Inside:

Health Sciences Libraries

An interview with John Dean

Chester Beatty Library
The Foyle Initiative
Meath Healthy Reading Scheme

VOLUME 18: ISSUE 1

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Guidelines For Contributors

An Leabharlann: The Irish Library publishes articles on libraries, librarianship and other topics of interest to the library and information community on the island of Ireland. The Editorial Board invites original, unpublished articles for publication. Articles should be between 1,500 and 5,000 words. Occasionally, longer articles may be published.

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Manuscripts will be reviewed by the Editorial Board.

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Editorial

By the time you read this issue, **Library Ireland Week 2009** will be about to start. This will give all librarians the opportunity to demonstrate how important libraries are to people's lives, directly or indirectly. In April, you will have the chance to attend the **Annual Joint Conference** which is being held this year in Belfast. Further details of the conference are available on the LAI website.

Many colleagues will have already been affected by cuts to library budgets-book funds, staff costs and capital projects. The only topic of conversation at the moment is the economy: the uncertainty, the need for creativity and the need to be positive.

We can use the economic situation to our advantage. Librarians have always been imaginative and innovative in coping with limited or scarce resources. We have always cooperated through providing inter-library loans, engaging in consortia arrangements for purchasing and in staff training provision. Perhaps, we should consider greater use of purchasing consortia in a time of static or falling book funds. It would seem that now is an opportune time for the consideration of more cross-sectoral initiatives like those developing through COLICO and the PAL schemes.

There in a strong international flavour to several contributions. Helen Fallon interviews Professor John Dean and we learn of his great contribution to library development and professional library education in several African countries. His contribution to professional education in Ireland was recognized last October when he was awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland. His acceptance speech on that occasion is also included in this issue.

Charles Horton's article on the rich international collections of the Chester Beatty Library will perhaps entice some readers to visit or re-visit this wonderful institution. Reports from conferences also give an international perspective in their consideration of new roles, cooperation, developments in different areas, in addition to digital and other technologies.

There are several examples of cooperation throughout the articles: international cooperation at the Chester Beatty Library, local and cross-border cooperation in Foyle Inspire and cooperation with other agencies in Meath. Elaine Urquhart's article indicates the benefits that accrue from cooperation.

In her article on Health Sciences libraries Kate Kelly considers some new roles and work places for librarians. Future trends on the use of space apply to all libraries.

The article notes the importance of health information literacy and access to quality patient information and suggests that these will be more important in the future.

Shauna Henry's article on bibliotherapy describes how one public library system has provided quality mental health information. While this provision is growing in Ireland, there are other sections of library collections which can be promoted in a similar manner. Areas that suggest themselves in the current economic climate are personal finance books as well as books and other material on CV writing, interview skills and starting a business. These could be promoted in partnership with FÁS, local Enterprise Boards or Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS).

There are articles, conference reports and book reviews which might encourage and inspire colleagues to reconsider the library in which they work. Is space being used to its capacity? Have collection development policies changed sufficiently to take account of differing formats and user needs? Are we using technology to its capacity? Does the millennial generation feature in library plans? Are library services responding to the instant, mobile information needs of the millennial, latte generation?

During recessions training budgets are often cut. Staff development is for the good of the organisation as well as the individual member of staff. Librarians need to keep up with developments and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is essential. Some CPD activities will be supported by employing organisations but we are individually responsible for ensuring that we engage in informal and formal CPD. The forth-coming Joint Conference is a perfect opportunity to engage with your profession!

The contribution of former members of the Editorial Board who retired at the end of December last-Mary Burke and Beatrice Doran- is acknowledged. The new members of the Board are Helen Fallon and Kate Kelly.

Marjory Sliney, editor@libraryassociation.ie

Introduction

John Dean is a well-known and highly esteemed figure in national and international library circles. When I worked in Sierra Leone, the director of the Institute of Library Studies at the University very quickly asked me if I was acquainted with John. This was despite the fact that it was then over twenty-five years since John had worked in West Africa and he had never worked in Sierra Leone.

This article is based on discussions I had with John and from reading his published work. While it presents a brief overview of his very interesting career, the focus is on the major contribution John made to the development of libraries and library education in Africa.

I am extremely grateful to John for his willingness to share his experiences and to his daughter Susannah for her hospitality and assistance.

The article is written in the first person.

Early Years

I was born in 1924 in Dorchester, Dorset, the town Hardy made famous as Casterbridge. My mother's family, the Kellys, had come from Ireland to Cardiff, Wales. She knew Thomas Hardy and had tea with him on a number of occasions. He sent her letters but sadly she did not keep them. Hardy died when I was about two or three years old. I was an only child. My father fought in the First World War, serving in Greece and Iraq, then part of the Turkish Empire.

A Career in Libraries

After leaving school in 1943, I joined the RAF. Some of my three-year posting was spent in Iceland and that convinced me I'd like to live in a warm country! I was released from the RAF to go to University. I was awarded two scholarships to Oxford, where I studied politics, philosophy and economics at St. John's College. After that I went to the nearby University of Southampton as a type of apprentice to Marjory Henderson, the then Librarian. Nowadays, this would probably be termed a graduate traineeship. I took the professional qualifications of the Library Association during my three years at Southampton, gaining my associateship in 1953. That was the way it was then. There were no postgraduate courses in librarianship.

Off to Khartoum

My first African experience was as Deputy Librarian in the University of Khartoum from 1953 until 1956. Khartoum, with Egypt, was a dominion administered by Britain. Just getting there was interesting! The ship docked first in Nice, then Malta, Libya and Wadi Halfa in Sudan.

As soon as I arrived, the Librarian, Michael Jolliffe announced that he was going on holidays for two months leaving me in charge. He told me a staff strike was imminent as there was unhappiness about salaries. While I got a local salary, that was supplemented from Britain. I decided to learn Arabic, the language of the majority of the staff, as quickly as possible in order to be able to communicate effectively. Fortunately the strike was averted.

I worked in all areas in the University Library. About 50% of library staff were expatriates. I was involved with Michael Jolliffe in the development of a syllabus for library assistant training. Graduates could take the U.K. professional body examinations. Some colonial officials saw the move to train local staff to take positions of authority as dangerous. Indeed, many university staff were regarded as dangerously liberal by the British colonial authorities and by some of the Sudanese Arabs. I was keen in Khartoum, and in my subsequent posts, to train local people to assume leadership positions.

I spent an interesting three years there before moving back to London. My successor was a Sudanese man, a graduate of the University of Ghana, with a postgraduate qualification in librarianship from the University of London.

The London Library

I worked for five years in the London Library in St. James' Square, the world's largest independent lending library. It was set up in 1841 by Thomas Carlyle and allowed subscribers have something akin to the collection of a national library for use in their own homes. Early members included Dickens and George Eliot. When I was there E. M. Forster, T. S. Elliot and Rupert Hart-Davis were members, as indeed was the Queen Mother.

Ghana – A New Nation

Ghana was my next port of call, with my wife Miriam and daughter Susannah. We were there for four years – from 1961

A Career in Librarianship: Professor John Dean

Helen Fallon

Farewell Party, Accra, 1965

to 1965. The University of Legon was a new university as indeed were all the universities where I worked in Africa. While institutions of higher learning were not new in West Africa, comprehensive university and library systems came into their own between 1950 and 1970. I've written a chapter on this development in *Comparative and International Librarianship* (Dean 1970).

Ghana – formerly the Gold Coast – was at the height of an intellectual renaissance, having just gained independence from Britain. President Nkrumah, like other post-independence rulers in West Africa, knew that a literate and informed public was necessary for economic and political progress. He was very enthusiastic about libraries and often visited the Library at the University, where I met him on a number of occasions. Maya Angelou, Malcolm X, Che Guevara all visited. Life on campus was interesting. Conor Cruise O'Brien was our very excellent vice-chancellor. I remember his daughter Kate coming on holidays. At some point during my time there Queen Elizabeth and Prince

Philip visited. I was given the job of showing them around the University. The Asanti Paramount Chief also called to the Library.

Both the University of Ghana and the University of Ibadan (Nigeria) where I subsequently worked were linked to the University of London and awarded UL degrees. The thinking was that new universities should have the support of established universities, until they had gained sufficient academic experience to award their own degrees. In the sixties, it was felt that higher education in Ghana was exclusive. Not enough graduates were being produced to take key positions previously held by expatriates. The syllabi on offer in the university were orientated towards Europe rather than Africa. To deal with this, the range of subjects was extended, the annual intake of students increased and an Institute of African Studies established. I provide more detailed information on the Library in articles in *Ghana Library Journal* (Dean 1964), *Nigerian Libraries* (Dean 1967) and a chapter in *Five Years Work in Librarianship* (Dean 1968).

Establishing Library Education Programmes

There was a tremendous sense of optimism all around and I enjoyed my four years very much. I was university Librarian and was actively involved with Ronald Benge and Eve Evans in setting up a Library School, under the aegis of the Ghana Library Board. The biggest challenge facing librarianship in English-speaking West Africa was the scarcity of professionally trained staff. Potential librarians were sent to the U.K. for

'The biggest challenge facing librarianship in English-speaking West Africa was the scarcity of professionally trained staff.'

professional training. This was expensive and was very limited in terms of numbers. Some of the course material studied was, perhaps, not that relevant to the reality on the ground in West Africa. There were different opinions on how best professional education for librarianship should be provided. I had no doubt that the sort of course which was tailor-made for the needs of Africa and took into consideration local conditions would be a better preparation for African graduates than overseas study. This view was reinforced by a seminar in Ibadan in 1954, sponsored by UNESCO. The West African Library Association (WALA) asked the Carnegie Corporation for funding to establish a formal library school. In 1957, Harold Lancour carried out a survey of libraries in West Africa (Lancour 1958). He suggested that conditions now existed for the formal establishment of a Library School, which should be attached to the newly established University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Nigeria was to be my next port of call. I took up the post of Director of Professional Education at Ibadan University in 1965. In that same year the Department of Library Studies was established at the University of Ghana. This incorporated the Library School of the Ghana Library Board.

Nigeria – A New West African Experience

As with Ghana, I went to Nigeria with the Council for Overseas Education, now the British Council.

The Institute of Library Studies came under my remit as Director of Professional Education. The Institute received a grant of $88,000 from the Carnegie Corporation in 1960. This was supplemented, in 1963, with a further grant of $112,000. This facilitated a major breakthrough – the introduction of a

new syllabus no longer determined by the requirements of the British Library Association, but designed to meet the specific needs of Nigeria. By 1965, the Institute had produced fifty-two librarians. I've written in some detail about the development of this and other library education programmes in *Education for Information* (Dean 1983).

I knew it was vital to develop African leaders for the profession across West Africa. I wanted to give research a high priority in the programme. Very little research had been undertaken into library issues/problems that were specifically African. The number of special libraries and documentation centres attached to government departments, industry and commercial companies, research institutions and universities in West Africa was growing, yet there was no training for documentalists in the social sciences. I've written about this issue in some detail in *Nigerian Libraries* (Dean). There was also a real need to develop formal standards relating to buildings, automation and national bibliography. Designing a syllabus to meet the needs of Nigeria and other West African countries was exciting and challenging. More details on this can be found in my book *Planning Library Education Programmes* (Dean 1972) and my articles in *West African Journal of Education* (Dean 1968) and *UNESCO Bulletin for Libraries* (Dean 1968).

Both expatriate and Nigerian staff worked in the Institute. I was keen to have Nigerian people trained to run the school after I left. We were there to hand over to the new professionals in these new nations. Building relationships was crucial. I linked up with the staff of the National Library and tried to ensure that links were strengthened between library educators and the library profession, as I did later in Dublin. I worked with Wilfred Plumbe, who died in 2008. He was University Librarian at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Northern Nigeria and Past President of the Library Association of Nigeria.

Outbreak of the Biafran War

National conflict developed during our time in Nigeria. The Ibo ethnic group wanted their territory, Biafra, to become independent from Nigeria. While I was in a different part of the country, it was a very dangerous time. The situation was tense. I was investigated by the police, our home searched and there was a high level of tension all the time. There were curfews, roadblocks, school closures and shortages, and we had friends who lost loved ones. The television featured the Nigerian leader General Gowon, urging everyone to 'Go On With Our Nigeria'. Despite all these challenges the University was surging forward.

I travelled around Nigeria with Miriam and Susannah. We went to the North to Kano, an amazing city to look at, and then across the Jos Plateau, via Zaria and down to Benin and eventually back round to Ibadan.

Visiting the United States

While in Nigeria, I got a Carnegie Corporation Grant to visit North American universities for three months. This allowed me learn about best practice in education for the profession and to see African collections in U.S. libraries. The MARC programme had

just been established at the Library of Congress. The vision of making catalogue records available worldwide was an exciting one. I got main entry cards (this was all that was available) for use in Ibadan. Added entries had to be made by typing the required heading at the top of the main card. The availability of this type of record was a major breakthrough in librarianship. At that time I wrote about the concept of a "cataloguer's camera" – a means by which catalogue entries might be reproduced quickly and expeditiously (Dean 1966). Nowadays, central cataloguing services are the norm and perhaps younger librarians don't realise how significant these developments were.

My visit to the United States sparked my interest in computer applications. I could see that the advent of the computer would change the face of information. I introduced information technology into the Ibadan curriculum, at an elementary level. We stayed in Nigeria for five years, leaving in 1970. That was an interesting period.

Interlude in Australia

I was appointed the first head of the Department of Library Studies at the Western Australia Institute of Technology, now Curtin University of Technology, in Perth. I've written about the programme there in *WAIT Gazette* (Dean 1973). During my six years lecturing (1971-77), I was also external examiner to a number of universities and carried out advisory work in Singapore, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines.

