AN LEABHARLANN : THE IRISH LIBRARY

Inside

Innocents Abroad:
the experiences of Irish Librarians teaching Information literacy in China

Sir Henrys@UCC Library: telling the history of a live venue through a librarian-led research exhibition

Sharing our Stories and Spaces: presenting our role in evidence

Conference Reports, Book Review

CONTENTS

Guidelines For Contributors

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 The Editorial Board invites original, unpublished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

Articles

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

Format

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

- Book reviews should include the full title, author or
  editor, publication details and price.
- Conference reports should be approx. 650 words
  and should include details such as the sponsoring
  organization, the date, place and title of the
  conference.

Style

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

Editing

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

Copy Deadlines

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

Editorial

By the time you read this Editorial, you will know that IFLA WLIC 2020 will be held in Dublin next August. This will be a unique opportunity to attend the world's most prestigious LIS Conference. Different LAI sections and groups, and other LIS associations, have had experience of organizing international conferences. In the last 15 years, ARLIS UK and Ireland, BIALL, EAHIL, IAML and ICML have been held in Dublin.

Meantime, you can engage in some CPD through reading the articles and Conference Reports in this issue. Several contributions have co-authors and this reflects a growing interest in academic writing across all sectors.

Articles include the experiences of two UCD librarians teaching information literacy in China. In addition to cultural differences, the authors offer some practical suggestions. In reading this article we are reminded of the importance of free speech and access to information.   Reflections on a popular music culture exhibition which was led by UCC librarians will provide tips for others interested in developing exhibitions. Many from Cork-especially those of a certain vintage- will recall the glory days of Sir Henrys. The article offers practical ideas for gathering information, especially through crowdsourcing. UCC has a long history of breaking down barriers between town and gown. This is an excellent example.

The last article considers the importance of presenting at non-LIS conferences, especially those at which stake-holders are gathered. Attending these conferences can be used as a marketing tool for libraries but, more importantly, users are made aware of the skill set of librarians. Colleagues will be aware of the importance of conferences. Quite apart from attending conferences for CPD purposes, they can be very useful for networking. Tips are included to make a business case for conference attendance. Hopefully this will be useful for all who wish to attend IFLA WLIC 2020 next August. Details of the attendance options will be available on the IFLA Conference website later: https://2020.ifla.org/

The number of Conference Reports covered in this issue is bigger than usual as more International/European LIS conferences took place in Dublin. These included IFLA SIG, EBLIDA Council meeting, NAPLE Council meeting, and EBLIDA-NAPLE conference. A few days later the 48th LIBER conference was held in Trinity.

The first meeting of a new IFLA Special Interest Group(SIG) was held in Dublin in the Spring. The SIG covers libraries as publishers. It was timely as a few Irish institutions are already publishing while others are contemplating establishing library publishers. The Conference Report will give you a good introduction to this relatively new dimension of publishing.

The EBLIDA/ NAPLE conference covered the need for digital competencies in the digital age. Inclusion and the idea of the library as a space where people create meaning were also covered. Copyright and the positioning of libraries on the political agenda were also discussed.

Other Conference topics covered Included Open Libraries, Open Science, Digital world and digital skills. LIBER considered the role of research Libraries in open society.   Of particular interest to Irish delegates at IFLA WLIC 2019 in Athens was the announcement that IFLA WLIC 2020 will be held in Dublin. Some photos from Athens are included so colleagues who have not been at IFLA before, will catch a glimpse of what it will be like.

Two Conference Reports cover local conferences- LAI Academic & Special library conference considered the meaning of library as a brand and community, in addition to space. The LAI/CILIP Joint annual conference discussed various aspects of inclusion including buildings and spaces.

Public engagement was a topic across several conference reports and articles. Regardless of library sector, librarians must engage actively with their public.

It is hoped that you will benefit from the ideas, insights and inspiration contained in this issue. You may be inspired to submit a paper for one of the IFLA sections. The next issue of this journal will include an article by Philip Cohen (Chair, Local Organising Committee, IFLA WLIC 2020) who will give you more details on the Conference.

Marjory Sliney, Editor, editor@libraryassociation.ie

The Innocents Abroad:
the experiences of two Irish Librarians teaching information literacy in China

Diarmuid Stokes and James Molloy

Abstract

This article looks at how UCD Library developed a relationship with BDIC, initially to support students visiting the main UCD campus and subsequently by sending UCD librarians to Beijing to provide Information Literacy training to students studying there.

Keywords: *Information Literacy; International library co-operation UCD Library, University College Dublin*

A tour group at the Temple of Heaven, Beijing

Background

In recent years, University College Dublin (UCD) has branded itself as 'Ireland's Global University', with the intention of growing its global reputation for excellence in education, research, innovation and impact (Global Engagement Strategy 2016-2020:5). As part of its global engagement, UCD has developed a range of partnerships and collaboration around the world with over 400 international university partners and over 5,500 students studying on overseas programmes. UCD currently awards degrees in places such as RUMC RCSI and UCD Malaysia Campus (Medicine), University Pantheon-Assas (Law) in Paris, and Beijing Dublin International College (BDIC). This globalisation is a trend that other Irish Universities are exploring, with Maynooth University, UCC and AIT in the process of setting up degree programmes abroad. (Athlone Institute of Technology, 2016; Maynooth University, 2018; University College Cork, 2019) .

Established in 2012, BDIC is a joint international partnership between UCD and Beijing University of Technology (BJUT), located on the BJUT campus. Students of BDIC are registered in UCD and BJUT. They undertake a variety of degrees such as Internet of Things Engineering, Electronic & Information Engineering, Software Engineering and Financial Economics. All core modules are delivered through English by UCD lecturers, each stage refers to an academic year. When students graduate, they are awarded joint degrees from both UCD and BJUT.

Since 2014, as part of their degree, students from BDIC have visited the UCD campus. While there, they received a tour of the James Joyce Library and training on how to access and use UCD Library's online resources. They could then access these resources when they returned to China.
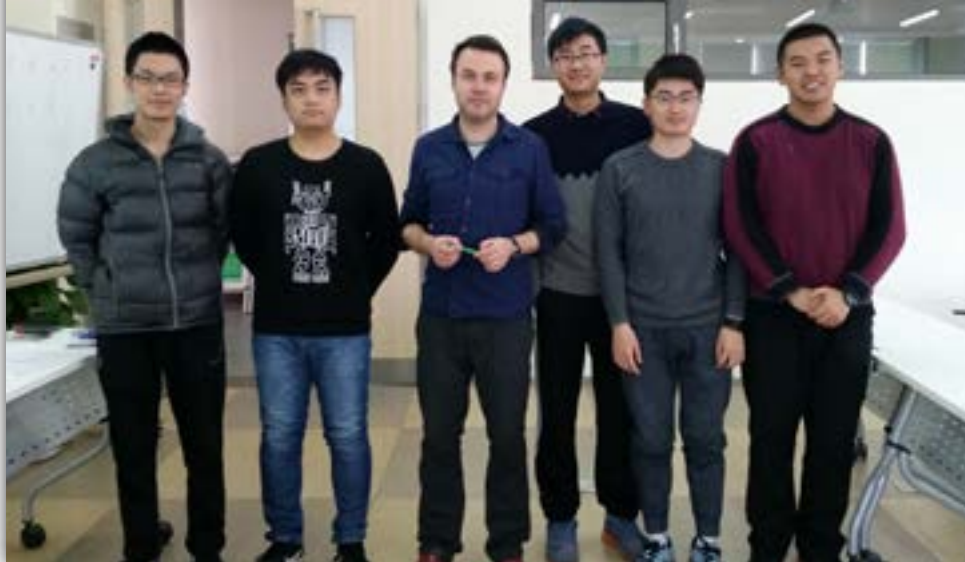
James Molloy with students from BDIC in the Shamrock Room

Following a review of the experience of the first cohort of students to complete their BDIC degrees in 2016 it became apparent to BDIC Staff that one element of the UCD Student Experience was missing, formal library skills instruction delivered in Beijing directly to the students. The Vice Principal for BDIC indicated that for their students to have a seamless UCD experience they should meet their College Liaison Librarian face to face as their Irish counterparts do. It was felt that this would be achieved by sending a College Liaison Librarian to Beijing to deliver this training. It was agreed that James Molloy, College Liaison Librarian for Engineering and Architecture would initially travel to China.

Planning

Meetings with BDIC administration in the months before the trip allowed James to develop a teaching programme for the week-long visit that was tailored to the needs of the students. During this time James also worked on localising online supports. This was necessary as access to many online resources was restricted by the presence of the 'Great Firewall of China' which blocks many Western websites, including many Google services. This was problematic for us as all of the instructional training videos developed by UCD Library staff were hosted on YouTube, a Google service. To get around this limitation the videos were converted to MP4 video files and uploaded to the BDIC Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). However, a range of interactive tutorials that had been developed using Articulate Storyline and hosted on the UCD library website, were not subject to the same limitations. James was also able to load any presentations that were to be delivered to the students on the VLE along with a range of useful links to content on the UCD Library

website. Local BDIC staff tested our online tools and presentations to ensure compatibility. To improve his own online access while he was in China James was advised to install the UCD VPN on all his electronic devices. In addition, based on the advice of BDIC staff, he installed WeChat, as this was how BDIC staff communicated amongst themselves, and Chinese translation apps on his phone.

The first trip took place in mid-February 2017. The aims for the trip were that students would be:

- **Shown the UCD Library website and its resources and supports**
- **Taught how to use UCD Library OneSearch to find books on their reading lists**
- **Introduced to techniques on literature searching**
- **Made aware of plagiarism**
- **Familiarised with Harvard Referencing**

Each Stage 3 group received four 90-minute sessions. The first session focused on finding and evaluating information and the second on Endnote online, referencing & academic writing. The third session was composed of practical exercises and a Q&A session. The last session was a chance to recap what had already been covered. Student engagement and learning was informally evaluated using Kahoot game-based learning. Students competitive nature was reinforced by the added element of King crisps as prizes. This initial trip was successful and in December 2017 the College Liaison Librarian for Science, Diarmuid Stokes made a follow up visit. Once again, the focus was on Stage 4 and Stage 3 students and the same programme of training was delivered.

What challenges did we face?

Technology

This was a challenge we both faced. After a few days, both of our laptops would not work with the BDIC networks and we were forced to use a Chinese language laptop. This made using the laptop problematic as neither of us understood Chinese.

All our sessions were held in a general assembly room called the 'Shamrock Room'. All the controls for the room were in Chinese and neither of us were able to use the rooms independently. We were forced to regularly leave the room and seek support from BDIC staff, sometimes more than once in a session.

We found that using the UCD VPN gave us quick access to the UCD resources. Students did not have the UCD VPN, which resulted in much slower access times. This had a knock-on effect on how much material we could cover during a session. In addition, this increased access time acted as a barrier to the students using them.

Language issues

While the programmes were taught through English and the students were genuinely engaged and responsive when asked questions, it was clear that there were a wide range of language abilities in the room. We noticed that this was an inhibiting factor for the students when it came to them engaging with the workshops. We were very conscious to make sure we spoke clearly "using simple English" (Mohd Faiz, Awang and Maziana 2017). We did speak more slowly but, as we had a programme of activities to get through there was a limit to how slow we could go.

