

# IRISH LIBRARY news

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## **PUBLIC LIBRARY INVESTMENT TOPS €100M AS MINISTER ROCHE ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL PROJECTS**

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Dick Roche, T.D., announced the capital funding of thirteen public library projects at the *"Open Flexible and Innovative: the 21st Century Library"* conference in Cork on October 14th. Speaking at the conference, the Minister said "I want to see new and necessary library projects moving ahead as quickly and efficiently as possible. To this end, I am delighted today to announce the funding of a further thirteen library projects". These include a community library for Donegal town, a new branch library for Dunleer, the fit-out of a new library in Mallow and numerous mobile library and delivery vans. The Minister also announced funding for the rollout of broadband for branch libraries.

The Minister continued "At present, there are 25 library projects under construction or recently completed and my department is committed to supporting these with grant aid of over €45 million. There are a further 22 projects in the pipeline, to which the government has committed grant-aid of some €52m. "I am very pleased today to be in a position to announce a tranche of projects which will attract further government funding of over €5m and the €2m I am setting aside for broadband".

This will bring the total value of grant aid for public library projects approved in recent years to over €100 million. Grant aid of up to 75% of capital costs is available towards approved library building projects.

The approval of the additional projects marks the significant progress being made to modernise the library service following the policy review, *Branching out: a new public library service* published in 1998. Since the publication of the policy review significant improvements have taken place which include increased opening hours, better book collections, and the provision of public access Internet terminals. Eight new public libraries opened to the public last year in as many counties - that is the highest annual number of new public libraries ever opened in a single year in the history of the State. A similar number of new public libraries are expected to open in 2005.

In addition, to mark the 150th anniversary of the *Public Libraries Act* as a watershed between the book based and the electronic library, the Minister announced additional capital funding of €2 million. This will establish a solid infrastructure through the roll-out of broadband to branch libraries. It will also provide for a range of other initiatives so that the public will have a comprehensive online local studies, genealogy, reference and general interest service through partnership between the library authorities and other bodies.

The Minister concluded "Through this dedicated ICT funding and the additional funding I have announced, I believe that we will consolidate the public libraries as a modern, forward-looking resource while enhancing the service for existing library users."

Two of the most recent additions to the public library network opened recently in Tullow, County Carlow and Lismore, County Waterford.

The 400 m<sup>2</sup>. Tullow library is housed in a one-stop shop on the banks of the Slaney. The library consists of adult and children's lending, a reference and information service, study and browsing areas and computer and Internet facilities. The library shares the reception, meeting room, canteen and an external waterside terrace with other services in the building.



▲ Pictured at the official opening of Tullow Library [L-R]: Dick Roche TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government; Tom King, County Librarian; Annette Kelly, Assistant Director, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Michael Abbey, Member Carlow County Council and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Joe Crockett, County Manager.



▲ Civic Offices and Library, Tullow



▲ Library Entrance



The Christian Brothers Monastery in Lismore has been sensitively refurbished and extended to provide Waterford County Libraries with a new headquarters facility. Restoration included extensive work on badly damaged ceilings to bring them back to their original state, as the photograph below shows.



An extension to the rear of the building accommodates staff facilities and storage and processing areas for stock.



# IRISH LIBRARIES TAKE HONOURS IN LIBRARY BUILDING AWARDS

*Irish libraries have featured once again in the Public Library Buildings Awards, which honour excellence in libraries in the UK and Ireland. Waterford City Council's Lady Lane library won first prize in the Heart of the Community category. This is the second win for Waterford, whose Ardkeen library came first in 2003. Tubbercurry library and Civic Centre won Sligo County Council a Highly Commended prize, also in the Heart of the Community category. The results were announced at the UK Public Libraries Conference in Warwick on 19th October. The Public Library Building Awards are organised by CILIP, with the support of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. Norma McDermott, Director of An Chomhairle, served on the judging panel once again this year.*

