



# *The* LIBRARY ASSOCIATION of IRELAND

Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann

*Representing  
librarians and libraries  
in Ireland*



*Annual Report 2020*

# Library Association of Ireland

## Annual Report 2020

Edited by Marian Higgins, John Blake, Trish Nolan, Robert Alfis and Niall O'Brien on behalf of the Association.

With thanks to the Officers and other members of Committees, Taskforces, Groups and Sections for their original contributions.

Cover and Page Footer Art Courtesy of *Wise Eyes Creative*

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# Introduction

From the outset I would like to extend my appreciation to our Association's members and others who gave so generously of their time to support the activities of the Association in what was a difficult operational year. As this Council set out on the work commitments for the 2020-2021 period, commitments we set out to complete were postponed or cancelled to be pivoted and adapted in ways we could not have anticipated, which we delivered upon. As an Association, renewed focus was placed on supporting our colleagues through networking opportunities, training, mentorship and engagement. As the year progressed, we all became familiar with Zoom and other online platforms to network, engage and support each other and whilst we all look forward to a new horizon ahead, when we can enjoy physical interaction again, the Covid environment has opened up new opportunities for engagement.

This Annual Report will convey the resilience and creativity of our profession. To say that I am incredibly proud of our achievements is an understatement, delivering innovative services and supporting communities in a historically challenging environment.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Robert Alfis, John Blake, Niall O'Brien and Trish Nolan who put in significant hours on the compilation and design of the report. A huge thank you to the groups and sections who returned accounts of their activities upon which this Annual Report is created.

I have selected a snapshot of achievements, further evidence of the commitment, engagement and creativity of our members:

- Constitution and rules revised during 2020 and brought before AGM 2021
- Ebooks content crisis statement issued Oct 2020
- Online event management training organised by Council and delivered by Elaine Bean (Maynooth University) Sept 2020
- Congratulations to Robert Alfis (Deputy LAI Secretary), Conor Lynott (Web Officer Assistant), Lara Musto (LAI Co-Ordinator for IFLA – Library Map of the World) and Trish Nolan (Annual Report Secretary) who were appointed to the roles mentioned above in Nov 2020
- Social Media served an important role in communicating with members and activity increased substantially on these platforms with an increasing reach
- The Academic and Special Libraries ran a lively event 'Taking Charge of Your Career- Adapting to New Environments'



- The Health Science Libraries Group had an extraordinary year, a year when their skills, sourcing, evaluating and providing access to high quality health information became highly valued on the world stage, their seminar ‘You Can’t Handle the Truth’ provided a fascinating insight into health-related library work
- Delivery of a successful Library Ireland Week campaign aptly titled ‘Libraries Endure: Continuity in a Crisis’
- Involvement in the ‘Be Media Smart’ campaign as part of the effort to counter the spread of misinformation and fake news during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- A series of popular online interviews under the theme ‘A World of Change: Libraries Survive and Thrive’ were delivered by the Public Libraries Section with attendance reaching 400 for one event
- The newly formed Library Publishing Group went from strength to strength with a substantial amount of activities undertaken in the last 12 months
- Following a proposal from the Professional Standards Committee the deadline has been extended for applicants without ALAI with 10 years experience to apply for the SALAI before 31st Oct 2022

It would be remiss of me not to mention IFLA World Library and Information Congress. Our Association has been on a roller-coaster and we most certainly have had our ups and downs. I would like to sincerely thank all who have been involved to date for their enthusiasm, hard work and commitment. I look forward to 2022 when IFLA will finally grace our shores. This invaluable learning opportunity will be afforded to us, whether virtual, physical or an amalgamation of both, to engage with colleagues near and far.

In conclusion, personally I would like to sincerely thank all my colleagues and Council, for their support, advice and camaraderie over the course of my Presidency. I have made incredible friends, I have learned much more than I have given and as ever, my belief in the importance of the library profession within society has been reinforced.

I look forward with optimism to our future years and the opportunities for the Library Association of Ireland and our membership.



Marian Higgins,  
President, 2020 - 2021 Library Association of Ireland

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marian Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style.

# Library Association of Ireland AGM 2020

The Annual General Meeting of the Library Association of Ireland took place on Zoom on Tuesday 30th June 2020 at 10.00 am. Due to an extraordinary operating environment the AGM was conducted in this format rather than in a physical environment. A particularly high number of members attended.

## Election of Officers & Council Members

*The following were elected as Officers and Council Members*

### Officers:

**President:** Marian Higgins, Kildare County Library and Arts Service

**Vice President:** Cathal McCauley, Maynooth University Library

**Vice President:** Eileen Morrissey, Wexford County Library Service

**Honorary Treasurer:** Lorna Dodd, Institute of Art, Design and Technology

**Honorary Secretary:** Niall O'Brien, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Library

*Names above were proposed by Jane Burns and seconded by Marie Cullen.*

## Library Association of Ireland Council

Fintan Bracken, IT Carlow

Michelle Breen, University of Limerick

Jane Buggle, DBS

Jane Burns, Athlone IT

Alan Carbery, University College Cork

Clare Conneally, DBS

Melanie Cunningham, Waterford County Council

Joanna Finegan, National Library of Ireland

Aoife Lawton, Health Service Executive

Cathal McCauley, Maynooth University

Eimear McGinn, Offaly County Library Service

Lai Ma, University College Dublin

Eileen Morrissey, Wexford County Library Service

Mary Murphy, Meath County Library Service

Yvonne O'Brien, Louth County Library Service

Christoph Schmidt-Supprian, Trinity College Dublin

John Shortall, Carlow County Library Service

Mary Stuart, Westmeath County Library Service

Sandra Turner, Roscommon County Library Service

Joan Ward, Libraries Development Unit, LGMA

*Names were proposed by Deirdre Ellis King and seconded by Kathryn Watters*



## Library Staff Champion Award 2019

John Shortall, Carlow County Librarian and Chairperson of the Library Ireland Week Task Force announced the Shortlisted Nominees for the Library Staff Champion Award. He noted that all shortlisted nominees were put forward as truly inspiring library staff and nominated by colleagues who wished to share that inspiration with the wider library community which is made manifest in the dedication of all the nominees.

The shortlisted nominees for the Library Staff Champion award:

- Teresa Kelly, Childrens' Librarian, Wexford County Library Service
- Liam Timmons, Van Driver, Laois County Library Service.
- Barbara Kinsella, Senior Library Assistant, Carlow Institute of Technology
- Laura Rooney Ferris, Library Resources Manager, HSE Dr Steevens Library
- Jesse Waters, Student Engagement and Success Librarian, Glucksman Library, University of Limerick.

***Congratulations to the overall winner  
Laura Rooney Ferris, HSE Library***



## Management and Administration

The Library Association of Ireland (LAI) is the professional body representing libraries and librarians in Ireland. The objectives of the Association are to promote and develop high standards of librarianship and of library and information services in Ireland and to secure greater co-operation between libraries.

## Council

Council sets strategy for the Association, determines policy and is responsible for the correct and effective running of Association activities as a whole.

## Council Meetings Schedule and Attendance Record 2020-21

Five meetings of the LAI Council took place in Aug, Sept, Nov, Jan and March.

Name	Number of Meetings attended (max 5)
Robert Alfis	2
Fintan Bracken	4
Michelle Breen	2
Jane Buggle	5
Jane Burns	4
Alan Carbery	4
Clare Conneally	4
Lorna Dodd	4
Joanna Finegan	5
Marian Higgins	5
Aoife Lawton	3
Lai Ma	3
Cathal McCauley	4
Eimear McGinn	4
Eileen Morrissey	4
Mary Murphy	4
Niall O'Brien	5
Yvonne O'Brien	3
Marie O'Neill	2
Christoph Schmidt-Supprian	4
John Shortall	3
Mary Stuart	2
Sandra Turner	3
Joan Ward	2



## Management Committee

The Management Committee manages the finances and administration of the Association. Members comprised Robert Alfis, Lorna Dodd, Marian Higgins, Cathal McCauley, Eileen Morrissey, Niall O'Brien, Sandra Turner.

Committee members communicated informally throughout the year and met formally on the following dates: 15th July 2020, 6th October 2020, 3rd November 2020, 25th January 2021, 19th April 2021.

## Key Items Progressed by Council:

- A significant piece of work was undertaken by Council to bring the Associations governing documents in accordance with current legislation. The Association is guided and governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The current Memorandum and Articles of Association were passed by an EGM on 15th March 2012. A small team comprising of Cathal McCauley, Lorna Dodd, Eileen Morrissey undertook the review of these governance documents. The team were further supported by legal experts in the field. The draft Constitution and Rules were brought before the Management Committee on 25th Jan 2021, recommended to Council on 16th March and finally brought to the AGM of 27th April 2021 to seek approval.
- Tailored online event management training was organised by the LAI Council to provide support for members. Elaine Bean who has extensive experience in this area provided the training which was well attended. The training despite being online allowed hands on experience through interactive activities. Maynooth University kindly supported the provision of this training.



- The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the importance for libraries to be able to provide services to users through digital channels. As such, it has thrown a new light on many of the questions that already existed about whether, and under what terms, libraries can acquire and give access to eBooks and other resources. The LAI in cooperation with the Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL), Irish Universities Association Librarians' Group, and the Technological Higher Education Association Librarians' Group issued a call for action on this crisis. The released statement highlighted the concerns and hopes for future action in order to ensure that libraries are able to carry out their missions digitally, during COVID-19 and beyond.



Following on from this Marian Higgins (President, Library Association of Ireland), Cathal McCauley (President-Elect, Library Association of Ireland) and Stuart Hamilton (Library Association of Ireland) were interviewed by IFLA to discuss the econtent crisis in Ireland <https://www.ifla.org/node/93491>.

- Congratulations to Robert Alfis (Deputy LAI Secretary), Conor Lynott (Web Officer Assistant), Lara Musto (LAI Co-Ordinator for IFLA – Library Map of the World) and Trish Nolan (Annual Report Secretary) who were appointed to the roles in Nov 2020 and are now working with Council.

# Developing the Profession

## Education Committee: Professional Standards Committee (PSC)

### Officers:

**Chair:** Kate Kelly (RCSI) January – June, Gillian Kerins (IT Tallaght) September – December

**Secretary:** Gillian Kerins (IT Tallaght) January – June, Terry O’Brien (Waterford IT) November – December

### Committee:

Dr Philip Cohen (retired)

Catherine Gallagher (Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Library Service)

Allison Kavanagh (Technological University Dublin)

Terry O’Brien (Waterford IT)

Brendan Teeling (Dublin City Libraries)

### The Committee:

- Manages applications, sets standards, and provides assessment boards for LAI accreditation of programmes offering postgraduate degrees in library and information sciences in Ireland, currently UCD School of Information and Communication Studies and the Dublin Business School.
- Manages applications, sets standards, and provides guidelines for LAI professional awards, currently the Associateship (ALAI), Senior Associateship (SALAI) and Fellowship (FLAI) awards of the Association.
- Monitors and makes recommendations to LAI Council on matters related to professional standards and practice including core competencies for professional librarians and information scientists; the Association’s Code of Ethics; the regulatory framework in which libraries operate; and guidelines for new entrants to the field

### Meetings 2020

The Committee met three times during 2020 (05 February, 06 November, 02 December).

An update on the key elements of Committee's work during 2020 is below.

## **Awards 2020**

- No applications were received for Fellowship award (FLAI).
- No applications were received for Associateship (ALAI).
- No applications for the Senior Associateship (SLAI)

## **Proposal by the PSC to the Council in 2020:**

The LAI PSC propose that due to Covid 19 we extend the deadline from 31st October 2021 for applicants without the ALAI and over 10 years professional experience to apply for the SALAI to before 31st October 2022. [Approved by LAI Council at their meeting 10th November 2020].

## **Accreditation reviews of course providers**

### **Dublin Business School**

The Committee scheduled a review meeting with DBS for January 2021.

### **University College Dublin**

The PSC met with the Faculty of UCD School of Information & Communication Studies via Microsoft Teams on December 2nd 2020. A wide-ranging and detailed discussion was had covering a number of areas such as Academic admissions, Curriculum and Programme review, QS World university rankings, Module changes and updates, Engagement with the professional community, CPD, flexible modes of delivery, challenges during the COVID pandemic, pre-admission requirements and work experience placements.

The PSC offered congratulations on achieving inclusion in the Top 50 iSchools and acknowledged the work of the UCD SICS during a very challenging period.

## **Other work**

In addition to the above, the Committee provided content for the LAI website; responded to various queries seeking information or advice on topics ranging from online courses; internships; volunteering; accreditation of specific programmes, to queries about the LAI awards.



## Education Committee: Continuing Professional Development

### Committee:

Eva Hornung (Convenor; CDETB Curriculum Development Unit/TCD),  
Philip Cohen (Retired),  
Deirdre Ellis King (UCD SILS/Retired, DCPL),  
Lai Ma (UCD SICS),  
Eileen Morrissey (Wexford County Library Service),  
Mary Murphy (Meath County Library Service),  
Kathryn Smith (RCSI).

The committee met face-to-face in February. After that, members communicated by email. We welcomed Grace Toland as a new member, but she resigned later in the year.

In 2020, of course, most Association activities were affected by COVID-19. This was certainly the case with this Committee, since much of the CPD that did take place was focused on pivoting day-to-day practices in individual workplaces. Nevertheless, we continued to function and approved a number of courses.

### **The following online learning opportunities sought accreditation:**

List of approved courses in 2020:

YLG online Recommending with Confidence course

YLG online digital course

Research Data Management (UCD SILS)

Health Sciences Libraries Group seminar on research integrity

Furthermore, we updated the website and communications to clarify to all groups and sections the purpose of the CPD certs.

