



## Librarian's Annual Report 2008/09



### **The Kerouac Scroll**

The manuscript was on loan from the collection of James S. Irsay

© Estate of Anthony G Sampatacus and Estate of Jim Kerouac. Photograph courtesy of Christie's, New York

## **Turascáil Bliantiúil ón Leabharlannaí 2008/09**

# Contents

<b>2008/09 Selected Highlights</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Overview for 2008/09</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1. Support for research, teaching and learning</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Collections	
1.2 Russell Library collection	
1.3 Information skills	
1.4 eBooks: Student reading project (Core Text Project)	
1.5 Use of the collection	
1.6 Institutional Repository: ePrints, eTheses	
1.7 Moodle	
<b>2. Library environment</b>	<b>14</b>
2.1 New library	
2.2 John Paul II Library	
2.3 Kildare Store	
2.4 Russell Library	
2.5 Upgrading equipment and systems	
<b>3. Promoting library services</b>	<b>17</b>
3.1 Exhibitions	
3.2 Web	
3.3 Access	
3.4 Service Enhancements	
3.5 Opening hours	
3.6 Staff development	
<b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix 1 <b>Staff professional activities</b>	
Appendix 2 <b>Statistics</b>	

## **2008/09 Selected Highlights**

### **Support for research, teaching and learning**

- Hosting of *Jack Kerouac: Back on the Road* exhibition during March 2009
- 61% of books received 'shelf ready,' up from 48% in 2007/08
- Integration of eBooks core text project into Acquisitions department
- In excess of 35,000 eBook records added to library online catalogue
- 12% increase in e-resources downloads which totalled almost 280,000
- 60% increase in material available in the institutional repository ePrints
- Spend on books increased despite budget cutbacks
- Arrival of 'Morpeth Roll' in May 2009 as part of collaborative project with Department of History, Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates, An Foras Feasa and Castle Howard
- 53% increase in attendance at post-orientation library training sessions
- Library staff now delivering information skills modules as part of postgraduate generic skills programmes in all three faculties
- Finalisation of Library Strategic Plan 2009 – 2011

### **Library environment**

- Ministerial announcement of new library building project
- Design team appointed and significant progress made on all aspects of the new library project
- Staff office area in the Russell Library refurbished
- New reader facilities including lockers provided in the Russell Library
- Additional power outlets provided in the John Paul II Library
- ARC Management Information System (MIS) successfully implemented to underpin library management and administrative processes

### **Promoting library services**

- Flexible and positive response of library staff to challenging operating environment
- 14,000 queries received through roving service
- 64% increase in queries received in total to more than 28,000
- 11% increase in website hits with a monthly average of more than 56,000

- 14 exhibitions and events mounted during 2008/09 and John Paul II Library hosted first ever book launch.
- Reader and visitor numbers in the Russell Library up 55%
- Russell Library conservation unit and Archivist feature in RTÉ *Nationwide* programme about Strokestown collection
- New text reference service launched in John Paul II Library
- Registered borrower numbers up 10.5% to more than 9,000
- Self-service circulation transactions up to 65% of all transactions (from 60% in 2007/08)
- Additional self-service unit added on level 2 of John Paul II Library
- Suite of customer service enhancements including courtesy notices and grace period for fines
- Opening hours further extended (until midnight) during both examination periods

## **Overview 2008/09**

This is the first annual report as Librarian for which I have been in post for the entire reporting period (1 October 2008 – 30 September 2009). I am, therefore, very pleased that the considerable achievements recorded in this report demonstrate that the library's reputation for service excellence and innovation has, over the course of the reporting period, been further enhanced.

I am particularly pleased with the response of library staff to what has been, and continues to be, a very challenging operating environment. Increases in student numbers and reductions in staff numbers and budgets have required us to do more with less and we have more than succeeded. A plethora of metrics show double-digit increases in activity during 2008/09 in key areas such as book purchases, user training, user queries, and the use of electronic resources.

In addition to working hard to meet increasing user demands, we also further developed our key role as the cultural heart of the University hosting in excess of 14 exhibitions and events including the world famous Kerouac 'scroll' and the first book launch to take place in the John Paul II Library. Indeed, the library's role in this regard has probably never been as important as during the current period of economic uncertainty.

While the above successes have been considerable, the sustainability of performance at this level in the face of ongoing challenges, especially those relating to increasing users and reductions in staffing and funding, will be difficult. I am confident, however, that with the continued commitment of library staff and appropriate support from the University the Library will continue to develop and play our role in enhancing the growing reputation of NUI Maynooth as a centre of teaching and research excellence.

Two key supports that will underpin this development were put in place during the reporting period. Firstly during spring/summer 2009 the Library produced our Strategic Plan for 2009 – 2011. This process involved the direct participation of over 70% of Library staff and sets out a testing but stimulating programme of almost 100 actions over a two-year period which are directly aligned with the University's strategic goals. From next year the format of future annual reports will be amended

to report on the implementation of this plan. Secondly, in December 2008 the Minister for Education formally announced our new library development. This exciting project is due to be completed by 2012 and will enable the library service to fully realise its true potential.

Finally I would like to congratulate the staff of the Library on a superb performance during 2008/09. It has been my pleasure over the last year to work with, and to get to know, such a dedicated, resourceful and innovative team. I recognise that many of our achievements would not have been possible without the support and participation of our many partners and friends throughout the university community, for which I am very grateful.

