



National University of Ireland, Galway  
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

## NUACHTLITIR NA LEABHARLAINNE

# JAMES HARDIMAN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Issue 18, September 2003

## FOCAL ÓN LEABHARLANNAÍ

Welcome back to all students and staff agus fáilte ar leith dóibh siúd a bhfuil ag teacht chuig Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh do'n chéad uair. Summer seems shorter each year but a range of building and service changes, described opposite, took place. These should result in better use of space and improved services. Further long awaited work on air conditioning and general environment will also be completed this year.

Sincere thanks are due to the Library staff for their tolerance of difficult working conditions during the changes. A special thanks to the Buildings Office, who met almost impossible deadlines but also managed to accommodate the opening of a major exhibition commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the founding of *Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe* (page 4). Thanks also to Computer Services for their support in installing the new PC suite on Floor 1. Finally, and not least, thanks to the University for providing substantial additional funding for much of this work.

Our recent survey of researchers yielded some very interesting results. These are detailed inside, as are many other service enhancements – e-books, self-issue and services to researchers using other libraries.

Le gach dea-ghuí do'n bhliain nua

*Marie Reddan, Librarian*



## CHANGING SPACES

This Summer has seen a number of significant changes in the Library aimed at improving and maximising our services. We quickly run through the main changes below.

### Information Centre

- The Information Desk has been re-designed and moved to a more visible location in the Library foyer.
- Users will also see a new computer layout directly behind the Information Desk. This redesigned suite is ideal for information searching, with expert help at the Information Desk nearby. Students and staff will need to have an account with Computer Services to access the facility, apart from a small number of open access PCs for general Web searching.
- Microfilm readers and reels have been moved a short distance towards the far wall of the Information Centre.
- Video recorders and cassettes are now on Floor 1.

### Special Needs Centre

- The Special Needs Centre has been renovated, with a three-fold increase in space. Three soundproof booths have been built to facilitate personal readers and the requirements of specialist software for users with disabilities. In addition, an easy sitting area, height-adjustable tables and open PCs have all been incorporated into the new Centre.

### Inter-Library Loans

- An Inter-Library Loans service point is now available in the Library foyer. The main Inter-Library Loans office has moved to Bibliographic Services.

### Floor 1 PC Suite

- A new PC suite opened on floor 1. There are 20 computers available to any member of the University with a Computer Services account.



New Information Desk, Ground Floor

## CHECK IT OUT . . .

A new self-issue service gives users the option of issuing materials they want to borrow on a self-service basis. The self-issue station, which is located in the Desk Reserve area on the Ground Floor, is fast, convenient and simple to use. Clear on-screen images guide the user step by step through the issuing and renewal process. At the end of each transaction a receipt is automatically printed, detailing the title of each item issued and the due date by which it should be returned.

The introduction of self-issue reflects a desire to improve customer service by:

- reducing queuing time at the Circulation Desk
- providing access to circulation services during non-serviced opening hours
- giving Circulation Desk staff more time for other circulation-related activities

Please try out self-issue for yourself. As an encouragement all users in October and November will be



Self-issue station

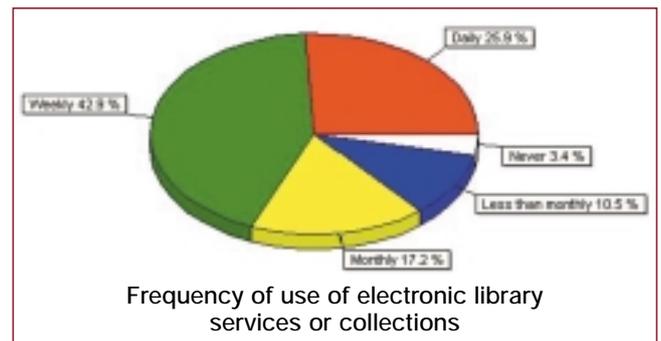
entered into a special prize draw for a €100 voucher.

