

# IRISH LIBRARY news

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## THE MASTER WINS THE 2006 INTERNATIONAL IMPAC DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD

For the first time in its eleven year history the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award has an Irish winner with Colm Tóibín's *The Master*, a fictional account of Henry James. Colm was present in City Hall on Tuesday 13th June when the Lord Mayor, Councillor Catherine Byrne, Patron of the Award, made the announcement to an audience which included many members of the libraries' reading groups, diplomats, people from the literary world and the judges.



*John Fitzgerald (Dublin City Manager), Deirdre Ellis-King (Dublin City Librarian), Cllr. Catherine Byrne (Lord Mayor) and Colm Tóibín.*

As well as being the first Irish winner it is also the first time that the novel which received the most nominations from libraries was chosen by the judges as winner. *The Master* was nominated by 17 libraries worldwide including Dublin City Public Libraries, Cork City Libraries and Limerick City Library. It was also nominated by 7 American libraries, 3 Oceanic, 2 European, 1 South African and 1 South American. In all 180 libraries from 124 cities participated in the 2006 award.

*The Master* was chosen from a shortlist of ten by the judges, who said in their comments: "This probing portrayal of Henry James is not merely an outstanding narrative. In crisp, modulated writing, it subtly balances a range of devices that leave the reader in no doubt about the accomplishment of this work. For its deftly excavated psychology of the Jamesian childhood and youth, for its quiet revelations of the artist's journey and the emotional and material necessities accompanying this, for the melancholic undertone which surfaces through the probing landscape of this writer's life, *The Master* is, and will continue to be a work of novelistic art: its preoccupations are truth and the elusiveness of intimacy, and from such preoccupations emerge this patient, beautiful, exposure of loss, and the price of the pursuit of perfection."

Colm was presented with his cheque for €100,000 and the Waterford Crystal trophy at a dinner in City Hall on the evening of June 13th attended by almost 200 guests. In his speech Colm paid tribute to the central role of libraries in promoting literature which is as much about empowerment as about entertainment.

**Cork County Library:** the idea of having a children's knitting club in Mallow Library arose at a St. Patrick's Day card-making workshop. Some of the children wanted to learn to knit, asking staff if they could 'fix holes' in knitting; some wanted ideas for toys they could knit. While many of the young, established readers are well-used to reading for pleasure, this was seen as the perfect opportunity to present the children's non-fiction collection in a new light, demonstrating how library sources can support a hobby or interest. It was decided to start on a pilot scheme of Saturday workshops, run by Margaret O'Callaghan, Branch Librarian. It was envisaged that there would be 8 to 10 little knitters every Saturday, but after the first day, everybody seemed to bring a friend. The children socialise very well and swap ideas, helping each other and sharing materials. Language and cultural barriers are overcome in the fun of achieving something new and having a giggle at their own mistakes. On Saturday 27th May, all the hard work came to fruition in the form of a Bealtaine inter-generational display of craftwork, *Threading through the Generations*.

These workshops will be an ongoing activity from September: the children benefit from them in many ways, but most importantly they enjoy them, and having good fun is an incentive to keep using the library.



Photograph by Gerard O'Meara

The **Irish Traditional Music Archive**, currently situated at no. 63 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, will be moving to new premises during July in order to improve and expand its public services and archival facilities. The Archive holds the largest collection in existence of the materials of Irish traditional music, and of information about it, which it makes available to the general public free of charge.

In recognition of the growth of its collections and services, and its potential for further development, the Archive has been allocated no 73 Merrion Square, a 200 year-old listed heritage building ten doors from its present premises in the centre of Georgian Dublin. The Office of Public Works, which is responsible for Government and historic buildings in the Republic of Ireland, is currently finishing high-grade conservation and restoration works on the building.

The move to new premises will involve a period of closure for the archive. From Monday 26th June the Archive will be packing its collections and dismantling the storage equipment for the move to the permanent home at no. 73 Merrion Square. After a relatively brief period rehousing its collections, installing a new computer network, and setting up an audio-visual studio and various specialist rooms, it will reopen to the public there at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 14th August.

