

# IRISH LIBRARY NEWS

Issued by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (The Library Council)

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## "AUDIO" BOOK CELEBRATES THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ireland's public libraries were celebrated in the 2002 Thomas Davis Lectures on RTÉ Radio. The lectures have now been published in *The University of the People*, a new book from An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

*The University of the People* was officially launched on 29th October, by Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Adrian Moynes, RTÉ Head of Radio, and Norma McDermott of An Chomhairle also spoke at the launch which took place in the newly restored Dublin City Library and Archive in Pearse Street.



L-R: Adrian Moynes, RTÉ Head of Radio, Norma McDermott, Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government at the launch of *The University of the People*.

Remarking on "the vibrant and thriving library service, conscious of its heritage but looking forward to its future", described in the book, Minister Cullen said "As we plan our developments for the next few years we must continue to build on the strengths of a service which has provided remarkable value for the relatively small cost of 2.5% of total local authority spending. As local authorities meet to decide on their spending estimates for 2004, I hope they will continue to support this most accessible of services, which tries to reach into every community in the country."



Minister Cullen, T.D. pictured on the steps of Dublin City Library and Archive with some of those who contributed to the success of the radio series and the book, *The University of the People*.

The *Thomas Davis Lecture Series 2002* on RTÉ Radio 1 marked the 100th anniversary of the opening of the first Carnegie Libraries in Ireland (Dalkey and Banbridge). The contributors to the series included librarians, historians, educationalists and writers. The consulting editor was Norma McDermott, while the series was produced for RTÉ by Bernadette Comerford.

The 14 lectures in the book look back to the beginnings of the library movement, and forward to the modern public library of the 21st Century. Fears that the public library would become the "haunt of idlers and readers of trashy novels" were overcome when the first libraries were opened in the late 19th Century. Scots-American billionaire, Andrew Carnegie, the Bill Gates of his time, made his mark on the Irish landscape by funding 80 library buildings, many of which are still in use.

In his lecture, Robert Dunbar, well-known expert on children's literature writes of the importance of the public library for children's reading, while for Declan Kiberd the library is one of the few public places left which are completely open to all.

The social history of Ireland comes into focus in historian Diarmaid Ferriter's piece, while architect Brendan Grimes looks back to the times when "promiscuous" dancing was banned in Swords library, but Irish dancing was permitted!

Coming right up to date, journalist Fintan O'Toole paints an evocative picture of growing up with the public library. One of his earliest memories is "of holding the hollow aluminium bar of the pram in which my mother was pushing my little sister as we walked all the way from Crumlin to our nearest public library which was miles away in Thomas Street." He discovered as a 12 year old while perusing a dictionary of Australian slang that when you read silently "nobody quite knows what you're up to". For him, the library produces two kinds of people, writers and rebels.

The views of librarians are also expressed in seven of the lectures in the book, with contributions from colleagues in both academic and public library sectors. (The table of contents may be seen at [http://www.librarycouncil.ie/university\\_people.html](http://www.librarycouncil.ie/university_people.html).)



Anne Coughlan, Offaly County Librarian and Dolores Doyle, Limerick City Librarian.

Publication of *The University of the People* was funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and An Chomhairle will be providing a copy for each of the 338 branch and 29 mobile libraries in the country free-of-charge. In addition to receiving copies of the book, each library service will also receive a set of CDs of recordings of the lectures, courtesy of RTÉ. Copies of *The University of the People* (ISBN 1-873512-10-4) may be purchased from An Chomhairle at a cost of €15: contact [info@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:info@librarycouncil.ie).

## caught in the web

[www.revealweb.org.uk](http://www.revealweb.org.uk)

Reveal, the national database of material in accessible formats was launched at the Public Library Authorities Conference on September 16th. Reveal is jointly managed and supported by the Royal National Institute of the Blind and the National Library of the Blind. At present it includes more than 100,000 titles but this is growing every day as more records are added.

Until now visually impaired people have had to check a variety of catalogues to see if a book was available in an alternative format. This has been very frustrating because fewer than 5% of books published in the UK each year are ever made available in Braille, Moon, audio or large print. There are well over 100,000 books published each year so this means that less than 5,000 are transcribed into alternative formats.

"I've always liked reading. I can't see the television, I can't see people, I can't see print – but I love my books"

*A National Library for the Blind reader*

Reveal provides independent access, for visually impaired people and their intermediaries and allows searches by title, author, subject, ISBN and format. It has an accessible web interface and is Z39.50 compatible. So link your catalogues to it and make it easier for visually impaired people to choose and find a book to read.