Cathal McCauley

Librarian

April 2010

## **1. Support for research, teaching and learning**

### **1.1 Collections**

The IReL (Irish Research eLibrary) initiative continued to enable the Library to provide users with world-class access to thousands of electronic journals and databases. In line with previous years' usage of electronic resources, many of which are provided via IReL, continued to increase with approximately 280,000 downloads (a 12% increase). JSTOR continued to be the most searched database while ScienceDirect continued to have the most downloads.

In April 2009 the IReL Steering Group conducted a national impact survey with over 5,400 respondents. Findings about the benefits of IReL included:

- Over 80% of respondents used IReL for easier and faster access to research information
- Over 50% of respondents credited IReL for increasing their research productivity
- Over 36% of respondents stated that IReL enabled them to enter new areas of research

Other significant benefits identified by researchers included an increase in inter-institutional collaboration, a higher international profile and improved international competitiveness for Irish research. Towards the end of this reporting period the future of IReL was due for review at what was a difficult time in light of the emerging global economic crisis. The abandonment, or severe reduction, of IReL would be hugely damaging to academic libraries and researchers in Ireland.

The availability of IReL has reduced the need for individual university libraries to take out local subscriptions for periodicals and databases. During 2008/09 just 20 new periodicals were subscribed to, mostly to support the new programmes in the areas of law and equine business. Two electronic resources were purchased: Northern Ireland: a divided community and the 19th Century British Pamphlets on JSTOR. Consultation with relevant departments and supplier negotiations started for the purchase of Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO).

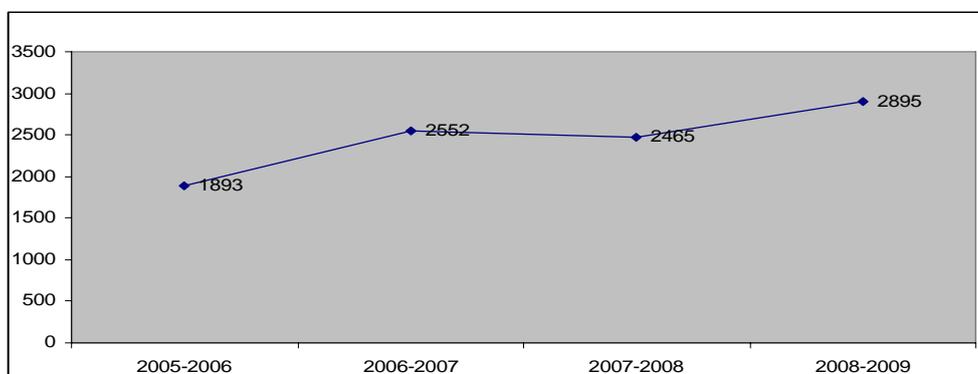
During the reporting period the number of eBooks available continued to increase. In 2008/09 eBook accessibility was also improved by the addition of records to the library catalogue for eBook titles. More than 35,000 eBook MARC records were added. eBooks constitute a challenge for many traditional library processes including financial planning models and work to address these challenges continued. While some users continue to be reluctant to avail of eBooks the vast majority welcome the flexibility and availability of the format and further growth of eBooks is certain.

While electronic resources are an increasingly important aspect of the library's services and collections, demand for print volumes remains high. Due to effective cost control and resource prioritisation measures, the number of books purchased increased by 4.5% to 5,322 despite an overall library budget cut of in excess of 19%.

The Library continues to receive many significant donations. Of particular note during the reporting period was the donation by the family of Rev. Thomas Finan of material connected to Sir Thomas More and a selection of George Moore volumes. The donation also included many works on art and architecture.

The number of books supplied as 'shelf ready' increased from 48% in 2007/08 to 61% in 2008/09. This very welcome increase means that even more books are available for use sooner after ordering. This performance also continues to compare very favourably with our peer libraries in Ireland. Table 1 below highlights the consistent progress made in this area over the last number of years.

**Graph 1: Increase in 'Shelf Ready' titles NUIM Library 2005 - 2009**



## 1.2 Russell Library collection

The Russell Library had an exceptionally busy year hosting hugely successful exhibitions and participating in innovative digitisation projects, in addition to the ongoing work of conserving, cataloguing and making available the magnificent collection held there.

The Russell Library hosted a number of exhibitions during the reporting period including the *Jack Kerouac: Back on the Road* exhibition in March 2009. The Library and the School of English, Media and Theatre Studies, with kind support from the President's Office, collaborated to bring this exhibition of international importance and renown to Maynooth. It was open to the public and senior-cycle students from local secondary schools received special guided tours. Over 1,000 visitors attended from all over Ireland and beyond and this success was due to wonderful co-operation between a range of University units including the Library, the School of English, Media and Theatre Studies, the President's Office, Campus Security, Campus Services, the Communications Office and the Admissions Office.

The Russell Library is a very active participant in a range of digitisation projects and works closely with An Foras Feasa, the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates and other internal and external stakeholders. Key projects during 2008/09 included The Morpeth Roll<sup>1</sup>, Irish Script on Screen (ISOS)<sup>2</sup> and Images in Irish periodicals<sup>3</sup>. In addition to these larger projects, 490 photographic images were added to the database. These images are essential for exhibitions, creating posters, fulfilling requests from readers and departments, and reproduction in publications.

