

## **2008 in the National Library of Ireland**

### **Our Mission**

*To collect, preserve, promote and make accessible the documentary and intellectual records of the life of Ireland and to contribute to the provision of access to the larger universe of recorded knowledge.*

*Report of the Board of the National Library of Ireland*

*For the year ended 31 December 2008*

*To the Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism pursuant to section 36 of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997.*

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## **Chairman's Statement**

As Chairman of the Board of the National Library of Ireland I am pleased to present this, the Board's fourth annual report, which summarises significant developments in the Library in 2008.

The year marked a period of consolidation, with continuing investment in acquisitions and in digitisation and related IT infrastructural initiatives. Services continued to be developed and improved, and a wide range of events and activities took place in the Library.

Considerable progress was made during the year in achieving many of the goals and objectives set out in the Library's Strategic Plan 2008–2010. Among the achievements of note were the preparation of a comprehensive collection development policy and a draft policy in relation to education and outreach activities. Further policies are being formulated and will be completed in 2009.

The Board, in its Strategic Plan, had identified as an absolutely critical step in the long-term development of the Library the need to proceed with the development of the proposed storage facility to be constructed on site at the Library's Kildare Street premises. Previous annual reports have detailed the progress made in relation to this facility. Planning permission was granted in 2007 but the Board is most disappointed that no significant further progress was made in 2008; indeed, it is by no means certain that work will commence under the current planning permission.

The Board is most concerned by this lack of progress as it believes that the case for the construction of the storage building is self-evident. Without such a storage facility, the ability of the Library to safeguard appropriately the priceless material in its care will further decline. In addition, the new storage facility would represent a significant investment in Ireland's cultural infrastructure.

Two expert reports commissioned by the Library were received during 2008. The first confirmed the very poor condition of the Library's storage facilities and identified the range of risks associated with the Library's buildings generally. The second report graphically highlighted the impact which poor storage conditions have had, and continue to have, on the Library's collections.

It is clear to the Board that its ability to meet its statutory duty to care for the Library's collections is now severely compromised. During 2009 the Board will work with management to ensure that risks to the collections are reduced though, in reality, significant risks will remain and indeed the possibility of a major catastrophe involving the Library's collections cannot be ruled out. The loss to the national heritage from such a catastrophe would be beyond measure.

The announcement by the Minister for Finance in his Budget 2009 speech on 15 October

2008 that the National Archives of Ireland and the Irish Manuscripts Commission are to be merged into the National Library of Ireland has been noted by the Board. While the Board was not consulted in regard to the decision, it believes that the newly merged entity could, in time, provide a considerably enhanced research service to users and could be a driving force for the provision of a world-class national research and information service in the digital era. It also believes that the creation of the new body will require very considerable planning, with many significant challenges to be addressed including, but not limited to, addressing storage requirements in respect of the heritage material that would be under the control of a combined entity.

The Board is fully cognisant of the fact that the next few years will be challenging in the light of the state of the country's public finances; however, it is confident that the Library will continue to operate in an efficient and effective manner, providing services of the highest quality and offering a rewarding experience for all visitors.

The term of office as Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism of Mr Seamus Brennan TD ended in May 2008. Sadly, Mr Brennan died in July 2008. The Board would like to record its appreciation for the support it received from Mr Brennan during his short time as Minister. The Board wishes the incoming Minister Mr Martin Cullen TD every success in his new position and we look forward to working with him in the years to come. Sadly, the death occurred during the year of Board member Mr Jim O'Shea, a former member of the Library's Council of Trustees. We would like to express our sympathy to his family.

Finally, on behalf of the Board I would like to express our gratitude to the Director, Aongus Ó hAonghusa, and the staff of the Library for all of their hard work, dedication and commitment during the year.

## Director's Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the Annual Report of the Board of the National Library of Ireland for 2008. This report documents the key activities of the organisation during the year.

The period under review proved to be very busy across virtually all areas of activity. Considerable progress was made on the implementation of the Library's Strategic Plan 2008–2010. Important developments were recorded under most of the areas identified in the plan, and policies are being formulated in relation to other key areas. A noteworthy achievement was the completion of the Library's first Collection Development Policy.

Further progress was made on developing the Library as a digital library, and a number of important digitisation projects are now at an advanced stage. These include an in-house project to digitise the Library's photographic glass plate collection and a separate project to digitise the *Hayes Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation*. Additional improvements were made to services and facilities for Library users.

The Library continues to attract members of the public in increasing numbers. One area in particular, our flagship exhibition *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats* recorded significantly higher visitor numbers during 2008. Events associated with the exhibition provided an opportunity for the public to develop their interest in Yeats and the Library again hosted a special programme of activities to mark Yeats' birthday in June. A second exhibition *Strangers to Citizens: the Irish in Europe*, which opened in the new exhibition space in 2/3 Kildare Street, also provides a range of learning opportunities for the public. The National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar continues to attract substantial visitor numbers to each of its exhibitions. The *Library Late* series of one-on-one interviews with well-known authors proved to be very popular again in 2008 with the thematic approach adopted providing a number of stimulating group discussions on topical themes. For the third time since the very popular POETRY ALOUD competition was launched in 2006, we hosted the finals of this event, which were held in the Library on 28 November.

Significant work was undertaken during the year in relation to assessing the state of the Library's buildings with particular reference to the range of building-related risks facing the organisation and its collections, and the organisations' level of readiness in the event of a disaster. To this end two major consultancies were completed. One was a risk assessment of the Library's buildings; it highlighted clearly the inadequacy of the buildings as a repository of documentary material. The second survey addressed the state of the collections from a conservation perspective and confirmed that the collections are in a very poor condition. These expert reports support the case that we have made over a long period of time that a sustainable long-term solution must be found for the Library's storage needs. While planning permission has been obtained for a new storage facility to be constructed on the Kildare Street site, no progress has been made in relation to the

development itself. The absence of a storage facility that meets recognised standards impacts negatively on the collection and severely hinders the Library's ability to improve and develop services. In truth, the existing storage situation has reached a critical stage, and the organisation's ability to store material and accept new material is increasingly being called into question. The rate of deterioration of the collections is no longer acceptable. While Library staff make valiant efforts to protect the material in their care, the reality is that many parts of the collection are now at grave risk.

Collection development remains at the core of Library activity. Among acquisition highlights during the year were the donation by the National Lesbian and Gay Federation of the Irish Queer Archive; the acquisition in late 2008 of an archive of literary papers of the poet John Montague; the donation by Roddy Doyle, 1993 Man Booker Prize winner, of his literary papers; the acquisition of the Rex Roberts photographic archive, the Pádraig O'Neill collection of Irish traditional music scores, and the literary papers of poets Gerard Donovan and Greg Delanty, and the donation by the Field Day Theatre Company of its archive.

Considerable progress was made throughout the year in further developing the organisation, with particular emphasis placed on the formulation and rolling out of a training programme for Library staff. Emphasis was also placed on the development of the Library's finance and human resources functions. A comprehensive health and safety statement was prepared, structures were established and appropriate systems were implemented in this area.

In conclusion, I wish to record my gratitude and appreciation to the Library staff for another year of excellent service and achievement. My particular thanks are due to the Chairman of the Library Board Mr Gerard Danaher SC and all Board members for their support throughout the year.

## Overview 2008

This section of the report provides an overview of key developments across the Library's main areas of activity. It includes an update on progress in relation to the implementation of each of the aims and objectives set out in the Strategic Plan 2008–2010 and the related three-year operational plan.

### Developing the Collections

The Library collects material through legal deposit, purchase and donation. 2008 was an important year in terms of developing the Library's collections, with a number of headline additions including:

- A collection of Dolmen Press books, pamphlets, catalogues and ephemera;
- A first edition of *Finnegans Wake*;
- The archive of poet John Montague;
- The Roddy Doyle literary papers;
- The papers of the nationalist politician John Sweetman;
- The Pádraig O'Neill collection of Irish traditional music from the period 1780-1800;
- The donation by the Field Day Theatre Company of its archive;
- The donation by the National Lesbian and Gay Federation of the Irish Queer Archive;
- The Leonora (Lona) Moran Archive;
- The Terry Willers Cartoon Collection;
- A collection of drawings of ships by Murrough V O'Brien; and
- The Rex Roberts photographic archive.

Details of significant additions by collection area are set out below.

### Department of Manuscripts

The Library purchased a substantial archive of literary works from John Montague who is acknowledged as one of Ireland's foremost contemporary poets. The archive includes manuscript and typescript drafts of his poetry dating mainly from 1987 onwards as well as a significant amount of his pre-1987 work. Also included are his working library and an extensive collection of correspondence with publishers, editors, academics, fellow writers and poets including Samuel Beckett, Seamus Heaney, Saul Bellow and Ted Hughes.

The Library acquired by way of donation the literary papers of the distinguished writer and winner of the 1993 Man Booker Prize, Roddy Doyle. Although best known as a novelist, he is also a short story writer, dramatist, screenplay writer and the author of a number of works for children. The Roddy Doyle Archive comprises drafts and research material ranging from his earliest published fictional work, *The Commitments*, to his latest novel, *Paula Spencer*, (winner of the Kerry Group 2007 Irish Fiction Prize). One of the most interesting aspects of the archive is the variety of early and unpublished works it



contains. These include his first and unpublished novel, *Your Granny is a Hunger Striker*, as well as examples of some of his earliest works such as his contributions to University College Dublin student publications. The early material complements Doyle's later better-known works and shows his development as a writer.

The papers of John Sweetman (1844-1936), nationalist politician and reformer, acquired by the Library in 2008 contains material relating to his involvement in the Land League, the Irish Tenants' Association, the Gaelic League, the Irish Parliamentary Party and Sinn Féin; it also includes his correspondence with Arthur Griffith about the foundation and financing of the latter.

Another acquisition during the year was the Pádraig O'Neill Collection comprising the earliest surviving example of Irish traditional music scores in manuscript form. They were collected and transcribed by Pádraig O'Neill (1763-1832), a tenant farmer, poet and piper from Co Tipperary.

We were very pleased to receive the donation by the Field Day Theatre Company of its archive. Founded in 1980 by playwright Brian Friel and actor Stephen Rea, the theatre company has staged numerous important productions including *Translations* by Brian Friel (1980), Derek Mahon's *High Time* (1984) and Seamus Heaney's *The Cure at Troy* (1990). In 1983, Field Day also became a publishing company; one of its most celebrated publications is *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing* edited by Seamus Deane (1991). The archive acquired by the Library covers all aspects of the company's activities and includes correspondence, publication proofs, theatre scripts and design material as well as a large number of photographs.

The Irish Queer Archive (Cartlann Aerach na hÉireann), which was donated to the Library by the National Lesbian and Gay Federation, contains the most comprehensive collection of material for the study of homosexuality in Ireland. Included are a large number of periodicals, reference books, photographs, DVDs, personal journals and correspondence as well as administrative and financial records of the National Lesbian and Gay Federation, Lesbians Organising Together, the Dublin Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, and the Women's Education Research and Resource Centre.

The manuscript map collections were supplemented by the purchase of four unique pre-Ordnance Survey hand-coloured cartographic works relating to the river Suir. Created by John Killaly and David Aher, who were among the foremost cartographers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the maps provide a unique insight into what it would have been like to navigate the river in the early 1800s. Clearly depicted are landscape markers such as landlord holdings, mills, castles and archaeological features, as well as information on Spring tides and navigational hazards including weirs and gravel banks.

