The University Library of the 21st century plays a variety of roles.

UCC is no exception in this regard and this latest issue of the UCC Library News illustrates the diversity of our mission. While our central role remains to provide access to the information required for learning, research and teaching, UCC Library is also engaged, among other things, in the provision of information skills training to students, the preservation of our regional and national documentary heritage, and the provision of physical facilities for intellectual discovery through silent reading, group work and IT-based learning. We provide a range of services which enhance the value of our collections and ensure that the University's considerable investment in library materials is fully exploited to deliver maximum benefit to every sector of the University Community.

UCC differs from many other university libraries in its strong regional identity as a repository of cultural and historical material relating to Cork and Munster. As a result, we maintain active links with a range of local public, voluntary, and private organisations, many of whose information and preservation requirements we readily support through advice and helpful intervention.

Cooperation and collaboration stretches far beyond these shores in the developing programmes of formal cooperation with European and lately Chinese libraries in support of the international students who come to UCC from these countries. Exciting new linkages with Chinese universities will be reported in the next issue in more detail.

John Fitzgerald
Librarian and Director of Library Services

SCONUL Library Design Award 2010

We are pleased to announce that the Library has been highly commended by the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL) for Library Design.

Extract from the citation……… "New Postgraduate Research Library, University College Cork; This is an extension and remodeling of a 1980's building, creating an extraordinary environment working well for its audience. The building is linked to its environment and to the rest of the campus through the clever use of materials. The atrium has a wonderful sense of light, making an impressive entrance to the building. There is a strong fit to organisational mission and the library is a key element of the University's academic life and provides outreach to the local community. There is a particular emphasis on sustainability in the building."
Conservation of Burges Archive continues in Cork

Despite the recent scaling back of heritage activities around the country, UCC Library has been fortunate in securing €18,000 to undertake essential conservation and restoration work on 4 large format volumes of drawings of the furnishings and interior design of St. Fin Barre’s Cathedral, Cork. The full archive was transferred to UCC for safekeeping earlier this year where Library Archivist, Carol Quinn, had been active for a number of years in co-ordinating the conservation of the collection. The grant offer was made via the Environment Fund 2009, administered by the Architectural Protection Unit, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

WILLIAM BURGES (1827-1881), the architect of St. Fin Barre’s, was born in London, the eldest son of Alfred Burges, a prosperous marine engineer. The young Burges received his education from 1839 at King’s College School, London, where as a contemporary of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, he studied under John Sell Cotman. An earnest exponent of the French Gothic style it was a long held dream of Burges’s both to design and supervise the building of a Cathedral, the building form he felt he could best express his ideas with. Cork gave him that opportunity. In 1863, a group of churchmen in Cork, headed by the Bishop, John Gregg, resolved to replace the existing cathedral by one more worthy of the city and the diocese. There was an open competition to which leading architects submitted plans Burges’ entry was judged the best. Burges was appointed architect; and he supervised the building of the cathedral, through all its stages, down to its completion in 1879. The full archive created by Burges for and during the construction remained in situ in the Cathedral and is a unique resource in terms of both Church of Ireland history but also the history of Victorian design.

Conservation work on the archive, in particular the cartoons for the stained glass windows and mosaics, has been ongoing over the past number of years aided by funding from the Heritage Council and private donations. The project has been undertaken in partnership with the RCB Library and Archives, the Dean and Chapter of St. Fin Barre’s and UCC Library. Conservation work has been carried out exclusively by Paul Curtis of Mucros Bindery, Muckross House, Killarney. Once fully conserved it is hoped to display items from the archive in St. Fin Barre’s and open the full collection for study to students of architecture, art and design.

The Villiers-Stuart Collection

UCC Library has completed the listing of the Villiers-Stuart Collection, Strand 4 (IE/BL/EP/VS). The Villiers-Stuart Collection is the estate, family and political papers of the Fitzgerald, Villiers, Mason, Aland and Villiers-Stuart families of Dromana, Co. Waterford. Viscounts and Earls Grandison and Barons Stuart de Decies.

From February 2011, this previously unlisted material is now fully listed and available for public research. To learn more about the collection and to see the descriptive list, please follow this link: http://boolweb.ucc.ie/
The Salmon of Knowledge – Librarians as Teachers

As the Chinese proverb goes, Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.

