

# IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

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## 14 million visitors can't be wrong – public libraries get top marks from users

Public libraries continue to be one of the most popular public services, according to the results of the second nationwide Public Library User Survey (PLUS).

The survey of public library users revealed that there are over 14 million visits to public libraries each year, an increase of 17% since the previous survey was carried out in 2002.

The results of the PLUS were launched by Michael Kitt, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, on 25th September. Commenting on the increase, Minister Kitt said 'the increased visits to libraries around the country are a result of the significant investment made by the Government and the local authorities in the service over the past decade.

We've seen fifty new libraries open their doors, a 30% increase in opening hours, and a 151% increase in spending on books and other materials. This has paid off in high rates of satisfaction with the service'.



At the launch of the PLUS results Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Michael Kitt, T.D. and Norma McDermott, Director of An Chomhairle

In one of the largest surveys of its kind, over 33,000 library users in 369 branch and mobile libraries were asked what they visited the library for and what they thought of the service.

Most people (66%) visit the library to borrow books, DVDs and CDs. Library visitors are keen users of the Web, with almost 50% coming to use the Internet PCs.

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# Libraries and the Olympics

Meath's Olympic star Darren Sutherland received a hero's welcome at Navan library when he took time out from his busy schedule to present medals to some of the hundreds of children from around the county who completed the Meath County Council Library Service Summer Reading Challenge-Team Read.

It was a dream come true for the young children who participated in the Olympic themed reading programme to receive their medals from a real Olympic hero.



Darren Sutherland and Team-Read members in Navan Library

Darren, himself a member of Navan library, delighted his audience of young and old with tales of Beijing and he patiently answered all the questions from the floor. After posing for photographs with all the children he told the children to pursue their dreams of sporting glory but to remember to keep up with their studies, as that was also very important. Darren viewed the exhibition of sporting books before accepting a presentation of the book *The Great Middleweights* from a star struck junior Olympian.

From Beijing to Bunclody was a mini-Olympics sports and e-learning programme run over four days in mid-August. It was developed by Wexford Public Libraries with the Local Sports Partnership, supported by Athletics Ireland. Mornings of e-research and IT up-skilling in the library were followed by afternoons of Olympics style athletics coaching. In the feedback, children said use of the library catalogue was the second most popular activity (after sports!).

More info can be obtained from [rita.brosnan@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:rita.brosnan@wexfordcoco.ie) or [patricia.keenan@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:patricia.keenan@wexfordcoco.ie) [ILN](#)

↑ LIBRARIES AND THE OLYMPICS

↓ MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

## Meath County Council's Library Service



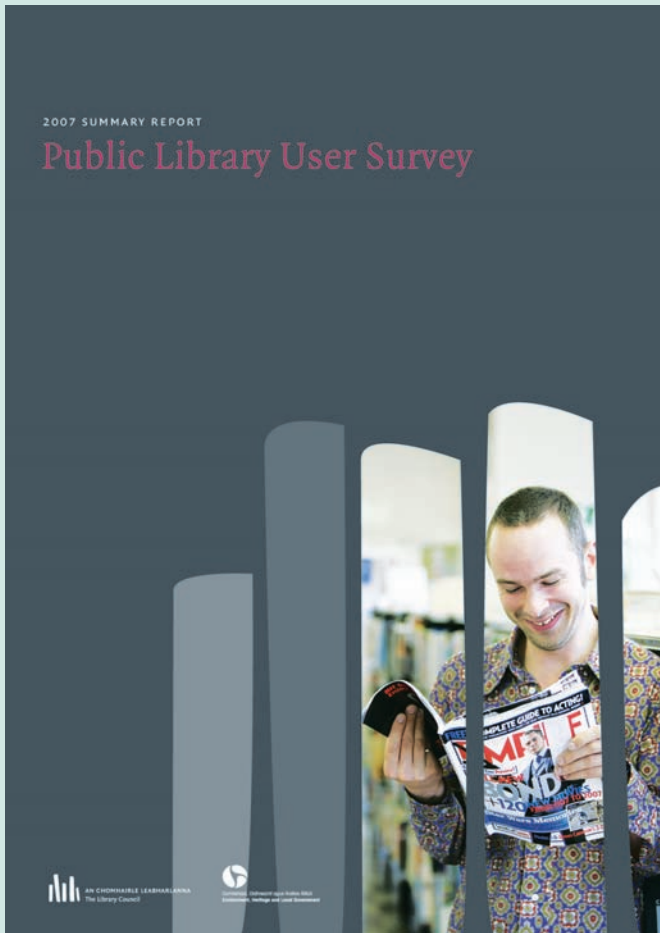
Some of the participants of the Éist Poetry Competition, from L-R Jennifer Behan (Kildare), Michael Farry (Meath), Fred Johnston (Facilitator) Andrew Caldicott (Wexford), Niamh Boyce (Kildare), Orla Fay (Meath)

