# IRISH LIBRARY NEWS

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# LIBRARY ADVOCACY

An Chomhairle Leabharlanna has produced two travelling exhibitions to help promote the achievements of the public library service in adapting to the challenges which face them. The first exhibition focuses on developments in library infrastructure post Branching Out. 35 grant-aided libraries opened between 1996 and 2006 are featured, showing the wide diversity of service points and architectural styles. The exhibition features converted buildings, where the change to library use retains and revitalises our architectural heritage to new buildings, many of which have gained international recognition through a range of awards.

The second exhibition illustrates the theme of public libraries and social and cultural inclusivity. Originally commissioned to accompany An Chomhairle Leabharlanna's submission to the NESF Panel on Cultural Inclusion, the four panels illustrate the range of activities on offer in Irish public libraries and the diversity of the clientele they attract.

Both were exhibited at the NESF's Plenary Session on Cultural Inclusivity which was held on 1st November in the Royal Hospital, the LAI's Public Library Group's annual conference in Cavan and the NDA's conference on Improving the accessibility of the built and external environment: building an inclusive society at Croke Park.





The buildings exhibition consists of 3 double sided panels and the social inclusivity of 2 double sided panels each measuring 2.2m x1.2 m. The exhibitions available for loan, either individually or as a pair, from the Research & Information Department, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53-54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.

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Cork County Libraries' Children's Book Festival continues to grow in popularity in Cork County Libraries. This year's festival was a very busy one with 121 events in 27 libraries during October. 31 writers were featured. Authors making their first visit to the Cork County Library circuit included fantasy writer Conor Kostick; poet and children's writer Catherine Ann Cullen, the prolific Margrit Cruickshank and Cathy Cassidy, a hugely popular writer for teenagers, who flew in from Scotland.

Puppet shows are a feature of the festival with large numbers attending all performances. The Magic of India show enthralled kids (and even the adults) who could not believe their eyes at some of the "tricks" being performed. Basher Bacon continued to go down a treat as did Seán Ó Laoghaire. Storytellers this year were the ever popular Pat Speight and Eddie Linehan. They were joined by Scottish storyteller Susie Minto, who drew on the power of the children's imagination in her sessions. An ever popular performer; Michael Moylan's Irish History Live presentations give a hands-on explanations of medieval



Cathy Cassidy

life, with children trying on costumes and inspecting weapons from all the different periods in history, are both fun and educational. In addition to the core literary programme many branches had a very varied workshop programme this year with artists bringing unusual and creative ideas to the programme

This year the library service embarked on its first commissioned T-shirt for the festival. Kinsale based artist Colin Hawkins, best known for his Mr. Wolf books, designed a special image for the Festival T-shirt. Children, teachers, library staff and, rather interestingly, the writers themselves were enthralled at this new departure, all expressing delight with their unexpected and, it seems, now prized piece of apparel.



A flock of festival T-shirts seek safety in Mallow Library

The Council of National Cultural Institutions, on Tuesday 14th of November, published its submission to the National Development Plan for the period from 2007 to 2013. At the first ever joint press briefing by the Directors of the National Cultural Institutions, a call was made for cultural development to form a key element of the next National Development Plan. The Chairman of the Council of National Cultural Institutions (CNCI), Aongus Ó hAonghusa, who is also the Director of the National Library, said further investment by the State in arts and culture would be "intrinsically good public policy". The ESRI in its recently published ex-ante evaluation of the NDP recommended that resources be devoted to the area of culture.

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) recently published revised editions of two information booklets about the work of his office.

The Role of the DPP sets out in plain language what the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions does and tries to answer the questions that people ask most often about the office. The second booklet Attending Court as a Witness explains what happens in court for anyone who has to go to court to give evidence in a criminal trial. Both booklets are available on request from the Office of the DPP and on the website, www.dppireland.ie.

