Special Collections Resources for GA2013: Léann agus Lámhscríbhinní Gaeilge

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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](mailto:specialcollections@ucc.ie) | 021 490 2282
Elaine Harrington, Special Collections Librarian: [e.harrington@ucc.ie](mailto:e.harrington@ucc.ie) | 021 4903484
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**Layout of Reference Reading Room**
- **Ranges 1 – 5:** Material in monographs in series e.g. Studia Patristica
- **Ranges 5 – 9:** General reference material
- **Ranges 10 – 11:** General reference material folio-sized
- **Range 11:** Pamphlets & State Papers folio-sized
- **Ranges 12 – 16:** State Papers
- **Range 16:** Maps
- **Ranges 16 – 18:** Q-1 Journals
- Ranges 18 – 19: Almanacs & directories
- Ranges 19 – 20: Munster Printing
- Ranges 20 – 21: Bielenberg Selection
- Ranges 21 – 24: Torna Collection
- Ranges 25 – 26: OS 1st ed. Maps
- Ranges 27 & 30: Facsimiles of manuscripts
- Range 28: Hayes, Griffith’s Valuation, UCD Folklore Collection, Listing of microfilm
- Range 29: Map cabinets

Manuscripts

Manuscripts on Microfilm

Medieval manuscripts in Irish and European institutions (RIA, NLI, Aberystwyth, Bibliothèque Nationale, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, etc): mainly un-catalogued. Finding aid available. Location: Range 28 Shelf 7. Three black binders in alphabetical order according to PLACE and then location of mss.

Example: Black Binder for Dublin. National Library is before Royal Irish Academy.

Manuscripts on microfilm (UCD Main Series): Location: Microform Room: Cabinets 2 – 4, 21, 29, 38.

Manuscripts in Facsimile

Location: Ranges 27, 30

_The Book of Ballymote: A Collection of Pieces (Prose and Verse) in the Irish Language_. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 1887. TRF 891.627 BOOK Location: Range 27; TF BOOK Location: Range 27

UCC Library’s Irish Manuscripts

Special Collections holds three major Gaelic manuscript collections. Location: Strong Room, Closed Access. Must be requested with at least one day’s notice.

Irish manuscripts themselves uncatalogued. A finding aid is available at the Special Collections Desk. The collections are:

- Torna: 76 traditional & 35 of his own
- Murphy: 77 manuscripts
- Power: See finding aid at Special Collections Desk.

Torna Collection: These are manuscripts which belonged to Professor Tadhg O Donnchadha, Professor of Irish at University College Cork (1916-1944). One of the many interesting items would be a 19th century version of the Irish-style Arthurian tale _Eachtra an Mhadra Mhaoil_ with hand-painted frontispieces designed to imitate printed books.

De Brún, Pádraig A. _Cíd Lámhscribhíní Gaeilge Choláiste Ollscoile Chorcaí: Cnuasach Thorna_. Baile Átha Cliath: Cló Bhréanainn, 1967. TR 011.31 DEBR v.1 – 2 Location: Range 5
Over 200 additional manuscripts were purchased by or donated to the Library. Seventy seven of these belonged to Professor James E.H. Murphy, Professor of Irish at Trinity College Dublin (1896-1919).


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. 1: Iomarbháigh na bhFileadh; ginealaigh

Table of Contents directs to page 1.

Most of the remaining manuscripts belonged to Canon Power, Lecturer in and later Professor of Archaeology at University College Cork (1915-1932). Highlights include a version of Geoffrey Keating’s *Foras Feasa ar Eirinn* in a 17th century hand that has been attributed to Keating himself.

**Catalogues for Manuscripts**

**TR 011.3** or **TR 011.4** Location: Range 5

**TRF 011.3** or **TRF 011.4** Location: Range 10


**TR 011.31 RIA fasc.28 & index**

**TR 011.31 RIA fasc. 1 – 5**

**TR 011.31 RIA Index.1**

**Means to Locate Manuscripts**

Example: Trace all information/editions/Mss. on *The Book of Ballymote*

Question: Where is the original manuscript 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 Location: Range 28
Select the binder 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.

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.
Use the Bardic Poetry Database for a breakdown of the poem: 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/](http://bardic.celt.dias.ie/)

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.
Bibliographies Part II

- 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.

Best, R.I. *Bibliography of Irish Philology and Manuscript Literature: Publications 1913-1941*. TR 016.49162 BEST Location: Range 5

- 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 bhean fuair faill ar an bhfeart’ go to ‘A’ not ‘B.’
- 1741 & 1742 is not the page number. It is the number on the left.
  ➢ Check Library Catalogue to see if UCC Library holds the book: Corkery 891.621 FLAN Location: Closed Access. Must be requested.
  ➢ Check Library Catalogue to see if UCC Library holds the book: TR 891.621 ORAG Location: Range 8


Search by author. The number refers to the page.

*Hayes' Sources*. Location: Range 28 Shelf 3, 5


Also online Sources for the History of Irish Civilization: [http://sources.nli.ie/](http://sources.nli.ie/)
It is an index and catalogue for sourcing manuscripts and articles published in English.

*Hayes' Sources for Periodicals* Location: Range 28 Shelf 3

The periodicals range in date of publication from about 1800 to the end of 1969. Periodicals not included: those of a popular nature, trade journals and journals focussing on news or current affairs and periodicals in the Irish language.
Periodical entries are arranged in order of:

- Person (as subject, e.g. book review, obituary, etc. or institutions, societies): Vols. 1 – 5.
- Subject (includes political and religious organisations): Vols. 6 – 8. A list of subject headings used is provided in Vol. 6.
- Places & Dates: Vol. 9. This contains places in Ireland only. Places in other countries will be found in the Subject volumes. The arrangement of places (province, county etc.) is given in a table at the beginning of the volume. As a number of articles relate to a specific date or short period in Irish history (e.g. 1014), the entries for these are arranged in chronological order at the end of the volume.

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

Hayes’ Sources for Manuscripts: Location: Range 28 Shelf 5

Manuscript entries are arranged in order of:

- Person (as author, e.g. persons, institutions, societies, titles)
- Subject (includes political and religious organisations):
- Places: This contains places in Ireland only. Places in other countries will be found in the Subject volumes. The arrangement of places (province, county etc.) is given in a table at the beginning of the volume.
- Dates: As a number of articles relate to a specific date or short period in Irish history (e.g. 1014), the entries for these are arranged in chronological order at the end of the volume.
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)
n.3642 p.3260
Check Black binders Location: Range 28 Shelf 7 to see if Special Collections has the microfilmed manuscript.

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: Lámhscríbhinní 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.

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