During the period of closure, it will not be possible to access the Archive's collections and its query service (by phone, fax and letter) will be suspended. Archive staff will however be able to continue to a degree with their work on collection, conservation, cataloguing, field recording, publication, lecturing, consultation and broadcasting. The archive is financially supported by the Arts Council and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

For further information check the archive's website at [www.itma.ie](http://www.itma.ie) tel: +353-1-6619699.

**Kerry County Library:** for up to 50 years the CIÉ Art Collection remained hidden in CIÉ offices and reception areas largely unseen by the general public except on rare occasions when individual works would be loaned for exhibitions. Now the Collection is on a national tour and *Art on the Move: Hidden Gems from the CIÉ collection* was on show to the public at Killarney and Tralee Libraries during June and July 2006 respectively.

The Exhibition was officially opened by John O'Donoghue, Minister for the Arts, Sport & Tourism at Killarney Library on Monday, 12 June before a large invited audience.

Some of the finest works in the collection are available for the first time to the public, including real gems such as William Leech's *A Cottage Window* which was last seen on public exhibition in 1949. Many of the other important works including Leech's *Monday Morning*, *Connemara* by Maurice McGonigal, a magnificent portrait of the poet Patrick Kavanagh by Patrick Swift as well as works by Patrick Collins, Norah Mc Guinness, Gerard Dillon & many others which have not been seen by the public since the 1960's. The CIÉ art collection was acquired mainly in the 1960's and was co-funded by the Arts Council.



Opening of Exhibition – *Art on the Move: Hidden Treasures from the CIÉ Art Collection* – Mary Murray (Killarney Library), Tom Doherty (Mayor of Killarney), Kate Kennelly (Arts Officer, Kerry Co. Council) John O'Donoghue (Minister for Arts, Sport. and Tourism), Bláithín McElligott (Bus Éireann, Tralee).



Schoolchildren from Lyrecrompane N.S. receiving Certificates of Achievement at a presentation in Tralee Library recently. The certificates were awarded to the children at the conclusion of a six week 'Shared Reading' programme. Kerry County Library supported the initiative in a number of schools throughout the county by supplying reading material suitable to the children's reading level and personal interest.

**Leitrim County Library:** an exhibition entitled *Leitrim People Abroad* will be touring the county over the summer months. It was compiled to coincide with the *Leitrim Roots Festival* which was held in April last. This exhibition features many Leitrim people who became famous throughout the world. Most notable of these were two Australian Prime Ministers, Stanley Melbourne Bruce

and Francis Forde who were sons of Leitrim men. Jimmy Gralton, who was a native of Effernagh, was the only Irish man ever to be deported from his own country. Phil Fitzparick, Aughavas native who wrote the song *Lovely Leitrim* and was shot dead in New York in 1947. These are examples of what can be seen in this exhibition. Further details of venues can be had from 071 9645571. Leitrim County Library catalogue is now accessible through Irish.

**Louth County Library** hosted three events to celebrate the *Bealtaine Festival* – a table quiz for retired people; a talk by local physiotherapist, Mags Tuite, on how to *Stay Active Stay Young*; and a masterclass and demonstration in the art of water colour painting by local artist, Gerry Clarke.



*The New World*, an exhibition of early printed books on exploration and discovery from the collection of **Marsh's Library** was opened by the United States Ambassador, H.E. Mr. James C. Kenny on 22nd May. The exhibition contains spectacular 16th and 17th Century books relating to the discovery and exploration of North and South America, illustrated with engravings, woodcuts and maps. The exhibition is open to the public during the library's opening hours. A limited edition catalogue of the exhibition is available from Marsh's Library, St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8.

