

IRISH LIBRARY news

Issued by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (The Library Council)

No. 265 November 2006

ISSN 0332-0049

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TAOBH TÍRE PROJECT WINS PRIDE OF PLACE AWARD

The Donegal County Council library research project, Taobh Tíre was awarded a special category award at the Co-operation Ireland's *Pride of Place Awards* in Tullow County Carlow on the 14th of October. The *Pride of Place* awards, now in their fourth year, is an all-island competition which is directed towards recognising improvements by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The competition focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area. The Taobh Tíre project has been investigating and implementing new and innovative methods of delivering library services to rural and isolated communities across Donegal. The project team works in partnership with local stakeholders - Community Development Projects, Family Resource Centres, commercial companies, a rural transport initiative and others. Fourteen service points have been set up across County Donegal. While Donegal is the location for the pilot the results will be applicable to isolated communities throughout Ireland.



L-R: Joe Crockett, County Manager, Carlow County Council; Michael Abbey, Mayor of County Carlow; Donna Quinn, Taobh Tíre Project Co-ordinator; Christopher Moran, Chairperson Co-operation Ireland; Dick Roche, Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Richard Gibson, Community and Enterprise, Donegal County Council; Tom Dowling, Chairperson of Pride of Place and County Manager, Meath County Council.

In her presentation to the *Pride of Place* judges in July when they visited the county Taobh Tíre project co-ordinator, Donna Quinn, emphasised that co-operation with the local community establishes a sense of ownership and involvement in the library service within that community. The project has had many other multiplier effects in the communities it serves, e.g. community websites, reader development programmes, history projects etc. The provision of a Business Technology degree in Áras Sheáin Bháin in Fintown by NUIG would not have been possible without the establishment of a partnership between Údarás na Gaeltachta, Coiste Éigse Sheáin Bháin and Taobh Tíre. County Librarian, Eileen Burgess stated that 'The new partnerships created with local communities have demonstrated the real benefits of networking and co-operation in delivering local authority services.' The service provided by Taobh Tíre is an important element in ensuring the sustainability of small communities and of the delivery of equitable services across the wider population.

Taobh Tíre was a jointly funded project under the DoEH&LG Public Library Research Scheme

Children's Book Festival 2006

Over 100 children gathered in **Cork City Library** on 4th October to launch Cork City Libraries fun packed programme of events for National Children's Book Festival 2006.

Adi Roche, Executive Director of the Chernobyl Children's Project, emphasised the importance of books and writing to the children who represented all areas of Cork city, before she read from her own latest publication. With the help of the children and a specially-commissioned giant scissors, the programme was officially launched. The children then sampled the delights of a special chocolate fountain erected for the event.

During the month of October, the Central Library and branches hosted a number of popular children's authors, including Óisín McGann, Mary Arrigan, Beth Webb, and Eileen O'Hely and had workshops varying from multicultural puppet shows, Egyptian enigmas and labyrinths, the 'Scary Poetry Society' with poet Thomas McCarthy to French cuisine.



Breda Hassett (Child Services), Liam Ronayne (Cork City Librarian), Adi Roche (Chernobyl Children's Project), Patricia Looney (Child Services) at the launch of Cork City Libraries Children's Book Festival 2006.

As part of the Children's Book Festival this year **Carndonagh Community Library, Co. Donegal**, hosted a number of artists, including Niall de Burca, Naomi Fein, Michael Moylan, Danielle Roelfsen, Orla & Jenni, C & C Lombardi, Vincent O'Donnell, Patrick Kearney and Jan Casper.

Meath County Council Library Service was delighted to host renowned author, Joan Lingard in Navan, Trim and Ashbourne libraries during Children's Book Festival.

Joan was the recipient of the prestigious MBE for Services to Children's Literature in 1998. Although she has written numerous children's and adult titles, she is probably most famous for her young adult novels. A great part of her work takes place in Northern Ireland during "The Troubles". She is author of the Kevin and Sadie books, which include *Across the barricades* and *The twelfth day of July*.

