



Annual Report 2012

Report of the Board of the National Library of Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2012

To the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht pursuant to Section 36 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997

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Chairman's Statement

I am pleased to present the NLI's Annual Report for 2012, the second full year in office of this second Board, a year marked by budgetary and resource constraints reflecting ongoing difficulties in the general financial environment.

In the face of these difficulties NLI management and staff have continued an overall shift in focus towards online users, while maintaining and improving service to traditional users, those who are in a position to visit in person the NLI premises in Kildare Street. I note in particular that the number of website hits more than doubled to reach almost three million. There were 180,000 visitors to the NLI premises in Kildare Street and efforts were made to make their experience as welcoming and user-friendly as possible.

Work on the Digitisation Programme across the existing collections as well as the ongoing collection of Born Digital material continued apace, in line with NLI's ambition to become a fully functioning 21st century library. The ability to add to the collections, both digital and analogue, was limited by budgetary constraints which is a matter of ongoing concern given the primacy of collecting to NLI's mission. Significant acquisitions that were possible are described in the body of this report. I must also express my appreciation to the many donors who added to the national collections and to those publishers who met their legal deposit obligations.

The NLI is the custodian of a major part of Ireland's documentary heritage. Its invaluable collections of over ten million items of books, periodicals manuscripts and photographs, as well as newspapers, music scores and official publications constitute the collective memory of the nation. However the mainly 19th century buildings in which these collections are housed are no longer fit for purpose. NLI is not alone in having these problems and during 2012 it developed a business case for an off-site cultural treasury to be shared with Trinity College, Dublin (TCD) and University College Dublin (UCD), based on a feasibility study which was carried out during 2011. It is intended that this business case will be used as the basis for requests for funding whether to Government or to philanthropic sources.

I note that in 2012 the Board received with some concern the Government's announcement that the independent Boards of the NLI and the National Museum were to be abolished and replaced with a joint Advisory Council, under the aegis of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. This appears to imply the abandonment by Government of the previous plan to amalgamate the National Archives with the National Library. The independent Boards of the NLI and the National Museum were established under the provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act in 1997 and the first Boards were actually appointed as recently as 2005. The members of this second NLI Board are fully mindful of the economic and fiscal challenges which the nation continues to face but are convinced that the proposed abolition of the two independent Boards would be a retrograde step, would not save any money, would inhibit any possibility of raising additional funding through philanthropy, and would represent a significant deterioration in the status and governance of both NLI and the National Museum. The separate roles of both NLI and the National Museum as custodians of the national heritage needs the protection of autonomous governance, independent from the political concerns of the Government of the day, and the two institutions vary enough in the work they carry out to warrant separate oversight and advice.

I further note with regret the resignation from the Board in May 2012 of the eminent historian Dr Diarmuid Ferriter and wish to thank him for the support he has given to the Library, which I hope he will continue to do albeit in a different capacity.

Despite the present uncertainties I conclude this statement at the beginning of this Decade of Commemorations by expressing my hope that the NLI will be enabled to make its proper

contribution to the upcoming commemorations and certainly I and the Board will continue to work as long as we can with the Director and staff of the Library to make and manage the many changes necessary to reach the year 2022 as a well-established 21st century national library.

Director's Foreword

The collections held in the safekeeping of the NLI are a significant part of our national Cultural Treasury. They include an estimated ten million items of printed, photographic and other material, from fourteenth-century Gaelic manuscripts to the literary papers of major Irish writers including Yeats, Joyce and Heaney, as well as national records of personal history such as the Catholic Parish Registers, the Tithe Applotment Books and the National Photographic Archive.

As well as providing universal access to the cultural heritage of Ireland by making its collections available both physically and online, the NLI provides important services for education, research and scholarship. The Genealogy Advisory Service offers free advice to personal callers on records held in the NLI and elsewhere and the Office of the Chief Herald holds records of social, cultural and military life dating back to the end of the medieval period.

All of this is achieved from a total level of annual State funding for the NLI which amounted to just €1.55 per Irish citizen in 2012. The budget has been cut by 40% since 2008, leaving management with the progressively more difficult challenge of allocating severely inadequate resources and funds across the full range of the NLI's many valuable activities.

There is no doubt that the work of the NLI during 2012 was also overshadowed by the growing uncertainty as to the autonomy of the institution. Management and staff fully supported the Board in its opposition to the proposed abolition of the independent, statutory Board.

Despite these difficulties, during 2012 the management and staff of the NLI successfully implemented the next stage of the reform programme that began in 2011. The NLI was heartened by the positive response of the 180,000 visitors to the institution and the further surge in online visitors, which doubled website hits to almost 3 million in 2012.

The achievements of the NLI were also recognised by two prestigious social media awards in 2012: the Ireland eGovernment Social Media Award, for the NLI's presence on Twitter, Facebook, Flickr Commons and mixed content Flickr stream and for its blog content; and the Public Service Excellence Award, for the use of the Social Media programme in raising the NLI's profile.