**Mayo County Library:** a major book and exhibition on the life of Michael Davitt have been launched in Mayo County Library to commemorate the centenary of his death. The book and exhibition were launched by the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Mr. Henry Kenny, and by Fr. Tom Davitt, CM., a grandson of the patriot. The exhibition, produced by Ivor Hamrock, Mayo County Library, covers all aspects of Davitt's life ranging from his early years and emigration to England to the Land League and his international work. A number of descendants of Michael Davitt attended the launch. The exhibition will also be available online at the library website [www.mayolibrary.ie](http://www.mayolibrary.ie).

The book, entitled *Davitt*, is a concise illustrated biography written by Bernard O'Hara, a native of Killasser, who has also written widely on the history and heritage of County Mayo. It will be available for local bookshops, libraries and from [www.mayolibrary.ie](http://www.mayolibrary.ie)

Speaking at the launch the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Mr. Henry Kenny stated that the book and exhibition were part of a wide programme of events which the council had organised to commemorate Davitt's centenary.

Also on display are two very rare letters from Davitt which are from the Jackie Clarke Library in Ballina. One of these is embossed with "Ballybrack, Co Dublin" and the emblem of Neo Celtic images and 'Land League Cottage' and is dated 6 May 88. The other is a letter from Davitt to Mrs Hartley, Dalkey, 19 July 1902, outlining his view on Catholic education.

The library also has on display *A Life in Relief* which is a superb limited edition book of prints illustrating the life of Davitt – which was created by artist Brendon Deacy.

Austin Vaughan, County Librarian said that Davitt was a giant of Irish history. He said that he and his staff were very proud of the exhibition which they hoped would in some way help to reclaim Davitt's legacy and preserve it for generations to come. He praised his staff for their work, in particular Ivor Hamrock who created the exhibition and Eleanor O'Toole who made it available online. Mayo County Library will continue to commemorate the life of Davitt throughout the year through its ongoing series of Davitt Centenary Lectures which are running in libraries throughout the county.

**Meath County Council Library Service** recently launched their summer reading scheme in all their libraries. The scheme is run in partnership with the UK's Reading Agency which supplies UK public libraries with registration cards, bookmarks, mission packs where the children can rate their books, large scale posters, flyers, fridge magnets, stickers, puzzles etc and a resource pack to run events in libraries. These resources are produced by the agency for a cost effective price and each year the scheme has a theme from the 'reading maze', to last years 'reading voyage' to this years 'reading mission' which has spy/agent based activities.



The reading scheme is for ages between 6 and 12 years where children agree to read six books during July and August and in return they get a free mission pack to rate their books, stickers (one set for each book they read), fridge magnet, and a certificate of achievement when they have completed the scheme. Some of the larger libraries in Navan, Trim and Ashbourne are running a graduation party for successful 'agents' who have completed the Mission.

Details of the scheme can be found at [www.readingmission.org.uk](http://www.readingmission.org.uk) and [www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk)

The coordinators of the scheme stated they would be interested in extending the scheme to include Irish libraries that wished to join the scheme. If you have any queries about the scheme contact Mary Murphy at Ashbourne Library at [mmurphy@meathcoco.ie](mailto:mmurphy@meathcoco.ie)



Oldcastle library was the venue for the launch of Graham Wilson's book *Kate's Journey* this June. This book recounts the experiences of the author's grandmother as she made the long journey from her home in Fennor, Oldcastle to Queensland to make a new life for herself at the end of the nineteenth century. The library was very honoured to have the Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Anne Plunkett, to perform the launch. The Ambassador had a very enjoyable visit to Loughcrew cairns before coming to the library for the launch, where library staff had put on a display of photographs and information about the cairns.

The author made an initial visit to Navan local studies department a number of years ago to begin his research. Local studies staff then had a long e-mail acquaintance with him as requests for assistance were dealt with.



