



# Annual Report 2015

*Leabharlann  
Náisiúnta  
na hÉireann*

National Library  
of Ireland







NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

# Annual Report 2015

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Report of the Board of the National Library of Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2015

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

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# Contents

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1.0	ABOUT THE NLI	3
2.0	CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS	4
3.0	DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD	5
4.0	RESOURCES	6
5.0	2015 AT A GLANCE	7
6.0	OVERVIEW OF KEY AREAS OF WORK 2015	8
6.1	Visitor Numbers	9
6.2	Collecting	12
6.3	Exhibitions	15
6.4	Events and Outreach	18
7.0	THE NLI'S WORK WITH EXTERNAL PARTNERS	21
8.0	SUPPORTING THE NLI	22
9.0	BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE	24
10.0	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2015	25
11.0	DONORS 2015	52



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# About the NLI

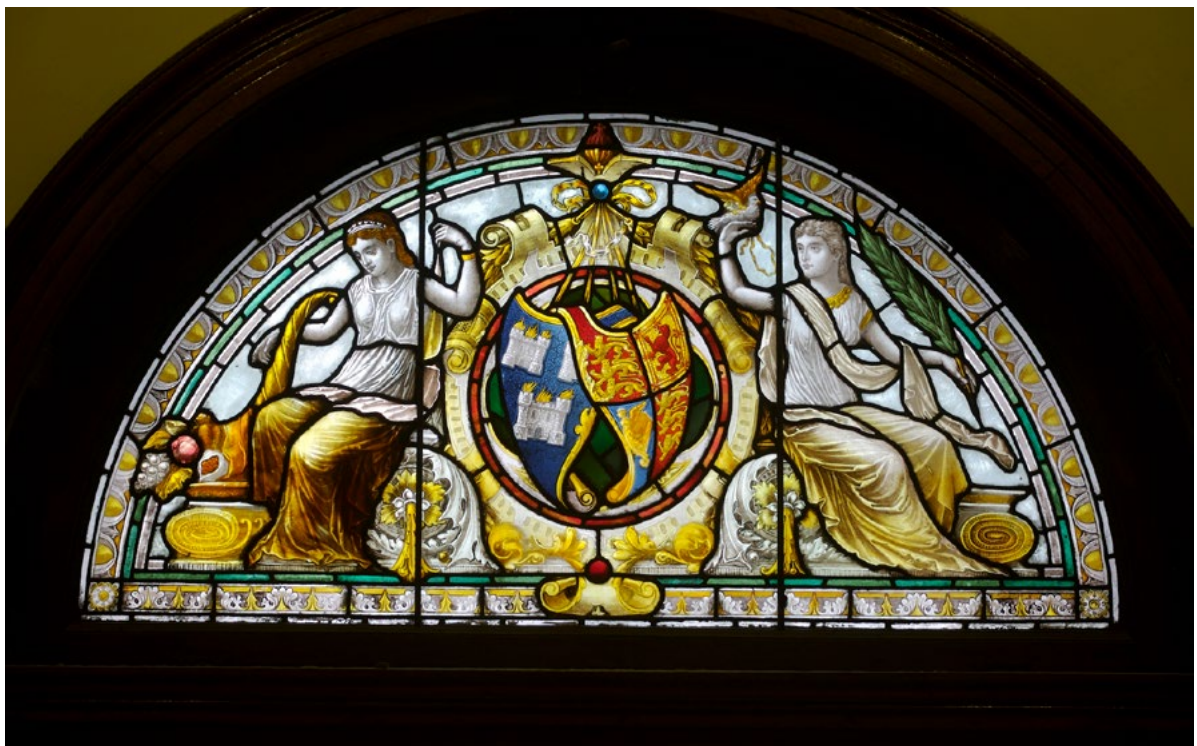
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The National Library of Ireland (NLI), located on Dublin's Kildare Street beside the Houses of the Oireachtas, was founded in 1877. Today, it includes the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar and the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland. The Library collects and makes available the shared memory of the Irish nation at home and abroad, caring for more than 10 million books, newspapers, manuscripts, prints, drawings, ephemera, photographs and digital media.

From 14th century Gaelic manuscripts to 21st century websites, from the papers of Yeats and Joyce to the works of contemporary Irish writers, the NLI is the repository of Ireland's national written heritage. It is also the guardian of personal histories in the form of vast archives of letters, photographs and diaries, and family history sources such as the Roman Catholic parish registers.

Every year, the NLI welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors to carry out research in the collections, to explore ground-breaking exhibitions and programmes for families and lifelong learners and to discover their family history through the free advice service. Increasingly, its collections are being made available online to people worldwide, through the website and platforms such as [registers.nli.ie](https://registers.nli.ie). The NLI also has an award-winning presence on Twitter, Facebook and the Flickr Commons.

Further information about the NLI is available at [www.nli.ie](https://www.nli.ie).



# Chairman's Remarks

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I am honoured and delighted to be the newly-appointed Chairman of the National Library of Ireland, and to be able to continue to serve one of the most recognised cultural institutions in the country.

There were many great achievements at the NLI in 2015, many of which are outlined in this Report. On a strategic level, there is one of particular significance, which represents one of the most substantive projects in the Library's history.



Wednesday 8 July 2015 was a landmark day for the Library, and indeed Irish genealogy, when An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys, officiated at the launch of the digitised Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI. This unique web-repository of records is considered to be the single most important source of information on Irish family history prior to the 1901 Census. The digitisation of these records is firmly rooted in the NLI's commitment to openness and accessibility, and is underpinned by the NLI's digital infrastructure and expertise. With the launch of registers.nli.ie, people everywhere now have access to records covering 1,086 parishes throughout the island of Ireland. From its launch in July to the end of December 2015, the website attracted almost 330,000 unique users and over five and a half million page views.

The dedicated and hard-working staff of the National Library are at the heart of everything we do. They were key to the delivery of all of the achievements outlined in this Report, despite our well-documented reduced resources. The Board and I will continue to work towards the restoration of pre-economic crisis funding levels to enable the National Library to realise its broadest and most ambitious mandate to the Irish people.

The Government announcement of the capital investment plan for the Library was a significant milestone of 2015, and one which was most welcomed by the Board. This funding will enable the Library to progress its plans to preserve and develop its historic role as an institution for learning, culture, and research and as an intellectual and social meeting place where people of all backgrounds can work together on common projects or can pursue their own individual interests and lifelong learning.

In order to achieve this, the Library will place people at the heart of our planning and open up the buildings to ensure that they are welcoming, accessible and safe for all. The Library will combine the best of the past, especially the iconic Reading Room, which has so many historic and literary associations, with the best of the present, all with the aim of providing an excellent cultural experience.

We are extremely grateful to all of the donors who have graciously donated important material to the Library in 2015. The importance of philanthropic and financial support, alongside our core State funding, cannot be overstated in the enhancements and contributions they make to our programme.

In 2015, this included generous support from Joseph Hassett for the annual Yeats lecture, and funding from the British Embassy in Ireland for several aspects of our work on the Irish experience of World War One, including two exhibitions and a free public seminar on Gallipoli.

Finally, on behalf of the Board and myself, I would like to sincerely thank the Director, Dr Sandra Collins, and her staff for their continued hard work and commitment, and I look forward to working together to strengthen the Library's capability to deliver services in Ireland, and across the world with online access. I would also like to sincerely thank the Minister and her staff in the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for their continued support and interest in the Library.

Together with my Board colleagues, I look forward to working with the Library to develop its place at the heart of Ireland's culture, learning and society and to ensure that we can continue to deliver on our ambitious programme over the next year, and into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Paul Shovlin".

H. Paul Shovlin  
*Chairman, NLI*



# Director's Foreword

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2015 was a busy and memorable year for the National Library of Ireland.

The national collections are the foundations and the very bedrock of the National Library. The collections are permanent and accessible by all, and they record the memory of Ireland and allow us to share the story of Ireland with the world. As the world becomes increasingly digital we strive to capture new forms of digital memory.

Since 2007 the Library has undertaken web archiving to preserve the Irish online record - a sample of our digital memory - for future generations. In 2015, we harvested and preserved more than 220 websites, including amongst others, websites and tweets related to the marriage equality referendum campaigns. We continue this work with our web-archiving partner, the Internet Memory Foundation, to ensure important Irish online material is collected and preserved for all. All our archived websites are openly accessible through our online catalogue.

The National Library's diverse collections include unique landed estate papers, political papers, Gaelic manuscripts, photographs and maps, and modern Irish theatre and drama materials. In December 2015, they were enriched when we purchased a unique masterpiece of Irish theatre, the first draft of Sean O'Casey's 'Juno and the Paycock'. This was made possible through special funding allocated by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys, combined with matched funding from the National Library of Ireland Trust. This partnership approach enabled us to bring the O'Casey manuscript home to Ireland.

Our mandate as the National Library means that reaching out beyond our physical buildings is an important goal for us. Throughout the year our exhibitions travelled to 13 locations around the country, and our extensive and high-quality collection of online content is openly accessible across the world. In partnership with Poetry Ireland, we held the Poetry Aloud annual poetry speaking competition for the ninth year running, engaging with post-primary schools right across the island of Ireland. In 2015 we welcomed a record number of entries - over 1,800 - and to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the poet's birth, the prescribed poems were selected from WB Yeats' extensive canon.

An exciting development in October 2015 was the announcement of our major international exhibition to celebrate the life and work of Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney. Due to open in 2017, this exhibition will draw on the writer's extensive literary archive, kindly donated by Seamus Heaney to the National Library in 2011. This will be the premier exhibition in the new Cultural and Heritage Centre within Bank of Ireland's College Green complex, bringing visitors from across the world to Ireland.

The National Library received the most welcome news in the announcement by Minister Humphreys of a major capital investment plan for our main building in November 2015. We are very grateful to the Minister and her Department, and the OPW for their commitment and support on this important issue. It will be transformative for our collection care and public services, and really allow us to re-imagine the National Library through our physical spaces.

I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude to our Board and our staff for their unwavering commitment to the National Library throughout 2015. I want to deeply thank also our many donors, sponsors and partners, whose generosity greatly enriches the National Library in so many ways.

After a year in my new post, I remain both proud and humbled by the many different ways that people across the world connect with the National Library: the evocative personal stories, the scholarly and research discoveries, or the sheer pleasure of finding a piece of Irish heritage that connects you with home. I look forward to more busy years ahead.

*Dr Sandra Collins*

Dr Sandra Collins  
*Director, NLI*

# Resources

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## Budget

The NLI's 2015 allocation from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for pay, current and capital expenses was €7.075 million in 2015, an increase of 11.6% over 2014. €600,000 of this increase was budget restoration, with the remainder allocated to cover an additional calendar pay week in 2015.

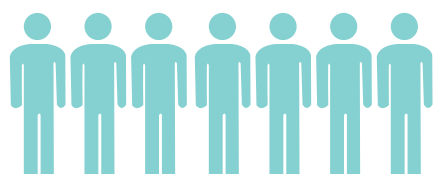
## Staff

The staff headcount in the NLI at the end of 2015 was 95, and the full-time equivalent was 88.49 (allowing for part time arrangements). Included in the headcount figure for 2015 were 9 temporary posts:

- Three graduate students employed on one year contracts working on Research, Library and Archival projects. The NLI's annual studentship programme has been in place for 17 years. The Research Studentship offers opportunities for advanced graduate students of Irish history to further develop their research skills and knowledge of original sources. The Library and Archives Studentships each offer a graduate wishing to pursue a professional career as a librarian or archivist a unique opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of key aspects of library and archival work including cataloguing, conservation and digitisation.
- A conservation intern on a one year contract. Since 2007, this internship programme, jointly funded by the Heritage Council, hosts recent graduates of specialized paper and/or book conservation courses. The scheme supports the professional development of young conservators and the programme has enabled the preservation and conservation of hundreds of unique library items.
- Three education assistants on two year contracts. The education assistants support the work of the Outreach department in reaching out across the nation, producing and interpreting nationally significant exhibitions, and bringing new audiences to the National Library. These roles significantly enhance the value of the State's existing investment in the National Library's collections and services in reaching out to citizens and visitors.
- Two software developers on 3 year contracts. These posts enabled the NLI to advance all aspects of its digital programme in 2015, including the development of the award winning Catholic Parish Registers website. The posts also made possible the extensive development work on the digital repository to accommodate the 23,000 digitised items relating to the 1916 centenary.



