Special Collections: Using Bibliographies & Catalogues for MA in Early & Medieval Irish

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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
Special Collections Desk: specialcollections@ucc.ie | 021 490 2282
Elaine Harrington, Special Collections Librarian: e.harrington@ucc.ie | 021 4903484
Research Collections Twitter Account: @theriversideUCC

Special Collections: http://libguides.ucc.ie/specialcollections

Hayes’ Sources. Location: Range 28
Also online at Sources for the History of Irish Civilization: http://sources.nli.ie/
It is an index and catalogue for sourcing manuscripts and articles published in English.

Using Hayes’ Periodical Sources Location: Range 28 Shelf 3
Example I: Person Search
Searching for Kuno Meyer.
Location: Range 17

Example II: Subject Search
Location: Range 18

Example III: Place Search
Check Table of Contents on p.1 first.
Searching for Glendalough

Example IV: Dates
Search in Vol. 9. Dates p. 761 onwards

Using Hayes’ Manuscript Sources Location: Range 28 Shelf 5
Example I: Person Search
Searching for: Agallamh na Seanórach

Example II: Subject Search
Searching for: Regensburg – see Ratisbon
Munich: Bayerische Statisbibliothek. Ms. Clm 14,276; Bible commentary of Irish origin, Ratisbon, 8th – 9th centuries.
n.3674 p.3298 [(n. p.) indicates the manuscript has been microfilmed]
Check Black binders Location: Range 28 Shelf 7 to see if Special Collections has the microfilmed manuscript.

Example III: Place Search
Searching for: Dingle (Check how Co. Kerry is organised: General & Miscellaneous, Estates, Maps, Places in alphabetical order)
London: British Museum Cotton MS Titus B XI (Extract) An assize held at Dinghill (Dingle) concerning the lordship of Kerry, adjudged to Edmund Fitzmorris 1 Hen. VII (1485 – 6)
Check Black binders Location: Range 28 Shelf 7 to see if Special Collections has the microfilmed manuscript.

**Catalogues for Using Special Collections’ Gaelic Manuscripts**

Two catalogues exist for the Murphy and Torna collections. Other Gaelic manuscript collections are present but no catalogues are available.

**Murphy Collection**


At the start of the book:
- The treoir / table of contents lists the manuscripts.
- The Noda gives a list of the abbreviations used through the book.
- The réamhfhocal / foreword describes Prof. James Murphy and his collection. It also refers to works that mention some of the manuscripts.
- Each manuscript is described: century of production, material used, size, number of pages, Scribe(s) if known, annotations if present, blank pages if present. This is followed by a page by page description of what is contained within that manuscript.

Example: Lss. 31: *Trí Biorghaoithe an Bháis* (Three Shafts of Death)

Table of Contents directs to page 73.

**Torna Collection**

De Brún, Pádraig A. *Clár Lámhscríbhinní Gaeilge Choláiste Ollscoile Chorcaí: Cnuasach Thorna*. Baile Átha Cliath: Cló Bhréanainn, 1967. TR 011.31 DEBR v.1 – 2 Location: Range 5

Use volume 1 for: table of contents of the manuscripts and description of each manuscript.

Use volume 2 for: index to first lines and general index.

Within volume 1:
- The Réamhrá / preface describes Torna (Tadhg Ó Donnchadha) and his collection. It refers to the two series within the collection, the age of the collection, the locations the manuscripts were written, their scribes and the subject matter within each manuscript. It also refers to works that mention some of the manuscripts. It also discusses provenance of the manuscripts.
- Clárú and Noda gives a list of the abbreviations used through the book.
- Each manuscript is described: century of production, material used, size, number of pages, Scribe(s) if known, annotations if present, blank pages if present. This is followed by a page by page description of what is contained within that manuscript.

The Torna collection has two series:
- Seanlámhscríbhinní: T.1 – T.lxxvi (uses Roman numerals)
- Leabhair nótaí: T.1 – T. 35 (uses Arabic numerals)

It is imperative that the correct notation be used when requesting or referring to a manuscript.
However the both series are numbered in the table of contents with Arabic numerals before the standard numbering:
e.g. 24(T.xxiv) Seanstaraighe; Seanmóirí; Dánta Diaga; Amhráin; Teagasc Criostai Page 76
e.g. 90(T.14) Dánta diaga Dháibhí de Barra Page 239.

Example: T.xxiv
Table of Contents directs to page 76.
Page 76. Title of the manuscript is the contents of the manuscript: Seanstaraighe; Seanmóirí; Dánta Diaga; Amhráin; Teagasc Criostai (Old Histories, Sermons, Sacred poems, Songs, Teachings of Christ)
A scribe of T.xxiv: Mícheál Ó Corcoráin (some of the manuscript)

Within volume 2:
- Noda gives a list of the abbreviations used through the book.
- Pages 1 – 80 give the céd linte / first lines of the manuscripts.
  - Example: “Cáintear na ‘fileadh’ ’s ní hiad a bhí ceantach.” Page 23 in the first lines directs to manuscript 24 page 1. Refer back to volume 1 for more information on this manuscript.
- Pages 81 – 146 gives a general index. Use this for information on scribes.
  - E.g. Page 123: “Ó Corcoráin, Mícheál (Leathanach, Lehenagh) Scr.24
  - This indicates that Mícheál Ó Corcoráin is from Leathanach, Lehenagh and he is the scribe of manuscript 24. Refer back to volume 1 for more information on this manuscript.
- The noda at the start of the volume indicates that “scr.” is “scriobhal” or “scribe.”

For further information on roman numerals.

