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Guidelines For Contributors

An Leabharlann: The Irish Library publishes articles on libraries, librarianship and related topics of interest to the library and information community on the island of Ireland. The Editorial Board invites original, unpublished articles for publication. Articles should be between **1,500** and **3,000** words. Occasionally, longer articles may be published.

Articles

- Manuscripts will be reviewed by the Editorial Board.
- Authors are asked to submit an informative abstract of not more than 200 words. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of statements and references in their articles.
- Images which visually support the article are welcomed. Authors should also submit a photograph of themselves. Original photographs and/or high-resolution scans (300 dpi) would be most helpful.

Format

- Manuscripts should be submitted by email attachment or on disc as Rich Text File (RTF). Text should be formatted in Times New Roman 12 pt., double-spaced, with margins of 2.54cm (i.e. standard A4 margins). Formatting of text (e.g. italics and bold) should be kept to a minimum.
- Authors should provide their name, organization, position and the title of the article at the top of the first page. If the article was presented at a conference, details of the sponsoring organization, the date and title of the conference should be given.

- Book reviews should include the full title, author or editor, publication details and price.
- Conference reports should include details such as the sponsoring organization, the date, place and title of the conference.

Style

- Microsoft Word and other word processing programs allow for a language to be selected. Please ensure that the language selected is either UK or Ireland English (i.e. NOT United States English).
- The Oxford Style Manual should be followed for acronyms, capitalization, captions, punctuation, quotations and tables.
- *An Leabharlann: The Irish Library* uses the Harvard system for references.

Editing

- *An Leabharlann: The Irish Library* reserves the right to make revisions and amendments.
- Substantive changes to articles will be discussed with the author. For consistency, all material submitted will be copy-edited.
- For additional information on style and referencing, please consult: Ritter, R.M. (Ed.). (2003) The Oxford Style Manual. Oxford: OUP

Copy Deadlines

- 31 July 2019 for October 2019 issue
- 31 December 2019 for March 2020 issue

Editorial

Editorial, Vol 28 (1), March 2019

Media Literacy Ireland(MLI) takes place this week with the support of various organisations including the Library Association of Ireland. Details are available in the News from the Stacks section.

The spread of articles in this issue ranges from exhibitions to prisoners' information needs to emergency preparedness.

Two articles consider how library resources can be utilised and promoted. In his article *Best on Show*, Shane Mawe considers exhibitions as a means of exploiting collections. The evolution of exhibitions from static displays to mixed -media to digital, using the available technology is described. All aspects of exhibitions are considered from identification of a target audience to the importance of promotion and publicity. Exhibitions today must include social media. Partners can be crucial to a successful exhibition- this is mentioned in the TCD article and also the Ogoni article. The latter is now involved in the making of a film about the events in the Niger Delta. Both articles show the importance of collaboration and capitalisation of resources. Exhibitions help to spread the reach of collections.

Trinity College Dublin Library addresses the issue of added value by having temporary exhibitions which may prove to be a gateway to other areas of interest. All library types need to remember their audience - and prospective audiences - when planning exhibitions.

Loretta Rose has written an interesting article on emergency preparedness in Irish public libraries. Much of the current emergency planning dates from August 1980 when the Buttevant Rail Disaster occurred. The author gives international examples of where public libraries have helped during an emergency. She also describes the current Irish system for handling emergencies. Last year, during the Beast from the East most public libraries kept citizens supplied with up-to-date information through social media. Future roles for public libraries are also considered. Coincidentally, the current issue of *IFLA Journal* is a special issue on libraries in times of crisis https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/publications/ifla-journal/ifla-journal-45-1_2019.pdf. While dealing with political and social events, the contents are informative.

Literacy is covered in the Public Libraries' Conference 2018 report. It is noted that one of the strategic programmes of *Public Libraries 2022* is Reading and Literacy. Anne Marie McInerney's report on prisoners' information needs highlights the low levels of literacy among the prison population. This is a problem exacerbated in many cases by the lack of staff and resources. Given that the public service staff embargo has been lifted, local authorities who have prisons in their area should now address these problems. As a country we aim to be inclusive, yet we would appear to be failing a marginalised section of the community. The author notes the lack of scholarly research in Ireland on the topic of prison libraries. Perhaps, this is a topic that LIS departments in third-level institutions on the island might address.

The Internet Librarian International Conference report notes that the importance of research data management was a recurrent theme. Its value to digital scholars was also considered. One of the speakers at the CONUL Conference addressed the topic of redundant and inefficient library operations. All staff need to be flexible and embrace change.

Good news for public library users is the removal of fines on overdue items from 1st January 2019. It will be some time before any analysis can be made of any library returns after many years. More importantly, it suggests that libraries are welcoming places and, perhaps, membership numbers will increase.

All CPD resources and forthcoming conferences are included in the News from the Stacks. It should be noted that two of these will be held in Dublin: EBLIDA/NAPLE and LIBER.

Finally, an historic event in Irish LIS history took place in Dublin recently. The inaugural meeting of the IFLA Special Interest Group(SIG) on Library Publishing was held at Dublin Business School, 29th February and 1st March. A conference report will appear in the next issue.

Marjory Sliney, Editor, editor@libraryassociation.ie

Best on show:
Exhibitions in the Long Room of the Old Library of Trinity College Dublin

Shane Mawe

Abstract

This article concentrates on exhibitions mounted in the Long Room of the Old Library of Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin, and how they have evolved from simple displays to mixed-media projects incorporating online content and thus reaching levels of engagement beyond the walls of the historic building.

Keywords: *Exhibitions, Trinity College Dublin*
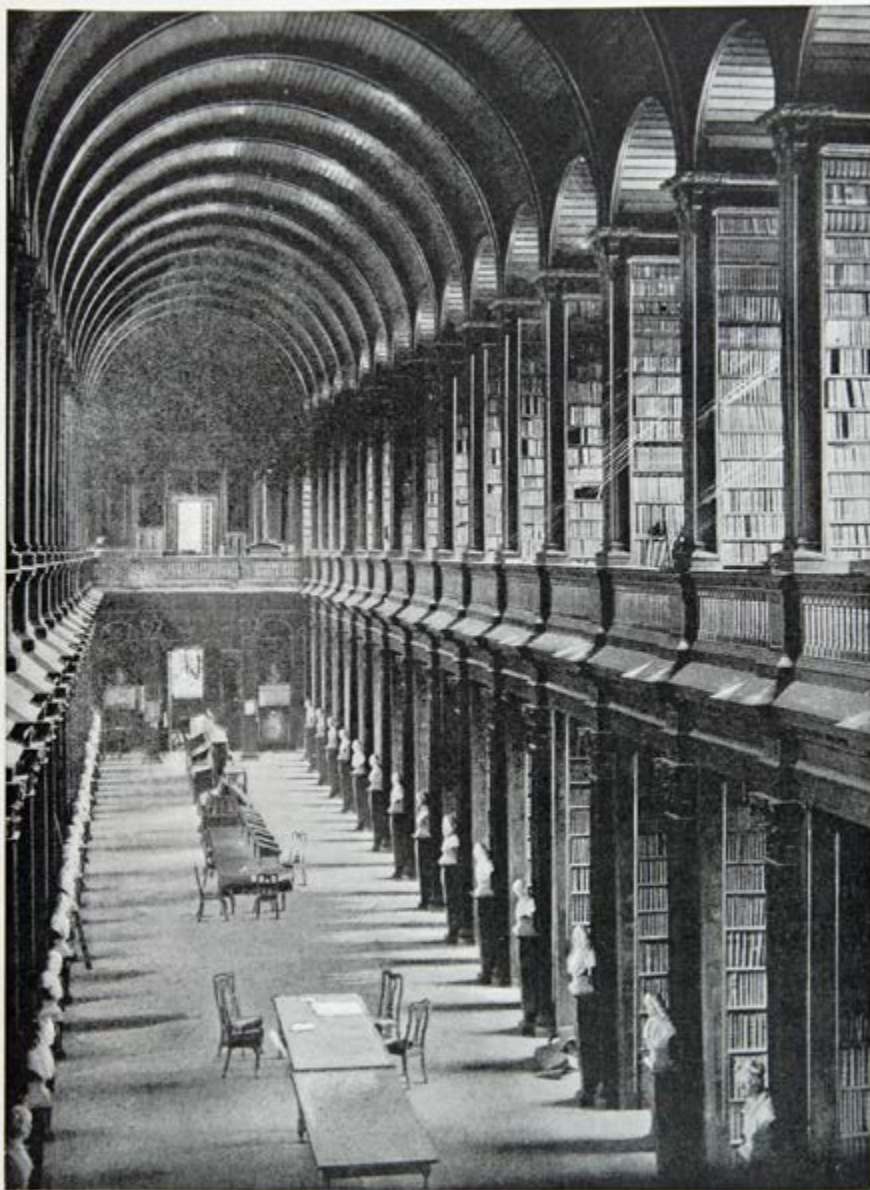
The Long Room, 1860.

Introduction

What do the following items have in common? A skeleton of an 18th century Tipperary giant, a bullet which penetrated the roof of the Library of Trinity College Dublin, the only known surviving letter from Oscar Wilde to either of his children and a Blickensderfer typewriter bought by John Millington Synge in 1900. Answer, they all been on display in various exhibitions[1] curated in Trinity's Old Library since the 1990s. Rather morbidly, you can also add the death masks of Jonathan Swift, Edmund Burke and Wolfe Tone to this eclectic list!

The Library is home to enormously diverse collections, from 13th-century BC papyri, through works such as the early medieval *Book of Kells*, to unique digital archival material dating from the present day. The potential to engage with the collections housed in the Old Library's Long Room is almost infinite, yet the building is in the highly unusual position of being both a working academic research library and one of Ireland's most popular visitor attractions – which makes the identification of a target audience a challenge[2].

The era of displaying visually strong exhibits from under glass for the admiration of visitors is pretty much a relic of the past. Exhibitions today incorporate physical and digital content, multi-dimensional design with interactive features and are wide-ranging in their subject matter. Exhibitions are also bolstered by the digital promotion of the work via numerous social media channels. Successful presentations generally rely heavily on co-operation between various library departments and indeed, in many cases a positive relationship with similar organisations willing to lend their holdings. As far back as 2000, curators decided to look beyond the display cases in the Long Room in an effort to expand the exhibition footprint. An increased

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1   For a list of Long Room/Old Library exhibitions see: Mawe, S. *'Would you look at that!' : a chronological list of library exhibitions* in W.E. Vaughan (2012) 'The Old Library, Trinity College Dublin, 1712-2012' Dublin: Four Courts Press, p.389-397.

2   Over 1 million people (including 388,770 from America and 23,000 from China) visited the Library in 2018, ostensibly to visit the *Book of Kells*, and the Long Room but the library, as part of its engagement and expansion mission, also presented these visitors with a series of temporary exhibitions, drawn from our vast collections.

budget enabled curators to broaden the visual appeal with the addition of large exhibition hangings and the installation of pop-up banners. Advancements in multi-media technology were also utilised in an attempt to widen the scope of exhibits[3].

