National Library of Ireland

TOWARDS 2016

DRAFT

2nd Progress Report

October 2006 – MARCH 2007

A copy of the National Library's agreed Action Plan is attached as a separate document identifying progress in respect of each individual action for the period under review. The Action Plan is supplemented by the report below identifying examples of significant areas of progress, including performance indicators such as visitor numbers, in the period under review.

1. Acquisitions/Collections:

The National Library continued to acquire significant collections in the period under review including:

- the papers of the distinguished contemporary poet, writer and broadcaster Paul Durcan, winner of the Patrick Kavanagh Award (1974), the Whitbread Prize for Poetry (1990), and current holder of the post of Ireland Professor of Poetry 2004–2007;
- a valuable corpus of literary papers relating to the distinguished contemporary writer Bernard Mac Laverty, who is active in many different media – novels, short stories, children's stories, screenplays and film scripts;
- a collection of some 800 printed and ephemeral items by and about Samuel Beckett, including more than 200 items personally inscribed by the famously reclusive writer. The material was assembled over a 40-year period by the late Alan Clodd, the Dublin-born book collector, dealer, publisher and founder of the Enitharmon Press, one of the most distinctive private presses in England, with a stable of writers that included Samuel Beckett, Jorge Luis Borges, Federico Garcia Lorca and Harold Pinter;
- in the period October 2006 to March 2007, over 12,000 individual issues of newspapers and periodicals were collected, recorded and shelved in accordance with Library standards. Single issues of current newspapers accounted for 7,905 of these items, the remaining 4,141 being periodicals. Newspapers are a major source of information, views and opinions, and consequently exert a huge social influence. They act as a barometer of our times for historians of the future, and form within their pages an enormous legacy of the issues that concern us and shape our minds;
- a copy of the 1916 Proclamation.

2. Exhibitions, events, education and outreach

2.1 Yeats

Awards

On behalf of the NLI, the Director accepted the 2006 Interpret Britain and Ireland Award for the Yeats exhibition in Bristol from the Association of Heritage Interpretation (AHI) on 30 November 2006. An article on the

exhibition appeared in the Spring 2007 issue of the AHI Interpretation Journal.

This was followed by two awards from CLÉ, the Irish Book Publishers Association, for the publication which accompanies the exhibition and which was written by Library staff members. These were the CLÉ Book of the Year 2006 and Best Produced Book 2006 awards. They were presented at a ceremony in Dublin on 17th February 2007.

Publications/collaboration - Yeats

A 24 page colour supplement, appeared with the Irish Independent on 22nd November. Feedback was excellent both from staff and from the public. The Independent has expressed interest in collaborating on other projects in the future.

A 2007 calendar based on a project run in conjunction with the National College of Art and Design where 24 students working in pairs produced representations of 12 Yeats' poems was published in December 2006.

UCD Adult Education course – in cooperation with UCD

The UCD extra-mural course, designed around the Library's Yeats exhibition, which will run three times during the 2006-2007 academic year. Entitled "WB Yeats at the National Library", it takes place in the National Library's seminar room in Kildare Street. The course has a capacity of 40 and was fully subscribed for its first term. The second term began on 30 January 2007 and is also fully subscribed.

Collaboration with primary and secondary schools

In association with the PCSP (Primary Curriculum Support Programme), members of the Library's education staff have devised *'My Yeats'*, a comprehensive but highly accessible guide to help parents and children explore the *Yeats* exhibition together. The guide is suitable for children aged 7+ and is available free of charge at the exhibition area.

The education staff of the Library have also used their experience of dealing with school groups in the autumn and winter to develop a new series of primary and post-primary programmes including the following:

-Primary:

Workshops to complement the guided tour of the exhibition:

- *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*

Suitable for 3rd class upwards

This language and art workshop focuses on the rich imagery of Yeats' famous poem, 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree'. Participants listen to a recording of WB Yeats reciting the poem and then respond to the poem through art, depicting the island as they imagine it.

- *Bookplate Workshop*

Suitable for 5th and 6th class

This history and art workshop looks at the history of the bookplate using examples from the Library's collections (including the bookplates of WB and George Yeats, displayed in the exhibition). The group put their history skills into practice as they examine a number of original bookplates to find out as much as they can about the people represented by the plates. Finally, participants have an opportunity to create their own unique bookplate to put inside the cover of their favourite book.

- *Detective workshop*

Suitable for 5th and 6th class
The aim of this workshop is to introduce classes to the work of the historian through facsimiles of primary source materials on display in the exhibition. Children work in groups to find information about WB Yeats and his family from his passports and to decipher a coded letter written by an eleven year old Yeats to his sister in 1876.

-Post-primary
Yeats
Two customised tours of the Yeats exhibition specifically for leaving certificate students.
Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats as a resource for Leaving Certificate English.
Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats as a resource for Leaving Certificate History.

Summer Story Telling for Children
Starting on Saturday morning 14 April, there will be a story hour for children in the National Library by well-known storytellers which will run each Saturday morning until end June and which will be followed by a thirty minute tour of the Yeats exhibition for children and their parents facilitated by the Library's education staff.

Yeats - other
Yeats's "Cuchulain Cycle" of plays was performed on 27, 28, 29 November by the Dublin Lyric Players. All nights were very well attended. A further series of plays is planned for May 2007.

