

# *James Hardiman Library, National University of Ireland, Galway*

## *Extract from the Librarian's Report 2001/2002*

### **Highlights**

Building on the work of the previous year, the Senior Management Team identified a number of priority areas for library users and library staff and much progress was made in a number of these. Through cross-functional teams, some excellent work was done on:

- Orientation Week
- New Information Week
- New Library Website
- Library management system implementation and enhancement
- Initial work on a new collection management policy
- New signing and guiding system for the library.

The off-campus meetings of the Team devoted considerable time to identifying and progressing strategic issues to include; supporting research; supporting distributed learning; contributing to the university e-learning strategy; staff training and development; services to users with disabilities and special needs and overall improvement of internal communications. On the latter, the Library Intranet is playing a vital role, as is the Newsletter and the Library website – but nonetheless Library management is conscious of the amount of senior staff time still expended on staffing issues, and the need to strike a balance to afford a more acceptable work load for all involved.

Work began on progressing work-life balance through a partnership approach and a new Library social club was established. With improved flow of information within and across divisions, more time was spent at senior staff meetings on more strategic topics.

Sadly, little progress can be reported on environmental issues, which continue to be of major concern to all staff, and there has been no increase in space or storage for users or library material. Of particular concern also, is the lack of progress in library space provision for Health Sciences given the inadequacies of both the Nursing and Medical libraries and the need to provide for the upcoming therapies programmes. Disappointing also to note that the user to seat ratio decreased through the loss of the Library's off-site reading room at the end of the academic year. However, to be more positive, the Buildings Office and the University are seeking replacement study space and trying to address the other issues of concern in a climate of difficult and indeed non-existent capital funding.

In terms of recurrent funding, the report is very positive. The University has been very generous to the Library and holdings of electronic material have substantially increased - indeed one such acquisition – Early English Books Online – offering electronic access to 100,000 full text titles was a first for any Irish University. Funding also allowed for another service enhancement this year through the addition of a new suite of public access PCs to floor two – an excellent collaborative project with Computer Services - much welcomed by students and intensively used.

### **Contribution of Library Staff**

All library staff contribute through their commitment and work to providing the content of any annual report and for this my very sincere thanks. Particular mention must be made of the many projects spear-headed by the Deputy Librarian who has worked tirelessly to ensure that progress is made on so many library fronts – so again - my special thanks to John Cox for all his input and creativity. Credit also, to the four sub-librarians who with the Librarian and the Deputy, make up the Senior Management Team; they like John Cox put in so many hours beyond the call of duty on issues which for many are “invisible”. At the same time, these same librarians are making a significant contribution at national level and indeed lead the way for many libraries in terms of their professionalism and vision in advancing the quality of library and information services.

### **Librarian’s activities**

More and more time externally is spent on collaborative ventures both in Ireland and the UK, in a climate where libraries can never hope to be self-sufficient beyond basic undergraduate support. The CHIU Librarians with the help of the University Procurement Officers negotiated a new contract for the supply of journals to all seven academic libraries. Science-Direct, through which we have full-text access to more than 1,800 titles, was also renegotiated for a further three years and work commenced on a bid for major funding to provide a national information infrastructure. The steady move towards electronic access is now firmly established, and this library now offers access to approximately 10,000 full text journals and newspapers from the desktop – so real progress is being made in our support to research.

Again, on collaboration, the Library is working with UL and UCC in supporting the new Atlantic University Alliance Diploma in Technology Management and is working with the Department of Health Promotion on another e-learning project, an area of increasing involvement with the establishment of the new Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching. This year also, NUI, Galway became a member of ALCID – a group of academic and special libraries in Ireland offering reciprocal access to collections for researchers on a reference basis and it is hoped that this can be further extended soon to include borrowing rights.

Archives and Special Collections are areas in which we can be of particular relevance to the Community and a lot of work is done in encouraging bequests and donations, with increasing success, as detailed under the *Archives and Special Collections* sections of this report.

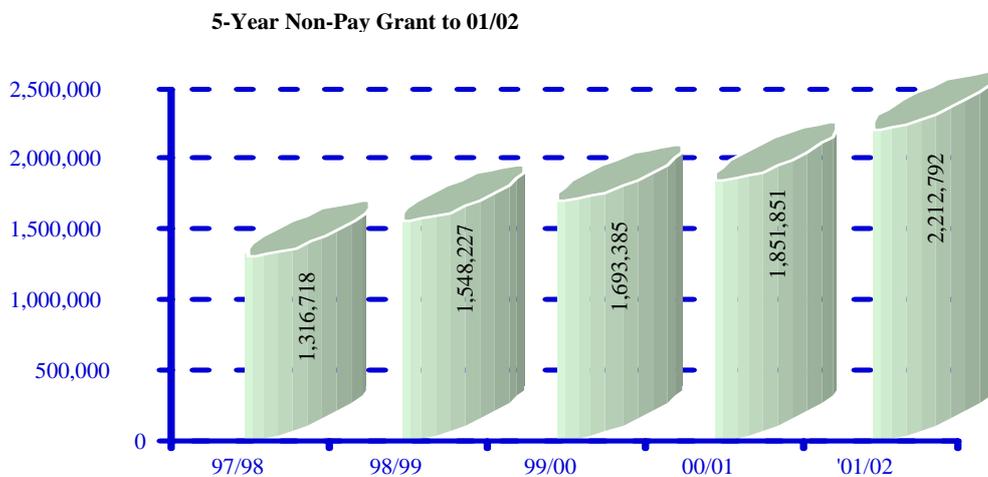
The support of the Senior Management Team has already been acknowledged, but the Librarian continues to have the unstinting support of a marvellous team for Library Administration – contributing as they do to so many areas of the library, but

especially in ensuring harmonious relationships with all other university departments. To this team as well, we owe much of the success of all cultural and social events in the Library - to all two of them – may I offer my most sincere thanks.