I was on the Commonwealth Committee on Overseas Professional Qualifications Expert Panel and served on various groups of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services. Between 1971 and 1976, I was part of a seven-member group of the Library Association of Australia (LAA), charged with responsibility for professional accreditation in Australia.

While based in Australia I was asked to carry out some work in Eastern Africa.

Back to Africa

In Eastern Africa library development emerged more slowly, and library education programmes came into existence somewhat more haphazardly than in West Africa.

West Africa's progress was due, in no small measure, to the foresight of African political leaders, the enthusiasm and commitment of local librarians and the generous financial support of the Carnegie Corporation.

By 1970 there was no library school in Eastern Africa comparable to the University of Ibadan. Most East Africans seeking professional qualifications suitable for university library employment had to study overseas. Government and aid agencies were spending substantial funding which, it was felt, could be better invested in developing postgraduate programmes in Africa, designed specifically with African requirements in mind. The Ford Foundation agreed to finance an investigation into the feasibility of establishing a postgraduate programme in an East African country.

In 1974 I took on the task of preparing the preliminary report on setting up a library school serving English-speaking East African countries – Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. In addition to advising on curriculum, staffing needs and other aspects of setting up a library school, I was to recommend the best location. It was quite a daunting task, covering an area with a total population of about ninety million, but also a very exciting one. I recommended Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as the location for a library school.

University College Dublin

I took up the post of Professor and Head of the Department of Library and Information Studies in UCD in 1977 and held that until 1989. I've written about the programmes, the syllabus and departmental activity in *An Leabharlann* (Dean 1978). More recently, the development of the UCD programme and professional education for Irish librarians has been documented in *An Leabharlan* (Ellis-King 2008). While at UCD, I was also Head of the Department of Computer Science, the International Office, and chair of the Computer Services Board for considerable

> '. . . the advent of the computer would change the face of information.'

periods. I continued to teach Management of Libraries and Information Agencies and to mentor students until 2005.

Reflection

I feel the future of library education, worldwide, lies in the World Wide Web and eLearning. Developing quality eLearning resources is very expensive but necessary. There's a need for constant updating, particularly in the area of information technology. While some print collections will always be needed, electronic resources, particularly eJournals, will supersede the need for developing large collections. More co-operation and collaboration and exchanges with African libraries should be encouraged. There is a lot we can share with and learn from universities in Africa and elsewhere in the Developing World.

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My first library post was as a Library Assistant for six weeks and I was then promoted to Assistant Librarian at Southampton University Library.

Soon after that, I became Deputy Librarian at the University of Khartoum. Later, I moved on to become Deputy Librarian at the London Library, and later again, Librarian at the University of Ghana in Accra. Here, I met the Carnegie Corporation representative Carol White, who arranged the finance for a tour of the United States, in preparation for my first educational post. This was the Directorship of the Institute of Librarianship, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

After Nigeria, I took up the post of Head of the Department of Library Studies, at the Western Australian Institute of Technology (now Curtin University) in Perth, Western Australia. Maintaining my third world involvement, I visited Papua New Guinea and the Philippines, under government sponsorship, to advise on library education. The Ford Foundation sponsored a further journey to countries of Southern Africa.

It has always been my ambition to take only short-term contracts, so that after setting up the library schools, their ownership and management would be taken over by the locally-based population. I succeeded in every case except in Australia. This difficulty, however, has since been made good.

In Ireland, I expected to find this to be another short-term contract, but as you see, I have made an exception. I retired in 1989 and then worked in International Affairs at UCD, for 12 years.

My present interests are to see the flourishing of e-learning and a recognition of, and commitment to, the full costing of such an undertaking. My impression is that nowhere is e-learning adequately funded. I have in mind a global span and also a desire to see hegemony in association with UCD and UK libraries and beyond.

Professor John Dean's acceptance speech on the occasion of the award of Honorary Fellowship by the Library Association of Ireland

Thursday, 23rd October, 2008

This Honorary Fellowship award is, in fact, a credit to Professors Mary Burke and Michael Casey, and to Bob Pearce. (The latter two, now retired). This award is also a credit to Ian Cornelius, the current Head of School, and to Barbara Traxler-Brown, one time Acting Head of Department, and of course the people they appointed. I can be proud of the achievement of the School.

Congratulations to Marjory Sliney and Deirdre Ellis-King on the production of their superb 80th Anniversary special issue magazine. I was also pleased to see some coverage of the School included in this special publication.

I was also particularly aware of Marian Keyes' contribution to the production of the 80th anniversary magazine.

Thanks to everyone.

Prof John Dean with his daughter Susannah Hanlon (standing left) and Deirdre Ellis-King

Photo: Alaistair Smeaton

Health Sciences Libraries: Issues and Trends

Kate Kelly

Abstract

A vision of future Health Sciences scenarios is outlined. The paper gives a succinct overview of the key issues and notes the Irish health policy context. Topics covered include future roles for librarians and the increasing importance of evidence-based practice. Other issues considered are patients and healthcare, consumer health, and health information literacy.

The discussion is set against the backdrop of technological developments which influence how library space is used, collections are accessed and information retrieved.

Keywords: Health Sciences Libraries; Medical Librarians; Information Provision; Library Space

The European Association for Health Information and Libraries is holding its biannual Workshop in Dublin in June 2009, courtesy of a successful proposal by the Irish Health Sciences Libraries Group (HSLG). In anticipation of the event, which will see a large gathering of health sciences librarians and information professionals from Europe and further afield, it is timely to take a look at health sciences librarians and libraries and the issues and trends which are shaping them – some of which are shared in common with every other type of library and some that are unique to the health sector.

Health Sciences Libraries

In Ireland, health librarians operate largely within three environments:

- Academic medical, nursing or health sciences libraries in the universities and higher education sector

- Hospital and health services libraries within the Health Services Executive (HSE)

- Libraries with a focus on health in voluntary, private, government, state and semi-state agencies.

Librarians or information specialists in each of these categories provide resources and services that support the teaching and learning, clinical practice and research activities undertaken in these settings.

A Vision for 2015 and Issues for Health Sciences Libraries

In 2005 Lindberg and Humphreys, both of the US National Library of Medicine (NLM), the world's largest medical library and producer of the MEDLINE database, looked forward to 2015 and predicted the following for health sciences libraries:

- Health sciences libraries with largely electronic only collections.

- Multiple computing and telecommunications devices from desktop to portable to wearable being used, many of which would also be capable of supporting teleconferencing and distance education.

- Easy access to electronic information from home, offices, wards, clinics and libraries as well as while en route to and from any of these places.

- Patients having access to the same information as health care professionals.

- Changing user environments, information products and licensing provisions as normal and librarians as institutional managers of complex agreements for information resources.

- Librarians and health information specialists increasingly working "in context" outside the library "to improve quality, to reduce the risks associated with inefficient or incomplete retrieval of the available evidence and to do community outreach".

- Librarians having "advanced" training in both information science and a relevant subject area.

- Physical spaces where "in addition to serving coffee, the best facilities support small-group study and larger-group training, provide well-wired space for interdisciplinary collaboration involving complex electronic data sets, and welcome those seeking temporary work space, individual

assistance, or quiet places away from wards or waiting rooms. With no printed *Index Medicus* and fewer physical volumes, there is more space for people." (Lindberg 2005)

While Lindberg and Humphreys were future gazing, everything they envisaged had a basis in technologies and services that already existed in some shape or form in 2005. Implicit among their predictions are that health librarians will be dealing with issues concerning: the use of space; information retrieval; the increased involvement of patients with health care decision-making; new roles and new places of work. So in terms of the vision and the issues raised, where are health sciences libraries and librarians currently placed?

Space – general

Seeking to assist health sciences librarians in designing new library spaces, a panel of thirty experts, including health sciences librarians, architects and information technologists, was convened in 2005 to "reflect on the likelihood, desirability, timing, and impact on building design of more than seventy possible changes in the use of library space". Using the Delphi technique, the study of the library as place by Ludwig and Starr found clear areas of agreement and disagreement about what health sciences libraries would look like and what roles health sciences librarians would undertake by 2010–2015. The experts strongly agreed that health sciences librarians would take on a wide variety of new roles, from informationists and educators to archivists and knowledge managers, and that these new roles would in turn produce radical changes in library design, library spaces and the "adjacencies of those spaces to each other, staff and to users". They strongly agreed that wireless and highly personal portable devices would be ubiquitous and that space left by reduced collections would be filled with a variety of new services ranging from classrooms to visualization laboratories to consumer health collections. In fact, 96% of experts agreed with the statement that "consumer health services open to the public would be an essential component of a health sciences library by 2010". There was also strong agreement that by 2010 there would be little need to provide desktop machines and that the impact of this would be easy to see – fewer computer tables, cords and printers, more furniture and seating suited to using wireless devices and more classroom or group room spaces suitably equipped with "advanced technologies". The same experts strongly disagreed with a statement that "smart buildings that provide their own supervision and security would exist", on the grounds that the cost of such a move would be "prohibitive". They also disagreed strongly with the statement that "the role of the health sciences library in providing user support for use of technology will disappear with a new generation of technologically sophisticated users and advances in user-friendly technology", believing that health care professionals are too busy **not** to use the expertise of trained professionals as a resource (Ludwig 2005).

By 2015, the expert panel said, there would be less consistency about how space will be used as it will be tailored to meet institutional needs. The Welch Medical Library at Johns Hopkins University and the Lane Medical Library at Stanford provide two current examples of how the shift in thinking about roles and services at an institutional level results in very different plans for space.

The master plan for the Welch Medical Library at Johns Hopkins University in the USA describes a vision for a "distributed information services network that is both physical and virtual". The "distributed" piece of this vision appears in the form of the "Welch Information Suites" which are described as being both a physical location that promotes collaboration between information professionals or a virtual collection such as a digital library or a flexible, collaborative educational format for exchanging skills and information. The key aspect of the "information suites" is collaboration and the availability of librarians at specific locations (physically and virtually) at specified times coupled with a targeting of resources to specific groups – for example the oncology or public health information suites. The Welch library sees this as extending the "walls" of the virtual library into the physical campus and as complementary to electronic resources and services. The emphasis is not on the central location but on the availability of services at point of need – outside the library. The Welch library itself will be transformed into a "Center for Facilitated Discovery", a "destination for collegial interaction, study with historical collections and celebration of institutional history and accomplishments". A new "Knowledge Center" is being built with a focus on knowledge management, technology development and training (WHW Medical Library 2002; John Hopkins 2008).

> 'The emphasis is not on the central location but on the availability of services at point of need – outside the library.'

In contrast, the Lane Library and Knowledge Management Center at Stanford, with over 90% of its content available in digital format, aims also to deliver services at point of need and to create physical and virtual hubs. The electronic resource portals for clinicians will be complemented by a physical space that will contain technology-enhanced study settings, distributed learning commons, and specialized resource training providing information on demand to students, researchers, and doctors on campus or in the community (Lane Medical Library 2008).

Evidence-based Practice and Information Retrieval

Increasingly the role of health science librarians is associated with the practice of evidence-based healthcare through supporting access to published evidence which in turn supports different health-related activities and decision-making. In this regard a review of the NHS health library services in England identified four key purposes of health libraries, namely to support:

1) clinical decision-making by patients, carers and health professionals

2) commissioning decision- and health policy-making

3) research and

4) lifelong learning by health professionals. (Hill 2008a)

While the same forces that have shaped changes in libraries generally (the Internet, delivery of information to the desktop or mobile device, open access publishing etc.) have also

> '... consumer health information services are considered standard service offered by health sciences libraries of the future.'

impacted on health sciences libraries, it is the association with "evidence", and evidence not just for health professionals but for patients and public too, that is significantly driving health sciences librarians and libraries in new directions.

Health care professionals and students are increasingly asked to practise evidence-based health care by basing decisions on published research evidence and practice guidelines. In 1986 Haynes estimated that to keep up with the literature a practitioner needed to read 5,500 articles a day published in 20,000 biomedical journals (Haynes 1986). Thompson estimates that today there are close to 40,000 biomedical journals and suggests the number of articles needed to be read to keep up to date is now 10,000 per day (Thompson 2007). It is estimated that approximately 2000 articles per day are added to the more than eleven million existing records in the Pubmed database alone (Smith 2004). This applies only to the published literature and says nothing about the explosion of information from educational, government and professional sources alone on the Internet.

Irish public policy documents such as *Making Knowledge Work for Health*, *National Information Strategy* and *Quality and Fairness: a Health System for You* (the National Health Strategy) highlight evidence-based practice and the necessity of using knowledge-based resources to do this (Ireland 2001a, 2001b and 2004). The Buttimer Report on post-graduate medical education in Ireland states that "doctors require an ongoing programme of information skills training if they are to achieve self-sufficiency and confidence in retrieving the information necessary for evidence-based practice" and explicitly recommends "that doctors are practised in information retrieval skills required by evidence-based practices" (Ireland 2006a). The Fottrell Report on undergraduate medical education advises that all medical education programmes address the theme of "preparation for life-long learning and the changing knowledge, technological

and practice environment" (Ireland 2006b). The Standards for Nurse Registration Education Programmes have a learning outcome of demonstrating "... a knowledge base and a level of competence in clinical practice skills essential for safe practice, which are grounded in recent evidence-based nursing research, where available" (Bord Altranais 2005).

