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eLearning at the Library

Library users around the country are signing up for free online courses in a collaboration between FÁS, public library authorities and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

Under the programme, which is being rolled-out in stages across the country, library users are being offered free online courses in FÁS's eCollege (<http://faslibraries.learnonline.ie/>), with the support of a dedicated facilitator assigned to each library.

Aimed at absolute beginners and those who want to improve their skills, the courses on offer include ECDL; Health & Safety; Basic Photography; Finance Fundamentals; Computer Skills; Office Administration/Reception; Child Development Basics; Gardening and Horticulture, and English as a second language.

Library users can sign up for the courses and access them using the Internet PCs in the library, all at no charge.

A facilitator will be present at the library to assist participants familiarise themselves in using a computer and to support their progress through a suite of online courseware hosted on a dedicated website.



The learner can choose from a list of available courses to continue the learning process. Learners will have access to the facilitator, while working on their own initiative.

For further information please contact Brendan Teeling (bteeling@librarycouncil.ie or T: 01 676 1167)

The Living Library at the County Library Tallaght

South Dublin County Libraries, in association with South Dublin County Council's Social Inclusion Unit, recently introduced the Living Library concept to Ireland.

On Thursday 15th October 2009, the County Library became the Living Library, where the "books" could literally speak. In the Living Library, "readers" borrowed for a chat a Gay man, a Traveller, an Asylum seeker, a Single mother, a Muslim, a School phobic, a Widow, an Older Person, a Disabled Person, or a Planner. The aim was to challenge and overcome prejudices and stereotypical judgments. In the Living Library "readers" enjoyed a candid chat with people ("books") they would never normally meet.

The Living Library in the County Library Tallaght was a resounding success. The "books" were constantly on loan with plenty of readers attending the event. Feedback from both books and readers was very positive. All of the "books" are happy to take part again in a Living Library, describing it as a "great experience" "very enjoyable" and "the opportunity to be reflective of my own life". "Please do it again", "a very worthwhile experience" were common themes in the feedback from "readers". Both "readers" and "books" said they would definitely encourage others to become involved in a future Living Library event.

The Living Library was begun by Ronnie Abergel in Copenhagen and it is now an international event with over 100 events in 23 countries.



Recently returned 'Living Books'

The event at County Library Tallaght was the first Living Library in Ireland, and was held as part of the Innovation Dublin celebration. It received lots of media attention, featuring on RTÉ's 6.01 News, 98FM's Inbox, and an interview with Georgina Byrne on the Ryan Tubridy radio show.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the Living Library or indeed in becoming a "book" for a future event, please contact Patricia Fitzgerald or Caroline Higgins at libdevofff@sdblincoco.ie.

↑ TALLAGHT

↓ FIONTAR

Fiontar Supplies Libraries with Irish-English Terminological Treats!



Fiontar, Dublin City University, is engaged in several innovative research projects linking the Irish language with contemporary life through information technology. [Focal.ie](http://focal.ie), the national database for Irish terminology is one of these and was developed in partnership with Foras na Gaeilge.

[Focal.ie](http://focal.ie) is an online Irish terminology database that is available free of charge to the public. The database contains more than 300,000 Irish and English terms that cover wide ranging areas such as sport, science, finance and law. It is now one of the largest terminology databases in the world.

[Focal.ie](http://focal.ie) has gained both national and international acclaim. It has won the 'Best Irish Language Site' at the Irish Web Awards 2008; and the European Language Prize – The European Language Label in 2007.

The Fiontar team are currently promoting the website and targeting users of I.T resources and terminology. Banks and libraries were selected due to their interaction with a large cross-section of the public. Promotional materials were distributed to encourage knowledge and use of Irish-language terminology within these sectors.

A clock and collection of bookmarks each containing various English and Irish terms are therefore being distributed to all public libraries in the country.

The Irish language plays an important role in libraries all across Ireland and so the terms provided on the two products have been chosen for their relevance to the field of librarianship. The aim of this initiative is to provide a small resource of interesting, useful, up-to-date Irish and English terms that will hopefully not only encourage further use of Irish in the library but also make people aware of [Focal.ie](http://focal.ie).

Children's Book Festival 2009

Cork City Libraries

Over 250 children representing all Cork City Libraries branches attended the launch of Children's Book Festival in Cork City Library on October 1. The theme for 2009 was *Spaced Out* and Frances McCarthy from the Blackrock Castle Observatory set the scene by *Cooking up a Comet*. Award winning author Philip Ardagh thrilled children with tales from his *Henry's House* Series and Mags Walsh from CBI unveiled the National Poster for the Festival which was designed by children from Cork City Libraries this year.

