

IRISH LIBRARY news

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LIBRARIES AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

President Mary McAleese visited Ashbourne library on Friday 4th March to launch the *Libraries and Cultural Diversity* project, which has involved Meath County Council Library Service, Waterford City Libraries, Dublin City Libraries and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

The project's aims were to explore how Irish libraries can provide a better service to the multicultural society in Ireland today. The President was greeted by Mary Murphy, Executive Librarian for Ashbourne library and was shown a number of the project exhibits by Meath County Librarian, Ciarán Mangan. The exhibits included a selection of books in various languages including collection of books of Irish authors in translation. The President was also shown online resources of various foreign newspapers and the use of Cyrillic keyboards which are now available in all Meath Libraries.



▲ President McAleese pictured with the project team

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Tommy Reilly officially welcomed the President and County Manager, Tom Dowling also spoke.

In her speech President McAleese commended An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and the project team on their work to improve services for our expanding multicultural society. The President went on to say:

Because public libraries are vibrant, accessible and user-friendly centres of knowledge and information, open to everyone whatever their age, education or nationality, they are the perfect setting to give explicit leadership in multicultural awareness and effective community integration. This insightful and very welcome initiative by the Irish public libraries working with An Chomhairle Leabharlanna explores how libraries can best respond to our multicultural and multilingual society, how they can make the stranger welcome among us and ensure we, as a civic society, are open to the processes of individual and collective cultural enrichment which a multicultural environment offers. The new services show respect for the world's great diversity and importantly encourage a tolerant healthy curiosity about that diversity.

The President also viewed the schools service multicultural collection, which is available for loan for all Meath schools via the schools library service. Sharleyne Sankoh, a pupil from St. Declan's School, presented the President with a posy of flowers before the formal speeches began.

The President is no stranger to Meath and she recalled her time living in the Dunshaughlin area. She congratulated Meath County

Council on the state of the art library in Ashbourne. County Librarian, Ciarán Mangan, said 'It was a great day for Meath County Council Library Service and the Ashbourne Community'.

As part of the European Week against Racism, March 23 last was designated the International Day against Racism.

In order to celebrate the new multicultural Ireland and open children up to the many fascinating aspects of different cultures, **Wicklow County Council Library Service** hosted workshops in Bray and Greystones.

In Bray, classes from St. Fergal's Senior School enjoyed two sessions with *The Silkworm Club* in Ballywaltrim library, which was run by Claire Barman and Johanna Varghese from the Chester Beatty Library.

In these workshops the children explored the countries along the Silk Road incorporating history, geography and traditions of different cities and cultures, practising clapping beats from different cultures, elements of yoga, tai-chi and butoh dance and made personal talismans as the travellers used to do.

Meanwhile, Bhavna Inamdar facilitated the henna hand-painting workshop in Greystones library, weaving wonderful designs on the children's hands and showing them how saris are worn. Bhavna works locally and her session was enthusiastically received by all the participants, parents included.

Source: *Bray people*

MORE SCHOOL LIBRARIES PROMISED

At the recent congress of the Teachers Union of Ireland (TUI), the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, T.D. identified educational disadvantage, creating a positive learning environment, and developing a knowledge society as key challenges for the second and third level education sectors.

The Minister remarked that educational exclusion is still deeply embedded in Irish society despite initiatives over the last few years. Announcing a new policy framework, Ms. Hanafin said:

It will put in place a new integrated School Support Programme that will bring together, and build upon, some ten existing policy interventions and initiatives for schools and school communities with a concentrated level of disadvantage.

The new framework will be implemented on a phased basis from the start of the next school year. Secondary schools in disadvantaged areas will benefit from enhanced guidance counselling services targeted at junior cycle students, more libraries, expanded home and community liaison services to foster parent involvement, and an extension of the School Completion Programme.

Other measures which will be implemented on a phased basis include additional funding for literacy and numeracy measures at junior cycle, improved planning procedures with an emphasis on measuring progress and outcomes and wider educational choice which recognises different forms of intelligence and skills.

The report of the second meeting of the NAPS Social Inclusion Forum which was held in January and which will be presented to Cabinet shortly, recommends that schools be encouraged to develop library services¹.

