

Library Association of Ireland
Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

*“It is my pleasure to pronounce in praise
of libraries and librarians”*



Annual Report 2010

WITH MEMBERSHIP LIST



The Library Association of Ireland

CUMANN LEABHARLANN NA HÉIREANN

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Dublin 2

Annual Report 2010

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Cover: Seamus Heaney launches Library Ireland Week.

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List of Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used within the text of the report:

COLICO	Committee for Library Co-operation in Ireland	NLI	National Library of Ireland
DCU	Dublin City University	TCD	Trinity College Dublin
HRB	Health Research Board	UCC	University College Cork
HSE	Health Services Executive	UCD	University College Dublin
NUIG	National University of Ireland Galway	UCD SILS	University College Dublin, School of Information & Library Studies
NUIM	National University of Ireland Maynooth	UL	University of Limerick

4 Honorary Officers and Executive Board 2010/2011

Honorary Officers 2010/2011

President:	<i>Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Librarian, Royal Irish Academy</i>
Vice-Presidents:	<i>Fionnuala Hanrahan, County Librarian, Wexford County Library Service Jane Cantwell, City Librarian, Waterford City Council Library Service</i>
Hon. Secretary:	<i>Kieran Swords, Acting Senior Executive Librarian, South Dublin County Libraries</i>
Hon. Treasurer:	<i>Catherine Gallagher, Acting Executive Librarian, South Dublin County Libraries (co-opted at April meeting of the Executive Board)</i>
Hon. Auditor:	<i>Gerard Maher, County Librarian, Laois County Library Service</i>

Executive Board 2010/2011

<i>Jane Cantwell, Waterford City Council Library Service</i>
<i>Philip Cohen, Dublin Institute of Technology</i>
<i>Aisling Donnelly, Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service</i>
<i>Joseph Donnelly, Judges' Library</i>
<i>Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Public Libraries (retired May 2010)</i>
<i>Louise Farragher, Health Research Board</i>
<i>Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Royal Irish Academy (Chair)</i>
<i>Ruth Flanagan, Retired (formerly Cork County Library and Arts Services)</i>
<i>Fionnuala Hanrahan, Wexford County Library Service</i>
<i>Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Public Libraries</i>
<i>Seán Hughes, Trinity College Dublin</i>
<i>Pat Lonergan, Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service</i>
<i>Mary Murphy, Meath County Council Library Service</i>
<i>Emer O'Brien, Tipperary Libraries</i>
<i>Gobnait O'Riordan, University of Limerick</i>
<i>Hazel Percival, Wexford County Library Service</i>
<i>Michael Plaice, Cork County Council Library and Arts Service</i>
<i>Liam Ronayne, Cork City Council Library Service</i>
<i>Marjory Sliney, Fingal County Libraries</i>

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

The Executive Board met eight times during its term of office:

7 April, 2010,
13 May, 2010,
17 June, 2010,
9 September, 2010,
14 October, 2010,
16 December, 2010,
6 January 2011,
and 3 February 2011.

ATTENDANCE

Jane Cantwell	6
Philip Cohen	6
Aisling Donnelly	5
Joseph Donnelly	4
Deirdre Ellis-King	5
Louise Farragher	2
Siobhán Fitzpatrick	8
Ruth Flanagan	1
Catherine Gallagher	8
Fionnuala Hanrahan	7
Margaret Hayes	5
Seán Hughes	8
Pat Lonergan	1
Mary Murphy	5
Emer O'Brien	5
Gobnait O'Riordan	2
Hazel Percival	5
Michael Plaice	5
Liam Ronayne	2
Marjory Sliney	7
Kieran Swords	8

Development Manager, Jane Clavin, attended meetings of the Executive Board.

Foreword

On New Year's Eve 'when men were all asleep the snow came flying ...' – a fairly unusual occurrence in Ireland, or so we thought then. Hardship and suffering ensued. In late spring, a volcanic eruption in Iceland resulted in mayhem for air travel, forcing many to cancel their travel arrangements. As the year wore on, the recession bit deeper, the country's credit ratings wobbled massively, the IMF and the EU came to the rescue, and snow and arctic temperatures returned to our shores. All of these events were outside of our control – the common reaction was 'what next?'; like the snow they impacted on all – the individual citizen, on institutions, businesses, and on libraries – like the snow 'hiding difference, making unevenness even'. The remarkable thing is how well people adapted to changed and changing circumstances. The show must go on.

There is hardly a library or information service in the land which has not suffered cuts either in terms of funding, of staff or of services. Significantly, our public library services have witnessed phenomenal increases in usage and in lending during the past two years and our academic and research libraries are catering for greater numbers of students and postgraduate researchers. It

will be important as time goes by to safeguard core services and to optimise the delivery of quality services to our stakeholders. As we face the challenge of managing delivery with fewer resources our creative abilities will be tested to the maximum. Developing and honing our skills and critical thinking faculties will be more important than ever.

During the past year, through our joint conference, organised in conjunction with our colleagues in ciliip Ireland, and through the work of our interest groups, the Association has delivered a wide range of CPD workshops, courses and seminars. Many of these have attracted cross-sectoral attendances which augurs well for the future. For collaborative working must be the way forward if we are to remain relevant and deliver quality product. As you read this report, you will note that some courses had to be cancelled due to undersubscription. This has been the experience of other associations over the past year and it is likely to continue. It would be timely to review strategically the training and CPD provision of the key providers in our profession and to bring some joined-up thinking to these issues.

As our year draws to a close, we can report that the



Pictured at the launch of the Joint Conference by Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley, T.D., l to r: Georgina Byrne, County Librarian, South Dublin County Libraries; Norma McDermott, Director, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna; John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Siobhán Fitzpatrick, President; Councillor Mick Duff, Mayor of South Dublin County; Joe Horan, County Manager, South Dublin County Council and Fionnuala Hanrahan, Vice-President.



Pictured at the launch of Library Ireland Week, l to r: Norma McDermott, Director, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna; Seamus Heaney and Siobhán Fitzpatrick, President.

work of our task forces is beginning to come to fruition. The Task Force on the Memorandum and Articles of Association has almost reached completion and has encompassed a review of the structures upon which the Association is based, how these might be made more robust, more interactive and more relevant for the 21st century. It is intended that, harnessing the deliberations of this task force and the Task Force on the Business Development Plan, we shall be able to bring proposals to the membership during 2011, in order to advance the work of the Association. It is imperative that the Association should contribute in a timely and focussed way to policy at national level. We believe that a stronger Association will be better placed to respond to policy documents and to initiate strategic policies.

In developing the core Association I believe that members will be enabled to contribute, to learn and to increase their own potential as librarians and information professionals. On that memorable occasion last March when Nobel laureate and consummate poet, Seamus Heaney, spoke at the launch of Library Ireland Week, he cited Czeslaw Milosz –

‘What is pronounced strengthens itself. What is not pronounced tends towards non-being’ and later added ‘it is worth pronouncing on behalf of libraries and librarians’.

We must be proud of the achievements of our libraries, of our new builds, of our consortial developments, of our continual striving to develop our own

skills and those of our users, and of providing resources to meet their needs. Seamus Heaney, as a user of libraries across the spectrum, understands more than anyone how much libraries count – ‘Libraries especially are there for the common good, to serve the whole population’. What greater accolade could be bestowed on librarians and libraries than the wonderful analogy Heaney drew between the stringing of Odysseus’s bow and his sure aim in the archery competition for Penelope’s hand and the

‘eager purpose and sensation of ongoing revelation which the mind of the library user experiences as he or she advances – advances not just through the stages of his or her reading list or research project, but through the different ages and stages of his or her life as a reader, entering the doors of the school library, the college library, then the local authority’s library, the city library, the university library, the research library, the professional library, the national library, the foreign library’.

These words should encourage us to go forward hopefully on our journey of understanding and of enabling our citizens to rebuild our economy and our country.

Siobhán Fitzpatrick
President

Annual General Meeting 2010

The Annual General Meeting took place on 11 March in the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street, Dublin. Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Librarian, Royal Irish Academy was returned as President. Fionnuala Hanrahan, Wexford County Librarian and Jane Cantwell, Waterford City Librarian were returned as Vice-Presidents. Kieran Swords, Acting Senior Executive Librarian, South Dublin County Libraries was returned as Honorary Secretary. No nomination had been received for the post of Honorary Treasurer.

Following confirmation of her second term of office, the President addressed the gathering. She reflected on the Association in light of her year as President, identifying strengths and weaknesses and suggesting some strategies for the advancement of the Association.

The Association is a respected body, long established, with nominating rights to Seanad Éireann and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and representation on a range of other bodies, including COLICO. It produces a regular, modern journal, *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library*. There is a solid membership base which feeds into sectoral and thematic interest groups, which in turn provide focussed CPD activities inter al. The

Association can call on a wide range of expertise in educational matters; information provision; legal information; the regulatory environment; curatorial functions; health information and so on. There is much goodwill and a concern to collaborate, as well as to develop the profession within Ireland.

Areas identified as requiring attention were as follows:

- ♣ the Association's groups needed to identify more with the main body and individuals should be encouraged to engage with task forces and working groups
- ♣ the Association should work towards being more proactive in terms of policy
- ♣ knowledge management was weak and needed to be addressed in a variety of ways
- ♣ the Association's website needed to contain a lot more hard information, historic content, current information, policy documents, interactive membership areas
- ♣ inadequate funding.

Ideally, a better-funded Association would be in a position to provide better membership services, an improved, interactive website, more CPD activities and to commission reports if necessary. The Association



Some members of the Executive Board pictured at the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street after the AGM. Front row, l to r: Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Public Libraries; Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian; Siobhán Fitzpatrick, President; Jane Cantwell, Vice-President; Marjory Sliney, Fingal County Libraries; Back row, l to r: Michael Plaice, Cork County Council Library and Arts Service; Catherine Gallagher, South Dublin County Libraries; Seán Hughes, TCD; Louise Farragher, HRB; Liam Ronayne, Cork City Council Library Service; Philip Cohen, Dublin Institute of Technology; Kieran Swords, South Dublin County Libraries; Joe Donnelly, Judges' Library.

needed to harness the strengths and goodwill of the membership and to work on the weaker areas.

Specifically, a flexible strategic plan, based on members' input, clearly distinguishing between the procedural and the strategic/developmental foci should be a priority.

Resolutions passed at the meeting for action by the Executive Board

- 1 That this Annual General Meeting requests that the Executive Board of the Library Association of Ireland should be mandated to progress and complete discussions with SILS, and/or other appropriate bodies as required, towards gaining accreditation for LAI-approved CPD courses.

Proposed by the Education Committee

Proposed by Deirdre Ellis-King, seconded by Marjory Sliney.

Carried by the meeting.

- 2 That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board on behalf of the Library Association of Ireland, as the main representative body for library and information professionals in Ireland, to set up a task force to create a formal network to provide support in the form of communications, advice, and facilitation of unpaid work experience, in order to support recent graduates and others unable to find relevant work, and members and colleagues who have been made redundant.

Proposed by the Academic and Special Libraries Section

Proposed by Aoife Connolly, seconded by Eva Hornung. An amendment was proposed by Ann O'Sullivan, seconded by Kathryn Smyth that the word 'unpaid' be removed from the motion. The amended motion was carried by the meeting.

- 3 That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to call on the appropriate authorities, namely, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Education and Science, and the Higher Education Authority (HEA), to provide continued funding for the Irish Research Electronic Library (IREL).

Proposed by the Academic and Special Libraries Section

Proposed by Kathryn Smith, seconded by Ann O'Sullivan.