One of the most significant tasks completed during 2012 was the cataloguing of the literary archives of the late Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney, who so generously donated his papers to the NLI in 2011.

During 2012 the Library continued the digitisation of its legacy collections and the conversion of its foundation catalogue, which allowed users to search in the digital catalogue across all of the Library's printed material. There was more progress on the digitisation of microfilm of parish registers and major holdings of Joyce material were also digitised. In May 2012, the NLI's digital repository became operational for the storage and management of digital content.

But the work of digitising the collections has only just begun. Continuing this task is of crucial importance and serves all three elements of the NLI's mission *to collect, preserve and make accessible*: digitisation facilitates the collection of both born-digital and other material; preserves the collections by reducing the need to handle rare or fragile items; and of course, dramatically increases the accessibility of the collection.

Digitisation can also unlock the economic, educational, cultural and research potential of this vast storehouse of material. A fully digitised and catalogued NLI could become an enormously valuable State asset attracting tourists, assisting students and offering citizens access to their cultural and literary heritage.

But as 2012 drew to a close, the final budget allocation for the NLI for 2013 left management with just €1.6m, after pay, buildings, storage and other fixed costs, to acquire collections and address conservation and protection, cataloguing, exhibitions and events, reader services and digitisation. There was no option but to implement further severe cutbacks and restrictions to services. The consequences are as follows:

- The NLI remains effectively out of the purchase market for significant Irish material, meaning it is no longer able to meet its core mandate to preserve the national documentary heritage
- Projects to clean and box the most valuable books pending a long-term resolution to the storage crisis (such as the Clean Sweep project of 2011) have been put on indefinite hold as there are no available funds
- Progress on building the online catalogue has considerably slowed due to lack of resources
- Spend on digitisation has, of necessity, dropped by 89% since 2008, to €32,629 in 2012, at the very time when the digitisation of the collections should be accelerating; the lack of available funds for outsourcing means that the entire digitisation programme is now the responsibility of four dedicated in-house staff members and only a fraction of the programme can be completed each year
- Resources for the collection of Born Digital material are miniscule with the result that there is a growing black hole in the NLI's record of contemporary Ireland, especially given that many government and official reports are now only published online rather than in print, so the NLI does not receive copies under legal deposit requirements
- Although recent exhibitions and associated events have attracted record numbers, there can be no new exhibitions at the NLI without additional external funding
- The available budget for Learning, Outreach, Events and Communication has declined by 88% since 2008, to €78,390 in 2012, necessitating a dramatic reduction in activity

As this list clearly shows, the remaining resources of the NLI are stretched to breaking point. With current funding and resource levels, the management and staff of the NLI can no longer properly fulfil even its basic mandate to collect, preserve and make accessible the documentary record of the intellectual and cultural life of Ireland. There is no possibility of addressing the very real crisis in the collections caused by decades of substandard storage facilities.

But the outlook need not be bleak. The NLI has extraordinary collections, a committed and able staff, and a rapidly-growing base of users in Ireland and overseas. Over the last two years, successful reforms have demonstrated that the NLI will survive and thrive in the 21st Century. It is imperative that the NLI is now given the resources and support it needs to continue its role as cultural custodian of the national heritage.

The Collections

The NLI of Ireland is a unique repository of Ireland's history and cultural heritage, and is home to extraordinary collections of books, manuscripts and photographs, as well as newspapers, periodicals and official publications. The NLI's collection of prints and drawings provides a visual record of Ireland from the seventeenth century onwards, while the photographic collection documents the more recent events of Irish life in over 5 million photographs.

The NLI collects materials on or relating to Ireland, with the aim of providing an accurate record of Ireland's output in manuscript, print and other media for current and future users. The collections are amassed through a combination of legal deposit, purchase and the generous donations which have brought many cherished items to the NLI. In recent years, a fourth strand has been added through the NLI's web-harvesting activities, which were further developed in 2012 in collaboration with the Internet Memory Foundation.

Legal Deposit is the statutory provision obliging publishers to deposit copies of all publications in certain libraries, among them the NLI. A review of copyright legislation by the Copyright Review Committee is underway (under the auspices of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation) and during 2012, following the Committee's report, the NLI made a second submission in relation to the extension of the legal deposit provision to cover offline and digital publications.

Approximately 6.6% of the NLI's 2012 budget (i.e. €471,565) was used to purchase material of national significance to add to the collections. This is a significant reduction from the 2008 purchase level of €2.8m, reflecting the cut of 40% in State funding since then.

Given the reduction in purchasing, it was all the more important that the generous tradition of donations of material continued in 2012 with significant donations of books, manuscripts, photographs and other materials.

A key donation during the course of the year was the archive of the Irish Labour Party, documenting the 100-year history of the party through policy, election and referenda material. This is a 'living archive' in that the Labour Party has committed to deposit material with the NLI on an ongoing basis. To support the NLI in making this important collection available, the Labour Party recruited a Project Archivist on a one-year contract (subsequently extended by a second year). The Project Archivist is based in the NLI and has responsibility for cataloguing the archive.

