

# IRISH LIBRARY news

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## PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE AMONGST THE TOP VALUE FOR MONEY PUBLIC SERVICES

A national survey of public library users, lapsed users and non-users reveals that over two-thirds of the adult population are, or have been, members of a public library – of these, 36% indicated that they had visited the library recently and 94% of them considered their last visit to have been 'a success'.

The results were published by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna on 24th March and are based on TNS mrbi's omnibus service, PhoneBus.

The report, *A public space for all: use and non-use of public libraries*, was launched in the newly refurbished Dublin City Library and Archive in Pearse Street by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Martin Cullen T.D.



▲ Minister Cullen launching *A public space for all*.

The research shows that membership of public libraries is also extremely high at 68% past and present membership and, contrary to what some might believe, is extremely popular with young people. Of those questioned in the 15-19 age bracket, 88% were members of a public library as opposed to 66% in the 45-54 age group and 63% in the 55-64 age category.

The TNS mrbi poll for An Chomhairle Leabharlanna shows that even amongst those who are not members of a public library, 82% were aware of where their nearest public library was situated.

Not surprisingly most people, at 79%, visited a public library to borrow or return items, mainly books, but 14% used them to study and the increasingly popular availability of the Internet was availed of by 10% of visitors.

Public libraries provide a wide range of services in addition to lending books, and awareness of these services is reasonably high among non-users. However, it is also clear that many

people who have not used the library in recent years are not fully aware of the various services on offer. For example, only 50% knew that Internet access is provided; even fewer knew that talking books could be borrowed, while only 15% knew that they could get such things as motor tax and passport application forms at the library. Reading groups and reading promotions are among the most popular activities organised by public libraries and the 62% of non-users who didn't know about them are certainly missing out. These findings suggest that more needs to be done to let the public know what kind of services the modern public library provides.

The main reason people gave for not visiting a library was "no time" (36%) while 13% obtained their reading material from elsewhere and 10% were simply not interested.

Respondents, when asked what would convince them to go back to using a library, cited a number of factors. The top three factors were better stock, different stock items for loan (DVDs/CDs/Videos) and a change in the opening times which all recorded a 19% rating while 8% cited better parking. Some 52% didn't know.

Welcoming the findings Minister Cullen said: "The results of the survey provide a positive endorsement of the significant progress being made to modernise the library service following the policy review published in 1998 as *Branching Out – A New Library Public Service*" but he also admitted that the success of the service had "snuck up" on the Government and that they had now taken their place 'amongst the top *value for money* investments in recent years'.

"The public library service continues to be one of the most popular of public services – a view shared by user and non-user alike", the Minister said.

The Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Norma McDermott commented: "The clear message from this important research is that the Irish people are using their public libraries more frequently and for a greater variety of reasons than ever before. And they are very happy with the experience they receive when they make that visit. They are borrowing more books, using the Internet more often, joining Readers Groups, doing research and availing of such services as talking books, music and art in ever increasing numbers.

"The local authorities throughout the country, and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government who fund our libraries, can be assured that they are getting great value for money. They can also be assured that for every Euro invested in public libraries the general public are receiving a valued and valuable service".

Copies of the report can be obtained from An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, or may be downloaded from [www.librarycouncil.ie](http://www.librarycouncil.ie)

## DESIGNING PARADISE

On 18 and 19 March 2004 representatives from European governments together with professionals from the library field from all over Europe gathered in The Hague for the conference *Creating Public Paradise*, to discuss the conditions of public library building in Europe, held under the aegis of the Council of Europe's Dutch presidency

The aim was twofold:

- 1) to exchange views on the opportunities for creating sustainable public library buildings, which meet the changing needs of citizens in the 21st century; and
- 2) to promote international co-operation in finding solutions for building public libraries throughout Europe.

In preparation of the meeting, participants submitted national data on the state of the art in public library building in their respective countries.