Library exhibitions: Then and now

Exhibitions in the Long Room have evolved from a 'show the treasures and they will come' method to one which harnesses the technological benefits of today. It is true to say that the mainstay of the original Long Room temporary displays – that of the glass cases in the centre of the room – remains the main platform used to mount exhibitions.[4] [5] Since at least the mid-19th century staff in the Library have had the pleasure of selecting and displaying items from collections rich in printed and manuscript holdings. College muniments[6] record a Board visit to the Long Room in 1843 which notes a copy of Sallust, *Opera* (Lyon, 1523) complete with Mary Queen of Scots' signature on view[7]. Evidence of further 'glass case' exhibits can be seen in our local library catalogue where the manuscript inscription 'GC' is marked alongside works which were deemed suitable for display. The 1880s saw the *Book of Kells* and other manuscripts get the glass-case treatment[8].

Permanent Book of Kells exhibitions (*The Book of Kells: picturing the word*, and more recently *Turning Darkness into Light*) have since taken over the part of

3   Digital screens were installed for 1997's 'The Great War revisited' Long Room exhibition showing newsreel footage of events relating to Ireland during the conflict.
4   This article chiefly concentrates on temporary exhibitions in the Long Room, Trinity College Dublin. Permanent display items in the room include the Brian Boru Harp, a copy of the 1916 Easter Proclamation and an impressive collection of marble busts on the north and south side of the room.
5   The benefit of a generous donation of new display cases in the 1980s by Guinness Mahon is still being felt in 2018
6   Reference: MUN/V/5/8 from the College Archives housed in the Library's Manuscripts and Archives.
7   The work was on display up until at least 1849 when it was shown to Queen Victoria on her occasion to visit the College. Evidence now suggests that the signature and annotations are not that of Mary Queen of Scots.
8   Along with *Kells*, the bulging case held the Books of Dimma, Mulling and Armagh, A Qur'an and a selection of printed books.

Long Room exhibition cases

the ground floor of the Old Library and continue to make an important contribution to the overall visitor experience. Their existence has afforded Research Collections staff the opportunity to broaden the themes of temporary Long Room exhibitions beyond *Kells*, safe in the knowledge that our visitors' desire to study the vellum manuscript written, in c.800 AD, is catered for.

April 2012 saw the Old Library awarded full accreditation status under the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI)[9]. The programme's suite of workshops allowed us to gain valuable information relating to the display of items and visitor care and access. The assessment of our role as curators included our approach to conservation and security of exhibits, recording the movement of material, signage and labelling etc.[10]

Internal and external partners

The Library's recently established Exhibitions Operational Group overseas the Long Room exhibition programme. Its members are drawn from departments with a direct connection to the Old Library and whose remit includes:

- To formalise and synchronise the exhibition schedule across all spaces (physical and online)
- To formalise the criteria for exhibitions, e.g. academic, philanthropic, etc.
- To coordinate logistics of the schedule, including conservation, digitisation, promotion and publicity
- To address operational issues with equipment, keys, etc.

For online displays we are partnered with the Google Cultural Institute who host our exhibitions on their Arts & Culture platform[11]. We also liaise with the College's Long Room Hub – Trinity's Arts and Humanities Research Institute

Rupert Everett, curator Caoimhe Ní Ghormáin and Senator David Norris at the launch of 'From Decadence to Despair' October 2017.

– for promotional opportunities and to coordinate exhibitions around College research events**.**

The Library receives sporadic requests to loan items for display from institutions both in Ireland and abroad. In its history, the *Book of Kells* has visited the Royal Academy of Arts, London (1961) as part of a fundraising campaign for a new library; the late 1970s saw it tour various American venues and in February 2000 it journeyed to the National Gallery in Canberra, Australia. Closer to home *The Book of Durrow* was loaned to the British Library in 2018/19 for their successful exhibition *Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War.*

Themes

The Library has been graced with the presence of dignitaries, stars from the world of entertainment and citizens from just about every country in the

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9   Fifty-eight museum sites are in the programme which recognises professional standards in Ireland's museums and galleries. For more information, see https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/museum-standards-programme-for-ireland
10 The library was reassessed successfully in October 2015.
11 View our 21 online stories at https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/trinity-college-dublin-library

world. Exhibition curators are conscious that all these people have one thing very much in common - they invest time viewing our displays.

Exhibitions in the Long Room have varied in size, ambition, format and themes both broad and niche. The room has hosted small exhibitions such as that in 1983/84 celebrating Sir Charles Parsons' invention of the steam turbine as well as large scale exhibitions like 1997's *A Bohemian Refuge: Irish students in Prague in the eighteenth century* (which was accompanied by a published catalogue). [12]

The merits of any proposed exhibition is discussed by the Exhibitions Operational Group with input from the Events and Communications Committee. Regardless of its size, the proposed exhibition should strive to:

- Enhance the visitor experience to the Old Library. Visitors should exit the building with a positive impression of their visit.
- Showcase the Library and/or its rich collections.
- Advance collaborative research with Trinity staff or students.
- Advance the Library's philanthropic agenda.
- Provide a mechanism for further capitalisation (through workshops, symposia, visits from dignitaries, etc.).
- Advance its curators' research profile and professional experience.
- Showcase recent/future collection development and/or our 21st-century collections.
- Demonstrate collaborations with groups with whom the Library hasn't traditionally partnered.

From inception to installation

Planning an exhibition requires a major commitment from many Departments in the Library. Generally, a display will need a minimum of six months planning before its launch. Each item from a long list of potential exhibits will

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12 Trinity College (Dublin, Ireland). Library. *A Bohemian refuge: Irish students in Prague in the eighteenth century*, Dublin, 1997.

initially be assessed by Department of Preservation & Conservation for its suitability for display. Any online element to the project will require the services of staff in Digital Collections to image the material well in advance of launch date and that of our Web Librarian to liaise with our partners in the Google Cultural Institute.[13] This backing, support and input is absolutely essential for an exhibition to be a success.

Promotion

As with any Library-related events, exhibitions benefit enormously from publicity. Posters and press releases will certainly help raise the profile and can prove effective even on a modest budget. The Library is fortunate to work in conjunction with the College's Communications Department in formulating and distributing our media releases. Curators also have the opportunity to independently promote the work using social media channels. For promotional (and archival) opportunities it is essential to photograph the installation process and these 'behind the scenes' images can prove popular with the public. For larger exhibitions or projects, it may suit to create a dedicated social media account. For our *Changed Utterly: Ireland and the Easter Rising* project – which incorporated a Long Room exhibition in 2016 - we created the @TCDLib1916 Twitter account which proved invaluable as a promotional tool. One of our more popular tweets, with c.8,000 views was a 'exhibition installation' photograph - a cheap but very effective method to promote the project and the exhibition.

Evaluation

This year as part of the College's investment and commitment[14] to improve the visitor experience on the campus, it funded a trial of text panels and digital interactive screens in the Long Room to inform our visitors of the

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13 Founded in 2011 the Google Cultural Institute partners with organisations with the aim of sharing cultural collections freely online. For more information see https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/about/partners/
14 Regular visitors to the College may have noticed the recently completed Trinity Visitor Experience (Trailhead Projects at Nassau St. and Regent House) which improved access to the campus for staff, students and visitors.

library's rich history. Working with our design partners in the Netherlands we can now evaluate from the stored data on the digital screens what aspects of the Library's history proved most popular, and tailor future displays around the actual and not perceived interest of our visitors. We also went 'old school' and canvassed 100 visitors in 2018 about their 'Long Room' experience. This feedback together with the online data will help guide staff in improving the overall visitor experience of which exhibitions continue to play an important role. The upcoming summer exhibition highlighting our collection of 18th and 19th-century political cartoons is being treated as a benchmarking mechanism to better understand audiences and the impact of contact with special collections material. The curators aim to develop an audience impact plan, and will be conducting, for the first time, a research-led survey of visitors, to assist with future exhibition and public engagement planning.

Conclusion

As the format of exhibitions continue to evolve it is encouraging as a librarian, to experience the strong public demand to view our holdings in the setting of the Long Room. Interest in the printed/written word and illustration continues in this Digital Age as library exhibitions captivate audiences on a worldwide scale. This new age also brings opportunities and in our ever changing society there is an onus on libraries to harness new technology and think beyond the 'glass case' display. Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) are two such developments that may help this library achieve its social manifesto to develop community places that reflect different and changing styles of learning, teaching and research.

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• Vaughan, W.E. (2012) *The Old Library, Trinity College Dublin, 1712-2012*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.

Irish Public Libraries Participation in Emergency Preparedness, Management, and Response[1]

Loretta Rose

Abstract

The emergency management framework in the Republic of Ireland is outlined. Recent international examples of public libraries' responses are discussed. Current roles and challenges for libraries are analysed. The potential of Irish public libraries using existing structures is considered.

Keywords: *Emergency Response, Public Libraries, Ireland*

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1   Based on the author's MLIS Capstone report, 'Public Libraries' Participation in Emergency Response and Management: A Study of Current Structures in the Greater Dublin Area', (2011), University College Dublin.

Introduction

Since 1900 world temperatures have steadily increased,[2] contributing to severe weather conditions and intense storms across the country. By law Irish public libraries are required to have emergency management plans. In recent years there has been a growing body of international literature dealing with public libraries' participation in *external* emergency management, supporting community resilience, protecting people and property, managing economic consequences, and insuring business continuity. This report examines the research within the context of Irish public libraries and the national Emergency Management Framework.
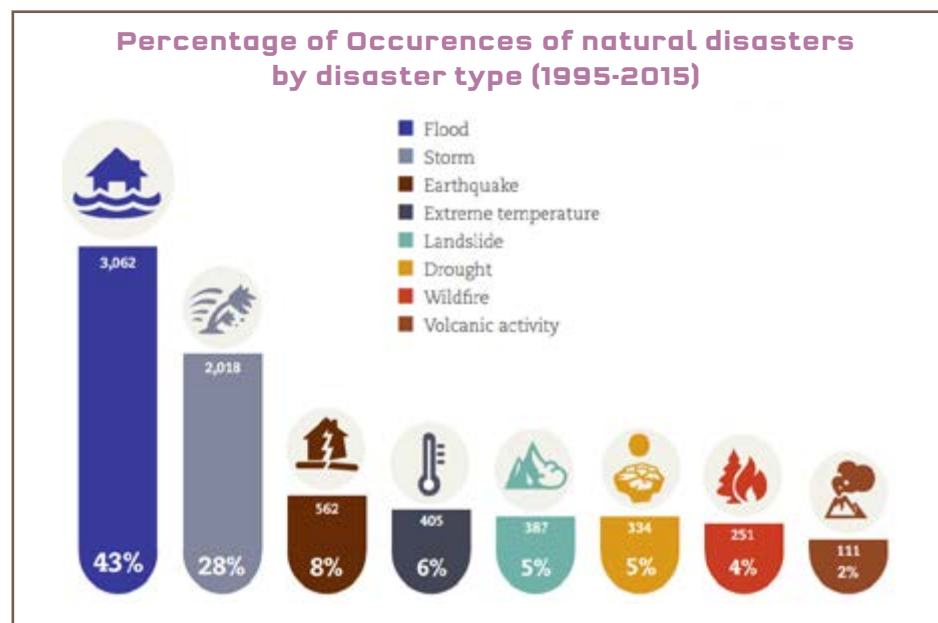
Globally, the summer of 2018 was so hot even the outer ring of the Arctic circle went on fire.[3] In Ireland, there is a gap in public perception between what types of emergency and disaster events are likely to occur, and what types do. According to McMullan, Brown, and Largey, people think the most likely disasters in Ireland are storms, disruption to energy supply, and low temperatures; the least likely are: drought, domestic radiation, and terrorism. Their 2015 study on community resilience in Ireland also found 45% of respondents have not taken any action to protect themselves or their homes for any emergency, and only 1.5% thought they were prepared for a drought. 41% admitted they did not really know what to do.[4]

Although droughts are not covered in the national Emergency Management Framework, Climate Ireland predicts surface air temperatures will continue to increase everywhere and across all seasons.[5] The Environmental Protection Agency reports that between 2000-2009 Ireland experienced twice as many record highs as lows, with 8 out of the top 10 warmest years occurring since 1998. In 2018 many areas experienced the driest weather in more than 20 years – third in all-time ranking, and Irish fire-fighters attended 2,257 bog, gorse, grass and forest fires in June and July alone, indicating a yearly increase expected to exceed the 2000-2016 annual average of 3,400.