Meath County Library's Annual Éist Poetry Competition attracted entries from a huge number of budding and more experienced poets from all over the country. The competition is in its 6th year and its purpose is to foster the reading and writing of poetry, and to assist poetry writers to advance their idea of what a poem is and what it can do.

Nine prize-winners were awarded places on a one-day Poetry Writing Seminar which is facilitated by a practising published poet, and sponsored by Meath County Council Library Service.

This year's Poetry Writing Seminar took place in Meath County Library headquarters in Navan on Saturday, September 13 2008 and was facilitated by Fred Johnston who is vastly experienced in the field of creative writing.

In addition to benefiting from Fred's insights and writing experience, winners also received copies of *52 Way of Looking at a Poem* by Ruth Padel, a stunning read in which the author shows how reading any modern poem can be as pleasurable as reading a novel or watching a film. [ILN](#)



## 14 million visitors can't be wrong

### → | FROM COVER

Overall, 93% of respondents regard the service as either good or very good and 60% visit their library at least once a fortnight, with one third making weekly visits.

Introducing the survey results, Norma McDermott, Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, paid tribute to library staff whose helpfulness scored a remarkable 97% satisfaction rate among library users. 'Library managers and staff should be very proud of the service they provide', remarked Mrs McDermott: 'library staff are committed to giving excellent service to the public and their work is clearly appreciated by library users who have given them a huge vote of confidence'.

The second PLUS was carried out in September 2007 with the co-operation of staff in all thirty-two library authorities. The survey was co-ordinated by An Chomhairle with funding from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. [ILN](#)

↓ KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

↑ 14 MILLION VISITORS CAN'T BE WRONG

## Kerry County Council



Castleisland Library and Area Services Centre



Castleisland Library Interior

Kerry County Council's newest public library at Castleisland opened on Wednesday, August 27 2008 and has been very well received and used by the public since then.

The new building, which is fully accessible, offers a full range of services and products. These include the standard adult and children's book lending service, online and hardcopy newspapers, local studies, free internet access, a multi-media presentations facility, exhibition space, magnifiers for people with visual difficulties and other IT solutions.

The library holds over 20,000 items, has 7 public internet points (including 1 specifically for children) and a staff of 3.

The library forms part of the Castleisland Area Services Centre.

The library was funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and cost €2.25m. The builders were Galvin Developments Ltd., Killarney.

Further details on library services are available from T: 066 714 1485; E: [castleisland@kerrycolib.ie](mailto:castleisland@kerrycolib.ie) or W: [www.kerrylibrary.ie](http://www.kerrylibrary.ie) [ILN](#)



## DONEGAL LECTURE

Donegal County Council's library in Moville recently hosted a public lecture, slide-show and book launch all on the theme of traditional boats of Ireland. Over fifty people attended, including academics, historians, boat builders and those who sail... from all over the north west. Donal MacPolin, assistant editor of the book *Traditional Boats of Ireland* was also in attendance.