Finally, thanks must go to all members of Library Committee and the various sub-groups of Library Committee and in particular, to the Registrar as Chairman, for their time, expertise and ongoing support to the Library.

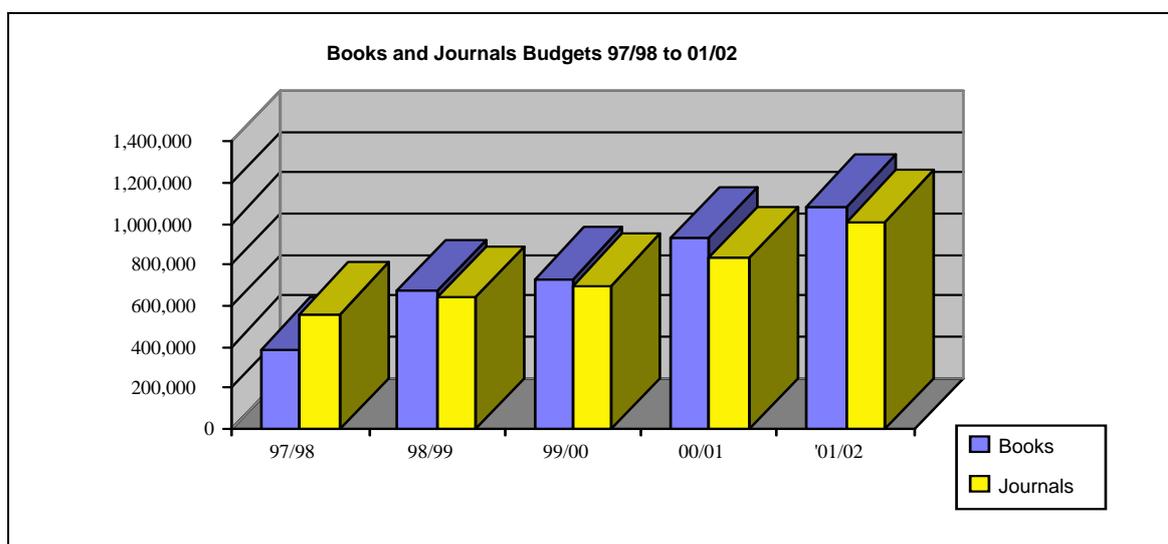
## Library Finances

The Library was pleased with the recurrent grant from the University which amounted to €4,513,083 - an increase of 13% over 2000/2001 (€3,978,549). Excluding pay, the budget for books, journals and operations was €2,212,792 (which includes Nursing Library costs other than pay) - again a generous increase of 19% over the 00/01 allocation of €1,851,851. Faculties continue to make generous additional contributions, and also this year, the Librarian would like to acknowledge a special award made by Galway University Foundation in support of special collections purchases.



### ***Books, Journals and other Non-Pay***

The amount available for books and journals was €1,682,403 with an additional €26,347 available to the Nursing Library – total budget - €1,708,750. Of this, €1,009,630 (or almost 60%) was spent on journals. In addition, the Library received funding from individual departments and faculties (Arts, Human Rights in particular). The Department of Health also provided a special grant for Nursing Library purchases and the Library received a very generous grant from the University Foundation of €27,650 for archival / special collections / Irish Studies related purchases. Taking all grants into account, a total of €1,085,672 was available for books and other non-print purchases.



***Inter Library Loans:*** The budget (net) was €7,138 for the Main and Medical Libraries (€2,533,000 in 00/01) – the reduction in budget resulted from the low level of actual expenditure in the previous year.

***Operations:*** €41,599 (net) was spent on Main Library operations & services including binding and preservation costs, with once again, income from fines and photocopying subsidising operations to a large extent. Investment in additional student PCs plus increasing annual replacement costs for administrative computing accounts for a major part of increased expenditure. Some refurbishment in terms of meeting room space was also funded.

***Special Research Fund Grants:*** Despite considerable effort on the part of the Information Librarians to encourage take-up, applications to the Special Research element of the Library budget this year were disappointing. Only three requests were received, amounting to €3,721 from a total budget of €2,855 (€19,554 in 00/01), It was agreed by Library Committee to approve carrying forward of unspent funds to 02/03 budgets, but that this would not be the case in future years.

## **Library Staffing**

*Recruitment and other staff changes* – There were two additions to the Information team this year– Hugo Kelly was recruited as Law Librarian and Niamh Walsh took on the full-time post supporting Arts and Celtic Studies. A new half-time post had been funded in the budget for Arts & Celtic Studies and this had afforded an opportunity for the existing Librarian to move to part-time. Laurie Greenfield came to Readers' Services replacing Ann Mitchell, who had moved to the post of sub-librarian for the Division in the previous year. Funding also permitted the expansion of the Nursing Librarian's post from part-time to full-time and the recruitment of a new post of Library Assistant. Through the Registrar's Office, short term but very welcome funding was secured for work on the examination papers database, and also for an archivist to work on University archives for six-months. The post of Library Trainee was also re-instated.