Navan library was inundated with bookings from schools wishing to hear Joan speak. The Solstice Arts Centre in Navan kindly agreed to throw open the doors of their auditorium to facilitate the large numbers. Students from secondary schools in Navan enjoyed an excellent talk given by the author. Joan spoke about some of her recent titles, including *Natasha's will* and *Tell the moon to come out*. Bookwise bookstore in Navan provided a selection of Joan's titles for sale on the day and many students were delighted to have their own copies signed by the author.

Joan also visited Trim Library that evening and gave an entertaining talk to a keen audience of both children and adults. Illustrator, Olwyn Whelan, was a guest speaker on the night. In 2001 Olwyn and Joan collaborated on a picture book for children entitled *The same only different*. It was very interesting to hear them talk about how they worked together on this book. Antonia's Bookstore in Trim sold books on the night to adults and children alike. Everyone queued to get their books signed by the visitors and to chat to a very friendly and welcoming Joan Lingard.



Joan Lingard

Joan's final visit was to Ashbourne Library where she was greeted by a very enthusiastic audience before flying back to Edinburgh. Having been a fan of Joan's ever since reading the "*Maggie*" books as a teenager, Festival Co-ordinator, Maedhbh Rogan, was delighted to finally meet one of her all-time favourite authors.

Cork City Library: Mick Hannigan, Director of the Cork Film Festival, was on hand on Tuesday 10th October to launch Cork City Libraries' collection of films on DVD. The films, all of which are available for members to borrow, include the greats produced by the Hollywood studios in the 1940s, 1950s and later - films by John Ford, Alfred Hitchcock and the other legendary directors of that era. The libraries' collection also includes films from Europe and the world, right up to the present day. Ireland has a small but significant role in the heritage of world cinema; films made in Ireland with Irish stories - *The quiet man*, *Ryan's daughter* - and films by Irish directors - *In the name of the father*, *The crying game*. All of the world's culture, as seen through the eyes of its greatest film-makers, is on offer through the DVD collection: Italian neorealism, the French nouvelle vague, and films by Germany's 60's generation - Fassbinder, Wenders et al - and the current flowering of Spanish cinema led by Almodovar. More recently directors, actors and other film-makers have emerged to make unforgettable films in countries as diverse as China (not forgetting Hong Kong and Taiwan), Mexico and Iran, while the Bollywood phenomenon - the indigenous Indian film industry based in Mumbai (Bombay) and other centres - continues to thrive.

City Librarian Liam Ronayne noted that for generations Cork City Libraries have offered the people of Cork the greatest stories ever told - books of all kinds for children and adults, not just novels, but biographies and history as well, and now along with books they offer a range of the classics of the cinema from all over the world.



Mick Hannigan (centre) launches the collection with Cllr. Jim Corr (left) and Cork City Librarian Liam Ronayne.

Cork City Libraries eLearning promotion

Cork City Libraries are undertaking a new scheme promoting computer skills among members of the public not previously familiar with personal computer usage. Initially, beginners are introduced to navigating the Internet. The second phase provides free access to a range of FÁS eCollege programmes for a six-month period for people who depend on library computer facilities, especially those previously unfamiliar with computers. The selected courses include ECDL, bookkeeping, and some general courses, e.g., health, hygiene, and safety. This pilot scheme, currently being tested in the Central Library and in Tory Top Library, is organised in conjunction with Cork City Council's *ConnectCork.ie* initiative.

Dublin City Public Libraries have been presented with the *Language Ambassador of the Year 2006* award for its Open Learning Centre.

This European award is presented to the person, or institution, that does most to promote language learning in either the formal or non-formal education sector. It recognises creative ways to improve the quality of language teaching, motivate students and make the best use of available resources at every level of education and training.

The Open Learning Centre, based in the Central Library, ILAC Centre, is a service of Dublin City Public Libraries. It promotes and facilitates life long learning and provides specific resources in language and computer learning.

The European Award for Languages is co-ordinated by the European Commission and managed, on a decentralised basis, by each member state. The national agency, Léargas, has been responsible for managing the Award in Ireland since 2004.

The presentation of the *Language Ambassador of the Year Award* is made to mark the European Day of Languages, which is a Council of Europe initiative. It is held annually on the 26th of September and aims to alert the public to the importance of language learning and to increase awareness and appreciation of all the languages spoken in Europe.