The veracity of this maxim has never been more relevant than in our current climate, where information overload is an ever-increasing problem, both in the workplace and in life in general. Further difficulties are being created by the complexities of the myriad communications systems now widely available to all. Instant communication is made possible through the variety of available social media options. Added to that, are the thousands of academic journals and e-books available on the Internet, and even more information freely accessible on websites. Information is being exchanged at rates never before experienced. Yet, paradoxically, information is power, particularly in our knowledge-based economy, hungry for the creation of knowledge.

In our academic environment, it is particularly crucial to acquire the skills to effectively and productively manage information. Becoming Information Literate is the answer. Those who learn to critically select, evaluate and ethically utilise information, will successfully create knowledge and have the potential to become industry and academic leaders, in knowledge management and lifelong learning.

Information Literacy (including e-literacy, etc.) education has become a core activity in academic libraries. Librarians are natural teachers. In the process of helping library users formulate research strategies, identify information sources, apply critical thinking skills, use bibliometrics in publishing and disseminating their research, librarians educate those they assist. Like most good teachers, the librarian’s goal is to show library users how to become as self-sufficient as possible, to ensure that intellectual pursuit and creativity are not frustrated. Thus, librarians are an indispensable asset to all researchers, in their quest for self-directed learning.

In academic environments, it is a natural occurrence not only for librarians to be teachers, but for libraries to serve as gateways for further self-reliance in the exploration of original ideas and to provide opportunities to acquire an Information Literacy Skills set – fundamental to being an independent learner.

To become Information Literate, we invite you to emulate Fionn and taste the Salmon of Knowledge. For full details of the Library’s Teaching and Learning activities you may contact your Subject Librarian at  http://boolweb.ucc.ie/
LIBRARY STAFF RETIREMENTS

Marian Healy

Marian Healy recently retired from a long career in the Library. Marian worked in Technical Services, the Cataloguing Department where she was an invaluable colleague in the team. One of her largest projects was the re-classification of the Life Sciences. Marian undertook this re-classification on her own and came to terms with all those extended numbers bringing facets of subjects together. Marian relished the challenges and enjoyed coming to terms with every new innovation that came along. She became our expert in these areas. She was always willing to help, and her colleagues were regularly heard to say “I don’t know, ask Marian’ Breda Long, Head of Cataloguing recently stated to UCC Library News “We not only miss her professional input, we miss her company also. Her sense of humour, her sense of fun, and her sense of the ridiculous made her a valued companion.” She will be missed not only by her immediate work colleagues but by all her friends and colleagues in the Library. We wish her well in this next chapter of her life and hope she returns to visit us often.

Una Ni Chonghaile

Una Ni Chonghaile, B.Mus, HDE, TEFL, DLIS, began her career in UCC Library in 1977. In the years before the Boole Library was built, Una worked as a Part-Time Library Assistant, in what was known as the Main Library (located in the original 19th century Library). Her full-time career began in 1980/81 when she was appointed to supervise the off-campus Music Library followed by the Branch Library in the Lee Maltings. On the opening of the Boole Library in 1983, Una transferred to Acquisitions and was promoted to Senior Library Assistant in the Social Sciences in 1992. In 1997, Una was seconded, as Assistant Librarian to the South Infirmary / Victoria Hospital to develop a library service there. On her return she worked as Science Librarian in the Boole Library and more recently as Hospital Librarian at CUH, Wilton, from whence she has now taken early retirement. Margot Conrick, Head of Information Services said to UCC Library News “On a personal note, we will miss Una’s vibrancy and effervescence, her energy and enthusiasm for work which were the hall marks of her career. Her dedication to her work set a high standard and was always tempered with a quick sense of humour. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours.”

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS make up a large cohort of UCC students currently. The Library is keen to develop Library services that will support not only their Academic work but to enhance their experience at UCC. For some years our Subject & Research Librarians have provided, an introduction to the Library followed by a tour. To develop these first steps approach we now have provided a web portal for International students at http://booleweb.uc.ie/

This site brings together key information from “How to get started” “Research support” “to more specific information”. We know that some students during the first week of arriving in this country miss familiar things. In this context we have compiled a list of library staff who speak languages spoken by our international students. These staff will be happy to chat if they need to about Library matters. We aim to enrich this portal throughout the year.

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.uc.ie/screens/help_prefsearch.html

UCC LIBRARY SOCIAL MEDIA SERVICES

We have embraced social media as this reflects the change in how some of our users wish to communicate. It allows you as the Library User to stay in touch with us wherever you go.

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