Using Special Collections for Research in Ireland

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Aims and Objectives

• To enable researchers to **identity** and **access** special collections sources in Ireland and further afield, and

• To give a greater **understanding** of the nature of special collections’ material and its **uses** for original research.
Schedule

- Introduction
- Preservation & Access
- Objects & Terminology
- Locations of Special Collections & How to Find Them
- UCC Special Collections
- Conclusion
Introduction

• What is Special Collections?
• Format
What is Special Collections?

• The department itself
• The staff who care for the collections
• The physical or virtual space
• The collections themselves
What is Special Collections? (2)

- “Unique and distinctive” collections of rare books, and many other media, including born-digital and digitised documents (Cullingford)

- “Elements of distinction that serve to differentiate an academic or research library from its peers” (Dooley & Luce)
Format

- Early Printed Books
- Books from Presses
- Collections from individuals
- Newspapers
- Maps
- Pamphlets
- Literary Manuscripts
- Digital Files
Format (2)

- Mixture of Primary and Secondary Sources
- Primary Sources include:
  - Manuscripts
  - Newspapers
  - Maps
- Secondary Sources:
  - Histories
  - Criticism
Format (3)

- Ensuring access remains to the items
- Digital files transferable through the ages
- Other formats readable
- Example: *Domesday Book* on laserdisc

http://www.scenicreflections.com/download/534360/build_it_Wallpaper/
Preservation & Access
Factors to consider:

- Materials
- Environment
- Storage
- Handling
- Reprographics
Materials

- Paper
- Parchment
- Vellum
- Leather
- Different inks
- Photographic material
- Glue and binding material
• Chemically stable materials will last indefinitely with the proper care.
• **Oldest book in UCC Library**: 1476
• Sometimes proper care is not enough.
• Example: Early 20th century newsprint.
Environmental Factors

- Light: encourages chemical reactions
- Temperature: fixed between 13 – 16°C
- Relative humidity: fixed between 45 – 60%
- Standard: BSI PD 5454
- Air pollution
- Mould
- Pests

@HarperCollinsUK pic.twitter.com/bZDyaHwSP7
Storage

- Soundly constructed, well ventilated, watertight
- Stable internal climate
- Secure
- Items stored flat on shelves if heavy or large
- Shelves not too full or too empty
- Phase boxes
- Linen tapes
Example: older printed books
Handling

• Use appropriate equipment:
  ➢ Foam supports
  ➢ Book snakes
  ➢ Weights
  ➢ Archival page inserts
• Support a book’s spine to reduce strain
• No resting on top of pages or manuscripts
• Keep food, drink and ink away from items
• No quick-fix repairs: adhesive tape, laminators
Reprographics

• Can include:
  ➢ Photographing – without flash
  ➢ Scanning – book cradle rather than flatbed
  ➢ Digitisation to provide surrogate
  ➢ Microfilming to provide surrogate
• Copying at discretion of staff
• Damage can be done each time
• Example: Bendy Brunel
Objects & Terminology

- General
- Manuscripts
- Structure of a Book
- Early Printed Books
- Provenance
General

- **Book**: Now any published work; previously folded sheets sewn into a binding or cut sheets glued into a case or cover.
- Manuscripts may be bound in book form.
- **Printed book** is a ‘book.’
- **Bibliography**: study of books as physical objects.
- **Codicology**: Study of manuscripts.
- **Paleography**: study of writing.
Manuscripts

Medieval manuscripts were often created for religious purposes showing the importance of religious life and faith and its dominance of written culture

- **Psalters**: contain psalms from the Bible
- **Missals**: contain the service of the Mass
- **Breviaries**: contain the texts of the Divine Office (Christian daily prayer)
- **Books of Hours**: prayer book for an individual

**The Asperges**

*On Sundays before the principal Mass*

**Antiphon**

The Lord, with hyssop, and I shall be clean; thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Psalm**

Have mercy on me, O God, after thy great goodness (Ps. li. 1).

*Ant.* Thou shalt purge me, etc.

*V.* And according to the multitude of thy mercies, do away mine offences.

*Ant.* Thou shalt purge me, etc.

*V.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

*R.* As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

*Ant.* Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

*From Easter to the Feast of the Holy Trinity, the following Antiphon is said with the Psalm following.*

**Antiphon**

I saw water issuing out of the temple on the right-hand side, alleluia. And all to whom that water came were made whole, and shall say, alleluia, alleluia.
Manuscripts (2)

- **Scripts**: Different ones depending on region. Oldest book in library written in *textura* or *Gothic print*.
- **Illumination**: embellishment of manuscript with bright colours e.g. gold, silver
- **Marginalia**: writing in the margins
- **Rubrication**: process of writing titles in the text in red ink
About a Book

Principal parts of a book and its binding
Early Printed Books

- **Incunabula**: books printed pre-1501
- **Colophon**: feature at the end of the book giving details of printing
- **Format**: folio, quarto, octavo
- **Paper types**: vellum, parchment, rag
- **Illustrations**: woodcut, copperplate engraving
Example of “colophon” in incunabula: Bruni, Leonardo *Historia del Popolo Fiorentino*. [Vinegia (Venice): Iacomo de Rossi, 1476].
Provenance

- **Provenance**: Previous ownership
  - Who owned a book?
  - Who had access to it?
  - Books owned by an organisation.
  - Shown from bookplates, labels, stamps
  - Binding may have coat of arms or symbol
- **Inscriptions**: person’s name, dedication, motto
- **Annotations**: comments on the text, unrelated notes
- **Insertions**: letters, bookmarks
Locations of Special Collections & How to Find Them

