

Library Association of Ireland

ANNUAL REPORT 1998

This Annual Report was adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Library association of Ireland on 11th March 1999

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HONORARY OFFICERS 1998/1999

President:

Beatrice M. Doran, Librarian, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Vice-Presidents:

Pat McMahan, County Librarian, Galway County Library

Marjory Sliney, Senior Librarian, Fingal County Library

Hon. Secretary: Jess Codd, Executive Librarian, Tipperary Libraries

Hon. Treasurer: Catherine Watters, Information Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Hon. Auditor: Liam Smith, County Librarian, Meath County Library

EXECUTIVE BOARD 1998/1999

Kathleen Browne, *Kerry County Library*; Leslie Bryan, *Trinity College Dublin*; Dr. Mary Burke, *Department of Library & Information Studies*; Valerie Coghlan, *Church of Ireland College of Education*; Daisy Downes, *Institute of Chartered Accountants*; Deirdre Ellis-King, *Dublin Corporation Public Libraries*; Ruth Flanagan, *Cork County Library*; Fionnuala Hanrahan *Wexford County Library*; Pat Lonergan, *Kildare County Library*; Gerard Maher, *Wicklow County Library*; Gobnait O'Riordan, *University of Limerick*; Hanna O'Sullivan, *Cork City Library*; Liam Ronayne, *Donegal County Library*; Paul Sheehan, *Dublin Institute of Technology*; Brendan Teeling, *Dublin Corporation Public Libraries*; Mary Turner, *Irish Management Institute*.

The Executive Board met 7 times during the year: April 2, 1998 (Dublin); May 21, 1998 (Dublin); June 25, 1998 (Dublin); September 3, 1998 (Galway); November 5, 1998 (Dublin); December 3, 1998 (Dublin); January 21, 1999 (Dublin).

Attendance record: Beatrice M. Doran (7); Pat McMahon (6); Catherine Watters (6); Jess Codd (6); Liam Ronayne (6); Gerard Maher (6); Marjory Sliney (5); Brendan Teeling (5); Mary Turner (5); Valerie Coghlan (5); Pat Lonergan (5); Mary Burke (4); Paul Sheehan (4); Daisy Downes (4); Deirdre Ellis-King (3); Leslie Bryan (3); Hanna O'Sullivan (3); Fionnuala Hanrahan (2); Ruth Flanagan (2); Kathleen Browne (1); Gobnait O'Riordan (1)

FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 1998/1999 has been an exciting year for the Library Association of Ireland in this its 70th year. New policy making structures were introduced with existing Executive Board Committees being replaced with working panels as follows:

- Children's and School Libraries Panel (Convenor: M Sliney)
- Public Library Development Panel (Convenor: P MacMahon)
- Information Society Panel (Convenor: B Teeling)
- Europe and International Affairs Panel (Convenor: L Ronayne)
- Education and Training Panel (Convenor: M Turner)

The Association was represented on the National Policy on Libraries and Information Services, and a submission was made by the Association to this group. Meetings were held with a number of Government ministers including the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, and the Minister for Education and Science.

The Association welcomes the publication of the report *Branching Out: a new public library policy* and congratulates the Minister for the Environment and Local Government on its publication. We assure him of the Association's support in making the new public library service envisaged in the Report a reality.

The Association welcomes the grant provided by the Department of Education and Science to facilitate the primary school library research project.

Jennifer MacDougall's Consumer Health Research Project, *Well Read: developing consumer health information in Ireland*, was launched by the Secretary General of the Department of Health & Children, Mr J. O'Dwyer, and makes a welcome contribution to the literature. A feasibility study on the Development of a Consumer Health Information Database and National Delivery Service was also financed by the Department of Health and Children and carried out by Jennifer MacDougall.

The Association was represented at a number of professional conferences and meetings including EBLIDA (Helsinki), Scottish Library Association (Peebles), IFLA (Amsterdam) Public Library Authorities Conference (Harrogate) and the Library Association Royal Charter Centenary Celebrations (British Library).

The 1998 Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Library Association Northern Ireland was held in Wexford (28 April - 1 May 1998) with some 193 registered delegates. Highlights were speakers from the Bibliographie Nationale de France and the British Library, who spoke about their magnificent new National Library buildings.

As usual, the various sections and groups of the Association have been extremely active during the year, contributing in no small way to our continuing education. Active programmes of

lectures and workshops on various aspects of librarianship and visits to outstanding libraries were carried out.

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death of a former President of the Association, Deputy City Librarian Mr Bob Casey who made a major contribution to the Association during his years with Dublin Public Libraries. I also regret to announce the death of Alan Eager, a former editor of *An Leabharlann* and Librarian to the Royal Dublin Society who died during the year. Alan's *Guide to Irish Bibliographical Material*, a memorable work, is well known to all librarians.

My role as President of the Library Association of Ireland for the third time, comes to an end at the Annual General Meeting. I should like to thank Jess Codd who is resigning as Secretary this year and to express my appreciation of all his good work. I should also like to thank the Executive Board members for their support and help during the past year, and to wish the incoming President every success.

Beatrice Doran, President

A Policy Making Structure for the New Millennium

As a means of greatly improving the way the Association prepares and carries through policy, it was proposed that the existing Executive Board Committees be replaced with a small number of panels or working groups charged with the tasks of:

- looking ahead at the issues that will, or may arise, in the future;
- preparing policy options/recommendations for the consideration of the Board and Association;
- preparing policy positions at the request of the Board.

In making these proposals, the Board had two primary aims: firstly, there should be as few Panels as are absolutely necessary and, secondly, the panels should set out to involve many more people in LAI activities at this level. The formulation of policy on public library matters, for instance, has never been a smooth process: the County & City Librarians' Section, as the branch representing the senior people in the public library sector, is anxious to play a leading role; the Assistant Librarians Section, mainly made up of staff working in public libraries and representing the future of the profession, has its contribution to make; the Executive Board is required by the Articles & Memorandum of the Association to take executive decisions and to be the final arbiter of policy. Having a panel with wide representation, capable of harnessing the energy and idealism of junior professionals, should be a major step forward. The hope, therefore, is that these new panels would represent a tightening up of existing structures rather than creating new structures and offer the opportunity to be pro-active rather than re-active. It would also be a chance to formulate policy in a structured way, rather than in an ad-hoc and hurried way and, finally, the work would be shared, rather than falling on the shoulders of the same people all the time. Thus

- the Executive Board would establish terms of reference and guidelines for the Finance & General Purposes Committee and each Panel;
- the motions adopted at AGM would set policy;
- Panels would take these motions as 'headlines' and prepare policy papers/strategies for the Executive Board to follow up on;
- matters would be referred to Panels as required;
- Panels would be encouraged to identify issues in advance, and suggest to the Executive Board that they should initiate policy process e.g. Information Society issues;
- the convenor of each Panel should be a member of the Board, should report to the Board at each meeting, and should be generally accountable to the Board;

- the convenor of each Panel might be mandated to take the initiative in ‘emergency’ situations;
- the role and powers of the AGM and Executive Board would be unchanged.

There would be clear distinctions between the panels and sections: the sections are, and would remain, groupings of members interested in particular aspects of librarianship - e.g. Rare Books, Cataloguing & Indexing;

groupings of people working in particular sectors of library work - e.g. Academic & Special and groupings of members in particular regions - Munster, Western.

Membership of the Panels will bear the following objectives in mind: the Association needs strong organic links between Panels and the Executive Board; it needs to involve people with a knowledge of, and interest in, the particular fields. Finally the association needs to involve new people, including those with no interest in getting involved in the Executive Board per se.

Therefore

- the Executive Board would nominate members;
- members could be from the Board but also from outside;
- the Board could advertise or head-hunt members, from the Sections and the membership at large, to serve for a 2 or 3 year period, e.g. 3 out of 6/7 places could be assigned to non Executive Board members;
- it would be necessary to spell out to prospective Panel members what commitment would be involved;
- this would provide an opportunity to engage more LAI members in the Association’s activities - people already involved in Sections and people with interests e.g. children and schools, who are not currently involved.