# Library Ireland Week 2020



The LIBRARY ASSOCIATION of IRELAND  
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librarians and libraries  
in Ireland*

## ‘LIBRARIES ENDURE’

### Officers:

**Chair:** John Shortall (Carlow County Library Service)

**Vice-Chair:** Johanna Archbold (Athlone Institute of Technology)

### Committee:

Suzanne Brosnan (Kildare County Library & Arts Service)

Hazel Percival (Wexford County Library Service)

Justin Smyth (CCT College)

Shona Thoma (Kildare County Library & Arts Service)

Josephine Vahey (Galway County Library Service)

### Background

The Library Ireland Week Taskforce was appointed by the LAI Executive Council in 2018 to plan and organise the revival of Library Ireland Week (LIW). After successful Library Ireland Weeks in 2018 and 2019, work began early in 2020 on plans for LIW20. Due to the public health crisis which faced the country during the year, and the challenging circumstances for all involved preparations were unavoidably delayed. The Taskforce Committee met weekly as a group, and via email from August.

### LIW20 - Libraries Endure: Continuity in a Crisis

Library Ireland Week took place from Monday November 29th to Saturday December 6th 2020, the theme being ‘Libraries Endure: Continuity in a Crisis’ - a reference to the important role played by all libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic and their dedication, commitment and influence on the individuals and communities they serve. Throughout the week libraries all around Ireland celebrated by showcasing their unique resources, running online events, and engaging in a nationwide social media campaign.





Pictured in Leixlip Community Library are Suzanne Brosnan and her two children Saoirse (8 years old) and Tadhg (6 years old) getting ready for Library Ireland Week.

## Events

LIW Events around the country were promoted on the Library Ireland Week website [www.libraryirelandweek.ie](http://www.libraryirelandweek.ie). Events took place online with libraries across the country represented, and between October and December 2020 there were 7,284 unique visitors to the website. Libraries and members of the public could also follow what was happening on social media through the hashtag #LIW20.

See the LIW Event Listing for more details: <http://libraryirelandweek.ie/events/>



## Public Competition



As part of LIW20, the taskforce ran a public competition via social media. The question ‘what does your library mean to you?’ received huge engagement across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and the winning entry was received from @thebrambleboreen:

“A place for the children to search and find  
Allowing Mammy time to unwind.  
Books on Quidditch and magical kittens.  
Escaping into imaginary lands.  
Leaving for home with stories in our hands #LIW20.”

## Library Staff Champion Award

Library Ireland Week is as much about library staff and the library sector as it is about raising awareness about the diverse and impactful work that happens in libraries every day. To acknowledge library staff for their contribution to the sector, and beyond, Library Ireland Week 2020 celebrated the third Library Staff Champion Award and invited library staff to submit nominations.

The Library Champion Award Package comprises of:

- a voucher & engraved trophy
- an electronic signature marking the Award
- free membership of the Library Association of Ireland and CILIP Ireland for 1 year after the Award

Library Staff were asked to nominate a colleague they felt embodied the positive impact library staff throughout the island of Ireland bring to their workplaces every day. A shortlist of 7 nominees was announced on the LIW Week website and showcased in advance of the Awards Event in April 2021 where the winner was announced.



## Library Staff Champion 2020 Shortlist

1. Mary Buckley, National College of Ireland
2. Sam Connolly, Dublin City Library
3. Marie Cullen, Maynooth University Library
4. Carole Donnelly, Meath County Council Library Service
5. Mark McLoughlin, Meath County Council Library Service
6. Dimphe Ní Bhraonáin, Griffith College
7. Maria O'Sullivan, DLR Libraries

The 2020 Staff Champion Award was co-supported by CILIP Ireland as an all-island acknowledgement of library staff contributions at all levels in all our communities. This collaboration between LAI and CILIP committee members was a very positive development and will hopefully lead to increased engagement in this initiative across the island.

## LIW Social Media

The LIW Twitter and Facebook accounts were active throughout the campaign and coordinated with the main LAI account and other accounts of LAI sub-groups. Activity was considerably increased, particularly with the public competition, and can be further enhanced in future years.

Acknowledgements:

The Taskforce Committee would like to thank Marian Higgins, President of the LAI, and the LAI Council for their support throughout this process.

## Thanks to:

Sandra Turner and Brian Doody

Lorna Dodd, [LAI Honorary Treasurer](#)

Niall O'Brien, [LAI Honorary Secretary](#)

We would like to thank Kildare County Library and Arts Service for hosting, and Suzanne Brosnan & family for featuring in, our official launch photoshoot. We would also like to thank Wise Eyes Creative for their graphic design and publicity material.

Special mention to all library staff who nominated colleagues for the Library Staff Champion Award, without whose generosity of spirit, the Award could not have started or continued.

Finally, thanks to all the library staff throughout the country who engaged with LIW20, curating and hosting events and bringing the theme and message of Library Ireland Week 2020 to as many of our users as possible.

# Literacies Committee

## Committee:

Philip Russell [Convenor] (TU Dublin)  
Brenda Carey (Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Libraries)  
Isabelle Courtney (Dublin Business School)  
Lorna Dodd (IADT Library)  
Siobhan Dunne (Trinity College Dublin)  
Genevieve Larkin (Marino Institute of Education)  
Claire McGuinness (University College Dublin)  
Mary Mulryan (Athlone Institute of Technology)  
Emer O'Brien (Cork County Libraries)  
Ann O'Sullivan (AL Goodbody)  
Katherine Ryan (St. Andrew's College Dublin)  
Joan Ward, (Libraries Development Unit, LGMA)

The Literacies Committee is committed to reviewing best practice initiatives in terms of literacy, information literacy and digital literacy across all library and information sectors in Ireland and is working on a revised smart action plan for the development of these competencies at local and national level. The Committee actively engages in advocacy, promotion and dissemination activities. Members were involved with a number of initiatives during 2020 including - Be Media Smart (BMS COVID-19) - the national media literacy campaign for Ireland which was rerun in March 2020 to counter the spread of misinformation and fake news during the Covid-19 pandemic. BMS COVID-19 helped to advance media and information literacy awareness in Ireland during this crisis and was supported by the Literacies Committee as part of their collaboration with Media Literacy Ireland.

The convenor of the Literacies Committee, Philip Russell, also gave an online lecture in October on the Be Media Smart campaign and Ireland's approach to tackling the growth of misinformation as part of IFLA's recently launched Fake News Lecture Series. Members of the Literacies Committee attended this event online.

Similarly, as part of an EU digital media literacy project, IFLA and their NGO partner Tactical Tech have recently engaged with the LAI and have made available via Irish public libraries - exhibitions, workshops and webinars in relation to online misinformation. Members of the Literacies Committee provided input to this initiative and have been actively involved in supporting it via their respective libraries.

Due to Covid-19, it has been difficult to organise a face to face meeting of the Literacies Committee, however an online meeting is scheduled before the end of the year.

The Government Libraries Group of the Library Association of Ireland has also invited Philip Russell to speak at their next online meeting on the topic of media and information literacy.

The Literacies Committee continues to forge strong links with national and international groups as it seeks to collaborate and further its goals around these core competencies in the years ahead.

Expressions of interest in joining the Committee should be addressed to Philip Russell, the Convenor.

# Media Literacy Ireland

<https://vimeo.com/323806931>



## Officers:

**Chair of Steering Group:** Prof. Brian O'Neill (Technological University Dublin)

**Vice Chair of Steering Group:** Stephanie Comey (BAI)

**MLI Steering Group LAI Rep:** Philip Cohen 2020; Marian Higgins 2021

Media Literacy Ireland (MLI) <https://www.medialiteracyireland.ie> is an independent association of personal and institutional members committed to the promotion of media literacy across Ireland. Members include Government agencies, advocacy groups and professional bodies – as well as all the major print, broadcast and social media companies.

Policy and practice are guided by the MLI Steering Group, a combination of appointed and elected representatives of the membership at large. The LAI is a permanent member of the Steering Group, recognising the central role that libraries of every sector play in promoting media and information literacy. In addition, much of the work of MLI is undertaken by targeted Working Groups, whose members include large numbers of library staff and library educators. Be Media Smart <https://www.bemediasmart.ie> is probably the best-known campaign run by MLI, with its catchphrase Stop, Think, Check. Other activities include regular webinars on topics such as Media Literacy in Europe, Social Media Influencing in Ireland (organised by LAI member Isabelle Courtney), and News Literacy Now. The websites of both Be Media Smart and MLI include abundant links to research and resources related to the subject.

Building on contacts made at IFLA, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Meath, Monaghan and Waterford Libraries participated in an EU-funded project to deliver media literacy training through public libraries. Originally conceived as on-site exhibitions and workshops, the training was delivered online towards the end of 2020 and is available at <https://tacticaltech.org/news/glass-room-misinformation-edition/>. In addition, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown commissioned a YouTube walk-through of the exhibition at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRbeRYtnzJo>.

Finally, membership of MLI is free of charge and LAI members are encouraged to join, access its online resources and become actively involved.



# Communications

## Website Developments

During 2020, and into 2021, the website of the Library Association was an important tool for communicating with members. Many important announcements were made, including the cancellation of WLIC 2020 in Dublin, changes to the joint LAI/CILIP conference, and promotion of the wide number of online events and meetings hosted by the groups and sections across the LAI. A new section was created for information resources on service delivery and Covid-19. The mailing list moved to a new, more interactive platform, with options for members to subscribe through the member dashboard. Between March 2020 and March 2021 there were more than 95,000 visits to the website and more than 34,000 unique visitors.

The development and maintenance of the Library Ireland Week and Conference website continued and regular updates to groups, sections and committees were maintained throughout the year.



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### **IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Dublin 2020 is Cancelled**

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Irish National Committee regret to announce the cancellation of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in Dublin scheduled for 16th-21st August 2020. The global situation surrounding COVID-19 severely limits the ability of delegates from around the world to organise their attendance in...

[READ MORE](#)



24  
MAR

### **A Message to LAI membership**

Dear colleagues, These are difficult times for us all and during difficult times people show their compassion, ingenuity, resilience and creativity. If there is anything, we know of the Irish spirit it is that we are resilient in challenging times. Difficult decisions have and will have to be taken, librarians are continuing to support their...

[READ MORE](#)

[COVID-19 Information](#)

### **Useful Resources**

[Library Association of Ireland Guidelines for re-opening Libraries in Ireland under COVID-19 restrictions](#)

[NAPLE Narrative Report – European Library Services During COVID19](#)

**Coronavirus  
COVID-19**



# An Leabharlann: the Irish Library

**An Leabharlann: the Irish Library was published twice during 2020  
Volume 29 issues (1) and (2).**

An Leabharlann: the Irish Library is published by The Library Association of Ireland and The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (Ireland). ISSN: 2009-6062.

Current issues and a large number of back issues are freely available to all on open access at and similarly on e-Deposit Ireland at:

<https://www.libraryassociation.ie/an-leabharlann/>

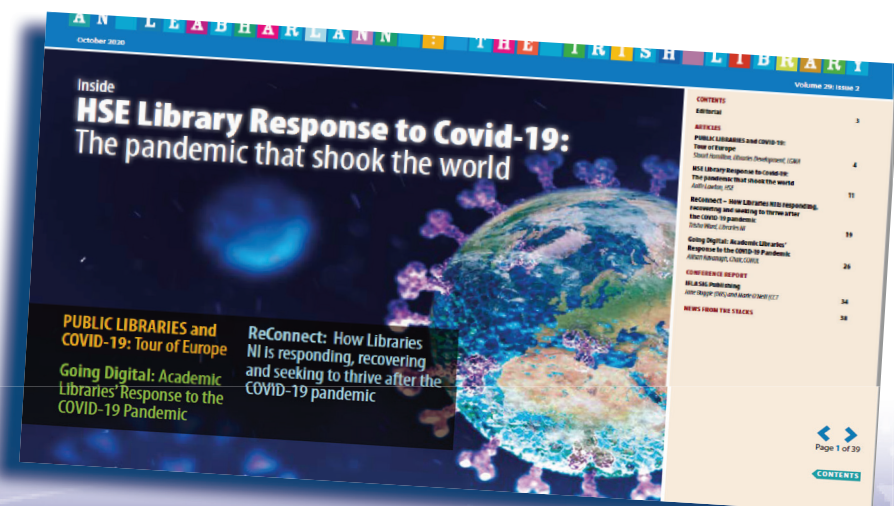


An Leabharlann Volume 29: Issue 1 March 2020

An Leabharlann is edited by Marjory Sliney and the editorial board comprises of Fintan Bracken (IT, Carlow), Kate Kelly (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland), Claire Milliken (Northern Ireland Assembly), Philip Russell (TU Dublin-Tallaght), Brendan Teeling (Dublin City Public Libraries).

Production/Distribution provided by Gillian Kerins OA Manager: Genevieve Larkin Proofreading: Jenny Stokes Design: Noel Smyth

The Association is greatly indebted to Marjory for editing the journal for so many years.



# Social Media

In 2020, social media served an important role in communicating with LAI members, in a year which saw in-person conferences, seminars, and meetings cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The LAI uses Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to share updates from the sections, groups and committees of the Association. Event information, and highlights from across the library sector are posted across these channels to communicate the message and purpose of the Association. During COVID-19 related restrictions, social media proved to be a quick and informal forum for sharing responses and rapid changes to service delivery.

Twitter remains the most successful channel for communicating with LAI members; engagement rates are high, and conversations are more likely to take place here, whereas Facebook and Instagram are useful for sharing information, but it is consumed passively.

