

IRISH LIBRARY NEWS

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NESF REPORT ENDORSES THE ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN PROMOTING CULTURAL INCLUSION

On the March 22, the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) published a major report on social inclusion and the arts. In the report a broad range of measures and initiatives are recommended to help far more people to participate in the arts.

According to Dr. Maureen Gaffney, Chairperson of the NESF: 'Participation in the arts has many social and economic benefits for both individuals and society and in the building of social capital. It is personally rewarding, provides us with inspiration and new ideas, and plays an important role in bringing people together at various events. It is of special significance in children's development. Everyone should have a right to participate in our country's cultural and artistic life. This would result in greater social inclusion and cohesiveness in our society, and yet little attention has been given to this by policy makers up to now.'

The NESF endorses the value of the local authority public library service, the Branching Out programme and other local and national government support mechanisms in increasing engagement in a wide range of cultural activities and services. The report found that the public considers libraries as accessible and, referring to the views of arts officers and library staff, stated that art exhibitions in libraries receive greater support than in other venues, as people find the spaces more familiar and less formal. Taobh Tíre in Donegal, the Lifesteps service, cultural diversity services including the lending of foreign language material, services to people with disabilities and the askaboutireland.ie website are among the developments that receive positive endorsement.

The value of a broadly based public library network and its usage is seen as a key factor in promoting social cohesion. Local authority and community support for the library service in Westside in Galway city and Moyross in Limerick city are highlighted.

The NESF focuses also on some concerns raised in relation to the library service during the consultation exercise. These include charging for services, opening hours, staffing levels, training and continuity of funding for social inclusion measures.

An Chomhairle Leabharlanna welcomes the publication of the report which draws attention to the need for a wider diversity of cultural expression in Ireland and to combat exclusion from the nation's cultural and artistic life. The mission of the NESF is to provide advice to the Government on policies to achieve greater equality and social inclusion.

The NESF contends that in Ireland while we are familiar with the concept of social inclusion we are less familiar with that of cultural inclusion. Exclusion from access to cultural goods and resources that are regularly accessed by the better-off in society is the key issue. The report goes on to highlight the broad range of economic and social benefits at both the individual and societal levels which can be derived from participation and access to the arts. The NESF asserts of the right of each individual to participation. The report finds that participation varies markedly according to educational level, socio-economic status, area and age.

Against this background, the NESF project team led by Professor John O'Hagan of TCD expresses the concern that if a broad spectrum of the population does not participate, we as a nation are not making the best use of the arts and culture as an avenue to increase social capital and social cohesiveness. The project team examined financial and other supports, including policies and programmes in the cultural domain with particular reference to the visual arts, libraries and theatre. Norma McDermott, Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna commended the NESF on taking up the

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challenge - that all citizens have equal access to arts and culture - in a formal policy context. She stated that An Chomhairle Leabharlanna would carefully examine the issues and recommendations with a view to supporting the further development of the cultural inclusion ethos and broadening participation in the local authority library service.

The report calls for better co-ordination of the arts and cultural sector, management and certainty of funding for cultural inclusion development, support for children, targeted services to the marginalized and improved data collection.

The Government has agreed that the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism would appoint a Strategy Committee with an independent chair to consider the NESF's recommendations as outlined in the report.

The arts, cultural inclusion and social cohesion. – Dublin: National Economic and Social Forum, 2007. – (NESF report; 35) ISBN: 1-899276-42-: €9.00

The report is also available to download at: <http://www.nesf.ie>

LISC (NI) CONSULTS ON DRAFT PUBLIC LIBRARY LEGISLATION

With the deadline for responses to the draft legislation for the establishment of the new Northern Ireland Library Authority coming up on April 20, the Library and Information Services Council (LISC) held a consultation event with an invited audience at Stranmillis University College, Belfast on Wednesday March 28.

Prior to a discussion chaired by BBC NI Education and Arts Correspondent, Maggie Taggart, the audience heard an outline of the main features of the legislation from senior officials within the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. This was followed by Debby Shorley, a former chair of LISC, past President of CILIP and now librarian at the University of Sussex, who spoke about the implications of the legislation for library services.



L to R: Debby Shorley, University of Sussex; Colin Jack, DCA;; Linda Houston, Executive Officer, LISC (NI); Julie Mapstone, DCAL and Maggie Taggart, BBC.

While matters such as the size of the new authority, quality, standards and access in rural areas all came up for discussion, the issue which dominated the event was the provision in the draft legislation to empower the new authority, subject to departmental approval, to charge for any aspect of library services, thus removing the guarantee of core services free at the point of use. Strong opposition was expressed to this measure which would leave Northern Ireland in a unique position within the UK in respect of entitlement to a free public library service.