Other significant donations during 2012 included an archive relating to Arthur Griffith, his family and political associates, comprising photographs, printed items, correspondence and illustrative material. The NLI's holding of the literary and personal papers of Irish writers was further enhanced by the bequest of the papers of the late Nuala O'Faolain. The papers of the late writer and architectural historian Maurice Craig were another welcome addition to the collections and the NLI gratefully acknowledge Dr Craig's years of service to the NLI as a member of our Council of Trustees.

Among other important donations were papers and correspondence of Nicolette Macnamara Devas and her sister Caitlin Thomas; letters from Maud Gonne MacBride to various correspondents, from the estate of her late grand-daughter Anna MacBride White; and the Sean Hendrick papers, which reflect aspects of political and cultural life in Cork over the period 1916-1971 and were donated by his daughter Nuala Wren.

Further significant additions to the NLI collections during 2012 are set out below by collection area:

Printed Books

In 2012 the NLI received 4,174 items under legal deposit; among them Irish government department publications, which had not previously been included in the count of legal deposit material. A total of 1,142 new books were purchased and 384 were donated, including a donation of 275 Irish-American books from Mr Stephen Griffin, and 32 Irish medical books given by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Prints and Drawings

In 2012 artist Brian Gormley, poet Michael Carter and Cló Cill Rialaig donated a limited edition box set of original etchings from their collaborative series *On Bolus Head*. Illustrator, cartoonist and publisher Annie West donated a selection of limited edition fine art prints from her *Yeats in Love*, *Seamus Heaney* and *Irish History* series. Richard Parish donated a pencil sketch, *Nicolikoi Gate of the Kremlin* by Sir John Fiennes Twisleton Crampton (1805–1886).

The following items were purchased in 2012:

- Fifteen original drawings by Tom Lalor, mainly political caricatures published in *The Leader* between 1912-1915
- Ten pen and ink drawings by Richard Caulfield Orpen (1863-1938), illustrations for *The Jarvey*, the weekly magazine edited by Percy French from 1889-1890
- An original dust jacket design by Philippe Jullian for Elizabeth Bowen's novel *Eva Trout*
- Eight original pen and ink drawings of various ladies by James Henry Campbell (1757-1828)
- A collection of original watercolour and pen-and-ink set designs by David Clarke dating from the early 1950's, when he worked with several theatre companies but primarily with Ronald Ibbs' Dublin Players
- Seven ink sketches, views of Co. Wicklow (1828)
- A 19th century drawing of Derrynane Abbey, Co. Kerry, home of Daniel O'Connell
- A large coloured print depicting Matt Talbot (1856-1925), signed on mount 'Sean O'Sullivan R.H.A. 1937'
- Artists' books from Distiller's Press, the Letterpress Print Workshop at the National College of Art and Design, including the limited edition letterpress book, '*Albert, Ernest and The Titanic*'
- Poster series '*Ulysses Strands*', a limited edition set of five letterpress posters of excerpts from *Ulysses*, designed and printed by Jamie Murphy and Mary Plunkett in association with liberateUlysses.com, printed at Distillers Press, National College of Art and Design
- Graphic Studio Dublin, Sponsors' Portfolio, Year 4 – 2013

Ephemera

Notable 2012 acquisitions included:

- an unrecorded 18th century Irish geographical broadside, 'A Geographical Table, Shewing all the intermediate and respective distances between the principal towns in France, Holland, Flanders, ...'on the Rhine, ...including the Grand Theatre of the Present War, and the extensive French Frontier, from Dunkirk to Toulon'. Dublin: Zachariah Jackson [1795?]
- A poster published in commemoration of the 54th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising and the 1st Anniversary of the Historic Ninth National Congress of the

Communist Party of China [1970] entitled "Uphold the true spirit of the Irish revolution! Uphold great Marxism, Leninism-Mao Tse-Tung thought!"

- A playbill for the Coliseum Theatre, Henry St. and Prince's St. "Enormous Attractions for Easter" 24 April 1916, and ephemera relating to the Boys' Brigade

The NLI also acquired and collected a wide range of social ephemera and political ephemera relating to the two referenda held during the year (the Fiscal Treaty Referendum and the Children's Referendum), as well as material on special events and commemorations, including the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, the Bram Stoker centenary and the Titanic centenary.

Other ephemera acquired during the year included; bottle labels, matchboxes, luggage labels, memorial cards, political labels, grocery bags, concert and theatre programmes, menus and postcards.

Ephemera material is gathered and donated by staff, members of the public, political parties, and organisations. The NLI is grateful to the many people who add to the collection and would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

Music

Notable acquisitions during the year included the original music manuscript written by Robert O'Dwyer for the opera "Eithne, nó Éan an Cheoil Bhinn" ["Eithne, or the Bird of Sweet Music], 1909, and papers of the composer Odoardo Barri (Edward Slater) including correspondence concerning royalties on his best-known work, 'The Boys of the Old Brigade'.