Based on this data and on the exchange of views during the conference, the conference participants agreed at the end of their meeting on the following principles:

1. Public libraries are valuable and indispensable institutions for providing democratic access to information for everyone.
2. Public libraries are spaces for all. They form an integral part of the community in its full diversity.
3. Public libraries are centres for preserving, activating and enjoying cultural heritage. They are centres for lifelong learning. They provide people of all ages with information, ideas and materials for learning, widening their horizons, enhancing their abilities and skills as citizens, extending their knowledge and cultural taste.
4. Public library buildings serve the needs of the users for a safe, neutral and inspiring environment.
5. Public library buildings are subservient to the need of public libraries for co-operation with other educational, cultural and social institutions and organisations.

In this framework the experts recommend that national and local governments in cooperation with representatives of the library sector work towards a well-founded policy for public library building in Europe, which will be beneficial to all citizens in Europe.

On a national level this can be done by:

- Strengthening co-operation and dialogue between government, libraries and architects to create sustainable public library buildings.
- Facilitating investment and maintenance of indispensable infrastructure and innovations for public information and library services from adequate buildings.
- Supporting the inclusion of librarians and their expertise in conceptualising, building and constructing modern public library buildings;
- In recognition of the increasing demands from their users, reshaping the function of public libraries. In the hybrid library, traditional as well as digital sources should be offered;
- Supporting the inclusion of public libraries as important public spaces in new city planning and development;
- Supporting the inclusion of citizens' consultation (also by children and young people) in the building process of public libraries;
- Promoting that library services are included in basic services in rural areas;
- Encouraging mutual co-operation between public libraries and public and other services through creative use of spaces.

On the intergovernmental level this can be done by:

- Promoting international standards (such as developed by IFLA and other professional organisations);
- Enhancing compatibility and networking to facilitate international exchange and services and in so doing create sustainable public library buildings, which can serve the European population as a whole;
- Creating opportunities for architects and designers to include public libraries in their international studies, education and professional development;

- Stimulating international co-operation by gathering and distributing examples of best practices.

## LIBRARIANS LOOK UP BELFAST FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Around 130 senior staff from university, colleges of higher education and national libraries throughout the UK and Ireland recently held their annual conference in Belfast.

It is the first time the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL) has come to the city for more than 30 years. The event has been jointly organised by the University of Ulster and Queen's University. Delegates will discuss three of the main challenges facing academic and national libraries:

- Developing their service culture.
- Leadership.
- Staff development.

Welcoming delegates to the conference, Professor Gerry McKenna, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ulster, said: "A proper service culture depends upon a number of crucial conditions without any one of which it cannot take hold. The first is that it must enjoy the engagement of all staff, the attitudinal aspect. The second and related condition is common values. All the vision statements in the world are meaningless rhetoric if they are not shared with every member of staff on a basis of parity of esteem. The third condition is enthusiastic leadership – at all levels of the management and supervisory chain. The fourth is consistency of standards throughout the various parts of the institution. The next condition is training for all. Many of the skills and working practices of high quality service are not innate. The awareness should begin at induction and should continue through staff development, including management development. Underpinning all of this we need accountability and its close cousin, evaluation," Professor McKenna added.

One of the event organisers, Nigel Macartney, Director of the Information Services Directorate at the University of Ulster, said: "This is the second large academic-related conference to come to Belfast in recent months. Indeed SCONUL asked if we would host the conference and I am delighted that so many people from throughout the United Kingdom have shown such great interest in coming to Northern Ireland.

There is also tremendous professional interest among the delegates in what we are doing in developing our library services to students. Visits to the Learning Resource Centres at the University of Ulster's Jordanstown and Magee campuses filled up almost immediately. That is something we did not expect."

Mr Macartney said that the University of Ulster – which has six libraries – is at the forefront of innovation in the UK in providing on-line library resources for students. But it is also mindful that many students, particularly those taking part-time or distance courses or those with disabilities may need assistance with the IT resources and has appointed specialist support librarians to help them find the information they require.

One of the issues facing libraries is the growing demand for 24-hour-a-day access, seven days a week. Some universities already provide that level of service, but the cost could be prohibitive for many, particularly those with a number of libraries on different campuses.

Mr Macartney said that students, faced with the increasing costs of education, are demanding higher levels of service from academic libraries. "They want to see a tremendously professional service at all times, on all sites and in all aspects of provision. That is a tall order as we feel pressure for funding."