### ***Training & Development:***

Training events were numerous and varied throughout the year. Much was achieved in-house with Library staff sharing expertise across a range of areas. These efforts were supplemented by some welcome funding from the national Training of Trainers scheme. The Library was one of a number of University departments whose bids were successful. This resulted in a number of in-depth sessions on bibliographic software and Web search engines, which attracted good interest from Library staff and developed skills through a highly practical approach. Other local training took the form of attendance at sessions organised by the University's Human Resources department, notably on diversity issues, and by Computer Services on a range of software packages. Visits from external trainers were very welcome; a good example being the update session provided on the ILLOS2 system for managing inter-library loan transactions.

As in previous years, Library staff attended a number of external courses and conferences. More than 20 staff attended a variety of one-day courses and briefings organised by the Academic and National Library Training Co-Operative (ANLTC). Topics ranged from copyright to cataloguing, the latter receiving welcome emphasis as the subject of two courses late in the year. Another area to receive particular attention was service to users with disabilities and special needs and a member of staff achieved the Certificate in Assistive Technology Applications taught at University College Dublin. The desire to tap the full potential of the Aleph library system involved the longest journey, to Cyprus, to attend the annual international users conference. The Library was also glad to host the Aleph UK and Ireland User Group, providing an opportunity for our staff to exchange information with colleagues from other libraries.

## **Bibliographic Services**

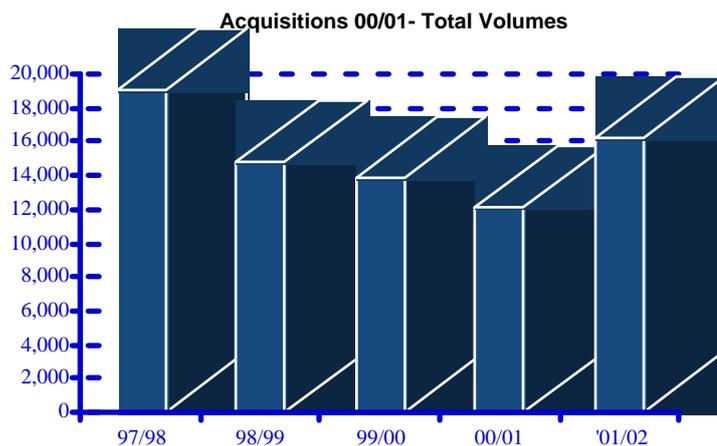
In addition to the regular work of the department, a major serials cataloguing project was completed during the year (May 02-Sep 02) to allow access to the journal holdings on the library catalogue. The aim was to replace the stand-alone web based journals catalogue, JOPAC, by integrating all records on the library database. Using

the OPAC, all library users now have access to book, journal, database and subject gateway details.

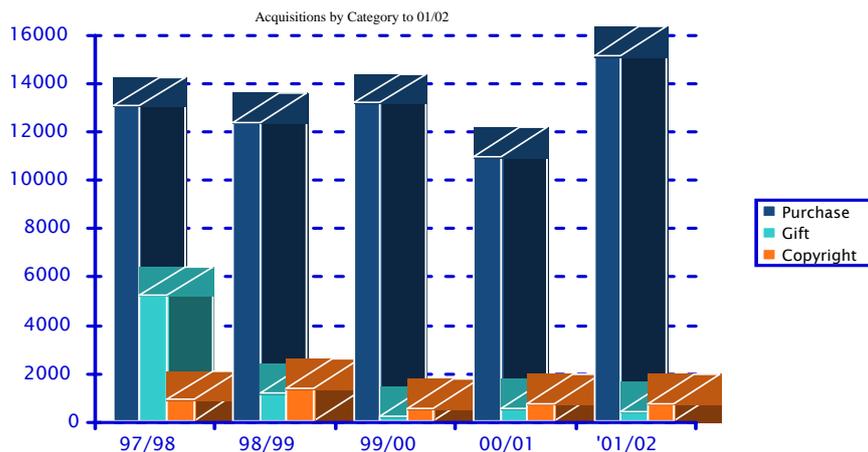
All current subscriptions were subject indexed and an electronic access key was added to each title to enable users to easily link to the electronic full text where available. A similar key was added to allow access to the abstracting and indexing databases to which the Library subscribes e.g. Web of Science, PsycINFO, Medline, CINAHL as well as a range of high impact subject gateways such as EEVL and CAIN. Another qualitative enhancement to the catalogue, with the help of Peter Corrigan in Library Systems, was the addition of full catalogue records for individual journal titles offered through aggregate services such as Science Direct and JSTOR. An example of the added value here is access to 1,200 titles on Science Direct in full text, whereas the Library only subscribes to about 60 of these titles in print. NUI, Galway is one of the few universities that offers this level of access from the catalogue – all credit to staff who worked on this project.

***Collections & Acquisitions:***

Increased budgets are reflected in the 16,214 volumes acquired — significantly up this year on 00/01 (12,167 volumes)



Of the material acquired, 15,130 volumes were purchased 369 were by gift, and 590 were copyright items.



### ***Notable Acquisitions and Bequests***

This year represented major progress in the acquisition of electronic products and in particular access to full-text electronic journals. The major acquisition, and as already mentioned, a first for an Irish University, was EEBO *Early English Books Online*, purchased in September 2002 with the generous help of the Arts Faculty. This resource offers full-text access to over 100,000 early English published texts and makes a major contribution to supporting research within the University. Also acquired were the Philosophers' Index, EBSCO's Business Source Premier and LEXIS. On the Engineering and Science front, we were delighted to acquire access to IEEE online and to British Standards Online - both purchased from Engineering funds.

Science Faculty benefited from the addition of two further JSTOR collections – Ecology & Botany and the General Science Collection. These are major quality scholarly publications, providing comprehensive archival electronic access to the complete runs of the journals represented.

