



NUI MAYNOOTH
Coláiste na hÉireann Mhá Nuall

Librarian's Annual Report 2006/07



Turascáil Bliantiúil ón Leabharlannaí
2006/07

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Cover: 'Printing workshop' Device used by Paris printer Jean de Roigny (formerly used by Josse Badius Ascensius) in CLICHETOVE, Josse: *Elucidatorium ecclesiasticum ad Officium Ecclesiae* (1558). (Lg:7.43)

Overview

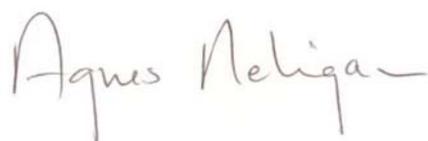
Trends noted in previous years continued to impact on library services. Comparisons with figures of five years ago showed that the use of print material declined by 25% while there was a 340% increase in the number of articles downloaded. The number of enquiries dropped by 20% over the previous year but there was a significant increase in time spent on information skills training with a 170% increase over the five years.

Thanks to HEA and SFI funding students and researchers gained access to almost 22,000 periodical titles and a range of academic databases hitherto not affordable by the Library. This insured that NUIM Library now offers as good a collection of electronic resources as any of the other universities.

Managing these changes and meeting the expectations of a new generation of students “born digital” continued to be a challenge. The Library reviewed frontline services and made changes to reflect the changing demands of users. Much more time was spent on information skills training. The library website was revised and updated in order to present information in a more intuitive and attractive manner.

In collaboration with academic departments a major review of the print collection was carried out in order to create some necessary space and also to renew the various subject collections. Work began in collaboration with Teaching and Learning on a project to improve access for students to essential reading by making the material available electronically.

This is my last annual report and I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone, most especially the library staff, who have supported myself and the Library in all its endeavours over the past years.



Agnes Neligan

Librarian

January 2008

1. Support for research, teaching and learning

1.1 Collections

IReL, the SFI/HEA funding initiative, continued to impact on the number and type of subscriptions taken out by the Library. IReL's impact was further felt in 2006 when it widened its subject coverage to include the Humanities and the Social Sciences.

Subscriptions taken over by IReL allowed for the purchase of new online databases and a small number of journal subscriptions. The new databases included *House of Commons Parliamentary Papers*, *Classical Scores Library*, Brill's Encyclopedias (*New Pauly*, *Islam Online* and *Qu'ran Online*) and *Historic Map Viewer*.

Following a review of a number of eBook services, the Library placed subscriptions to *Medieval and Early Modern Sources Online (MEMSO)*, *ebrary Academic Complete*, *MyiLibrary* and *KNOVEL*. Usage of these services continue to be monitored.

In November 2006 the Library received donations from the Columban Fathers (the oral archive of the Columban Fathers), the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (core research materials relating to missions in both French and English) and the Holy Faith Sisters (*Annual printed reports of St. Brigid's Boarding-Out Orphanage, 1857-1907*).

A further 600 volumes were received from Professor Howard Gillette, the late Mona Hearn, The Belgian, French and Swiss Embassies and the *Irish Theological Quarterly* office.

The closure in July 2007 of Reilly's Bookbinders in Wicklow created problems in relation to a successor and more immediately problems relating to repairing high demand and out of print books, and periodicals not available online.

1.2 Russell Library collection

Records for the following subjects added to the catalogue : History, Ecclesiastical History, Philosophy 1 & 2, Parliamentary papers, Italian literature, Art, and St Mary's Library collection. Subjects already completed are Travel, Bibliography, Education, Biography, Sociology and English. Chronological coverage for the books catalogued show most items date from the 18th century (64%), with 24% from the 19th century. The major language represented is English (78.5%) followed by Latin (9%) and French (8%).