There can be a variance: instead of drought and fires in the east and west; the north and south of the country are experiencing increased rainfall and flooding. The National Adaption Framework, Ireland's first statutory policy document combating climate change, estimates by 2050 there will be a six-fold increase in flooding in Ireland, with an estimated cost of €1.5 billion per year. Other consequences of severe weather include high winds, and soil and coastal erosion, loss of life and property, and a negative impact on local economies. Industries affected include the film industry, tourism, and insurance, causing some parts of the country to be uninsurable.

The World Economic Forum[6]

Percentage of Occurences of natural disasters by disaster type (1995-2015)

Flood — 3,062 — 43%
Storm — 2,018 — 28%
Earthquake — 562 — 8%
Extreme temperature — 405 — 6%
Landslide — 387 — 5%
Drought — 334 — 5%
Wildfire — 251 — 4%
Volcanic activity — 111 — 2%

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2   www.met.ie
3   Umair, I., (2018) 'Wildfires have ignited inside the Arctic Circle', Available at: https://www.vox.com/2018/7/24/17607722/wildfires-greece-sweden-arctic-circle-heat-wave http://www.eani.org.uk/ (Accessed: 09 October 2018)
4   McMullan, C., Brown, G.D., and Largey, A. (2015). Risk & Preparedness: An Individual and Household Perspective. In: Major Emergency Management National Conference. Athlone, Ireland.
5   Climateireland.ie Accessed: 03 March 2019

6   https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/which-natural-disasters-hit-most-frequently/

International examples of Public Libraries contributing to Emergency Management

In the UK the role of the public library network in the emergency management cycle has been characterised as 'Britain's fourth emergency service'.[7] For example, Hungerford community Librarian, Sue Broughton won several awards for her work, following the 1987 Hungerford shootings, when a gunman went on a rampage, killing 16 people and wounding 14 others. Broughton went on to advise and collect material from other civil disasters such as the sinking of the *MS Herald of Free Enterprise*, the Bradford and 1987 Kings Cross fires,[8] as well as resources aimed at issues of bereavement and counselling through relevant organisations such as CRUSE (bereavement care charity).[9]

Appropriate resources were built up by liaising with Berkshire Social Services Department, the Herald Assistance Unit in Dover, and the medical librarian at Bradford Royal Infirmary. The library also played a role by becoming a "crisis centre" and 'go-to-place' for the community immediately after the tragedy. Broughton (1989), writing in the *Public Library Journal*, also relates while press demands for information quickly decreased, enquiries from the general public and the Hungerford community continued for many months.

In New York City, after the 9/11 Twin Towers and Pentagon attacks, the New York Public Library compiled a bibliographic resource aimed at writers, journalists, and even children covering topics such as Islam, Al Qaeda, the Middle East, Osama Bin Laden, and religious fundamentalism.[10] It also provided information on how to donate money to legitimately vetted charity funds and issued warnings about fraudulent donation schemes.

After the earthquake in Haiti (2010), local libraries started the "Emergency

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7   Greenhalgh,Worpole, K. with Landry, C. (1995). *Libraries in a world of Cultural Change*. London: UCL Press.
8   Broughton, S. (1989). Crisis aftermath: a role for the public library? *Public Library Journal*, 4(4), p.85-89.
9   https://www.cruse.org.uk
10 https://www.nypl.org/blog/2010/09/11/9-11-01-materials-available-nypl

Access Initiative", providing health care and medical information that delivered full-text access to key biomedical and scientific journals suggested by the Centre for Disease Control and the World Health Organization.[11]

Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans (2005) highlighted the potential roles public libraries could play in emergency management when public libraries again became the safe, "go-to-place" before and after an emergency, by providing physical space and computers. Local public libraries experienced only a 1% decrease in footfall, even though 35% of libraries were unable to open. In some areas, public libraries were the only structures that had electricity and computers open to the public.

During post-recovery efforts public libraries provided information services and access to computers to complete Federal Emergency Management Agency(FEMA) forms, establish whereabouts of friends, relatives, neighbours and pets, and locate aerial photos of flood progression in effected neighbourhoods. In some libraries, emergency accommodation was provided for evacuees because conveyance to official evacuee centres became impossible due to the collapse of transportation infrastructures.[12]

Communication links are crucial to the efficient managing of disasters**.** Hurricane Katrina also highlighted the complex informational environments and increased informational needs required during disasters, especially *how* information is communicated. For example, in the aftermath the biggest communication problem was that New Orleans and neighbouring parishes used different equipment and frequencies, so they were unable to talk to each other; helicopter crews could not talk to rescuers in boats, and in Mississippi the National Guard had to use human couriers to carry messages.

The "communications disaster" of the 2006 Sumatra-Andaman tsunami and earthquake also emphasised some of these issues, such as insufficient warnings sent out too late because the people who understood what was happening and could see the storm coming had no method to alert relevant authorities, "they literally did not have their phone numbers". (p. 312)[13] Fortunately just one day after the storm mobile networks were up and running again and social media and mobile applications became the dominant forms of communication for first responders and survivors. Lessons learned from these scenarios are contributing to upgrades in technologies for many countries and creating new structures and plans for emergency

11 Zook, M., Graham, M., Shelton, T., & Gorman, S. (2010). Volunteered geographic information and crowdsourcing disaster relief: A case study of the Haitian earthquake. *World Medical & Health Policy*. 2(2): 7-33. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2202/1948-4682.1069

12 Dickerson, L. (2007). Capatalising on a disaster to create quality services: some lessons

from Hurricane Katrina. *Public Library Quarterly*, 26(1), 101-115.

13 http://www.itu.int/ITUD/asp/Events/EmergencyTelecomWorkshops/SriLanka_Workshop/Presentation/3%29%20Disaster%20Management%20Centre%20%5BDMC%5D.pdf

response communities and authorities across the world (School Safety Summit, 2011; Vasek, 2011; Wijesooriya, 2006).[14]

Irish Context – Background

In 2001 the Irish Government established the Office of Emergency Planning (OEP) which operates under the aegis of the Department of Defence and provides advice and support to the Government. This Office identifies other likely disasters: chemical spills, accidents at sea, transport accidents, major pollutants at sea, bomb explosions, and nuclear incidents.

Development of emergency management in Ireland began in 1974, within the health sector, when the then Southern Health Board produced the first major accident plan, with other health boards soon following. In 1980, after the Buttevant Rail Disaster, the Department of Health convened a conference focusing on the responses to the incident. Topics included major accidents, specifically communications issues. This led to the Department of Health issuing extensive guidelines for major accident plans in 1981, with the Minister for the Environment requesting all local authorities to prepare emergency plans in accordance with those guidelines.

The first Framework for Co-ordinated Response to Major Emergency (1984) specifically focused on establishing responsibilities. For the next twenty-two years this document provided the guidance framework for a co-ordinated response to major emergencies in Ireland.

Government Task Force on Emergency Planning – through policy and direction co-ordinates and oversees the emergency planning activities of all government departments.

National Emergency Co-ordination Centre (NECC) opened in Dublin in 2007 and it is managed by the Office of Emergency Planning - available to respond 24/7. It is not manned fulltime but is opened and made fully operational when a major emergency occurs. The Centre has full audio and video conferencing facilities, with data and voice links between the Centre and all main Government departments.

The current Framework for Emergency Management (2006) was produced by an inter-agency review working group, chaired and supported by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG). It was approved by a government decision and adopted in September 2008. It defines the country's approach to emergency management, outlines the principal agencies, and sets out mechanisms for linking the Principal Response Agencies (PRA).

The three PRAs for emergency and disaster management in Ireland are: local authorities, An Garda Siochána, and the Health Services Executive. Local authorities are the specific lead agency during instances of severe weather initiated by warning agencies such as Public Service Severe Weather Warnings from Met Eireann, the IceCast Road Weather Information System (RWIS), and the River and Coastal Flood Warning Systems.

Using a Systems Approach, the framework is constructed around five stages involving a continuous cycle of activity:

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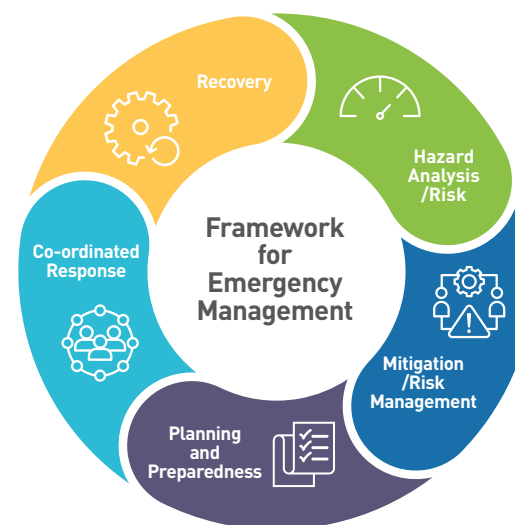
14 Vasek, L. (2011), Emergency services seek broadband access for disasters', *The Australian*. Available at: http://www.theaustrailian.com.au/news/nation/emergency-service seek-broadband-access-for-disasters/story=e6frg6nf-1226002443592

What can libraries do?

The official government structures for dealing with emergencies have been described above. Apart from practical help, public libraries can assist in the aftermath of disasters through bibliotherapy and collection and preservation. Bibliotherapy is especially useful for people with mental health issues. This was used to assist in dealing with the psychological impact of disasters on children in Haiti (2010). Local libraries created a bibliotherapy programme with the International Board on Books for Young people *(IBBY Appeal for Haiti, 2010) - advocating for "the healing power of storytelling and books".*[15]

In the aftermath of disasters Irish public libraries have also provided collection and preservation services. Following the Omagh bombing in 1998 the Western Education and Library Board (now LibrariesNI) in partnership with the Health Trust and District Council, established the Omagh Bomb Community Archive which houses world-wide media material on the Omagh Bombing such as newspaper coverage, books of condolences, and photos. [16]

Currently, mobile technologies and social media are the most popular tools used by Irish public libraries in the preparedness and response phases of the emergency management cycle. For example, in Ireland, during Storm Ophelia libraries used Facebook and Twitter to provide information on library closures, emergency phone numbers such as the Garda, Irish Coast Guard, and the Civil Defence, as well as National Weather Warnings. During the drought of 2018 social media were used by public libraries, retweeting water conservation public service announcements from Irish Water, and RTE status updates of the Bray Head gorse fires.

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15 http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=1006

16 Johns, Evelyn, (2007) "The Management and use of the Omagh Bomb Archive",

Irish public libraries are required to have disaster management plans, but traditionally these address *internal* processes, such as staff, physical resources, and business continuity.