In 2020, the average reach for a Facebook post was 1,394. Although we do not have a comparable figure of average reach for the whole year for Twitter, it is not unusual for a post to reach in excess of 5000 impressions. A Tweet calling for action on the electronic content crisis in October had 30,109 impressions, with an engagement rate of 5.6%.

A post on the LAI's Instagram can gain between 200 and 600 impressions, the success of posts dependent on an algorithm that changes frequently and is focused on monetisation and advertising







Library Association  
@LAonline

Special library services for those who are housebound are being rolled out across the country. Read more about the service operating from @corkcolibrary Photos show Sean Crowley filling the van; Noel O'Mahony, librarian in Bantry filling boxes  
[corkcoco.ie/en/news/doorst...](https://corkcoco.ie/en/news/doorst...)

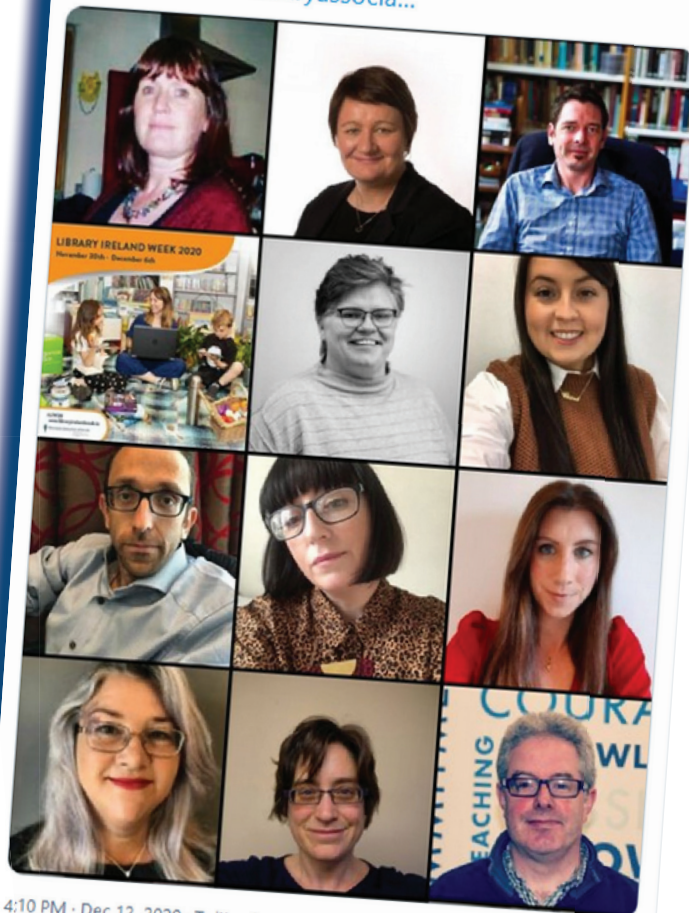


2:49 PM · Apr 30, 2020 · Twitter Web App



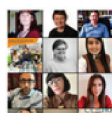
Library Association  
@LAonline

Read about the librarians volunteering their time and skills to make the Library Association a meaningful and vibrant organisation:  
[instagram.com/libraryassocia...](https://instagram.com/libraryassocia...)



4:10 PM · Dec 12, 2020 · Twitter for Android

#### Tweet activity



**Library Association @LAonline**  
Read about the librarians volunteering their time and skills to make the Library Association a meaningful and vibrant organisation:  
<https://instagram.com/libraryassociationofireland?igshid=m6u0o5z9zd48...pic.twitter.com/YYEkleDtUk>



**Reach a bigger audience**  
Get more engagements by promoting this Tweet!

[Get started](#)

Impressions	4,221
Total engagements	375
Media engagements	224
Link clicks	60
Likes	40
Detail expands	33
Retweets	13
Profile clicks	5



# Supporting Co-operation Between Libraries and Library Organisations

## European and International

The Library Association of Ireland were particularly active and responded to a number of IFLA surveys detailing the Covid response of Irish libraries. Similarly the Association returned multiple reports and completed surveys for Eblida on the Covid experiences of Irish librarians and information professionals. These reports were published in conjunction with other national returns.

A report on the status of ebooks in Ireland was compiled for IFLA and Eblida to help inform the European and International operational climate of this market.

Marian Higgins (President, Library Association of Ireland), Cathal McCauley (President-Elect, Library Association of Ireland) and Stuart Hamilton (Library Association of Ireland) were interviewed by IFLA on the topic of “An Electronic Content Crisis” the interview is available here: <https://www.ifla.org/node/93491>

## North-South Liaison Committee/Annual Joint Conference Committee

Robert Alfis, Gerardine Blee (CILIP), Melanie Cunningham, Lorna Dodd, Eimear Evans (CILIP), Margaret Hayes, Marian Higgins, Cathal McCauley, Alex McIlroy (CILIP), Claire Milliken (CILIP), Eileen Morrissey, Niall O’Brien, John Shortall, Marjory Sliney, Sandra Turner

## North-South Liaison with CILIP Ireland

The meetings of the North South Liaison Committee took place on 20th November, 19th January and 16th March. Much of the discussion centered on the Joint Conference and Covid logistics. Positive discussion enabled the timetabling of Library Ireland Week North and South, which was successfully delivered in the difficult Covid environment. Marjory Sliney the editor of An Leabharlann, reported on its continued success welcoming submissions from both CILIP and LAI members.

## **Library Association Of Ireland/CILIP Ireland Annual Joint Conference 20th and 21st October 2020**

The LAI-CILIP Joint Conferences is a highlight in the library calendar. In 2020 we had planned to travel to Dundalk. A team had been assembled under the excellent Chair Ann Cleary, Institute Librarian (Dundalk Institute of Technology) consisting of representatives from both CILIP Ireland and the LAI. The Crowne Plaza Hotel had been chosen as the venue.

The theme of 'Libraries: A World of Possibilities' had clearly inspired potential speakers and we had put together a great programme with nearly 30 papers and 9 poster presentations. Keynote speakers included Professor Judy Broady-Preston, President Elect CILIP UK and Eileen Culloty, post-doctoral researcher at the DCU Institute for Future Media and Journalism.

Preparations had been at a very advanced stage when the decision based on public health advice, was taken to postpone. We had initially hoped that we could hold an in-person conference in November, but that was not to be.

This conference has now been rescheduled and will take place online on 2nd and 3rd November 2021. Remember to keep these dates free in your diary.

The website is available here: <http://conference.libraryassociation.ie/>

### **LAI/CILIP IRELAND JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020**

**CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, DUNDALK  
20TH AND 21ST OF OCTOBER**

# IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2020



Inspire, Engage, Enable, Connect

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

LAI is a long-standing member of IFLA: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, a global body representing the interests of libraries in more than 150 countries <https://www.ifla.org/about> IFLA holds its annual conference, the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), in a different city each year, attracting upwards of 4,000 delegates. Following a competitive process, Dublin was selected to host WLIC 2020 and the LAI set up an Irish National Committee to organise the event.

The year started well, with the LAI, the National Committee and its seven Sub-Committees working hard to ensure the WLIC was a success.\* Then the pandemic struck. WLIC 2020 was cancelled in early April 2020 but, at the same time, IFLA committed to holding the event in Dublin in 2022 instead. Initially, WLIC 2022 was expected to be a blended or hybrid conference, with on-site and online activities in equal measure. Now this has changed, so that WLIC 2022 is envisaged primarily as a traditional on-site conference, with a small number of sessions available online.

Although WLIC 2020 never happened, preparations for the event were at an advanced stage and this means the LAI is well-placed to revive its efforts for 2022. There will be many chances for Association members to get involved again - as delegates and as volunteers - with a variety of roles to be announced towards the end of 2021. WLIC 2022 will be a once-in-a-generation opportunity to experience this global event in Ireland. All members are encouraged to make the most of the opportunity.

Philip Cohen, Chair, Irish National Committee

[https://www.libraryassociation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/An\\_Leabharlann\\_29-1\\_Full.pdf](https://www.libraryassociation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/An_Leabharlann_29-1_Full.pdf)

\*See An Leabharlann, vol.29, Issue 1, pages 4-6 for a full report of preparations to March 2020





# Groups and Sections

Membership of Groups and Sections is a benefit of LAI membership. In particular, participation at Committee level in a Group or Section can be a valuable learning and networking experience.

Committees are elected at the Annual General Meetings of each Group and Section. The election process is advertised to members in advance. Groups and Sections have documented procedures which operate within the parameters of the overarching Memorandum and Articles of the Association, sometimes with refinements to suit local circumstances. For example, Groups and Sections can create time-specific, focused Sub-Committees or Working Groups in response to their own priorities.

If you wish to join a Group or Section, select it when joining or renewing your Association membership. If you are interested in joining the Committee of a Group or Section, please contact its Chair or Secretary



**The LIBRARY ASSOCIATION of IRELAND**

Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann

*Representing  
librarians and libraries  
in Ireland*

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## Welcome to the website of the Library Association of Ireland

We are the professional body representing libraries and librarianship in Ireland. The objectives of the association are to promote and develop high standards of librarianship and of library and information services in Ireland, and to secure greater co-operation between libraries.



# Annual Report 2020

*presented to the*

Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday 15th January 2020

BOI Workbench, Hamilton Building, Trinity College, Dublin 2



## Officers:

**Chairperson:** David Hughes (Education and Training Boards Ireland)

**Hon. Secretary:** Genevieve Larkin (Marino Institute of Education)

**Hon. Treasurer:** Gerard Connolly (TU Dublin – Tallaght Campus)

**Communications Officer:** Laura Rooney-Ferris (HSE/ National Health Library & Knowledge Service HSE)

## Committee Members 2019

Máire Caffrey (Teagasc)

Claire Costigan (Royal College of Surgeons)

Dr Johannah Duffy (Marino Institute of Education)

Dr. Eva Hornung (CDETB Curriculum Development Unit/TCD)

Lisa Lambert (CRANN)

Fiona Logan (Institute of Art, Design and Technology)

Susan Brodigan (Contemporary Centre for Music, Ireland)

Christina McGuckian (UCD)

Deirdre McGuinness (William Fry)

Sue Miller (Dublin City University)

## Overview

2020 has been the strangest year for the Academic & Special Libraries Section Committee. We were well ahead with the planning of our annual conference, when we were asked by the LAI Council in autumn 2019 to not hold any conference so that we could support IFLA WLIC in Dublin in summer 2020. And then the Covid-19 pandemic struck...



## Committee Meetings and Membership

We held two meetings in person: one on 27th January, the second on 25th February. In line with HSE regulations, we moved to online Zoom meetings, which took place on the following dates: 23rd March, 30th April, 2nd June and 17th June. We had our planning meeting on 7th October. A meeting scheduled for 12th November was postponed to 7th December.

Two new members joined the Committee in 2020, Dr. Johannah Duffy (Marino Institute of Education) and Sue Miller (DCU).

The committee was sad to see four members move on to other things: Claire Costigan, Christina McGuckian, and, back in January, Jean Earley, who was appointed to a new post in Cork. Our Secretary Genevieve Larkin has stepped down due to family commitments. We would like to thank them all for their hard work and hope to see them at future events.

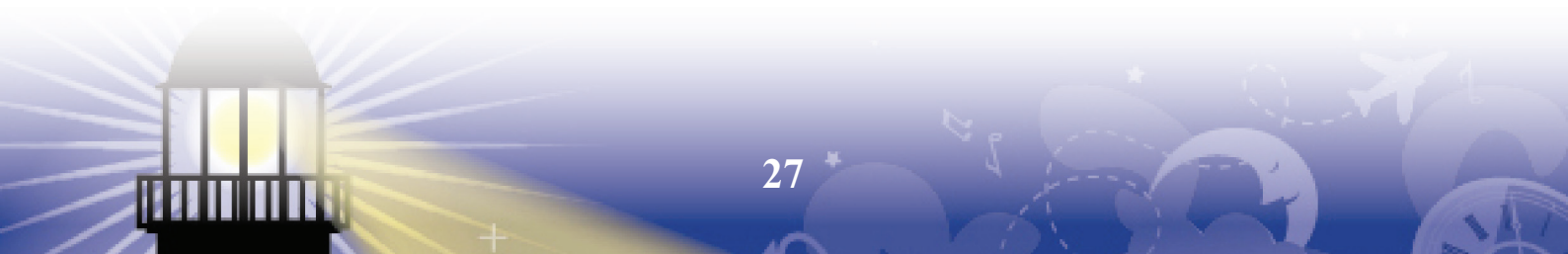
## AGM 2020

The 2020 AGM was held in BOI Workbench, Hamilton Building, Trinity College, on Wednesday 15th January 2020. 24 members attended. Our guest speaker for the event was Ben Schlepper-Connolly, Digital Curator with MoLI, Museum of Literature Ireland. He gave an engaging presentation on this exciting new addition to Ireland's literary landscape.

## A&SL Section events for 2020

### *“Taking charge of your career - adapting to new environments”*

On 22nd June we held our first ever online event via Zoom. Over 50 attendees listened to lively presentation from Rachel Pattinson, Marie O'Neill and Tony Murphy, who had moved away from traditional library jobs into other positions, where they could use their skills and experiences as information professionals.



Academic & Special Libraries Section Present

*"years of curating  
digital content,  
providing multiple  
opportunities for  
research interaction  
and developing robust  
search interfaces and  
web presences served  
us well during this  
transition."*

Christopher Cox Inside  
Higher Ed



# Taking Charge of Your Career! Adapting to New Environments 22.06.20 16.00 -17.30

Featuring...