Periodicals and Newspapers

The NLI continues to collect all issues of newspapers and periodicals published in Ireland, as well as titles of Irish interest published abroad. Periodical issues are now checked-in on the Library Management System (Virtua) and during 2012 preparatory work was completed for the check-in of all newspaper issues from the beginning of 2013.

Significant donations during 2012 included: a collection of 19th and early 20th century Irish newspapers, from the family of Jeremy Kenny; a *The Public Gazetteer* (W. Sleater) dated 17-20 February 1759 (single issue), donated by William Gillespie; *Swedish News*, Swedish Consulate Dublin, 1943-1945 (22 issues), donated by Niall Higgins; and a set of bound reprints of the *Loughrea Illustrated Journal*, 1873-1877, 1879 and 1881-1883, donated by Norman Morgan.

For preservation and access purposes the NLI continued to acquire newspapers on microfilm and subscribe to digital archives. An important acquisition during 2012 was the microfilm of the *Melbourne Advocate* (1891-1906) to which Michael Davitt, the Irish republican and nationalist land agitator, contributed a fortnightly column for much of the time between 1883 and his death in 1906.

Manuscripts

A significant auction purchase in 2012 was a collection of correspondence of Senator James G. Douglas (1887-1954). Many of the letters relate to the Senator's involvement with the Irish White Cross and the distribution of funds from the American Committee for Relief in Ireland and correspondents include Michael Collins, W.T. Cosgrave, Ernest Blythe, George

Russell, the Archbishop of Cashel, Eamon De Valera, W.B. Yeats, Maud Gonne MacBride, Constance Markievich and many other political and religious figures and commentators.

The NLI also purchased a notebook kept by Terence MacSwiney recording his daily activities as a Volunteer organiser in Cork in the final months of 1915. Other manuscript purchases included smaller collections and items relating to Irish writers including Oscar Wilde, W.B. Yeats, Mary Tighe, George Moore and Maria Edgeworth, and to political figures including John Redmond, John Devoy and T.P. Gill along with many others.

Photographs

The photographic collections received a number of important additions from generous donors during 2012. Among the most significant was the donation by William L. Rukeyser of 49 Ektachrome positive originals of his photographs of events around Bloody Sunday 1972. The NLI's collection of Elinor Wiltshire's photographs was enhanced by the further donations by Mrs. Wiltshire of a series of photographs from 1953 relating to Avoca Handweavers and a collection of colour prints of her most recent work.

The Keeley Collection, donated by Dermot Carney and Patricia Keeley, comprises 10 albums of photographs relating to productions at the Gate Theatre, ca. 1938-43 while the JJ Carroll Collection includes c. 270 glass lantern slides from the 1890s containing images of children's story illustrations, the life of the 1st Earl Roberts of Kandahar, and the city of Waterford. The NLI purchased one collection of photographs, from the German photojournalist Henning Christoph, relating to his work in Ireland in the 1970s for publications such as *Life*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times* and *Geo und Stern*.

Digital Library

Further progress was achieved during 2012 on each of the interrelated programmes of work aimed at delivering a digital library. These included:

Infrastructure Programme (Oscail)

This programme is designed to delivery on library-specific software and process change. A significant improvement to the online catalogue was delivered in 2012 through the implementation and enhancement of two open-source viewers for displaying high-resolution images and volumes/books which were released initially in the context of the NLI's James Joyce material.

Other enhancements during the year included:

- Development of Collections Module to present an aggregated view of collection items
- Development of Archives Viewer to present a hierarchical display of Manuscript records. As part of this work, NLI staff collaborated with the National Library of Finland and the University of Swansea in developing and integrating the presentation of archives data into the online catalogue.
- Search Engine Optimisation, resulting in a doubling of visits from Google (live)
- Integration with the Flickr API to dynamically present comments and tags from the NLI's Flickr pages directly in the catalogue
- Implementation of enhanced jquery-based mobile theme

- Integration with Google Maps API to present collection items geographically
- Development of timeline feature to graph and allow filtering by creation date
- Implemented a new search module to allow cross-searching with content from the NLI website, blog and other datasets

In addition a sub-group of Oscail completed requirements gathering, a specification document and an implementation plan for the future direction of resource discovery services which was signed off by the management team in 2012.

An online Order Form to allow remote ordering of library material and a back-end management tool developed in-house to track and process orders also went live in 2012.

Catalogue Development Programme

In 2012, the NLI completed major projects to convert the Guard Book and Joly and Additional Music Collections Catalogues. The conversions combined with development of online search facilities, significantly improves access to NLI collections and services for users. Every title and copy in the Guard Books is now listed online and, where available, records link to fully digitised copies from the Hathi Trust, Open Library or Google Books. Almost 134,000 books and periodicals are now listed online for the first time, 17,500 additional copies of titles have been added and over 55,500 existing online catalogue records have been enhanced. The card catalogue covering the Joly Music and Additional Music printed collections comprising over 17,000 entries was also converted. This resulted in the addition of over 16,000 new printed music titles to the online catalogue. Through these projects the NLI's entire online catalogue increased by over 30%.

