



**Annual Report of the Librarian to the
Academic Council
2004/05**



**Tuarascáil Bliantiúil ón Leabharlannaí
don Chomhairle Acadúil
2004/05**

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Summary

The electronic services provided through IReL enabled the Library to provide access to a range of electronic journals and databases which it could not do within its existing limited budget. The forthcoming addition of material in the Humanities and Social Sciences will be of great benefit to researchers.

The year saw the creation of a separate catalogue for the Russell Library print collection and the number of catalogue records increase to 6,500. Disseminating information about the holdings of this unique collection will be of immense value.

A comparison of library statistics for 2004/05 and five years ago, 2000/01, show a decrease in the library grant of almost 8% and the increasing dependency of the Library on income from charged services, from academic departments and other units. Overall the non-pay budget remains almost the same as five years ago. When the substantial inflation on library material and additional support for new subjects and courses are taken into account the result is a serious decrease in library income.

The figures also show the continuing decline in the use of traditional services such as borrowing and inter-library loans. The greater availability and use of electronic services have brought about an increased demand for other services such as enquiries and information training.

The national survey of researchers carried out during the year showed NUIM as rating well in some areas but below average in others. Aside from web search engines researchers rated books and online periodicals as their most used sources of information and satisfaction with NUIM holdings rated 10% below average for both. Almost two thirds of NUIM researchers responded that the Library was not adequately resourced to support research, again over 10% below average.

The print collection continued to grow and a large section of material on level 2 was reshelved in an effort to create extra space.

Agnes Neligan
Librarian
January 2006

Services and support

- *Information Desk*

The service at the Information Desk continued to expand and develop, with staff handling almost 12,000 queries, a 44% increase on the previous year. The demand for subject information declined by almost a third, indicating the greater use of web services for this type of request.

- *Information skills training*

A new training programme to introduce students to a range of available services was run over a five-week period at the beginning of the academic year. 200 students participated.

Subject Librarians provided training to library users across a broad range of subject areas in consultation with the relevant academic departments. Training varied from introduction to library resources for undergraduates to detailed workshops for postgraduates. The training sessions were designed to help students use library resources in an efficient and effective manner and also gain awareness of the importance of information handling skills. In all 2,500 students received training.

- *e-Learning initiatives*

The e-Learning Committee recommended using a locally devised product for 2004/05 for the final year of a three-year trial of virtual learning environments (VLE). The chosen product for the year was MyVLE. Approximately 70 staff and 2,500 students were enrolled on MyVLE. The Library provided training to staff and students. At the end of the trial period it was recommended that e-learning be mainstreamed on campus. The committee suggested the use of the open source VLE Moodle as part of this mainstreaming to be introduced for 2005/06. The Library remains involved with Moodle by providing training to staff and handling queries from students.

- *IReL (Irish Research eLibrary)*

The second phase of the IReL initiative commenced in October 2004. Jointly funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Higher Education Authority (HEA) IReL provides researchers with access to a wide range of electronic journals. The current focus of the initiative is Biotechnology and Information and Communication Technology. To date IReL provides researchers with full-text electronic access to over 3,000 titles.

At the invitation of the HEA, the CHIU Librarians' Group submitted a business plan to the HEA in February 2005 to extend the provision of electronic resources to the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Participation in the IReL initiative resulted in a substantial increase in work for library staff. This work included liaising with academic departments, checking resources, trialing and reviewing resources, reviewing licence agreements and the preparation of files for uploading to the library website.

- *Electronic services*

The use of online services continued to grow with a 60% increase in searching and a 40% increase in the number of downloaded articles. *Social Science and Medicine* was the most heavily used journal.

The Electronic Journals Database grew by over 50% with the acquisition of IReL titles. The management of the database was improved by the development of new functionality to process large sets of data. The database included over 9,000 titles by September 2005.

In order to maintain the provision of examination papers online in the modularised environment the Library redesigned the examination database and created EXPERT v.2. This initiative took place as a result of funding provided by the Quality Promotion Office. The database now includes all examination papers from January 2005.

