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Vanity Project or Reflective Space

Academic Writing

Cataloguing the St. Canice's Cathedral Library Collection at Maynooth University

Conference Reports, Book Reviews



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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 The Editorial Board invites original, unpublished articles for publication.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.
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Editorial

Editorial, Vol 26 (1), March 2017

One delegate at the recent Academic & Special Libraries Conference described her experience as being about “Positivity, People and Pastries” (p 22). I hope that you will find in this issue of *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library* many things that are positive and much to learn about people. However, I cannot offer pastries- perhaps someone is developing virtual pastries!

The articles, conference reports, book reviews and the News from the Stacks column cover a wide-spectrum of topics which should interest all readers. In terms of time span, contributors cover library resources from incunabula to digital. The obituaries span the years from 1938 to 2008 and our former colleagues had between them some 155 years of service to the profession.

Karen Latimer’s article on library buildings is informative and illustrative. How libraries have changed and adapted is considered. Now, we need to contemplate physical, virtual and hybrid libraries. We need to be aware of user needs and also value for money.

Terry O’Brien and Kieran Cronin address the issue of academic publication by academic librarians. Specifically, the topics of motivation and barriers are discussed. Confidence is deemed to be a key factor and the variable most likely to predict publication. As Editor of this journal, I have more than a passing interest in the topics addressed here. The reasons for publishing- or not- among public library staff would be another research project.

In terms of publication, it is heartening in this issue to have a good geographic spread among the contributors. This issue includes contributors from North, South, East and West.

Yvette Campbell and Barbara McCormack describe the cataloguing of St. Canice’s Cathedral Library Collection. Now housed at Maynooth University, it is similar to that of the Bolton Library now in the University of Limerick. Both collections are on long-term loan from the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland. These initiatives make the collections available to a wider audience. We should be grateful to the scholarly ecclesiastical collectors who formed the bases of these collections.

The Rare Books Conference 2016 report on Book Collecting in Ireland and Britain, 1650-1850 also notes the debt we owe to ecclesiastical and other collectors from earlier centuries. The Academic & Special Libraries Conference 2017 covered a variety of topics under the general heading of The Sociable Librarian: connecting & creating communities.

Technological changes have benefited libraries enormously. Technological developments have provided opportunities for change and allowed us to respond in innovative ways. Technological changes have led to the development of digital scholarship. This development is considered in the book reviewed by Peter Corrigan (p 26). The other book review by Aine Carey deals with a complimentary topic- research support for academic libraries.

Technological change is more recent in Irish public libraries. Almost all public libraries have joined the Libraries Ireland consortium catalogue. This was made possible by moving to a single Library Management System(LMS) for the country. The few remaining counties will migrate to the new LMS very soon. The new catalogue is available at www.librariesireland.ie As

this project was being rolled out, more digital resources were also made available.

The idea of staff less libraries- My Open Library- has generated some publicity for public libraries. Much of this has been in local papers covering Council meetings. But, there has been some national coverage too. The most notable publicity came from former TD, Mary O’Rourke in her open letter to Minister Simon Coveney, TD: <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/mary-o-rourke-on-staffless-libraries-whose-daft-idea-was-this-1.2925772>

Joe Duffy defended the idea in the *The Irish Mail on Sunday* (29 January 2017).

The Journal didn’t spare libraries either: <http://www.thejournal.ie/book-sellers-ireland-3195886-Jan2017/>

News from the Stacks covers as usual details about forthcoming conferences and CPD events. Colleagues interested in doing a Conference Report –on any LIS conference- for the next issue should contact me.

Long-standing Editorial Board member Helen Fallon has retired. I would like to thank her most sincerely for her generous help over the years. Her contributions and advice were always thoughtful.

I welcome Dr. Fintan Bracken (University of Limerick) to the Editorial Board. He brings much experience of writing for LIS and other journals.

Marjory Sliney, Editor, editor@libraryassociation.ie

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Vanity Project or Reflective Space: holding the mirror up to library buildings in the 21st century

Karen Latimer

Abstract

Fox News host, Greta Van Susteren, re-opened the debate on the virtual versus the physical library recently. This article briefly examines trends in library building design and the emergence of a new typology in the 21st century citing a number of examples from which lessons can be learned. At the turn of the century issues under discussion were the move from print to e-collections, the hybrid library, the library as third place and the freeing up of shelving space for new uses and services. More recently the topics being debated include sustainability, what makes effective learning spaces, the need for postgraduate and research areas, storage projects, and post-occupancy evaluation. The need for further research to ensure continuous improvement in the design of libraries is noted.

Keywords: *Library Buildings*



Introduction

On the 31st October 2016, Greta Van Susteren former Fox News host of the week-night current affairs programme, *On the Record*, put the library cat firmly amongst the perching pigeons by suggesting that educational institutions should stop building vanity projects like huge libraries and passing the cost on to the student body since “full libraries are on our smartphones” (Van Susteran, 2016). Needless to say this provoked the ire of academic librarians world-wide and of the book-loving public. The latter focused on the continuing role of the book and indeed the librarians, too, made the point that not all material is available on-line and open access citing special collections in particular. They also highlighted the need to curate and deliver electronic material. On the whole, however, the response from information professionals centred on the role of the library building as a well-maintained place to carry out scholarly work at all levels with expert help and a wide range of tailored services on hand. Most excitingly for those of us involved in the field of library building design, it moved to centre stage many of the topics that we have been talking about in darkened rooms, and indeed brightly lit conference venues, for some time now.

However, it would be wrong to sweep Ms Van Susteren’s comments aside in a wave of self-righteous indignation. By definition provocative statements are intended to throw down the gauntlet, challenge the status quo and stimulate discussion. There undoubtedly is an element of vanity in designing new library buildings or refurbishing old ones. We want our library buildings to attract publicity; we want our patrons to admire, like and yes, use them; we want our institutions to feel proud of them and see them as a draw for students particularly in a highly competitive global market (that way we hope adequate funding lies) but vanity alone is not enough. We also need the spaces to reflect user needs and enable us to deliver new and creative services; we need to respond to the declining need for storage space by creating a range of new and zoned spaces for learning and studying both collaboratively and individually. It is in this area that there is scope for further research. We need more evidence on how students, and indeed staff, operate in the digital age. The holy grail of library design as we move more deeply into the 21st century is to identify the kind of building that will meet the changing learning and research needs of our users in the same way that for previous centuries the classic model of the

academic library did with books as the medium through which knowledge was made available.

Changing typology and recent developments

It is hard to pinpoint exactly when the longstanding typology for library



Amsterdam Public Libray

buildings began to change but it undoubtedly coincided with the move from print to electronic resources – the dawn of the digital age. The late 20th and early 21st century saw a plethora of articles (Latimer, 2011) on the move from the physical to the virtual library with the Van Susterens of the day predicting the demise of the physical library altogether and provoking much the same sort of response on the importance of rare and unique collections and the value of professional librarians in brokering information. In the public library field, Seattle Public Library designed by Rem Koolhaas and OMA in 2004 is generally held to be the building that took a new look at bringing people and information in all media together and had a major impact on architects and

librarians considering new, or refurbished, spaces in the 21st century. This was soon followed by the 2007 Amsterdam Public Library designed by Joe Coenen, the influence of which is seen in many UK libraries such as, for example, Newcastle and Cardiff. Contrary to the doomsayers much seemed to be happening on the public library front with Idea Stores in various London locations as well as Will Alsop's library on stilts at Peckham and Christophe Egret's mini Guggenheim at Clapham. Outside London, as well as the above-mentioned Cardiff and Newcastle libraries, were the Jubilee Library in Brighton, Bournemouth Public Library and many more.

This period also saw changes in the approach to designing academic library buildings. It is always invidious to pick one example but Delft University of



Rolex LC Students at desks

Technology Library has to be considered an early adopter of the new typology. The brief for this building, designed by Mecanoo, who have gone on to work on many more libraries, clearly stated that this was to be a library

where technology should receive equal billing with books. Other university libraries of note at this time, to name but a few, included those for the University of Utrecht (Wiel Arets), the Free University of Berlin (Foster Associates' aptly nicknamed "Berlin Brain"), Herzog and De Meuron's Cottbus library for the Brandenburg Institute of Technology (where possibly the need to create a landmark building took precedence over the functional aspects) and, at opposing ends of the enclosed versus free-flowing space spectrum, Max Dudler's Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum at Humboldt University and the Rolex Learning Centre designed by Japanese architects, SANAA. Closer to home there was the ground breaking Saltire Centre for Glasgow Caledonian University, the Warwick University Learning Grid, the University of Sheffield's Information Commons, the 2010 SCONUL award winning David Wilson Library at the University of Leicester, the Postgraduate Research Centre, University College Cork and, more recently another SCONUL winner, this time in 2013, The McClay Library at Queen's University Belfast. After opening in 2009, The McClay Library carried out two further enhancements to add additional PCs and seating in 2010 and 2013, and a move into the adjacent David Bates Building is currently in the planning stage.