Rachel Pattinson, Manager Digital research &  
social innovation Open Lab, Newcastle Uni

Marie O Neill, Head of Enhancement, CCT Dublin



Tony Murphy, Head of Quality Enhancement & Innovation in  
teaching & learning, Dublin Business School



## Librarians Aloud

The A&SL ‘Librarians Aloud’ podcast series now consists of twenty seven episodes of librarians talking about their career paths, what they love about the profession and where the information profession is going.

Special thanks to Laura Rooney-Ferris for this series. All episodes available at <https://soundcloud.com/librariansaloud/sets/librarians-aloud-episodes>

## Attendance at LAI Executive Board Meetings and LAI Council Events

**Dr. Eva Hornung** attended the LAI 2020 AGM and is the Convenor of the Continuing Professional Development Committee. She was co-Chair of the Volunteer Committee for IFLA 2020 in August (postponed to 2022) and programme chair for the Joint LAI-CILIP conference, which was supposed to take place in March in Dundalk (postponed to November 2021).

## Attendance and Presentations at Conferences and Training Events

**Christina McGuckian** completed the Professional Certificate in Elearning Essentials – Instructional Design from Newcastle University.

**Eva Hornung** attended the LAI Career Development Group CV & Interview Workshop on 28th November.

**David Hughes** attended the #IUADigEd webinar: Copyright law and open licenses for digital teaching & learning on 29th June.

**Deirdre MacGuinness** attended the BIALL webinar “Interactive Tools for Online Teaching” on 14th August.

**Fiona Logan** attended Website admin training – 26th March; Teaching and Learning Online showcase IADT Dun Laoghaire - 30th June; New Challenges and Leading into the post COVID recovery for Research Libraries – LIBER Webinar Series 30th November; Nuanced Literacy and Fake News: Academic Librarians’ role in New Information Environments. Fake News and Its Impact on Society Lecture 2 IFLA 18th November; and Equality Diversity and Inclusion workshop UCD 5th December.



**Gerard Connolly** attended the Rare Books Group annual seminar on 20th November and GMIT Teaching & Learning Workshop's 'Open Scholarship: Why do we need it and how can you get involved?' on the 18th of December.

**Johannah Duffy** attended King's Open Research Conference, Kings College London on 11 June; a talk by Dr. Lorraine Morgan during an Open Scholarship Cafe: Open Innovation event run online by NUI Galway, on 24 June; the Irish Universities Association/Enhancing Digital Teaching & Learning in Irish Universities – Planning for effective remote teaching during Covid-19 webinar on Jun 24; the Library Publishing SIG Virtual Open Programme: Library Publishing: A Catalyst for Change, 15 October 2020; and the Open Scholarship Café: Open Scholarship, why do we need and how do we get involved?, at GMIT!, December 18th 2020. Johannah presented at the 'The Open Library of Humanities and the Open Access revolution', and collaborated on Cosc: Down with Jazz, three-part documentary series, RTÉ One, September – October 2020.

**Susan Brodigan** attended NUI Maynooth's 'Irish Libraries and Covid-19: First Reflections in May; Event Safety and COVID-19 Precautions at Culture Night 2020 in August; Rights in digital objects and structured rights information at Europeana in Sept 2020; 18th Annual Conference of the Society for Musicology in Ireland in October 2020; 'UK Hire and Orchestral Librarians Streaming Meeting' in November 2020 and IAML UK&Ireland's 'Notated Music in an Online Environment' in December 2020. Susan guest lectured (via Zoom) to undergraduate and postgraduate students in DCU, NUI Galway and WIT about various aspects of CMC's collection and services.

## Communications

David Hughes set up a new email list for members on HEAnet. This should enable us all to communicate with each other. You can post job announcements or queries and also reply to requests without having to go through the committee. Please sign up here: <https://listserv.heanet.ie/cgi-bin/wa?A0=ASL>

A forum to share and discuss matters relevant to academic and special libraries.

You might need to create a new account with HEAnet first.

Any problems at all, please contact us at [aslsectionevents@gmail.com](mailto:aslsectionevents@gmail.com).

## Websites:

<http://www.aslibraries.com/>

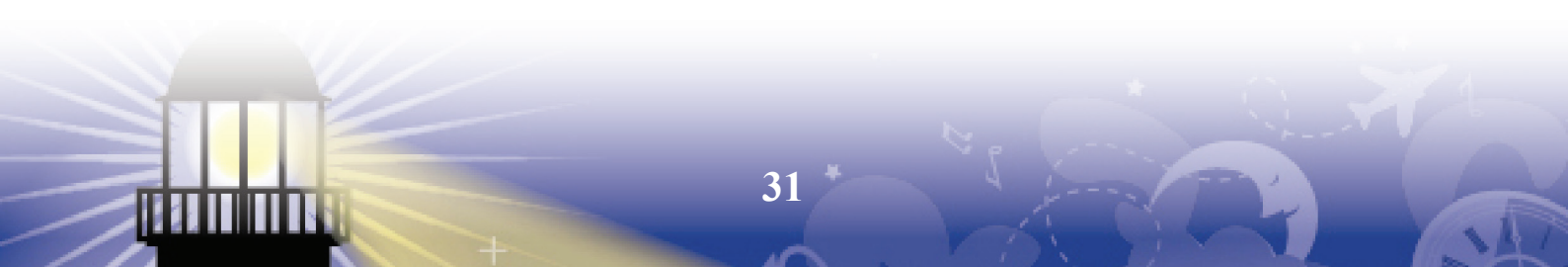
<https://www.libraryassociation.ie/academic-and-special-libraries-section/>

## Social media:

Twitter: @ASLIBRARIES

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ASLIBRARIES>

LinkedIn: Academic & Special Libraries Section of the Library Association of Ireland



# Library Association of Ireland Career Development Group Annual Report 2020



**LAI CDG**

Career Development  
Group of the Library  
Association of Ireland

## **Officers:**

**Chair:** Clare Conneally (RCSI)

**Secretary:** Aoife Williams (IBAT)

**Treasurer:** Nicola Smith (RCSI)

**Communications Officers:** Louise Lawlor (Kildare County Library & Arts Service) & Louise Cooke-Escapil (MU)

## **Committee:**

Stephanie Chen (UCC)

Isabelle Courtney (DBS & MLI)

Saoirse de Paor (MU)

Linda Fennessy (Libraries Development Unit, LGMA)

Alice Morrissey (IADT)

Lara Musto (IBAT)

Conor O'Brien (DBS)

Laura Ryan (UCD)

## **Committee Meetings and Membership**

The committee met on seven occasions in 2020, including the AGM on 7th December. The committee took a break between mid-March and July 2020 during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Some committee members attended LAI Council meetings.

## **Goals for 2019 - 2020**

- Collaborate with upcoming IFLA WLIC in Dublin
- Host follow-up to CV & Interview Workshop
- Host summer networking evenings
- Organise tours of libraries for members



## Overview and Highlights

The Career Development Group organised two very successful online events that were well attended, helping to contribute to the professional goals of information professionals at all career levels. The committee already met for meetings virtually, however this year moved from Skype to Zoom, so the pandemic did not alter this. Due to differing and exceptional circumstances of committee members, the group did not meet between March and July

## LAI CDG Events for 2020

### *How to Progress your Library Career*

The one-hour online event was held via Zoom on Wednesday 21st October at 16:30. This event was hosted by Chairperson Clare Conneally and featured four speakers; Jenny O'Neill, Isabelle Courtney, Linda Fennessy, and Marie Jennings. Tickets to the event were free and it was attended by over 100 people. Topics discussed included: freelance librarianship, networking tips, transferable skills, research data management, LinkedIn, and returning to Ireland after living abroad. This event was of particular interest to recent graduates and early career professionals. The event was advertised through LAI channels and on social media using #CDGProgress

# HOW TO PROGRESS YOUR LIBRARY CAREER

#### SPEAKERS

JENNY O'NEILL, ISABELLE COURTNEY,  
LINDA FENNESSY & MARIE JENNINGS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21

4:30 - 5:30 PM

ZOOM WEBINAR | REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE



#CDGPROGRESS



## ***CV & Interview Workshop***

This full day webinar was held via Zoom on Saturday 28th November. This event was a follow-up to our previously held CV & Interview Workshop in 2018. This event featured four speakers and a variety of interactive activities for attendees. Speakers included Marie O'Neill, Robert Alfis, Isabelle Courtney, and Eileen Morrissey. A collaborative Padlet was utilised before and during the event: [padlet.com/laicareerdevelopment/cvworkshop2020](https://padlet.com/laicareerdevelopment/cvworkshop2020). Participants could enter a raffle if they attended the event to win a one-hour photoshoot with photographer Kathy Silke to get professional headshot photographs taken to use on LinkedIn, social media, and professional purposes. The value of this prize was €200 and the cost was covered by the CDG. The raffle prize was won by a UCD MLIS student. The event was advertised through LAI channels and on social media using #CDGCareers2020.



## **AGM**

The CDG AGM took place via Zoom on the 7th December 2020. The first motion discussed was to update section 5.2 of the CDG Policies & Procedures to increase the maximum committee member number from twelve to fifteen. Five new members joined the committee at the AGM: Louise Cooke-Escapil, Louise Lawlor, Laura Ryan, Conor O'Brien, and Saoirse DePaor. At the AGM Clare Conneally was re-elected Chair, Aoife Williams was re-elected Secretary, Nicola Smith was elected Treasurer and Louise Cooke-Escapil and Louise Lawlor were elected co-Communications Officers. The committee agreed to do a Doodle poll to set the date and time of the next meeting in January.

## Communications

Library Association of Ireland: <https://libraryassociation.ie/groups-sections/career-developmentgroup>

Join our mailing list by sending an e-mail to [laicareerdevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:laicareerdevelopment@gmail.com)

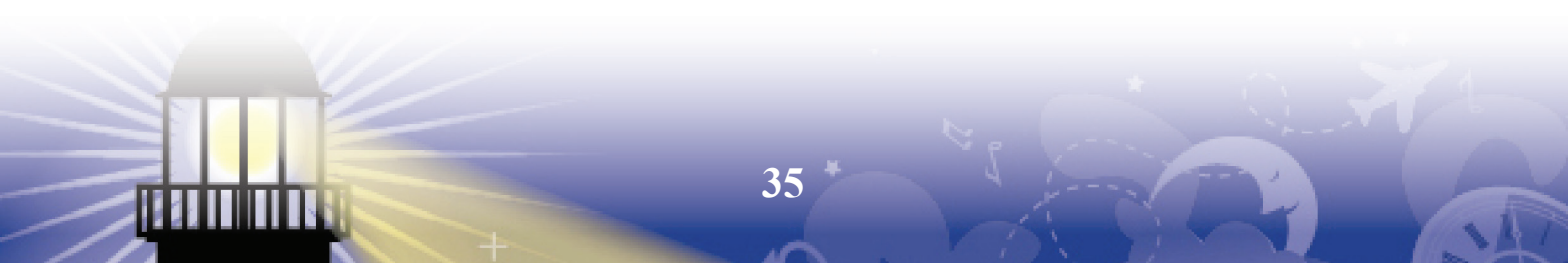
Blog: <https://laicdg.wordpress.com/>

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Career-Development-Group-CDG-of-the-Library-Association-of-Ireland/>

## Joining the LAI Career Development Group

To join the LAI CDG, select LAI CDG when renewing your LAI membership.



# Library Association of Ireland Cataloguing and Metadata Group Annual Report 2020



## Officers:

**Chair:** Christoph Schmidt-Supprian (Trinity College Dublin)

**Treasurer:** Máire Ní Chonalláin (National Library of Ireland)

**Secretary:** Patricia Moloney (University of Limerick)

## Committee:

Ruth O'Hara (Maynooth University)

Joe Peakin (Tallaght University Hospital Library)

Caroline Philpott (University College Cork)

Clare Thornley (Maynooth University)

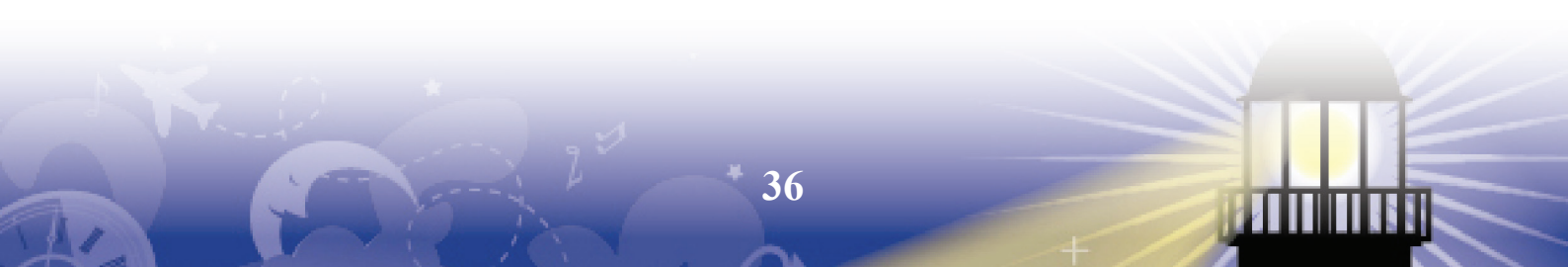
Dean Watters (Griffith College)

## Committee Administrative Work

The 2019 Committee continued intact with its ten members throughout the pandemic year of 2020. Last year's report had accidentally left out Pádraic Stack (Dublin City Libraries) from the list of members, which is hereby corrected.