The following panels were appointed at the Executive Board meeting of May 21st, 1998:

Children’s and School Libraries Panel

Convenor: *Marjory Sliney*;

Members: Fionnuala Hanrahan, Pat Lonergan, Valerie Coghlan; Ruth Flanagan; Kathleen Browne

Public Library Development Panel

Convenor: *Pat McMahan*;

Members: Gerard Maher, Hanna O’Sullivan, Liam Ronayne; Kathleen Browne

Information Society Panel

Convenor: *Brendan Teeling*;

Members: Fionnuala Hanrahan, Mary Turner, Catherine Watters, Beatrice Doran, Jess Codd; Gobnait O’Riordan; Clara Cullen; Siobhan O’Rafferty; Lee Komito

European and International Affairs Panel

Convenor: *Liam Ronayne*;

Members: Pat McMahan, Beatrice Doran, Leslie Bryan; Marjory Sliney

Education and Training Panel

Convenor: *Mary Turner*;

Members: Gerard Maher, Valerie Coghlan, Mary Burke, Catherine Watters; Agnes Neligan; Gobnait O’Riordan; Siobhan O’Rafferty; Carmel O’Sullivan

A millennium project team was also established in September, consisting of Paul Sheehan, Deirdre Ellis-King and Mary Burke, to consider the ideas discussed at a number of meetings of the Executive Board during the year.

A Local Creative and Learning Space

"That the Department of the Environment and Local Government underpin a social contract between local authorities and the local community that establishes the public library as the local creative and learning space - a space that will intertwine all of its programmes with the best local community effort" (Annual General Meeting, 1998).

The focus was firmly on the public library service in 1998 as the Association's AGM welcomed the *Review of Public Library Policy*, as initiated by the Department of the Environment and Local Government, and looked "forward to a report which will reflect the role that the public library can play in the 21st Century". With the approaching new millennium, the library community was taking stock and looking forward: along with the Department's Review, the Executive Board's *Public Libraries 2000 Working Group on Library Development* was preparing to report in 1999 and the Board was also represented on the *National Policy On Libraries & Information Services*. A sub-committee was also established by the Executive Board, comprising Brendan Teeling, Catherine Watters and Pat McMahon, to compile a submission on the Association's behalf to the *National Policy on Libraries and Information Services*.

Funding of the public library service loomed large in members' minds as the buoyant national economy went from strength to strength. In light of this, a comprehensive pre-budget submission was prepared and forwarded to the Department of Finance by Marjory Sliney and Deirdre Ellis-King. On foot of the resolutions passed at the Annual General Meeting and the strong feelings evident on many of the matters raised, the Executive Board met with the Minister for the Environment & Local Government in October to convey the Association's concerns. A hard-hitting document, outlining the state of the public library service and highlighting the need for increased funding, was prepared by Board members, Pat McMahon and Gerard Maher, and submitted to the Minister. The agenda for the meeting, short and to the point, reflected the issues that members had directed the Executive Board to pursue: public library book funding and capital project funding. With the *Public Library Review Policy* pending, however, the meeting could not have resulted in any concrete announcements but it was viewed as most constructive by both sides and a special book grant of £1million was announced the following day. It also appeared that capital funding would be addressed favourably in 1999 on the publication of the report.

Branching Out: A New Public Library Policy

The report "*Branching Out: A New Public Library Policy*" was launched by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Noel Dempsey, T.D., at Ballyfermot Library on November 26th, 1998. The report acknowledges that "the public library system has the potential to make a major contribution to ensuring that... Ireland moves rapidly to embrace the opportunities of the Information Society" and helping "to establish an inclusive society in which all citizens can participate fully in the social and economic life of the country". The report further "identifies what is necessary to enable this potential to be achieved, both in terms of completing the infrastructure and in terms of a range of measures to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of the services provided."

The report was warmly welcomed by the Executive Board at its December meeting and the Board wrote to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to congratulate him on the speedy publication of the report and signal the Association's support for the proposals. The Board further indicated that it would be eager to play a part in making the new public library service envisaged a reality and, under the new policy making structures, the *Public Library*

Development Panel would be willing to do what it can to assist in the proposed conference to set up an Implementation Framework.

Public Libraries 2000, Part Two

A document entitled *Public Libraries 2000 ~ National Network : Local Service* setting out standards and guidelines for the public library service in the 21st century, was commissioned by the Executive Board in 1995, following the completion of the first Public Libraries 2000 document *Public Libraries 2000: A Framework for Development*.

Public Libraries 2000 ~ National Network : Local Service comprises 5 main sections:

1. The Purpose of the Public Library
2. Public Libraries in the 21st Century
3. The People's Resource
4. Human Resources
5. Access and Participation

The Working Group - comprising Dilys Bateman, Jess Codd (Secretary to the Working Group), Anne Coughlan, Ruth Flanagan, John McGinley, and Liam Ronayne (Chairperson) - met 4 times in 1998, completing its work in December, and presented the final draft to the Executive Board. It is expected that the document will be published in the first half of 1999.

Services to Children & Young People

The *Policy Statement on Library Services to Children & Young People* was adopted by members at the Annual General Meeting 1998 and the Executive Board was directed to publish it for its target audience. A number of factors have contributed to a slight delay in formal publication, but members of the working party are now in discussion with the Association's graphic designer in an attempt to develop a high impact publication, designed to attract attention to the statement's implications and contribute to a pro-active campaign of publicity about the issues involved. The *Policy Statement* was published for members' information in *An Leabharlann. The Irish Library* 14 (1), pp19 – 21.

Libraries and Learning

A delegation from the Executive Board met with the Minister for Education in January and addressed the issues of

- the impact of the recent IT initiative, particularly the issue of involving libraries in the process and in the area of ensuring the provision of useful information sources,
- the inadequacy of the school library stock grant,
- the need for policy at national level, and for more librarians, country-wide, active in the areas of school library development, and
- the requirement to provide teacher training, both at entry and in-service stages, in the areas of sourcing and selecting materials and in the administration of school library collections.

The Association thanked the Minister for the Department's grant to facilitate the *Primary School Library Research Project*.

At a second meeting, in December, once again, discussions ranged across the requirement for policy for school library development in primary and secondary schools, library skills provision as part of the curriculum for pre-service and in-service training for teachers and the developments of additional library supports to aid teachers in the development of classroom collections.

The Association welcomed the Minister's recent announcement of an additional IR£6.8million for library materials in 1999, and made a case for its distribution through the existing Local Authority School Library Service. When the Minister explained the reasons behind the

distribution of the funding directly to schools, and his plans for a National Reading Initiative, the Association hoped that the existing structure would not be by-passed again. The Association also sought an increase in the annual stock allowance, from the current IR£2.15 to IR£5.00 per child per annum. This would require an increase of IR£1.5million on the Department's allocation for 1999.

The Minister indicated that the Association would be invited to sit on two cross-sectoral committees, which he proposes to set up in 1999, and that he hoped that libraries country-wide would take a leading role in the National Reading Initiative. He indicated that his Department would part-fund, to the amount of £15,000, and distribute the forthcoming *Information Manual for School Libraries*, which is being developed by the School Library Development Committee, with publication planned for Spring 1999. With regard to the new posts of responsibility in schools, and specifically the necessity for training in library organisation at pre-service and in-service levels, the Minister indicated that the Association should make a submission to the recently formed *Primary Education Review Body*, with a view to library training being part of the teacher training curriculum.

The Minister expressed particular interest in the development of paired reading scheme collections, and in the provision of free access to public libraries for schoolchildren country-wide. The Association indicated that it would make a submission on both issues.

The Association welcomed the recent Green Paper on Adult Education, and indicated that a response was being developed.