The ePrint Archive has been in operation for three years. To date, 117 users have been registered and 180 documents have been submitted. The archive continued to attract substantial external interest, with information requested by Portland State University, University of Loughborough, University of Southampton and University College Dublin.

The library website was regularly updated. Checking links and amending pages required over seven hundred amendments. The impact of IReL, the cancellation of titles, the availability of more titles online and changes in URLs accounted for the bulk of these amendments. An IReL – SFI/HEA funded services page was added and was updated continuously as new services were acquired.

- *Circulation, shelving and reprographic services*

There were 145,451 items loaned. This represents a decrease of 8% on last year and mirrors the international trend of decreasing usage of print collections in favour of electronic. The total number of self-service loans increased by 16% when compared with the previous year. This reflects the increased satisfaction reported by users following the improvements made the previous summer.

The number of items re-shelved decreased slightly from the previous year. The busiest month was November 2004 whereas in previous years the busiest month was March.

While remaining over the 2 million mark, the number of photocopies/prints also decreased slightly though the usage of the networked printer/photocopier increased by 25% indicating a need to review the service. Photocopying/printing charges were revised in collaboration with the Student Library Committee and a €10 value card giving 140 copies/prints was introduced.

The Copy Centre extended its hours to open on Friday afternoons due to the needs of the service. Assistance to users in the use of equipment in this area continues to be a service in high demand.

- *Reserve and Short Loan Collections*

Due to the restrictions of copyright legislation items added to the Reserve Collection decreased by 32% from the previous year. We appreciated the co-operation from academic staff in their efforts to seek alternative ways of making material available. These included adding books to Reserve or alerting students to the electronic version. The Reserve Collection continues to be a very heavily used service accounting for almost a quarter of all items borrowed.

- *Inter-library loans*

The Inter-Library Loan department processed 1,914 requests indicating a drop of 38% when compared with the previous year. Some of the decrease can be attributed to a new price structure introduced in January 2005. This saw an increase in price for postgraduate and undergraduate requests, from €6.00 and €2.00 respectively to €10.00, and a slight reduction in cost for staff request, from €12.00 to €10.00.

- *Library usage*

The number of registered borrowers remains short of 7,000. The peak month of occupancy was May 2005 and in the first semester, the peak month of occupancy was November 2004.

540 availed of the access schemes to other Irish and UK libraries. Outside of these schemes, 257 users applied for access to other libraries in Ireland. NUIM facilities were extended to 260 external readers.

- *System developments*

One of the most significant developments of the year was the creation of the Russell Library catalogue. This is a subset of the main catalogue, allowing the user to select and manipulate only those records pertaining to pre-1851 print collections held in the Russell Library.

The preparation for a major upgrade to the library management system continued. Staff received training for all modules. A Sun V440 server was purchased and installed and in April 2005 the version 16 software was installed and test data was ported to the new server. Systems downloaded, configured, tested and distributed the staff client software, together with additional support software. Substantial effort was then devoted to localisation and standardisation of the public catalogue.

- *Staff and public access PCs*

19 new staff PCs were purchased and 20 public access PCs were upgraded to complete the phased migration to Windows 2000. At the end of the year, 30 replacement public access PCs were ordered.

A total of 12,588 laptop loans were recorded, representing an overall loan increase of 85%. Each device was borrowed 740 times, on average, during the year. At the end of the year, 16 replacement laptops were ordered. A new laptop storage and charging unit was also purchased.

Over 500 support calls were submitted by library staff to the Systems Report Database. Only 7% of these calls required referral to the Computer Centre.

- *National research survey*

In April 2005, the Library participated in a national survey aimed at informing the development of library services to researchers in Irish universities. 220 NUIM respondents from the 721 targeted gave a response rate of 30.5%, the highest rate amongst the participating institutions. The Library appreciated the excellent response rate and the generous sponsorship from Maynooth Office Supplies and D.B.Office Supplies.

The Library was heartened to note the satisfaction with opening hours, the catalogue and loan policies. NUIM researchers emerged as the highest book users; the highest users of online services in the Library or from home (though the lowest from departments or offices); and the highest users of other libraries. NUIM researchers gave the lowest satisfaction rating of all institutions to the book collection. The survey highlighted the reliance on web search engines as an information resource with 92% rating these as their preferred option. Two thirds of respondents believe that online information reduces the importance of physical collections.