In the first decade of this century, topics that were regularly aired in the literature and at seminars and conferences focused on the shift from curating and providing access to print collections, via the hybrid library - the "link between the legacy of Gutenberg and the byte of the digital age" (Brawne, 1997 p.6) - to the freeing up of library space to support learning and research. There was much discussion about the library as the third place following the Oldenburg model (Oldenburg, 2001), as social space, and as information and learning commons. As we move through the second decade the debate has widened to include sustainability, incremental refurbishments and extensions, effective IT-rich learning spaces, postgraduate and research space, storage projects, and "the benefits of using post-occupancy evaluation case studies for testing new concepts in practice and as a tool for continuous improvement in designing new buildings as well as refurbishing and adapting existing spaces" (Latimer and Sommer, 2015 p.5). Despite many challenges, particularly in the

public library sector, this period, too, saw many major projects completed.

In the last five or six years there has been considerable activity in the library building world. The Library of Birmingham, again the work of Mecanoo, opened to much fanfare in 2013 although the funding pressures which were to follow cast something of a shadow over what is in design terms a highly impressive building. Exceptional restoration projects have been carried out at the central libraries in Manchester and Liverpool. More recently the South Shields Hub - The Word - designed by library specialists FaulknerBrowns who were also responsible for the RIBA award winning Hebburn Central Library, is being hailed as a model for the future. Locally, the Lexicon library at Dun Laoghaire by Cotter Naessens is a highly impressive and evidentially successful library building. Internationally, DOKLAB at Delft and, recently, DOKK1 in Aarhus have been winning all the awards and plaudits and setting the benchmark for future projects. However, funding for new or even refurbished public libraries is increasingly hard to find, certainly in the UK, as are funds to maintain and staff them but that is for others more qualified and better informed than this author to discuss.

The case for academic libraries tends to be easier to make (although funding pressures are an issue here also) and there are numerous recent examples to learn from in this sector. Sheffield University has moved on from the earlier Information Commons with The Diamond learning centre being seen as the next stage in the Library's evolution, and the University of Birmingham has just opened the doors of its new library which is next on this author's list to visit. The recent SCONUL



Weston Library Reading Room

Awards saw The Hive at the University of Worcester win the major award. The Hive marks a new development for libraries as it is a joint venture between the University and the County Council bringing together a university and a public library (with shared staff) for the first time. It is also a very distinctive and highly sustainable building which developed from a very detailed design brief. Other shortlisted projects from which much can be learnt include a complex and transformational refurbishment of the Brynmor Jones Library at the University of Hull; the Cruciform Hub which created a ground-breaking new medical library for University College London; and, of

course, the new library at Maynooth University which triumphantly emerged from a deep recession to deliver a user-focused, service-enhancing, environmentally-friendly building that has firmly established itself as key to the University's activities and profile. Another recent local example is the Cregan Library on the St Patrick's campus and there are a number of other projects waiting to come to fruition throughout Ireland.

This second decade has been a particularly busy one in the UK with many exciting new and refurbished library buildings opening to much acclaim from users and the wider public alike. The Sir Duncan Rice Library at the University of Aberdeen, designed by Schmidt Hammer Lassen of Black Diamond and now DOKK1 fame, opened in 2011 as did the Central St Martins College of Arts and Design Library – a restored listed granary warehouse which is part of the transformational King's Cross regeneration project. One of the libraries that most impressed me during a year of library visits wearing my LIBER Architecture Group (LAG) hat, was the



Weston Library at the University of Oxford. This major refurbishment of Giles Gilbert Scott's listed 1930s New Bodleian by Wilkinson Eyre is an extremely effective and sensitive project embracing much of the current thinking on innovative services for researchers, widening access and high quality storage for valuable collections. It was shortlisted for the prestigious RIBA Stirling Prize in a year that saw a number of libraries win RIBA national awards. Two of these were Heneghan Peng's library for the University of Greenwich in the centre of a UNESCO World Heritage Centre and Design Engine Architects Ltd's Oxford Brookes Library in the John Henry Brookes building which is closely integrated with the teaching and learning spaces. Another recently opened and impressive new building is the Laidlaw Library at Leeds which offers undergraduates a wide choice of individual and group study spaces. Two American libraries, which have received much publicity as exponents of the new typology and both designed by the Norwegian architects Snohetta who kicked off their career as young graduates with the competition-winning Bibliotheca Alexandrina, are The James B. Hunt Library at North Carolina State University and, with the Zeidler Partnership, the Ryerson Learning Centre in Toronto – and there are more libraries in the pipeline from this practice. Increasingly also many Australian academic libraries are very creatively adapting space released by reducing print storage.

For many of us a new library or a complete refurbishment is not on the cards; the Universities of Durham and Edinburgh have adopted an incremental approach, following on from earlier major schemes, carrying out extensive

programmes of refurbishment and reordering of their library spaces. There is no shortage of inspiring examples worldwide either with the Kaisa House at the University of Helsinki by Anttinen *Oiva* Architects and Degelo Architect's new library for Freiburg University providing much of interest and both of which hosted the Biennial LIBER Architecture Group seminar, in 2014 and 2016 respectively.



The McClay Library QUB

The LAG website (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche, 2016) is a rich source of information on recent academic library buildings in Europe. For general information on all building types internationally visit the IFLA Library Buildings and Equipment Section's website (2016) at <http://www.ifla.org/library-buildings-and-equipment/> and sign up for the social media spin-offs. Closer to home is the Designing Libraries website (2016) which contains a wealth of information (and I declare an interest here) at <http://www.designinglibraries.org.uk> and www.librarybuildings.ie

Conclusion

In a short article it is only possible to touch on a selection of library buildings of interest. What is clear is that there are plenty of examples to choose and learn from and no shortage of sources of information – books, articles and websites – to consult either. Libraries are most definitely not all on our smartphones and even the content that is, still needs to be curated and delivered and these processes themselves require considerable physical space. The virtual undoubtedly has had an impact on the physical. Perhaps more needs to be done, and not just said, to counter the vanity argument and demonstrate true value for money. We know our library users' behaviour and requirements have changed but where is the evidence that we have really asked them what they want and taken the answers on board? Have we limited ourselves to a few undergraduate focus studies rather than systematically collecting data from the whole range of our users to include academic staff, researchers and indeed library staff as well as students? Are we taking the opportunity of freed-up space to deliver innovative and newly relevant services? And where are the formal evaluation metrics and the comparative post-occupancy evaluation studies once projects are completed to tell us what we got right or wrong? We need this information if we are to ensure that the libraries we are building today continue to remain as relevant in the electronic era as those that were built for print collections continued to be for many of the preceding centuries.

Karen Latimer, OBE, MA, Dip LIS, FCLIP is Chair, Designing Libraries Advisory Board



Utrecht Exterior

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Do librarians in Irish Higher Education write for academic publication?

A review of activity, motivations and barriers.

Terry O'Brien and Kieran Cronin

Abstract

The extent to which Irish academic librarians are engaged in publishing in the professional press is considered. This study is an attempt to put the research output of academic librarians on a firm evidence-based footing. A second and equally important research objective was to establish what actually motivates library staff to submit for written publication and concomitantly what barriers, perceived or real, inhibit library staff from doing this.

Keywords: *Publishing, Academic librarians, Ireland*



Introduction

Having identified a research gap, the primary research goal of this study was to establish whether or not academic librarians in Irish Higher Education publish. In identifying this research gap, we know that no comprehensive national exploration of the research output of library staff in Ireland had been done before. Anecdotally we know that librarians from across the spectrum of library work in Ireland are active and engaged practitioners - attending seminars, involved in CPD, presenting at conferences etc. However, we did not know to what extent library staff were actually writing for the literature and if so what did this look like, how much of it was being done, where, by whom and for what purpose. Some eight years ago, Helen Fallon (2009) spoke about “very few Irish academic librarians publish in the peer-reviewed literature” and of the need to “develop a culture of writing among librarians”.

Based on our research we have also been able to identify a number of likely predictors for publishing in the academic literature. We also make some suggestions for future research opportunities and suggestions for raising research involvement.

Approach and Parameters

The central focus of the research was to review the written published output of academic librarians in the Irish higher education sector. Two complementary research tools were used: an online questionnaire using Survey Monkey¹ to determine why or why not librarians are publishing, and a content analysis to assess what and where librarians were writing in the peer-reviewed literature over the period from 2000-2015.