Kerry County Library: a new book about Antarctic explorer, Tom Crean, was launched at a function at Tralee Library by Mike Barry, Kerry's modern Antarctic explorer, who recently followed in Crean's footsteps. Also present was the author of the book, Michael Smith. *Tom Crean – an illustrated life* [Collins Press] is his third book on the Crean theme, one each of the previous titles being aimed at the adult and children's market.

Kerry County Library has been to the forefront of the revival of interest in Tom Crean. In 1986 it held a major exhibition on him in Dingle Library and his decorative medals were on display there for over 15 years. A permanent exhibition is still in place there. Also in 1986, the Kerry Archaeological & Historical Society in association with Kerry County Library unveiled a commemorative plaque at the South Pole Inn, Annascaul.



Standing [l-r]: Michael Smith (author), Mike Barry (who launched the book), Con Collins (publisher), John Breen (Director of Service, KCC). Seated: Tommy O'Connor (A/Co. Librarian), Mary Crean (daughter of Tom Crean), Eamon Browne (Local Studies Librarian).

The state-of-the-art **National Council for the Blind of Ireland Library and Media Centre** has been officially opened by An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, T.D. The library provides Braille, audio and large print books free of charge to library members. The Taoiseach was presented with a Braille and audio version of chapters from his daughter, Cecelia Ahern's three latest novels.

The library has access to more than 250,000 accessible books and also provides newspapers, magazines and journals on audiotape and in Braille to over 1,500 subscribers.

Source: *Public Sector Times*, 1st October 2006, p.7.

Roscommon County Library is the proud owner of a new mobile library. Constructed by Keillor Coachbuilders following public tender process, it has been built to the highest specification and standards employing all of the modern developments in mobile service. The vehicle comes with new interior layout and finish for the best in user comfort, capacity for 3,000-4,000 items of stock, disability access, in built computer access using the latest satellite technologies and quality interior and exterior design to provide a very public statement and commitment to improved services for all customers.

The Mobile Library Service represents another step and action under the *Library Development Plan 2006-2010* for the extension of services beyond the fixed infrastructure to rural areas. The primary objectives under this strategy include:

- The development of library infrastructure
- Providing support services to communities
- Support local authority interface with public
- Initiate new service delivery approaches
- Address social inclusion and accessibility issues
- Enhance and promote information provision role
- Build capacity for greater participation in services

Roscommon County Council acknowledges the support and contribution of all parties from the initial public consultation through to this stage of the service, including the elected members, management, staff and public. Over the next few weeks, the stocking of the vehicle, installation and testing of information communication technologies, route and schedule planning with a view to hosting an official launch, prior to full operation of service will take place. This period is also an opportunity, once again to invite members of the public to contact Roscommon County Library Service with regard to availing of service.

people

An Honorary MA degree was conferred on **Dónall Ó Luanaigh** by NUI Galway recently. Dónall was honoured for his immense contribution to research and scholarship in his role as Keeper of Collections at the National Library of Ireland (NLI). Born and educated in Galway, where he graduated with a Masters in French, Dónall went on to join the staff of the NLI in 1968, until his retirement this year, following 43 years of service. He was the acknowledged expert on the library's collections, and will be particularly remembered for his work on the *Union list of current periodicals and serials in Irish libraries*, and his editorial work on the three-volume *Supplement to Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilization*, published in 1979.

Marie Reddan, Librarian, James Hardiman Library, NUI Galway said, "Dónall has a particular interest in Franco-Irish relations and has published widely on the topic. His attachment to his native city has never waned and he has contributed many articles of Galway interest, in *Galway Roots* and other publications. He has always been supportive and generous to the James Hardiman Library with his time and specialist knowledge of archives and special collections."

Source: www.ucg.ie/news

EXCELLENCE THROUGH ACCESSIBILITY AWARDS

Four public bodies were the recipients of the inaugural National Disability Authority (NDA) *Excellence Through Accessibility Awards*, presented to pioneering public bodies that lead the way in making public services more accessible for people with disabilities. The Tánaiste and Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform Michael McDowell T.D., presented the awards to Cavan Library, Pearse Street Library, Dublin, Cabra Library, Dublin and the Public Appointments Service located on Abbey Street, Dublin. Miriam O'Callaghan of RTE hosted the awards at the Mansion House in Dublin on 26th September. These four bodies can now display an EtA symbol to demonstrate their commitment to accessibility.