Reveal was developed with funding from Resource, The British Library, Lloyds/TSB and the Ellerman Foundation. It will be largely funded for the next 3 years by Resource. If you have any queries please contact [manager@revealweb.org.uk](mailto:manager@revealweb.org.uk)

## CLASSICAL MUSIC LIBRARY: A BRAND NEW WAY TO PROVIDE MUSIC IN LIBRARIES

For librarians looking to supplement or build their classical music collection on a budget, **Classical Music Library** is a cost-effective and revolutionary solution.

The first service of its kind, Classical Music Library enables patrons to listen to music with headphones or speakers at a library or home computer, while browsing, searching or reading thousands of composer and artist biographies, programme notes and images.

For libraries, this means providing an extensive collection of classical music recordings (12,000+ tracks and growing) that are always available and never lost or stolen. The Classical Music Library repertoire is fully licensed and legal, compensating both artists and labels (which include Hyperion, Vox, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Sanctuary). Discussions are also under way with all five major record labels. Libraries who choose the 'remote access' option can offer the service to authenticated users in their homes.

Classical Music Library has won the Best New Effort category in this year's TCA Awards in the US and is attracting media attention worldwide. *Library Journal* recommended that "Librarians either with limited budgets for audio CDs or frustrated by constantly having to replace stolen discs should investigate Classical Music Library".

Alongside its official representative in Ireland – Thompson Henry Limited – Classical International Inc. will be offering free trials to all of the library authorities in conjunction with An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

For further information, please contact Ronán Mac Lochlainn, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Tel. 01 676 1167, e-mail: [rmaclachlainn@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:rmaclachlainn@librarycouncil.ie); or Steve Thorpe, Thompson Henry Limited, Tel. +44 (1344) 624 615, e-mail: [s.thorpe@thompsonhenry.co.uk](mailto:s.thorpe@thompsonhenry.co.uk)

## FRANK O'CONNOR CENTENARY

The centenary of the birth of Michael O'Donovan, aka Frank O'Connor, was commemorated by Cork City Library with the publication of a new edition of his classic work on the short story *The Lonely Voice*. First published in 1963 the book is long out of print yet is still regarded as one of the most important works on the genre. Copies of the book are available through the Library. Telephone 021-4277110 or e-mail [city\\_library@corkcity.ie](mailto:city_library@corkcity.ie)

The county library service has commissioned a booklet on O'Connor's period with the library. This is scheduled for publication in November.

A series of dramatic readings from some of his works were held in libraries throughout Cork City and County during October.

An Post has launched a commemorative stamp honouring Frank O'Connor. The ceremony took place in St. Patrick's Boys National School, Gardiners Hill in the presence of members of his family, local dignitaries and Pulitzer prize-winning author Richard Ford.



## ONLINE REFERENCE: SPECIAL RATES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES FROM XREFER

As part of its initiative to strengthen ties to public libraries in Ireland, **xrefer** is pleased to announce a limited offer of preferential subscription rates to its online reference library, *xreferplus*. This offer will run until the end of 2003.

*xreferplus* is a collection of over 150 reference titles from 29 well known publishers such as Blackwell, Collins, Thames and Hudson and Macmillan. All titles are fully integrated and intelligently linked between books, so that users can search the whole database in one go, or refine their search to just one topic heading or one title. Of particular interest to public libraries will be the large collection of images from the *Bridgeman Art Library*, and the *Hutchinson Encyclopaedia*, *Roget's Thesaurus* and other key reference works such as atlases and dictionaries of quotations.

*xreferplus* also features information visualization capabilities with the Research Mapper, a visual map that displays how search terms and topics in *xreferplus* are interconnected. Subscribing libraries also enjoy unlimited simultaneous users, remote access, detailed usage reports and downloadable MARC records. More information is available at [www.xrefer.com/libraries](http://www.xrefer.com/libraries).

Full details of special offer pricing are available from Tim Corcoran, *xrefer*'s Business Development Manager, [tim.corcoran@xrefer.com](mailto:tim.corcoran@xrefer.com), Tel: +44 20 7479 9202.