In another example, social media was used by Wexford County libraries to post a series of leaflets on Facebook and Twitter entitled **'Be Winter Ready'**, in November 2018. Using a 'whole government approach', the information leaflets are sponsored by the Office of Emergency Planning, and the Department of Rural and Community Development and provide information on an array of emergency situations aimed at persons with disabilities, older people, businesses, homes, and the farming sector. These types of services are useful to communities and help embed the public library into the community, as well as promote it as a trusted source of information; establishing it as the physical and digital "go-to-place".

Future Roles

'All libraries can engage in an emergency response…not all libraries will be able to offer response at the same level.' [17]

The Emergency Management Framework recommends educating and informing, endorsing outside public and private experts to facilitate workshops targeted at vulnerable populations such as babies, the homeless, and older people, especially women over 75 years old. With its unique set of resources, such as public access computers, free Wi-Fi, and space for meetings, public libraries are ideally suited to facilitate these types of opportunities. Using current partnerships with Healthy Ireland, Active Aging, Creative Ireland, Right to Read, and Work Matters, topics could include: introduction to emergency preparation, basic first aid, fire safety, or how to keep cool in the heat, as well as prepare for snow storms and floods; even "greening our communities" programmes to combat climate change, such as promoting ENFOpoints.[18]

Conclusion

'The Climate Change Performance Index 2018' reports Ireland as being the worst performer of all European countries in the CCPI - missing EU agreed emission reduction targets, and ranking 'very low' in climate policy. [19]

Severe weather is likely to increase in the future. Besides human and animal pandemics, there are a range of other emergencies and disasters that can occur: fires, biohazards, transport, air, and pharma-chem accidents. Also, national and international terrorist attacks and the country's exposure to potential nuclear fallout from neighbouring countries are also very real 21st century risks. Irish and international examples have shown there are roles public libraries can play in every cycle of emergency planning. It is important to be realistic and keep in mind being able to deliver, especially with regard to staff. While they possess valuable expertise and local knowledge, their safety and welfare should always be the priority, including requiring any additional work to be performed. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) proposes with increasing public service diversity and complexity the focus now needs to shift outwards, advocating for increased partnerships at local, national, and international levels — using "networked approaches." Currently, Irish public libraries are not included in national emergency management plans, because of the myriad roles they can play throughout the emergency management cycle they should be. By using current structures, taking advantage of existing partnerships, and participating in shared learning activities public libraries can begin the process of being formally included.

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17 Mabe M, Ashley, E., 2018, *The Developing Role of Public Libraries in Emergency: Emerging Research and Opportunities.* Hershey, PA: IGI Global.
18 http://www.askaboutireland.ie/enfo/irelands-environment/enfopoints/

19 https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/climate/Research_Report_233.pdf

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Irish Prison Libraries and Prisoners' Information Needs: A Survey[1]

Anne Marie McInerney

Abstract

This study describes the role of the prison library in Ireland and the information needs of prisoners. The primary aim of this study is to address the lack of research available on Irish prison libraries through a qualitative case study and narrative discourse analysis. Date was collected through questionnaires during the summer months of 2017 and interviews were conducted with prison library staff in Mountjoy, Dublin and Shelton Abbey in Wicklow.

Keywords: *Prisoners' Information Needs, Ireland*

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1   Based on author's MLIS Thesis.

Introduction

In 1981, the Irish Prison Library Service was initiated by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform in partnership with Dublin Corporation.[2] Today, the library service is provided on an agency basis to the Prison Service by the relevant local authorities (Cloverhill Visiting Committee Annual Report 2016) and prison libraries are recognised as a distinct group within the library service community by the Library Association of Ireland. These libraries are modelled on the public library system, providing a wide range of material to prisoners including books, foreign language CDs, DVDs, audio books and easy reader material, while prison officers facilitate the functioning of the service (Irish Prison Library Service, 2016: 1). However, despite the LAI's formal recognition of prison libraries and the important service these libraries provide within Irish prisons, there is a noticeable lack of scholarly research on the subject. Consequently, there is little factual information/data available concerning the operation of Irish prison libraries or how librarians engage with this unique working environment.

Methodology

This study will identify and explore prisoners' information needs within the prison library service through interviews with library staff in Mountjoy and Shelton Abbey, along with questionnaires distributed to prisoners in Mountjoy. The results aim to provide an overview of the Irish Prison Library Service and prisoners' information needs in these prisons. This study will address the following questions:

What is the role of the prison library and what resources are available to cater for prisoners' information needs?

What are the primary information needs of Irish prisoners, in terms of literacy, self-help programmes and recreational reading?

What is the role of the prison librarian?

Method and Data Collection

Due to the limited nature of the sample audience, this study adopted a case study research method and the participants within this study are Irish prison librarians and the prisoner population in Mountjoy (Pickard, 2011). The data was collected through audio interviews and questionnaires. Due to recent budget cuts, there are presently very few prison librarians working in Ireland. Therefore, the sample population available for interviews was only three librarians which further highlighted the present condition of the library service in Irish prisons. Overall, these interviews revealed that prison libraries are considered a 'good' service within the prison system but interviewees also noted that when 'resources' were 'stretched, the library' was 'the first thing to go'.[3]

The interviews were audio recorded, transcribed and coded for similarities and differences. Open-ended questions were used during these interviews which provided a wider understanding of the service and it also encouraged interviewees to discuss their own ideas or offer suggestions in relation to future improvements of the prison library service Content analysis was used to assess the data collected through these interviews. The objective was to ascertain an understanding of the role of the prison library and how it catered for prisoners' information needs. The anonymous questionnaires were distributed in Mountjoy in June-July 2017. They were distributed by the prison librarians to the inmates who used the library during that period so the results are only representative of the library users in Mountjoy and not the general prison population. Due to the limited time available, only one hundred questionnaires were distributed in Mountjoy and were completed by 49 male participants (response rate 49%). As previously mentioned the sample size is only reflective of male prisoners who visited the library which would suggest that the respondents to the questionnaire were literate male prisoners. Unfortunately, female prisoners were not surveyed since there was insufficient time to access the Dóchas Centre during these months. The population in

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2   Dail Éireann Debate, Vol. 550, Col. 489, 7. Mar. 2002

3   Interviewees 1 & 2, Mountjoy, 8 August 2017.

Mountjoy presently stands at 596 prisoners, so the data acquired through questionnaires represented just over an eighth of the prisoner population. This study only reflects the information needs and services available to the male prisoner population in Mountjoy Dublin and Shelton Abbey Wicklow.

Literature Review

What is the role of the Prison Library?

Prisons were initially established to 'confine and keep custody of offenders' (Eze, 2015). During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries advocates of prison reform sought to improve the conditions of those incarcerated as society encouraged less barbaric treatment of prisoners. Reformers sought to reduce the need for the death penalty and favoured solitary confinement over executions (Foucault, 1977; Ignatieff, 1978). In the nineteenth century, social justice advocates focused on the personal 'reformation' of the criminals' character and reading material was made available to prisoners (Foucault, 1977; Ignatieff, 1977). 'Holy books' and religious texts were provided to those incarcerated which 'aimed at inculcating morality' (Eze, 2015: 285). Today, prison libraries endeavour to provide an inclusive service, incorporating material such as foreign language CDs, DVDs and self-help books. There are various international studies which explore the role of the prison library and this research has identified 'low literacy' levels as a major stumbling block for prisoners using the service (Bowe, 2011; Eze, & Dike, 2014; Lehmann, 2011; Ljodal & Ra, 2011; Rafedzi, et al, 2016; Lucas, 1990).The modern prison library attempts to provide material which is also available to the wider community

What is the role of the prison library and what resources are available to cater for prisoners' information needs?

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and prison libraries seek to promote a 'positive reading culture' so inmates are well informed (Peschers & Patterson, 2001; Eze, 2015: 286; Wentsworth, 2011; Zybert, 2011). In a recent study, *Prison Librarianship Policy and Practice*, Conrad focused on American prison libraries and critically highlighted the decline in research in this area since the 1970s. This book provides an in-depth discussion of the policy surrounding these facilities, the challenges encountered by prison librarians and the importance of these libraries in correctional facilities.

Prisoners' Information Needs

When considering prisoners' information needs, the literature notes a number of important areas for improved literacy. Certain practical tasks, such as letter writing or general reading can be extremely difficult for prisoners with low literacy levels. The *Irish Penal Reform Trust* notes that the 'majority of Irish prisoners have never sat a State exam and over half left school before the age of 15' (http://www.iprt.ie/prison-facts-2). Practical tasks such as letter writing, filling out official forms, and general reading ability are among some of the key areas in which prisoner's require additional training and education (Kett, 2001: 65). In a 2004 article, Vacca noted that educated prisoners were less likely to re-offend and return to prison if they complete 'an education programme and are taught' to read and write successfully. (Vacca, 2014: 298). As a key facilitator in providing educational material to prisoners, it is crucial that prison libraries are well stocked to cater for the varying information needs of the prison population prisoners.

Internationally, Norway has been identified as providing a 'good' prison library service. Norwegian prison libraries provide adequate collections with professional librarians employed to cater for prisoners' information needs (Ljodal & Ra, 2011: 481-3). In the three Scandinavian countries (Norway, Denmark and Sweden) services range from outreach programmes to cultural events (Ljodal & Ra, 2011). The Munster Correctional facility in Germany similarly provides adequate services to its patrons (Peschers & Patterson, 2001). As an inclusive institution, Munster encourages prisoners to read regularly and offers educational supports to prisoners in terms of literacy and education. Germany and Scandinavia provide progressive library services and research in Europe has highlighted that prisoners' information needs are key to providing these services (Ljodal & Ra, 2011; Peschers & Patterson, 2001).
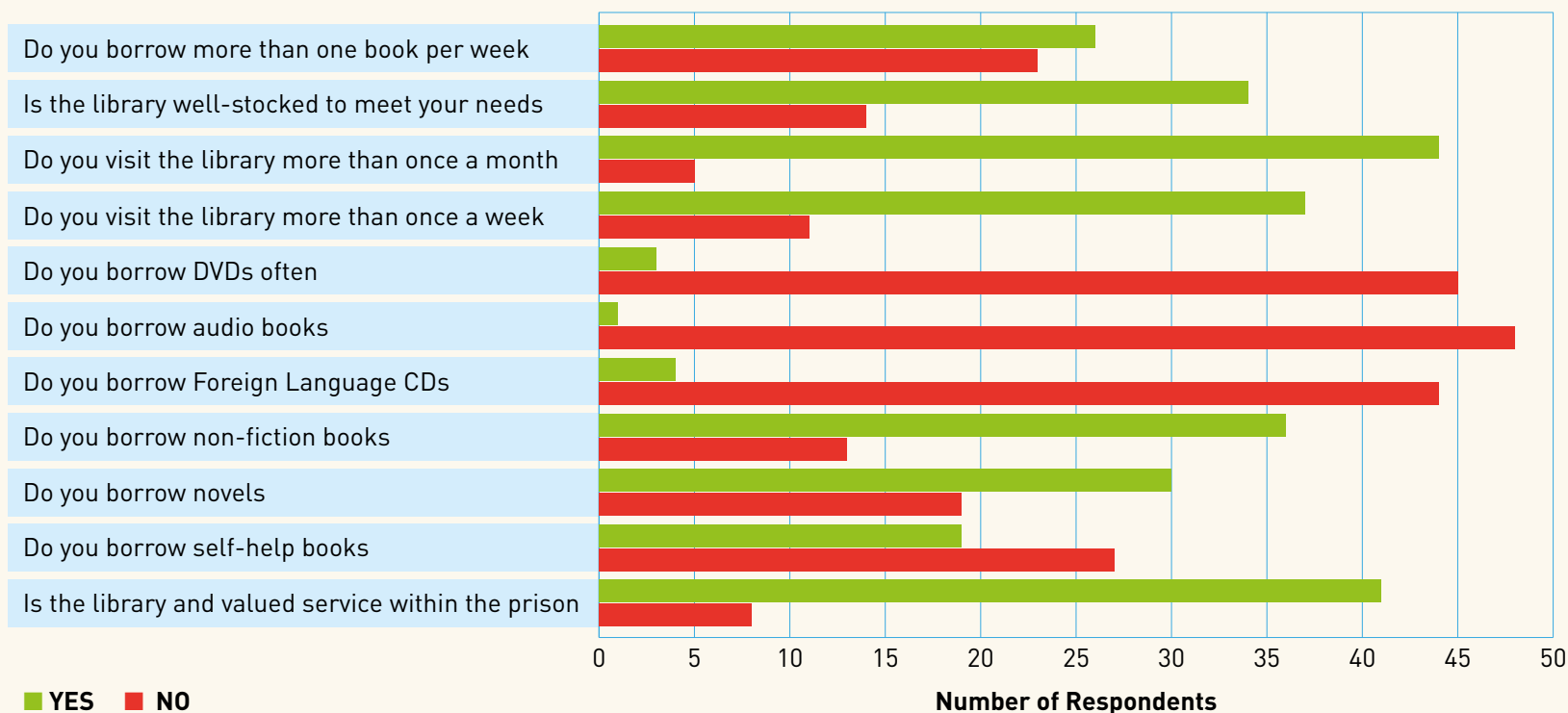
Ethics