The first books for the Marine Law three-year project were ordered, received and catalogued in September 2002 and will form a comprehensive collection on all aspects of International Marine Law.

### **Inter Library Loans Service:**

The processing of Inter Library Loans and document delivery (DD) is still managed using a stand-alone system (ILLOS2). While there have been some enhancements to the package this year, including online registration of users and the submission of online requests, the Library is planning to move to an integrated solution via Aleph – the Library management system as soon as possible.

A major concern late in 01/02 was the new pricing structure imposed, with very little notice, by the Library's major document supplier, the British Library. Price increases over the previous year were in the order of 80% for photocopies requested (€6.50 to €11.65) and 57% for books and reports borrowed. Work is in hand with national agencies to try to identify more reasonable sources of supply, but so far without success.

### ***Inter Library Loans – Volume of Business 2001/2002 – All Libraries***

Individual statistics are available for the Main Library, the Medical Library and the Nursing Library, but the total volume of business was as follows:

	01/02	00/01	% Change
Number of Items Requested by NUI, Galway	10,627	9,166	+16%
Number of Items Received by NUI, Galway	9,842	8,546	+15%
Number of Items Supplied by NUI, Galway	2,078	1,956	+ 6%
% Supplied by Irish Libraries	31%	34%	

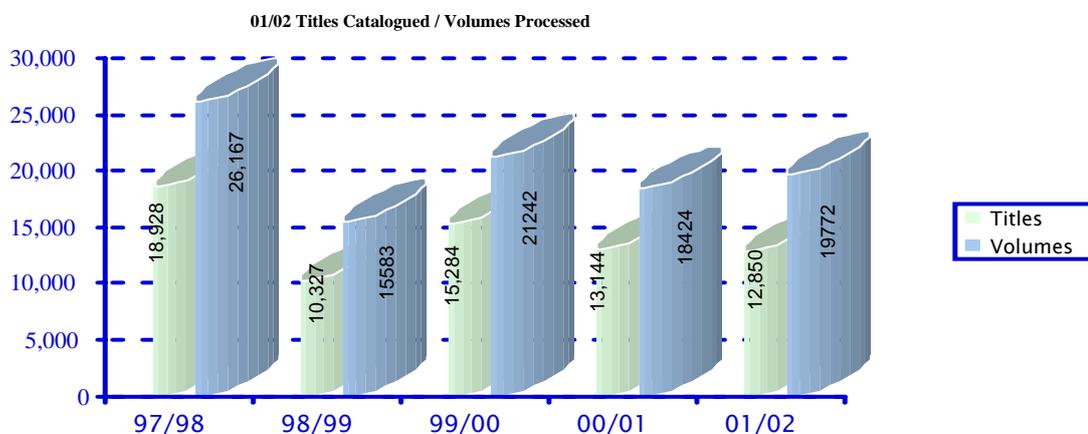
Overall the volume of business has increased over last year; however, the impact of easy access to electronic full-text journals is keeping the increase to relatively modest levels. Disappointing however to note that the number of items supplied from Irish sources has dropped slightly from 34% to 31% this year.

### **Binding**

Activity in-house - 1,008 items were bound and 868 repaired. In addition, 1,049 volumes were bound or conserved, externally. Again, thanks to Hugh Keleghan for sterling work in this area.

### **Cataloguing**

12,850 new titles were fully catalogued - with 19,772 volumes processed for all three libraries - the valuable work in serials cataloguing has already been mentioned.



### **Reader Services**

The Academic Year 2001/2002 proved an exceptionally busy year for the Reader Services Division and particularly for the newly appointed Sub-Librarian while awaiting the filling of two key posts in the early months of the academic year.

Reader Services staff were involved not only in divisional activities, but also played an active part on a number of cross-divisional library committees working on Orientation Week, Open Day, Information Week, and the framing of a Library

Collection Management Policy. At divisional level the Sub-Librarian oversaw the tendering for and installation of a new Library Signage System which has received much favourable comment, providing as it does, a clear and stylish guide to services and their location within the library. Another positive development involving good work from many divisions was the improved presentation and content of the exam papers database – much thanks to the Deputy and the Sub-Librarian Systems for their work in this area.

### ***Circulation Services and Statistics***

Activity at the Circulation Desks in the three Libraries increased each month throughout the Academic Year under review, resulting in an overall increase of 16% on all transactions – a major change in pattern from last year. This increase in Circulation Statistics is very welcome as it demonstrates (hopefully!) an increase in study activity amongst the students and also an appreciation of new, timely and relevant additions to stock. All credit goes to the Library staff who support this activity both directly and indirectly - Reader Services Assistants at the Circulation Desks, the Library Stewards who return the material to the floors and finally the Shelving Staff at each of the three libraries who are responsible for the re-shelving of the material.

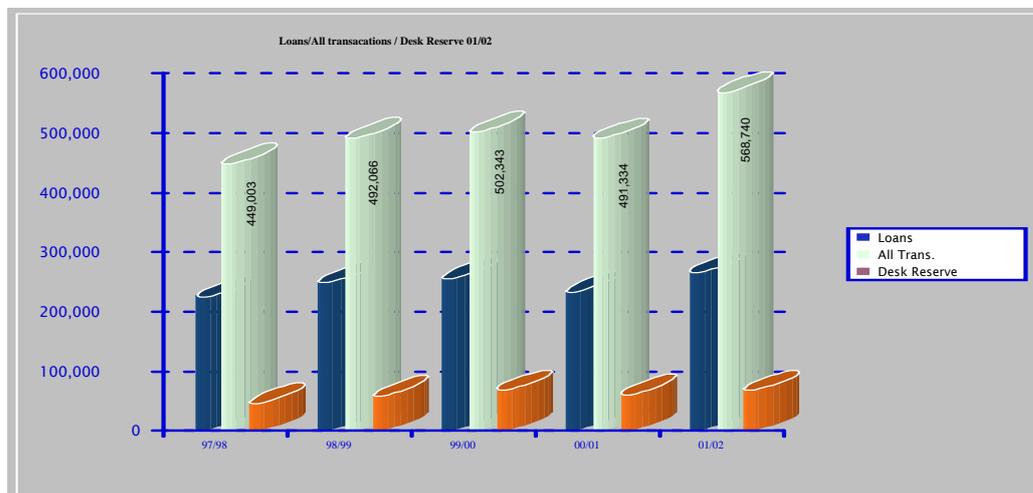
### ***Circulation Statistics – in summary***