## people

**Brendan O'Donoghue** retired as Director of the National Library of Ireland on September 12th having devoted 6 years to that position. His period as Director was marked by significant developments for the Library in terms of improvements and additions to its buildings and in the area of collection development where his term was marked by a number of major acquisitions most memorably of material relating to James Joyce. **Mr Aongus Ó hAonghusa**, the National Library's Keeper-Administration has been appointed as Acting Director.

**Cork City Library:** The Arts Office in Cork City Council recently appointed Vincent Mc Donnell as writer in residence. As part of his work Vincent undertook a series of creative writing workshops with children aged 9-12 in each branch library. ▼



As part of National Heritage Week Cork City Library organised a series of talks dealing with the heritage and history of Cork.

The principal speaker was Meda Ryan who provided an overview on the life and times of Michael Collins to a capacity audience.

Other topics included talks on Rory Gallagher by Ben Cuddihy, Industrial history of Douglas by Dr Colin Rynne, Laneways of medieval Cork by Gina Johnson, Pawnbrokers and pawn shops of Cork by Jim Fitzpatrick and 'Let Erin remember' music, memories and readings based on the works of Thomas Moore, and Robert Emmet presented by Pat Egan.



Meda Ryan ▲

**Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries** continue to enjoy close links with Banbridge Library following the Carnegie centenary celebrations of both Dalkey and Banbridge Libraries last year. On 3rd October 2003, Geraldine McHugh and Marian Keyes were invited by Evelyn Hanna, librarian of the new Banbridge Library, to the launch of her booklet *100 years of Banbridge Library* (see Publications) at a reception at Banbridge Civic Hall. Special guests included Lady Anthony Hamilton of the UK Carnegie Trust and Carolyn Simpson and Frances Craig from Dunfermline Library, birthplace of Andrew Carnegie.



Photo outside Banbridge Library from left to right: Margaret Wall, Geraldine McHugh, Sandra McKee, Gerry Burns, Evelyn Hanna, Lady Anthony Hamilton, Carolyn Simpson and Frances Craig.

**Fingal County Libraries:** *Finscéal: a Writers' Trail of Fingal*, organised by Fingal County Libraries, in conjunction with Fingal County Council Arts Office, held its penultimate day, entitled *Crime Writing Uncovered*, on Sept. 20th in the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords. This was a daylong event dedicated to investigating crime and crime writings in Ireland with the following guest speakers put under the microscope:

Julie Parsons, Brian Gallagher, Niamh O'Connor, Glenn Meade and Dr Jim Donovan, the longest serving director of forensic science in the world.

150 guests attended and learned of the practicalities of writing crime stories, from the importance of the correct title choice, the most relevant use of forename and surname, plot development and pace, character development etc. Dr Donovan even offered an invaluable insight into forensics, evidence gathering, the mindset of the criminal and left the star struck audience with enough information on how to commit the perfect crime — *well almost!*.

The key objective of *Finscéal* was to provide equal access to creative writing opportunity to the disparate and diverse groups and individuals in the Fingal region. With this in mind, a yearlong series of writer's events was organised in different branch libraries and venues throughout the Fingal area, starting in May and running through to November. The writers participating ranged from the newly published, such as Éanna Ni Lamhna to established writers such as Sarah Webb and Catherine Dunne.

*Finscéal* culminates on November 8th in Ardgillan Castle when the *2nd Annual Fingal Writers Day* will be held. Joseph O'Connor, Rose Doyle, Suzanne Higgins and Nicola Lindsay will be addressing an audience of approximately 100 budding writers from the Fingal area. Members of established creative writing groups will also be given the opportunity to read a selection of their own works on the day.

And so the 2003 trail concludes!

**Kerry County Library:** The National Archives Advisory Council, under the chairmanship of Judge Bryan McMahon, held a meeting in Tralee on Monday 13th October 2003. The meeting was addressed by Mr. John O'Donoghue, T.D., Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism. Also present were members of the Archives Council, Dr. David Craig, Director of National Archives; Kerry County Manager, Martin Nolan; Chairman of Cultural Committee, Cllr. Ned Sullivan; County Librarian, Kathleen Browne and members of the Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society.