The results as announced are:  
**Architect meets Practicality:** Winner: Hamilton Town House, South Lanarkshire Council; Highly Commended: Garston Library and One Stop Shop, Liverpool Libraries & Information Services  
**Heart of the Community:** Winner: **Waterford Central Library**, Waterford City Council; Highly Commended: Gorbals Library, Glasgow City Council and Tubbercurry Civic Offices & Library, Sligo County Council.  
**Interior Design:** Winner: Swiss Cottage Central Library, London Borough of Camden; Highly Commended: Gosport Discovery Centre, Hampshire County Council and Sutton Central Library, London Borough of Sutton.  
**Partnership:** Winner: Jubilee Library, Brighton & Hove City Council; Highly Commended: Explore Music, Gateshead Council  
**Mary Finch Accessibility Award:** Winner: Hamilton Town House; Highly Commended: Gosport Discovery Centre  
**Delegate's choice:** Winner: Jubilee Library  
 Photographs and a video clip of the winners and other shortlisted libraries are available on the Public Library Group's website at <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/public/>

# LIFESTEPS PROJECT LAUNCHED

The *Lifesteps* project was launched by Mr. Dick Roche TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, on October 3rd in the Custom House in Dublin. *Lifesteps* is an initiative of Irish public libraries and is funded by the Information Society Fund, through the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.  
 It consists of 17 guides, which explain how to achieve various 'life steps' using the Internet. The guides cover a range of subjects, selected and prepared by expert library staff. The subjects were chosen in response to queries handled by library staff in their daily interaction with members of the public. Each guide provides lists and descriptions of important and useful websites relating to the subject in question, together with step by step, jargon free instructions on using these websites to find some specific piece of information, or to complete an action (such as purchasing a book, booking a flight or applying for a driving licence). The 17 subjects selected for phase I of the project are:

- Internet Basics, and Using the Internet for...*
- Buying a Home
  - Family Health
  - Family History
  - Farming
  - Finding a Job
  - Government Information
  - Learning to Drive
  - Music
  - Reading
  - Research
  - Retirement
  - Shopping
  - Start your Own Business
  - The 1st Two Years
  - Travel
  - Writing

These guides are also available on the project website [www.lifesteps.ie](http://www.lifesteps.ie)  
 As part of a second phase, 5 more titles will be added: *Build your own Website, Using the Internet for... Gardening, Using the Internet for... Sport, Using the Internet for... Arts and Using the Internet for... Lifelong Learning*. These guides will be completed in December 2005.  
 The *Lifesteps* guides will be available from public libraries throughout the country who will also be running *Lifesteps* related events. Check with your library or the project website: [www.lifesteps.ie](http://www.lifesteps.ie) for details, or email: [lifesteps@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:lifesteps@librarycouncil.ie)

**Dundalk Institute of Technology Library:** September saw the opening of the new roof garden in DkIT Library. Designed by Chelsea Award Winner Paul Martin, the garden aims to provide a dreamy place for library readers and staff where they can sit in the sun, read, or smell the lavender.



▲ *DkIT library staff try out the new roof garden*

A fantastic day was enjoyed by all who attended **Fingal County Libraries** readers and writers day in the Great Southern Hotel, Dublin Airport. Entitled *Books: the Great Escape*, the day was organised in association with the Fingal Arts and Sarah Webb as part of Fingal County Libraries year long programme of writer events. Other events held this year have included *Writing Local History*, *Writing for Children*, *Writers' Workshops* and writer evenings with Mary Kenny and Dermot Bolger. Some of Ireland's top female writers were there to enjoy *Books: the Great Escape*, including Deirdre Purcell, Pauline McLynn, Christine Dwyer Hickey, Martina Devlin, Anita Notaro, Jacinta McDevitt, Sarah Webb, Tina Reilly, Clare Dowling, Kate Thompson, Marita Conlon McKenna, Mary Malone, Mary Bond and Tracy Culleton. The authors were joined by Siobhan Tierney, Deirdre Nolan and Marisa Mackle from the world of Irish publishing.

As with all events run by Fingal County Libraries, this event was free and open to all. In fact people travelled from Tyrone, Mayo and Cork to attend this event. Next up is the annual Crime Day on 5th November with top Irish crime writers Eugene McElowney, Paul Carson, John Boyne and Michael Sheridan and *Getting Published* with Colm Tóibín on 26th November.



