

IRISH LIBRARY NEWS

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This month's issue in numbers:

- 3 new public libraries opened in June.
- 150,000 visits made to the Johnston Central Library, Cavan during its first year.
- School children in Ireland and Canada read 632,259 books between November 2006 and June 2007 as part of *The Reading Challenge*.
- €24 million - the cost of Cork County Council's new library headquarters building.
- €119 million will be spent by local authorities on public library services during 2007.

CLARE'S ONLINE LIBRARY FORUM – CONNECTING PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

A new online forum for County Clare has recently been developed to offer people worldwide an opportunity to share their interest and knowledge about books, local history, arts and culture, and their favourite place in Clare.

"This is a fine example of how technology can bring people together around common interests and build our community by sharing what people know about a book or a place," says Noel Crowley, County Librarian.



Anthony Edwards, Senior Executive Librarian; Eric Stackhouse, Pictou-Antigonish Chief Librarian; and Noel Crowley, Clare County Librarian

The Clare forum is simple to use but sophisticated enough to share photographs and other digital items. Anyone connected to the Internet can sign up for a username and password and read or contribute information. A unique feature of the Forum is "My Favorite Place" which gives a person the chance to say where that special spot is in County Clare. Users can also view and contribute to similar topics in Antigonish and Pictou Counties in Canada. The Library Forum is a joint initiative of the Clare County Library and the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library of Nova Scotia, Canada and is supported by volunteers and staff. Pictou-Antigonish Chief Librarian Eric Stackhouse says "This is another example of the innovative relationship that Nova Scotia has with County Clare and how cooperation offers our library users to have the best. Public libraries are the heart of the community, locally and online." Although in place for only a few weeks, and with a minimum of publicity so far, there are over 60 signed up members of the forum already, according to Senior Executive Librarian Anthony Edwards, who hopes that more and more people will see the forum as the natural place and space in which to share information about Clare, books and the arts in general. Each forum is moderated by either library staff or volunteers, and extensive measures have been put in place to deter spammers (both robot and human). To view or join the forum simply go to the library website at www.clarelibrary.ie and follow the link to 'Forums'.

Wednesday 6th June 2007 marked a very important day in the life of **Johnston Central Library**, Cavan, when it celebrated its 1st birthday. It has been a hugely successful first year, with over 8,000 members, close to 150,000 visits and an eventful programme delivered.

The celebrations began with a coffee morning, which was very well attended by library members, visitors, library staff and county council staff. This coincided nicely with a class visiting from a local school who entertained us with a lively rendition of 'Happy birthday'! This was followed by an engaging lunchtime visit by special guest and best selling Irish author, Deirdre Purcell, who also kindly launched the spectacular RTÉ weather photographic exhibition.



The day finished off with a ceremonial cutting of the cake

Second level art students were presented with a wonderful opportunity to participate in a workshop with P.J. Lynch, award-winning children's illustrator and creator of the "Gulliver Paintings".

In 2006 **Clare County Library** linked up with An Garda Síochána, Canadian libraries and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and 20 of the county's national schools to promote reading to children through The Reading Challenge which forms part of the Adopt-a-Library programme established 10 years ago in North Brunswick. Between November 2006 and June 2007, school children in Clare and Pictou and Cumberland Counties in Nova Scotia read their way through 632,259 books. Children from the 20 participating schools in Clare read almost 72,000 books, with Moyasta National School recording the highest number of books read per pupil. Ms Bláthnaid Laffan, a teacher at Moyasta school said: "The children really enjoyed the project from beginning to end, with each child having an opportunity to participate at their own level. The challenge most definitely encouraged the children to read more than ever before and the boys in the school were every bit as enthusiastic as the girls".

Clare County Library has expressed its intention to promote the challenge to local authorities across Ireland.

Source: *Clare Champion*, June 15 2007.

The Mayor of Cork, Cllr. John O'Shea, turned the sod for the new €24 million **Cork County Library** headquarters. The building, which is scheduled for completion within 18 months, will incorporate a library, lecture hall, exhibition space and offices. The six-storey, L-shaped building is being developed on a site fronting on to the Carrigrohane Straight, adjacent to County Hall.

Source: *Evening Echo* June 2 2007.