## 2015 at a glance



OVER **248,000**  
VISITS IN **2015**



RESEARCH  
VISITS

MORE THAN **220**

WEBSITES HARVESTED  
AND PRESERVED



BOOKS CATALOGUED

OVER **37,000**



FOLLOWERS



INTERACTIONS ACROSS  
NLI'S ONLINE PROFILES

(NLI WEBSITE, FLICKR COMMONS  
AND REGISTERS.NLI.IE)

**15,859** PEOPLE  
ATTENDED **280**



TOURS, TALKS, WORKSHOPS  
& PERFORMANCES



WITH MORE THAN  
**150,000**  
VISITS



EXHIBITIONS  
TRAVELLED TO



The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of an ornate, polished metal door handle. The handle features intricate scrollwork and a curved, ergonomic design. A semi-transparent teal overlay is applied across the entire image, creating a uniform color scheme. The text "Overview of Key Areas of Work 2015" is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

## Overview of Key Areas of Work 2015

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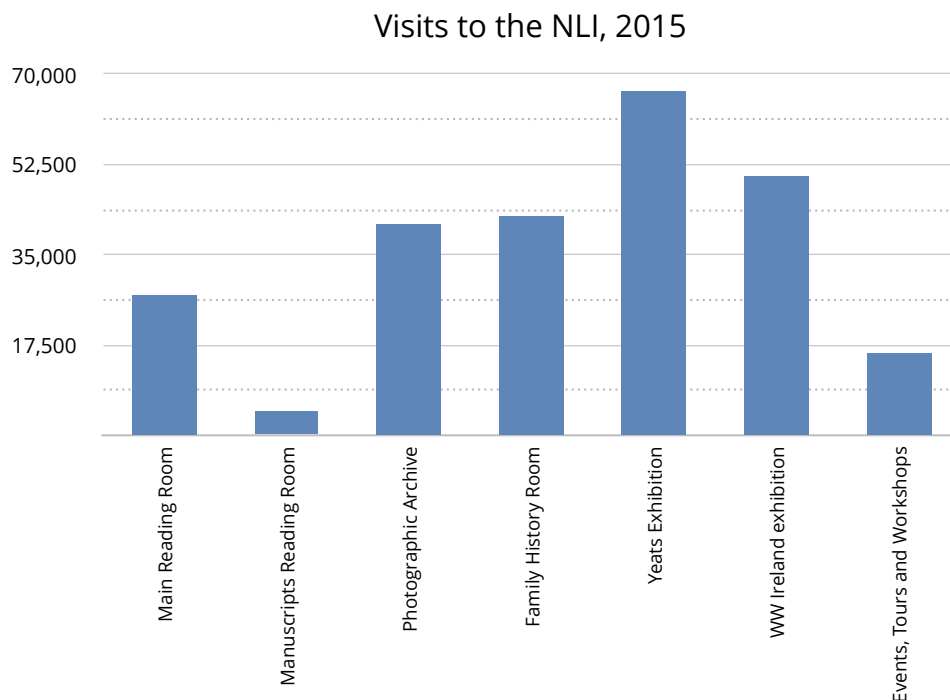
# Visitor Numbers

## Visitors to the NLI – Physical Sites and Events / Activities

There were 248,836 visits to the NLI recorded during 2015. Of these, 62,061 were research visits to the NLI's main Reading Room, Special Collections Reading Rooms or Family History Room.

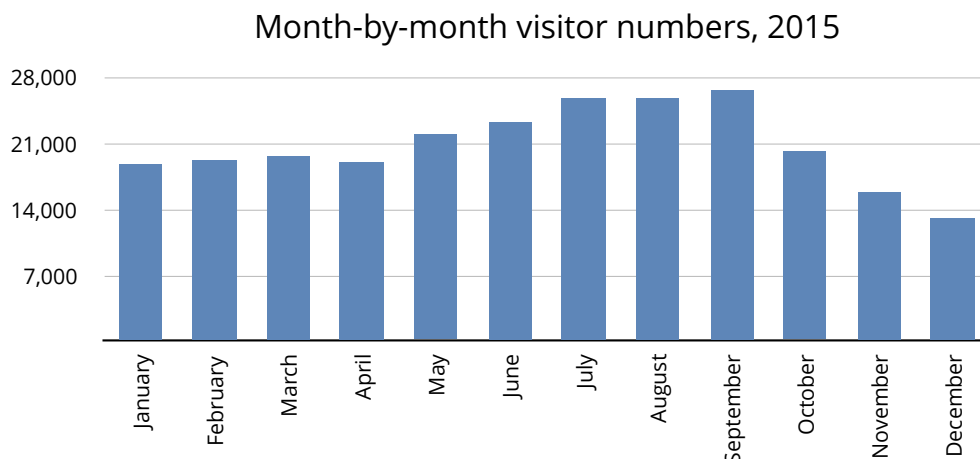
The NLI's Yeats exhibition was the most frequently visited part of the National Library, with 66,808 visits, a six per cent increase on 2014 figures. This was followed by the World War Ireland exhibition (50,379 visits) and the Family History Service (42,702 visits).

The table below summarises numbers of visits to different sites and activities within the NLI for 2015.



## Month-by-Month Visitor Numbers

The busiest month for visits to the NLI in 2015 was September, when we had 26,610 visits to our premises. This was followed by August (25,762) and July (25,752). The quietest month was December, when there were 13,044 visits to the NLI.





*Researchers at work with the NLI collections, as part of the Bird Song Project.*

## Online Visitors

We have invested significantly in attracting users and followers to our online profiles. The NLI website is [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie), plus four key social media profiles:

1. Flickr Commons: [www.flickr.com/photos/nlireland/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/nlireland/)
2. Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NationalLibraryofIreland](http://www.facebook.com/NationalLibraryofIreland)
3. Twitter: [www.twitter.com/nlireland](http://www.twitter.com/nlireland)
4. Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/nlieventarchive>

In July 2015, the NLI also launched 'Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI' at [registers.nli.ie](http://registers.nli.ie), which attracted over 5.5 million page views between the launch and the end of the year. There were 1.27 million visits to [nli.ie](http://nli.ie), and 14.29 million views of the NLI's profile on Flickr Commons.

At the end of 2015, the NLI had 16,415 Facebook followers and 20,630 followers on Twitter. Both profiles showed an increase in followers of more than 30% on 2014.

Website and Social Media Visitors / Followers, 2015	
	2015
<a href="http://nli.ie">nli.ie</a>	1,270,529
<a href="http://registers.nli.ie">registers.nli.ie</a>	5,553,736*
Flickr Commons Views	14,296,735
Facebook Followers	16,415
Twitter Followers	20,630
Vimeo	5,265

\*[registers.nli.ie](http://registers.nli.ie) launched in July 2015.



Here are the three most popular posts on Facebook and Twitter, including reach and engagement details:

## Top Facebook Posts

**National Library of Ireland**  
8 July 2015 · 🌐

The National Library of Ireland's web-repository of parish records dating from the 1740s to the 1880s is now live. It provides unlimited access to all members of the public to records covering 1,000 parishes across the island of Ireland.



**Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI**

This website contains images from the NLI's collection of Catholic parish register microfilms. The registers contain records of baptisms and marriages from the majority of Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland up to 1880.

REGISTERS.NLI.IE

Reach 32,015 | Likes 908 | Shares 418

**National Library of Ireland**  
29 April 2015 · 🌐

The NLI will make its collection of Catholic parish register microfilms freely available online on a dedicated website on 8 July 2015. Full details are available here: <http://www.nli.ie/en/list/latest-news.aspx...>

Reach 30,864 | Likes 701 | Shares 281

**National Library of Ireland**  
2 November 2015 · 🌐

All Souls' Day, 1916. Memorial handbill for those executed or who were killed during Easter Week 1916.

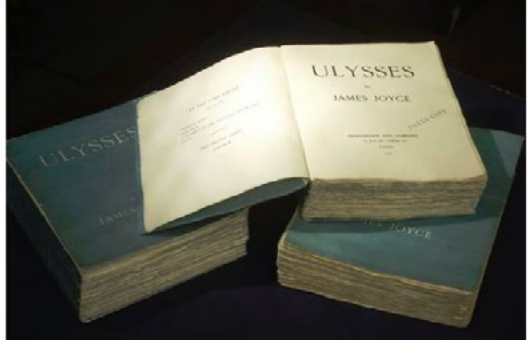


Reach 18,296 | Likes 550 | Shares 128

## Top Tweets

**Nat Library Ireland**  
@NLIreland

Happy Birthday to Mr Joyce and his novel Ulysses, who both came into the world on 2 February (1882 and 1922).



Impressions 49,513 | Favourites 160 | Retweets 270

**Nat Library Ireland**  
@NLIreland

Make sure to look up if you're attending the parish registers launch today #ancestorsonline



Impressions 29,032 | Favourites 21 | Retweets 25

**Nat Library Ireland**  
@NLIreland

Michael Collins leaving Earlsfort Terrace, where the Second Dáil ratified the Anglo-Irish Treaty on this day in 1922.



Impressions 18,273 | Favourites 79 | Retweets 96

# Collecting

## Books, Newspapers and Periodicals

The National Library's printed collections are an invaluable resource accessible to everyone.

The Library is entitled to a copy of every book published in Ireland, under what is known as legal deposit. During 2015, the NLI claimed 2,751 publications from Irish publishers under legal deposit, and received 1,852. 1,007 books relating to Ireland were purchased, and 242 donations were received.

12,887 new and antiquarian books were catalogued during the year. These included books from the WB Yeats Library – the poet's own book collection – and the Holloway collection.

Every issue of 246 current newspaper titles, including all national and provincial papers, were collected. This amounted to 9,702 individual newspapers in total. 3,876 periodicals were also collected.



*NLI Director Dr Sandra Collins and Minister Heather Humphreys pictured in the NLI book stacks.*

## Special Collections: Manuscripts, Prints and Drawings, Ephemera and Photographs

The National Library's special collections are unique and central to telling the story of Ireland.

There were 186 accessions to the Special Collections (Manuscripts, Prints and Drawings, Ephemera and Photographs) during 2015. There were 43 donations of material to the manuscripts collections in 2015, and 41 purchases. There were 22 donations of prints and drawings, and 18 purchases, and 22 ephemera donations and 20 purchases. There were 9 purchases and 11 donations to the photographic collections.

	<i>Donations</i>	<i>Purchases</i>
Manuscripts	43	41
Prints and Drawings	22	18
Ephemera	22	20
Photographs	11	9

## Digital Collections

To offer a broad representation of Irish life, it is crucial that the NLI's physical collections are complemented by digital collections. These digital collections are an invaluable resource for future research and complement the NLI's collections of manuscripts and printed books, newspapers and ephemera.

The National Library has been active in web archiving since 2007, and has been carrying out selective and thematic web archiving since 2011. Nearly 230 websites were preserved during 2015 on topics including the Marriage Equality Referendum (see highlights), the 150th Anniversary of the birth of WB Yeats, the Decade of Commemorations, Budget 2016, Festivals, Tourism and Health, Welfare and Housing.