*Cllr Michael Lynch, Ciarán Mangan County Librarian, Fintan O'Connor, Oldcastle Enterprises, Her Excellency Australian Ambassador Anne Plunkett, Author Graham Wilson, County Manager Tom Dowling, Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources Mr Noel Dempsey T.D. and Cllr Brian Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach Meath County Council.*

**MS READaTHON with Specsavers**, October 13 – November 13. The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland is once again calling all librarians around the country to join in and support this year's MS READaTHON with Specsavers. A special prize of a €1,500 holiday voucher is on offer!

This will be the 19th year of this successful fundraiser which encourages children all over Ireland to read their favourite books whilst raising much needed funds for people with MS. Last year, 33,000 children aged from 6 – 16 years read an amazing 600,000 books and raised almost €1.5 million for MS Ireland. MS READaTHON with Specsavers aims to beat that record this year and is calling on librarians to get involved once again.

MS READaTHON with Specsavers packs will be sent to all libraries in September. All that is asked is for you to stamp each registration card with your library stamp and display the colourful poster, registration box and registration cards in your library for children to pick up. All returned stamped registration cards will be put into a draw for a €1,500 holiday voucher. Last year's winning library was Lucan Library.

All participants who take part receive a thank you gift and are entered into a bigger draw where they could win anything from a computer, a trip to see Man United play at Old Trafford, an MP4 player or a road and track bicycle. There are also prizes for winning schools, teachers and individual children.

MS READaTHON Manager, Cheryl Gunning, said "The MS READaTHON has so far encouraged millions of children to read books whilst raising almost €10 million for people living with MS. It is a wonderful way for children to rediscover the enjoyment reading can bring and we hope that many children, teachers and librarians will support us in our mission to make a difference."

Multiple Sclerosis is a disease of the brain and spinal chord. It is the most common neurological disabling disease affecting young adults. Every year over 250 There are currently 6,000 people living with MS in Ireland. The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland is a voluntary organisation set up to provide services to people with MS and their families.

More information on how to get involved with the MS READaTHON with Specsavers is available on our website or by phoning freephone number 1850 650 950.

**Roscommon County Library's** 5 year development plan was launched in Roscommon Arts Centre recently by Norma McDermott, Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. *Learning for life* covers the period 2006-2010 and has been developed within the context of the *Roscommon: Common Vision* ten year strategy for social, economic and cultural development produced by the County Development Board. In his prelude to the plan County Manager, John Tiernan said "The planning and development of library and information services alongside integration and co-operation with other local authority cultural services is seen as a supporting component and an equal pillar with the economic and social planning. This public statement on how we intend to deliver our services reflects our commitment to the long term strategy of developing a more proactive approach to service delivery and to ensure the full potential of the service is utilised".



*Library staff with former County Librarian, Helen Kilcline; the Mayor of Roscommon County Council, Charlie Hopkins; Norma McDermott, Director, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and Richie Farrell, County Librarian at the launch of *Learning for Life*.*

As part of the **SEELB Library Service Beyond Words Festival 2006** in May two events in the Castlereagh Group proved very popular. On 23rd May the Francis Mc Peake School of Music played to a capacity audience in Tullycarnet Library in East Belfast. This event helped enforce the SEELB commitment to Cultural Diversity. On 24th May in Cregagh Library local author Colin Bateman gave a lunch time reading.



*Colin Bateman*

*Musicians from the Francis McPeake School of Music*

**Westmeath County Council's** new library and civic centre in Athlone has been named the overall winner of the *2005 Irish Concrete Society Awards*. The announcement was made at the awards ceremony in Trinity College where the library and civic centre was described as 'a building of great quality and civic presence'.

[http://www.concrete.ie/news\\_detail.asp?id=105](http://www.concrete.ie/news_detail.asp?id=105)

In 2005, Shirley McCormack and 4th class in Scoil an Chlochair in Kilbeggan embarked on a project to create a heritage trail. This project involved the children visiting local sites, interviewing local people and researching the history of their town. The children then using their artistic talents illustrated their project with a number of exciting images. The result was a unique piece of historical research on their town. When a copy of the material was given to Kilbeggan Library, the County Librarian, Mary Farrell made the decision to bind copies in book format for display in the local library.