Donegal County Library: a well attended event was held in Buncrana Community Library, Inishowen as part of the libraries 'public information service' recently on the subject, *Beyond Oil*. The event was attended by over 50 people representing the business and tourist sectors, environmentalists, academics, educationalists and focus groups. The talk was chaired by RTE Radio 1 presenter, Susan McReynolds. Lively participation from the floor ranged from topics on globalisation, global warming to sustainable development. The event was a joint collaboration between Buncrana and Moville Libraries in Inishowen, Co. Donegal.



Pictured (l-r) are: Richard Douthwaite, journalist/economist and author of 'The Growth Illusion.'; Stan McWilliams, wind energy developer; Susan McReynolds, broadcaster and Maura Harrington, a representative from the 'Shell-to-Sea campaign' - Rossport.

Dublin City Public Libraries, in association with International Education Services, are offering a summer programme for children and young people based on fairness and equality. 'Fair play to ye' will run in all of the city's public libraries through July and August. The programme consists of a mix of workshops featuring storytelling/storymaking, arts and crafts, music and drama. 2007 is the Year of Equal Opportunity and all the workshops aim to get children thinking about what they see as fair and unfair in their communities.

Fingal County Libraries: Fingal Schools Library Service recently held its 10th Annual Art Competition. This year the competition was run in association with Europe Direct Blanchardstown Library to raise awareness of the EU and to celebrate Europe Day on 9th May. Europe Direct is an information service on the EU with information centres located around the country. Blanchardstown Library is the information centre for North Dublin, Fingal, Meath, Louth and Kildare.



In the photograph from left to right are Yvonne Reilly Senior Executive Librarian Blanchardstown Library, Alex Grant-McNamara Category 2 Winner, Caroline McLoughlin Librarian Fingal Schools Library Service and Yvonne Boylan Fingal Schools Library Service.

The theme of the competition was "Europe Today" and it was open to all primary and special schools in the Fingal area. Entries were divided into three categories; Junior infants – 1st class, 2nd – 3rd class, 4th – 6th class, with three winners in each category. The prize-giving ceremony took place in Blanchardstown Library on 9th May to coincide with Europe Day. Europe Day celebrated the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome which laid the foundations for the EU. Winners received a quantity of books for their respective schools and their own individual prizes. The winning entries were displayed in Blanchardstown and Swords libraries.

The candidates for the Hans Christian Andersen Awards 2008 have been declared and **IBBY Ireland** is proud to have nominated Kate Thompson for the author award and Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick for the illustrator award.

The Hans Christian Andersen Awards are presented every two years by IBBY to an author and an illustrator whose complete works have made an important and lasting contribution to children's literature. In the following months their works will be studied and discussed in depth by the Jury of ten experts around the world led by the elected Jury President Zohreh Ghaeni. The list of nominated writers may be found at <http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=782>

Notions of Nation: Identity, community and perspective in children's books was the title of the 2007 Children's Books Ireland Conference held in Pearse Street Library on May 26 and 27 2007. Two of the Saturday sessions were presented by IBBY Ireland and featured Binette Schroeder, one of Germany's foremost illustrators and Jeff Garrett, a renowned critic in the field of children's literature, three-time President of IBBY's prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award and Assistant University Librarian at Northwestern University, Chicago.

The project "Twinning of the Kingdoms" links the Kingdom of Lesotho with the Kingdom of Kerry. The long-term goal of this Project is to assist the challenge to improve life in Lesotho with particular reference to supporting some of the most vulnerable children in the world. It is estimated that there are 100,000 orphans in Lesotho as a consequence of the Aids-HIV Pandemic. A number of activities are currently underway in the county and **Kerry County Library** recognises the significance of this project. In cooperation with the Kerry Education Centre and the schools of the county, Kerry County Library facilitated the collection at each of its nine branch libraries. "We were more than happy to work with the Kerry Education Centre and we will continue to do what we can for any future events linked to the Twinning initiative" said County Librarian, Tommy O'Connor.



Kerry 'Star' Kieran Donaghy at Tralee Library for the Kerry-Lesotho football boots initiative



Maurice Fitzgerald with some of the children who supported the Lesotho initiative at Caherciveen Library.