The collections of the Russell Library attract a growing number of researchers and visitors. Readers and visitors to the library increased by 55% to over 1,800. A diverse range of visitors from local school children to international and national scholars also attended the library. Visitors of particular note during 2008/09 included European English Rectors Conference delegates, dignitaries from the University of

---

<sup>1</sup> A pre-famine roll inscribed with approximately a quarter of a million Irish names and signatures which was presented to George Howard, Lord Morpeth, when he relinquished his post as Chief Secretary of Ireland in 1841.

<sup>2</sup> Hosted by the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies <http://www.isos.dias.ie/>

<sup>3</sup> Images in 19<sup>th</sup> century Irish periodicals held in the Russell Library are being digitised and incorporated into a searchable, text-enriched database, researched by Dr Robin Kavanagh, An Foras Feasa

Alcalà de Henares and the President of Keimyung University in Korea. The Russell Library also featured on RTÉ television twice during the reporting period: on RTÉ's *Nationwide*, as part of an item on Castletown and the Strokestown Archive, and as a location for an interview with Dr Tadhg Ó Dúshláine as part of a documentary.

It is likely that the level of interest in the Russell Library will continue to grow as awareness of the collections increases. A key driver of this is the ongoing joint NUI Maynooth and Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth (SPCM) Russell Library Cataloguing Project. Science, Mission History and Religion were the sections completed this year. The large and magnificent collection of early science begins in the 16<sup>th</sup> century with such printings as Copernicus, Puerbach and Euclid; includes major 17<sup>th</sup> century figures Galileo, Newton, Boyle, Borelli and Fermat; 18<sup>th</sup> century stalwarts Laplace, Hauksbee, Lagrange and Euler, and from the 19th century, Kirwan, Rowan Hamilton and De la Beche. Subjects include dials and globes, comets, magnetism, optics, mathematics, surveying, hydraulics, astronomy, bio-mechanics, clocks, steam-engines, trees, phrenology, agriculture, sea-bathing and even a 17<sup>th</sup> century treatise on tea and chocolate! The project was the subject of a poster presentation at the Irish University Information Services Colloquium in March 2009 entitled *Enticing the Virtual Scholar*. An interesting example of the material the project is processing is included below:

Image 1: Sc 12 1 Robert Boyle, *Opera varia* (Geneva, 1680)  
Portrait of Robert Boyle (contemporary correction of 'Anglus' to 'Hibernus')



Central to the ability to make the collection available is the work of the conservation unit within the Russell Library. The unit was involved in all of the above projects and continues to make a vital contribution in other areas including the Library's preparedness in the event of a serious incident (disaster planning) and our teaching and outreach activities.

A new and exciting area for the Russell Library team is our growing involvement in archives. In last year's report the appointment of a half-time archivist in conjunction with the Department of History was welcomed. Since this appointment, much has been achieved within the Library and beyond. The Russell Library Archival Project is now well under way. The archive of Rev. Desmond Forristal has been fully processed. Fr. Forristal, whose books, papers and photographs were donated to the Russell Library in 2001, is known for his work as a scholar, author, playwright, and television producer. Work has also commenced on cataloguing the papers of theologian and scientist Rev. Gerald Molloy. In addition to the above, the archivist continues to work half-time in the OPW/NUIM Archive Centre at Castletown House in Celbridge.

### **1.3 Information skills**

A total of 1,323 attended library orientation sessions in late September 2008. Customised orientation sessions for International Students and Mature Students were organised following consultation with the relevant Departments. These important sessions involve an enormous amount of work for library staff but help students to get the best start to their university careers. The numbers of first years attending continued to grow and, after some signs that attendances were falling, in other categories numbers stabilised during the last two years. Discussions are ongoing with the Registrar's office, Student Services and other relevant personnel to ensure that the maximum numbers of students receive this important assistance.

Over 1,800 students attended a broad range of training courses, workshops and seminars provided by the library staff and other partners during 2008/09. Important partners included the Centre for Teaching and Learning, the Computer Centre and the Access Office. The Library's established reputation as a facilitator, organiser and provider of information skills training will be further developed and enhanced over the coming years as one of the strategic goals identified in our 2009 – 2011 Strategic Plan.

The Library continued to build partnerships with academic faculties and departments through our participation in accredited modules. Library staff were heavily involved in two accredited information literacy modules with undergraduates in the Department of Adult and Community Education i.e. *Using ICT for Research and Learning* which had 24 contact hours and 13 participants and *Study Skills and Student Support* which had four contact hours and 20 participants. Building on the success of the Library's involvement in Generic Skills with the Faculty of Science & Engineering in 2007/08, the Library delivered Information Literacy skills to PhD students in all three Faculties as part of a University-wide suite of Generic Skills. These classes happened in both Semester One and Semester Two and covered issues such as Developing your research question, Writing for Academic Publication, Impact Factors, Citation Reports and Communicating your research findings. 78 students attended these sessions. Face to face sessions were complemented by extensive use of Moodle. These developments are in support of the introduction of structured graduate research education programmes locally and nationally.

While the commitment to continue all of the above is challenging in the context of recent reductions in budgets and staff numbers the provision of information skills training is a key strategic objective of the Library.