Supporting the acquisition of sophisticated information retrieval skills by health care professionals by providing information skills training is a core function of all health science librarians. Providing training at a level which enables clinicians to access and retrieve "evidence" not only necessitates librarians having excellent knowledge of biomedical resources, familiarity with medical terminology and excellent information retrieval skill themselves but also requires an understanding of health services structures, health research methods, study designs, critical appraisal methodology and at least a nodding acquaintance with the terminology and practices of epidemiology. Getting and keeping these types of skills requires a commitment to continuing professional development. In this respect, the HSLG has one of the most active Continuing Professional Development (CPD) calendars and has offered CPD courses in evidence-based practice and other relevant issues on a regular basis.

Patients and Healthcare

Two inter-related issues with regard to health information for patients and individuals with a health information need are access to quality information and the ability to understand and interpret health information. In this regard health information literacy and consumer health information services are linked issues both of which are likely to become increasingly prominent in Ireland in the future.

Health Information Literacy

Patients can be faced with having to make decisions about their treatment based on complex and sometimes confusing health information. Daily reports of new studies in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions can add to the confusion. As patients are increasingly participating in decisions about their care, health information literacy is becoming a growing issue. While health information literacy is a comparatively new concept in Ireland it has been well documented and studied, most notably in the USA. The US Medical Library Association (MLA) has had a Health Information Literacy project running for a number of years, one outcome of which has been the Health Information Literacy Curriculum. This, and a wealth of other resources both for information professionals, health educators and consumers, can be found on MLANet, the organisation's website (MLA 2008). Closer to home the National Adult Literacy Association (NALA) initiated a National Health Literacy Campaign in 2007 and aims to make the Irish health service "literacy friendly", where literacy is not a barrier to health (NALA 2008).

Consumer Health

Consumer health information services are often hospital-based, but can also be based in communities within public libraries, for example, the bibliotherapy programmes via Dublin City Public Libraries, or as stand-alone entities in shopping centres.

As indicated by the Delphi study previously cited, consumer health information services are considered standard service offered by health sciences libraries of the future (Ludwig 2005). In the USA they are common at hospitals of all sizes and may be general or specialist, for example, the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) has both a central Patient and Family Learning Centre available to all patients and their families plus the specialist Cancer Resource Room – a collaborative partnership between the Treadwell Library at MGH and the hospital's Social Work Department – which provides information for oncology patients and their families or caregivers. What these types of services do is provide a continuum of authoritative information on health matters for lay people in an environment which can also offer access to further supports and resources. As several studies on the use of the Internet have found that searching for health information is one of the most often cited reasons for using the Internet, access to authoritative, accurate information is increasingly an issue. A recent survey by the Health Research Board (HRB) found substantial numbers of people in Ireland either using or wanting to use the Internet to find information on health. The survey also found that large numbers of people with disabilities and with mental health issues were using the Internet as both a source of information and of support. (Gallagher 2008). Clearly, there are roles for health sciences librarians as specialists in health information in providing quality information services either directly to patients or indirectly via their health care providers.

New Roles and New Places of Work

Informationists

The term "informationist" was used by Florence and Davidoff in 2000 in an article proposing a new professional – an informationist – who would operate within a clinical environment providing highly specialised information services to health care providers. These new professionals would be trained in both information science and clinical sciences in order to find, synthesise and present information to clinical medical teams on a routine basis – they would be a full team member. Implicitly they would operate not in a library but outside "in context" (Davidoff 2000). The concept of the informationist is still very new, and in a recent systematic review examining current practice and programme models Rankin et al conclude that the concept is still at "early adopter" stage. They state that the generalist librarian needs to be superseded by a more specialist health sciences librarian "paralleling the health care environment in which they work",

and that an embedded informationist is more likely to succeed than an impersonal information service provided at a distance. Subject expertise is essential, and programmatic emphasis should be placed on technical and service excellence (Rankin 2008). These conclusions are relevant to all health sciences librarians but particularly those operating within hospital environments where the information service, if it has not already done so, will become ever more "distant", given the obvious preference for desktop or mobile access to information. A current study by Beatrice Doran (former Chief Librarian at RCSI) at Beaumont Hospital, Dublin seeks to provide data on the possible value of a clinical informationist in an Irish hospital. Clinical informationist is an extension of the existing clinical librarian role which in itself is a constantly evolving concept and may be more easily aspired to than that of informationist, depending on the context.

Knowledge Managers

The concept of knowledge manager or knowledge officer is one that has been mooted within the context of the UK NHS by Peter Hill in his review of the NHS library service. Envisaged as a role rather than a job the function of such a role would be to enhance the management, sharing delivery and application of best available evidence to facilitate knowledge-based strategic, operational and clinical planning activity. Hill sees health librarians as well placed to undertake this role (Hill 2008 a and b).

Extending this theme the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries in its 2003 policy statement on *Knowledge Management within the Academic Health Center* describes the role of the academic health sciences library as that of "institutional knowledge coach whose primary focus is on the success of institutional teams through services, education and effective knowledge management" (AAHSL 2003). Kronenfeld identified this institutional focus on information management as one of seven trends taking place in leading health sciences libraries in 2005. He described the trend as "a shift of the academic health centers to create an increasingly standardized and integrated computer-based operation that impacts on all aspects of the institution. Examples of computer-based operations include: the computerized patient record, the increasing capability of clinical and management information systems to aggregate information for quality control and research, and the increasing need for ''point of care'' and ''just in time'' access to knowledge-based information (KBI) for clinicians (Kronenfeld 2005).

For the RCSI libraries, as pure health sciences libraries, these issues are particularly relevant. RCSI has three libraries: the Mercer Library at the main RCSI campus in St. Stephen's Green, the Beaumont Hospital Library in Dublin, and the Learning Resource Centre in the RCSI Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI MUB). Much of 2007 has been spent reviewing and evaluating services as a staff while also seeking the views and opinions of our users about the library via a series of six focus groups and a space feasibility study user group. As a result the library staff as a whole has envisaged an integrated library service that incorporates current best practice within health libraries.

Space – RCSI

RCSI collections were dramatically reduced several years ago, and we do not envisage them growing beyond their present size – if anything they will become smaller. We plan to have an all electronic journal collection by the end of 2009 and to continue to grow the electronic textbook collection. The small physical collection has provided the opportunity to focus on people rather than on the collections in terms of how the physical space is configured. All incoming RCSI students are provided with a laptop when registering, and wireless networking is the norm within the College. Students on rotations are provided with Internet access to connect both to course information delivered via the RCSI VLE and to electronic library resources. The information environment within RCSI is, therefore, already heavily electronic.

A recently completed feasibility study on refurbishing the current Mercer Library at the RCSI has been based on some of the key premises identified in the studies cited, specifically reduced collection size, wireless ubiquity and new service opportunities within the library. Pushing the collections to the periphery of the space, the feasibility study demonstrated the options for accommodating different learning styles through providing a range of different types of space for individuals and groups including collaborative, interactive and social spaces. As much modularity and flexibility as possible was incorporated so that users as well as staff can, for example, arrange and rearrange seating configurations to suit group sizes. New needs identified by students included space to practice clinical skills and make presentations and, while a multi-functional technology laboratory space was included in the plans, hardwired PC labs were excluded.

Evidence-based Practice and Information Retrieval

RCSI librarians based in Dublin have a strong tradition of teaching information skills to students from all RCSI schools – medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, pharmacy and healthcare management. The Learning Resource Centre in RCSI Bahrain provides a twelve-lecture embedded module, "Research Skills for Health", within the undergraduate nursing curriculum which is delivered and assessed by the Assistant Librarian. A review of the medical curriculum and the preparation for the World Federation of Medical Schools accreditation visit in November 2008 provided an opportunity to rethink the information skills programme and to propose a modular skills progression approach to teaching these skills. The new RCSI Medical Graduate Profile (MGP) identifies the competencies and knowledge that all RCSI medical students should have upon graduating, and being information literate is included as a specific outcome and is articulated within the fifth theme of the MGP as follows:

5.7.1. Recognises a need for information

5.7.2. Finds, critically evaluates, manages and synthesises with existing information to create new understanding

5.7.3 Understands the ethical issues involved in information retrieval and management, including plagiarism and confidentiality.

The formal inclusion of these competencies in the MGP is an acknowledgement of the importance of these skills to practice – they are critical. The assessment of these skills is also under discussion, and there is general agreement that librarians who teach these skills should also assess them.

Patients and Healthcare

The RCSI is a registered charity and a non-profit organisation with a range of community and philanthropic initiatives both in Ireland and abroad. The Mini Med School run by the RCSI provides an introduction to interested members of the public to various aspects of medical practice and biomedical research. This year the library proposed "Information for Health" as a topic of interest to the general public. The suggestion was successful and has been included in this year's Mini Med School programme. It is intended to seek similar opportunities to contribute to College community initiatives.

New Roles and New Places of Work

An implicit assumption of many of the envisaged new roles is that they will be collaborative. One of the values adopted and articulated by library staff as part of the review of services is that of being "collaborative". To this end, offering the skills of librarians in projects that either require or could be improved by the input of an information specialist is an explicit objective. This can be as specific as giving an opinion on the use of metadata for a digital assets management project for the E-Learning Department, or as broad as being on a project team for the development of a staff information portal. It includes working with Estates and Buildings to produce an institutional policy document on the management of archives and artifacts and providing the President's Office with advice on records management. The aim is to be seen as an institutional asset with a specialist skill set in information management.

Summary

In summary, these are interesting times to be a librarian and particularly a health sciences librarian. It is likely that health sciences librarians will be involved in diverse activities outside the library, be integrated into curriculum and research activities, and provide education and training in support of evidence-based practice. These activities will require a high level of increasingly sophisticated skills and will involve health sciences librarians having increasing contact with patients and community service initiatives. The potential to take on a wider knowledge management role is also possible but to what extent remains to be seen.

William Osler, widely regarded as the founder of modern medicine, believed medical education took place best at the bedside, not in the classroom. A visionary in both the practice of medicine and medical education, his comments about librarians, as opposed to libraries, are a helpful reminder of the role of a health sciences librarian in health care. By placing the emphasis on the librarian he focused on what librarians do as opposed to where we do it. The "what, "as opposed to the "where", is more relevant today than ever before.

"The librarian of today, and it will be true still more of the librarians of tomorrow, are not fiery dragons interposed between the people and the books.
They are useful public servants, who manage libraries in the interest of the public...
Many still think that a great reader, or a writer of books, will make an excellent librarian. This is pure fallacy."

Sir William Osler, 1917

Post Script

To learn more about the activities of health sciences librarians and libraries in Europe, why not attend the EAHIL workshop in June?

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The Chester Beatty Library:
Ireland's Museum of the Book

Charles Horton
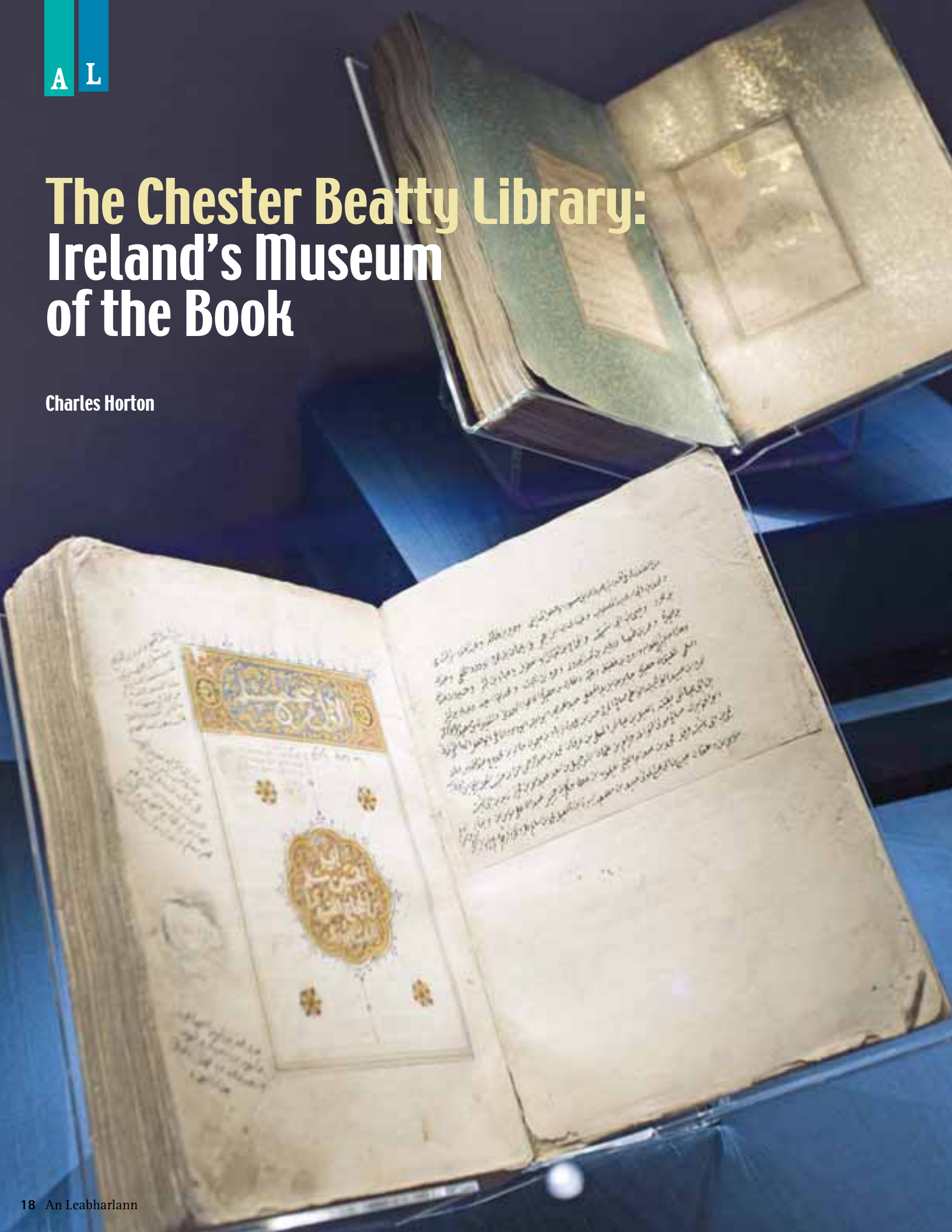
Introduction

The redevelopment of the Chester Beatty Library over the past ten years has focused on bringing this extraordinary collection to life. The most important cultural gift to the Nation, the collection has often defied explanation, reducing one to whatever the collective noun is for a multitude of superlatives. In essence, it is a bibliophile's library *par excellence* and is, in effect, Ireland's unofficial National Museum of the Book as it embraces nearly all elements of the production of books from most parts of the world. All books invariably tell stories of one kind or another but each book also has another story to tell relating to the people who created it, from the authors and artisans who shaped its form to the readers who used or abused it, to society's regard for particular authors or subjects and to our own concerns over the ownership of cultural property, particularly property from societies other than our own. All of these issues, and many others besides, are the daily routine within the Chester Beatty Library where, within a constant state of Kulturkampf over conflicting demands and expectations from government, academic and other interests, the private passion of one man for his books and his wish to share his collection for the 'enjoyment of others' can be interpreted in widely different ways. This article will concentrate on just one aspect of interpreting the Chester Beatty collection by way of its exhibition galleries, the main access point for the general visitor.