*Traditional boats of Ireland: history, folklore and construction* compiled by Criostóir Mac Cárthaigh (Cork: Collins Press, 2008)



Donal MacPolin with Gerard Duddy of Moville Library

## LIBRARY SUCCESS STORIES

This is the 3rd year that the Success Stories forum has been organized, last year it was hosted in Monaghan with 100 participants and the year before in Omagh with approximately 70 participants. In 2008 the forum moved back to Omagh.

The purpose of the day is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and good practice and is aimed at frontline and support staff involved in developing or delivering projects, programmes and activities in local libraries. There are no guest speakers – the object of the exercise is for staff to talk to each other and exchange ideas and good practice.

Examples of projects ranged from targeted reading groups, initiatives aimed at fostering multiculturalism, bibliotherapy, creative writing, oral history schemes and the promotion of IT skills.

## ↑ DONEGAL

## ↓ CLARE

## ↑ SUCCESS STORIES

## ↓ SCIENCE WEEK

## CLARE COUNTY LIBRARY

Positive Ageing Week is a festival which highlights the positive aspects of ageing and celebrates the contribution older people have made and continue to make to their communities.

To mark the event, Clare County Library organised a reading on Thursday October 2 at the DeValera Public Library in Ennis. Dr. Colum Killeen read from, and discussed, his recently published book entitled *Half-Century Memoirs*. It was written in collaboration with his wife, Dr. Ita Killeen. Ita joined him in Ennis for the event to relate the story of their life's work together. Though now retired, they had a general practice in Dublin's inner city for over forty years, caring for many generations of families during that time.

Clare County Library, together with the Clare Family Learning Project at Clare VEC, invited parents and their Primary School children to a *Story Bags* Workshop as part of Adult Literacy Week (22nd to 26th September). The one-hour workshops took place in several libraries around the county. Those who enjoyed the workshop could sign up for a further six week course. Participants of the course create their own *Story Sack* made up of props related to a specific book. This is developed week by week as a different part of a book is focused on and the appropriate items are made and collected together in the bag. The process gives participants an opportunity to think about what elements there are to a book, the value of sharing books with children as well as being fun and creative. As an added bonus, each parent will get two free books, cloth bag and background.

For further details contact 065 6846350 or E: [mailbox@clarelibrary.ie](mailto:mailbox@clarelibrary.ie)

## SCIENCE WEEK 2008

Discover Science & Engineering (DSE) has announced that the theme for Science Week 2008 is *Science – Shaping Our World* and that it will run from Sunday November 9-16. The theme celebrates the *International Year of Planet Earth*, as Science Week Ireland 2008 examines emerging technologies, the latest movements in science and engineering and also encourages debate on how science may influence the way we shape our planet earth. The theme will also explore sustainability, the way we live and how we influence our changing environment.

Throughout Science Week, events are scheduled to take place in libraries, schools, college campuses, nature reserves, parks and retail outlets across the country. Science Week targets children, secondary school students, parents, teachers and anyone who may be interested in science and its applications. With

over 400 events taking place last year, this year is set to be even bigger and better!

As part of the programme of events a series of free lectures open to the public will be hosted in Dublin over the course of the week in association with the Science Gallery. The Science Week Lecture Series will include Stephen Attenborough from Virgin Galactic, the world's first space tourism agency; Patrick Collison, one of the Limerick teenagers who sold his Internet company, Auctomatic, for millions of dollars; Gerry Johnston, Irish special effects guru who worked on *Saving Private Ryan* and *Braveheart*; Professor Aubrey Manning, a prominent zoologist and Dr Cynthia Breazeal, a robotics expert from MIT. Those wishing to attend should log on to [www.scienceweek.ie](http://www.scienceweek.ie) to apply for tickets from mid October.