The three extensive bound volumes of manuscript estate atlases acquired by the Library relate to the Earl of Arran, Donegal; Thomas Wyse of Waterford, and the Fitzmaurices, Lords of Kerry. The atlases contain full reference listings of tenants and acreage.

Other estate maps purchased during the year relate to lands at Ballincor, Co Offaly (1699); Ballyteigue, Co Wexford (1792), and Cruisetown, Co Meath (18<sup>th</sup> century).

In addition to the foregoing, the Library acquired a small collection of papers relating to Thomas Ashe including his account of being force-fed in Mountjoy Prison, where he later died. Other acquisitions included papers of Joseph McGrath relating to the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes, which he founded in 1930; a journal recording the daily experience of a Merrion Square resident during the 1916 Rising; a collection of hand-drawn operational plans of Kilmainham and Mountjoy Jails prepared by the Dublin Brigade (IRA) in 1921; a small collection of original Cunard office documents relating to the voyage of the *Lusitania* in 1915; the literary papers of Greg Delanty, and the archive of Townhouse Publishers. The Library also acquired the papers of the writer Gerard Donovan, including correspondence and drafts of his work, *Schopenhauer's Telescope*, *Doctor Salt*, *Julius Winsome*, *The Lighthouse* and *Country of the Grand*.

### **Department of Printed and Visual Collections**

#### **▪ Printed Books**

Among the many donations received during the year was a further gift of books dealing with the presence of the Irish in America from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, donated by Mr Stephen Griffin, thus continuing his generous support for the Library.

The Library is again grateful to the Ireland Literature Exchange, which provides financial support for the translation of Irish literature into foreign languages, for a donation of works by Irish authors, translated into a various European languages.

We acknowledge with gratitude the donation, by Mr Daniel Fromont, of a remarkably comprehensive collection of books by Rosscarbery-born novelist Margaret Wolfe Hungerford (1852-1897). The collection, consisting of over two hundred items, contains most of Mrs Hungerford's novels, some represented in several editions, and also some translations. The donation substantially increases the Library's holdings of the output of this prolific author of popular romantic fiction.

We were also very pleased to acquire a collection of material relating to the Dolmen Press comprising almost 700 items. Included are books and pamphlets (amongst which are some limited editions), catalogues and ephemera as well as a number of items designed by Liam Miller, the founder of Dolmen Press, for other publishing houses.

The purchase of a hitherto unrecorded first edition advance state of Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*, (Faber & Faber, London, 1939), was a significant addition to the Library's collections. This copy, in printed paper boards, with the typographic design used on the dust jacket of the first trade edition, was given to the German scholar and critic Ernst T Curtius by TS Eliot in April 1939.

The Library purchased an extensive collection of publications by and about the archivist and poet Sir Samuel Ferguson (1810-1886). Born in Belfast, Sir Samuel Ferguson was Deputy Keeper of the Public Records from 1867, and President of the Royal Irish

Academy from 1882, until his death. The collection, of around 100 items, contains his major works, including inscribed copies of *Lays of the Western Gael* (1865), *Congal* (1872), and *Poems* (1880), as well as a comprehensive collection of periodical contributions, proof copies of some of his articles, and a number of books and pamphlets relating to his life and work.

#### ▪ **Prints and Drawings**

The Leonora (Lona) Moran Archive, which was acquired during the course of the year, comprises studio plans and blueprints, costume sketches, drawings, production photographs, notebooks, theatre programmes and other material assembled by the designer Leonora Moran who died in 2007. Included are examples of her work for many landmark RTÉ productions – her costume design for the actor Peter O’Toole who played Jim Larkin in *Strumpet City*, her designs for the 1916-1966 commemorative series *On Behalf of the Provisional Government*, *The Branching Tree* (an anthology of Irish drama featuring Siobhan McKenna), *Smock Alley* (a Swift tercentenary production), and many other productions. In addition to working for RTÉ, Leonora Moran also worked as a stage designer, and the archive includes a significant amount of material relating to her design work for the Gate and other theatres.

Another acquisition was the Terry Willers Cartoon Collection comprising more than 300 original drawings by Terry Willers. The collection includes work that appeared in the *Evening Herald* in the early 1990s on topics ranging from entertainment and sport to economics, social issues and politics, and features some noteworthy cartoons of political figures such as Bertie Ahern, Albert Reynolds, Charles Haughey, Garret FitzGerald, Dick Spring, John Major and Peter Brooke.

A major purchase during the year was a painting by Maud Gonne, a portrait of a Gaelic queen or goddess, which she gave to WB Yeats in 1898. Gonne’s letters to Yeats in the late 1890s contain references to her drawings and paintings of figures from Gaelic history and mythology. She was particularly interested in Queen Maeve and in a letter to Yeats in November 1898 she wrote: ‘I shall send you very soon a drawing I have made of her [Maeve] which I think you will like’. The portrait acquired by the Library may be related to the drawing referred to in that letter.

Two original illustrations by Jack B Yeats for the much-loved children’s book *The Turf-cutter’s Donkey* by Patricia Lynch (1898-1972) were another welcome addition to the collections. Developing the Library’s collection of original illustrations for children’s books is a key collection development objective. Of course, the acquisition of these illustrations also further complements holdings in the Department of Manuscripts where the personal papers of Patricia Lynch are held.

A unique collection of hand watercoloured drawings of ships by Murrough V OBrien was presented to the Library on Mr OBrien’s behalf by Mrs Murrough V OBrien and the couple’s four children. Comprising some some 900 sheets, with several ships per sheet, they were drawn by Murrough V OBrien at Foynes Island, Co Limerick between 1971 and

2000. The collection constitutes a unique visual record of shipping in the port of Foynes, one of Ireland's most important ports, through three decades of development and change.

- **Ephemera**

The Library's collection of ephemera was significantly enhanced by the acquisition of an interesting album of Repeal Association ephemera. The album was compiled by Thomas Matthew Ray, Secretary of the Association and presented to a Miss Seymour in 1871. TM Ray (1801-1881) was a friend of Daniel O'Connell's and his associate in the Catholic Association and, later, in the Repeal Association. The album contains various membership and other cards, many dated or inscribed, as well as other printed ephemera. It complements the TM Ray material in the Prints and Drawings collection, which includes two albums of portraits, cartoons and other prints relating to Daniel O'Connell.

During May and June 2008, Library staff collected a range of materials relating to the Lisbon Treaty Referendum campaign, including posters, leaflets, flyers, information booklets and other ephemera. Donations of Referendum material were also sought and secured from political parties, elected representatives and various campaigning organisations.

- **Music**

The Library's music collections were expanded through the donation of the papers of Charles Acton who was music critic of *The Irish Times* for over 30 years. The archive, which was presented to the Library by Mrs Carol Acton, consists of files of concert reviews from 1955 to 1958, volumes of concert reviews in cuttings books covering the period 1959 to 1970, and guard books of concert reviews from 1971 to 1988. It also contains a complete set of Charles Acton's articles for *The Irish Times*, a large volume of letters to the newspaper's editor and copies of reviews written by deputy music critics. Also included are letters on musical matters written by Charles Acton between 1956 and 1988, typescripts of articles, as well as the minutes of organisations in which he was involved, including the Music Association of Ireland and Foras Éireann. The archive complements the Library's existing collection of Acton material.

Significant additions to the Library's manuscript music collection included the Edith Kirkwood Archive and a Michele Esposito manuscript score.

- **Periodicals and Newspapers**

During 2008, significant additions were made to the Library's collections of periodicals and newspapers. These included 13 copies of *The Wexford Herald* (1819-1822), which were generously donated by Ms Jenny Keogh and Ms Suzanne Marr; a collection of over 150 issues of the *Waterford Mirror* (1805-1806); a bound set, in excellent condition, comprising an almost complete run of *The Nation* newspaper (1842-1888), and copies of the *Southern Cross* (Buenos Aires) newspaper on microfilm covering the period 1925-2006.

The Library subscribed to two British Library databases, the 19<sup>th</sup> century British Library Newspapers (including the *Freemans Journal* and the *Belfast Newsletter*) and the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century Burney Collection.

▪ **Photographs (National Photographic Archive)**

Significant additions to the Library's photographic collections included the Rex Roberts archive. This collection comprises approximately 50,000 images ranging from aerial and industrial photographs to portraits, the work of Rex Roberts who ran a commercial studio in Dublin between 1961 and 2005. Another 2008 acquisition, the Mary Sheehan URBIS MODO (*city just now*) collection, comprises 15 large exhibition quality prints (with associated digital images) taken by photographer Donal Sheehan who documented central Dublin at night during the period 1998-2008. Donal Sheehan was subsequently awarded the Curtin O'Donoghue Photographic Prize by the Royal Hibernian Academy in 2008.

Also acquired by way of donation was an important album containing photographs by Edward King Tenison, the pioneering 19<sup>th</sup> century photographer who lived with his wife Louisa, also a celebrated amateur photographer, at Kilronan Castle in Co Roscommon. The album, which complements other Tenison material in the National Photographic Archive's collection, was donated by Andrew Wilson.

An album of 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs of Glenart Castle, Co Wicklow showing the interior and exterior of the castle, the castle gardens and surrounding countryside, in addition to portraits of Lord and Lady Carysfort, was also acquired during the year.

## **Developing a quality service for Library readers and visitors**

### **Reader Services**

Throughout 2008, we continued to implement improvements in our public services – an area identified as a key priority for the Library in both the Strategic Plan 2008–2010 and the related three-year operational plan.

In line with our commitment to improving access for users, we opened all services to the public on the Tuesday after Easter and opened our two major Kildare Street exhibitions to the public for three days during the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

An important development in the reprographic services area in 2008 was the introduction of self-service photocopying from the printed collection in the Main Reading Room. Guidelines addressing issues such as copyright, as well as the types of material that can be copied, were also prepared. The service was further enhanced by the introduction of self-service photography by readers who wish to use digital cameras to photograph both printed and manuscript material. This has resulted in improving readers' access to fast, high-quality, value-for-money copies, and it has also significantly reduced the handling of Library material. Equipment for the provision of self-service photocopying in the Department of Manuscripts was purchased during the year; this equipment will become fully operational in 2009.

We introduced self-service lockers to provide readers and Library visitors with ease of access to secure storage for bags, coats and other items. We also improved external and internal signage to facilitate readers' movements through various areas of the Library; this initiative was further enhanced by the installation of an information screen in the front hall in 2008.

### **Digitisation and systems developments**

Work is underway on the implementation of a new Library Management System which will provide a state-of-the-art electronic interface between the Library and its users. In addition to providing a platform to support the Library's electronic catalogues and digital holdings, it will enhance services to users through the replacement of paper-based request systems and self-registration for readers. Registered readers will also be able to consult the Library's extensive holding of online resources and order material remotely.

Much of the work that the Library carried out during 2008 was focused on preparing for the introduction of the system in 2009. By December 2008 both the transfer of catalogue records and the testing of data were almost complete. In addition, information on the functional requirements for all Library activity was compiled; these requirements will be analysed and agreed before the system is finally introduced. When completed, the new integrated catalogue will facilitate easier and more direct access to the Library's collections.