Searching the catalogue will now yield such gems as John Florio's *Worlde of wordes* (London, 1598), the first major English-Italian dictionary, compiled by an Italian in Shakespeare's London; Alciati's famous illustrated book of emblems, *Emblemata* (Antwerp, 1581); Francis Bacon, *Of the advancement and proficience of learning* (Oxford, 1640); Descartes's *Passions de l'âme* (Paris, 1679); Bernard Ward, *Proyecto económico* (Madrid, 1779), an Irishman's economic plan for Spain; and Henri Lacordaire, *Vie de St Dominique, précédée de l'oraison funèbre de Daniel O'Connell* (Louvain, 1848), an unexpected source for Daniel O'Connell's funeral.

An ongoing project to locate bookplates, fine and armorial bindings, prize bindings, and early manuscript fragments in bindings identified bookplates from the Catholic University whose collection in Dublin was divided up in 1900. They account for 8% of Old Testament and 8% of Dogmatic Theology. Amongst the armorial bookplates recorded, notable are those of several figures from the 18th and 19th centuries: John Hort; John Thomas Troy, Archbishop of Dublin; Colonel Edward Cooper and Joshua Cooper, of Markree Castle; Monsignor Denis Gargan, and Dr Gerald Molloy, both of Maynooth.

Professor Peter Lucas and Mrs Angela Lucas continued to work on a catalogue of medieval manuscripts in the Library and details of the five Liège manuscripts are forthcoming in Albert Derolez (ed.), *Corpus Catalogorum Belgii. The medieval booklists of the Southern Low Countries. Vol. VII: The surviving manuscripts and incunables from medieval Belgian libraries* (Brussels, Paleis der Academien).

Eight Irish Manuscripts, from the O'Curry, Murphy and Renehan collections were digitised as part of the Irish Script on Screen project (ISOS). These are now fully accessible at www.isos.dias.ie.

1.3 Information skills

A total of 1,430 students attended library orientation programmes in September. This was a 12% increase on the previous year and represents an 83.5% attendance rate by students involved in the University's Programme for Registration and Orientation.

Information Services included two new courses to the semester programme: Better searches, better results – using Google to find information and Citing and referencing – how to acknowledge your sources. A total of 453 people attended these courses, representing an increase of 45% on the previous year.

Other programmes were introduced for First Year Geography Students, Return to Learning Students and non-traditional Adult Education Department students.

Subject librarians continued to review their role and the classes/training which they provide. Their role is now more identified with providing instruction and giving personalised attention as users need to learn search strategies to seek and obtain scholarly information which can be complex.

In collaboration with the Faculty of Science and Engineering the Library developed a Postgraduate Information Literacy Module for engineering students. This five-credit module is due to start in semester one of the 2007/08 academic year. The module will be delivered in a blended learning environment using a mixture of contact hours and online engagement via Moodle. Other faculties expressed an interest in similar courses for their students and discussions on this will take place in the coming academic year.

In the Russell Library, sessions on the History of the Book were delivered to History MA students as part of their Paleography module and a talk and presentation of early books was given to history undergraduate students on the subjects of History of printing, Map history and Pamphlet literature.

1.4 Student reading project

SIF funding was obtained for a project to investigate the possibility of providing 24/7 electronic access to as much core full-text material on reading lists as possible via the Library by December 2008. Initial tasks completed include the introduction of a new procedure to check if material being placed into the Reserve Collection was available electronically and the development of a web page to promote the project. The major difficulty encountered was in obtaining copyright clearance for material.

1.5 Use of the collection

The number of items borrowed decreased by 5% over the previous year and by almost 20% over the last five years. The number of items reshelved decreased by 12% over the previous year confirming the steady decline in the use of the print collection. As expected, the use of electronic resources continued to increase, the number of articles downloaded from the major services increased by 30%, and by 340% over the last five years.

The number of inter-library loan requests continued to fall. A total figure of 943 requests

were received, an 8% decrease over the previous year. The declining use of the inter-library loan service reflects our ability to provide for the needs of patrons locally due to the increased availability of electronic resources. The inter-library loan facility continues to offer a vital service for those who require material not within the remit of the electronic and print resources available in the Library.

1.6 ePrints, eTheses

The ePrint Archive continued to grow as the publications listed in the *President's Report* were added to the database. To date, 171 users have been registered and 615 documents have been submitted to the archive.