The DCAL officials expressed their thanks to LISC for organising the event and said it was useful to hear directly the views expressed by those present.

With the Northern Ireland Executive to be in place by May 8 it is expected that the library issue will be considered by the Assembly and LISC will be keeping a close watch on any new draft of the legislation and its progress towards implementation.

In the meantime, the new post of Chief Executive Designate of the Northern Ireland Library Authority has been advertised but is open only to restricted field made up of the organisations directly

affected by the Review of Public Administration. The decision to restrict eligibility for the post in this way came in for heavy criticism from the LISC meeting.

To find more information and links to the draft legislation visit the news page of the LISC website. www.liscni.co.uk

CORK CITY LIBRARIES - EXTENDING ACCESS

Lord Mayor Cllr Michael Ahern launched a new service to housebound persons in Cork City on March 29 2007. The launch took place at the home of the Libraries' oldest reader, Mrs. Mary Rohan, born in 1907. The housebound service has been run on a pilot basis for 5 years in the Mayfield area of the city. In 2006 Cork City Libraries received an allocation from the National Disability Strategy fund, which covered the cost of the purchase and fit-out of a medium sized van. The van will enable a much enhanced housebound service, covering the entire city. In addition the van will provide a delivery service between the Central Library and local libraries, the first time Cork City Libraries has had its own van. The new van runs on bio-fuel grown in County Cork.



(L to r) Liam Ronayne, City Librarian, Cllr Michael Ahern, Lord Mayor, presenting audio books and flowers to Mrs. Mary Rohan, Sinead Feeley, Executive Librarian, and John Mullins, Senior Executive Librarian, with the van in the background

At the other end of the age scale, the Lord Mayor was on hand in the Central Library two days later to launch the Libraries' Childcare collection. Following a re-focusing of priorities at Barnardos Ireland, the latter's resource centre in Cork closed at the end of 2006. Cork City Libraries have taken over their collection of books, journals, and resource packs, and have agreed to develop this collection on a permanent basis as a resource for childcare tutors and students, and for parents, with support from the Cork Childcare Company. Topics in the collection include health, child development, education, legislation, day-care, bullying, play, bereavement, diversity, equality, racism and other social issues.

POETRY IN THE LIBRARY INITIATIVE

Poetry in the Library, a joint initiative of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and Poetry Ireland, aimed at promoting poetry in public libraries in Ireland was launched on March 6. A good crowd came to Dublin City Library's Pearse Street branch to celebrate the initiative and enjoy the musings of two of Dublin's finest poets, Tony Curtis and Macdara Woods.

The evening commenced with a wine reception, followed by an introduction from Dublin City's Divisional Librarian Jane Alger. Having welcomed all to Pearse Street Library, she introduced Poetry Ireland's Acting Director, Jane O'Hanlon, who paid tribute to the work of Brendan Teeling and Gillian Colton in planning the series. Ms. O'Hanlon then handed over to Niall MacMonagle, English teacher in Wesley College, critic and editor of the *Lifelines* and *Open the Door* anthologies of poetry. Niall officially launched the initiative and spoke of his love of literature and most especially poetry.

Tony Curtis and Macdara Woods then read from their poetry and spoke on a wide variety of subjects, ranging from the war in Iraq, Clare Island, Buddhism and a host of stimulating memories and anecdotes. Their poetry was thoroughly enjoyed by all present and has set a very high benchmark for the events that follow around the country in the coming months.

Clonmel Library also hosted a poetry evening on March 8, as part of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and Poetry Ireland's joint initiative. Local poets Michael Coady and Tom McCarthy were invited to read from their respective works and a question and answers session ensued. According to branch librarian Marie Boland, the evening was a resounding success, with the healthy number of attendees having their appetite whetted for similar events in the future

For further information on the project and other planned readings, please contact Gillian Colton (gcolton@librarycouncil.ie) or log on to www.library.ie

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S DAY

Waterford City Library's Ardkeen Branch celebrated Library Ireland Week and International Women's Day in style this year with a visit from four writers – Sarah Webb, Martina Devlin, Martina Reilly and Tara Heavey, on Thursday, March 8 at 7pm.