Number of sessions per programme

We both came to see that the number of sessions delivered, i.e. four were too many. We felt that as things stood three sessions would be enough and there was too much repetition during the sessions.

Timing of the workshops

We both felt that, perhaps the timing of the sessions was not perfect. We were mainly reaching Stage 3 and 4 students, and we felt that this was too late during the programme cycle to have a meaningful impact. We were also constrained by the time of year we could go out due to our normal workloads and teaching commitments. In practice this means late in semester 1 or in semester 2 are best for us. BDIC on the other hand would have preferred us to come early in semester 1.

How did we resolve them?

These issues were raised in a report which was circulated to UCD Library management team and to the BDIC administration. Discussion of the report findings then took place between James, Diarmuid and BDIC focusing on how the experience could be improved. The report also examined what was sustainable from a library perspective, as the engagement with BDIC was in addition to all pre-existing college liaison librarian workload and teaching commitments.

The key areas agreed were:
- **A reduction in the number of sessions for each programme.**
- **Introductory library training to be provided at Stage 1 of each programme with more detailed training delivered in Stages 2, 3 and 4.**
- **Training to be attached to a core module at each stage.**
- **Library staff to work with relevant module coordinators to ensure that any library training delivered would be directly applicable to their module outcomes and any assignments.**
- **BDIC to ensure all students had access to UCD VPN software so the students can access UCD network.**

After agreeing to these changes BDIC requested library support for two weeks in March 2019. This time Diarmuid and James agreed to go over in successive weeks to provide the library training. We took a scaffolded approach to the delivery of the teaching, Diarmuid providing an introductory level for Stage 1 students and James gave a slightly more advanced level for the higher stages, with Stages 3 and 4 students also receiving Endnote bibliographic reference manager training. We covered all the core components of Information Literacy, getting students familiar with UCD Library resources, knowing where to find relevant information and then how to evaluate the information. We discussed good practice in academic integrity, how to reference and avoid plagiarism. We also directed students on how to find additional online support from UCD Library. The teaching was enhanced by BDIC facilitating us with a variety of

The Forbidden City, Beijing

teaching rooms many of which were BJUT owned rooms. This made a big difference as the technology in the rooms was more intuitive and made us more independent. We were able to see the improvements straight away. By aligning library teaching more closely with individual modules, we saw greater engagement from the students as they could see a direct immediate benefit to attending the library sessions.

VPN
Thanks to BDIC, students now had access to the UCD VPN. This will allow them to bypass the Great Chinese Firewall and to access UCD resources much more quickly. In practice not all the students had installed the software on the devices, despite being asked to do so in advance. This resulted in delays during lectures as students tried to download and install the software.

This time, things were complicated by the Annual National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China. This resulted in a restriction of internet controls, even with the UCD VPN. Given that the Congress takes place at the same time every year, this could be an issue that we will have to learn to live with unless we change the dates we visit Beijing.

Evaluation

Students were asked to evaluate the sessions: overall the feedback was good **and is outlined below**.

A. Positives

Students said that Library staff were clear, easy to understand and took time to make sure the student understood what was being taught. Students also said that they had not been aware of the resources available from UCD Library and that they would start to use them. They were also remarkably understanding about the slow access to the library website and resources. This suggested that it was a regular occurrence for them. They were also very positive about the use of Game Based Learning via Kahoot and prizes of King crisps. They also appreciated the UCD library pens and postcards which we brought over for them.

B. Negatives

The main negative comments related to the speed of accessing library resources. While as we mentioned earlier, they were understanding about it, they still expressed their frustration. The other comments related to how fast we spoke. Even though we both consciously slowed down our speech, it was still too fast for some students.

These are our top tips to any librarians traveling overseas to teach:

Prepare as much as you can. If possible, speak to staff who have already spent some time working on the campus.

Have a backup contingency plan if technology lets you down, network speeds may vary compared to home.

Be prepared to adapt your teaching style and be conscious of how fast you may speak, especially to a non-native ear.

Bring multiple backups of everything you need and maybe paper ones as well.

Try not to start teaching as soon as you get there. There will always be last minute things to be sorted out, so try to avoid putting yourself under pressure.

Learn a few words of the local language. You may not be fluent, but the effort will be appreciated.

Let your bank and the Department of Foreign Affairs know that you are travelling.

Get a good travel guidebook for your down time.

Travel insurance, always have travel insurance.

Use HEANet media hosting to host your video files. The files are available worldwide and this bypasses any Google issues.

Bring some gifts from your library.

Get comfortable with haggling if you go to any of the local markets.

Bring additional toilet paper when travelling away from your hotel; most Chinese public toilets do not provide toilet paper.

Find where the European Supermarkets are so you can get a taste of home when you need it.

Make sure you install a VPN on all your devices, if you want to access Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and most of the Google services.

Final Thoughts

While it was a fantastic opportunity and very rewarding personally and professionally. working in Beijing came with challenges. Technology, as we stated above, was the main one. We have worked with BDIC to overcome this, but it is still a work in progress. There were also cultural differences, there is a common perception regarding the Chinese view of plagiarism.

We took the viewpoint that teaching and reinforcing the message about avoiding plagiarism is important to students anywhere in the world.

Students also hold academic staff in very high regard which did take time to get used to, especially being referred to as Professor. In addition, there were the language comprehension issues we mentioned earlier. BDIC is aware of these issues and is working to improve students English reading and writing skills. In the short time that we have been going to Beijing we have already noticed a distinct improvement. Unlike in Ireland, students regularly use mobile phones in class, instead of a laptop or tablet to take notes and access resources. This also took some time for us to get used to.

One important outcome was that we got an invaluable insight into the pressures

and restrictions that these students face. Being there and witnessing this at first hand really put things into perspective.

We both really enjoyed the experience of teaching on a campus in a different country. Your time is very much split between your teaching schedule which starts from when you arrive and then taking time to explore Beijing itself. Beijing although a mega city, is very safe and easy to get around, mainly due to an incredibly efficient subway system and the people are very friendly and understanding of the Gweilou "Westerners".

We have found that working with BDIC is an iterative process, with each visit leading in turn to future improvements in the teaching programme. While the library is happy to continue supporting the students in BDIC, we know from working in the academic world is that nothing ever stays the same. Changes in personnel or priorities could have a significant impact on any future requests for teaching. For example, the option to run an online class via the VLE is always an option. For now, however we are both glad to have had this experience, what happens in the future remains to be seen.

Diarmuid Stokes, BA, DLIS, MSc (Econ.)
College Liaison Librarian
and
James Molloy, BSc, MLIS,
College Liaison Librarian, James Joyce Library, University College, Dublin 4.

Bibliography

- Amsberry, D. (2009) 'Deconstructing Plagiarism: International Students and Textual
- Borrowing Practices', *The Reference Librarian,* 51(1), pp. 31-44.
- Athlone Institute of Technology (2016) *AIT Develops Joint Degree with Leading Chinese University*. Athlone: Athlone Institute of Technology. Available at: https://www.ait.ie/news-and-events/news/ait-develops-joint-degree-with-leading-chinese-university (Accessed: 23/7/19 2019).
- Maynooth University (2018) *Maynooth University launch International Engineering College in Fuzhou University, China*. Maynooth: Maynooth University. Available at: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/news-events/maynooth-university-launch-international-engineering-college-fuzhou-university-china (Accessed: 17/05/19 2019).
- Mohd Faiz, N. S., Awang, H. and Maziana, M. (2017) 'Narrowing communication gaps in teaching international students', *Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities,* 25(April), pp. 215-222.
- Office of the Vice-President for Global Engagement (2016) *University College Dublin Global Engagement Strategy, 2016-2020* Dublin: University College Dublin.
- University College Cork (2019) *UCC and Shanghai University establish Irish Studies Centre*. Cork: University College Cork. Available at: https://www.ucc.ie/en/news/ucc-and-shanghai-university-establish-irish-studies-centre.html (Accessed: 23/7/19 2019).
- University College Dublin.(n.d.) *Global Engagement Strategy:* 5. http://www.ucd.ie/t4cms/UCD%20Global%20Engagement%20Strategy%202016-2020.pdf

Sir Henrys @UCCLibrary:
Telling the history of a live music venue through a librarian-led research exhibition

Martin O'Connor and Eileen Hogan

Abstract

In 2014, University College Cork presented the *Sir Henrys@UCC Library* research exhibition, which documented the history and socio-cultural significance of a famous Cork live music venue called Sir Henrys. This article explains how the story of Sir Henrys was researched, shaped and told, how it was presented to as wide an audience as possible, and how that audience responded. It also looks at the impact and legacy of the exhibition.

Keywords: *Popular Music, Exhibition; Popular Music, Ireland*

Introduction

In 2014, University College Cork presented the *Sir Henrys@UCC Library* research exhibition, which documented the history and socio-cultural significance of a famous Cork live music venue called Sir Henrys.[1] The exhibition presented the story of the venue through the people who worked there, the bands and the DJs who played there, and the people who attended performances and club nights over its twenty six year existence.

Sir Henrys opened as a piano bar on October 4, 1977 and developed over the years to become an important live music venue for generations of rock bands and their fans. Initially it hosted local bands and Irish bands, but by the late 1980s, it was hosting some of the biggest international bands on the Indie Rock scene. Also, towards the end of the eighties it began to host dance (rave) nights and soon became known as a destination dance club for Irish clubbers. The best known night was a club called *Sweat*, which was voted the best dance club in Europe by *MTV* at one stage – something which Henry's dance clubbers never ever forgot. Sir Henrys finally closed its doors in 2003.

SirHenrys@UCC Exhibition (July-September 2014)

The idea for the exhibition germinated in a social media conversation between Martin O'Connor, a librarian at UCC Library, and Stevie G (Grainger) a local DJ. Martin was frustrated by the fragmented history of the venue and

---

1   Those attentive to grammatical concerns may note differing perspectives on whether an apostrophe should appear in the name "Sir Henry's"/"Sir Henry's". Based on our access to various images of the signage over the years, we noted that the more common practice was to exclude the apostrophe, and we respected this practice in our research and related documentation. However, many posters, flyers, and articles about the venue use the apostrophe. It is not within our remit to make a definitive decision on whether it should be included. Let the debate continue.

the privileging of certain musical genres (particularly dance) over others in people's memories. With the aim of rebalancing this skewed history to better include its significance as a site of rock, Martin initially sought the support of Stevie G, and later, Eileen Hogan, a popular music academic based in UCC. This new team then set about the task of enlisting the help of the general public to curate an exhibition about the iconic venue.

The curators started planning the exhibition in January 2014. At this stage all we had was a core idea, that is, to hold an exhibition about Sir Henrys in UCC Library. But the only one of us who had any material from the club was Stevie G. This is when we decided we needed to put a call out to see what material we could borrow from former Sir Henrys' attendees. To do this we needed to have a strong social media presence so before we went live to the public we set up our Twitter account, Facebook account and our Wordpress blog. We then went live on social media in January 2014. From then on we used our social media presence to spread the word about the exhibition, to contact people to gather the actual material, and to engage with the Sir Henrys' community. Once the social media accounts gained attention, we used these to share the stories, the memories, and the photos and images that people were sharing across Twitter and Facebook.

