Underpinning its support for research is the Library’s team of Faculty Information Librarians who will liaise with you regarding any research needs, or specific queries you might have.

Activities include:
- Providing assistance and advice in identifying information sources
- Information on alerting services
- Training and advice in the use of electronic and print resources
- Collection development and evaluation to ensure that collections match research needs
- One-to-one or group meetings in your department or office
- Meeting new staff to introduce them to resources and support services
- Supporting departmental quality reviews

Our Summer newsletter (new look, new title!) focuses on the Library’s support for research. The quality of the Library and its collections is central to the University’s research agenda and, while we cannot hope to compete in terms of physical collections, we now offer a level of electronic access which compares very favourably with major international research libraries. The recently acquired Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) has delivered 150,000 full-text volumes or 33 million fully searchable pages to the scholar’s workstation – a superb resource, particularly for humanities researchers, while at national level a project to support researchers in Biotechnology and IT is nearing completion. Meanwhile, we continue to seek out and acquire relevant archival collections – and on a reciprocal basis ensure access for our researchers to the collections of other research libraries.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Marie Reddan, Librarian

At your service

Improved facilities for training researchers in information handling; the Library Training Room now boasts a SmartBoard and enhanced projection services.
- You can now view the status of book orders through additional annotation on the Library catalogue.
- Chasing of book orders at regular intervals.
- A mini-survey of preferred journal holdings in Science and Medicine.
- Collaboration with academic departments in the funding of new information resources, notably the Times Digital Archive 1785-1985.
- Easier discovery of local print and online journal holdings through a variety of access routes, including alphabetical title listings and links from databases.
- Installation of more photocopiers and faster photocopiers.
- Improved access to other research libraries in Ireland and the UK.
- Faster delivery of inter-library loans, typically within three working days.
- A recently-launched newsletter to promote the Archives service.
- More frequent publication of this newsletter to support more timely awareness of Library developments.

A lot remains to be done, notably more space for printed collections, extension of opening hours, enhanced off-campus access to online Library services and better marketing.

John Cox
Deputy Librarian

Research Survey: Progress Report

In April 2003 the Library conducted a survey of university researchers. The results of the survey (http://digbig.com/4bhkp) provided a clear picture of satisfaction levels and a definite mandate for action in terms of developing Library services in support of research. Follow-up actions are ongoing but have included the following:

- Providing assistance and advice in identifying information sources
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Niall McSweeney
Head of Information Services

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**Online and Print: the researcher’s perspective**

There is a perception that research is becoming dominated by electronic or online resources. The reality is that such issues are never that simple and researchers invariably apply personal methodology to their work.

Dr. Oliver Mills whose research interests include such highly topical areas as Patent and Biotechnology Law uses both media but leans in practice towards print. “When I am evaluating different interpretations of judgment I like to have all the sources - major reports, journal articles, books - in front of me. I can move quickly between the different views and points expressed and that in turn helps to engender other ideas and insights.”

Oliver notes that the major law reports and journals in his area are still most commonly accessed through print. “Not everything is completely available online and often the ability to scan and browse is not possible on screen.” For keeping up to date, however, he finds the electronic table of contents service available through Zetoc invaluable. “Every month the contents pages of the major journals in my field are emailed to me. It is a simple and efficient way to keep track of developments in such rapidly changing areas.”

Dr Nathan Quinlan lectures in Biomedical Engineering. For sheer accessibility and efficiency, Nathan is a firm believer in the advantages of online research. “I use online publications whenever possible for the simple reason that it saves a lot of time. In most cases it’s possible to move seamlessly from the Library Catalogue to a desired article with just a few clicks. Many services provide HTML full-text which downloads more or less instantly, with low-resolution graphics, as well as a PDF facsimile of the print version.”

The fact that the material is on screen doesn’t put Nathan off. “For documents that are very large, I find it useful to scan the article quickly before deciding to download the PDF. The whole process is a lot quicker than writing down all the volume and page numbers, tawling the shelves and queuing for the photocopier.” But like most researchers, Nathan recognises the value of coming into contact with the printed form. “I have to admit it’s a pleasure to be forced out of my shell to visit the physical library from time to time, and I’ve found more than one important document through serendipitous browsing of a kind which is difficult online.”

Dr. Nathan Quinlan

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**STAYING ALERT**

A simple but highly effective way of keeping up to date with research is to use the alerting services available from publishers or other sources. For journals, you can have contents pages of new issues emailed to you. Often hypertext links will bring you to an abstract or, if the Library has an electronic subscription, to the full text of the article. Frequently, tables of contents appear ahead of the print publication.

Registration is straightforward. On the publisher’s web site there will be a link to an alerting service with a list of journals or subject areas from which you choose. Normally, all that is required is that you enter your email address.