## Collecting and Cataloguing Highlights

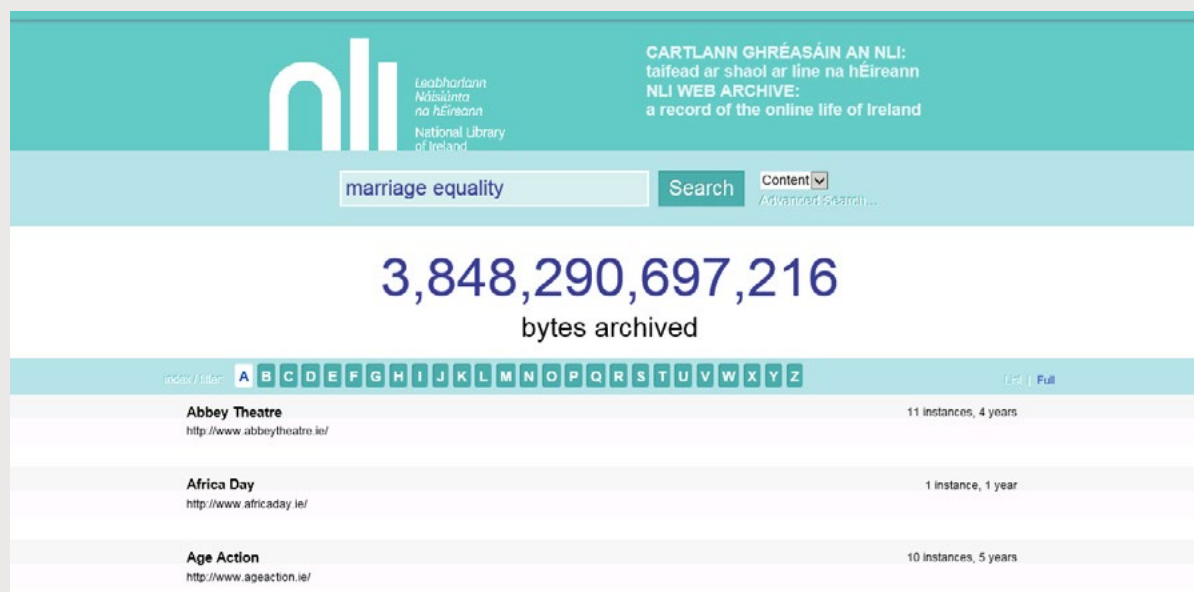
Particular highlights included the acquisition of an early draft of Sean O'Casey's 'Juno and the Paycock', the Christopher Robson Photographic Collection, and the collecting of websites connected with the Marriage Equality Referendum.

Other collecting highlights included the acquisition of a Yeats Manuscript notebook, the Christopher Murray Papers (a remarkable archive, mainly relating to modern Irish theatre), the MacDermot of Coolavin Papers and the M.J. Molloy papers.

Over many decades, the Yeats family have been extraordinarily generous in donating material to the National Library. The cataloguing of WB Yeats' own library, comprising 2,525 books, was completed in 2015.

Other cataloguing highlights included the commencement of cataloguing of the Liam O'Leary Archive, a joint project with the Irish Film Archive. Additional key material from the Sheehy Skeffington, Roger Casement and Alice Stopford Green collections relating to the Decade of Commemorations was also catalogued.

## Preserving the Online Record: 2015 Marriage Equality Referendum



Referendum campaigns and elections are often seminal moments in history. With so much information now shared online, web archiving is critical in ensuring permanent records of these moments are kept, as relevant websites can quite literally disappear in the aftermath of a vote.

Voters in the 2015 Marriage Equality Referendum were asked whether to add to the Constitution that "marriage may be contracted in accordance with law by two persons without distinction as to their sex". The proposal was supported by the Government as well as all major political parties. On 22 May 2015, Ireland became the first country to legalise same-sex marriage through a popular vote. The referendum was passed by 62%, with overall voter turnout of 61%. With a very strong online presence for the referendum campaigns, it was a natural step for the NLI to preserve and ensure permanent access to this record for future generations.

The NLI identified and selected 49 websites for preservation, capturing sites that represented the spectrum of information and debate. These included the innovative 'Get the Boat 2 Vote', political party sites and official referendum sites. Commentary, satire, news and analysis sites were also represented. The NLI contacted site owners directly to let them know of the Library's interest in archiving their website, and then worked with the web-archiving partner, the [Internet Memory Foundation](#), to archive a snapshot of the sites between 23 and 25 May 2015.

All the websites can now be accessed online in the [NLI Web Archive](#) and the NLI Website provides more information, including a list of every site in the [2015 Marriage Referendum Web Archive Collection](#).

## An Irish Classic: First Draft of Sean O'Casey's 'Juno and the Paycock'

The NLI acquired the first draft of Sean O'Casey's play 'Juno and the Paycock' at a Sotheby's auction in December 2015. The 62-page manuscript was acquired by a phone bid placed for the NLI in a rare books auction in Manhattan for the sum of €174,484.25 excluding VAT. The acquisition was made possible by special allocation funding from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) and the NLI Trust.

First produced in the Abbey in 1924, 'Juno and the Paycock' is considered one of the great plays of the twentieth century. The manuscript contains a handwritten draft of Acts I and II, fragments of Act III, listings of characters, notes and a synopsis of the play. The autographed manuscript is in a school notebook, with the title 'Juno and the Peacock' on the front cover, and differs substantially from the published version. The manuscript was owned by the late Robert S Pirie, an American lawyer and one of the world's leading book collectors, who died in January 2015.

Archives relating to modern Irish theatre and drama are among the great treasures of the NLI's collections. The acquisition of this manuscript has further enhanced the Library as a destination for O'Casey studies, joining rich holdings of literary papers, personal library, writing desk and other artefacts.



## Landmark Day for Irish Genealogy: Launch of 'Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI'

Wednesday 8 July 2015 was a landmark day for Irish genealogy. An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny and Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys, officially launched 'Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI', a new web-repository of parish records, at a special event in the Library.

The original Catholic parish registers date from the 1740s to the 1880s. They record baptisms, marriages and some deaths, and are considered to be the single most important source of information on Irish family history prior to the 1901 Census. The National Library microfilmed the parish records, mostly during the 1950s and 1960s, creating microfilm copies of more than 3,550 registers from the vast majority of Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Until 2015, anyone interested in accessing these records had to visit the National Library in person.

With the launch of [registers.nli.ie](http://registers.nli.ie), people everywhere now have access to records covering 1,086 parishes from throughout the island of Ireland. The new web resource was a major investment in community, heritage and in diaspora engagement, allowing those based overseas to consult the records without any barriers. It was also a significant investment in the NLI's digital reach, building on and extending our existing digital library infrastructure. The resource leverages many open-source technologies and was designed to be fully responsive, working across mobile, tablet and desktop devices.

The appeal of the site was clear from the usage data during the year. From its launch in July to the end of December 2015, the website attracted almost 330,000 unique users and over five and a half million page views. It was viewed by users from 172 countries, with the highest numbers of users coming from Ireland, US, UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Spain, France, Germany and the Netherlands.



*Ciara Kerrigan, project manager of the digitisation of parish registers, shows the new web-repository to An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister Heather Humphreys.*

# Exhibitions

Six exhibitions were staged or hosted by the NLI over the course of 2015, on Kildare Street and in Temple Bar.

## 1. Yeats: The Life and Work of William Butler Yeats

The National Library's award-winning exhibition on WB Yeats has been welcoming visitors since 2006. Showcasing the NLI's holdings - the most extensive collection of WB Yeats papers, manuscripts, volumes and memorabilia in the world - this multimedia exhibition also charts the life of the great Nobel Laureate.

To mark the 150th anniversary of WB Yeats' birth in 2015, new readings by participants in the Poetry Aloud verse speaking competition were added to the "Verse and Vision" section of the exhibition. These were complemented by a new "Favourite Poem" wall, where all visitors can leave a record of their own favourite poem.



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In 2015, the exhibition attracted 66,808 visits, a six per cent increase from 2014.

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## 2. World War Ireland: Exploring the Irish Experience

'World War Ireland' opened at the NLI on 20th November 2014, supported by funding from the British Embassy in Ireland. The exhibition focuses on the unique aspects of the Irish WWI experience. With original artefacts, first hand personal accounts and eyewitness testimony, World War Ireland brings visitors dramatically inside the lives of those who experienced WWI.

A new module, 'Desperate Times, Desperate Measures,' was added to the exhibition in 2015. This told the story of 1915, a year in which extreme means were employed in an effort to break the stalemate and bring the war to an end. The focus was on two major events which impacted on Irish lives overseas and at home: the Gallipoli Campaign and the sinking of the Lusitania.



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There were over 50,000 visits to the exhibition during 2015.

.....



### 3. Midland - Lár Tíre: Cycling the MGWR from Past to Present

Midland - Lár Tíre was a bilingual (Irish and English) multimedia exhibition of photographs, audio clips, maps, video, notebooks and sculpture by artist Pamela de Brí. The exhibition documented the former Midland and Great Western Railway (MGWR) as Pamela found it between 2011 and 2013.



The exhibition was inspired by the National Library of Ireland's O'Dea Photographic Collection. The O'Dea Collection was photographed by James O'Dea, (1910-1992) a commercial traveler and amateur photographer, and in 1946 a founder member of the Irish Railway Record Society. The O'Dea Photographic Collection consists of 5,400 black and white photographs, documenting the railways of Ireland between 1937 and 1977. The entire O'Dea collection has now been digitised by the NLI and is now free to view at [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie).

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The exhibition ran at the NPA from 9 January to 24 May 2015, and was visited almost 17,000 times.

.....

### 4. DIT Graduate Photography 2015

Graduates of the BA in Photography in the School of Media at DIT held their end of year exhibition in the National Photographic Archive. Opened by photographer and artist Dragana Jurisic on Tuesday 2 June, the exhibition ran until 28 June.

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There were 3,640 visits to the exhibition during its run.

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### 5. Portraits of the Invisible: The Irish in World War I

In March 2012, the National Library of Ireland held the first of several Irish World War I Roadshows. Families were invited to have personal items connected to WWI catalogued and digitised, to tell their family stories about that war, and to have the digitised items added to the Europeana online archive (<http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu>). It was an opportunity to remember their family members, and to bring their story to the wider world.

This exhibition at the National Photographic Archive, a partnership with the British Embassy in Ireland, showcased the photographs collected during the roadshows. Images of soldiers and medics, nurses and stretcher bearers, drivers and cyclists, sailors and pilots, were accompanied by the stories their families have treasured for generations. Specially created audio recordings brought the words written by these participants in WWI in their letters, postcards and diaries to life.



*Pictured at the launch of 'Portraits of the Invisible' on 22 July 2015 were Carole Budd Cullen, granddaughter of Charles Budd who is featured in the exhibition, and British Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Dominick Chilcott.*

.....

Portraits of the Invisible ran at the National Photographic Archive from July 2015 and attracted more than 20,000 visits.

.....

## 6. “Hope in the Great War”, 1914 - 1918

In partnership with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the National Library hosted the Royal National Lifeboats Institution of Great Britain and Ireland's travelling exhibition “Hope in the Great War”. The exhibition ran in the main hall of the NLI in May and June 2015.



### Travelling Exhibitions

The NLI has a selection of exhibitions available in travelling format. These pull-up information banners are adaptations of former NLI exhibitions or themed explorations of material in our collections, ranging from the story of heraldry and the grants of arms, to Ireland's experience of WWI. A full list of travelling exhibitions currently offered is available on our website.

In 2015, the exhibitions travelled to 13 locations around Ireland and internationally, from Killiney Grove Nursing Home to the Irish Embassy in Budapest. Other locations included sites such as Enniscorthy Castle, Kilkenny Castle, and Athlone Castle, together with schools and libraries. 2015 was also the first year in which the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology hosted an exhibition.