L-R: Cara Carmody (Event Organiser), Tara Heavey, Martina Devlin, Martina Reilly, Sarah Webb (Authors) Melanie Cunningham (Branch Manager-Ardkeen)

The aptly titled *Girls Night In* event was a huge success, between 80-100 people attended the night, one of the largest attendances the branch has hosted since it's opening in 2002. The four best-selling authors each read from their favourite books, Martina Reilly recited funny poems she wrote about her visit to Ardkeen and her favourite reads as she was growing up. Tara Heavey and Sarah Webb gave the audience of budding Waterford writers' an insight into how they write women's fiction as well as being full-time mums and a kid's soccer team manager! Martina Devlin inspired us with her tale of how her research for information on Irish emigration, led to writing her latest book about the Titanic. Afterwards, the audience enjoyed a relaxing drink and a Q & A session with the authors on how to live the life of a writer, tips for getting published and how and why to get an agent. They also got the opportunity to buy a signed copy of their publications that night!

The authors were also asked to give a live radio interview for WLRfm the following morning before being whisked off to Waterford City Central Library for a reader's day event with an audience of 70-80 people.

There was huge local media interest in the visit, with all three local papers running articles on the event for several weeks before Library Ireland Week. *The Irish Times* also gave column inches, in their Saturday insert magazine *What's on this Week* section, to *Girls Night In*. The event was also advertised and promoted on the Ardkeen Online Library Website www.ardkeen.ie/libraryirelandweek

International Women's Day has been celebrated for the past 25 years in *Newcastle West*. This year saw a performance of a newly formed women's singing group and a reading by Rita Ann Higgins in the library.

Wexford Library hosted an evening of poetry readings and story-telling. Poets at the event, which was well attended, included Margaret Galvin, Mary O'Brien, Heidi Staples and Kay O'Riordan. Four women who had previously participated in a story-telling course which had been organised between Wexford County Library and a university in Wales, Alice Dwyer, Deirdre Wadding and Margaret Hewer, also contributed to the celebrations.

DOES JOURNALISM HAVE A ROLE IN FOSTERING INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM? COLICO LECTURE

The second COLICO lecture will be held in The Heritage Hotel in Portlaoise on Thursday April 26 at 11.15 am. Seamus Dooley, Irish Secretary of the National Union of Journalist, will address the audience on *Challenges and opportunities: does journalism have a role in fostering intellectual freedom?*

Given the importance of the newspaper collections held in libraries and other repositories in Ireland, north and south, COLICO initiated NEWSPLAN in an all island context in 1986. Marking the 21st anniversary has provided COLICO with the opportunity to focus on the future role of the media. In view of the recent inauguration of the Press Council of Ireland and the Office of Press Ombudsman, it is timely to reflect on the value of newspapers and journalism for future generations.

Mr. Dooley's lecture will be part of the programme of the Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland (LAI) and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), taking place on April 24-26 2007. Details on the conference are available at www.libraryassociation.ie.

COLICO (www.librarycouncil.ie/colico) provides a forum of exchange of information and co-operation between libraries in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. In this context, in 2004 COLICO established a lecture series to debate issues of interest to the library and information services sector. The inaugural lecture was given by Emily O'Reilly, Ombudsman and Information Commissioner for the Republic of Ireland, on *Freedom of Information: the Hallmark of Democracy*

If you wish to attend the lecture, please contact Domitilla Fagan, COLICO Secretary at An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (tel. 01 6761167; email: dfagan@librarycouncil.ie)

BOOKS CAN HELP!

A *Books Can Help* bibliotherapy project was launched on March 8 at Dublin City's central library in the Ilac Centre. This project is a partnership project between Dublin City Public Libraries and the North Inner City Book Prescription Scheme.

What is bibliotherapy? "Most mental health professionals acknowledge the usefulness of self-help materials. Various surveys have shown that around 80% of psychologists and counsellors regularly recommend particular texts to clients. This form of treatment is known as bibliotherapy. In a survey of GPs in the North Inner City of Dublin (2003) 70% expressed an interest in self-help books and materials to offer adult patients experiencing psychological difficulties".

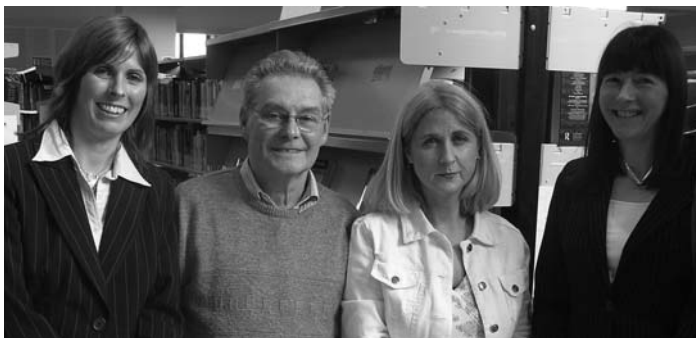
The Book Prescription Scheme launched in the North Inner City of Dublin is the first of its kind in Ireland. The scheme will allow GPs and other professionals working in Primary Care the option of confidently recommending / prescribing relevant books to their adult patients with mild and moderate psychological problems. It will allow large numbers of patients in the area to have easy access to this form of psychological treatment through their local libraries.

