Irish Research eLibrary: Help To Safeguard Its Future

Established in 2005, the IRel (Irish Research eLibrary) service now provides access to 25,000 electronic journals and a rapidly increasing number of eBooks across the seven universities. It is used intensively by all members of the university community, particularly those engaged in research.

€9 million annual funding is provided by the SFI and the HEA to supplement existing journal subscriptions paid for by the university libraries. In this way, by working as a consortium, the libraries and the two agencies have assembled an eLibrary of the best ranked and most highly regarded journals across a range of disciplines in the sciences and humanities. IRel is the envy of many countries and indeed far exceeds the e-resources provided by many of UCC's benchmarked institutions.

A recent monitoring exercise found that the level of usage of the IRel service entirely justifies the expense and effort invested in its establishment and continuing development. Titles are retained on a strict 'use or lose' basis and there have been very few losses to date.

HEA and SFI funding for IRel has been committed until 2009. The consequences of withdrawing this level of support in 2010 are unthinkable. It is important that those colleagues who feel that the IRel service is worth retaining after 2009 make their views heard by the funding agencies through their professional bodies, associations, national committees, etc.

IRel is managed by the IUA Librarians’ Group, working closely with HEA and SFI. This group will continue to expand and monitor the service, and to lobby for its continuation beyond 2009. However, we need academic and research colleagues in particular to loudly extol the virtues of IRel and emphasise the need for it to survive into the future. You can visit IRel at www.ie.library.ie.

John FitzGerald / LIBRARIAN

A Short Story

Frank O’Connor at UCC - is an exhibition designed by the Library Archives Service to highlight the breadth of O'Connor’s work as a writer and cultural commentator.

Drawing on the archival collections in UCC Library and artefacts loaned by the O’Donovan family for the exhibition, the famous short story writer is revealed as a true ‘man of letters’ with wide ranging cultural interests. O’Connor’s work on Irish translations (a relatively neglected part of his output) features, as does a range of items relating to his first mentor and early teacher, Daniel Corkery.

Of special interest is a showing of Tom Hayes classic film ‘Cradle of Genius’ narrated by O’Connor, which takes a look at the Abbey Theatre after the fire which devastated its premises in 1951. The Archives Service would like to thank UCC Audiovisual Services, Library IT, the University Heritage Office, the Dept of English UCC, the National Library of Ireland, the Irish Film Archive and in particular Dr Hilary Lennon, Prof. Alan Titley and the O’Donovan family for their assistance in devising and presenting this exhibition.

The exhibition was timed to coincide with the 10th Annual Conference on the Short Story held at UCC www.shorthortstoryconference.com and will run throughout the summer. Exhibition opening hours 9.00 - 4.30 Monday to Friday, 10.00 - 12.30 Saturday

Lincoln O Donovan, Frank O’Connor’s daughter addressing the Conference group

For more info, and full opening hours please visit www.boolwebboole.ucc.ie
The new Multimedia area on Q+3 opened for business in February this year. Situated adjacent to the audio-visual collection, Library Users can avail of facilities there to:

- **View DVD, Blu-ray and VHS**
- **Listen to CDs, cassettes and vinyl records**
- **Access audio and visual material from the web to support coursework and research, while also having access to e-learning tools such as Blackboard, and the Library’s electronic resources**

There is a total of twenty one booths, nineteen of which have Sony Bravia TVs and multimedia PCs. Of the nineteen, four have Blu-ray players, six have regular DVD players, while nine have DVD/VHS 'combis'. All Blu-ray and DVD players have HDMI connection for maximum picture quality. The remaining two booths have equipment for listening to older audio formats i.e. cassette and vinyl.

One of the primary functions of the Multimedia area is to support access to the Library's growing film collection, currently consisting of approximately 600 DVDs and 2,500 videos. In addition to the MA programme, film is an important and popular element of undergraduate programmes offered by many departments at UCC.

Aside from students studying modules in film, the Multimedia area should prove popular with students across many disciplines, including music. The Library's collection of music scores is shelved nearby.

Comfort and privacy were seen as key priorities during planning. With this in mind the Multimedia area was situated on the North end of the floor to avoid the distraction of direct sunlight during the day. Nine of the booths are doubles, and all twenty one have height-adjustable seating. Should users require any assistance (or require headphones or remote controls) the Q+3 Information and Research Support desk is close by.
Making Books, Shaping Readers

"Making Books, Shaping Readers" is a research unit within the English Department of UCC. Its aim is "to focus on the materiality of the text, and how the physical appearance of the text shapes and informs both authors and readers". The group's second annual conference took place on 2-4 April, and was accompanied by an exhibition which was on display in the Boole Library. The theme of this year's conference was the role of the editor in selecting and manipulating the text and thus determining the impression a book makes on its readers. The exhibition displayed a wide variety of works from our Special Collections and Archives, chosen with the assistance of Crónán Ó Doibhlin and Julian Walton.

The oldest work that we chose is the collected letters of St Jerome, edited by Erasmus, and printed by Jacques Mareschal at Lyon in 1526. For the forces of the Counter-Reformation, Jerome may have been one of the Fathers of the Church but Erasmus was regarded as a dangerous heretic, and our copy has been extensively censored by officials of the Spanish Inquisition.

The second oldest book in the exhibition is A booke of presidentes [precedents] exactly written in maner of a register, by Thomas Phayer (London, 1546). This tiny legal textbook belonged to succeeding members of the Nicholson family of Kendal, several of whom have emphasised their ownership by inserting forcefully comments in the margins. The first surviving page, for instance, bears the inscription: "I Rolande Nycholese owe this booke whose fyndes it lyeing bringe yt a gayne and I will do as much for yow".