The use of prisoners as participants posed a number of ethical issues, such as their vulnerability and marginalisation within Irish society and under the UCD Research Ethics Rules, prisoners are categorized as a 'high risk' group due to their economic and social disadvantage (Research Ethics UCD, 2016: 9). In order to counter these ethical issues, interviews were not conducted with prisoners. Instead, data was collected from the prisoner population in Mountjoy via paper questionnaire and this protected the inmates' anonymity. Interviews were conducted with Irish prison librarians to provide context for the overall study and helped to identify prisoners' information needs.

Findings

At present, there are five prisons in Dublin which include Mountjoy, the Dóchas Centre (Female), Arbour Hill, Wheatfield and Cloverhill. Dublin City Public Libraries also play a supporting role in facilitating the library service in Portlaoise Prison, in terms of book requests and stock supplies. Prison libraries also operate in Loughan House in Cavan, Shelton Abbey in Wicklow and Cork Prison. Limerick and Castlerea prisons no longer have prison librarians due to recent budget cuts. Consequently, the library service is supported by the education units and the teachers in the prison. In Shelton Abbey, a library assistant provides the service to prisoners. The library assistant at Shelton has a particular interest in literacy development and also works in the adult education unit. Prisoners are encouraged to make optimal use of the services which include a computer space and recreational facilities.[4] The responses to the questionnaires below provided the following data regarding the most popular items among prisoners in Mountjoy and the importance of the library service in Dublin.

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4   Interview Shelton Abbey, 14 Aug 2017

Figure 1.1 Mountjoy Prisoners Questionnaire[5]

Figure 1.1 Mountjoy Prisoners Questionnaire[5]

Categories (Number of Respondents), YES (green) / NO (red):
- Do you borrow more than one book per week
- Is the library well-stocked to meet your needs
- Do you visit the library more than once a month
- Do you visit the library more than once a week
- Do you borrow DVDs often
- Do you borrow audio books
- Do you borrow Foreign Language CDs
- Do you borrow non-fiction books
- Do you borrow novels
- Do you borrow self-help books
- Is the library and valued service within the prison

From these findings, it was concluded that over half of the respondents visited the library more than once a month and found that it was well stocked to meet their needs. Forty one respondents rated the library as a valuable service with thirty seven stating that they used the service more than once a week. Among some of the most popular items were self-help books, non-fiction items and novels. Audio books, DVDs and foreign language material were among some of the least borrowed items according to the respondents. However, in the interviews with prison librarians, it was noted that DVDs were popular but that the library did not have the resources to buy new stock. Mountjoy therefore receives a large quantity of donations from the public libraries.[6] True crime books were among some of the most popular items in the library, particularly material relating to Ireland or prisons abroad.[7] Martina Cole's crime books were a particular favourite among inmates due to the subject matter, as were books relating to Irish crime since many prisoners had a specific interest or involvement in this area of Irish life.[8] Newspapers were available but prisoners often purchased these from the tuck shop in the prison, along with play station games (if they could afford it). The prison population was found to be avid newspaper readers and inmates watched

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5   Questionnaire, Mountjoy, July 2017.

6   Interviewee 1, Mountjoy, 8 August 2017
7   Interviewee 2, Mountjoy, 8 August 2017
8   Interviewees 1 & 2 Mountjoy, 8 August 2017

the news regularly. Consequently, the librarians in Mountjoy considered them to be 'very well informed'.[9] In terms of technological access, computers are not available in Mountjoy prison library due to technical support issues but there are PCs available through the education service which supports prisoners' educational needs.[10]

In Shelton Abbey, prisoners' information needs are well catered for and the library is well stocked to support the prisoners' education requirements. Shelton prison library co-operates with the education unit and learning programmes are organised through the education unit in the prison. Inmates have access to Open University courses and computers are available within the library. However, internet access is only available to the library staff in Shelton but prisoners can request forms or educational material from the library. There are also a number of outside training programmes available to support prisoners educational and information needs.[11] The budget available to Shelton Abbey is fairly steady and funds are available for additional material throughout the year, for example; books on dog training.

Discussion

Mountjoy and Shelton Abbey

One major difference between Mountjoy and Shelton Abbey prison libraries is the level of security and stock selection in these respective prisons. Mountjoy, as a closed prison, encounters far more dangerous and disruptive prisoners which inevitably affects the operation of the service. Due to segregation on landings in Mountjoy, librarians often transfer the books to prison officers for distribution. The interviewees noted that there was an 'increasingly small cohort of people who can mix freely together but that completely excludes all of the people who are…protection prisoners. And they are protection for various reasons…'.[12] Librarians in Mountjoy sometimes consult the prison

officers for advice regarding the appropriateness of books for prisoners, especially those which encourage law-breaking.[13] Mountjoy library additionally stocks material relating to letter writing, CV writing and literacy. Within a limited budget, Mountjoy supports the educational needs of the prison population through the provision of books on history, self-help guides, psychology and philosophy. Additional material can be purchased by the library service at the request of inmates and these book requests often reflect a prisoner population that are 'thinking things out'.[14] The high level of stock that is registered as missing annually has a lasting impact on the service in Mountjoy and replacing these items requires additional funding from the library budget. Some parts of the prison have access to technology but due to security issues, the library itself has no internet access for inmates. Computers are available to prisoners in Mountjoy through the Prison Education service.[15]

The interviewees noted that prison officers in Mountjoy were initially responsible for the operation of the library service as it was considered bad practice to have prisoners staffing the library. However, over the years, prisoners began working in the service 'out of necessity' or the libraries would have remained closed.[16] Participants in this study noted that the service was 'quite bad' outside the Dublin area and Cork but that county Dublin had a 'functioning' library service in the prisons.[17]

In comparison, Shelton Abbey is an open prison and security measures are not as restrictive. The library staff can work in the prison library with the inmates and it was described by the interviewee as a very 'relaxed atmosphere'.[18] Shelton Abbey adopts the same guidelines as those outlined for Wicklow County Council Public Libraries. Shelton Abbey provides computer access for prisoners who wish to complete assignments or art projects. A recreational space is available for prisoners to engage in leisure

9   Interviewee 1, Mountjoy, 8 August 2017
10 Interviewees 1 & 2, Mountjoy, 8 August 2017
11 Shelton Abbey Interview, 14 August 2017
12 Interviewee 1, Mountjoy, 8 August 2017

13 Interviewee 1, 8 August 2017
14 Interviewee 1, 8 August 2017
15 Interviewee 2, 8 August 2017
16 Interviewee 1, Mountjoy, 8 August 2017
17 Interviewee 2, Mountjoy, 8 August 2017
18 Shelton Abbey Interview, 14 August 2017

reading. Since, Shelton Abbey is quite a small library, the collection has to be restricted and as a male only prison, the library's items are male orientated. The library contains a larger literacy section compared to the other prison libraries while the staff provide information support to prisoners who are using the school in the prison.[19] In this sense, Shelton adequately fulfils its role as a support service for prisoners' information needs, as it provides literacy, recreational and training facilities for the inmate population.[20]

Conclusion and Recommendations

In Ireland, the prison library service would benefit from a standard set of guidelines for all prison libraries. Guidelines for prison libraries have already been adopted in countries such as the United Kingdom, Scandinavia and the United States. These policies ensure that the prison population receive the appropriate resources for rehabilitation (Lehmann, 2003). At present, Irish prison libraries follow the guidelines set out by the local county councils. Irish Prison libraries should also have a stable budget to support the recruitment of additional librarians for the service. Recent budget cuts and career breaks have removed the majority of prison librarians from Irish prisons and many libraries now operate with the support of prison officers, teachers and prisoner library assistants. International literature has illustrated the benefit of employing trained professionals in the prison service as this supports the appropriate development of library collections and programmes within the service (Ljodal & Ra, 2011). The participants in this study recommended that, where possible, there should always be a prison librarian for each county and prison library. In terms of literacy, the majority of Irish prison libraries act as a support for the prison education sector (Ljodal & Ra, 2011). Shelton Abbey, as an open prison, provides adequate educational facilities to support prisoners' information needs but Mountjoy encounters various obstacles such as segregation which prevents an open learning environment in the library.[21] In Ireland, library staff purchase items that support prisoners educational

requirements and in this sense, the library plays a key role in the rehabilitation of prisoners; similar to their European counterparts (Conrad, 2012). Dublin presently provides the most efficient library service but participants in this study were 'hopeful' that prison libraries outside Dublin would 'get better' over time.[22]

Presently, the need to segregate inmates in Mountjoy is interfering with the level of access prisoners have to books and the library service itself. In this environment, it can be difficult to promote a positive reading culture. In order to navigate these obstacles, one recommendation was to install smaller libraries (or satellite libraries) on the landings, such as shelves with books.[23] The librarians in Mountjoy mentioned that the service would also benefit from OPAC catalogues on the landings as prisoners could word search items of interest. This would be an excellent way to upgrade the service and discussion surrounding the installation of catalogues has already taken place.[24] Overall, the Irish Prison Library Service is not developed to the same standards as its European counterparts due to limited budgets and the lack of prison officers available to staff the service. An increase in prison library funding would support the recruitment of trained librarians, along with the opportunity to purchase additional library material.