As well as being available in English and Irish the booklets have also been translated into eight foreign languages: Arabic, French, Latvian, Lithuanian, Chinese (Mandarin), Polish, Russian and Spanish. All foreign language versions are available on the website. The Office for the Director of Public Prosecutions will be making copies available to the public through the public library network. Other libraries wishing to obtain copies should contact: Communications & Development Unit, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, 14 – 16 Merrion Street, Dublin 2.Tel: 01 678 9222 E-mail: dpp@dppireland.ie

**Dublin City Libraries** held its 5th annual Readers' Day on Saturday 14th October. There are now over 80 reading groups, with a combined membership of over 800, attached to DCPL. Demand for tickets, which are limited to reading group members, is fierce as the event is now established as an annual outing for readers to hear and meet authors and, perhaps more importantly, to meet members of other reading groups and swap 'good read' titles. There are many mentions on the event feedback sheets about how interesting it is to compare the authors' personalities with their books - could this be the key to the success of days such as this? The following unsolicited review of the day was received from a reading group member, Ruth Craig:

The term Readers' Day strikes me as an understatement when used to describe the gathering of over 200 enthusiastic reading group members from all over the Dublin City Libraries' network. Perhaps readers' 'festival' or 'celebration' would be a better terms to sum up the atmosphere as together we listened to the varied and intriguing presentations that came from the wide variety of authors on Saturday 14th October. The authors presented to us were UK authors Carol Drinkwater, Elizabeth Buchan and Irish authors Ivy Bannister, Martina Devlin, George Hook, Fiona Looney, Terry Prone, Gerry Stembridge and Joe O'Connor.

Niall MacMonagle set the mood perfectly with his reflections on the reader and books. His inquisitive nature was at work as he chaired questions and answers which allowed us to delve into the mind and imagination of the author, the playwright, the broadcaster and the journalists in our midst.



Carol Drinkwater

As each presented in turn, not only were we intrigued by their stories and their work but we took the rare opportunity to take a glimpse at the individuals, the process and the creativity which collectively form the persona of the 'writer'.

We had powerful insights into the creation of a novel, learnt about how the process of writing can bring healing and even discovered the trade secrets of the 'blurb' writer! It was entertaining, fascinating and, at times, moving, to listen to and appreciate each speaker, the pace and fullness of the day helping to maintain the momentum. We thought about genre and characterisation and considered how the journey from inspiration to publication can translate into a financially viable project.

It was such a pleasure to enjoy the luxury of a complete day thinking about books, talking about books and being inspired by those who have chosen to reflect humour, love and pain in the form of a good story.

Thank you Dublin City Libraries for such a wonderful celebration of the writer and the reader.

**ISBN Numbers** - From the 1st of January 2007, the number of digits in ISBN numbers will increase from 10 to 13. This will expand the numbering capacity of the ISBN system and will also fully align the numbering system for books with the EAN.UCC identification system that is used to identify most other consumer goods worldwide.

See http://www.isbn.org/standards/home/isbn/transition.asp for more details.

Kerry County Library archives section has recently received a donation of personal papers of 1916 activist, Fionán Lynch, a native of Kilmakerin, County Kerry. The collection includes manuscript letters, photographs and artefacts relating to Lynch's various careers as a teacher, patriot, government minister and, latterly, District Court Judge. Lynch was a Captain in the 1916 Rising, and leader of the contingent at North King Street, Dublin. Lynch was also a member of the Irish party delegated to secure the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921. He served as Minister for Education and, later, Minister for Fisheries in the Free State Governments up to 1932. He was elevated to the Bench in 1954, following his resignation from politics.



Kerry Local Studies staff member, Maria Doyle viewing some items from the Fionán Lynch archive including his 1916-issue binoculars, and his cap and manacle from Portland Prison.

The collection, which was kindly donated on permanent loan by the surviving children of Fionán Lynch, will be an invaluable aid to students of the foundation of the State. Kerry County Archives is located at Library Headquarters in Moyderwell, Tralee where archivist Michael Lynch is available by appointment at 066-7121200 or archivist@kerrycolib.ie.