The online survey involved questioning the library staff (estimated at 750 in total – 237 professional, 513 non-professional) of the 21 publicly-funded higher education institutions in the Republic of Ireland – the seven Universities and fourteen Institutes of Technology. A survey was distributed to all library staff in the 21 colleges with staff choosing whether or not to participate. The final response

¹ The survey was carried out in late November-December 2015

rate was just shy of 30%, with all institutions participating and qualitative responses anonymized. The response rate from Institutes of Technology was higher than those from Universities, but proportionally as a % of overall responses there was little difference between the two. The survey consisted of 22 questions across a range of both quantitative and qualitative, open and closed questions, and utilised Likert scales. Cross-tabulation and analysis of the survey results were done using MS Excel. The content analysis was carried out to ensure that we had supporting and comprehensive data, the nature of a self-selecting survey meaning that some librarians that we knew had published would not be excluded from the study had they chosen not to complete the questionnaire. The content analysis manually reviewed all peer-reviewed publications within LIS using a combination of literature review, scoping, index and database searching. Relevant papers selected as fitting our parameters were papers published in a core LIS journal by library staff working in an Irish academic library during the period 2000-2015. These were then collated by author name(s), publication year, journal title, single or co-authored, methodological approach and primary subject content or theme. To set practical limits on the research, only higher education libraries were reviewed and only written papers submitted to core peer-reviewed LIS journals were included. All other types of library and research activity however meaningful were excluded.

An extensive literature review was also carried out looking at various models of scholarly communication and examining international perspectives on librarians’ publishing and writing, motivations, barriers and cultures.

Main findings

During the period 2000-2015, we estimate that some 93 articles were published in the core LIS by library staff from our 21 selected Institutions. In general terms, there has been a modest growth in publication rates since 2008, with little published before then. The rate of publication peaked in 2013, with steady levels in the last few years. About 60% of all papers published were in conventional blind peer-reviewed journals, the remaining 40% in journals categorized as Open Access. In the last 3 years there has been a definite move towards OA with ½ of the 10 most published in journals classified as OA publications.

The 93 papers were published in a total of 29 core LIS journals, and half of these were published in just once. Eighty five percent of all articles were published in the remaining 14 journals, perhaps an indication that library staff from Irish libraries veer towards the same range of publishing outlets. The journals with the highest number of submitted papers include:

- **An Leabharlann:the Irish Library**
- **Journal of Information Literacy,**
- **Library Management,**
- **New Review of Academic Librarianship**
- **New Library World,**
- **Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (EBLIP)**
- **Journal of Academic Librarianship,**
- **Library Review,**
- **Journal of Library Innovation,**
- **Library & Information Research**

We can say that librarians working in higher education are writing about a wide range of topics using a number of well-established methods and methodologies. The most written about topic by far is information literacy (IL) with over 20% of all papers. Other common themes include eResources, eBooks, and open source technologies (11%), information-seeking behaviour (9%), library collections including bibliographic management, cataloguing, metadata, and special collections (9%), leadership, change and management (6%), and writing and publishing (6%). In terms of methods, case studies represented about 1/3 of all papers, with evidence-based practitioner style papers in excess of 50% and questionnaires, mixed-method, report-style, surveys and qualitative approached also common. Longitudinal studies, reflective or exploratory papers are rare.

A very significant feature of publishing amongst our cohort was the high level of collaboration. Sixty percent of all articles published were solo written with the other 40% a mix of co-authored. Of those librarians that do write, many do so with colleagues from within their own library. A small number collaborate with colleagues from other libraries, but very few collaborate outside the comfort zone of their own profession. Inter-institutional collaboration is very much the exception and it would seem that library staff from Universities and Institutes of Technology very rarely write together. Collaboration or partnership is a strong predictor for publishing as over 50% of papers published were of this nature. According to our survey the reasons given for deciding to collaborate were driven by a desire to combine expertise, share the workload, give a balance or different perspective, or because it was required by a joint project or research or simply because a colleague asked. The benefits to partnering or co-authorship are obvious and bear a positive correlation to research activity. Although more papers have been published by University than Institute of Technology, higher staffing levels mean that as a proportion of overall library staff, the rate of publication is pretty even. We therefore took the view that place of work is not a critical factor in likelihood to publish. Similarly from a gender perspective, even though library staff are predominantly female there was no significant

proportional difference in the levels of publishing. Further, amongst those that co-authored there are high levels of gender mix. Therefore, we took the view that gender was not particularly a significant indicator or predictor.

Much more meaningful as predictors for publishing according to our research are age, level of experience and education. Eighty six percent of all respondents have a level 8 or higher educational qualification – indicating extremely high levels of educational attainment amongst library staff in Irish higher education. The vast bulk of those that published have in excess of a level 9 qualification; $\frac{3}{4}$ of all those that published currently work in professional roles. Those with levels of work experience in the range of 11-20 years were much more likely to publish, although there were rising numbers of those publishing with between 6 and 10 years' experience. New entrants as of yet would seem to be publishing averse. The median age for those engaged in research publishing activity is between 36-55, not hugely surprising in that this would reflect a broad sense of those firmly established in the workplace and in their professional development. Reviewing the profile of those that did publish from both the survey and content analysis, we know that only a modest number of library staff have published more than twice and very very few are regular contributors to the peer-reviewed literature. The community of library staff from higher education in Ireland actively engaged in scholarly communication via writing and submitting articles is low but at least on an upward trend.

Barriers and Motivations

Despite the fact that very few library staff have had a paper rejected for publication, many staff still choose not write or to submit to the process of getting something published. One hundred and sixty respondents that didn't submit for publication detailed their reasons for this. The foremost reason listed was time restraints, although there would appear to be little evidence that librarians as a group are any more busy than other professions. That said we acknowledge that writing is consuming and often requires significant periods of unfettered time. Many librarians also commonly referred to perceived ability issues or lack of confidence in writing. This is not uncommon in the wider literature and is a recurring theme. Others felt that writing,

research or publication was not part of their job description and did not apply to them. The dichotomy between a service oriented profession and a more scholarly academic approach is ongoing. Of course this contrasts with the culture of writing for tenure that is evident in the United States and Canada. Some respondents felt that writing would aid their career and promotional prospects and were motivated in this regard. Overcoming these inhibitors is a challenge for the wider profession, professional association, library schools, institutions and library leaders. Other reasons listed included burdensome workloads and lack of interest.

Of the 50 survey respondents that had published, intrinsic motivation was a big factor – with research interest and 'like to write' marking highly. The possibility of career progression was also an important factor, along with personal development and continuing professional development. It would seem that many of these that publish or write do so, not because they are required or feel they need to, but because they are personally driven and want to. This in no way negates the very real practical reasons other library staff gave for not writing. What is important is that we find ways, both personal and institutional, of assisting and supporting those who do have an interest in writing and wish to pursue it, ultimately benefitting the profession and the academic discipline of LIS. Interestingly those library staff that did write indicated in the survey that they received institutional support and that a culture of encouragement existed. However it would also seem that practical supports or incentives such as time off or reduced workload are rare. Those that publish are more engaged with the literature and research in the LIS profession than those who do not, supporting the notion perhaps that personal motivation and drivers are predictors of research commitment. On a positive note, over 120 respondents valued academic writing as being important or very important for the profession of librarianship. There was also an optimistic response when asked about intention to potentially publish at a future date with over $\frac{1}{4}$ of respondents indicating an affirmative intention. This intention was much higher in instances in which the respondent had previously published.

Over 50 respondents gave detailed qualitative comments in the online questionnaire. Quite a number referred to time barriers and what they perceived as professional or institutional obstacles. Others were more upbeat and credited individual and institutional supports they had received, recognizing the value of writing and research in educating, changing and championing the profession. Librarians sense of self and identity were also mentioned with some respondents discussing where librarians fit in the wider education landscape.

Future opportunities

Research and writing can be of personal and professional benefit. As librarianship as a profession and academic discipline evolves, recognising the value in research – practitioner, evidence-based and academic is important. The need to develop wider skill sets and research competencies in workplaces that are increasingly data and evidence driven should be key drivers for libraries.

We encourage library staff from all library types and roles to get involved and get out there. Research activity is not just writing – it can take many forms, the most important thing is engagement. Barriers to writing and anxieties particularly amongst junior or new professionals can be overcome through building confidence from collaborating, mentoring, institutional support, co-authoring, writing groups. As Fallon (2009) argues, it can increase “the visibility of the library” and help us to look outwards, telling our library story. If the modest emerging patterns of research publications in Irish LIS are to continue to grow beyond their current piecemeal levels, a more coherent and targeted approach may be needed. Library research champions and leadership from within the profession and the professional bodies can support this and build towards a culture of writing. A profession that is willing to question itself and reflect on its value and role must be mature and reflective enough to engage in writing and research. This baseline national study can act as a basis for future research on not just publishing output amongst academic librarians but other libraries – health, public, special and others of the many forms of research activity and the impact this can have on our profession.