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19 Shelton Abbey Interview, 14 August 2017
20 Shelton Abbey Interview, 14 August 2017
21 Interviewees 1 & 2, Mountjoy, 8 August 2017

22 Interviewee 2, Mountjoy, 8 August 2017
23 Interviewee 2, Mountjoy, 8 August 2017
24 Interviewee 1, Mountjoy, 8 August 2017

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Exhibition team with Cllr. Sean Power, Mayor of County Kildare and Sister Majella

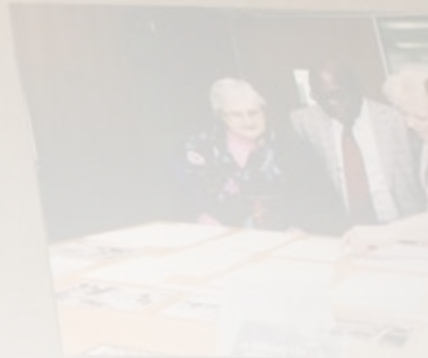# Ringing the Ogoni Bells: Maynooth University Library and Kildare County Library and Arts Service Exhibition

Helen Fallon, Sandra Turner, Evelyn Cooley and Louise Walsworth-Bell
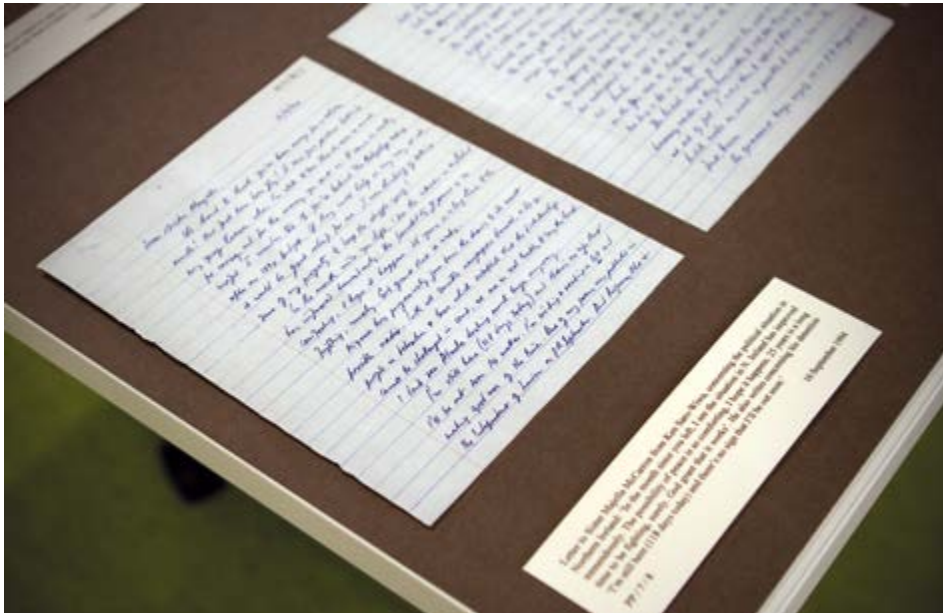
On Tuesday 22nd of January, Councillor Sean Power Mayor of County Kildare, opened an exhibition from the Maynooth University Ken Saro-Wiwa Archive, in Athy Public Library. The Mayor praised the vision and collaboration of Maynooth University Library and Kildare County Library and Arts Service in bringing this important exhibition to the public. He spoke of the important role the public library plays in educating people on justice issues, noting the strong contribution of Irish religious orders to social movements in Ireland and overseas and thanked Sister Majella on behalf of the people of Kildare.

Speaking at the opening, Sandra Turner, Senior Executive Librarian said that Kildare Library and Arts Service was very enthusiastic about being involved in the collaboration, from the outset of being approached by Maynooth University. She spoke of how public libraries were known for storytelling and welcomed the opportunity to tell the "Ogoni story".

Background

Maynooth University Library received the death-row correspondence of Nigerian writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa to Sister Majella McCarron (OLA) in 2011. In the early nineties Sister Majella worked with Saro-Wiwa highlighting the plight of the Ogoni people, a small ethnic group who live in the Niger Delta region of south-western Nigeria, an area with extensive oil reserves. While the then Nigerian military regime received massive revenues from the petrochemical industry, in Ogoni there was no piped water, no electricity, no hospitals, and few schools. Alongside this the environmental impact of the unchecked oil exploration had devastated the land. Saro-Wiwa established the Movement for the Solidarity of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) in 1990 and Sister Majella helped him in many ways including organising leadership training, based on the psychosocial method of Paulo Freire, a Brazilian adult educator for MOSOP leaders. Saro-Wiwa was arrested and detained a number of times. Most of the letters date from his final period on death row and were smuggled out of military detention in breadbaskets. He was executed on 10 November 1995, with eight colleagues who are known as the Ogoni 9.

The Exhibition

The exhibition includes four panels telling the Ogoni story, letters to Sister Majella and poems and photographs relating to Saro-Wiwa and his work. The letters cast light on Saro-Wiwa as political activist, writer, family man and friend of Sister Majella. They paint a picture of a well-educated and articulate Nigerian writer and illuminate his efforts to help the Ogoni people. The exhibition aims to provide a very real sense of Ken Saro-Wiwa, his enthusiasm for life, his commitment to his beliefs and his desire to help his fellow countrymen.

Speaking at the opening, Helen Fallon, Deputy Librarian, Maynooth University, explained how the title for the exhibition "Ringing the Ogoni Bells" was selected.

In a letter dated 1 December 1993, Saro-Wiwa wrote to Sister Majella:

> **Keep putting your thoughts on paper. Who knows how we can use them in future. The Ogoni story will have to be told.**

In a later letter he referred to Sister Majella ringing the Ogoni Bells, after she had successfully got the *Irish Times* to publish an article on the Ogoni struggle.

Helen Fallon spoke briefly of the work Maynooth University Library is doing to ring the Ogoni Bells and to embed the story in both in its historical context and in the context of current day events in the Niger Delta and other parts of the world. This includes signing a contract, in 2018 with an American Film company who plan to use the book in the making of a film about the life of Ken Saro-Wiwa.

Sister Majella noted the appropriateness of Kildare as the first venue on a national schedule. She first visited Kildare in 1995 to attend the AFrI (Action From Ireland) conference, to mark Féile Bríd. At that event she spoke about the problems in Ogoni, highlighting the situation regarding the Ogoni 9, then in military detention. This was the first Irish public platform to talk about the issue and on that day Ogoni Solidarity Ireland was born. In her speech, Sister Majella drew on United Nations scientific research to give a stark description of the ongoing pollution of the Niger. "This exhibition is very important both to tell the Ogoni story, which continues and as an exposure of multinational business practices," she concluded.

For twelve years Ogoni Solidarity Ireland ran annual seminar to commemorate the Ogoni 9. This role has now been taken on by Maynooth University Library who organise an annual Ken Saro-Wiwa seminar each November to coincide with the anniversary of the execution of the Ogoni 9.

Louise Walsworth Bell, Paper Conservator and Ciara Joyce, Archivist, Maynooth University Library, collaborated on creating the travelling exhibition. Commenting on creating the exhibition Louise remarked:

"The most important thing to get across in this exhibition was Ken Saro-Wiwa's humanity, his courage and perseverance even though he knew his fate was sealed. Although the communication is one sided, in that we don't have the letters Sister Majella sent to Saro-Wiwa, there is a strong sense of the high regard the two had for each other and their commitment to expose government and corporate injustice. The collection is in very good condition. It was one of the first archives from Maynooth University Library to be digitised. Captions are based on the key elements of each letter. A slideshow of images depicting the destruction of Ogoni, the relief effort – part-funded by Trócaire, and current day images of members of the Saro-Wiwa family who have visited Maynooth University, were also selected for the exhibition."

The exhibition included books written by Saro-Wiwa, a travel book by his daughter Noo and copies of *Silence Would Be Treason: Last Writings of Ken Saro-Wiwa* edited by Íde Corley, Helen Fallon and Laurence Cox. Initially published in 2013, and launched by Dr Owens Wiwa, brother of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the second edition was launched in 2018.

An open access ebook is available at: http://eprints.maynoothuniversity.ie/8940/

Comments from the public in relation to the exhibition included;

"Wonderful to see such an interesting exhibition in Athy – I hope it will be shown elsewhere as well"

"A fantastic collection of photographs and facts – brings the story to life".

School Visits

The exhibition ran for six weeks and local primary school classes visited. It was particularly relevant to them in relation to environmental awareness. Teachers remarked that issues such as climate change and recycling are becoming more important in today's classrooms, noting that most topics covered in the National School Debate Competition are typically on issues such as "Why we should all give up meat to prevent climate change" and "Why we should penalise people for not recycling".

Travelling Exhibition

This is the first Irish exhibition of material from the collection. The exhibition travelled to Quinnipiac University for a six-month exhibition in 2016. Libraries interested in hosting the exhibition should contact helen.b.fallon@mu.ie; tel: 01 708 3880

Internet Librarian International

London, 16 – 17th October 2018

For the second year running, I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the Internet Librarian International conference in London over the course of two days. I particularly enjoy this conference because its theme, the internet and libraries, explores so many diverse areas of librarianship and information management. This year's conference was particularly engaging for me because its case studies looked at some exciting digital based areas of librarianship that I had limited awareness of and it showcased some of the cutting-edge technology-based skills that libraries are at the forefront of progressing.
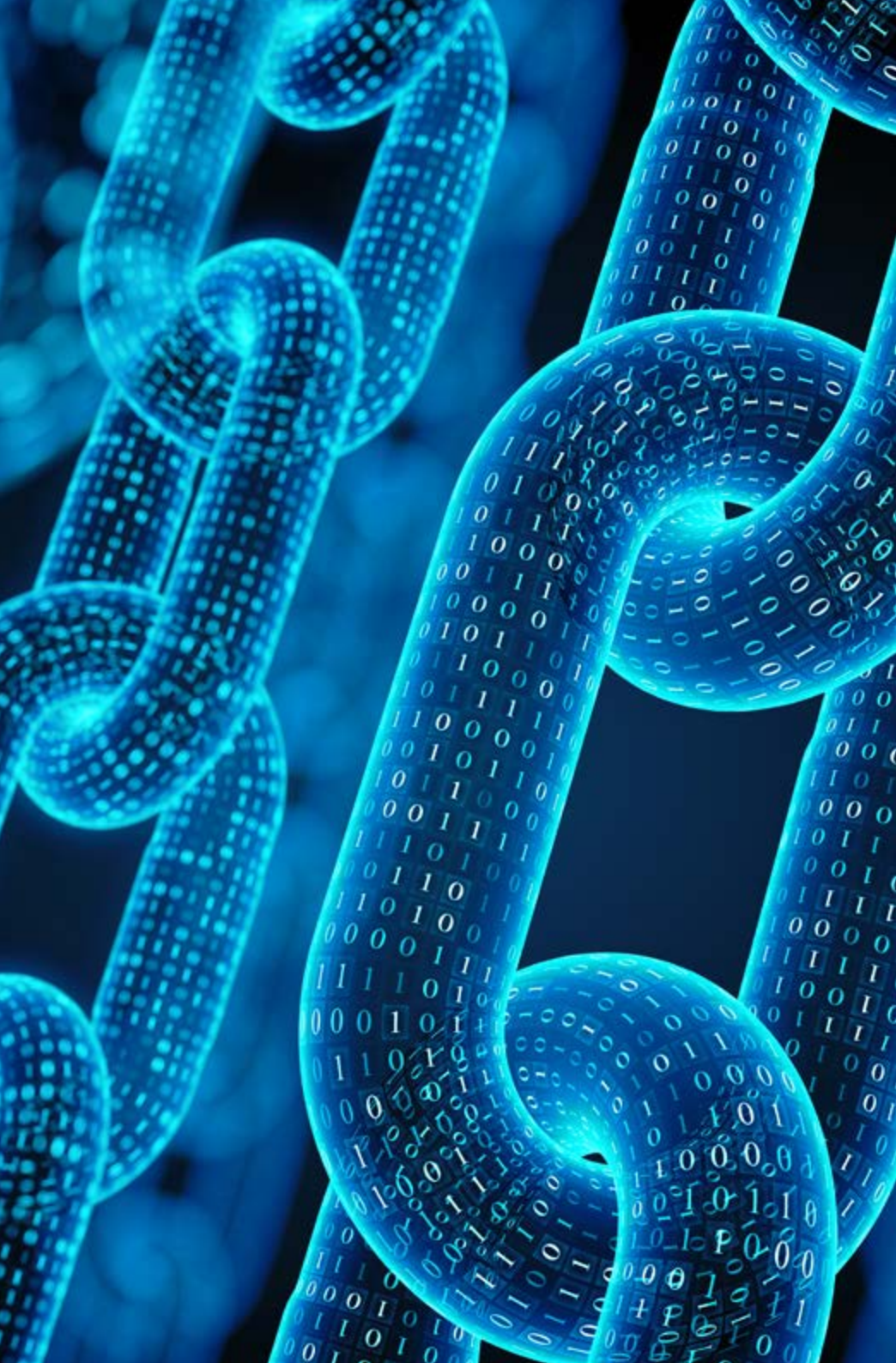
Katherine Skinner (Educopia Institute) opened the conference with a keynote presentation entitled 'Cultivating knowledge communities'. She made the point that we often don't consider our professional groups and committees as micro communities that require the same attention, sustenance and investment in order to thrive as our personal ones do. This certainly encouraged me and other delegates to reflect a little more deeply on the talks we attended. As is usually the case with the ILI Conference, both days were broken into three separate themed tracks, giving each delegate some attendance options from which to choose . On the first day, these tracks were (A) Future focus (B) Understanding users, usage and UX and (C) Inclusion and inspiration. Certain talks stood out for me. Peter Webster spoke of the challenge of collecting and improving the discoverability of Canada's research data. Compared with my attendance last year, research data management had become an even more significant focus area, influencing many talks throughout. It strengthened my belief that librarians have a key role to play in imposing order and organisation on a research data landscape that remains quite scattered.