There was a strong belief that library funding to support research is inadequate and almost two thirds believed that research grants should assist the purchase of library collections. Almost all researchers showed a willingness to contribute their papers to an institutional archive.

- *Strategic Plan*

As the Library's current Strategic Plan expires at the end of 2005, a sub-committee was set up to begin preparatory work for the next plan. Following a very successful workshop for library staff three topline goals were identified:

1. To be an active partner within the academic community facilitating and enriching the teaching, learning and research activities of a diverse user base in accord with the University's mission.
2. To promote a learning environment that encourages and advances information skills for life and fosters intellectual growth and social interaction.
3. To advocate the Library and its role.

- *Water*

One of the most popular services made available in the Library this year was the bottled water-dispensing unit. This was installed with the help of the Catering Department in April 2005. The Catering Department has indicated that it is the most heavily used unit on campus, which highlights the need for a refreshment facility in or near the Library.

Collections

- *Book collection*

The book and pamphlet collection in the John Paul II Library was surveyed with a view to relocating older, valuable and/or scarce material. The 1851-1920 imprint collection was identified. There are almost 11,000 items, many of which are unsuitable for open access. The main subject areas are history, geography, theology and literature.

- *Book acquisition*

Almost 40% of new books were received as shelf-ready thus speeding up availability. The majority of orders were submitted on the web order form available on the library's webpage.

3,779 orders were placed which represents a significant drop on the previous two years. The total book budget was €66,667, averaging the cost of a book at €5.81.

- *Periodicals*

The number of print subscriptions continued to decline with only 627 journals taken. Consultation with academic staff led to some titles being retained as combined print and online subscriptions. The impact of IReL was profound with the cancellation of 52 print subscriptions.

In order to increase the awareness of the availability of electronic journals and to increase their usage, 856 links were added to catalogue records. The holdings were also amended to facilitate print and online holdings displaying together when a title is taken in both formats. This built on the work already done when E shelf labels were added to the shelves to indicate online availability.

The number of periodical related enquiries increased by a third as a result of the greater availability of titles and the resulting increase in usage, particularly by undergraduates.

During the summer the four current bays of Social Science and Theology were replaced by five bays of bound shelving. This resulted in more space for both the book and periodical collections. In order to maximise the extra space available, a substantial part of material on level 2 was re-spaced. The whole move was a major undertaking and was carried out efficiently by members of the periodicals department and shelving staff.

- *Audio-visual collection*

4,210 items were borrowed, an increase of 35% over the previous year. This in part reflects the budget which has been spent in the last two years building up the film DVD titles.

- *Legal deposit*

20% more items were deposited over the previous year. Fewer claims were sent due to a decision not to claim fruitlessly from one non-compliant publisher. A substantial amount of legal deposit material was added to the catalogue. However, over €4,000 was spent from library and departmental budgets in order to purchase selected publications which should have been deposited.

- *Donations*

2004/05 was another excellent year for quality, timely donations. An excellent personal collection of all things cartographic and related subjects was donated by Professor John H. Andrews, retired Professor of Geography in Trinity College. This included 600 books and a large amount of ephemera and pamphlet type material.

Other material received were over 2,000 books bequeathed by Rev Liam Carey and books in modern American history donated by Professor Howard Gillette of Rutgers University.

- *Exhibitions*

Three exhibitions were mounted in the John Paul II Library:

Ireland's wild orchids, limited edition, Susan Sex and Brendan Sayers. November 2004.

Seachtain na Gaeilge – Sloinnte na hEireann: Taispeántas do Sheachtain na Gaeilge. March 2005.

World book day – Contemporary African Novelists. March 2005.

- *Bibliographic Records*

Various methods of providing a new books listing were evaluated during the year but no satisfactory solution was found.

Cataloguing of over 2,500 titles from the Gerald Hanratty bequest commenced in March 2005 and cataloguing of the Wakelyn donation was completed.

11, 642 records were added to the catalogue.