#### **1.4 eBooks: Student reading project (Core Text Project)**

In the 2007/08 annual report the success of the SIF-funded project to make electronic versions of core texts available was noted. The challenge during 2008/09 was to integrate the success of the project into mainstream library structures and operations. I am pleased to report that in January 2008 this work was integrated into the work of the Acquisitions department. This required a number of technical, administrative and process changes which were successfully implemented.

#### **1.5 Use of the collection**

There was a 6% decrease in items borrowed relative to the 2007/08 period. In view of the increasing importance of electronic resources this trend is not unexpected. 65% of these loans, up from 60% in 2007/08, were conducted using the self-service facilities now in place. The balance of transactions involved laptop loans, reserve collection items and/or payment of fines. All of these transactions currently require the intervention of a member of staff.

In line with the decrease in borrowing, shelving activity declined by 11%. Resources available to the shelving team have also been reduced by a variety of factors. Moreover, the shelving team is playing a key role in the stock movement projects required to prepare the collection for the new library extension.

Inter-Library Loan requests from library users bucked recent trends and increased by 15%. Requests for the Library to supply material to other libraries also continued to increase and in 2008/09 rose by 15%. A better integrated Inter-Library Loan module of the Library Management System was introduced in autumn 2009 to facilitate more efficient administration of the process (see section 2.5 below).

### **1.6 Institutional Repository: ePrints and eTheses**

The ePrint Archive continued to grow. Registered users increased to 262, submitting over 1,600 documents to the archive (up from just over 1,000 in 2007/08). This increased usage correlated significantly with the Social Science Festival which was hosted by the Library in January 2009.

The ePrints software was upgraded to Version 3 during autumn 2008 and the new version was launched by Professor Ray O'Neill, Vice-President for Research, at the Library's Social Sciences Festival 2009.

Advocacy work continued and in January 2009 the Library organised a presentation to NUI Maynooth Researchers on using ePrints to increase the visibility of their research. The Library also collaborated with the Research Office and the Computer Centre to develop an interface between ePrints and the Research Information System (using InfoEd software). This development links the Researcher Profile Directory to full-text publications in the ePrints Repository.

Significant input was contributed to the IReL-OPEN Project towards the development of a National Research Portal. This portal will act as a single point of access to national research output and will contain content harvested from all seven Irish university research repositories. It is due to be launched in summer 2010.

Progress with regard to eTheses remains slow and this issue has been identified for action in our 2009 – 2011 Strategic Plan.

## **1.7 Moodle**

The Library Space in Moodle was updated on a regular basis to include information for all our library users. It developed to include Generic Skills and to host individual eBooks relevant to student reading lists. Extensive use was made of the forum features and this proved valuable in gathering student opinion and answering student questions.

## **2. Library environment**

### **2.1 New library**

Preparations for the new library extension intensified during the reporting period. Formal internal structures, put in place to guide the project, were reactivated. The Library Implementation Group (LIG), chaired by Professor Jim Walsh, has overall responsibility for the project and the Library Project Consultative Forum is a broad representative group with faculty, library staff and student members with whom the LIG liaises at key stages of the process. An important milestone was reached in December 2008 when the Minister for Education visited the campus to formally announce the project. Due to the amount of preparatory work undertaken the design competition took place within one month of the announcement. Architects Scott Tallon Walker were subsequently appointed to lead the design team and the remaining members of the team were appointed shortly afterwards. In addition to a range of technical preparations, a large amount of time was spent during the reporting period identifying and fine tuning the design requirements. This process was informed through a process of desk research, community consultation and benchmarking visits in Ireland and abroad. By the end of the reporting period the internal design was being finalised with a view to a tender process taking place during the first half of 2010 and construction commencing by autumn 2010. The Library would like to acknowledge the significant input of the Campus Development Office and the Computer Centre into this process.

In preparation for the new building work a collection preparation project commenced including the de-selection of the current collection. This work is taking place in close consultation with relevant academic departments. A parallel project is also underway to identify special collections material currently in the general collection as the new library will include enlarged and enhance special collections and archive accommodation.

## **2.2 John Paul II Library**

Although the completion of the new library extension in 2012 will address many of the challenges associated with the current John Paul II Library, the Library is mindful of the need to do our best to address users' concerns in the interim. The Student/Library Committee met three times during the reporting period and provided a useful forum for addressing student concerns and issues relating to the library's environment and services. For example the new building will include significantly enhanced access to sockets for user laptops. However, in response to user demand the Library worked with Campus Services to provide some relief in this area through the provision of a number of socket strips at suitable points on levels 2 and 3.

Similarly the issue of noise, food and drink in the library has been of concern to staff and users for sometime. A major contributory factor to this problem is the current shortage of space available within the library which effectively forces users with different learning needs and styles to work in close proximity to each other. While the new library will accommodate these different needs in purpose-built facilities it is clear that action was required in the interim. Following consultations with the Student Library Committee and the Postgraduate Feedback Council a more robust approach was taken in this area with regular patrols by Library staff during the April/May 2009 exam period. Moreover, planning on a more formal campaign commenced late in the reporting period and the impact of this approach will be recorded in future annual reports.

A number of serious environmental problems persisted including difficulties with the library's access control system which was out of use for long periods of time and the gates are currently switched off. Both the software and the physical infrastructure are very limited. This continues to have a number of implications including unexpected increased demand on library staff and the inability to accurately monitor footfall and related trends.