Participating libraries are the Central Library, Charleville Mall, Drumcondra, Marino, Phibsboro, Cabra and Mountjoy Prison. Branch staff have participated in familiarisation sessions and the scheme became live on April 2 2007.

Dublin City Libraries strive constantly to provide reasonable accommodation, as part of a socially inclusive library service that truly provides "a space for all". In this case that means improving access to library services for people with mental health difficulties. This project is a perfect alignment for a bedrock tenet of librarianship that of providing the right book for the right person at the right time. Libraries have always been and continue to have at the heart of service delivery principles, the objective of bringing people and books together.

news & events

Athlone Institute of Technology ran a successful *One Book, One Institute* event, which was launched during *Library Ireland week 2007* and continued throughout the month of March. *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* was chosen for the initiative and was read widely by students and staff alike. The initiative included visits by author John Boyne on March 5 and by holocaust survivor, Tomi Reichental on Monday March 26. Both talks were held in the library and attended in large numbers by students, staff and members of the public. During the first talk, John Boyne spoke about how he came to write *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and read excerpts to the audience. Attendees at the second event had the unique opportunity to listen to a profoundly moving talk with holocaust survivor Tomi Reichental. Describing his earliest memories following his birth in 1935 in Slovakia, Tomi gave an insight into Nazi occupied Europe through the eyes of a 9 year old child. Tomi detailed the unimaginable horror of his experience in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II. This linked in with people's reading of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, which also details the concentration camp experience through the eyes of a child. Both talks were followed by a questions and answers sessions where people had the opportunity to ask the speakers about their experiences. Attendees also had the opportunity to get copies of their books signed by John Boyne and Tomi Reichental at both events.



Fiona Morrissey (Assistant Librarian), Tomi Reichental (Holocaust survivor), Rosarii Dunne (Assistant Librarian and Jo Corkery (Institute Librarian).

Clare County Library: David Rumsey has been collecting historical maps since the 1980s and now owns more than 150,000 maps of 18th and 19th Century North and South America. His collection also includes world atlases, globes, school geographies, maritime charts, and a variety of other maps. Many of the atlases collected and published online by David Rumsey from his extensive map collection contain maps of County Clare from many eras, and many sources. Recently Clare County Library decided to copy these and make them available on its website (www.clarelibrary.ie) so that pupils, students and the interested reader could see just how differently County Clare was represented in these atlases over time and by various publishers throughout Europe. This was possible due to the generous terms under which the Rumsey maps have been published online – they may be reproduced or transmitted, but not for commercial use. Under the

Creative Commons License users are free to Share (copy, distribute and transmit the work) and to Remix (adapt the work). Using a combination of technologies Anthony Edwards and Senior Library Assistant Jackie Dermody copied those parts of the Rumsey atlases which showed County Clare in a total of 49 maps dating from 1736 to 1922. They were then uploaded onto the library's website and presented as simple JPEGs in a standard web page.

To give a broader picture of the source for each of these county maps, another set of the David Rumsey Maps was published on the library website using full pages from the individual atlases. These maps had been created using ExpressView (MrSid) image compression software from LizardTech, and require the downloading and installation of the appropriate browser plugin in order to view them. The ExpressView (MrSid) plugin is available on the library website, and enables the viewer to quickly move around and zoom in on areas of the maps, and to copy and save them for future (non-commercial) use offline.

A wide range of information is given for each map, including full title, engraver and printer, publisher notes, original height and width and so on.

According to Executive Librarian Maureen Comber, web editor of the library's website, the David Rumsey maps of Clare are a significant addition to the existing maps on Clare County Library's website, which include the 1842 Ordnance Survey maps, the Grand Jury maps of 1787, William Petty's Down Survey Barony Maps of Clare (1658-59) and Petty's *Hibernia Delineatio* County Map of Clare (1685).

County Librarian Noel Crowley says that "within days of the maps appearing on our site we had an email from someone who had been assembling online maps of Clare sporadically over the last couple of years, spending lots of time and money on CDs. He said that this new feature saved him lots of work. The library website really now is the one-stop-shop for information on County Clare, and is a resource that the county council and the people of Clare should be very proud of".

David Rumsey's map collection is housed in San Francisco, California, where it is made available to researchers. In March 2000 he launched www.davidrumsey.com, a website that allows free viewing of the maps via high-resolution images on the internet. By the beginning of 2007, the website had over 11,000 digitised historical maps available online.