Digitisation Programme

The highlight of the digitisation programme for 2012 was the James Joyce Manuscripts Project which covered drafts of his literary works and correspondence held in the NLI. Items from the Joyce – Leon Collection, Joyce Collection 2002, Joyce Collection 2006 along with single items from the Manuscript Collections were digitised and added to the online catalogue. 'Topographia Hibernica' by Welsh monk Giraldus Cambrensis, which is one of the NLI's earliest treasures, was also digitised. The manuscript dates from the 12th century and describes the topography of Ireland and the Norman Conquest. Over half of the Longfield Manuscript Map Collection is now available online and work also commenced on digitising the Elmes Portrait Collection.

Born-Digital Collections Programme

The Born Digital programme begun in 2011 gathered pace in 2012, as the NLI further developed the ability to identify, collect and make accessible born-digital material and make web-harvesting part of its day-to-day activities.

Three web-archiving projects were completed in partnership with Internet Memory Foundation, who carried out the technical aspects. The three projects captured web data on political events such as the Fiscal Treaty Referendum and the Children's Referendum; the activities celebrating the James Joyce *Ulysses* 90th anniversary; and Dublin's One City One Book programme. For one of the projects suggestions were sought from members of the public through the NLI website, as well as consultation with NLI staff.

Other web-archiving activity focussed on websites reflecting local publications and local events throughout the country, selected from suggestions by County Librarians. All archived websites are listed in the catalogue at www.nli.ie, and on the Internet Memory Foundation website.

Digital Library Strategy

A review of the NLI ICT Strategy 2010-2012, which had set out the interrelated programmes aimed at delivering a digital library commenced in the final quarter of 2012, with a view to developing a new strategy for the next 3 years.

Preserving the Collections

2012 Projects

A number of rare book collections were moved to storage facilities at No. 5 Kildare Street, which is fitted with a fire suppression system and is a more suitable environment than the West Wing of the main building. In all, 44,000 books, or 1,910 metres of shelving from the Joly, Thoms, Dix, O'Kelly and Swift collections were cleaned, measured and moved over a six-week period. These collections are now accessible in the MSS reading room.

The NLI also collaborated with University College Dublin and the National College of Art and Design, to survey selected volumes from the Large Book Room (LBR) collection, comprising large illustrated books from the foundation years of the NLI. A detailed report highlighted the value and significance of the collection, and Arcline were subsequently contracted to clean and measure 2,677 large art books. The project was completed over the final quarter of 2012 and the volumes were re-arranged in the Art Room according to size for ease of access.

The Thom's directories held in the Reading Room were measured and boxed and the official publications area was rearranged to provide for ongoing Irish Government/statutory publications, following the move to Park West storage facilities of earlier international publications. Work also began on the cleaning and sorting of part of the Holloway book collection.

A substantial project was undertaken on the periodicals and newspapers in the William O'Brien Collection, relating to Irish labour, socialist and national movements of the early 20th century: 82 titles covering approximately 188 volumes were cleaned, re-shelved and added to the online catalogue.

Preserving the Cultural Treasury

A study was completed during 2011 on the development of a shared storage facility for University College Dublin, Trinity College, Dublin and NLI as an initial step in developing a Cultural Treasury, to preserve the accumulated documentary record of Ireland's heritage. The three libraries hold approximately 30 million items and there are evident economies of scale in following international best practice by partnering in a collaborative storage facility.

During 2012 NLI produced a business case in support of the proposal, which examined a number of options and convincingly demonstrated that the construction of a 'Harvard-style' repository with high-density, narrow aisle shelving, as recommended in the 2011 study,

would be the most cost-effective solution for the NLI's ongoing storage problems. The NLI's share of the construction costs of such a repository, whether standalone or shared, would be in the region of €7m, excluding site costs.

Making the Collections Accessible

Onsite and Online Access

The NLI reading rooms remain open and free of charge to all and the reading room in the National Photographic Archive reopened in 2012. The ongoing rollout of online and digital services is expanding the range of access and in 2012; the introduction of free wifi across all reading rooms to anyone with a reader's ticket greatly facilitated the work of researchers.

Through a wide variety of learning activities, exhibitions and events, the NLI offers the opportunity to experience the collections in a multitude of ways, at Kildare Street and elsewhere, while copying services make it possible to obtain reproductions of most items in the collections.

Over 180,000 people visited the NLI in person in 2012. Callers included researchers using the reading rooms and the family history service, families and students attending workshops and Irish and international visitors to the exhibitions.

Virtual visitors to all platforms increased from 1.2 million in 2011 to almost 3 million in 2012, reflecting the growing demand for online access to our collections and services, and the enhanced ability to deliver the resources of the NLI throughout Ireland and internationally.