## **2.3 Kildare Store**

Storage space is a key concern and, perhaps ironically in an age when electronic resources are increasingly important accommodation for print collections continues to be essential. Efforts continued to maximise available infrastructure including a project to tidy up the store. Boxes were moved onto shelves and tables by the shelving team. The addition of 54 extra metres of shelving made this possible.

Serious concerns about the size and condition of the current store remain and the Library is in discussions with relevant stakeholders on campus about possible solutions.

#### **2.4 Russell Library**

The 2007/08 annual report identified that conditions in the Russell Library were not satisfactory. During summer 2009 the office, foyer and mezzanine were redecorated and new carpet was laid. Lockers were bought for the use of readers and new desks and shelving were purchased for the office. The support of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth is gratefully acknowledged. While these measures have gone some way to addressing the concerns previously identified, the full refurbishment of the Russell Library in order to address the difficulties, particularly with regard to stock protection, remains a key objective of the Library.

#### **2.5 Upgrading equipment and systems**

Technology is central to the vast majority of library services and processes. During 2008/09 a number of technical developments were introduced to enhance our services and to facilitate internal processes. The staff wireless network coverage area was extended to the Kildare Store to facilitate on-site collection management and, in summer 2009, the staff wireless network in the Russell Library was extended to the entire top floor, to provide network access for library staff. The ALEPH Reporting Centre (ARC) system was implemented. This is a Management Information System (MIS) for the Library Management System ALEPH. It will greatly benefit the work of the Collection Preparation Project in planning for the new Library building and assist with analysis of library activities generally.

An upgrade to ALEPH, and subsequent local customisation, was implemented to support the introduction of many new services in the Circulation module, including borrower courtesy notices, a grace period for fines, the management of hold requests returned via self-service, and improved offline circulation during server maintenance windows. Section 3.4 below includes details of the customer-facing enhancements introduced.

The Inter-Library Loan (ILL) module of ALEPH was upgraded from the relatively stand-alone version to the next-generation fully-integrated ILL2 module. This has streamlined staff processes and enhanced the interface between the ILL module and

the Circulation module. It has also introduced new user functionality in the web-based Inter-Library Loan application forms (see section 1.5 above).

An important area that the Library is focusing on over the coming period is the development of a campus-wide printing solution with the Computer Centre. This will greatly enhance the user experience. However, it will have financial implications for the Library and consideration of this issue will form part of the overall process.

### **3. Promoting library services**

#### **3.1 Exhibitions**

The Library is the cultural heart of the campus and during the 2008/09 period we worked actively to fulfil this role. A number of exhibitions were presented and the John Paul II Library also hosted our first book launch ever when Dr Tadhg Ó Dúsbhláine's *Malacht Falmire* was launched in October 2008. Two exhibitions were of particular note.

Firstly, in January 2009 the Library organised the Social Sciences Festival to celebrate and exhibit the publications of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The President formally opened the exhibition and the launch event included a range of speakers including Professor Robert Galavan (Faculty Dean), Professor Ray O'Neill (Vice-President for Research) and three book launches.

Secondly, in March 2009 the Library, in conjunction with the School of English, Media and Theatre Studies organised the Jack Kerouac: *Back on the Road* exhibition (see section 1.2 for more details). The President opened the exhibition and Prof. Chris Morash gave a wonderful talk about the significance of 'the scroll'.

The table overleaf is a full list of exhibitions presented/hosted by the Library during the reporting period.

## NUI Maynooth Exhibitions and Events October 2008 – September 2009

Date	Exhibition Title
October 2008	Exhibition of Coiscéim library books to celebrate the launch of Dr Tadhg Ó Dúshláine's book <i>Malacht Falmire</i> published by Coiscéim. The first book launch held in the Library.
November 2008	Exhibition of publications to mark the Patristic Conference held at Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth from 13 to the 16 November 2008
November 2008 – February 2009	"Body and mind: perceptions of the little-world" the Russell Library's Science Week exhibition.
November 2008	"The foundation of modern astronomy: an exhibition of articles, photographs and books featuring the life and times of Nicholas Copernicus". The Library and the Department of Experimental Physics collaborated to produce the exhibition which first displayed in the foyer of the Hume Building and then transferred to the Library to celebrate Science Week.
December 2008	An exhibition was held in the library on 10 December 2008 to mark 60 Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Ambassador of South Africa, Her Excellency Priscilla Jana visited the exhibition and also took some time to look at the Arts Week exhibition.
December 2008	An exhibition, organised between the Students' Union and the Library, of art works by students and staff of the college was held in the Library to celebrate Arts Week. The library exhibition cases were also used to display unframed paintings and photographs.
27 – 30 January 2009	'Social Sciences Festival' An exhibition and celebration of the publications of the Faculty of Social Sciences. A range of other events took place including talks by Prof Jim Walsh, Prof. Rob Kitchin and Prof Tom Collins.
January – March 2009	'The Library's earliest printed description of Ireland' The <i>De situ orbis</i> of Dionysius Periegetes, translated by the 15 <sup>th</sup> century humanist Antonio Beccaria (Venice,1478) acquired by the Library during 2009.
March 5 – 19 2009	'Jack Kerouac: <i>Back on the Road</i> ' – visiting exhibition of the world famous Kerouac 'scroll'.
March 2009	'100 years of teaching and learning in Irish' annual Seachtain na Gaeilge exhibition.
March 2009	Trócaire exhibition – visiting exhibition.
April 2009	'Darwin and Darwinism' an exhibition held to celebrate the 200 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Darwin's birth.
April 2009	Foras Feasa Open Day, jointly organised with the Library, included a series of events, speakers and the launch of the Irish Confraternities Database.
Summer 2009	'Into the light: hidden items from the stores with some electronic versions' showcased many hidden books and pamphlets and demonstrated the availability of some in electronic format.