Empower Óg is a DVD on family drug awareness for pre-teens which has been developed by the Health Service Executive and Tipperary Regional Youth Service and supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals (Ireland). The DVD is being made available to every primary school and public library in Ireland. The principal aim of the *Empower Óg* campaign is to educate and generate family discussion around the important topic of drug misuse.



Mary Hanafin, T.D., Minister for Education and Science with Brendan Teeling, Assistant Director, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and Tom Needham, Health Services Executive at the launch of Empower Óg

The **Ennis Book Club Festival**, supported by Clare County Library, took place from March 2-4 this year, and was deemed to be a resounding success. Hundreds of book club members and book lovers travelled from all around Ireland, and beyond, to participate in the inaugural festival.

Virtually all events were filled to capacity. Visiting authors included Niall Williams, Patrick McCabe, Rita Ann Higgins, Rosita Boland, Charlie Bird and many, many more. Poetry readings, cookery demonstrations and chocolate tastings, added variety to the packed programme. The highlight of the weekend was a live interview with Clare-born author Edna O'Brien, chaired by Noel Crowley, Clare County Librarian.



Ursula Cutliffe, Liz Gill and Muireanna Friel of the Buncrana Book Club pictured with Edna O'Brien



Critical Mass – the Sunday Symposium

Poet Michael Coady, who participated at the festival, commented: "I really liked the absence of any kind of elitism, together with the infectious enthusiasm and commitment of the audiences." Following this year's success, plans are already underway for the Ennis Book Club Festival of 2008.

JCSP Demonstration Library Project: to celebrate World Book Day, *The Big Read* took place in Larkin Community College Library, part of the JCSP Demonstration Library Project. This involved everyone from the administrative staff, the porters, teachers, parents, guests and, of course, the students. Three groups of students were involved with paired reading of picture books involving over sixty local senior infant students from Rutland Street and Marlborough Street primary schools. Special guests included author and director Peter Sheridan. Local T.D. Tony Gregory and local youth worker Paddy Malone also attended, and read from local interest books. Bill Cullen, who has generously donated over 1,000 books to the library, read from his own book, signed copies and presented prizes of Easter eggs to the students who won a bookmark competition. Paul Caffrey, manager of the Dublin football team, spoke to the students about the importance of developing an interest in reading. John Treacy of IES kindly ensured that copies of the books, specially produced for World Book Day, were delivered on time. At 12.30, when all the talks and speeches were over, it was time to 'drop everything and read.' The staff, students, parents and guests in every room in the school, had a plentiful supply of books and newspapers to get stuck into and everyone participated. With over 450 people involved World Book Day became a real community event in the North Inner City of Dublin.



Bill Cullen

Kerry County Library was recently given a donation of some newspapers relating to the early part of the 20th century. The donor was Knocknagoshel native, Liam Lynch and among the titles were copies of *An Phoblacht* (1916) and *The Irish Volunteer* (1920).

At the presentation in Tralee Library, Liam also donated copies of his recent autobiography *A Stranger to Darkness*. In his book, Liam writes about his life experiences, both before and after his sight loss, and explains how he regained his independence through mobility training and partnership with his guide dog, Yale.



Liam Lynch (seated, centre)

Liam is very kindly donating the proceeds of the book to Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind and he is well on his way to his fundraising target of €35,000 which is the total cost of a guide dog partnership (the breeding, training and support of a dog throughout its working life). Liam's fundraising efforts on behalf of IGDB have been so successful that a new guide dog puppy was named Kerry, in honour of Liam's home county. The book is available from Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, on lo-call 1850 506 300.

As part of the Kerry County Library inter-cultural programme, a presentation and display 'Words of the World' took place at Tralee Library from March 1-3. Under the guidance of Tralee-based Cristina Agulera who organised the event, visitors were treated to talks on varied topics such as the American Indians and Admiral William Browne of Argentina.

The **School Library Association**, Republic of Ireland branch (SLARI) Spring conference & AGM was held in Dublin City and Archive, Pearse Street on Saturday March 24 2007.

A wealth of information was presented and exchanged at this year's spring conference for school librarians and teachers. The new SLARI website was unveiled (www.slari.ie) which is now online and accessible for everyone interested in school libraries. Feedback is welcome via the website.

The speakers at the morning session brought fresh ideas from their varied library school experiences. Ann Lucas is librarian at Muckcross Park Secondary School in Dublin. Ann has worked as a school librarian in such far-flung places as New Zealand and Zimbabwe, and she currently runs several early morning book

clubs for her students. Eleanor Noonan is a volunteer parent who lobbied for and set up an exciting new school library at St Gerard's Primary School in Bray. Breege O'Brien is a teacher and library post-holder in Scoil Damhnait on Achill Island, Co. Mayo. Breege explained how she has had to think "outside the box" to run a school library service from a very small room.