That afternoon, Marydee Ojala chaired an engaging panel discussion with Hal Kirkwood and Pam McKinney entitled "Skills for the next-gen librarian". I was particularly interested in the hearing Hal's perspective as he had recently transitioned from a role at Purdue University, where information literacy is regarded as a keep competency for students, to a position in the Business library of the University of Oxford, where he found students were more immediate and situational in terms of their information needs. For me, this was a lesson in the need to always be reflective and responsive in the support we provide to our library users.

Day two of the conference began with a keynote from Jisc 'futurist' Martin Hamilton. The concept of fake news and the undermining of traditional information sources featured heavily here with Martin arguing that librarians are uniquely placed to lead the campaign for the ethical use of information. A general theme emerged in day two of the necessity of embracing new methods to preserve and showcase research data for the digital scholar. Alex

Green (National Archives UK) spoke about using Blockchain to ensure that that the records of their digital archive were verifiable and authentic. I had never explored Blockchain in any depth but found the discussion of it and other software programmes to be indicative of the future orientated focus of research libraries. Developing meaningful and content rich digital libraries was the subject of some other talks that day and the end results were always impressive.

As usual, the Irish contingent were well represented at the conference. Maynooth University was represented by Hugh Murphy, Fiona Morley and myself. UCD Library by JP Kiernan and Josh Clark. UCC's Martin O'Connor also attended and gave his own presentation entitled 'Telling the story of a live music venue – a librarian-led research project'. This involved introducing live music to public libraries. It was particularly heartening to hear about an initiative that academic and public libraries worked together to achieve.

ILI remains one of my favourite conferences to attend because, even with an awareness of the titles, you never really know what to expect from the such a diverse range of talks. I have yet to come away disappointed.

Niall O'Brien is a Teaching and Learning Librarian at Maynooth University.

Transformative Experiences:
Libraries Innovating and Changing

2018 CONUL Conference, Galway, 30-31 May 2018

It was a bright, sunny and hot day when the Queen's University Belfast contingent arrived in Galway for the 2018 CONUL Conference. It was my first time at a CONUL Conference and I am grateful to my employer for awarding me the opportunity to attend, learn and engage. The theme of the conference was 'Transformative Experiences: Libraries Innovating and Changing' and along with two inspirational keynote speakers, there was a plethora of parallel papers, lightning talks and plenary presentations from which to choose.

Transformative Experiences: Libraries Innovating and Changing: 2018 CONUL Conference

The first keynote speaker was Jim Neal (University Librarian Emeritus, Colombia University) current President of the American Library Association. Jim covered the controversial topic of whether students and scholars still need libraries, forcing us to think about our often redundant and inefficient library operations. Key takeaways included the need to be where our users are and think differently about our service, the need to market the library, extend markets and develop new products. We should be referring to library use trends to rethink space planning and, ultimately, our identity.

As the Borrower Services Librarian across two branches in Queen's University Belfast (QUB), I am particularly interested in user engagement, which also fits neatly with the Customer Service Excellence standard that QUB Library Services have achieved over the past four years. There was plenty to choose from in terms of parallel papers and lightning talks regarding this theme. I was keen to hear about the development of a digital skills service (Suzanne Tatham, University of Sussex) where the JISC Digital Capabilities Framework

was used to identify 25 improvement actions and create opportunities for co-learning for staff and students. Other interesting sessions included Dublin City University's new request collection and the University of Limerick's Automated Reserve Collection (ARC) – the latter no doubt causing a spike in library tourism as library staff want to visit to see it in action. The first day closed with a series of plenary presentations covering topics as diverse as innovation in libraries, positioning of libraries in institutions and the SCONUL Leading Libraries programme.

You might be forgiven for thinking that after an exhausting and busy day one that day two would be slower in pace, but no! The second keynote speaker Vivian Lewis (University Librarian, McMaster University) discussed how to prepare the academic library workforce to support transformation, and the drafting of core competencies for the 21st Century research librarian; a piece of work by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries. Following this theme, I attended lightning talks about developing the library workforce

ranging from embedding librarians, their skills and support, into research groups (University of Cambridge) to streamlining the service point (University of Limerick), allowing staff to work on different projects and work rather than sitting at a service point, and engaging a different set of skills for on-call service desk staff.

Returning to my interest of user engagement, I attended the parallel papers session which included speakers from University of Southampton, Maynooth University and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and covered topics as diverse as working and developing partnerships by use of leadership circles, moving to a functional model with regard to teaching and subject support, and changing the library conversation by changing the space and collection.

A quick pitstop for lunch, before moving to one of the Show and Tell sessions. Those from NUI Galway and Dublin Institute of Technology particularly caught my attention as both involved ways of communicating with your users-key takeaways for user engagement.

Overall the CONUL Conference was an all-encompassing experience. There was plenty of choice, plenty to inspire and engage with. The range of ideas and innovations coming through in the talks, sessions and poster presentations sparked conversations and discussions during the long drive home and beyond back into the workplace.

Alex McIlroy is Borrower Services Librarian, Medical and Biomedical Libraries, Queen's University Belfast, and Vice-Chair, CILIP Ireland

Leading the Way to Literacy:
Public Libraries Empowering their Communities

LAI Public Libraries Conference: 7 - 9 November 2018,
Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort, Tullow, Co. Carlow

The 2018 Public Libraries conference was held in the beautiful and historic Mount Wolseley Hotel in Tullow, County Carlow from 7th to 9th November.

Proceedings began when Dr Philip Cohen, President, LAI, officially opened the Trade Exhibition. This year's exhibition featured many new and innovative products and services highlighting how emerging technologies remain drivers for change and enhanced service provision. Keynote speaker Rachel Van Riel proved a welcome first speaker, challenging and informing a captive audience on "Making Space for Reading". A 'critical friend' to libraries, Rachel is founder of *Opening the Book* and followed up her lecture with a focused workshop on reader-centred book displays later that morning.

The second presentation entitled "Letting Children Take the Lead" brought something very new to listening ears. Engaging speakers Lucy Elvis and Annie McKeown O'Donovan from CURO (formerly Galway P4C) delighted a captive audience with their talk on philosophy for children in the library. Like Rachel they also facilitated a workshop before lunch called "Undercover – big questions in books".

The morning's talks were complimented with presentations from the three shortlisted entries for the LAI Project Prize. Keith McKeag (Kildare Libraries), Sylvia Madyda (Carlow Libraries)and Eileen O'Connor (Galway County and City Libraries) had ten minutes each to effectively propose their ideas for the €1,000 prize fund to help progress the project in their own authority. The result of a secret ballot of conference delegates was announced at the Gala dinner that evening with Kildare Library Service taking home the prize for a Sensory Garden Project.

The afternoon of the first day was an opportunity for delegates to experience some of the rich cultural offerings in the small and vibrant county of Carlow. Attendees were given the option of a visit and tour of either Carlow County Museum or VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art and George Bernard Shaw Theatre. Both venues proved popular and showcased much of the local culture, heritage and arts to the enthused visitors. The cultural excursion only came to an end following a tour of Walsh's Whiskey Distillery on the site of an 18th century Vigor's estate on the banks of the River Barrow in the Royal Oak, Bagenalstown.

Day one of the conference closed with a gala dinner which featured welcoming and informed speeches from the Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, Brian O'Donoghue and Chief Executive, Kathleen Holohon. Pre-dinner drinks were served to the sound of local music ensemble *Paprika* and the meal concluded with a thought provoking and memorable after dinner speech by talented novelist, spoken word performer, journalist and occasional actor Peter Murphy. Murphy who was Carlow Writer-in-Residence at the time of the conference reiterated a theme of value and pride in our public libraries referenced in the pre-dinner speeches. His speech "Libraries Gave Us Power" is available for to read on the Library Association of Ireland website.

The final day of the conference began with a presentation on the new national public library strategy *Our Public Libraries 2022: Inspiring, connecting and empowering communities* given by Mary Stuart, Head of the Libraries Development Unit, LGMA. Mary delivered an engaging and informative talk on the ambitious strategy which will guide public library services over the next five years detailing the main strategic programmes of 1) Reading and Literacy 2) Learning and Information and 3) Community and Culture. With the moratorium on recruitment lifted and workforce plans being finalised around the country, this presentation proved beneficial for many. Prolific author Sinéad Moriarty followed with a talk on "Literacy and the Power of Writing" before the winners of the LAI Project Prize 2017, Laois County Libraries entertained the audience with tales of Lego adventures and stock animation videos which they created with local children during the year. As always, the conference ended with the ever popular My Life in Books Panel and featured a lively discussion with Peter Murphy, Catríona Crowe and Manchán Magan chaired by Eddie O'Sullivan.

Overall, the 2018 LAI Public Libraries Conference was a tremendous success. Excellent organisation with informative and engaging speakers, relevant exhibitors, a beautiful location and enthusiastic delegates all contributed to a worthwhile experience for delegates.

John Shortall, Acting County Librarian, Carlow

Book Review

Book Collecting in Ireland and Britain, 1650-1850

Elizabethanne Boran, Editor

Born of a conference examining the phenomenon of book collecting from an international perspective and reflecting both specific collections and general issues around the ownership of books, this insightful text includes a wealth of material of interest. Written by a range of experts, it covers 'connoisseur collectors', ecclesiastical, legal and political collections, aristocratic and gentry collections, as well as the holdings and donations of institutional and subscription libraries.