*5th Class Scoil an Chlochair with Principal Niall Rabbitte and Shirley McCormack (L) and Mary Farrell, County Librarian, Fr O'Halpin, Cllr Tom Crowley, Cllr Joe Flanagan and Lil Gorman, Kilbeggan Library. Missing from 5th class are: Stephanie Ward, Tania Rowan, Jamie Connell, Michael Connell, Vivienne Peters and Kevin Carton.*

A bound copy was presented to school Principal Niall Rabbitte on Monday 26th June by Cllr. Tom Crowley on behalf of Westmeath County Council.



*Principal Niall Rabbitte and Cllr. Tom Crowley.*

On Saturday 24th June a group of sixty from the Friends of the Library, Trinity College visited Athlone. The highlight of their visit was a visit to the Aidan Heavey Collection. They were met on arrival by Mary Farrell, County Librarian and Gearóid O'Brien, Executive Librarian. After refreshments and an informative talk on the collection guests were given a conducted tour of the collection. The distinguished gathering which was led by Mr Peter Costello, author, expressed themselves very pleased with the visit – among the distinguished gathering were former Taoiseach, Mr Liam Cosgrave and former government minister and MEP Mr Michael O'Kennedy. In the afternoon the party enjoyed a cruise on Lough Ree and a reception at Hodson Bay courtesy of Noel and Margaret Heavey.



*County Librarian Mary Farrell, author Peter Costello, former Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave and Athlone Executive Librarian Gearóid O'Brien at the Aidan Heavey Public Library*  
*Photo: Paul Molloy, [Westmeath Independent](#).*

## **TIMES OF OUR LIVES PROJECT BRINGS PAST TO LIFE**

Mr Dick Roche, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government officially signed the contract with *The Irish Times* for *Times of Our Lives* – a joint project to digitise *The Irish Times* Archive.

The project is being co-funded by the Minister's Department and *The Irish Times* and it is expected that it will be completed early in 2008. It is an initiative of the larger *Changing Libraries* project, which was launched by the Minister in Autumn 2005. The will provide access to a variety of important national content sources for use by the public over the Internet free of charge in public libraries.

Speaking at the signing, the Minister said "*Times of our Lives*, which will be available free of charge to the public and to students in Irish public libraries and in schools through the *Ask About Ireland* website, will bring to the public and to school children, online access and indexes to the entire archive of *The Irish Times* from 1859 to 2004. We look forward to working with *The Irish Times* over the next two years to deliver *Times of Our Lives*."

## **vacancies**

### **DUBLIN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES INSTITIÚID ARD-LÉINN BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH**

#### **Assistant Librarian I**

#### **School of Celtic Studies**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for this permanent wholetime post. The person appointed will be responsible, under the direction of the School Director, for the overall management and the development of the Library in support of the specialist research needs of staff and scholars.

Applicants must have a primary degree together with a recognised qualification in Librarianship and relevant experience at professional level. The successful candidate will also have excellent organisational, communication and IT skills as well as knowledge of Irish.

Further details on the position are available on the School's website at [www.celt.dias.ie](http://www.celt.dias.ie). The salary range attaching to the post is €44,891-€54,309 (full prsi).

Applicants should submit a letter of application with a full CV and names of two referees to: The Registrar's Office, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4 or by e-mail to [registrarsoffice@admin.dias.ie](mailto:registrarsoffice@admin.dias.ie), to arrive no later than 21 August 2006.

*DIAS is an equal opportunities employer*



## BALLINA LIBRARY OPENED

Mayo County Library has opened a new library in the centre of Ballina. Located on Pearse Street the library comprises over 1,000sq. metres of lending space plus and additional 350 sq. metres which will house the Jackie Clarke Collection which was recently donated to the library. The library is located in the former Moy Hotel in a building which can be traced back to 1798 when a British Garrison was stationed there. The building remained part of the Garrison until 1868 when it became a hotel. During the 1880's Charles Stewart Parnell stayed there and gave a speech from the balcony which is still intact today. It is believed that Michael Davitt also stayed in the hotel.



