



National University of Ireland, Galway  
Ollscoil na bÉireann, Gaillimh



# inform

Nuachtlitr na Leabharlainne  
James Hardiman Library Newsletter

Issue 30, July 2007  
Special Issue: Research Support

## Focal ón Leabharlainne



The ever-diminishing break between examinations and the new academic year, affords an opportunity in this issue to focus on Library support for research. A new appointment last year, funded partly from SFI overheads, has allowed us to strengthen support to researchers in Science, Technology and Medicine. The investment should

demonstrate added value to the research process – an example of this being our new Research Information Gateway on the Library website. We are actively seeking similar support for Humanities and Social Sciences researchers, given the University's success in attracting substantial research funding in these areas.

Resources delivered electronically continue to increase – we now offer 27,551 e-journals and 346,658 e-books. When print materials are included, we are almost at the million-volume library mark. All represent invaluable information resources and are critical to attracting researchers and enabling research. Much of this meteoric rise is due to IReL, and researchers are strong in their support of its continued funding, as demonstrated by the recent IReL impact survey – much more on this inside.

Finally I hope that all will have now received our vision of *A Library for the 21st Century*. Feedback is most welcome and we look forward to your active support and advocacy for the project.

Marie Reddan, Librarian

## Research Support Services

The Library is committed to providing dedicated support and services that match the unique needs and expectations of the University's diverse research community.

Rosarie Coughlan is Research Support Librarian for the Science, Technology and Medicine disciplines ([rosarie.coughlan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:rosarie.coughlan@nuigalway.ie); x5697) and can support your research activities in a number of ways.

### These include:

- ❖ 1-1 consultation at your desk
- ❖ Group Q and A
- ❖ Workshops /seminars
- ❖ High quality information for your research via the Resources Hub (available via the Research Information Gateway)
- ❖ The Research Information Gateway, a focal point for research support services at NUI Galway <http://tinyurl.com/yqnl09>. Discover what research support services are available both from the Library and University-wide to support your research including training and support, funding providers and more.



## Use the Research Toolbox to crack 9 issues common to PhDs!

1. Getting started
2. Accessing the current research - the most effective tools and methods
3. Managing your research information with ease - using bibliographic reference management software
4. Writing-up - citation and referencing
5. How to get published
6. How to disseminate your research
7. How to keep up-to-date quickly and conveniently
8. What support mechanisms are out there (virtual and physical)?
9. Selling your research skills to an employer.

The Research Toolbox is at <http://tinyurl.com/2vry3a>



## INULS Messages

The Library proudly hosted the Irish National and University Library Staff (INULS) conference on behalf of the University from 14 to 16 June. This proved a great event despite the wet weather. As well as an enjoyable social programme and sponsors' exhibition, speakers addressed a range of topics on the theme of "Collaborating and Competing" and delivered some memorable quotes:

*"The most interesting research issues and problems arise at the intersections and overlaps of traditional disciplines"* (Professor Jim Browne, Registrar and Deputy President)

*"The new information world paradigm - never mind the quality, feel the width"* (Terry Hanson, Director of Information Services, University of Chichester)

(quoting Benjamin Franklin) *"We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately"* (Agnes Neligan, Librarian, NUI, Maynooth)

*"I think therefore I am a Knowledge Consultant"* (John Wright, Research Support Librarian, University of Wales Bangor)

Presentations from the conference are at

<http://tinyurl.com/32tnxh>



Speakers at INULS 2007

## IReL Indispensable!

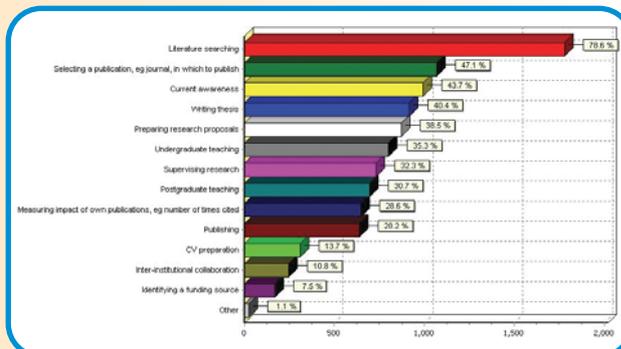
*"IReL has hugely influenced my decision to perform research in Ireland"*

How has IReL impacted your research? That was the focus of a national survey of researchers, coordinated by NUI Galway Library, last March. IReL (Irish Research e-Library) has featured in every issue of this newsletter since mid-2004, initially focused on the sciences but expanded in 2006 to include the humanities and social sciences. The survey aimed to establish its impact on the work of researchers, to identify any gaps in coverage and to influence future funding. Over 2200 researchers in all disciplines from Ireland's seven universities participated and delivered a ringing endorsement of IReL's effectiveness to date. Key findings included:

- ❖ IReL supplies three quarters of a total of almost 4000 journal titles identified by respondents as being in the top five for their own research
- ❖ Researchers use IReL for a range of purposes and these include literature searching, identifying where to publish, writing theses and preparing funding proposals (see chart opposite)
- ❖ Among its benefits are saving of time, ease of access, stronger and more current coverage and the facilitation of multidisciplinary research
- ❖ There have been significant advantages for teaching too, including a wider choice of materials for students and easy access to online journals via Blackboard
- ❖ Any discontinuation of IReL would be viewed very negatively, with many respondents citing this as disastrous for research quality and productivity; some would leave Ireland or change career.