Sir Henrys@UCC Library was both a physical and a virtual exhibition. The physical exhibition was hosted in the small foyer, the permanent exhibition space, of UCC Library. Items that were used in the exhibition were whittled

Stevie G

I entered UCC in the autumn of 1992, and by the time I left three years later I was a DJ while waiting to enter the real world. The real world never came, and I remain DJing and writing about hip-hop and music in general, which I did passionately for the *UCC Gazette* in those student years.

With hip-hop you were always on the defensive back then, and it has come a long way in the last 25 years or so. Now Kendrick Lamar can win a Pulitzer prize while UCC can secure a 2 million euro global hip-hop study grant through my pal Griff Rollefson, who lectures in popular music studies there. Legitimising our culture has always been a challenge, but hip-hop and dance music are here to stay, and we can see or hear it every time we turn on the radio, check a festival line-up or even read a business article.

 It was word of mouth back then. We promoted the music through mix-tapes and flyers, and when Martin and Eileen approached me in late 2013 about the prospect of showcasing some of the material we were gathering online regarding the legendary Sir Henrys nightclub, I was delighted to help. I was a DJ there, but I always collected not only records and tapes and CD's but flyers and posters and other memorabilia too.

Having UCC Library so enthusiastically back it helped legitimise all the time wasting I had been doing before during and after college, and the superb exhibition in the summer 2014 was a wonderful hat tip to all of us wasters who became immersed in this youth culture along the way!

down from over a thousand individual items that we received from the generous Sir Henrys' community. The final physical exhibition space comprised twelve storyboards, a detailed timeline of the club's existence, cabinets packed tight with eclectic material artefacts – a guitar, clothing, photographs, setlists, cassettes, vinyl records, flyers, zines, tickets, underwear, letters, legal documents and licences pertaining to the setting up of the club. This physical space of the UCC Library foyer was complemented by virtual spaces, including a Twitter account, a Facebook page and a WordPress blog. Here, alongside members of the community we gathered together photos, stories, and memories of Sir Henrys.

Motivations

So, why was the exhibition held? There are several reasons which are pertinent: the specific people involved as curators and supporters; the social, cultural, and academic role of the library; community engagement; cultural heritage and storytelling; academic interests; and, finally, but importantly, having fun.

For the curators, it was an opportunity to engage with something that had meant so much to us and to so many other people. We had each been Henry's "heads" – the self-designation of those who regularly attended Sir Henrys – in our younger years. Given that we had strong affective connections to the space, the opportunity to curate an exhibition on the club was interesting from a personal, biographical perspective.

From the perspective of UCC Library it was an

opportunity to try something which you would not necessarily expect of a library. In line with the library's and the broader university's strategy and policy, it was an opportunity to engage with the wider community. Furthermore, it was an opportunity to collaborate with people in Schools and Departments outside the library, allowing strong relationships to be built with our academic colleagues across UCC campus.

It also allowed us to forge connections between the university and the public as a community engagement initiative. Indeed this was a particular strength and legacy of the project, which we discuss in greater detail below.

From a cultural heritage perspective it presented the opportunity to tell a more multidimensional story of the venue than already existed in most people's minds. Although the club was home to many diverse kinds of music over the years, people often held a very narrow vision of the club that was limited by their own particular memories and experiences. The exhibition presented an opportunity to pull together various musical strands and

histories into one place and to present a more comprehensive representation of the venue's musical, cultural and social significance.

It was also an opportunity to bring something that is often perceived as a "non-academic" interest into an academic setting. From a popular music studies perspective, academics located in this field of study meet with varying degrees of appreciation and snobbery about its status by comparison with more established arts and humanities subjects and disciplines (such as musicology, for example). The academic dimension to the project allowed us to confront, and even challenge, this negative bias towards the value of popular music studies and its perceived 'proper' place within academia.

Finally, and this cannot be underestimated, we thought it would be a fun project to work on. We felt it would be 'cool' (if you can forgive the colloquialism!) to bring something into a library, particularly an academic library, which one would not expect to see there.

Crowdsourcing

The items featured in the exhibition were located through "crowdsourcing", which is a participatory research method that at the time was a little utilised approach but has since gained in popularity. The process of crowdsourcing invited members of the venue's former audiences to loan physical artefacts to the library for the duration of the exhibition. Furthermore, their stories about these artefacts and memories relating to the venue were collected through various social media channels.

As Bennett and Rogers (2016) observe, "the live music venue serves as an important barometer for individuals in respect of their involvement in the production and articulation of a specific, collectively shared emotional geography". Sir Henrys, as a venue, is a microcosm of a broader emotional geography, since Cork city itself evinces strong feelings in its inhabitants, who often articulate a close attachment to their city. In contributors' stories, Sir Henrys is remembered as an inclusive space, as 'home'. People felt and experienced Sir Henrys as a warm and embracing place and this 'tribal' feeling was essential to the subjective experience of the venue. The strength and

depth of this community feeling is the reason why crowdsourcing worked so well for us as a research method. Crowdsourcing enabled the community itself to create, share, and collaborate in the production of Sir Henrys' history, exemplifying a more democratic approach to cultural heritage-making. We knew that the material artefacts – the ephemera – that we ultimately showcased to the community were valuable and meaningful and worthy of exhibiting because they were located *through* the community. So, in getting to know the community, we got to know what was important to the community. The process of curating material objects of local popular music heritage allowed us to shed light on how significant these artefacts are as symbolic markers of shared values, collective identity, locality and belonging, as communicated by Sir Henrys' employees, attendees, and performers.

Lessons

We were very enthusiastic but relatively inexperienced curators and we learned many lessons in the process of creating this exhibition. Some positive outcomes were serendipitous. And, in retrospect, we would have done some things differently.

One of the first things we would have done differently was our use of Facebook. Originally, we set up a Facebook personal account for the exhibition to facilitate interactions with other users; we saw it as a way to increase engagement and we felt it would personalise our use of Facebook. However, we now realise that it would have been valuable to instead create a Facebook page, which could operate as a digital showcase for the project. By the time we had recognised the value of the page, the personal account had garnered so much momentum – almost reaching the limit of 5,000 friends – that we felt it best to continue in that vein rather than risk losing our online audience. One result of this decision was that we lost out on the opportunity to avail of the data analytics that Facebook provides for business pages.

Although the Facebook, WordPress and Twitter sites are valuable records of the exhibition and of the venue's history, we really should have set up a website to post the digitised material as a permanent record of the exhibition using a suitable web-publishing platform such as Omeka to host all the material. This would have demanded digital skills that were beyond our capabilities and unfortunately, financial constraints limited our capacity to pay someone to undertake this work. We also initially hoped to begin the process of building a more permanent special collection – an Irish popular music archive – in the library, but found that this too would require a long-term commitment from a working group and considerable financial investment that was beyond our remit.

We learned through this process that happy accidents occur, and that when they do, it is wise to follow their lead. For example, the initial idea with the blog was for the curators to populate it with content, but for one reason or another (lack of time, mainly) this did not happen and the blog lay idle for a number of months. However, in May we received an email from a "Henrys head", in which she outlined her excitement about the upcoming exhibition. She told us how she met her husband at the club and how important the club was to them, and that they were looking forward to bringing their teenage children to the exhibition to show that 'we were cool back in the day'. We thought this was a lovely memory and the tone of the email was so infectiously warm that we asked if we could post it on our blog. The writer was delighted and the blog was enthusiastically received by readers internationally. Thereafter we began to use the blog to document personal narratives about the venue that people submitted organically in response to hearing about the exhibition. We also began to invite specific people to contribute and to record their memories and the blog really took off. Over the course of the exhibition, it gained over 150,000 views.

We learned too that public engagement in the research and curation process is a hugely rewarding and worthwhile endeavour that contributes positively to the democratisation of heritage and memory. However, public engagement must be managed ethically and sensitively in order to demonstrate respect for popular music audiences' collective memories and identities and for their emotional attachment to buildings, material objects, and to other members of the (imagined) community of former audiences. The

library, then, is an important point of entry for popular cultural heritage-makers, but the success of initiatives that aim to attract and engage new audiences is heavily reliant on the professional, interpersonal and communication skills of the librarians and their collaborators.

Impact

The exhibition was a huge success, as measured by the thousands of visitors to the library, their reactions to the exhibition documented in the visitor book, and the significant local and national media attention it generated.

People who had never been inside UCC grounds itself came to visit the exhibition – we know this from comment in the visitors' book and from conversations with the UCC Security Staff, who were regularly approached by people looking for the exhibition space. People told us that they organised their summer holiday around a trip home to Cork to visit the exhibition. People who had never been inside a university library visited the exhibition and for the duration of the exhibition UCC Library was a go-to destination. How often can we say that about a library?

UCC Library also featured heavily in the local and national media. The exhibition was featured on the RTE Six One evening news. It also featured in a documentary on TG4. It featured on all the local radio stations, and Eileen was interviewed by Dave Fanning for his radio show on RTE Radio One. Local and national papers all ran features on the exhibition.

An important impact, for the curators, was that the exhibition did manage to provide a more comprehensive story of the club than was out there prior to the exhibition. And this story is now there for people to read via the social
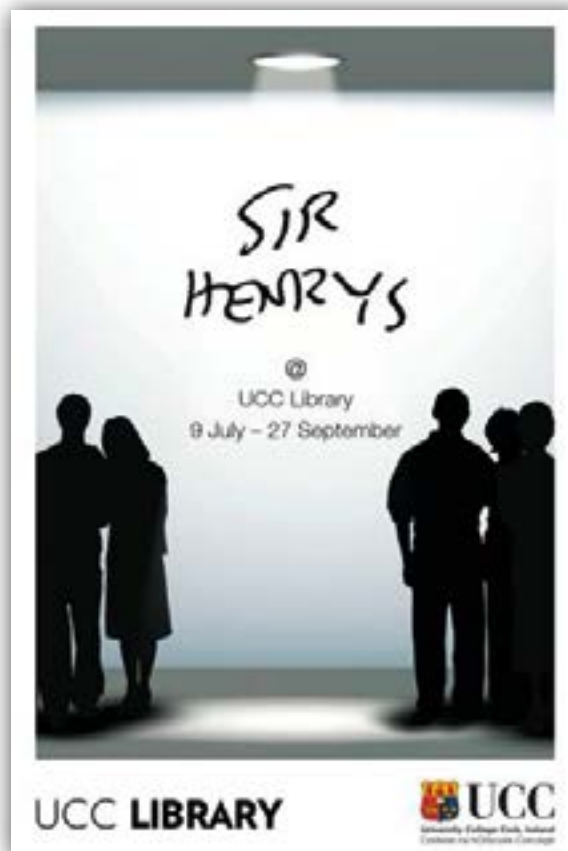
media accounts, particularly through the blog.

For many, it changed the perception of what UCC Library did and gave the staff confidence to try new things. Subsequently, Martin established a weekly radio show with his library colleague, Ronan Madden, called Shush! (http://shush.ucc.ie/). A post published by the Irish music blog, *The Fanning Sessions,* observed that: 'We first became aware of strange things happening at UCC Library in January 2014 when they curated an exhibition dedicated to the memory of the famed Cork rock venue and club Sir Henrys… Then in May 2016 came the Shush radio show hosted by two librarians playing music you wouldn't necessarily expect to hear in a library'.