**Loans** - up 14% at 265,000 (233,440 in 00/01)

**All transactions** - up 16% at 568,740 (491,334 in 00/01)

**Desk Reserve** - up 12% at 67,415 by comparison with 60,447 in 00/01. As a percentage of all loans this is equally significant at 25%.

**Reservations** increased significantly by 74% – from 5,773 in 00/01 to 10,060 this year.



### ***Services for Users with Special Needs***

The University experienced a fifty per cent increase over the previous year in the number of students registering with disabilities in 2001/2002 and, while all 107 students did not use the Library facilities on a regular basis, there was a core group including mobility and visually impaired users, who did avail of our services. This service had experienced difficulties because of absence due to illness in the area during the previous year and up to January 2002, but, thereafter, with the appointment

of a full time replacement, the service improved immensely. In this regard much credit is due to Brid McGann for her efforts in developing an excellent relationship with the users of the service, in addition to producing and/or sourcing the scanned, photocopied, audio and brailled material required to meet specific needs.

### ***Photocopying Services***

A new Photocopying/Printing service contract with local supplier IBS commenced in October 2001. After some initial start-up problems the quality of the service improved progressively throughout the year. The volume of photocopying by academic staff and students increased slightly by 4% this year with a total of 2,185,777 copies being made by comparison with 2,099,974 in 2000/2001.

### **Library Archives Service**

The service continues to meet the needs of university researchers and, increasingly, to support external queries via e-mail and personal visitors. Work has continued apace on accessioning, box listing and the production of descriptive lists for the archival material held by the Library. The Archives Working Group continues to be active and very enthusiastic and is a great support to the service. The Archivist together with the Sub-Librarian and the Special Collections Librarian has also been active in mounting some major exhibitions this year and has also taken on the co-ordination of a new national working group on Irish Theatre Archives. Welcome additions to the archives this year included items to supplement existing collections but particular mention is made of the James Stewart Collection – consisting of approximately 30 boxes of material relating to the academic work of a former graduate of the College, since deceased. Another valuable acquisition was the Freyer Collection consisting of 20 boxes of material - casebooks, photographs and artefacts of the late Sir Peter Freyer. For next year we are hopeful of receiving the archive of the Galway County Club which will add another dimension to our holdings of local, social and historical interest. The problem of suitable storage for archival material mentioned in last year's report has become more acute and, with no immediate solution being offered, there are serious concerns for the conservation of the archival collections and the library's ability to seek collections of relevance and to encourage deposit of material.

### **Library Special Collections**

The Special Collections department worked closely throughout the year with academic staff, students, and external researchers to support their research interests. The Special Collections Librarian, as part of this initiative, ran a number of programmes for Library staff to introduce the range of resources available. Very good progress was also made on the retrospective cataloguing and processing of older theses held by the Library, but not previously included in the online catalogue. In the area of preservation, a conservator was engaged to review the condition of the Library's First Edition Ordnance Survey Maps. The Special Collections Librarian was also engaged in drawing together, from all relevant sources, information relating to Galway Country Houses preparatory to creating a database detailing such properties in County Galway.

Some much-needed improvements were also made to the Special Collections Reading Room with the acquisition of new shelving and new desks.

Acquisitions of interest this year included a microfilm copy of the Auction Catalogue of the Library of James Hardiman (Dublin, 1856), a fifty year run of the *Galway Vindicator* on microfilm and some other relevant pamphlets and periodicals purchased at auction. Special Collections were particularly appreciative of an award of €7,000 from Galway University Foundation for the acquisition of material of interest – this went to fund some notable Irish botanical material and some 18<sup>th</sup> century publications.

***Exhibitions and Events:*** The major exhibition this year was that of the Galway Arts Festival Archive which was held to coincide with the Festival's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. The exhibition was officially opened by the President of the University on 18<sup>th</sup> July, followed by a talk by founding member of the Festival and current Chairman, Kieran Corcoran, and attracted a large gathering of local personalities involved in the Arts in Galway.

Other exhibitions and displays were organised to coincide with the Irish Theatre Conference held at the end of November at NUI, Galway, World Book Day, Cúirt Literary Festival, and Comhdháil Litríochta weekend. As usual the Library was happy to be the venue for book launches or gifts of publications by faculty to the Library, including a presentation by Patricia O'Connell, former Acting Librarian of her book entitled "The Irish College at Lisbon, 1890-1834" which took place in March. This year again, the Library was delighted to be involved in the University Open Day.

## **Information Services**

A number of initiatives begun last year by the new Sub-Librarian continued to flourish in this the first full year under review. Work continues on revising objectives and engaging in a programme of action as a result. Liaison has been agreed by Information Librarians as a key issue, with much effort expended in agreeing a framework for future activities and in producing an information skills checklist to ensure evenness of service across all faculties. Improved communication is also a key factor, with considerable work in train on re-structuring departmental meetings, and in promoting the service outside of the Library. The work on the website has already been mentioned but the Division also engaged in reviewing all internal publications including the production of new promotional material for the Library's fee-paying External Information Service.