A presentation of historic and archival material was made to Kerry County Library. The presentation consisted of: a tape and transcripts of interviews between Deputy Tom McEllistrim and his grandfather, Tom McEllistrim, T.D.; tape of interview between Paudie Fuller (former M.C.C.) and his late father, Stephen Fuller (sole survivor of Ballyseedy Ambush); historic letters and business papers donated by Tom Slattery relating to his grandfather, Tom Slattery, Merchant and Shipping Agent; historic



books and papers of Martin Moynihan's father, Maurice Moynihan, former Secretary to Government and Governor of Central Bank; Pidgie Cavanagh presented programmes and photograph from the Tralee Musical Society; Patrick Meehan donated business records from his premises in Tralee (Mens' Outfitters); business records of General Merchants, Tralee were presented by Edward Kelliher. The material will be held in the Archives Department of Kerry County Library.

**Meath County Library:** the results of the East Meath Libraries adult poetry competition were announced and celebrated at a gathering on Thursday evening, 25th September in Duleek Library. The competition was a huge success, with a good response nationally and a high quality of poetry submitted. It is the first time the competition has been run by Duleek, Laytown and Slane Libraries, and it will continue now to grow as an annual event. Published poets Eamon Cooke and Tommy Murray judged the competition and delighted the audience by reciting from their own collections. The winning and commended poets recited their work also. Marie MacSweeney, Drogheda, won first prize with her beautifully written poem titled 'White Lace' the poem considers the poet's thoughts and feelings evoked by an abandoned garment found strewn on rocks by the sea. The poet firstly imagines a bather coming to life to gently claim the 'white lace', until more disturbing thoughts entrench her mind, a suicide on a Welsh beach and an image of a Miss Havisham's lost hopes floating away upon the calm waters of the sea. Patricia McGovern, Dunboyne, Co. Meath, took second prize with her poem *Aftermath*. The poem offers us powerful images of the daily existence of a long term nursing home patient "damaged in body and mind," then allows us to celebrate the triumph of the human spirit over the "endless days of unchanging routine". Three poems were highly commended by the judging panel also. Ray Collier, Duleek, Co. Meath, conveys his love for his native village by contemplating on the life of the largest old lime tree in Ireland that shadows the village green "since the days of King Billy", in his witty poem *The Big Tree*. *Needing Snow* by Mary Jo Gibbons, Kilmessan, Co. Meath transports us to a world made magical by snow.

The **National Library of Ireland** has been presented with the papers of theatre director and actor, Deirdre O'Connell. The donation includes material relating to the Focus Theatre which was opened by Deirdre O'Connell and her husband, Luke Kelly, in 1967.

**Teagasc** – the Agriculture and Food Development Authority has installed Sirsi's Unicorn library management system for its network of eight specialist libraries. Access to the web OPAC will be available to all Teagasc staff, scientists and post graduate students. The iLink web OPAC also provides a knowledge portal to external services over the Internet.

**University College Galway's** James Hardiman Library is now home to author John McGahern's literary archive. At a ceremony at UCG on 6th October, the McGahern archive, covering forty years of writings, personal papers, correspondence and manuscripts were officially accepted on behalf of the university by the President of NUI Galway, Dr. Iognáid Ó Muirheartaigh.

The **University of Ulster** became the first site to install the new version of the TalisList Resource Management System which was released on October 22nd. TalisList 2.1 is used to create, manage and publish course resource lists from the library's collection of over 500,000 books and 5,000 academic journals, newspapers and e-journals. Version 2.1 is a free upgrade to all TalisList users. For further information contact Talis on +44(0)121 471 1179 or e-mail: [sales@talis.com](mailto:sales@talis.com).

**Waterford City Libraries** has recently held some very successful author events to mark National Literacy Awareness Week and Positive Ageing Week. On 23 September novelist Patricia Scanlan delighted her audience, which included many literacy students from the local area, with readings from her recent book *Two for Joy* and from her Open Door Literacy novel *Second Chance*. A lively question and answer session concluded the afternoon.



**Patricia Scanlan** ▲

Also for National Literacy Awareness Week, poet Mark Roper gave a workshop on 'poetry writing for absolute beginners' at CILIP award winning Ardkeen Library. The workshop was attended by a group of literacy students and returnees to learning and Mark brought them through the process of successfully writing short poems. Positive Ageing Week was celebrated at Waterford City Library Ballybricken, with a creative writing workshop led by author Pauline Bracken. Pauline, author of *Indian Summer* and *Light of Other Days*, guided a very enthusiastic group of older library users through the process of creative writing and gave hints and tips on getting published.

**Wicklow County Library** service held a public demonstration of assistive technology for blind and partially-sighted people on 20th October 2003 in Ballywaltrim Library as part of a consultation process involved in the purchase of new equipment. This gathering is in keeping with the tenets of the *Library Access* document published by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and the Equality Authority and those of the Barcelona Declaration.