The love of books for their own sake, as distinct from the love of literature, has always attracted book collectors or bibliophiles throughout the centuries. Some collectors have sought to acquire copies of the earliest books, whereas others have collected particular printers, authors or periods in history. Alfred Chester Beatty (1875-1968) was particularly attracted to decorated books especially if they had beautiful illuminations, illustrations or fine bindings. He also collected the rarest of the rare, not necessarily the first edition but often the finest edition, issued in very limited numbers. His library is a collector's library which Beatty summed up in his own words as: 'Quality, quality and quality!'

Books in all their manifestations were the centre of Chester Beatty's collecting passion and they remain the core concern of the Library today. The vast majority of its holdings are over 500 years old and many others more than 1000, with the oldest over 3000 years old, written in 1160 B.C., and in near-perfect condition. There are over fifty codices or bound volumes which pre-date the year A.D. 500 including the largest book known to survive from Antiquity, the unique 1000-page Manichaean Psalm book (c. A.D. 400). The Library is also home to the greatest collection of early Christian books found to date which include the earliest surviving copy of the *Gospel of Mark*, the earliest copy of *Paul's Letters* and many other unique texts, earning Chester Beatty a special Papal Blessing from Pope John XXIII and an illuminated honorary address from the British Academy for his contribution to biblical scholarship. The collection of books from the Islamic world is unique in the West, and many scholars believe it to be the greatest collection of fine Islamic books in the world. A quarter of this collection consists of books not known in any other library and at least 10% are in the author's own hand. Books from China, Japan and other East Asian countries come in a variety of formats with possibly the most unusual, books made from tablets of jade, coming from the library of the Imperial family of China.

The display of such sensitive material is the core concern of the Library's staff not just from a preservation point of view but also culturally, as various Faiths imbue different religious conventions to their sacred scriptures and failure to take cognisance of these can easily cause offence to the faithful. This aspect of the Chester Beatty Collections is best explored in the permanent display of **Sacred Traditions** where audio-visual aids enhance the display of Jewish, Christian, Islamic, Buddhist and other sacred texts, ▶

Abstract

The Chester Beatty Library is one of Ireland's National Cultural Institutions. Because of its unique holdings, it is also an international cultural institution. This article provides a glimpse of the treasures in the rich collections of the library through a consideration of some of the exhibition galleries. The development of writing, the history of the book and fine bindings are also considered as is the redevelopment of the library.

Keywords: Libraries, Ireland; Rare Books; Preservation; Exhibition Planning

which form the moral code of the vast majority of the world's population and which are still in use today.

The latest development for the Library, the **Arts of the Book** exhibition, is the culmination of a curatorial effort that seeks to re-position the Chester Beatty collection not just in Ireland but also among its sister-institutions as one of the great book museums of the world. This effort, which was internationally recognised in 2002 with the accolade of European Museum of the Year Award, is a prize not normally associated with libraries. This new permanent exhibition at the Library features selections from across the current curatorial departments, namely European or Western, Islamic and East Asian. (This tripartite division of responsibility evolved in the 1960s reflecting the structures adopted in similar British institutions.) Major themes which link across the cultural divides include the development of writing, the relationship between text and image, the evolution of book production and bindings, as well as the history of patronage and book-collecting. The exhibits

within each section will change periodically in order to provide maximum public exposure to the collection. Even with our new facilities at Dublin Castle only 1% of the collection is generally on view, the remainder kept in storage and available to readers by appointment.

Exhibition Planning

All exhibitions at the Chester Beatty Library are major exercises in project management and planning, and this latest exhibition took well over eighteen months with little change from the approximate €1.2 million budget. The first phase of re-development allowed for the Leonardo da Vinci exhibition with the star attraction, the *Codex Leicester*. The second phase of redevelopment started after that exhibition closed, which included the design and construction of major new exhibition cases, lighting and a new graphics policy to bring our public notices into line with the *Official Languages Act, 2003*. The Library is currently implementing a bi-lingual policy as

resources permit. Translations into other languages will eventually be delivered by electronic means, and a hand-held virtual guide to the exhibitions is on trial at present.

In an institution like the Chester Beatty Library everything that comes into contact with the historical collection must be minutely checked against elements that may cause harm or long-term damage to the books, pigments or other artefacts that are placed on exhibition. This entails detailed discussions with and design briefs for the engineers, construction workers, graphic designers and mount makers to ensure that all elements are chemically inert and meet the most stringent internal standards for the protection of cultural artefacts. The thousands of drawings and mock-ups which the visitor does not see are the foundation for the pleasant layout and presentation of the collection. The new exhibition enabled the Library to raise its standards and to provide the public with a new way of viewing the books as high-security, non-reflective glass was employed in all the new cases. This gives the impression that one can

almost reach out and touch the books, thus giving rise to a much greater sense of engagement with the displayed material. Light and humidity are perhaps the most serious enemies for books, and radio-controlled monitoring of the internal conditions of the cases can be accessed from the Conservators' desktops without the need to personally inspect each case. Variations from the ideal trigger alarms which can be investigated and treated. All this effort is extremely costly and does not fit every library model but for the books bequeathed to us by Alfred Chester Beatty, it is essential if we are to continue to preserve his legacy for future generations.

Exhibition Highlights

To fully appreciate Chester Beatty's collecting achievement, it is helpful to examine the period in which he lived and the external influences that shaped the formation and development of the collection. This theme is covered in one part of the display which places Beatty within the context of great ▸

Anglo-American book collectors of the late Victorian and Edwardian periods and draws upon Beatty's personal papers and memorabilia. The **Arts of the Book** exhibition does not follow a strictly chronological development of the collection as Beatty bought in all subject areas throughout his long life. Instead, the exhibition follows the division of the collection into its three main cultural sections and these areas can be viewed as stand alone exhibitions in themselves. This display concept has enabled teachers and others to bring classes to the galleries to concentrate on individual themes rather than be overwhelmed by the collection as a whole.

Highlights from the European Section

The European Section is largely a chronological history of the development of the European book from its origins in Antiquity, through the period of illuminated manuscripts and the birth of printing, to the various changes in book design from the 16th-19th centuries.

The Library holds a remarkable collection of ancient books written on papyri, which includes many unique documents or the earliest known copies of particular texts. On display are examples of Egyptian funerary texts (Books of the Dead), as well as the most important literary scroll in the world featuring almost the entire surviving corpus of Ancient Egyptian love poetry. The section also explains the origins of writing with a small number of inscribed cuneiform clay tablets and decorated cylinder seals which date from c.2500 B.C.

In the Medieval period book production was initially concentrated in monasteries but as learning advanced, the university towns and larger cities became the main centres of production. The design and layout of books and documents changed to meet the demand from an increasingly literate society. Letters and whole words, which were often heavily ornamented, in the medieval period gave way to simpler scripts as the play between text and image became more and more complex. Elements of design, particularly the balance between text and image, established centuries ago still influence how we 'read' the page today, as headings, title-pages, and other aids to reading were gradually introduced.

Early European printed books generally followed the design and layout of illuminated manuscripts and many artists supplied designs for illustrations, decorative initials and ornamental devices. The earliest technique for printing images was the woodcut but this was later replaced by copper engraving as it allowed for larger-sized images and greater print runs. The design principles of the Italian Renaissance soon found expression in the layout and decoration of books, and printers soon moved from the heavy gothic typefaces to roman or italic scripts.

Book design generally changed slowly in the seventeenth century but it was a period of great commercial expansion. Books were among the most portable of cultural objects, and publications quickly spread across Europe and beyond to the American Colonies and Asia. The eighteenth century witnessed great creativity among typographers as the design of typefaces, illustration, and page layouts reflected the general artistic expressions of the period. The displays here focus on the fete books produced to celebrate great public events, the design of the French novel, great atlases and travel books, and future displays will develop other themes from the history of printing in this period. The more modern exhibits are products of the industrial age which demonstrate changes in printing techniques, particularly the development of colour printing and changes in taste.

Of particular pride for this author is a ground-breaking display of the Library's holdings of fine European book bindings covering the history of the craft from the 4th-20th century, selected from over 1500 magnificent examples in the collection. The type of binding chosen for a book was normally the choice of the purchaser or bookseller, some of whom provided lavish bindings for very special books.

Highlights from the Islamic Section

The central section of the gallery is devoted to the Islamic book, one of the great resources within the Library. It explores both the making of an Islamic manuscript, or hand-written book, its painting and decoration and the regional expressions of the decorated book. Many of these books are luxury works, a primary function of which was to proclaim the wealth and sophistication of the person for whom they were produced. Prestigious works such as these made up a mere fraction of the total number of manuscripts produced at any one time. Beatty amassed his Islamic Collections at a time when interest in Islamic art was only starting to develop in Europe and North America, and he was, therefore, able to purchase much finer material than was generally available in later years. Renowned for his exquisite taste and discerning eye, his collection of Islamic manuscripts is internationally acclaimed as one of the finest outside the Middle East.

Largely because of the size of this collection and the regional diversity found within the Islamic book arts, the display here focuses on the development of the book in regional centres such as Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Iran, India and the Arab world. Special displays highlight the role and position of calligraphy, painting and book-binding within these societies, and cross-cultural influences show how Eastern techniques travelled West and Western imagery travelled East to be absorbed by Indian and, later, Turkish craftsmen.

Highlights from the East Asian Section

The third section of the gallery represents cultures all across Central, East, South and South-East Asia. Beatty and his family travelled to China and Japan only once, where he bought furnishings and decorative artworks for his London home, as well as painted scrolls and rare books. Printing, a Chinese invention, evolved in the early centuries B.C. and one of the earliest surviving examples of which is an eighth century Japanese Buddhist prayer found inside a miniature wooden pagoda and dated to the equivalent of A.D. 780. This is one of many national treasures from China and Japan relating to books and the history of printing that are held by the Library. Others include three sixteenth century volumes of the *Great Encyclopaedia* of the Ming-dynasty Emperor Yongle who wished to have every known fact recorded and books made of carved and engraved jade pages. These extremely rare manifestations of the book, some of which date from the eighteenth century, were made almost exclusively for China's last imperial dynasty, and it is thought that the Chester Beatty Library has one of the largest collections of these objects in the world.

The Japanese collection is rich in painted scrolls and illustrated albums as well as woodblock prints from some of the most important Japanese artists. The displays feature examples from the various schools, highlighting the role of calligraphy and picture painting in traditional Japanese society.

Book formats change in various parts of Asia as society avails of the most useful suitable materials to carry its written heritage. These materials can be palm leaf, bark, bone or even bamboo or lacquered textiles. The most important collections from South East Asia are the folding books from Thailand and Burma (Myanmar) which comprise one of the largest collections in Europe of this type of book.

In the 1960s, when Beatty had established his collection in Dublin, he saw his Library as adding to the public collections of both the National Library of Ireland and Trinity College Dublin by providing books that were not readily available in those institutions. He had modelled his Library on the book departments of the old British Museum and had taken a gamble by purchasing books that few (in the West) had appreciated. Beatty's decision to bequeath his collection for the public good was his final act of public generosity, perhaps a legacy of his Victorian upbringing in the United States and akin to another great benefactor, Andrew Carnegie, whose wealth endowed the building of many of our public libraries. Today, the role of the Chester Beatty Library has evolved, and while the exhibition programme may appear to present the Library as a visitor attraction, its academic work continues. The Library is a partner in many international projects, making accessible its holdings in various countries and bringing to Ireland literary and artistic

treasures from other cultures. Its educational and cultural events are now well established and have a loyal following, and its higher public profile is beginning to attract financial support from patrons who not only help us acquire new additions for the collection but also, most importantly, support our conservation programme.

