



National University of Ireland, Galway  
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

## NUACHTLITIR NA LEABHARLAINNE

# JAMES HARDIMAN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Issue 20, March 2004

## FOCAL ÓN LEABHARLANNAÍ

Library budgets, and especially journals budgets, are under particular pressure this year. To date, the Library has fared well in its share of resources and better than many Irish university libraries, but with a journals budget in excess of €1.25 million and serials inflation running at 10-11%, standing still is not getting easier. Academics rightly want more full-text delivery to the desktop. The Library now spends more than 37% of its journals budget on electronic provision but, contrary to popular myth, electronic does not mean cheaper – although it should. This University through its research activity makes a major contribution to scholarly publishing, but sadly the present system of signing away copyright to publishers does not help libraries.

Collectively the CHIU Librarians Group is working at improving access on a national level. Meanwhile the *OECD Declaration on Access to Research Data from Public Funding* (<http://digbig.com/3rbg>), to which Ireland has signed up, is worth reading. It is not simply a question of "publish or perish" – but of where, and how. There are options and the Library will be happy to work with you in making the change.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

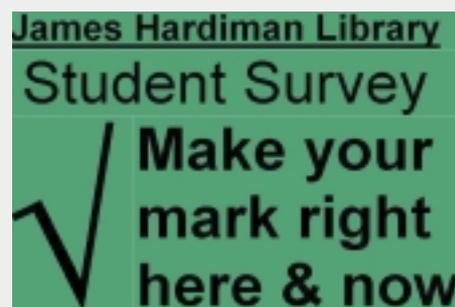
Marie Reddan, Librarian



## STUDENT SURVEY – HAVE YOUR SAY AND WIN A CAMERA PHONE

Commencing 8 March, the Library will undertake a major survey of the University's students. The survey aims to help the Library find out how we can improve services and will cover undergraduates, access, diploma and higher diploma students. Topics will include opening hours, loans, the physical environment, the catalogue and the use of information.

The survey, which will run for two weeks, will be Web-based. It will take about ten minutes to complete. As an added inducement students will have the option of entering a prize draw and winning a camera phone, donated by the University Bookshop, or one of three vouchers worth €100 each from Campbell Catering, Bank of Ireland and the Library. Details of how to access the survey will be sent to students via email, using NUI Galway email accounts. During the first week, terminals will be made available in the Library's ground floor computer suite. Last year's survey of researchers was a major success and the Library is keen to repeat the same level of participation. A good response will ensure that we are better placed to improve Library services.



Laurie Greenfield  
Assistant Librarian, Reader Services

## EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

Most people will be aware that in January Ireland took over presidency of the European Union for a six-month term and as such will lead programme and policy development within the Union. Library users are in a prime position to keep abreast of such developments. Since 1973 the Library has been designated a European Documentation Centre (EDC) receiving selected material free of charge from the European Union. The aim of the EDCs, which exist in countries all over Europe, is to promote interest, debate and access to European topics amongst its citizens. The key information areas of the collection are:

- Legislation
- Policy and Developments
- Reports and Statistics

In the last year, for example, we have received excellent reports on the European environment, key data on the



accession countries and of course information and proposed drafts of the troubled European Constitution. These days our print resources are supplemented by the recently revamped Europa Web site ([www.europa.eu.int](http://www.europa.eu.int)) which offers an excellent means of access to European resources.

The EDC is located on the ground floor of the Library. If you have any queries, please contact either Hugo Kelly or Margo Donohue on extension 3359.

Hugo Kelly  
Law Librarian

## RECENT APPOINTMENTS

It is a pleasure to welcome three new members of Library staff. Rónán Kennedy, Sylvia Nutley and Nancy Smyth all joined us in January and we wish them well.



Rónán Kennedy has come from NUI, Maynooth to take on a new role in the Library as Assistant Librarian, Electronic Resources. His work will focus on enhancing access to an expanding range of online resources.



Sylvia Nutley has made the short move from Computer Services to become Library Systems Assistant. Her IT support experience is already proving valuable.



Nancy Smyth brings a range of experience, both in teaching and latterly as a student at NUIG, to the position of Library Steward

Congratulations also to John Costello on his promotion to the new post of Library Systems Technologist and to Sonia Freaney who has become an Assistant Librarian in Cataloging on a contract basis while Ann Kelly shares the Nursing Librarian post with Máire Ó hAodha.