Second meeting of the NAPS Social Inclusion Forum, 26th January, 2005: conference report. Dublin: National Economic and Social Forum, 2005. ISBN: 1-899276-36-X, p.39.

THE WORD ENDURES

The Word Endures was the title given to a two day seminar organised by Cork City Libraries in association with the Library Association of Ireland and Cork 2005. The seminar focused on what libraries and library organisations are doing to encourage and defend free expression in face of repeated attacks throughout the ages from wars, natural disasters and censorship.

Libraries have always been a 'safe haven for the word', and many libraries and many librarians have suffered at the hands of aggressors. Of course it is not the books per se but the culture they represent that dictatorships target and books are not the only manifestation of culture as the sacking of museums and private collections adequately illustrates.

Natural disasters do not discriminate, they do not choose to destroy any one specific culture and the 2004 Tsunami is proof of that. The Sri Lankan Library Association reports that 'many public libraries, school libraries, religious libraries as well as private libraries lost their collections while a few libraries were totally destroyed... 52 public libraries, around 177 school libraries and 68 libraries attached to religious institutions were damaged by the tsunami in Sri Lanka. Although no assessments have been done on damages to private libraries as yet, many private libraries were also badly affected by the tsunami. In addition, a few museums were also severely damaged'. Other affected areas have their own catalogues of destruction.



▲ *Speakers, organisers and participants at the conference*

Speakers at the conference referenced many more examples of planned 'libricide' and unplanned disasters.

The conference was opened by The Lord Mayor, Cllr. Seán Martin. Ruth Flanagan, Cork County Librarian and newly installed President of the Library Association spoke on the theme, "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance", about the need for librarians to be alert to the dangers they face, in censorship, destruction of libraries and books, etc.

Alex Byrne (President Elect of IFLA) spoke of the work of IFLA and its Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) in its work to defend and promote the basic human rights defined in Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Jan Ewout van der Putten (President of EBLIDA) described EBLIDA's work in the area and postulated the premise of closer cooperation with FAIFE in order to maximise effectiveness. Judith Vidal-Hall (editor of *Index on Censorship*) gave an uncompromising talk on the threats that exist to freedom of expression; Sue Cole representing The Blue Shield organisation of the UK and Ireland described that organisations work in protecting, and all too often, salvaging the world's cultural heritage.

Taghreed Al-Qudsi, a Palestinian librarian working in the University of Kuwait described events during and after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and Senator Brendan Ryan (standing in for Michael D. Higgins, T.D.) spoke on the freedom of information. Censorship comes in many guises. At its most extreme it is accompanied by physical repression, ethnic cleansing and a desire to systematically sweep away all record of a people's past.

There have been many attempts to hide behind a more benign facade to convince us that it is all for our own good and safe-keeping. The USA's Patriot Act comes in that guise.

Although speaker after speaker gave examples of such activities, they also highlighted the work of reconstruction that followed natural and man made attacks on libraries and the word; Judith Vidal-Hall described the work of the official censor as one doomed to failure as the means of promulgating ideas through 'the word' were as persistent as they were varied. Cesar Chavez said: "You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read".



▲ *Ruth Flanagan, President, LAI*

Other speakers cited instances of international cooperation to help retrieve, repair and replace many of the cultural keepsakes. Audience interaction was lively and informed. One person prophetically raised a question of concern over the ancient spiral minaret of Samarra in Iraq which has been used as an observation point and sniper position during the war there. A few weeks later, on April 1st, the tower received a hit from a mortar shell, damaging the structure which has stood there since 852. Concerns about the safety of libraries and museum during the invasion of Iraq had been raised by organisations such as Unesco and The International Committee of the Blue Shield prior to the invasion. Dr. Jeremy Black a specialist on ancient Iraq at Oxford University, said: "What has befallen Baghdad and Mosul museums was foreseen by archaeologists worldwide. Meetings were even held with the American military before the war to warn of the extreme likelihood of looting should an invasion occur". The Pentagon has defended its' non-action by saying that it agreed to protect the sites during battle, as distinct from any looting that came afterward.