Analyses of usage statistics and enquiries from abroad revealed that the NUIM ePrint Archive is being accessed on a regular basis both nationally and internationally.

Early in 2007 the database was re-structured to accommodate the addition of electronic theses (eTheses). The user interface was also re-designed to offer both separate and combined search functionality for the two resources.

Systems staff continued to be active members of the Irish Universities Association (IUA) Institutional Repositories Working Group. This group played a steering role in planning the allocation of resources secured through the sector wide SIF project.

1.7 Single search facility

Work continued on the implementation of SFX. The new A-Z listing of electronic journals, compiled from SFX data, was launched in November 2006. The SFX service went live in December with SFX linking enabled in the following sources *ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index And Abstracts*, *Historical Abstracts*, *MathsSciNet* and *Web of Science*. Further sources were enabled during the year. User response to this new service was very positive.

1.8 Moodle

The Library continued to have a vibrant presence on Moodle. A Library Space was set up to provide a discussion forum and link to library guides and information. This space had over 6,000 hits during the academic year and continues to attract new members on a daily basis. An online survey carried out in May 2007 found that 40% of users would like to see more online support via blogs, online messaging, podcasts and newsfeeds. The Library will evaluate a range of these services.

2. Library environment

2.1 New library

Following a tendering procedure Metropolitan Workshop presented a preliminary outline of a conceptual design for a new building. This proposed an extension to the front plaza of the John Paul II Library.

2.2 Managing existing space

The issue of space continued to be a problem and major work was undertaken to escalate the ongoing collection review. All sections were reviewed and material discarded, sent to store or sent to the relevant academic department if required after consultation. This required significant staff time both to physically move material and to amend catalogue records.

Consolidation of the collections yielded useful statistics in terms of amount of space saved, (for reallocation) and substitution by online collections. The chief exercise was the deselection of the European Documentation Centre and the removal of Irish Government publications deemed available online. 220 metres were freed up in the John Paul II Library and 126 metres in the Kildare Store as a result of deselection and moves, c.14,000 items. This enabled a major respacing project to take place in the overcrowded 300s section.

The availability of the growing number of periodical titles electronically enabled the Library to save further space. All departmental subscriptions were looked at with a view to changing from print to online. If available online, departments were asked to change to online subscriptions. The decision to discard back issues of print when online is available is more difficult though the availability of archival services which guarantee continued access will assist with future decision making.

2.3 John Paul II Library

Heating and ventilation throughout the building continued unsatisfactory with temperatures fluctuating widely during the day and in different areas. Lack of power and an adequate number of sockets continued to cause problems as more users brought their own equipment.

2.4 Russell Library

The Conservation Unit moved downstairs in January 2007. This followed extensive changes in the Pugin Room: the removal of several book stacks and part of the mezzanine to create a unified space, erection of a partition wall, sealing of floor tiles, painting, removal of fixed

units, equipment and materials from the reading room to the new location. The new space is brighter, larger and most importantly, warmer. Also important are the paper-washing facilities now making many tasks feasible which were formerly quite impossible.

As part of the ongoing refurbishment of the Russell Library, the following were designed and acquired: upholstered reading room chairs, exhibition-case tables, exhibition-case covers. The Library also acquired a Regency round table with set of chairs for staff use in the reading room, and a period desk for readers signing in.

The monitoring of temperature, humidity and insect activities continued. It will be some time yet before we can determine whether the installation of a new climate control system in Renehan Hall directly underneath the far end of the Library will impact on the environment. Tiny Tag data loggers have been activated and are presently recording temperature and humidity in the Russell Library, the Pugin Room and the Kildare Store. The first sets of data will be available electronically by the end of January 2008 for the previous six months.

2.5 Upgrading equipment

New public access computing equipment was purchased to support the expansion of the Library's printing services and to extend self-service facilities. As the use of personal computing devices increased in the Library, demand also began to emerge for USB printing facilities and a suitable product was identified and installed.

In summer 2007, two new self-service lending machines were purchased and installed.