As part of a consignment of archives transferred to Kerry County Library from the offices of *The Kerryman* newspaper in Tralee recently, a previously undocumented run of the newspaper has been discovered. NEWSPLAN documents a gap in publication from April 1921 to January 1924.

The "new" run covers dates from 18 August to 29 December 1923. The papers are bound in a single volume and were a set used by *Kerryman* finance staff to check on advertising revenue. Colette O'Daly, Newspapers & Periodicals Librarian at the National Library of Ireland, has described this as "a very exciting find". In conjunction with the National Library's NEWSPLAN remit, the papers will be sent to the National Library for security microfilming in the coming months and thereafter will be available to the public where they will be a great addition to the local studies collection of Kerry library.

**Leitrim County Library.** The launch of a large collection of Irish books for children (Leabhair Gaeilge do Pháistí) took place on October 7th in Carrick-on-Shannon library. The Cathaoirleach of Chomhairle Chontae Liatroma, Sinead Guckian, performed the launch.



Grants provided by Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge enabled all libraries in Leitrim to secure a quantity of these books. Gearóid de Grás represented the Bord at the launch. Each branch library had a launch and children with their parents were invited to come along.

The **Library Association of Ireland** is delighted to announce that *Library Ireland Week 2007* will take place from 5th – 11th March. The event is a celebration of the role of libraries, librarians and information professionals. Last year hundreds of events including readings, exhibitions, book launches, author visits, competitions and recitals were held around the country in public, academic and special libraries. It's a great opportunity for librarians and information professionals in all sectors to promote their libraries and what they do. For more information check www.libraryassociation.ie or contact

bboardman@libraryassociation.ie

The annual Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals – Ireland, will take place from Tuesday 24th – Thursday 26th April 2007 at The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise. All members of the LAI are welcome to attend the Joint Conference which is also open to non members. In response to members' suggestions, the 2007 Joint Conference will finish on Thursday at lunchtime and the members' day and conference banquet will be held on Wednesday. The venue was selected with ease of travel in mind for the majority of delegates - Portlaoise is very accessible by train, bus and car. The Heritage Hotel is a 4 star grade A conference venue and delegates will enjoy its comfortable and modern facilities. Portlaoise and its surrounding area offer wonderful opportunities to conference delegates in terms of places of interest to visit.

So make a note of the dates in your diary! A booking form with further information and details of speakers will be posted on www.libraryassociation.ie shortly. Initial enquiries may be made to bboardman@libraryassociation.ie

### Monaghan County Libraries and Monaghan County Museum

joined forces to present an exhibition entitled Monaghan a *Border County 40 Years Growing, 1965-2005*. This groundbreaking initiative has been funded by the European Union under the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2000-2004(Peace II), and part financed by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006.

This audio - visual display is the product of over a year's work throughout Monaghan. It examines the experiences of life in the county between the years 1965-2005 through the themes of Around the Border, Emigration/Immigration, Coming of Technology and Life and Leisure. Groups from all over Monaghan's cultural and socially diverse community took part in storytelling workshops. Their experiences can be enjoyed through the listening posts, read on the information boards and on the walls, throughout the exhibit.

At the core of this project is the need to promote social inclusion throughout the county as well as disseminating historical fact about Monaghan.

This is a pioneering attempt by Monaghan County Council through the libraries and museum to celebrate the cultural diversity and historical richness of this unique county.

The exhibition will be travelling around the libraries of Monaghan from November 2006.