- *Kildare Store*

Following a rationalisation project in the John Paul II Library, some government publications and social science periodicals were transferred to the Store. Some donations remain un-shelved due to lack of space, a room in New House was provided to give temporarily storage to a donation.

A total of 25 publications (.07% of the collection) were requested from the Store over the course of the year.

Russell Library

- *Cataloguing project*

Records for almost 6,500 items in the Library, including Eighteenth-century records (ESTC), were added to the catalogue.

In September 2005, a separate Russell Library catalogue was established, as a sub-set of the main NUIM catalogue, facilitating more strategic searching.

- *Refurbishment*

A plan for the refurbishment of the Russell Library was drawn up in expectation of a grant to resolve issues of health and safety in the Library. The plan addresses the health and safety of staff and readers – the conservation unit in particular – and the hazardous wiring, lighting and flooring.

- *Publications*

Peter J. Lucas (Wolfson College, Cambridge) and Angela Lucas (NUIM) published a detailed description of five Maynooth manuscripts, all from Liège: 'Lost and found: some manuscripts from Liège, now in Maynooth' in *Scriptorium*, LVIII, 1 (2004), pp83-99 with 4 plates.

Other images from library material were published in:

Paul Collins, *The stylus phantasticus and free keyboard music of the north German baroque* (Aldershot, 2005)

James McEvoy and Maurice Hogan (eds), *The mystery of faith* (Dublin, 2005)

Íde Ní Uallacháin, *Exempla Gaeilge: an cnuasach exempla Gaeilge sa ls. 20978-9i Leabharlann Ríoga na Bruiséile* (Maigh Nuad, 2004)

Fearghus Ó Fearghail, *The first Irish New Testament* (Dublin, 2005)

P. Ó Machain and Tony Delaney, *Like sun gone down: selections from the writings of John Canon O'Hanlon* (Crosspatrick, Co. Kilkenny, 2005)

- *Library usage*

Of the total number of items consulted by readers (1,601), half were books, including 448 pamphlets. The pamphlets were in heavy demand for student projects, and their use has increased four-fold since 2002/03.

In all there were 1,221 readers and visitors, almost half of these were NUIM postgraduates. Visitors included the Winchester Catholic Historical Group, 12-14 April, Gerard Manley Hopkins Summer School, 24 July, heads of other universities, diplomats, visiting speakers and external examiners: from

Vienna, Sydney, Haifa, Edinburgh, New York, Leeds, Stockholm, Princeton, Strathclyde, Berkeley, Budapest, Miami, Freiburg and Cambridge.

- *Donations*

Books were donated by Rev Dr Hugh Fenning OP, Professor Peter and Mrs Angela Lucas and Dr Maria Roginskaya.

- *Class presentations and teaching*

Classes given by library staff based on the collection included:

The history of the Bible; Maynooth and its traditions; The pamphlet collection; History and the Russell Library; Theology and the Russell Library; Early-printed maps; Early maps and the Spanish in America in 16th & 17th centuries; History of Printing; English MA., History of the text and research method; History MA., History of the book and good use of databases.

- *Conservation in the Russell Library*

The conservation of *O'Curry Ms 97* a late 16th century Irish manuscript was completed. There was significant damage to all the leaves. The individual leaves of the manuscript were mounted on their own lifting-leaf of acid-free paper and bound muniments style, quarter bound in cloth using a Chinese stitch. The process was completed with a slipcase.

The Pugin letters and drawings were restored. This collection consisted of eight documents, an envelope and five drawings including a letter from Pugin to Renehan in 1846 concerning plans for the quadrangle. The drawings were flattened, cleaned and repaired, mounted on Artsorb™ and framed with a protective sheet of Mylar™ added. The letters and envelope were wet processed repaired and placed in Mylar™ envelopes for ease of handling.

The Integrated Pest Management Programme was continued throughout the year with weekly audits of insect activity. Temperature and humidity levels were monitored in the Russell Library, Pugin and the Kildare Store. Two of the three Pugin dehumidifiers were replaced.