Kerry County Library recognises the significance of this project and has offered library facilities so as to play a part towards achieving the ultimate goal of this initiative. Among these activities was a project to collect football boots for the young people of Lesotho, aided by the assistance of some famous Kerry footballers. Kerry 'Star', Kieran Donaghy, offered his time to be at Tralee Library on Tuesday, May 29, to receive the boots, meet the young people donating the boots and sign any football memorabilia that they brought with them. Maurice Fitzgerald, former Kerry footballer, gave his time to be available at Caherciveen Library on the same day, so as to encourage as many people as possible to come along and donate what they had to the project, Maurice said "I think it's important for our kids to appreciate what it is like to live in an underdeveloped country such as Lesotho, I will always support a sporting event but this is fairly special, and who knows maybe these boots will be worn by a future world cup holder". Maurice also brought his four children with him to donate their used football boots.

Pictured at the launch of **Kilkenny County Library** services new schools' van at Kilmanagh National School are teacher Mr. O'Halloran, Principal and manager of Kilkenny Under 21 hurling team Mr. Neary, Anna Byrne, Jim Fogarty (County Librarian), Declan MacAuley, Mrs Hogan, (teacher) Ellen O'Shea, Brenda Ward, and Mick Foley.



This is the third vehicle to serve in this capacity and incorporates a number of new features such as:

- Rear wheelchair access
- Air suspension
- A variety of fully adjustable shelving both for display and storage
- Air conditioning and improved lighting.

This expansion has been facilitated by both generous supports from Kilkenny County Council and the Department of Education as well as ongoing input from library staff. The acquisition of this new vehicle plus laptop was facilitated by a 100% grant from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government of just under €94,000.

The Schools' service is often a child's first introduction to both the library service and the world of reading. The service has expanded enormously in recent years both in the quantity, quality and range of stock and different media now carried. The service not only caters for primary schools, but also now several pre-school and special-needs schools as well.

Areas that have experienced growth included, teachers' resource collection, remedial collections, class readers – where a class is provided with multiple copies of a book for joint reading and discussion and multi-media and multi-cultural collections.

This new vehicle will make a major contribution to the continued expansion of this valuable service.

Loughboy library organised a series of talks and demonstrations to celebrate the Bealtaine festival.

The series of talks and demonstrations included: Citizens Information talk on entitlements, flower arranging, a local solicitor gave an informative talk on areas such as wills, the succession act, inheritance taxes, and general advice. He also took questions from an audience of both young and old.

The Health Promotion Officer with the South Eastern Health Board introduced a programme entitled *Go For Life* to encourage activity in older age, and this was followed by library member, Gabriele Karwisch, who discussed 'Alternative ways to well being' which included a brief introduction to reflexology, massage and relaxation techniques. The series was very successful and allowed staff to promote library services and stock suitable to senior citizens.



Pictured at the Alzheimer's Tea morning & launch of the Bealtine festival are staff members: Mary Gaffney, Dorothy O'Reilly, Nuala Brennan, and Caitriona Kenneally.

Laois County Library's new branch in Mountrath was opened to the public on June 5 2007 following the official opening ceremony on May 29 2007. Located on Shannon Street the new library boasts a full range of services contained within a spacious, comfortably furnished building.



The provision of this new facility was one of the objectives of Laois County Council's *Library Development Plan, 2007-2011*. Under the plan, libraries will also be developed in Abbeyleix, Mountmellick, Portarlinton and Portlaoise. Peter Carey, Laois County Manager, called the library 'a centre of excellence for information and culture'.

Source: *Leinster Express* May 30 2007

Limerick City's new library at Watch House Cross opened on June 1 2007. The €3.5 million, 8,000 square foot library will serve the communities of Ballynanty, Kileely, Moyross and neighbouring estates on the northside of the city. The library includes a sound proof music room, complete with electric guitars and a drum kit, a crafts activity room for younger children, a computer suite with WiFi and video conferencing facilities. Microsoft Ireland have donated its 'unlimited potential programme' to help meet the needs of people learning to use Microsoft applications in a community-learning environment. Library staff have been working with various agencies, both local and national, to examine service integration in a practical way under the project Northside Info-Link. The library includes a dedicated space for this service.