Enhanced public access to this great collection is a long-term goal for many who work in the Library but how this might be achieved in the present financial climate will tax the minds of our Trustees and funding departments. Further information on the history of the Library, its programmes and its various holdings may be found on our website www.cbl.ie

Charles Horton, MA, Dip Arch, is Curator of the Western Collections, Chester Beatty Library

All photographs © Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin

From small acorns:
the Foyle implementation of Inspire

Introduction

Developing and implementing co-operative arrangements have been and remain an integral part of librarianship. In particular librarians have paid much attention to sharing their library resources through formal and informal schemes. In spite of this excellent sharing of resources and networking with colleagues, the opportunity to promote easy access to learning materials located in different types of libraries has only recently been grasped. Librarians could always direct learners to relevant resources, but if the learner did not engage with the librarian then the opportunity was lost to connect the learner to relevant materials. With immediacy of access to information the byword in the Google age, librarians need to be proactive in advertising their services and making access to their resources as easy as possible. The INSPIRE development is one effort in this direction as it simplifies and promotes easy access to materials. This article focuses on the Foyle initiative which was a regional variation of the scheme.

INSPIRE – Information Sharing Partners in Resources for Education
Background

Inspire started as a two-year project in England in 2004 to improve access to learning materials. Widening access to information, improving social inclusion, drawing into education people who traditionally would not be attracted to participate in educational activities were high agenda items for UK libraries. *Aimhigher Partnerships for Progression*[1] encourages students to stay in education post-16, raises attainment of under-represented people in Higher Education (HE), builds on regional partnerships and contributes directly to the UK government's target of widening participation by 50% by 2010. Working more collaboratively together for the benefit of the learner was also promoted in the *Empowering the Learning Community Report*[2] published by the Library and Information Commission* The *Framework for the Future: libraries, learning and information in the next decade*,[3] published by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in 2003, included as part of its strategic vision for 2013 a reference to giving the general public access to library materials located in Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) libraries. As can be seen from all these reports and initiatives, the climate was supportive of setting up a national arrangement to open up collections to support learners. Inspire addressed these priorities directly and set the pace for fulfilling key aspects of the *Framework for the Future 2013* vision through the following objectives:

Abstract

Set in the context of widening access to information and educational resources, this article describes a cooperative arrangement whereby a number of libraries have provided access to the holdings of each other's libraries to the wider community. The practicalities of such an arrangement are considered.

Keywords: **Libraries, Cooperation; Learning Support; Libraries, Ireland**

* Now Museums, Libraries and Archives Council in 2000.

- To ensure that any member of the public library can also access materials held in HE and FE libraries
- To ensure that anyone seeking opportunities for learning and training can be guided to a course through a public library
- To develop an online, cross-regional library collections and access map which will provide a guide for learners to libraries with collections and materials relevant to their needs
- To build on existing networks of successful access partnerships to create a single national pathway to resources irrespective of geography
- To ensure that learners can have access to the best learning materials irrespective of their learner status or the location of the materials
- To provide opportunities and access to learning for socially excluded individuals and groups
- To support and develop the library and information workforce by raising awareness of access agreements and collections in their own and other sectors.

The project built on pre-existing initiatives such as Empowering the Learning Community in the North-West and West Midlands and Libraries and Learners in London (LLiL) and on the experience gained from them. The Department for Education and Skills funded the work, and it was supported by a wide range of stakeholders including the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, the British Library, the Learning and Skills Council, the Society of Chief Librarians and the Society of College, National and University Libraries.

With the appointment of a National Partnerships Manager the project flourished, and more and more libraries joined. Documentation, a website and promotional activities were developed which greatly supported both new and existing members in setting up and operating the scheme. A set of Kitemarks was developed which formed the basic building blocks of the project. As it was essential that all members would adhere to these criteria, the bar was not set too high in order to encourage maximum participation.

The criteria were as follows:
· As a minimum, visitors will be allowed reference access to hard copy materials
· Service plans will be adapted to reflect commitment to co-operative working with Inspire partners
· Inspire will be publicised throughout the library service and to the wider community where practicable
· Information on library collection strengths will be provided to be listed and promoted via **Find it!,** the Inspire resource discovery web site
· A key contact or 'Inspire Advocate' will be appointed in each Inspire library

· All staff will be briefed to ensure they have an awareness of the Inspire scheme
· Designated staff will receive in-depth briefing and have responsibility for cascading information about the scheme to other staff
· Inspire will be included in induction and on-going training programmes
· Qualitative and/or quantitative management information will be collected to assist in monitoring the impact of Inspire.

It can be seen from the above criteria that developing the library workforce is an integral part of the scheme. Part of this training and development involves learning how to use and contribute to **Find it!,**[4] the Inspire resource discovery web site which is the tool used to find out collection strengths of libraries as well as highlighting library opening times and general access arrangements.

Since Inspire was established the membership has increased to 3,500 library organizations as of January 2009. More professional organisations have put their weight behind the activities, and an Inspire Management Board has been established. To better appreciate the work Inspire has done and continues to do, consult the website (http://www.inspire2.org.uk/) where more detailed historical and current information is provided.

Foyle

Librarians in Northern Ireland had been watching with interest this development in England, and a small group in Derry came together to discuss the feasibility of operating the scheme locally. The primary motivating factor was the underlying belief that librarians could work more productively together to open up collections to the local community. Staff already referred members of the public on an *ad hoc* basis to each other's libraries, but it was quickly recognised that the existing rather nebulous arrangements could benefit from being formalized. A more structured and publicly advertised service was required and Inspire could deliver on this. The pilot service quickly developed into an operational scheme and it was officially launched in September 2004 with four member libraries: Altnagelvin Trust Library in association with Queen's University Medical Library, Derry City Public Library, North West Institute of Further and Higher Education and the University of Ulster, Magee campus. The group included a medical, public, FE and HE library and this provided a sufficiently broad base of libraries with which to start.

Librarians from the above-mentioned libraries developed the necessary procedures and teased out and resolved any emerging ▶

1 http://www.hefce.ac.uk/widen/aimhigh/
2 http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/4641.aspx

3 http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/4505.aspx
4 http://www.findit.org.uk/

problems. In putting arrangements in place, there was a heavy reliance on the excellent Inspire information which was available and without which the Foyle group would have had to do much more work. The staff were very positive about the venture, and this made the job of establishing policies, procedures and practical arrangements relatively straightforward. Two areas which could especially benefit from library staff working more closely together were identified: (1) local history and (2) medical information. The Reference Library in Derry Public Library and the Magee Campus Library both received many enquiries on local history, and it was agreed that the relevant staff should meet each other and learn more about each other's collections. This worked very well, and now enquiries can be more easily handled by staff in both libraries and the necessary referrals made with more confidence. The four member libraries also handle queries relating to health, nursing or medicine. The group felt that knowing more about each library would be mutually beneficial. Two areas were identified: (a) how other libraries supported enquirers and (b) which collections held locally would be most useful.

Sharing of knowledge and making personal contact was much appreciated, and getting to know staff in other libraries created a link which could be further developed. Visits to the other libraries were organised and these were successful in adding a more personal touch to the scheme and making the other libraries more real. Staff had more confidence in referring on enquiries as they could visualise the library they were directing the user to and the type of collections there. Knowing someone who worked there also meant they had a ready contact point if they were unclear about something.

The question of whether lending should be offered was debated, and it was decided to risk offering it. There was the belief that if someone was referred to another library it was highly likely that the person would want to borrow a book, and the intention was that visitors' needs should be satisfied on their first visit. It was not possible for all participating libraries to offer lending because of differing funding arrangements, but for those who could lend books, it was agreed to offer lending of up to two books for a period of a month. Each library could define which items or collections were excluded from the borrowing part of the scheme, and this meant that core or valuable collections would be safeguarded. This offered some reassurance to librarians that the existing service to their own users would not be detrimentally affected by the scheme. Nevertheless, it was with some apprehension that the initiative was launched. However, any concerns that had been expressed proved to be unfounded as the borrowing arrangements went smoothly, and there were no lost, damaged or even overdue books. While there was some initial concern that libraries might be overwhelmed by requests, circulation statistics showed that this was not the case and that users of the home library were not placed at a disadvantage because of loans to other libraries. A review of items available for lending within the scheme meant that there was always the additional safeguard that at any stage any library could review the material it offered for loan.

There were some concerns in relation to increased workloads. However, this has not been the case. Staff do not undertake literature searches for visiting users. Rather, they direct users to the material requested. Feedback from the libraries has shown that this is working well and is not placing great demands on already busy library staff.

The scheme provides access to printed materials primarily, as access to electronic resources would be more problematic for most libraries. It was decided to concentrate on printed materials and to consider the question of access to electronic resources at a future date.

Expansion of Foyle

From initially a small group of four libraries the group had expanded to eleven organisations by 2008 with some other libraries also keen to join. New members included not only libraries in the immediate vicinity but also some others located across the border in Donegal. In addition the local archive and museum centres and the Verbal Arts Centre joined, which gave a very welcome extra dimension to the whole referral service. In 2008 members were:

• Altnagelvin Trust Library in association with Queen's University Medical Library (Derry City)
• Education Centre Library, St. Conal's Hospital (Letterkenny)
• Genealogy Centre (Derry City)
• Health Promotion Library (Derry City)
• Heritage and Museum Service, Derry City Council
• Inishowen Libraries (Donegal)
• North West Regional College (Derry City)
• South West College (Omagh)
• University of Ulster, Magee Campus (Derry City)
• Verbal Arts Centre (Derry City)
• Western Education and Library Board

With the expansion of the group, consideration had to be given as to whether the name Foyle would be retained. As originally all the participating libraries were near to the river Foyle, it was decided to go with it as a generic name, but as membership had grown and some libraries were nowhere near the river, it was felt that the name needed to be reconsidered. After much discussion, it was decided to continue to use Foyle. However, this is now an acronym for FOstering Your LEarning as this, in essence, described what the project was about.

In 2008, following interest from other libraries elsewhere in Northern Ireland, it became clear that a scheme covering all of Northern Ireland was needed and the Library and Information Services Council, Northern Ireland (LISC) (NI) established LISC Inspire. To date, there are over twenty library organizations in the scheme and an Inspire passport is provided to people interested in accessing other libraries.

Why was Foyle successful?

The success of the Foyle project was in no small measure due to the commitment of members and their determination to make it successful. As with any new project there were obstacles to overcome, and members worked together to solve these. In solving these problems members learned more about how other organizations operate and they began to understand more fully why it was not always possible to deliver on something which, from their perspective, seemed simple to deliver. Another reason for its success was that it built on long-standing informal relationships which meant that the building blocks for the scheme were already in place.

Learning points

Looking back on any initiative there are always lessons to be learnt which can be helpful when undertaking other developments. From this work the key ones were:

Commitment of key personnel in the organization

This may seem an obvious point, but the more that senior people in an organization know about and back a project, the better is the chance that it will be mentioned at important meetings and promoted at a strategic level. Within the present writer's own organization, senior officers were pleased to be in a position to publicise the scheme to members of the local community when they met them at formal and social events. This helped spread the word about the scheme to key influential people in the local community. Therefore, it is essential to secure the commitment of key personnel in an organization.

Library staff involvement

Crucial to the success of this project was involving library staff in all the libraries. Staff needed to know what was being done, and why, so that they could contribute to making it a success. Active staff involvement was essential in order to allay any fears they may have had about the arrangements.

Publicity

An official launch of the scheme was arranged. This resulted in good press and radio coverage, especially on the local radio and in regional papers. In addition, talks and presentations were given to both the member organizations and the wider community, thus affording the opportunity not only to promote the scheme but also to allow attendees the opportunity to ask questions and raise any concerns they had.

Leaflets and posters were published and distributed widely. As more and more organisations joined, it became impossible to keep the printed material up to date. The solution to this, which has been adopted by the LISC Inspire scheme, is that broad generic information is covered in the paper publicity and all dynamic information is kept on a website which is easy to update. The Foyle Group did not have a website so this was not an option for them.

Funding

No funding was provided for the initiative so everything was done on a shoestring. If funding had been available, more outreach activities would have happened, and a website would have been developed. However, starting the project and showing what could be done within existing resources spurred on other libraries to participate and has resulted in LISC Inspire being established, which covers the whole of Northern Ireland. The Foyle Group always talked about how from small acorns spring huge oak trees, because the name Derry comes from the old Irish word Doire meaning an oak grove. It was felt that from a small start with four libraries there was the potential to develop it into a much bigger and stronger body. This is exactly was has happened with the establishment of LISC Inspire.

Evidence of making a difference

As with all initiatives, one needs to ask the question: Did it make a difference, and if it did, where is the evidence? Foyle had evidence of usage of each other's libraries and also anecdotal comments about the value of the work. These in themselves were useful, but it was felt that further tangible evidence was needed. New arrangements which would have provided this evidence were about to be put in place when LISC Inspire came into being. Built into the new LISC Inspire arrangements is a comments card which the user is asked to complete when visiting a library. Through this mechanism it is hoped to capture feedback, positive and negative, in addition to suggestions for improvement. It should then be possible to produce a good range of quantitative and qualitative information about the work.

Conclusion

The Foyle initiative shows how a motivated and committed group of people can work together to implement change. The work of the group was complimented in an evaluation report on Inspire entitled *Opening ours: Inspiring libraries to open access for all*[5]

> 'The Foyle experience makes an excellent case study for any library group considering working co-operatively with other libraries.'

The original founders of Foyle have seen their small acorn develop into sturdy oak trees through the roll-out of LISC Inspire across Northern Ireland and the start of the Pathways to Learning programme in the Republic of Ireland.[6]

Acknowledgements

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5   http://www.inspire2.org.uk/pdf/openinghours.pdf
6   http://www.librarycouncil.ie/colico/
     PathwaystoLearningProgramme.shtml

Meath Healthy Reading Scheme:
a case study in bibliotherapy

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Background

The mission statement of Meath libraries is: 'To to deliver a modern library and information service through the implementation of a five year development programme and to encourage and increase membership and the use of the wide range of library services which are available across all sections of the community'.