### **3.2 Web**

The Library website continued to be an increasingly important gateway to library services. Relative to 2007/08, hits on our webpage increased by over 11% with an average of 56,000 hits per month and up to 90,000 during key periods. In recognition of the importance of our webpage as a source of information about, and access to, library services considerable effort is put into constantly updating the website. A new page about the new library building project was added during the reporting period. Also during this period planning for a redesign of the website commenced and it is planned that the new website will be available during 2010.

A key feature of the new website will be greater use of “Web 2.0” tools such as YouTube, Flickr, Twitter and Facebook. While the library continued to use these tools and others e.g. Delicious to enhance subject resources page the current website design is not amendable to more significant use of such tools which are an increasingly important means of communicating with users.

### **3.3 Access**

The numbers of visitors for other academic institutions under access schemes such as ALCID and SCONUL Access continued to increase. The issue of the comparatively high level of fees charged to alumni for access was noted in last year’s annual report. During summer 2009 the Library worked closely with the Alumni Office to reduce the fees charged to graduates for access and make library membership more attractive to this important group. These changes were introduced too late in the current reporting period for their impact to be assessed.

### **3.4 Service enhancement**

A range of service enhancements were introduced during the reporting period including:

- Courtesy notices about books on loan approaching due dates
- Grace periods for fines to allow for continued borrowing prior to payment
- Improved online Inter-Library Loan form functionality
- Provision of additional self-service unit on level 2 of the John Paul II Library
- Provision of reader lockers in the Russell Library

These developments involved input from a range of library staff and were in direct response to user-demand. Great credit is due to all library staff involved.

During 2008/09 the new roving service, where library staff are available at the point of need rather than only at designated desks, received over 14,000 queries. This level of queries highlights the demand for this customer-friendly type of service. It should be noted that this model is comparatively staff intensive and the extent to which the library can provide it is linked to the availability of staff resources.

### **3.5 Opening hours**

Changes in the University's practices and strategic focus, coupled with student demand, continue to place pressure on library opening hours. In general our opening hours compare poorly with our peer institutions. Opening hours during the January 2009 exams were further extended to include opening until midnight on a number of Fridays. This service was so popular that it was repeated during the May exam period. Sunday opening continued to be a feature of both exam periods. The Library is grateful for the co-operation of library and security staff for facilitating these developments. However, it emerged during the planning phase for the May 2009 extended opening hours that Campus Security would no longer be in a position to provide this service from June 2009 onwards. Demands for the further extension of opening hours are envisaged and this presents a significant challenge for the Library and the University. Discussions with library staff and other relevant units on campus about alternative models for the provision of extended hours at key periods commenced during summer 2009.

### **3.6 Staff development**

Library staff actively participated in a wide-range of training and other developmental events during the year. In addition to attendance at internal and external events, this frequently included presenting papers and posters at conferences and organising seminars and other events both internally and for library colleagues across the higher education library sector. The high level of participation in national committees that influence and lead the development of the library sector in Ireland provided an opportunity to share expertise and learn.

The Library liaised closely with the University Staff Development unit, who provided a range of training events identified through the Performance Management Development System and project specific needs. This included a workshop on team work which was an integral part of the process of drawing up the Library Strategic Plan 2009-2011. One staff member is currently undertaking a taught doctorate in education programme. Another member of staff commenced the NUI Maynooth postgraduate diploma in teaching and learning. This is the second year the Library supported a staff member in undertaking the UK Leadership Foundation Future Leaders' programme. Three staff members registered for the ECDL programme. Over 20 library staff have completed ECDL to date. There was a significant focus on developing skills in areas such as Web2 technologies, in order to underpin a wide variety of new e-services. A library culture which encourages all staff to participate in organising events such as the annual publications festival provides opportunities for job enrichment and personal and professional development. Increasing linkages with community groups helps to develop new perspectives and relationships.

Two library staff received recognition from the Academic and National Library Training Co-operative (ANLTC). Elaine Bean was awarded funding to carry out research into university library orientation programmes and Marie Cullen received funding to explore an ANLTC Library Assistant Bursary.

Helen Fallon and Ellen Breen (DCU) won the All Ireland Society for Higher Education (AISHE) poster competition for their poster *The Learning and Teaching Information Resources Toolkit: A guide to information sources to support you in your teaching*.

The encouragement of all staff to participate in developmental activity has borne fruit in the wide range of participation in library development nationally, papers and posters presented and the number of awards staff have received.

Further details of professional activities are included in Appendix I.

## **Appendix I: Staff professional activities**

### **Mary Antonesa**

Membership (s)

Committee member CONUL Advisory Group on Information Literacy

Member Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

### **Elaine Bean**

Membership (s)

Committee Member NUI Maynooth Partnership Committee

Member of the NUI Maynooth Human Resources and Staff Development Sub-Committee, Irish National and University Libraries (INULS)

Awards

Awarded a bursary by the Academic and National Library Training Co-operative (ANLTC) to research university library orientation programmes

### **Roisin Berry**

Membership (s)

Registered member of the Society of Archivists

Member of the Irish Society for Archives

Publications

Berry, R. *Castletown: launch of the OPW-NUI Maynooth Archive and Research Centre at Castletown Obair*, Bulletin of the Office of Public Works, Issue 20, December 2008.