Consumer Health Information Project

Members of the Management Committee: Aidan Beatty – Vice Chair (Dept of Health and Childcare nominee), Alun Bevan (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna), Fionnuala Hanrahan - Chair, Jean Harrison (Academic and Special Libraries Section nominee), Gerry Maher (County & City Librarians Section), Ann Tierney (Health Sciences Section nominee), and Jennifer MacDougall - Researcher

Research on the delivery of consumer health information was completed and the resulting report was published in 1998. *Well read: developing consumer health information in Ireland* was launched by Jerry O'Dwyer, Secretary General of the Department of Health and Children, in May. At that time, he announced that the Department was undertaking an internal review of the public's consumer health information needs and how they best might be addressed. He saw the Association's report as a valuable base document, and predicted action in the area in 1999. As a further development of the project, the Health Promotion Unit of the Department of Health and Children financed a feasibility study on the development of a Consumer Health Information database and national delivery service. This was treated as an extension of the project and the Management Committee continued in place. The resulting report, *Consumer Health Information Database Feasibility Study*, which included the identification of a strategy for database delivery and an assessment of costs, was submitted to the Health Promotion Unit in September.

This ended the business of the Management Committee and it disbanded in September. Eight meetings were held in 1998.

Primary School Libraries Research Project

The Department of Education and Science provided the Library Association of Ireland with a grant for research into the current state of libraries in primary schools and the information needs of the primary school section with particular attention to the impact of the new curriculum and the introduction of information and communications technologies.

Nominees to an expert Management Committee were sought from An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, the Irish National Teachers Organisation, the National Parents Council and the Department of Education and Science. The first committee meeting, held in November, agreed a brief for the

project. Advertisements for the research service were placed. The project and its report is scheduled for completion in early 2000.

Members: Betty Boardman – Chair (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna nominee), Valerie Coughlan (LAI nominee), Fionnuala Hanrahan - Secretary (LAI nominee), Maire Ni Chuinneagain (INTO nominee), Maria McCarthy (INTO nominee), Eamonn Murtagh (Department of Education & Science nominee), Priscilla Fitzpatrick, (National Parent’s Council – Primary Sector nominee)

Representing the Association

Nominees and members of committees

An Chomhairle Leabharlanna: Deirdre Ellis-King, Ruth Flanagan

Committee on Library Co-operation in Ireland: Leslie Bryan.

Consumer Health Information Research: Jean Harrison (Academic and Special Libraries Section nominee), Gerry Maher (County & City Librarians Section), Ann Tierney (Health Sciences Section nominee)

Editorial Panel for An Leabharlann. The Irish Library: Jess Codd, Fionnuala Hanrahan (joint-editor), Anne Murray (Sales Manager – retired October 1998), Agnes Neligan (Reviews Editor)

Euro-Focus on Libraries: Marie Reddan

Library Staff Training Committee: Julia Barrett, Tom King, Martin Maher, Gobnait O’Riordan

Local Government Computer Services Board Liaison Group: Donal Brady, Anne Coughlan, Dolores Doyle, Tom King, Paul Harris, Martin Maher

National Children's Book Festival Committee: Adrienne Gilmartin and Breid Ryan

National Policy On Libraries and Information Services, Consultative Council: Brendan Teeling

Newsplan: Brendan Teeling (Retired November 1998); Marjory Sliney

North-South Liaison Committee: Jane Algar, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Brendan Teeling, Liam Ronayne, Catherine Watters, Beatrice Doran, Jess Codd

Primary School Libraries Research Project: Valerie Coughlan, Fionnuala Hanrahan

Public Libraries & Adult Literacy Project: Gerard Maher

Public Libraries and the Arts Steering Committee: Fionnuala Hanrahan, Pat McMahon

Public Libraries 2000 Working Party: Dilys Bateman, Jess Codd, Anne Coughlan, Ruth Flanagan, Liam Ronayne

Public Library Policy Review Project Team: Deirdre Ellis-King, Liam Ronayne

School Library Development Committee: Valerie Coghlan, Mary Carleton-Reynolds, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Patrick Lonergan, Gobnait O’Riordan, Patricia Quigley, Marjory Sliney, Liz Turley, Rosemary Walton

Delegations

- *To the Department of Education, in January :* Valerie Coghlan, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Hanna O’Sullivan, Brendan Teeling
- *To the Department of the Environment & Local Government, in October:* Jess Codd, Beatrice Doran, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Pat McMahon.
- *To the Department of Education & Science, in December:* Valerie Coghlan, Beatrice Doran, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Pat McMahon, Marjory Sliney

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Submissions

To the Department of Education and Science

- School Libraries: policy & training, December, 1998
- Management of the IR£6.5 million Book Grant to primary and post-primary schools, December, 1998

To the Department of Health & Children

- Well read: developing consumer health information in Ireland, May, 1988

- Consumer Health Information Database Feasibility Study, September 1998 (To the Health Promotion Unit of the Department)

To the Department of Environment and Local Government

- Pre-Budget Submission, October 1998

To the Department of Finance

- Pre-Budget Submission, October 1998

To the National Policy on Libraries & Information Services

- Library Association of Ireland submission, as well as individual sections & groups, May 1998

To the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands

- The County and City Librarians' Section, as well as a number of members, submissions regarding the *National Heritage Plan*

To the Department of Agriculture and Food

- The County and City Librarians' Section submission, regarding *Rural Development*

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Conferences

EBLIDA Council meeting, Helsinki, May: Beatrice Doran

Scottish Library Association Annual Conference, Peebles, June: Marjory Sliney

IFLA meeting, Amsterdam, August: Beatrice Doran

Public Library Authorities Conference, Harrogate, September: Pat McMahon

Library Association Royal Charter Centenary, British Library, December: Beatrice Doran

Committees of the Executive Board

Children's and School Libraries Panel

Marjory Sliney (Chair), Fionnuala Hanrahan, Pat Lonergan (Acting Secretary), Valerie Coghlan, Ruth Flanagan, Kathleen Browne

The Children's and School Libraries Panel met in November 1998, and decided that it should identify relevant issues about which the Library Association should have a policy. However, before much work could be done, events dictated that the main focus of the Panel for 1999 should be a submission to the Primary Education Review Body. It was also decided to invite non-Executive Board or non-LAI members only when the Panel had identified the issues that deserved attention

Education and Training Panel

Mary Turner, Gerard Maher, Valerie Coghlan, Mary Burke, Catherine Watters, Agnes Neligan, Gobnait O'Riordan, Siobhan O'Rafferty, Carmel O'Sullivan

The convenor is currently talking to representatives of the organisations that were part of the Library Staff Training Committee, with a view to disbanding the committee and subsuming the committee's brief into that of this panel; early indications are that the response to this initiative is positive and encouraging.

European and International Affairs Panel

Liam Ronayne, Pat McMahon, Beatrice Doran, Leslie Bryan, Marjory Sliney

The Panel identified three main issues:

- copyright and lending right
- the application of EU Programmes in Ireland
- EBLIDA initiatives

In particular the Panel has sought expert advice on the proposed copyright legislation, and how it should address access to databases etc. The Panel will prepare a response to the Bill when it is published. The Panel will act as the Association's main link with the activities of EBLIDA, and will provide information on EBLIDA to LAI members, through the LAI's website and in other

ways, as appropriate. The Panel has also decided to set up a discussion list on the net for members and for other interested persons.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Chairman: Liam Ronayne

Secretary: Catherine Watters

Committee: Jess Codd, Beatrice Doran, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Gerard Maher, Brendan Teeling

The Committee met six times in 1998.

Membership Secretary

The Committee considered the appointment of a Membership Secretary during 1998. This proposal was put to the Executive Board, who approved the appointment of Nicola Rogers as Membership Secretary in June. Ms. Rogers has responsibility for the administration of the Association's database of members, dealing with queries regarding new or existing memberships and assisting mailing to members.

Administrative Secretary

In light of the increasing workload of the Honorary Secretary, the Committee proposed the recruitment of an

Administrative Secretary, to assist the Honorary Secretary and the Executive Board in the day to day administration of the Association. This has been approved by the Board and will be pursued in 1999. It is hoped that the post of Administrative Secretary will allow the Honorary Secretary to concentrate on policy matters concerning the Association.