▲ *Authors (left to right): Anita Notaro, Sarah Webb, Deirdre Purcell and Martina Devlin*

Summertime events in the **Galway City Library:** summer got off to a flying start in the children's library as a full schedule of events began with a session of kite making. The children made colourful paper kites and the front of the library became a blaze of colour as the children tested them out. The theme of the events this summer was 'pastimes' and our varied events included soccer workshops, Sean Nos dancing, pet care, yoga and arts and crafts, to mention just a few. As a celebration of the bi-centenary of Hans Christian Andersen, the art workshops were based on his magical stories, bringing them to life through the use of colour, shape and words. The staff from a local pet-shop brought some surprise guests in to visit the library, including a bearded dragon, a rabbit, a tarantula

and a parrot. A talk was given on how to care for these animals. A teddy bears picnic was also a big hit with the younger children who brought along their favourite teddy to join in the fun. The library staff read 'teddy bear' stories and everyone sang songs. Story-time takes place in the children's library every Friday morning and has a large attendance each week. Overall, summer in the children's library was fun-filled, fact-filled and fantastic!!

**Meath County Library** recently hosted an information evening to celebrate the centenary of one of the oldest rows of terraced houses in Navan. The event was organised as a joint collaboration between the Meath County Library Service and Meath County Council's Pride of Place Section. The evening was used as a platform to inform the residents of O'Growney Terrace of the launch by Meath County Council, in conjunction with Navan Town Council, of a painting grant scheme for residential areas in Co. Meath. O'Growney Terrace, as one of the longest established housing developments in Navan, has been chosen by the local authority to pilot the scheme.

A wide selection of material from the local studies collection was used to mount a display charting the history of the terrace of 24 houses from its construction in 1904. The scheme represented the first housing development of its kind at the time for the Navan Urban District Council. It was in direct response to the critical housing needs of townspeople at the beginning of the 20th century. Extracts from the Navan UDC Minute Books, articles from early issues of the *The Meath Chronicle*, census and electoral register records, old photographic images and details of Fr. Eugene O'Growney, a co-founder of the Gaelic League, were all in use to form an interesting and informative history of the terrace.

A slide presentation, delivered by the Pride of Place officer, explained the reasons for and the nature of the grants available. Residents attending on the night received special presentation packs prepared by the library service, which included much of the information on display.

The evening proved a big success with a more than 80% turnout of residents, representing more than four generations, on what turned out to be a rather inclement evening. A large part of the success of the evening was due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Ray Byrne, Driver/Assistant at Meath library headquarters and long-time resident of O'Growney Terrace. He was singled out for special thanks by Mr. Shane Donnelly, Navan Town Clerk, and other dignitaries who spoke on the evening, for his role as liaison officer.

People lingered on after the presentation, chatting and exchanging old memories and stories of times past. Members of Meath County Council, Navan Town Council, library staff and the local press, also attended the event. The benefits of the event were manifold. The initiative provided an excellent opportunity to raise local awareness of the library as a community service, as a centre for information dissemination, as a meeting place for local groups, as well as providing an occasion to contribute to the community spirit which was well in evidence on the evening.

**Magic at Midnight ..... at Monaghan and Clones libraries!** The world went potty for everything Potter on July 15th this year, with copies of the latest J.K. Rowling literally flying off the shelves! County Monaghan was no different – there were any number of Harry Potter characters gathered at libraries in Monaghan and Clones when word of a midnight launch brought hundreds onto the streets.

Staff came to open two libraries at midnight dressed as witches, wizards and even Hagrid, the Hogwarts gamekeeper. It was a magical moment for children who have waited two years for the launch of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.



The first five children in each queue were awarded free copies with a further ten copies available in both branches for members to borrow. This one event resulted in nationwide publicity (RTE News, 2FM, Local radio stations, national papers) that the library service could never have envisaged or financed.