Public Library Building Awards Nominations are invited for the 2007 Public Library Building Awards. The awards will recognise achievement from 1 January 2005 - 31 March 2007. Entries must not have been submitted previously. Application forms will be available from 1st January 2007 and the closing date is 31st March 2007. Full entrance criteria and submission details will be available on the application form and the page on the PLG website:

http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/public/

The **SLARI** (School Library Association in the Republic of Ireland) conference was held at Alexandra College this November. The Principal, Marian Healy, welcomed a full house of attendees from primary and post-primary libraries all around Ireland. The theme of the conference was *Reading Matters: developing readers in your library school* and the keynote speaker was Fiona Edwards from Opening the Book (www.openingthebook.com) in the UK. Fiona had three simple messages/reminders to convey to anyone organising a library: 1) Immediacy – put as many books as possible on the shelves with the covers facing out – rows of spines with big Dewey labels are a barrier. 2) Less is more – de-clutter – it makes browsing and choosing easier. 3) Signage – make it clear, consistent and relevant. She suggested some great websites for encouraging reading activities:

http://www.4ureaders.net,

www.whichbook.net, and

http://www.whatareyouuptotonight.com/welcome.asp .

The second speaker was Jane O'Loughlin, who was Honours Listed for the 2005 SLA School Librarian of the Year Award. Jane gave a very inspiring and thoughtful presentation about her work as a (JCSP Demonstration Library Project) Librarian in Waterford. She described the many challenging and varied aspects of working with reluctant readers in a school library. Claire Hennessy, the author of several novels for young adults rounded off the day. The next SLARI event will be in March 2007. For details please contact: ivory.aileen@alexandracollege.ie or telephone 01-4977571.

Wicklow County Council Library Service has moved its Tinahely Branch, from a small room in Tinahely Courthouse, to the ground floor of the, architecturally significant, Tinahely Market House. Councillor Joe Behan, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, performed the official opening on Friday 21 July 2006. Cllr. Behan stressed the importance of the public library and how

it has developed from being a place concerned solely with bookborrowing, to a community resource providing a wide range of services.



County Librarian, Brendan Martin acknowledged the continuous support and commitment from Wicklow County Council to the Library Service.

Wicklow County Manager, Eddie Sheehy, thanked local community groups for their support in relocating the library to the historic building and expressed a hope that all sectors of the community would enjoy using the extended facilities on offer, such as CDs, DVDs and audio books, internet pcs, with broadband access and an "easy area" where the public can relax and read books, magazines or newspapers and a separate study area.

The services of Wicklow County Council are available to be viewed online via an accessible kiosk in the library and the increased opening hours were welcomed by all.

With all service points in Wicklow County Council Library Service now automated, membership enables users to access their library account from their home pc, to renew items, use the Borrowbooks system and have free access to online databases, such as Encyclopedia Brittanica and today's newspapers in 33 languages. Summer Clubs in the Library Service were a huge success again this year – pottery, musical workshops, crafts, African stories, dance and bracelet making were just some of the activities on offer. Clubs for the younger age group proved highly popular also while the Book Detective trail grew in numbers and branches. Delighted readers were presented with goodies for the great strides they made in reading.

Celebrating *Wicklow 400* – the 400th anniversary of the creation of Wicklow as an administrative county – has formed part of the library service's calendar of events this year. Storyteller Pat Speight entertained a large audience in a marquee in the grounds of Avondale House at the Wicklow 400 Birthday Party as part of a platform for the services of Wicklow County Council. The day was opened by Dick Roche T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, and the keynote address was given by the renowned naturalist Eamonn de Buitleir.

A competition - *Poetryfest!* - was run as part of the *Bray Summerfest*. Entrants voted for their favourite poem out of our list of fifty to enter a draw for a weekend for two in an Irish Country House Hotel. The top five most popular poems were read out at LiteraryFest! a fun family afternoon in the garden of Bray Library, Eglinton Road on Saturday 15th July with Niall De Burca as storyteller and MC to young local jazz group 'Non-Fiction', youth drama group 'Dry Rain' and dancers from the Annette Hynes Dance School. The sun shone down on a great afternoon's entertainment, showcasing the young local talent.