Carried by the meeting.

- 4 That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board on behalf of the Library Association of Ireland to consider a reduction in the membership fee, especially in the current economic climate.

Proposed by the Youth Libraries Group

Proposed by Catherine Gallagher, seconded by Orla Kane.

Carried by the meeting.

- 5 In recognition of the role of the school library in education and its potential (1) in teaching and learning and (2) its potential in the development of a positive attitude towards reading, this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board on behalf of the Library Association of Ireland to urge the Department of Education and Science to restore to local library services the annual grant for school libraries which enables public library services to guide and assist in the development of school libraries.

Proposed by Pat McMahon

Proposed by Pat McMahon, seconded by Mary Murphy. Carried by the meeting.

- 6 That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to improve (1) the Capital Funding Programme for Public Libraries in the case of both new buildings and renovations and (2) leasing support grant for public libraries, as communities need libraries even more in a time of recession. This investment would bring a return not only in employment within the construction industries in the short term but also long-term to the cultural capital of the State given the multi-cultural remit of the public library service.

Proposed by the Executive Board

Proposed by Jane Cantwell, seconded by Joe Donnelly. Carried by the meeting.

- 7 Libraries are both essential to and a consequence of a progressive society. The Irish library community is multi-faceted and supports the development of all aspects of Irish life through information organisation and positioning, through collection and e-services of its academic, specialist and public library sectors. This Annual General Meeting calls on the Executive Board on behalf of the Library Association of Ireland



Louise Farragher, HRB and Jane Cantwell, Vice-President, pictured at the AGM

President, Siobhán Fitzpatrick makes a presentation to outgoing Honorary Treasurer, Hazel Percival, Wexford County Library



to call on central government to acknowledge and promote at international level the role of its national library network as a resource supporting innovation, enterprise and the development of the Knowledge Economy both domestically and with other countries and the requisite funding to carry out this remit.

Proposed by the Executive Board

Proposed by Fionnuala Hanrahan, seconded by Jane Cantwell.

Carried by the meeting.

- 8 In relation to the implementation of *Branching out: future directions – the 2nd national development plan for public libraries, 2008 – 2012*, this Annual General Meeting calls on the Executive Board on behalf of the Library Association of Ireland to call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to publish a report on the achievements to date and on prioritisation for this second period of the Plan.

Proposed by the Executive Board.

Proposed by Fionnuala Hanrahan, seconded by Deirdre Ellis-King.

Carried by the meeting.

Special Resolution to effect change to the Memorandum of the Library Association of Ireland

As a result of a review of licences to dispense the word “limited” from a Company name pursuant to section 24 of the Companies Act, 1963 as amended by section 88 of the Company Law Enforcement Act, 2001, the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment has approved an amendment to the Memorandum of the Library Association of Ireland, subject to its ratification by a Resolution of the Library Association.

It is thus resolved that paragraphs 5 and 6 of the current Memorandum of the Library Association of Ireland, viz

5. No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to or in the regulations contained in the Articles of Association for the time being in force unless the same Memorandum shall have been previously submitted to and approved by the Minister for Industry and Commerce.
6. The fourth and fifth paragraphs of the Memorandum contain conditions on which a licence is granted by the Minister for Industry and Commerce to the Association in pursuance of Section 20 of the Companies Consolidation Act 1908.

be replaced by a new paragraph:

5. No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to the objects of the Company, such that there would be non-compliance with the requirements of section 24(1) (a) and (b) of the Companies Act 1963, as provided for in the provisions of this memorandum of association for the time being in force unless the same shall have been previously submitted and approved by the Registrar of Companies. and subsequent paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 be renumbered to 6, 7 and 8

Proposed by: Jane Cantwell, Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Liam Ronayne, Marjory Slíney

The motion was carried by the meeting.



Siobhán Fitzpatrick, President, presents Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian with her certificate of Fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland at the AGM.



Siobhán Fitzpatrick, President, presents Gillian Kerins, Institute of Technology Tallaght with her certificate of Associateship of the Library Association of Ireland at the AGM.



Siobhán Fitzpatrick, President, presents Kathryn Norris, TCD with her certificate of Associateship of the Library Association of Ireland at the AGM.

📖 Presentation of ALAI and FLAI Certificates

The President presented a Fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland Certificate to Deirdre Ellis-King (Dublin City Public Libraries) and Associateship of the Library Association of Ireland Certificates to Gillian Kerins (Institute of Technology Tallaght) and to Kathryn Norris (TCD). She congratulated the recipients on their achievements and wished them well for the future.

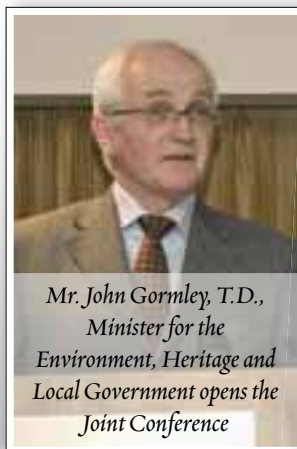
📖 Presentation of LAI pins to Past Presidents

The President presented LAI pins to Past Presidents Deirdre Ellis-King (Dublin City Public Libraries) and Liam Ronayne (Cork City Council Library Service).

LAI/cilip Ireland Joint Conference 2010

The LAI/cilip Ireland Joint Conference 2010 took place in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin from 21 to 23 April 2010. The conference, entitled 'Smart Libraries' attracted more than 100 delegates from all sectors across the island including 14 trade exhibitors from a wide range of library suppliers. A number of UK delegates and speakers were forced to cancel due to the effect of the Icelandic volcanic ash cloud on airline schedules.

The conference was opened by John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government who reminded the audience of his use of social media as communication tools. The keynote address was given by Martin Curley, Global Director, IT Innovation, Intel Corporation. Entitled 'Digital library: evolution or revolution?' this was a thought-provoking paper which exhorted the delegates to think creatively and imaginatively in relation to the digital tools and the



*Martin Curley,
Global
Director, IT
Innovation,
Intel
Corporation
speaking on
the topic of
'Digital library:
evolution or
revolution?'*



Promoting Music PAL at the Joint Conference. Front row l to r: Miram Leonard, Dublin City Public Libraries; Sheila Kelly, Dublin City Public Libraries; Linda Houston, LISCI NI; Siobhán Fitzpatrick, President; Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian; Breda Gleeson, Kildare County Librarian; Eimear McGinn, Kildare County Council Library and Arts Services. Back row: Austin Vaughan, Mayo County Librarian; Michael Molloy, Dublin City Public Libraries; Robin Adams, Librarian, TCD and Kieran Swords, South Dublin County Libraries.



Jane Cantwell, Vice-President; Diáne Sonnenwald, UCD SILS and Sióbhán Fitzpatrick, President, at the Joint Conference.



Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Public Libraries; Sióbhán Fitzpatrick, President, and Jane Cantwell, Vice-President



Joe Horan, South Dublin County Manager; South Dublin County Mayor, Councillor Mick Duff and Georgina Byrne, South Dublin County Librarian, at the Joint Conference.



Loretto Marr, High Performance PR; Domitilla Fagan, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and Paul R. Smith, presenter, at the Joint Conference.



At the presentation of the of the UCD SILS Public Library Research Programme Medal to Enda Leaney, l to r: Fionnuala Hanrahan, Vice-President; Professor Diáne Sonnenwald, UCD SILS; Enda Leaney; Norma McDermott, Director, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and Dr Mary Burke.



Eva McEneaney and Joan Ward, both from An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, pictured at the Joint Conference.



Norma McDermott,
Director, An Chomhairle
Leabharlanna and
Fionnuala Hanrahan,
Wexford County
Librarian at the Joint
Conference.

Mary Farrell, Westmeath
County Librarian and
Martin Maher, Tipperary
County Librarian at the
Joint Conference.



media at our disposal. Brendan Teeling, Assistant Director, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, delivered a paper on behalf of Peter Griffiths, Immediate Past President, CILIP, on the topic, 'Smart libraries, smart librarians: innovation and development in library and information professionalism' which drew on UK and Irish experience.

Members' Day was well attended. Papers included the annual COLICO lecture, a reflective paper delivered by Brian Trench, DCU, on the subject – 'More information, smarter society?' The smart aspects of collaborative working, exemplified by the PALs (Pathways to Learning initiatives), were the subject of TCD Librarian, Robin Adams's paper – 'Fresh pathways and new harmony: cross-sectoral initiatives in library services'.

A highlight of the morning was the presentation by Marketing Consultant, Paul Smith – 'Using Web 2.0: social media to create smart libraries' which was followed up by two workshops on creative thinking techniques, also delivered by Mr. Smith.

Workshops proved very popular with sessions on:

- ♣ Smart collaborative working – Diane Sonnenwald (UCD SILS)
- ♣ Smart writing techniques – Helen Fallon (NUIM) and Marjory Sliney (Fingal County Libraries)
- ♣ Digital projects at the National Library of Ireland – Katharine McSharry (NLI)
- ♣ Health repositories in Ireland – Louise Farragher (HRB) and Aoife Lawton (HSE):
- ♣ Recessionista research: managing and promoting e-resources in a small specialist library – Niamh O'Sullivan (Irish Blood Transfusion Services Board)
- ♣ Web portals for public libraries – Eddie Byrne and Gillian Colton (Dublin City Public Libraries) and Giada Gelli (NLI).
- ♣ Young Kildare people's engagement with library services – Eimear McGinn (Kildare County Council Library and Arts Services)

An additional feature on Members Day was the presentation of UCD School of Library and Information Studies Public Library Research Programme Medal to Mr Enda Leaney.

The President thanked South Dublin Libraries for hosting the conference so efficiently and enthusiastically-

ly Mayor, Councillor Mick Duff, the County Manager, and the Director of Services had all contributed to ensuring the success of the conference and had extended a warm welcome to the delegates.

At the conference dinner, sponsored by Sord Data Systems, the President presented Mayor Mick Duff with a set of Francis Elrington Ball's, *A history of the county Dublin*. South Dublin Libraries were presented with a number of Royal Irish Academy publications. To mark the retirement, planned for autumn 2010, of Bob McKee, Chief Executive of CILIP, stalwart of the joint conferences and friend to Irish libraries, the LAI and cilip Ireland presented him with a signed, first edition copy of Seamus Heaney's *Beowulf*.

Library visits were facilitated by the County Library, Tallaght and by the Institute of Technology Library, Tallaght.

The Joint Conference Organising Committee consisted of: Mary Burke, Louise Farragher, Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Catherine Gallagher, Elga Logue (cilip Ireland), Hazel Percival and Kieran Swords.

The Association is sincerely grateful to managers and staff of South Dublin County Libraries, the sponsors and exhibitors, the speakers and workshop providers and to all of those who worked so hard to ensure the success of the conference.



Siobhán Fitzpatrick, President, and Louise Farragher, HRB
at the Joint Conference

Library Ireland Week

The Tree of Knowledge has Many Branches – 2010

Library Ireland Week 2010 ran from 8 to 13 March. On Thursday 4 March, Library Ireland Week 2010 was launched by Irish poet, playwright and Nobel laureate, Professor Seamus Heaney. Addressing over 60 attendees at the Wood Quay Venue in Dublin, Heaney spoke emphatically on the importance of libraries and the key role that librarians play in enabling access to knowledge and information. The full text of his speech was subsequently published, by kind permission, as S. Heaney, 'In praise of libraries and librarians', *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library*, vol 19(1), 8-9.