As in all divisions, Information Services staff were involved in many cross-functional projects, including Orientation, Open day, the new Collection Management Policy, new signing and guiding for the Library and the newly re-vamped Library Website.

The *Academic Quality Assurance Programme 2001- 2003* continued through this period with a number of review group visits to the Library. Follow-up meetings with a number of departments reviewed in the previous year also took place.

Supporting research is common to all Library divisions, but is of central importance to Information Services. In addition to the quality review work, the Sub-Librarian and his staff also engaged in many meetings with Directors of Research Centres, Project Leaders and research staff across the university in efforts to match available resources with demand in support of this key growth area of University activity.

Training as always was key to the success of the division, both for faculty and students, but particularly for research personnel, with 342 training sessions provided throughout the year. Many of these involved promotion of, and training on, new electronic information products acquired by the Library, which included; *Business Source Premier*, *IEEE ASP*, *Encyclopaedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics*, *Hein-Online*, *American Accounting Association Journals*, *JSTOR Collections in Biology and Science*. Of particular interest was a training session on the use of search engines provided to Library staff and to Senior Administrators within the University. Of note also, a new programme on maximising use of the Library OPAC which was offered to all new students.

The Division also engaged in a review and re-design of information service points both at Podium Level and also on the Library Floors – work which is still ongoing, and a comprehensive reorganisation of the Law office area also took place.

## **Medical Library**

As in previous years, the Medical Library was continuously and heavily used by undergraduate and postgraduate students primarily in medicine and health sciences, although increasing use of the collections is being made by students in other disciplines, notably the biosciences, engineering and arts.

To ensure that collections are kept up to date, a major programme of culling older texts and replacing them with newer editions was completed during the summer. The quality of the open access book collection in the Medical Library was frequently commented on in the reports submitted by the many Accreditation Inspections during the year. These ongoing inspections of the Medical School by professional societies and other award giving bodies ensure that standards of quality are maintained, and the subsequent reports on the Medical Library and its services are usually favourable, although lack of space for expansion of the library to meet increased demands is frequently commented on.

The Librarian (Medical Library) continued to be heavily committed to education and training which has now been accepted as a discrete part of the courses offered by the Medical School, especially those relating to evidence based medicine. As a Tutor Librarian, Librarian (Medical Library) took part in a number of courses, and hosted a significant number of short hands-on training sessions during the year.

Librarian (Medical Library) continues to be involved with external professional bodies and as Secretary of the LAI Health Sciences Libraries Group played an active role in the organising of two conferences and a number of workshops and training seminars. As mentioned under *Inter Library Loans* above, the Library still continues to be a major supplier to other hospitals and medical libraries in the country.

Demand from the wider medical community in the west of Ireland for access to the collections has also increased. While Medical Library staff are to be commended for continuing to give a quality service to the increasing numbers of students and staff of NUI, Galway, meeting the additional regional responsibilities is becoming increasingly difficult, particularly in the context of space constraints.

## **Nursing Library**

As in previous years, the pace of growth continues to escalate. The Nursing Library is very heavily used at all times to the point of overcrowding. Along with the increased usage of facilities, there has been a big increase in the number of training sessions offered to the nursing students – with an extraordinary take up of 85% for all groups. Due to lack of space these have had to take place in the James Hardiman Library training room. For mature students (who count for 50% of the nursing students) the training sessions have been invaluable as a re-introduction to study skills and to the university system. Plans are being prepared for the next move of nursing centre staff, and some student classes also, to Dangan. Some study space will be allocated there, but until a new location is found for the Nursing Library, students will still have to move between the hospital campus and the James Hardiman Library for services.

Staff are also preparing to support the first masters programme in nursing planned for the next academic year in addition to the two new higher diploma course introduced this year. During the year also, the Nursing programme underwent a quality review from An Bórd Altranais, with the library service receiving much favourable comment.

Attendance at the programme board by the nursing librarian continues to be of great assistance for forward planning in anticipation of a move to a better facility required by staff and students. Much praise must go to staff in the nursing library for their professional support and enthusiasm despite the very difficult physical conditions under which they labour.

## **Library Systems**

**Aleph Management Systems Developments:** The Aleph library management system, installed in Summer 2000, saw its second upgrade, (to version 14.2.4) since installation. The benefits were many, but the process required a very significant effort on the part of the Systems Librarian. The upgrade paved the way for substantial locally implemented changes to the OPAC user interface, which took place over the summer months and is detailed below. Version 14.2.4 proved to be a very stable release, and is the main supported platform for users in the UK and Ireland.

The Dev-OPAC or development OPAC was created over the period. This is a fully functional version of the library public OPAC, only available to library staff. The Dev-OPAC allows library staff to experiment and develop enhancements and make substantial changes to the public OPAC but in background mode. Many of these changes and customisations are in response to requests from library staff and from user suggestions. These include, *inter alia*, utilising JavaScript to parse output from the OPAC that is otherwise unalterable, and render it as informative text in the form of a user-friendly mouse-over for the user. One very novel enhancement developed in this mode was the library item location system. This presents the user with a map of

the appropriate floor, with an arrow indicating the appropriate stacks where the item in question is located.

A Library Virtual Web Tour, detailing the services, staff and facilities in the James Hardiman Library, was developed by John Costello, Library Systems Assistant. This comprehensive tour, takes the user through the library floor by floor and uses text, photographs, maps and animations to teach the user all about the library.