The installation of wireless networks for readers and staff in both the Russell Library and the John Paul II Library was completed.

3. Promoting library services

3.1 Exhibitions

A number of exhibitions were prepared to promote the Library and its collections. 'Traces of Mozart in Vienna' (15 February - 1 March) was facilitated by the Austrian Embassy and presented by the Department of Music in co-operation with the Library. Five other exhibitions were held from 'Two centuries of Mathematics' with the Mathematics Department, the annual Seachtain na Gaeilge 'Taispéantas Ilmheán Sorcha Ní Ghuairim: an tÉireannach', to Legal Deposit materials and art work by staff and students held to celebrate NUIM Arts Week.

A trio of significant research and archival donations was celebrated in November 2006 with a reception and an exhibition. An oral archive was presented by the Columban Fathers; research materials by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Holy Faith Sisters.

Exhibitions in the Russell Library included 'A world of computation: early-printed mathematical texts', for Maths Week (16 - 20 October 2006); 'Detectives at work and links unleashed' mounted by the Cataloguing Project team to highlight the work in progress (December 2006 - March 2007); for the seminar 'Honouring God and Community: Confraternities and Sodalties in Ireland' (7 - 8 September 2007).

The major exhibition in the Russell Library was 'Cast in Type: Ireland in the early books of Europe' (September 2007). Mounted as part of the Louvain 400 commemorations, to tie in with the NUIM conference 'Irish Europe: language, text and culture' (14 - 15 September 2007). The exhibition made use of the very rich collection of early European printing in the Russell Library. It was mounted to complement other Louvain 400 events taking place in Dublin.

Three items from the Salamanca archives were loaned to the National Library of Ireland for their exhibition, 'Strangers to citizens'. Images were also provided of the painting of Dominic Collins and of the rector's travelling desk from the Irish College, Salamanca, both of which form part of the library collection.

3.2 Publications

The range of user guides was expanded and updated to reflect display changes in the library catalogue and library website. The style was changed to address different learning needs and

incorporate guidelines supplied by the Access Office. All guides are available in PDF format on the library website.

Two greeting cards and two postcards were printed from the Russell Library collection together with a bookmark for the 'Cast in Type' exhibition.

3.3 Web

The new website went live on 2nd April 2007. The site was redesigned, the structure changed, the content rewritten, and new content added. The terminology was examined to make it as clear and as jargon free as possible.

Usage statistics showed that hits to the library's homepage averaged out at 43,500 hits per months, with a high in May of 81,490 hits and a low of 16,270 hits in June. With the exclusion of January, May and August when ExPERT topped the highest hits per month, databases were the most heavily used.

3.4 Access

The existing access policies were reviewed and revised in light of the University's mission to contribute towards the economic, social and cultural well-being of the communities it serves. The new policies provide wider access for higher education institutions, expansion of access throughout the year, inclusion of the information service as a specified benefit, a more inclusive bone-fide policy, room for more formal arrangements for alumni registered with the Alumni Office and an adjusted charging policy. Details are on the library website.

The Library joined the extended SCONUL Access scheme which extends access to taught postgraduates and to part-time and distance learning students. Also under the expanded scheme, full-time undergraduates can have reading access to participating libraries. This scheme proved of great benefits to NUIM with almost four times as many of our readers using other libraries as other readers visiting NUIM.

3.5 Restructuring services

Statistics of recent years showed that library usage was changing and new patterns of behaviour were emerging. Library users were no longer depending completely on traditional library print services and instead were using a mix of newer electronic services with more traditional services.

A student survey further confirmed changing patterns with respondents requesting network facilities for personal laptops, more electronic resources, more library support via instant messaging, blogs, podcasts and newsfeeds, more support throughout the Library and more self-services facilities to borrow and return books.

The Library recognised the need to support this hybrid usage and evolve to meet the needs of users and strengthen its role in the learning environment. The delivery of front-line services was reviewed and a plan of change was implemented which involved building on existing staff skills.

Existing services were merged to provide a base point of service where all queries could be answered, staff were also made available to provide service at the point of need on the study floors and elsewhere in the building.