Summary

- Only about 1/3 of higher education colleges have library staff actively publishing.
- Publications are a combination of academic research, evidenced-based and practitioner approaches.
- Submitting a paper is a strong predictor for publication – very few papers are rejected outright.
- Career progression is an important factor for those involved in research activity but there is little evidence to date that promotion or status is crucial to this.
- The growth of publication rates although coming from a very low base in 2000 has been upward if rather modest.
- Open Access is growing significantly as a publication outlet representing almost 2/3 of all papers’ since 2011.
- Confidence is a key factor and the dominant predictor in likelihood to publish.
- The number of librarians publishing habitually is relatively low; ½ of those who have published have only done so once.
- Library staff from higher education publish across a wide range of journals, but the bulk of publishing is limited to a small number of journals.
- The key barriers to research activity are time and perceived lack of institutional support.
- Collaboration among academic library staff is pervasive, most commonly but not exclusively among internal library colleagues.
- The most common types of papers are empirical, evidential, or case study-type research.
- Level of educational attainment and years’ library experience are more likely predictors for publishing than where you work.
- Library staff working at professional level are much more likely to publish.

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Cataloguing the St. Canice's Cathedral Library Collection at Maynooth University

Yvette Campbell and Barbara McCormack¹

Abstract

This article outlines the processes involved in cataloguing the historic St. Canice's Cathedral Library collection of over 3000 rare books. Cataloguing began on the collection in June 2015 and subsequently ceased in March 2016 to facilitate the main objective of allowing access to this collection without delay. Collection processing was carried out on a phased basis: the first stage was to list the material in the collection and then each item was catalogued to a minimum level. Priority was given to 14 of the rarer books in the collection to comply with the DCRM(B) rare books cataloguing standard, including four items of incunabula (pre-1500 printing). Phase 2 of this retrospective cataloguing project will include full bibliographical descriptions for all materials, following prescribed rules set forth in DCRM(B).

The challenges of cataloguing a rare books collection using the St. Canice's Collection as an example are considered. Metadata issues experienced in displaying such collections on library management systems are also discussed.

Keywords: *Rare Books, Retrospective Cataloguing, Metadata*

Introduction

¹ Project Manager for the St. Canice's Cathedral Library Collection.

Uncanny circumstances

It is extremely curious to note that in 1332 the central Cathedral tower of St. Canice's collapsed in circumstances that were associated with the trial of Dame Alice Kyteler for witchcraft, the most notorious event of Kilkenny's medieval history. During the Kilkenny Witchcraft Trials, Kyteler was accused of practicing witchcraft and her servant, Petronilla, was charged with being one of her accomplices. Petronilla was tortured and forced to proclaim that she and Kyteler were guilty of witchcraft. Hers was the first known case in Ireland or Great Britain of death by fire for the crime of heresy.

It was certainly an unnerving surprise to discover that Petronilla was then flogged and eventually burnt at the stake on 3rd November 1324, in Kilkenny – the very day we presented on this unique collection at the prestigious 5th International Summit of the Book, an initiative of the Library of Congress which was held in Limerick on the 2nd and 3rd November 2016.

St. Canice's Cathedral Library

The Otway-Maurice Collection of St Canice's Cathedral Library, Kilkenny was recently acquired by Maynooth University Library on long-term loan from The Representative Body of the Church of Ireland for restoration and safe keeping. This is a unique collection of early printed books, mainly that of Bishop Edward Maurice, who was Bishop of Ossory in the mid-18th Century but also including works from one of his predecessors, Bishop Thomas Otway. It includes many fine examples of woodcut illustrations, historic bindings, and manuscript fragments. Particular highlights of the collection include: four items of incunabula (pre-1500 printing), a Shakespearean Fourth Folio (1685) and numerous titles on witchcraft, demonology and even cannibalism.

Collection Overview

The collection features over 3,000 titles printed before the year 1850. Many of the works are theological but works on history, the classics, law, literature, and science also feature. The earliest printed works date from 1483-1498 and there are also over 300 titles printed before the year 1600. The oldest known piece in the collection is a fifteenth century manuscript text which is a citation mandate from Thomas Bourchier, Papal Legate and Archbishop of Canterbury, to John Bar in the year 1468. Other important works include items by the Venetian printer Aldus, as well as several sixteenth century Parisian printings.

Early Cataloguing Efforts

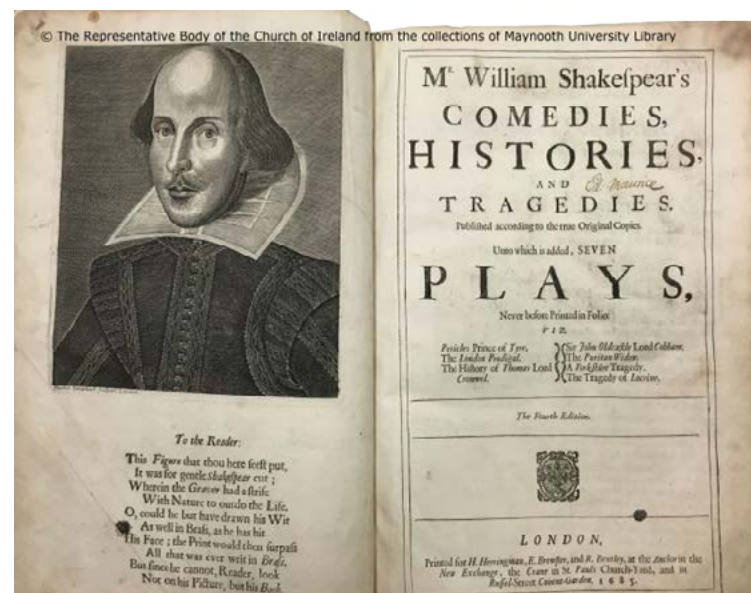
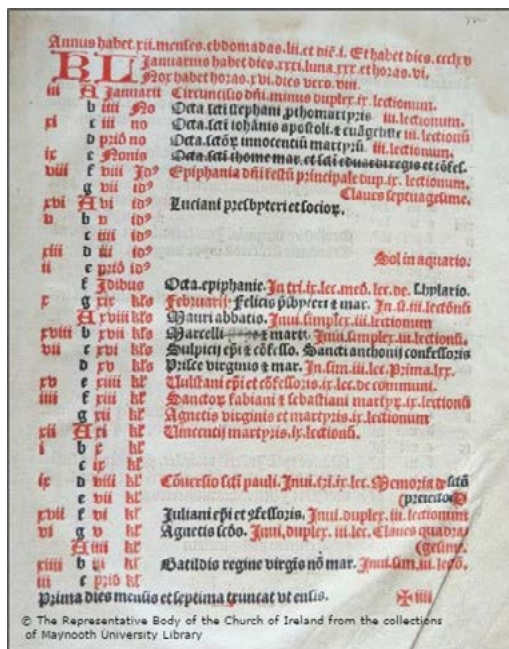
A comprehensive catalogue of the Collection was completed by Hugh Campbell in 1997. This listing was invaluable in terms of processing the collection when it arrived at Maynooth University Library. A decision was made to retain the original shelf-marks and shelving sequence of the Collection when it was transferred to a state-of-the-art secure storage area in the John Paul II Library. 14 rare books were identified and were given priority when cataloguing phase 1 of the project began.

Subsequent to this, a pilot project was carried out to assess how many OCLC records could be downloaded in a given hour. This initially projected the

possibility of cataloguing 10-15 books per hour. This listing served as the guideline for cataloguers for the duration of the project, the aim being to reduce handling of older material. While this figure was deemed realistic for the comparatively 'light touch' cataloguing of phase 1, it was not proscriptive and indeed, such were the qualities and depth of the collection, that it was necessary to spend far longer on each item, even with minimal cataloguing standards being applied as noted below.

The Cataloguing Process

In evaluating the collection, and in order to allow immediate access to the material, it was decided that the collection's inherent structure would lend itself well to a hybrid approach. The library devised a two phase approach that provides an efficient and accurate way of dealing with immediate access to a rare book collection while adhering to descriptive standards for this category of collection. Phase 1 cataloguing aimed to provide bibliographically identifiable records of books while also being quick and efficient.