The Space theme continued throughout the month through art workshops, presentations by Cork Astronomy Club and the Blackrock Castle Observatory's mobile planetarium where the children will experience the wonder of stars and galaxies in this amazing structure. The festival continued until October 31 with 96 events in all.

Library Quizone in Kerry Library

Kerry Library launched Children's Book Festival 2009 with a *Library Quizone* event at Tralee Library on Saturday, 3rd October – a game of intellect, speed and physical ability inspired by the popular RTÉ television show *Quizone*.

Nine teams of 5 competed for the chance to be crowned 'Kerry Library Quizone Champions' while a large crowd of supporters were also present. 2 members of the Kerry All-Ireland football squad, Killian Young and Barry John Walsh were on hand to act as referee and quizmaster respectively.



Frances McCarthy, Blackrock Castle Observatory, Cooks up a Comet, at the launch of Cork City Libraries Spaced Out Children's Book Festival

The game involved a progressive round by round combination of mini obstacles and a selection of general knowledge questions that required searching through a range of library reference books from the children's library to find the answer. At the end of the day, after an exciting final, an all girls team from Tralee called 'Little Miss Sunshine' persevered over the challenges from the boys teams. Trophies were presented to the winners by Killian and Barry John. The event proved really successful, tapping into both the contestant's library skills and physical abilities.

Such was the success of *Library Quizone* that the winners are all up to defend their title next year and it is hoped to repeat it on an annual basis.

↑↓ CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL



The photograph shows Killian Young (referee) with Barry John Walsh (quizmaster) with the winning team – Little Miss Sunshine after competing in Kerry Library's Quizone competition

Laois County Library

Well known environmentalist and botanist Éanna Ní Lamhna took some time out of her busy schedule to pay a visit to the libraries in Laois during the Children's Book Festival to talk to local school children and their teachers about some of the native species that they come across frequently but may not know a great deal about.

Éanna, who is well known for her radio broadcasts on the RTÉ Radio 1 show *Mooney*, has just published a book for primary school teachers in conjunction with Laois, Monaghan and Meath county councils. *Wild Things at School* was written to assist teachers in teaching pupils about the native species in Ireland. The premise is simple – if each pupil learns two wild flowers, a tree, a mammal, a bird and a creepy crawly during each year of primary school, then by the time they move on to second level education they will know, recognise and understand the importance of 48 native Irish species.

The book is beautifully illustrated by Christine Warner, and it is divided into eight sections - one for each year of primary school from junior infants to Sixth class. So, for example, Junior Infants learn about the daisy, the dandelion, the Horse Chestnut Tree, the Hedgehog, the Robin and the Ladybird. While sixth class pupils can look forward to finding out about Herb Robert, Cow Parsley, the Birch, Deer, and Crows & Wasps.

Eanna visited Portlaoise, Portarlinton, Mountrath and Rathdowney libraries and took separate sessions with school teachers and pupils. Her infectious energy and her passion for nature ensured that her audience was completely enthralled for the duration of her talks. Her interest in wasps and spiders was particularly apparent and her audience was captivated by the way that she managed to make learning such fun. Her enthusiasm will hopefully allow those who heard her to take a new interest in the natural world. And the hope of all of those involved in the production of this wonderful book is that it will provide an opportunity for every child in primary school to participate in a nature studies programme which will help them to identify common plants, trees, animals, birds and creepy crawlies. This will make it easier for them to take up ecology modules in the science programme in Secondary School and help them to have a greater awareness of their environment.



Éanna Ní Lamhna

HIDDEN HERITAGE OF COUNTY MONAGHAN

Monaghan County Library Services & Monaghan County Museum have joined forces again on a new project, which is funded under the Peace III project. The project entitled 'Hidden Heritage of County Monaghan' will take place from September 2009-December 2010. The project's main aim is to uncover and celebrate a community's past as a tool through which to bring about engagement and dialogue between people from the same area but who may view themselves as separate. The Library & Museum service will work with 4 groups of people, in 4 different locations in the county. The groups will be facilitated to identify a piece of forgotten local heritage which they wish to uncover. The Library & Museum service will provide the technical assistance to the groups in carrying out their research.

The groups will also be offered workshops on Introduction to Genealogy, Introduction to Archaeology, Digital Photography, Creative Writing, Folklore collecting, and many others.

All the material collected will be used to produce a major exhibition at the end of the project.

This project is part financed by the European Union's European Regional Development fund through the Peace III Programme and funded through Monaghan Peace III Partnership.

MEATH BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTRES

On the 30th of June Meath County Library service in partnership with Meath county council Economic Development and Innovation Unit launched a collection of business related titles for anyone who is interested in setting up their own business or is in the process of doing so. The collection consists of over 50 titles, located in both Navan and Ashbourne libraries. The collections include titles on business planning, PR and marketing, entrepreneurship, green business, accounting and health and safety.

