Creating a global research community - Funding awarded

The Irish Universities’ Association Librarians’ Group has been awarded funding to establish a national network of institutional repositories as the vehicle for making Irish research output freely available to the global research community. This proposal is based on the premise that the output of publicly funded research should be made widely available as a public good. The model proposed is the establishment of institutional repositories (IRs) in each of the IUA member institutions and a single national portal hosted by Expertise Ireland, populated from the content harvested from the local IRs and offering additional national services. It will facilitate easy discovery and increased citation of this output.

All seven Irish universities are partners and the project will be scalable to include research output of other higher education institutions and independent researchers. It will also link to and complement the existing database of researchers maintained by Expertise Ireland and linked to local Research Support Systems.

Raising the research profile is a key strategy in University strategic plans. The importance of this has been identified in EUA and OECD reports, and Government policy has identified growth in research as essential in underpinning Ireland’s investment in its future as a knowledge economy. Funders recognise the value of wider research dissemination and the associated research data that supports the reports and conclusions in published research. Such free and open access is in the spirit of collaboration and resource sharing.

At institutional level it has been demonstrated that deposit of material in open access institutional repositories by researchers increases citations, further disseminates the research results, enhances the researcher’s reputation, supports future student interest and collaborative partnerships.

At national level, a network of institutional repositories increases the exposure of national research. It will facilitate the development of enhanced searching, analyses of content, storage of data-sets associated with research, statistics generation and research performance measures, using economies of scale. Preservation and migration issues will also be handled at national level, and as the service matures it can be a source of standards and advice.

The proposal addresses the requirement for innovative services to support research output, an increase in which is expected to be a direct result of the expansion and development in postgraduate education and 4th level schools.

This proposal is seen as the first in a series of building blocks, extendible over time to include a range of other content such as theses, digital objects, collaborative digitised data-sets, cultural heritage preservation content. It is a logical extension of the IRel. (Irish Research eLibrary) initiative, funded by SFI and HEA and managed by the IUA Librarians.

...read more on page 2

whats inside...

Creating a global research community
Funding awarded

Is it ready yet?
Key dates for the Postgraduate Research Library

E-Journal Portal
The Irish Joke
The Art of Letters’ Archival Exhibition
Open Day for Schools
continued from page 1...

IREL provides the information infrastructure for Ireland's growing research activity, with institutional repositories facilitating its discovery and utilisation.

The proposal has similar objectives to the DARE project (Holland) and the ARROW project (Australia).

The proposal is for a 3-year funding period. In year one, the focus will be the set-up and population of the local repositories and the technical set-up of the national service. Years two and three will see the development of value-added services.

It is expected that over the three-year period, deposit of research output will become an accepted part of the research cycle, and thus the need for advocacy at local level will decrease, making costs sustainable at local level. The costs of maintaining services at national level will continue but as a shared cost and thus not an undue burden on any one institution.

John FitzGerald, Librarian

Over a 1000 students take a Library Tour

Another successful Introductory Library Tours were held at the start of term. Students who took the tour were entered in a draw for a laptop.

From left Richard Morrisroe, President Student Union drawing the name of the lucky student who won a laptop with Valerie Fletcher, Chair IT Group, Seamus McMahon, Deputy Librarian, User Services, Anita Wilcox IT Group.

Is it ready yet? - Key dates for the Postgraduate Research Library

The Postgraduate Research Library Project is proceeding on schedule and within budget. Consultations with users continue to take place at the Library Users' Committee, the Library Policy Committee, and the Building Project Liaison Group. All of these groups include student representation.

The Boole Library will shut from 5pm on December 15, 2006 until January 2, 2007 to allow for part occupation of the new building and to prepare for the refurbishment of the ground floor of the Boole. Electronic Library services will be unavailable on the weekend of December 16/17 2006.

In March 2007 the main entrance to the Library will relocate from its present position to the new extension. Proximity card access to the Library will be introduced at this stage.

In June 2007 it is expected that the whole of the new and refurbished space will be released to the Library. Steps are being taken to minimize inconvenience to users of the Library during the construction period. Any inconvenience to users is regretted.

Seamus McMahon, Deputy Librarian, UCC.

E-Journal Portal

You can find your e-journal by title or browse by subject, click on electronic resources on the Library webpage:

http://booleweb.ucc.ie/
The Art of Letters’ Archival Exhibition

Texts, e-mail and blogging are just the latest evolution of the old fashioned letter. A recent exhibition however celebrated pen and paper, and the different styles of writing for business and personal communications. Letters, be they chatty missives between friends and family or routine business correspondence form a major part of all archival collections and along with other records help us create an accurate picture of what life was like in times past.

The Boole Library Archives Service, UCC together with the University Archives joined with the Cork City and County Archives in Blackpool to mount an exhibition of letters drawn from their collections. On display were copies of letters illustrating both the type of information found in archival collections, and also the changing format and style of letters, papers and inks.