The Zetoc service covers multiple publishers, allowing you to enter a profile of journals from over 20,000 titles available through the British Library. Significantly, Zetoc also allows you to set up keyword searches so that relevant articles from any of these journals will be emailed to you.

For more information on these services, please contact your

Information Librarian. A list of alerting services is also provided via the Library web site at [http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/services/alerting/index.html](http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/services/alerting/index.html)

Most publishers will provide alerting services for new books in the same fashion. Closer to home, an innovative service from the Library Systems department uses RSS technology to show newly catalogued books on the Library home page each day, with links to the full catalogue record for each book. You can access subject lists from [http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/resources/subjects/index.html](http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/resources/subjects/index.html).

A consolidated monthly listing is linked from the home page each month.

Hugo Kelly, Law Librarian
**SPECIALIST SERVICES**

The Library offers a number of specialist services in support of research. These include:

- A write-up room for PhD students on Floor 2. This is a new but so far under-used facility. It contains 5 PCs, each with word processing and other facilities, including full network access. PhD students can register to use a PC for a period of time, offering continuity of access and a quiet location for the write-up period.

- A collection of books published by members of staff. The Library acquires at least one copy and maintains a special collection of such works, as well as displaying a regularly updated selection of new titles in the Library foyer.

- The Library Special Research Fund. This is a source of funding to individual researchers for purchase of Library materials in support of work which has not been otherwise funded. Full details of the scheme, including an application form, are on the Library web site at http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/services/budgets/lsrf.html

**Where to Publish?**

There is no shortage of outlets for publishing research and, for journals in particular, making a good choice can be a challenge in itself. A key issue is the impact of a journal in its field of research. The likelihood of a paper published in a given journal being cited is a major focus of the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* which can now be accessed from the Library Web site. You can use *JCR* to identify the most cited journals in a range of disciplines in the sciences and social sciences. Data include how quickly articles are cited in a journal and the length of time for which they typically continue to be cited. You can also find the number of articles published annually per title, journals by country and most likely journals for review articles. A handy supplement to *JCR* is *Ulrichsweb*, also available from the Library Web site. This service includes editor names, as well as the Web site for a journal and a link to its *JCR* data.

Publishing in an open access journal is an increasingly viable option. This newsletter has featured open access regularly, most recently, in the December 2003 issue (http://digbig.com/4bhfh). As their name implies, open access journals are made available to the research community and general public at no subscription cost. Articles published in this way can reach a wider audience and recent studies have indicated that such articles may be cited more quickly and frequently than those in traditional subscription-based titles. A good source for identifying open access titles is the *Directory of Open Access Journals* (http://www.doaj.org/) whose coverage has doubled from 550 to 1127 titles since last December.

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*Most cited science journals in 2003*
The Bigger Picture

The university is rightly proud of its research activity. Library staff also contribute strongly to innovation in their field. A recent example is the presentation of a poster session at the North American Aleph Users Group conference in Boston by Peter Corrigan, Head of Library Systems. Peter has developed novel approaches to keeping users informed of the status of books they have on loan, replacing paper with attractively formatted e-mail notifications (which usually include an image of the book cover) and even text messages.

Other Library staff are playing a leading role in a range of national projects. These include:

- Consortium purchase of electronic information resources at reduced rates
- Good practice in teaching information skills
- Evaluating the viability of electronic books for teaching and learning support
- Collaborative approaches to developing and managing printed collections
- Digitisation of manuscripts through the Irish Script on Screen project

The opportunity to contribute to activity outside the immediate local context is enriching in itself and promotes staff and service development.

Recommended Reading...

**MICROFORM**

- **Ireland: Politics and Society through the Press, 1760-1922**
  More than 45 newspapers chronicling a crucial period in Irish history from the accession of George III to the throne in 1760 to Irish independence in 1922.

- **United Nations Human Rights Collection**
  A unique collection in Ireland of the major Human Rights treaty and charter bodies, including the International Law Court. Covers the period 1946-1992.

- **British in Ireland: Dublin Castle Series**
  Drawn from surviving records of the British Administration in Dublin Castle, British in Ireland chronicles the rise of Parnell and the “Land War” to the establishment of the Irish Free State.

- **Ordnance Survey of Ireland**
  1st edition Map series, published 1838-1842. A remarkable collection of nineteenth century maps of all Irish counties, Scale 6” to 1 mile, providing a unique snapshot of the country.

- **House of Commons Parliamentary Papers**
  This collection contains parliamentary documents of Irish relevance for 1801-1900 with complete papers available for 1901-1921.

Access to Other Libraries

Summer is the peak time for pursuing research at locations outside the university. In this regard you may find two reciprocal library access schemes of particular interest. ALCID enables certain categories of staff and student to use a range of participating academic libraries in Ireland. SCONUL Research Extra offers eligible users access to, and borrowing rights in, over 150 participating institutions in the UK and Ireland. For more information please contact the Reader Services office on the Ground Floor or call ext 3353.