Speaking at the opening of the library, Mayor Joe Leddin announced the abolition of membership charges throughout Limerick City's public libraries: "I am thrilled to announce that there will no longer be a fee charged to new members in the City Library, Roxboro Library, or here at Watch House Cross, which will make this facility accessible to everyone".

Sources: *Irish Examiner*, June 1 2007; *Limerick Leader*, June 2 2007; *Limerick Independent*, June 6 2007; *Limerick Post*, June 9 2007

NUI Galway this year had the honour of hosting the Irish National and University Library Staff (INULS) conference for the first time since 1996. INULS commenced in 1965 and is a landmark event in the annual calendar of academic and national library staff in Ireland, north and south. The conference affords an opportunity for staff to catch up on key developments in the library and information world, to share experience and to reconnect in an enjoyable social ambience.

Marie Reddan, Librarian, NUI Galway, observed; "INULS is unique in attracting such a mix of library staff to its conference. NUI Galway Library staff have a genuine curiosity in developments in other libraries but can take great pride in embracing huge change both socially and technologically and not least seeing a doubling of student numbers since INULS was last hosted in Galway."

The theme of this year's conference was *Collaborating and Competing*. Libraries have a strong tradition of collaboration but competition is an increasing factor and the boundaries between the two are often fuzzy as universities strive with each other to attract the best students and researchers. Speakers addressed a range of issues including:

- Collaboration and competition between universities
- Relationships between libraries and departments within the same institution
- The impact of global forces like Google and the social networking movement

The increasingly online environment in which libraries now supply their services, and the extent to which collaborative initiatives like IReL (the Irish Research e-Library) deliver a common pool of resources, highlights a need for distinctiveness too in support of institutional competitiveness. But competition for libraries and universities comes not only from each other, as services like Google promise instant gratification to information searchers. Libraries need to identify themselves clearly and to maximise partnerships with the rest of the university in delivering an enhanced learning experience.

A first for INULS this year will be the publication of some of the conference papers in the journal *Library Management*.

Initiative to Provide Wheelchairs for Local Authorities under the National Disability Strategy

The joint initiative between the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Irish Wheelchair Association announced in April to provide transit wheelchairs for use by mobility impaired persons in local authority public offices and libraries is underway around the country.

The person to contact in the Irish Wheelchair Association for more details and to place an order is Betty Bradshaw, tel (01) 8186403; e-mail betty.bradshaw@iwa.ie; postal address Áras Chúchulainn, Blackheath Drive, Dublin 3.

Westmeath County Library: the 23rd Annual Goldsmith International Literary Festival took place June 1st-June 3rd. The theme was "From Deserted Village to Global Village; Oliver Goldsmith- the original citizen of the world". On Saturday afternoon, the Aidan Heavey Library, Athlone, played host to the Summer school. It seemed appropriate that following the morning session on "Multicultural Ireland- Is there a limit to tolerance?" in the Bog Lane Theatre, Ballymahon, that the afternoon session should open with poetry readings by children from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.

Under the direction of their teacher, Evelyn O'Callaghan, pupils from St Mary's NS, Athlone, recited poetry in a variety of languages including Russian, Polish, Czech, Yoruba and Gaeilge as well as the English translation.

They finished up with a recitation of Goldsmith's Deserted Village which was followed by a talk by Gearoid O'Brien, Senior Executive Librarian, Athlone on the importance of the Goldsmith materials in the Aidan Heavey Special Collection. On display were some of the titles including rare 1st editions of The Deserted Village, The Vicar of Wakefield and The Good natured Man. Also on show were illustrated examples of Goldsmith's work by illustrators such as Arthur Ransome and a true archival gem in the form of the 1731 deed to the Parsonage at Lissoy signed by Goldsmith's father.

Professor John Lucas followed with a lecture on "Goldsmith as Citizen of the World". Prof. Lucas is Professor Emeritus at the Universities of Loughborough and Nottingham Trent



Gearoid O'Brien, Senior Executive Librarian, speaking at the Goldsmith Literary Festival

Libraries in Westmeath opened June with an invitation to Read with Ruairi, featuring a specially created Summer Reading Challenge logo. Castlepollard and Mullingar libraries saw classes descend, eager to hear a story and find out more about the challenge, and the certificate they would receive for reading throughout the summer months. Branch librarians visited schools drumming up support from teachers and students. Visiting storyteller, Liz Warren launched the challenge in the Aidan Heavey Library in Athlone on June 5th.