### **Digitising bibliographical sources**

Work continued in 2008 on the development of a major project to digitise the source material used in the production of the Library's best-known bibliographical resources, *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation*, and *Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation: Articles in Irish Periodicals*. The digitised data also includes additional entries relating to manuscripts thus ensuring that the new resource will result in the availability online of all the Library's major manuscript catalogues.

We expect to launch a pilot version of the resource in 2009. When the project is completed, it will mean that a major online guide to Irish bibliographical resources will be freely available for consultation on the Library's website.

### **Digitising photographs**

During 2008, work continued on the project to digitise the photographic glass plate negatives held in the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar. These were considered a priority due to factors such as the physical fragility of the originals, the importance of improving access, and high user demand. The project is both a major preservation initiative and a means of transforming access by the public to the collections. The digitised images will be made available on a phased basis during 2009.

### **The European Library**

The European Library website is a portal that enables visitors to search the catalogues of all national libraries in Europe and is an initiative of the Conference of European National Libraries (CENL). Between September 2006 and February 2008, the Library

participated in the European Digital Library project and, as a result, the Library's entire online catalogue, including digital images from its visual collections, is now fully searchable from the European Library site [www.theeuropeanlibrary.org](http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org).

### **Collecting Digital Objects**

Acknowledging the importance of the Internet, the Library commissioned a comprehensive crawl of Irish websites in 2007 from the Internet Archive, San Francisco. In 2008, we commissioned a further crawl of all sites of Irish interest captured by the Internet Archive in the years 2000 to 2006. This material will be maintained for archival purposes in the first instance pending completion of consideration of copyright and privacy issues in the context of section 65 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 as amended by section 199 of Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000.

### **Website**

The Library's new website, which was launched in 2007, became fully bi-lingual in early 2008. During 2008 the website received a total of 325,425 hits.

### **Office of the Chief Herald**

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

During 2008 a total of 17 grants of arms were signed and sealed by the Chief Herald. Among these personal and corporate grants were patents of arms for the newly ordained Bishop of Ferns, for Tramore Town Council, and for the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Some 350 people made a personal visit to the Office; these included the newly appointed Lord Lyon (the Scottish equivalent to the Chief Herald of Ireland), Mr David Sellar, and the Belgian Ambassador to Ireland, M Leopold Carrewyn.

In order to enhance the Office's online presence and improve the availability of electronic finding aids, recent grants of arms as well as completed sections of the ongoing 'back register' project can now be viewed on the Library's website.

The Office's application forms for coats of arms were updated, redesigned, and copies were made available to Arms applicants. Work also continued on the production of the new brochure on How to Apply for a Grant of Arms.

An exemplification of Arms was prepared on vellum for presentation to Ms Julia Craig-McFeely, who advised the Library on the design and implementation of its digital programme. The Arms had been granted to her grandfather in 1956 by the then Chief Herald, Mr Gerard Slevin.

In June, Mr Fergus Gillespie, the Chief Herald, represented the Office at the International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences held in Quebec. During the year, the Chief Herald delivered a number of lectures organised by bodies including the Rotary Club of Ireland and the Central Catholic Library.

### **Irish ISSN Centre**

The Irish ISSN Centre is responsible for allocating ISSNs (International Standard Serial Numbers) to all serial publications published in the Republic of Ireland, managing requests for ISSNs, and transmitting the data to the international ISSN database. The Centre has responsibility for over 5,000 records.

In 2008, 122 new ISSNs were assigned and there were 1,585 contacts with publishers or prospective serials publishers. This contact with publishers is often a valuable opportunity to remind them of the Library's important role as a Legal Deposit library.

### **Exhibition and Outreach**

The Library's programme of activities for the public, including two major exhibitions in the Kildare Street complex, continued throughout the year, with the award-winning exhibition 'Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats' attracting significant numbers of visitors. The exhibition *Strangers to Citizens*, which focuses on Irish migration to continental Europe from 1600-1800 and was the Library's contribution to the Louvain 400 programme, was also a major visitor attraction.

During the year, we launched an online edition version of the Yeats exhibition on the Library's website. Visitors can do a virtual 'walk through' the exhibition space and can also navigate the exhibition by means of a list of contents.

The Yeats exhibition won several accolades in 2008, including the Irish Digital Media Awards 'Best Business to Consumer Innovation Award'; it was shortlisted in the 'Best eLearning Product or Course' of the Irish Digital Media Awards, and it won second place in the Grand Prix category at the 2008 ceremony. The *My Yeats* exhibition trail guide for children received a commendation in the 'Visual Communications: Promotional Literature/Publications' category at the 2008 Institute of Irish Designers Awards, while the *Strangers to Citizens* exhibition was shortlisted in the 'Commercial Interior and Exhibition Design' category at this event. The online version of the Yeats exhibition, which was launched in May 2008, has been shortlisted for the 2009 eGovernment Awards in the 'Education Ireland' category.

The 2008 *Summer's Wreath* programme again celebrated William Butler Yeats' legacy with a series of events centred around the poet's birthday in June. This featured lunchtime readings and reflections on Yeats' poetry and drama by leading actors, writers and film makers including Patrick Bergin, Barry McGovern, Don Wycherley, Brian Munn, Fiona Shaw, John Banville, Mary Kenny, Bruce Arnold and Alan Gilsenan. The programme also featured a one-day immersion course on Yeats given by university lecturer Gerard Dineen, which attracted great public interest. Another highlight was a panel discussion on the topic: 'Poet on Poet' with participants including Ian Duhig, Dr



Carrie Etter and Matthew Sweeney. A panel discussion on Yeats' poetry was broadcast live on RTÉ Radio 1 on 24 June.

Other events associated with the Yeats exhibition included Naoise Productions' presentation in February of a series of performances of *Deirdre's Sorrows: Two Versions*, two plays written by William Butler Yeats and Ulick O'Connor respectively. In March, the Library hosted a series of free lunchtime screenings of three films adapted from the original Yeats plays *The Cat and the Moon*, *Calvary*, and *The Countess Cathleen*. The films were produced by UK-based actor Patrick Bergin's company Amergin Productions and featured performances by Patrick Bergin as well as Irish actors Denis Conway, Pat Kinnevene and Caitríona Ní Mhurchú. Also associated with the Yeats exhibition was a series of performances in November by the Dublin Lyric Players of two of Yeats' finest dramatic works *Oedipus Rex* and *Oedipus at Colonus*.

During 2008, the highly successful *Library Late* series of public interviews with writers covered three themes related to the Library's collection strengths. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of NEWSPLAN Ireland – a project which combines the twin aims of enhancing the preservation of newspapers with improving access to this valuable national resource – the *Library Late* Spring season focused on newspapers and journalism. Included in the series were an interview with Norwegian journalist and writer Asne Seierstad; a panel discussion on the topic: 'Can Newspapers Survive?' with participants including John Bowman, Gerard Colleran, James Cridland, Roy Greenslade, Noirín Hegarty, Fintan O'Toole and Gerard O'Regan, and a panel discussion: 'Foreign Correspondents – an endangered species?' with Myles Dungan, Lara Marlowe, Marion McKeone and Richard Downes. The Summer series looked at travel writing, and featured interviews with Peter Somerville-Large and Dervla Murphy as well as a panel discussion: 'The History and Art of Travel Writing' with Myles Dungan, Paul Clements, Dr Joachim Fischer and Manchán Magan. The Autumn/Winter season looked at autobiography and memoir, and featured interviews with Stella Tillyard, Tim Pat Coogan, Jonathan Powell and Brian Keenan.

Ireland Literature Exchange (ILE) is the national agency for the promotion of Irish literature abroad. This year as part of a new collaboration with ILE, the Library mounted an exhibition of a selection of ILE titles. The collaboration also featured interviews with translators on the works of John McGahern, Claire Keegan and Ciaran Carson into Spanish, Slovenian and Polish respectively.

The annual poetry speaking competition, POETRY ALOUD, which is open to all post-primary students on the island of Ireland, is organised by the Library in association with Poetry Ireland. The 2008 competition attracted record levels of interest. The judging panel for the competition finals, which took place in the Library, were the Director of Poetry Ireland, Joseph Woods; storyteller Liz Weir, and consultant researcher and scholar, Dr Stacey Herbert. The Overall Winner and winner of the Senior Category was Samuel McGovern, St Andrew's College, Dublin. The other winners were Liam O'Brien, Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry, Co Tipperary (Junior Category) and James

Peters, St John the Baptist Community School, Hospital, Co Limerick (Intermediate Category).

We succeeded in attracting record numbers of visitors to the Library for the annual Culture Night event in September. The programme for the event included tours of the Yeats exhibition as well as a special screening of the Lumière Brothers films in Ireland (by kind permission of the Association Frères Lumière) from the Liam O'Leary Archive. The introduction to the screening was given by Irish film history expert Bob Monks.

In December, a selection of drawings from the Library's extensive collection of work by the artist and children's illustrator, PJ Lynch was put on display. The same month, at an event hosted by Children's Books Ireland in association with the National Library of Ireland and Walker Books, PJ Lynch was interviewed by Dr Pat Donlon, a former Director of the National Library of Ireland and an authority on Irish children's books.

A series of successful collaborations with other organisations resulted in a number of publications during the year. These included a new edition of Jules Verne's Irish novel *The Extraordinary Adventures of Foundling Mick* which was published by the Library in association with the Royal Irish Academy, and a new annual publication, the *Dublin James Joyce Journal* which was launched by the Library in association with the UCD James Joyce Centre. The first Irish journal wholly devoted to the writing of Joyce, it features essays on Joyce that especially concentrate on archival, historical and textual research, and draw on the Library's rich resources.

2008 saw the publication of the companion book to the *Strangers to Citizens* exhibition. Written by Dr Mary Ann Lyons and Dr Thomas O'Connor, it presents the story of Irish political, economic and religious refugees in Europe and further afield in earlier centuries, and shows how they integrated with their host societies. A six-part lecture series to accompany the exhibition also got underway during 2008. It began with lectures given by Dr Dagmar Ó Riain-Raedel and Dr Samuel Fannin. The series will continue with an additional four lectures in 2009.

In order to publicise the Library's extensive collection of printed music scores, celebrated pianist Dr Una Hunt organised two musical series in association with the Library. The series began with Opera Theatre Company's staging of two 'Gems of Irish Opera' concerts featuring excerpts from operas by Irish composers William Vincent Wallace, Robert O'Dwyer, Charles Villiers Stanford and Michael William Balfe. We also collaborated with Dr Hunt on *My Gentle Harp*, a series of concerts to celebrate 200 years of Thomas Moore's Irish Melodies.

In March, the Library hosted the annual Library Ireland Week, the event was launched on 28 February by author Joe O'Connor. This event is coordinated nationally by the Library Association of Ireland.

In April, as part of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, TIARA (The Irish Ancestral Research Association) in conjunction with the Library sponsored a series of four family

history lectures – all dealing with topics related to lesser-used records dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Bloomsday in June saw the Library host a series of on-site screenings of Alan Gilson's three films on Joyce and *Ulysses*. In July we hosted the launch of the Dublin Joyce Summer School, which is organised by University College Dublin in conjunction with the Library, Boston College-Ireland, and the James Joyce Centre, Dublin. This year, as in previous years, we also organised a series of workshops as part of the Summer School programme. The workshops were led by experts who specialise in the material and historical reading of Joyce's works.