• Locations
• Catalogues
• Gateways
Locations of Special Collections

Held in:
• Research libraries
• Universities
• National libraries
• Public libraries
• Museums
• Art galleries
• Historic houses
• Cathedrals
• Societies
Catalogues

Use the following resources to search for material:

- **RASCAL**: [http://www.rascal.ie/](http://www.rascal.ie/)
- **Hayes’ Index of Manuscript Sources**: [sources.nli.ie](http://sources.nli.ie)
- **COPAC** (general special collections material): [http://copac.ac.uk/](http://copac.ac.uk/)
- **British Library Catalogues**: [http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/catblhold/all/allcat.html](http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/catblhold/all/allcat.html)
- **Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog** (Useful for early printed books): [http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk_en.html](http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk_en.html)
- **Universal Short Title Catalogue**: [http://www.ustc.ac.uk/](http://www.ustc.ac.uk/)
Catalogues (2)

- Historic Libraries Forum:  
  http://www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk/  (Map)
- Heritage of the Printed Book:  
  http://www.cerl.org/resources/hpb/main
- Material Evidence in Incunabula:  
  http://incunabula.cerl.org/cgi-bin/search.pl
- CERL Portal (Manuscripts & Early Printed Material):  
  http://cerl.epc.ub.uu.se/sportal/
  ➢ Example: Search ‘monkey’ in Early Printed Material.
Gateways

• Record Repositories: http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/
• Mapping Access to Special Collections in London Area: http://www.masc25.ac.uk/
UCC Special Collections

- Facts About Special Collections, UCC
- Special Collections’ Reading Rooms
- Special Collections Website
- Dealing with Special Collections
- Finding Aids
- Special Collections Material in UCC
- Copyright
- Referencing & Citation
Facts About Special Collections, UCC

- Collections: 80 and growing
- Date range of collections: 15th century – present day
- Languages: Sumerian, Cuneiform, Breton
- 55,000 items in Special Collections
- 12,200 items in Older Printed Books
- Areas of Expertise:
  - Irish Literature
  - Anglo-Irish Literature
  - Celtic Studies
  - Frank O’Connor
  - Older printed books: sciences, theology,
- Oldest book: Bruni’s *Historia del Popolo Fiorentino* (1476)
- Oldest newspaper on microfilm: *Freeman’s Journal* (1763)
- Oldest newspaper: *Cork Evening Post; Cork Hibernian Chronicle; Corke Journal* (1769)
Special Collections Website

• Access via:
  lbooleweb.ucc.ie – Services – Special Collections
• Information on the website covers:
  ➢ Opening Hours
  ➢ Subject specific course guides
  ➢ Topics
  ➢ Useful websites
  ➢ Portal for Manuscript Studies & Palaeography & Medieval Manuscript Studies
Special Collections’ Reading Rooms

- Reference Reading Room:
  - Contains general reference material and maps
  - Use to access theses, material in good condition and material post-1850
- Rare Books Reading Room:
  - Use to access material in fragile condition, material pre-1850, Strong Room Material
- Microform Room
  - Contains microfilm and microfiche
- Closed Access Areas:
  - Contain the majority of the collections
Dealing With Special Collections

- Managing expectations.
- Opening Hours are shorter.
- The majority of the collections need to be ordered.
  - Date required.
  - Item: Title, author, call number.
  - Personal details: name, student / staff number
Special Collections Material in UCC

• Location: Library Catalogue – ‘William O’Brien’ – Modify Search – Location – Special Collections

• Date: Library Catalogue – ‘William O’Brien’ – Modify Search – Before: 1950

Examples of Special Collections:

- Private Presses: Cuala, Dolmen, Three Candles
- Presses: Attic, CUP
- Individuals: Lynch, Goldberg
- University lecturer: Corkery, Cooke
- Collections on a theme: Bookplate Collection
Finding Aids

Material that is uncatalogued uses finding aids (.pdf files)

- Newspaper listing
- Maps listing
- Manuscript listing
- Material in Strong Room listing
Copyright, Referencing & Citation

- Much of the published material is in copyright and subject to restrictions of ‘fair use.’
- Use:
  - Published research
  - Websites & digital resources
  - Film, video or broadcast
  - Public display or exhibition
  - Merchandise

Contact Elaine Harrington, Special Collections Librarian for permission to use in a publication.
Conclusion

Following this unit you should now be able to:
• Have a greater understanding of the nature of special collections’ material
• Identify and access special collections sources in Ireland and further afield.

Survey
Please complete the survey on the Postgraduates / Researcher page
Bibliography


Bruni, Leonardo. Historia del Popolo Fiorentino. [Vinegia (Venice): Iacomo de Rossi, 1476]. OPB f 945.5 FLOR.B


*An Claidheamh Soluis*. 1901.


“Old Book Smell.” @HarperCollinsUK pic.twitter.com/bZDyaHwSP7 15 November 2013.


“Principal Parts of a Book and its Binding.”


Zeutschel OS15000 Overhead scanner with book cradle
Module Structure

Unit 1: Research Resource Discovery

Unit 2: Evaluating Research Resource Results

Unit 3: Tracking Down Results & Keeping Up-to-date

Unit 4: Managing Your Information

Unit 5: Ethics in Using Research Information

Unit 6: Publishing / Disseminating Your Research

Unit 7: Using Archives for Research in Ireland

Unit 8: Using Special Collections for Research in Ireland

Compulsory

Optional