Library Ireland Week events took place in venues across the country. In excess of 300 events were listed on the Library Ireland Week website ranging from scriptwriting workshops and internet classes to art exhibitions and poetry readings.

As part of the week, Music PAL www.library.ie/pal, an initiative of the Committee on Library Co-operation

in Ireland (COLICO), was launched simultaneously in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin and in UCC on 9 March. This cross-border, cross-sectoral initiative aims to facilitate access to music information, media and facilities available across a broad range of libraries and archives throughout the island of Ireland.

Under the scheme, library users will be able to apply for a Music PAL Access Card at their local library, which will then allow them to visit and make use of facilities at other libraries around the country. Thirty-two institutions are involved in the scheme, including TCD, the Contemporary Music Centre in Dublin, the Cork School of Music, Cork City Council Library Service, the Royal Irish Academy of Music and the RTÉ Sound Library and Archive.

Promotional material for Library Ireland Week was produced and circulated and sponsorship in the form of 50% grant aid in respect of funding for advertising was obtained through the RTÉ Supporting the Arts Programme. The Association gratefully acknowledges RTÉ's support.

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Philip Cohen, Dublin Institute of Technology; Seamus Heaney and Siobhán Fitzpatrick, President, at the launch of Library Ireland Week



Marjory Sliney, Fingal County Libraries and Kate Kelly, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland



Josephine Brady, Cavan County Librarian; Seamus Heaney and Eileen Burgess, Donegal County Librarian at the launch of Library Ireland Week.



Susan Downes, Magalie Guigon, Katy Byrne and Josephine O'Connor, all from the Bar Council Law Library pictured at the launch of Library Ireland Week

Smart People use Smart Libraries – 2011

A cross-sectoral Task Force was formed to develop and co-ordinate the programme for Library Ireland Week 2011.

The theme for LIW 2011 is 'Smart People Use Smart Libraries' and it is hoped that the week will offer an opportunity to highlight how technological developments are being utilised in our libraries to raise awareness of services and to maximise access to and use of resources.

The Task Force is examining a number of ideas for linking libraries by using technology during this week. The Library Ireland Week website will be updated and Library Ireland Week pages will be set up on

Facebook and Twitter for information and communication purposes.

The Library Association of Ireland sees this week as an opportunity to promote libraries and librarianship across all sectors. The purpose of Library Ireland Week is:

1. To celebrate librarians and to promote librarianship and libraries across all sectors and employment areas
2. To showcase excellence in service delivery and increase awareness of the full range of typical work in all types of libraries
3. To demonstrate the contributions libraries make to all sectors economically and socially.

Library Ireland Week 2011 (the 6th year of this event), will take place from 7 to 13 March.

Dublin Libraries welcome Regional Library Directors from the Czech Republic

16

In response to a request from Ing. Aleš Brožek, Director of the Severočeska Vedecká Knihovna (North Bohemian Research Library), the President with the enthusiastic co-operation of Dublin-based library directors, organised a programme of visits for a delegation of regional library directors from the Czech Republic. The visit was originally scheduled for 24-28 April but had to be postponed due to the havoc caused to flight schedules by the volcanic ash problem.

The six directors arrived in Dublin on 9 October and their tour began with a visit to 'Dublinia' on Sunday morning, 10 October. The President met the group at the Chester Beatty Library in the afternoon and extended a warm 'céad míle fáilte' to our Czech colleagues. The group was given a wonderful guided tour of the library and the afternoon was rounded off with refreshments, courtesy of the Library.

On 11 October our visitors had the opportunity of visiting Trinity College Dublin Library where the visit

was hosted by Deputy Librarian, Jessie Kurtz and her colleagues. Apart from a tour of the Book of Kells exhibition and the library, presentations on library activities were provided and the visitors engaged in lively discussions about legal deposit procedures, IT and other matters. Later the same day, the National Library of Ireland's Assistant Keeper, Gerry Long, hosted our guests who enjoyed tours of the current exhibitions as well as an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual concern.

On the last full day of their visit, the group visited the Royal Irish Academy Library, where they expressed particular interest in the Doegen Linguistic Recordings Web Project and issues relating to collections in the Irish language. Georgina Byrne, South Dublin County Librarian, hosted a highly successful visit to the main library in Tallaght where many of the services are delivered electronically.

The Association formally acknowledges the co-operation of the Directors and staffs of the Chester



*Jitka Hladíková, Petr Kárník,
Eva Svobodová and Lea
Prchalová with Gerry Long at
the National Library of Ireland.*

Information Literacy Award

Beatty Library, the NLI, South County Dublin Libraries and TCD.

The visiting delegates were:

- ♣ Ing. Aleš Brožek, ředitel Severočeské vědecké knihovny v Ústí n.L (North Bohemia Region)
- ♣ Ing. Jitka Hladíková, ředitelka Krajské knihovny Vysočina (Vysočina Region)
- ♣ Petr Kárník, ředitel Krajské knihovny v Pardubicích (Pardubice Region)
- ♣ Ing. Lea Prchalová, ředitelka Moravskoslezské vědecké knihovny v Ostravě (Moravian-Silesian Region)
- ♣ Mgr. Eva Svobodová, ředitelka Studijní a vědecké knihovny v Hr. Králové (Hradec Králové Region)
- ♣ PhDr. Eva Žáková, ředitelka Krajské knihovny v Karlových Varech (Karlovy Vary Region).



*James Joyce's statue surrounded by visiting Czech librarians,
l-r: Petr Kárník, Eva Žáková, Eva Svobodová, Jitka Hladíková,
Aleš Brožek, Lea Prchalová*

In recognition of, and to celebrate the holding of the 2010 LILAC conference in Limerick, the LAI and CONUL (Consortium of National and University Libraries) agreed to sponsor an Irish Information Literacy award. Nominations were invited from individuals or teams who had engaged in Information Literacy initiatives in the Republic. Sixteen nominations were received from a range of academic, special and public libraries.

The standard of the nominated programmes was extremely high and showed considerable imagination, skill and expertise on the part of the teams involved. The winning nomination was the only entry from a public library service — the Library Skills Course provided by the Development and Teaching Team (Anne Griffin, Susan Kelly, Celestine Rafferty and Yvonne Smith) at Wexford County Library Service. This 12-week, 30-hours contact course is a Leaving Certificate level course, provided by the library team and externally assessed via FETAC which has also accredited it. The course satisfied all of the assessment criteria; In addition it is transferable to other services, second-level schools, etc. Details of the Wexford entry are available at <http://www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/Library/LibraryResearchSkills/>

The award was co-presented by Philip Cohen (CONUL Chair) and the Association President at a gala dinner held in Dromoland Castle on 30 March. Susan Kelly accepted the award on behalf of the winning Wexford team.

Reports on work of Task Forces

Business Development Plan 2011 – 2014

The Task Force met on three occasions during the year. The Terms of Reference established were:

- ♣ The establishment of a framework document for the work of the Executive Board
- ♣ The production of a Business Development Plan for the Executive Board, covering the period 2011 – 2015, applying standard management methods and reporting before the end of 2010.

Work was completed on 4 of 9 stages as follows [1] current business analysis, [2] audit, [3] SWOT review, [4] review of core objectives. Since further work on the process depended upon results from the Taskforce on Memorandum and Articles of Association, the planning work was suspended pending completion of that project.

However, work on the analysis of a Survey of Membership which was undertaken over the summer continued.

Membership Survey

The high level of response, 78%, has provided authority for findings that can influence the future direction for the Association over the next few years. The full report will be made available on the Association's website.

Briefly, the findings are:

- ♣ Most members are in permanent, full-time, employment in professional posts in the public service. Middle and senior managers predominate. Stability and experience are strengths, with more than half of respondents in their current posts for 4 or more years and more than 25% have eleven or more years experience.
- ♣ 79% of respondents were female and 21% were male, 91% work in library and information areas, 87% are professionally qualified librarians and 47% are in the 41-55 age range. A very high percentage has access to reliable broadband but only 60% use social media.
- ♣ Membership is Dublin-centred with 83% working in the greater Dublin area and no equivalent scale is evidenced elsewhere.
- ♣ Membership is heavily dependent upon opportunities in the public service with 82% working there. 87% are employed in permanent positions. Middle and senior management involvement is strong at 64%. 26.8% work in predominantly specialist infor-

mation posts and 26.3% work in managerial posts.

- ♣ Collegiality at work is important and 41% work in information units of less than 10 staff. Within the parent organisation 82.6% work in organisations with total employee numbers of 51 or more, of which 43.4% work with more than 500 colleagues.
- ♣ Membership of the Association is stable with 67% in membership for four years or more and half of those in membership for more than ten years. Personal membership is dominant with Associateship considered much more beneficial than Fellowship. Services are well used; 37% visit the website at least once a month, 58% read the journal in total most of the time, 68% usually read *leabharlann-e* and 50% read the annual report. Almost 80% favour electronic rather than paper-based receipt of publications. 53% participated in Library Ireland Week in various ways this year but almost half had no involvement at all.
- ♣ Participation in leadership of the Association at Executive Board level was predictably low at 10% with 26% of members attending the AGM at least once in the past five years. The greater participation which is possible across the groups and sections has resulted in 53% participation in management within these structures and attendance at AGMs over the past five years. However 35% have never attended an AGM. 76% have attended a seminar or CPD event in the past three years. The main barriers to attendance were identified as relevance to current work, timing, costs and location/travel issues.
- ♣ Benefits from membership were identified as maintaining contact with peers, professional development, networking and collegiality, CPD / up-skilling and the opportunity to contribute to professional development. Members felt that the Association was effective for individuals in the areas of networking, current affairs and CPD. Maintenance of their professional qualification, opportunities for collaborative working and opportunities to influence the future direction of the profession were appreciated, as were support in current and future posts. Provision of the Countdown membership / concessions card alone was unvalued: it received 8% support.
- ♣ 46% of members felt their level of engagement with the Association was satisfactory, 18% found the main-



Task Force on Employment Support members at the 'Invest in your future: help us to help you' workshop held at Dublin City Library and Archive on 27 November, l to r: Ann O'Sullivan, Houses of the Oireachtas; Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian; Áine Carey, UCD; Marie G. Cullen, NUIM and Miriam Leonard, Dublin City Public Libraries

tenance of their level of contribution was demanding. However almost 36% said they would like a greater level of involvement. Most would like to contribute via a time specific, target-focused project and the second methodology of choice was via the existing group and section committee structure. 60% considered time poverty inhibited greater participation but almost one in three felt they didn't know how to become involved. That said, the skills most extensively available to develop the Association ranged across writing and publication, training and event organisation, project management and various aspects of IT application and communications. A lesser but still significant number expressed interest in essential administration and financial management areas.

Survey results are analysed and are at a consultation stage. Additional information will be required. However the overview at this stage suggests a stable, experienced membership, heavily involved in and dependent upon the public service environment, using, and in general, appreciative of Association services, committed to the application of IT and interested in opportunities for deeper contribution to improve professional development. Research results have influenced the review of the Association's Memorandum, Articles and related structures throughout 2010. Results can be expected to challenge the Association and its members to manage its development in its challenging short to medium term future.

Employment Support

The Task Force on Employment Support was set up by the Executive Board arising from the Academic and Special Libraries Section motion at the 2010 AGM 'That the Library Association of Ireland, as the main representative body for library and information profes-

sionals in Ireland, set up a task force to create a formal network to provide support in the form of communications, advice and facilitation of work experience, in order to support recent graduates and others unable to find relevant work, and members and colleagues who have been made redundant'.