L to R: Tánaiste Michael McDowell, Josephine Brady, Cavan County Librarian, Shiela Tierney, Cabra Library, Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian, Martin Bourke, Assistant CEO, Public Appointments Service, Angela Kerins, Chairperson NDA.

The award requires applicants to achieve a high standard across a wide range of service features, from customer service, procurement and public facilities to human resource management, management of the built environment and web accessibility and recognise the efforts of public service providers who are working to make a real difference to people with disabilities.

The awards to Dublin City Public Libraries & Archive, Pearse Street and Cabra Library were accepted by the City Manager, Mr John Tierney and City Librarian, Ms. Deirdre Ellis-King.

Mr. Tierney said "...I am delighted that *Dublin City Public Libraries at Pearse Street and Cabra* are among the first recipients of NDA awards for accessibility. This is well deserved, given our public library's commitment to ensuring equality of public access...."

Ms Ellis-King commented "...the acknowledgment is a welcome affirmation of the City Library Service's role in the provision of fully accessible facilities for all, including people with disabilities."

The branch library at Cabra, opened in 2001, provides an extensive service to its local community through wide ranging collections and programmes of activity. Staff offer quality assistance to people with disabilities, in particular those with visual impairment.

Dublin City Library and Archive in Pearse Street, already a winner of a *Landmark Libraries Award* in 2004 as a building of historical and architectural importance, was recognised as presenting challenges in its recreation as a library building of the future. That these challenges have been overcome to a large extent is evidenced by the NDA commitment level award.

These awards are based on a concept of continuing service improvement across a range of access issues, including building and service delivery. It is no surprise to note that of the four awards, three were presented to public libraries, acknowledging their longstanding commitment to serve all sectors of society equally.

The award winners and all participating public bodies were benchmarked against a broad range of standards covering each aspect of their services. The EtA awards are decided by an independent approvals board that is chaired by James McClean, Chairperson of People with Disabilities in Ireland.

Both Cavan County Library and Dublin City Library & Archive were active participants in the *Library Access* project initiated jointly by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and the Equality Authority in 2003.

conference announcement

A conference on **joint use libraries** is planned for June 2007. Joint-use libraries (i.e. libraries serving more than one group of users – e.g. school/public libraries, university/public libraries) is a topic which should be of interest to libraries across all sectors as a result of various initiatives and policies, for example, extended schools, shared services, community engagement in public libraries.

The conference will be a three day event offering practitioners, researchers and policymakers interested in joint use libraries a unique opportunity to meet, network and share experiences. The programme will include:

- case studies: short reports of a activities or projects
- reflective papers discussing a range of activities or an area of research
- posters: visual presentations of a case study or issue, with
- opportunities for informal discussion
- optional visits to local joint use libraries
- social events.

See <http://www.ebase.uce.ac.uk/JointUSEConference> for more details.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Degree of Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS)

Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies (GradDipLIS)

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 GradDipLIS 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; Fax: (353) 1-716-1161;
e-mail: sils@ucd.ie; web-site: <http://www.ucd.ie/sils>

The final date for receipt of application forms is **1st February 2007**. Entry to the programmes is competitive and the number of places is limited.

AN TAOISEACH OPENS THURLES LIBRARY & ARTS CENTRE

An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, T.D., officially opened the new €5.9 million arts centre and library in Thurles on 2nd October. Named *The Source*, the building consists of the arts centre and theatre, branch library and the Tipperary Studies Centre. It serves a core population of 7,000 with a catchment population of over 20,000. The branch library and shared exhibition area are situated on the ground floor with the Tipperary Studies Department and shared community space on the first floor. The branch library holds 25,000-30,000 titles and provides 20 broadband public workstations. The visually striking building was designed by McCullough Mulvin.



Photographs courtesy McCullough Mulvin

In his opening speech An Taoiseach reflected on the name given to the new building: "*The Source* is an ideal name for this cultural centre. It reflects its position on the banks of the Suir, a fact that its very design serves to highlight. But much more than that, the name mirrors the activities of the centre and its aspirations in terms of the flow of ideas, creativity, learning and cultural expression."