**Happy issuing!**

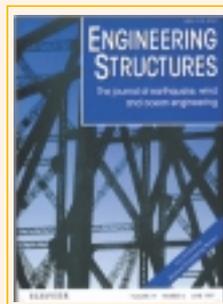
## RESEARCHING OUR RESEARCHERS

What do researchers expect of the Library? That question was at the core of a recent survey of the university's research community. The survey attracted over 500 responses, creating a detailed picture of researchers' needs, preferences and satisfaction levels with Library collections and services. Key findings included:

- Most respondents were researchers for less than five years.
- Use of online services and collections is high.
- Web search engines, journals and books are most used.
- Online journals are very popular.
- There is dissatisfaction with printed journal holdings.
- Awareness of services is patchy.
- Training is desired in a wide range of topics.
- People want to know more about using other libraries
- Photocopying, book ordering and weekend opening could improve.
- Interaction with Library staff is positive.



The survey revealed differences according to subject area, with enthusiasm for Web-based information highest in the sciences but printed materials vital to the humanities. Findings are under discussion and plans are being made for new, changed and improved services. Sincere thanks to all who responded – you have provided a clear mandate for future service development. The full survey report is at [www.library.nuigalway.ie/news/researchsurvey.doc](http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/news/researchsurvey.doc)



### Balancing act: online and printed journals

research support, preservation and monitoring. The policy seeks to assist in finding appropriate balances between, for example, printed and online holdings, student purchase and provision of multiple copies of key texts, purchase of journal subscriptions and article-level access via inter-library loans.

Key aims include balanced holdings, accessible resources, relevant materials and dynamically evolving collections. The policy itself must evolve and a working group of Library staff is meeting regularly to oversee implementation and development.

Access: [www.library.nuigalway.ie/resources/collectionmanagement/index.html](http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/resources/collectionmanagement/index.html)

## COLLECTION MANAGEMENT POLICY

The considerable sum of €1,835,000 was allocated this year to developing Library collections, primarily but not exclusively books and journals. In recent times there has been a proliferation of publication media, notably online, audiovisual and microfilm. Key challenges are the choice of appropriate formats, best use of finite Library space, securing value for money and ensuring proper access to information on- and off-campus.

In May this year Library Committee ratified a Collection Management Policy document. This document provides a framework for future collection development. It includes sections on selection, course and

## BOOKS ONLINE

The Library is leading a national project to test the value and usability of electronic books. Journals have proved very popular in online format but uptake of online books has been slower. The most common reasons have been unattractive presentation on screen and mismatches between available coverage and local needs. In *Safari* the Irish university libraries have identified an innovative service which, on the evidence of local trials, may demonstrate added value.

*Safari* is a niche product, focused primarily on information technology books. It offers a range of titles from leading IT publishers such as O'Reilly, Sams and Addison Wesley.

Thanks to the advice of academic staff in Information Technology and in Commerce we can offer over 50 titles relevant to local needs for the next year, with the option of swapping titles every month. Coverage includes Java, Perl, Oracle and XML. Presentation is

simple and attractive, with easy access to all sections of a book. Best results may actually emerge from using *Safari* as a searchable collective reference resource rather than as a set of individual titles.



Safari Screen

Access:  
[www.library.nuigalway.ie](http://www.library.nuigalway.ie)  
(Database List)

Information: Trish Finnan,  
(ext 3564, e-mail  
[trish.finnan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:trish.finnan@nuigalway.ie)) or Jane  
Mulligan (ext 3351, e-mail  
[jane.mulligan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:jane.mulligan@nuigalway.ie))

Presentation: Tuesday 30  
September, 09.30, Library  
Training Room

## EXAM PAPERS DATABASE

Do you need easy access to past exam papers? If so, make the most of the exam papers database maintained by the Library. This database contains scanned images of papers from recent years, facilitating easy searching, viewing and printing. The database has recently been updated to include papers from Summer 2003.

Access: [www.library.nuigalway.ie/  
resources/exampapers/index.html](http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/resources/exampapers/index.html)



## USING OTHER LIBRARIES

One of the findings of the recent research survey is that researchers are keen to use other libraries. We look here at two co-operative arrangements.

### SCONUL Research Extra

The Library will shortly become a member of SCONUL Research Extra, the largest borrowing and cooperative access scheme for higher education researchers in the UK and Ireland. Academic staff on permanent or fixed term contracts, along with postgraduate research students registered for a PhD, MPhil or similar qualification awarded purely by research will be afforded access to, and borrowing rights in, over 130 participating university libraries.