The Task Force met on 5 occasions in 2010.

In 2010-2011 the following areas were proposed as a focus for the Task force:

- ✦ to set up a support network for recent graduates who are having difficulty in securing full time employment
- ✦ to explore the opportunities available to provide library and information professionals with work experience, while looking for full time employment
- ✦ to provide support to library and information professionals, who are currently seeking employment - as a result of redundancy, reduced working hours or other aspects of the current economic conditions
- ✦ to develop material which will assist library and information professionals in dealing with aspects of the reduction of resources and services as part of the current economic climate.

A priority for the Task Force is to communicate its work to all members of the LAI and to seek feedback on an ongoing basis in an appropriate way.

Preliminary research findings indicate that:

- ✦ a variety of approaches and processes are used across the public, academic and special library networks on a spectrum from occasional volunteering to formal internship and work placement programmes. Decisions are generally made on a case by case basis with few formal articulated policies in place
- ✦ library associations such as the ALA and CILIP have no formal network for work experience, etc. Both groups offer job support toolkits on their websites which contain helpful information for professional librarians.

Documented toolkits such as that of the UK Council for Museums, Libraries and Archives were investigated. These offer documents of best practice and guidelines from different library sectors in the UK including information on internships, volunteers and work experience.

The Task Force hosted a very successful workshop at Dublin City Library and Archive on 27 November 2010 entitled 'Invest in your future: help us to help you'. Twenty-five attendees braved it through the snow to take part in this interactive session. Two diverse and engaging presentations were given by Paul Mullan of Measurability (www.measurability.ie) and Miriam Leonard, task force member and Divisional Librarian, Dublin City Public Libraries. An interactive workshop session followed, conceived and led by Task Force member, Áine Carey.

The Task Force is looking forward to producing a full report of the workshop outcomes together with the full findings and recommendations of the Task Force in early 2011.

Information Literacy

The Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Information Literacy (TFIL) were agreed at the April meeting of the Executive Board:

1. To review findings of the Working Group on Information Literacy report
2. To prioritise its recommendations
3. To progress those that appear easily achievable
4. To propose an action plan for others
5. To identify resource requirements for future work

The reworked original report was presented to the September Executive Board. It identified a number of challenges facing the spread of Information Literacy (IL) - both generally and specifically within Ireland - and then listed a number of short, medium and long term recommendations.

The first three short term recommendations are particularly worthy of note:

1. Formally adopt the CILIP standard and ANZIIL (Australian and New Zealand Institute for Information Literacy) framework for IL
2. Use the IL logo developed by IFLA in websites and literature in order to help achieve recognition

3. Continue to advocate information literacy/information skills amongst the profession and at policy level within the LAI

The Executive Board received a detailed presentation on the report at the October meeting. Following that, Board members accepted the report and its recommendations and formally thanked the original Working Group on IL for its pioneering work. It was agreed that the CILIP standard and ANZIIL framework be accepted as the standards for Ireland.

Since then, the report has been worked on further in preparation for uploading to the Association website. Additional members have been recruited to the Task Force and a prioritised action plan (including resource requirements) is to be completed by early 2011.

Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Library Association of Ireland

The Task Force on the Memorandum and Articles of Association (TFMAA) met on five occasions. By year end the memorandum and articles, which form the framework against which the Association works, have been thoroughly examined with the following in mind:

- ✦ Legislative compliance and currency of legislative and departmental references
- ✦ Updating the terminology and language of the document
- ✦ Ensuring that the document is still fit for purpose

In general, it has been agreed that the document does not require major changes: the 1998 revision of the original document catered for most eventualities and the task force has considered it prudent to retain as much of the 1998 document as possible. Particular attention has been paid to updating the purposes and objectives of the Association, to clarifying categories of membership and to streamlining the articles for the purpose of clarity. Proposed revisions should be finalised by spring 2011 and will be put to an EGM of the Association for discussion and approval.

The Task Force's review inevitably led to discussions about the modus operandi of the Association and the opportunity was taken to take a critical look at the committee structures. These were considered in terms

of whether they are still fit for purpose or need to be reconfigured; gaps in areas such as knowledge management, communications and so on, were identified. A document outlining proposed structures, building on the current ones for the most part, but aiming to strengthen these and to incorporate new ones, was generated. This was presented to the Executive Board for discussion in December 2010.

Website

The Executive Board and the membership had expressed the view that the role of the LAI website should be enhanced and the website developed so as to meet the needs of the Association. Thus the Task Force on the website was established in order to:

- ❖ Review the existing LAI website and make long term and short term recommendations for the ongoing management and development of the site
- ❖ Consult with LAI members and other relevant stakeholders on the future development and use of the website

The Task Force considered feedback on the existing website from the membership-wide survey, from groups and section and from individual members. It also studied websites of other professional organisations including fraternal organisations.

The report recommends that the website should become the hub for external and internal communication for the LAI and is tuned to integrate with and support the findings of the Task Forces on Memorandum and Articles of Association and on the Business Development Plan 2011-2014.

Membership of Task Forces

Business Development Plan 2011 – 2014

Convenor: *Fionnuala Hanrahan (Wexford County Library Service)*

Jane Cantwell (Waterford City Council Library Service), Aisling Donnelly (Secretary, Kildare County Council Library and Arts Services), Louise Farragher (HRB), Siobhán Fitzpatrick

(Royal Irish Academy), Catherine Gallagher (South Dublin County Libraries), Seán Hughes (TCD), Emer O'Brien (Tipperary Libraries), Hazel Percival (Wexford County Library Service), Kieran Swords (South Dublin County Libraries)

Employment Support (TOES)

Convenor: *Margaret Hayes (Dublin City Public Libraries)*

Aoife Connolly (PricewaterhouseCoopers), Marie G. Cullen (NUIM), Miriam Leonard (Dublin City Public Libraries), Mary Murphy (Meath County Council Library Service), Áine O'Connor (UCD), Ann O'Sullivan (Houses of the Oireachtas) and Caitriona Sharkey (Ernst & Young)

Information Literacy (TFIL)

Convenor: *Philip Cohen (Dublin Institute of Technology)*

Library Ireland Week

Convenor: *Jane Cantwell (Waterford City Council Library Service)*

Georgina Byrne (South Dublin County Libraries), Jennifer Collery (UCD), Louise Farragher (HRB), Conor McCabe (Office of the DPP), Mary Murphy (Meath County Council Library Service), Emer O'Brien (Tipperary Libraries)

Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Library Association of Ireland

Convenor: *Siobhán Fitzpatrick (Royal Irish Academy)*

Jane Cantwell (Waterford City Council Library Service), Joseph Donnelly (Judges' Library), Catherine Gallagher (South Dublin County Libraries), Fionnuala Hanrahan (Wexford County Library Service), Seán Hughes (TCD), Hazel Percival (Wexford County Library Service), Liam Ronayne (Cork City Council Library Service), Marjory Sliney (Fingal County Libraries), Kieran Swords (South Dublin County Libraries)

Website

Convenor: *Kieran Swords (South Dublin County Libraries) from June 2010; Louise Farragher (HRB) to June 2010*

Áine O'Connor (UCD); Jane Clavin (Development Manager, LAI), to December 2010; Brendan Teeling (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna).

Committees and Panels of the Executive Board

Education Committee

Mary Burke (to September), Philip Cohen, Joseph Donnelly, Deirdre Ellis-King (Chair), Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Mary Murphy, Áine O'Connor, Marjory Sliney (Secretary) and Diane Sonnenwald (from November).

The Committee met five times during the year. Representatives from Dublin Business School addressed the committee on the MSc course in Information and Library Management. It is the committee's intention to invite representatives from UCD SILS and the University of Ulster to present in the next twelve months.

Much of the work of the committee dealt with preparing various items for the Association's website. The LAI Research Policy is available at: <http://www2.libraryassociation.ie/policies/library-association-of-ireland-research-policy-january-2009/>

Details of the Fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland (FLAI) award are available at: <http://www2.libraryassociation.ie/about/education-committee/scheme-of-award-of-fellowship-of-the-library-association-of-ireland/>

The committee continued to promote and encourage applications for Associateship (ALAI) and Fellowship (FLAI). Arrangements were put in place to form a panel of assessors for the Association's Fellowship applications. One Associateship and one Fellowship were awarded in 2010.

European and International Panel

Jenny Aston, Jane Cantwell, Joseph Donnelly, Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Liam Ronayne, Marjory Sliney (Convenor) and Brendan Teeling.

The business of this Panel is conducted electronically. Two responses were prepared for European Commission consultations:

1. Green Paper: Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-policy-development/doc2577_en.htm
2. Future European Union Culture Programme
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc2805_en.htm

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)

Gothenburg was the venue for this year's World Library and Information Congress and the IFLA Assembly. The congress theme was – 'Open access to knowledge - promoting sustainable progress'. Irish delegates who attended included the Association's President, Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Gerry Long (NLI), John McManus (TCD), Colette O'Flaherty (NLI), Gobnait O'Riordan (UL), Fiona Ross (NLI), Marjory Sliney (Fingal County Libraries) and Barbara Traxler-Brown (UCD SILS).

Finances and General Purposes Committee

Jane Cantwell, Deirdre Ellis-King, Louise Farragher, Siobhán Fitzpatrick (Chair), Ruth Flanagan, Catherine Gallagher, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Seán Hughes, Michael Plaice, Marjory Sliney and Kieran Swords. The committee met eight times in the period May 2010 to February 2011.

The main purpose of the committee is to manage the finances and business of the Association. The latter included:

- consideration of the membership fees
- issues relating to the Association's archives
- issues relating to digitisation or electronic delivery of the Association's journal.

Policy documents recommended to the Executive Board included:

- policy document on task forces
- review of the Prison Libraries Group rules and procedures and their recommendation to the Executive Board
- initiation of a policy on requests for funding from groups and sections

North – South Liaison Committee

Formal collaboration between this Association and cilib Ireland had reduced in recent years. However on the initiative of the President, at a meeting in Newry, Co. Down in November, cooperation arrangements were

renewed with a focus initially on the established cross-border activities of the joint conference and the joint journal.

1. Arrangements for the joint conference were confirmed with the event taking place in Northern Ireland every third year. It was noted that the joint conference would be held in Northern Ireland in 2012. cilip Ireland agreed to update the Conference Management Guidelines.
2. cilip Ireland expressed interest in participating again in the provision of the journal, *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library* and undertook to nominate at least one member to its Editorial Board. Management and financial arrangements to progress this work were agreed.