# LIBRARY ADVOCACY (CONTINUED)

The Library and Information Service Council (LISC), Northern Ireland has launched a new advocacy document for the whole of the province's library sector entitled *Libraries Deliver: Northern Ireland's Libraries in a changing environment.* 

The document aims to provide an overview of the scope and range of library and information services in Northern Ireland and their capacity to deliver for everyone in many different ways. As past chair John Gray comments in the introduction, "Taken individually, the library and information services available are impressive enough, but taken together they amount to more than the sum of their parts... The most disadvantaged use libraries as the first stepping-stones in a progression of limitless possibilities. The expert in whatever guise cannot progress without major reference and information resources. Libraries Deliver is designed to bring into clear view the crucial importance of these resources and services to our society, and their future unbounded potential." The document appears as public libraries in Northern Ireland prepare for the biggest administrative upheaval since 1973. The five Education and Library Boards are to be dissolved by 2008, to be replaced by a single library authority responsible for public libraries, and a single Education and Skills Authority, which, in addition to primary and secondary education services, will have responsibility for library services to schools.

Libraries Deliver is being widely circulated to politicians, government departments, agencies and NDPBs. The document is available for downloading from the Key Documents section of the LISC website. www.liscni.co.uk





### **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.

# IMPRESSIONS OF THE CAVAN CONFERENCES

...One walked to the courthouse, pleased with the sprightly appearance of the place, bright enough in ourselves, even in the early morning, to talk about anything. That is how I felt. I think others did, too, and our imaginations were stimulated. From the point of view of getting work done, Cavan was a good selection...

Dermot Foley. Impressions of the Cavan Conference. An Leabharlann, V.7(3) December 1940.

Johnston Central Library was the focus for Ireland's librarians in the month of November. The LAI Public Library Group and the City and County Librarians held their conferences in Cavan this year. These were the first Library conferences to be held in Cavan in over fifty years. Cavan was chosen as a location to allow the delegates the opportunity to view the new state-of-the-art Johnston Central Library and Farnham Centre.

The Public Librarians' Conference took place in the Cavan Crystal Hotel from the 8th to the 10th November. The theme of this year's conference was *Reader Development and Book Promotion*. Over one hundred delegates from throughout the country attended and were given a guided tour of the Library, the Archive and the Genealogical Research Service. Delegates were welcomed by Director of Service, Ger Finn, who spoke of the success of the building and its services, with a visitor level of over 71,000 since the opening in June.

The following week, from the 15th to the 17th of November, the City and County Librarians' conference was held in the Radisson SAS Farnham Estate Hotel.



(L-R) Standing: Noel Crowley (Clare Co. Co.), Teresa Walsh (South Dublin Co. Co.), Mary Reynolds (Longford Co. Co.) Damien Brady (Limerick Co. Co.), Donal Brady (Waterford Co. Co.), Ann Ward (Louth Co. Co.) Mary Farrell (Westmeath Co. Co.) Gerry Maher (Laois Co. Co.), Richie Farrell (Roscommon Co. Co.) Brendan Martin (Wicklow Co. Co.); Seated: Josephine Brady (Cavan Co. Co.), Donal Tinney (Sligo Co. Co.), Ruth Flanagan (Cork Co. Co.) Deirdre Ellis-King (Dublin City), Ann Coughlan (Offaly Co. Co.)

The conference theme was Investment in Public Libraries. Speakers included Mr. Jack Keyes, Co. Manager, Cavan County Council, Ms. Norma McDermott, Director, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Ms. Betty Moriarty, Assistant Principal Officer, D.O.E.H.L.G. and Ms. Teresa Walsh, Co. Librarian, South Dublin County Council. An international flavour was added by Mr. Craig Buthod, Director of Louisville Free Public Library Service, Kentucky, U.S.A. who delivered the keynote address.

On Wednesday November 15th, an evening with Craig Buthord, hosted by



Craig Buthod

the Johnston Central Library, was attended by a number of County Librarians and staff from Cavan Library, Cavan County Council and Meath County Library Service. Mr. Buthod spoke of the importance of the Library Service in reaching out into the community and promoting the mission of the Library Service which is to provide the broadest possible access to knowledge, ideas and information and to support the community in their pursuit of learning.