The Library was delighted to host three loan exhibitions during the year. These included *Museums Matter – Accessing Ireland's Heritage*, a touring exhibition from the Irish Museums Association which was launched in the Library by Mr Martin Cullen TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism; *James Bouchier – a life dedicated to Bulgaria*, a photographic exhibition about the Irish journalist and political activist James David Bouchier (1850–1920) which was loaned to the Library by the Bulgarian Embassy, and *This Glittering Library*, an exhibition to mark the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Edward Worth Library, Dublin.

In the National Photographic Archive (NPA), the exhibition year began with the continued showing of *In Search of Ireland, 1913*, an exhibition of the first ever colour photographs taken in Ireland, loaned by the Musée Albert Kahn in Paris. This was followed by *Beyond the Pale*, an exhibition of photographs primarily from the Lawrence Collection 1865–1914, which focused on Irish cities outside the Pale – specifically Waterford, Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick, Derry and Belfast. It ran from February to June 2008 and featured many images taken from the glass plate collection, which the Library is currently digitising. In June the NPA hosted the annual DIT Graduate exhibition. It was followed later the same month by *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*, an exhibition based on transport and travel as documented in the Library's photographic collections. The final exhibition of the year, *A Bird's Eye View of Ireland*, featured aerial photographs providing a unique perspective on the landscape and development of 20<sup>th</sup> century Ireland and also providing a record of several significant environmental, archaeological, social and industrial events in the nation's history.

During 2008, as in previous years, NPA exhibitions continued to be shown at other venues in Ireland and abroad. This initiative is important in terms of promoting the Library's collections as well as developing links with regional venues and host institutions overseas. In early 2008, the *Island Life* exhibition continued in the Museum of Country Life in Castlebar. From there, it moved to the National University of Ireland, Galway and, after that, to the Foras Féile Festival in Belmullet, Co Mayo; it enjoyed a very successful run in all three locations. To mark the collaboration between the National Archives of Ireland and Library and Archives Canada on the digitisation of the Irish censuses of 1901 and 1911, the NPA's popular *Dubliners* exhibition travelled to Ontario, where it was shown in the Library and Archives Canada building in Ottawa.

## Conservation

The Library continued its conservation activities in 2008. During the year the Library completed a Preservation Assessment Survey of the Library's collection under the guidance of the UK-based National Preservation Office (NPO). Conservation section staff worked with Harwell Document Recovery Services and Continuum Ltd on the development of the Salvage Plan for the Library in the event of a disaster. See section Buildings and Infrastructure and Strategic Objective 1.3 for further details.

A range of important conservation treatment projects continued during the year. These included:

- the conservation of 306 prints items from the collection of 3000 Irish Portraits;

Conservation of 20 items from a recently acquired collection of unique Limerick newspapers dating from the period 1783 to 1827; treatments included extensive surface cleaning, aqueous treatment and resizing, as well as full loss and tear repair;

- surface cleaning, wrapping and labeling of some 450 volumes of printed maps prior to their dispatch to an off-site storage location;
- full encapsulation of a total of 46 of the Phillips manuscript maps and rehousing of a further 30 of these maps;
- re-housing of five items from the Inchiquin papers, and
- construction of plastazote mounts to ensure the safety of seals in the Inchiquin papers and the re-housing of seal fragments.

Conservation work was begun on 183 items from the Hogan/Wilson photographic collection. Photographic albums and prints were prepared and mounted for a series of exhibitions in the National Photographic Archive (NPA) in Temple Bar. Various items from the Manuscript and Printed and Visual collections were prepared for exhibition loan to institutions in Ireland and overseas, including the Royal Irish Academy and the National Museum of Australia.

During the year, Conservation staff prepared and installed seven exhibitions in the Library's Main Hall. They also continued to monitor and maintain the displays in the *Yeats* exhibition and the *Strangers to Citizens* exhibition.

An important asset to conservation was the installation of a Kasemake box-cutting machine, with staff being trained in the operation and maintenance of the machine. Beginning in late 2008, 4,520 conservation boxes were made using this machine. In addition 1,430 manuscript volumes and Librarian's Office books were measured for custom-phase boxes, and 306 custom-phase boxes for the Larcom volumes collection were made and labelled.

The Delmas Conservation Bindery continued to carry out work for the Prints and Drawings Section during the year. Final repairs to and mounting of the Stapleton Collection was completed in 2008. In addition, 122 portraits of the Duke of Wellington were conserved and housed.

New guidelines for self-service photography and scanning in the Library's reading rooms were developed and two book cradles were installed which facilitate the safe photography of fragile books and volumes in the Library's new digital studio.

The Library continued its Heritage Council/Library Conservation Internship programme in 2008. The Conservation Studio intern for 2007-2008, worked on the installation of two exhibitions, and on the emergency packing and relocation of an artefact collection. The intern carried out remedial treatments on a work on canvas as well as on 25 additional prints, drawings and maps. Following an assessment of the damage caused by 'vinegar syndrome' to a recently acquired photographic collection, the intern advised on suitable treatment options. The 2008-2009 intern, had carried out surveys of the Library's Bog Commission Maps as well as some 195 rolled manuscripts by the end of 2008. The intern carried out treatments on manuscripts housed in both the Genealogical Office and the Department of Manuscripts and had treated some 67 files of newspaper clippings as well as a music book using both direct manual and innovative leaf-casting techniques.

In September, conservation staff worked closely with the Trinity College Dublin Conservation Department on the joint presentation of a workshop entitled 'Collections Handling Skills', which was organised for members of the Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL) Preservation Sub-Committee.

### **Ordnance Survey Map Conservation Project**

Work continued on the conservation of the Library's collection of Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) maps. This project involves removing maps from substandard bindings, cleaning and repairing the maps, and rehousing them in archival quality folders. In addition, details of all processed maps are entered into a database in order to provide an accurate record of the Library's OSI map holdings. To date project priorities have been determined by the Ordnance Survey's digitisation programme, as maps from the Library are being used to compensate for gaps in the Ordnance Survey's own holdings. The maps in the current digitisation project are: ¼ inch, ½ inch, 1 inch, 5ft and 10ft maps. 1,922 maps were supplied to the Ordnance Survey for digitisation in 2008.

## **Developing the Organisation**

### **Buildings and Infrastructure**

The Board and Library management team continued to press for the early commencement of work on the proposed storage facility to be constructed on the Library's campus just off Kildare Street. Although, planning permission was secured in May 2007, little progress was made in 2008.

During the year, the Library commissioned two studies relevant to the critical storage situation:

- An assessment of risks facing the collection; and
- An assessment of preservation status of the material stored in the Library's existing storage areas.

Taken together the studies confirm that the Library's existing storage conditions are totally inadequate for a major library holding such a significant amount of critically important documentary material of national importance, most of it unique. (See Strategic Objective 1.3 for further details)

Minor building works undertaken during the year by the Office of Public Works (OPW) included a project to replace all coaxial cabling in the Library's premises with modern cabling thus improving the Library's IT infrastructure; a project to replace obsolete lifts in the Library's main premises, and the installation of a concrete ramp at the entrance to the main building to improve access.

The front hall area was also refurbished in order to support the development of this space as an interactive services information and reference area.

## **Governance and Financial Management**

### **Directors Remuneration**

In accordance with the "Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies" the Library fully complies with Government policy on the pay of chief executives and state body employees and with government guidelines on the payment of fees to Board members. The pay of the Chief Executive/Director of the Library is consistent with the civil service salary scale for Principal Officer Higher Scale. No additional remuneration was paid to the Director

### **Ethics in Public Office**

The Library complies with the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001. During 2008 the Library had 28 staff in designated positions of employment. All Library Board members hold designated directorships for the purpose of the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001. In January of each year, designated employees and directors make annual statements of interest in respect of the preceding year. A register of interests is maintained.

### **Freedom of Information (FOI)**

The Library continues to comply with the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003. In 2008, the Library received ten Freedom of Information requests, of which three were granted in full, six were part-granted and one was refused. One request came from a journalist; the remainder were from other sources/private individuals.

### **Audit and Finance**

Internal audit services continue to be provided by Helm Ltd who report to the Board audit committee. The 2008 programme included audits of:

- Creditors payments;
- Fixed assets;

- Acquisitions/collection development;
- Estates and buildings;
- Information technology;
- Human resources; and
- Health and safety.

In its annual report based on its programme of audits for 2008, Helm Ltd gave the Library a substantial level of assurance in relation to internal control, risk management and related matters.

### **Human Resource Management and Development**

During 2008, 13 external recruitment campaigns took place and 30 new staff joined the Library in both permanent and seasonal positions. A number of internal promotion competitions also took place.

The Library's staff Performance Management Development System (PMDS) was reviewed and streamlined in 2008, and refresher training was delivered as part of the Library's Training and Development Plan.

The Library's Training and Development Plan 2008-2010 was implemented to support the organisation's business objectives. Training was provided in areas such as supervisory and team leader training, project management, personal effectiveness and practical writing skills. Support was also provided for staff attending relevant specialised training courses and seminars.

A review of the Library's occupational health programme and employee assistance programme carried out during the year found that both are delivering major benefits to the Library and its staff.

A review of the Library's workplace partnership took place in late 2008, and a report focusing on areas requiring improvement and development will be available in 2009.

In association with the Health and Safety Authority, we implemented an initiative entitled 'Work Positive' which involved carrying out both an organisation-wide risk assessment for work-related stress and a survey of Library staff to determine whether they are affected by this type of stress. The survey findings were very positive and indicate that work-related stress does not currently present a risk for most staff.

We contracted an external provider to supply a Time and Attendance Management System, with view to rolling out the system in 2009.

We submitted draft superannuation schemes to the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism for approval in accordance with Section 33 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. Benefits statements setting out estimated pension entitlements were issued to all staff in March.

### **National Library of Ireland Trust**

The National Library of Ireland Trust provides a mechanism whereby people may support the Library by donation or bequest. The Trust is an *approved body* within the meaning of section 848a of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997. Tax-efficient donations can be made by private individuals and corporate bodies alike. Donations lodged to the credit of the Trust in 2008 amounted to €618.18.

### **Progress towards the Library's 2008–2010 Strategic Aims and Objectives:**

The strategic aims and objectives which are set out in detail in the Library's Strategic Plan 2008-2010 are set out below:

#### **Strategic Aim 1 – Developing and Safeguarding Collections**

*'To strengthen further the Library's collections concerning all appropriate formats and safeguard material in its care'*

#### **Strategic Objective 1.1**

##### **Formalise collection development policy covering all appropriate formats**

In 2007, an internal collection development policy working group was convened to analyse various issues and provide material for inclusion in a draft policy document. In early 2008, the first draft was submitted to the Board's Acquisitions Policy Advisory Committee (APAC). They met to discuss the draft in February and March, and a consultation document was prepared and submitted to the Board in April. With the Board's approval, this document was widely circulated for comment. A number of revisions were made following a consultation process and the final version was agreed by the Board at its November 2008 meeting.