A joint United Kingdom and Ireland Blue Shield committee (UKIRB) has been formed as the umbrella organisation under the auspices of the British Library and IFLA. An Irish committee – members of which are also members of UKIRB – was set up in 2004, with four representatives.

Two meetings have been held and two primary objectives have been identified, viz. to raise the matter of Ireland's ratification of the Hague Protocol in the appropriate quarters and to promote awareness of the aims and work of the Blue Shield organisation among the armed forces.

It was an important and timely conference. Unfortunately it could probably be held again in a few years time without repeating any of the examples of 'libricide' mentioned in Cork.

The conference was accompanied by an exhibition in Cork City library of banned books and photographs and descriptions of damaged libraries, a silent reminder of the themes of the conference.

Immediately after the seminar, a related event began: the 24 hour-long session of readings of banned texts and texts by writers who have been banned in various parts of the world. The readings began in the Central Library, on Grand Parade, led by Tom McCarthy, Desmond O'Grady and Liz O'Donoghue, and other participants included John Waters, Trevor Joyce, Gerry

Murphy, and Mary Leland. The readings continued without a break throughout the night and on through Saturday morning, concluding 24 hours after they began, at 2.00pm. The venues included the steps of the recently refurbished Courthouse, the Triskel Arts Centre, and Central Library again (from 11.00pm until 2.00am), and finished with readings by some of the City's Cultural Officers - Liam Ronayne, City Librarian, Brian McGee, Archivist, and Maeve Dineen, Community Arts Officer - on the steps of City Hall. Interestingly many of the texts chosen were Russian, including Akhmatova, Pasternak, and Mandelstam, while Pat Cotter chose sonnets by Ovid which led to his banishment from Rome.



Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual to both hold and express opinions and to seek and receive information. Intellectual freedom is the basis of democracy. Intellectual freedom is the core of the library concept.

Cork City: "In one of the worst atrocities committed during the War of Independence British forces deliberately set fire to several blocks of buildings



along the east and south sides of Saint Patrick's Street during Saturday night 11 December 1920 and the following Sunday morning. The City Hall and the **Carnegie Library** were also completely destroyed by fire. The loss of the stock of the library and of the records in Cork City Hall was a huge blow to future historians." *Cork City website*.

The artillery attack on the **National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina** in August 1992 resulted in the massive destruction of the library and the culture it represented. When the four days of bombardment ended on August 27, all that remained were burned ruins. The flames engulfed almost 3 million volumes.

Iraq: *The New York Times* reported April 14 that "virtually nothing was left of the library and its tens of thousands of old manuscripts and books, and of archives like Iraqi newspapers tracing the country's turbulent history from the era of Ottoman rule through Mr. Hussein. Reading rooms and the stacks where the collections were stored were reduced to smoking vistas of blackened rubble."

The Associated Press reported April 12 that the library of Mosul University, with its rare manuscripts, was also sacked "despite appeals blared from mosque minarets to stop destroying the city," according to the Arab television network Al-Jazeera. Mosul fell into U.S. and Kurdish hands April 11

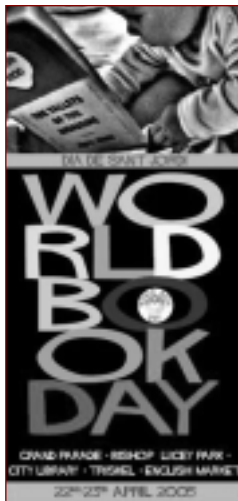
Construction commenced in autumn 2003 of the new Central Library and County Heritage Centre in Farnham St, Cavan. The new service will be open to the public later this year. As part of the planning process, and arising from Cavan County Library's participation in the Library Access project, local disability groups were invited to give their views on how best to make the new building inclusive. *Cavan's New Central Library – Making it work for you: A Survey of People with Disabilities* was launched in the Hotel Kilmore in November 2004. Surveying took place during November and December. The survey results, published by Cavan County Library Service, were launched at an information meeting on the Disability Bill in the Cavan Crystal Hotel on Monday 7th March 2005. Local disability organisations were presented with a copy of the survey results and the County Librarian thanked the disability organisations and individuals who participated in this survey. The key findings are as follows:

- The provision of easy, independent, physical access to the library building and to the full range of services was identified as a major issue by all respondents.
- 98% highlighted the importance of a free service.
- The necessity of Saturday opening was reinforced by a response rate of 71%. The enhanced opening hours planned is seen as a key measure in delivery of better service to all, including people with disabilities.
- The importance of providing a good range of stock in different formats i.e. large print books and audio / talking books is emphasised.
- The necessity of making assistive / adaptive technology and equipment available in the new Central Library was highlighted by 71% of respondents.
- Internet access & computer facilities are required by 87% of those surveyed with staff assistance for these services regarded as essential.
- The importance of appropriate staff levels and staff training & awareness was highlighted with 89% of respondents requiring staff assistance.
- Respondents also commented on how the library service can better serve their needs. These comments will be very useful in planning services for the new Central Library.
- Many respondents expressed an appreciation of Cavan Library Service for taking this approach to determining their needs and delivering the best possible library service for people with disabilities.

Further details are available from Josephine Brady, County Librarian, Cavan County Library, Farnham Street, Cavan.

Fingal County Library's Housebound Service was officially launched by Leas Cathaoirleach Senator Tom Morrissey on Wednesday 31st July at 12.00p.m. in Blanchardstown Library. Fingal Housebound Service was formerly established in 2001 as part of a commitment to equality of access for all with Ms. Josephine Knight, Librarian, appointed to administer the service. The development of this service was recently enhanced by the acquisition of a new van for the exclusive use of the Housebound Service. Fingal Housebound service aims at those in hospitals, residential care, isolated at home and the disabled who do not have access to their local branch library or mobile library. An important role of the Fingal Housebound Service is forging links with the many associations which support people with disability and mobility impairment, Representatives of various groups with whom Josephine liaised were in attendance, such as F.A.D.E.(Federation of Awareness of Disability Equality, Vivienne O'Brien, co-ordinator of activities with Leas Cross Nursing Home, local Health centre nurses and Martina Baxter, agent for Ulverscroft, large print suppliers to Fingal County Libraries. This additional service of Fingal County Libraries seeks to overcome physical and social barriers to library use and plays a pivotal role in social inclusion.

LIBRARIES AND WORLD BOOK DAY



◀ Cork City Library's WBD brochure

▼ South Dublin County Library's logo for WBD



Cork City Libraries, along with Triskel Arts Centre and other arts organizations in the city, is organising a Catalan-style celebration of the book and literature on 23rd April, 2005. In Catalunya, the 'Dia de Sant Jordi' is a long established tradition which includes giving a book and a rose to friends . .

In Cork this year the festival will take over the Grand Parade, filling it with people, books, flowers and food, and will have free events on Grand Parade, in Bishop Lucey Park, the Central Library, Triskel and the English Market. The project is a collaboration between Cork City Libraries, Cork 2005, Triskel Arts Centre, Munster Literature Centre, Tigh Fíli Arts Centre, Meridian Theatre Company, and the English Market.

To get everyone into the right mood, the Central Library on Grand Parade will be hosting readings by internationally known Irish writers, Colm Tóibín (on Thursday 21st), and Anthony Cronin, (Friday 22nd), and will stay open around the clock, from 10.00am on Friday 22nd to 5.30pm on Saturday 23rd, featuring readings, and music and other performances.

Cork's first World Book Day on Saturday 23rd will include

- stalls of books, flowers and food on Grand Parade directly in front of the Central Library;
- a marquee on Grand Parade where readings from Irish and European writers will take place; with films, readings and other events at the Library;
- a literary stall in the English Market;
- street performers, storytellers, local community art groups, and Poetry in the Park, an installation in Bishop Lucey Park;
- Munster Literature Centre will host the 3rd Annual Cork Children's Literature Festival at Triskel, April 21st to 24th;

To conclude the celebration of World Book Day, the fourth book in the Cork 2005 Translation Series by Slovenian poet Barbara Korun, translated by Theo Dorgan, will be launched in the Central Library on Saturday evening 23rd.