Berry, R. *OPW-NUI Maynooth Archive and Research Centre at Castletown: an impressive new home for the archive of Irish country houses*, Society of Archivists, Ireland Newsletter, Summer 2009.

### **Marie Cullen**

#### Membership (s)

Member of Advisory Board of Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Member Metadata & Harvesting Sub-Group – IReL Open

#### Awards

Awarded funding by Academic and National Library Training Co-operative (ANLTC) to research library staff development

### **Susan Durack**

#### Membership (s)

Secretary, Maynooth College Local History Association (MCLHA)

### **Helen Fallon**

#### Membership (s)

Committee member Academic and National Library Training Co-operative (ANLTC)

Committee member, Irish Universities Association (IUA) Librarians' Institutional Repositories Group – IReL Open

Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Member, All Ireland Society for Higher Education (AISHE)

Member, Education Developers Ireland Network (EDIN)

Public Relations Officer, Sierra Leone Ireland Partnership (SLIP)

#### Publications (s)

Fallon, H. A Writing Support Programme for Irish Academic Librarians. *Library Review*, 58(6), pp. 414-422, 2009

Fallon, H. (2010)

Fallon, H. A Career in Librarianship: Interview with Professor John Dean. *An Leabharlann (The Irish Library)*, Vol. 18(1), pp. 7-19, 2009

Fallon, H. The Academic Writing Toolkit: Writing for Peer-Reviewed and Professional Journals, *SCONUL Focus*, 45, pp. 65-71, 2009

## Presentations

Fallon, H. & Breen, E. Meeting the Information Needs of Researchers  
Irish University Information Systems Colloquium (IUISC) 2009, Galway 6 March 2009

Fallon, H. & Breen, E.

*The Learning and Teaching Information Resources Toolkit: A guide to information sources to support you in your teaching.* Poster presentation, AISHE Conference 2009 Valuing Complexity: Celebrating Diverse Approaches to Teaching & Learning in Higher Education., August 27-28, 2009, National University of Ireland Maynooth

Invited speaker to School of Library and Information Studies (SILS), UCD.  
Librarianship in Developing Countries, 25 February 2009

*Writing for Academic Publication* one-day workshop for librarians from Irish University Libraries and the National Library, under the auspices of Academic and National Library Training Co-operative (ANLTC), 26 February 2009

*Writing for Academic Publication* workshop to medical librarians at the Dublin European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL) Conference, Dublin Castle, 3 June 2009

## **Bernadette Gardiner**

Membership (s)

Member, ExLibris Products User Group UK & Ireland – Inter-Library Loans (EPUG – UK-ILL)

Member, Forum for Interlending and Information Delivery (FIL)

## **Rachel Hynes**

Membership(s)

Committee Member, LIR HEAnet Information Technology Group

Presentations (s)

*Action research: a learning tool that engages complexity.* Poster Presentation with Michael Kenny, AISHE Conference 2009 Valuing Complexity: Celebrating Diverse Approaches to Teaching & Learning in Higher Education., August 27-28, 2009, National University of Ireland, Maynooth

### **Mary Kearney**

Membership (s)

Committee member, IRIS Consortium Purchasing Group

Committee member, IReL Steering Group

### **Cathal McCauley**

Membership (s)

Chair OPW/NUIM Archive Research Centre Steering Committee

Member of Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL)

Member of Society of College, National University Libraries (SCONUL)

Member of Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Member of Irish Universities Association Librarians' Group (IUALG)

Member of Irish Universities Information Services Colloquium (IUISC)

External lecturer with the School of Information and Library Studies (SILS) University College Dublin

Presentations

*Second Life: Brave New Frontier or Fleeting Gimmich?* Invited Plenary Speakers

Cathal McCauley and Peter Clarke, HEANET Conference, Kilkenny 13 November, 2008

*Second Life and Virtual Worlds – A Service Opportunity?* Invited Plenary Speakers

Cathal McCauley and Peter Clarke, Irish University Information Systems Colloquium (IUISC) 2009, Galway 6th March 2009

*In support of the motion: Is there a place for online Social networking in teaching and learning,* Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL) Annual

Information Literacy Seminar, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009

*Libraries+*, Library Association of Ireland, Academic and Special Libraries Annual

General Meeting, Invited Speaker, 17th June 2009, Library

### **Elizabeth Murphy**

#### Membership (s)

Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Member, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

#### Publications

Murphy, Elizabeth (2008) review of Thought Leadership: Moving Hearts and Minds, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, Library and Information Update 7(9), Sept., p. 45.

#### Presentations

Murphy, E. & Murray, Pauline

The library as partner in the delivery of a generic skills programme to doctoral students: an evaluation. Irish Universities Information Services Colloquium (IUISC), 4-6 March 2009 , Galway.

### **Pauline Murray**

#### Membership (s)

Committee member Acquisitions Group of Ireland (AGI)

#### Presentations

Murray, Pauline

*EBook Acquisitions*. Acquisitions Group of Ireland "Introduction to Acquisitions" Seminar, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2009, Mercer's Hotel.