**Reading Better Ireland:** this unique event will focus on issues relating to reading and accessing print for people with sight problems. This is the first time such a conference has been held in Ireland. The programme features expert speakers from across Ireland and the UK who will talk on topics ranging from personal experiences of reading to emerging technical trends. The keynote speech will be given by Helen Brazier – the chief executive of the National Library for the Blind in the UK. It is a must-attend event for librarians, disability professionals, information providers, public service providers, eye specialists, publishers, educational institutions, people with sight problems, their families and friends. The conference is organised by the Seeing Better Ireland initiative – an all-Ireland collaboration between The Blind Centre for Northern Ireland and St. Joseph's School for the Visually Impaired which aims to host information events relevant to blind and visually impaired people living on either side of the border. The conference will be held on Wednesday 16th November at the Ballymascanlon Hotel in Dundalk. The venue is situated at the end of the M1 coming from Dublin. It is within easy reach of people travelling from both sides of the border. The cost of this one-day conference is €65 and includes tea and coffee and a light lunch.

If you would like more information please contact Siobhán Bermingham at the library of St Joseph's School for the Visually Impaired. Tel: 01-8373635 Email: library.stjosephs@indigo.ie. See also the conference website – [www.seeingbetterireland.org](http://www.seeingbetterireland.org)

**Roscommon County Library** launched its contribution to [askaboutireland.ie](http://askaboutireland.ie) at the beginning of National Heritage Week. From *Postcard to PC* provides access to an online gallery of old picture postcards and photographs of the county over the last 100 years.

**South Eastern Education and Library Board** launched an exhibition on *Eliot: images and poetry of T S Eliot* in Cregagh Library at the beginning of September. The exhibition included drawings, paintings and prints by local artist John Morris. There was also a selection of SEELB stock by and about T S Eliot on display.



▲ Cllr. Tommy Jeffers, Mayor of Castlereagh with artist John Morris

During 2005, **Westmeath County Library** and Archives Service took the step of digitising a mixture of loose maps, legal documents with maps attached and two bound volumes of maps. The county archivist, Martin Morris, worked with Eneclann Ltd to create a cd-rom which conserves these maps while increasing their accessibility. Local historians and teachers were invited to Mullingar Library on Oct 5th to the launch of the cd-rom, which was used to promote maps, archives and the digital experience.



▲ Martin Morris, Archivist, Bernadette Solon, County Architect, Mary Farrell, County Librarian and Harman Murtagh

Mary Farrell opened proceedings with a briefing on digitisation and strategies which have evolved from involvement in Askaboutireland projects. She then introduced the guest speaker, Harman Murtagh. Harman is senior lecturer in law and Irish studies in Athlone Institute of Technology. He has written authoritative and scholarly articles on many aspects of history and historical geography. He has contributed two very important works to the local history of Athlone; *Athlone: history and settlement to 1800* and the *Athlone* volume of the *Irish Historic Towns Atlas*. Harman gave an informative and entertaining overview of the history of map making in Ireland. Martin Morris concluded with a demonstration of some of the key maps highlighting those in need of conservation and giving examples of maps on parchment which needed special treatment during the digitisation process. In addition, he drew attention to the usefulness of the maps as sources for the historian as well as to the art involved in map making, inviting attendees to browse the exhibition *Compasses, Cartouches and Cartographer: the art of map making in Ireland*.

The cd-rom will be available to use in Mullingar, Athlone and Castlepollard Libraries.

## 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, UCD School of Information and Library Studies, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4. Telephone: (353) 01-716-7055;

(353) 01-716-7080; Fax: (353) 1-716-1161;

e-mail: [noreen.hayes@ucd.ie](mailto:noreen.hayes@ucd.ie); web-site: <http://www.ucd.ie/sils>

The final date for receipt of application forms is 1st February 2006.

Entry to the programmes is competitive and the number of places is limited.