Information Society Panel

Brendan Teeling, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Mary Turner, Catherine Watters, Beatrice Doran, Jess Codd, Gonnait O'Riordan, Clara Cullen, Siobhan Rafferty, Lee Komito

No meeting of this Panel took place.

Public Library Development Panel

Pat McMahan, Gerard Maher, Hanna O'Sullivan, Liam Ronayne, Kathleen Browne

No meeting of this Panel took place.

Committee on School Library Development

Chair: Valerie Coghlan

Secretary: Liz Turley

Committee: Mary Carleton-Reynolds, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Helen Kilclyne, Patrick Lonergan, Gonnait, O'Riordan, Patricia Quigley, Marjory Sliney, Rosemary Walton.

Much of the past year has been spent on raising sponsorship and on editing the proposed publication *Information Manual for School Libraries*. Major funding has been received from the Department of Education and Science for this project, which, together with funds raised by sponsorship, will enable the production of a high-quality information file on all aspects of running a school library. This will include sections on *Equipping the Library*, *Library Organisation and Routines*, *Planning and Policy for Developing the School Library*, *Information Skills*, *Building the Collection and Selecting Stock*, *Promoting the Library*, *ICT in the School Library*, and *The School Library Services and the Public Library*. The contributors are all members of the Committee and have worked on the information file on a voluntary basis. This will be circulated free of charge to all schools in the country. The Department of Education is to undertake this as part of their initiative on literacy.

An expert Management Committee has been set-up to establish the terms of reference for research into the information and library provision and future requirements in primary schools. This research will commence in 1999.

North/South Liaison Committee

Annual Joint Conference: The 1998 Conference took place in the Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford, from 28th April – 1st May. 193 delegates attended. The keynote address was provided by the Minister for Education, Northern Ireland, Tony Worthington, MP.

"The explosion in electronic information cannot replace the crucial role of public libraries which ensure all citizens have free access to information" was the clear message given to the delegates attending as guest speakers David Bradbury, of the British Library, and Philippe Béval, of the Bibliotheque Nationale de France, outlined the major investments and innovations ongoing in both institutions. The huge investment in the new St. Pancras building in London had done much to raise the status of libraries in general and make people aware of their importance. Warning about the possibility of over-reliance on information technology, both speakers reminded delegates that the technology was still accessible to only a minority of the public and that the oft-quoted possibility of an "information underclass" might still pose a threat - indeed, it should not be seen as paradoxical at all that the building of new libraries like those of the British and French national libraries had happened just when the IT explosion seemed to make them redundant. Finding the right balance between access to information and knowledge through reading was now the challenge for all libraries.

To the theme of *The Informed Citizen: towards an inclusive society*, the following speakers addressed the delegates with the papers listed - John Cullen - National Policy for Libraries and Information Services Project; Margaret Haines - The Library and Information Commission : its role in national strategy and development; Beatrice Doran, - the management of change; David Bradbury - The National Library and the informed citizen; Philippe Belaval - A new National Library for a new Millennium : with and without walls; Dr. Robert Usherwood, - Much more than numbers : a social audit of public library and information services; William J. Macnaught - Equal Access? Developing library services for people with sensory impairments; Gail McKinley - "Obligations and Opportunities" - the unknown; Michael Gorman - Libraries : an older perspective; Jennifer MacDougall - Well Read : Consumer Health Information in Ireland; Tom McCarthy - Your local library is a writers' workshop.

A general meeting of the Library Association of Ireland was held on the Friday morning. Conference delegates visited the south-west of the county, the National 1798 Visitors Centre and the Irish National Heritage Park where Wexford Corporation provided a civic reception. The Association was also delighted to welcome to the conference, along with the President of the LA, Bob Usherwood, Llyod Ellis, Chair of the Welsh LA and Ian McGowan, President of the Scottish LA. The conference dinner was addressed by Dan Wallace, TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment & Local Government. Rita O'Brien, Wexford County Council Public Library Service was Conference Secretary, and Mary Kintner, South Eastern Education and Library Board, was Programme Secretary.

An Leabharlann. The Irish Library: Volume 14 was published in 1998.

Public Libraries and the Arts

The Public Libraries and the Arts Committee, established under the auspices of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and The Arts Council of Ireland in 1996, continued its deliberations in 1998.

The research report was completed in early summer and submitted to the two sponsoring organisations. This ended the work of the Committee which disbanded in July. Two meetings were held in 1998.

Library Staff Training Committee

The organisations that made up the Library Staff Training Committee had been contacted towards the latter end of 1998 about the proposal to subsume the committee and its functions into the new Education & Training Panel.

Publications

Annual Report 1997. Dublin: Library Association of Ireland, 1998. ISSN 0791-6248

Public information in private places: proceedings of the 1997 Annual Joint Conference held in Letterkenny Co Donegal, 22nd – 25th April, 1997. Dublin / Belfast. Library Association of Ireland / Library Association, Northern Ireland Branch, 1998. IR£10.00. ISBN: 0 946037353

Jennifer MacDougall, *Consumer Health Information Database Feasibility Study*. September, 1998. (An internal research report commissioned by the Health Promotion Unit of the Department of Health & Childcare)

Jennifer MacDougall, *Well read: developing consumer health information in Ireland*. Dublin. Library Association of Ireland, 1998. IR£10.00. ISBN: 0 946037 34 5

An Leabharlann. The Irish Library Volume 14

Further Education Programme & Events

JANUARY

Popular Political Propaganda in Ireland, 1790-1820

Rare Books Group Talk & AGM

Wednesday, 28th January, Dublin

FEBRUARY

Annual General Meeting

Assistant Librarians' Section

February 27th, Galway

Maeve Friel

Youth Library Group AGM & Talk

February 26th, Dublin

Information Professionals in a Changing World - Facilitating Progress

Academic and Special Libraries Section

Friday 6th February, Dublin

Public Library Policy Review

County & City Librarians' Section Seminar

February 6th

MARCH

Dewey Decimal Classification Introduction

Cataloguing & Indexing Group AGM and talk

March 27th, Dublin

The Library and Archives of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

Rare Books Group Book Collectors' Circle informal talk

March 11th, Dublin

Assertiveness and Self Esteem at Work

Munster Regional Section Talk following the AGM

Monday March 9th, Cork

APRIL

The Informed Citizen: Towards An Inclusive Society

Annual Joint Conference; Library Association of Ireland/Library Association Northern Ireland

Tuesday, April 28th - Friday, May 1st, Wexford

Earl of Rosse at Birr Castle

Rare Books Group Outing

25th of April, Birr

Annual General Meeting

Government Libraries Group

April 8th, Dublin

Annual General Meeting

Cataloguing & Indexing Group

April 8th, Dublin

A View from the Bookshelf

Western Regional Section Annual Lecture & AGM

April 3rd, Galway

MAY

Compiling an Irish Bibliography

Rare Books Group Book Collectors' Circle informal talk

May 27th

Annual General Meeting

Academic & Special Libraries Section

May 20th, Dublin

Limerick Libraries Visit

Munster Regional Section

Monday 25th, Limerick

JUNE

Anglo/Irish Study Conference in Trinity College

Joint Conference of the LAI Cataloguing and Indexing Group and LA CIG

Friday, 26th - Sunday, 28th June, Dublin

Customer Services: Quality & Marketing

Western Regional Section, One Day Seminar

Thursday, 25th June, Galway

Accessing Nursing Web Sites

Health Sciences Libraries Group

Thursday, 18th June, Dublin

Only The Best.... Children's Books and Libraries

Summer Seminar; Youth Library Group

Saturday, June 6, Dublin

SEPTEMBER

Libraries in Transition

Munster Regional Section annual training seminar

Monday 21st September, Cork

The Long Eighteenth Century

Rare Books Group Annual Study Conference, TCD

September 9-11th, Dublin

Bord na Gaeilge Seminar

County & City Librarians' Section

September 4th, Aran Islands

OCTOBER

Irish Architectural Archive

Rare Books Group Book Collectors' Circle informal talk

October 21st, Dublin

Local Government and Public Libraries: Into The Next Century

Assistant Librarians' Section, Annual Conference

October 9th – 11th, Ennis*Children's Book Festival 1998*

Youth Library Group

October, nation-wide

NOVEMBER*Charity Table Quiz*

Munster Regional Section

Thursday 26th November, Cork*Genealogy & Local Studies*

County & City Librarians' Section Autumn Seminar & AGM

November 19-20th, Waterford*Martin Walsh on Book Collecting*

Rare Books Group, Book Collectors' Circle informal talk

Dublin

Annual General Meeting 1998

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Alexander Hotel, Fenian Street, Dublin on Friday, 6th March. Liam Ronayne, County Librarian, Donegal, resigned as President of the Association after three years, and was praised for the sterling efforts he had made, during his term of office, to raise the profile of the Association and the library profession in general, both here and abroad. Brendan Teeling, likewise, was congratulated for the major contribution he had made to the smooth organisation of the Association, and a number of innovations undertaken during this period as Honorary Secretary.