Representing the Association

Nominees and Members of External Committees

Advisory panel to SILS UCD: *Ruth Flanagan, Deirdre Ellis-King.*

Age and Opportunity, Bealtaine Festival Organising Committee: *Helen Walsh.*

An Chomhairle Leabharlanna: *Deirdre Ellis-King (to May 2010), Fionnuala Hanrahan, Pat McMahon.*

Committee on Library Co-operation in Ireland (COLICO): *Philip Cohen.*

European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA): *Marjory Slíney.*

EBLIDA Expert Group on Copyright: *Jennifer Aston.*

Euro-Focus on the Cultural Heritage: *Ruth Flanagan.*

Irish Committee of the Blue Shield: *Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Colette O'Flaherty.*

An Leabharlann: the Irish Library Editorial Board: *Helen Fallon, Kate Kelly, Micheál Ó hAodha, Marjory Slíney (editor), Brendan Teeling.*

Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network: *Brendan Martin, Austin Vaughan.*

Newsplan: *Marjory Slíney.*

North-South Liaison Committee: *Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Marjory Slíney.*

Membership for cilip Ireland: *Adrienne Adair, Elga Logue.*

Standing Committee on Public Library Staff Training and Development: *Pat Lonergan, Austin Vaughan.*

EBLIDA World Trade Organisation General Agreement on Trade in Services (WTO/GATS): *Liam Ronayne.*

Conferences

EBLIDA Council, Helsinki, 6–7 May: *Marjory Slíney*

Welsh Libraries, Archives and Museums Conference,

Llandridod Wells, 13-14 May: *Fionnuala Hanrahan*

CILIP Scotland Annual Conference, Glasgow, June 7–9:

Jane Cantwell

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)

General Assembly, Gothenburg, 15 August: *Siobhán Fitzpatrick*

Functions at which the LAI was represented

LILAC 2010 Conference, Limerick, 30 March: *Siobhán Fitzpatrick*

Retirement of Dublin City Librarian, Deirdre Ellis-King, City Hall, 11 May: *Siobhán Fitzpatrick*

International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, Mansion House, Dublin, 17 June: *Siobhán Fitzpatrick*

Functions attended by the President, Siobhán Fitzpatrick

Western Regional Libraries Section Seminar, Tuam, 28 June

Youth Libraries Group Seminar, Tallaght, 23 September

Public Libraries Section Conference, Cork, 4 November

Publications

Annual Report 2009. Dublin: Library Association of Ireland, 2010, ISSN 0791-6248.

Leabharlann-e: 11 issues published in 2010.

Library Ireland Week, Posters and Bookmarks.

An Leabharlann: the Irish Library – 2 issues: Vol. 19 (1) and (2).

Reports on Submissions and Representations

Submission to the Local Government Efficiency Review Group

The Library Association's submission addressed the role of library and information services within Local Government services. Two of the four areas identified for review were considered. These were: [1] the effectiveness of the library programme within local government and particular programmes and [2] optimal efficiency in the way programmes are delivered.

In the area of effectiveness, a review of *Branching out: future directions*¹ [2008] was recommended to both identify achievement to date and to prioritise service developments in the light of changed economic circumstances. Improved representation by public librarians on the Board of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, was also sought.

In the area of optimising efficiency in the way the library programmes are delivered, recommendations included:

- ✦ Provision of service indicators that would address quality outcomes
- ✦ Long term (c. twenty-five years) strategic planning
- ✦ National planning for facilities to develop a cascade structure of regional centres of library excellence in support of the national spatial strategy
- ✦ Addressing issues of scale-related service variations across the country via effective inter-authority structures such as agency delivery, shared services consortia
- ✦ Recognition for the role of public libraries as a co-ordinating focus for community development
- ✦ Recognition for the benefits of collaboration with other library sectors and other cultural institutions.

The *Report of the Local Government Efficiency Review Group*, [A10/A1025] ISBN: 9781406425208, was published in July and can be sourced at <http://www.environ.ie/en/LocalGovernment/LocalGovernmentEfficiencyReviewGroup/PublicationsDocuments/FileDownload,23533,en.pdf>

Your Country Your Call: Library Research Skills Proposal

Information skills for all was the focus of our submission in late April to the national call for initiatives to support economic and social regeneration, www.ourcountryourcall.ie. Enhancing information handling and research skills among Irish people by harnessing the expertise of librarians and by using the existing network of libraries was the core proposal under the call's Education category.

Response to *The public library and the school* research report

Within *The public library and the school research report*² published in August, the Association rejected the Department of Education and Skills [DES] position that it has no direct policy involvement in the provision of libraries in primary schools. The Association called on the Department to reverse its position, to provide leadership in the development of a national library service in primary schools, and to replace the DES funding for the Primary School Library Service which was discontinued from January 2009.

The DES position, as stated in the report, had contradicted its declaration in the current Revised Primary School Curriculum [1999], that the ready availability of a wide variety of suitable books is essential in all schools. Such a resource will cater for the needs of every area of the curriculum and should be provided through the establishment of a well stocked library in every school. The DES had suggested that from 2009 school library provision would be a function of the public library service and of its parent Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, working with each school individually.

The Library Association of Ireland indicated that public libraries have a responsibility to support the

1 Government of Ireland, *Branching out: future directions* (Dublin, Stationery Office, 2008). ISBN 9781406421323
2 The full report can be accessed on <http://www.library.ie/2010/08/25/the-public-library-and-the-school-report-launched/#more-6919>

general life-learning of children as citizens, and in their case particularly, literacy development and skills in reading. However, the Association declared that support for the specific research and learning needs of the curriculum require a specialist targeted approach. This should be delivered via a Schools Library Service. The Library Association stated its interest in working to develop any realistic model that would deliver an effective schools library service.

Overall, the Association welcomed the research report which it recognised had much to commend it, including an overview of international best practice and analysis of surveys of provision and service needs from the points of view of both the teaching and library sectors.

Irish Blue Shield Committee³

Siobhán Fitzpatrick, and since December 2010, Colette O’Flaherty (NLI), are the IFLA/LAI nominees to the Irish committee. Until 2009, Ireland and the UK operated under a joint committee arrangement. However, given the fact that the UK-Ireland Committee operated within two separate jurisdictions it was considered more appropriate to have a separate Irish Blue Shield grouping.

The Irish committee was reconstituted in 2010 and met on five occasions. The priority objectives (in sequential order) are to:

- ❖ To create awareness of Blue Shield within Ireland
 - ❖ To engage with the defence forces, non-governmental organisations and other bodies serving at home and abroad to raise the level of awareness of the importance of protecting the cultural heritage
- In October 2010, ICOMOS Ireland hosted the annual international conference of ICOMOS in Dublin. The Blue Shield Committee organised an awareness session on 26 October at the Chester Beatty Library, at which Axel Mykleby of the Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield gave a presentation on the history of the Hague Convention, the Blue Shield symbol and the work of the national committees. Dr Stephen Kelley, Co-President of the ISCARSAH Scientific Committee of ICOMOS gave an interesting presentation on the way in which a small group of experts documented the damage caused by the Haitian earthquake of January 2010 to a particular type of building, ‘Gingerbread houses’, in Port au Prince.
- ❖ Compile and agree articles of association and apply to the International Blue Shield Committee for sanction
 - ❖ To engage in advocacy to have the Republic of Ireland ratify the Hague Convention

3 The cultural equivalent of the Red Cross, the Blue Shield aims to protect cultural and heritage sites from attack in times of armed conflict or civil disturbance, and from natural disasters. It also aims to promote awareness of the importance of preserving heritage sites and their contents in peacetime. The basis for the Blue Shield is the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property and its additional first and second protocols. Nominating bodies to the International Committee of the Blue Shield and to national Blue Shield committees are IFLA, ICA (International Council of Archives), ICOM (International Council of Museums) and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites).

Groups and Sections

The Academic and Special Libraries Section (A&SL)

- Chair: *Ann O'Sullivan (Houses of the Oireachtas)*
Secretary: *Margaret Kelly (School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies)*
Treasurer: *Aoife Connolly (PricewaterhouseCoopers)*
Communications Officer: *Jane Burns (Getty Images)*
Committee: *Jennifer Collery (UCD), Marie Cullen (NUIM), Jessica Eustace-Cook (TCD), Eva Hornung (Curriculum Development Unit, City of Dublin VEC), Seán Hughes (TCD), Áine O'Connor (UCD), Erin O'Mahony (Houses of the Oireachtas), Caitriona Sharkey (Ernst & Young), Grace Toland (ITMA, until July).*

The Committee met on 8 occasions in 2010.

AGM 2010

The AGM was held on 16 June in the Royal Irish Academy. Kathryn Smith had resigned from the Committee. An election was held prior to the AGM to fill the vacancy. Jennifer Collery was elected.

Following the resignation of Grace Toland in July, Jessica Eustace-Cook was co-opted onto the committee.

Fiona Ross, Director of the National Library of Ireland delivered an entertaining and informative presentation at the AGM on her role as Director.

2010 ANNUAL SEMINAR

'E-MAGINATION: sourcing, evaluating and delivering electronic information resources' was held on 9 February in the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Dublin.

The key speakers were: Wendy Evans (University College Plymouth St Mark and St John) and Arlene Healy (TCD). Case studies were presented by: Marie O'Neill (DBS), Niamh O'Sullivan (Irish Blood Transfusion Services Board), Pauline Murray (NUIM) and Kevin Hawkins (Digital Humanities Observatory). The speakers covered the following topics: collection development, dealing with suppliers, legal pitfalls and how to incorporate access to freely available online resources with subscription-based content.

LIBRARY IRELAND WEEK 2010

Marie Cullen and Caitriona Sharkey represented the A&SL on the LAI working group to organise Library Ireland Week.

UCD SILS CAREERS BREAKFAST

The 4th Careers Breakfast Seminar in UCD SILS was held on 24 March 2010. The seminar provides a forum for experienced information professionals to share their career paths and offer guidance on job seeking to the SILS students. This year's speakers were: Marie Burke, Associate Librarian, UCD; Patricia Quigley, Accessions Librarian, TCD and Áine O'Connor, A&SL Committee.

INFORMAL NETWORKING EVENINGS AND OTHER EVENTS

A visit to The Library, Royal College of Physicians (RCPI) was held at the end of March, facilitated by Librarian, Robert Mills, who gave a splendid tour of the college and the library.

A table quiz was held in April at which the winning team were from TCD.

LAI AGM 2010

The Committee proposed two motions at the LAI AGM (see AGM section, motions 2 and 3). Both motions were passed, and the outcome of the second motion resulted in the creation of the Task Force on Employment Support, by the Executive Board in May.

Cataloguing and Indexing Group (CIG)

- Chair: *Hugh Murphy (NUIM)*
Secretary: *John McManus (TCD)*
Treasurer: *Christoph Schmidt-Suppran (TCD)*
Committee: *John Bates (NLI), Mary Broderick (NLI), Caleb Derven (UCD), Justin Furlong (NLI), Marie Jennings (Mater Dei Institute), Jennifer McGrath (Houses of the Oireachtas), Eoghan Ó Carragáin (NLI).*

2010 saw a number of significant developments for the Group, the most important being that a decision was made to change the group's name. Having consulted widely among the membership, the Cataloguing and

*City & County Librarians,
l to r: Liam Ronayne, Cork
City; Tom King, Carlow; Mary
Carleton Reynolds, Longford;
Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin
City; Ruth Flanagan, Cork
County; Fionnuala Hanrahan,
Wexford; Donal Tinney, Sligo;
and Joe McElvaney, Monaghan
at a reception to mark the retire-
ments of Tom King, Deirdre
Ellis-King, Ruth Flanagan and
Joe McElvaney.*



Metadata Group was adopted as the new designation, subject to approval at the AGM in early 2011 and to subsequent formal approval by the Executive Board. In tandem with the name change, formal rules and procedures were devised and written for the group.

The CIG hosted a number of events over the course of the year. On 13 May Dr John B. Howard, University Librarian at UCD, gave a guest lecture at the Royal Irish Academy in which he outlined his thoughts on the future of cataloguing. The talk was well attended, and the wine reception held afterwards brought the evening to a very enjoyable conclusion.

In early June the CIG paid a visit to the RTÉ Sound Archives. The large group of attendees were treated to a fascinating tour of the various collections by the Archives manager, Malachy Moran. This was followed by a very interesting talk on the history and role of the organization and its approach to resource description. It was very much an interactive session at which CIG members had an opportunity to pose questions to the Archives staff.