This service would deliver all existing services from strategic bases throughout the Library and would move away from the tradition of having numerous desks supporting numerous services. It involved the removal of the traditional Information Desk and the installation of two self-service machines in this space.

The introduction of the self-services machines is expected to free up staff time. This will facilitate the involvement of staff in handling information enquiries in a more proactive manner. The new service will include the addition of Roving staff who will respond to enquiries as and when they arise on levels 1, 2 and 3. All services will be supported at the former Circulation Desk and this Desk will be renamed.

Recognition was also given to challenges these changes would pose to all staff and the effect they may have on many current policies and practices. The proposal was agreed as an evolving process that would require constant monitoring and evaluation.

3.6 Opening hours

Service hours during semesters were extended and the Information Desk opened on Saturdays for the first time. The successful opening with self-service during three Sundays at examination times in the second semester was extended to the first semester. In response to a request from the Student Library Committee, the Library extended evening opening hours to midnight, Monday – Thursday during the examination period in the second semester. The

Library extends its appreciation to both library and security staff for facilitating these changes.

3.7 Staff development/PMDS

Library staff participated in a number of internal and external training events organised by various bodies. A number of staff attended national and international conferences and staff were active in various committees, presenting at conferences and publishing.

A comprehensive training programme, to address the service changes in the John Paul II Library was offered to relevant library staff. This provided a detailed overview of library services and time was given to practical as well as theoretical sessions. It focused on library users needs and how they are met by the desk services.

Following the PMDS exercise which identified a major need to improve the technical skills of staff Library Systems and the QPO assisted with the introduction of a successful and ongoing programme.

Appendix 1. Staff professional activities

Mary Antonesa

Membership(s)

Committee member, CONUL Advisory Group on Information Literacy
Member, ANLTC Sub-committee on Continued Professional Development
Member, Library Association of Ireland

Publication(s)

Antonesa, Mary (2007) Challenging times, some thoughts on the professional identity of the academic librarian, *SCONUL Focus*, Issue 40, Spring 2007, p. 9-11

Presentation(s)

eLearning and Libraries at *The New Shape of Knowledge and Learning*, Academic and National Library Training Co-operative (ANLTC) Seminar, TCD, 21st November 2006

Information Desk Case Study – NUI Maynooth at *Information Desk Skills* Academic and National Library Training Co-operative (ANLTC) Seminar, NUIM, 24th November 2006

Elaine Bean

Membership(s)

Chairperson, Partnership Committee
Partnership representative, The Human Resources and Staff Development Sub-Committee

Susan Durack

Membership(s)

Committee member, Irish National and University Libraries (INULS)

Helen Fallon

Membership(s)

Committee member, ANLTC (Academic and National Library Training Co-operative)
Committee member, LIR HEAnet User Group for Libraries
Committee member, Irish Universities Association (IUA) Librarians' Institutional Repositories Group
Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)
Member, All Ireland Society for Higher Education (AISHE)
Member, Education Developers Ireland Network (EDIN)

Publications(s)

Fallon, Helen (2006) Rebuilding Lives through Literacy, *Adults Learning*, October, p. 21-23
Fallon, Helen & McQuaid, Mairead (2007) From Librarian to Lecturer: Experiences of introducing an accredited information literacy module to a part-time undergraduate degree. *SCONUL Focus*, Summer/Autumn, p. 8-11

Bernadette Gardiner

Membership(s)

Member, ALEPH User Group - UK and Ireland
Member, Forum for Interlending and Information Delivery (FIL)

Mary Kearney

Membership(s)

Committee member, IRIS Consortium Purchasing Group

Committee member, Irish Research electronic Library (IReL) Steering Group

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

Pauline Murray

Membership(s)

Committee member, Acquisitions Group of Ireland (AGI)

Presentation(s)

Shelfready Books. Presentation at *Introduction to Acquisitions* to the Acquisitions Group of Ireland (AGI), seminar, 29th May 2007, Dublin.