## THE DIY LIBRARY

Self-service has become more common in all walks of life in recent years and the Library is no exception to this trend. A few examples are:

- Borrowing of books via the self-issue system
  - Reserving a book that is currently on loan to another reader
  - Renewing books you currently have on loan
  - Submitting inter-library loan requests online
  - Watching videos in the Library
  - Using any of 60 public-access PCs
- 24 x 7 access to a range of electronic resources, including journals, databases and the Library catalogue

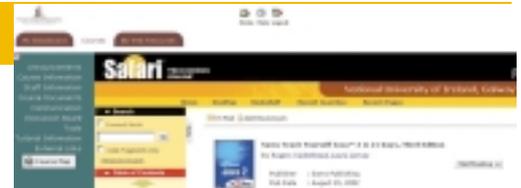
If you wish to know more about any of these facilities, please ask the staff at the Ground Floor Information Point (ext. 3005). Self-service can offer convenience, save time and meet the needs of a much-increased user population. Nevertheless, the Library remains committed to providing personal service so please make sure to ask staff for help whenever you need it.



Pamela Flannery (left) receives a gift token from Ann Mitchell, Head of Reader Services, after winning a recent prize draw for Self-Issue users.

## ONLINE LEARNING: MAKING THE LINK

Online learning is on the increase, as evidenced by the popularity of the Blackboard system adopted by the University last year. Electronic information resources such as e-journals and e-books dovetail perfectly with the online learning environment, putting convenient access to further reading within a click or two of course participants.



An interesting example is the Business Programming II course, currently accessible via Blackboard. Martin Hughes of the Department of Accountancy and Finance arranged with the Library to obtain access to electronic versions of two Java programming books which can now be viewed within Blackboard. Each title has proved highly popular with a total of over 400 uses within the first month. Martin comments: "The *Safari* electronic textbook resource provided by the Library is an excellent resource. It is fully compatible with the Blackboard Virtual Learning Environment and provides students with online access to supplementary texts directly from the course Web site. As lecturer, I can incorporate direct links, under each section of the course, to the content of these texts in addition to the core text and lectures. Furthermore the entire text is searchable. This gives the student an alternative learning resource that encourages independent learning, truly turning Blackboard into an environment for deep learning."

If you are providing online access to course materials, please contact your Information Librarian about linking to Library resources. Your students will appreciate it!

## WHY ARE INFORMATION SKILLS IMPORTANT?

The advent of the Internet along with various electronic resources has highlighted the need to assess how students use information in support of their studies. Students will often use the Web as a first port of call. The Library alone provides access to over 90 databases and 8,000 electronic journal titles. There is an increasing onus on the Library in partnership with the academic community to put programmes in place whereby students can apply critical faculty to using these resources. While IT has made it easier to access information resources, students need ongoing skills development in terms of identifying, locating, evaluating and using effectively information to support their studies or research.

Increasingly academic libraries are offering Information Skills modules as part of their training programmes. Issues addressed include the abilities to:

- Recognize a need for information
- Distinguish ways in which the information gap may be addressed
- Distinguish strategies for locating information
- Locate and access information.
- Compare and evaluate information obtained from different sources.
- Organize, apply and communicate information to others in ways appropriate to the situation.
- Synthesize and build upon existing information, contributing to the creation of new knowledge.

Information Skills can be used as building blocks to greater information literacy. In our information-oriented society, skills gained can be of life-long benefit. To learn more about Information Skills programmes available from the Library please contact Niall McSweeney on extension 3915 or at [niall.mcsweeney@nuigalway.ie](mailto:niall.mcsweeney@nuigalway.ie)

*Niall McSweeney*  
*Head of Information Services*



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... CELTIC TIGER. This is a punning reference to the longer-established term **tiger** economy, which has been used for about fifteen years ...  
<http://www.quinion.com/words/turnsofphrase/tp-cel1.htm> - 6k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Google is not always the answer....

## MANAGING COLLECTION GROWTH

The Library's collections grow at the rate of 20,000 volumes every year, providing essential support for teaching, learning and research. While access to online information continues to grow, the output of printed material from the world's publishing houses is not slowing. Dealing with information overload is a problem for all of us; for the Library there is also a particular challenge in physically accommodating an annual collection expansion of over 400 shelves. Existing space is full and an appropriate balance must be maintained between shelving and reader spaces, the latter attracting intensive use for much of the year.

Last year Library Committee approved a collection management policy<sup>1</sup> which seeks to guide future development in terms of selection criteria, choice of print or online formats and withdrawal of superseded materials. The last of these, also known as "collection weeding", is a sensitive issue. In some subjects there may be a view that certain material is unused, well out of date and perhaps even dangerously misleading. In others the value of books or journals will not diminish over time and efforts to "weed" will be seen as heresy. Like its gardening equivalent, this practice is not especially attractive but, if approached correctly and with necessary safeguards, has benefits.