A second popular music and popular culture-oriented exhibition, *Publish and Be Damned,* took place from July to September 2019 celebrating fanzines (see Ó Caollaí, 2019). This was curated by Siobhán Bardsley and Fiona O'Mahony, sisters who had been Sir Henrys' fans and who had contributed significantly to the *Sir Henrys@UCC Library* exhibition by loaning photographs of significant local and international acts that had performed there in the venue's rock heyday.

Another significant cultural outshoot of the Sir Henrys' exhibition blog is a music blog, *The Blackpool Sentinel*, by the Irish music blogger, Colm O'Callaghan. Colm wrote three posts for the exhibition blog which led Martin to suggest to Colm he should start his own blog. He did. And four years on, the blog is achieving over 100,000 views a year and is one of the go-to spaces for those with an interest in Irish rock music of the 1980s and 1990s.

In terms of its social significance, the exhibition revitalised a community of people, many of whom had lost touch with each other over the years. One of the most gratifying outcomes was the renewed connections that were

observable through social media, both between people living in the same city who had lost touch over the years and between people who were now dispersed across the globe.

And finally, academically, the exhibition was the subject of a number of conference presentations over the next few years – five in total – concerned with subjects as diverse as library and internet library issues, anthropology, and material culture. It even got a mention in one speaker's paper at the law librarians' BIALL conference in 2015.

Conclusion

In the above we have shown how and why UCC Library undertook a librarian led research exhibition – one that engaged thousands of Henrys' heads and garnered widespread coverage and exposure for UCC Library.

And in the spirit of the exhibition we would like to finish with two quotes from one of the contributors to the exhibition blog, a quote that sums up the affective appeal of both the exhibition itself and Sir Henrys, and why both were so successful and why both are still recalled fondly at this time, years on. "It was a dump all right, but it was our dump…" and "History will always judge, for better or for worse and Sir Henry's is now (with this exhibition) getting its rightful recognition. I think that is fantastic".

Martin O'Connor, MA, DipLib (Wales), PGDip (HR),
Administrative Assistant, UCC Library

Eileen Hogan, BSocSc, MA, PhD, Lecturer,
Social of Applied Social Studies, UCC

References

- Bennett, A. & Rogers, I., 2016. In the scattered fields of memory: Unofficial live music venues, intangible heritage, and the recreation of the musical past. *Space and Culture*, 19(4), pp.490–501.
- Ó Caollaí, É. 2019. Call goes out for counterculture Cork zines, *Irish Times*, July 3, 2019 Available at: https://www.irishtimes.com/student-hub/call-goes-out-for-counterculture-cork-zines-1.3945544)

Sharing stories and spaces: presenting our role in evidence

Mary Dunne and Caitríona Lee

Abstract

To say that 'librarians need to get out more' is not a commentary on our stereotypical image. It is a sound learning and marketing strategy. Evidence-based practice means using all relevant sources of information to plan and implement services. Therefore, we need to be in the places where our stakeholders get together to discuss their interests, challenges, opportunities and future directions. Choosing relevant events requires us to consider our priorities, available resources, and the potential impact of attendance. Using an example from our own experience, we explore some of the benefits of these events for librarians, libraries, stakeholders, and our profession. We finish with a short guide on making a case for attendance.

Keywords: *Conference Attendance, Benefits*

Introduction

In July 2019, the Health Research Board (HRB), based in Dublin, sent a contingent of researchers and librarians to EBM Live, the evidence-based medicine conference to present findings from our most recent research and learn about the latest developments in this key area. Information specialists Caitriona Lee (HRB's evidence review team) and Mary Dunne (HRB National Drugs Library) were delighted to represent our profession at the event. We present our view of this dynamic conference, and outline the importance of attending similar stakeholder events, from the perspective of information professionals working in a multi-disciplinary environment.

The evidence base

EBM Live is an annual conference for those interested in evidence-based healthcare. A myriad of professionals come together for three days in Oxford with the aim of '*Making evidence relevant and replicable for policy, patients and professionals in healthcare'*. EBM has been discussed and debated for almost 30 years and led to evidence-based practice in other areas, including librarianship. How we define and locate 'evidence' remains contested, but there appears consensus that we should consult multiple sources of information, including the best available research evidence, before making a decision to plan, implement, and (where relevant) alter policies, programmes and other services (Langer et al 2016). Evidence, therefore, is relevant to all aspects of professional work and all library sectors.

Sharing stories and spaces: presenting our role in evidence
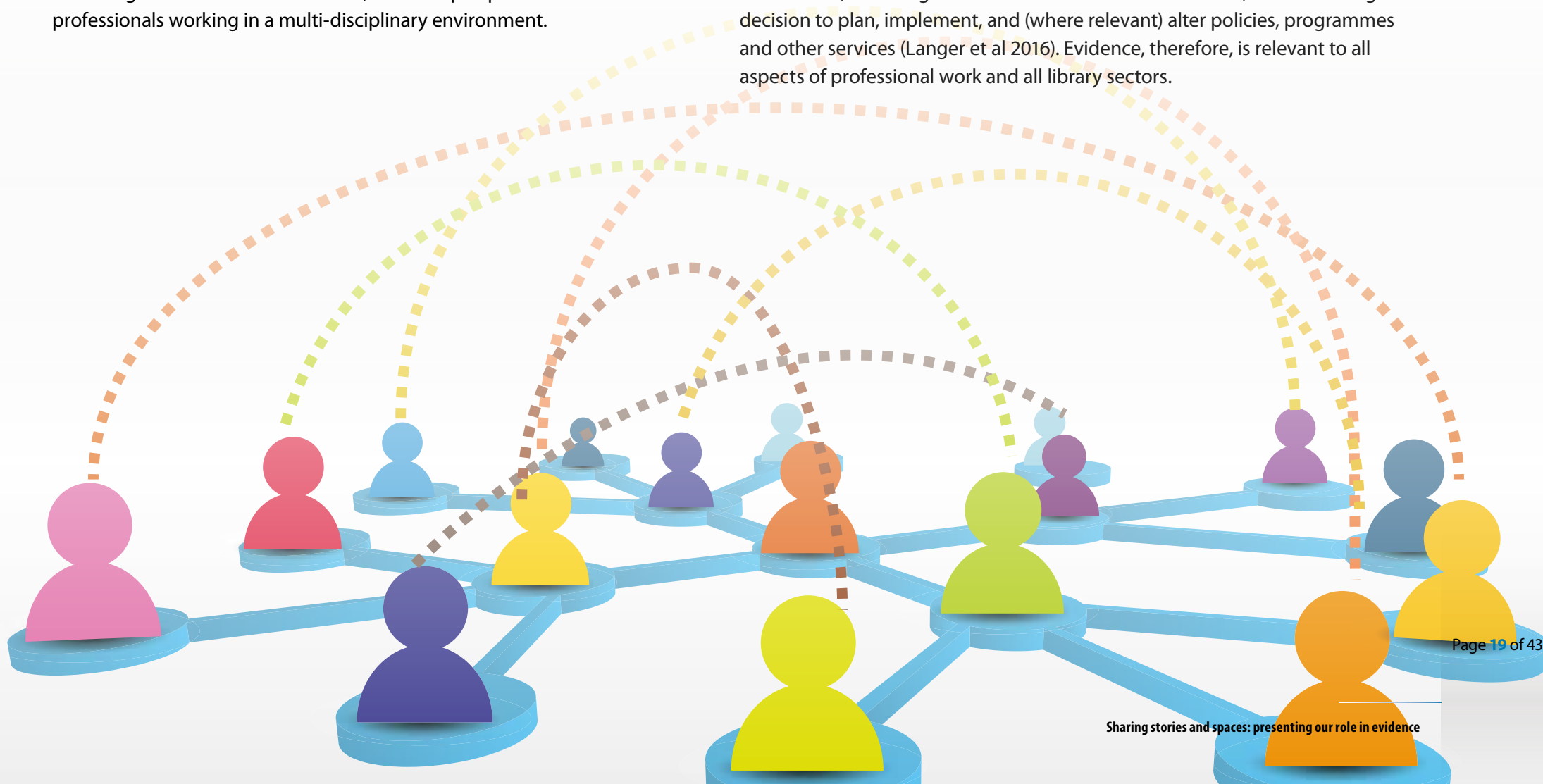
Taking opportunities to be visible

If evidence-based practice involves consulting multiple sources of information, then stakeholders' views must be key to the process. Being present at events such as conferences provides significant opportunities for learning, promotion, networking, service planning and professional growth.

■ **Learn about the needs of our stakeholders**

Stakeholder events provide an occasion to gain insight without some of the bias that can be found in the context of 'library research', such as social desirability bias (for example, people may be more complimentary of a service if they are speaking with their service provider). Observing and listening to stakeholders in a broad context means that their issues, and the language they use to frame them, are revealed. We can also engage with non-library users, who may be missed in traditional library research. Learning why someone does not use our services is vital to effective planning.

At EBM Live we heard the concerns of presenters and delegates from their point of view. We learnt that key priorities included patient campaigns and involvement and reducing questionable practice. Presenters described resources that librarians can use to disseminate trustworthy evidence. For example, Professor Gerald Gartlehner[1] spoke about a (German language) website developed by Cochrane Austria that provides reliable evidence for the public on health topics. His keynote presentation, 'Does the pill against love sickness work? Responding to inquiries of the general public with existing evidence', links in well with health and public library initiatives that aim to provide good quality information for patients.

■ **Ensure the role of librarians is articulated**

When asked, presenters acknowledge the considerable roles of librarians in finding and disseminating good quality evidence and teaching evidence-based methods. But without hearing from librarians at stakeholder conferences, and without seeing our methods and results of this work, these roles are often unacknowledged. John Dupuis (2011), in his Stealth Librarianship Manifesto, suggests that "We must stop presenting only to our fellow librarians. That's what Twitter is for. We must make our case to our patrons on their turf, not make our case to ourselves on our own turf". We can advocate for our roles and research to non-library researchers and interested parties, not as interesting adjuncts to *their* work, but as peers and participants in *our* collective work.

EBM Live provides a showcase for the work of librarians. For example, at this year's conference a poster by Mary Dunne described how librarians enhance social capital when we connect stakeholders with information and with each other ('The HRB National Drugs Library: Breaking boundaries by bridging and bonding'). At the 2018 conference, public health librarian Caroline Papi De Brún presented two posters: 'Community health: Public libraries and their role in health and well-being' and 'The HIFA LIS Project: Exploring the role of libraries in times of crisis'.

It was also gratifying that, from an Irish perspective, researchers Joanne Cleary-Holdforth (DCU)presenting on the 'Beliefs, knowledge, and utilisation levels of evidence-based practice among nurses and midwives in the Republic of Ireland') and Niamh O'Rourke (Department of Health) ('Adding capacity: getting EBP into the curriculum for all health professionals in Ireland') recognised the key involvement of information specialists throughout their work and research.