### NLI Collections on Loan

The NLI lends collection items for temporary exhibitions in cultural institutions in Ireland and overseas. In 2015, material from the collections was loaned to five different exhibitions.

Prints, drawings and ephemera from the Library's Special Collections were loaned to: the National Museum of Ireland for their exhibition 'Clontarf 1014: Brian Boru and the Battle for Dublin'; the Hugh Lane Gallery for the exhibition 'Hugh Lane (1875-1915): Dublin's Legacy and Loss'; and to the National Gallery of Ireland for 'At a Glance: Portraits by John Butler Yeats.'

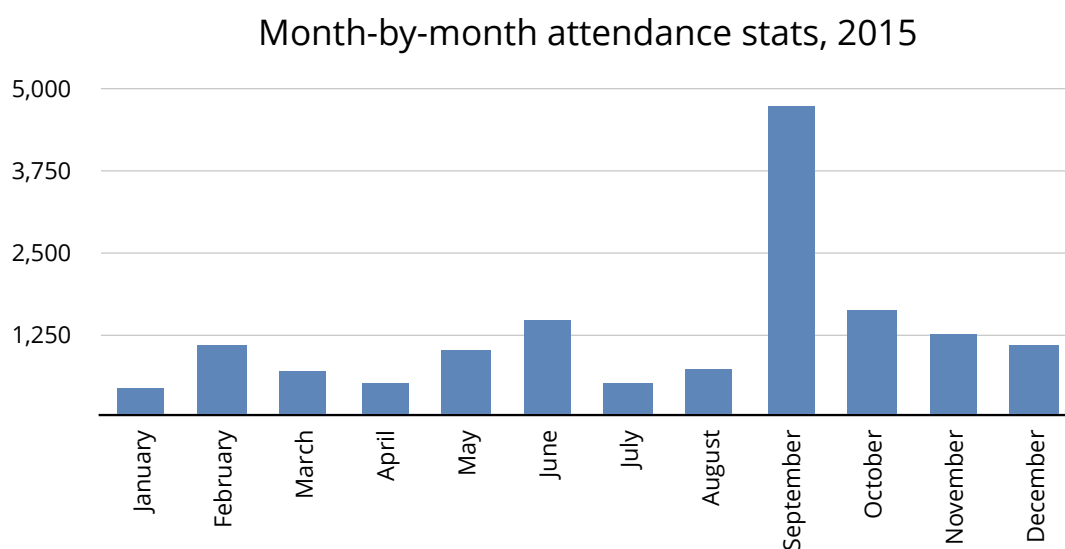
Material from the Christy Brown Collection in the Manuscripts Collection was loaned to the Little Museum of Dublin for their Christy Brown exhibition, and the colours of the Irish Brigade Regiments, formerly in the Chapel Royal in Dublin Castle, were loaned to Dublin Castle for the exhibition, 'Pinnacles, Pomp & Piety.' The film 'The Promise of Barty O'Brien' was loaned to the Irish Film Institute for screenings of films made in and about Laois.

# Events and Outreach

The NLI runs an extensive programme of events and learning opportunities on an ongoing basis, encompassing tours, workshops, lectures, genealogy events, performances and family-focused activities. There is a range of options for all ages, during the day, in the evenings and at weekends.

During 2015, 15,859 people attended events run by the NLI. This includes 4,000 people who visited on Culture Night in September, and all the participants in the regional heats of Poetry Aloud. Public tours, and school tours / workshops and third-level visits attracted another 4,219 participants.

The busiest month for events was September, when 4,706 people attended NLI events. This was followed by October (1,599) and June (1,464).





## Event Highlights

Some of the event highlights from 2015 were as follows:

### Joint Oireachtas Committee and Public Accounts Committee Visit

A number of members of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht and of the Public Accounts Committee visited the National Library on Wednesday 25 February, to explore the NLI's range of services and the challenges of overseeing extensive and diverse collections. The group viewed areas throughout the NLI's building, including the newspaper collections, and were given a behind the scenes introduction to the Library's collection of political ephemera.



Exploring the newspaper collections during the visit.

### Bird Song Project and Concerts

Commissioned by Age and Opportunity/Bealtaine 2015 and devised and produced by Michael Fortune and Aileen Lambert, the Bird Song Project was a research and performance project involving traditional singers and the National Library's collections.

Five special concerts took place across the country, with 15 traditional singing circles, from Wexford to Derry, also participating by hosting their own bird song night, each with a unique line-up. The National Library hosted two concerts. On Wednesday 6 May, the Leinster Concert featured Paddy Berry, Phil Berry, John O'Byrne, Mary O'Brien, Alannah O'Kelly, Gerry Cullen, and Páidrigín Ní Uallacháin, and on Thursday 7 May the Dublin Concert featured Luke Cheevers, Niamh Parsons, Francy Devine, Tony McGaley, Tom Finn, Eugene McEldowney and Anne Buckley.



Performers at one of the Birdsong concerts in the NLI.

### Yeats 2015

2015 was the 150th anniversary of WB Yeats' birth, and was marked by a national and international programme of Yeats2015 events. The National Library marked the poet's birthday, 13 June, with a month of literary events, including lunchtime talks, lectures and a panel discussion; music and theatre performances; poetry readings; and public tours of the Yeats exhibition.

The first event, a lecture by Professor Jerusha MacCormack, was followed by the annual Joseph Hassett Yeats Lecture 'Players and Painted Stage: The Drama of Yeats' Life' by Roy Foster, Carroll Professor of Irish History at the University of Oxford. Professor Foster also took part in a History Ireland Hedge School panel discussion of Yeats 150.

Yeats' birthday was celebrated from 2pm to 4pm with a free programme of live flute, harp and cello music in the Library's beautiful front hall accompanying a selection of Yeats' poems read by students from the Poetry Aloud competition and introduced by Niall MacMonagle.

Music and drama performances by Curlew Theatre Company amongst others rounded out the month.



Music in the NLI for Yeats Day 2015.

## Gallipoli Perspectives: A Seminar

A special seminar focusing on the Gallipoli campaign of World War I was held in the National Library on 14 November. Moderated by Tom Burke of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, five speakers offered five different perspectives on the Gallipoli campaign and its aftermath. Turkish Ambassador Necip Egüz, historian Philip Orr, broadcaster David Davin-Power, academic Dr Jennifer Wellington and researcher Neale Rooney offered stimulating and thought-provoking presentations to a packed lecture theatre.

## Towards 2016



Eamonn Ceannt, grandnephew of Proclamation Signatory Éamonn Ceannt views a photograph of Áine Ceannt with her son Rónán.



The Front Hall on 7 December 2015 at the special event to launch the NLI's 2016 programme and 1916 Digital Collections.

On the evening of Monday 7 December 2015 the NLI launched the 1916 Digital Collections, together with details of the programme for 2016.

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys, officiated at the event, announcing details of a unique digital repository telling the stories of the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation. A number of descendants of the signatories of the Proclamation also attended.

Dr John Bowman introduced the event, which took place in the NLI's Front Hall, featuring music, animated projections of portrait images and a striking light installation on the pillars and ceiling.

# The NLI's Work with External Partners

Partnering with other bodies allows the NLI to achieve more by combining its particular strengths and expertise with those of its partner organisations. 2015 was a very active year on this front, with the Library engaged in an extensive programme of partnership and engagement throughout Ireland.

Activity around the Decade of Commemorations was an important feature of the NLI's partnerships in 2015. The Library worked closely with RTÉ on their Road to the Rising event on Easter Monday, running a public engagement day around privately held memorabilia in the GPO. Later in the year, we partnered with Inspiring Ireland, a joint project of the DRI and the cultural institutions, on a series of 1916 community collecting initiatives. Throughout the year, we supported the development of Century Ireland, the online historical newspaper, with content from our digitised collections. We also initiated other collections-focused partnerships, including one with the Irish Film Institute. This is a collaborative project to process, preserve, conserve, and catalogue the Liam O'Leary Film Archive and to make it available to the public for research.

Collaborating with national festivals and programmes amplifies the Library's message and increases our reach around Ireland. In 2015, this included working together with Adult Learners' Week, One City One Book, Bealtaine, Yeats2015, Heritage Week, and Culture Night. We also contributed to festivals and programmes around the country, including Cashel Arts Festival.

We continued to work with UCD on the development of the Ulysses Centre, a new literary visitor attraction at Newman House. October also saw the announcement of a Seamus Heaney exhibition to be staged by the National Library at the Bank of Ireland on College Green, in a major partnership with DAHG and BOI. The Little Museum of Dublin produced an exhibition based on the Christy Brown Archive featuring the collection jointly acquired in 2014.

Collaborative working enhanced our engagement across the education sector. We hosted a series of adult education courses drawing on the Library's collections in partnership with UCD Adult Education, and together with Poetry Ireland organised Poetry Aloud, the all-island poetry speaking competition for post-primary schools which attracted over 1,800 participants in 2015.

Contributions from partners also enhanced and contributed to our programme. This included generous support from Joseph Hassett for the annual Yeats lecture, and funding from the British Embassy in Ireland for several aspects of our work on the Irish experience of WWI, including two exhibitions and a free public seminar on Gallipoli.



*James Harte, NLI, with the Brady family and memorabilia at the Road to the Rising event in the GPO on Easter Monday.*



*NLI Director Dr Sandra Collins pictured with Poetry Aloud 2015 winners Alice Magorrian, Kevin Fitzpatrick and Nuala Whittle.*



*Pictured at the announcement of the Seamus Heaney exhibition were Minister Heather Humphreys, Dr Sandra Collins, Mick Heaney and Richie Boucher.*



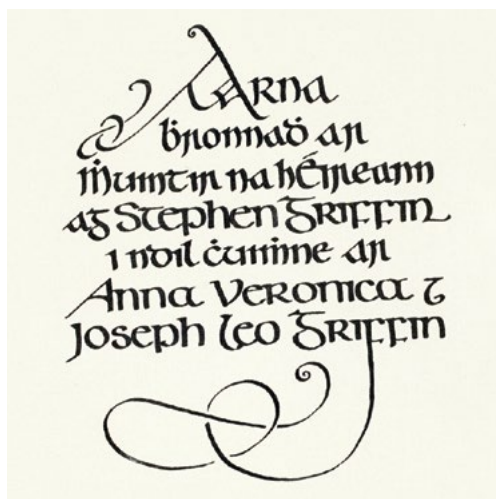
# Supporting the NLI

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Since its foundation in 1877, the National Library of Ireland has enjoyed great support in the form of financial and material donations, which have enabled it to become the world's leading repository for Ireland's history and heritage. Almost all of the NLI's services, public events and programmes are open to the public free of charge, and donation boxes are located throughout the NLI's buildings to help support the ongoing programme of work.