This process has been boiled down to the simplest elements of rare books cataloguing, but should provide enough information for accurate research retrieval. While a 'book in hand' approach is considered the ideal when cataloguing a rare book collection, for this project, cataloguing was guided by Hugh Campbell's printed listing. Despite being a simplified process phase 1 operates to a defined standard and includes specific elements of quality control – such as:

- Full Transcription of the Imprint
- Author Entry
- Pagination Description
- Basic Subject Entries
- Provenance Note
- Location/Classmark

This approach to rare book cataloguing allowed for 3152 books for a significant and historical collection to be catalogued in a 10-month period. The 14 rare books that were identified as too bibliographically complex, too fragile and too important to be done at the Phase 1 level, were given



cataloguing priority and now have the final stage of full DCRM (B)² compliant records. These include four items of incunabula (pre-1500 printing), a Sarum Missal printed for Fleet Street printer Wynkyn de Worde and our magnificent copy of Shakespeare's Fourth Folio (1685).

Phase 2 cataloguing work will provide full descriptive records for each book – in hand – when conservation work has been completed on the more fragile items and also when time and resources allow. This will then follow the prescribed rules set forth in the DCRM(B) standard which is an internationally recognized standard for rare books cataloguing. These records will include full descriptions about the physical nature, publication history and unique characteristics of the book in-hand (binding, more details of provenance, missing pages, etc).

Challenges

There were two main challenges faced during the cataloguing phase of this project. The first was working from a title listing rather than taking a 'book in hand' approach. Realistically due to the complex nature of some of the titles and the difficulties of finding rare items, 3-5 records were downloaded per hour rather than the preliminary 10-15 records per hour. Cataloguing from a printed list was also a challenge as due to the nature of early printed books it was often necessary to consult the physical item to confirm bibliographic details.

It is also important to note that books from the pre-1850 period lack standardised spelling, something we take for granted today. For example, the word "murder" was sometimes spelt "murther", the word "public" was sometimes spelt as "publick". The number '40' or 'forty' in the title "40

Sermons" was actually spelt 'Fourty Sermons' on the title-page. These characteristics made it necessary to consult the physical item before searching OCLC.

The second major challenge was the limited option in our discovery tool required for the searching of a rare book collection. This is increasingly fundamental for all libraries with rare holdings as the current generation of discovery services does not necessarily provide adequate access into the specialized collections of the library, the archives of an institution (whether it be part of the library or a separate institution in the university), or in other departments that manage unique information resources. Therefore, using LibrarySearch – our discovery tool - will only display basic information regarding a *unique* item. Therefore, it is recommended at this time, to search the Maynooth classic catalogue in order to retrieve a full and descriptive record for this collection.

Discovery tools and the bibliography of rare books

A recent RLUK report emphasizes the need to understand our rare collections as broader than simply rare books or manuscripts. As such it adopts the term 'Unique and Distinctive Collections' (UDC) which it defines as 'a collection that, regardless of format or location within an institution, derives significance from its interest to research, teaching or society through its association with a person, place or topic, such as to distinguish the constituent items from similar items which may exist elsewhere'. UDCs encompass, but are broader than traditional special collections, potentially covering collections in all formats and at all locations.

However, evidence from this cataloguing project verifies that the various 5XX fields required for UDC's content is included in some discovery tool's index only, but not in displayed fields at the present time. The 5XX fields are

2 Descriptive Cataloguing of Rare Materials (Books)



essential for UDCs as information that identifies exactly why they are unique is recorded such as binding and provenance information. Any extension of RDA for rare materials—such as the next version of DCRM will not be effective for libraries using these systems.

Special collections materials are unique to their institutions, rely on locally created metadata for access, and as such are at risk for being overlooked in a discovery environment if metadata quality standards fall short (Wood, 2011).

Any eventual transition to broad exposure of scholarly materials as linked data, including both proprietary and open access content would naturally have a major impact in how discovery services are populated (Breeding, 2015).

Yvette Campbell, BA MLIS is Assistant Librarian, Collection Management Services at Maynooth University and was responsible for resource description of the collection.

Barbara McCormack, BA MLIS ALAI is Special Collections Librarian at Maynooth University and has responsibility for the preservation and promotion of its material.

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Book Collecting in Ireland and Britain, 1650-1850

Chester Beatty Library, Dublin: Friday 25 November 2016

This international event, organised by the Rare Books Group of Ireland in conjunction with the British Book History Research Network and the Edward Worth Library, Dublin, was opened by Dr Philip Cohen, President of the Library Association of Ireland.

Three sessions, chaired by Dr Marc Caball (University College Dublin), Dr Giles Mandelbrote (Librarian, Lambeth Palace Library) and Dr Elizabethanne Boran (Librarian, the Edward Worth Library, Dublin) respectively, focussed on book collecting in Ireland, Scotland and England and included the following presentations:

1. Dr Bernadette Cunningham (Royal Irish Academy): 'Readers or collectors? Manuscripts and books in the lives of Irish scholars in late seventeenth-century Connacht.'
2. Ms Barbara McCormack (Maynooth University): 'The Otway-Maurice collection: Ecclesiastical collecting in late seventeenth to mid eighteenth-century Ireland.'
3. Dr Karen Baston (University of Edinburgh): 'Two Eighteenth-Century Scottish Lawyers' Libraries: Lord Tinwald, Lord Alva, and their Book Collections.'

4. Mr Thomas Lloyd: 'Country House collecting in eighteenth-century Wales.'
5. Dr David Pearson (Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries, City of London Corporation): 'Motives for book collecting in late seventeenth-century England.'
6. Dr Rebecca Bowd (Special Collections, Leeds University Library): 'Lending Libraries in Georgian Leeds, 1768-1815.'

These sessions were followed by a keynote address by Professor Andrew Pettegree and Mr Arthur der Weduwen (University of St. Andrew's): 'The Library as a Weapon of State. The Fagel Collection in Dublin.' The conference ended with the launch of Dr Karen Attar's *The Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland* (London: Facet, 2016).

The author of this report is currently preparing these presentations, along with other commissioned pieces, for publication.

Elizabethanne Boran is Librarian, Edward Worth Library, Dublin

Positivity, People and Pastries at the Academic and Special Libraries Annual Conference

Arriving at the hotel on 16 February 2017, in the vibrant heart of Dublin, I received a warm welcome to the LAI A&SL Conference on “**The Social Librarian: Connecting and Creating Communities.**”

A poster session, coffee, a selection of very naughty but irresistible pastries (I lost count how many I consumed) and an uplifting opening keynote speech set the tone for the next two days. Dr Brenda O’Connell’s (University of Limerick) presentation on wellbeing at work provided a framework for all the talks that followed and highlighted how developing positive relationships with colleagues and library users can lead to success, innovation and a stronger and larger library community.



I think that my genes mean that I have a slightly negative view of the world. However, I discovered that my “glass half full” attitude is only part of the picture. I was hopefully not the only delegate who will be following Dr O’Connell’s steps to increase my levels of “happiness” at work. So I will strive to thank colleagues, to be kind, to exercise and I am also listing three things every day that I am grateful for. I put this latter tip into practice immediately at the conference and here are my highlights.

On the first day I enjoyed inspiring talks, a witty poem on a bibliometric drinking game, and connecting with fellow delegates over drinks and canapés. I don’t think I was the only one to well up upon hearing Anne’s Byrne’s tale, shared by Maeve Gebruers from the Irish Traditional Music Archive. By sharing Anne’s personal story effectively through their web site, social media and local news, the ITMA helped to develop and increase their profile and user base.

On day 2, I appreciated the opportunity to share ideas in the World Cafe; to hear the story of Ferguson and the real difference libraries can make when their “awesome” doors remain open to their community; and the food, an impressive and social lunch and the undeniable lure of more cinnamon swirls. Scott Bonner’s heartfelt and self-reflective talk about Ferguson’s Municipal Public Library and its response to a town in turmoil will remain with me and strongly emphasised that #librariesmatter.

As to my own tale, I was grateful to be able to go forth from the conference and share with my workplace the benefits of connecting with colleagues, sharing stories, creating podcasts, listening to chair preferences and actively reaching out to the world beyond our libraries. I am grateful to the organisers for a thoroughly professional and engaging event. My only thought for the future and possible “room for improvement” would be that, as a first timer and somewhat reserved delegate, I would be grateful for more focused networking or icebreaking sessions, similar to those used in the World Cafe and the interactive segment of Dr O’Connell’s talk, throughout the entire event.

I would conclude by thanking the A&SL members for the bursary and the opportunity to attend such a library affirming and enjoyable two days.

Lynne Gault, Open Access Team, Queen’s University Belfast.