## download this

*'So what's the problem with libraries? Everybody knows they exist. Lots of people know they're free. Everybody at least occasionally uses at least one of books, magazines, newspapers, CDs, audio tapes, video tapes, computers, Internet, archives... And yet large numbers of people, especially those of lower social classes or lower education / skills levels have not crossed the threshold of their local library for years. What is going on?'*

**Increasing the attractiveness of libraries for adult learners** attempts to tell us exactly what is going on and how best libraries can respond to it. Independent marketing consultancy, Customer Interpreter Ltd., based their report on in depth research with library users, non-users and staff. Although it is firmly positioned within the MLA's *Framework for the Future* initiative for public libraries in the UK, with support from other enabling systems such as Vital Link [www.vitalink.org.uk] the report offers, if not universal truths, useful starting points for public libraries in Ireland. The reports' recommendations come from customer and staff comments and are intended to 'extend awareness to new audiences and generally improve the customer experience'.

Amongst its recommendations, the report suggests how the role of the library could be improved to meet the needs of adult learners:

- *by reinforcing to staff the core role of libraries (education, inspiration, entertainment, etc.) over and above medium (books vs tape / pc, etc.)*
- *working with staff to create a culture of empowerment to enhance service*
- *providing training for staff in order to learn to build rapport with a range of library users so that conversation / enquiry is possible.*

The report itself employed various methods to collect and analyse the requirements of adult learners and the views of library staff. The separately published appendices provide much anecdotal evidence of learners attitudes to learning and to libraries, as well as the view of library staff on the role of the library, training requirements, management structures and the customers.

The conclusion states:

*As is often the case, the story is fairly simple. There is a gap between what certain audiences want and what is on offer. Given the national affection for libraries, the wide, local based network and the exceptionally high levels of commitment among the staff we spoke to, there is a clear platform for adjusting the offer to become a more inclusive service at the heart of the community.*

**Increasing the attractiveness of libraries for adult learners / Catherine Shovlin. (London: MLA, 2005).**

Both the *Final report* and the *Appendices* can be downloaded from the [www.mla.gov.uk](http://www.mla.gov.uk) website.

The UK's National Consumer Council has published an interesting document on how the public service can be made more responsive to the needs of its customers. **A Playlist for Public Services** refers to the totality of public service and has measured consumer satisfaction levels across a number of services. Public libraries are given a satisfaction rate of 67% compared to 95% for museums and galleries. The report comments that whereas investment in museums and galleries has paid off... services that are not statutory, such as libraries, or those that operate alongside private sector provision, such as sport and leisure, are rated worse. Irish public libraries have benefited from increased investment following on from the government's adoption of the strategy for development outlined in *Branching Out*<sup>1</sup>. In the ten years up to 2003, issues from UK public libraries fell by 35%<sup>2</sup> whereas those from Irish public libraries rose by 8%<sup>3</sup>. The *Playlist* is full of good advice on how to provide excellence of service through a responsive service which values both staff and consumers and which encourages public service staff to work with consumers as partners. Part of the solution lies in developing capabilities of consumers. Recent Irish library-based examples of this approach can be found in the *Lifestyles* project and the e-government initiative.

The *Playlist* can be downloaded from:

<http://www.ncc.org.uk/publicservices/>

<sup>1</sup> *Branching out: a new public library service* (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1998)

<sup>2</sup> *LISU annual library statistics, 2003* (Loughborough; LISU, 2003), p.62.

<sup>3</sup> Based on annual statistical returns of public library authorities made to An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

## INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ON EMIGRATION OPENS IN CASTLEBAR LIBRARY

A major exhibition on emigration to America has been launched in Castlebar library. The EMILE exhibition, which is based on letters written by emigrants in America, was launched by Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Councillor Henry Kenny. A special guest at the launch was US Ambassador to Ireland, James C Kenny, whose own ancestors emigrated to America from Mayo in 1907. The EMILE project, which was funded by the EU, aims to compare and contrast the experiences of emigrants to America from Europe by analysing the letters they sent home. The participants are museums and libraries in Sweden, Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic and Ireland. Mayo County Library represents Ireland in the project.

