listings on the left-hand side of the list. The box number for the heading “Weather” is Subject Index Box 10.
Go to the Subject Index on microfilm Location: Microfilm Room Cabinet 6 Drawer 6). Material was catalogued using a Card-Index. This card-index system is on microfilm under subject headings and corresponding microfilm box numbers.

The overall Index is divided into four main categories: Collectors, Storytellers, Provenance and Subject Location: Microfilm Room Cabinet 6 Drawer 8. From this list you get your imleabhar (volume) number or book or journal reference.

If you find an imleabhar number for your subject heading, go to the Black Folder of Mss in UCC Location: Range 28 Shelf 7. Search under Dublin, University College, Dublin and match your imleabhar to the UCC Box Number. Return to Range 28 part 1 Dublin.

There is also a detailed hardcopy index to the Imleabhar Numbers. 6 Volumes, TRF 016.398 IRIS (Location: Range 28 Shelf 1). This will give you the exact page number to look for once you have inserted your microfilm roll with the actual material.

Example for UCD Main Folklore Collection
- Patron says: “I’m interested in birds.”
- Go to TR398 OSUI for the index. Location: Range 8.
- Look at Contents at the start. Most likely in Nature and Birds is on pages 289 – 293.
- Go to page 289 in the index and birds is broken down further e.g. there is a list of all the individual birds. You now decide you’ll focus on the chuff.
- Go to the photocopied landscape A3 sized page and match up. The subject index for birds is located on boxes 10 & 11 Location: Microfilm Room Cabinet 6.
- Boxes 10 & 11 will give references for the relevant journals, books or imleabhar articles.

Questionnaires
- Use these questionnaires only for UCD Main Collection.
- Over a hundred questionnaires on different topics were sent out and answers were given by several hundred correspondents.
- As the system is based on a Scandinavian model some topics were not covered, e.g. famine. Use the questionnaires for such topics.
- The questionnaire is in folder 1 Location: Special Collections Desk or also in the back of black binder 1 Location Range 28 Shelf 7.
- The questionnaire is in English but the material may be in Irish.
- The questionnaire gives imleabhar box numbers.
- Then go to the black binder for Main Collection and find the UCC box number to match the imleabhar number.
- This UCC box number is still part of the Subject Index.
- An additional list of subject headings collected by Questionnaires is also available with matching imleabhar numbers.
- Coverage is uneven regarding numbers of questionnaires received, localities which used the questionnaires and topics on the questionnaires.
Diaries
Each of the Commission’s full time and special collectors were expected to keep a diary but part-time collectors were not usually requested to do so. Collectors were asked to record information about recording sessions and visits to narrators but they were also expected to give account of themselves when transcribing and even it would appear during their free time.

INDEX OF COLLECTORS
Location: Microfilm Room Cabinet 6 Drawer 8 Box 35
Material provided:
- Names (in alphabetical order) and addresses of collectors. District from which the folklore was collected
- Imleabhar (Mss) No.
- Page No
- Diary

Useful Items
Location: Range 8

Ó Súilleabháin, Seán. *A Handbook of Irish Folklore*. [Dublin]: Published by the Educational Co. of Ireland Ltd. for the Folklore of Ireland Society, 1942. TR 398 OSUI Location: Range 8

*Béaloideas*: Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society. Location: Range

Useful Terminology
Much of the supporting documentation uses Irish language terminology. The following words are useful:
- Bosca – Box
- Imleabhar (Im.) - Volume
- Leathanch (Lth.) - Page
- Paróiste – Parish
- Contae – County
- Barúntacht – Barony
- Ábhar – Subject
- Bailitheoir – Collector
- Innéacs – Index
- Leabhar Cinnlae – Diary
- Toradh Ceistiúchán – Results of a questionnaire