



# IRISH LIBRARY news



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## SCHOOL LIBRARIES: AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE

*This is a very important document for the 21st Century... school libraries are vitally important to give children opportunities for learning.* So said the new Minister of State for Children, Brian Lenihan, T.D. at the launch of a policy statement on school libraries entitled the *School Library in the 21st Century: An Agenda For Change*. The policy statement was launched on Friday 12th of November by the School Library Association in the Republic of Ireland. The event was held in Larkin Community College in the heart of Dublin's city centre. This school proved the ideal location to host such an event. As one of the 11 school libraries set up across the country under the Junior Certificate School Programme Demonstration Library Project it demonstrates what can be achieved when a state of the art library is established in a school and then managed by a full-time librarian.



▲ *Minister of State Brian Lenihan TD and Norma McDermott are joined by competition winners from Larkin Community College who performed their poems about school libraries at the launch of the SLARI policy statement: The School Library in the 21st Century: an agenda for change.*

SLARI's policy statement calls for the establishment of a comprehensive system of school libraries at both primary and secondary level. Norma McDermott, Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna was the guest speaker at the launch. Norma wholeheartedly endorsed the policy statement and commended the Department of Education and Science on the achievements thus far of the JCSP Demonstration Library Project. This project will result in the compilation of a significant body of research on the impact that a school library can have on student's literacy levels and their experiences of school.

Another guest speaker at the event was young Garreth Murphy. Garreth is a second year student on the *Learning Through Arts Programme* in Larkin Community College. Watched over by a very proud Mum and two beaming Grannies, Garreth told the Minister and the assembled guests about the impact of the library on daily life in the school. According to Garreth *"the library has completely changed the reading habits of the majority of students since it opened"*. He went on to argue that this government needs to *"...invest a lot more money in libraries in primary and secondary schools across the country. Can you imagine how much it would benefit school children across the country if every school had a library like this one? The quality of our education would have to improve"*.

Needless to say Garreth stole the show.



*Garreth and Minister Brian Lenihan assess each other's speeches at the launch in Larkin College.*

On Saturday the 13th of November the SLARI conference was also held in Larkin Community College. The conference was well attended with delegates travelling the length and breadth of the country. The feedback from the delegates was really positive. Some highpoints included presentations by students on their library use and a wonderful range of stories told by professional storyteller Niall De Burca. The conference provided a useful forum for networking and exchanging ideas and information.

Those SLARI members who could not attend the event will receive their copy of the policy statement in the post. The policy statement can also be downloaded from the following website: <http://www.sla.org.uk/slari.pdf>. Those of us on the SLARI committee would like to thank all those who came both to the Launch and the Conference. We look forward to seeing you again at the next SLARI event. If you have any queries or require any information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

## publications

The Verbal Arts Centre and the newly formed Storytellers of Ireland have established an Irish Storytelling Centre to promote and develop storytelling as a contemporary art. The Centre has published a handbook of Irish storytellers with information about the storytellers, how to organise storytelling events and how to book the storytellers. The Handbook can be purchased from the Verbal Arts Centre, Stable Lane and Mall Wall, Bishop Street Within, Derry BT48 6PU for £3.00/€5.00 plus £1/€3 postage (cheques made payable to Storytellers of Ireland).

***Irish storytelling handbook.* – Derry: The Verbal Arts Centre, 2004. ISBN: 189870158X**

## IRISH RESEARCH ELECTRONIC LIBRARY (IReL) CONSORTIUM

The Conference of the Heads of Irish Universities (CHIU) Librarians' Group is delighted to announce the completion of the first phase of the IReL Initiative. Under this national initiative, jointly funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Higher Education Authority (HEA), researchers in Irish universities will have access to the contents of a wide range of electronic journals via their library web sites.

The scheme, negotiated by the CHIU Librarians' Group, provides the contents of electronic journals in the fields of Biotechnology and Information and Communications Technology, which form the focus of research by the teams of SFI Investigators in the country. The first phase of the scheme provides access to the electronic content of eleven major publishers of science periodicals and approximately fifty other individual e-journals, involving a total of 2,000 individual titles. The selection of these journal titles follows a polling exercise to identify the journals 'most wanted' by the SFI research community. The second phase of the project is now under way and this will deliver the contents of an additional 850 titles to further support higher education research activities across the country.

