Alliances and collaboration for Libraries – the way forward for UCC Library.

RECENT developments in the US University world tell us that strategic alliances are not limited to the Irish University sector. A presentation at the 2010 annual Irish National and University Libraries Conference by the Cornell University Librarian, Anne Kenney, highlighted a ground-breaking cooperative project undertaken between Cornell and another neighboring and top-ranking university, Colombia.

Both institutions have decided to exploit the collective richness of their enviable library resources to create a shared entity. They have committed to a broad integration on a number of fronts, in such areas as cataloguing, e-resource management, collaborative collection development, and digital preservation. Through combined efforts they will be able to fill gaps in the scholarly record that exists because they recognise that their separate institutional resources are insufficient to meet inflationary publisher costs and an expanding scholarly output.

They have initiated a partnership called 2CUL which will see them over the next two years investigating the prerequisites for radical collaboration, including legal, technical, fiduciary, and governance issues that underpin their relationship. Early focus is being placed on the enabling infrastructure, such as a shared back-end cataloguing/acquisitions system, a shared long-term digital archive, fast and reliable book and digital document delivery, a better sense of collection strengths and gaps, and a more refined understanding of user expectations.

When such well-endowed, fiercely competitive and brand-conscious institutions have come to this realisation and embarked on such a joint approach, there is good reason for the Irish University Libraries, operating on a much lower resource base, to adopt a similar approach. This is something that UCC Library will be exploring in the 2010/11 academic year as part of its commitment to improving services through collaboration and cooperation.

Asian studies in the Library

Asian Studies is now firmly established in UCC, with The School of Asian Studies offering courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

As UCC continues to develop links with institutions within Asia, courses are set to expand and provide further opportunities for our students. The Library’s collections will reflect this trend.

This year the Library received approximately 3,000 books through the Confucius Institute. The material, some in English and some in Chinese, covers a wide range of topics related to various aspects of China, Chinese culture and Chinese language learning. The collection consists of textbooks, teaching materials and other resources including audio-visual resources (films, television programmes and language related materials), as well as dictionaries and works on popular subjects relating to China. The material is currently being catalogued and can be viewed on the Library Catalogue under collection “Confucius Institute”. The majority of the material will be shelved on the Q-3 floor.

The Library is also a beneficiary of the ‘Window on Shanghai’ programme. This program was initiated by the Shanghai Library to promote relationships with overseas libraries, and is an integral part of the Chinese government’s programme of subsidising the publication of Chinese books and their donation to libraries abroad. “Window on Shanghai” contains over 500 volumes of Chinese, English and Chinese-English books. The Library will receive a supplement (100-200 volumes) every year. The titles are selected by staff at the School of Asian Studies. These books cover various subject areas such as literature, culture, arts, economy, architecture, religion and history.

In a further development, Professor Graham Parkes (School of Sociology & Philosophy) has secured a library donation from the Japan Foundation. Established in 1972, The Japan Foundation promotes cultural and arts exchange, Japanese language education overseas, and Japanese studies and intellectual exchange. The new material will consist of books on Japanese history, sociology and politics, including €500 worth of DVDs of Japanese films. It’s hoped that the donation will provide a foundation in developing a Japanese Studies collection within the Library.
Understanding our Users

What we are doing to improve the Library services for you?
We surveyed you in April 2010 and asked what was important for you
in a range of services. Outlined below is what you rated as
most important.

Top 5 most important services for Academic staff

- Print and/or electronic journals I require for my work
- Making electronic resources accessible from my home or office
- A library web site enabling me to locate information on my own
- Easy to use access tools that allow me to find things on my own
- Library staff who understand the needs of their users

Top 5 most important services for Postgraduates

- Making electronic resources accessible from my home or office
- A Library web site enabling me to locate information on my own
- Print and/or electronic resources I need for my work
- Easy to use access tools that allow me to find things on my own
- Quiet space for individual work

Top 5 most important services for Undergraduates

- A haven for study, learning and research
- Quiet space for individual work
- Library space that inspires study and learning
- Making electronic services accessible for my work
- Modern equipment that lets me easily access needed information
FOCUS – MUSIC ONLINE

‘Music Online’ is the broadest and most comprehensive online database for streaming music. UCC’s subscription to this resource consists of 3 products: ‘Classical Music Library’, ‘Contemporary World Music’ and ‘Jazz Music Library’. All three can be accessed through the unified ‘Music Online’ interface, or individually via the ‘go to’ menu at the foot of the Music Online home page.