About the sponsored attendee bursary:

The A&SL committee offered two bursaries to cover attendance at the 2017 Annual Conference.

One of these was a “First-Timer” bursary, awarded to someone who had not attended an A&SL Conference before. The bursary covered the cost of the conference delegate fee for the 16th and 17th February 2017. Travel costs up to a maximum of €100 were also included.

After the conference, the bursary winners provided conference reviews. The second report has been published on [LibFocus.com](http://libfocus.com).

Stay in touch with the Academic & Special Libraries Section:

Websites: www.aslibraries.com (check here for presentations and videos of the livestream)

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLixsH7gTZuo0z3AzKuleU_gJrhB8Nm4FP

<https://libraryassociation.ie/groups-sections/academic-and-special-libraries-section-asl>

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Twitter: [@ASLIBRARIES](https://twitter.com/ASLIBRARIES)

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=5177176&trk=my_groups-tile-grp

Slideshare: <http://www.slideshare.net/aslibraries>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/125562815@N05/>

Dynamic Research Support for Academic Libraries (ed Starr Hoffman)

London: Facet Publishing, 2016. ISBN 978-1783300-495. 176pp, £49.95stg, pbk

Overview

In this lively and diverse account of the broadening role of research support in academic libraries, editor Starr Hoffman makes the case for libraries to think collaboratively and creatively in a rapidly changing environment. In the preface, she argues that all sizes and kinds of academic libraries are shifting to broader forms of research support, 'research' being taken to refer to a wide variety of scholarship across all disciplines. The book sets out to consider new models of research support, and to inspire practitioners to think more deeply about how we identify, and then successfully meet, the needs of our particular user base. In this, the contributors have done a good job.

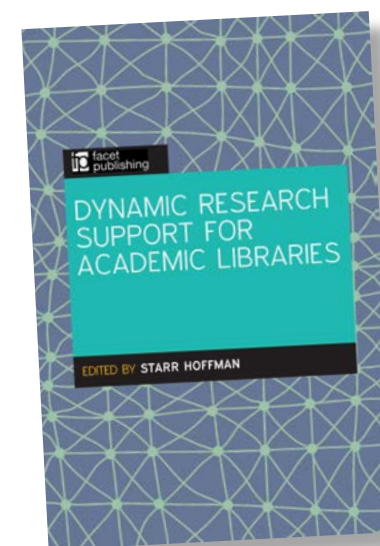
Layout and approach

The book is divided into three parts: Training and infrastructure; Data services and data literacy; and Research as a conversation. An introduction to each part lays out the theme or theory of that section, and is followed by several case studies, providing illustrative examples of new models of research support.

This approach works well: in addition to setting out the core points, the introductions serve to inspire creativity and questioning around how academic libraries function. The case studies are taken from libraries around the world, representing a variety of experiences, and include practical information around decision-making processes, project development and implementation.

'A vision for supporting research'

Starr Hoffman's excellent introduction is recommended reading. Entitled 'A vision for supporting research', she writes about the expanding and changing nature of research support. This is relevant for all academic libraries, regardless of size; 'research' should be thought of at its broadest level, 'the pursuit or creation of new knowledge' (p xii). She writes compellingly about the need to encourage a 'culture of exploration' where library professionals feel free to experiment with new ideas, technologies, and methods of support. So, too, must we begin to see 'risk as positive' – if a project fails, we must see it as an opportunity to learn, adjust and try something new. In the dynamic research environment, responsiveness to our users' needs is vital, where we adapt our services as needed. Hoffmann connects the process of response and risk to assessment of our services and their effectiveness. Assessment should be less a circle, and more a spiral – as we collect data on the usage and benefits (or otherwise) of our services, we continually evolve.



In the light of these new, heightened expectations, how does the academic library organise and manage their resources sustainably? Starr argues we must replace the mantra of 'doing more with less' with 'doing less, deeper' where we focus on our specific strengths, and prioritise what we do based on user needs, and rigorous self-assessment.

This approach serves as a backdrop to the book as a whole.

Approach

'Training and infrastructure' covers issues of library infrastructure and training librarians for new support models. Consideration of the unique needs of a particular user community is emphasised.

'Data services and data literacy' explores research data management practices, a topic deserving of more attention in the literature. The case studies here focus on the importance of showing students real-world usage of data in the wider world, in research and decision-making and in policy formulation.

Starr Hoffmann writes another excellent introduction to the section 'Research as a conversation'. That idea – that knowledge is created on the solid foundation of pre-existing research – is not new, but is ever-relevant. Libraries have always supported key elements of this process – now, developments in open access have provided many different ways that libraries can support new research. Information literacy skills have become ever-more important in the discovery and education process, and new delivery models are needed which assist users at their point-of-need.

The case studies are diverse, with an international focus and a broad range of projects covered. They include developing a new model for Mexican libraries, the Biblioteca Digital Ovidiana project in Spain (<http://ovidiuspictus.es>), training researchers in managing data for better results and longer-term access, supporting GIS in non-traditional disciplines, open access initiatives and metadata enhancement through name authority in the UNT Digital Library (<https://digital.library.unt.edu/about/digital-library/>).

The case studies serve to give practical examples related to the themes introduced in the section introductions. At times, I felt some of the more detailed case studies were hard to fully engage with unless you worked in that area.

Assessment

I greatly enjoyed this book, in particular the well-crafted and engaging introductions. There was much on which to reflect, and prompt new ways of thinking and working in the library sector. A particular strength of this title is its broad appeal to any library engaged in research support.

Aine Carey is Assistant Librarian: Learning, Teaching and Research, Maynooth University Library

Developing digital scholarship: emerging practices in academic libraries

edited by Alison Mackenzie, Lindsey Martin

London: Facet Publishing 2016. ISBN 9781783301102. 184pp £49.95 stg (£39.96 CILIP Members)

In 1990, Ernest Boyer¹, troubled by the emphasis on research rather than on actual teaching, proposed that higher education should eschew the old “teaching versus research” debate. Scholarship, he argued should have four separate yet overlapping meanings: the scholarship of discovery, the scholarship of integration, the scholarship of application, and the scholarship of teaching. Supported by a survey of 5000 US academics, his definition has gained great currency.

The intervening years have witnessed the rise of e-infrastructure - to borrow Research Councils UK definition²: “digitally-based technology (hardware and software), resources (data, services, digital libraries), communications (protocols, access rights and networks), and the people and organisational structures needed to support modern research, be it in the arts and humanities or the sciences”.

This expanded, increasingly digital world of scholarship is the soup in which modern academic librarians swim. Here, new practices are emerging across the board, in discovery, integration, application and teaching. Readers seeking a ‘teach yourself how-to-swim’ book, should probably look elsewhere. Rather, this volume is where to look for examples of libraries demonstrating ‘flexibility and stretch through the remodelling of services and through innovation in forging new partnerships and carving out new roles or applying existing expertise to new situations.’

That *scholarship is scholarship*, be it digital or otherwise, is acknowledged. Through ten well-researched articles, it aims to offer readers, using “a collection of contrasting perspectives, contexts, insights and case studies, an exploration of the relationships between digital scholarship, contemporary academic libraries and professional practice.”

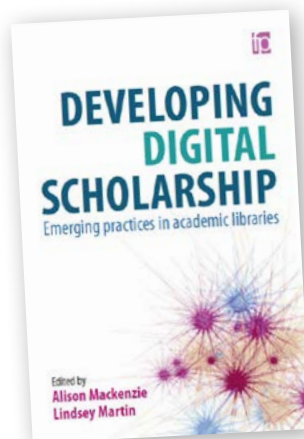
The perspectives are international, mostly UK, US and Australian, and include an Irish case study on the Abbey Theatre digitisation at NUI, Galway. Divided into four sections, the volume starts with a landscape review, proceeds to a section on staffing, followed by a section on spaces and services and finishes on communications and engagement via social networks. A final sum-up chapter by the editors neatly rounds off the work.

The opening chapter is by far the most revealing, with an incisive, thorough and really useful review of the literature by Lindsey Martin. She notes that the existing literature on digital scholarship is ‘neither broad nor deep’. However, what is there is sliced, diced and delicately presented in a series of extended paragraphs dealing with the nature of scholarship itself, digital and associated scholarly practices, digital scholarship as an ideology, its extent and potential. Martin further dissects the literature to offer ‘tantalizing glimpses’ of what we have

learned about digital scholars and their practices, how libraries have repositioned to respond to digital scholarship especially with digital scholarship centres, how we are dealing with new roles and the skills gap, the types of services being offered and the partnerships, strategy and leadership that makes it all possible.