The heritage and ethos of the building have been carefully preserved with all the front façade of the building having been meticulously restored. The entrance and marble foyer of over 4,000 tiles has been re-laid and restored to its former glory.

The library has a 40,000 book stock and also includes a large music library. Twenty computers for public access to the Internet and other programmes are available. Ballina is also the first public library in Ireland to feature the 3M V series self-check system which makes self borrowing and return a very simple procedure.

Officially opening the library the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Henry Kenny praised "the light, the colouring, the brightness, the room, the location and the accessibility of the building". Des Mahon, County Manager, stated that the opening was another stage in the revitalisation of Ballina as the capital of North Mayo.

The Clarke Collection is a unique library documenting Irish republican history spanning 400 years. Mr Jackie Clarke was a well known businessman in Ballina. The collection comprises approximately 15,000 items dating from 1617 to the 1980s and includes books, manuscripts, photographs, posters, legal papers, badges, pamphlets, handbills, newspapers, newssheets, circulars, reports, letters, periodicals, memorial cards, minute books, cartoons, embroideries, prisoners art and woodcarvings and selection of maps, some dating to the 1600s or earlier.

There are "collections" within the Collection such as the Le Roux Collection on the life of Séan MacDiarmada; the Ernie O'Malley, Doyle, Joseph Mary Plunkett, and Douglas Hyde and Gaelic League Collections, the Brigid Connolly Collection of material from an Executive Member of Cumann na mBan, including her first hand account of 1916, her correspondence during 1916, and the papers of the Nurse O'Farrell Commemoration Committee; correspondence of the Evicted Tenants Association, and the personal effects of HW Nevison, author of *Changes and Chances*.

The Jackie Clarke library will open in the new Ballina library before the end of 2006 and will be a vital research centre for students of Irish republican history.

## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY BOOSTS EQUAL ACCESS AT COOTEHILL LIBRARY

In line with their commitment to providing equal access Cavan County Library Service has recently installed a new ReadEasy Scanner and an Affinity CCTV Magnifier for people with a visual impairment at Cootehill Library and Arts Centre. The official launch was held on Tuesday 16th May and the arrival of this new equipment was welcomed by a group of local people who were very enthusiastic about this new free service. The introduction of the technology is as a direct result of feedback acquired from people who responded to *Cavan Libraries Survey of People with Disabilities* which was conducted in 2004. The final report of this survey was presented to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and to An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and grant aid was subsequently made available for assistive technology. Extensive research was then carried out by library staff who consulted current users of assistive technology, local and national representatives from National Council for the Blind of Ireland, schools and suppliers to ensure that the most relevant and useful equipment was chosen and put in place.

The Affinity CCTV Magnifier does exactly what it suggests – it magnifies documents/images (books, letters, maps, photographs etc.) onto a monitor screen and it incorporates new innovations and increased functionality for the visually impaired. Features include increased magnification to a very large scale, auto focus, tab-stop controls, change of background/text colour, photo and text modes. The CCTV magnifier is useful for all kinds of activities and its magnification ability is proving very useful to users with varying visual abilities. The ReadEasy Scanner is particularly useful for people who very low vision or are blind. It is an ingenious piece of equipment which scans the printed text in books, magazines, newspapers, letters etc. and then a voice reads the contents back to the user. It gives the user the independence and privacy to read their own documents or to enjoy the pleasure of reading the local newspaper or a book. Documents can be stored in the machine for further use and can also be removed to another computer for use in another location with the use of a USB memory stick. The ReadEasy keypad is easy to use, with raised keys and the function of any key can be explained simply by using the Help Mode.