■ **Network - introduce the scope of our work and discuss future collaborations**

Our roles are evolving rapidly but communicating these changes beyond our library communities has not always kept pace. In 2010 Michelle Kraft used her Krafty Librarian blog to recommend that librarians should attend their user's conferences to avoid this disconnect between what we do and what our users think we do. Andre Nault (The Machiavellian Librarian) (2014) also recommends attending stakeholder conferences as one of

---

1   Director, Cochrane Austria

seven networking tips. Cynthia Tysick (2002) notes that "Rarely does a librarian get the opportunity to talk one-on-one with the major authors from the disciplines we support. In addition, we often miss the opportunity to engage in conversation with the scholars responsible for developing the next generation software for their field. This type of current awareness is unique to discipline-specific events" (p.76).

Developing relationships and collaborations is necessary if we want to change stakeholder perceptions of librarians as support staff to librarians as professionals and partners. A recent study on the alignment of library services with the research life cycle found that although attending conferences is usually associated with disseminating research, it also emerged as an important way for researchers to plan and to identify collaborators (Ragon 2019). This study also confirmed previous findings that researchers are often unaware of the scope of library services that are available to them. Thus, librarians need to improve marketing, relationship building, and collaboration.

Being in the audience for EBM Live enabled us to draw attention to the valuable input of librarians and information specialists in achieving some of the research being discussed, and to offer suggestions for issues raised. For example, the EBM Live presentations on reporting guidelines, predatory publishing, rapid reviews and teaching research methods all contributed to our understanding of these issues and generated ideas about how we can work with others to produce, disseminate and implement evidence in practice.

Reflect, share and plan

Reflection is key to a successful event (Jenkins 2015). Reflecting on what was learnt, the impact on you and your work, and future impact (the what?, so what?, now what? model of reflection) ensures that lessons can be actively applied and lead to improvements and innovation. A conference report can draw together your reflections and is a useful way of communicating with your managers, colleagues and the wider librarian community. Summarising presentations and discussions helps focus attention on the relevance of messages, and contributes to communication and advocacy skills development (Treadway 2014). As Rowan (2018) and Greenwalt (2013) suggest, we need to go beyond our 'library bubbles' or 'echo chambers' to share our stories.

Get motivated

Another potentially significant (but rarely mentioned) benefit for librarians in attending non-library conferences is the renewed purpose that comes from connecting with one's subject of interest, such as health, education, social history, or law. As Tysick (2002) notes, "A final benefit, motivation and rejuvenation, affects all the other benefits. Immersing yourself in a discipline that you have a connection to, either through academic or work-related experience, is energizing" (p.78).

This was certainly true for the HRB librarians at EBM Live. Reaffirming the valuable contribution our profession can make to healthcare professionals and public health meant that we departed with enthusiasm and a new sense of purpose.

Choosing events

Conferences can be expensive and time-consuming. Therefore, they must be highly relevant, and we must play an active part (including presenting, networking and sharing learning) to justify spending resources (Lyons 2007, Tomaszewski and MacDonald 2009). Attending conferences is just one of several options to make ourselves visible where our stakeholders gather. We can use social media by joining Twitter chats, tagging individuals and groups in Tweets, and taking part in webinars and virtual conferences; join stakeholder committees and groups; and of course, we can ask stakeholders to participate in library conferences. The key is to identify who we need to engage with and choose an appropriate option.
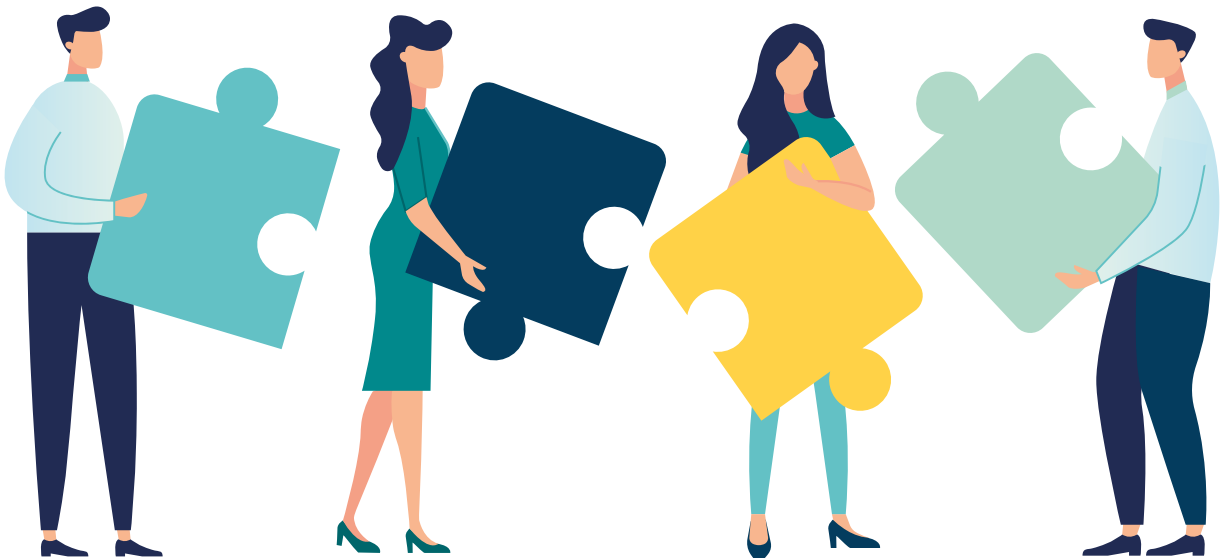
Sharing stories and spaces: presenting our role in evidence

A useful way of deciding if an event is worth attending, and to get support, is to write a short business case highlighting the benefits of attendance for stakeholders, the library, the profession, and to you as librarian:

- **Link your library and organisation's goals with those of the event (these should also match stakeholder priorities).**

- **Link these goals with the PKSB (professional knowledge and skills base) model, as provided by the Library Association of Ireland, to show how it connects with skill development and your continuing professional development.**

- **Show you are keeping costs to a minimum by availing of early registration rates and checking for bursaries or other ways to cover costs (do presenters get free registration?).**

- **Include how you will share your findings with colleagues and the impact you anticipate your attendance will make for your work and organisation.**

We accept the premise that private-sector service providers, such as publishers, pay to attend our conferences. They see the gathering of a discipline as an opportunity to talk about new products and services. As service providers we too may follow this strategy and view the time spent in face-to-face discussion with our stakeholders 'on their turf' as a worthwhile investment.

Conclusion

To demonstrate our expertise and be viewed as valuable professionals we must be cognisant of developments in best practice. To do this effectively we must move out of the library environment to participate in conversations with stakeholders about our shared goals and become embedded within their professional spheres. This approach helps break stereotypes and clarifies assumptions based on disconnection. Evidence-based practice requires us to develop skills, build connections, and form collaborative partnerships. Stakeholder conferences such as EBM Live provide such opportunities.

References

- Dupuis J (2011) 'A stealth librarianship manifesto', *Confessions of a Science Librarian*, 10 February. Available at https://confessions.scientopia.org/2011/02/10/a-stealth-librarianship-manife/

- Greenwalt RT (2013) Preaching to the unconverted: talking to non-library audiences about libraries, *Public Libraries Online,* 51(3). Available at: http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2013/04/preaching-to-the-unconverted-talking-to-non-library-audiences-about-libraries/

- Jenkins R (2015) Professional development through attending conferences: reflections of a health librarian, *Health Information and Libraries Journal*, 32:156-160 https://doi.org/10.1111/hir.12101

- Kraft M (2010) 'Librarians need to stop going to library conferences', *Krafty Librarian*, 28 January. Available at: http://www.kraftylibrarian.com/librarians-need-to-stop-going-to-library-conferences/

- Langer L, Tripney J and Gough D (2016) *The science of using science researching the use of research evidence in decision-making*. London: EPPI-Centre https://www.alliance4usefulevidence.org/assets/Science-of-Using-Science-Final-Report-2016.pdf

- Lyons LE (2007) The dilemma for academic librarians with collection development responsibilities: a comparison of the value of attending library conferences versus academic conferences, *The Journal of Academic Librarianship,* 33(2):180-89 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2006.12.001

- Ragon B (2019) Alignment of library services with the research lifecycle, *Journal of the Medical Libraries Association*, 107(3) http://jmla.mlanet.org/ojs/jmla/article/view/595/875

- Rowan C (2018) 'Attending non-library conferences', *Libfocus*, 16 March. Available at: https://www.libfocus.com/2018/03/attending-non-library-conferences.html

- Tomaszewski R and MacDonald KI (2009) Identifying subject-specific conferences as professional development opportunities for the academic librarian, *The Journal of Academic Librarianship,* 35(6):583-90 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2009.08.006

- Treadway V (2014) 'Case study: Beyond the library conference by Victoria Treadway', *LIHNN Clinical Librarians*. Available at: https://lihnnclinicallibs.wordpress.com/2014/01/14/case-study-beyond-the-library-conference-by-victoria-treadway/

- Tysick C (2002) Attending conferences outside of librarianship, *College & Undergraduate Libraries,* 9(2):75-81 https://doi.org/10.1300/J106v09n02_08

- EBM Live 2019 abstracts are published by the BMJ at https://ebm.bmj.com/content/24/Suppl_1

IFLA Special Interest Group (SIG) on Library Publishing
2019 Midterm Meeting

Thursday February 28th - Friday March 1st 2019, Dublin Business School

"The aim of the event was to bring together a broad spectrum of publishing programs, to exchange knowledge, and to foster networks and mentoring relationships among library publishers at all stages, also highlighting the important role that the Library Publishing Coalition plays in this regard. " As our Library is embarking on the Maynooth Academic Publishing venture, it was essential for my colleague Fiona Morley (Head of Digital Programmes and Information Systems) and myself (Library Technician & IR Manager) to attend and hear the latest trends and the advice from our global counterparts.

Speakers included an international array of publishers, library publishers, publishing experts, presenting honest practical guides for advancement in this field. Delegates were welcomed by Ann Okerson (on behalf of IFLA) and Philip Cohen (President, LAI).