Beatrice Doran, Librarian, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, was elected President of the Association and Jess Codd, Assistant Librarian, Tipperary Libraries was elected Honorary Secretary and Catherine Watters, Information Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers, was elected Honorary Treasurer. In her address to members, the President looked forward to the restructuring initiative instigated by the outgoing President, which would help the Association look to the future, identify major issues in relation to libraries and provide an opportunity to involve more members in Association activities. She also hoped to build upon, and expand, collaborations and alliances among librarians, their organisations and all library users, adding "as librarians we need to reposition ourselves to play a major role in the networked information environment as we have done in the print environment to date. As your President I will seek to enhance the image of, and promote the value of, librarians in all types of libraries".

The new President also drew members' attention to an important anniversary: "This year 1998 is the 70th anniversary of the incorporation of the Library Association of Ireland... we owe a great deal to those librarians who have gone before us and who have had a great commitment to this Association. You will forgive me if I mention a few whom I knew as a junior member of this Association. People like the late Desmond Clarke, a former Librarian of the RDS, and Betty Searson who was secretary of the University and Special Libraries section. Also associated with this section was the late John Hurst during his time as Librarian of Trinity College Dublin. Maureen O'Byrne, who did so much for Dublin Public Libraries, and, of course, Bob Casey her Deputy. On occasions like this we remember Charlie O'Connell who spent many years as Treasurer of this Association. The work of Nollaig Hardiman over the years has also been tremendous and I wish to pay special tribute to her. The healthy state of our professional association is due in no small part to these individuals. A profession that has a strong professional association is a thriving one. It is only by developing and maintaining a reputation for reliability, integrity and competency that a profession can thrive and I believe when you look

at our membership of almost 700 and look too at the activities of our eleven different sections one can realise how well our profession and Association is thriving."

The following resolutions were passed at the meeting for action by the Executive Board:

1. That this Association welcomes the project to develop a National Policy on Library and Information Services and calls on all participants in the Sector to contribute to the work of the National Policy Project Team. *Proposed by the Executive Board.*
2. That this Association welcomes the Review of Public Library Policy as initiated by the Department of the Environment and Local Government and looks forward to a report which will reflect the role that the public library can play in the 21st Century. *Proposed by the Executive Board.*
3. That in view of the appalling state of public library bookfunds, this Association calls on the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to make available a grant of one million pounds to local authorities to help alleviate the problem. *Proposed by Tipperary Joint Libraries Committee.*
4. That the Minister for the Environment and Local Government provide capital funding to replenish library bookstocks, similar to the major funding recently provided for archives, arts, technology and education. *Proposed by Kerry County Library Committee.*
5. That the incoming Executive Board actively pursues a vigorous programme of action to ensure that our public libraries be free, open and accessible to all. *Proposed by the County & City Librarians' Section.*
6. That, due to the backlog of £40 million of capital public library projects awaiting sanction, this Association even more strongly press the Department of the Environment and Local Government to provide a realistic annual level of capital funding to allow for the completion of these projects within a five year period. *Proposed by the County & City Librarians' Section.*
7. That, in recognition of the library development plans prepared by each library authority and the review of the public library service, the Minister for the Environment and Local Government respond by providing the necessary capital funding for library projects awaiting sanction. *Proposed by Kerry County Library Committee.*
8. That the Department of the Environment and Local Government be asked to provide 100% capital funding to complete the automation of all public library services and provide free access to the Internet at each of the 317 public library units throughout the country. *Proposed by the County & City Librarians' Section.*
9. That the Department of the Environment and Local Government underpin a social contract between local authorities and the local community that establishes the public library as the local creative and learning space - a space that will intertwine all of its programmes with the best local community effort. *Proposed by the County & City Librarians' Section.*
10. That, in view of obligations arising under the 1994 Local Government Act, this Association calls on the Minister of the Environment and Local Government to facilitate the establishment of a central archive in each administrative county/city unit, under the management of the library service and to make sufficient funds available to facilitate this development. *Proposed by the County & City Librarians' Section.*
11. That the Library Association of Ireland adopts as Association policy the Policy Statement on Library Services to Children and Young People, as circulated. *Proposed by the Executive Board.*
12. That this Association calls upon the Minister for Education to provide comprehensive information services to meet the information needs of students, teachers, school management, and parents in the primary and secondary schools sectors, and that, as first steps, support be provided for research on information needs and the nature of current provision. *Proposed by the Committee on School Library Development.*
13. That the Minister for Education be requested to introduce a planned development programme for the Primary Schools Library Service so that by the year 2000 the annual per capita grant

would be equal to the average cost of one new book per pupil. *Proposed by the County & City Librarians' Section.*

14. That the Department of Finance be notified of its obligations in relation to the Freedom of Information Act, as regards the public's legal right to access to Government information, and accordingly that it provide free copies of all Government publications to each County and City library service. *Proposed by the County & City Librarians' Section.*

Sections & Groups

Academic and Special Libraries Section

Chairman: Catherine Watters (PricewaterhouseCoopers)

Secretary: Caitriona Sharkey (Ernst & Young)

Treasurer: Madeleine Dennison (Office of the Attorney General)

Committee Angela Cotter (DCU), Aoife Kelly (Our Lady's Hospital, Drogheda), Nicky Kilroy (KPMG), Elizabeth Murphy (NUI, Maynooth), Teresa Whittington, (Central Catholic Library)

During 1998 the Committee met seven times and the section organised a number of different activities.

Information Professionals in a Changing World - Facilitating Progress, the Section's Annual Seminar, was held in Dublin on February 6th and was attended by 50 people. The seminar was chaired by Sean Philips and the speakers included Professor Aidan Kelly, UCD; Robin Adams, TCD; Aidan Beatty, Department of Health and Children; Liam Ronayne, President, LAI; Professor Margaret Evans, Loughborough University and Dr. Barbara Traxler Brown, UCD. The seminar focused on the role of the information professional in bringing the benefits of new technologies to library users.

Annual General Meeting: The sections AGM was held in Buswells Hotel in Dublin on 14th May. The meeting was attended by 15 members.

Visit to the Libraries of the Attorney General's Office and the Taoiseach's Office: A visit took place on 2nd December and was attended by 20 section members. The visitors had the opportunity to see both libraries and were briefed on the library systems and information sources in use in both libraries

Assistant Librarians' Section

Chairperson: Jarlath Glynn, Wexford County Library

Vice-Chairperson: Teresa Walsh, Dublin Public Libraries

Secretary: Pat Lonergan, Kildare County Library

Treasurer: Brendan Martin, Offaly County Library

Committee : Eva Berkery, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna; Tony Cox, Westmeath County Library; Carmel Daly, Clare County Library; Gerard Flannery, Tipperary Joint Libraries Committee; Richard Hickey, Mayo County Library; Dorothy O'Reilly, Kilkenny County Library; Peter Rabbitt, Galway County Library; Bennery Rickard, Dún Laoire-Rathdown County Library; Josephine Vahey, Galway County Library

The Committee met four times during the year. The AGM of the Section was held in St. Patrick's Hall, Galway on 27th February 1998, and was followed in the afternoon by a visit to Galway City Library and Library Headquarters. During the year arrangements were made for a seminar on interview techniques, to be organised in conjunction with the *Institute of Public Administration*. However, due to scheduling difficulties, this event was postponed, and will take place in February 1999.