Patricia Moloney took over as Group Secretary from Joe Peakin; Yvette kept up her role as informal social media officer. At the end of 2020, and formally with the AGM, scheduled for 10 March 2021, the following members are stepping down: Yvette Campbell, Mary Kiely, and Pádraic Stack. On behalf of the entire Group, we would like to sincerely thank them for their creative contributions and their hard work over many years of serving on the CMG Committee.

The Group's membership remained stable; its email distribution list (a Gmail account) stood at over 200 addresses at the end of the year.

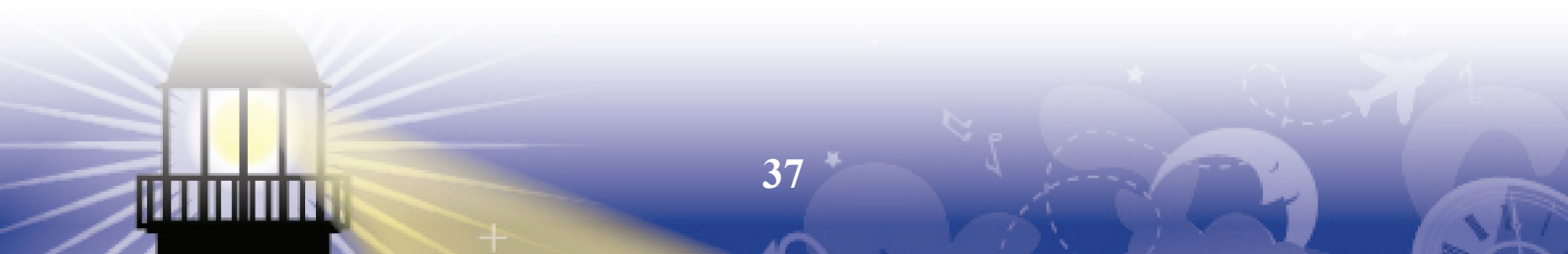


The Committee met five times during 2010, initially in Trinity, then online via Zoom: 29 January, 5 March, 16 July, 6 October, and 11 December. Normally, the Committee's work focuses on events and training, including summer visits; standards; bursary; and communications, including social media. This year, however, Committee members were deeply drawn into crisis management at their home institutions. In the end, the Committee did not have any capacity to organise events or make significant progress on the other work strands. Instead, the Secretary circulated to the Group's mailing list new training opportunities, organised by other organisations but taking place online. Before the national lockdown in March, the Committee had been very active in organising the 2019 AGM and in contributing to plans for satellite events for the IFLA World Congress, which was due to come to Dublin in August.

### **Annual General Meeting with Keynote Address and Networking**

Our AGM for 2019 took place in the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA), Merrion Square, Dublin, on 6 February 2020. Turnout was a little disappointing on a cold and wet evening, but the 10-15 attendees were treated to music in the form of a short traditional music session, performed by ITMA director Liam O'Connor and his colleague Treasa Harkin; an inspiring keynote by Treasa Harkin; an animated question and answer session and general discussions; and drinks with canapés: something for all the senses. The keynote was on "ITMA's Linked Data Journey" and detailed the development of ITMA's LITMUS data model and dataset: Linked Irish Traditional MUSIC. During a funded project from 2017 to 2019, its principal investigator, Dr Lynnsey Weissenberger, created an ontology and three thesauri (one for tune types, two for instruments); these models and vocabularies can be useful for traditional music collections elsewhere in the world. ITMA are committed to maintaining and developing them, as far as possible.

In March, shortly after the national lockdown, the Committee heard with great shock and sadness of the sudden passing of Professor Richard Sharpe, who had graciously given the keynote address to the CMG AGM only the year before. On behalf of the entire Group, the Committee wish to extend our sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathies to Richard's family, friends, and colleagues. The community of cataloguers and bibliographers in Ireland will miss him greatly.





*AGM with Keynote by  
Teresa Harkin, 6 February  
2020; seen here giving a trad  
prelude with ITMA director  
Liam O'Connor.  
(Staff photograph)*



## Training Events

The training events advertised throughout 2020 included:

- One-hour lunchtime webinars: e.g. Masterclass with Concetta La Spada on Cataloguing E-books (by Anne Welsh & Associates/Beginning Cataloguing).
- Courses lasting a few hours or delivered over a few days: e.g. Metadata and Description for Digital Special Collections (by Library Juice); Introduction to Metadata (by Library Juice); Copy Cataloguing of Sound Recordings Using RDA (by Midwest Collaborative for Library Services -MCLS).
- Module length courses: e.g. Cataloguing Rare Books: An Introduction to DCRM(B) (by Anne Welsh & Associates/Beginning Cataloguing).

In addition, the Group's Secretary circulated news from the IFLA mailing list and details about other cataloguing and bibliography related events.

## Planning for IFLA

Between January and April 2020, the Chair and Secretary of the CMG contributed via online meetings to the planning of two satellite events. These were going to be organised by the IFLA Committee on Standards; the IFLA Cataloguing Section; and the European RDA Interest Group. They were going to be hosted by the Goethe Institut on Merrion Square, Dublin, and its librarian. The CMG was going to lend its support and local knowledge, and probably logistical tools such as its Eventbrite account. The first event, on an RDA cataloguing topic, was to take place on 12 August; the second, on identities management, the day after. The Committee is looking forward to re-engaging with our IFLA colleagues on these plans for the IFLA WLIC in Dublin 2022.

# County and City Librarians' Section

## Chairperson's Report

The following Officers were elected at the 2020 Virtual AGM on 9th October 2020:

- **Chairperson:** Catherine Gallagher (County Librarian, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown)
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Catherine Elliott (Monaghan County Librarian)
- **Hon-Secretary:** Emma Clancy (Cavan County Librarian)
- **Hon Treasurer:** Brendan Martin (Wicklow County Librarian)

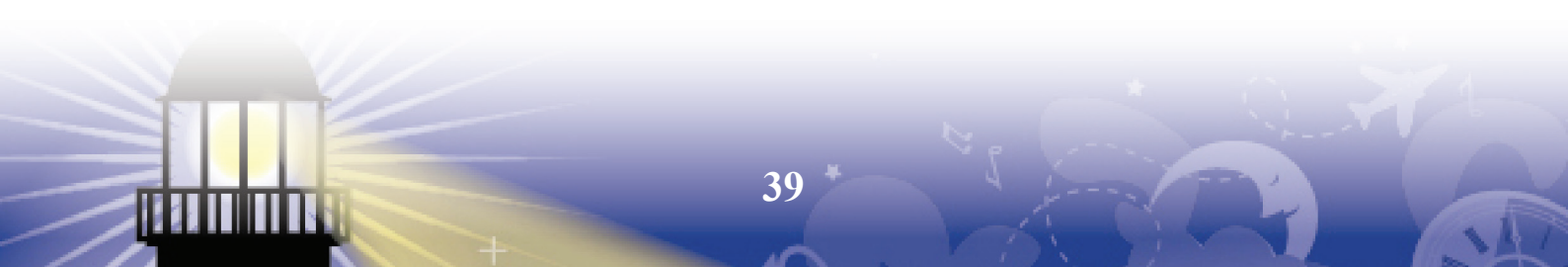
Since the 2019 AGM, the Section has met on 7 occasions as follows:

- 5th December 2019 – dlr LexIcon, Dún Laoghaire
- 26th March – Cancelled due to Covid
- 8th May 2020 (briefing/update meeting) (MS Teams)
- 11th June 2020 (MS Teams)
- 15th September 2020 (MS Teams)
- 9th October 2020 (MS Teams)
- 3rd December 2020 (MS Teams)

Members of the Section were active on Steering Groups and Committees covering a number of areas in 2020 including:

## Libraries Development Committee

Chaired by Mr Tom Enright, this high-level committee considers and oversees the development of public library strategy, the work of Libraries Development, LGMA and for oversight of the implementation of the current public library strategy. The City and County Librarian's Section is represented on this Committee by Jane Cantwell, Waterford and Ciaran Mangan, Meath.



## Libraries Development National Strategy Committees

Three committees with representation from City and County Librarians and Libraries Development, LGMA have continued working to co-ordinate the implementation of the Strategy Programmes and Enablers. The Committees work with Libraries Development, LGMA in the implementation of the Strategic Programmes and Enablers and report to the Libraries Development Committee. Where a National Steering Group is also in place, the National Strategy Committee has representation on the Steering Group and supports the work of the Steering Group.

### 2020 Main Developments

- National Take a closer look library marketing and promotional campaign run in February 2020, culminating in Leap into Libraries day on February 29th. Despite the impact of Storm Jorge on visitor numbers in some counties, 51,849 people visited a library on the day.
- My Open Library – further advancement of the programme was supported in 2020 with waitlisted projects funded.
- Funding was also made available for Sensory Library projects, additional e-resources, HI adaptation grant funding and Small Scale Capital Works Grant scheme.
- New e-resources tender implemented, and work commenced on new stock/LMS tender process.
- Right to Read, Healthy Ireland at your library and Work Matters continued in 2020.
- Dormant Account Funding was also made available for library authorities to apply for, to continue work with marginalized, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities.
- Library Services also became heavily involved in supporting the government #keepwell campaign across a number of activity areas.
- Creative Ireland programme including Cruinniú na nÓg was delivered across local authorities with many members of the section playing a key role in the coordination of the programme as Creative Coordinators. Due to the Covid situation Cruinniú was primarily an online event.
- Decade of Commemorations projects were also delivered, often in agile ways responding to the evolving situation.

## Covid-19

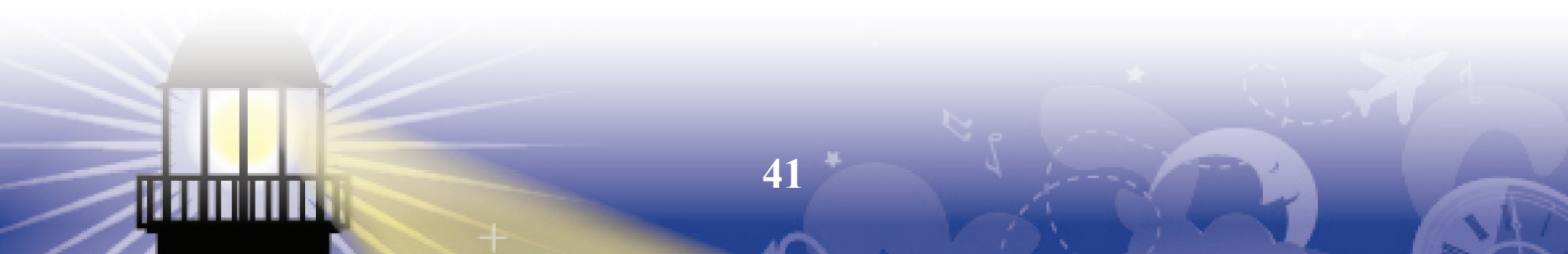
Public Libraries services closed their buildings to the public in March 2020 and remained closed for almost four months. Since then they have re-opened in various degrees and with a phased re-introduction of services. However libraries never closed.

Throughout this time members have been able to access online services and stock 24/7 throughout the pandemic. To assist all to access services, temporary membership for non-members was facilitated. The growth in use of digital resources continued an upward trajectory during 2020, with extraordinary growth in usage of online resources. Library services developed online and social media presence to respond to library users queries and to support the health and well-being response to the pandemic.

Many services contributed significantly in supporting and co-ordinating the Community Call and library delivery services to those who were cocooning. Many services also supported the government's Temporary Assignment Scheme. Services also pivoted content and events online creating and promoting a huge variety of online content in support of literacy, well-being and information services and developing digital only client bases. This content has made library services ever more accessible and socially inclusive to the community. As a section, the County and City Librarians have moved their meetings and workplan online, adapting to the challenge of the situation in a professional and focused way.

The sector has worked since re-opening on providing safe spaces in our libraries for communities of users. The resilience of everyone and the need for agile responses has made 2020 a challenging and unprecedented year.

As a sector we continued to deliver national and local initiatives during the pandemic and were one of the few services that continued to deliver throughout – **so while our buildings may have closed, our service never did.** This has been recognized by central government





## **Bealtaine Book Club Initiative**

County and City Librarians Section partnered again with Age and Opportunity in the nomination of the 2020 Bealtaine Book Club author. Michael Harding was nominated by the Section and library authorities pivoted the programme online during May 2020.

## **Autumn Seminar 2020**

The County and City Librarians' Autumn Seminar was due to be held in Donegal, however the Seminar was cancelled due to Covid-19.

## **IFLA**

IFLA World Library and Information Congress, which was due to take place in Dublin in 2020 was also cancelled. It is hoped to bring IFLA to Dublin in 2022.

## **Retirement**

Liam Ronayne, Past President, Library Association of Ireland and Cork City Librarian retired in June 2020. Working in public libraries since 1984, Liam had worked in both Donegal and Cork City. The Section would like to formally thank Liam for his many years of dedicated service to libraries and the library profession in Ireland



# Genealogy and Local Studies Group

## Committee:

Síle Coleman (South Dublin Library Service)

# Monica Cullinan (UCD)

Justin Furlong (National Library of Ireland)

Máire Ní Chonalláin (National Library of Ireland)

Colette O'Flaherty (National Library of Ireland)

The Genealogy and Local Studies Group will relaunch in 2021.

A remote 'Introduction to sources for Genealogy' training session, aimed at public library staff, is being organised for May 2021. It is hoped that this will encourage new members to join the group and form a new committee.