The first day consisted of four strands:

1. **Approaches: practical advice and demonstrations from several European institutions**
   (Chair: Melanie Schlosser, Educopia Institute)

Suzanne Cady Stapleton (University of Florida) gave an insight into promoting best practices in open access journals. She focused on demonstrating the Universities Online Journal service. http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/journals.html

Christina Lenz (Stockholm University Press) gave a presentation on the White Rose University Press: a case study https://universitypress.whiterose.ac.uk/

Tom Grady (White Rose University Press) and Ally Laird (Penn State University) held a Roundtable Discussion on Quality Communication and opened the floor to discuss "is there a best practice for all library publishing programs?". One very useful tip I recorded at this discussion was to sign up to the Library Publishing Coalition, which are a network of libraries committed to enhancing, promoting, and exploring the growing field in scholarly publishing. https://librarypublishing.org/

2. **Education and Mentoring**
   (Chair: Lars Egeland, Oslo Metropolitan University)

These lightning talks gave practical information and demonstrations. The Library Publishing Curriculum by Melanie Schlosser (Educopia Institute) https://educopia.org/library-publishing-curriculum/ ; The Digital Publishing Workshop at Columbia University Libraries by Michelle Wilson (Columbia University) http://blogs.cuit.columbia.edu/digitalpublishingworkshop/ ; Open Education, Open Access and Open Source: Information literacy Instruction through course-based publishing by Kevin Stranack (Simon Fraser University). Kevin spoke about Open Journal Systems and included the PKP School at which he is Managing Director. PKP is a multi-university initiative developing

(free) open source software and conducting research to improve the quality and reach of scholarly publishing. Finally, Helge Hoivik (OsloMet University) gave a practical presentation on MOOCs and Digital Textbooks at OsloMet. https://www.mooc.no/courses/institusjoner/hioa/

3. Business Models and Sustainability
(Chair: Jane Buggle, Dublin Business School)

Trude Eikebrokk (OsloMet University)considered the use of open journals at OsloMet University Library. To view https://journals.hioa.no/; Alex Kouker (Dublin City University) and Jack Hyland (IReL, Maynooth University) presented a proposal to crowdfunding community-led open access journals without publication fees; Rachel Lammey (CrossRef) gave practical information on how to access CrossRef webinars showing what support and services are offered: https://www.crossref.org/webinars/

4. Impacting Communities
(Chair: Marie O'Neill, College of Computing Technology Dublin)

This final session opened with Helen Fallon (Maynooth University) presenting on Open Access Publishing of a Unique and Distinctive Collection: The Maynooth University Death-Row Correspondence of Ken Saro-Wiwa. https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library/collections/ken-saro-wiwa-audio-archive Helen spoke on how the archive was digitised and made openly accessible. Gerard Connolly & Niamh Walker-Headon (Technical University Dublin, Tallaght) gave a walk-through of how they published the winning entry of the ITT Short Story Collection without a Budget. More information on this competition can be found at: https://www.writing.ie/guest-blogs/the-itt-short-story-competition/; Jane Buggle (Dublin Business School) spoke on "Amplifying the Voices of the Marginalised". Jane described the *Studies in Arts and Humanities Journal* (SAHJ) Special Issue on Minorities and Indigenous People which was published by the DBS Library Press to commemorate the official recognition of the ethnicity of Irish Travellers by the Irish Government in 2017. Janes presentation can be found at: https://esource.dbs.ie/handle/10788/3633?show=full

Day 2 considered the theme of Global collaboration, Chair: Ann Okerson (Centre for Research Libraries, Chicago)

This session had four presentations focusing on issues such as AEUP http://www.aeup.eu/ Connecting University Presses in Europe; Publishing in the Hands of Librarians discussing the importance of Institutional Repositories as the main key to publishing landscapes; PUBLISSO – an all-in-one publishing platform https://www.publisso.de/en/ ; The University of Buffalo presented a a case study on Communications in Information Literacy. Access to this information is here: http://www.buffalo.edu/ubcurriculum/for-faculty-staff/toolbox/commlit.html ;

The final debate of the conference was a panel discussion inviting audience participation and was chaired by Marie O'Neill (College of Computing Technology Dublin) Topics discussed included :preparing roles for library publishers; identifying librarians working in publishing roles; library publishing programs; key barriers and general key themes in emerging library publishing. I found this session to be extremely useful as it opened my eyes to the skills, requirements and resources expected of library staff and the core mission of libraries undertaking library publishing. Library publishing is young and difficult to standardise and requires a common language to advocate for it.

This conference was a wonderful opportunity to hear about the library publishing work being carried out in universities across the globe. It was an insight into European and American collaborations on library publishing and definitely one that MU will be supporting in the very near future.

Suzanne Redmond Maloco, IR Manager & Library Technician, Maynooth University.

Library Space, Place or State of Mind?

Dublin, Wood Quay Venue
29 March 2019

We were both attending this conference for the first time, one of us having returned to the library world after an absence and the other having recently completed the Masters. We wanted to use the opportunity to see how colleagues in other libraries are utilizing space to improve user experience. The speakers delivered such insightful presentations and the panel discussions were so open and engaging. The key note speakers were a pleasure to watch, the passion and enthusiasm on the subjects were palpable and infectious. Between them they covered the meaning of a Library space not only as the physical but also as a brand and community. There was something for everyone at the conference, regardless of their area within the very varied library profession.

The keynote speakers for the day were Christian Lauersen (Libraries and Citizen Service Manager, Roskilde Municipality) and Karen Latimer (Library Building Consultant). Karen's presentation focused on library architecture and the trends therein. These trends have led us from the imposing libraries of the 20th century to the modern, more welcoming, library. The library building, in this respect, creates its own meaning; the architecture involved in the construction and design of the library will enact an impression of the space on every visitor. Similarly, Christian's presentation, which explored the place of the library in a community, the "brand" of libraries carries meaning. This "brand" is the perceived trustworthiness of a library. The range of conference topics is displayed within the presentations of the keynote speakers is represented in Christian's discussion of the library's place within a community. The idea of the library as an element of the community is an example of meaning being impressed upon a library, rather than a library enforcing its own meaning.

The connection with people was a recurring theme. How as social creatures we use space to connect consciously and subconsciously with others, that this sense of community promotes student's ability to learn, connect and belong. Both keynote speakers stressed that with all the changes over the years the concepts of collaborative spaces, remote users etc., our duty remains the same: to provide a connection between people and knowledge.

The case study sessions were a delight, the eagerness and energy with which they were delivered left the floor energized. To cherry pick from the platter of food for thought we were provided with: Jane Burns (Athlone IT) highlighted the battle of perception; which is one that we continue to deal with as service providers, both ours of our patron's and theirs of what we can do for them. The impact of the physical space cannot be underestimated. Gerard Gregory's detailing of the IMI redesign and refurbishment with emphasis placed on social proof at the time of design really resonated with us. How we should be forward-thinking, not just following trends but future-proofing our physical space as much as we can, as it was pointed out a library can never have enough space or sockets!! Laura Connaughton's point of satisfaction rate being higher at undergraduate level, how have those who have moved to postgraduate level in those short few years changed their mind about us so quickly?

It was an honor to have received the bursary to attend the A&SL Conference this year. We are grateful to the A&SL committee for selecting us. The last panel discussion was the most uplifting note to leave the day on, owing to the warmth of the tone between delegates, encouraging each other to publish, research and present, and Jane's kind word about the future of the profession being in excellent hands. We were left with a sense of pride to find ourselves in such a profession, where we actively encourage and promote each other, and excitement about the future of our careers, working alongside such dedicated people.

Catherine Ahearne, Library Assistant, Maynooth University and Lisa Cradden, Assistant Librarian, Maynooth University.

LAI/CILIP Ireland
Joint Annual Conference 2019.
Inclusive Libraries

10th and 11th April, Killashee Hotel, Co. Kildare

The three keynote speakers Erik Boekesteijn (National Library of the Netherlands), Rosie Jones (Director of Student and Library Services, Teesside University) and Traci Engel Lesneski, all conveyed a passion for library innovations which facilitate inclusion and a dedication to putting the fun back into libraries.

Erik Boekesteijn in addressing the topic *Inclusive Libraries: Keep Stories, Share Stories, Make Stories* noted that inclusion is a natural service of the library and not something "special". The library is more than books; it's about helping people, whether it is digital skills, health, finance, legal issues or other concerns. To be inclusive we need to be representative of our society by giving people ownership of the library. He noted that libraries have connected well with people through storytelling.

Now involved in library design Eric goes on worldwide "ShanachieTours", searching for best practice in libraries. Flexibility of space is key in library design making them community and connected meeting spaces. Looking at the internet in 60 seconds and the Internet of Things (IoT), Eric concludes that smart cities need smart libraries. Everything will be connected, and literacy is key.

Rosie Jones' theme was *Everyone gets a Library*. She examined different interpretations of inclusion favouring putting students on committees and giving them more control in learning space design. Formerly Director of Library Services, Open University (OU), Rosie illustrated OU's inclusivity by making education accessible with 5% of modules free and by providing learning materials tested for accessibility.

Traci Engel Lesneski considered *Built for Inclusion: Library Design that Welcomes All*. A principal with a US-based architecture firm, Traci focused on design for libraries and learning. She promotes integrated design and user-driven customization, noting that we need space for conversation in the built environment as 30% of the world's population now live alone. Social isolation is as damaging as not sleeping, obesity and smoking.

The built environment should start with an inclusive process not as an afterthought. A key takeaway for me was that design for people is the same as design for inclusion - "everybody can use a ramp".

Breakout Sessions

Snippets of presentations can be found on Twitter at #LAICILIPIre19. Abstracts and presenter biographies are at http://conference.libraryassociation.ie/

Some key takeaways show inclusion has been creatively embraced by libraries in Ireland. Laois Libraries launched a Lego Film Studio attracting the younger population. Kildare Library & Arts Service included an autism friendly silent Santa in their outreach activities. UCC's Transition Year work experience for DEIS Students, opened a world of possibility to pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds with potential to encourage them to consider further education.

A partnership with CoderDojo allowed Dublin City Libraries to showcase digital technologies. Real-world applications allowed teens to see themselves in the future of work. David Dalton(Principal Officer, Department of Rural and Community Development) considered the importance of partnerships between libraries and communities. Public libraries' commitment to inclusion requires eliminating physical, social, financial and other barriers to access, including the recent removal of fines.

In Northern Ireland Armagh Robinson Library sought to make 'No 5 Vicars' Hill' dementia friendly with large font, new signage and sensory activities. Queens University Belfast addressed shortfalls to inclusiveness for LGBTQ+ patrons and those with disabilities and mental health issues, launching an "Are you well?" campaign. Libraries NI focused on a digital skills module to match the needs of the community. As internet usage increased, there was less isolation, and the visually impaired could use some of the adaptability tools.

> **Poster winner:** Mary Mulryan (AIT).
> *AIT Library Facilities – Engaging & Informing Students with Disabilities – Inclusiveness and Information*
>
> **Runner- up:** Deirdre Murphy (Cork County Library)
> *A sound initiative for everyone*

The organisers must be congratulated for their efforts and tremendous success of this Conference which far exceeded my expectations.

Noreen McHugh, Librarian, St Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire.

27th EBLIDA Annual Council meeting and EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference Libraries Open for All

25th June 2019, Royal College of Physicians, Dublin

On the 24th June 2019, for only the second time in its history, the EBLIDA Council met in Dublin Ireland. It last met in Ireland in 2005 in Cork.

Following a busy day of committee, council and board meetings in Dublin on the 24th June, members of EBLIDA and NAPLE arrived to the wonderful Royal College of Physicians in Dublin early on the morning of the 25th June, where they met with colleagues from academic, special, public and other libraries for the EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference 2019: Libraries Open for All. The conference was hosted by Libraries Development, LGMA.

4kclips / Shutterstock.com

The representative attendance from across Europe and a range of LIS sectors guaranteed a varied and interesting programme and lively discussions. Proceedings were commenced by NAPLE Chair, Anders Cato who welcomed Tom Enright, (CE, Wexford County Council) who spoke on behalf of the conference hosts, the Libraries Development Committee of the LGMA (Local Government Management Agency, Ireland) and outlined some of the priorities in the national public library strategy *Our Public Libraries 2022: Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities*(https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/56d1d4-our-public-libraries-2022-inspiring-connecting-and-empowering-commun/). He noted that public libraries are much more than local and are part of a much broader network, working with international colleagues to improve libraries for the future.

Anders Cato spoke about the need for skilled librarians to evaluate sources in the changing digitised world of our users and the need to find users where they are. The keynote speech was given by Marie Ostergaard (Director of Dokk1, Denmark).Marie brought the energy and passion of Dokk1 to the Royal College of Physicians that morning and gave us a dynamic overview of how they are working in Dokk1 to create the library as a public space. She described the library as a covered urban public plaza, which gives the public what can uniquely only be experienced in a library. She also spoke of the library as a space where we create meaning together.