Students from Presentation Jnr. at the Mullingar launch

Liz is a storyteller and teacher in the South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute. She is running a course on the Irish storytelling tradition and as part of the experience has worked with Mae McLynn, Executive Librarian, in Athlone Library to designate June as the storytelling month in Athlone.

Storytellers such as Danielle Allison, Susie Minto and Liz Weir have joined Liz to entertain the children of Athlone. June 26th saw the last session when Liz wrapped up along with her students who had travelled with her from America.



Liz Weir at storytelling session in the Aidan Heavey Library

Wexford County Council has opened a new 271m2 branch library in Bunclody. Situated in the Mill Race Hotel complex the new building replaces a smaller part-time service point. The children's library features a mural depicting agricultural scenes from around the locality. Ten PCs have been installed to provide free Internet access and the stock has been chosen to reflect the nationalities living in the area. The meeting area will provide a welcome resource for community groups.

Source: Independent.ie June 22 2007

vacancies

The Library Association of Ireland Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann

The Library Association of Ireland seeks an innovative and energetic librarian for the post of: **Development Manager** (Part-Time) [Equivalent to Senior Librarian/Executive Librarian]

Responsibilities will include:

- Marketing and promotion of the Association
- Income generation
- Conference and Event management
- Management and administration of the Association
(Further details on above available)

Qualifications: Applicants must have a primary degree and a postgraduate qualification in librarianship or equivalent. Also essential are five years post qualification experience.

Comprehensive management and marketing skills and familiarity with current developments in Irish and international librarianship are required.

It is anticipated that the successful candidate will work from home on a telecommuting basis.

Salary will be the current Senior Librarian/Executive Librarian scale, pro-rata based on hours worked.

Please submit Curriculum Vitae, to include the names and contact details of three referees as application on or before **July 27 2007** to: Hon. Secretary, Library Association of Ireland, 53 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.

Pictureogs is a highly engaging DVD (18 minutes) of Traveller songs, stories and life experiences by the men and women of Athy Travellers Club. The DVD was produced by Kairos Productions for **Kildare Library & Arts Service**.

Kildare Library & Arts Service has worked with Athy Travellers Club for over ten years and *Pictureogs* is one of the many highlights of this relationship. Complimentary copies will be distributed throughout the Irish public library network.



Norma McDermott, Director, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna on a visit in December 2006 with the members of Athy Travellers Group and PICTUREOGS project team.

This initiative was generously supported by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Irish Children's Writers and Illustrators 1996-2006 edited by Valerie Coghlan and Siobhán Parkinson and published by Children's Books Ireland and Church of Ireland College of Education Publications, is a fascinating guide to the work of 13 Irish writers and illustrators for children. Launching recently it at the Church of Ireland College of Education, Niall McMonagle described it as full of 'authoritative and insightful comments and observations and suggestions ... an essential map created by expert guides who know the terrain and are very familiar with the words that they write about'.

Eoin Colfer, Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick, Maeve Friel, PJ Lynch, Sam McBratney, Elizabeth O'Hara, Mark O'Sullivan, Siobhán Parkinson, Niamh Sharkey, Matthew Sweeney, Kate Thompson, Martin Waddell and Gerard Whelan are all here.



Siobhán Parkinson, Niall McMonagle and Valerie Coghlan

The essays in *Irish Children's Writers and Illustrators 1996-2006* were originally published in *Inis: the Children Books Ireland* magazine, and have been revised and updated for publication here. Each essay is by an established commentator in the field,

including Valerie Coghlan, Robert Dunbar, Lucinda Jacob, Celia Keenan, Liz Morris, Ciara Ní Bhroin, Lucy O'Dea, AJ Piesse, Carole Redford and John Short. The work of the individual authors and illustrators may be put in the context of an introduction by the editors that consider the recent history and current state of Irish writing and publishing for children in Ireland and abroad. Illustrated in colour with a handsome cover by PJ Lynch, this is a unique and up-to-date commentary on what is happening in the world of Irish children's books.