The communication achievements of the NLI were recognised by two prestigious social media awards in 2012: the Ireland eGovernment Social Media Award for the NLI's presence on Twitter, Facebook, Flickr Commons and mixed content Flickr stream and for its blog content; and the Public Service Excellence Award, which recognises innovation and best practice in public service administration and service delivery.

Wifi

Free access to wifi was rolled out in the reading rooms during the year, to everyone holding a reader's ticket. This enables researchers to combine research on original material in the collections with access to both NLI online subscription services and external research sources, and aligns the NLI's offering for researchers with the major university and research libraries.

Research Support and Facilities

There were over 30,500 research visits to the reading rooms and family history services in 2012, with 4,441 readers' tickets issued during the year. During 2012 self-service access to the microfilm of *The Irish Times*, one of the most heavily used resources, was provided in the main Reading Room. Over the course of 2013 microfilm of the *Irish Independent*, *Irish Press* and *Freeman's Journal* will be added to the microfilm self-service.

Bibliographic Services

10,533 books were catalogued in 2012, including the Sean O'Casey Library and all 1,100 titles in the Liam O'Leary film archive, along with 275 books recently donated by Stephen Griffin. A six-week cataloguing project which began in November added another 1,500 new catalogue records.

There were 501 amendments to existing periodical catalogue records or new records created during 2012. Records on the Newspaper Database were edited 484 times during 2012.

In 2012 the NLI took out an online subscription for Northern Irish official publications and so will no longer collect these in hard-copy format, resulting in a significant cost saving and a reduction in future storage requirements for official publications.

Detailed cataloguing of the Heaney Papers, donated in 2011 by the Nobel Laureate, was completed and the papers were made available in the Manuscripts Reading Room. Much of the cataloguing of the Leslie papers was also completed and records for this important estate and family collection can now be viewed in the online catalogue.

Collaborative projects continued: NLI and the NUI Maynooth Landed Estates project joined forces on the creation of catalogued records for select rentals and estate maps; and with the University of Notre Dame in Dublin, the NLI began work on detailed catalogue records for the papers of leading early-20th century political figures. While these collections are already catalogued at folder level, the creation of more detailed item-level records will facilitate access for researchers, as well as digitisation of the papers of historic figures including Padraig Pearse, Bulmer Hobson, Joseph Mary Plunkett, Maurice Moore and Patrick McCartan.

Over 200 item-level accessions were also catalogued including letters of Edmund Burke, James Connolly, Cardinal Paul Cullen, Charles Dickens, Florence Nightingale, Sean O'Casey, Ernest Shackleton, George Bernard Shaw, Jack Yeats, William Butler Yeats and many others.

Work continued on the first major review of the photographic collections since the opening of the National Photographic Archive in 1998. This project involves item-by-item checking of the holdings and the updating of collection management data to include detailed information on extent, content, format, condition and housing.

Family History

There were 6,050 recorded visits to the family history service in 2012. Dedicated NLI staff members were assisted by eight volunteers throughout the year and by professional genealogical advisors during the peak demand period between June-September. In August, a series of lunchtime lectures on aspects of Irish genealogy attracted over 850 people. In anticipation of The Gathering in 2013, the NLI also produced a new genealogy booklet: *Family History Research: Sources at the National Library of Ireland*.

Learning and Outreach, Exhibitions and Events

During 2012 the NLI continued to support and promote learning by developing work with existing partners and new collaborations as well as the core learning and outreach activities.

Lifelong Learning

In January work began on the NLI's contribution to the Bealtaine project "As I roved out", a collaboration with established partners, with funding from the Arts Council and supported by Age and Opportunity. Seven traditional singers composed new songs on the theme of travel including emigration, using the collections as the research basis for song themes. The songs were performed at the closing concert of the Bealtaine festival in May.

In February, the NLI participated in the Adult Learner's festival by running several "Introduction to the NLI" sessions, and throughout the year the NLI worked with the UCD Adult Education Department on the delivery of courses on Irish literary and historic themes. This successful collaborative model between academic and cultural institutions features as a case study on the website of the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement.

Two fee-based immersion days on James Joyce and *Ulysses* in June and September were very well attended. The NLI's work with St John of God's Cremona services continued with two series of workshops, one on photographs (for previous participants) and another on WB Yeats.

The Periodicals/Newspapers Department was involved in a number of outreach projects during 2012, including a series of visits from UCD Adult Education classes studying the 1916 Easter Rising and the War of Independence.

Primary/ Post-Primary/Third Level

During 2012, the NLI welcomed 463 primary school children on organised visits, involving a tour of the Yeats exhibition and a workshop on an exhibition theme. Tours of the Yeats exhibition and Introduction to the Library workshops aimed at Leaving Cert History students attracted a total 1,246 post-primary pupils, while 833 third level students participated in organised group visits.

The NLI was delighted to host the HTAI (History Teachers Association of Ireland) Leinster Branch Spring and Autumn seminars. The NLI also welcomed librarians from the JCSP (Junior Cert School Programme) school libraries and students for an author visit and, during the Dublin Writer's festival, invited primary school students to hear popular children's book author, Joe O'Brien.