The project has five outcomes: -

- *A touring exhibition in five languages.* The opening in Mayo took place simultaneously in the four other partner countries. The exhibitions will go on display in museums, libraries, universities and schools throughout Europe. There are plans for the Mayo exhibition to travel to the Ellis Island museum in 2006.
- *An exhibition catalogue* in five editions corresponding to the project languages. This was distributed at the opening and will be sent to all secondary schools, museums and libraries in the country.
- *A joint virtual exhibition* in English, the EMILE website [www.emigrantletters.com](http://www.emigrantletters.com). The website has the same focus as the touring exhibitions but is more detailed. It is especially designed to attract young people and immigrants in Europe today.
- *A CD of songs* of emigration from the five countries.
- *A display of books* which Mayo library has built up on emigration to America.

At the launch County Librarian Austin Vaughan spoke of the letters sent home from America:

"Millions of letters were sent back from Irish emigrants to their friends and relatives at home in the nineteenth century. It is estimated that one million letters were sent to America from Ireland in 1854 alone. On its maiden voyage the Titanic collected 1,385 bags of letters at Cobh which were destined for America. Letters were often accompanied by remittances or other items such as tickets, clothes or photos. The letters mainly discussed family and friends, but also provided an insight into the emigrant's view of his new country. They often painted an unrealistically bright picture of the life which awaited their friends and relatives across the Atlantic. The arrival of an "American letter" generated huge excitement. Yet few have survived probably due to Ireland's tumultuous history and the fragility of the medium."

Mr. Vaughan added that in this project Mayo County Library had set out to study surviving letters in private and public collections. This information was then used to paint a picture of the emigrant experience under a number of headings: Life stories; Causes of emigration; Crossing the Atlantic; Settlement in America; Work in America; Family; Songs

The county librarian concluded the event by appealing for more material – "By its nature this is a work in progress, as more material comes to light all the time. If you have letters, records, advertisements or any documents which you would like to donate to the project they would be much appreciated."

Please contact; *Austin Vaughan, Mayo County Librarian, Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland*

*Phone: 00353 94 9047578; Email [avaughan@mayococo.ie](mailto:avaughan@mayococo.ie);*

*Website: [www.mayolibrary.ie](http://www.mayolibrary.ie)*



## Suppliers update

**Wexford County Council** has launched the Hyperion Digital Media Archive sub-system to add to its Unicorn Collection Management System.

Fionnuala Hanrahan, County Librarian, said: "Wexford County Council's Local Studies Collection is the first area for application. This important resource has been under-utilised heretofore. The Hyperion module builds on existing in-depth catalogue records and provides seamless access to full-text documents and images. The user has access 24/7. Provision is compatible with national programmes that are driving development of cultural heritage collections."

## COMMISSION UNVEILS PLANS FOR EUROPEAN DIGITAL LIBRARIES

The European Commission has unveiled its strategy to make Europe's written and audiovisual heritage available on the Internet. Turning Europe's historic and cultural heritage into digital content will make it usable for European citizens for their studies, work or leisure and will give innovators, artists and entrepreneurs the raw material that they need. The Commission proposes a concerted drive by EU Member States to digitise, preserve, and make this heritage available to all. It presents a first set of actions at European level and invites comments on a series of issues in an online consultation (deadline for replies 20 January 2006). The replies will feed into a proposal for a Recommendation on Digitisation and Digital Preservation, to be presented in June 2006.

The Commission communication sets out three key areas for action: digitisation, online accessibility and digital preservation. At present, several initiatives exist in the Member States, but they are fragmented. To avoid creating systems that are mutually incompatible and duplicate work, the Commission proposes that Member States and major cultural institutions join EU efforts to make digital libraries a reality throughout Europe. Private involvement and public/private partnerships are a key element in achieving this goal.

For its part the Commission will step up coordination work and contribute funding through its research programmes and through the eContentplus programme:

- the results of an online consultation on digitisation and digital preservation issues (2005) will feed into Commission Proposal for a Recommendation (2006). The results will also be an input for other relevant initiatives such as the review of EU copyright rules (2006) and the implementation of the Community R&D programmes (2007). A High Level Group on Digital Libraries will advise the Commission on how to best address the identified challenges at European level,
- collaboration among Member States will be facilitated by an update of the Lund action plan, providing operational guidelines on digitisation (2005), backed up by quantitative indicators to measure progress. The Commission will work together with cultural institutions, such as the national and deposit libraries, to ensure co-ordinated action at European level,
- the Commission has made €36 million available for research on advanced access to our cultural heritage and digital preservation in the fifth call for proposals under the sixth research framework programme for R&D (2005). Under the seventh framework programme (FP7), the research on digitisation, digital preservation and access to cultural content will be considerably stepped up, inter alia through a network of Centres of Competence in the fields of digitisation and preservation (2007), and between 2005 and 2008, the eContentplus programme will contribute €60 million towards making national digital collections and services interoperable and facilitating multilingual access and use of cultural material.