Information gathered, in conjunction with the inspection carried out by Harwell, led to the repair of the down pipe on the wall outside where the pamphlets are shelved. The pamphlets were meanwhile removed and temporarily re-shelved. The shelves were cleaned and disinfected while repairs went on outside. Relative humidity readings were in the 90s in this location prior to repairs. This area has traditionally been the genesis of insect activity. When deemed wise, the pamphlets were returned to their original location.

The funnel on top of the Kildare Store was sealed and this, in conjunction with the repair of the outer skin of the building, has created a better, if still not ideal environment, for the book stock there.

Staff professional activities

NUIM Library hosted the seminar *Quality Measures: The Irish Academic Library Context* for the Academic and National Library Training Co-operative on 22 November 2004

- **Elaine Bean**

Membership (s)

Committee member, NUIM Partnership Committee

Presentations

Approaches to career development for library assistants: the FETAC approach

Continuing Professional Development Colloquium, Academic and National Library Training Co-operative (ANLTC), Limerick 3-4 November 2004.

- **Mary Delaney**

Membership (s)

Committee member, CONUL Working Group on Information Skills

Committee member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Committee member, CONUL Advisory Group on Information Literacy

Committee member, ANLTC sub-committee on Continuing Professional Development

Publications

MyVLE at Maynooth, e-learning and the Library

SCONUL Focus, Number 34, Spring 2005, pp.40-42

Presentations

Is the Information Literacy Movement Dead? A Critical and Comparative Look at Information Literacy in Higher Education. Paper Presented at 4th International Conference on eLiteracy, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, 15-17 June 2005

- **Susan Durack**

Membership (s)

Committee member, Irish National and University Libraries (INULS)

Publications

Oh! Good God, is there no one to assist me? In Frank Sweeney (ed.) *Hanging Crimes: when Ireland used the gallows*. Dublin: Mercier, 2005. pp.203-229

Presentations

Presentation to Springboard: A development Programme for Women. Maynooth, November 2005.

- **Helen Fallon**

Membership (s)

Chairperson, ANLTC (Academic and National Library Training Co-operative)

Committee member, LIR HEAnet User Group for Libraries

Committee member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Committee member, All Ireland Society for Higher Education (AISHE)

Publications

Finding Information for your Teaching and Research Work in Teaching and Learning. In G. O'Neill, S. Moore and B. McMullin. *Emerging Issues in the Practice of University Teaching and Learning*. Dublin: All Ireland Society for Higher Education, 2005, pp.129-140

Citizenship: A Way of Being in One's World and of One's World (with Anne Ryan), *The Adult Learner: Journal of Adult and Community Education in Ireland*, 2005, pp.35-46

Presentations

Quality Review: The NUIM Experience Paper presented at Quality Measures: The Irish Academic Library Context. Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, ANLTC. 22 November 2004

- **Bernadette Gardiner**

Membership (s)

Member, ALEPH User Group - UK and Ireland

Member, Forum for Interlending and Information Delivery (FIL)

- **Pauline Murray**

Presentations

Shelf ready book supply Presentation at Acquisitions Management Seminar, Acquisitions Group of Ireland, Dublin November 2004

- **Elizabeth Murphy**

Membership (s)

Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Member, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

Committee member, CONUL Sub-Committee on Copyright and Regulatory Matters

Committee member, CONUL Sub-Committee to survey information needs of researchers

Committee member, Chester Beatty Library Membership Programme

Contact Person: Policy on the Protection of the Dignity of Staff and Students

- **Agnes Neligan**

Membership (s)

Committee member, NUIM Partnership Committee

Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Member, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

Chair, Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL)

Member, CHIU Librarians' Group

Member, Executive Board Society of College National and University Libraries (SCONUL)

- **Linda Noonan**

Membership (s)

Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Member, ALEPH User Group - UK and Ireland

- **Etaín Ó Síocháin**

Membership (s)

Member, Coiste na Gaeilge, NUI Maynooth

Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Committee Member, Faculty of Celtic Studies

Co-hosted a three-day annual residential Irish conference Léachtaí Cholm Cille April 1 - 3, 2005

- **Valerie Payne**

Membership (s)

Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Member, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

Committee Member, Acquisitions Group of Ireland (AGI)

- **Suzanne Redmond Malocco**

Membership (s)