Irish Children's Writers and Illustrators 1996-2006 (ISBN 978-0-9509289-5-1) is available from Children's Books Ireland, 17 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1 for €15 + €2.85 p&p, and from some booksellers and library suppliers.

A new book on grief entitled *Irish Stories of Loss and Hope* was launched by the Irish Hospice Foundation (IHF) as a resource for bereaved people.

Best selling author Deirdre Purcell launched the book on behalf of the IHF. *Irish Stories of Loss and Hope* is a collection of stories, poetry and art from individuals which captures their stories of grief and offers insights into how they coped with their loss. The anthology includes personal accounts of bereavement by hospice volunteers as well as well-known Irish people including journalists Nell McCafferty and Roisin Ingle, broadcaster Joe Duffy and Senator Mary O'Rourke.

Some of Ireland's best known poets have also contributed to the book including Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney, Brendan Kennelly, Paul Durcan, Rita Ann Higgins and Patrick Kavanagh. In addition, the book also contains the work of artists such as Anne Madden, Sean Scully, Kathy Prendergast, Aileen MacKeogh and Amelia Stein.

Approximately 30,000 people die each year in Ireland. Each death affects at least 10 people. Therefore, at least 300,000 people are newly bereaved each year. It is hoped that this book will be a resource for bereaved people and those who care for them.

The IHF also received a grant towards the publishing costs of the book from Dublin City Council. The book will be available free of charge to all bereavement groups and libraries from the IHF. Copies of the book are available to the public from Dubray books (mail-order; 01-2760059) and the IHF (01-6793188) at the nominal cost of €5 plus p&p.

NORTHERN IRELAND LIBRARY AUTHORITY CHIEF APPOINTED

Irene Knox, Chief Executive of the South Eastern Education and Library Board, has been appointed Chief Executive (Designate) of the proposed Northern Ireland Library Authority. Announcing the appointment, Edwin Poots, MLA, Minister for Culture, Arts & Leisure, said, "The appointment of Irene Knox to lead the proposed Northern Ireland Library Authority is an important step towards fulfilling our vision of a flexible and responsive library service. The Libraries Bill...will be unique in the United Kingdom in its administration of the public library service. It will focus on delivering a modern, efficient service to library users and provide an opportunity for exciting and dynamic change. Miss Knox will have a pivotal role in combining the library services currently delivered by five existing authorities and developing a common approach and a common ethos for the new organisation. I know her experience in the South Eastern Education and Library Board will help her in this challenging task."

The proposal for a single library service for all of Northern Ireland arose out of the review of public administration.

PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY ESTIMATES FOR 2007

An analysis of the returns from all 32 public library authorities record that estimated expenditure is set to increase by 10% over 2006 expenditure levels to a new total of €119 million. An Chomhairle Leabharlanna has recently published figures which show that:

- expenditure per head of population on public library services will increase from €27.54 in 2006 to €28.01.
- local authority expenditure on library stock is set to increase by 10% from the 2006 figure of €12.3 million to €13.5 million.
- twenty-six authorities will increase their spending on stock, three have allocated the same amount as for 2006, and three plan to reduce expenditure.
- local authority expenditure on stock now stands at €3.20 per capita, increased from €3.15 in 2006 and €1.61 in 1998.

These increases take place in the context of local authority recurrent expenditure on all services, including libraries, being set to rise by 10% to a total of €4,541 million in 2007.

Comparing the level of investment to that of 1999, which was the first year of the Branching Out programme, reveals that:

- public library authority expenditure on services has increased by 134% from €51 million to €119 million.
- this represents a rise in expenditure per head of population from €13.99 to €28.01.
- local authority expenditure on stock has increased by 148% from €5,477,514 to €13,554,466
- this represents an increase in expenditure per head of population on stock from €1.51 to €3.20.

Although ten authorities will exceed the target set by the Branching Out Steering Group of €3.27 per head of population on stock, the remaining twenty two authorities fall below that target, with five spending between €3.00 and €3.26, twelve spending between €2.00 and €2.99 and five spending less than €1.99.