Colker's Trinity College Library Dublin: Descriptive Catalogue of the Medieval and Renaissance Latin Manuscripts.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colker</th>
<th>Roman Numeral</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
<th>Manuscript Number</th>
<th>Name of Document</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colker</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>183 – 195</td>
<td>TCD MS 97</td>
<td>Copy of the Rule, <em>Quo elongati</em>, 13th c. Dublin Canons of St Victor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Royal Irish Academy (RIA) Catalogues
Example: Trace all information/editions/Mss. on The Book of Ballymote

Question: Where is the original MSS based?
Question: Who are the scribes? Are they known?
Google can be very helpful!

Once institution is known: In this case Royal Irish Academy
Use General Index 2 of Catalogue of Irish Manuscripts in the Royal Irish Academy (By Kathleen Mulchrone). TR 011.31 RIA index 2 Location: Range 5
Index 2 is a general Index.
Index 1 covers first lines of verse.

Using the General Index
TR 011.31 RIA index 2

Book of Ballymote – 536 (orig) This is the original number catalogue and is in Bold Print.
It does refer to page numbers. To find the page numbers for The Book of Ballymote use Catalogue of Irish Manuscripts in the Royal Irish Academy TR 011.31 RIA fasc. 8-14 Location: Range 5

To Find Information on the Manuscript
TR 011.31 RIA fasc. 8-14
At the start of the fasciculus is the index of manuscripts catalogued in the present fasciculus.
Pressmark = Manuscript Number
No. in Catalogue = Original Catalogue Number
p. = Page Number

On each page:
The catalogue number is at the top of the page on the left.
The manuscript number is at the top of the page on the right.

Book of Ballymote is on page 1616. The manuscript number is 23 P 12.
The following are present: Description of manuscript and the binding of it; history of the manuscript, recto and verso description of the folios.

To Find the UCC Microfilm Box
Go to the black binders for Dublin – Royal Irish Academy. Match 23 P 12 to UCC Box number 713 Location: Microfilm Room Cabinet 4 Drawer 3.
Listing in the black binder also gives catalogue number and page number is fasciculus.

Listing of Manuscripts by Location or Person
It is a comprehensive guide to the locations of manuscripts in Irish. The index is broken down into various sections: libraries and institutes; manuscripts in the possession of private
individuals, translated manuscripts, manuscripts missing or gone astray and an index of people.
Example: “Seán Ó Tuama.”
Section: Lámhscríbhínní ag Daoine Príobháideacha – p.44.
There are three manuscripts in his possession. Two of them are referred to in other works and the relevant page number is given: Breandán Ó Conchúir’s Scriobhaithe Chorcaí: 1700-1850, 167.

Page 167: Scriobhaithe or Scribe: Donncha Ó Murchú.

Finding All Manuscript Copies of a Poem Using the First Line
Example: Search for all manuscript copies of a poem with the first line:
A bhean fuair faill ar an bhfeart
List all MS copies by Location and MS number, pages; and to give general information about the poem (number of verses, and author if given), as well as details of the manuscript itself (scribe, place, date of writing, general contents [e.g. poetry; poetry and prose; religious: there will usually be a heading of this type at the start of the MS.]).

1. In the case of the chosen poem, find out where the poem has been published and to give accurate bibliographical details; if it’s been published more than once, they should list all instances.

Eoghan Ruaidh Mhic an Bhaird was the author of A bhean fuair faill ar an bhfeart

For a full break down of each poem use the Bardic Poetry Database.
Enter the first line in the ‘First line’ search box. This gives a listing. Select the number to the left of the first line. This gives the following information: length, certainty, period, areas, classes, manuscripts, prints/translations, motifs, poet’s name, patron, and meter. Clicking on a manuscript will also show which other poems are contained in that manuscript.

Example: A bhean fuair faill ar an bhfeart on http://bardic.celt.dias.ie/

Insert the first line of the poem into the ‘First line’ field & press ‘Search.’
Select the first result by clicking on the hyperlinked number to the left of the first line. This number refers to a number in the Bardic Database.

The numbers to the left of the links refer to numbers in the database.

When looking for a manuscript on microfilm in the black binders:
Example: RIA90 (24/P/12)

Go to the black binders: Dublin – Royal Irish Academy

RIA90 refers to the catalogue number. This is found in the middle columns of the microfilm manuscript listing.

24/P/12 is the name of the microfilm and is the number located in the first column on the left on the microfilm manuscript listing.

Using Bibliographies

- Check the index at the back of the book (p.707 onwards). Using “A bhean a...”
The number after the line refers to the number on the far left on the preceding pages. 6042

Abbreviations used in the citation can be checked at the start of the book (xv – xxiii)

6042: Celtica 5 (1960): 161 – 71. Check Library Catalogue to see if UCC Library holds the journal. Location: Range 17


Check Black binders Location: Range 28 Shelf 7 to check if Special Collections holds the manuscript on microfilm. Answer: UCC Box number 131. Location: Microform Room: Cabinet 2 Drawer 4.


The index of initial lines is at p.211 onwards. The number after refers to the column on the left on the preceding pages. Some citations are written in an older script. For ‘A bhéan fuair failt ar an bhfeart’ go to ‘A’ not ‘B.’

1741 & 1742 is not the page number. It is the number on the left.


Search by author. The number refers to the page.

Information on Scribes

Use Hayes’ Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation to check for information on the author /scribe use (volume: people) Location: Range 28 Shelf 5

Use the bibliographies in the bibliography section.


For names use Ainm – Beatháisnéisí Gaeilge

General Reference Material