# THE IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC ARCHIVE

Over 350 people attended the official opening of the new premises of the Irish Traditional Music Archive at 73 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, a Georgian heritage building. They included members of the traditional music community from around the country; representatives of the Arts Councils, North and South, which fund the Archive; and archivists, librarians, and representatives of other State cultural institutions.

The opening was performed by Mr. John O'Donoghue TD, Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism, who welcomed the progress made by the Archive to date and looked forward to the expansion of services that would be made possible by its move to the new premises. Cathal Goan, Director-General of RTÉ and Chairman of the Archive, and Nicholas Carolan, Director of the Archive, also spoke. Music and song was provided by Archive Board members Paddy Glackin (Dublin), Dermot McLaughlin (Derry) and Máire Ní Chéileachair (Cork). Connemara sean-nós dancer Máire Áine Ní hlarnáin also performed.

The Archive's new premises have been allocated to it by the Office of Public Works which has conserved and restored the building to the highest standards under the supervision of Senior Architect Niall Parsons. It comprises four stories over a basement, and the building's original coach house. There are public rooms for accessing the Archive's collections and its databases, a basement audio and video recording studio, specialist rooms for the processing of materials, reception and administrative areas, and specialist storage areas.

In its new premises the Archive holds, preserves and gives free public access to the largest collection in existence of the materials of Irish traditional music: sound recordings, books and serials, photographs, ballad sheets and sheet music, videotapes and DVDs, and a mass of other materials. It also holds the largest body in existence of information about the music, organised on unique computer catalogues and indexes. More than half a million content items have been catalogued. The Archive also disseminates its materials and information through book and CD publications and travelling exhibitions, and by cooperating with a wide variety of cultural partners, especially in broadcasting the long-running television series Come West along the Road on RTÉ 1 and *Siar an Bóthar* on TG4.

For further information see the Archive's website at www.itma.ie, or contact the Archive at 73 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 (tel. 01-661 9699, fax 01-662 4585).

## people

A collection or paintings and drawings by **Sean Lennon**, librarian, satirist and artist will be on show at the Dublin Writer's Museum, 18 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 from 1st December – 31st December *Beckett's People* - consisting of twenty seven original paintings and line drawings - references some of the most historic performances of Beckett's work. Some of these images appeared in Lennon's *Godot Go Deo* an illustrated guide to Beckett's performers and the Dublin of Beckett's early years. *Godot Go Deo* was published in April to critical acclaim, described by *Books Ireland* as 'a piece of Beckettry that no collector should overlook' and by the *Irish Independent* as 'a welcome antidote to the po-faced product of so much of the Beckett industry'. Also included in Beckett's People is *Revel In Grey* a short sequence of new work done especially for this show on the theme of Beckett the Miserabilist!

A member of staff of Dublin Public Libraries for 27 years, Sean is leaving the service to explore his more Bohemian side in and around the folies, garrets and absinthe dens of Sutton. Apart from being the author of a number of books on a variety of subjects, from Irish music to the libraries of Dublin, he also helped disinter the reputation of Bram Stoker and even contributed to *Irish Library News* – copies containing his cartoon series *Conan the Librarian* reputedly reach dizzy prices on e-bay - any day now...

### calendar of events

### january 2007

Shopping for your Library: Procurement and Acquisitions- A one day seminar hosted by the Acquisitions Group of Ireland in the Mercer Hotel, Mercer Street, Dublin 2 on 16th January 2007. Enquiries contact: Aidín O'Sullivan, Librarian, Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown, Blanchardstown Road North, Dublin 15. t: 01-8851047; f: 01-8851003; e: Library\_staff@itb.ie

### march 2007

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

The festival website has just been launched at

www.ennisbookclubfestival.com

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 January 2007.

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