‘Classical Music Library’ is the world’s largest multi-label database of classical music recordings. ‘Contemporary World Music’ delivers the sounds of all regions from every continent, while ‘Jazz Music Library’ is the largest and most comprehensive collection of jazz available online. In all, there are currently over 120,000 tracks in UCC Library’s Music Online package, and the collections continue to grow, with recordings being added weekly.

The database can be accessed through the ‘A-Z Databases’, or through the Music subject portal on the Library website. It is now also possible to access many of the ‘Music Online’ recordings directly through the Library catalogue. For example a keyword search ‘Beethoven’ can be limited to sound recordings by clicking on ‘Modify Search’, and then choosing material Type ‘Sound recordings’. Alternatively you can search ‘Classical Music Library’ or ‘Jazz Music Library’ under ‘Collections’ on the Library catalogue.

Music Online offers numerous options for browsing e.g. browse by album, composer, ensemble, genres, instrument, place, material type etc. There is also an advanced search option. Liner notes are available for many of the albums, and a key feature is the facility to create and store your own playlists. Music Online is also available off-campus with your Library account.

For further details contact: r.madden@ucc.ie

Would you like to be alerted by email to new books received in the Library in your subject area?

Just log into “my” Library Account in the Library Website and click on search catalogue, find author and then save your search. See the instructions for Preferred Searches and email alerts at http://library.ucc.ie/screens/help_prefsearch.html

LIBRARY VAN SERVICE

The Library provides a regular delivery service to our Branch Libraries (Cork University Hospital Library and Boston Scientific Health Sciences Library). We also provide a service to the off-site Library Store. This allows a quick turnaround for requests. The van also provides support to our Library Special Collections and Archives Service by providing transport to various locations in Ireland for pick up of donations and other materials. We have recently upgraded the van – pictured - the Library Operatives team look forward to providing a continued quality support service.
Elisabeth Pettit

Elisabeth joined UCC Library in 1992 and recently retired. Elisabeth is a native Welsh speaker which was invaluable in her work in the Cataloguing Department. Breda Long, Assistant Librarian, Cataloguing said at her retirement function “we will miss Elisabeth not only for her contribution to the work of the Section, but also her co-operation, her sense of balance and above all her sense of humour which can appear most unexpectedly and has made her a valued colleague down through the years.”

Liam Walsh

Liam Walsh retired from the Library in April this year. Liam started his career in UCC in General Services in 1972 and came to work in the Library a few years later. The Library was where Liam found his niche and where he worked for the remainder of his career. Liam’s commitment and dedication to his work, coupled with his naturally gregarious personality, have made him a very popular work colleague. In describing Liam, his work colleagues use words like obliging, reliable, dependable, helpful, and caring. Liam has been a very active member of The Library Social Guild for many years where he helped to organise, plan and at times to act as the guide/host/entertainer on day trips and at Christmas parties. He will continue to help with the Library Guild in the future. His family, colleagues and many friends wished him well in a large gathering at his retirement function.

Kevin Girvin

Kevin recently re-joined the Library Service in March 2010, he previously worked in the Library service during 2005 — 2006. Kevin has a keen interest in History and Research which has led to the publication of his book ‘Sean O’Hegarty, Officer Commanding, Irish Republican Army, War of Independence’. We welcome Kevin back to the Library. He is working with the Departmental Operative Team.

Recent Donations of Collections to the Library

Dr. Vincent Hart, Head of Mathematics (retired) at the University of Queensland Australia, formerly of Cork and UCC, on a recent visit to Ireland, donated materials relating to George Boole. The books donated include early editions of Boole’s A treatise on the calculus of finite differences, and A treatise on differential equations.

The above photo was taken on the occasion of the donation of a collection of books by Mr William Briggs who travelled from England to Cork in late June.

The collection of books was previously owned by his godfather, Dr William F M Fitzgerald, a former UCC graduate. Dr Fitzgerald (or Fitz as he was known) was a native of Cobh, born on 27 July 1915. He graduated in medicine at UCC in 1938 and was appointed to a post at Manchester Royal Infirmary where Mr Briggs’ mother was Night Superintendent. Fitz volunteered for the Royal Navy at the outbreak of WW2 and was eventually called up in 1942 after which, having no home in England, he spent his leave at the home of Mr Briggs’ grandparents in Clitheroe. After service in several navy hospitals, he was posted to the frigate HMS Amethyst and saw active service in the North Atlantic and the Eastern Mediterranean. Towards the end of the war, Fitz was diagnosed with tuberculosis. He was demobbed in 1946 and returned to Cork where he practiced medicine until his death from renal TB in 1953. He had no surviving relatives and therefore left all his possession to Mr. Briggs including a collection of philosophical and religious books which have now been donated to his alma mater.