Journals such as *Nature*, *Science*, *Scientific American*, in addition to publisher packages from the Institute of Physics, Blackwell, Springer, the Institute of Scientific Information and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers titles, to mention a few, will be made available electronically over the next number of months. The benefits of the IReL initiative to Irish research infrastructure are hugely significant in that all researchers will have desktop electronic access to the published research output of the leading journals in their fields. Provision of the information is integrated

into each university library's suite of web facilities and the commitment of funding over the next number of years provides a stable environment for the development of services. There are also major advantages in the negotiation of a single national licence, with associated training, on and off-campus access and discount for consortium contracts. The technical aspects of negotiation and other contractual arrangements are being handled through IRIS, a company established to act on behalf of the consortium of university and research libraries.

The two funding authorities are committed to providing €4.5m annually to 2008 in support of the project. Under the partnership between the SFI and HEA, existing subscriptions are maintained by individual libraries while new subscriptions are provided from the earmarked resources for those not already subscribing.

John FitzGerald, Chairman of CHIU Librarian's Group, describes IReL as 'a ground-breaking initiative demonstrating the value of national funding for the provision of information as part of national research strategy.'

The CHIU Librarians' Group looks forward to announcing the completion of the next phase of the IReL Initiative early in 2005 and to undertaking a similar exercise to provide a national platform for electronic research content in the Arts and Humanities.

For further information, please contact Fiona McGoldrick, IRIS Manager, at [iris@ucd.ie](mailto:iris@ucd.ie) or a member of the CHIU Librarians' Group: Marie Reddan ([marie.reddan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:marie.reddan@nuigalway.ie)) John FitzGerald ([J.Fitzgerald@ucc.ie](mailto:J.Fitzgerald@ucc.ie)), Agnes Neligan ([agnes.neligan@may.ie](mailto:agnes.neligan@may.ie)), Gobnait O'Riordan, ([Gobnait.ORiordan@ul.ie](mailto:Gobnait.ORiordan@ul.ie)), Paul Sheehan ([paul.sheehan@dcu.ie](mailto:paul.sheehan@dcu.ie)), Robin Adams ([radams@tcd.ie](mailto:radams@tcd.ie)), Sean Phillips ([Sean.Phillips@ucd.ie](mailto:Sean.Phillips@ucd.ie)).

## THE ARCHIVES RESOURCE BOX

As part of **abbey**onehundred centenary celebrations 49 libraries participated in a very successful nationwide programme this year with 54 activities being held between them throughout the year. Of these, 33 were archive resource box workshops for children.

The archives resource box encourages children in upper primary school, 4th, 5th and 6th classes, to explore the history of the Abbey Theatre with particular reference to key moments in the first fifty years of its existence. Children can access materials in the box in a way that stimulates active inquiry and interest. Collaborative learning is promoted by exploring the unique history of the Abbey Theatre and its cultural heritage as lived realities rather than as received knowledge. It complements the aims and methods of the revised primary school history (social, environment and scientific education) curriculum.

The archives resource box includes 3 annotated lesson plans, which provide the teacher with ideas on how to facilitate their group's exploration of the material. The included ideas and methodologies aim to raise questions, explore choices and stimulate curiosities. If you are interested in exploring and buying an archives resource box for your library please contact Elena Gamble at the Outreach/Education Department in the Abbey Theatre on 01 8146506 or [outreach3@abbeytheatre.ie](mailto:outreach3@abbeytheatre.ie)



▲ Children working with an archive resource box.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING AWARDS, 2005

The Public Libraries Group of Cilip have launched the Public Library Buildings Awards for 2005.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the awards and to reflect changes in public library design, management and use, PLG has reviewed the categories of award which now consist of:

- *Partnership* – new or refurbished libraries built in partnership with other agencies and including dual or multi purpose libraries.
- *Architect meets Practicality* – new or refurbished libraries of significant architectural interest which are practical and user friendly.
- *Interior Design* – new or refurbished libraries which have effectively combined light, space, people, movement with exciting colour and design. Individual sections of libraries, e.g. 'teen zones', or one floor of a library would be considered in this category although the area of the space being entered must be no less than 100 m<sup>2</sup>.
- *Heart of the Community* – new or refurbished libraries which have been designed to enhance, regenerate and/or tackle social inclusion issues in local communities and/or new innovative service delivery deriving from the revitalised library facility.
- *Mary Finch Accessibility Award* – a new award to honour the late Mary Finch, of BBC Audio Books. The award is given to the library which, in the opinion of the judges, most addresses access issues from physical through to cultural barriers.

The awards will recognise achievement from 1 January 2003 – 31 March 2005. Entries must not have been submitted previously. Authorities can enter libraries for more than one category.