Staff development, especially at middle-management level, is another crucial issue, given the age profile of academic library staff. There is a shortage of suitable candidates for middle and senior management posts, making it necessary for institutions to "grow their own" future senior managers and leaders.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Thankful that he could differentiate between snakes and the common or garden Book worm, libraries participated in local St. Patrick's Day parades.

Cootehill Library and Arts Centre has been at the heart of the community in Cootehill since it opened in September 2001. When staff were approached this year by local organisers and asked to take part in the St. Patrick's Day Parade it was decided that this was an ideal opportunity to reciprocate the generous support that has been offered over the past two and a half years. ▼



Preparations began, ideas were tossed around and hopes for good weather were top of the list. Staff pooled their skills and came up with the idea of making giant bookworms that could be carried through the town and add a colourful note to the parade – Billy, Blaithin and Barry Bookworms were born. Out came the sewing machine that had to be repaired for the job and staff began frantic sewing and stuffing of the 12ft bookworms. Wool was creatively used to give each of the bookworms a unique hairstyle and balloons added the final touch. But who would carry the bookworms on St. Patrick's Day? – Library members of course! Members volunteered their children and friends to take part, with older children carrying the bookworms high in the air suspended on bamboo sticks and younger children to the front of the group carrying colourful books and balloons.

The day was bright, the sun shone and the Library Float received a warm reception from the crowd as Billy, Blaithin and Barry wriggled down the main street. The parade was a great success and was enjoyed by adults and children alike – the young children were especially proud to show off their library books! In the end the hard work had been worth the effort. It was a unique experience for staff who moved out from their award winning building to grace the streets and grab the opportunity to promote Cavan Library Service.



▲ Sligo County Library's float took the theme of the Cat in the Hat (we do like that!) and all things Seuss.

## BEYOND WORDS

A seven day feast of literature, art, drama and music gets under way next month. It is the fourth annual *Beyond Words* festival of arts and culture, organised by South Eastern Education and Library Board's library service and runs from Thursday 13th to Thursday 20th May.

The award-winning event involves all 31 libraries in a programme packed with authors, musicians, storytellers and artists.

The festival, which won national recognition with a commendation at the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) Public Relations and Publicity awards 2003, underlines the library service's commitment to making the arts more accessible to ordinary people. A varied and innovative line-up sees rock groups, string quartets, dancers, painters and puppeteers vie for the public's attention. ▼



Chief Librarian Beth Porter sees the festival as a natural progression in the relationship between libraries and the arts:

*The feeling that libraries and the arts are obvious partners has been confirmed by the success of our first three Beyond Words festivals. The CILIP award was very welcome and the staff can be justifiably proud of the national recognition the festival received*

Continuing the festival's innovative approach, each of the five mobile libraries, which serve the area's rural and suburban clients, will all offer a cultural experience to their regulars. Copies of the programme are available from SEELB libraries, or by post from Marketing Manager Derek Flack T: 07810 520994. Individual open events are listed on the SEELB website [www.seelb.org.uk](http://www.seelb.org.uk)

### wanted

**LIBRARY PORTAL:** a new university is being created in Fort Portal, Uganda, and Mary Riordan has been asked to source manuals for the library. The librarian is to be a Ugandan, a qualified librarian, and she has asked for DDC, AACR2, and Sears List of Subject Headings, though maybe she would settle for LC. She would of course like the newest editions possible. If you can help, please contact Mary Riordan, Earlsfort Tce Libraries, UCD, Earlsfort Tce, Dublin 2. phone: 7167471.

**NEEDED URGENTLY:** Unwanted metal shelving, filing cabinets, display units, and archival boxes. Must be in excellent condition. Will collect.

Please email [irishqueerarchive@ireland.com](mailto:irishqueerarchive@ireland.com).