Two suppliers demonstrated equipment covering the range of choices available to allow visually impaired people access to mainstream technology including use of the internet via a voice synthesiser. There were also demonstrations of scanners and magnifiers for partially-sighted people. Attendance at the meeting included people with a visual impairment, Deidre Allen, NCBI Officer with the East Coast Area Health Board, staff from Wexford and Kildare Libraries and Cearbhall Ó Meadhra, Barcelona Declaration Project.

During the demonstrations valuable input was received from the audience. The problem of the cost and limited supply of audio books available was discussed as was the need to look at alternative options in the future. Options such as e-books and the possibilities of scanning and downloading which the optical scanning facilities will allow were considered. The interchange of ideas between clients, outside agencies and staff lent valuable insight to all concerned with this topic and provided crucial building blocks for future development of facilities for the visually impaired in Wicklow County Council Library Service.

## publications

**100 years of Banbridge Library**, by Evelyn Hanna, Branch Librarian and Chair of the Banbridge library Centenary Committee describes the development of public library services in Banbridge, concentrating on the part played in the community by the library building funded by Andrew Carnegie and which opened to the public in 1902. This library featured with Dalkey Library in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown as the focal point for the 2002 celebration of 100 years of Carnegie Libraries in Ireland.

What comes across strongly is the esteem in which the original library is still held by the local community (a new library was opened in 1979). The account is littered with instances of reminiscences from readers; one recalled his father's description of the laying of the mosaic floor in the entrance, another recalls the librarian who served from 1906 to 1939 – a formidable man with very Victorian and strict attitudes regarding the borrowing of books – whose demeanour didn't encourage long visits to the library. The library also attracted donations of items which were to form the basis of a collection for the local museum – the workhouse bell, a firkin of Irish butter found in a turf bog and pearls from the River Bann. *100 years of Banbridge Library* is a fascinating glimpse into the social history of the area and the role of the library – the section on the war years (1939-1945) presents a unique description of local efforts to collect 'unwanted' books to restock blitzed libraries, provide reading materials for the troops or, if all else failed, for salvage.

Copies of *100 years of Banbridge Library* (SELB, 2003) are available from Banbridge Library, Scarva Street, Banbridge, Co. Down BT32 3AD.

**Dublin writers and their haunts**, written and illustrated by Sean Lennon. This superb publication by Fingal County Council is a splendid chronicle of the past lives and places of seventeen famous Dublin writers. It provides a valuable insight on how the social lives of ordinary Dubliners became pivotal in the works of many of the writers. It is wittily illustrated with Sean's drawings and anecdotes as he follows his subjects on their paths through the streets of Dublin. From the vampire bite of Bram Stoker, the idiosyncrasies of Oscar Wilde and the sardonic observances of Brendan Behan, *Dublin writers and their haunts*, offers a memorable trip for all. *Dublin writers and their haunts*; written and illustrated by Seán Lennon, foreword by Dermot Bolger. Published by Fingal County Council, Dublin ISBN: 095266545X

The 2004 edition of the **Renaissance Library Calendar** contains a new selection of 12 of the most beautiful old libraries in the World, as nominated by librarians and information professionals in over 40 countries.

The cover library this year is the magnificent Royal Library of the Monastery of El Escorial, just outside Madrid in Spain. The library dates from 1575, and UNESCO declared the monastery a Monument of Worldwide Interest in 1984.

The calendar also features, this year, the unique library at St. Catherine's Monastery in South Sinai, Egypt.

The calendar is published by ISIM. Copies can be obtained at their website at: <http://www.renaissancecelibrary.com> or by ordering at your local bookshop (ISBN 91-974089-2-1).

## HARRY POTTER DOMINATES OPENING OF NEW ACHILL LIBRARY

Harry Potter was the name on everyone's lips at the opening of the new library in Achill. The library, which is located in the new Integrated Services Centre in Achill Sound, was opened on the day of the launch of the latest J.K. Rowling tome. Speaking at the opening, Mayo County Manager, Des Mahon told the crowd that the fact that the book was available in a library in Achill was a small example of how services in remote areas were now equal to those provided in large urban areas. He observed that Achill, Ireland's largest island, disconnected from the mainland by a narrow channel of water, covers over 100 square kilometres and has a coastline of about eighty miles. It is almost the most westerly inhabited island of Europe and has a population of approx. 3,500. Mr. Mahon stated that the library would, while helping to preserve the rich culture and heritage of the island, would also support existing education and training facilities in the community.