For more details, including information on the format for entries and an electronic application form, please contact Adrienne Adair at: [adrienne.adair@ni-libraries.net](mailto:adrienne.adair@ni-libraries.net)

**The British Library** has announced a £10 million programme to help save the world's endangered archives. This is a joint initiative between the Library and the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund and is the largest of its kind ever undertaken. The programme will be administered by the British Library with a panel of international experts deciding on the allocation of the grants. Institutions and academic researchers will be able to apply for grants to help identify endangered records and re-locate them to institutional archives in their local region. A copy will be maintained in the master archive at the British Library. This will ensure that no original material is removed from its cultural home and copies will be accessible on an international basis. The programme will also provide bursaries for overseas librarians and archivists for work attachments at the British Library to foster better archival management and preservation in the longer term.

Application forms for both grants and bursaries are available on the British Library's web-site at: [www.bl.uk/angeredarchives](http://www.bl.uk/angeredarchives), and the first round of awards will take place in May 2005.

A wide range of events took place during Science Week in **Fingal County Libraries**, from interactive workshops involving some very large and lively creepy crawlies to Meteorology and other lectures, Science Magic shows, Poster Competition exhibitions and more.

A newcomer to Fingal Libraries this year was the Pfizer Science Bus at Rathbeale Library, allowing children an opportunity to do science experiments in a controlled environment with qualified scientists. The Science Bus was kindly sponsored by Aer Rianta. The week kicked off on Monday 8th at 10.00am with a seminar in Baldoyle Library by Professor Philip J. Boland, UCD entitled "Statistical Science; Telling the truth with Graphics". This talk used statistics to answer such questions as "Why is a baby more likely to be born on Thursday?" or "Can statistics be used to prove allegations of exam cheating?" It illustrated how good statistical graphics can convert numbers into a powerful message. The Awards Ceremony for the "Celebrating Science" poster competition took place in Rathbeale Library on Monday 8th November.

Michael Moylan brought his new show "The Wonders of the Human Body" to Fingal County Libraries on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th November. A fun, interactive, hands on show where children did medical experiments on each other.

Tom McLoughlin, lecturer in DCU brought a Science Magic workshop to Malahide library where children were amazed with chemistry experiments.

Thursday 11th November proved a very lively, even, hilarious day throughout Fingal County Libraries thanks to the appearance of a live Chilean Rose Tarantula, the Giant African Millipede, the Madagascan Hissing Cockroach and some chocolate covered ants and worms! The BIG BUG Show back by popular demand presented to hundreds of children in Fingal County Libraries for an extra day this year allowing many more children an opportunity to tickle a tarantula, cuddle a cockroach, and massage a millipede. Seeing the bugs up close and being able to touch them is a great way to learn about the bugs and their habitat.

The show was supplied by Forfás and presented by Lee Gibbs, a science communicator. Designed to dispel common notions and myths about bugs, all of the creatures were very much alive, and left a very memorable and lasting experience of a hands-on interactive science workshop in Fingal County Libraries to those who took part.

And finally the Pfizer Science Bus, sponsored by Aer Rianta, parked outside Rathbeale Library on Friday 12th from 10.00am -2.30pm. This gave children an opportunity to do science experiments in a controlled environment with qualified scientists.

The Executive Board of the **Library Association of Ireland** held its October meeting in Killarney Library on 21st October.



▲ L-r: Standing: Brendan Teeling (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna), Aine O'Connor (Arup Consulting Engineers), Ann Cleary (Dundalk Institute of Technology), Pat Lonergan (Kildare County Libraries), Denis Murphy (Cork County Libraries), Catherine Watters (Hon. Treasurer, LAI); Seated: Mary Conwa (Waterford City Library, Gobnait O'Riordan (President, LAI), Kathleen Browne (Kerry County Libraries), Ruth Flanagan (Cork County Libraries).

**Wexford's** Stories from the Hearth Festival was in its sixth year in November. Since its initiation in 1999, the Festival Season has been successful in the breadth of its achievement. Many communities have been exposed to the skills and pleasure of storytelling, the number of Storytelling houses in County Wexford has increased from 2 to 6, with 2 more at planning and construction stages. Programming has included a number of projects around skills development, & collection of local material. This year Wexford Public Libraries has liaised with the Scottish Storytelling Centre. Its Director, Donald Smith, is appointed to take a hard, cold look at achievement to date and to advise on options for further development. His report will be available early in 2005.