Ennis, Ireland's *Information Age Town*, was the chosen venue for the Section's Annual Conference. It was decided that, in addition to dealing with technological development, the Conference should note the forthcoming centenary of the introduction of Local Government in Ireland. The Conference, which ran from 9-11 October at the West County Hotel, was officially opened by LAI President Beatrice Doran, and was attended by over 60 delegates, representing library services throughout the country and the book trade. Liam Kenny, Director of the *General Council of County Councils*, took an interesting look back at one hundred years of Irish Local Government; Frank Ryan, Senior Specialist with the *Institute of Public Administration*, raised some thought-provoking questions on where local government and public libraries might be going in the future of local government in Ireland; and Austin Vaughan, Mayo County Librarian, in his intriguingly-titled paper "*From Charlotte's Web to the World Wide Web*", outlined the establishment and development of the *Libraries Online* project in Castlebar. Delegates also took the opportunity to visit the recently refurbished Clare County Library headquarters, the Clare Local Studies Project and de Valera Branch Library in Ennis.

Audio-Visual and Information Technology Section

Chairperson: Marie Burke (UCD)

Secretary: Tara Doyle (Dublin Public Libraries)

Treasurer: Michael Foley (National Rehabilitation Board)

Committee: Joanna Finnegan (National Library of Ireland); Gerard Flannery (Tipperary Libraries – retired April 1998); Siobhan Rafferty (Royal Irish Academy); Gobnait O'Riordan (University of Limerick)

The committee only met twice in 1998 due to a number of difficulties beyond the members' control. However, a visit to RTÉ was arranged for members in February. The committee expects a revival of interest in the section in 1999 and a number of events and visits are being scheduled.

Cataloguing & Indexing Group

Chair: Peter Guilding (Trinity College Dublin)

Treasurer: Breda Long (National University of Ireland Cork)

Secretary: Catriona Cannon (University College Dublin)

Committee: Kay Butler (Dublin Corporation Public Libraries); Patricia Dowling (Interleaf); Jane Gribbon (University of Limerick); Barbara McDonald (Trinity College Dublin); Mícheál O'hAodha (University of Limerick)

Barbara McDonald and Jane Gribbon resigned as Secretary and Treasurer respectively while remaining on the committee, and were replaced by Catriona Cannon and Breda Long. One new member, Mícheál O'hAodha, joined the committee. The committee suffered a sad loss at the death of one of its members, Andy Richardson, in August 1998. It is planned to commemorate his contribution to the committee with a special lecture in 1999.

The committee's annual general meeting was held on 27 March 1998 in Trinity College Library, in conjunction with a talk on the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme, with the membership of the Group standing at approximately the same level as last year. The committee met once, on 29 October 1998, in the Main Library, University College Dublin.

AGM lecture: Hugh Brazier of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland gave a brief introduction to the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme at the AGM.

Anglo-Irish Cataloguing and Indexing Conference: This conference, organised jointly with the Cataloguing and Indexing Group (UK), was held from 26th – 28th June, 1998 and was very successful. In all, it was attended by ninety-six delegates from Ireland and the UK. The standard of lectures was high and the subjects covered included national information policies, cataloguing the Internet and national bibliographies.

Proposed changes to the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme, 21st edition: The committee submitted its proposals for changes to the geographical tables on Ireland in DDC 21, but unfortunately it was not possible for the DDC revision committee to adopt them.

Future events and activities: The committee plans to hold seminars on the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules and MARC in the first half of 1999. As mentioned above, the committee hopes to hold a memorial lecture for Andy Richardson.

County and City Librarians' Section

Chairman: Pat Mc Mahon (Galway County Library)

Vice Chairman: Donal Brady (Waterford County Library)

Secretary: Josephine Brady (Cavan County Library)

Treasurer: Liam Smith (Meath County Library)

The A.G.M of the section was held in Waterford on the 20th November, 1998 and the section met on six occasions during 1998. Four major seminars were held during the year:

(1) On 6th February, 1998 a seminar was held to conclude deliberations on the *Submission of the Co. and City Librarians to the Public Library Policy Review Team of the Department of the Environment and Local Government*. The final draft of the submission was prepared following this seminar and forwarded to the Review team on the 5th March, 1998. The submission had a clear objective: to focus on what the public library service in Ireland should, and could be, and to identify what needs to be done to ensure that this role is fulfilled.

(2) On the 4th September 1998, a *Bord na Gaeilge Seminar* was held on Cill Ronain, Aran Islands. The key note speaker was Michael Ó Muirheartaigh, Cathaoirleach, *Bord na Gaeilge*.

(3) *Enterprise Ireland*, in conjunction with the section, arranged two seminars on *Electronic Information Sources for County and City Librarians*. Among the areas covered were: *Information resources on CD-ROM and on the Internet; Using the World Wide Web; Digital Libraries*.

(4) The Annual Autumn seminar was held in Waterford City on the 19th and 20th November in association with the IPA. The theme chosen, *Genealogy & Local Studies*, provided County and City Librarians with an extremely useful and valuable opportunity to focus on a crucial aspect of public library services. To coincide with the seminar, a public lecture on *The Local History Collections of Irish Public Libraries* was held in Waterford on Thursday 19th November. Close to 150 people attended and the speakers were Mr. Liam Ronayne, Donegal County Librarian, Ms Fionnuala Hanrahan, Wexford County Librarian and Dr. William Nolan, UCD.

Submissions by this section were also made to the Department of Agriculture and Food regarding *Rural Development* and to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands concerning the *National Heritage Plan*.

During the year, members of the section participated in a number of important committees, including committees in the area of automation and adult literacy.

In addition, a *Prison Library Service Sub-committee* of the County and City Librarians' section was established to investigate the current situation in relation to the provision of library services to prisons nation-wide and to work towards the formulation of a national policy regarding prison library services.

At its December meeting, the section welcomed the publication of *Branching Out: A New Public Library Service* and looked forward to examining the document in detail in early 1999.

Government Libraries' Section

Chairman: Joseph Donnelly (Judges' Library)

Minutes Secretary: Mary Doyle (Dept of Agriculture & Food)

Correspondence Secretary and PRO: Carol Flynn (Dept of Enterprise, Trade & Employment)

Treasurer: Valerie Ingram (Office of Public Works)

Editor of *GLINT*: Mary Doyle (Dept of Agriculture & Food)

Committee: Michael O'Gorman (State Laboratory); Madelaine Dennison (Office of the Attorney General); Denise Duffy (Dept of Agriculture & Food); Sarah Ball (National Botanic Gardens); Monica Wallace (Dept of Public Enterprise)

The Committee met seven times in the course of the year. The AGM was held on 8th April at the Office of Public Works.

The GLS was represented at the LAI Section Meeting in January. In April several members made an informative visit to Reilly Bookbinders in Wicklow. In June, 1998 the GLS made a submission on the proposed *National Policy on Libraries and Information* to An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. It also prepared best-practice publishing guidelines for all government departments, in conformity with the needs of the GPSO. It is expected that these will form part of the Customer Service guidelines to be issued under the auspices of the government *Strategic Management Initiative* in the near future. Much work was done on preparing the papers from the 1997 FOI Conference for publication and the proceedings will be published shortly by Blackhall Publishing.

With librarians being asked to expand their role to include such areas as archives, a meeting was held with the Archivists' Association and the National Archives with a view to drawing up guidelines in this area. There was also concern about the increasing part played by IT Departments in the library information function. This is something that will be pursued by a new group, the Government Library Managers' Network.

One issue of the Section's newsletter *GLINT* was published and distributed in December 1998. The Section also maintains a Web Page on HEANET (<http://www.heanet.ie/gls/gls.html>) which contains further details of our activities and publications.