At the official launch of the new service at Cootehill Library, Senior Library Assistant Sinéad Rice explained how to use the both pieces of equipment and urged the invited guests to make use of the new technology and to tell others about the new service. She encouraged users to give feedback on their use of the equipment in order to inform staff for future acquisition of technology for other libraries. Sinéad Rice reiterated the ongoing focus of County Librarian Josephine Brady and all library staff on providing a quality of service to people with disabilities and drew particular attention the new Johnston Central Library building in Cavan town which has been specifically designed and fitted with the needs of people with disabilities in mind. Special guest at the launch was Bernie Rawl from the National Council for the Blind in Cavan who praised Cavan Library Service for its research and for its evident achievement in providing access for the visually impaired. On behalf of Cavan County Library Service Sinead Rice extended her thanks to Bernie Rawl and the NCBI for all their support and advice over the past year and praised the work that is done by the NCBI in the area. Those who attended the launch all got a chance to try out the new technology and it is hoped that many people will use the service over the coming weeks, months and years and that further links can be forged between Cavan Library Service and local disability groups.

## COLICO Updates

COLICO will hold the conference *Pathways to learning: exploring the potential for cross-sectoral library service provision* on November 8th in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin. The event will address the challenges in providing equal access to the rich resources of Irish libraries. Librarians will have the opportunity to hear senior representatives of the profession and policy makers who will consider the issues leading to the development of such a mechanism. This conference is by invitation only and details on the event will be available on the COLICO web site ([www.librarycouncil.ie/colico](http://www.librarycouncil.ie/colico)) shortly. For further information you can also contact the COLICO Secretariat at [colico@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:colico@librarycouncil.ie).



In this issue of COLICO Updates we would also like to bring to your attention the following initiatives from the academic sector:

**IReL: Irish Research eLibrary:** Ms Mary Hanafin TD, Minister for Education and Science, launched IReL – The Irish Research Library on Tuesday 6th June in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.



*Seán Phillips (UCD), Minister Hanafin, Paul Sheehan (DCU), Agnes Neligan (NUI Maynooth) Robin Adams (TCD) Seated: Marie Reddan (UCG) Gobnait O'Riordan (UL), John FitzGerald (UCC).*

The Irish Research eLibrary (IReL) is a nationally funded, electronic research library, which will provide online access to full-text articles from thousands of quality, peer-reviewed research publications across a range of disciplines. All researchers, staff and students in the Republic of Ireland's seven universities can access IReL through their university web site.

Minister Hanafin commented that "This phenomenal development resource, inspired by university librarians, will enhance the hugely significant advances that have been made in building the research capability of this country"

Initially funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), and since 2005, jointly funded by SFI and Higher Education Authority (HEA), IReL began in 2004 and has been developed throughout 2005. A second phase of IReL, running from 2006 to 2009, has been funded by the HEA. The service delivers over 5,000 quality, peer-reviewed online research publications in the fields of Biotechnology and ICT. This represents more than 25 million articles on research results being made available to Irish scholars. Humanities and Social Sciences packages will deliver in excess of 20,000 additional titles.

The Irish Universities Association Librarians' Group has overall responsibility for the project. IReL is managed by IRIS Ltd., a not-for-profit company owned by the universities, with the assistance of the IReL Steering Group.

The Minister concluded "The Government is increasingly looking to higher education to support our wider national objectives in developing a knowledge based economy. As part of that process it is imperative that researchers have speedy access to the latest information. Today's launch will play a prominent part in further developing our research capabilities and I congratulate all concerned with this project."

**The Long Room Hub: a Research Resource:** Trinity College's Long Room Hub, a new initiative that is set to transform research in the arts, humanities and social sciences was launched on Wednesday, 14 June by Senator Maurice Hayes and the Chair of the American Ireland Fund, Dr Loretta Brennan Glucksman. To mark the occasion a colloquium and poster exhibition, showcasing some of the new research projects in Trinity was held in the Examination Hall.