### **Linda Noonan**

#### Membership (s)

Member of Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Member of Ex Libris Products User Group UK & Ireland (EPUG – UKI)

Member of SFX and MetaLib User Group UK & Ireland (SMUG - UKI)

Member of International Group of Ex Libris Users (IGeLU)

Member of IGeLU ALEPH Product Working Group (IGeLU-ALEPH-PWG)

Member of IGeLU ARC User Group (IGeLU-ARC)

Member of the NUI Maynooth Campus Card Working Group

Adviser to local community by evaluating Library Management System software for the local secondary school

### **Etaín Ó Siocháin**

#### Membership (s)

Member, Coiste na Gaeilge, NUI Maynooth.

Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Scoil na Gaeilge: Ionadaí an Leabharlannaí

#### Publications

Enticing the Virtual Scholar: Mealladh don Scoláire Samhalta

Poster Presented at Irish University Information Systems Colloquium (IUISC), 6 March 2009, Galway

### **Valerie Payne**

#### Membership (s)

Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Member, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

Committee Member, Acquisitions Group of Ireland (AGI)

Committee Member, Irish Research electronic Group (IReL)

Committee Member Irish Licensing Sub-Group, Irish Research electronic Group (IReL)

### **Suzanne Redmond Maloco**

#### Membership (s)

IUA Institutional Repository Working Group IReL Open  
ePrints Technical Support Group (UK)

ePrints Community (UK) – founder member

ALEPH User Group, UK & Ireland (AUG-UKI)

International Consortium of ALEPH Users (ICAU)

SFX and MetaLib User Group (SMUG)

The International Group of Ex Libris Users (IGeLU)

### **Regina Richardson**

#### Membership (s)

Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Member, Chester Beatty Library

Member, Folio Society

Member, The International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML) UK & Ireland Branch.

Member, Advisory Council on Latin American and Iberian Information Resources (ACLAIR)

Instituto Cervantes (Dublin)

Alliance Francaise

Member of the Library Committee Maynooth Post-Primary School.

### **Valerie Seymour**

Membership (s)

Member, Society of Archivists

Member, Irish Society for Archives

Member, CONUL committee on Copyright and Regulatory Matters

Member, CONUL committee on Collaborative Storage

Member, CONUL committee on Collection Management

### **Penny Woods**

Membership (s)

Committee member of the Rare Books Group, Library Association of Ireland.

Publications

*'From the Russell Library'* in *Síolta* 2008/09 (Maynooth, 2009), pp. 28-9

Stories of the Classics at Maynooth

Public presentations

Exhibition. 'The Library's earliest printed description of Ireland: the *De situ orbis* of Dionysius Periegetes (1478)' Russell Library. 27 January – 31 March 2009.

## Appendix 2. Statistics

	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05
<b>Services</b>					
Registered borrowers	9,045	8,095	7,684	7,130	7,000
Items borrowed	130,901	138,883	124,719	130,137	145,451
Items requested on inter-library loan	860	746	943	1,100	1,914
Items lent to other libraries	224	180	166	188	200
Enquiries	28,111	*	17,432	21,149	27,913
Student orientation and training	3,258	3,194	3,607	2,330	2,700
Articles downloaded	279,417	250,000	197,313	136,122	102,150
Readers & visitors to the Russell	2,865	1,206	1,266	1,226	1,221
Copies made	1,261,251	1,415,033	1,687,757	1,891,188	2,007,473
Items reshelved	220,817	248,720	265,780	295,822	297,822
<b>Study places</b>					
John Paul II Library	680	680	680	680	680
Workstations, John Paul II Library	88	88**	4	64	52
Russell Library	28	28	28	28	28
Arts Building	128	128	128	128	128
<b>Collection</b>					
Books purchased	5,322	5,091	5,019	4,265	3,779
Books received on legal deposit	1,173	1,338	1,375	1,312	1,545
Donations	1,201	485	657	14,600	5,000
Print periodicals purchased	539	565	572	602	627
Online periodicals	42,090***	23,159	21,614	16,000	9,000
Copyright periodicals	843	651	634	758	766
Donations, exchange periodicals	175	145	160	177	190
Volumes catalogued	7,384	7,754	6,076	7,295	11,839
Total stock	451,376	446,304	445,000	455,000	452,500
<b>Income</b>					
Grant	898,200	€1,112,100	€937,500	€907,200	€857,700
Other income	263,515	227,496	€265,398	€274,280	€313,779
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,161,715</b>	<b>1,339,596</b>	<b>€1,202,898</b>	<b>€1,181,480</b>	<b>€1,171,479</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Books	304,145	€274,255	€243,332	€249,062	€255,484
Print periodicals	125,407	€138,971	€189,066	€266,319	€235,905
Electronic information	389,547	€359,814	€362,297	€296,176	€258,917
Salaries	1,826,120	€1,696,464	€1,896,699	€1,832,486	€1,884,020
Operating costs	424,850	€566,556	€408,203	€369,923	€375,924
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,070,069</b>	<b>€3,036,060</b>	<b>€3,099,597</b>	<b>€3,013,966</b>	<b>€3,010,250</b>

\* Due to introduction of new service model statistics for 2007/08 were gathered informally

\*\*2006/07 figure incorrect. \*\*\* Previous figures incorrect due to indexing system fault.