### ALCID

ALCID is an Irish scheme that gives full-time academic staff and full time higher degree students access to the collections of each of the participating libraries. Borrowing is not possible but access is granted via the production of an ALCID card issued by the researchers "home" library. Participants include all of the Irish University libraries.

Enquiries about both schemes should be directed to Laurie Greenfield  
(ext. 3353; e-mail [laurie@sulacco.library.nuigalway.ie](mailto:laurie@sulacco.library.nuigalway.ie))

## THE JOHN MCGAHERN ARCHIVE — A UNIQUE ACQUISITION FOR NUI, GALWAY

The University is delighted to announce the acquisition of the archive of the renowned Irish novelist John McGahern. All manuscripts (including an unpublished novel) and correspondence will be deposited with the Library shortly. A formal ceremony to mark this superb acquisition will take place later in the Autumn. John has had many universities vie for his archive, but that he should choose NUI, Galway is testimony to his long connections with the University and his desire to see the material remain in Ireland. When fully catalogued, the collection will be a superb resource for researchers from home and afar and is a major addition to the growing capacity of the University to lead in world-class research.

## 75 YEARS OF TAIBHDHEARC NA GAILLIMHE

During the Summer the Library hosted an exhibition celebrating the history of the theatre company, Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe, from its inception in 1928 to the present day. The exhibition was based on the material in the Taibhdhearc archive, which was deposited in the James Hardiman Library in 1990 and to which material is being continually added.

The archive currently consists of over 1500 items of correspondence, 500 programmes, 300 photographs and 250 posters. It contains details about the administration of An Taibhdhearc, along with information about the individuals involved in running the theatre and their sometimes fraught relationships with each other, as well as the many practical difficulties facing the company. In addition there is material relating to the various productions staged over the past 75 years. The exhibition was formally opened in July by Dr. Gearóid Denvir, Scoil na Gaeilge, NUI, Galway and Chairman of Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe.



Taibhdhearc exhibition

## NEW SOURCES

The first three sources below are accessible via the Database List on the Library home page at [www.library.nuigalway.ie](http://www.library.nuigalway.ie)

TITLE	WHY USE IT?
<b>British Standards Online</b>	The authoritative and most current site for all BSI publications. Updated daily, the site includes over 38,500 current, draft and historic British Standards. Once users register, the full text of standards is easily accessible.
<b>ZETOC</b>	This service incorporates a journals database and current awareness service from the BritishLibrary. It includes more than 20,000 journal titles in all disciplines, searchable at article level. Complementing this, ZETOC Alert will email journal table of contents and keyword alerts to registered users at regular intervals.
<b>BioMed Central</b>	The aim of this service is to provide free access to peer-reviewed biomedical research. Registered users can search hosted online journals, establish online journals themselves and use a number of specialist databases.
<b>Human Rights Document Collection 1946-1994</b>	A major collection of UN Human Rights documents on microfiche. Coverage embraces the main UN Human Rights committees and includes the documents of the International Law Commission 1949-1994.

## OPENING HOURS

### MAIN LIBRARY

<b>Sept 8 - Sept 12</b>	Monday - Friday	0900-1730
<b>Sept 15 - Nov 8</b>	Monday - Friday	0900-2200
	Saturday	0900-1300
<b>Nov 10 - Dec 18</b>	Monday - Friday	0900-2300*
	Saturday	0900-1700
	Sunday	1300-1800
<b>Dec 19, 22</b>		0900-1730

\*2200 -2300 will not apply Friday

### MEDICAL LIBRARY

<b>Sept 8 - Sept 12</b>	Monday - Friday	0915-1730
<b>Sept 15 - Dec 18</b>	Monday - Friday	0915-2200
	Saturday	0900-1300
<b>Dec 19, 22</b>		0915-1730

### NURSING LIBRARY

<b>Sept 8 - Sept 12</b>	Monday-Friday	0900-1700
<b>Sept 15 - Dec 18</b>	Monday -Friday	0900-2000
	Saturday	0900-1300
<b>Dec 19, 22</b>		0900-1700

**Please note: All Libraries closed**  
**Saturday 13 September,**  
**Monday 27 October,**  
**Saturday 20 December.**

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