A practical example of the programme's implementation is the Meath Healthy Reading Scheme. This is a collaborative venture between staff from the Health Service Executive (HSE) – North East and Meath County Council Library Service and was launched in April 2008.

The Scheme's objective was to make high quality self-help books more accessible to families and adults experiencing mild to moderate psychological, emotional or behavioural problems. All families have questions or difficulties from time to time. Many people develop emotional or psychological problems at some stage during their lives. There are various reasons for this, such as living with a chronic health condition or the pressures of life today. Recent research has shown that tablets do not need to be the first choice of treatment for many cases. There is good evidence that the best self-help books can be very effective in helping people during such stressful times (Frude 2004b).

Bibliotherapy

Bibliotherapy is the term used for delivering psychological therapy by means of books. The effectiveness of bibliotherapy has been well established in many clinical trials (Frude 2004a). The best books can produce results comparable to those of drug therapy or psychotherapy and bibliotherapy has been recommended by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the UK. Bibliotherapy can be used as a stand-alone intervention for clients presenting with milder clinical problems, or in addition to prescribed medication or counselling, or as a waiting list intervention. Most bibliotherapy recommended by mental health professionals is based upon the principles of cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) (Lyddy 2007). More than half of the books in this scheme were chosen as they follow the CBT approach and there is supporting evidence to show that it can be highly effective. Three reports issued by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommended the use of bibliotherapy for the early stages of panic disorders, anxiety disorders, mild/moderate depression, bulimia and binge eating (NICE 2004a, b, c).

Bibliotherapy or "books on prescription" programmes have been delivered in the USA for many years. In Britain a bibliotherapy scheme began in Cardiff in 2003 and similar schemes now operate across the UK. Dublin City Public Libraries, Fingal County Libraries, Mayo and Meath Libraries operate schemes in Ireland.[1]

Meath Healthy Reading Scheme

The aim of the project is to promote the mental health and well-being of individuals and families in Meath, through recommending and making available quality self-help books to enable people to help themselves. The idea is that a General Practitioner (GP) or other health professional can prescribe a self-help book from the library which will give patients information about their condition and suggest ways to help them manage it.

The Meath scheme involves GPs and other health professionals, such as public health nurses, psychiatrists, social workers, psychologists and community mental health nurses recommending specific books to their clients from a child and family booklist and an adult booklist. The books were selected from recommendations yielded by Irish and international surveys with doctors, psychologists and therapists and many present self-help versions of the kind of therapy that would be given by a psychologist or counsellor.

Based on these surveys, two lists of recommended books were compiled: one for vulnerable children and families and one for adults. Research evidence suggests that bibliotherapy can be as useful as time spent with a therapist for some service users (NICE 2004a, b, c). The model is strength-based and aims to build on existing skills and resources within families and individuals (NICE 2004a, b, c). We also applied to the health promotion small grants fund via the HSE with a view to placing an additional set of the adult list of recommended books in the Psychiatry department in Our Lady's Hospital, Navan for patients to use, and these are now in place. All of the books on the lists aim to promote the psychological well-being of adults, children and families. The range of titles incorporates a variety of styles and approaches and aims to account for different preferences. The scheme is not suitable for everyone. It is aimed

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[1] There may be similar schemes in other counties. Another scheme is operational in UCD Medical Library. Editor

at those for whom problems are causing mild to moderate distress and requires that they are able to work independently to try and help themselves.

All Meath-based GPs and other relevant health professionals were circulated with an Information information Pack pack to introduce them to the scheme. This pack included a child and family booklist and an adult booklist, a supply of patient information leaflets and book recommendation forms. The health professional simply completes the brief book recommendation form which clients can then exchange for the book, free of charge, at their local Meath library. To make it easy for clients to access the books Meath County Council Library service has placed a full stock of all the books in four libraries: Ashbourne, Dunboyne, Navan and Trim. Recommended books can be reserved at any of the thirteen public libraries throughout Meath and it is important to stress that users do not need to be referred by a health professional to borrow the books. This service is open to all library members.

The opportunity to get involved in the Meath Healthy Reading Scheme was timely. This initiative was accompanied by an appropriate training programme for staff entitled 'Understanding the needs of users with mental health difficulties' which was delivered in April 2007. The training allowed staff to become familiar with the issues, learn from similar services in other countries and have confidence in delivering a new service. Follow-up training in December 2008 expanded on this as it provided further awareness in helping people, including those with mental health issues, access information on mental health, both locally and nationally.

The reading scheme caters for a diverse reading audience. It uses a wide range of techniques to increase access to books and reading. The most issued subjects to date are anger, anxiety, depression and bereavement. On average, each book in the scheme has been issued at least 3-4 times since the launch. Evaluation forms, which are issued with each book, have all been positive. The following is a selection of comments:

"This is an excellent way to help parents with difficult children and children with problems"
"Informative books with some good self-help manuals"
"Excellent source of help"

Future Directions

Additional funding will be required if the *Books on Prescription* initiative is to be successfully expanded to other libraries and health practices. Since the launch of the scheme in April 2008, there are several ideas which could be developed. These include additional training for staff on mental health issues, developing further partnerships with suitable community groups and using alternative approaches to the books, such as audiovisual resources.

If further titles or updated materials are required, the library service is committed to purchasing these for the collection and the HSE will fund the costs of the promotion. The listed books are only available in English and they are not yet available in large-print format. Some additional funding to translate some of the materials into other languages and convert to large print format would be useful.

Shauna Henry with Jim Cullen, Senior Clinical Psychologist, HSE, Meath.
Photo: © *Meath Chronicle*

It is likely that choosing the bibliotherapy route will expand in the future with increasing emphasis on primary care and 'best value' in health care, mounting evidence for the effectiveness of psychological therapies and self-help treatments and a growing awareness among patients and professionals of the usefulness of bibliotherapy materials. As patients become more vocal in their demand for psychological treatment, bibliotherapy is likely to be recognised as a highly cost-effective way of meeting some of this demand (Morrison 2008). CD and DVD versions of an increasing number of self-help books are now being published.

Library service statistics for books in the scheme showed that from April until December 2008 the total number of issues for the whole collection was 774, and on average each book was issued three times during this period with each title loaned for four weeks at a time. Both the library service and the HSE consider this a great success, and plans are being made to re-launch the initiative in April 2009 to promote it more widely. It is hoped to reach 1000 issues early in 2009.

Prior to the introduction of this scheme the library service set up an adult book group in one of the HSE day care centres in Meath. The group consists of four adults (three female and one male) with mild mental health problems. The group meets once a month with a librarian to discuss a book they have read. Books are selected by the librarian with the main emphasis on length and light subject matter. This has worked very well with the members reading their books and attending faithfully each month. Feedback has also highlighted that the book group has encouraged some to return to reading and has been described as an "escape" from the day-to-day routine. There are plans to start two more book groups for adults with mental health problems in Navan and Dunshaughlin in 2009 but this time it is hoped to base the groups in their local libraries to encourage members to use and feel comfortable in the library setting.

Conclusions

Both these initiatives have proven to be excellent pathways for the library service to develop its partnership with the HSE as well as promoting the service as a whole. Apart from professional interest from other local authorities, the local and national press have been interested in the development of this service. At the moment Clare County Council is researching the project with a view to introducing the scheme to their service, perhaps using Meath County libraries to pilot the scheme and observe the results.

For further information please click on http://www.meath.ie/LocalAuthorities/Libraries/MeathHealthyReadingScheme/

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CONFERENCE REPORTS

Translating 2.0 Technologies for Tangible Benefits & Transparency:
Internet Librarian International 2008

"Be contagious. Have fun working with your colleagues. Create change, don't wait for others to create it for you. Take risks. Work on something you don't know you don't know", Guy Cloutier author of The Power of the Future urged. "People are at the heart of innovation. Trust, energy and a positive attitude are key to going forward."

This very positive keynote address provided a wonderful opening to the Internet Librarian International conference which was held in London on the 16th and 17th October.

Stephen E. Arnold, President of AIT (Arnold Information Technology), which specialises in electronic publishing and database design, stressed that systems must meet the needs of users. He suggested that Web 2.0 developers are not listening to the needs of users – a recurrent theme throughout the conference. The focus should be on defining problems and answering them through information solutions that meet the needs of users.

Joy Palmer (Library and Archival Service, University of Manchester) urged delegates to bring the OPAC to the student's iphone. She noted that Second Life will be the big project at Manchester for 2009.

The conference ran on a three-track basis with parallel papers on the themes *Search and Discovery* (track A), *Special Collections* (track B) and *Transparent Management* (track C) with one keynote session each morning. Choices about which session to attend had to be made. The choice was rich. The range of topics explored was broad. Questions, including whether we preserve our library web pages for the future, were posed. It was suggested that web preservation should be ▸

included in library preservation policies. The UK already has a funded Web Archive Committee.

Collaboration, future roles of librarians, working with the underprivileged, using YouTube in information literacy sessions, dealing with vendors and training library staff in Web 2.0 were among the issues under discussion. Contributors from Norway, Sweden and Portugal gave presentations on training programmes on Web 2.0.

All in all, this was a very useful conference.

Internet Librarian International is an annual conference. The next conference is in London on 15th and 16th October 2009. More information is available from http://www.internet-librarian.com/index.php

Etaín Ó Síocháin, Assistant Librarian, NUI Maynooth

Held under the auspices of the European Conference on Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries, the European Conference on Digital Libraries (ECDL) has become the major European conference on digital libraries. It follows a tradition started in Pisa in1997, bringing together researchers and practitioners from a strong interdisciplinary community with a common focus on knowledge infrastructure. Its ultimate objective is to support the creation of the information infrastructure of the future which might contribute to a vision of a Ubiquitous Digital Library. The 2008 conference was the twelfth in the series and was jointly organised by State and University Library (Aarhus) and University of Aarhus, Denmark.

The conference included delegates from thirty-six countries and every continent. The largest groups came from Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. There was one delegate from Ireland, and it is interesting to note that the entire continent of Africa was represented also by a single delegate who attended in a private, academic capacity.

As a librarian, the interdisciplinary nature of this conference encouraged me to look beyond the professional framework within which I normally work. The overlap between the work of librarians, archivists, researchers, educators, software developers and web-developers grows constantly. An understanding of shared objectives, coupled with different professional approaches, could prove a valuable basis for future professional and information service development.

The conference began for me with a Sunday tutorial by Dagobert Soergel, University of Maryland, on the subject of developing and evaluating thesauri and ontologies. This is of particular interest to librarians, archivists and others concerned with providing subject access to digital collections.

Keynote speakers included Brewster Kahle (Internet Archive USA) on 'Towards universal access to all knowledge' and Carole Goble (University of Manchester) on 'Curating services and workflows: the good, the bad and the downright ugly'.

The Best Papers Session included a presentation by George Buchanan (Swansea University) on an attempt at providing digital placeholders in digital documents. These placeholders replicate the processes of inserting bookmarks, highlighting

Towards the European Digital Library:
ECDL Conference 2008

European Conference on Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries
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text and adding notes in paper documents. The relative inadequacy of favourites/bookmarks in web browsers in comparison with digital placeholders was also demonstrated. The development of this feature in the future will undoubtedly facilitate online reading and research at all levels.

A later research presentation on social tagging concluded that text-term (keyword) -only searches yielded a larger results set than text-term and social-tagging-term combinations. The quite surprising conclusion was that social tagging appears not to help you to find what you want! Attempts at refining social tagging methods by using selected terms or subject headings such as 'film' rather than 'movie' defeat the essential 'Wisdom-of-the-Crowds' purpose of social tagging.

A study by Simon Attfield (University College London) of decision-making at a UK law library's virtual reference desk provided a useful description of the reference librarian's decision -making process. This study could provide a useful basis for enquiry management in similar special libraries.

Zeki Mustafa Dogan (Leipzig University Library) gave an inspirational presentation on the virtual unification of sections of the earliest Christian Bible (currently held in four different countries). The details of the project, from initial concept to the digitisation and publication of the searchable Bible on the web, were described.

A futuristic presentation/demonstration by Moira C. Norrie (ETH Zurich) involved the use of a digital pen to interact between a document printed onto special digital paper and the digital version of the same document on a PC. The digital pen contained a camera that was capable of transmitting images of the words printed on the paper to a nearby PC. By this means, the PC could, for example, be told to open a certain hyperlink, or to activate the 'next' button on a PowerPoint presentation, ▶

Conference Dinner,
Varna Mansion, Aarhus.
Left to right:
Kai Eckert and
Magnus Pfeffer,
University of Mannheim;
Annette Le Roux, SA
and Laura O Broin,
Oireachtas Library
& Research Service

changing the PowerPoint slide behind the speaker. Notes made on the paper by the digital pen could be transmitted to the digital document by the same means and saved into the digital document. The user is therefore free to use a file opened on a PC, without having to stand at the PC.

A poster and demo session allowed researchers to set up exhibition-hall stands at which their papers could be discussed and demonstrated. Immediately before the opening of the exhibition area, researchers were given ninety seconds to make a PowerPoint presentation inviting delegates to their stall. Obviously, only the most interesting and important points about each paper were mentioned, allowing delegates to focus on the papers of most interest to them.

Of interest to me were Summa, an open-source data integration and search programme; Plato, a digital object preservation planning tool; and a programme for graphic presentation of a library's collection by class number. The last programme could be a useful acquisitions/de-accessioning tool for libraries with very large collections.