**ENTHUSIASTIC** Library Assistant Seeks Work in the Dublin Region

- Educated to degree in social and cultural humanities
- Strong Microsoft Office and Internet research skills
- Good customer service skills

For Curriculum vita please contact Pat Byrne [p.byrne@ucc.ie](mailto:p.byrne@ucc.ie)



WATERFORD CITY LIBRARY: A PERSONAL REACTION



Waterford City Library reopened in January after a two year programme of refurbishment and extension which cost €5.8 million. The library now has 21,000 square feet of accommodation for its 65,000 books and other stock items spread over four floors. Lending, reference, local studies and research facilities are housed in a state-of-the-art building which is fully accessible to people with mobility impairments. Designed by award winning architects McCullough Mulvin, the refurbished library is one that will stimulate debate for some time to come. The following is a personal reaction to the building by the editor:

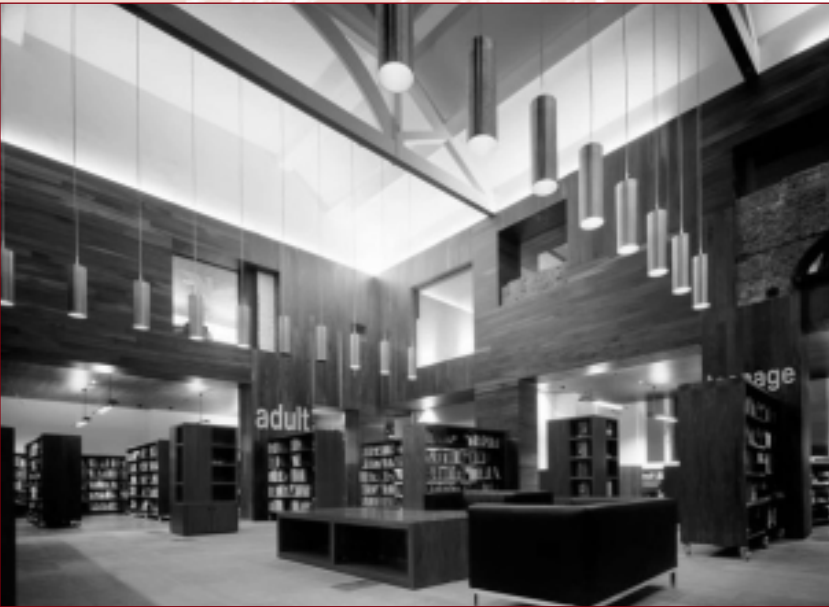
Nothing prepares you for the refurbished library on Lady Lane, especially if you were familiar with the previous Carnegie Library.

The façade of the original building has been retained and extensions added along Lady Lane and around the corner into Bakehouse Lane. Both old and new sections are clad with Kilkenny Limestone, the original section having been cleaned. The entrance has been relocated to the Lady Lane extension where a cleverly angled entrance draws you into a building which has set new standards for public library facilities.

The building, apart from housing the library service, is the very physical embodiment of its functionality. Libraries preserve the past and make it accessible in a variety of ways, from conserved manuscripts to digitised images on banks of computer screens. The juxtaposition of the past and the present which are almost commonplace in libraries, are apparent everywhere you look in this building. Sections of the old library have been incorporated into the new and renovated areas; the original walls can be seen through gaps in the black American walnut cladding that covers much of the interior; a section of the original city walls, discovered during excavations for the new building and which have been preserved, are now visible through the reinforced glass floor in the entrance area; the Lady Lane extension, which is now the entrance to the library, has a revolving door – the original building also had ‘gigantic patent revolving swing doors between the porch and the vestibule’<sup>1</sup>; the central atrium is filled with light from the original skylight. Everywhere there are windows into the past.



Photographs (clockwise from top left): children's area; entrance area with mezzanine floor; Internet study terminals and adult non-fiction; Staff desk and adult lending; Previous City Librarians, Richard Fennessy and Patty Fanning pictured with the present holder, Jane Cantwell (right) at the opening of the refurbished library; skylight (centre).



The ground floor has areas for exhibitions and displays, lending services for adult, children and young persons. The dark American walnut shelving used throughout the library provides a sense of continuity of design from one section to another – and, perhaps more interestingly, equality of service for all ages. The entrance area consists of a display space, lifts and stairs to other floors, and a casual seating area. Three hanging banners illustrate aspects of Waterford City's history and that of the library service, from Andrew Carnegie's visit in 1903 when he laid the foundation stone of the original library to the award winning Ardkeen library. A plaque commemorating Carnegie's endowment is displayed on the site of the original entrance and his statement at the foundation ceremony, that *Not even his Worship the Mayor, nor his Lordship the Bishop have one privilege within these walls which is not the birthright of the humblest citizen of Waterford* is proudly displayed inside the entrance.