Further information from [Fionnuala.hanrahan@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:Fionnuala.hanrahan@wexfordcoco.ie)

## LAI ANNOUNCES NEW SECTION FOR GENEALOGY AND LOCAL STUDIES

The LAI is delighted to announce the launch of a an exciting new LAI Section, founded in response to an initiative of the Genealogy and Local History Section of IFLA, and whose primary aim is to provide a forum for LAI members working, or with an interest in genealogy and local studies.

The Genealogy and Local Studies Section can help members to:

- meet other people working in libraries and information centres with similar concerns and interests;
- promote the continuing professional development of genealogy and local studies staff;
- promote best practice in the delivery of traditional and electronic genealogy and local studies reference services;
- foster the use of genealogy and local studies collections within the broader community;
- facilitate networking among those working with genealogy and local studies collections in libraries, archives and museums serving;
- genealogists and local studies researchers;
- promote international cooperation in the preservation, conservation, and dissemination of Irish genealogical and local studies sources.

The Genealogy and Local Studies Section welcomes contact from anyone involved or interested in genealogy and local studies. Further information and contact details are available at <http://www.libraryassociation.ie/sections/genealogy/index.htm> or from Colette O'Falaherty ([coflaherty@nli.ie](mailto:coflaherty@nli.ie)) in the National Library.





### january 2005

14-15th *From mountain to molehill: research made easy* – a two day course which will take you 'from proposal to publication'. Venue: Centre for Continuing Studies, St. Francis Hospice, Dublin 5. Cost: €200 (includes lunch, refreshments, course materials and a complete step-by-step manual for you to take away). Places are limited, so apply early. For further information or to apply, please contact: Education Department, St. Francis Hospice, Station Road, Raheny, Dublin 5. t: 01-832 7535; f: 832 7635; e: education@sfh.ie; w: www.stfrancishospice.ie

20th *17th century Dubliners and their books* - the 8th Annual John T. Gilbert lecture will be given by Dr Raymond Gillespie, Department of History, NUI Maynooth. The venue is Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. For further information contact Máire Kennedy, Dublin City Library and Archive, Tel: 674 4995 email: maire.kennedy@dublincity.ie

### february 2005

21st *Preservation for access: managing paper-based collections in museums, libraries and archives.* For further details contact: National Preservation Office, British Library Conference Centre, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB

### april 2005

19-21st Joint Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland & CILIP-Ireland, City Hotel, Derry City.

### august 2005

11-12th *The physical library and beyond: library as place and the library in cyberspace* – IFLA 2005 satellite meeting organised by the Library Building and Equipment Section in co-operation with the Reference Work Section. Venue: Järvenpää, Finland. Conference language is English. For information and registration see: www.fl.a.fi/PHYSICALvsVIRTUAL05/

14-18th *Libraries: a voyage of discovery* – 71st IFLA General Conference and Council, Oslo. Details: e: ifla2005@norskbiotekforening.no w: www.ifla2005oslo.no

## MSC ECON / PG DIP INFORMATION & LIBRARY STUDIES. (FULL-TIME & DISTANCE LEARNING) / NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF WALES AT ABERYSTWYTH

Following its most recent accreditation visit to Aberystwyth last year, Cilip has granted accreditation to Aberystwyth's course, Msc Econ. Post Graduate Diploma, so the Diploma and Masters are now both accredited. The Postgraduate Diploma is the exit point on the course after the taught element and before embarking on the dissertation to gain the Masters.

Until recently, information contained on the Aberystwyth website stated that the Diploma was not accredited by Cilip. If you are studying for the Diploma and would like further clarification you should contact: Michael Martin, Adviser, Qualifications & Professional Development, CILIP, 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE, U.K. Tel: 00 44 20 7255 0625; email: Michael.Martin@cilip.org.uk

A complete list of courses accredited by Cilip can be found at: [www.cilip.org.uk/qualificationschartership/Wheretostudy](http://www.cilip.org.uk/qualificationschartership/Wheretostudy)

### 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; web-site: <http://www.ucd.ie/lis>

The final date for receipt of application forms is **1st February 2005**. Entry to the programmes is competitive and the number of places is limited.

### wanted

- o *Bank of England Inflation Report*, February 1993
  - o *Bank of England Financial Stability Review*, Autumn 1997
- Wanted by Dieter Babel-Thomson  
Telephone: 01-832 5513; e-mail: BabelThomson@oceanfree.net
- Irish Library Bulletin:** Vol. 1, 1940, Vols. 5 – 12, 1944-1951. Contact: Alun Bevan, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53-54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. e: abevan@librarycouncil.ie t: +353 (0)1-678 4905; f: +353 (0)1-676 6721. We hold some duplicates for this title which could possibly be exchanged for our missing issues.

### COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th January 2005.

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