Health Sciences Libraries Section

Chair: Margaret Dillon, Regional Hospital, Limerick

Secretary: Ann M. O'Byrne, Dublin Dental Hospital

Committee: Catherine Breslin, Sligo General Hospital; Angela Canavan, Barnardo's (resigned December 1998); Tim Collins, NUI Galway; Muriel Haire, Irish Nurses' Organisation; Tony Linnane, Western Health Board; Gillian Smith, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
The committee met four times during 1998. The Section's AGM was held on February 26th, where the Treasurer's Report and the Chairperson's Report were read. There was also a prolonged review and discussion of the inter-library loans co-operative which operates under the auspices of the Section. Since August 1997, when the revised, enlarged edition of *Irish Healthcare Libraries' Journal Holdings List* was launched, the volume of inter-lending between members had grown considerably, giving rise to concerns of imbalance between participating members of the scheme. It was resolved that a careful statistical picture of inter-lending patterns be compiled after one year's operation of the enlarged group.

A survey in relation to education and training needs of the Section's members, conducted at the AGM, indicated Internet training as the principal perceived requirement in this area by 80% of respondents. In active pursuit of provision of such training, the Section hosted an initial seminar entitled *Accessing Nursing Web Sites*. This took place in the Irish Nurses' Organisation and was presented by Dr. Javad, a consultant in strategic applications of the Internet. Further seminars, along with the creation of an information pack on health/biomedical Internet resources are planned.

Section meetings for 1998 have been less frequent than recent years with the year being characterised as one of aspirations and ambitions rather than one of achievements. Nevertheless, individual members of the Section have certainly been active in adding to the knowledge base of healthcare librarianship with the participation of two outgoing committee members on the research committee of the Association's Consumer Health Information Project. As reported elsewhere in this Annual Report, this project culminated in the publication in July, by the Association, of *Well Read: Developing Consumer Health Information in Ireland*. The researcher was Jennifer MacDougall, also a Section member.

Munster Regional Section

Chair: John Mullins, Cork City Library

Vice-chair: Virginia Conrick, Boole Library, UCC

Secretary: Ann Riordan Cork City Library

Treasurer: Mary Corcoran, Cork City Library

Committee members: Niamh Cronin, Cork County Library; Dolores Casey, Cork City Library; Annette Dunlea, Library, Cork Institute of Technology; Michael Costello, Library, Cork Institute of Technology; James Cashman, Fexco, Killorglin, Co. Kerry; Kate Coveney, Cork County Library; Eamonn Kirwan, Cork City Library; Marie Morgan, Cork City Library

The Annual General Meeting of the Section was held in Cork City Library, on 9th March 1998, combined with a talk on *Assertiveness and Self-esteem at Work*, presented by Marguerite Falvey. On Monday, 25 May 1998, a bus tour of three Limerick libraries was held. The first two stops were hosted by Limerick County Library at the Adare and Dooradoyle branch libraries. The afternoon visit, hosted by Limerick City Library, was to the Learning Resource Centre at the Limerick City Library headquarters.

The Section hosted its annual training seminar in UCC, on Monday 21st September 1998. The seminar was called *Libraries in Transition*. Ms Lindsay Mitchell, Manager, Library & Information Services, University of Limerick spoke on *Drivers for Change in the Library and Information Environment*. Ms Carmel O'Sullivan, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, spoke on *Quality Begins at Home: Staff for Libraries in Transition*. Ms Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin Corporation Librarian, spoke on *Libraries under Review*, and Mr John Cox, I.T. Services Librarian, Boole Library, University College, Cork, spoke on *Libraries and the Web: Quantity or Quality*.

On Thursday 26th November 1998, as a pre-Christmas social event, a table quiz was attended by 84 members and friends. The proceeds of this were donated to charity.

Rare Books Group

Chairman: Valerie Seymour (N.U.I., Maynooth)

Treasurer: Veronika Koeper Saul

Secretary: Sarah Preston (Dundalk R.T.C.)

Committee members: Charles Benson (T.C.D.), Marie Boran (U.C.G.), Helen Davis (U.C.C.), Joanna Finegan (N.L.I.), Charles Horton (Chester Beatty), M. Kennedy (Gilbert Library), Gerard Long (N.L.I.), Muriel McCarthy (Marsh's Library), Siobhan O'Rafferty (R.I.A.)

The AGM was held on Wednesday, 28th January 1998 in Archbishop Marsh's Library. Maire Kennedy, as outgoing chairman, made a short address, outlining the past year's activities. The group had a busy year, with talks in Dublin and Cork, and visits to Waterford and the National Print Museum. She concluded by thanking the committee for their work during the year, and Marsh's Library and the Boole Library for providing venues for the meetings.

During the year Joanna Finegan took over as Treasurer as a result of Veronika Koeper Saul's moving to England. The committee met eight times during 1998. After the business of the AGM, Dr. Niall O Ciosain gave a fascinating lecture on "*Popular Political Propaganda in Ireland, 1790-1820*", which began a year of commemorations of the 1798 Rebellion by putting it in wider perspective.

Talks

There were four Book Collectors' Circle informal talks in Dublin during 1998. In March, Stuart Kinsella gave a talk on the library and archives of Christ Church Cathedral. Although relatively little remains of the library of the pre-Reformation cathedral, a large body of later material survives, in particular relating to the musical tradition of the cathedral. In May, Tony Sweeney, author of *Ireland and the Printed Word*, spoke on the problems of compiling a bibliography of printed material relating to Ireland pre-1700. On the 21st of October, David Griffin of the Irish Architectural Archive entertained the Rare Books Group at the Archive in Merrion Square, and spoke on the contents of the I.A.A. and its operation. In November, Martin Walsh, a member of the group, spoke on the surprising and unexpected things he has come across during his years of book collecting.

Outings

On 25th of April, a party of thirty visited the Earl of Rosse at Birr Castle where they were shown the treasures of Birr Castle's library, including some fine early gardening books, 17th century archives and early estate maps. The scientific interests of several 19th century members of the Parsons family were well represented by correspondence with many well-known scholars and inventors of the time. The dark room and equipment of Mary, wife of the 3rd Earl, a pioneering photographer in the 1850s was also displayed. A tour of the gardens included the newly restored mechanism of the 'Leviathan', the massive telescope erected by the 3rd Earl, which will form part of a new Irish Historic Science Centre. On route to Birr, those people travelling from Dublin made a stop in Roscrea, where George Cunningham showed the group the recent restoration work on Roscrea Castle and its garden, Damer House, and the round tower.

In October the Book Collectors' Circle made a very successful visit to the Irish Architectural Archive, where David Griffin and Colum O'Riordan showed off some of their holdings of rare books and manuscript drawings, as well as speaking about the Archive and its work. About twenty members attended this meeting, which was highly appreciated.

Seminar

For the 1998 seminar, the Rare Books Group once again joined forces with another body. This year the Rare Books Group of the Library Association (U.K.) visited Ireland for the first time to hold its annual study conference in Dublin, from September 9th-11th, attended by about 80 people. This took the theme '*The Long Eighteenth Century - 1688 to 1832*'. The conference was held in T.C.D. and Maynooth, and the speakers came from both the UK and Irish groups. During the three days of the conference visits were paid to the Royal Irish Academy, Marsh's Library, the Worth Library, the Russell Library, Maynooth, and the Printing House and Conservation Laboratory in Trinity, and these were very much enjoyed by all. The papers covered a wide range of topics, including the ESTC, the British Library as a centre for Eighteenth Century studies, and a collection of 18th century cookery books. Irish topics included printing in Irish before the Famine, rare books in Cork, the book trade as revealed by the letters of Christopher Bellew, and the 'History of the Book in Ireland' project, among others.

Overall the year was a very successful one. Membership of the group has remained at over one hundred, and the attendance at the AGM and the seminar were particularly high. Sales of *Books beyond the Pale* have continued. The publication was highly praised by members of the UK Rare Books Group who had already seen it or purchased it at the conference. It is hoped that the proceedings of last year's *Experience of Reading* seminar, organised jointly with the Economic and Social History Society, will soon appear.