Digital libraries is one of the flagship initiatives of Commissioner Reding's initiative "i2010 – a European Information Society for growth and jobs", adopted by the Commission on 1 June 2005

The **Northern Ireland Government Libraries consortium** has chosen Unicorn from SirsiDynix to provide a Library Management System to replace their existing C2 and Heritage systems.

The Unicorn system will be installed on a Windows server and will provide access via a Graphical User Interface (WorkFlows) to Cataloguing, Authority Control, Circulation, Acquisitions, Serials Control (with electronic serials check-in), and Inter-Library Loans. SmartPort will be used to capture data from Z39.50 sources worldwide. Access to the OPAC will also be available through the World Wide Web via the iLink electronic library. The Northern Ireland Government Libraries will also be subscribing to SirsiDynix's Data Stream service, which provides enriched catalogue records so that users may view, along with the records, tables of contents, book jacket images, and summaries.

The Northern Ireland Government Libraries consortium comprises six government department libraries and the libraries at three agricultural colleges and it will be the first time that the different library catalogues will be made available to all staff.

## calendar of events

### november 2005

- 11-12th *Past and Present: what children and young adults read* is the title of a conference at the Church of Ireland College of Education, Rathmines, Dublin organised by The Reading Centre @ CICE. The speakers are Susan Parkes, John Coolahan, Alan Titley and Kimberley Reynolds, and the conference will include a tour of The Plunkett Museum of Irish Education on the College campus. Further details and booking form from [info@cice.ie](mailto:info@cice.ie).
- 16th *Reading Better Ireland* - a conference on reading and people with sight problems hosted by the Blind Centre for Northern Ireland and St Joseph's School for the Visually Impaired. Venue: Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth. Visit [www.seeingbetterireland.org](http://www.seeingbetterireland.org) for the full conference programme and further details. For more information contact Siobhán Bermingham, St Joseph's School for the Visually Impaired, Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin. Tel: 01-8373635 Email: [library.stjosephs@indigo.ie](mailto:library.stjosephs@indigo.ie)
- 24th *Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lectures in Legal Bibliography*. Dr. Paul Brand, Senior Research Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford, will give the thirteenth lecture in this series entitled *Sir John Davies: law reporter or self-publicist?* The venue is High Court No. 1, off the round hall, Four Courts, Dublin 7. For further information contact: Hugh M. Fitzpatrick, Library and Information Consultant, 9 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. t: 01-269 2202; f: 01-661 9239.
- 25th *Cataloguing the nineteenth century* - workshop organised by Rare Books Group of the LAI. Venue: National Library of Ireland. Further details from Celine Ward, Rare Books Group Secretary at [rbgsec@cbl.ie](mailto:rbgsec@cbl.ie) or telephone 01-4070757 Website: [www.libraryassociation.ie/sections/rarebooks](http://www.libraryassociation.ie/sections/rarebooks)
- 26th *School libraries – a dynamic learning space* – SLARI annual conference, Dublin. Details: Eileen Holian t: 01-874 7701; e: [larkinlibrary@eircom.net](mailto:larkinlibrary@eircom.net)
- 29-1/12 *Online Information 2005*. Tuesday 29th November - Thursday 1st December 2005. Grand Hall Olympia, London, England. Details: <http://www.online-information.co.uk/>

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Contributions should be sent to Alun Bevan, Editor - ILN, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53-54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. e: [abevan@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:abevan@librarycouncil.ie) t: +353 (0)1-678 4905; f: +353 (0)1-676 6721  
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