A high-tech highlight of the poster and demo session was a Gaze Interaction programme that allows severely disabled users to navigate and search a digital collection using a combination of eye movement and gazing only. I tried this software myself, and while the technique would require great mental discipline and some time to learn, it is a very interesting and effective technology that offers much hope for the future.

The Conference developed my appreciation of the potential for librarians to co-operate with fellow information professionals in the development of the Ubiquitous Digital Library of the future.

Further information available at http://www.ecdl2008.org/ or from Laura O Broin, Oireachtas Library & Research Service email: laura.obroin@oireachtas.ie

Laura O'Broin, eServices Librarian, Oireachtas Library and Research Service

This conference took place in Québec in August 2008, and the venue was the Québec City Conference Centre. The attendance of almost 4,000 librarians and archivists, from over 120 countries, reflected the worldwide membership of IFLA. I was privileged to attend and represented the Library Association of Ireland at the Council meeting. Though the conference itself took place from 10th to 14th August, some delegates had attended satellite conferences in other Canadian and U.S. cities during the previous week.

Saturday 9th August was the day on which the Standing Committees held their first meetings. I attended that of GENLOC, the Genealogy and Local History group, where I was made very welcome by the Chairperson, Ruth Hedegaard, the Secretary, Russell Lynch, and the other committee members. This was the first time that I had attended an IFLA Conference, and I was greatly impressed by its scale and its efficient organisation. In the course of the six day conference, there were approximately sixty parallel sessions comprising around 400 individual presentations, three plenary sessions, various training sessions, a Council meeting, as well as meetings of the Governing Board. Furthermore, each of the eight Co-ordinating Boards and forty-five Standing Committees held two meetings, almost all of these immediately before and after the conference itself. There was a wide choice of sessions and events to attend each day. In this account, I describe some of the events which I enjoyed during the week, acknowledging, with some regret, that there were many other sessions and events which I would also have liked to attend.

The spectacular opening ceremony, featuring Québec, Canadian and First Nation performers, took place on Sunday morning, followed that evening by the Cultural Show covering four centuries of Québecois history.

In her inspiring presidential address the President of IFLA, Claudia Lux, stated that 'as librarians we cannot change the world, but we can be more visible by distinctly demonstrating many of the good values represented by libraries and librarians for all to see and by putting them into action', noting that the topic of her presidential theme was 'to work for more public awareness and put libraries on the agenda of those deciding the future of mankind'. (For the full text of Claudia Lux's address, see *IFLA Journal*, (2008) v.34, 4: 333-336.)

Libraries without borders:
navigating towards global understanding

World Library and Information Congress: the 74th IFLA General Conference and Council 2008

The Rare Books and Manuscripts session was of great interest, particularly the presentation by R.H.I.S. Ranasinghe entitled 'The memories of Chinese Buddhist scholars in connection with Nalanda Monastic International University in India in the 7th century AD'. (The text of this, along with many other papers, is available on the IFLA website: see www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm)

Appropriately, the Geography and Map libraries session had as its theme 'Mapping North America: a graphic journey through history', and this, particularly the presentation by Jean-Francois Palomino (co-author of *Mapping a Continent: Historical Atlas of North America, 1492-1814*), was a most useful introduction to Canadian cartographic history.

The Genealogy and Local History session (in conjunction with FAIFE, the IFLA Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom and Expression, on 12th August), had as its theme

'Access to genealogical data: data protection versus unlocking the records'. The four papers, in different ways, explored complex topics such as data privacy, political sensibilities and freedom of information. Wayne Metcalfe and Melvin Thatcher gave a most interesting and comprehensive worldwide overview of genealogical records access and data privacy issues. Susan Lugo described access to Caribbean records for family history research. The presentation by Philippe Colomb, describing the recent reform of legislation concerning access to archives in France, and the ensuing controversy, was particularly outstanding. Senator Laura Milne's account of her campaign to make Canada's historic census records available was both entertaining and thought-provoking.

My highlight of the week was the GENLOC group visit to Grosse Île on Wednesday 13th August. This small island on the St. Lawrence River, about 45 kilometres from Quebec City, served as a quarantine station from 1832 to 1937, through which ▶

The GENLOC group (among others) at the Grosse Île Memorial, which commemorates the Irish and other immigrants who died on the island, and those who looked after them

GENLOC group join tour on the visit to Grosse Île, Wednesday, 13 August 2008

immigrants passed on their way to a new life in Canada. It has been estimated that approximately 661,000 Irish people arrived at Grosse Île between 1829 and 1914. A Celtic cross dating from 1909 and a 1998 memorial bear witness to the 6,000 Irish people who are buried in the cemetery there, most of them victims of the typhus epidemic of 1847. A knowledgeable and enthusiastic tour guide showed us the various buildings and monuments. Though there is a palpable sense of sadness on the island, one leaves feeling great respect and admiration for the immigrants and those who looked after them, and with a far greater understanding of the Irish experience in the Famine years.

The following day (14th August), I attended Irish librarian Teresa Hackett's informative presentation 'Libraries in the digital age: minimum copyright provisions' at the Copyright and other Legal Matters session. A very useful and stimulating presentation was that by Liz McKeen (Library and Archives Canada) entitled 'Canadiana, the national bibliography for Canada, in the digital age'. The Council Meeting was followed by the Closing Session, during which the outgoing GENLOC Chairman, Mel Thatcher, was presented with the IFLA Scroll.

The second meeting of the GENLOC Standing Committee took place the following day.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first IFLA Conference. The energy and commitment of the conference delegates was inspiring, a reminder of the essential importance of the library and archive professions. It is also encouraging to discover that one's counterparts in other countries face the same challenges, local variations notwithstanding, those relating to legal deposit being a case in point.

Quebec is a most attractive and welcoming city, in a splendid natural setting, with excellent parks and outdoor spaces. It is a wonderful city to walk around and has a wide range of museums and galleries. I particularly enjoyed my visit to the Musée de l'Amerique Francaise. The public library branch in the former St. Matthew's church on Rue Saint-Jean is an outstanding example of an older building converted to library use.

Gerard Long is Assistant Keeper, Department of Books, National Library of Ireland.

A Biographical Dictionary of Irish Quakers. 2nd ed.

Edited by Richard S. Harrison. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-1-84682-100-4 260p. €45.00. Hbk.

All the pleasures of biographical narrative are present in miniature in this informative and absorbing book. Citing Emerson's idea that biography is the essence of history, Harrison packs a wealth of detail into his accounts of the lives of Quaker men and women active in the movement in Ireland since the 1650s. The Irish painter Daniel Maclise, for instance, although not a Quaker himself, was helped in his career by two men who were. George Newenham (1752-1821) helped Maclise find employment in the bank he established with Jim Lecky in Cork. Cooper Penrose (1736-1815) had a gallery of sculptures and paintings in his house at Woodhill in Cork and helped many artists, including Maclise.

These details regarding Maclise can be located through the very useful index (compiled by Brad Morrow), which also has an entry for "Bookselling, printing, publishing" leading us to Quaker activity in this field. Isaac Jackson (1705-72), to take one example, became a printer and bookseller in Dublin, operating from the "Globe" at 20 Meath Street. He opened Dublin's first letter foundry in 1747. He was succeeded by his son Robert, who died in 1793, and then by his daughter Rachel Maria (1755-1818), who acted as her brother's executor and took over the printing business. Harrison's love of biographical anecdote is evident in the entry for Rachel, as he recounts how,

in 1771, an apprentice of her father's "gained her affections". She entered into a marriage with him, which was regarded as not legal, and was swiftly removed to the care of relatives (her mother having died when she was only a year old).

The historical sources for each biography are indicated by abbreviations at the end of each entry, and these are fleshed out in a substantial bibliography. Regrettably, two works by Mary Pollard (given as sources for the biographies of Isaac, Robert and Rachel Jackson) have been accidentally omitted from Harrison's bibliography. These are her *Dictionary of members of the Dublin book trade 1550-1800*, published in 2000, and *Dublin's trade in books 1550-1800*, published in 1989.

It can be seen that Harrison is faithful to his stated aim of situating his biographies of Irish Quaker men and women within the wider cultural and socio-economic history of Ireland, thus making his book relevant and enjoyable for both Quakers and non-Quakers alike. In his introduction (revised for this second edition), he provides a succinct historical overview of the Irish Quaker movement. A useful glossary helps with terms unfamiliar to non-Quakers.

Teresa Whitington is Librarian at the Catholic Central Library.

Newspapers collection management: printed and digital challenges

Proceedings of the International Newspaper Conference, Santiago de Chile, April 3–5, 2007. Edited by Hartmut Walravens. Munich: K.G.Saur, 2008. ISBN 978-3-598-22039-5. 396pp.€98 (€73.50 to IFLA members).Hbk. IFLA Publications 133

Newspapers are an unparalleled source of information across a breadth of research interests and disciplines and, in common with libraries throughout the world, the newspaper holdings of the National Library of Ireland are among the most popular of the collections in the Library's care. Regular readers of the files of historic newspapers held by the Library include economists, genealogists, historians, journalists, legal researchers, literary scholars, picture researchers, political scientists, students of design and fashion ... the list goes on.

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) has a very active Newspapers Section. Over the years, the Newspapers Section has organised a series of international conferences in tandem with its annual midwinter meeting. Twenty-two of the papers included in this volume were

presented at their April 2007 conference held in Santiago de Chile and hosted by the National Library of Chile. These are supplemented by papers based on four presentations delivered at IFLA's World Library and Information Conference which was held in Durban the following August. With the exception of two which appear in Spanish only and one in English only, the papers are published in both Spanish and English.

As set out in the preface by Hartmut Walravens, Chair of the Newspapers Section, the proceedings offer 'a mix of basic, descriptive, project and technical information – one big step forward to foster international cooperation in the newspaper field'. The key issues in newspaper librarianship are addressed, with a particular focus upon approaches to the digitisation of historic print newspaper collections.

The conference in Chile had a strong Latin American focus and, as might be expected, this is reflected in the publication under review. The volume includes papers from Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru. These papers provide a fascinating overview of Latin American newspaper history as well as an insight into the work of librarians charged with responsibility for preserving newspaper heritage in each of these countries. Also featured are papers from Canada, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, UK and USA which were delivered at the Santiago conference, and papers from Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and USA which were presented at the Durban conference. The Google Digitisation Programme is described in a paper by Thaddeus Lipinski (Oxford University Library Services), while an overview of software developments is given by George Schlukbier (Schlukbier Consultants). Slightly different in theme to other papers is the interesting Chilean study of 'Newspapers in school libraries' learning resource centres' by Constanza Mekis et al. By bringing all of these papers together, this volume offers a unique overview of how things are in the world of newspaper librarianship in the digital age.

Ximena Cruzat Amunategui (National Library of Chile) states at the beginning of her paper that her objective is to stimulate reflection rather than to go into exhaustive detail. Her overview of digital library principles and the issues which must be addressed is well worth reading and, overall, encapsulates the particular value of this volume: the number of papers which are about collections and the specific collection management challenges facing newspaper librarians in the changing information environment. In this regard, it is worth noting that it was an express objective of the conference organisers that it should not be 'a high level technical discussion forum for the latest innovations'.

In a paper entitled 'Digital historical newspapers online: prospects and challenges' Ed King (British Library) points out that libraries with older newspaper collections need to share information about digital conversion projects so that new projects are as efficient and as cost effective as possible. His paper describes the British Library's experience of managing a major newspaper digitisation project during the period 2004-2007. It is one of a number of papers which provide a strategic overview of a national newspaper digitisation project. In

describing the issues which had to be addressed and 'project learning' outcomes, the paper is of great interest and practical value.

With much focus upon digitisation it is important also to attend to the case set out in the paper by Dorothy Woodson (Yale University Library) in which she argues that we must ensure that the print newspapers of today are not forgotten in this 'an age of epidemic urlitis'.

Reading both Else Delaunay (Bibliothèque Nationale de France) and Hartmut Walravens (Berlin State Library) on bibliographic control of newspaper collections, Irish librarians should take pride in NEWSPLAN Ireland's achievement in identifying and listing extant holdings of Irish newspapers. The NEWSPLAN Ireland[1] project is a model of inter-library cooperation, and as we consider its future in the context of the digital information environment, it is particularly timely to have available an IFLA publication which provides an overview of how the challenges and opportunities facing newspaper librarians are being addressed in other countries.

Anyone considering a library digitisation project will find much of value in this volume. Notwithstanding differences in resources and scale, common challenges and opportunities present themselves, and the project overviews in this volume are informative and practical. For those with an interest in newspaper history, there are interesting insights into the development of the press in Canada, Chile, Colombia and Cuba. Overall, this publication is a testament to the excellent work of newspaper librarians worldwide and, not least, to the spirit of cooperation which informs their success as custodians of our collective newspaper heritage.

Colette O'Flaherty is Keeper of Printed and Visual Collections, National Library of Ireland.

1   On this point, readers may be interested to know that in March 2009 a NEWSPLAN seminar will address the question of how best to take the project forward in the context of the digital challenges and opportunities which present themselves. (For further information on the NEWSPLAN seminar see the National Library of Ireland website: www.nli.ie).

International Genealogy and Local History

This volume contains twenty-two papers delivered at sessions organised by the Genealogy and Local History Section at the annual conferences of IFLA (The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) between 2001 and 2005. Many of these are updated versions of the original presentations. A wide range of significant issues and trends in historical and family research is covered.