The Collection Development Policy document aims to provide a clear statement of the Library's collecting objectives by setting out the following:

- the statutory and contextual framework underpinning these collecting objectives;
- a general statement of selection criteria;
- a statement of intent with regard to the collection of digital resources, specific collecting objectives in areas of traditional collection strength set out by (i) curatorial area and (ii) thematic collection.

An underlying premise of the document is that cooperation (whether a national strategy or inter-institutional agreement) will be increasingly important for the successful realisation of overall collection development objectives. For this reason, the policy document was circulated to colleagues in the library, archives and information community for comment. We are very grateful to all those who took the trouble to respond.



The document is also intended to provide the basis for the development of detailed procedural guidelines for acquisitions staff. Work commenced on these guidelines during the summer. A first draft of the Acquisitions Guidelines was presented to the Acquisitions Policy Advisory Committee at its November 2008 meeting.

### **Strategic Objective 1.2**

#### **Plan for a phased extension of the legal deposit provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997**

The Library is working with colleagues in the Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL) on the preparation of a report on the extension of legal deposit to digital publications; this is with a view to informing an agreed national approach to the extension of legal deposit. The project has been undertaken by the CONUL Sub-Committee on Copyright and Regulatory Matters. The report will provide an overview of the current operation of legal deposit and developments in digital publishing in Ireland, in addition to an overview of the approach to the extension of legal deposit in other jurisdictions.

Much of the background research on the approaches taken in other jurisdictions was completed in 2008 and it is planned to present a report to the CONUL Librarians in Autumn 2009.

### **Strategic Objective 1.3**

#### **Develop and implement a comprehensive preservation policy, including a disaster plan, for all parts of the collection covering all appropriate formats**

During the year, the Library completed a Preservation Assessment Survey (PAS) of the Library's collections under the guidance of the National Preservation Office (NPO) which is part of the British Library. The survey is a method of obtaining a picture at a moment in time of the state of preservation of a library, archive or museum collection. By selecting and surveying a 400-item sample, the survey provides statistically reliable findings. In addition, it factors in not only the condition of the collection but also issues such as use, value and environmental conditions, and it provides information that can be used to develop preservation policies and activity.

The survey findings concluded that, currently, the preservation profile of the National Library of Ireland collection is poor, largely due to the inadequacy of the storage areas and the poor level of environmental control. A significant contributor to this problem is the age and inadequate structure of the Library buildings – in particular the Main Library building on Kildare Street. The survey revealed that 26.72% of the Library's collections show significant damage. This is a much higher percentage than the 16% average level of damage that has been found in UK libraries. The key recommendations set out in the survey report are:

- Develop a longer-term strategy to address inadequate environmental control and monitoring of the collection
- Address areas of poor storage

- Implement a written disaster plan
- Design and implement a good handling policy for the entire collection, examining care within the reading rooms, in storage, and during transportation
- Packaging programme for (63.72%) percentage of collection with inadequate existing protection (13.97%) or requiring new (49.75%) secondary protection
- Conservation work, focusing on material identified as high value and unstable
- Increased investment in staff. Provide and attribute staff (either permanent or regular temporary appointments) for ongoing preventive care and treatments e.g. cleaning, repackaging and minor repairs
- Monitor use levels and good preservation practices.

During 2008, the Library engaged consultants Continuum Ltd and Harwell Document Recovery Services on the development of a business continuity plan. This process involved carrying out an assessment of risks to the collections arising from problems with the Library buildings, devising a risk management strategy as well as disaster recovery strategy, and designing both an incident management plan and a salvage plan.

A copy of both the Buildings Risk Assessment Report and the Preservation Assessment Survey findings were presented to the Board and then forwarded to the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism. As was the case with the survey findings, the Buildings Risk Assessment Report showed that the poor conditions in the Library's buildings constitute a high level of risk to the collections. In particular, the report highlighted the serious fire risk in the main building in Kildare Street coupled with factors such as the hot dry environment which is causing the collections to deteriorate much more rapidly than they should, and factors such as the frequent occurrence of leaks from roofs and plumbing installations, especially in the Main Library building.

Both the Preservation Assessment Survey and the Buildings Risk Assessment Report conclude that the best way to preserve the Library's collections – which are, after all, Ireland's documentary heritage held in trust by the Library for the people of Ireland – is to improve the collections' storage conditions. This can only be done by constructing a purpose-built repository that meets the requirements of BS5454 standard, the internationally recognised standard for library and archive buildings. Failing that, the Library will have to look for other means of preserving the collections; these means are likely to be expensive and will also lead to a decrease in access to the collections by the public.

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## **Strategic Aim 2 – Quality Service Delivery**

*'To provide a quality service to its users and potential users with particular emphasis on accessibility and availability'*

### **Strategic Objective 2.1**

**Review, on an ongoing basis, all public services, in consultation with readers/customers, with a view to facilitating accessibility and availability, and providing a quality service**

Public services are reviewed on an ongoing basis and actions are taken on foot of readers' feedback. Customer comment cards continue to be made available at all public service points in the Library.

Improved reader services implemented in 2008 included:

- Direct self-service copy facilities from books
- Readers permitted to copy Library material using their own digital cameras
- Self-service lockers for readers/visitors
- A research guide (Women's Studies) has been completed, and a second research guide (literary) has been drafted
- Extension of opening times
- Improved signage to facilitate readers
- Installation of an information screen in the front hall
- Installation of a new ramp for improved access to the main building

Details of actions taken on foot of readers' feedback are also provided on the Library's website.

**Strategic Objective 2.2**

**Continue to develop and promote the services of the Genealogical Office/Office of the Chief Herald**

The Library continues to develop and promote the services of the Genealogical Office/Office of the Chief Herald.

The Office's application forms for Coats of Arms were updated and redesigned, and copies were made available to Arms applicants. Work also continued on the production of a new brochure on how to apply for a Grant of Arms.

**Strategic Objective 2.3**

**Revise and implement the Library's Customer Charter**

During 2008 a revised Customer Charter was developed in consultation with the Board's Readers Advisory Committee to reflect the current strategic aims of the Library. We are committed to delivering a quality customer service to the highest standard.

**Strategic Objective 2.4**

**Continue to work to catalogue materials in a timely manner and to monitor and address backlogs of uncatalogued materials in line with available resources to ensure maximum availability of collections to readers**

During the year, the Library continued to address the task of cataloguing current acquisitions. An additional key focus of activity was a dedicated project established to address an historic backlog of cataloguing work in the Library's Printed Books section.

### **Department of Printed and Visual Collections**

#### **▪ Printed Books - Current material**

A total of 1,359 monographs from the new books collection were catalogued; these included legal deposit acquisitions and Irish interest material published overseas. While this figure represents a decrease on last year's total, cataloguing output in the new books area reflects a re-allocation of staff resources to the cataloguing of rare and antiquarian book acquisitions. An additional 742 books were catalogued from the rare books collection thus bringing to 2,101 the total number of 2008 book acquisitions processed. Unfortunately, the shortage of staff resources was such that the backlog continued to grow; this is against a background where in 2008 the number of new book acquisitions (legal deposit acquisitions and purchases of new publications of Irish interest) totalled more than 3,500 items. In addition, more than 1,000 items were catalogued as part of the Stephen Griffin collection during the year.

#### **▪ Printed Books and Periodicals - Cataloguing backlog project**

In August, a team of four librarians was recruited on fixed term contracts to begin processing the cataloguing backlog of an estimated 16,000 items. By year end, over 3,000 items had been catalogued. The material prioritised for initial attention as part of the cataloguing backlog project comprised mainly pamphlets acquired under legal deposit. However, it also included rare items purchased over a period of approximately 20 years.

#### **▪ Prints and Drawings**

Finding aids created during the year included collection lists for the Elizabeth Rivers Archive; the George Wilkinson Collection of architectural plans and sketches; and the Joly Collection – Captain Cook's Voyages, which comprises plates from a number of different publications. The project involving the individual cataloguing of Holloway material continued during 2008, with 490 illustrations receiving original cataloguing. An additional 312 items within the Holloway collection had additional amendments, which were designed to aid library users in the retrieval of material.

The Library's extensive collection of French prints was surveyed and listed by a visiting intern from the ENSSIB (École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques) in Lyon, France. For the first time, a comprehensive finding aid for this important collection and valuable collection was created and a new housing system devised and implemented.

#### **▪ Ephemera**

Work continued on the cataloguing of Irish election material from the period 1917 to 1933, WW1 material purchased in 2008, postcards; travel posters, memorial cards, broadsides and material relating to women's history.

### **Department of Manuscripts**

Thirteen collection lists were completed, as follows: the Sean O'Mahony Papers; the Thomas MacDonagh Papers; the Gormanston Papers; the papers of Colm Tóibín; the D'arcy of Hyde Park Papers; the papers of Elizabeth Rivers; the Eileen O'Casey Papers; the Neil Jordan Papers; Lloyd of Gloster Papers; the Oireachtas na Gaeilge Papers; the Focus Theatre Papers; the Kirwan of Tuam and Dalgin Papers; and the Roddy Doyle Papers (Collection Lists 130-142). A number of other collections were being catalogued at year end.

### **Strategic Objective 2.5**

**Undertake a programme to improve accessibility to the Library's catalogues and listings, by creating one online catalogue and converting any remaining paper-based catalogues and finding aids to online formats**

A comprehensive list of manual catalogues was compiled. These are extensive and it will be necessary to carry out an assessment across all Library departments to determine what options are available to address the major objective of creating a single online catalogue. The current project involving the computerisation of the source material used in the compilation of *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation* and additional manuscript catalogues represents major progress in the manuscripts area.

### **Strategic Objective 2.6**

**Re-design the Library's website to ensure the provision of access to the widest range of information, online resources and services**

The Library's new website, which was launched in 2007, became fully bi-lingual in early 2008. The list of Gaelic manuscripts, manuscripts on microfilm and a summary map catalogue is now available on [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)

### **Strategic Objective 2.7**

**Prepare and implement a digital policy (including plans for the development of a digital repository) and an ICT Policy, which take account of the needs of the Library, its customers, potential customers, other institutions, and the role of existing non-digital processes**

During the second half of 2008, the process of developing a new ICT strategy for the Library got underway. As part of this process, a firm of consultants was hired to assess the status of the current strategy. They conducted in-depth interviews with relevant staff and they also carried out a review of current practices in order to determine how best to proceed with the organisation's strategic aim of creating an appropriate digital library infrastructure. The strategy will be finalised in 2009.

We procured a new library management system in late 2007. Among the key features that will be provided by the new system are:

- online reader registration

- new-look Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)
- electronic request system for library material
- remote ordering of material

By December 2008 both the transfer of catalogue records and the testing of data were almost complete. In addition, we compiled information on the functional requirements for all Library activity. These requirements will be analysed and agreed before the system is finally introduced.

### **Strategic Aim 3 - Achieving Outreach, Collaboration and Synergy**

*‘To pursue outreach, collaborative endeavour and synergy’*

#### **Strategic Objective 3.1**

**Develop and implement an outreach and education policy which fosters widening access, in both social and geographic terms, and which promotes lifelong learning**

The drafting of a learning and outreach policy represented a major development in achieving the Library’s strategic aims. The policy, which will be finalised in 2009, was prepared with the assistance of Education for Change, the consultancy service selected to assist in the development of an education and outreach policy.