The dense and complex field of book collecting is made tangible through twelve essays, which are well written and meticulously researched. Early chapters look at manuscript and book collections by scholars in Connacht (author Bernadette Cunningham's phrase 'cabinets of curiosities' is a gem); 17th century book lists; and the libraries of bishops. Later chapters examine aristocratic libraries, the library of a legal dynasty, country house libraries, and the book ends with a chapter examining one of the most important collections of Trinity College, Dublin: the Fagel collection.

While each is interesting in and of itself, the editor is to be commended as the book flows and it is the interconnecting themes which weave throughout which fascinate. The methodology of collecting – the 'how' and 'why' people came to own their books as important as the 'what' was collected; the significance of sale and auction catalogues; buying strategies and attitudes to collecting; the role of the librarian, physical library space, and what the eminently readable David Pearson describes as the 'tension' between collectors and owners.

We are reminded that libraries should not be viewed as a precise reflection of an owner's intellectual outlook but more as evidence of 'cultural inheritance'. Barbara McCormack encapsulates the challenges of retrospectively analysing the collecting habits of 17th and 18th century owners: not every book acquired survived, others were subsequently added over many years, texts have been repaired and rebound and others have deteriorated. Conversely, the chapter on Edward Worth's library, as well as giving insight into European bookselling, illustrates that his leaving of the collection to Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin and stipulations of his will, ensured an unparalleled collection of rare printing and bindings from across Europe has stayed much as it was when he lived.

A key strength of the book is the exploration of individual book collectors to elucidate more general themes of collecting for devotional, professional, educational, or recreational reasons: characters that humanise and bring the subject to life. I particularly enjoyed Marie Boran's examination of correspondence relating to James Hardiman, Rebecca Bowd's use of John Marshall's research into linen, and the refreshing inclusion of the library of a woman, Grisel Grierson in Karen Baston's chapter 'The Areskines of Alva'.

The book sparked ideas for research within the Linen Hall's collections, and is highly recommended.

Samantha McCombe, Librarian, Linen Hall Library

Maria José Sabino Moura, 1937-2018

Maria José Sabino Moura was the driving force in the transformation of the public library service in her native Portugal. Her first public library role began when she transferred in 1986 from the post of Director of the Documentation Services in the University of Lisbon to the Ministry of Culture as Director of the Book and Libraries section (IPLB). She was also to become the President of the Council for Portuguese Libraries.

She faced the challenge of contributing to improving literacy levels in the developing nation which was recorded at 20% in the national census of 1981. This was the lowest in Europe. School failure rate was also the highest in Europe. She had been a founder member of the Portuguese Association of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists (BAD), Chair of both the Board of BAD and of the Board of General Assembly. She coordinated and drafted the Report of the Working Group, appointed by the Secretary of State for Culture. This report's aim was to define and develop the basis of a national policy for public reading. The report indicated immediate intervention measures, a vision for the future and programmes which formed the genesis of the network. She set about organising this national network of public libraries from small beginnings while initiating and leading public reading

programmes. She achieved her goal, using her skills as a supreme networker who recognised the value of focussed co-operation with like-minded institutions. Through the support and concerted efforts of BAD, the Portuguese Book Institute and the leading municipal authorities, she advised and supported the Ministry for Culture in creating a national network of Public Reading.

Legislation was enacted to share the costs between the central government and the municipalities to provide a service incorporating equipment, transport and reading materials for all ages, all levels of education and for the population at large. This programme, overseen by her and her handpicked young team at IPLB continued until 2006. In that time, she worked in a country recovering from an authoritarian culture at national level and on the European front, treated as a Less Favoured Region by the European Commission. She travelled, first to France to learn about cultural developments and the established network of services there and thence to the Nordic countries and to the United Kingdom, to investigate new typologies in building design, mobile library services, public library programmes and developments using technology. It was in the technological sphere that EU funding and expertise were to have a

profound effect on fast-paced research and the implementation of improvements in the access to knowledge through the Portuguese public library service. She was also successful in convincing her civil servant colleagues to ringfence funds for library buildings and services through EU funds. The timing could not have been better. The Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund were the financial tools set up at this time to implement the regional policy of the European Union. They aimed to reduce regional disparities in income, wealth and opportunities, with the first tranche investment operating from 1988 to 1999. This was unprecedented in library circles.

The City and County Librarians section of the LAI, proposed a study tour to experience at first-hand these developments, given the challenges faced in our services. Maria José and her team arranged a programme of visits, talks and demonstrations of the services for representatives of the section, the City and County Managers' Association and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (October 1997). This exercise was useful as a comparative programme to developments in Ireland following the *Branching Out* rollout. The Portuguese staff training programme was particularly impressive with a young, enthusiastic staff pioneering services with the full support of local and central government. This influenced An Chomhairle in the approach to taking on a centralised role on focussed training and research under the *Branching Out* banner. The furniture and spacious layout of new and sensitively restored prestigious heritage buildings remains a stand out feature of the study tour. The increasing publishing imprint was affording access to materials in the original Portuguese and in translation. The investment in print and multimedia materials and, in particular, music and film stock published in Portuguese was growing. This, in turn, mirrored the thirst for knowledge experienced by a people where censorship had disappeared. The public library service attracted a wide range of users and the service was promoted and appreciated widely.

Maria José continued to ask questions and attend conferences to learn from the best services worldwide throughout her career. She was active in a wide range of library bodies and particularly in IFLA at world level and EBLIDA and NAPLE at European level. She used these resources to influence strategic guidelines which were reformulated in 1996 and later. She attracted Funding for Telematics, ICT developments and international reading programmes. She chaired committees and congresses in her native country, in Latin America, she also led delegations and participated in working groups to improve services through the UNESCO General Information Point. She was the force behind the Portuguese National Focal Point for Libraries in EU fora in Luxembourg and Brussels. Ireland often found common ground with Portugal on proposals for improvement. Partnerships between public library services in Ireland and Portugal attracted funds.

She remained active in library activities up to her death. For her services , she was honoured, among others, by the International Book Committee in Amsterdam with the International Book Prize, on the nomination of IFLA in 1998 and by the Portuguese government for her services to libraries and library users with The Order of Merit.

Her interest and support for the library service in Ireland was deep. The parallels in development were clear and she was always willing to adapt systems and structures used successfully in other countries to achieve improved outcomes in Portugal. She attended the LAI/LANI[1] Joint Conference in Druids Glen in **2003** and participated in all the sessions.

She was among the most influential European public servants of her time in matters cultural and educational. The privileged access to decision makers that she enjoyed and the esteem in which she was held in library matters was matched by the warmth of the friendships she developed worldwide with library colleagues. She leaves a legacy of possibilities for the development of Portuguese library service. We have lost a great ambassador for our profession.

Norma McDermott, former Director,
An Chomhairle Leabharlann/The Library Council

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1   Now CILIP Ireland

NEWS from the STACKS

People

Helen Kielt, (TLT LLP, Bristol)

Marie O'Neill is now Head of Enhancement, CCT College, Dublin

Renate Ni Uigin (King's Inn) is President-Elect of BIALL

Barbara Lison (Bremen Public Library) is President-Elect of IFLA (2019-2021)

Awards

Jessica Eustace - Cook, SFI Research Librarian at Trinity College Dublin was recently awarded ALAI

Elaine Harrington (UCC), CONUL Research Award 2018

UCD Library Cultural Heritage Collections Blog, Blog Awards Ireland 2018 Gold Winner

Irish Education Awards 2019

LIT - Best Library Team

Library Team @ LIT

Results from Irish Education Awards 2018 and 2017

2018

LIT Library - Best International Research Project Collaboration

UCC - Best Library Team

2017

DBS - Best Library Team

UU - Overall Excellence in Education (LIS courses)

UU - Best Use of Educational Technology/ICT imitative of the year (LIS courses)

The first awards were presented in 2017. Details of the award scheme and the complete list of previous winners are available here:
https://www.educationawards.ie/

LAMA Awards 2019

Tipperary Libraries: Finalist in the Best Heritage Project Category for Tipperary Studies Digital Archive Project

CPD Opportunities

CILIP Ireland: https://www.cilip.org.uk/events/event_list. asp?show=&group=201287

LAI: https://www.libraryassociation.ie/event-calendar/

DBS: https://www.dbs.ie/course/postgraduate/msc-information-library-management

University College Dublin: http://www.ucd.ie/ics/

Ulster University: https://www.ulster.ac.uk/courses/201920/library-and-information-management-19846

Bursaries

Details of CILIP ILIG Bursary and CILIP Conference are available here:
https://www.cilip.org.uk/members/group_content_view. asp?group=201303&id=690172

Forthcoming Conferences, Local

SLARI:
http://slari.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/SLARIAprilConference2018.pdf

LAI/CILIP Joint Conference 2019:

https://www.libraryassociation.ie/lai-cilip-ireland-annual-joint-conference-will-take-place-on-april-10th-and-11th-2019/

Forthcoming Conferences, International

LILAC: https://www.lilacconference.com/lilac-2019/conference-programme

QQML: http://qqml.org/event/qqml2019/

BIALL: https://biall.org.uk/annual-conference/conference-2019-bournemouth/

EAHIL: http://eahil.eu/events/#.XIZ7tRP7Q9d

WBILMC: https://www.wbimlc.org/

OPEN REPOSITORIES: https://mi3.lambdalogic.de/unihamburg-online/OPEN2019.do

LIBER: https://liberconference.eu

CILIP 2019: http://cilipconference.org.uk/whats-on/keynote-speakers/

IAML: http://www.iaml2019.confer.uj.edu.pl/en_GB/

IFLA: https://2019.ifla.org/

International News

EBLIDA

EBLIDA Council meeting will be held in Dublin, 24th June and the EBLIDA/NAPLE Conference will be held on 25 June. Details of these events which are hosted by LGMA are available here: https://eblida2019.sciencesconf.org/

This year's LIBER conference will also be held in Dublin (26-29 June) so some delegates will be able to attend both events.

Copyright News

EBLIDA has launched a Copyright Reform Webpage: http://www.eblida.org/copyright-reform

Copyright in the Digital Single Market update: EBLIDA together with LIBER and other organisations has signed an open letter on the proposed directive. Details here: http://www.eblida.org/news/copyright-reform-eblida-signs-open-letter-calling-for-deletion-of-articles-11-and-13.html

European Elections 2019: will take place during the week 23-26 May. Legislation is currently going through the Seanad. When current or prospective MEPS come canvassing don't forget to ask them about Copyright, MEP Library Lovers group.

Be Media Smart

Media Literacy Ireland (MLI) is a new initiative of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, supported by the major broadcasting and social media companies, community organisations and the LAI. MLI will launch its first campaign towards the end of March, to coincide with European Media Literacy Week (18-22 March) and All Digital Week (25-31 March). The campaign uses TV, radio and a dedicated website to promote the need to *Be Media Smart*. This is just the beginning, with lots more to follow over the coming months. LAI are official partners of the campaign and Philip Cohen, the current LAI President, commented "This is a great opportunity for libraries and library staff to be involved in a well-resourced initiative that puts our core skills front and centre".

Important Dates

LAI AGM: 28th March 2018

CILIP Ireland/ LAI Joint Conference: 10th and 11th April
https://www.libraryassociation.ie/

European Elections: 23rd-26th May
https://www.libraryassociation.ie/