Coherent, well-edited, referenced and indexed, this collection hangs together, with little or no duplication. It is a very welcome addition to the sparse literature on digital scholarship. It offers a lifeline to librarians struggling to develop a coherent response to the challenges posed by the profound changes in scholarship found in modern academia. Anyone seeking to understand why, how and where libraries enable and enrich modern digital scholarship will find it useful.

Peter Corrigan is Head of Digital Publishing and Innovation, James Hardiman Library, National University of Ireland, Galway



1 <https://depts.washington.edu/gs630/Spring/Boyer.pdf>

2 <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/xrcprogrammes/otherprogs/einfrastructure/>

Mary Semple, 1915-2016

The death of Mary Semple, aged 101, marks the final passing of that generation of UCD library staff who were appointed before the Second World War, and the breakage of the last remaining personal link with the period of office of James J O'Neill (UCD Librarian 1917-1951).

It also marks the end of a long-standing family connection with University College Dublin. Mary's father, Patrick Semple, had been a student at UCD and was subsequently a teaching fellow of the Royal University of Ireland, the degree awarding body for the College at that time. He was appointed Professor of Latin in 1909 when UCD became a constituent college of the National University of Ireland, and was, at a later stage, Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Another daughter, Esther, who predeceased Mary in 1999, was for many years Law Librarian in UCD Library.

Born in 1915, Mary Semple studied Arts at UCD, graduating in 1936 with honours in French, Latin and English. She then entered the UCD School of Library Training (as it was then called), obtaining the Diploma with distinction in June 1937.

Her first involvement in library and information work was as an assistant in the preparation of the first edition of a union catalogue of medical serials in Dublin libraries under the auspices of the Medical Research Council. In September 1938 she was appointed to the staff of UCD Library as a Library Assistant, this being the entry grade for professionally qualified library staff at that time.

In the early years of her appointment she worked initially in the Cataloguing Department where she deployed her knowledge of ancient and modern European languages, and a wide familiarity with information resources, to considerable effect. She was later appointed to take charge of the Periodicals Department. During the immediate post-war years she had a particular responsibility to make good the gaps in holdings which had arisen as a result of wartime vicissitudes, when overseas postal deliveries were erratic and in some cases suspended.

Like most members of the library staff at that time, she was a multitasker,

contributing to areas of library work beyond her formal positions. In her case these included cataloguing and reader services work, and in fact she worked at one time or another in all departments and branches of the Library except for Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. In addition, throughout her career she assisted with the teaching of students in the School of Library Training, and in its successor from 1977, the Department of Library and Information Studies.

UCD was slow to establish a senior library management structure, but the nucleus of one emerged in 1962 with the establishment of one post at Deputy Librarian grade and two posts at Sub-Librarian grade. Mary was appointed to one of these Sub-librarian posts, as Medical Librarian, in which she made a considerable impact on the service to her users, judging by the tributes from current and retired staff of the Faculty of Medicine at her retirement presentation.

In 1974 she was appointed Deputy Librarian on the retirement of Mary Hogan, the first holder of that post. These were testing times for the library, with the beginning of the complex and protracted move of university facilities from their locations in the city centre and elsewhere to the new suburban campus at Belfield. Mary's long experience and detailed knowledge of library practices and procedures were of great assistance to the Librarians under whom she served. As Deputy Librarian, she was extremely supportive in administering the transition from old to new while ensuring that the library service was maintained at the highest possible level.

She retired in 1981, and pursued a number of leisure interests, but was always glad to keep in touch with developments in UCD and with news of former colleagues in the Library and the university administration, particularly those in Earlsfort Terrace, where she had spent the greater part of her career.

She died peacefully on 9th October 2016.

Sean Phillips (UCD Librarian 1978-2008), with acknowledgment to Marie Burke and Mary Grace for their assistance.

Etaín Ó Síocháin, 1946-2016



Etaín Ó Síocháin died peacefully on 27 August 2016. Etaín grew up in Dublin and was educated at the Convent of Mercy boarding school in Carrick-on-Suir for her secondary education. Etaín studied Irish and English at UCD and became very fluent in the Irish language. On graduation she initially taught in secondary school, they then travelled to the US with her husband Séamas. While he studied at Cornell University, she worked in the university's famous South-East Asia collection, the Wason Library. On returning to Ireland she completed the professional Library Diploma in UCD in 1978 and took up a position in Maynooth University, where she remained until her retirement.

During a long and distinguished career, Etaín made a very significant contribution to the Library and the University. She worked in a number of areas, she was subject librarian for a range of departments including the School of Celtic Studies and played a major role in the Russell Library retrospective cataloguing project. She was well known university-wide and her expertise in the Irish language was generously shared with colleagues across campus and beyond. Etaín completed her MA (Nua-Ghaeilge) in 1986. She put her extensive knowledge of the Irish language to good use editing and contributing to the volume *Maigh Nuad: Saothrú na Gaeilge 1795-1995* (Maynooth: An Sagart, 1995), writing essays in the Irish language for *Maynooth University Record*, serving on Coiste na Gaeilge, participating in the annual Léachtaí Cholm Cille conference

and organizing the annual library Seachtain na Gaeilge events.

Etaín was a dedicated member of the Library Association of Ireland (LAI) and her contribution to the LAI is remembered by a former colleague:

Etaín Ó Síocháin - Gaeilgeoir go smior

Chuir mé aithne ar Etaín Ó Síocháin nuair a bhíomar beirt mar bhaill de ghrúpa darbh ainm Meitheal Oibre na Leabharlann. Bhí an ghrúpa ar an saol tamall sular chuala mé faoi, ach bhí sé tithe i léig. Duine de bheirt nó triúr a chrom ar bheocht a chur inti arís ba ea Etaín. Tharla sé gur chuala mé faoi ag an bpointe sin agus d'fhreastal mé ar chruinniú. Shocraíomar ar phlean athbheochana agus rinne Etaín teagmháil le leabharlanna sa réimse tríú leibhéal. Rinne mise amhlaidh leis na leabharlanna poiblí. Bhí duine eile i dteagmháil leis na coláistí réigiúnacha. Bhíomar ag iarraidh go mbeadh ionadaíocht ag gach leabharlann, phoiblí agus ollscoile agus choláiste ar an Meitheal.

An toradh a bhí as ná ollchruinniú i Leabharlann Sráid na bPiarsach i mí Feabhra 2004. Bhí slua mór i láthair agus nach Etaín a bhí sásta leis. Ar fead tréimhse, bhí Meitheal Oibre na Leabharlann ag feidhmiú go hana mhaith le seiminedáir agus tionscadail éagsúla.

Deirtear nach mbíonn in aon rud ach seal, agus is amhlaidh a thosaigh spéis sa

ghrúpa ag laghdú de réir a cheile. Faoi dheireadh, thart ar 2010, ní raibh ach cúigear nó seisear ag teacht go dtí na cruinnithe. Rinne Etaín agus cúpla eile dínn tréan-iarracht é a choinneáil beo, ach theip orainn sa deireadh.

Nuair a chas mé le Etaín i dtosach báire, fuair mé amach sula i bhfad go raibh sí an díograiseach faoin nGaeilge. Bhí sí ag feidhmiú ar feadh tréimhse mar rúnaí ar an ngrúpa agus ba léir go raibh cumas iontach aice i gcruinnscriobh na Gaeilge. Gaeilgeoir ar leith ar lár anois agus is cailliúint mhór do shaol na Gaeilge í, ach go háirithe dá clann agus cairde. Sonas síoraí uirthi.

Etaín was highly esteemed by her Library and University colleagues and made many dear friends down the years. She was extremely loyal to the Library and the University and had a strong sense of duty and personal integrity.

Etaín was an erudite conversationalist with information and considered opinion on a wide range of topics. She had a wonderful sense of humour and a very optimistic outlook on life. Etaín and her husband, Séamas, had a great interest in hill walking and had travelled both at home and abroad to participate in this activity. She loved the freedom that retirement brought, and thoroughly enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren who were her pride and joy. She will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of working with her.

I líontaibh Dé go gcastar sinn.

Helen Fallon, Deputy Librarian, Maynooth University and Sean O'Suilleabhain, former Leitrim County Librarian, Chair, Meitheal Oibre

Tom Sharkey, 1929-2016



Tom Sharkey, retired Galway County Librarian, died on 24th October 2016. Tom Bernard Sharkey was born in Galway and educated in the Mercy convent and Colaiste Iognaid (Jesuit) Schools. He was the eldest of five children and had four sisters Mary, Eithne, Anne and Olive. His father, a publican, purchased a farm and moved the family to Strokestown, Co. Roscommon when Tom was eight. He finished his formal education in Summerhill College, Sligo and turned down an offer to take over the family farm deciding to return to Galway to take up duties in Galway Libraries in 1949.