An Taoiseach highlighted the fact that since 1999, a total of 46 new libraries have been opened nationwide with a further nine due to open between now and the end of 2007.

Mr. Ahern said, "Today, when we talk about the public library service, we talk of a service that is accessible and inclusive in the broadest sense. The library, which forms a major part of this new facility, is one of the most significant developments ever undertaken by the County Tipperary Joint Libraries Committee."



It is also the first major development of library facilities in Thurles for over 70 years. It is progressive and modern with internet access and broadband public workstations widely available, a core stock of almost 30,000 books and 48 opening hours a week. The design also takes into account study and research needs of users and takes a particularly innovative approach to the needs of children. It is truly a 21st century library. It is worth noting that over the five weeks since the library opened its doors to the public, a total of 17,000 visits have been recorded, which is evidence of the significant part which the public library plays in the day to day lives of so many people."

Cllr. Jack Crowe, Chairman of the Joint Library Committee said, "It is our firm belief that every community deserves a quality public library service and every member of the community is entitled to unimpeded access to these services... We further believe that libraries make a difference in peoples lives and that they contribute as much to the economic well being of communities as to their social, educational and cultural well-being".

suppliers update

Custom UK & Ireland is an online solution which allows you to select the newspapers, journals and reference content relevant to your readers. Custom UK & Ireland is a modular database made up of three components; newspapers, journals and reference and provides full-text online information in your library and across your county or city.

A **free trial** is available for instant access to the specially selected set of 70 journals, 30 newspapers and 100 reference titles. These titles range from general interest magazines to international newspapers and journals as well as respected reference eBooks.

<http://www.galeuk.com/customuk/customirelandopen.htm>

Trial access will expire on 30th November 2006.

For pricing details or an extended trial please contact peter.foster@thomson.com or call +44 (0)7747 106707.

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 and colico@librarycouncil.ie

8-10th *Public Libraries Section annual conference.* The focus of this year's autumn conference will be Reader development and book promotion and the conference will take place in the Cavan Crystal Hotel in Cavan, from 8th to 10th November. Further information from Brenda Frawley at bfrawley@limerickcoco.ie.

11th *Reading matters – developing readers in schools – a School Library Association of Ireland conference.* Opening presentation and keynote speech by Fiona Edwards from *Opening the Book*, followed by afternoon practical workshop session and closing address by Claire Hennessy, author of *Memories, Stereotype and Good girls don't*. Venue: Alexandra College Dublin at 9.30am. Full details will be available from: Aileen Ivory, t: 01 4977571; ivory.aileen@alexandracollege.ie

18th *Behind the typewriter,* Mayo County library's first reader's day will be held on Saturday November 18th in Ballina Library. Writers who will speak include Bernice Harrison, Sara Webb, Anita Notario, Morag Prunty/Kate Kerrigan, Claudia Carroll and Marina Devlin. Book lovers from all over Ireland are welcome especially book clubs and library staff. Places must be booked in advance at Ballina library 096 70833.

24th *Promoting, preserving and reading the Irish book – annual seminar of the LAI Rare Books Group* Venue: National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Registration fee: €80 (LAI members); €100 (Non-LAI members); €50 (Concessions). For further information please contact: Celine Ward, Rare Books Group Secretary, rbgsec@cbl.ie or 01-4070757

30th Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lectures in Legal Bibliography: Professor Douglas Hay, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto, will give the fifteenth lecture in this series entitled *Justices' handbooks, masters and servants: Irish employment law and its sources to 1875*.

The venue is Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. 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

december 2006

12th *Writing the official history of the Christian Brothers* an Irish Society for Archives lecture by Dr. Daire Keogh, 7.30, Dublin City Library & Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

march 2007

2-4th *The Ennis Book Club Festival.*
Details: frances.ogorman@clarelibrary.ie

5th-11th *Library Ireland Week.* Further information will be included in Leabharlann-e and posted on the LAI website. Enquires to bboardman@libraryassociation.ie

april 2007

24th-26th *LAI/CILIP Joint Conference 2007.* The annual Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals – Ireland will be held at the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise. Non members welcome. A booking form with further information and details of speakers will be posted on the website shortly. Initial enquiries may be made to bboardman@libraryassociation.ie

COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th November 2006.

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