



Coronavirus
COVID-19

#IrLibCovid

Irish Libraries: Living with COVID-19

20th January 2021



Irish Libraries: Living with COVID-19: Engaging, empowering and enriching

Call for speakers and posters

The COVID-19 global pandemic continues to impact every aspect of life. Irish libraries have learnt to live with the disease and proven ourselves as more than adept at meeting this challenge. Building on the success of the seminar *Irish Libraries and COVID-19: First reflections* in May 2020, this free half-day online seminar organised by Maynooth University Library will highlight the many ways in which Irish libraries have adapted and share what has been learnt. This will assist the ongoing challenge and help inform lessons for the future. It will also be an opportunity for colleagues to network virtually during this challenging time.

The seminar will be opened by Professor Philip Nolan (President of Maynooth University and Chair of NPHE's Irish Epidemiological Modelling Advisory Group) and our keynote speaker will be Jane Burns (Assistant Registrar and Director of Quality at Athlone Institute of Technology). We now welcome expressions of interest for speakers to contribute to the seminar. We would like to have speakers and virtual posters from all library types and roles to share their experience, initiatives and issues arising for libraries during the pandemic.

Some possible areas for consideration include:

- Service change and adaptation (new ways to meet increasing demand)
- The Digital Shift (online classes, book clubs, seminars and more)
- Shutting down, opening up and shutting down again (and everything in between)
- Working with communities (enriching community life at a time of need)
- Staff considerations (wellbeing, pods, masks and more)
- Programming innovations (e.g. reaching people remotely)
- Future-proofing libraries (a passing concern, or lasting impact?)
- Necessity driving invention (what had to change, why and how)
- Libraries as part of the wider response to COVID-19 (going beyond traditional roles during the crisis)

Please note that due to the short duration of the seminar it is likely that we will be able to accommodate about 7-9 speakers. We will accommodate as many posters as possible. A programme committee will review submissions and prepare a programme. Contributors will be contacted in late December 2020 and must submit their slides or posters by no later than 5pm on Friday 15th January 2021. If have any questions, please contact Elaine Bean at library.bookings@mu.ie

Key dates:

Submissions due no later than 5pm Friday 4th December 2020 to submit a proposal please click [here](#).

Speakers contacted: late December 2020

Speakers' slides and posters due no later than 5pm Friday 15th January 2021 to library.bookings@mu.ie



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Confirmed speakers:



Professor Philip Nolan

Professor Philip Nolan is the Chair of the National Public Health Emergency Team's (NPHE) Epidemiological Modelling Advisory Group. He holds degrees in Physiology and Medicine and a PhD all from University College Dublin (UCD). He joined the staff of UCD in 1996. In 2004 he became Registrar and Deputy President at UCD. In August 2011, he was appointed President of Maynooth University. Early in his tenure he established a new strategy for the University in its research, teaching and engagement activities. He initiated a university-wide review to re-imagine the University's undergraduate curriculum and this new curriculum was launched in 2015. Many of the changes—which range from broader entry routes and language study to increased course flexibility and discipline combinations—are considered sector-leading among Irish higher education institutions. He has played a leading role in reforming the transition from second to third level, in widening participation in higher education, and in promoting equality and diversity. The Maynooth University Strategic Plan 2018-2022 emphasises further enhancement of research capacity, significant development of the postgraduate portfolio, comprehensive internationalisation, and equality, diversity and inclusion.



Jane Burns

Jane Burns (MBA, MLIS, MPhil) is the Director of Quality and Assistant Registrar at Athlone Institute of Technology. She has also been recently appointed to Deputy Director of the AIT-LIT Technological University Project. Prior to these current roles Jane has been a Library & Information Professional for over 25 years working in a variety of environments. Jane is also a part time lecturer in the School of Information Studies at University College Dublin. Jane holds Fellowship Membership with the Library Association of Ireland where she is a member of the Executive Council. She is a published author and presents at national and international conferences. In her spare time, she is pursuing a PhD at Dublin City University and paints rocks.

More details coming soon. Save the date:

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