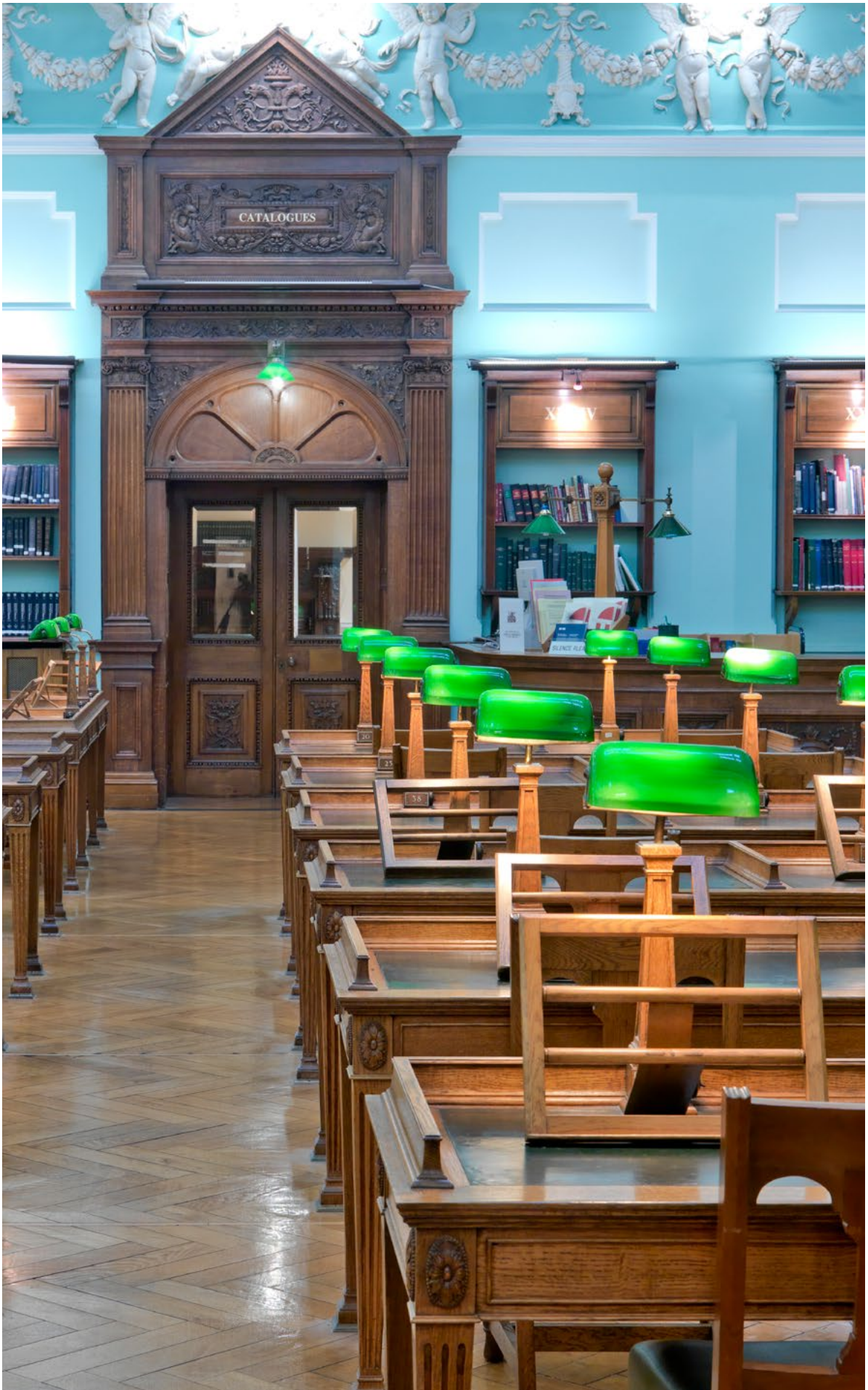
In addition, the National Library of Ireland Trust was established to facilitate the generosity of people who wish to endow the NLI by financial donation or bequest. The Trust is an approved body within the meaning of section 484 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 which, in effect, means that donations to the Trust are tax deductible, subject to certain conditions. Full details of conditions can be found on [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie)

For further information about the Trust, please contact the National Library of Ireland by email to [nlitrust@nli.ie](mailto:nlitrust@nli.ie) or by phone at 00353-1-6030244.



## The Griffin Collection

We particularly wish to acknowledge a further gift of books dealing with the presence of the Irish in America from the 18th century to the present day, donated by Mr Stephen Griffin. The collection is presented to the NLI by Stephen Griffin in loving memory of Anna Veronica and Joseph Leo Griffin. We are very grateful to Mr Griffin for his ongoing donation, which constitutes a major resource in this important area. The Griffin Collection of Books and Materials pertaining to the Irish Experience in America contains over six thousand items, including many rare and ephemeral items.



# Board Member Attendance

## Former Board

7 meetings up to the 31st of August, 2015

<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
David Harvey (Chairman) <sup>1</sup>	4
Marian Fitzgibbon	6
Brian Halpin	7
Patrick McMahon	7
Des Marnane	6
Susan Philips	6
Pat Quinn	7
Paul Rellis	-
Paul Shovlin	7
Robert Spoo	4

1. Term as Chairman ended on 3 May 2015

## Current Board

2 meetings up to the 31st of December, 2015

<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Paul Shovlin (Chairman)	2
Ciara Breathnach	1
Bob Collins	2
Maeve Conrick	1
James Dorgan	2
Jack Keyes	2
Conor Kostick	2
Katherine McSharry	2
Eoin McVey	2
Susan Philips	2
Susan Schreibman	2
Jennifer Taaffe	2

The Board came to the end of its term during the year; seven meetings were held between the 1st of January and the 31st of August, 2015. A new board was appointed by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The new Board held two meetings before the 31st of December, 2015.

In 2015, €3,310 was paid to Board members to cover travel and meeting expenses.





# Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General



## Comptroller and Auditor General

### Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

#### National Library of Ireland

I have audited the financial statements of the National Library of Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2015 under the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997. The financial statements comprise the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and the related notes. The financial statements have been prepared in the form prescribed under Section 35 of the Act, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

#### Responsibilities of the Members of the Board

The Board is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, for ensuring that they give a true and fair view and for ensuring the regularity of transactions.

#### Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements and to report on them in accordance with applicable law.

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation.

My audit is carried out in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and in compliance with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

#### Scope of audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Library's circumstances, and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made in the preparation of the financial statements, and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I also seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit.

In addition, I read the Library's annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, I consider the implications for my report.

#### Opinion on the financial statements

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the National Library of Ireland as at 31 December 2015 and of its income and expenditure for 2015; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

In my opinion, the accounting records of the Library were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

#### Matters on which I report by exception

I report by exception if I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or if I find

- any material instance where money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them, or
- the information given in the Library's annual report is not consistent with the related financial statements or with the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit, or
- the statement on internal financial control does not reflect the Library's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, or
- there are other material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I have nothing to report in regard to those matters upon which reporting is by exception.

Patricia Shaehan

For and on behalf of the  
Comptroller and Auditor General  
22 December 2016

# Board Members' Report

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For the year ended 31st December 2015

## Board Members' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

Section 35 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 requires the National Library of Ireland to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it.

In preparing these financial statements, the National Library of Ireland is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in operation
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, and identify the standards in question, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in financial statements

The Board of the National Library of Ireland was established on the 3rd of May 2005. The Board is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position which enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 35 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. The Board is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Board of the National Library of Ireland:



Paul Shovlin  
*Chairman*

Sandra Collins  
*Director*

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016



# Statement on Internal Financial Control

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## Responsibility for system of Internal Financial Control

On behalf of the Board of the National Library of Ireland ("the National Library"), I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated.

The system can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

## Key Control Procedures

The Board has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by:

- clearly defining management responsibilities;
- establishing formal procedures for reporting significant control failures; and
- ensuring appropriate corrective action.

The Board can report substantial progress in establishing procedures to identify and evaluate business risks including:

- identifying the nature, extent and financial implications of risks facing the body including the extent and categories, which it regards as acceptable;
- assessing the likelihood of identified risks occurring;
- assessing the body's ability to manage and mitigate the risks that do occur; and
- assessing the costs of operating particular controls relative to the benefit obtained.

Following a loss of items from the Collection in 2013, The National Library requested that the Crime Prevention Unit of An Garda Síochána undertake a review of security. The National Library also arranged for two internationally recognised library security experts to conduct reviews of its security arrangements. The reviews were completed toward the end of 2014 and the National Library has taken the following actions as a result of the recommendations made:

- enhanced the security of its collections by further limiting access to storage areas, introducing new access control systems and undertaking stock checks of particular collections; and
- recruited a Head of Estates in early 2016 with responsibility for the security of its collection.

The Head of Estates is currently reviewing and addressing the recommendations made in the two external security reviews.

As in previous years, the National Library has rolled over the legal and security contracts despite the expiration of the original contracts. Payments in relation to these contracts in 2015 totalled €214,388 on security and €1,877 for legal services. This is primarily the result of the National Library awaiting the establishment of framework agreements by the Office of Government Procurement in 2016. The OGP issued a framework contract for legal services and the National Library intends to avail of this contract as and when new cases arise.

The framework contract for security services is expected to be issued by the OGP during 2016 and The National Library is in regular contact with the OGP about the establishment of this framework.

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures including segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting system with an annual budget which is reviewed and agreed by the Board;
- regular reviews by the Board of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts; and
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance.

The National Library has outsourced the Internal Audit function, which operates in accordance with the Framework Code of Best Practice set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The analysis of risk and the Internal Audit plans are endorsed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board. The Audit Committee reports regularly to the Board and provides the Board with comprehensive reports of internal audit activity.

## Annual Review of Controls

The Board recognises its responsibility in respect of its system of financial internal control. To that end it has undertaken regular review, directly and by reports from the Audit Committee, of the internal financial controls and is satisfied as to their effectiveness. It will continue to discharge this responsibility.

Signed on behalf of the Board:



Paul Shovlin  
*Chairman*

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016


# Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

For the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

	Note	2015 €	2014 €
<b>INCOME</b>			
Oireachtas Grants	2	7,210,000	6,388,280
Donations	3	2,024,997	165,188
Net Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding	6 (c)	1,243,230	1,647,892
Other Income	4	181,490	167,430
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>10,659,717</b>	<b>8,368,790</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Administration, Operations & Promotion	5	5,168,028	5,014,939
Programmes	7	1,296,022	680,395
Retirement Benefit Costs	6 (a)	1,698,541	2,026,000
Depreciation	8	246,695	276,810
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>8,409,286</b>	<b>7,998,144</b>
<b>Surplus for the Year before Appropriations</b>		<b>2,250,431</b>	<b>370,646</b>
Transfer to the Capital Account	9	( 2,620,059 )	( 251,802 )
(Deficit) / Surplus for the Year after Appropriations		<b>( 369,628 )</b>	<b>118,844</b>
Balance Brought Forward at 1 January		790,774	671,930
<b>Balance Carried Forward at 31 December</b>		<b>421,146</b>	<b>790,774</b>

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of the National Library of Ireland:



Paul Shovlin  
Chairman



Sandra Collins  
Director

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016



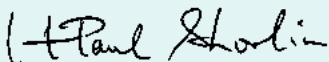

# Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

		2015	2014
	Note	€	€
<b>Surplus before Appropriations</b>		<b>2,250,431</b>	<b>370,646</b>
Experience gains on retirement benefit obligations	6 (d)	415,000	425,000
Change in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations		2,365,000	( 4,903,000 )
<b>Total actuarial gain / (loss) in the year</b>		<b>2,780,000</b>	<b>( 4,478,000 )</b>
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefits funding		( 2,780,000 )	4,478,000
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>		<b>2,250,431</b>	<b>370,646</b>

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of the National Library of Ireland:

Paul Shovlin  
Chairman

Sandra Collins  
Director

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016

# Statement of Financial Position

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

	Note	2015 €	2014 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	10	1,719,325	1,405,738
Heritage Assets	11	15,531,266	13,224,794
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		<b>17,250,591</b>	<b>14,630,532</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Receivables	12	268,803	223,707
Cash and Cash Equivalents		738,780	916,409
		<b>1,007,583</b>	<b>1,140,116</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b> ( <i>amounts falling due within one year</i> )			
Payables	13	586,437	349,342
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>421,146</b>	<b>790,774</b>
<b>Retirement Benefits</b>			
Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding Asset	6 (b)	33,634,230	35,171,000
Retirement Benefit Obligations	6 (b)	( 33,634,230 )	( 35,171,000 )
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<b>17,671,737</b>	<b>15,421,306</b>
<b>Representing</b>			
Capital Account:			
Heritage Fixed Assets	9 (a)	15,531,266	13,224,794
Operational Fixed Assets	9 (b)	1,719,325	1,405,738
Retained Revenue Reserves		421,146	790,774
		<b>17,671,737</b>	<b>15,421,306</b>

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of the National Library of Ireland:

Paul Shovlin  
Chairman

Sandra Collins  
Director

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016

# Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

	2015 €	2014 €
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Excess Income over Expenditure	2,250,431	370,646
Donated Assets	( 1,919,001 )	( 138,000 )
Depreciation and Impairment of Fixed Assets	246,695	276,810
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	( 45,096 )	( 59,227 )
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	237,095	( 67,006 )
Bank Interest received	( 234 )	( 486 )
<b>Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities</b>	<b>769,890</b>	<b>382,737</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Payments to acquire Property, Plant & Equipment	( 475,781 )	( 45,547 )
Payments to acquire Heritage Assets	( 471,972 )	( 345,065 )
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	<b>( 947,753 )</b>	<b>( 390,612 )</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>		
Bank Interest received	234	486
<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>486</b>
<b>Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>( 177,629 )</b>	<b>( 7,389 )</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 1 January	916,409	923,798
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>738,780</b>	<b>916,409</b>



# Notes to the financial statements

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For the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

## 1. Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and the significant accounting policies adopted by the National Library of Ireland are set out below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the year and for the preceding year.