On the second floor the mezzanine exhibition and serials reading area overlooks the entrance, local studies are accessible in the Waterford Room.

The third floor accommodates the ICT learning suite within the adult non-fiction lending / reference section, a business information centre, audio-listening and language learning centre.

Administrative offices are housed on the fourth floor, separated by glass walls and offering panoramic views of the city skyline. As you walk from one section to another 'windows' in the interior walls offer tantalising views of other service areas, enhanced by clever positioning of signage to guide you to your destination. The upper floors provide amazing views down into the central atrium.

It is a building that invites users to explore its physical aspects as well as its intellectual content. Exploration of one inevitably leads to discovery of the other – in that respect, the physical building has become an integral part of access to the services and facilities.

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<sup>1</sup>Irish Carnegie Libraries by Brendan Grimes, Irish Academic Press, 1998.





## news & events

The **CENTRE FOR INFORMATION & LIBRARY MANAGEMENT** at Liverpool John Moores University is carrying out a survey into the experiences of health information professionals conducting research either in the workplace or in an academic context. They are interested in all health professionals who have taken part in research projects however small and are looking for volunteers to complete a very short email questionnaire about their research experiences. If you would like to take part in this survey, please contact Barbara Sen at: [b.a.sen@livjm.ac.uk](mailto:b.a.sen@livjm.ac.uk)

Following the recent annual general meeting of the **LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND** the following appointments were made:

President: Gobnait O'Riordan; Hon. Sec: Denis Murphy; Hon. Treasurer: Catherine Watters.

The members of the Executive Board for the coming year are: Mary Burke (DepLIS); Bernard Barrett (Mid-Western Health Board); Kathleen Browne (Kerry County Library); Ann Cleary (Dundalk Institute of Technology); Mary Conway (Waterford City Library); Joe Donnelly (The Judges' Library); Beatrice Doran (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland); Deirdre Ellis King (Dublin City Libraries); Ruth Flanagan (Cork County Libraries); Pat Lonergan (Kildare County Libraries); Michéal Ó h-Aodha (University of Limerick); Geraldine McHugh (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Libraries); Denis Murphy (Cork County Libraries); Áine O'Connor (Arup Consulting Engineering); Gobnait O'Riordan (University of Limerick); Liam Ronayne (Cork City Libraries); Marjory Sliney (Fingal County Libraries); Brendan Teeling (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna); Donal Tinney (Sligo County Library); Teresa Walsh (South Dublin County Libraries); Catherine Watters (PriceWaterhouseCoopers).

In addition to these changes a new section is to be set up to cater for corporate and special libraries (contact Áine O'Connor at [aine.oconnor@arup.com](mailto:aine.oconnor@arup.com) for more information.

The following changes to the groups and sections were also adopted: The AVIT group has been renamed the Digital Libraries Group, the Assistant Librarians' Section is now the Public Libraries Section and a new Genealogy and Local Studies Group has been established (further information on this is available from Collette O'Flaherty ([coflaherty@nli.ie](mailto:coflaherty@nli.ie)) in the National Library). A new 'Reserved' category of Section has been created, comprising the existing City and County Librarians Section, a new Academic Library Directors Section and a Members Round Table.

**European Communities (Copyright and Related Rights) Regulations 2004** were signed by the Tanaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in January. Further details are available on the Department's website: [www.entemp.ie/tcmr/ipu/work.htm](http://www.entemp.ie/tcmr/ipu/work.htm)

The tenth **Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lecture in Legal Bibliography** was held in the Benchers' Room at the King's Inns, Dublin on 2nd March 2004. Following an account of the King's Inns and the Benchers' Room by the chairperson, the Hon. Mr. Justice Ronan Keane, Chief Justice of Ireland, Charles Lysaght, barrister-at-law and biographer of Brendan Bracken, delivered extensive introductory remarks. Professor John McEldowney, School of Law, University of Warwick, then delivered his lecture entitled "Challenges in Legal Bibliography: the role of biography in legal history". The chief justice made a response to the paper. This was followed by comments from the floor by Murray Smith, Barrister-at-Law; Dick Dunne, Hon. Sec. The Newman Society of Ireland; and Professor W. Nial Osborough, MRiA.