**E-Journals Enhancements:** Over 1,700 E-Journal MARC records were created *de novo* from descriptive data gleaned from the ScienceDirect web site. These records were loaded to the OPAC and allow users to seamlessly connect to the full-text of each of the 1,700 titles. In addition, the layout of the OPAC was changed to provide a context sensitive highlight to the availability of full-text for these records.

**New Library website:** The new library website was launched at the end of November, 2001 – again a cross-divisional success, steered by the Deputy Librarian and with a lot of hard work by our placement student from Austria, Peter Mayr. The website has many new features, is easy to navigate and is seen to be the primary tool now for promotion of Library services.

**New PC Suite:** A new suite of twenty state-of-the-art flat screen PC,s, two laser printers and a colour scanner was purchased by the Library but commissioned and installed by Computer Services. The suite is located on floor two of the James Hardiman Library, and facilitates access to printed material and to the range of electronic material available to users. The suite includes customised library specific applications, in addition to the usual Microsoft Office suite.

**Wireless Laptop Project:** The library participated in the Wireless Computing trial and found the service well received by library patrons with minimal impact on library staff time. The laptops were unobtrusive and appeared to add value, encouraging students to perform a wide range of scholarly tasks and to enhance scholarly productivity. The James Hardiman Library has three wireless base-stations, one on each floor. There is one base-station in the Medical Library.

## **Environment**

While Buildings Office worked to address heating and ventilating issues, these continue to be the major source of dissatisfaction with library staff. More difficult again this year was the presence of cooking odours in many parts of the library but particularly in Bibliographic Services. A heating consultant was engaged to address the source of the problem, which is being monitored on a daily basis, but progress is slow. No progress to report on the long-overdue refurbishment of the upper floors of the Library.

## **Health & Safety**

The Health & Safety working group within the Library continued to monitor safety and environmental issues. Safety statements have been updated, as have evacuation procedures. The Working Group was active in encouraging participation in health

and safety training and providing support to the Health & Safety Officer in events and campaigns on campus.

### **Social / Cultural Events**

Exhibition openings have already been highlighted under the sections on Special Collections and Archives. The Library also hosted the UK & Ireland ALEPH User Group meeting in Galway in May 2002, and numerous meetings of national committees and working groups in which Library staff are involved. As always, the Library must acknowledge the co-operation of the Buildings Office in such events and also the co-operation of the Press and Information Officer - Maire Mhic Uidhir – for support and publicity for all Library events.

### ***Library Newsletter***

**Nuachtlitir na Leabharlainne** was published twice in the year under review (also available on our website) – with contributions from Library staff and faculty – special thanks to the editors – John Cox, Deputy Librarian, Hugo Kelly and Kieran Hoare, with illustrations by John Costello.

## **Publications / External Papers Presented**

### **Marie Boran**

Boran, Marie. 2002 “The Ireland that we Made: A Galway Tribute to Arthur J. Balfour” *Journal of the Galway Archaeological & Historical Society*, Vol. 54, pp 168-174.

### **Timothy Collins**

Collins, Timothy. 2002. *Transatlantic triumph and heroic failure: the story of the Galway Line*. Cork, Collins Press

Collins, Timothy. 2002. “John Philip Holland: submarine pioneer, inventor” and “Robert Lloyd Praeger: natural historian”. In: *Irish innovators in science and technology*; edited by Charles Mollan, William Davis and Brendan Finucane. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 153-154, 196-197

Collins, Timothy. 2002. “The *Helga/Muirchu*: her contribution to Galway Maritime history”. *Journal of the Galway Archaeological & Historical Society*, 54: 141-167.

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Collins, Timothy. 2001. “Implementing electronic journals”: LAI Health Sciences Libraries Group annual two-day conference entitled “An Introduction to Electronic Journals”, Tullamore, 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> October, 2001

Collins, Timothy: 2002. “The teaching of medicine at Queen’s College Galway”: paper read at the annual Gynaecological Travellers’ Conference, held at Clinical Science Institute, NUI, Galway, 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May, 2002.

Collins, Timothy. 2002. “Reference sources in oto-rhino-laryngology”: part of workshop hosted by Drs N. Patil and P. Gormley at the Annual Conference of the Irish College of General Practitioners, held Galway, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2002

Collins, Timothy. 2002. “Marine researchers of the Clare Island Survey 1909-1911”: New Survey of Clare Island eighth annual seminar entitled “The Marine Environment of Clare Island” held on Clare Island, 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September, 2002.

### **John Cox**

Cox, J. and Fallon, H. "Staffing and Staff Development in Irish University Libraries""  
SCONUL Newsletter, 25, Spring 2002, 19-20

"Quality of content: finding and promoting high-quality information on the Web"  
CONUL Colloquium, Kilkenny, 12-13 November, 2001

"Electronic Books: now later or never?" IUISC 2002, Newcastle, Co. Down, 20-22  
March 2002

"The search for quality: productive Web searching". LIR: HEAnet User Group for  
Libraries seminar, Dublin, 26 March, 2002

"Electronic books: an overview". UK/Ireland Deputy Librarians Conference,  
London 6-8 September, 2002

### **Kieran Hoare**

"Theatre Archival Collections in the James Hardiman Library": a paper presented to  
the *Irish Theatre History Conference: Archives, Historiography, Politics*, Galway,  
November, 2001

Family History at NUI, Galway – paper presented to the Western Family History  
Society, Galway, March 2002

### **Hugo Kelly**

"Managing Electronic Journals in an Academic Environment" – paper presented to  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the LAI Health Libraries Group, Tullamore, Co. Offaly,  
October 2001