### a) General Information

The National Library of Ireland was set up under the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, with a head office at Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

The National Library of Ireland's primary objectives as set out in Part 12 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 are as follows:

*"...to conserve, restore, maintain and enlarge the National Library material in the collection of the National 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."*

The National Library of Ireland is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

### b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of the National Library of Ireland ("The National Library") for the year ended 31 December 2015 have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), as promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland. These are the National Library's first set of financial statements prepared in accordance with FRS 102. The date of transition to FRS 102 is 1 January 2014. The transition to FRS 102 has not affected the National Library's reported financial position or financial performance although there have been some presentational changes as a result of figures being re-analysed on the same basis as the current year.

### c) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities that are measured at fair values as explained in the accounting policies below. The financial statements are in the form approved by the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht with the concurrence of the Minister for Finance under the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the National Library's financial statements.

### d) Revenue

#### Oireachtas Grants

Revenue is generally recognised on an accruals basis except in the case of Oireachtas Grants, which are recognised on a cash receipts basis.

#### Other Revenue

Other revenue is recognised on an accruals basis.

#### Direct Costs

Direct costs relating to the generation of other revenue through the activities of the National Library, e.g. Heraldry, are shown gross on the face of Note 4, Other Income.

## e) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, adjusted for any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment at rates estimated to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of each asset on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

(i) Fixtures and Fittings	10% per annum
(ii) Computers	25% per annum
(iii) Office and General Equipment	20% per annum

Residual value represents the estimated amount which would currently be obtained from disposal of an asset, after deducting estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of an age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

If there is objective evidence of impairment of the value of an asset, an impairment loss is recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account in the year.

## f) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at fair value, less a provision for doubtful debts, where applicable. A provision for doubtful debts is a specific provision, and is established when there is objective evidence that the National Library will not be able to collect all amounts owed to it. All movements in any provision for doubtful debts are recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

## g) Employee Benefits

### Short-term Benefits

Short term benefits such as holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the year, and benefits that are accrued at year-end are included in the Payables figure in the Balance Sheet.

### Retirement Benefits

The National Library previously established its own defined benefit pension scheme ("the Main Scheme"), funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis from monies provided by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and from contributions deducted from staff members' salaries. The National Library also operates the Single Public Services Pension Scheme ("the Single Scheme"), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. Single Scheme members' contributions are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER).

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees, and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are retained by the National Library. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The financial statements reflect – at fair value – the assets and liabilities arising from the National Library's pension obligations and any related funding, and recognises the costs of providing pension benefits in the accounting periods in which they are earned by employees. Retirement benefit scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method.

## h) Heritage Assets and Library Collections

A Heritage Asset is defined as a tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

### Initial Recognition

Purchased items are recorded at cost in the financial statements. Donation items are recorded at a current valuation ascertained by Keepers of the Library with reference, where possible, to commercial markets using recent transaction information from auctions. Donations, where the National Library avails of Section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 are recorded on the basis of the valuation of the Office of the Revenue Commissioners.

Donations are recognised as income with a corresponding transfer to the Heritage Fixed Assets capital account as follows

- Donations that do not impose specified future performance-related conditions on the Library are recognised in income when the resources are received or receivable.
- Donations that do impose specified future performance-related conditions on the Library are recognised in income only when the performance-related conditions are met.
- Where resources are received before the revenue recognition criteria are satisfied, a liability is recognised.

### Valuation

The Board does not consider that reliable cost or valuation information can be obtained for all the items held in the collections of the National Library. This is because of the diverse nature of materials held, the number of items in the collections and the lack of comparable market values. The National Library therefore does not recognise all its collections as assets in the Statement of Financial Position other than acquisitions which cost or were valued at more than €5,000 and were acquired or donated since the Board was established in May 2005. These are classified as Heritage Assets at the recording date.

Heritage assets are initially recognised at the cost of acquisition as the value attributed for donated items. The items are carried at the cost in the statement of financial position with reductions for impairment where relevant.

All acquisitions for the collection purchased in excess of €5,000 are funded from the National Library's capital funding allocation for the year while acquisitions which cost less than €5,000 are funded from the current funding allocation.

Web Archiving and Digitisation are capitalised at cost and where cataloguing and metadata is directly related to the Web Archiving and Digitisation projects, these costs are also capitalised.

### Impairment

Heritage assets are not depreciated. If there is objective evidence of impairment of the value of a heritage asset, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves in the year. A heritage asset may be impaired, for example where it has suffered physical deterioration, breakage or doubts arise as to its authenticity.

### Conservation Costs

Conservation expenditure which is required to conserve or prevent further deterioration of individual items is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves when it is incurred.

## i) Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

### Donated Heritage Assets

The values of collection items donated to the National Library are determined by using valuation techniques. The National Library exercises judgment in selecting a variety of methods as outlined in the accounting policy for Heritage Assets (h) above.

### Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less cost to sell and value in use. For the purpose of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

### Depreciation and Residual Values

The Directors have reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes, and in particular, the useful economic life and residual values of fixtures and fittings, and have concluded that asset lives and residual values are appropriate.

### Deferred Funding for Retirement Benefits

With reference to the Superannuation Schemes referred to in the "Employee Benefits" section above:

- The Board has recognised an asset corresponding to the unfunded liability for retirement benefits payable under the Main Scheme and has recognised deferred funding for retirement benefits recognised in the year ended 31 December 2015. In the judgement of the Board the funds required to meet these unfunded pension obligations will continue to be provided by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht or its successor entities.
- Pension contributions under the Single Scheme are remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The Single Scheme has been accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. Contributions remitted in 2015 in respect of the SPSPS amounted to €3,102.

### Retirement Benefit Obligation

The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in future compensation levels, mortality rates and healthcare cost trend rates) are updated annually based on current economic conditions, and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

The assumptions can be affected by:

- (i) the discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high-quality corporate bonds
- (ii) future compensation levels, future labour market conditions
- (iii) health care cost trend rates, the rate of medical cost inflation in the relevant regions.



## 2. Oireachtas Grants

The Oireachtas Grants voted to the National Library from the Vote of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as shown in the financial statements consist of:

		2015	2014
	Note	€	€
National Library of Ireland – Current	A.11	6,647,000	5,912,000
National Library of Ireland – Capital	A.11	428,000	428,000
Commemoration Fund – Capital	A.15	90,000	-
Cultural Infrastructure and Development - Capital	A.7	45,000	48,280
		<b>7,210,000</b>	<b>6,388,280</b>

Grants under Sub-head A.11 are the National Library's annual grants for operational purposes including pay, pensions, administrative and programme expenditure, collections and minor capital improvements.

The grant from the Commemoration Fund (Sub-head A.15) was a contribution to the costs of the 1916 Signatories Exhibition, which was launched in Easter 2016. The grant from the Cultural Infrastructure and Development Fund (Sub-head A.7) was for an on-going programme funded through this grant for three years from 2015 for conservation of Genealogical Office Manuscripts. Progress reports are provided to the Department to support the requests for drawdown of funding.

In December 2015 a manuscript of *Juno and the Paycock*, an early draft of *Juno and the Paycock* by Sean O'Casey, was acquired at auction at Sotheby's in New York. The acquisition was equally funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and by the National Library of Ireland Trust. The contribution from the National Library of Ireland Trust is shown within Note 3, Own Resources, and in Accrued Income in Note 12. The contribution from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht will be shown in the 2016 financial statements as the funding was received in 2016 and Oireachtas Grants are recognised on a cash receipts basis, per the Accounting Policies outlined in Note 1. Had the Department funding had been received in 2015, the total Oireachtas Grants would have increased by €99,339 to €7,309,339 resulting in a corresponding decrease to the deficit for the year to €209,987 and a corresponding increase to the surplus carried forward to €520,545.

### 3. Donations

		2015	2014
	Note	€	€
Donated Collections	7 (a)	1,834,500	138,000
Donations - National Library of Ireland Trust	14	185,275	22,077
Donations - Other		5,222	5,111
		<b>2,024,997</b>	<b>165,188</b>

Donations of collection items are capitalised if they are valued at €5,000 or greater in accordance with the Collection Policy (see Note 7 (a)). In accordance with FRS 102 notional income matching the value of the capital donation is recognised in this Note. This is a change in presentation from 2014, and the comparative figures in this note and Note 9, Capital Account, have been re-analysed to reflect this.

There were some 50 donations of collections or items to the National Library's Special Collections holdings during the course of 2015. Of these the donations 9 were valued at more than €5,000 and two donations totalling €1.7m were received under Section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (as amended by the Finance act 2002); these are detailed in Note 7 (a), Collections.

### 4. Other Income

	2015	2014
	€	€
Copying Services	68,175	67,224
Sponsorship	57,515	26,840
Heraldry Income	46,426	41,715
Direct Costs of Heraldry	( 38,486 )	( 23,943 )
Royalties and Reproduction Services	22,107	24,925
Café Joly	14,039	18,516
Heritage Council Grant	10,014	10,000
Miscellaneous Income	1,466	1,667
Interest Income	234	486
	<b>181,490</b>	<b>167,430</b>

The grant received from the Heritage Council of Ireland is a contribution towards the costs of employment by the National Library of a full-time Conservation Intern. This programme is an annual programme that commences in November each year. The grant is received at the start of the programme and is deferred and recognised monthly as Pay and PRSI costs are incurred by the National Library. €10,014 was recognised on this basis in 2015 with a balance of €9,153 deferred at year end.

## 5. Administration, Operations & Promotion

		2015	2014
	Note	€	€
Remuneration and other Pay Costs	5 (a)	4,164,034	4,013,210
Electricity, Cleaning and Utilities		313,098	331,327
Communications and IT		242,547	236,532
Security		214,350	210,867
Rent, Rates, Service Charges and Insurance		82,549	94,177
Professional Fees	5 (e)	64,456	66,543
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses		49,960	3,771
Office Expenses		17,799	39,052
Repairs, Maintenance and Leasing Charges		17,221	17,139
Foreign Exchange Rate Losses		1,841	2,321
Prompt Payment Interest		173	-
		<b>5,168,028</b>	<b>5,014,939</b>

### (a) Remuneration and Other Pay Costs

		2015	2014
	Note	€	€
Staff Salaries		3,765,802	3,603,535
Employer PRSI		263,182	254,499
Board Members' Emoluments (including CEO remuneration)	5 (c,d)	95,089	94,550
Staff Travel and Subsistence		20,500	10,392
Staff Training and Development		19,461	50,234
		<b>4,164,034</b>	<b>4,013,210</b>

### (b) Employee benefits breakdown

Range of total employee benefits	Number of Employees	
	2015	2014
From - To		
€60,000 - €69,999	12	6
€70,000 - €79,999	2	4
€80,000 - €89,999	2	-
€90,000 +	-	-

This table includes but is not limited to the Management Accounts Committee ("MAC"), who are considered to be key management personnel of the National Library as defined under FRS 102. Employee benefits paid to or on behalf of MAC members in 2015 comprised Salary - €496,058 and Employer PRSI - €29,835.