Earlier in the year members had been surveyed about possible options for training courses. Dewey came out tops, closely followed by MODS/Dublin Core. As a consequence Keith Trickey of Liverpool John Moores University was invited to provide a refresher course on Dewey Decimal Classification. It was held on 6 October in TCD. Demand for the course was extremely high and it is intended to hold a repeat session in the near future. This was the last event held under the old CIG banner – the group looks forward to building and expanding on its activities as the Cataloguing and Metadata Group in 2011.

County and City Librarians Section (CCLS)

Chair: *Austin Vaughan, Mayo County Libraries*
Vice-Chair: *Donal Tinney, Sligo County Libraries*
Secretary: *Georgina Byrne, South Dublin County Libraries*
Treasurer: *Brendan Martin, Wicklow County Libraries*

The AGM of the City and County Librarians Section (CCLS) was held in Westport, on 8 October 2010, with the above officers elected.

Significant issues discussed during the year included BorrowBooks,

The public library and the school report, Social Media, FÁS eLearning, Services to Young People and Capital Funding for Libraries

NOMINATIONS TO BOARD OF AN CHOMHAIRLE LEABHARLANNA

In June 2010 the CCLS proposed Pat Mc Mahon and Fionnuala Hanrahan to the Executive Board of the LAI as LAI nominees on the Board of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

AUTUMN SEMINAR

The City and County Librarians Section held an autumn seminar in Mayo during October. The theme of the conference ‘Capitalising on culture: positioning Irish public libraries in the 21st century’ brought together speakers from a range of disciplines and backgrounds addressing arts and culture in post-boom Ireland.

Finbarr Bradley, academic and author, addressed the theme of ‘Ireland’s cultural potential in an innovation age: implications for the librarian’. Frances O’Gorman shared the story of the success of the Ennis Book Festival. Tom McCarthy from Cork City Council Library Service outlined their programme entitled,

‘The Year of the Constant Reader’ and Alistair Smeaton from Dublin City Public Libraries gave a presentation on three successful initiatives: One City One Book, IMPAC Award and The UNESCO City of Literature. Tania Banotti, chief executive with Theatre Forum and leader of the National Campaign for the Arts, shared the success story of that group.

Other speakers included the author Dermot Bolger and Vincent Woods, author and journalist. Both spoke of libraries as places apart, yet at the centre of things.

To mark their retirement and to honour their contribution to the development of Irish public libraries, presentations were made to county librarians Donal Brady, Deirdre Ellis-King, Ruth Flanagan, Paul Harris, Tom King and Joe McElvaney.

Genealogy and Local Studies Group (GenLoc)

Chair: *Monica Cullinan (UCD)*
 Vice Chair: *Jeremy Black (Fingal County Libraries)*
 Secretary: *Síle Coleman (South Dublin County Libraries)*
 Treasurer: *Crystal Fulton (UCD)*
 Committee: *Mary Conefrey (Leitrim County Library Service), Mario Corrigan (Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service), Carmel Flahavan (Carlow County Libraries), Evelyn Flanagan (UCD), Inez Fletcher (NLI), Miriam Lambe (Marino Institute of Education), Gearóid O’Brien (Westmeath County Libraries), Colette O’Flaherty (NLI), Kieran Swords (South Dublin County Libraries).*

Membership of group: 87

The committee met 5 times during 2010.

GENEALOGY SEMINAR

As part of Library Ireland Week activities, the group held a half-day seminar entitled ‘Irish genealogy and local studies: new developments in key resources’ in the National Library on 11 March. John Grenham, gave an overview of newly available resources in genealogy. Katherine McSharry of the National Library gave a presentation on the glass plate negative project, whereby over 30,000 images were digitised and made

available online. Caitríona Crowe of the National Archives spoke about the National Archives’ Census project, and demonstrated how to utilise the Census website to its full potential. Maurice O’Keeffe of Irish Life and Lore gave a presentation on his oral history collections which were newly available in digital format.

To celebrate Library Ireland Week, this event was free of charge, open to all, and attracted an attendance of 140 people.

BUSINESS SOURCES SEMINAR

On 9 September the group presented a day-long seminar entitled ‘Everybody’s business: Irish commercial life – history and sources’ at the National Library. The seminar was introduced by Fiona Ross, Director of the National Library. The first speakers were Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, UCD and Margaret Ó hÓgartaigh, DCU, authors of *Business archival sources for the local historian* who gave an overview of the types and locations of business sources for Irish local studies. This was followed by a presentation by Deirdre McParland from the Guinness Archive who gave a guide to their archival services. Carmel Flahavan of Carlow County Libraries spoke about her study of shops and shopkeepers in Carlow and demonstrated how her research methods could be used to carry out a similar study of any Irish provincial town.

Genealogist Rosaleen Underwood gave a presentation on sources for Irish merchant banking families and Miriam Lambe spoke about her research into the shop in rural Ireland. Seamus Ó Maitiú closed the seminar with his presentation on the institution that is Jacob’s Biscuits. The committee thanks all of the speakers who gave so generously of their time.



Government Libraries Section members at a presentation to mark the retirement of Valerie Ingram as Head Librarian, Office of Public Works, l to r: Joe Donnelly, Judges' Library; Zoë Melling, Legal Aid Board; Noeleen Murtagh, Food Safety Authority; Valerie Ingram; Muireann Tóibín, Revenue Commissioners; Jean Cassidy, Chief State Solicitor's Office and Mary Doyle, Department of Agriculture

Government Libraries Section (GLS)

- Chair: Noeleen Murtagh (Food Safety Authority of Ireland)
- Secretary: Muireann Tóibín (Revenue Commissioners)
- Treasurer: Dónal McSweeney (Central Bank of Ireland)
- Committee: Máire Caffrey (Teagasc), Jean Cassidy (Chief State Solicitor's Office), Joe Donnelly (The Judges' Library), Mary Doyle (Department of Agriculture), Zoë Melling (Legal Aid Board), Fiona Morley (Refugee Documentation Centre), Conor McCabe (Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions), Anne Wilkinson (Marine Institute).

The GLS held two meetings during the year. Areas of particular concern to members included copyright issues, the use of social networking media in government departments and agencies, and professional standards for librarians within government libraries.

The GLS AGM was held on 8 September 2010 and was well attended. Members took the opportunity to network informally over drinks after the meeting.

Zoë Melling, Conor McCabe and Laura Ó Broin stepped down after their two-year terms as chair, honorary secretary and treasurer. They have been replaced by Noeleen Murtagh, Muireann Tóibín and Dónal McSweeney. Joe Donnelly (The Judges' Library) continues to serve on the Executive Board.

GLINT

The 18th issue of *GLINT* – the Government Libraries Bulletin – was published in October. It features an article by Valerie Ingram on the library collections at various sites managed by the OPW; Seamus Haughey contributes an account of the Danish parliamentary librarians' recent visit to Ireland; and Mary Doyle, current editor of

GLINT, takes a look back at previous issues of the bulletin in light of her forthcoming retirement.

RETIREMENT

Valerie Ingram – a founder member of the GLS – retired in November as Head Librarian at the Office of Public Works. A presentation was made to Valerie at the November meeting of the section in recognition of her dedication to the field of government librarianship over the years. A tribute to Valerie – compiled by her colleagues Nuala Canny and Jane Smith – was also featured in *GLINT*.

Health Sciences Libraries Group (HSLG)

- Acting Chair: Aoife Lawton (HSE Dr Steeven's Hospital)
- Secretary: Michael Doherty (Athlone Institute of Technology)
- Treasurer: Brian Galvin (HRB)
- Communications Officer: Susan Boyle (UCD)
- Committee: Niamh Adams (Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation), Majella King (Sligo Institute of Technology), Breffni Smith (RCSI, Beaumont Hospital).

2010 has been a year of action and progression. The HSLG Committee adopted its strategic plan for 2009-13 and members are working hard towards the deliverables outlined. Louise Farragher temporarily stepped down as chair while on maternity leave. Her commitment to the group and committee is extremely generous and her absence is duly felt.

The main achievement this year was the granting of

a tender on 'Research into the current status of health librarianship and libraries in Ireland' to a research team at Loughborough University. The research is due to be completed in April 2011 and will inform future policy around health science libraries and librarianship. The last time a similar piece of research was undertaken was in 1995 and 1998 by Jennifer MacDougall so this report is well overdue.

The HSLG Conference in February was a successful event with the majority of speakers drawn from the profession. The level of home grown talent evident amongst librarians in the health, academic and other sectors is encouraging and it was a great opportunity to promote this and the work that is happening around the country in different information settings. Despite the worsening economic climate the CPD working group (CPDWG) continue to run courses which attract a good attendance. The commitment of the working groups, the committee and volunteers from the wider group including Niamh O'Sullivan is appreciated and much needed for coming months.

Another significant development this year was the award of bursaries to Gethin White and Jane Farrelly to travel to Davis in California to attend a three-day training course courtesy of the US National Library of Medicine. The training will be in PubMed, Toxnet and clinicaltrials and both Jane and Gethin will cascade their learning to health science librarians and others interested in these databases in 2011. The importance of networking both at home and abroad and forming partnerships with our international colleagues is most beneficial.

The closure of libraries is something that cannot be left without comment and it is a worrying time for our hospitals and health centres with library staff not replaced and a push towards redeployment imminent. Now more than ever the HSLG needs the support of its professional body, the LAI and its members to advocate and lobby for the future of librarianship as a cornerstone of the Irish knowledge society.

The primary focus for the communication officer this year has been the co-ordination and publication of the HSLG publication *HINT* and posting of HSLG committee announcements to the HSLG mailing list such as the PubMed trainer bursaries. During 2010 the *HINT* working group welcomed new committee members. The current members of the working group

are Susan Boyle, Aoife Lawton, Breffni Smith, Niamh Adams, Majella King and Louise Farragher (in absentia). Thanks to the efforts of the *HINT* working group, one issue was published during the year and a second issue was due out in December 2010.

The aim is to generate more member-driven content for future issues of *HINT* in 2011. New elements have been introduced, such as the Positive Article Reviews which review articles in the literature that focus on good, practical ideas that librarians can then replicate in their own organizations.

Wherever possible, the *HINT* working group will use the newsletter to disseminate and promote new HSLG initiatives that emerge from the strategic planning process in 2010.

The HSLG Continuing Professional Development Working Group (CPDWG) is composed of David MacNaughton (Team Leader), Aoife Lawton, David Mockler, Anne Madden, Tara Kenny (Part-time). The CPDWG organised 2 training events: 'Getting the most out of Pubmed' and 'How to give an effective presentation'. Other courses were planned for 2010 which included a course on supporting systematic reviews. However due to low levels of interest and inability to attend this was cancelled. The staffing embargo in the public sector is taking its toll: the management of libraries is proving difficult with lack of cover and lack of staff. The CPDWG will be revising their strategy and looking at 'smarter' ways of delivering training in 2011.

Meitheal Oibre na Gaeilge

Ní raibh an grúpa seo ag feidhmiú le linn 2010. Tá sé i gceist iarracht a dhéanamh chun an grúpa a thabhairt le chéile arís i 2011. Éinne go bhfuil spéis acu sa Ghaeilge agus athbhunú Mheitheal Oibre, téigh i dteagmháil le sosuilleabhain@leitrimcoco.ie.

