The completion of the new Postgraduate Research Library, including the refurbishment of the Boole Library, is a very significant achievement for the University. This issue of the UCC Library News is about this development, providing some information about various elements of the project and about the new space itself.

I want to take this opportunity thank all of the people who were involved in this project and in making it a success. Many people, including various service departments in UCC, particularly the Office of Buildings & Estates, as well as the student body and the academic community, all soldiered with us through a challenging two years as we blasted and drilled and hammered our way to the wonderful new space that is there today. Every last member of Library staff has been involved in some way in planning for and indeed commissioning the new space. We have moved collections and services, occupied temporary offices, endured noise and disruption, while at the same time ensuring that services to readers were maintained and students in particular were provided with access to collections and library services when they needed them.

Among the notable features of the project have been the detailed level of planning involved; the degree of attention paid to minimising disruption to services; the high level of liaison and communication with user groups; and the close and highly effective involvement of senior staff in the Library and Office of Buildings & Estates in all stages of the project. We have been fortunate in having an excellent main contractor and world-class architectural team as part of a very efficient project team.

The end result is a library of which I hope everybody associated with the University can be proud, and a space which will serve the information needs of the University and the region for some time to come.

John FitzGerald / LIBARIAN
The completion of the Postgraduate Research Library Project sees the opening up of new and expanded Library services including:

Bookable research rooms for collaborative study. This facility supports project based assignments and is in recognition of the fact that students learn from each other.

A research skills training room and a seminar room to support the teaching of information literacy and information skills.

New reading rooms with all reader places wired for power and data. These will facilitate laptop use.

Wireless technology is now available across the Library.

The introduction of a mechanical booksorter for the return of books. This will cut down on manual handling tasks for staff as well as expedite the return of books to the shelves.

An increase in the number of self issue machines. This self-service has proven to be very popular since its introduction.

The setting up of an open reserve using RFID technology which has the effect of making books on demand available for longer hours.

An expanded copying room on Q floor which will see the end of queues.

An exhibition area on the ground floor.

A new multi-media area on Q+3 including new equipment and new furniture. This will comprise of a physical area on Q+3 where students will be able to access AV and multi-media materials in a variety of formats both traditional and digital. This enhances library security with benefits for everyone.

The creation of a news commons area with casual seating at the entrance to the Library. This will include a place to browse a large range of newspapers. The casual seating layout is conducive to the use of laptops.

The completion of a large purpose built Special Collections closed access storage area with appropriate security and environmental controls.

The opening of two new specialist reading rooms for Special Collections & Archives with associated facilities to support the care of rare books and archives.

The creation of an identifiable Law reading room.

The introduction of proximity access at the entrance to the Library.

Digital signage to provide the flexibility to keep information to students updated.

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**THE LIBRARY BUILDING LIAISON GROUP**

The Library Building Liaison Group were a team of Library, Academic, Student representatives and Project Engineers who met on a regular basis over a two year period monitoring the progress and development of all elements of the project. This Group was invaluable for cross communication and troubleshooting issues that emerged during this period.

For more info and full opening hours please visit [www.booleweb.ucc.ie](http://www.booleweb.ucc.ie)