### (c) Board Members' Emoluments

Board Member	Board Fees	Vouched Expenses	Meetings attended
<i>Former Board: 7 meetings up to the 31st of August, 2015</i>			
David Harvey (Chairman)	-	1,709	4
Marian Fitzgibbon	-	496	6
Brian Halpin	-	-	7
Patrick McMahon	-	-	7
Des Marnane	-	-	6
Susan Philips	-	354	6
Pat Quinn	-	-	7
Paul Rellis	-	-	-
Paul Shovlin	-	-	7
Robert Spoo	-	-	4
<i>Current Board: 2 meetings up to the 31st of December, 2015</i>			
Paul Shovlin (Chairman)	-	-	2
Ciara Breathnach	-	-	1
Bob Collins	-	-	2
Maeve Conrick	-	-	1
James Dorgan	-	-	2
Jack Keyes	-	386	2
Conor Kostick	-	-	2
Katherine McSharry	-	-	2
Eoin McVey	-	-	2
Susan Philips	-	365	2
Susan Schreiber	-	-	2
Jennifer Taaffe	-	-	2
	-	<b>3,310</b>	

There were no fees paid or expenses claimed by either former or current Board Subcommittee members.

The Board came to the end of its term during the year; seven meetings were held between the 1st of January and the 31st of August, 2015. A new Board was appointed as at the 30th of September following appointment by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The new Board held two meetings before the 31st of December 2015.

### (d) Director Remuneration

	2015	2014
	€	€
Acting Director (April 2014 to July 2015)	50,998	67,566
Director (August 2015 onwards)	40,781	
	<b>91,779</b>	<b>67,566</b>

The remuneration package also includes standard public sector pension arrangements; there are no bonuses or Benefits-in-Kind applicable to this position.

### (e) Professional Fees

	2015	2014
	€	€
Legal	26,089	2,291
Audit	22,300	17,066
Recruitment	7,603	4,032
Consultancy	7,466	42,895
Other	998	259
	<b>64,456</b>	<b>66,543</b>



## 6. Retirement Benefit Costs

Pension costs in 2014 totalled €2.026 million. The split of pension costs between gross current service cost and interest cost in 2014 has been re-analysed in 2014 to be consistent with the treatment adopted in 2015 under FRS102. There is no change to the total pension costs recognised in the period

### (a) Analysis of total retirement benefit costs charged to the Income and Expenditure Account

	2015	2014
	€	€
Gross Current Service Cost	1,042,000	1,013,000
Interest Cost	768,000	1,123,000
Employee Contributions	( 111,459 )	( 110,000 )
	<b>1,698,541</b>	<b>2,026,000</b>

### (b) Movement in net retirement benefit obligations during the financial year

	2015	2014
	€	€
Opening Defined Benefit Obligation	35,171,000	29,043,000
Current Service Cost	1,042,000	1,013,000
Interest Cost	768,000	1,123,000
Employee Contributions	( 111,459 )	( 110,000 )
Actuarial (Gain) / Loss – Financial Assumptions	( 2,365,000 )	4,903,000
Actuarial (Gain) / Loss – Experience	( 415,000 )	( 425,000 )
Benefits less Paid Member Contributions	( 455,311 )	( 376,000 )
<b>Closing Defined Benefit Obligation</b>	<b>33,634,230</b>	<b>35,171,000</b>

### (c) Deferred funding for retirement benefits

The Board recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the retirement benefit scheme, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. The Board has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The net deferred funding for retirement benefits recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account was as follows:

	2015	2014
	€	€
Funding recoverable in respect of current year retirement benefit costs	1,810,000	2,136,000
State grant applied to pay retirement benefits	( 566,770 )	( 488,108 )
	<b>1,243,230</b>	<b>1,647,892</b>

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits at 31st December 2015 amounts to €33.6m (2014: €35.2m).

## (d) History of defined benefit obligations

	2015	2014	2013	2012
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Defined Benefit Obligations	33,634	35,171	29,043	28,601
Experience Gains / (Losses) on Defined Benefit Scheme Liabilities	415	425	603	( 69 )
Employee Contributions	1.2%	1.2%	2.1%	-0.2%

## (e) General description of the scheme

The retirement benefit scheme is a defined benefit final salary pension arrangement with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current "model" public sector scheme regulations. The scheme provides a pension (being 1/80 per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (being 3/80 per year of service) and spouses and children's pensions. Normal retirement age is a member's 65th birthday, and pre-2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. Pensions in payment (and deferment) normally increase in line with general public sector salary inflation.

The valuation used for FRS102 disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation performed on the 29 July 2016 by a qualified independent actuary, taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31st December 2015.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:

	2015	2014
	€	€
Inflation	1.60%	1.50%
Rate of general long-term increase in salaries	3.10%	3.00%
Rate of increase in state benefits	1.60%	0 to 1.50%*
Rate of increase in deferred benefits	1.60%	1.50%
Pension increases	1.60%	1.50%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	2.65%	2.20%

\*no increase for one year and 1.5% thereafter

## Mortality

The mortality basis explicitly allows for improvements in life expectancy over time, so that life expectancy at retirement will depend on the year in which a member attains retirement age. The table below shows the life expectancy for members attaining age 65 in 2015 and 2035.

	2015	2014
Life expectancy – male	86.8	88.6
Life expectancy – female	89.8	91.9

## 7. Programmes

Since 2007, the funding landscape has changed significantly for the National Library and, in common with the other cultural institutions, the National Library has seen a significant reduction in its funding from the Department. During 2014 the National Library worked together with the Department to secure a restoration of a portion of its budget resulting in an additional allocation for 2015 of €600,000 towards library costs. This allowed the National Library to increase its funding in all programme areas compared against 2014.

During 2015, and following extensive consultation with staff, the National Library underwent a restructure in order to bring focus to specific programme areas. Expenditure in this note is presented in line with the National Library's new department structure, and comparatives have been re-analysed to reflect this.

		2015	2014
	Note	€	€
<b>Special Collections</b>			
Acquisitions	7 (a)	237,428	91,864
Decade of Commemorations Cataloguing Project		135,847	-
Conservation		87,725	64,781
IFI / Liam O'Leary Collaboration		9,785	-
MSS Reading Room Services		8,761	-
		479,546	156,645
<b>Printed Collections</b>			
Acquisitions	7 (a)	165,853	143,153
Processing and Binding		9,256	15,887
Cataloguing Projects		43,513	-
Yeats Cataloguing Project		37,626	25,127
Reader Services		12,979	15,082
Book Cleaning Project		-	12,472
		269,227	211,721
<b>Outreach</b>			
Public Programmes, Communications, and Engagement		214,061	106,740
WW1 Ireland: Exploring the Irish Experience		7,914	81,985
William Butler Yeats Exhibition		18,972	34,639
2016 Commemorations		697	-
Other Exhibitions		22,035	11,270
		263,679	234,634
<b>Genealogy &amp; Heraldry</b>			
Genealogical Research Service		98,618	26,214
Genealogical Office Cataloguing and Conservation Projects		70,066	-
Other Genealogy & Heraldry Expenses		10,247	814
		178,931	27,028
<b>Digital Collections</b>			
Library-Specific Software		46,105	40,659
Parish Registers Project		38,352	-
Library Equipment & Maintenance		18,607	7,998
Digitisation Supplies		1,575	1,710
		104,639	50,367
		1,296,022	680,395

## (a) Collections

The existing collections of the National Library at establishment date were not vested in the Board. The Board is of the view that valuing these collections or determining their original cost is impractical and would not, in any event, yield information that is relevant or useful in assessing its stewardship of the collections.

Most items acquired for the collections are individually of low value such as books, newspapers and periodicals. Materials published in Ireland are acquired through legal deposit in accordance with the provisions of Section 198 of the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000. Materials published elsewhere are acquired by purchase or donation in accordance with the National Library's Collection Development Policy. This includes materials published in Northern Ireland as well as materials published abroad of Irish interest in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 of the Cultural Institutions Act 1997.

Collections during 2015 are shown in the table below, distinguishing between expenditure charged to the Income and Expenditure Account on items individually valued at less than €5,000 – which is shown by type – and expenditure on capitalised items or digital projects valued at €5,000 or greater – which are itemised.

	Note	2015 €
<b>Special Collection: current</b>		
Antiquarian and Rare Books		116,212
Manuscripts		77,459
Prints & Drawings		23,726
Ephemera		10,684
Photographs		9,347
		<hr/> 237,428
<b>Special Collections: capital</b>		
Sean O'Casey, Juno and the Paycock manuscript		201,567
William Butler Yeats, In the Seven Woods (1903)		13,810
William Butler Yeats, The Wind Among the Reeds		10,370
Maurice O'Fehily, Venice (1504)		7,725
Dorothy Cross Publication		7,263
PBV Broke, Private Log SS Amelia (1787)		5,564
	11	<hr/> 246,299
<b>Special Collections: donated, capitalised</b>		
W B Yeats, Nobel medal and citation		1,500,000
MacDermot of Coolavin		200,000
W B Yeats - a manuscript notebook		85,000
Papers of Brian Friel (1)		10,000
Ashbrook papers		9,500
Papers of James McNeill and Josephine McNeill		8,500
Bernard Share - a collection of cigarette and trade cards		8,000
Papers of Brian Friel (2)		7,500
Papers of Seaghan Ó hÓgáin		6,000
	11	<hr/> 1,834,500
<b>Total Special Collections</b>		<hr/> 2,318,227
<b>Digital Collections: capital</b>		
Digitisation		187,094
Web Archiving		38,579
	11	<hr/> 225,673
<b>Printed Collections: current</b>		
Books		78,140
Online and CD-ROM Subscriptions		44,114
Newspapers		31,327
Periodicals		12,272
		<hr/> 165,853
		<hr/> <b>2,709,753</b>



In December 2015 the National Library was delighted to receive the generous donation of WB Yeats' Nobel medal from the Yeats family under s1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act. Valued at €1,500,000, the Nobel Medal awarded to Yeats in 1923 is a wonderful addition to the National Library's already outstanding collections of Yeats papers and books, including the poet's personal library.

The MacDermot of Coolavin archive, valued at €200,000 and donated by the MacDermot family, relates to one of the oldest Gaelic families, and consists of approximately 86 documents, dating from 1595 to 1905. The archive has been valued at €200,00.

Margaret Mills Harper and Ann Christian Harper donated a manuscript notebook of William Butler Yeats, dating from 1920-1921 and valued at €85,000, of which the first page is titled *The After Life & The Subjective Man*.