📖 Munster Regional Section

Chair: *Paul Cussen (Cork City Council Library Service)*
Vice Chair: *Niamh Aherne (Bar Council Law Library)*
Secretary: *Helen McGonigle (Cork City Council Library Service)*
Treasurer: *Orlagh O'Brien (Cork County Council Library and Arts Service)*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Munster Regional Section of the Library Association of Ireland took place on 13 October and was hosted with the kind permission of David G. O'Brien, Executive Librarian, in Bishopstown Library, Cork City. The attendance was small and elections were held to maintain a committee.

CHARITY TABLE QUIZ

This year's Charity Table Quiz took place in the Spailpín Fánach, Cork City, on 5 November. The quiz was well attended and generated €550. The proceeds were donated to St. Mary's Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels, Hollyhill/Knocknaheeny.

ANNUAL SEMINAR

The Annual Seminar was held as an evening seminar on 22 March. It was a free event, open to both members and non-members of the Association. The speakers were Valerie King, Head of Customer Services, Boole Library, UCC, on 'Cork PAL - opening doors to a wealth of resources'; Sinéad Feely, Cork City Council Library Service on the award-winning Housebound service; Dee Eccles, St. John's Central College, on 'The establishment and development of St John's Information Resource Centre'. Entertainment was provided by the poet Gerry Murphy.

📖 Prison Libraries Group (PrLG)

Chair: *Sandra Godkin (Dublin City Public Libraries)*
Secretary: *Matthew Gammon (Roscommon County Council Library Services)*
Committee: *Alison Lyons (Dublin City Public Libraries), Jean Ricken (Limerick Prison Library Service), Jennifer Dunne (Dublin City Public Libraries), Suzanne Carroll (Laois County Library Service).*

Group Membership: 25

The AGM of the group was held on 27 May 2010.

MEETINGS AND REPRESENTATIONS

In February the group met in the library of the Dochas Centre (women's prison) and were given an overview of the library service provided there by the Dublin prison librarians. In November the group visited the library and education research unit of the Defence Forces Training Centre at the Curragh. The core theme of the session was training for prison library staff (both inside and outside the prison system). Delegates were given an introduction and tour of the library facilities followed by lunch in the officers' mess.

DEVELOPMENTS

During the year the group established its Rules and Procedures which were passed at the AGM, and approved by the Executive Board.

As part of the development of library services at Limerick Prison, a librarian was appointed in May and the new library service is due to be launched early in 2011. New library facilities were opened in Portlaoise, Mountjoy and Wheatfield during the year.



Nicky Doran and Irene Gowing of Bórd Gáis Energy presenting at the Public Libraries Section Conference



Bobby Kerr, entrepreneur and Dragon's Den investor addressing the Public Libraries Section Conference.

Public Libraries Section

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- Chair: *Brendan Teeling (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna)*
 Secretary: *Melanie Cunningham (Waterford City Council Library Service)*
 Treasurer: 2009-2010: *Elizabeth Keane (Galway County Libraries)*
 2010-2011: *Josephine Vahey, (Galway County Libraries)*
 Committee: *Carmel Daly (Clare County Libraries), Orlagh Forde (Cork County Council Library and Arts Service), Shauna Henry, (Meath County Council Library Service), Pat Lonergan, (Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service), Susan Lovatt, (Fingal County Libraries), Mary Murphy, (Meath County Council Library Service), Barbara Varley, (Mayo County Libraries).*

The Public Libraries Section Committee met four times during 2010. Three meetings were held in ILAC Centre Library, Dublin, with the AGM being held in South Dublin's County Library in Tallaght. Outgoing Chairman, Brendan Teeling, was re-elected, as was the Secretary Melanie Cunningham. Elizabeth Keane stood down from the post of Treasurer and Jo Vahey was elected in her place. The Chairman thanked Elizabeth for her work on behalf of the Section, and also thanked Melanie for her work and commitment.

The Section's annual conference took place on 3-5 November at the Maryborough House Hotel, Douglas, Cork. The theme of the conference was 'ROPE in your users: reach, online, promote, entice'. 83 delegates attended the conference and 12 trade exhibitors hosted stands at the conference trade exhibition.

The Conference was formally opened by the Association President, Siobhán Fitzpatrick, who presented a paper on the value of the public library service. Bobby Kerr, entrepreneur and Dragon's Den investor outlined 'A new way of working', which addressed the topics of

marketing, customer loyalty and the importance of knowing your customers. Irene Gowing and Nicky Doran of Bord Gáis Energy hosted a session covering sponsorship and how sponsorship can benefit the public library. Niall Harbison of Simply Zesty invited delegates to 'Focus on social media campaigns'.

Quickfire sessions were given by Waterford City Council Library Service, Fingal County Libraries, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Dublin City Public Libraries and Cork City Council Library Service.

Bert Wright spoke about The Irish Book Awards and the closing session featured Denise McBride of NALA speak about the 'writeon4work' initiative.

The programme included a guided tour of Midleton and Bishopstown Libraries.

The conference dinner was held on 4 November. The guest of honour was the Deputy Mayor of County Cork, Councillor John O'Sullivan and Professor Des McHale, UCC, mathematician and author, was the after-dinner speaker.

The committee thanks Cork City Council Library Service and Cork County Council Library and Arts Service for their support in organising the conference. We would also like to acknowledge the support of our friends in the trade, all the speakers and chairs, and all those who participated in any way.

Rare Books Group (RBG)

- Chair: *Ken Bergin (UL)*
 Secretary: *Evelyn Flanagan (UCD)*
 Treasurer: *Frances Clarke (NLI)*
 Committee: *Marie Boran (NUIG), Alexandra Caccamo (Botanical Gardens Library), Bernadette Cunningham (Royal Irish Academy), Kathryn Norris (TCD Library), Loretto O'Donohoe*

(NUIG), *Celine Ward (Chester Beatty Library)*,
Penny Woods (NUIM).

The Committee met five times during the year. Charles Benson and Elaine Charwat resigned from the committee. Frances Clarke replaced Charles Benson as treasurer. Celine Ward resigned as secretary and was replaced by Evelyn Flanagan.

AGM, 26 FEBRUARY 2010, ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY

Following the AGM, Dr Alexander Wilkinson from the School of History and Archives, UCD, gave a talk entitled 'Mapping the print world of early modern Iberia: the UCD Iberian Book Project'.

VISIT TO DUBLIN CITY LIBRARY AND
ARCHIVES, 20 JULY 2010

Dr Mary Clarke and Dr Máire Kennedy gave a presentation on the material held in the repository and a tour of Dublin City Library and Archive.

ANNUAL SEMINAR, 12 NOVEMBER 2010, NLI

This year's seminar was entitled 'Adventures in print: travel literature through the centuries' and featured presentations by:

- ♣ Dr C.J. Woods, 'Tapping travellers' tales for time and place';
- ♣ Dr Angela Byrne, NUIM and University of Toronto, 'John Lee: an astronomer and antiquary in Ireland, 1806-7';
- ♣ Dr Daniel Carey, School of English, NUIG, 'Mission impossible?: a critical edition of Richard Hakluyt's *Principal navigations, voyages, traffiques and discoveries of the English nation (1598-1600)*';
- ♣ Dr Toby Barnard, Hertford College Oxford, 'Travelling with and through books: the experiences of the Irish, c.1660-1789';
- ♣ Dr Laurence Cox, NUIM, 'Tall tales, childhood's country and the monastery kitchen: Irish writers in Buddhist Asia'.

The Rare Books Group would like to thank the institutions which facilitated events during the year: the National Library, the Royal Irish Academy, and Dublin City Library and Archives.

Western Regional Section (WRSLAI)

Chair: *Emer Donoghue (Galway County Libraries)*
Secretary: *Eileen O'Connor (Galway County Libraries)*
Treasurer: *Colette Harlowe (Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology)*
Committee: *Thomas Murtagh (Mayo County Libraries)*,
Olive Greaney (Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology),
Siobhán Arkins (Galway County Libraries).

The committee met twice in 2010.

NETWORKING MORNING FOR LIBRARY
PROFESSIONALS IN THE WESTERN REGION

The networking morning took place in the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology Libraries on both the Galway Campus and the Castlebar Campus on 22 March 2010. The two venues were connected by a video conference link.

The networking morning was attended by fifteen delegates from academic, specialist and public libraries. Institutions represented were the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, NUIG, The Marine Institute, the HSE, Galway Public Libraries, Mayo County Libraries, Roscommon County Council Library Services and the National Museum of Ireland.

The networking morning discussion section was chaired by Eileen O'Connor (Galway venue) and Olive Greaney (Castlebar venue). Topics for discussion included the delivery of e-services, in particular the need for a national strategy on e-book provision, the importance of promoting existing digital services and the importance of continued professional development in the area of electronic resources. The benefit of e-services in widening access to special collections and sharing resources between libraries was also discussed.

2010 TRAINING SEMINAR

The seminar was entitled 'Libraries and recession: sharing resources and improving skills'. The seminar took place in the newly built Tuam Public Library, Co. Galway on 28 June, 2010.

The seminar programme opened with a presentation by Valerie King, Head of Customer Services, Boole Library, UCC entitled, 'Pathways to Learning: the origins and implementation of Cork

PAL'. This was followed by a talk by Robin Adams, Librarian, TCD on 'Music PAL and PAL website maintenance'. The third guest speaker was Siobhán Fitzpatrick, President of the Association, who spoke about the development of RASCAL. She was followed by Siobhán Bermingham, Executive Librarian, South Dublin County Libraries on the development of South Dublin Libraries' Digital Books Service. Susan O'Malley, Associate Manager Google Ireland, delivered a presentation on the Google Books Project. The seminar closed with a presentation by Anthony Edwards, Clare County Libraries on the development of Clare County Libraries' Digital Books Service.

2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM took place in the James Hardiman Library, NUIG on 13 December and was followed by a tour of NUIG's new Nursing and Midwifery Library.

The 2011 WRSLAI committee was elected as follows

- Chair: *Eileen O'Connor (Galway County Libraries)*
 Secretary: *Anne Wilkinson (The Marine Institute)*
 Treasurer: *Olive Greaney (Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology)*
 Committee: *Colette Harlowe (Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology), Tom Murtagh (Mayo County Libraries), Patricia Ffrench (NUIG), Ashling Hayes (The Marine Institute), Emer Donoghue (Galway County Libraries), Teresa Donnellon (Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology).*

Youth Libraries Group (YLG)

- Chair: *Helen O'Donnell (Dublin City Public Libraries)*
 Secretary: *Deirdriu McQuaid (Monaghan County Library)*
 Treasurer: *Karen McCague (Monaghan County Library)*
 Committee: *Catherine Gallagher (South Dublin County Libraries), Frances Crampsie (Donegal County Library Service), Aisling Donnelly (Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service), Deirdre Broderick (Louth County Libraries), Beata Molendowska (Dublin City Public Libraries), Maedhbh Rogan (Meath County Council Library Service), Aoife Moore (Tipperary Libraries), Eleanor O'Toole (Mayo County Libraries), Mary Bohan (Leitrim County Library Service), Ciara Cunnane (Donegal County Library Service), Aileen Ivory (Alexandra College Dublin), Sheila Tierney (Louth County Libraries), Annemarie Hennessy (Louth County Libraries).*

Aisling Donnelly and Catherine Gallagher agreed to stand for election to the Executive Board of the Association.

The YLG committee met once during the year on 22 April in the South Dublin County Library, Tallaght..

JOINT CONFERENCE 2010

The Youth Library Group organised a workshop as part of the Joint Conference in Tallaght on the 22 April. The workshop was facilitated by Eimear McGinn from Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service on their recent report entitled 'Not only adults drink tea...: an account of a recent study and report on how young people in Kildare engage with library and arts services'.