Overall, researchers see IReL as a resounding success, although they have also identified possible improvements in coverage, notably more extensive backfiles for journals, easier access and stronger promotion of what is available.

John Cox, Deputy Librarian



Some good reasons for using IReL



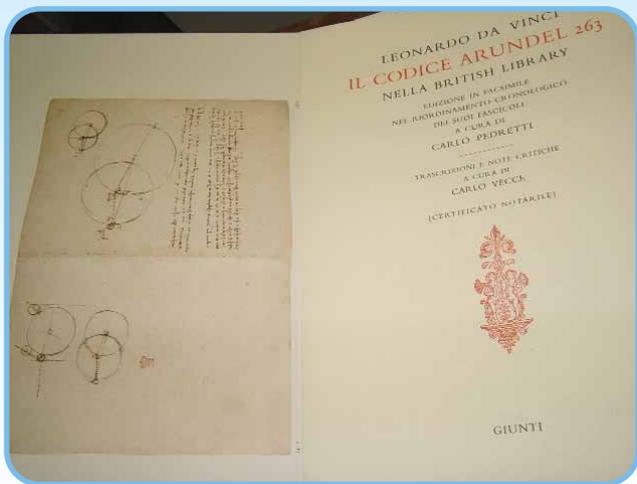
Róisín de Faoite, History PhD student and IReL survey prize draw winner, receives a gift voucher from Niall McSweeney

## Codex Arundel in Facsimile

The *Codex Arundel* is an imposing collection of Leonardo da Vinci's manuscripts originating from every period in his life, a span of 40 years from 1478 to 1518. It contains 285 folios, a total of 570 pages. Of these, only a few are blank. Two double-sided sheets of paper, each consisting of two pages front and back, are covered with notes and drawings by another hand. The *Codex Arundel* can therefore be recognised as second only in importance to the *Codex Atlanticus* in Leonardo's overall 'paper heritage'. This is true also for the content.

The Library acquired a magnificent facsimile copy through a contribution from the proceeds of the 2006 Buy-a-Book Day and the Library's Excellence Fund. For more information see Leonardo's Notebook at [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)

Marie Boran, Special Collections Librarian



## EndNote Update

EndNote makes the awkward business of creating bibliographies and managing references a much simpler process, whether you are producing research papers, essays or theses. Existing users may have seen news of a number of new versions and upgrades in recent times.

### EndNote Web

A "paired-down" version of the package, EndNote Web, is now available offering much of the functionality of the desktop version. Its main benefit is in allowing the convenience of access to your references from any location with a web connection on or off campus. Also, most attractively, there is no fee for use on non-University-managed computers.

### EndNote X

Endnote X (<http://tinyurl.com/k2zye>) is the latest upgrade of the desktop package available to us. It provides for greater management of PDF and full text links, easier backup and exchange of reference libraries. Look out as well for Endnote XI (<http://tinyurl.com/2t6j6c>) which has just been released and promises drag and drop reference management.

For more information, including a Getting Started guide, see the Library website at <http://tinyurl.com/3d858j>. This section includes details of upcoming training, who to contact, an FAQ and how to import references to EndNote from other databases.

## Exposing the Library Elements

Over the last year the Library has been involved in a number of projects aimed at improving access to our holdings in various areas. It is hoped that these finding aids will make many elements of the collection more visible.

### Search Collection Level Descripti

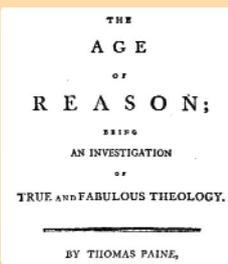


### Electronic Archive Description (EAD)

This online format enables an archival catalogue to be searched or browsed by collection name or category. EAD versions of descriptive lists are also available for a small number of collections including the John McGahern Collection at <http://archives.library.nuigalway.ie/Guide/CollectionListAlpha.html>