## 8. Reduction in Value of Fixed Assets

		2015	2014
	Note	€	€
Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment	10	246,695	276,810
		<b>246,695</b>	<b>276,810</b>

## 9. Capital Account

### (a) Heritage Assets

	2015	2014
	€	€
Opening Balance	13,224,794	12,741,729
Heritage Assets acquired	471,972	345,065
Heritage Assets donated	1,834,500	138,000
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>15,531,266</b>	<b>13,224,794</b>

### (b) Operational Fixed Assets

	2015	2014
	€	€
Opening Balance	1,405,738	1,637,001
To fund Fixed Asset purchases	475,781	45,547
Donated Fixed Assets	84,501	-
Amortisation in line with asset depreciation	( 246,695 )	( 276,810 )
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>1,719,325</b>	<b>1,405,738</b>

## 10. Property, Plant & Equipment

	IT Equipment	Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Exhibitions in Development	Total
<b>Cost</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
At 1 January	2,486,340	1,333,117	1,039,123	-	4,858,580
Additions	326,310	107,450	33,502	93,020	560,282
Disposals	( 2,162 )	( 29,151 )	-	-	( 31,313 )
<b>At 31 December</b>	<b>2,810,488</b>	<b>1,411,416</b>	<b>1,072,625</b>	<b>93,020</b>	<b>5,387,549</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January	1,514,826	1,252,225	685,791	-	3,452,842
Charge for the year	101,284	48,355	97,056	-	246,695
Disposals	( 2,162 )	( 29,151 )	-	-	( 31,313 )
<b>At 31 December</b>	<b>1,613,948</b>	<b>1,271,429</b>	<b>782,847</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,668,224</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>					
At 1 January	971,514	80,892	353,332	-	1,405,738
Net movement for the year	225,026	59,095	( 63,554 )	93,020	313,587
<b>At 31 December</b>	<b>1,196,540</b>	<b>139,987</b>	<b>289,778</b>	<b>93,020</b>	<b>1,719,325</b>

### (a) Programme Assets

Included within the additions for the year are additions that relate directly to specific programmes and not solely to the operational functioning of the National Library. The capital costs associated with the creation of exhibitions (exhibition development and equipment) are included within the Fixtures & Fittings category while capital investment in the National Library's Digitisation programme is included within the IT Equipment and Equipment categories.

Programme equipment capitalised above includes:

- €84,501 on cameras for the Digitisation Studio; donated by the National Library of Ireland Trust
- €53,846 on equipment for the Parish Registers digitisation project
- €22,682 on further development of the WWI exhibition
- €7,171 on design, production and installation relating to the W B Yeats exhibition

In 2015, a new asset category has been created to reflect the capital cost of exhibitions in development that will be moved to the relevant asset category when the exhibitions is complete and launched. The two exhibitions included in this category in 2015 are:

- the 2016 Signatories exhibition of papers relating to the signatories of the 1916 proclamation, which was launched for Easter 2016 - €32,730 incurred in 2015; and
- a Seamus Heaney exhibition which is due to be launched in 2017. This is a collaborative project with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Bank of Ireland - €60,292 incurred in 2015.

## 11. Heritage Assets

### General Information

In accordance with the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 all Library Collections are the property of the State and are managed by the Board of the Library.

- The principal functions of the Board of the Library are to conserve, restore, maintain and enlarge the library material in the collection of the Library for the benefit of the public; 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.
- The Board of the National Library of Ireland has the power to enlarge the collections of the Library.
- The Board of the National Library of Ireland also has the power to lend materials, subject to the provisions of Section 18 (1) of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997.
- The Board of the National Library of Ireland also has the power to dispose of library materials subject to the provisions of Section 18 (2) of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997.
- All acquisitions for the collection purchased in excess of €5,000 are funded from the Library's capital funding allocation for the year while acquisitions which cost less than €5,000 are funded from the current funding allocation

### Nature and Scale of the Collection

The National Library's holdings constitute the most comprehensive collection of Irish documentary material in the world and offer an invaluable representation of Ireland's history and heritage.

The National Library's management structure reflects three broad strands of collecting focus, each the responsibility of a Keeper or Head of Division, as follows:

- Special Collections
- Published Collections
- Digital Collections.

#### Special Collections

Special Collections comprises rare and unique material such as manuscripts, photographs, prints, drawings, ephemera, rare and antiquarian books, manuscript maps and music. It includes many millions of items with, for example, over 4.5 million items in the photographic collections and over one million items in the manuscript collection.

#### Published Collections

Published Collections comprises modern and new books, newspapers and periodicals. One of the main collections within Published Collections is the Legal Deposit Collection which includes all material – books, newspapers and journals published in Ireland – acquired under the Legal Deposit provisions of the Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000.

#### Digital Collections

Digital Collections comprises digital objects created by The National Library as a result of the digitisation of material from Special Collections and Published Collections (new assets) as well as the items described as "Born Digital", such as websites that have never existed except in digital format.

## Management of the Collections

In accordance with the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 the National Library's collections are the property of the State and are managed by the Board of the National Library.

The principal functions of the Board of the National Library are to conserve, restore, maintain and enlarge the National Library material in the collection of the National Library for the benefit of the public; 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.

## Acquisition

The Board of the National Library has the power to enlarge the collections of the National Library and material is acquired in three ways: by legal deposit, donation, and purchase.

### Legal Deposit

Legal deposit is a statutory provision which obliges publishers to deposit copies of their publications in certain libraries, usually in the country in which they are published. In the Republic of Ireland statutory provision for legal deposit is set out in the Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000.

### Donation

Each year the National Library receives important donations to the collections. Donations are subject to appraisal in line with the criteria set out the National Library's Collection Development Policy.

In certain instances - as provided for under section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 - donors may be allowed tax relief for donations of heritage items to the National Library. This relief may apply to gifts or "heritage items" such as archives, books, estate records, manuscripts and prints where the total value of the items donated exceeds €150,000.

### Purchase

The National Library's acquisitions budget is used to further develop the National Library's collections, whether by direct purchase or by auction. Decisions to purchase antiquarian material and unique heritage items are made in accordance with the criteria set out in the National Library's Collection Development Policy. Current and new publications of Irish interest, not acquired under legal deposit, are purchased as a matter of course.

## Preservation and Conservation

The Conservation Department works to preserve and conserve the collections of the National. In general, preservation measures do not improve the condition of an object, but slow down degradation and prevent damage by passive methods. By contrast, conservation aims to prolong the life and accessibility of collections through interventive treatments, which improve the physical, chemical and often visual condition of an object.

As well as the conservation treatment of rare and unique objects, the conservators work on a diverse range of measures to reduce risks of damage to the collections. These activities include supporting and training staff in all aspect of collection care and management including handling, condition assessment, surveying, rehousing and phase-boxing. Conservators also prepare items for exhibition, digitisation and loan for exhibition.



## Disposal

The Board of the National Library also has the power to dispose of library materials subject to the provisions of Section 18(2) of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. The National Library does not normally dispose of material from the collections

As outlined in the Accounting Policies (Note 1, h), the National Library recognises all Heritage Assets (with an individual value of more than €5,000) purchased or acquired since 2005. Such assets are carried at cost with adjustment for impairment where required. The transactions in relation to 2015 and the previous four accounting periods are set out below.

	<b>Manuscripts</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Visual</b>	<b>Printed</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cost or Valuation:</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
As at 31st December 2014	8,967,250	1,705,203	1,336,407	1,215,934	13,224,794
Purchases	207,131	225,673	7,263	31,905	471,972
Donations	326,500		1,508,000		1,834,500
As at 31st December 2015	<b>9,500,881</b>	<b>1,930,876</b>	<b>2,851,670</b>	<b>1,247,839</b>	<b>15,531,266</b>

### (a) Five Year Financial Summary of Heritage Asset Transactions

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Additions</b>					
Manuscripts	533,631	193,736	254,216	225,035	1,896,916
Digital	225,673	289,329	296,879	198,896	57,041
Visual	1,515,263	-	20,000	80,767	5,000
Printed	31,905	-	6,107	-	32,768
	<b>2,306,472</b>	<b>483,065</b>	<b>577,202</b>	<b>504,698</b>	<b>1,991,725</b>
<b>Revaluations</b>					
Manuscripts	-	-	52,500	-	-
Visual	-	-	( 55,000 )	-	-
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>( 2,500 )</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>2,306,472</b>	<b>483,065</b>	<b>574,702</b>	<b>504,698</b>	<b>1,991,725</b>

## 12. Receivables

	2015	2014
	€	€
Prepayments and Accrued Income	236,621	77,061
Debtors	32,182	146,646
	<b>268,803</b>	<b>223,707</b>

## 13. Payables

	2015	2014
	€	€
<b>(a) Amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Accruals and Deferred Revenue	246,600	174,291
Taxation and Social Welfare	171,561	114,296
Trade Creditors	168,276	60,755
	<b>586,437</b>	<b>349,342</b>
<b>(b) Amounts falling due outside one year</b>	-	-
	<b>586,437</b>	<b>349,342</b>

## 14. Related Party Disclosures

Please refer to Note 5 for a breakdown of the remuneration and benefits paid to key management.

The National Library adopts procedures in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform covering the personal interests of Board members. In the normal course of business, the National Library may approve grants or enter into other contractual arrangements with entities in which the National Library's Board members are employed or are otherwise interested.

The majority of the Trustees of the National Library of Ireland Trust ("the Trust") are either current members of the National Library's Board or Management Team.

During the year the Trust made donations in cash or in kind to the National Library totalling €185,275, and comprising:

- The purchase of 3 digital cameras for use in the National Library's digitisation studio, amounting to €84,501, which were donated to the National Library and appear in the National Library's Fixed Asset Register.
- Funding by way of reimbursement to the National Library of the purchase of a selection of collection items amounting to €1,435.
- Commitment to fund half of the costs of the acquisition of the Juno and the Paycock manuscript, totalling €99,339. This amount was outstanding at the year end and appears in Accrued Income.

## 15. Approval of the financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of the National Library of Ireland on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2016.

# Donors 2015

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The NLI would like to acknowledge the generous support of its donors in 2015. We would like to thank them for their valuable donations to the Library which have greatly enriched the National Collections.

*AgendaNi Magazine*

*John Aher*

*Hanan Hassan Al-Khalifa*

*Allotrope Press*

*June Armstrong*

*Dr John Ashdown-Hill*

*Ashmolean Museum*

*Ballinascreen Historical Society*

*Mary Bateman and the Friel family*

*Belfast Royal Academy*

*Simon Berry*

*Bruce and Linda Bidwell*

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*Anne Bouch*

*The Braid (Mid-Antrim Museum)*

*Larry Breen*

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*Patricia Brock*

*Vincent Brogan*

*Bernard Browne*

*Professor Dario Calimani*

*Ian Campbell*

*Rory Campbell*

*Noel Carter*

*Mary Casey*

*Frances Conlon*

*Frances Corkery Thompson*

*Joseph Cosgrave*

*Dr James T Covert*

*Sheila M Craik*

*Clara Cullen*

*Joe Curtis*

*Jane d'Arcy*

*Alice Mary Dee*

*Noel Donnellon*

*James Doyle (Turnpike Books)*

*Eamonn Duffy*

*Caroline Dwyer*

*Emain Publications*

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*Laurence Foster*

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*GLEN Gay and Lesbian Equality Network*

*Maureen Gill-Sharp*

*Goa Association, UK*

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*Professor Margaret Harper and Ann Christian Harper*

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*Dan Harvey*

*Harry Havelin*

*Anna Hayes*

*Margaret Hayes*

*Gerald A Hearne*

*Vicky Herbert*

*Richard Humphreys*

*Pearl Hutchinson*

*Keith Inman*

*Ireland's Great Hunger Museum (Quinnipiac University Press)*

*Noel Jenkins*

*Cheryl F Jensen*

*Karolinum Press*

*Hannah Keating*

*Dennis Kennedy (Ormeau Books)*

*Joseph Kennedy*

*Colum Kenny*

*Robert Kerr*

*Deirdre Kilmurry*

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*National Portrait Gallery, London*  
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*David Norris*  
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*Gréagoir Ó Dúill*  
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*Sláine O Hogain*  
*Dónall Ó Luanaigh*  
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*Dr Thomas Ryan*  
*Jonathon Riley*  
*Royal County Down Golf Club*  
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*Clive Scoular*  
*Dr Perry Share*  
*Mary Smith*  
*Elizabeth Smyth*  
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*Spectrum Centre*  
*Jill Steer*  
*Sarah Strong*  
*Martin A Timoney*  
*Robert Towers*  
*Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University*  
*Brian S Turner*  
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*Yale University Press*











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