The modern section includes different versions of Cúirt an mhéan Oíche; some fine bindings of the works of W.B. Yeats; Elizabeth Friedlander's beautiful calligraphic designs for Penguin Books; and the first page of a story by William Trevor, both in the author's MS and the text eventually published.

E-LIBRARY PROJECT
Southern Regional Library Committee

The primary aim of the Project is to establish a functioning e-library, using an initial group of 750 titles, and to make these available to licensed users in the HSE South region, the associated Voluntary Sector agencies and selected Primary Care and Community sites in the region. The Project aims to establish a consortium which will negotiate licences for access to a selected list of e-journals, identified by the relevant end-users of the participating organisations. It will commence as a pilot, on a regional basis, but with the potential for scalability to national level, at a later date.

This e-library project will provide the vehicle for delivery of online healthcare information on education, training, research, healthcare management and best clinical practice, to licensed users in the partnership.

The project will commence with the identification of the e-journal needs of all of the participating user groups. These will be costed and all of the associated elements (license, access, technical, organisational, etc.) will then be researched and put in place. The e-library service will need to be ready for delivery by the end of the 6-month life of the project. It will be limited to the Cork region, at first, but will need to take account of the national HSE Libraries Online service/initiative and other such initiatives.

It will be managed by UCC and will involve co-operation with the HSE and the Southern Regional Library Committee.

Rita Pinhasi has been appointed as the e-Project Librarian.

UCC INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

UCC Library is one of the participant members of a 3 year SIF (Structural Innovation Fund) funded project known as the IRel-Open project (www.irel-open.ie). This project is overseeing the development of institutional repositories in each of the seven Irish universities and linking these together through a national portal. According to the managers of the project, the Irish Universities Association Librarians' group, this will ensure that the output of Irish publicly funded research will be made widely available.

An institutional repository (IR) supports the expansion of the open access model of scholarly communication whereby the digital research output of an institution is gathered and stored on a database and made freely available through internet access and retrievable through internet search engines or federated discovery services. Studies have shown that IRs increase the profile and citation impact of an institution's research and can be used to capture grey literature. As a central archive of digital publications, IRs monitor the aggregated materials for continued support in the face of changing technology or alternatively will change the format of the resource to ensure accessibility in the future. The priorities for the development of an IR in UCC will be to assess and select a software platform, to integrate the IR with internal UCC systems, to populate and manage the repository, to promote depositing of publications by researchers and to incorporate the electronic submission of postgraduate theses.
NEW LIBRARY STAFF

BREEDA HERLIHY

Breeda Herlihy has recently re-joined the Boole Library as manager of the institutional repository project at UCC after a three year period managing the library at the National Maritime College of Ireland. Previously, she worked in the Boole Library as a library assistant on the Science, Engineering and pre-Clinical Medicine floor. Breeda has a BSc (Hons) from UCC and a Diploma in Library & Information Studies from UCD. As part of the Special Collections Team, Breeda will be responsible for selecting, establishing and promoting an institutional repository in UCC.

ROBERT O'BRIEN

Robert O'Brien joins the Boole Library as Authority Control Project Officer in the Cataloguing Department. This project will allow users greater access to the library's collections by enhancing the search capacity on the catalogue, making it easier to use and more reliable. Previously, Robert worked in the libraries of Dublin Business School and Cork Institute of Technology. He graduated with MA degrees in English and Philosophy from UCC, and with a Higher Diploma in Library and Information Studies from UCD.

Express Book Returns & Book Sorter
- largest unit in Ireland and UK.

The Library installed the first book sorter in Ireland and largest in the UK in the Summer of 2007. After a full academic year of use, we are pleased to report that this has added considerably to the speedy return of books to the shelves and enhanced the return of books for all Library Users. The Unit works by the Library User returning the book in the front-end wall integrated unit. The book passes through a conveyor belt system, reads the barcode of the book and automatically sorts the books by the selected dewey numbers. The books are sorted on unique ergo stack battery powered trolleys. When the trolley tray is full, a red light alerts Library staff. The trolleys on a push of a button lift to shelf height, thus enabling the Library staff to proceed directly to the book shelves on upper floors to shelve the books.

Since the installation the returns unit sorts up to 1000 items per day.

90% of returns are now made via the book sorter unit. Library Users can use the return unit anytime the building is open.

WB Yeats Lecture Series

Sponsored by ESB International and hosted by UCC, the WB Yeats lecture series has featured such notable international Yeats scholars as Roy Foster, Bernard O'Donoghue and Professor Helen Vendler. The lecture series, an initiative of the Library and the Department of English at UCC, was initiated as the result of a gift of Yeats first editions to the Boole Library in 2003. The large collection was assembled by an Engineering graduate of UCC, Dr Eamonn Cantwell and covers 60 years of the poet's work.

Sixth annual UCC WB Yeats Lecture was delivered by Oxford Academic, Professor John Kelly.

QUADRANGLE READING ROOM NIGHT OWL SERVICE

The Quadrangle Reading Room on Q floor extended its hours in the last term until 2 a.m. The Quadrangle Reading Room has 88 seats, wireless access to the Internet and also supplies power at every seat. Since its late night opening the QRR has proved a very popular service. Up to full capacity every night with no noise or other disturbances. As there is a demand for late night study and research it is hoped to extend the hours of this service in the next Academic year.

For more info. and full opening hours please visit www.boolweb.ucc.ie