Literary Highlights:

Thursday, April 21, 8pm: Readings by Colm Tóibín and Victor Aldea @ City Library

Friday, April 22, 10pm-4am: Reading by Anthony Cronin, followed by Literary Late Night: readings, drama, and music @ Central Library

Saturday, April 23, 11am-4:30pm: Readings by Enda Walsh, Gina Moxley, Carol Ann Duffy, Leanne O'Sullivan, Kristiina Ehin, Tanja Dücker, and Catalan writers Marta Pessarrodona and Ponç Pons.

For more information, please contact Eamonn Kirwan at the Central Library 021 4924900 or Adi Segal at Triskel 021 4272022 or check out www.corkcitylibrary.ie



A one-day workshop on creative writing for children was organised by **Roscommon Library Services** as part of the World Book Day for UK and Ireland on March 3rd. The event was held in Ballaghaderreen Library and attended by a number of primary schools in the area over three separate sessions on the day. The workshops were conducted by author Caroline Barry and involved the children in writing a story based on their own experiences from plotting, theme, structure, situations, characterisation and local application. A very enthusiastic group of budding authors participated in a most enjoyable and creative exercise with an unusual take on the Romeo and Juliet story. The event was organised and coordinated by Carolyn Tunney, Children's and Schools Librarian and Meliosa Moran, Senior Library Assistant. Ballaghaderreen Library.

South Dublin County Library: to mark World Book Day for UK and Ireland the County Library in Tallaght hosted seminar entitled *Get Published* which attracted an audience of over seventy people. This public discussion and question and answer session addressed practical steps for emerging writers to help in publishing or broadcasting their work. South Dublin County Council's Writer in Residence, Dermot Bolger, was joined by Ciaran Carty, Kate Minogue and Marianne Gunn O'Connor, who discussed issues such as submitting short stories, poems and novels, the market for radio drama, how to find a literary agent and what agents do. Ciaran Carty is one of Ireland's most respected film critics and editor of the *Sunday Tribune's* New Irish Writings page and a judge of The Hennessy Awards. Kate Minogue works in radio drama as an actor, producer, director and adapter. Marianne Gunn O'Connor is one of the leading literary agents in Ireland and England (and one of only a handful based in Ireland). In addition, on World Book Day, South Dublin Libraries introduced



▲ Ciaran Carty, Kate Minogue and Dermot Bolger

great new collections for adult readers across the service network entitled *Free Speech, Free Fall and Free Spirit*. New collections for readers aged 8 to 17 years were also introduced which provide exciting new reading experiences and great new titles, sometimes away from mainstream publishing. Some of the books are also available on CD for readers who prefer that format. Collections are entitled *May Cause Giddiness*, *Turn Your World Upside Down* and *R U a Saint? R U a Sinner?*

Clare County Council: On February 4th, 2005, the Arts Office of Clare County Council, supported by The Arts Council, started an ambitious fifteen month-long literature project, which will see the writers of Aosdána visit libraries in the county. Co-ordinator for the project is writer and critic, Fred Johnston, who founded Galway's Cúirt literature festival and is manager of the Western Writers' Centre there.

The project, which was launched by writer and novelist Carlo Gebler, at a reception on February 4th at the de Valera Library, Ennis, has a number of prominent writers scheduled for libraries in the region.

Carlo Gebler has read at Killaloe Branch Library, poet and publisher John F. Deane read at Ennistymon Branch Library in March and novelist Evelyn Conlon read at de Valera library, Ennis, April 5th. Upcoming readings include novelist and playwright Jennifer Johnston (Sean Lemass Library, Shannon, May 20th, 7.30 p.m.), novelist Anne Haverty (Corofin Branch Library, June 1st 7 p.m.) and poet Anthony Cronin (Sweeney Memorial Library, Kilkee, July 6th). All readings are free.

On the 11th March, 2005, Mr. Tony Killeen, T.D., Minister for Labour Affairs, officially launched the *1901 Census of County Clare* online at www.clarelibrary.ie. The Minister, during his visit at Library Headquarters, Mill Road, Ennis, praised all involved in making this resource available free of charge not just to people living in County Clare but to all those people with Clare "roots" all over the world. Pointing out the value of this work he explained his special interest in this area from his Corofin connection and praised the Corofin Heritage Centre.