If you are interested in getting involved with the group or learning more about its work, please contact Síle Coleman at [scoleman@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:scoleman@sdblincoco.ie)







# Government Libraries Section



## **The following officers remained in place during 2020:**

**Chair:** Paula Murphy (DPP)

**Secretary:** Leona Burgess (Office of the Revenue Commissioners)

**Treasurer:** Máire Caffrey (Teagasc)

The Government Libraries Section represents the interests of all staff working in Government Libraries. Its aims are to promote and develop the role of libraries in the Civil Service and to promote co-operation between Government Libraries. The Government Libraries Section held a physical meeting on the 10th of March in the Department of Agriculture, Kildare St. The section held more regular virtual meetings throughout 2020 to support members and share experiences during the pandemic.

Library staff from Bord Bia presented virtually to GLS members on “How the Bord Bia Library responded to COVID-19”. Mairéad McKeown, Amy Bond and Lauren Sneyd shared the experiences from the Bord Bia library service. The Government Libraries Section held a virtual presentation by Philip Russell, TU Tallaght in December 2020. He spoke to the section about the “Be Media Smart Campaign”.



# Health Science Libraries Group

## Annual Report for 2020



### Committee:

**Chair:** Niamh Lucey (St Vincent's University Hospital)

**Vice-Chair/Research & Communications Officer:** Mary Dunne (Health Research Board)

**Secretary:** Michael Doheny (Athlone Institute of Technology)

**Treasurer:** Noreen McHugh (St Michael's Hospital)

### Officers:

**Communications Officer:** Marie Carrigan (St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network/HSE)

**CPD & Events Officer:** Mairea Nelson (Health Research Board)

**ICT Officer:** Manon van Alphen (Dorset College, Dublin)

In a year of extraordinary change, 2020 will perhaps be remembered by members of the Health Sciences Libraries Group as the year when our skills – sourcing, evaluating, and providing access to high quality health information - became highly valued on the world stage. For the HSLG Committee it was a year to be especially proud to represent and advocate for this group of dynamic, diverse and highly skilled information professionals. Throughout the ongoing pandemic HSLG members have been involved in literature searching for rapid reviews and evidence summaries on COVID-19; they have collated and made accessible emerging evidence about the virus; they have quickly adapted to providing remote and click-and-collect library services; and they have been deployed to take on new roles, working in contract tracing or providing other vital services to the public. The HSLG Committee commends each of our members for their adaptability and resilience.

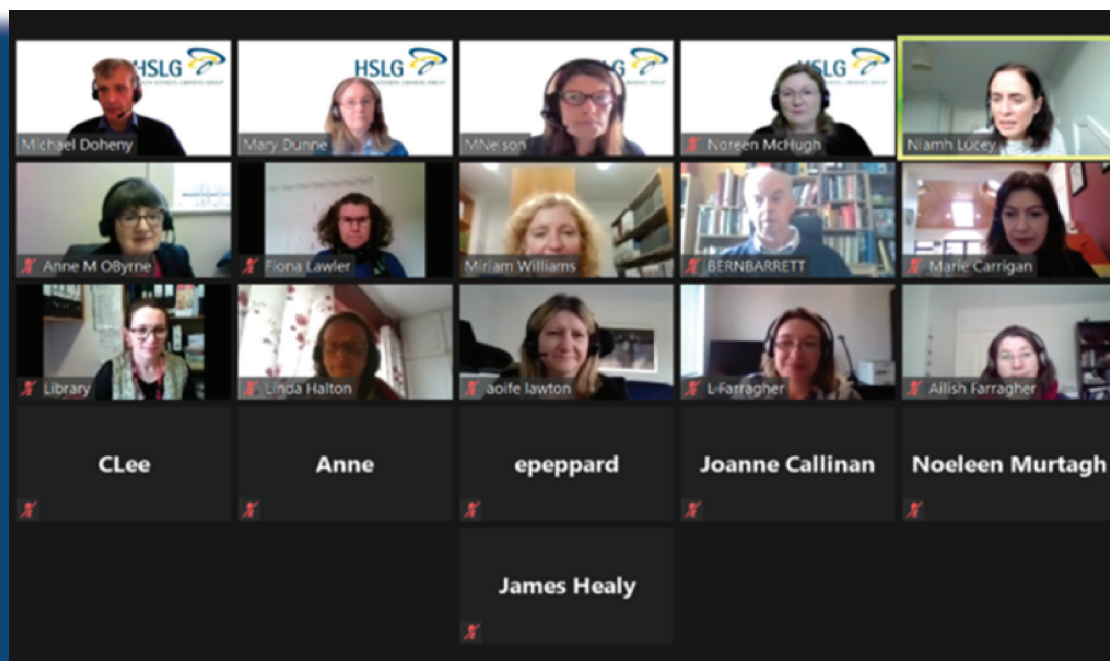
In the following report you will read about our achievements in 2020. We were fortunate enough to be able to hold a one-day seminar in February, just before the first lockdown, on the theme of research integrity which has become so important in this uncertain world. We also launched our new discussion list for our members which is open to any LAI member as well as anyone with an interest in health information.



Our AGM was held online for the first time on 26 November and we had an extremely good turnout which has given us great encouragement to continue to engage with our members online, and we have a number of events planned in this space for 2021. Finally, thanks to the hard work of our Research Officer, Mary Dunne, our Policy document was updated and approved by our members and is available to view on our website.

I would like to thank all the Committee for their dedication and hard work in 2020, both for their adaptability and their good humour in the face of rapidly changing circumstances. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of our Committee members who stepped down: Marie Carrigan, Manon van Alphen, and in particular, our Secretary Michael Doheny who departed the Committee after 15 years of dedicated service. I would also like to welcome Linda Halton and Miriam Williams to the Committee as our new Communications Officer and Secretary, respectively, and we look forward to an active and engaging year ahead.

Finally, I encourage any LAI members working in, or with an interest in, health information and librarianship to join the HSLG. You can find more information on our website [www.hslg.ie](http://www.hslg.ie) or by emailing [contacthslg@gmail.com](mailto:contacthslg@gmail.com)



AGM 2020

The HSLG committee met 6 times in 2020, mostly online via Zoom and had various additional communications throughout the year on Basecamp and via email and phone.

### **Treasurer's Report by Noreen McHugh**

Income for 2020 was primarily generated from sponsorship for the Seminar in February. The HSLG committee continued to support members by way of provision of CPD events. The Seminar, CPD events and bursaries constituted the main expenditure. Other expenditure includes ongoing costs for administration and bank fees. The HSLG Committee continues to use online banking to make and receive payments by Electronic Funds Transfer, which increases efficiency and makes it generally easier for our members to conduct transactions with us. The accounts for 2020 have been sent to the LAI auditors for approval.

### **Communications Officer Report by Mary Dunne**

Marie Carrigan began the year as Communications Officer, however, due to changes in work circumstances and commitments Marie stepped down from the committee in 2020. We would like to sincerely thank Marie for her great work in this role over the past few years.

In the last 12 months we produced 3 issues of the HSLG newsletter HINT which included articles on events, updates from the committee, 'Some LITE (library, information, technology and evidence)' reading to introduce new evidence, and details of upcoming events. In the summer we had a special issue which featured articles on how our work has changed due to COVID-19. I want to say a huge thank you to those who contributed to that. Following an appeal at our AGM in November we have seen an increase in contributions for 2021 including two new regular columns.

We organised our Seminar in February and promoted HSLG and LAI events through our email list, blog and twitter account @healthlibraries, which now has 917 followers. The HSLG website is regularly updated. If anyone has anything they would like us to add to the blog or HINT please email it to us.

## Events Officer Report by Mairea Nelson

In February 2020 we held our Seminar in the Ashling Hotel Dublin. Our theme was 'You can't handle the truth: research integrity and truth in libraries' which attracted great speakers, poster presenters and delegates. It was a great opportunity to share ideas and network with library colleagues.

Our keynote speakers, Maura Hiney and Patricia Clarke, spoke about the National Forum on Research Integrity and the National Open Research Forum. Professor Declan Devane, Director of Evidence Synthesis Ireland, spoke about Evidence for Informed Health Choices and the role of ESI. Speakers from the HSLG provided a fascinating insight into health-related library work and innovation. As always, we would like to thank everyone who helped to make the seminar possible. Presentations can be viewed on our website.

Due to COVID-19 we were unable to host our annual joint networking event with the Academic & Special Libraries Section this year. The pandemic has also prevented us from organising our usual CPD events. We have, however, contacted our members regularly by email with information about online conferences and other CPD events, and encouraged them to avail of our bursaries to cover attendance costs.

We are already considering/planning possible CPD events for next year.



HSLG seminar 2020	
You can't handle the truth: research integrity and truth in libraries	
Ashling Hotel, Dublin, 13 February 2020	
09.15-09.45	Registration, refreshments, networking with colleagues & exhibitors
09.45-10.00	Welcome
10.00-11.00	Invited speakers Dr Maura Hiney and Dr Patricia Clarke, Health Research Board National Forum on Research Integrity and the National Open Research Forum
11.00-11.20	Sponsor presentations
11.20-11.45	Lightning presentations Michelle Dalton — Appearances can be deceiving - how to avoid "predatory" publishers Patricia Patton — Using Mentimeter, an audience response system, to enhance feedback and engagement in information skills training
11.45-12.15	Sponsor presentations
12.15-12.25	Interactive session
12.25-13.20	Lunch in hotel restaurant and coffee back upstairs at the sponsor exhibition
13.20-13.30	Interactive session
13.30-14.00	Sponsor presentations
14.00-14.10	Lightning presentation Emma Quinn — Imposter Syndrome
14.10-14.20	Comfort break
14.20-15.50	Invited speaker Prof Declan Devane, Evidence Synthesis Ireland Evidence for informed health choices and the role of Evidence Synthesis Ireland
15.50-16.00	Close (with IFLA draw)
16.15	Drinks reception in The Ashling Hotel



# LAI Library Publishing Group (LPG)

## Annual Report 2020

The LAI Library Publishing Group grew from some initial meetings held in 2019 with the aim of supporting library publishing activities nationally. This report lists the activities of the LPG in 2020 which support the mission and vision of the Group.



1. Establishing the Library Publishing Group with membership from Dublin Business School (Jane Buggle and Robert Alfis), CCT College Dublin (Marie O'Neill), MU (Fiona Morley), UCD (Michelle Dalton), CIT (Sinead Hanrahan), Marino Institute of Education (Dr Johannah Duffy), NCI (Mary Buckley), TUD (Yvonne Desmond), School of Celtic Studies, DIAS (Margaret Irons), Trinity College (Niamh Brennan), CDETB Curriculum Development Unit (Dr Eva Hornung), WIT (David Kane)

2. Members of the LPG worked on the development of a dedicated LPG webspace on the LAI webspace with the support of the President and the Council of the LAI.





3. Group members undertook the four modules of the Library Publishing Curriculum taught by the Chair, Jane Buggle

4. Members of the LPG encouraged their institutions to submit an entry to the Library Publishing Directory including

- Cork Institute of Technology
- Maynooth University
- Trinity College Dublin
- CCT College Dublin
- Dublin Business School

5. Jane Buggle and Marie O'Neill were on the organising committee of the IFLA Special Interest Group (SIG) on Library Publishing Mid-Term Conference at Oslo Metropolitan University March 5-6. They presented on the Irish Publishing Landscape: One Year On. See conference review in An Leabharlann, October.

6. Johannah Duffy presented on the Open Library of the Humanities at the IFLA's Section on Serials and Other Continuing Resources (SOCRS) Virtual Event on September 21. She has been invited to write up the presentation for publication by IFLA

7. Jane Buggle and Marie O'Neill were on the organising committee of the IFLA SIG on Library Publishing Virtual Programme, October 16, facilitated by Jane Buggle and attended by members of the LPG.

8. Niamh Brennan has developed a beta website for the Irish Open Access Journals (IOAJ) coalition for consultation with relevant stakeholders.

9. The Library Publishing Curriculum has been taught to students on the MSc Information and Library Studies Programme at DBS by Jane Buggle

10. Affiliations have been established with the IFLA Special Interest Group on Library Publishing and the Library Publishing Coalition

11. After one year, Michelle Dalton has left the group to become Chair of the LAI Open Scholarship Group and David Kane is now acting as Engagement Manager for the Waterford-Carlow merger project. We would like to thank them both for all their contributions and we look forward to collaborating with the Open Science Group in the future.

12. The following Library Publishing activities have been undertaken in the last 12 months:

CCT College Dublin has purchased Digital Commons

MU - Launched Journal of Military History and Defence on OJS

MU - Taken over hosting of Dance Cult on OJS

MU - Became members of the Open Book Publishers

CIT - Purchased Digital Commons

13. LPG Published Journals:

*Marino Institute of Education - STER*

*MU - Journal of Military History and Defence*

*MU - Dance Cult*

*DBS - DBS Business Review*

*TUD - Irish Journal for Culture, Arts, Literature and Language*

*Critical Letters in Economics & Finance*

*European Journal of Food Drink and Society*

*International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage*

*Irish Communication Review*

*Irish Journal of Academic Practice*

*Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies*

*Journal of Franco-Irish Studies*

*Journal of Social Care Level 3*

# Marketing Taskforce Report 2020

## Members:

Marian Higgins (Kildare Library and Arts Service)  
Aoife Lawton (HSE Health Service Executive)  
Mary Murphy (Meath County Library Service)  
John Shortall (Carlow County Library Service)  
Sandra Turner (Roscommon County Library Service)

The group met mostly online in 2020 due to Covid 19. The main work of the taskforce this year was to produce a strategy with the key goals of increasing membership of the LAI across all categories and increasing awareness of LAI events and activities among all stakeholders. It was the intention to engage the services of a consultant, but the Council decided that the taskforce could produce a strategy in-house as all funds were required for the IFLA conference. Aoife Lawton joined the task force in August to aid with the strategy and after a few online meetings it was agreed to produce a strategy for 2021-2022 focusing on increasing membership and awareness of LAI activities. The strategy will be submitted to the first meeting of the Council 2021 for approval.