Those in attendance included the Hon. Mr. Justice Joseph Finnegan, President of the High Court; Judge John L. Murray and Judge Hugh Geoghegan, both of the Supreme Court; Jude Mella Carroll and Judge Roderick Murphy both of the High Court; the Hon. Mr. Justice Esmond Smyth, President of the Circuit Court;

Professor R.B. McDowell, FTCD and Dr. Colum Kenny, renowned historians; Wanda Ryan-Smolín, art historian; and literary figures, including Dr. Kenneth Ferguson, Dr. Eamonn G. Hall, Dr. Gerard Hogan FTCD, and Anthony P. Quinn. There was an attendance of forty five in the historic surroundings of the Benchers' Room.



▲ *Pictured l to r: Hugh M. Fitzpatrick, Series founder and organiser: the Hon. Mr. Justice Ronan Keane, Chief Justice; Isabel Duggan, Assistant Librarian, King's Inns; Professor John McEldowney, School of Law, University of Warwick; and Jonathan Armstrong, Librarian, King's Inns.*

**MEATH COUNTY LIBRARIES:** Meath LEADER has launched the *People+* initiative, which is designed to provide meaningful part-time employment for people living in rural areas of County Meath, by bringing the rural grapevine on-line.

County Meath is faced with a number of challenges in the labour market. Many people in rural areas, particularly farmers, are under-employed in their current occupations and have skills that could be made available to others on a part-time basis. Those with trades are in particular demand, since the construction industry has drawn in almost all of the full-time trades people.

Meath LEADER, which has been contracted by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to deliver the National Rural Development Programme in Meath, came up with the idea of *People+* in response to these challenges.

Computers configured to give instant access to the *People+* Web site have been placed in Meath libraries, job clubs, FÁS offices and Community Information Centres. The Web site, [www.people-plus.org](http://www.people-plus.org) provides a database of skills required and skills offered, broken down into simple categories designed to accommodate users.

In order to finance the project, Meath LEADER applied for funding under the Wales-Ireland INTERREG IIIA Programme. Almost €400,000 was awarded to fund the pilot phase, €216,430 being invested in County Meath, with the remainder being invested in Ceredigion in Wales by Meath LEADER's Welsh partner, Antur Teifi. The initiative was launched in Meath on 16 February by Minister for Education and Science, Noel Dempsey, who is also a local T.D. The first phase of the scheme will continue until June of this year, at which time it is hoped that it can be extended to other counties. Source: eGovernment.

The Conlan Collection of Irish Coins, Tokens and Ring Money has been placed on exhibition in the Special Collections Dept. of the **University of Limerick Library**.

The collection illustrates the history of the Irish coinage of the period from 1015 to 1826. It was formed with great care during the 1970s and 80s. Its contents and its scope reflect exemplary scholarship, a keen eye for quality, and a determination to acquire coins that would each illustrate a specific phase and period of Irish numismatic history, particularly with reference to Limerick.

The collection also contains two examples of the worked-metal pieces – what are generally referred to as ring-money – that may have had a symbolic use as much as a monetary value in prehistoric Ireland. A representative set of tokens, each with a

notional monetary value and used for the exchange of goods by various businesses and institutions in the early modern period, completes the collection.

It was presented to the University of Limerick by a member of the Conlan family of Limerick in an exceptional act of civic-minded generosity. It marks the family's long and distinguished involvement in the life of the City of Limerick.