For more information on DSE visit [www.discover-science.ie](http://www.discover-science.ie) or for Science Week information visit [www.scienceweek.ie](http://www.scienceweek.ie)

## SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY LIBRARY

During Heritage Week, South Dublin County Library's collection of oral history recordings was launched at the County Library in Tallaght. In February of this year South Dublin Libraries' Local Studies section commissioned Maurice O'Keeffe of Irish Life and Lore to conduct over sixty interviews with people who live or work in South Dublin County, or who have connections to the area. The goal of the project was to create an oral history collection for South Dublin County by gathering the stories of a wide range of people with differing backgrounds so that a cross section of memories could be captured. The interviews that were collected are enlivened by the voices, knowledge, memories and experiences of local people in South Dublin County, from people who have grown up in the area and lived here their whole lives, through to recent arrivals.

The recordings join an archive of over 1,000 interviews from all over Ireland that Maurice has collected in the course of his work. The South Dublin collection consists of 61 recordings which are available for reference in the Local Studies Section at the County Library, Tallaght.

South Dublin Libraries held a wide range of activities to celebrate the history and heritage of South Dublin County, starting during Heritage Week and running until

October. Highlights included the launch of the second edition and audio book version of *If Those Trees Could Speak: The Story of an Ascendancy Family in Ireland*. The audio book and e-book versions are among the many local studies resources which are available to download free of charge from the Download Zone at [www.southdublinlibraries.ie](http://www.southdublinlibraries.ie).



Participants at the launch of South Dublin Libraries' Oral History Collection

## WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE

A new set of computerized maps setting out each Roman Catholic parish in the Ferns diocese and in County Wexford was launched on September 10 2008. A townlands guide accompanies the maps. The project was achieved by a collaboration between Wexford County Council Library Service, the Council's GIS Officer and local historians. The work can be viewed on-line on the Wexford County Council website, [www.wexford.ie](http://www.wexford.ie).

More information is available from Catherine.kavanagh@wexfordcoco.ie

## ↓ EUROPE DIRECT

### 2009 EUROPE DIRECT

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr John Gormley, T.D. launched a 2009 Europe Direct calendar in Blanchardstown Library on Thursday September 11. The Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Michael O' Donovan was also in attendance.

The calendar features the winning photographs from the all-Ireland primary schools photography competition on the theme of 'Clean water – we need it for work, life and play'.

Students from Castleknock Community College provided music for the event and 2 classes from local primary schools came to meet the Minister and the Mayor. The event was also attended by local

politicians, community leaders and business people.

There are Europe Direct Information Centres in seven public libraries, including Blanchardstown, around the country. They provide information on a broad range of European topics, including education, the environment, travel, the arts and business.

For more information see [www.europedirect.ie](http://www.europedirect.ie)



2009 Europe Direct winning photographers

## TEENAGE KICKS

Teenage Kicks: library Services to Teenagers, is the theme of the 2008 Public Libraries Section Annual Conference. The conference takes place from 5th-7th November at the Heritage Hotel, in Portlaoise. Among the confirmed speakers are Oisín McGann and Claire Hennessy, and psychologist, television presenter and author David Coleman.

The programme will also feature sessions on Cork City's survey of teenagers, Dublin City's Teen Zones project, and an update from the JCSP demonstration library project, where librarians are proving the worth of libraries in improving teenagers' reading levels.

There will also be a Quick Fire session featuring four library services presenting a new or interesting service or project aimed at teenagers and their use of the library, and guided tours of the new libraries at Abbeyleix and Mountrath.

Further information at [www.libraryassociation.ie](http://www.libraryassociation.ie) or from Melanie Cunningham at [mcunningham@waterfordcity.ie](mailto:mcunningham@waterfordcity.ie).