In order to make the Library’s rich collections accessible to researchers and the wider public, we continued to develop our educational services, resources and activities for a wide variety of users involved in both formal and informal learning.

In October 2008, we launched a new online resource aimed at helping post-primary history students research the Library’s collections, which include an extensive range of primary source material. The *Leaving Certificate History Research Study Resource Guide* was developed in consultation with the History Teachers’ Association of Ireland (HTAI).

The series of eight-week courses entitled *WB Yeats at the National Library* continued to run in conjunction with UCD Adult Education. In tandem with the course, the Library conducted themed tours of the *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats* exhibition covering topics specifically related to the UCD course.

Throughout the year, the Library organised a number of tours and workshops for schools and other groups, as well as various other seasonal and mid-term activities.

In August the Library organised a creative workshop focused on exploring issues related to the *Strangers to Citizens* exhibition. The workshop – the first Library event of its kind specifically aimed at 12 to 15 year olds – was developed by a team comprising the

Library's Education and Outreach staff members, a workshop facilitator and a number of children in the target age group.

### **Strategic Objective 3.2**

#### **Develop and implement an exhibition policy**

In March 2008, the Board approved two proposals for the 2009-2010 exhibition programme. This included a proposal for a 'treasures' exhibition to be mounted in the main Library exhibition space in the former NCAD building as well as a proposal for a rolling series of temporary displays in 2-3 Kildare Street. While a plan for a 'treasures' exhibition was completed by year end, implementation of the plan has now been postponed due to budgetary constraints.

For a number of years exhibitions have been the principal means by which the Library makes its collections available to the general public. 2008 saw a wide variety of exhibitions on show in both the Kildare Street and Temple Bar premises. In addition, a number of travelling exhibitions also went on show in various venues in Ireland and abroad.

### **Strategic Objective 3.3**

#### **Foster and identify areas for synergy and collaboration with other libraries, archives, cultural institutions and agencies regionally, nationally and internationally.**

Collaboration with other organisations has been an ongoing feature of the Library's work for many years. 2008 saw the Library expanding its links with a variety of cultural organisations and agencies both here in Ireland and abroad. In a new development, the Library hosted two very successful public events with Children's Books Ireland, including an interview with the award-winning children's illustrator PJ Lynch.

The full list of collaborative partnerships is detailed at appendix 4.

### **Strategic Objective 3.4**

#### **Develop and implement a marketing plan, including the marketing of the Library's public facilities**

A draft public relations strategy, marketing strategy and communications plan were prepared during the year, with the assistance of consultants. Policies in these areas will be finalised in 2009.

The Library produces regular printed and online publications to promote awareness of its collections, exhibitions and services. *NLI News*, which is published quarterly in print and online, is an engaging full-colour newsletter covering new Library developments and events, and features articles by various Library staff members. The Library's monthly e-bulletin provides additional information about the Library and also provides links to

relevant articles and news on the Library's website. The Library's website [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie) is a very important vehicle for promoting the Library.

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## **Strategic Aim 4 – Improving the Physical Infrastructure**

*'To enhance the Library's physical infrastructure in order to safeguard collections, facilitate service provision and provide an appropriate working environment'*

### **Strategic Objective 4.1**

**Ensure the commencement of work on the proposed purpose-built storage facility on the Kildare Street site.**

### **Strategic Objective 4.2**

**Create a master plan for its buildings to cater for the growth and repositioning of its service and collections over the next twenty years.**

As stated earlier in this report, there has been little progress in relation to the proposed purpose-built storage facility. Therefore neither Strategic Objective 4.1 nor Strategic Objective 4.2 have been progressed. The current budgetary situation and the planned merger of the National Archives and the Irish Manuscripts Commission into the National Library of Ireland will impact on the proposed development.

### **Strategic Objective 4.3**

**Provide a safe and accessible working environment for staff and visitors.**

A new Safety Statement was prepared for the Library in late 2007, and the implementation of priority control measures identified in risk assessments got underway during 2008.

Training on health and safety issues continued during 2008; this included fire extinguisher and sprinkler training, manual handling, fire exiting and first aid as well as issues related to the 'Work Positive' initiative.

Reviews of the Library's occupational health programme and employee assistance programme was carried out in 2008. These reviews served to further reinforce the importance of maintaining a safe working environment for staff.

A health screening service was made available to all staff during the year.

A new permanent ramp has been built at the main entrance to the Library's front hall.



The Library continues to raise awareness of its policy of creating a positive working environment and promoting dignity and respect at work. It does this by making new staff members aware of the policy, by highlighting the policy at Library staff information sessions, and also by providing practical support to through the contact persons group.

## **Strategic Aim 5 - Developing Staff**

*'To provide optimal support to the staff in pursuit of excellence'*

### **Strategic Objective 5.1**

**Develop and implement a comprehensive human resources strategy which will include recruitment, mobility, continuity, performance management, retention, succession planning, promotion and equal opportunity.**

Work on the development of the Library's Human Resources Strategy was substantially completed during 2008, following consultation through the partnership process. It is envisaged that the strategy will be finalised in 2009.

### **Strategic Objective 5.2**

**Carry out a Training Needs Analysis with a view to preparing and implementing a training and development plan to support staff in the performance of their jobs both now and in the face of changing demands and to promote personal and career development.**

The Library's Training and Development Policy 2008–2010 and revised Refund of Fees Scheme were issued to all staff in January 2008.

Following a tender process, several training providers were appointed. A number of training courses were delivered in 2008. These included:

- Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)
- Practical Writing Skills
- Personal Effectiveness Programme
- Project Management
- Supervisors/Team Leaders Development
- Workplace Partnership training
- Various IT training courses

All training was subject to evaluation in conjunction with the Library's HR Unit.

### **Strategic Objective 5.3**

**Promote an open and positive organisational culture through the facilitation of communication, empowerment, encouragement to participate and by fostering a climate of mutual respect.**

The Library continued to operate and strengthen its Partnership Committee throughout the year. The committee met, which met on five occasions, focused on the HR Strategy, the Time and Attendance System and the 'Work Positive' initiative. A partnership subcommittee, the Work Life Balance Group, was established during the year.

A review of partnership was undertaken in 2008 with the assistance of external consultants. This saw members of the Partnership Committee participating in a focus group as well as a training day. The results of the review will be made available in 2009.

The Management Advisory Committee (MAC) continues to meet on a regular basis. An all-day off-site session was held in May.

In June, the Library Director and senior managers made presentations at staff information sessions where a comprehensive account of activities and key projects across the organisation was provided.

#### **Strategic Objective 5.4**

**Commence the process of securing a recognised standard of excellence in human resource management.**

The Library's long-term objective is to achieve the Excellence Through People award, Ireland's national standard for human resource management, which is operated by FÁS. In order to move closer to attaining this objective, the Library's Human Resources Strategy was drafted in accordance with the Excellence Through People model. In addition, members of the Library management team held an initial meeting with FÁS to progress the process of working towards achieving the award.

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## **Strategic Aim 6 – Developing the Organisation**

*'To put in place appropriate organisational structures, systems and policies that will underpin activity, delivery and the highest quality of service'*

#### **Strategic Objective 6.1**

**Review the Library's organisational and management structures and its work practices to maximise effectiveness and efficiency in light of service and strategic/business needs.**

2008 saw the publication and rollout of the Library's Strategic Plan 2008–2010 and related three-year operational plan. The latter was developed to ensure delivery of the objectives identified in the strategic plan and also to ensure the appropriate alignment between strategic objectives, operational activities and the work of individual staff members.

The Management Advisory Committee (MAC) continued to monitor internal structures and staffing. In February, some staff re-assignments were made in order to provide improved support for the progressing of digital and ICT projects.

The Library continued to implement its action plan under the social partnership agreement *Towards 2016*. The primary purpose of this agreement is to maximise organisational efficiency and flexibility, including work practices and procedures, in order to support the effective delivery of service and strategic objectives.

New ways of working and the streamlining of overtime for Library staff, coupled with more business-appropriate rosters for the Science and Arts Attendant grade, were successfully negotiated in 2008, thereby delivering financial savings as well as a more structured work pattern.

### **Strategic Objective 6.2**

#### **Review and integrate performance management and development systems (PMDS) with strategic and business planning.**

Operational plans were updated to facilitate improved linkages between individual activity (as identified through the PMDS process) and unit level activity, and the 2008–2010 Strategic Plan.

The new PMDS cycle got underway in 2008. Additional training and support manuals were provided to staff in order to facilitate the integration and upward feedback elements of PMDS, and also to take account of the significant numbers of new staff in the Library. Integration includes the use of PMDS ratings when making decisions relating to the award of increments, assignment to higher scales, eligibility for promotion or addressing the issue of underperformance.

### **Strategic Objective 6.3**

#### **Review and update the Library's financial processes and corporate governance procedures to ensure that an appropriate budgetary and control framework is in place which meets all compliance requirements.**

The Library's financial processes and governance procedures continued to be strengthened in 2008, thereby ensuring compliance with the relevant Department of Finance regulations. This was carried out in conjunction with the Internal Audit function, which continued to measure, evaluate the effectiveness of, and provide assurances on, the Library's system of internal controls. The Board Audit Committee met regularly during the year and oversaw the work of the internal auditors. The Audit Committee reviewed progress on the implementation of recommendations arising from completed audit reports.

The 2008 annual report of the internal audit provider (HELM Ltd.) gave the Library a substantial level of assurance that the organisation's objectives in relation to internal controls, risk management and related matters will be met.

Among the financial procedures developed to date are:

- purchasing procedures
- tendering guidelines
- payments procedures
- fixed asset policy and procedures

The Library continues to operate existing procedures for procurement, and for travel and subsistence, in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism and the Department of Finance.

Significant work was carried out during 2008 on the development of risk management, which is a key governance issue for the Library. The process of embedding risk management is being addressed as part of the Business Continuity Planning (BCP)/Disaster Prevention Project dealing with risks to both the Library's collections and the business activities of the Library (see Strategic Objective 1.3). Consultants Continuum Ltd and Harwell Document Recovery Services assisted in delivering this project in conjunction with a Library project team comprising staff from the collections, conservation and administration support functions areas. The consultancy aspects of the project followed British Standard 25999 for Business Continuity Planning.

#### **Strategic Objective 6.4**

##### **Develop new funding opportunities and activate income generation.**

Some initial work has been carried out in the area of identifying new funding opportunities.

## Board and Board Committees

The provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, which provide for the establishment of a new Board for the National Library of Ireland, came into effect on 3 May 2005.

The functions of the National Library of Ireland are set out in section 12 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. Section 12(1) provides that:

*“The principal functions of the Board of the Library shall be to conserve, restore, maintain and enlarge the library material in the collection of the Library for the benefit of the public and to establish and maintain a record of library material (including material relating to the Irish language) in relation to Ireland and to contribute to the provision of access by members of the public to material relating to other countries.”*

Section 12(2) enumerates a number of the Board’s powers, including powers in relation to genealogical research, the granting and confirming of Coats of Arms, and the provision of library and information services.

The primary role of the Board is to decide on matters of strategy, policy, finance and procedure, to analyse and review the various activities of the Library and the Executive, and to consider recommendations from committees.