In conjunction with the launch of the business collection a start-up business seminar was held in Navan Library on Tuesday the 15th of September.



At the business Seminar are Shauna Henry, Executive Librarian, Navan Library; Claire King, Economic Development & Innovation, Meath County Council; Kevin Stewart, Director of Economic Development & Innovation, Meath County Council; Brian O'Kane, Author; Ciaran Mangan, County Librarian, Meath County Council.

Brian O'Kane, author and business start-up expert gave a 60 minute presentation to over 55 people, some of which had recently lost their job and were interested in setting up their own business. He covered topics on market research, finding and evaluating ideas, business planning, funding and assistance.

Feedback was very positive and it is hoped that similar events will take place over the coming months.

For further information please contact Shauna Henry at Navan Library T: 046 902 1134 or E: shenry@meathcoco.ie

↓ CLARE

CLARE COUNTY LIBRARY

The Ennis Book Club Festival, in association with Clare County Library, has launched a competition to find the 2010 "Book Club of the Year." Entry form and competition rules can be downloaded at www.ennisbookclubfestival.com

Tell them, in less than 300 words, why your book club is special and be in with a chance to win the Ennis Book Club Festival "Book Club of the Year Award" and a weekend break in Ennis for your club. The prize includes two night's accommodation for six people on March 5 and 6 2010 at the Temple Gate Hotel in Ennis, and six Weekend Tickets for admission to all events of the Festival.

The 2010 festival programme will be available later in the year. A great line up is promised!

Further details are available from frances.ogorman@clarelibrary.ie

↑ MONAGHAN

LIBRARY STAFF TRAINING PROGRAMME

An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, carried out a survey on the training needs of library authorities which was circulated to county and city librarians during the summer. Following on from this, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna in consultation with the Standing Committee on Public Library Staff Training and Development has organised a series of courses based on the requirements outlined in the survey. The list of courses is provided below and further details are available on An Chomhairle Leabharlanna's website: www.librarycouncil.ie/training

— *Dealing with Difficult Behaviour in the Library* 18th November Malahide Library, 19th November, Tallaght Library

— *Cost-effective Communications*, 25th November Dublin City Public Libraries & Archives, Pearse Street

↑ MEATH

— *Frontline Workshop for Co-ordinators: Seminar for the co-ordinators in public libraries of the Frontline on line reading development programme*, 26th November Tallaght Library

— *Supporting Teenagers through Public Libraries*, 1st December Tallaght Library, 2nd December Cabra Library, 3rd December Blanchardstown Library

Information on the above courses from Marie Flynn: contactmflynn@librarycouncil.ie

— *Management Issues in Public Libraries 2009: a reflection and looking ahead for Executive Librarians and Senior Librarians* (This course is aimed at all public library staff on a Grade 6 position who have completed the Management Issues in Public Libraries two day training course run by the IPA), 9th November 2009, IPA Dublin

— *Management issues in public libraries: a two-day induction training for newly appointed Senior Executive Librarians and Divisional Librarians*, covering library and related management issues. 12th-13th November 2009, IPA Dublin

↓ LIBRARY STAFF TRAINING

— *Management Issues in Public Libraries 2009: a reflection and looking ahead. Follow-up course for Senior Executive Librarians and Divisional Librarians* (This course is for all public library staff on a Grade 7 position who have completed the Management Issues in Public Libraries two day training course run by the IPA). 8th December 2009, IPA Dublin

— *Management Issues in Public Libraries: a two-day induction training for Executive Librarians and Senior Librarians*, covering library and related management issues, 17th – 18th February 2010 IPA Dublin

All Management Issues courses are booked directly with IPA: contact Jane Greer: jgreer@ipa.ie

November 2009

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Print and legitimization in 1916: the activities of Joseph Mary Plunkett by Professor W.J. McCormack, Keeper, Edward Worth Library: the 21st Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lecture in Legal Bibliography to be held in the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin. Further details are available from Hugh M. Fitzpatrick, 9 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.
T: 01 269 2202; F: 661 9239;
E: hmfitzpa@tcd.ie

Please note change of venue from that previously announced.

5-6

Thinking outside the box... Collaboration and Co-operation in Public Libraries
Public Libraries' Section conference, Marriott Hotel, Ashbourne, County Meath.