In Library terms safeguards include:

- consultation with academic staff
- exemption of collections or subjects
- variations in approach by subject
- focus on duplicate material, including books with multiple editions

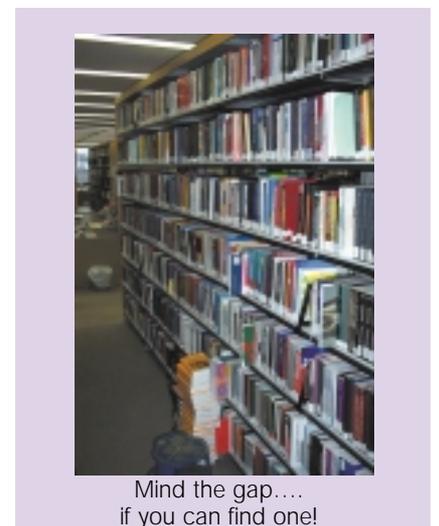
Among the benefits are:

- review of collection strengths and weaknesses
- updating of Library catalogue
- better presentation of collections
- release of space for new publications

While it is good practice to reduce the number of copies held for publications where this is agreed, the impact on Library space is limited. Last Summer 2400 volumes were withdrawn but some additional shelving also needed to be added on Floor 1. There is a pressing need for more space to meet expansion and efforts are currently focused on increasing off-campus storage capacity. Your views are welcome on this vital issue and developments will be reported in this newsletter.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/resources/collectionmanagement/index.html>

John Cox, Deputy Librarian



## INTER-LIBRARY LOANS

The Inter-Library Loans (ILL) service provides you with access to the world of published knowledge, beyond the Library's physical and online holdings. The service has undergone some recent changes as regular users will have noticed. A new ILL desk is now situated in the foyer of the Library bringing the service within easy reach. Staff at the desk will handle any queries on ILL, eg checking on the status of a request or helping you get started. Books are available for collection at the desk and should be returned here.



Help is at hand at the ILL Desk

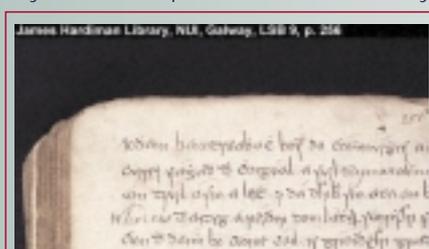
There has been a large increase in use of the online request form accessible at <http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/services/ill/index.html>. This greatly speeds up the process of requesting an ILL and allows users to copy references directly from database search results or e-journals into the request form.

The British Library has recently introduced a secure electronic document delivery service and this will be available shortly, enabling you to receive journal articles in .pdf format speedily. Please ask the ILL staff for more information (extension 2541; [email\\_ill@nuigalway.ie](mailto:email_ill@nuigalway.ie)).

*Monica Crump*  
Collection Management Librarian

## DIGITAL ACCESS TO IRISH-LANGUAGE MANUSCRIPTS

The Library recently collaborated with the Irish Department and the Irish Script on Screen (ISOS) Project to give online access to 11 Irish-language manuscripts from our collections. These include a number of Irish manuscripts from the 18th and 19th centuries which were collected in the course of his work by Douglas Hyde and bequeathed to the Library on his death in 1949. In addition, a number



Part of sample manuscript from ISOS site

of other Irish language manuscripts are held by the Library in the Lámhscríbhinní Breise collection. These manuscripts are mainly collections of poetry and copies of Foras Feasa na hÉireann from the 18th and 19th century.

The Library is delighted to be part of this project and to contribute to the objectives of the ISOS project by providing an

electronic resource of educational and cultural interest. To access the texts visit <http://www.isos.dcu.ie/>

*Kieran Hoare, Archivist*

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## OPENING HOURS

### MAIN LIBRARY

March 1 - March 27

Monday - Friday 0900-2200

Saturday 0900-1300

March 29 - May 22

Monday - Friday 0900-2300\*

Saturday 0900-1700\*\*

(April 4 - May 9)

Sunday To be arranged

\*22.00 -23.00 will not apply Friday

\*\*13.00-17.00 will not apply May 22

### MEDICAL LIBRARY

March 1 - May 22

Monday - Friday 0915-2200

Saturday 0900-1300

### NURSING LIBRARY

March 1 - May 22

Monday -Friday 0900-2000

Saturday 0900-1300

All Libraries closed:

Wednesday 17 March

Friday 9 April - Monday 12 April inclusive.

Medical and Nursing Libraries closed:

Monday 3 May