Five authorities have allocated less money for the purchase of stock in 2007 than they did in 2003. Copies of the 2007 estimates are available, in full or summary versions, from the Research & Information Officer, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53-54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. They can also be downloaded from our website www.librarycouncil.ie

THE IRISH ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The Irish Architectural Archive was established in 1976 by Eddie McParland and Nick Robinson with a very simple mission – to collect and preserve material of every kind relating to the architecture of the entire island of Ireland, and make it available to the public. As a cumulative body of material the holdings of the Archive represent the greatest single source of information on Ireland's buildings and those who designed them.

The initial focus was on photographs, the visual record of Ireland's built heritage, and the photographic holdings of the Archive now contain in excess of 350,000 individual images. These range in date from the earliest days of photography to images being generated by the Archive's ongoing record photography programmes.

The photographs were quickly supplemented by other types of records. Most obviously, the Archive collects architectural drawings, be they single plans, groups or sets of drawings, or complete drawings archives from the offices of architects or architectural practises. Ideally these practice collections include much more than simply the drawings. Just as interesting and important are the project files and business records, the documents that relate not simply what was built, but why it was built, how, by and for whom, and under what particular circumstances. As for the drawings themselves, they number in excess of 200,000 with the earliest dating from the 1690s. The Archive holds the largest known accumulations of eighteenth century and nineteenth century Irish architectural drawings, while the individuals and practices represented in the twentieth (and, indeed, twenty-first) century material constitute a veritable who's-who of modern Irish architecture.

Supplementing the photographs, drawings and files are other types of records – models, drawing instruments, glass lantern slides, videos, and a reference library with over 20,000 items of printed matter. The Archive is also beginning to explore mechanisms for accessioning and preserving digital records, the computer-aided design files now ubiquitous in the modern architectural office. This is an area that requires urgent attention. Constant and rapid changes in computer hardware, software and storage media mean that digital records currently rank among the most vulnerable records with which the Archive has to deal.

One of the Archive's flag-ship projects is the *Biographical Index of Irish Architects*, a database containing biographical and bibliographical information on architects born or working in Ireland during the period 1720 to 1940, and information on the buildings

on which they worked. The Index was created and is being compiled by Ann Martha Rowan and has been supported by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. There are now in excess of 6,300 architects or practices listed in the Index, and over 40,000 building references. Since 2005 the Index has been publicly accessible in the Archive's reading room and has become the most heavily used resource available to readers and researchers. It is hoped that the Index will shortly be available on the Internet.

Initially operating under the title 'The National Trust Archive' from two floors of 63 Merrion Square, made available by the Royal Society of the Antiquaries of Ireland, the Archive changed its name in 1981 to the present, self explanatory title, and changed address in 1992 to occupy all but one floor of No. 73 Merrion Square. In 2004, it moved again to No. 45 Merrion Square.

No 45 is the largest terraced house on the Square. Built initially in the 1790s, it was divided into two separate houses in 1829. Usage changed in 1912 from residential to institutional and a form of internal circulation was created between the divided sections. Over the years a variety of bodies occupied the building including – from the mid-1940s to the mid-1990s – the Irish Patents Office. Between April 2003 and January 2005, the Office of Public Works carried out a major programme of refurbishment and new building to transform this once grand Georgian residence into a state-of-the-art home for a modern archival institution.

The programme for No. 45 also entailed the construction of new archive stores to accommodate the growing collections. The first phase of the repository has been built underground to the rear of the old house and is designed to provide the exacting storage environment demanded for the long term preservation of paper documents in a passive way, without the use of mechanical air-conditioning. This is the first time that this 'green' solution had been used for archival storage in Ireland. It is an approach which demanded a very high attention to detail during construction but has resulted in highly efficient and cost-effective building, a sustainable solution to the problem of preserving heritage material. This marriage of pure architectural conservation and cutting-edge building technology made the task of transforming 45 Merrion Square uniquely challenging, and Office of Public Works deserves great credit for its innovative approach to the project.

The Irish Architectural Archive is open to the public from 10 am to 5 pm, Tuesdays to Fridays. No appointment is necessary and access is free.

people

The Board of the Irish Traditional Music Archive welcomes the award of honorary doctorates to **Tom Munnelly**, its founding Chairman; **Nicholas Carolan**, its current Director; and **Cathal Goan**, its current Chairman. These independently made awards have been made in recognition of their individual contributions to Irish life.