Member, Steering Committee for Technical Staff Development

- **Regina Richardson**

Membership (s)

Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

- **Valerie Seymour**

Membership (s)

Member, Rare Books Group Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Member, CONUL Working Party on Legal Deposit

Member, CONUL Working Party on Theses

Representative of NUIM on Maynooth Action Strategy Steering Group

- **Andrew Sliney**

Membership (s)

Committee member, NUIM Partnership Committee

- **Penny Woods**

Membership (s)

Committee member, Rare Books Group, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Committee member, Association of Church Archivists of Ireland (ACAI)

Committee member, Preservation Microfilm Users' Group, Ireland (PMUGI)

Publications

Highlights from the Maynooth exhibition In James McEvoy and Maurice Hogan (eds), *The Mystery of Faith: reflections on the Encyclical Ecclesia de Eucharistia*. Blackrock: Columba Press, 2005. pp 376-84

Presentations

Manuscripts and their makers for medieval English students from UCD, 19 January 2005

Cross-currents: Irish Catholic printing and English influences from the collections of the Russell Library for the Winchester Catholic Historical Society, during their visit to Maynooth, 11-14 April 2005

	5 year % change	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01
Services						
Registered borrowers	+4.5%	7,000	7,000	7,000	6,889	6,698
Items borrowed	+1.7%	145,451	156,554	154,942	165,166	142,910
Items requested on inter-library loan	-55%	1,914	3,116	3,158	4,497	4,265
Items lent to other libraries	-32.2%	200	233	216	360	295
Enquiries	+85.4%	27,913	18,706	13,185	11,467	15,056
Student orientation and training	+142%	2,700	3,245	2,149	2,068	1,112
Searches of online sources	+17%	234,455	147,665	208,119	203,299	200,000
Articles downloaded	+410%	102,150	73,398	58,320	27,963	20,000
Readers & visitors to the Russell	+18.3%	1,221	1,502	1,286	1,161	1,032
Copies made	+71%	2,007,473	2,066,365	1,726,426	1,505,199	1,171,111
Items reshelved	+9%	297,822	305,884	305,893	303,007	273,249
Study places						
John Paul II Library	+7.7%	680	680	680	669	631
Workstations, John Paul II Library	+13%	52	52	52	46	46
Russell Library		28	28	28	28	28
Arts Building		128	128	128	128	128
Collection						
Books purchased	-19.4%	3,779	4,724	4,771	5,137	4,690
Books received on copyright	+50%	1,545	1,288	1,321	1,462	1,032
Irish Government Publications	+48%	3,274	3,203	2,740	2,768	2,208
European Documentation	-39.6%	415	589	621	787	688
Donations	+709%	5,000	3,000	893	588	618
Print periodicals purchased	-33.3%	627	732	860	876	941
Online periodicals	+462.5%	9,000	8,640	5,750	5,500	1,600
Copyright Periodicals	+1%	766	768	685	774	774
Donations, Exchange Periodicals	+20%	190	190	180	196	238
Volumes catalogued	+29%	11,839	8,164	7,262	7,821	9,184
Total stock	+9.6%	452,500	442,500	430,500	420,416	412,595
Income						
Grant	-7.8%	€57,700	€743,600	€18,808	€30,464	€30,464
Other income	+96%	€13,779	€250,223	€309,621	€20,065	€159,784
Total:	+7%	€1,171,479	€993,824	€1,128,430	€1,160,530	€1,090,249
Expenditure						
Books	+4.5%	€55,484	€78,541	€60,814	€45,014	€44,270
Print periodicals	-32%	€35,905	€66,744	€17,591	€50,556	€45,629
Electronic information	+161%	€58,917	€163,005	€207,864	€25,581	€9,115
Operating costs	-7%	€75,924	€303,974	€85,417	€48,482	€303,426
Total:	+3%	€1,126,230	€1,112,264	€1,171,686	€1,169,633	€1,092,440
Salaries	+43%	€1,884,020	€1,645,396	€1,539,046	€1,415,661	€1,318,516
Total:	+25%	€3,010,250	€2,757,660	€2,710,732	€2,585,294	€2,410,956