Achill Library ▲

The new library comprises children's and adult lending area, a reference library, a local history section and a computer room. It also

includes a seating area for studying, research and homework and an area for children's activities such as story hours and workshops.

The library has a stock of over 10,000 books. The local history section contains books, journals, maps and tapes of every aspect of Achill's rich heritage. Other services include language tapes, audio books, local and national newspapers, magazines and videos. Four multimedia computers with access to the Internet for the public are available in the library.

The library also includes a small exhibition space in which work by local artists can be exhibited.

### University College Dublin

#### Degree of Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS)

#### Higher Diploma in Library and Information Studies (HDipLIS)

Applications are invited from graduates in any academic discipline (including science, engineering, commerce, law, social science and arts) for places on these postgraduate programmes. The MLIS and HDipLIS programmes prepare students for careers in librarianship and information work and are recognised professional qualifications.

Further details and application forms are available from the Secretary, Department of Library and Information Studies, Faculty of Human Sciences, NUI University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4. Telephone: (353) 01-716-7055; (353) 01-716-7080; Fax: (353) 1-716-1161; e-mail: [noreen.hayes@ucd.ie](mailto:noreen.hayes@ucd.ie); web-site: <http://www.ucd.ie/~lis>

The final date for receipt of application forms is **1st February 2004**. Entry to the programmes is competitive and the number of places is limited.



## November 2003

10th *Parallel lives: digital and analog options for access and preservation* – Joint Conference of the National Preservation Office and King's College London. Venue: The British Library Conference Centre, London. Details: Conference 2003 Organiser, National Preservation Office, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. Tel: +44(0)207 412 7612; fax: 207 412 7796; e-mail: [npo@bl.uk](mailto:npo@bl.uk)

17th-23rd *Dialogue between cultures* – Netd@ys Europe 2003. For further information contact [netdays@leargas.ie](mailto:netdays@leargas.ie)

19th Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lectures in Legal Bibliography. Dr. Michael J. Clark, Head of the Medical Film and Audio Collections, Wellcome Library for the History and Understanding of Medicine, London, will give the ninth lecture in this series entitled *Distinctiveness and divergence: legal bibliography and Anglo-Irish medico-legal relations in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries*. The lecture evening is by invitation but there are a number of places available for interested parties. The venue is Marsh's Library, St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8. Enquiries to Hugh M. Fitzpatrick, Library & Information Consultant, Newmount House, 22-24 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2. t: 01 269 2202, f: 01 661 0664.

20th *Information Centres appraised using economic indicators as criteria: an evaluation and assessment of trends*: This workshop will focus on the business techniques for attracting users and the

most innovative methods for promoting the use of libraries' services and resources. It takes place in Barcelona on Thursday 20th November 2003 and if you would like to attend or present a case study (15-20 minutes) contact the organisers: Universitat Oberta de Catalunya Library, Avda. Drassanes, 3-5 | 08001 Barcelona (Spain). Contact: Núria Ferran +34 934 817 284. Fax: +34 933 177 075 e-mail: [biblioteca@uoc.edu](mailto:biblioteca@uoc.edu)

21st *Continental languages and the book trade in Ireland: historical and modern perspectives* – LAI, Rare Books Group Annual Seminar. Venue: The Royal Irish Academy. For further information please contact Penny Woods at 01-7083890 or email [penny.woods@may.ie](mailto:penny.woods@may.ie)

28th Deadline for entries to MS READTHON 2003. Full details available from the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland, Dartmouth House, Grand Parade, Dublin 6 or [www.ms-society.ie](http://www.ms-society.ie)

## December 2003

2nd-4th **Online information 2003**, Olympia Grand Hall, London. Details and pre-registration information available at [www.online-information.co.uk](http://www.online-information.co.uk)

13th *Children's Books in Areas of Conflict*: IBBY Ireland conference. Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. See [www.ibby-canada.org/IBBYIreland2003.htm](http://www.ibby-canada.org/IBBYIreland2003.htm) for further details or contact Máire Ní Dhonnchadha at IBBY c/o ILE, Irish Writers' Centre, 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 2. [maire@irelandliterature.com](mailto:maire@irelandliterature.com)

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Contributions should be sent to Alun Bevan, Editor – ILN,  
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