# Open Scholarship Group



## Open Scholarship Group:

Convenor - Philip Cohen (LAI)

Marta Bustillo (UCD), Máire Caffrey (Teagasc)

Breda Connell (IT Carlow), Michelle Dalton (UCD),

Andrea Dillon (Blackrock College), David Hughes (ETBI),

Doreen Lundon (Mount Seskin Community College), Tania Marsh (Athlone IT),

Fiona Morley (Maynooth University), Deirdre McGuinness (William Fry),

Laura Rooney-Ferris (HSE), Mark Reid (Kildare County Library and Arts

Service), Justin Smyth (CCT), Shona Thoma (Kildare County Library and Arts Service)

Open Scholarship, Open Science or Open Research aims to make research data, publications, educational resources and software - in science, engineering, arts, humanities and social sciences - freely accessible to all members of society and in ways that facilitate their reuse. It is a global movement, often led by libraries and library staff.

The Library Association of Ireland supports Open Scholarship principles and has established its own Open Scholarship Group to promote the concept and to share best practice. Members of the Group include staff from a range of public, academic, health and special libraries. They meet regularly by Zoom and have ambitious plans for future events. New members are always welcome.

Contact [openscholarship@libraryassociation.ie](mailto:openscholarship@libraryassociation.ie) for further information.



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# LAI Public Libraries Section

## Annual Report 2020

### Officers:

**Chair:** John Shortall (Carlow County Library Service)

**Vice-Chair:** Josephine Vahey (Galway Public Library Service)

**Secretary:** Mary Murphy (Meath County Library Service)

**Treasurer:** Pat Lonergan (Retired)

### Committee:

Melanie Cunningham (Waterford County Council)

Emer Donoghue (Galway Public Library Service)

Jackie McIntyre (Offaly County Library Service)

Brendan Teeling (Dublin City Libraries)

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, it became evident in mid-2020 that the usual physical conference organised by the Public Libraries Section Committee would not be possible, and plans were made to deliver an online conference in its place. The organising committee met weekly from August 2020 in the scheduling of a series of online talks, interviews and events based on the overall theme of ‘A World in Change: Libraries Survive and Thrive.’

The online sessions were divided into the following headings:

1. Books the simple bare necessities, forget about your worries and your strife
2. Uncertain times: The reading bug is here to stay
3. Wellbeing, mindfulness and resilience
4. Shared reading in a digital land
5. Our popular ‘my life in books’ session.



Only one event happened in 2020 – an interactive Zoom session with Elaine Bean from Maynooth University Library. The remaining sessions were scheduled from January to April 2021 as follows:

### *January*

- Thursday 28th January : ‘Books: The simple bare necessities, Patricia Forde in conversation with Cathy Rentzenbrink’

### *February*

- Thursday 11th February : ‘The role of social media for libraries in a COVID-19 world’ Joanne Sweeney on Social Media Marketing.
- Thursday 25th February : ‘Uncertain times: the reading bug is here to stay’. Patricia Forde in conversation with Sasha de Buyl.



### *March*

- Wednesday 10th March : ‘Managing our Mental Health through the COVID-19 Pandemic’ with Dr Keith Gaynor.
- Wednesday 24th March : ‘Shared reading in digital land’ Patricia Forde in conversation with Jane Davies

### *April*

- Wednesday 14th April : Krystal Vittles from Suffolk libraries: author of the Guardian article ‘Why lockdown was the plot twist that libraries needed.’
- Wednesday 21st April : ‘Burning the Books’: Richard Ovenden, Bodleian Librarian in conversation with Jane Burns
- Wednesday 28th April : My Life in Books chaired by Pat Lonergan.



The committee would like to thank the LAI Council, LAI members and public library staff from around the country who engaged with them and provided support during 2020.

The committee members are: John Shortall, Josephine Vahey, Emer Donoghue, Brendan Teeling, Mary Murphy, Jackie McIntyre and Melanie Cunningham.



### *Burning the Books*

*Richard Ovenden in conversation with Jane Burns*



# Rare Books Group

## Annual Report for 2020



### Officers:

**Chair:** Evelyn Flanagan (University College Dublin);

**Secretary:** Sophie Evans (Royal Irish Academy);

**Treasurer:** Alexandra Caccamo (National Botanic Gardens)

### Committee:

Elizabethanne Boran (Edward Worth Library)

Marie Boran (NUI Galway)

Stephanie Breen (Trinity College Dublin)

Elaine Harrington (University College Cork)

Sue Hemmens (Marsh's Library)

Margaret Irons (Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies)

Hugh Murphy (Maynooth University)

Máire Ní Chonalláin (National Library of Ireland)

Sarah Timmins (Royal College of Surgeons Ireland)

Celine Ward (Chester Beatty)

During 2020, Hugh Murphy (Maynooth University) replaced Barbara McCormack, and June Rooney (Dublin City University) replaced David Meehan. Harriet Wheelock (Royal College of Physicians Ireland) stepped down from the committee. We also welcomed Sarah Timmins (Royal College of Surgeons Ireland) and Margaret Irons (Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies) on to the committee.

The committee met five times during the year, 7th February, 17th April, 31st July, 16th October and 11th November.

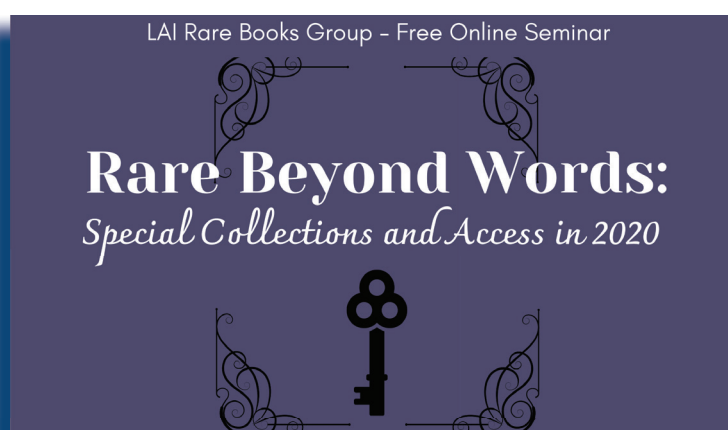
## Events

The AGM took place on 7th February at the Royal Irish Academy at 12.30pm. David Meehan stepped down from the role of chair. Evelyn Flanagan and Sophie Evans were elected to their respective offices of Chair and Secretary. Alexandra Caccamo was re-elected to the role of Treasurer. The AGM was followed by a presentation by Dr. Jane Suzanne Carroll, School of English, TCD, on the theme of children's fiction and literature.

The 2020 Annual Seminar took place on Friday 20 November and focussed on the challenges special collections librarians faced during and after lockdown. The seminar took place online, via Zoom and the recordings made available on the RBG [WordPress https://rarebooksgroup.wordpress.com](https://rarebooksgroup.wordpress.com).

The seminar comprised the following presentations:

- Down the rabbit hole: moving library (and country) in lockdown / Amy Boylan, Marsh's Library.
- Carry on regardless / Sophie Evans, RIA.
- A researcher's perspective on closed libraries during lockdown: challenges, changes and collaboration / Chantal Kobel, DIAS.
- National Library Re-opening – Lessons in contingency planning / Gráinne MacLochlainn, NLI.
- Reopening a university library: politics, persuasion and persistence / John Cox, NUIG.
- Panel discussion: What Covid 19 means for Special Collections.





# Western Regional Section of the LAI



## Annual Report 2020

### Officers:

**Co-Chairs** - Celine Peignen (AIT) and Ailish Larkin (Shannon College of Hotel Management, NUI Galway)

**Secretary** - Niamh O'Brien (Johnson Controls)

**Treasurer** - Ailish Larkin (Shannon College of Hotel Management, NUI Galway)

### Committee:

Michelle Breen (UL)

Michael Doheny (AIT)

Emmet Keoghane (AIT)

Samantha Morrissey (Clare County Library Service)

Stephanie Ronan (Marine Institute)

Carolyn Tunney (Roscommon County Library Service)

2020 was a difficult year for all who work in libraries. The Western Section tried to remain engaged with its members through exclusively online channels. Recognising people's workloads were immense, WRSLAI opted for light content on all its platforms, intending to be visible but not imposing on anyone. We look forward to 2021 and the opportunities it gives to library workers to interact once more with CPD, and most importantly, with each other.

Beir bua,

Michelle.



## **Annual General Meeting**

The 2019 AGM was held at the Marine Institute in Oranmore, Co. Galway on January 27th 2020. Stephanie Ronan hosted a virtual AGM and five people attended in person. Michelle Breen, Chair gave a summary of the year's events and gave an overview of the annual report for 2019. Ailish Larkin, Treasurer gave a summary of the committee's account.

Emmet Keoghan and Sinead Hanrahan share the Communications Officer role and Emmet gave a summary on progress for 2019. It was agreed to organise activity on the WRSLAI blog and Twitter on a more regular, structured basis. Other platforms for internal communication within the committee will also be investigated as an alternative to Freedcamp.

Committee members and officer positions were decided and elected as listed.

### **Plans for 2020 included:**

1. Changing the WRSLAI logo to be more social media friendly.
2. Creating a public and private mailing list for communication within committee and to members.
3. Suspend WRSLAI's own seminar for 2020 so that we can support IFLA.
4. Agreed to provide a bursary for a member to attend IFLA.
5. Use 2020 as an opportunity to do 'behind the scenes' admin for the section.

## **WRSLAI Planning Day**

The Planning Day took place on 25th February in Áras Contae an Chlair, Ennis, Co Clare and was hosted by Tara Considine. The Planning Day was organised in order to focus on our own group development, to investigate our values and plan for the future. Themes such as committee communications, knowledge exchange, sharing responsibilities within the group, the WRSLAI mission and ambitions for the way forward were all open for discussion.

## ***WRS�AI Zoom Meeting***

The committee met again on 24th April via Zoom to talk about the Corona virus pandemic and how it had affected our plans for 2020.



## ***WRS�AI Online Networking Event***

Instead of holding an annual summer seminar the committee hosted an online networking event on Thursday 4th June at 9pm. This was a chance to hear how people had managed to-date during the first 12 weeks of working from home with contributions from colleagues across all library sectors.

**WRS�AI  
networking  
event**



**WRS�AI**  
The Western Regional Section of  
the Library Association of Ireland

### **Working from home; the good, the bad and the ugly!**

Does every job take twice as long as it used to?

Have you had enough online meetings and webinars?

Do you sometimes wish you were 'back in the office'?

Join the @WRS�AI committee at 9pm on June 4th for a chat about how #WFH has been for you?

Register on EventBrite <https://wrslai-not-your-usual-zoom-call.eventbrite.ie>

In the run-up to this networking event, members of the committee created online 'postcards' to share with the library community on Twitter about their own experiences of working from home.





## Library Ireland Week 2020

As part of Library Ireland Week from November 30th to December 6th, Ailish Larkin, Stephanie Ronan, Emmet Keoghan, Sinead Hanrahan, Carolyn Tunney and Michelle Breen took part in the LAI #LibrariansOfIreland on Instagram. The LAI is run by committed volunteers from all library sectors across Ireland. This was an opportunity to discover more about the people behind our professional association and what being a librarian means to them.



## Contacting WRSLAI

All communications with our members are delivered via our Twitter account [@wrslai](#), our blog [www.wrslai.wordpress.com](http://www.wrslai.wordpress.com) and via the LAI mailing list. Our email address is [westernlibraries@gmail.com](mailto:westernlibraries@gmail.com)

# Youth Libraries Group Report 2020

## Officers:

**Chair:** Aisling Donnelly (DLR Libraries)/Martina Needham (Offaly County Library Service)

**Secretary:** Deirdriu McQuaid (Monaghan County Library Service),

**Treasurer:** Helen O' Donnell (Fingal Libraries)

**Assistant Treasurer:** Trish Nolan (Carlow County Library Service)

**PRO:** Ciara McGurl (Meath County Library Service)

## Committee:

Mary Bohan (Leitrim County Library Service)

Katie Dickson (St Dominic's Secondary School Library)

Karen McCague (Monaghan County Library Service)

Kathleen Moran (JCSP), Maedhbh Rogan-McGann (Meath County Library Service)

Noelle Sandilands (Donegal County Library Service)

The Youth Libraries Group AGM took place on 20th February 2020 in Blanchardstown Library. Eleven members of the committee attended in person.

Following election of officers and committee members as listed above, a presentation was made to outgoing member Frances Crampsie who was on the committee since 2000 and is retiring from Donegal Libraries in 2020.

The Committee met on 4 occasions in 2020, in person for the AGM and online via Microsoft Teams. Throughout the year, most of the work was completed remotely and online.

## **Social Media**

It was agreed to set up a Twitter account for YLG.

The group joined in February 2020 - [https://twitter.com/LAI\\_YLG\\_Ireland](https://twitter.com/LAI_YLG_Ireland) - with the first Tweet on March 5th - The Youth Library Group of the Library Association of Ireland is here!

The LAI Twitter account (@LAI\_YLG\_Ireland) has 240 Followers as of February 2021. An analysis of the account from November 2020 to February 2021 shows the reach was 82,200 impressions generated by 275 tweets which caused 1704 profile visits and another 110 mentions, and 132 new followers.