Further information on the Conlan Collection is available from Ken Bergin, Special Collections Librarian, University of Limerick Library. Tel: 061-213158 Email: [ken.bergin@ul.ie](mailto:ken.bergin@ul.ie)

**Wexford** has inaugurated a Book Festival under the patronage of local children's writer, Eoin Colfer. This first year, the Festival was run over 4 days at the end of March. The timetabling launches Wexford's tourist season annually a little earlier than has been the case to date. Some programming linking literature with local heritage resources was targetted at schools throughout the South East and was particularly successful. Otherwise within the usual range of community events, at an academic level the focus was on theatre, and at a popular level the rise of popular Irish women writers was explored. Media coverage included dedicated programming by Lyric FM and RTE 1 as well as more local support. Visiting authors included Paul Jennings, Louisa Young, Marita Conlon McKenna, Gabriel Rosenstock, Sheila O'Flanagan, Deirdre Purcell, Patricia Scanlan, Martina Devlin, and Gareth O'Callaghan. Eoin Colfer headed a cast of local writers that included Gerard Whelan, Colm Toibin, Don Conroy and Jackie Hayden. As well as programming in the town library and other community venues, the library service was an active member of the steering committee.

More information from [www.wexfordbook.com](http://www.wexfordbook.com) and from Librarian,

## abbeyonehundred NATIONWIDE LIBRARIES PROGRAMME

As part of the *abbeyonehundred* celebrations, The Abbey Theatre, in association with An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and library authorities, presents the *abbeyonehundred* Nationwide Libraries Programme. This programme endeavours to enhance public access to and participation with the Abbey Theatre, through talks, lectures, play readings, writers in conversation, children and adult drama workshops, at local libraries. Over the coming months different events from this programme will take place at over 61 local libraries throughout Ireland.

The programme was formerly announced by the Abbey's Director of Outreach and Education, Jean O'Dwyer, at the annual LAI/CILIP Joint Conference in Wicklow on 20th April. The announcement was welcomed on behalf of the public library service by Jane Cantwell, Waterford City Librarian and vice-Chair of the County & City Librarian's Section of the LAI.



▲ *Jane Cantwell, Gobnait O Riordan, Norma McDermott and Jean O'Dwyer at the launch of abbeyonehundred*

The events include;

**The Archives Resource Box, children's workshop** – encourages children to explore the history of The Abbey Theatre with particular reference to key moments in the first fifty years of

Patricia Keenan at Wexford County Council Library Headquarters, tel: 053 24922 or [Patricia.keenan@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:Patricia.keenan@wexfordcoco.ie)

### Wicklow County Council Library Service Supporting International Day Against Racism:

March 21st 2004 was designated the International Day against Racism, part of the European Week against Racism which ran from 20th–28th March. The theme for 2004 focused on the full participation of minority ethnic groups in society, emphasising that minority ethnic groups are a part of Ireland, the local community and the electorate. Research and experience indicate that lack of participation, including limited intercultural dialogue and interaction, can result in increased racism.

To support this event and to celebrate and raise awareness of the richness and diversity of different cultures within our community, **Wicklow County Council Library Service** hosted six intercultural workshops for children on Saturday 20th March 2004, all free of charge, with facilitators from the Chester Beatty Library. Bray Library, Eglinton Road hosted a Tai Chi workshop for kids with Echo, demonstrating basic moves. Ballywaltrim Library, Boghall Road, had an interactive African Storytelling workshop with Ronke Arogundade for children aged 7-10 years with music, song and dance and some lively drumming. In Greystones Library Meiling made Chinese Lucky Packets and lanterns with an enthusiastic group. Wicklow Library hosted a Japanese craft workshop with Yoko and Arklow Library held a workshop on Henna Hand-Painting with Bhavna. Jeffrey Tan helped children aged 7-12 years make their own kites in Baltinglass Library. Children were encouraged to participate and enjoy a taster session of what the many cultures in our community have to offer with plenty of fun thrown in.

its existence. Children can access the archival materials of the Resource Box in a way that's interesting and fun, and become experts in the Abbey's history.

This workshop, which is of two hours duration, is aimed at Primary Schools 4th, 5th &/or 6th classes and can accommodate up to 30 students.

**Abbey Talks** – are designed for anyone with an interest in theatre in general, and the Abbey Theatre in particular. Guest speakers aim to explore the Abbey Theatre's illustrious history, as Ireland's National Theatre and Europe's oldest English speaking theatre, in addition to investigating the Abbey's future role in the development of Irish theatre. Guest speakers for the abbey talks are Mairead Delaney, Kathleen Barrington and Martin Drury. The talks are open to all members of the public and are 45 minutes to an hour duration.

