The start of a new Semester brings excellent news for researchers. Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and HEA will invest €20 million over the next five years to fund electronic resources at national level in all Irish university libraries. The CHIU Librarians’ Group made the initial proposals to SFI, and the first resources are now available, as described in this issue.

IReL, the Irish Research Electronic Library, will offer access to more than 7,500 electronic journals available through approximately 40 publisher packages in Biotechnology, ICT and related disciplines (see press release at http://tinyurl.com/44633). It is planned to extend the initiative to cover the humanities and social sciences in the next phase.

Another superb digital research resource, of prime interest to the humanities and social sciences, featured in this newsletter is Eighteenth Century Collections Online—again a consortium purchase, with major support from the university and the Faculty of Arts. The implementation of SFX software, described opposite, will hugely enhance discovery of our e-resources.

On space, we are delighted to announce the opening of the new Nursing Library at Dangan with double the space of the older library. We hope also that the work over the Summer months on improving heating and ventilation in the Main Library will pay dividends.

Finally a big welcome to all new students—we hope that you availed of Orientation to learn a little bit about us and that you will benefit for both study and leisure from your use of the James Hardiman Library.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Marie Reddan, Librarian

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**Introducing SFX**

SFX is an exciting new service that makes Library research easier and more efficient. Essentially it is a method of connecting you (while you search) to other Library resources some of which you possibly may not even be aware exist.

For example, if you search a database in Web of Science and find a citation that is only available as an abstract, usually you would have to see if the Library owns the print copy or try a different database to see if the full-text of the article can be found there. Now you will see an SFX button next to the citation in the Web of Science database that will provide you with a menu of choices on the particular article. Most usefully it can tell you whether the article is available from another database. If it is available, the article may be displayed by clicking the link, but at the very least you will be directed to the database that contains the article.

Some of the options you will see may include:

- linking to the full-text available in another Library database
- checking the Library Catalogue, to see if Library owns the journal or book
- doing a new search for additional articles by the author
- doing a cited author search using a citation index like Science Citation Index
- doing a Web search on the appropriate keywords using selected search engines

Technically speaking SFX works using Open URL searching and will only operate with databases that are similarly compliant. Currently that’s about half of our databases, but that half covers most of our main titles. Nevertheless we expect the number to grow in the future and for SFX to become a standard feature across research databases.

For more information contact your Information Librarian or Rónán Kennedy, Electronic Resources Librarian (ext 5067; ronan.kennedy@nuigalway.ie)

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**Step1:** locate reference and click SFX button in top right corner

**Step2:** SFX menu, offering further choices

**Step3:** link to full text in Science Direct
**NEWS**

**Staff Change**
Monica Crump will replace Séamus Scanlon as Head of Bibliographic Services in the coming year. Séamus commences a career break at the end of October. Monica already has a strong familiarity with Bibliographic Services as Collection Management Librarian since December 2002 and is well known to many users. We wish both Séamus and Monica every success during the coming year.

**IReL: THE IRISH RESEARCH ELECTRONIC LIBRARY**

The IReL initiative, already described in “Focal ón Leabharlannai”, is a hugely significant development for researchers at NUI, Galway and nationally. As noted, its initial thrust is in Biotechnology, Information and Communication Technologies and related areas. Our existing resources will be supplemented by a number of new online services, primarily journals, and the first of these have started to appear:

These services are included in the Database List on the home page of the Library Web site at http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Journals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackwell Synergy (STM Collection)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOPP (Institute of Physics Publishing)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kluwer Online</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springer Link</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also on this List is ISI Web of Knowledge, a service which integrates the popular Web of Science databases and the Journal Citation Reports but also adds ISI Proceedings, an index to conference literature. About 50 journals are being acquired on a title-by-title basis and these so far include Science and Scientific American, accessible via the Library Catalogue.

Further updates about IReL will appear in this newsletter and on the Library Web site (Select IRel Journals from Database List). In the interim please keep in contact with the Information Librarian for your faculty.

**NEW NURSING LIBRARY**

On 30 August the Nursing Library opened its doors at its new premises near the entrance to the Galway Business Park in Dangan (Unit 1). The new facility more than doubles the space previously available at University College Hospital and offers a number of advantages, including:

- Over 100 reader places
- New furniture
- Extra shelving for books and journals
- More public access PCs
- A separate “Electronic Classroom” for training
- Proximity to the School of Nursing which is currently based at Dangan

Thanks are due to the staff of the Nursing Library and to Ann Mitchell, Head of Reader Services, for ensuring a smooth transition to the new premises. We are very grateful also for the support of the Buildings Office and Computer Services.

The Library is on the first floor and is distributed across two blocks. The main phone number is 5229 and full staff contact details are at http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/about/staff_lists/staff_nur_lib.html
NEW SOURCES

In addition to the new services becoming available under the IReL initiative described earlier, some new or changed resources can be accessed from the Database List on the Library Web site at http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/

- Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO), a major research resource which offers digitised versions of almost 150,000 English-language titles and editions published between 1701 and 1800. Material includes books and broadsides, Bibles, tract books, sermons and printed ephemera. ECCO provides invaluable documents for research in a range of disciplines, including history, medicine, literature, philosophy and law.