The afternoon session was led by Kevin McDermott, Co-ordinator of English, Second Level Support Service (www.slss.ie). Kevin presented stimulating ideas on reading and learning, *vis a vis* the curriculum. Feedback was lively and many teachers and librarians made suggestions about current texts and other books that they felt should/could be included on the English Leaving Certificate syllabus list, especially at Ordinary Level.

Officers for the SLARI committee for next year are as follows: Sue Miller, Chairperson; Aileen Ivory, Secretary; and Jane O'Loughlin, Treasurer. See www.slari.ie for further details.

Information on the next SLARI event in the autumn will be posted on the website soon or you can contact the secretary, Aileen Ivory, at secretary@slari.ie or by phone 01-4977571 for further details.

Search.gov.ie A new government search portal has been



launched that aims to make finding information faster and easier for all users of government websites.

The search portal, which is powered by Google, is available at search.gov.ie and is currently up and running on 13 government websites, including those of the Department of Health and Children, the Revenue Commissioners, the Department of Finance, the Houses of the Oireachtas and BASIS. The search tool is on offer to over 400 government websites and can be integrated within a day or two, according to iQ Content - the Dublin-based firm that provided the Google Search Appliance to the Government.

iQ Content says that all central government and local authority websites have been indexed, and that the search tool will present more accurate, more relevant, and faster search results for visitors to government sites. Having one search function that can be implemented by all sites is also much more cost-effective than if each site were to develop such a tool independently.

Laurence Veale, senior analyst with iQ Content, notes that searches conducted using the new tool can return results from both webpages and PDFs. "For users it will provide really accurate results in sub-second time," he says. "Search is very important in terms of the usability of websites."

Source: *Knowledge Society News* 4, March 1st 2007.

Wicklow County Council Library Service had a very successful Readiscover and Library Ireland Week, hosting events for a range of ages. Author Sarah Webb spoke to a packed Ballywaltrim Library about encouraging your child to read with booklists and tips for everyone. Seven Towers Literary and Arts Group held an 'Open Mic' night in Greystones Library, with poetry and prose readings featuring enthusiastic audience participation from local budding writers - who found the opportunity to stage their work and receive very useful feedback.



Author Sarah Webb

Children enjoyed visits from authors Maire Burlington in Bray Library, and Arthur Flynn in Wicklow Library. For the craft-lovers there was a scrapbook workshop in Arklow Library with Laura O'Shea - demonstrating a unique way of preserving treasured photographs using acid-free materials. Blessington library had a roaring success with their 'Roald Dahl Day' with stories, activities, quizzes, colouring and all sorts of fun for the children. Special story times took place all around the county and adult, family and young adult book clubs celebrated this special week.

Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated in Greystones Library by inviting local schools to participate in sean nós singing with Roisin Elsafty. The children thoroughly enjoyed joining in and learning about this traditional form of singing. A special occasion of Scéalaíocht, storytelling as Ghaeilge, for children aged 3-6 years took place, in addition to the regular weekly sessions. The monthly Ciorcal Léitheoireachta in Bray Library, made a special effort to include all interested in its activities.

Activities for Intercultural Week included henna handpainting in Dunlavin and Blessington libraries and sessions of African storytelling, dancing and drumming for local schoolchildren in the newly refurbished Enniskerry Library which was reopened on 26th March, 2007.



Cathaoirleach Joe Behan, County Manager Eddie Sheehy, Liz McManus T.D., County Librarian Brendan Martin and other councillors at the re-opening

Displays of multicultural books, including Bright Books, were organized in many branches, with special posters and artwork to draw attention to the anti-racism message.

people

Kerry County Council has appointed **Tommy O'Connor** as County Librarian. Mr. O'Connor, has worked in public libraries for most of his career - working with Kerry County Library for all of that time.

When the county librarian position became vacant in January 2006, he took up that position in an acting capacity until March 2007.

A native of Ardfert, Co. Kerry, he qualified as a librarian in U.C.D. and holds a M.A. in Local and Irish History from the University of Limerick. He has published a number of local history books and contributes on a regular basis to a range of journals and magazines.

Outside of the library world, he is a former inter county and club hurler. He is now involved in the administrative and coaching side of the G.A.A., and has won a prestigious, national media MacNamee Award in 2003.