The Danish experience of Open Libraries was of particular interest to Irish public librarians who commenced the roll out of Open Lbraries in 2017. In Denmark, Open Libraries started in Jutland in 2003/2004 and by 2011, 60 out of 90 branch libraries were Open Libraries. Because of the size of Dokk1, it needed a different model of Open Library. In Dokk1, the library has no staff

OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES 2022
INSPIRING, CONNECTING AND
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Prepared by the Department of Rural
and Community Development, the County
and City Management Association and the
Local Government Management Agency.

from 8-10am and from 7-10pm and no card access. It is simply an open public space. Marie noted the importance of partnerships, projects and international cooperation and about enabling citizenship and participation. She recommended the toolkit they have created for User Involvement and Design Thinking (http://designthinkingforlibraries.com/)

When asked to participate at the conference, recently retired Irish MEP, Marian Harkin wondered what value could she add to the conference? Marian spoke with forthrightness about the dilemma faced by MEPs with the copyright directive and outlined why, having agonised for some time over it, she voted for the copyright directive. Marian considered the need to protect ourselves in the digital world where powerful algorithms have been developed to influence our lives. The impression was that MEPs were luddites voting to destroy internet freedom!! She said that "libraries connect people, promote open access and protect the right to know". Marian spoke about the MEP Library Lovers Group, Generation Coding and the Library & European Research Services as well as the importance of Europe Direct Centres.

The Libraries Open for All Panel included Deirdre Maloney (Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Rural and Community Development) who gave an overview of public library development under *Our Public Libraries 2022* which includes developing branch libraries as community hubs and embracing change. As Deirdre said, "Great things never came from comfort zones".

Cathal McCauley (University Librarian, Maynooth University, Ireland) spoke about innovating for inclusion and the importance of a diversity and inclusion policy. He recommended that we should read the National Library of Ireland's

diversity and inclusion policy https://www.nli.ie/en/diversity-and-inclusion.aspx. Maynooth University library has been very successful in engaging students and getting buy- in to innovative ideas from the users. Examples include, the Library Sleep Pods and a treadmill that charges mobile phones in the Library

Elisabet Rundqvist (National Library of Sweden) spoke about how the development of digital competencies provides a boost for library staff. She spoke of how this e-competencies programme is being rolled out through a €2.35 million programme starting with the National Library of Sweden, through regional libraries, public library staff and citizens and of how self-assessment tools and Digicel Centres are furthering this roll out.

During the EBLIDA/EC Meeting in March 2019, the new 2019-2022 EBLIDA Strategic Plan was approved. The three Working Groups on Library Legislation, Policy Making in Libraries and Libraries and their Educational-Social Impact were organised to allow members and conference attendees to reinforce the strategic plan by providing feedback from the workshops under each strand. This worked well with smaller groups having an opportunity to discuss elements of each strand with the Chairs reporting back on the results of the working groups.

The plenary: "Public Libraries 2030 – EBLIDA Cooperation" was given by Ilona Kish,(Director of Public Libraries 2030, Belgium)and focused on the new mandate which the organisation has now as Public Libraries 2030, with a new Board and a remit focusing on lobbying and raising the level of awareness of libraries at EU level. Specific Public Libraries 2030 initiatives referred to were the MEP Library Lovers group and the annual Generation Code event held in the EU Parliament, both of which were also mentioned by Marian Harkin.

Ton van Vlimmeren(EBLIDA President)concluded the conference, ending a wonderful day in the hallowed halls and beautiful surroundings of No. 6 Kildare Street.

Those of us who work in Ireland were very grateful to EBLIDA/NAPLE for holding their meetings and the EBLIDA/NAPLE Conference in Dublin as it offered us an opportunity to hear how our European colleagues and to showcase the strength of the European network to those who support and fund us. We were also grateful to Libraries Development, LGMA for hosting the conference and to their staff for managing all the details. We look forward to welcoming EBLIDA/NAPLE members to Ireland soon again.

Jane Cantwell, City & County Librarian, Waterford

Research Libraries for Society

48th Annual LIBER Conference, 26-28 June 2019, Trinity College Dublin

I was lucky to be one of the 70+ Irish delegates among a group of nearly 500 librarians, archivists and researchers who travelled to Dublin from around the world.

The conference theme was "Research Libraries for Society," a topic that is squarely at the centre of current, global library discourse.

The first morning began bright and early for me with the workshop "Open Science Essentials: Towards a Skill Set and Showcase." The workshop was facilitated by the Digital Skills for Library Staff and Researchers working group and the goal was to create a list of digital skills in the context of Open Science that library staff and researchers will need and also identify programmes that provide Open Science training. A summary of the workshop can be found here.

Research Libraries for Society: 48th Annual LIBER Conference, Trinity College Dublin

Following these workshops the conference proper began with the opening keynote speech from Prof. Linda Doyle(Dean of Research at Trinity College Dublin) entitled "Research for Society - the New World of Public Engagement, Citizen Science, Community and Civic Action".

The first of the parallel sessions followed and I opted for Sessions 3: Working on Open Access.

The second day's keynote was given by Astrid Soderburgh Widding (President, Stockholm University with her presentation, "In transition to Open Science - A Perspective from a President's point of view." It was gratifying to hear the head of such a prestigious organisation advocate wholeheartedly for Open Access, though as a newly minted repository manager, it was disheartening to have the Green Route be soundly rejected during the Q&A session.

Following this we moved into the parallel sessions and on this occasion I opted for Session 8: Research Libraries on a Mission: Engaging the Public, a topic near and dear to my heart.

The final day of the conference began with the final batch of parallel sessions. This time I opted for Session 13: Measuring Impact: Research Assessment.

The final keynote of the conference was delivered by Richard Ovenden (Bodley's Librarian at University of Oxford). "Bits and Votes: The role of the Research Libraries and Archives in Open Societies." Given the current political situation across the globe and unrelenting attacks on facts, this was a rousing call for our profession and well worth watching.

In preparing this piece I realised how much I missed in choosing one session or talk over another and intend to make full use of the conference recordings in the coming days and weeks.

We were treated wonderfully by our hosts in Dublin with a Conference Dinner in the Mansion House on the 26th and Conference Reception in the Dining Hall of TCD on the 27th. This was a highlight, no doubt, due to the speech given by the former President of Ireland(and current Chancellor, TCD) Mary Robinson. She spoke passionately on the global climate crisis and held the room's attention effortlessly. It was a special moment for everyone but I think in particular for the Irish women present.

This was my first LIBER and my first library conference while in a professional Librarian role and I found myself profoundly humbled and grateful to find myself in so privileged a position.

I think we are clearly in the midst of a rare moment in Irish libraries. One where our vision, ambition and expertise are beginning to be recognised and met on institutional and national levels. Indeed, in less than a year we will host the IFLA conference in Dublin, with support from our friends in Tourism Ireland. This is only the tip of the iceberg of what we could do and I urge the government to back our country's third level institutions and provide funding support so we can fulfil the promise of the theme of this year's conference, "Research Libraries for Society.".

Sinéad Hanrahan is Digital Scholarship Services Librarian, Cork Institute of Technology.
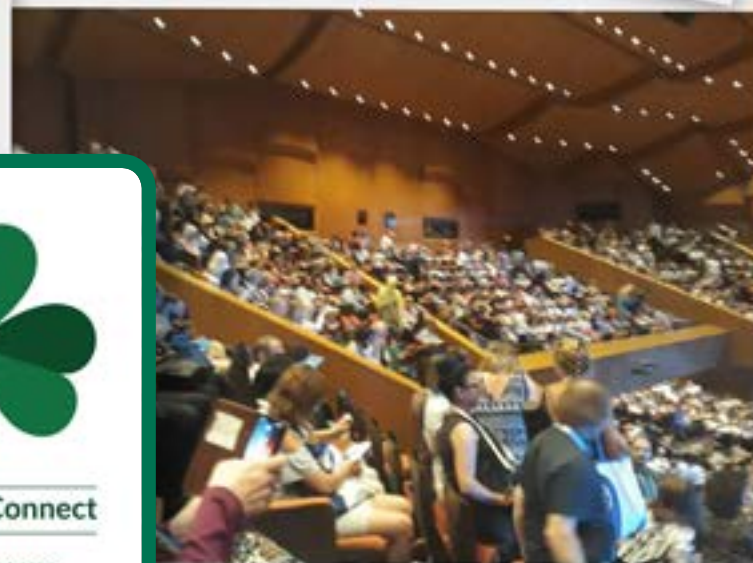
Libraries: dialogue for change

IFLA World Library and Information Congress
24 - 30th August 2019. Athens, Greece

The 85th annual International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) 2019 World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) was held in Athens on 24 - 30th of August. I was awarded an IFLA New Professionals WLIC Attendance Grant to attend WLIC 2019, I would like to thank IFLA for providing me with the opportunity to attend. While I was aware that WLIC is a big conference I found myself in awe of the size of the crowd at the opening ceremony. Over 3,600 librarians and information professionals from 140 different countries attended the congress and many presentations were also live streamed.

IFLA
WLIC
2020
DUBLIN

Inspire, Engage, Enable, Connect

World Library and Information Congress
86th IFLA General Conference and Assembly
15-21 August 2020, Dublin, Ireland

Libraries: dialogue for change – IFLA World Library and Information Congress

Due to the size of the conference it can be difficult to plan your route around. Thankfully the volunteers were very helpful and the WLIC app was really useful for keeping track of what was happening. The 'Newcomers Session' was a great source of advice to help me and my fellow newbies navigate the conference. There were 1,100 new attendees at the conference and we were reminded that everyone has something to learn and share. This sentiment was echoed in the theme of this year's congress, which was announced at the opening ceremony, 'Libraries: dialogue for change'. The outgoing president Glòria Pérez-Salmerón said that without dialogue nothing can happen, dialogue is about asking questions and finding out what we have in common.

Mindful of the conference theme I tried to attend a variety of presentations. I attended some legal libraries presentations on the topic of 'Telling our stories: law libraries'. Beth Williams (Stanford University)gave a presentation titled 'Understanding the #Metoo Movement by Listening to the Past'. This presentation was about the digitization of a collection of oral history interviews from women trailblazers in law (https://abawtp.law.stanford.edu/).

I also enjoyed Bonnie Mager's presentation during the 'Beg, Borrow or Steal Great Ideas from Around the World' session. Her presentation about marketing your library really stood out for me because her advice was very clear and straightforward: Don't repost, be original, represent your own library and your users will respond to that. In this session we also heard from the winners and runners up of the IFLA Pressreader International Marketing Award 2019. The winners were the University of British Columbia library for their 'Colour our Collections' project (https://about.library.ubc.ca/colour-our-collections/). Susan Parker explained that these digitized books were initially intended for researchers but are now offered as colouring books. While Parker acknowledges that the colouring books were a tactical way to advertise the collection it was also a fun way to spark joy and go beyond the initial function of the collection.