**Writers in Conversation** – The Abbey Theatre's central duty is to tell the stories of this island nation and this responsibility rests with our contemporary playwrights. Writers in conversation involves playwrights associated with the Abbey discussing their work, what has influenced it, what it means to be a playwright today and their relationship with the Abbey Theatre. Writers involved in the 'Writers in Conversation' include Bernard Farrell & Frank McGuinness. The talks are open to all members of the public and are 45 minutes to an hour duration.

**Focus on..., adult drama workshop** – these workshops look at a number of different elements; the production process *from page to stage*, an approach to script and finally a director's approach to staging a play. The workshops are two and a half hours duration and are open to local Youth Theatres, Amateur Drama Groups and anyone with an interest in drama and the theatre. The maximum number for the workshop is 25 participants.

Full details of library events are available on the [www.library.ie](http://www.library.ie) website. For further information contact Brendan Teeling in An Chomhairle Leabharlanna at [bteeling@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:bteeling@librarycouncil.ie) (tel. 01 6761167).



**may 2004**

13-16th *Preserving and maintaining availability of print material: the role of repository libraries* – 2nd International Conference on Repository Libraries, Kuopio, Finland. See more information and the registration form at: <http://www.nrl.fi/kuopio2/conference.htm>

27th-28th EU information: finding your way through the maze, EU information: keeping up-to-date, and EU statistics: how to find and how to use are three courses organised by The European Information Association to take place at University College Dublin. For further information contact: Catherine Webb, Manager, European Information Association, Central Library, St. Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD, UK. Tel: +44(0) 161 228 3691. Fax: +44 (0) 161 236 6547. e: [eia@libraries.manchester.gov.uk](mailto:eia@libraries.manchester.gov.uk) w: <http://www.eia.org.uk>

**june 2004**

1st-2nd *Seeing Better Ireland exhibition*. St. Joseph's School for the Visually Impaired, Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. Details: [www.seeingbetterireland.org](http://www.seeingbetterireland.org)

3rd-4th *Seeing Better Ireland exhibition*. Grosvenor House Training & Conference Centre, 5 Glengall Street, Belfast BT12 5AD. Details: [www.seeingbetterireland.org](http://www.seeingbetterireland.org)

11-13th *Changing times, new challenges: the role of the legal information professional in times of economic and technological change*: British & Irish Association of Law Librarians 35th Annual Study Conference, Edinburgh. Details: [www.biall.org/](http://www.biall.org/)

24-25th The *Irish Innovative Users Conference* (IIUG) will be held at the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. For further information, contact Gillian Kerins at +353 1 4042201 or email: [gillian.kerins@it-tallaght.ie](mailto:gillian.kerins@it-tallaght.ie)

17th-20th

*From Aesop to e-book: the story goes on ...* School Library Association and International Association of School Librarians Joint International Conference, Trinity College, Dublin. Further information and booking form available at [www.SLA.org.uk](http://www.SLA.org.uk) Tel: +44 1793 791787. e-mail: [Aesop@SLA.org.uk](mailto:Aesop@SLA.org.uk)

24th

Disaster planning, prevention, practical disaster recovery and biocare: a course organised by Harewell Drying and Restoration Services at The Holiday Inn, Pearse Street Dublin 2. Introduction and refresher course on the key issues involved in disaster planning and salvage after fire, flood etc. with specific reference to the holding and services of libraries, archives and museums. Cost €165 for Priority Users and €245 for non-priority users. For further details and reservations: tel: 44 1235 432245.

29th

*Access all areas: serving the user* – International Digitisation Conference, St Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle, Dublin. For details please contact Domitilla Fagan at [dfagan@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:dfagan@librarycouncil.ie)

**august 2004**

22-27th *Libraries: tools for Education and Development*: 70th IFLA General Conference & Council, Buenos Aires, Argentina. [www.ifla.org/IV/index.htm](http://www.ifla.org/IV/index.htm)

**september 2004**

6-8th *Variety is the spice of life*: CILIP Health Libraries Group conference, Belfast. Details: [www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/](http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/)

8th

*International Literacy Day / International Adult Learners Week*.

**october 2004**

12-14th Public Library Authorities Conference, Newcastle. Details: [www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/conf.html](http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/conf.html)

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