Tommy O'Connor

Cork City Librarian **Liam Ronayne** was elected President of the Cork Historical & Archaeological Society at the Society's AGM in March. The Cork Historical & Archaeological Society was founded in 1891, one of the oldest such bodies in Ireland, and organizes a programme of visits to sites of historical interest during the summer and an extensive and very popular series of lectures over the winter & spring of each year. His term of office will be for 2007-2008.

Irish Digital Libraries Summit: this one-day forum will explore the future of digital libraries at the eve of the next generation Internet. The event is organized by the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI), NUI Galway, a campus company with an excellent international reputation for research and teaching on the semantic web. Further details of DERI are available at <http://www.deri.ie/> The goal of the summit is to bring together researchers, librarians, library systems suppliers, and policy makers in order to facilitate the implementation of cutting edge technological developments in libraries. This four-way interaction is seen as being necessary for the future development of digital libraries in Ireland.

Expected outcomes from the summit include:

- (a) new digital projects in individual Irish libraries, and
- (b) the basics of an application for funding of a national digital libraries initiative under the EU FP7 Digital Libraries theme.

Speakers at the summit will present current research on digital libraries in the context of next generation Internet technologies (Semantic Web, Web 2.0), such as JeromeDL, Fedora, and BRICKS. JeromeDL allows institutions to easily publish documents on the Web.

Further details are available at <http://www.jeromedl.org/>. There will also be presentations by practitioners and researchers on current Irish digital libraries project. The summit will be held at DERI, NUI Galway, IDA Business Park, Lower Dangan, Galway, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday April 20 2007. Details of the summit are available at:

<http://wiki.corrib.deri.ie/index.php/SemDL/IrishDLSummit>

If you intend attending the summit please register in advance by email: sebastian.kruk@deri.org or phone +353 85 7126591 (M). If you would like to give a short presentation about digital libraries, please provide details so that details can be included in the programme.

Inspiring progress: good practice and new developments: Annual Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals – Ireland, Tuesday 24th to Thursday April 26 2007, at The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise. See www.libraryassociation.ie for details and booking form.

AGI (Acquisitions Group of Ireland) are hosting a one day seminar on acquisitions on Tuesday May 29 2007 in the Mercer Hotel in Dublin. The seminar is aimed at people who are new to acquisitions and would like an overview of the job from different perspectives.

Details of the event including the programme and application form are available at: www.lagi.ie/introtoacq.htm

Joint use libraries 2007 - an international conference: this three day conference offers practitioners, researchers and policymakers interested in joint use libraries (e.g. joint public-school libraries, joint university-public libraries) a unique opportunity to meet, network and share experiences.

The conference will be held from June 19-21 2007 at The Lowry in Manchester (www.thelowry.com).

The programme includes:

- Case studies comprising short reports of activities or projects
- Reflective papers discussing a range of activities or an area of research
- Optional visits to North City and East City joint use libraries in Manchester and Bolton Central Library
- Conference dinner with a poetry reading by Wendy Cope

Speakers from England, Scotland, the United States, Canada, Australia, Scandinavia and elsewhere will be addressing issues including:

- How to staff and manage a joint use library
- Designing a joint use library
- Standards and guidelines
- Information literacy
- Large-scale and multiple-partner collaborations
- Regional variations in joint use libraries

Current information regarding the conference, including costs and accommodation, can be obtained from the website www.ebase.uce.ac.uk/events/joint-use-conference.htm

Download a programme and booking form at

<http://www.ebase.uce.ac.uk/docs/joint-use-libraries-programme.pdf>

To book a place online, go to

<http://www.profbriefings.co.uk/jul2007/>

publications

Pictureógs: is a DVD which presents and celebrates Irish Traveller culture and history through song, story and participatory arts. Produced by Kildare County Council Library Service, the concept developed out of the *Threading Tales* project (www.kildare.ie/library/threading-tales.asp).

Kildare County Council Library Service offered a partnership to the Travellers Group in Athy which would respond directly to the absence of published Traveller records/culture. *Pictureógs*, a derivative of the word *oiseóg*, is a title created by Travellers themselves, and captures a weave of story, song and art work. In storytelling their lives, *Pictureógs* reflect the rich interweave between personal memory and experience on the one hand and socio-economic realities on the other.

The essence of *Pictureógs* focuses on diversity and equality.

For further details, please contact Caroline Farrell at cfarrell@kildarecoco.ie

The Writers of County Waterford: This publication, compiled by Waterford County Librarian Donald Brady, lists over 500 titles by more than 100 authors. To qualify for inclusion in the book, writers must have been born, or resident in the area, or must have based some of their work in the area. The emphasis in the selections has been on literature and biography, and is intended to highlight the "wealth of writing talent produced in the county and also the essential role of literature in the reflection of the cultural landscape of the people."