The Long Room Hub aims to facilitate research for a new generation of scholars through a better exploitation of the College's outstanding research collections. Trinity College's Library, with the Long Room at its heart, is the largest research library in Ireland and one of the finest in the world. Its holdings range from manuscripts dating from the 13th century BC, third century Egyptian papyri, medieval manuscripts such as the Book of Kells, the writings of authors such as Swift, Synge, Beckett and Banville and unique historical records.

The Long Room Hub initiative will enable world-class scholars to make fuller use of the College's rich resources of materials and collections. It will unlock these treasures through the creation of electronic records and a digitisation programme. The Hub will stimulate individual and collaborative research in existing and new disciplines. Similarly, it will support academic dialogue through an international visiting scholar programme. Trinity College's Hub also aims to attract the necessary funding to produce world-leading research in the arts, humanities and social sciences which will allow these disciplines to continue to play a central role in the College and in civil society in general.

## publications

**Inside the Crocodile: a Selection of New Writing from Enniscorthy and Wexford** is the result of a creative writing project that ran for eight months during 2005 & 2006 in Enniscorthy Public Library. Weekly meetings were mentored by local writer Jim Maguire who also edited the collection. The book comprises of short stories, poetry and prose, that explores themes of childhood and reminiscence, seen through the eyes of new and established writers in the county. Local cartoonist Nick Roche worked with group members to illustrate their works. The project, which grew out of a summer learning project in 2005 and which has resulted in the establishment of the Slaney Writers Group, was managed by librarian Clare Kelly, from whom further information is available.

*Inside the Crocodile: a Selection of New Writing from Enniscorthy and Wexford.* Wexford. Wexford County Council Public Library Service, 2006. ISBN: 0955146739 / 7890955146732 €15.00  
Email: [clare.kelly@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:clare.kelly@wexfordcoco.ie)

## people

**Meath County Council Library Service:** It is with deep regret that we record the death of our friend and colleague **Kathleen Nally** R.I.P.

Kathleen passed away after a short illness aged 42 years. Kathleen served as Branch Librarian at Oldcastle Library for more than twenty years and she also worked in Longford/Westmeath prior to her appointment in Meath.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

## SOME NEW LIBRARY BUILDINGS



Ballina Library, Co. Mayo



Cavan Library



Leixlip Library, Co. Kildare



Thurles Library & Arts Centre, Co. Tipperary

## calendar of events

### august 2006

20-24th *Libraries: dynamic engines for the knowledge and information society* – 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council: Venue: Seoul, Korea.  
Details: [www.ifla2006seoul.org](http://www.ifla2006seoul.org)

26th-3rd Heritage Week – libraries are asked to register planned events with [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)

### september 2006

11-16th European Association of Health Information and Libraries – 10th Annual Conference of Medical and Health Libraries, Cluj, Romania.  
[www.eahilconfcluj.ro/index.html](http://www.eahilconfcluj.ro/index.html)

15-17th *Lets start at the very beginning...new readers...new writers...new audiences* Cilip Youth Libraries Annual Conference 2006 University of Chester. Details from Mrs Karen Usher. Tel/Fax 353 (0)1482875208.  
E: [karen@musher.demon.co.uk](mailto:karen@musher.demon.co.uk)  
Closing date 12th August 2006

### october 2006

11-13th Public Library Authorities conference, De Vere Grand Harbour Hotel, Southampton [further details to follow].

23-26th *XIV World Cochrane Library Colloquium*.  
For more information on the programme and registration details of the Cochrane Colloquium, please check out [www.colloquium.info](http://www.colloquium.info)

### november 2006

8th Pathways to Learning: Exploring the Potential for Cross-sectoral Library Service Provision COLICO Conference, National Library of Ireland, Dublin (by invitation)  
Details: [www.librarycouncil.ie/colico](http://www.librarycouncil.ie/colico) and [colico@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:colico@librarycouncil.ie)

### march 2007

2-4th *The Ennis Book Club Festival*  
Details: [frances.ogorman@clarelibrary.ie](mailto:frances.ogorman@clarelibrary.ie)

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