Poetry Aloud, the poetry speaking competition for post-primary school organised with Poetry Ireland, received 1,600 entries from all over Ireland with a marked increase in the number of participants from Northern Ireland. A new four-month studentship provided onsite administrative support during the closing months of 2012 and enabled NLI staff to attend most of the regional heats.

Conferences

In May, the NLI marked the anniversary of the third Home Rule Bill by partnering with Hertford College, Oxford, and with the support of Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, to present a free conference entitled "The Third Home Rule Crisis: Centenary Perspectives". Keynote speakers Professor Roy Foster and Professor Ronan Fanning led a series of well-attended presentations offering multiple perspectives on the centenary.

The Newspaper and Periodical History Forum of Ireland (NPHFI) held its 5th annual conference in Kingston University, London in November. The NLI was represented by Director, Fiona Ross and NPHFI committee member Justin Furlong, who also represented the NLI on the Board of Northern Ireland Publications Resource (NIPR) and participated in a

review of NIPR. Inez Fletcher, Director of the Irish ISSN Centre, attended the ISSN Directors meeting in Lisbon in October.

Community Collecting

Europeana (Europe's digital library, museum and archive), in conjunction with Oxford University, is building the first ever online European archive of private stories and documents from World War One, in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of war in 1914, at www.europeana1914-1918.eu.

On 21 March a roadshow at the NLI attracted hundreds of people bringing contributions to this archive to be catalogued, digitised, and uploaded. From 10am to 7pm, visitors from all around Ireland shared photographs, letters, postcards, medals, coins, keepsakes, diaries, sketches, army discharge papers - and even helmets marked by shrapnel. The enthusiastic response from the public led the NLI to partner with the Hunt Museum in Limerick for a second roadshow in November where the NLI was supported by Dr Hugh Maguire and his team.

Exhibitions

The *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats* and *Discover Your National Library* exhibitions continued to attract large audiences throughout 2012. To coincide with "Dublin: City of Science 2012", the fourth phase of the interactive, multimedia *Discover* exhibition showcased Irish science and scientists: *Particles of the Past*, opened by Jimmy Deenihan, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, in February, featured a fascinating selection of science-related gems from the NLI collections.

In the National Photographic Archive (NPA) in Temple Bar, *Small Lives: Portraits of Irish Childhood*, the popular exhibition featuring depictions of Irish childhood from 1880-1970, continued until May. In June, the NLI hosted the DIT Graduate School of Photography end-of-year show. A third year of collaboration with the Phot Ireland Festival was celebrated with two exhibitions: *Living-Leaving* featuring works by David Monahan and Maurice Gunning in July, and *Sean Hillen: Photographs from the North of Ireland 1979 - 1990* in August and September.

Taking Stock: the National Photographic Archive from 1998, the NPA's first retrospective show, opened in October, showcasing a selection of the 3,000 images that the NPA has exhibited since first opening its doors in 1998.

Demand for the NLI collection of travelling exhibitions continues to grow with requests from public libraries, school libraries, county museums and local festivals. Among exhibitions seen around the country this year were *Ireland from Maps* in Kilkenny Castle, *The Past from the Press* in Kerry County Library and *Ulysses* in University College, Cork.

Events

Throughout the year, the NLI hosted a free programme of themed events. The Spring offering included the *Small Lives* lecture series with Dr Padraic Whyte of Trinity College, Dublin and Dr Sarah Anne Buckley from NUI Galway, and a series of lectures on science themes, by speakers including Peter Murray of the Crawford Gallery, Professor Jim Malone, Dr Catherine Cox and Dr Clara Cullen. As part of the One City One Book programme, events in April centred on Joyce's *Dubliners*, and in June, Bloomsday was celebrated by

over 1,000 visitors to a lecture by Senator David Norris, readings from *Ulysses* in the Reading Room and music in the Front Hall.

Autumn saw the start of a new lecture series “BiblioFiles”, which provides a platform for academics, writers and researchers who have undertaken research in the NLI’s collections to speak about their work and to highlight the range and extent of the NLI collections they have drawn upon. Participating speakers in 2012 included Dr Enda Delaney, Dr Ciara Meehan and Padraig Yeates.

The NLI continued its “Hedge School” partnership with *History Ireland*, and the series provided more lively and engaging debate, on topics including the War of Independence, Irish Army deserters and the Ulster Covenant.

From September-December, “The Kitchen Archive” series highlighted the wonderful collection of culinary manuscripts and recipe books within the NLI collections. Food historian Dorothy Cashman began the series, which included a panel discussion by food bloggers Donal Skehan, Imen McDonnell, Caroline Hennessy and Aoife Carrigy; an interview with food writer and founder of Ballymaloe Cookery School, Darina Allen; and a talk by chef Neven Maguire to conclude.

The NLI continued to develop the Children’s Events programme, hosting storytelling with drawing workshops and a “Coat of Arms” workshop in July and, during the October school mid-term break, a day-long programme of science-themed workshops for children, funded by “Dublin City of Science” and coinciding with the *Particles of the Past* exhibition.