On June 19 2007, the National University of Ireland at Galway awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature (DLitt) to Tom Munnelly for services to Irish traditional music. Tom Munnelly, a native of Dublin, is Collector-Archivist with the Delargy Centre for Irish Folklore and the National Folklore Centre in University College Dublin, for which he has amassed since 1971 the largest and most comprehensive field-collection of Irish traditional song ever made by any one person. Since 1978 he has been based as a collector in Miltown Malbay, Co Clare.

On June 29 2007, the National University of Ireland at Galway presented the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature (DLitt) to Nicholas Carolan for services to Irish traditional music. Nicholas Carolan, from Drogheda, has been Director of the Irish Traditional Music Archive since its foundation in 1987, and has established the Archive as the largest public repository of the materials of and information on Irish traditional music in existence.

On July 3 2007, the University of Ulster at Coleraine awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) to Cathal Goan for services to Irish-language broadcasting and the media industry in Ireland. Cathal Goan, Director-General of RTÉ, is a native of Belfast, and writes and lectures on Irish traditional song.

beatrice doran



Beatrice Doran, BA, MBA, Dip Lib. retired from the post of Librarian to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland on 30 June 2007. Beatrice has been Librarian of the College since 1986 and prior to that was Deputy and Acting University Librarian at University College Cork. She also worked in Coleraine at the then New University of Ulster and in the Library of the Royal Dublin Society. She has almost forty years

experience in academic and medical libraries and has carried out international consultancies in Bahrain, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the United Kingdom and Ireland. Beatrice was President of the Library Association of Ireland on three different occasions, she was a founding member of the Munster Regional and the

Health Sciences Libraries sections of the Association. To mark her retirement and her contribution to the development of Health Science libraries in Ireland, the Health Sciences Libraries section of the LAI, have named a lecture in her honour – an eponymous lecture which will be given each year by a distinguished medical librarian. A member of SCONUL and CONUL for many years Beatrice was Chair and Secretary of CONUL as well as being very active in EAHIL, the European Association of Medical Librarians where she served as Senior Vice President. With Professor N.G. McElvaney, Professor of Medicine, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, she is a principal investigator for a pilot study to introduce the concept of a Clinical Informationist service to Ireland for the first time.

Beatrice also served as a member of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna for the period 2003 to 2007.

calendar of events

july 2007

3-6th *European integration: conditions and challenges for libraries* – LIBER 36th Annual General Conference, National Library of Poland, Warsaw. Conference programme, etc. <http://liber2007.buw.uw.edu.pl/>

august 2007

25-2nd Sept. *Heritage Week* – www.heritageweek.ie

september 2007

12-15th *Pathways to new roles: the education, training and continuing development of the Health Library & Information Workforce*. European Association for Health Information & Libraries (EAHIL) Workshop 2007. Krakow, Poland. Registration starts 2 April. See following for further details:
<http://www.bm.cm-uj.krakow.pl/eahil/index.php>

october 2007

10th -12th *PLA Conference 2007: Inform Educate Entertain - Whose role is it anyway?* For more information see <http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/plg/pla2007/>

16-17 Library Ireland 2007, Concert Hall, Royal Dublin Society. Details: Key Events, 24 Terenure Road East, Rathgar, Dublin 6. t: 01-4901790.

18th - 20th *Marsh's Library - A Mirror on the World: conference to commemorate the 1707 Act of Parliament establishing the Library*. Day two of this conference is entirely devoted to the subject of 'Collectors & Collections'. Conference fee €60 (students €30). For information and booking form contact Ann Simmons, Marsh's Library, St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8. Email: keeper@marshlibrary.ie Tel: 01-4543511. Accommodation is limited, early booking is essential.

november 2007

22nd *Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lectures in Legal Bibliography*: Dr. Laurence M. Geary, Department of History, University College, Cork, will give the seventeenth lecture in this series entitled *A history of the poor law in Ireland: a bibliographic survey*. The venue is The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, 6 Kildare Street, Dublin 2. For further information contact: Hugh M. Fitzpatrick, Library and Information Consultant, 9 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. t: 01-269 2202; f: 01-661 9239.



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