The writers of County Waterford by Donald Brady; edited by James Hyde. – Lismore: Lismore Books, 2006.

ISBN: 0-9546566-1-X

publications

The Freeman Library has a number of duplicate issues of journals which they would like to offer to other libraries. These consist of incomplete runs of *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* (1973-1984); *RIBA journal* (1965-1985); *Architectural record* (1975-1982); *Progressive Architecture* (1980-1981).

A complete listing is available from: Gillian Marron, Librarian, Freeman Library, Geography Department, Trinity College Dublin. Email: marrong@tcd.ie

April 2007

18th-19th *Library + Information Show, 2007*: NEC, Birmingham.
Details: <http://www.lishow.co.uk/>

20th Irish Digital Libraries Summit, Digital Enterprise Research Unit, NUI Galway. The summit will be held at DERI, NUI Galway, IDA Business Park, Lower Dangan, Galway, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday 20th April 2007. Details of the summit are available at: <http://wiki.corrib.deri.ie/index.php/SemDL/IrishDLSummit>. If you intend attending the summit please register in advance by email sebastian.kruk@deri.org or phone +353 85 7126591 (M).

23rd World Book and Copyright Day

24th-26th *INSPIRING PROGRESS*: good practice and new developments: Annual Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals – Ireland, Tuesday 24th to Thursday 26th April 2007, at The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise. See www.libraryassociation.ie for details and booking form.

26th *Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lectures in Legal Bibliography*: Professor Fergus Kelly, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies will give the sixteenth lecture in this series entitled Evidence in early Irish law: what do the documents tell us? The venue is The Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Helen Roe Theatre, 63 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 at 7.30 pm. Previous booking not required. Enquiries: phone Hugh M. Fitzpatrick. t: 01-269 2202.

May 2007

1-31st *Bealtaine 2007: Celebrating creativity in older age, 1-31 May 2007*
The theme of the festival this year is 'forever begin'. Details: Age & Opportunity, 01 805 7709; www.olderinireland.ie; bealtaine@mie.ie

23rd *Getting to the right answer: answerin users' queries* – a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the I.P.A., Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4. To register, or for further details, please contact: Dr. Brid McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; email: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

24th *Getting to the right answer: answering users' queries* – a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the I.P.A., Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4. To register, or for further details, please contact: Dr. Brid McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; email: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

24-25th LIBER Think Tank on the future value of the book as artefact and the future value of digital documentary heritage, National Library of Sweden, Stockholm. Programme, etc. <http://abm-centrum.se/ThinkTankPresentation.htm>

29th

AGI (Acquisitions Group of Ireland) one day seminar on acquisitions on Tuesday 29th May 2007 in the Mercer Hotel in Dublin. The seminar is aimed at people who are new to acquisitions and would like an overview of the job from different perspectives. Details of the event including the programme and application form are available at <http://www.lagi.ie/introtoacq.htm>. Places are limited so early booking is advised.

June 2007

14th – 15th

IIUG 6: annual Irish Innovative Users Group conference will be held in Sligo Institute of Technology on 14-15th June 2007. Topics include Millennium library systems and issues in higher education in Ireland. Non members welcome. Further details available soon at <http://www.millennium-users.org/> Initial enquiries to: info@millennium-users.org

18th

Advanced internet searching for information workers - a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the I.P.A., Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4. To register, or for further details, please contact: Dr. Brid McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; email: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

19th

Advanced internet searching for information workers - a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the I.P.A., Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4. To register, or for further details, please contact: Dr. Brid McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; email: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

28-30th

Umbrella 2007 – Catalysts for change – making a difference, De Havilland Campus, The University of Hertfordshire. Details: www.umbrella2007.org.uk

July 2007

3-6th

European integration: conditions and challenges for libraries – LIBER 36th Annual General Conference, National Library of Poland, Warsaw. Conference programme, etc. <http://liber2007.buw.uw.edu.pl/>

September 2007

12-15th

Pathways to new roles: the education, training and continuing development of the Health Library & Information Workforce. European Association for Health Information & Libraries (EAHL) Workshop 2007. Krakow, Poland. Registration starts 2 April. See following for further details: <http://www.bm.cm-uj.krakow.pl/eahil/index.php>

October 2007

18th – 20th

A Mirror on the World: conference to commemorate the 1707 Act of Parliament establishing the library. Marsh's Library. For information and booking form contact Ann Simmons, Marsh's Library, St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8. Email: keeper@marshlibrary.ie Tel: 01-4543511. Accommodation is limited, early booking is essential.



2007 — European Year of Equal Opportunities for All

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