### Maps Database

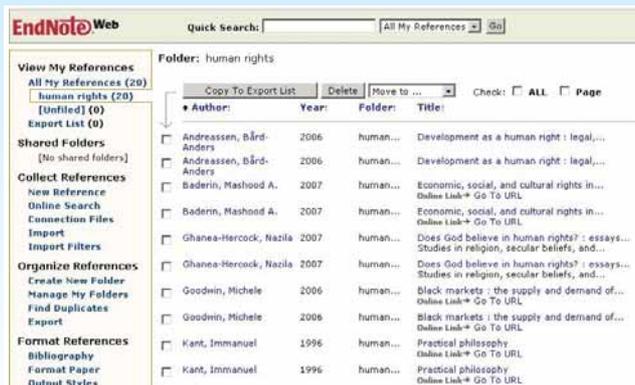
In collaboration with the Environmental Change Institute, the Library has improved access to its map collection by integrating map records with the Library online catalogue. Now you can locate maps by typing the place name into the "All Fields" search in the catalogue. The record links you to the MapFinder database at <http://tinyurl.com/2shq2v> which details the map holdings available for the town or locality. Another recent addition is a digitised copy of the 1st edition OS maps of County Galway published in the early 1840s. Access is via our Special Collections web pages at <http://tinyurl.com/2yq4w9>



### Eighteenth Century Collections Online via Library Catalogue

*Eighteenth Century Collections Online* is one of our finest database resources with 150000 full-text books available. Access has been further enhanced by adding records of each work to the Library catalogue with direct links to the complete book online.

Hugo Kelly, Law Librarian



EndnoteWeb allows you online access to your references anywhere

## The Open Access Route To Research Visibility

The aim of Open Access publishing is to ensure free, immediate and permanent online access to the full text of research articles for all. This can increase the number of times a paper is cited. The two main routes to open access publication are described here.

### Publishing in Open Access Journals

NUI Galway researchers are increasingly harnessing the benefits of Open Access by publishing in open access journals. Dr. Róisín McNeill, Department of Surgery, notes:

*"I support Open Access publishing since it allows immediate and unrestricted access to peer-reviewed articles. Our own area of research, breast cancer, is highly competitive and it is critical not only that we can access the most recent papers as soon as possible but that we can quickly disseminate our own results to further advances in this field."*

*Our group has recently published in a number of open access journals including **Cancer Research** and **The European Journal of Surgical Oncology**"*

The Directory of Open Access Journals (<http://www.doaj.org/>) lists over 2700 open access journals in all disciplines.

### Self Archiving for Open Access

Self-archiving is the process by which authors provide open access to their own published articles, typically by depositing copies in an institutional repository, a central archive of an institution's published research output.

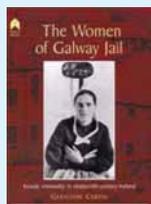
The Irish government has provided €1.6M over the next three years, with 50% coming from the Strategic Innovation Fund, to enable Irish universities to set up institutional repositories. The Library has recently set up an initial repository at <http://tinyurl.com/23ops6>. The aim is to evolve this into a route to easy, permanent and global visibility for your research as well as a statement of the University's collective research excellence.



Dr Róisín McNeill

## RTE Features Library Author

Geraldine Curtin, a member of staff in the Bibliographic Services Department of the Library, was recently featured on *Urban Tales*, Rob Vance's series for RTE in which he travels around Irish cities in search of excellent, quirky and very human historical yarns.



In the programme Geraldine tells an amazing story of the women of Galway Jail about whom she wrote a book in 2001. She brings Rob on a tour of Galway and speaks about the conditions in which these women lived, the crimes they committed and the treatment they received in prison. Many thousands of women were imprisoned here in the late 19th century, and many were victims of circumstances. Most of them were unskilled, and unable to read or write. They had very low standards of living and many were destined to emigrate. The crimes they committed were often alcohol-related, and they were far more likely to re-offend than men.

The programme focused particularly on the story of one woman, Maggie, who is featured in Geraldine's book. Conditions in the prison and the treatment these women received there were vividly described by Geraldine in an atmospheric walking tour of Galway at night.

## The Skilled Researcher

Q. How to beat those 'time thieves'?  
A. Research support convenient to you

- ❖ Research Q and A - bring any queries you might have about accessing the research literature - tools and methods...? Keeping up-to-date quickly and easily...? Journal impact factors...? Referencing and citation made easy...? etc
- ❖ 1-1 support at your desk
- ❖ Attend any of a series of workshops and seminars to support your research project life-cycle. These are running throughout the summer. Themes include:

Reviewing the research literature - crucial research resources and search and locate techniques

Managing your research information using EndNote bibliographic software

How to keep up-to-date with new research quickly and conveniently - make the most of the tools!

Making an impact - accessing and interpreting journal performance measures

Getting published - routes to publishing your research

Getting the most from the web

'Nuts and bolts' - getting started on your PhD

See the **Research Information Gateway** at <http://tinyurl.com/yqnl09> for more information. Contact Rosarie Coughlan, Research Support Librarian for Science, Technology and Medicine ([rosarie.coughlan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:rosarie.coughlan@nuigalway.ie) ; x5697)

## Graduate Skills in Focus

Following a significant Strategic Innovation Fund injection to promote graduate skills nationally, the Library, in partnership with TCD and UCC, is leading the development of an online information literacy module as part of the overall Graduate Skills programme. Please contact Niall McSweeney ([niall.mcsweeney@nuigalway.ie](mailto:niall.mcsweeney@nuigalway.ie); x3915) for more information.