MOTIONS TO LAI AGM

The YLG proposed two motions to the AGM of which one was carried.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY & THE SCHOOL REPORT

The YLG were asked for their response on the recent publication of the research into library services to primary schools in Ireland. A response was made on behalf of the group by the Secretary to Fionnuala Hanrahan, Vice-President and was incorporated in the text of the Association's submission.

RECOMMENDING WITH CONFIDENCE SEMINAR

The seminar was held in the County Library, Tallaght on 23 September with guest speakers Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Association President; Valerie Coghlan, lecturer and Oisín McGann, author. Members of the YLG committee facilitated a workshop on recommending books on particular issues/topics such as dyslexia, bullying and autism.

The seminar catered for 60 participants and was oversubscribed. A second seminar was organised to take place in December in Pearse Street Library, but this had to be cancelled due to weather conditions. It is being rescheduled to March 2011.

During the year, the Secretary was in contact with many organisations and library authorities dealing with various queries relating to library services to young people and other issues pertinent to the work of the youth group.

Obituary

The Executive Board notes with regret the death of Bob McKee, Chief Executive of CILIP and former Governing Board member of IFLA. A full obituary was carried in *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library*. Please see B. Teeling, 'Bob McKee 1950-2010: an appreciation', *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library*, vol 19(2), 39.

Membership Statistics

In 2010 the figures for personal and institutional membership respectively were, 504 and 59. In accordance with the regulations of the Association, those who had not renewed by September were deemed to be lapsed members.

Acknowledgements

The Association acknowledges with thanks the support of many libraries and other institutions and businesses without whose cooperation and support it could not have operated so effectively throughout the year.

Particular thanks is due to:

- ♣ An Chomhairle Leabharlanna for providing a correspondence address at 53, Upper Mount Street, Dublin, 2
- ♣ The Royal Irish Academy and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna for making facilities for meetings available to the Executive Board
- ♣ The very many library organisations that accommodated committee meetings, seminars, launches, workshops and visits throughout the year
- ♣ The chief librarians and leaders of service organisations who facilitated staff to participate at meetings, promotions, CPD and other events
- ♣ The Royal Irish Academy, Dublin City Public Libraries, Fingal County Libraries, South Dublin County Libraries and Waterford City Council Library Service for providing storage for Association records
- ♣ The Members and Management of South Dublin County Council and particularly the staff of South Dublin County Council Libraries for hosting and managing the annual joint Library Association of Ireland / cilip Ireland conference in April
- ♣ The library business sector and other friends of the Association that support its work through sponsorship of meetings, seminars and other activities.

Membership List

Personal Members

- Abbas, Hyder, HDipLIS, Chester Beatty Library
- Adams, Niamh, Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation
- Adams, Robin, BA, DLS, TCD
- Ahern, Justin, BA, Fingal County Libraries
- Ahern Rioghnaich, MLIS
- Armitage, Thomas, BA, DLT, FLAI, Retired
- Armstrong, Jonathan N., BA, HDipEd, DLIS, ALAI, Honourable Society of King's Inns
- Aston, Jennefer, BA, MSc, MCLIP
- Barrett, Bernard, BTh, DipLib, MCLIP, ALAI, Health Service Executive - West
- Barrett, Julia, BMus, DLIS, MBA, UCD
- Bateman, Dilys, BA, MLIB, MCLIP, ALAI, Retired
- Bates, Jessica, PhD, University of Ulster
- Bates, John, MPhil, MLIS, TCD
- Beaudry, Richard, BEd, MEd, MLIS, ALAI, University of Alberta
- Beirne, Sheila Boyd, BA, DLIS, Rathdown School, Glengaeary
- Bennett, Breda, MA, DipLib, DiplInfSt, St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire
- Bergin, Angela, BSc (Econ), An Garda Síochana
- Bergin, Ken, DLIS, UL
- Black, Jeremy, BA (Mod), DLIS, Fingal County Libraries
- Blake, Deirdre, BA, MLIS
- Blanco Martin, Mercedes, TCD
- Blee, Eimear, BA
- Boardman, Betty, BA (Mod), DLIS, ALAI, Fingal County Libraries
- Bohan, Mary, Leitrim County Library Service
- Bolger, Isabella, BA, The Radiological Institute of Ireland
- Bolger, Jennifer, BA, Waterford Institute of Technology
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 Rogers, Nicola, BA, Dip. Inf. Studies, Dublin Adult Learning Centre
 Ronayne, Liam, BCL, DipLib, ALAI, Cork City Council Library Service
 Rooney, June, DLIS, Jesuit Library
 Rooney Ferris, Laura, MA, MSc, Dublin Business School
 Rushe, Suzanne, MLIS
 Ryan, Katherine, MSc, DLIS, St. Andrew's College
 Ryan, Pauline, Waterford Regional Hospital
 Schmidt-Suppran, Christoph, PhD, MLIS, TCD
 Schnabel, Petra, MA, Royal Irish Academy
 Sharkey, Caitriona, BA, DLIS, Ernst & Young
 Shortall, Deirdre, BA, DLT, ALAI, Retired
 Shortall, John, BA, MSc, Carlow County Libraries
 Siobhlom, Asa, MSc, Dublin Dental School and Hospital
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 Stewart, Robin, BA, MLIS
 Stokes, Diarmuid, BA, MSc (Econ), DLIS, UCD
 Stuart, Mary, Dip LIS, Westmeath County Library Service

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 Thornley, Clare, MA, MSc, PhD, UCD
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 Tipple, Lasairiona, MA, DipLib, ALAI, Retired
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 Toland, Grace, BA, Dip LIS, Irish Traditional Music Archive
 Tracey, Mary, BA, Institute of Public Administration
 Treanor, Mairead, Met Éireann
 Trotter, Patricia, BA, MSc, Institute of Public Administration
 Turley, Elizabeth, BA, HDipEd, DLIS, ALAI, Dublin City Public Libraries
 Vaughan, Austin, BA, DLIS, Mayo County Libraries
 Walker-Headon, Niamh, BA, HDip LIS, ALAI, Institute of Technology Tallaght
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 Walsh, Ann, BA, FLAI, ALAI, Retired
 Walsh, Geraldine, BA, Rotunda Hospital
 Ward, Celine, BA, MLIS, Chester Beatty Library
 Ward, Joan, MLIS, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna
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 Waterloo, Caroline, MSc (Information), Bar Council Law Library
 Watters, Catherine, BA, DLIS, PricewaterhouseCoopers
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 Woods, Penelope, BA, BEd, DLIS, NUIM
 Wright, Michael
 Wrynn, Shirley, BA, MSc (Econ), Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology

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Fellows of the Library Association of Ireland (including Hon FLAI)

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Arnould-O'Sullivan, Nicole, MA, HDipEd, DLIS, FLAI	Ellis-King, Deirdre, BA, DipLib, MPhil, FLAI, ALAI, Dublin City Public Libraries (retired May 2010)	Lonergan, Pat, BA, FLAI, ALAI, Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service	O Súilleabháin, Seán, DLT, FLAI, ALAI, Leitrim County Library Service
Browne, Kathleen, BA, FLAI, ALAI, Retired	Hardiman, Nodlaig, BA, FLAI, ALAI, Retired	McGlinchey, Margaret, FLAI, Retired	O'Sullivan, Hanna, FLAI, Retired
Carson, W.H.R., FCLIP, Hon. FLAI, Retired	Hughes, Noel, MCLIP, FLAI, ALAI, Retired	Morgan, Caroline, FLAI, Sligo County Libraries	Pender, Margaret, FLAI
Coghlan, Valerie, MSc (Econ), FLAI, FCLIP, Church of Ireland College of Education	Joyce Walsh, Ann, BA, FLAI, ALAI, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	Murphy, Mary B., MA, FLAI, St. Patrick's College, Thurles	Quinlan, Finola, FLAI, ALAI, Cork Institute of Technology
Corrigan, Pauline, BA, DLT, FLAI, Retired	Kavanagh, Mary, BA, LLB, FLAI, ALAI, Keaney, Marian, FLAI, LFIBA,	Nash, Roisin, FLAI, Retired	Reddan, Marie, FLAI, DLIS, DSA, Retired
Daly, Marie, FLAI, ALAI, Retired		O'Brien, Gearóid, DLIS, ALAI, FLAI, Westmeath County Library Service	Steele, John, BA, MLIS, Dip Lib, FLAI, CDipAF, LLB, Retired
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Associates of the Library Association of Ireland

Altzinger, Marie, MA, DLIS, DipArchSt, ALCM, ALAI	Doran, Beatrice, BA, MBA, DipLib, ALAI	Judge, Aisling, BA, AgrSc, DLIS, ALAI, Adult Education Consultant	O'Connor, Áine, MA, MLIS, ALAI, UCD
Armstrong, Jonathan N., BA, HDipEd, DLIS, ALAI, Honourable Society of King's Inns	Downes, Isabella, MA, DLIS, ALAI, Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland	Kavanagh, Mary, BA, LLB, FLAI, ALAI	O'Daly, Colette, BA, HDipEd, DLIS, ALAI, NLI
Barrett, Bernard, BTh, DipLib, MCLIP, ALAI, Health Service Executive-West	Doyle, Dolores, BA, DLIS, FLAI, ALAI, Limerick City Council Library Service	Kehoe, Anne Mary, MCLIP, ALAI	O'Kelly, Denis, BA, HDipEd, DipLib, MBA, ALAI, self-employed
Bateman, Dilys, BA, MLIB, MCLIP, ALAI, Retired	Duffy, John, MSc, MCLIP, ALAI, Bar Council Law Library	Kerins, Gillian, BSocSc, HDipLIS, MLIS, ALAI, Institute of Technology Tallaght	O'Reilly, Dorothy, DLIS, ALAI, Kilkenny County Library
Boardman, Betty, BA (Mod), DipLib, ALAI, Fingal County Libraries	Ellis-King, Deirdre, BA, DipLib, MPhil, FLAI, ALAI, Dublin City Public Libraries (retired May 2010)	Kerrigan, Cathal, BA, DipLIS, ALAI, UCC	O'Suilleabhain, Seán, DLT, FLAI, ALAI, Leitrim County Library Service
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Dean, John E., MA, MCLIP, ALAA, ALAI, Hon. FLAI, Retired	Ingram, Valerie M., MA, HDipEd, DLT, ALAI, Retired	Norris, Kathryn, MLIS, ALAI, TCD	Tipple, Lasairiona, MA, DipLib, ALAI, Retired
Delany, Carol Anne, BA, HDipEd, DLIS, ALAI	Jacob, Lucinda, BA, DLIS, ALAI, TCD	O'Brien, Gearóid, DLIS, ALAI, FLAI, Westmeath County Library Service	Turley, Elizabeth, BA, HDipEd, DLIS, ALAI, Dublin City Public Libraries
Dennison, Madelaine, BSocSc, DLIS, MCLIP, ALAI, Houses of the Oireachtas	Jennings, Marie, BA, HDipLIS, ALAI, Houses of the Oireachtas	O'Connell, Deirdre, BA, MLIS, ALAI, Retired	Walker-Headon, Niamh, BA, HDipLIS, ALAI, Institute of Technology Tallaght
Doolan, Mary, BA, HDipEd, HDipLIS, ALAI, Fingal County Libraries	Joyce Walsh, Ann, BA, FLAI, ALAI, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	O'Connell, Angela, MA, DLIS, ALAI, Dublin City Public Libraries	Warner, Rosemary, MA, ALAI, DipLib, LLM, Institute of Public Administration