- Ritchie-Pickow Photographic Collection, a searchable archive of over 2000 photographs taken by George Pickow in 1952/53 at various locations around Ireland and covering a wide range of subjects and activities, including culture, sport and farming. This database is the result of a Library digitisation project supported by The Heritage Council.

- Xreferplus is a leading multidisciplinary resource for general reference, encompassing over 150 reference works. These include biographies, quotations, encyclopaedias and dictionaries by subject (eg history, business, law) and language. Users can browse each publication or search all at once, saving lots of time on quick reference enquiries. An interesting inclusion is a crossword solver!

- Web of Science is not a new resource but its retrospective coverage has been significantly extended. Until recently coverage was only from 1990 but each index now covers a longer period:
  - Arts and Humanities Citation Index, 1975 -
  - Science Citation Index, 1945 -
  - Social Sciences Citation Index, 1956 -

In addition to the new services becoming available under the IReL initiative described earlier, some new or changed resources can be accessed from the Database List on the Library Web site at http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/

Students Surveys

Last spring the Library carried out two student surveys. The first covered undergraduates mainly, although it also included diploma and access students. International and visiting students participated in the second survey. Both surveys covered similar ground, seeking to establish student preferences and habits in using the Library as well as satisfaction with services provided. Between them the surveys attracted nearly 3000 respondents, providing invaluable data for service development. The key priorities to emerge from both surveys are identical:

- Longer weekend opening hours
- More seats for study inside the Library and on campus
- Facilities for group study
- Full coverage of reading list material
- More catalogue PCs
- Better matching of catalogue information and book location on the shelves
- Access to Library orientation sessions all year round
- Training in a wider range of topics, particularly to support project work
- More effective marketing of services

Intensive use of the Library is evident, with over 80% of respondents visiting at least weekly and almost 40% daily. Students make varied use of the Library and are almost as likely to consult books as they are to borrow them. Use of study materials other than books is lower than expected and half of the undergraduate students surveyed never use journals.

Thanks to all students who took part in the survey, and congratulations to our prize winners. We will endeavour to improve satisfaction levels in the coming year. You can see the results of both surveys at:

http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/news/studsurvs04.html

John Cox,
Deputy Librarian
**OPENING TIMES**

**MAIN LIBRARY**  
Sept 13 - Nov 6  
Monday - Friday  
0900-2200  
Saturday  
0900-1300  
Nov 8 - Dec 16  
Monday - Friday  
0900-2300*  
Saturday  
0900-1700  
Sunday  
1300-1800  
Dec 17, 20-22  
Fri, Mon-Wed  
0900-1700  
*2200 -2300  
will not apply Friday

**MEDICAL LIBRARY**  
Sept 13 - Dec 16  
Monday - Friday  
0915-2200  
Saturday  
0900-1300  
Dec 17, 20-22  
Fri, Mon-Wed  
0930-1730

**NURSING LIBRARY**  
Sept 13 - Dec 16  
Monday - Friday  
0900-2000  
Saturday  
0900-1300  
Dec 17, 20-22  
Fri, Mon-Wed  
0900-1700

Please note: All Libraries closed Monday 25 October, Saturday 18 December.

**UPDATED REFERENCE COLLECTION**

The past year has seen a major project to update the Library’s General Reference collection. This collection, located on the Ground Floor, had fallen somewhat out of date but this has been remedied through an injection of funds and the efforts of a number of Library staff coordinated by Niall McSweeney, Head of Information Services, and Jane Mulligan, Science and Engineering Information Librarian.

A strong and current reference collection is a vital aid to addressing a range of queries, for example biography, definitions, contact information, facts and quotations. More than 100 new or updated reference titles have been ordered recently and many are now on the shelves.

These include:
- Continuum companion to twentieth century theatre
- Directory of EU information sources
- Encyclopedia Britannica
- International who’s who of authors and writers
- Museums of the world
- What if? Intriguing answers for the insatiably curious

In addition to being more comprehensive and up to date, the collection has been reorganised and made more accessible through the removal or relocation of some previous material. As for many other Library collections, online services supplement and enhance reference, especially through search speed and convenient access.

Many online services, eg timetables, town maps, are freely available but the Library has also taken out a subscription to xreferplus, a collection of reference works in a range of subjects described in the “New Sources” section of this newsletter.

**Extra Spaces**

One of the main findings of the recent student survey was that there are insufficient seats in the Library but some improvement has been achieved recently. A refurbishment project has delivered over 100 extra study spaces on Floors 1 and 2, with more compact tables replacing some earlier versions which dated back to the opening of the building in 1973! The new Nursing Library offers 104 reader places compared with 38 at its previous location. While more space continues to be an urgent priority, the extra seating is very welcome.

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If you have any comments or suggestions on what you would like to see in the Library newsletter, please email us at library@nuigalway.ie