Areas of particular focus for the Board in 2008 included storage requirements and associated risk to the collections, digitisation, services and opening hours, implementation of the Library’s strategic priorities, collection development policy, acquisition proposals and governance.

The Board comprises 12 members and is chaired by Mr J Gerard Danaher SC. It includes two representatives from the Royal Dublin Society, Ms Ida Delamer and Mr Patrick F Clyne, who were appointed by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism under the provisions of section 19(9) of the 1997 Act. Mr Gerard Long (Assistant Keeper) is the staff member on the Board appointed under section 19(8) of the Act. The Director, Mr Aongus Ó hAonghusa, normally attends the Board meetings, as do other members of the executive as required.

The Board met a total of ten times in 2008. The members of the Board and their attendance at meetings are as follows:

J Gerard Danaher (Chairman)	10
Patrick F Clyne	5
Bob Collins	8
Ida Delamer	8
Breda Kelly	10
Gerard Long	9

Susan McGrath	9
Máire Mac Conghail	10
Niall Mac Monagle	8
Brendan O Donoghue	10
Noreen Whelan	9
James O'Shea	0

The Board notes with regret the death of Mr James O'Shea in May 2008.

## **2008 activities of the Board**

The Board has two statutory and three non-statutory committees. These committees continue to play an important role in assisting and advising the Board.

### **Statutory Committees 2008**

#### **Genealogy and Heraldry Committee (established under Section 13(4) of the 1997 Act)**

This committee advises the Board on matters arising from the Board's statutory powers and functions in the areas of genealogy and heraldry.

The Committee comprises:

Patrick F Clyne (Chair and Board member)  
Máire Mac Conghail (Board member)  
Niall Mac Monagle (Board member)  
Brendan O Donoghue (Board member)  
Ciara Breathnach  
Shane English  
Paul Gorry  
Dr Susan Hood

Aongus Ó hAonghusa – ex officio

Fergus Gillespie – ex officio

The Genealogy and Heraldry Committee met on two occasions in 2008.

#### **Readers Advisory Committee (established under Section 23 of the 1997 Act)**

The role of the Readers Advisory Committee is to advise the Board in relation to matters pertaining to the provision of a library and information service to members of the public.

The Committee comprises:

Noreen Whelan (Chair and Board member)  
Rev Fr J Anthony Gaughan  
Angie Kinnane

Seamus Leahy  
Marie Reddan

Dr Marie Coleman (to October 2008)

In furtherance of its remit and to be aware of developments, policies and best practice in other national libraries, members of the Committee visited the Deutsche National Bibliothek in Leipzig, Germany in October 2008.

The Readers Advisory Committee met on five occasions in 2008.

## **Non-Statutory Committees**

### **Audit Committee**

As part of the ongoing systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures within the Library, the role of the Audit Committee is to oversee the Internal Audit function and advise the Board in relation to the operation and development of that function.

The members of the Audit Committee are:

Breda Kelly (Chair and Board member)

Bob Collins (Board member)

Ida Delamer (Board member)

John O'Callaghan

The Audit Committee met on four occasions in 2008.

### **Acquisitions Policy Advisory Committee**

The Committee's principal role is to advise the Board in relation to its statutory functions of acquiring library material of different kinds to enlarge the Library's collections, and also to advise and assist the Board in the development of its acquisitions policy.

Brendan O Donoghue (Chair and Board member)

Niall Mac Monagle (Board member)

Ita Daly

Frank Callanan SC

Conor Brady

Gerard Lyne (representing the Director)

Colette O'Flaherty (representing the Director)

The Acquisitions Policy Advisory Committee met on three occasions in 2008.

### **Committee to operate a Scheme of Performance related awards for the Director.**

This Committee was established by resolution of the Board at its February 2008 meeting. No meeting of the Committee took place in 2008.

## **Appendix 1: Thanks to our sponsors and donors**

### **Sponsors:**

Anglo Irish Bank  
Brambles  
Children's Books Ireland (CBI)  
Ireland Literature Exchange (ILE)  
Murphy Sheehy & Co  
Patrick Bergin  
Pianos Plus  
RTÉ Lyric fm  
The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA)  
The Merrion Hotel Dublin  
The Norwegian Embassy

### **Donors**

Acton, Carol	Cleary, John C
Amat Ah Publishing House	Cleland, Professor David
Art Services International	Cole, Kaye
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Ballotta, Emanuela	Costello, Peter
Bath Old Books	Crawford, Rev John
Bhreathnach-Lynch, Dr Sighle	Cullen, Professor LM
Blackstaff Press	Cullinan, Aidan
Blue Canary Press (Mr James Liddy)	Cumann Seanchais Ard Mhacha
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Calwell, Dr Mary Elizabeth	Devlin, Bernard P.
Campbell, Rev Dennis	Donelan, Michael
Campion, Noel	Dooley family
Carpenter, Professor Andrew	Doyle, Johanna M
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Cecil Higgins Art Gallery	Driver, Russell C
Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)	Duffy, Eamon
Centro Internazionale Studi di Estetica	Edison, Fondazione
Chesneau, Hélène	Educational Disadvantage Centre, St
Chester Beatty Library	Patrick's College, Drumcondra
Clarke, Frances	Edwards, Eileen
	European Writers' Congress



Family of William Fitzsimmons  
 Faul, Honora  
 ffrench, Anthony  
 Field Day Press  
 Fitzpatrick, Mary  
 Fitzsimon, Christopher  
 Foyle Trust for Integrated Education  
 (Colm Cavanagh)  
 Friel, Brian  
 Fromont, Daniel  
 Furlong, Justin  
 Gadd, GS  
 Gallagher, Dr Carmel, DIT  
 Gallagher, Miriam  
 Gamble, Jack and Jean, Emerald Isle  
 Books  
 Garstin family  
 Glens of Antrim Historical Society  
 (Malachy McSparran)  
 Golden Thread Gallery  
 Grace, Pierce  
 Gracey, Jim  
 Griffin, Mary  
 Griffin, Stephen  
 Grumbacher, Robert  
 Gunther, Thomas  
 H.E. Mag. Franc Mikša, LL.M.  
 (Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic  
 of Slovenia, Dublin)  
 Hanrahan, Brendan  
 Hawe, Patrick  
 Hayes, Maureen  
 Healy, Graham  
 Hemmingway, Ken  
 Hinds, Ross  
 Horgan, John  
 Horgan, Professor John  
 Ireland Literature Exchange  
 Island Publications  
 Jones, Jesse  
 Kavanagh, Gerard  
 Kinsella, Ignatius  
 Kennedy, Don  
 Kenny, Conor  
 Kerrigan, Cathal  
 Kiely, Frances  
 Kimber, Elizabeth  
 Kinlan, D.  
 Lameka, Natalia  
 Larkin, Felix  
 Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow  
 London Review of Books  
 Long, Gerard  
 Lundy, Dell  
 Macater Press –Morris Meyer  
 Macdougald, Suzanne (Solomon  
 Gallery)  
 MacLochlainn, Gráinne  
 Maddock, Dr Philip  
 Maher, John  
 McCamley, Paul  
 McCann, Peggyann  
 McGuinness, Max  
 McIlwaine family  
 Morris, Ernan  
 Mullen, Lionel  
 Murphy, Major Sean  
 Murray, Monsignor Réamonn  
 National Gay and Lesbian Federation of  
 Ireland  
 National Museum of Ireland  
 Nelson, Justin  
 Northern Ireland Publications Resource  
 Board  
 Ó Doibhilín, Mícheál  
 Ó hAnnracháin, Eoghan  
 O’Carragáin, Eoghan  
 O’Connor, Colette  
 O’Daly, Colette  
 O’Donnell, Bill  
 O’Donoghue, Dr David  
 O’Flaherty, Colette  
 O’Grady, George  
 O’Neill, Charlie  
 O’Brien, Murrogh V  
 Oram, Hugh  
 Paine, Gary  
 Rankin, Kathleen  
 Ravel, Romain  
 Renwick, Sr Bernadine  
 Ridgeway, Steve  
 Riedzewski, Ramona

Rose, David C  
Rosenblatt, Stuart (Irish Jewish  
Museum)  
Sheehan, Ronan  
Stack, John  
Strong, Dr MS  
Stüve, Michael (Musica Ricercata)  
The 6<sup>th</sup> Connaught Rangers  
The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children  
The Folio Society  
The Heap  
The Public Service Friendly Society  
Ulster-Scots Language Society  
Valley Press  
Vermillion Design  
Wall, Michael

Ward, Thomas P  
Warner, Rosemary  
Weir, Brenda - Eleanor French  
collection  
Welsh, John F. Jr.  
Wilder, James C.  
Woeltje, Gabrielle M  
World Trade Organization  
Wylie, Paul R

## **Appendix 2: National Library of Ireland Society**

The National Library of Ireland Society is a voluntary support group which aims “to assist and support the National Library in the maintenance and expansion of its services and the improvement and protection of its status as the National Library of Ireland.”

It arranges an annual programme of lectures on topics of Irish interest in a variety of subject areas including history, literature and current affairs; it organises an annual outing to historic houses and other venues, and it provides an opportunity for interested persons to support the Library at a crucial phase in its development.

Annual membership costs €25 (reduced to €10 in the case of students and €15 for persons aged 65 and over). Corporate membership, which is by invitation only, costs €1,000 per annum.

The following lectures were delivered to the Society during the year:

6 February 2008: The third annual John J O’Meara lecture was given by Professor Eamon Duffy of Magdalene College, Cambridge. It was entitled *Latin and the Mass: Should we Mind, and Does it Matter?*

12 March 2008: Professor Tom Dunne, University College Cork gave a lecture entitled *Irish and British History in the Paintings of Daniel Maclise*.

7 October 2008: The Society’s AGM was followed by a lecture entitled *The Rivals are Immortal: Gladstone and Disraeli* given by Professor Richard Aldous, University College Dublin.

11 November 2008: Dr Ciara Breathnach, University of Limerick gave a lecture entitled *‘There’ll be war there yet’: intestacy in 20<sup>th</sup> century Ireland*.

9 December 2008: The Society’s Christmas event on 12 December began with a seasonal reception and was followed by a talk given by the poet Maeve O’Sullivan entitled *News that Stays News: the Response of Poets to Three Tragedies*.