The authors address those engaged in delivering genealogy and local history services in libraries, archives and museums across the world. Many focus on the growing army of enthusiasts directly engaged in tracing their own ancestral and local history. Several papers give useful hints on how various resources can be used to further personal research. These include the exciting opportunities offered by the digitisation of primary resources; co-operation between libraries, museums and archives; the application of powerful new technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and DNA profiling.

It is necessary to read the book in its totality to determine its underlying intellectual order. Each paper must be considered in its own right rather than as fitting the overall theme of that year's conference as there is sometimes a poor fit between the theme of the conference, the topic of an individual paper and the topics of associated papers.

The time lag between the original date of presentation of papers and the publication of these conference proceedings date the book and some of its content in the fast-paced world of genealogy and local history developments. However, many of the papers are useful resources as case studies for anyone undertaking a similar project, and the trans-national views are often similar, yet subtly different. With some of the translated papers, the reader is left wondering if something has been lost in the translation and in the exact meaning of sections of an article.

In order to give a flavour of the book and the articles therein, below are accounts of some articles chosen at random from the book.

The use of DNA is considered in 'DNA and Genealogy' by Ugo A. Perego et al. This is a technical article and well-referenced paper about the use of DNA in genealogical research. Combined with documentary family history research, DNA evidence, especially Y-chromosome and mitochondrial DNA data, can help researchers identify ancestors and reconstruct family histories and lineages. Autosomal DNA data can be used to infer likely ethnic and geographic pathways and origins.

An article by Sanjica Faletar Tanackovic on 'Can Archivists, Librarians and Curators Join Hands to Do a Better Job?' makes a case for collaboration between "memory institutions" especially through the use of ICT and gives examples of collaboration by Croatian memory institutions. W. B. Rayward is quoted as suggesting that "being able to respond to contemporary challenges effectively may largely depend on how well the different kinds of 'professionals' are able to transcend the limitations that their highly developed cultures imposed on them so they can work across the ever diminishing boundaries that surround them".

Details of a website on local history are given in 'Local History World Wide: an International Internet Inventory'. This paper makes the case for studying local history on a worldwide basis and studying differences and similarities between similar historical periods and developments in different countries. To this end a website was to be established with presentations from five countries. The website www.localhistory.no was established and now, in early 2009, lists presentations from twelve countries. A notable absence is Ireland which we know has a vibrant local history climate. The website was last updated in February 2006.

The new area of spatial information and its application in the presentation of a number of series of historical and modern maps, totaling almost 100,000 maps, is described in 'Presenting Maps and other Spatial Information on the Internet' by Peter Korsgaard (National Survey and Cadastre, Denmark).

The single paper presenting an Irish topic, "Library and information literacy for 'non-traditional'/mature students: some aspects of the Irish third level experience" is co-authored by Micheál Ó hAodha, Informatics Librarian at the University of Limerick. The paper describes a number of back to education and information literacy initiatives underway at the University of Limerick. One means of improving access for members of the Traveller and Roma communities has been the development of a Traveller/Roma Resource Collection. This collection includes a wide range of material relating to Roma and Traveller history and culture along with literacy resources for a ▶

range of ages. Various strands in using the collection to promote literacy, library skills and to encourage access are described.

This volume is a tribute to the initiative and hard work of those professionals striving to expand genealogy and local studies services around the world. It provides a means of looking beyond the confines of the distinct professions of librarian, archivist or curator as well as giving an opportunity to see how similar professional challenges are faced in various parts of the world.

Kieran Swords is Senior Executive Librarian, South Dublin County Libraries.

Publishing for Success: a practical guide

Tannahill, Anne. Belfast: NIPR, 2008. 80 pages. ISBN 978–0–9557419–0–6. Free on request*

Anne Tannahill writes from the experience of a long and successful career as managing director of the Blackstaff Press. As might be expected, this is a confident, informed and stylish publication, designed in a textbook style by Wendy Dunbar, the award-winning book designer who also worked for many years at Blackstaff.

Publishing for success grew out of a seminar, organised in 2006 by the Northern Ireland Publishing Resource (NIPR), to help local historians to improve the quality of the design and production of their publications. Following the seminar NIPR decided to publish a guide for any writers who wished to publish their own work. The author's stated aim is "to provide a clear outline of the publishing process, with friendly practical advice…"[1] arranged under headings such as financial management, legal aspects, production, publicity and promotion. Every stage of the production of a book is covered, from cradle to sales counter.

The content is very much geared to the needs of the writer of local history, either for publication by a professional publisher, a vanity publisher or by the author as self-publisher. For individuals who believe there is a market for a memoir of the local national school or a well-remembered hurling hero of their town, there is much practical, accessible help. Topics covered include care in the editing process, awareness of copyright legislation and restraint in late corrections or rewrites. There is very useful advice suggesting caution in the size of a print run

In a wider context some of the information should be of considerable interest to anyone writing or citing books or just interested in the process of producing a book. There is a handy, though selective, glossary of terms, explanation of common acronyms, a breakdown of the elements included on the imprint page and an illustrated list, with explanations, of proof-reading marks, which are often baffling to the uninitiated but important for clarity in correcting proofs.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from the Northern Ireland printers W&G Baird and the British Lottery Fund, the publication is being distributed free.

Olivia Fitzpatrick, Arts & Humanities Librarian, University College Cork

* www.nibooks.org. Email info@nibooks.org.
1 *Publishing for success*: 1.

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Obituaries

Seán Bohan 1924–2008: an appreciation

The death of Seán Bohan in October 2008 brings to an end an era of public librarianship in Ireland: one characterised by strong visionary men and women who achieved great things for the service despite, rather than because of, the prevailing political and economic conditions. No one epitomised that era more than Seán Bohan and Máirín O'Byrne, who died just a few months before him.

During his career Seán worked in all four provinces, and was a chief librarian in three of them. Born in the townland of Gortacurra near Templemore, Co. Tipperary, his first job was as a Library Assistant with Dublin Municipal Libraries, where he started in June 1945, soon after the end of World War II. After a very brief spell as Assistant Librarian in Galway (October 1952 to April 1953), he was appointed County Librarian in Donegal. He spent three years there before returning to Galway as County Librarian for eight years where he oversaw significant development. It is for his nineteen years as City Librarian in Cork (December 1965 to the end of 1984), however, that he is best remembered.

Although public librarianship is at its heart concerned with the local, Seán was never satisfied to focus merely on the local, but was a thinker and a leader at national level in a number of key areas. These included his emphasis on long-term planning, which began during his time in Donegal, but first reached prominence in Galway. Another area he saw as crucial was having a professional librarian in charge of each library service point, something he achieved in Cork. To further both objectives he placed great emphasis on developing and nourishing strong links with elected representatives and senior officials of the Corporation. Seán was happier in one-to-one meetings than in formal, large-scale settings, and much of his best work was done this way. His colleagues in the Library Association of Ireland acknowledged his standing in the profession by electing him President for 1979-1980, but typically for a man who shunned the limelight, he refused to accept a second term. His honesty about the weaknesses of the service, and of what remained to be done nationally, is evident in his Presidential Address of 1979, when he lamented what he saw as 'sporadic progress here and there' in 'an era of enormous economic, social and educational growth', and was scathing about the government's neglect of public libraries.

In Cork city he equalled the achievements of the legendary first Librarian, James Wilkinson, who had served from 1892-1933 – from the time of Victoria to De Valera's first Fianna Fáil government. Inheriting a service that consisted of just one building on the Grand Parade (built by Wilkinson in the late 1920s to replace Wilkinson's earlier Carnegie building), Seán planned and developed a network of branch libraries around the city, starting with St Mary's Road in 1972. He led the refurbishment and extension of the Central Library, the largest public library in the State when it was opened by the then Taoiseach Jack Lynch in 1979, set up the first music library in Ireland and established a mobile service tailored to the needs of urban areas.

His involvement with Pádraig Ó Maidín, Cork County Librarian, and others, in setting up the Cork Archives Institute (now Cork City and County Archives) was another landmark achievement. He was a long-standing member of the Council of the Cork Historical & Archaeological Society, serving as the Society's first Honorary Organizer in the early 1970s and later as Vice-President.

During his time in Cork he trained colleagues who went on to be leading County Librarians elsewhere: John McTiernan (Kilkenny and Sligo), Kathleen O'Rourke (Wexford), Kathleen Browne (Kerry), and Noel Crowley (Clare).

A fundamentally shy man, but one who loved convivial company and traditional music, he managed through his life to keep his public and family lives separate. Seán met Joan Heaney, a native of Co. Wexford, at a tennis hop at Ashbrook Tennis Club while working in Dublin. They married in 1953, the year of his appointment as Donegal County Librarian. While in Donegal Seán helped Terry Doherty and others set up the Lifford Players, and this love of amateur drama stayed with him in Galway and Cork. In his early years in Cork he toured with the Melbourn Players, named for the area of Bishopstown where he, Joan and their three sons and two daughters lived. His fondness for playing cards, especially the rural game of 25, also stayed with him well into his retirement.

Seán is remembered with great affection by the staff of Cork City Libraries who worked with him. Although he had spent virtually all his adult life away from his native county he remained a proud Tipperary man to the end, and it was fitting that his coffin left the church in Curraheen, Cork, for the last time to the strains of 'Slievenamon'.

LR.

[Photo: © Irish Examiner]

Michael Dewe 1940–2008: an appreciation

Colleagues will be sad to hear of the death just before Christmas of Michael Dewe. Former students of the College of Librarianship Wales and its successor, the Department of Information Studies Aberystwyth University, will have known Mike as a lecturer and tutor specialising in library planning and design and local studies librarianship. Before moving to Aberystwyth, Mike had had extensive experience in public libraries.

In addition to teaching, Mike was a prolific author, writing books on local studies librarianship, the definitive book on skiffle and, of course, titles on library planning and design. For a number of years Mike was active in the IFLA Section on Library Buildings and Equipment.

Irish colleagues may also have known Mike as a member of the judging panel for the Public Library Building Awards from 1995-2003. Retirement had little meaning for Mike and his recent years were particularly productive. He continued to visit, look critically at and learn from library buildings. He acted as consultant on a number of library building projects. He wrote articles and books including *Planning Public Library Buildings*, published in 2006.

Mike was a co-founder of the Designing Libraries web portal on library design. He worked for the last four years both as a consultant to and member of the Designing Libraries team where his vast knowledge of library buildings and of the library design process were invaluable.

Despite serious illness in 2008 Mike continued to work with Designing Libraries and on completing his latest book. *Renewing our Libraries* was published by Ashgate in January 2009 and is a fitting summation of Mike's passionate, lifelong commitment to the importance of libraries in society and to the centrality of the good design of library buildings to the performance and public image of libraries.

Alan J. Clark, Designing Libraries, Aberystwyth University

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NUI Maynooth Library hosts Social Sciences Festival

The NUI Maynooth Library Social Sciences Festival took place from 27th to 30th January. Central to the festival was an exhibition of the publishing output of the Faculty of Social Sciences from 2000 to date.

During the festival there was a unique opportunity to view Maynooth's earliest printed book describing Ireland. This 1478 translation of *De situ orbis* (a survey of the inhabited world) offers a favourable insight into the Ireland of the time. In the text Ireland is characterised by strikingly stately horses, turf fires and a warring, witty and handsome people.

The festival was opened by the President, Professor John G. Hughes, and was followed by an address by Dr. Robert Galavan, Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences. Both speakers highlighted the strength and depth of the Faculty's research output over recent years. A number of books were launched during the

Cathal McCauley, University Librarian and Penny Woods, Librarian, Russell Library, peruse the recently acquired 530 year-old book DE SITU ORBIS (A survey of the inhabited world). The book was displayed during NUI Maynooth Library's Social Sciences Festival.

Festival including *Adult Learning in Groups* (Open University Press) by Bríd Connolly and *Communication and Knowledge Sharing at Work* (Blackhall Press) by Dr. John Cullen. A series of seminars took place in the Library during the week. These addressed issues relating to research and getting published within the Social Sciences.

The Festival also marked the launch of ePrints3, NUI Maynooth's innovative institutional repository and the Irish Qualitative Data Archive. Speakers throughout the week included Professors Jim Walsh, Tom Collins and Rob Kitchin. Attended by University staff and external guests, this year's Festival was a showcase for the pioneering work of the Faculty of Social Sciences, which contributes greatly to NUI Maynooth and local and national planning.

PEOPLE

Best wishes to colleagues who retired in recent months: Pauline Corrigan (UCD), Ann Coughlan (Offaly), Tony Cox (Westmeath), Jim Fogarty (Kilkenny), Mary Kelleher (RDS), Marie Reddan (NUIG) and Ann Ward (Louth).

Congratulations to those who have moved to new posts during the same period:
• Bernadette Fennell has moved to Louth as County Librarian. Teresa Walsh is now Director of Corporate Services and Libraries in South Dublin County Council.
• Anne Jarvis (neé Murray) has been appointed as University Librarian at Cambridge University. Anne is a former Business Manager of *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library.*
• Further afield, Carmen Morlon (formerly Information Officer, EBLIDA) has taken up the position of Deputy Director at LIBER and SPARC Europe.
• Marian Keyes (formerly LAI Development Manager) was awarded an IRCHSS scholarship to do her PhD. Jane Clavin has recently been appointed as Development Manager.
• Congratulations also to Claire Nolan, Administrator, UCD SILS who recently published her first novel, *The Stone.* Further details are available on the website http://www.clairenolan.com

European Commission's Green Paper Copyright in the Knowledge Economy [COM (2008) 466/3]

The Library Association of Ireland's response is available on the LAI website at http://www2.libraryassociation.ie/policies/european-commission%e2%80%99s-green-paper-copyright-in-the-knowledge-economy-com-2008-4663/

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