Assistant Director General of FÁS, Mr. Christy Cooney, added his congratulations to those involved in the project and said he was well aware of the important research being undertaken and wished the project every success. County Librarian, Noel Crowley explained that the 1901 Census is the earliest surviving comprehensive census to give details of every individual in Ireland at the beginning of the 20th century. A full government census of the Irish population was taken nearly every 10 years from 1821 on, but the personal details contained in those prior to 1901 were destroyed. This means that the 1901 returns remain the only complete record of every person in Ireland on Sunday 31st March of that year. Because of this, the normal rule that census details should not be made available to the public for 100 years afterwards, has been suspended by the National Archives for the 1901 and 1911 census. As the 1901 Census of County Clare is the earliest to survive that gives details of individuals, it is of prime importance to those interested in Clare genealogy and history.

EUCLID, the official UK Cultural Contact Point, appointed by the European Commission and the UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport, are once again running their popular series of **CulturEuro** seminars for the arts and cultural sector, providing information and a summary of existing and future opportunities to access funding from the European Union.

The CulturEuro seminars will be held in 21 major cities, including Derry on the 18th May (The Millennium Forum) and Belfast on 19th May (Belfast City Council).

The seminars will cover the full range of EU funding programmes, including the Culture 2000 programme, other trans-national funds, programmes for "third countries", and the Structural Funds (the seminars will cover remaining opportunities from the current round as well as a brief outline of the proposed new Structural Funds programme from 2007).

The registration fee per person is £66 + VAT. The seminars will run from 1:30pm - 5:00pm. Delegates will receive a full information pack including notes on the presentations and extensive contact details.

For full details of the CulturEuro seminar series and to book online, please visit www.euclid.info/uk/seminars



Dublin City Council has submitted a bid to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for nomination as *World Book Capital* in 2007.

Other cities bidding include: Vienna, Amsterdam, Bogota, Coimbra in Portugal and the Argentinean city of Rosario. Montreal in Canada is the current holder and Turin is the designated city for 2006.



Fingal County Library: the Cathaoirleach of Fingal County Council Cllr. Michael Kennedy launched the *Babies Love Books* reading scheme on July 16th at 11.00am in Rathbeale Library. Senior Librarian at Rathbeale Library, Catherine Keane, welcomed guests and Marjory Sliney spoke eloquently about the privileged role of the Library Association of Ireland in this project. The Library Association of Ireland along with Fingal County Libraries and the health centres throughout Fingal have liaised together to make this project as successful now as when originally launched.

The launch of this scheme was informative and enjoyable with approximately 60 guests, including mothers and babies from the Fingal branch of *Baby Link* enjoying the rainbow rope, bubble blowing and music provided by *Gymboree*. Representatives from Fingal County Council, Fingal health centres and the Library Association of Ireland were also in attendance.

Fingal County Libraries' catalogue is now *online!* Visit: www.iol.ie/~fincolib/

University College Dublin has created a School of Information and Library Studies within the Faculty of Human Sciences. Welcoming this outcome, Professor Mary Burke said: 'This represents an increase in our status and gives us greater ability to identify priorities, within UCD's overall objectives. Discussions are now in progress regarding management and resourcing of the new School. Adequate resourcing is essential for us to maintain our current level of activity and to expand into new areas, e.g. delivery of programmes by elearning'.

The Department has produced a strategic plan for the period 2005-2008 and would welcome feedback on it. Copies can be obtained from the Department of Library & Information Studies, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4. t: (01) 716 7055.

f: (01) 716 1161. e: DepLIS@ucd.ie.