He started work as Library Assistant under the famous and renowned Librarian, Sam McGuire, and progressed in his career until he succeeded Sean Bohan as Librarian. Tom was appointed County Librarian for Galway City and County in 1969. He managed the second largest county in Ireland with over 30 branch libraries and a Mobile library service.

Tom oversaw many changes in the library service in the 25 years he was County Librarian. For many years the main Galway City library and HQ was in the Courthouse but in 1980 that library moved to leased premises in the Hynes Buildings, St. Augustine Street where it is today and Library HQ relocated to Island House, Cathedral Square. He ensured that the public library service was for everyone. Galway library service proved to be a place of 'incubation' over the years for library staff many of whom moved onto County Librarian posts throughout Ireland e.g. Kathleen Browne (Kerry) and Helen Kilcline (Roscommon).

Tom loved reading and was widely read, passionate about the classics in particular, rereading them throughout his life. He was an enthusiastic librarian, a stickler for detail, loved order and was well versed

in policy. He attended Library Association of Ireland and other Conferences and events throughout his career and always encouraged his staff to be involved in professional activities. He was Secretary to the Library Committees, (later abolished), and had a great rapport with members and staff.

A true Galwegian and a unique character, Tom had a great empathy with the history and traditions of Galway, being a member of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society and the Mechanics Institute. He was good company and loved to entertain. He regaled people with his stories and was an authority on many subjects. He loved sport on TV and his passions were walking, listening to classical music and ballroom dancing, winning medals and certificates for same. He kept dogs for many years- King Charles Spaniels-and had a great way with animals. He loved to travel and visited many countries.

Retiring in July 1994 Tom enjoyed a long and happy retirement living in the centre of Galway close to Galway City Library where he was a regular visitor. Tom was always interested and liked to be kept up to date on library affairs and events. He died shortly after taking ill in his home in October 2016.

Peter Rabbitt, Acting County Librarian, Galway

Kathleen Browne (Turner) remembers Tom Sharkey:

In 1967, I moved as Library Assistant from Kerry County Library to Galway County Library as Assistant Librarian. In those days most of the County Library Services were in the early stages of development.

Galway Library Service, under Sean Bohan, County Librarian, had a Development Programme, which planned for future development of the service but also provided promotional opportunities for staff.

Hence I took off to Galway and was introduced to the Mobile Library Service, rattling all over Connemara and County Galway. Schools were visited regularly and Local Studies was expanded. Tom Sharkey was Acting County Librarian during my two years in Galway.

Tom was a learned man, great company, well-travelled and had a great love of literature and music. Moreover, Tom was a kind, sincere man who made my stay in Galway a happy and pleasant one.

Helen Kilcline (Maher) and myself lived in Salthill, where we enjoyed walks on the Prom and regular visits to Seapoint Ballroom. Tom loved dancing and was a regular in Seapoint where all the girls on the staff got the obligatory dance.

Tom will be greatly missed by his colleagues and many friends.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

William Smith, 1939-2017



William (Liam) Smith, Mitchell's Cross, Tankardstown, Navan, who died on 5th January last, was Meath County Librarian from 1974 until 1999. He died peacefully at Our Lady's Hospital, Navan, aged 78.

The only child of William and Margaret Smith, William was educated at Kells CBS and UCD, where he graduated with a Diploma in Library Training in 1962. His professional career started with Meath County Library and he then served as Assistant Librarian with Longford-Westmeath Joint Libraries Committee from 1964 to 1968, and as County Librarian with Mayo County Council from 1968 until 1974.

He became County Librarian in Navan just as the new headquarters building opened, with the challenge of finalising the move from the old building on Church Hill to the new purpose built facility. It was to be a template for other counties. Afterwards he led service developments which included provision of eight new library buildings. One of them, entailing the refurbishment of the old Catholic church in Dunshaughlin, was the recipient of two awards – in the converted buildings category of the Public Libraries Group Library Awards 1997, and the An

Taisce Ellison Award for Environmental Excellence 1996, which delighted Liam as a member of An Taisce.

In his younger years he played football for Martry and hurling for Wilkinstown and was part of the Martry team that won the Meath Junior football championship in 1964. He also played tennis and badminton and was a member of Ardbracon Gun Club. He was an avid motorbike racing fan and owned a Triumph Tigercub, later saying that selling it was the only regret of his life.

A very active man, he was a leader in Bohermeen Scout Group and a member of Kells Horticultural Society.

A keen gardener and lover of nature, he was fascinated by the birds and other wildlife that his garden attracted. He had an enormous love of books and literature, especially poetry. He had a keen interest in Irish history, in particular local history as evidenced by his vast personal collection of local history books and writings. He actively supported local historians through provision of access to library collections and facilities.

An enthusiastic member of the professional association, he was President of the Library Association of Ireland from 1982 to 1984, and then Honorary Secretary until 1988. He also served as Honorary Auditor.

William was a tremendously caring man, always thinking about the welfare of others. He joined Navan Rotary Club in 1986, serving as President in 2000. He was a long standing member of the Knights of St. Columbanus and his time there was very precious to him. He held various offices on its Navan Council including Secretary, Treasurer and Grand Knight. He enjoyed a full and energetic life until the end.

William is survived by his wife Kathleen, son David, daughters Carol, Katherine and Helen.

Ciaran Mangan, Meath County Librarian

NEWS from the STACKS

LAI AGM 2017, 9th March

At the recent LAI AGM, the following officers were elected:

President - Mary Stuart, Laois County Libraries

**Vice-Presidents: Senior VP- Marian Higgins, Kildare Library and Arts Service
Junior VP- Cathal McCauley, Maynooth University**

Hon. Treasurer - Lorna Dodd, Maynooth University

Hon. Secretary - Eimear McGinn, Kildare Library and Arts Service

LAI AWARDS

Pictured below are colleagues who received professional awards at the LAI AGM:



L to R: Caitriona Honahan (TCD), Orna Roche (UCD), Elizabeth Murphy (Maynooth University), Caroline Rowan (St. Michael's Hospital), Mary Dunne (HRB), Val Baker (Maynooth University) and Genevieve Larkin (MIE).

Colleagues conferred *in absentia* were Vaughan Birbeck, (EMCDDA, Lisbon) Leona Burgess (DHSS & PS, Belfast), Sue Miller (DCU), Niamh O'Donovan (Galway County Libraries) and Stephanie Ronan (Marine Institute).

Val Baker received FLAI while other colleagues received ALAI.

CILIP IRELAND News

Available at: <https://www.cilip.org.uk/about/devolved-nations/cilip-ireland>

Forthcoming Conferences:

<http://www.isast.org>

<http://eahil2017.net>

<http://cilipconference.org.uk>

<http://www.cilips.org.uk/about/annual-conference-2017/>

<https://sconul.ac.uk>

<http://www.biall.org.uk/pages/conferences-biall.html>

<http://www.iaml.info/congresses/2017-riga>

<http://2017.ifla.org>

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/public-mobile-libraries-group/events/pmlg-cdeg-conference-2017-public-libraries-social-digital-economic-inclusion>

<http://www.internet-librarian.com/2017/default.aspx>

PEOPLE

Congratulations to those who have moved to new positions:

- Aine Carey, Assistant Librarian: Learning, Teaching and Research, Maynooth University Library
- Emma Clancy, Leitrim County Librarian
- Damien Dullaghan, Tipperary County Librarian
- Aoife Lawton, National Health Services Librarian, HSE
- Zoe Melling, State Library of New South Wales
- Ann O'Sullivan, Knowledge Manager, A & L Goodbody
- Good wishes to Inez Fletcher (NLI) who retired recently.

CPD Opportunities

CILIP Ireland:

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/about/devolved-nations/cilip-ireland>

LAI:

<https://libraryassociation.ie/events>

UCD School of Information and Communication Studies:

<http://www.ucd.ie/sils/>

Dublin Business School:

<http://www.dbs.ie/courses/postgraduate>

European News

The legal Affairs Committee (JURI) of the European Parliament voted recently to respect the spirit of the Marrakesh Treaty.

MEPs have a new grouping , MEP Library Lovers Group: <http://meplibrarygroup.eu>

There are three Irish MEPs on their list so far. This is an opportunity to engage with your MEP who has not yet joined.

Libraries in the News

The National Library of Ireland received funding to acquire additional Yeats and Joyce material . More details are available NLI website.

Berkeley Library at Trinity College Dublin celebrates 50 years: <https://www.tcd.ie/library/berkeley/>

Dublin: One City One Book is this year reading Echoland. Details at: <http://www.dublinonacityonebook.ie>