The officers of the Society for 2008 were as follows:

Chair: Rev Fr J Anthony Gaughan

Vice-Chair: Felix M Larkin

Treasurer: Dr Ian D’Alton

Secretary: Roger Courtney

### Appendix 3: Statistics

The Number of visitors to the Library in 2008 was 136,509: this represents a 33% increase on the 2007 figure of 102,731

Visitors	2007	2008
Main Reading Room		
Mon-Fri 9.30am to 5.00pm	17,134 <sup>1</sup>	18,878
Mon-Wed 5.00pm to 10.00pm	1,895	2,155
Saturdays 9.30am to 1.00pm	1,536	1,793
Manuscripts Reading Room	3,707 <sup>2</sup>	3,924
National Photographic Archive	32,593	33,387
Family History Room	5,831	4,121
<i>Yeats</i> Exhibition	33,219	49,951
<i>Strangers to Citizens</i> Exhibition	----- <sup>3</sup>	17,390
Heraldic Museum	657 <sup>4</sup>	
Other Events	6,159	4,910
Total visits	<u>102,731</u>	<u>136,509</u>
Website hits	119,997 <sup>5</sup>	325,425
<b>Acquisitions</b>		
Legal Deposit Books	2,130	2,056
Legal Deposit Newspaper issues	18,648 (280 titles)	19,343 (284 titles)
New Books	1,948	3,370
Antiquarian Books	829	1,127
Periodicals (single issues)	10,996	10,514
Photographs	2,000	51,000 <sup>6</sup>
Prints and Drawings gifts	4	1 <sup>7</sup>
Prints and Drawings purchases	348	56
Ephemera	459	55
Manuscript gifts	34	41
Manuscript purchases	284	58
<b>Processing</b>		
Books catalogued	1,738	2,101
Periodicals catalogued/records amended	161	235
International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSNs)	145 assigned 302 entered/amended 1,645 contacts with publishers	122 assigned 272 entered/amended 1,585 contacts with publishers
Boxes of loose manuscripts catalogued	585	588
Manuscript volumes catalogued	438	25
MARC <sup>8</sup> records created for manuscript single items and small collections	423	129

<sup>1</sup> The Main Reading Room was closed to the public for a number of weeks for repair to the cornice. Alternative accommodation was provided in rooms adjacent to the front hall.

<sup>2</sup> The Manuscripts Reading Room was closed to the public for a number of weeks for re-cabling. Alternative accommodation was provided in No 4 Kildare Street.

<sup>3</sup> *Strangers to Citizens* Exhibition opened on 12 December 2007

<sup>4</sup> The Heraldic Museum was closed for several months to allow for the installation of a new exhibition.

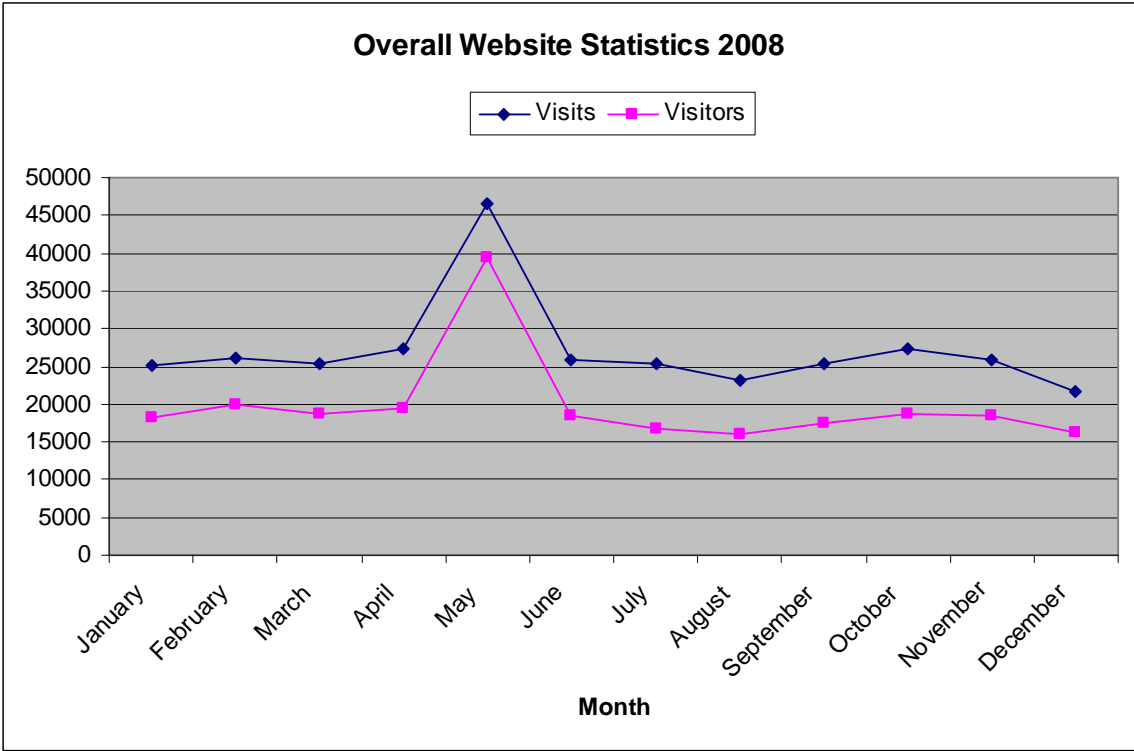
<sup>5</sup> The new Library website was launched in August 2007 and hits were counted from that period onwards.

<sup>6</sup> Circa 50,000 photos contained in the Rex Roberts Archive

<sup>7</sup> One collection containing circa 900 hand-coloured drawings and associated files

<sup>8</sup> MARC Machine Readable Records Cataloguing

Website Statistics



There was a spike of hits in May 2008 due to opening of the online version Yeats exhibition.

## Appendix 4: Collaborative Partnerships in 2008

**Royal Irish Academy:** Jules Verne publication

**EAN – Emigrant Advice Network:** *Strangers to Citizens* exhibition

**Curriculum Support Unit:** *Strangers to Citizens* exhibition

**Irish in Europe project:** *Strangers to Citizens* exhibition

**UCD Adult Education:** 29 January to 18 March – eight-week evening course *WB Yeats at the National Library*; provision of guided tours for course participants.

**Library Association of Ireland:** 28 February – Library hosted launch of Library Ireland Week, organised by the Library Association of Ireland.

**The Genealogy and Local Studies (GENLOC) Group:** 7 March – a subsidiary of the Library Association of Ireland in association with the National Library of Ireland and South Dublin County Libraries presented a day-long session on newspapers held in the Library. Staff from the Library's Printed and Visual Collections Department also made presentations at this event.

**Norwegian Embassy:** 5 March – Norwegian Embassy sponsored the Åsne Seierstad event as part of the Spring *Library Late* series.

**Dublin City Libraries:** April – annual *Dublin: One City, One Book* initiative. Exhibition of the Library's 'Gulliver' material as well as a lecture on 17 April entitled *Swift and Gulliver's Travels* given by Professor Andrew Carpenter.

**The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA):** 29 and 30 April – evening lectures on family history to mark TIARA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The lectures, which were held in the Library, were open to members of the public as well as TIARA members.

**Roddy Doyle:** April – the Library displayed Roddy Doyle manuscript material and also held a reception on 29 April to mark the acquisition of his papers.

**St John of God:** May to July – *Journeys past, present and future* a nine-week project involving the Choices group from the St John of God Carmona Service in Dun Laoghaire and the Lakelands Service in Dundrum, Dublin.

**Age & Opportunity, Bealtaine festival:** May – five storytelling workshops held in conjunction with storyteller Susie Minto in addition to an exhibition of storytelling-related material from the Library's collections.

**National Lesbian and Gay Federation:** 16 June – the Library exhibited material from the Irish Queer Archive and held a reception to mark the acquisition of the Irish Queer Archive.

**RTÉ Radio 1, Arts Show:** 24 June – live broadcast of the *Summer's Wreath* 'Poet on Poet' panel discussion with Vincent Woods, Ian Duhig, Dr Carrie Etter and Matthew Sweeney.

**Children's Books Ireland, Random House and Scottish Book Trust:** 30 June – literary event focused on the work of teen fiction authors Kate Thompson and Keith Gray chaired by Robert Dunbar, *Irish Times* critic, writer and broadcaster.

**UCD and James Joyce Summer School:** July – reception and tours for launch of Joyce Summer School; Joyce Scholarship award; venue for three summer school workshops including Dr Stacey Herbert workshop with original material from the Library's Joycean collections, 7-9 July.

**Patrick Bergin:** 14-21 July – lunchtime screenings of Patrick Bergin’s trilogy of Yeats films.

**Ireland Literature Exchange:** August – interview series with authors and translators. 6 August – *Translating John McGahern* (Professor Declan Kiberd and Gerardo Gambolini); 13 August – *Walk the Blue Fields* (Claire Keegan and Maja Novak); 27 August – *Shamrock Tea, A Polish Brew* (Ciaran Carson, Deirdre Carson, Maciej Swierkocki, Piotr Mielcarek).

**TARGET Community Services,** Donaghmede, Dublin: 11-22 August – work placement in the Library’s Education and Outreach Department.

**Heritage Council:** 24-31 August – Heritage Week exhibition tours; lecture entitled *Some collectors and collections in the National Library of Ireland* given by Gerard Long.

**Irish in Europe Project:** 10 September – *Strangers to Citizens* lecture series. Lecture entitled *Recycling the past: Irish saints and scholars in medieval Europe* given by Dr Dagmar Ó Riain-Raedel.

**City Chase Dublin:** 13 September – Library participated as one of the ‘Chase Points’.

**Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL):** 15 September – Library and Trinity College Dublin hosted a handling skills seminar in conjunction with the CONUL Preservation Subcommittee.

**Temple Bar Cultural Trust:** 19 September – Culture Night, Yeats exhibition open to 9pm; exhibition tours and screening of *Lumière Brothers Irish films* with lecture by Bob Monks; Library introduced new service providing conducted tours of its exhibitions for people who are hearing impaired.

**Bulgarian Embassy:** 22 September to 10 October – documentary exhibition entitled *James Bouchier, a life dedicated to Bulgaria*. This exhibition about the Irish journalist and political activist James David Bouchier was loaned by the Bulgarian Embassy and was held in the Library’s front hall.

**Thomas Moore Commemorative Festival:** 24 September, 1 and 8 October – concerts in the Library.

**Heritage Council:** 13 October – commencement of Heritage Council/National Library of Ireland Conservation Internship for 2008/2009.

**Kilkenny Celtic Festival:** 1 October – delivery of two outreach workshops to Sixth Class pupils in Kilkenny Educate Together primary school.

**UCD Adult Education:** October to December – hosting of lectures and provision of tours of the *WB Yeats at the National Library* exhibition for adults attending eight-week morning course on Yeats.

**History Teachers Association of Ireland (HTAI):** 12 October – National Library of Ireland stand (literature and information) at annual HTAI conference.

**Edward Worth Library:** 13 October to 29 November – hosting of ‘This Glittering Library’ – a temporary exhibition of bookbindings from the Edward Worth Library; 17 October – lecture by Dr William McCormack, Librarian, Edward Worth Library.

**Irish Architectural Foundation:** 18 October – Participation in annual ‘Open House’ event. Tours of Library buildings and Yeats exhibition.

**Irish in Europe Project:** 29 October – *Strangers to Citizens* lecture series: lecture by Dr Samuel Fannin entitled *Irish merchants in Spanish Commerce*.

**Poetry Ireland:** October and November – POETRY ALOUD 2008 competition for post-primary students in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Library organised and coordinated

regional heats in October (including four in Dublin) and hosted semi-finals and finals on 28 November.

**Dublin Lyric Players:** 20-31 October – lunchtime readings from *Oedipus* and *The Cat and the Moon*; 2-4 November production of the two Oedipus plays.

**Opera Theatre Company:** 10 and 12 November – performance of Irish opera excerpts.

**Children's Books Ireland:** 8 December – public interview with illustrator PJ Lynch.

**UCD James Joyce Research Centre:** 3 December – launch of *Dublin James Joyce Journal* in association with the National Library of Ireland.