offers

One single-sided bay of Balmforth library shelving (brown and cream) available. Dublin area. Free, but must collect. Please contact the editor, Alun Bevan, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. t: 01-676 1167; e: abevan@librarycouncil.ie

april 2005

- 19-21st Joint annual conference of the *Library Association of Ireland* & CILIP-Ireland, City Hotel, Derry City.
- 20-21st The *Library + information Show* (LiS), The Pavilion, NEC, Birmingham. Further details: www.lishow.co.uk
- 23rd *World Book and Copyright Day*

july 2005

- 13-15th ARCLIB 2005: Articulating Architecture. ARCLIB is the Architecture Librarians Group (Ireland/UK). It will be holding its Annual Conference in University College Dublin on July 13th - 15th. Various themes will be explored including information skills; marketing; digitising and imaging projects; Googling....and MUCH MORE! The full Programme is available on ARCLIB's Website at: www.arclib.org.uk Further details are available from Julia Barrett, Architecture/Planning Librarian, UCD. Tel: 01-716 2741; email: julia.barrett@ucd.ie

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.flai.fi/PHYSICALvsVIRTUAL05/
- 13-17th *Expectations and Experiences: Children, Childhood and Children's Literature*. The 17th biennial conference of the IRSCL (International Research Society for Children's Literature) will take place in Trinity College, Dublin from 13th to 17th August 2005. Keynote speakers are Declan Kiberd, Anne Higonnet, Michael Rosen and Paul Muldoon. Other speakers include Morag Styles, P.J. Lynch, Niamh Sharkey, Kimberley Reynolds, Gillian Cross, Siobhán Parkinson, Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick and many others from America, Asia, Australia and Europe. Further information is available from www.irscl.ac.uk or from vcoghlan@cice.ie
- 14-18th Libraries: a voyage of discovery – 71st IFLA General Conference and Council, Oslo. Details: e: ifla2005@norskbiotekforening.no w: www.ifla2005oslo.no

october 2005

- 11-12th Library Ireland 2005 - the library, education and cultural resources exhibition will take place at the RDS, Dublin. Organisations interested in exhibiting should contact Key Events Ltd, 24 Terenure Road East, Rathgar, Dublin 6. t: 01-4901790; f: 4901792; e: info@keyevents.ie; w: www.keyevents.ie

FÉILE FILÍOCHTA 2004 RESULTS

The results of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Library's 16th annual *Féile Filíochta/International Poetry Competition* are now available at www.dlrco.ie/library.

6,076 poems in 9 languages were received and the prizewinners came from all over the world; Australia, USA, Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Spain, Scotland, Wales, England, Sweden and of course Ireland.

Entries in all categories of the English language were up substantially on previous years with nearly double the entries of last year's competition in the Under 12 and 17 categories. The adult entries came to 2,507 which accounts for well over a third of the total amount of poems submitted to the Féile Filíochta. First prize in the adult category and the Féile Filíochta Award went to David Butler from Dublin for his poem *Chartres*. Cecilia McGovern, also from Dublin came second with *Dispersal* with Jennifer Harrison from Victoria in Australia coming third with *Clown*. In the Under 17 category, Hann-Shuin Yew from Sunnyvale in California won first prize and the Féile Filíochta Award for *Chocolate Rain*. Second prize went to Laura Halpin from Dublin for *Sestina-Hummingbird* and Jeanine Chiu from Oak Park in California came third with *T1/2=ln/k, or half-life*. Finally, in the Under 12 category, Seoid Ní Laoire from Gaelscoil Chill Dara won first prize for her poem *The Detective*. Eoin Kiely from Dublin came second with *Welcome to the Haunted House* and Siobhán Nic Colla, also from Dublin came third with *Síóg*.

This year, in order to give greater feedback to many of the young poets taking part in the Féile Filíochta, a further 10 runners up in the Under 17 and Under 12 categories were selected to receive certificates. Their names are included on the website on the prize winners' page. Over 20 short-listed poets in the adult English category are also included due to the sheer quantity and quality of poems in this category.

The prestigious *Féile Filíochta Poem of Europe Award* goes to Welsh winner Tony Bianchi for his prize-winning poem *Cartref*. This trophy is awarded by the Assemblée des Régions d'Europe for the most outstanding adult category poem. You can find out more about Tony and read his winning poem in Welsh or English on the website.

The launch of the 17th Féile Filíochta/International Poetry Competition will take place in early June 2005.



▲ Tony Bianchi with Dr. Dewi Wyn Evans from UCD and An Cathaoirleach Councillor Niamh Breathnach.

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