I also attended the Irish Caucus with sixteen other delegates. We were joined by Michelle Ryan (Second Secretary and Consul) from the Irish embassy in Greece. This was a great opportunity to network with colleagues and celebrate WLIC coming to Dublin in 2020. There was a lot of excitement at the conference about IFLA 2020 being held in Dublin, many speakers ended their presentations with an enthusiastic 'See you in Dublin!'

The excitement continued at the cultural evening which was one of the highlights of the congress. Held at the magnificent Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre., delegates were treated to an evening of dancing, food and a visit to the National Library of Greece. The library was very impressive with great views over the city and an opera house.

The closing ceremony (https://youtu.be/ukx6PNxBlqI) was particularly exciting for Irish delegates as we were invited up on stage to celebrate the announcement that IFLA WLIC 2020 would be held in Dublin. During the ceremony the Irish Ambassador to Greece Orla O'Hanrahan invited delegates to come to Ireland.

I would encourage everyone to attend WLIC next year, it's a great opportunity to network with colleagues from around the world. There really is something for everyone at WLIC whether you are working in public, academic, special or corporate libraries. I would recommend that you take a look at the slides and papers available to read on the IFLA website (http://library.ifla.org/view/conferences/2019/) and I hope to see many of you in Dublin at WLIC 2020!
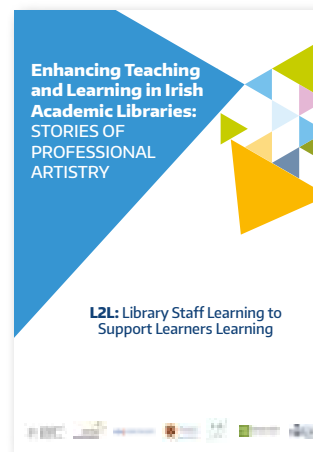
Fiona Lacey is Assistant Librarian, Technological University Dublin-Blanchardstown Campus

Book Review

Enhancing Teaching and Learning in Irish Academic Libraries:
Stories of Professional Artistry

Edited by Ann Cleary, Dr Philip Cohen and Mary Delaney

Continuing professional development is often a necessary component of the workplace and this is certainly the case for those who teach in higher education. In 2016, the National Forum for the Enhancement of Higher Education produced a Professional Development Framework (PDF). The PDF was designed to support the professional development of all staff who teach in higher education.

Recognising that libraries play an integral role in the teaching process, library staff from Dundalk Institute of Technology, Dublin Institute of Technology (now part of Technological University Dublin) and Institute of Technology Carlow capitalised on the opportunity to review this framework from a library perspective. Through this collaboration, the L2L project was born tasked with the aim of determining whether the framework could meet the complex and evolving professional development needs of library staff.

This was achieved by using reflective practice as a means of exploring how the PDF works in a library setting. The book begins with an illuminating preface laced with academic literature relating to the topics that will be explored throughout. The opening chapter lay the groundwork by providing a background to the project. The main body of text consists of captivating stories sprinkled with brief tantalising intermittent insights. Each chapter is presented from a unique angle and it is intriguing how each author differs in their approach and opinion of the framework.

Combining these personal accounts, a wide array of themes emerges. One subject matter widely discussed revolved around professional identity. As the PDF is a framework for all staff who teach in higher education, this lead many of the contributing authors to consider how they identified with this role and if they viewed themselves as teachers. Chapter 5 notes that even in one institution, colleagues working together can view their teaching role with varying levels of confidence.

Chapter 2 raises concerns of the term 'teacher' used in the PDF as it may imply formalised classroom teaching. However, for the author of chapter 4, the terminology became secondary as they felt the framework was flexible and could be used by library staff when teaching is an element of the work they perform.

This leads to another theme that arose from this book, interpretation. Each of the authors interpreted the PDF in their own way, inspiring distinct accounts with various focal points. Chapter 6 argues that the aim of the PDF is to be interpreted and adapted by different cohorts of teaching staff. The author of chapter 4 viewed the framework in a way that lends itself to aid and assist all areas of their work.

Inclusiveness was another topic to transpire, however, not entirely surprising as it is one of the values that underpin the PDF. The framework can be used by all staff irrespective of their position or grade. Other themes to note include information literacy, collaboration and flexibility.

As there are a range of themes covered in the book, it offers the reader a choice: read the individual chapters that piques their interest or as complete narrative. I recommend the latter to fully appreciate the journey of the authors as they honestly re-tell their accounts. With each different experience it contributes to the discussions and debates surrounding libraries today.

This book would appeal to audiences with varying interests. Primarily, it would be beneficial to library staff undertaking any form of professional development. Furthermore, due to the reflective story-telling nature of the content, any number of people involved in libraries could appreciate the snapshots and insights into other library environments.

Colleen Tierney is Subject Librarian, Queen's University Belfast

* pdf available on L2L website

Gerard Lyne, 1944-2019

Gerard Lyne, historian and former Keeper of Manuscripts in the
National Library of Ireland, died on 5th June this year.

A native of Tuosist, Co. Kerry, where his family had been established for many generations. (A relative was Daniel O'Connell, The Liberator, of nearby Derrynane). Gerard was educated locally, and at Cistercian College, Roscrea. One of his teachers there was Augustine Martin (soon to become Professor at UCD). Martin became a good friend after Gerard moved to live and work in Dublin. Mr. Joyce, another teacher in Roscrea, influenced Gerard to study history at degree level.

Gerard had a brilliant career at University College Dublin. He took history and politics in his BA degree, and went on to be awarded an MA in history, his thesis being 'Daniel O'Connell and the Catholic Association'. He was also awarded the Higher Diploma in Education and the Diploma in Librarianship and Information Science. He taught for a while in Dublin schools, including Muckross Park College, Donnybrook.

Gerard joined the Sub-Editorial staff of *The Irish Times*. He claimed that his enduring accuracy as a proof-reader came from the training which he received from George Burrowes at *The Irish Times*.

Gerard would sometimes relate how, as a secondary school student, he had managed to obtain a reader's ticket for the National Library, in order to prepare for an essay. What he never told us was that this essay was prepared for a nation-wide competition which he had gone on to win!

To my mind, this little anecdote illustrates two points: firstly, it indicates Gerard's constant pursuit – and achievement- of academic excellence; secondly, it recalls his unassuming disposition and his ready wit.

He was assistant editor of *The Correspondence of Daniel O'Connell*, Vols I-VIII, published in 1972-1977 by the Irish Manuscripts Commission. During the preparation of the O'Connell volumes, Gerard was based in the National Library, but he was soon to join the Library's permanent staff as an Assistant Keeper. He became Periodicals Librarian sorted, listed and made available to

the public through the work of postgraduate history students. The inventories of these collections are now universally available for consultation online.

All this while, in his private capacity, Gerard was publishing papers mainly in *The Journal of the Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society*. These studies dealt mostly, but not exclusively, with the evolution of land tenure in County Kerry. His research culminated in his monumental volume *The Lansdowne Estate in Kerry` `Dublin*, Geography Publications, 2017) may have been in part influenced by the film to undertake this detailed study of the life and death of Murtaí 'Swordsman of the Brigade' and adventurer. In this latter book, he worked in close co-operation with Gaelic scholars, especially those in University College Cork.

Despite failing health, Gerard continued with his research and writing almost to the end. He completed an essay for the forthcoming Kerry Volume in the *Culture and Society* series, and contributed to his local *Tuosist Newsletter*. Latterly, he had been engaged in putting together reminiscences of his own youth in rural Kerry.

A friend of the great folklore Scholar Seán Ó Súilleabháin, Gerard was co-founder of the *Éigse* set up in memory of Ó Súilleabháin.

A splendid curriculum vitae indeed! However, this takes no account of Gerard's kind and convivial disposition, his kindness and consideration to staff colleagues and friends in times of illness and personal anxiety, his ability to 'carry a tune', and to be word perfect, in rendering an ancient ballad. Librarians, historians, writers and his neighbours in Kerry and Béara will sadly miss his presence amongst us.

I bParthas na nGrás go raibh a anam uasal.

Dónall Ó Luanaigh.

NEWS from the STACKS

People

Recent County Librarian Appointments: **John Shorthall** (Carlow), **Emer O'Brien** (Cork County), **Mairead Owens** (Dublin City), **Catherine Gallagher** (Dun Laoighaire-Rathdown), **Pauline Brennan** (Leitrim), **Eimear McGinn** (Offaly), **Sandra Turner** (Roscommon), **Mary Stuart** (Westmeath)

Other Appointments: **Lorna Dodd** (IADT), **Stuart Hamilton** (Libraries Development, LGMA), **Genevieve Larkin** (MIE), **John McDonough** (DCU), **Niall O'Brien** (RCSI), **Liam O'Connor** (ITMA)

Retirements: **Deirdre Judge, Miriam Lambe, Carmel O'Sullivan**

Awards

Ulster University LIS graduates **Geraldine Colgan** (Wicklow County Libraries) and **Claire McCarta**n (Downpatrick) were both recipients of the Allan and Overy Award for excellence in librarianship.

Recent Developments

https://moli.ie This new museum is a collaboration between the National Library of Ireland and UCD.

The National Library of Ireland has embarked on a digital collection project of author archives. Best-selling author Marian Keyes is the first donor to the Digital Pilot. Details available at: https://www.nli.ie/en/list/latest-news.aspx?article=c0a67af0-afb8-45d1-a887-d8cad4fd4c13

The Jesuit Library at Milltown Park moves to All Hallows. More details here: https://www.dcu.ie/news/news/2019/Oct/DCU-Jesuit-Library-Partnership-sees-Milltown-Park-Library-move-All-Hallows.shtml

Copyright News

The latest copyright news is available here: https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Consultations/Public-consultation-transposition-of-Directive-EU-2019-790.html

Forthcoming Conferences, Local

http://www.conul.ie/conul-teaching-learning-committee-annual-seminar-2019/

https://www.libraryassociation.ie/stec_event/2019-lai-public-libraries-conference/

https://www.libraryassociation.ie/stec_event/rare-books-group-annual-seminar-2019/

HSLG https://hslgblog.wpcomstaging.com/2019/04/26/save-the-date-hslg-conference-13-february-2020/

Forthcoming Conferences, International

https://www.cilip.org.uk/event/decolonisingcollections#Programme

https://www.uksg.org/event/uksgconference20

https://uk.search.yahoo.com/search?fr=spigot-nt-gcmac&ei=utf-8&ilc=12&type=692858&p=LILAC%20Conference%202010

https://uk.search.yahoo.com/search?fr=spigot-nt-gcmac&ei=utf-8&ilc=12&type=692858&p=LIDA,%20Dubrovnik,%20May%20%202020

http://qqml.org

http://conference.conul.ie/

https://2020.ifla.org/

Libraries in the Media

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon visited RIA Library:
https://firstminister.gov.scot/first-minister-in-dublin-for-programme-of-business-political-and-cultural-meetings/

Donegal County Libraries were surprised by a recent return:
https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/discover/rare-book-returned-to-donegal-library-82-years-after-it-was-borrowed-925199.html The author's biographical details will be of interest to HSLG members.

Library Ireland Week 2019

1st-7th December
Theme: Libraries Inspire…

Meeting of IFLA WLIC2020 Committee,
24th October, Maynooth University Library

CPD Opportunities

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

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

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

http://www.ucd.ie/ics/study/mastersanddiplomaprogrammes/

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