Olive Morrin

Presentation(s)

Teresa Brayton: Local poet or literary nationalist? Presentation in Maynooth Community Library 31st August 2007

Agnes Neligan

Membership(s)

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

Member, ALEPH User Group - UK and Ireland

Etaín Ó Siocháin

Membership(s)

Member, Coiste na Gaeilge, NUIM

Member, Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

Scoil na Gaeilge: Ionadaí an Leabharlannaí

Treasurer, Meitheal, Irish language group of the Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

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)
Committee Member, IReL Monitoring Group
Committee Member, IReL Licensing Sub-Group

Other activities

Co-organised Acquisitions Group of Ireland (AGI) Seminar "An Introduction to Acquisitions" 29th May 2007
Participated in the design and analysis of the Irish Research electronic Library (IReL) Impact Survey March 2007

Suzanne Redmond Malocco

Membership(s)

Member NUI Maynooth 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
Member, CONUL Working Party on Legal Deposit
Member, CONUL Working Party on Theses
Representative of NUIM , Maynooth Action Strategy Steering Group

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)
Committee member, Maynooth Medieval and Renaissance Forum

Presentation(s)

'Religious libraries: organisation, care and historical importance' Presentation at the Archives Summer School held by the Association of Church Archivists of Ireland (ACAI), 3-7 July 2006, at the Mercy International Centre, Dublin.
A weather-eye on bibliography, from Maynooth *at Promoting, preserving and reading the Irish Book* the Rare Books Group (LAI) seminar, Dublin, 24 November 2006

Other activities

Church textiles: their history, care and preservation. Association of Church Archivists of Ireland, Maynooth, 21 October, 2006

Appendix 2. Statistics

	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03
Services					
Registered borrowers	7,650	7,130	7,000	7,000	7,000
Items borrowed	124,719	130,137	145,451	156,554	154,942
Items requested on inter-library loan	943	1,100	1,914	3,116	3,158
Items lent to other libraries	166	188	200	233	216
Enquiries	17,432	21,149	27,913	18,706	13,185
Student orientation and training	3,607	2,330	2,700	3,245	2,149
Searches of online sources	352,138	305,016	234,455	147,665	208,119
Articles downloaded	197,313	136,122	102,150	73,398	58,320
Readers & visitors to the Russell	1,266	1,226	1,221	1,502	1,286
Copies made	1,687,757	1,891,188	2,007,473	2,066,365	1,726,426
Items reshelved	265,780	295,822	297,822	305,884	305,893
Study places					
John Paul II Library	680	680	680	680	680
Workstations, John Paul II Library	4	64	52	52	52
Russell Library	28	28	28	28	28
Arts Building	128	128	128	128	128
Collection					
Books purchased	5,019	4,265	3,779	4,724	4,771
Books received on copyright	1,375	1,312	1,545	1,288	1,321
Irish Government Publications	–	3,678	3,274	3,203	2,740
Donations	657	14,600	5,000	3,000	893
Print periodicals purchased	572	602	627	732	860
Online periodicals	21,614	16,000	9,000	8,640	5,750
Copyright Periodicals	634	758	766	768	685
Donations, Exchange Periodicals	€160	177	190	190	180
Volumes catalogued	€6,076	7,295	11,839	8,164	7,262
Total stock	445,000	455,000	452,500	442,500	430,500
Income					
Grant	€937,500	€907,200	€857,700	€743,600	€818,808
Other income	€265,398	€274,280	€313,779	€250,223	€309,621
Total:	€1,202,898	€1,181,480	€1,171,479	€993,824	€1,128,430
Expenditure					
Books	€243,332	€249,062	€255,484	€278,541	€260,814
Print periodicals	€189,066	€266,319	€235,905	€366,744	€317,591
Electronic information	€362,297	€296,176	€258,917	€163,005	€207,864
Salaries	€1,896,699	€1,832,486	€1,884,020	€1,645,396	€1,539,046
Operating costs	€408,203	€369,923	€375,924	€303,974	€385,417
Total:	€3,099,597	€3,013,966	€3,010,250	€2,757,660	€2,710,732