## **IFLA Bursary 2020**

It was decided that the group would offer up 2 bursaries to students/librarians to attend the IFLA conference taking place in Dublin in August 2020. Application criteria were established with forms and posters developed. Due to Covid, the conference was cancelled but we intend to offer this support when rescheduled.

## **Annual Seminar 2020 & Covid**

We had planned to host our annual seminar on 12th May 2020 in Blanchardstown Library. Like so many other organisations, the YLG had to adapt and deliver its planned programme in new ways - mainly online - as a result of the Covid19 pandemic. Considering the unexpected and increased expectation for Library staff to organise and deliver online content, this provided us with the opportunity to offer such training.



**The following online training programmes were delivered between November 2020 and February 2021.**

### ***Online Digital Skills Workshop with Michael Fortune***

A 4 week online digital course for frontline library staff involved in delivering services to children and young people using online media.

Participants learned how to use digital devices to make images and film, and to use the cross-platform App InShot to edit, add titles, add and record sound, and share the completed film. The use of Instagram, Facebook & YouTube for promotion, programming and reaching audiences was addressed.

The course was delivered in 4x1 hour sessions with 20 participants on each course. We facilitated 4 courses - a total of 80 library staff members. The course was also accredited for CPD.



***“Another great session with Michael Fortune, learning more about editing videos and using screen recording to create content! Can’t wait to try it here at [@MayoLibrary](#)”***

### ***Recommending with Confidence***

A five-week programme of talks took place January-February 2021 with topics such as sensory libraries, digital stories, dialogic story reading and Story streets project. All these topics are very relevant to the provision of library services to children and young people and are aligned with current and future funding programmes.

***“We were overwhelmed with the response and had 300 participants booked into the series each week”***

### ***Sensory Stories with Eleanor Gannon***

Eleanor’s workshops will discuss what sensory play entails, the benefits and barriers to sensory play, ASD and Sensory Processing difficulties, managing expectations, and considerations when carrying out sensory sessions in a library. The workshops will provide practical examples of how to bring sensory play into activities at the library, making it an even more inclusive space.





## ***LEGO, Animation, Story Creation and Voice Acting***

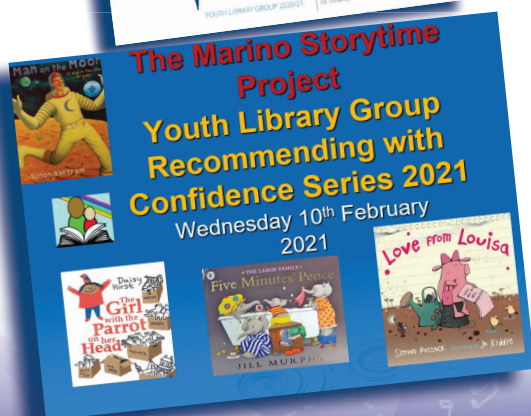
A introduction of how to create your own animation studio in your library or maker space. Join Thomas from Wexford Library as he talks through the basics of creating a stop motion Lego movie. It is a practical project that can be scaled up or down to suit your needs and it has proved to be hugely successful with kids in

## ***Dialogistic Story Reading***

This is an evidence-based, dialogic story-reading project that aims to support parents in reading stories to their children in order to develop children's oral language. This one-hour seminar for librarians shares a description of how the project works and includes story time tip-sheets, book lists and oral language strategies for parents.

## ***Encouraging Families To Read Together***

Story Streets is a family literacy research project, run by Carlow County Library Service and set in three disadvantaged communities in Carlow. The main aims were to encourage families to read together and to help people who don't use the library to join and start to use their local public library.



# Acknowledgements

The LAI acknowledges with thanks the support of the many organisations, institutions and individuals without whose cooperation and support the Association could not have functioned this year and every year. Particular thanks are due to the following:

Dublin City Public Libraries for providing a correspondence address and for making available facilities for meetings.

The very many other library organisations that accommodated committee meetings, CPD events and activities throughout the year.

The Heads of Library Services and other leaders who have facilitated staff to act as Officers of the Association and engage on Council, Committees, Groups and Sections.

The Royal Irish Academy, Dublin City Public Libraries, Fingal Libraries, South Dublin County Libraries and Waterford City and County Council Libraries for providing storage for Association records.

The library business sector and other friends of the Association that support its work through sponsorship of meetings, seminars and other activities.

# Appendix 1

## Organisation of the Association

The Library Association of Ireland (LAI) is a company limited by guarantee. Every member of the Association is a shareholder. The Council acts as the company Board of Directors.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association establish the methods and capacity of the Association to manage its business. These are the foundation documents for all action by the Association and they outline procedures in place.

Membership of the Association is open to individuals and institutions.

Participative membership is encouraged in order to benefit both the profession and the individual.

The annual report illustrates the range of opportunities for active participation that are open to members currently. The Articles of Association describe the procedure to initiate other relevant activity. Activities can be at individual and group levels. Activity at individual level can include research, writing, mentoring, training, further education, advocacy or contributing a specialist expertise. Group work can include all of the above in community with others. Membership of Groups and Sections is a benefit of LAI membership. In particular, participation at Committee level in a Group or Section can be a valuable learning and networking experience.

Committees are elected at the Annual General Meetings of each Group and Section. The election process is advertised to members in advance. Groups and Sections have documented procedures which operate within the parameters of the overarching Memorandum and Articles of the Association, sometimes with refinements to suit local circumstances. For example, Groups and Sections can create time-specific, focused Sub-Committees or Working Groups in response to their own priorities.

If you wish to join a Group or Section, select it when joining or renewing your Association membership.

If you are interested in joining the Committee of a Group or Section, please contact its Chair or Secretary.



## Appendix 1 continued

Membership of the LAI Council and election to the Offices of President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer is open to all personal members in good standing. The procedures are outlined in the Memorandum and Articles.

The Council has a range of Committees and may form Panels or Taskforces to address topical issues. In general, Panels and Taskforces are of a temporary nature and their membership may include individuals who are not members of Council.

The Association sometimes provides nominees to a range of external organisations. These are listed in the annual report. The selection of nominees varies depending upon the organisation involved



# Appendix 2

## Committees

### Management and Administration

- Council
- Management Committee

### Developing the Profession

- Education Committee: Professional Standards
- Education Committee: Continuing Professional Development
- Library Ireland Week Taskforce
- Literacies Committee

### Communications

- Website Development and Social Media
- Editorial Board of An Leabharlann: The Irish Library

### Supporting Co-operation Between Libraries and Library Organisations

- North/South Liaison [with CILIP Ireland]
- Annual Joint Conference Committee [with CILIP Ireland]

## Groups and Sections

### Sectoral

- Academic and Special Libraries Section
- County and City Librarians Section
- Government Libraries Section
- Public Libraries Section

### Regional

- Western Regional Section



## Appendix 2 continued

### Special Interest [Cross-Sectoral]

- Career Development Group
- Cataloguing and Metadata Group
- Genealogy and Local Studies Group
- Health Services Libraries Group
- Library Publishing Group
- Open Scholarship Group
- Rare Books Group
- Youth Libraries Group

LAI Council is responsible for the correct and effective running of the Association. Consequently, all Committees, Groups and Sections submit regular reports to the Honorary Secretary for consideration at Council meetings.

## **Appendix 3**

### **List of Abbreviations**

The following abbreviations may be found within the text of the report.

#### **General**

AGM – Annual General Meeting

ALAI – Associateship of the Library Association of Ireland

CPD – Continuing Professional Development

FLAI – Fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland

G&S – Groups and Sections

GDPR – General Data Protection Regulations

ILI – Internet anbrarian International Conference

LIS – Library and Information Studies

MLIS – Master of Library and Information Studies

SIG – Special Interest Group

### **Library Association of Ireland Groups and Sections**

A&SL – Academic and Special Libraries Section

CCLS – County and City Librarians' Section

CDG – Career Development Group

CMG – Cataloguing and Metadata Group

GenLoc – Genealogy and Local Studies Group

GLS – Government Libraries Section

HSLG – Health Sciences Libraries Group

MRS – Munster Regional Section

PLS – Public Libraries Section

RBG – Rare Books Group

WRS LAI – Western Regional Section

YLG – Youth Libraries Group

## Appendix 3 continued

### Organisations

AMNCH – Adelaide, Meath, and National Children’s Hospital

ANLTC – Academic and National Library Training Co-operative

ARLIS – Art Libraries Society

Athlone IT – Athlone Institute of Technology

BIALL – The British and Irish Association of Law Librarians

CCT – CCT College, Dublin

CDETB – City of Dublin Education and Training Board

CILIP – Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals

CONUL – Consortium of National and University Libraries

CSSO – Chief State Solicitor’s Office

CUAL – Connacht Ulster Alliance Libraries

DBS – Dublin Business School

DCPL – Dublin City Public Libraries

DCU – Dublin City University

DIAS – Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies

DIT – Dublin Institute of Technology

DLR – Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown

DPP – Director of Public Prosecutions

EBLIDA – European Bureau of Library Information and Documentation

Associations

HRB – Health Research Board

HSE – Health Services Executive

IBAT – IBAT College, Dublin



## Appendix 3 continued

### Organisations

IFLA – International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions  
IMI – Irish Management Institute  
IT Carlow – Institute of Technology Carlow  
ITT – Institute of Technology Tallaght  
L2L – Library Staff Learning to Support Learners Learning (NF Project)  
LAI – Library Association of Ireland  
LISC – Library and Information Services Council  
LGMA – Local Government Management Agency  
LIR – HEANet User Group for Libraries  
LYIT – Letterkenny Institute of Technology  
MLI – Media Literacy Ireland  
MU – Maynooth University  
NCAD – National College of Art and Design  
NCEC – National Clinical Effectiveness Committee  
NCI – National College of Ireland  
NF – National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education  
NLI – National Library of Ireland  
NUI – National University of Ireland  
PKSB – Professional Knowledge and Skills Base (CILIP UK)  
QQI – Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
RCSI – Royal College of Surgeons Ireland



## **Appendix 3 continued**

### **Organisations**

RDS – Royal Dublin Society

RIA – Royal Irish Academy

TCD – Trinity College Dublin

TU Dublin – Technological University Dublin

UCC – University College Cork

UCD – University College Dublin

UCD SICS – University College Dublin, School of Information & Communication Studies

UL – University of Limerick

WIT – Waterford Institute of Technology

WLIC – World Library and Information Congress

## Appendix 3 continued organisations

IT Carlow – Institute of Technology Carlow

ITT – Institute of Technology Tallaght

L2L – Library Staff Learning to Support Learners Learning (NF Project)

LAI – Library Association of Ireland

LISC – Library and Information Services Council

LGMA – Local Government Management Agency

LIR – HEANet User Group for Libraries

LYIT – Letterkenny Institute of Technology

MLI – Media Literacy Ireland

MU – Maynooth University

NCAD – National College of Art and Design

NCEC – National Clinical Effectiveness Committee

NCI – National College of Ireland

NF – National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in  
Higher Education

NLI – National Library of Ireland

NUI – National University of Ireland

PKSB – Professional Knowledge and Skills Base (CILIP UK)

QQI – Quality and Qualifications Ireland

RCSI – Royal College of Surgeons Ireland

RDS – Royal Dublin Society

RIA – Royal Irish Academy

TCD – Trinity College Dublin





Dear colleagues,

These are difficult times for us all and during difficult times people show their compassion, ingenuity, resilience and creativity. If there is anything, we know of the Irish spirit it is that we are resilient in challenging times.

Difficult decisions have and will have to be taken, librarians are continuing to support their communities in innovative ways promoting digital resources, facilitating remote group engagement such as online bookclubs, storytelling via social media and most importantly providing access to accurate information.

Our Taoiseach mentioned librarians in his recent speech updating the nation. Many of you are supporting our health professionals in the areas of contact tracing and research. Others are providing venues and services to support the national effort to contain the virus. Public librarians are supporting our colleagues in emergency local authority services. Each sector of our profession is offering supports within their resources. At the same time, managers are thinking about the health and wellbeing of their staff, and how they can minimise their teams' exposure to the Coronavirus.

A decision was made based on public health grounds to postpone the Annual LAI/CILIP conference, we wish to thank all who had a hand, act or part in the programme and we look forward to holding this later in the year. Again, as we are sure you will appreciate a decision has also been made to postpone the LAI AGM. As we receive clarity on the situation this will be re-arranged. The IFLA World Library and Information Congress is under constant review. While the final decision rests with IFLA we are in constant communication, informing them of the mounting challenges and changing priorities.

Finally, a Zoom account has been set up by the LAI and will be available for all groups, sections and meetings this will allow for connectivity within our profession - it is important for us all to stay in touch. We will also aim to communicate via our social media channels, website and by Zoom meetings. Please, share with us your own stories of new resources and services you are providing, as well as the new roles you are filling that make use of your library skills and we will post on social media and create news items on our website. Contact us by email at [president@libraryassociation.ie](mailto:president@libraryassociation.ie) or [webofficer@libraryassociation.ie](mailto:webofficer@libraryassociation.ie). As always your colleagues in the LAI can also be contacted at [honsecretary@libraryassociation.ie](mailto:honsecretary@libraryassociation.ie) and [hontreasurer@libraryassociation.ie](mailto:hontreasurer@libraryassociation.ie).

There are no easy answers to the many challenges that face us on a professional and personal basis at this time. Whilst there might be no easy answers it is important for us as a profession to be there to support each other.

Camaraderie will be more important than ever in these anxious times. Be safe everyone and take care.

Marian Higgins,

President, Library Association of Ireland

On behalf of LAI Management Team

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Company registration number: 014200

Covid message from LAI Council to  
membership, March 2020