Office of the Chief Herald

The functions of the Office of Chief Herald of Ireland are the researching, granting and confirming of Coats of Arms and other armorial insignia.

During 2012, nine grants and confirmations of arms were made by the Chief Herald. These included grants to three former Lords Mayor of Dublin: Emer Costello, Gerard Breen and Andrew Montague. Corporate grants included one to the new Faculty of Pain Medicine, part of the College of Anaesthetists (which had received its own grant in 1999). Arms were also granted to the Australian Catholic University and confirmed to the United Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. Almost half of the Grants or Confirmations of Arms made during 2012 were to persons living outside Ireland, continuing the Office’s long tradition of providing services to the diaspora.

In addition to work on arms applications, the staff of the Chief Herald’s Office responded to more than 500 enquiries, received via e-mail, letter or telephone call.

Preparation for the proposed digitisation of manuscript volumes from the GO Ms series got underway with the commencement of work on the creation of descriptive metadata at volume level.

Health and Safety

The NLI’s Health and Safety Committee met three times during 2012. Considerable progress was made on reviewing and updating the NLI’s Health and Safety documentation,

which is available on the NLI's intranet. A revised Health and Safety umbrella statement was circulated to staff in December 2012.

Staffing

Three members of staff retired in 2012 and a further two were seconded to other government departments. The permanent core staff headcount at the end of 2012 was 92 and the Full Time Equivalent was 84.8 after allowing for part-time working arrangements. The Library also had 3 contract graduate Studentships working on Research, Library and Archival projects and a conservation intern who is part funded by the Heritage Council of Ireland at year end. All had one year contracts. During 2012 the Library also had 19 unpaid work placements. The Library had 24 pensioners at the end of 2012.

Board Member Attendance

Board member	Attendance
David Harvey, Chairman	10
Diarmaid Ferriter	2*
Marian Fitzgibbon	10
Brian Halpin	10
Carol Maddock	8
Des Marnane	10
Pat McMahon	10
Susan Philips	10
Pat Quinn	8
Paul Rellis	3
Paul Shovlin	8
Robert Spoo	7

*Diarmaid Ferriter resigned from the Board in May 2012.

Expenses paid to Board members in 2012 was €3,493.81 and all related to travel.

Donors

Wendy Barrett

David Bedlow

Mary Broderick

Bernard Browne

Diarmuid Byrne

James Campbell

Patricia Keeley and Dermot Carney

Deirdre Carroll

Michael Carter

Tom Chinnery

Orla Church

Elizabeth Cleary

Cló Cill Rialaig

Comhar Críostaí

Contemporary Music Centre

Maurice Craig (estate of)

Crawford Art Gallery

Elizabeth Cuddy, Dublin UNESCO City of Literature, Dublin City Public Libraries

William Cumming

Joe Curtis

Department of Children and Youth Affairs

Desmond Dempsey, c/o David Carse

Prosper Devas

Fr. Kevin Doran

Noelle Dowling, Diocesan Archivist, Archdiocese of Dublin

Drogheda Borough Council

Dublin City Public Libraries

Dublin Neurological Institute (Prof. Tim Lynch)

Dublin Painting and Sketching Club

Dundalgan Press
Ronald Eustace (Eustace Families Association)
Paula Faller
John Farrell
James Fenning
Fianna Fáil
Neville Figgis
Joanna Finegan
Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick
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Collette Gill, of Bram Stoker Centenary
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Bryan Gormley
Stephen Griffin
Triona White Hamilton
Frank Hatton
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Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society
Don Kennedy
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Dr. Jarlath Killeen, TCD
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The Labour Party
Larkin Hedge School
John Lillis
Linen Hall Library
Olga Lockley
Gerard Long
Anna MacBride White (estate of)
Anthony McCan
Joe McCann
Michael McCone
Elizabeth McCluskey
Deirdre McDermott
Marie McDonnell
Angela and Des McFarlane
Mairead McGrath
Rhona McKay
Thomas J. McLoughlin
McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College
Tomasz Maczuga
Malachy Mangan
Margaret and May Mannion
Mary Meegan
Mike Milotte
Norman Morgan
Dr. Catherine Morris
Colette Mulligan
Paul Murphy, MEP
Drew Nelson
NIPR (Northern Ireland Publications Resource)
Kathryn Norris, TCD
Ó Cionnaith family

Thomas O'Connor
Colette O'Daly
David O'Donoghue
Pol Ó Duibhir
Colette O'Flaherty
Nuala O'Faolain (estate of)
Patricia O'Flanagan
Tom O'Keeffe
Richard Parish
Brian Phelan
Sandra Piggott
Siobhán Plunkett
Dominic Price
Project Arts Centre
Bryan Quigley
Ursula Redmond
Referendum Commission
Kathleen and Stephen Richards
Olive Rolstone
D C Rose
Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
Royal Irish Academy
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Sligo County Library
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Sara Smyth
Sarah Strong

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