Details: www.libraryassociation.ie/sections-and-groups/public-libraries-section/public-libraries-section-conference-2009/

8-15

Science Week

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Management Issues in Public Libraries 2009
A reflection and looking ahead for Executive Librarians and Senior Librarians (This course is aimed at all public library staff on a Grade 6 position who have completed the Management Issues in Public Libraries two day training course run by the IPA). IPA Dublin. All Management Issues courses are booked directly with IPA: contact Jane Greer: jgreer@ipa.ie

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Maud Gonne
The third of the 'Object of the Month' lecture series, Dr Margaret Ward Harper of Georgia State University. Object of the month: the mammoth portrait of Maud Gonne by Alfred Werner. Admission is free and no booking is required. National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 at 7.00pm

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RFID Libraries 2009
King's Place, King's Cross, London. Details: www.cilip.org.uk/interests/rfid/rfid2009/programme.html

12-13

Management issues in public libraries
A two-day induction training for newly appointed Senior Executive Librarians and Divisional Librarians, covering library and related management issues. IPA Dublin. All Management Issues courses are booked directly with IPA: contact Jane Greer: jgreer@ipa.ie

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Illuminating the word: the medieval book in Ireland and Western Europe.
Annual seminar of the Rare Books Group of the Library Association of Ireland. Seminar Room, National Library of Ireland, 10:00 - 15:30.

Cost: €85 (LAI members); €95 (Non-LAI members); €60 (Concessions) €75 (per person for 3 or more bookings from one institution). Lunch included. To reserve a place, please contact: Celine Ward, Rare Books Group Secretary, T: 01 407 0757; E: rbgsec@cbl.ie

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Blame my brain – SLARI presents Nicola Morgan
SLARI conference with Nicola Morgan, author of *Blame my brain: the amazing teenage brain revealed*, and many other titles. Further details will be available on the SLARI website soon – <http://www.slari.ie>, or contact secretary@slari.ie.

Venue: Dublin City Public Library & Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Cost (includes tea/coffee and lunch): SLARI members €60.00; non-members €75.00; students €20.00

18-19

Dealing with Difficult Behaviour in the Library
Malahide Library. Information from Marie Flynn: contact mflynn@librarycouncil.ie

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Cost-effective Communications
Dublin City Public Libraries & Archives, Pearse Street, Information from Marie Flynn: contact mflynn@librarycouncil.ie

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Frontline Workshop for Co-ordinators
Seminar for the co-ordinators in public libraries of the Frontline on line reading development programme, Tallaght Library. Information from Marie Flynn: contact mflynn@librarycouncil.ie

December 2009

1-3

Supporting Teenagers through Public Libraries
1st December Tallaght Library, 2nd December Cabra Library, 3rd December Blanchardstown Library. Information from Marie Flynn: contact mflynn@librarycouncil.ie

↓ LIBRARY LATE

↓ TIPPERARY

↑ CALENDAR

↓ CONTACT

Library Late at the National Library of Ireland

Autumn/Winter Series

Give Us Back our Sport is the topic for debate on Monday, November 2nd, 2009 at 8pm with broadcaster Eamon Dunphy, sports writer David Walsh and anchor for RTE Sport's Rugby coverage Tom McGurk. How long will sport survive under the pressures of increased commercial and other interests and who now owns the people's sport? These and other related issues will be hotly debated. On Monday, November 23rd, 2009 at 8pm Alan English, editor of the Longford Leader Eugene McGee and rugby analyst, broadcaster and author George Hook will look at sport and regional/local identity in Ireland in a discussion entitled *Sport & Place*.

The series will conclude on Monday, December 14th, 2009 at 8pm with Tyrone Senior Football manager Mickey Harte. In an interview with Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, who celebrates 60 years as a GAA broadcaster this year, Harte will discuss his long-awaited autobiography *Harte* to be published this autumn (Poolbeg Press).

Admission is free but booking is essential, to reserve a place, please telephone 01 6030277.

Tipperary Reads

On Saturday 14th November Tipperary Libraries will play host to acclaimed author John Banville for this year's *Tipperary Reads* festival. The main aim of the festival is to encourage the whole of County Tipperary to read the same books at the same time and then to come together to discuss them.

It was not an easy thing to pick just one book from John Banville's prolific career, so it was decided to choose two titles – the 2005 Booker award winner *The Sea* and *Christine Falls* which he wrote under the pseudonym Benjamin Black. Mr. Banville launched the festival in July and since then the two titles have been the most issued in Tipperary Libraries.

You are invited along to Thurles Library at 3pm and to Clonmel Library at 7pm on Saturday 14th November to join the author in a discussion of these equally engaging novels.

Next Issue

Please note that Irish Library News is only available as a download. If you would like to have a copy emailed to you or your workplace, please send your name and email address to the Editor – and please, do not forget to notify any subsequent changes to your email address.

Copy date for next issue is November 20th 2009

Contributions to Irish Library News and / or www.library.ie should be sent to Alun Bevan, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53-54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.

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