During 1998 the Rare Books Group made a submission to the National Policy on Libraries and Information Service project.

Western Regional Section

Chairperson: Bernie Lally, GMIT, Galway

Secretary: Petrina Mee, Branch Library, Tuam, Co. Galway

Treasurer: Margaret Waldron, GMIT, Galway

The Annual General Meeting of the Western Regional Section of the Library Association of Ireland took place in the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology on 3rd April 1998. The meeting was well attended, with participants coming from most libraries within the region. The Section was delighted to have broadcaster and author Mr. John Quinn deliver the Annual Lecture. His talk was entitled *A View from the Bookshelf*. He spoke of what books and libraries meant to him throughout his life and included extracts from some of the interviews he conducted over the years with people such as John McGahern and T.P. McKenna. He also spoke of his own writing and read extracts from his work, concentrating especially on his 1995 novel *Generations of the Moon*.

The Annual Training Seminar was held in GMIT on June 25th. The theme of the seminar was customer services with the emphasis on quality and marketing of services. Richard Lennon, Librarian, Institute of Technology, Carlow and Anne Murray, Sub-Librarian, DCU, hosted the morning sessions. Richard spoke on the idea of a service and asked was quality "the final frontier". Anne Murray outlined the process by which DCU achieved the Q-Mark, becoming the first library in Ireland to do so. Monica Nielsen, Lecturer, GMIT and Dr. Aidan Daly, Senior Lecturer, NUIG hosted the afternoon sessions. Monica Nielsen focused on the techniques of promotion and Dr. Daly had some entertaining and insightful thoughts on marketing ideas. Over 30 participants attended this seminar and the feedback was very positive on the day. As always the Section encourages library staff in both academic and public libraries throughout the region to become involved in the Library Association.

Youth Library Group

Chairperson: Rosemary Walton. (Dublin Corporation Libraries)

Secretary: Susan Flood. (Dublin Corporation Libraries) until October 1998 when Adrienne Gilmartin (Dublin Corporation Libraries) took over

Treasurer: Rita O'Brien. (Wexford County Libraries)

Committee: Betty Boardman (An Chomhairle Leabharleanna); Kirsten Hove (Mount Anville Secondary School); Cathy McKenna (Dublin Corporation Libraries); Pat O'Connor (Dublin Corporation Libraries); Breid Ryan (South Dublin Libraries); Phil Scanlan (Dublin Corporation Libraries)

During the year Kirsten Hove and Susan Flood resigned. The committee met on six occasions during the year.

Annual General Meeting

The Youth Library Group's Annual General Meeting was held on February 26th 1998 in Dublin Corporation Libraries' Headquarters. The guest speaker, the highly respected author, Maeve Friel, gave a very interesting talk about her work. Rosemary Walton, as chairperson, thanked the outgoing committee for a very productive year. The organisers of the two successful seminars were specially congratulated, as were the members who helped to organise Children's Book Festival.

Summer Seminar

The Youth Library Groups seminar *Only the Best..... Children's Books and Libraries* was held on Saturday June 6th in the attractive setting of the National Library. It attracted a good number of delegates from all parts of the country. It was a great success: the quality of speeches was high and audience participation throughout the day was noticeably greater than at other seminars. The Group were fortunate to be able to invite Nigel Hinton, the well-known author of the "Buddy" books, to address the seminar. He spoke about his inspiration, how he felt it to be something separate from himself, over which he has no control. His primary concern is to give expression to something truthful and this takes precedence over questions of style. For him, any self-consciousness in writing inhibits the creative process. He experiences this process as the emergence of some meaning or order from chaos, a light out of the darkness. The journey of an idea, from its genesis to its fruition as a work of fiction, may take years, even decades. He can trace the origins of the idea for his latest book "Out of the Darkness" to his 8-year-old self. Irish author and award winner Jane Mitchell spoke about the various ways in which people are included in mainstream social life or excluded and marginalised. For her quality children's fiction should continually challenge the stereotypes which facilitate this marginalisation. She traced the history of children's literature from an early didacticism to a contemporary concern with freedom of expression

Librarian Liz Turley spoke about the recently adopted L.A.I. "Policy statement on Library Services to children and young people", researched and written by an L.A.I. working party of which Liz was chairperson. She took the delegates through the main points of the statement. A

children's library service should be responsive to the needs of children and young people, promote literacy and work to develop in children the ability to be independent library users. The statement also emphasises the role of libraries in promoting culture and the arts through exhibitions, talks and activities. Finally it underlines the importance of the children's library service been given equal weight to the service for adults. Patricia Wroe and Eilis Humphreys were very informative about a new publication that they have both contributed to, entitled "*Information Studies for Transition Year Students*", which was published by the Blackrock Education Centre. This is a skills based book designed through a series of activities, to develop the student's ability to identify what they need to know and then how to find the information. The final speaker was Ann Caffoll, author of the "*Rosie*" books, who spoke about the need to get and hold children's attention. Humour, a credible plot and sympathetic, fallible characters with whom they can identify are ingredients which will hold the attention of children of all levels of ability. Ann finished by reading from her latest book "*Dominick*" which is still a work in progress. This, unlike her earlier books, is aimed at older children. One of the differences in writing for a young adult audience, she has found, is that they will place more value on an end being true to the narrative, than on it being happy.

Children's Book Festival 1998

This major national event which aims to promote children's reading and literacy, was again celebrated during the whole month of October. The Youth Library Group, along with Irish publishers and the Booksellers Association, again supported Children's Books Ireland in the running of Children's Book Festival. Events were held around the country in branch libraries, bookshops and art centres. Committee member Cathy Mc Kenna co-ordinated and organised the distribution of festival packs to library authorities nationwide. In addition Cathy provided library authorities with lists of authors prepared to visit libraries and gave advise in general about the festival.

Reports of Children's Book Festival that have been submitted by the various participating library authorities indicate that much hard work, imagination and enthusiasm went into the organisation of activities for children. Events in branch libraries included: author visits, storytelling, workshops in writing, music, art, drama and crafts, puppet and magic shows, book hunts, quizzes, book reviews competitions and talks to parents. Adrienne Gilmartin and Breid Ryan represented the Youth Library Group on the Children's Book Festival organising committee. They also reviewed books and co-edited the annotated reading list "*Best Books*" along with members of Children's Books Ireland.

International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)

Kirsten Hove and Rosemary Walton represented the Y.L G. on the IBBY Ireland steering committee during the year. IBBY Irelands aims are: "To promote the exchange of expertise and knowledge relating to children's books, to encourage the development of networks linking Ireland and other countries in the area of children's books and to act as an information resource in relation to children's books." The parent organisation, IBBY, presents the *Hans Christian Andersen Award* every second year to a living author or illustrator of children's books for their work as a whole. The IBBY Honours List is a biennial selection of outstanding recently published children's books. IBBY Ireland was formally launched on November 27th 1998 in Iveagh House by Liz O'Donnell T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Cathy McKenna was a member of the *Bisto Book of the Year* judging panel for the second year running. Rosemary Walton continued to represent the YLG on the LAI ad hoc committee on School Library Development, whose main activity during the year has been the writing of a manual for teachers on the running of school libraries. This will be published in early 1999 and will be distributed to every school in the Republic of Ireland. The committee also made submissions to An Chomhairle Leabharlanna for the *National Policy on Libraries and*

Information Services and to the Department of the Environment and Local Government's "*Branching Out: A New Public Library Service*".

Obituary

The Executive Board noted with regret the deaths of past members of the Association:

Frank Baird, Representative for Encyclopedia Britannica

Bob Casey, former President, Library Association of Ireland

Alan Eager, former Editor of *An Leabharlann* and Librarian to the Royal Dublin Society

Joe Hayes, O'Mahony Information Systems Ltd.

Iona McLeod, former County Librarian, Carlow County Library;

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- Dublin Corporation Public Libraries for making facilities for meetings available, and for administrative support.

Membership

As of December 31st, 1998 personal membership stood at 531, with 79 institutional members.