Originally letters required no envelopes, and individual pages were folded, franked and secured with sealing wax before being posted. Recipients paid on delivery so often weren’t too pleased to see the post arrive! In 1840 Rowland Hill reformed the postal service in Britain and Ireland by introducing postage stamps so that the sender paid for the postage. As the cost of the stamp became based on the weight of the letter enterprising writers often ‘criss crossed’ that is wrote vertically over the existing horizontal lines to pack in as much news as possible.

The exhibition ‘The Art of Letters’ was opened by well known journalist and playwright Declan Hassett on the 6th September last. It was open to the public at the Cork City and County Archives premises on great William O’Brien Street, Cork for the month of September.

The exhibition was run as part of the Society of Archivists annual ‘Archives Awareness Campaign’ in which archival repositories across Ireland mount events to promote public interest in their collections.

For further information on collections housed in the Boole Library Archives Service go to http://boleweb.ucc.ie/search/subject/archives/archives2.htm.

Carol Quinn & Ener Twomey, Archives Service

The Irish Joke

Professor Davies on right being introduced by Professor Des Machale, Mathematics Department

A lecture series on the development of world humour is held annually at UCC, through the endowment of H.J. and Barbara Cummings to University College Cork, in support of the development of world humour and our advancement of our understanding of humour. The most recent lecture, “The Evolution of the Irish Joke”, was delivered by Professor Christie Davies. Professor Davies is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Reading UK having been Professor of Sociology there from 1990 to 2002. Professor Davies is the co-author of Wrongful Imprisonment (1973), author of Permissive Britain (1975), co-editor of Censorship and Obscenity (1978), author of Ethnic Humor Around the World: A Comparative Analysis (1990 and 1997) and of jokes and their Relation to Society (1998) and co-author of The Corporation under Siege (1998). He is also author of The Mirth of Nations (2002) and co-author of Etuniku Joku (2003). His recent book, The Strange Death of Moral Britain (2004) has received wide acclaim. His first book of short stories, Dewi the Dragon has appeared this year. His main research and lecturing interests continue to be in the comparative and historical study of morality and of humour. The Library has a large humour collection that can be accessed via our Library catalogue http://boleweb.ucc.ie

Letter in French from General Lahitte, Toulouse, to George Ryan, expressing his delight at having heard Ryan is coming to France. The letter was folded in on itself with the recipient’s address and sealed with wax. Note the various franks (31 March & 5 April 1836).
Open Day for Schools

Librarians Helen Mulcahy, Olivia Fitzpatrick, & Catherine Clehane busy on the Library stand on Open Day.

The Boole Library participated in another very successful University Open Day. Up to 5000 students, teachers and parents from all over Ireland attended the event. Students could visit the Library stand and talk to Librarians about the range of Library services and facilities on offer to them if they choose to study at UCC. Catherine Clehane, the co-ordinator of the Library stand stated “Staff were kept busy throughout the day with queries from prospective students not all related to library matters! A successful and enjoyable day with many visitors to our stand.”

Recently Appointed Library Staff

Michael Tobin

We welcome Michael to the Library IT team. Michael holds a BSc in Computer Science and an MSc in Multimedia Technology, both from UCC. Previously he worked as an IT Technician for the School of Media in Dublin Institute of Technology. He has also worked in the IT Department in the National College of Ireland and as a part-time tutor in UCC. As part of the Library IT Services team, Michael is responsible for IT Support in the Boole Library, Brookfield Library and the CUH Medical Library.

Contact details: (490) 2253 and michael.tobin@ucc.ie

Elaine Harrington

Elaine Harrington joined the Boole as a Library Assistant over the Summer. She has a MA in English and has previously worked in UCC for the last few years. Elaine is part of the Customer Service team assigned to the Lending Services.

Contact details: (490) 2252 and e.harrington@ucc.ie

Key Contacts

Customer Services
Q Floor (490)2292

Information Desks
General Information Desk
Q Floor (490)2794

Arts & Multimedia
Q+3 Floor (490)2188

Health Sciences
Brookfield Health Sciences Complex
(490)1523

Inter-Library Loans
Q Floor (490)2161

Law
Q+1 Floor (490)3029

Medicine
Cork University Hospital
(Wilton) (490)2976

Official Publications & European Documentation Centre
Q Floor (490)2428

Science, Engineering, Food Science, Medicine
Q+2 Floor (490)2284

Social Sciences
Q+1 Floor (490)2111

Special Collection & Archives
Pouladuff (490)2282

Opening Hours
Michaelmas Term
Monday-Thursday 08.30-21.45
Friday 08.30-20.45
Saturday 10.00-17.45
Hilary Term
Monday-Thursday 08.30-22.15
Friday 08.30-21.15
Saturday 10.00-17.45
Sunday (from March) 10.00-17.45

See http://booleweb.ucc.ie/
Openinghours/openboole.htm
for full details and exceptions

UCC Library UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
Tel +353(0)21 4902281/4902292
Fax +353(0)21 4273428
email LIBRARY@UCC.IE

Editor: Valerie King
vking@ucc.ie
Comments and suggestions
very welcome

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE
(Note we are closing early to facilitate major moves to phase 1 of the new postgraduate library)

Official Christmas Library closure
Friday 15th December 2006 - Monday 1st January 2007

Library Re-opens
Tuesday 2nd January 2007