### **Niall McSweeney**

"Library Buildings" – paper presented at the CONUL Colloquium, Kilkenny, 12-13  
November, 2001

### **Marie Reddan**

"The National Information Server: a key resource for the Irish higher education  
community" - paper presented to LIR Annual seminar, Dublin, 26 March, 2002

## **Memberships / Committee Memberships (External)**

### **Marie Reddan, Librarian**

Aleph Directors Group

CONUL - Consortium of National & University Libraries

SCONUL - Standing Conference of National and University Libraries – Executive  
Board – Member

CHIU Librarians Committee

CHEST Ireland Board – HEA nominee

An Chomhairle Leabharlanna / The Library Council - Member - NUI, Galway  
nominee

HEAnet - Director - CONUL nominee

HEAnet NIS Advisory Committee - Chair

IRIS - Director (NUI, Galway)

Irish Theatre Archives Steering Group - Convenor

HEA Standing Committee on Information Systems - CHIU nominee

Irish Universities Information Systems Colloquium (IUISC) – NUI, Galway Library  
representative

MCILIP – Member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals  
Library Association of Ireland – Member

**John Cox, Deputy Librarian**

Academic and National Libraries Training Co-Operative – Chair  
CHIU Librarians' E-Books Working Group - Chair  
HEAnet NIS Advisory Committee – member  
Library Association of Ireland – member  
MCILIP – Member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals  
UK Online User Group - member

**Peter Corrigan, Library Systems Administrator**

ALEPH User Group for UK and Ireland - representative

**Niall McSweeney, Sub-Librarian Information Services**

LIR Committee – Member  
CONUL Sub-Group on Information Skills – NUI, Galway representative

**Anne Mitchell, Sub-Librarian Readers' Services**

Library Association of Ireland - Member  
Western Regional Section - Library Association of Ireland - Section member  
LAI University and Special Libraries Section – Member  
LAI – AVIT – Section Member

**Seamus Scanlon, Sub-Librarian Bibliographic Services**

Royal Society of Chemistry (UK) - Member  
CILIP – Member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals  
Library Association of Ireland - Member  
CONUL Working Group on Legal Deposit – NUI, Galway representative  
CONUL Working Group on Copyright - NUI, Galway representative  
AGI (Acquisitions Group of Ireland) - Member

**Marie Boran, Special Collections Librarian**

Library Association of Ireland - Member  
Rare Books Group (LAI) – Committee Member  
CONUL Preservation Group – NUI, Galway representative  
CONUL working Group on Theses – NUI, Galway representative

**Kathleen Burke, Librarian Arts, Celtic Studies**

Western Regional Group of the LAI - member

**Tim Collins, Librarian, Medicine**

Fellow of the Library Association  
Institute of Information Scientists (Member)  
International Association of Marine Science Librarians - Member  
European Association for Health Information and Libraries - Library Representative  
University Medical School Libraries Group - Library Representative  
Library Association of Ireland Health Libraries Group - Committee member  
Cochrane Library User Group – Member

**Rosie Dunne, Librarian, Engineering & Science**

Irish Science Librarians' Group - Member

**Trish Finnan, Librarian, Commerce and External Information Service**

British Business Schools Librarian's Group – Member

**Patricia Ffrench, Librarian Cataloguing**

Library Association of Ireland

Library Association of Ireland, Western Regional Section – Committee member

Irish National & University Library Staffs (INULS) (NUI, Galway representative).

**Laurie Greenfield, Librarian Reader's Services**

MCILIP – Member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals

**Kieran Hoare, Archivist**

Galway Archaeological and Historical Society – Secretary

Irish Labour History Society – Member

Irish Society of Archivists – Secretary

Irish Theatre Archives Working Group – Secretary

Society of Archivists - Member

Society of Archivists, Specialist Repository Group – Irish representative

**Ann Kelly, Librarian Cataloguing**

LAI Member

**Poilin NicChonaonaigh, Assistant to the Librarian**

Member of the Institute of Personnel Development

**Library Staff Attendance at Conferences & External Meetings**

- Aleph Directors Group Meetings, London
- Employment Law – Dublin, October, 2001
- “The Future Academic Library” – CONUL Colloquium, Kilkenny, November, 2001
- First Annual Networking Conference – HEAnet, Kilkenny, November, 2001
- SCONUL Autumn Conference, London, November, 2001
- ONLINE, London, December 2001
- LAI Health Sciences Libraries Group Second Standards Workshop, Limerick, February 2002
- LIR Annual Seminar, Dublin, March 2002
- SCONUL Spring Conference, Cambridge, April 2002
- Information Resources for Science and Technology– LIR/NIS Workshop, Limerick, February, 2002
- Information Resources for the Social Sciences – LIR/NIS Workshop, Dublin, December, 2002
- Irish Universities Information systems Colloquium, Newcastle County Down, March 2002.
- Handling and Housing Rare Materials – NLI/ANLTC – April 2002
- Ex Libris Systems Seminar, Cyprus, April 2002
- UCISA, Oxford, May 2002

- Conducting Systematic Reviews – Health Research Board / R & D Office, Dept. of Health and Personal Social Services, Belfast, Cochrane Collaboration Clinical Trials Unit, Oxford, Galway, August, 2002
- Conference of Deputy Librarians, London, September, 2002
- Issues for Cataloguers – ANLTC/ University of Limerick, September, 2002
- Cataloguing for library assistants ANLTC seminar Sep 2002 MG, ML
- Aleph International Users' Group Conference – Cyprus

23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2003