## October 2008

8–10

### Culture Connects

Public Library Authorities  
Conference 2008, Crown Plaza  
Hotel, Liverpool. Further details at:  
<http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/plg/plaz2008/index.html>

16–17

Translating 2.0 Technologies for  
Tangible Benefits and Transparency  
Internet Librarian International o8,  
Novotel London West; Details:  
[www.internet-librarian.com](http://www.internet-librarian.com)

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Green Gables to Globalization:  
Crossover, Canada and  
Children's Books  
iBbY Ireland Conference, Church  
of Ireland College of Education,  
Upper Rathmines Road, Dublin  
6. The conference will examine  
ways in which children's literature  
transcends boundaries of all  
kinds, focusing in particular on  
crossover fiction and a sense of  
belonging in books from Canada, a  
post-colonial, multiethnic society.  
Further details can be found at:  
<http://www.ibbyireland.ie/>

## November 2008

5–7

### Teenage Kicks:

Library Services to Teenagers  
the LAI's Public Libraries' Section  
Annual Conference 2008 at the  
Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise .  
The conference theme is library  
services to teenagers and among  
the confirmed speakers are  
psychologist, television presenter  
and author, David Coleman, and  
authors Claire Hennessy and Oisín  
McGann. This year's programme will  
include a quickfire session, where  
library services will be offered 10-15  
minute slots to talk about their own  
innovative services to teenagers.  
Further information is available from  
Melanie Cunningham who can be  
contacted at: [publiclibraries@libraryassociation.ie](mailto:publiclibraries@libraryassociation.ie).

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Sources of Citizen's Information  
A free training course presented  
by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna  
and the Citizens' Information Board,  
at An Chomhairle Leabharlanna,  
53 & 54 Upper Mount Street,  
Dublin 2. Further details at <http://www.librarycouncil.ie/training/>

## December 2008

3–4

### Introduction to MARC 21

Cataloguing Metadata  
Training course provided by An  
Chomhairle Leabharlanna, facilitated  
by CILIP, at the Radisson SAS Hotel,  
Golden Lane, Dublin 8. Further  
details at <http://www.librarycouncil.ie/training/>

## January 2008

14–15

### Engaging Children and Teenagers in Reading for Pleasure

A training course presented by  
An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and  
Opening The Book, at South Dublin  
County Library, Tallaght (14th), and  
Dublin City's Cabra Library (15th).  
Further details at <http://www.librarycouncil.ie/training/>

## ↑ CALENDER OF EVENTS

## ↓ VACANCIES

## ↓ OFFERS

## ↓ CONTACT DETAILS

## Vacancies

Development Manager – Library  
Association of Ireland

The Library Association of  
Ireland seeks an innovative and  
energetic librarian for the post of  
Development Manager (Part-Time),  
equivalent to Senior Librarian/  
Executive Librarian

Responsibilities will include:

- Conference and Event  
management
- Management and administration  
of the Association
- Marketing and promotion of  
the Association
- Income generation

Qualifications: Applicants must  
have a primary degree and a  
postgraduate qualification in  
librarianship or equivalent. Also  
essential are five years post  
qualification experience.

Comprehensive management and  
marketing skills and familiarity  
with current developments in Irish  
and international librarianship are  
required. An interest in website  
maintenance and development would  
also be desirable. It is anticipated  
that the successful candidate will  
work from home on a telecommuting  
basis. Salary will be the current local  
authority Senior Librarian/Executive  
Librarian scale, pro-rata based on  
hours worked.

Please submit a Curriculum Vitae, to  
include the names and contact details  
of three referees as application on  
or before *October 17 2008* to Hon.  
Secretary, Library Association of  
Ireland, Cork County Library, North  
Street, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.

Further information available from  
[honsec@libraryassociation.ie](mailto:honsec@libraryassociation.ie)  
and from the LAI website  
[www.libraryassociation.ie](http://www.libraryassociation.ie)

## Offers

An Post have the following copies  
of *Dáil Éireann Parliamentary Debates*  
– *Official Reports* which it would like to  
donate to any library which may be  
missing some volumes.

Nos, 264-268 inclusive, 282, 285, 286,  
290, 295 & 296, 303, 315-317 inclusive  
and the years span 1972-1979.

If interested, please contact Joan  
Comiskey, Museum & Archive, An  
Post, Room 2-152, GPO, O'Connell  
Street, Dublin 1

## Next Issue

### Copy date for next issue is October 20th 2008

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ISSN: 0332-0049