Yeats – Visitors
Notable visiting groups to the exhibition included the Japanese Television company, NKH, the COLICO Pathways to Learning Conference, a group of 52 French bankers, the Portugese ambassador with two Portugese poets, Friends of the National Galleries of Scotland and Friends of the Linen Hall Library, Belfast.

In addition tours were provided to 5 primary schools, 27 secondary schools, 8 third level groups and 10 Adult Learner groups.

The total number of visitors to the Yeats exhibition from 25 May 2006 – end March was 40,571.

Records were kept from 1-28 February of hits on the Yeats exhibition section of NLI's website, which at present is done in basic brochure style. The total number of visits was 1,966 of which 1,784 were unique visits, and 182 were returning visitors. The number of countries was 74. Geographically the countries represented are listed below:

Country/Region/City	**Visits**	**P/Visit**
United States	693	2.89
Ireland	485	5.07
United Kingdom	166	3.72
Canada	87	2.34
Philippines	41	1.07
Australia	40	3.45
Italy	33	2.15
India	30	1.43
Germany	30	2.9
Poland	29	3.79
France	25	2.84
China	21	1.24
Singapore	21	2.29
Turkey	15	1.67
Japan	15	2.13
Spain	13	3.62
Brazil	13	2.38
Mexico	12	2.83
Israel	10	3.2
Norway	9	2.44
Netherlands	9	2.44
Russian Federation	8	1.75
Malaysia	8	2.63
Czech Republic	8	1.88
Hungary	7	3.29

The average page view per visit was **3.32.** This figure reflects the current content of the site. While attracting a world wide audience to the site has clearly proved successful, there is insufficient content to keep visitors there for any length of time. In order to address this plans are in train to make it a fully fledged online experience which can be enjoyed anywhere in the world. The launch of the new version of the Yeats exhibition website should be delivered in early summer.

2.2. General Exhibitions

Award for 1916 online exhibition

On 10 November 2006, the National Library was awarded first prize in the best website category at the Irish Design Effectiveness Awards (IDEA) for its online exhibition: *The 1916 Rising: personalities and perspectives* which went live on Easter Monday 17 April 2006.

If I were a Blackbird' exhibition Jan-Mar 2007
On 11 January 2007, the Ceann Comhairle, Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD opened an exhibition in the front hall of the Library entitled ***If I were a Blackbird***, which celebrates the lives of the late Dr TJ Kiernan, Ireland's first Ambassador to Australia and Dr Kiernan's wife Delia Murphy, the renowned singing star.

The exhibition attracted a considerable amount of public interest, and had a particular appeal for retired people. A version of the exhibition also went on display in the National Museum of Australia in Canberra in February. The exhibition closed in the National Library on 30 March, but will re-open in Castlebar in April.

On 21 February 2007, the Library screened the feature film, 'West of Kerry', made in Kerry and Dublin in 1938 and featuring Delia Murphy. This was a hugely successful event with a packed house.

'One city one book' and 'Bealtaine'
Front hall displays in the main Library building are now in place to coincide with the 'One City one book' (display on World War 1 and Irish men) and 'Bealtaine' (display of letters from manuscripts collections) festivals in April and May respectively.

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE (NPA)
Images of Tourism, held in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, opened in November 2006 and the closing date was extended until the 21st March 2007. The Island Life: islands of Ireland exhibition was opened on 2 April and will run until June.

The NPA continued the policy of sending out its photographic exhibition to other venues in Ireland in order to improve access to the national collection: *A Century of News Photography* was on show in South Tipperary County Museum December 2006 – March 2007; *Regeneration* was on show in Cavan County Museum and *Poole's Photographic Stores* was exhibited in the Waterford Treasures Museum from January to 28 February.

James Joyce Travelling Exhibition
Work has been completed on a travelling James Joyce exhibition which will be available for distribution from May.

Strangers to citizens: the Irish in Europe 1600-1800
An exhibition on the Irish in Europe to coincide with Louvain 400 and the 400th centenary of the Flight of the Earls is scheduled to open in the Heraldic Museum at 2-3 Kildare Street in October. Planning for this exhibition is well underway. A tender for a designer was issued in February.

Loans to other Institutions
Six major loans were made by the National Library during the period October 2006 – March 2007 and all items loaned have been displayed in exhibitions of national if not international importance. The loans included prints, drawings, manuscripts and book material to Institutions here and abroad including the National Gallery of Ireland, the Irish Architectural Archive, Fremantle Prison, Western Australia, the British Museum and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia USA.

2.3 General Education and Events 2006-07

Workshops on Leaving Cert History resources
This newly developed workshop provides an introduction to the resources available to Leaving Certificate students undertaking the research project component of the history course. This takes the form of a 40 minute seminar and must be booked at least two weeks in advance. It is based on the document based case studies from Early Modern Ireland and later Modern Ireland fields of study developed by the National Library in association with the National Council for Curriculum & Assessment.

Library Late 2006-07
The featured writers for the November, December, January, February and March 'Library Late' public interviews were Claire Kilroy, Bernard Mac Laverty, Roddy Doyle, Colm Toibin and Hugo Hamilton; they were interviewed by *Irish Times* editor Fintan O'Toole and RTÉ presenter and producer Kay Sheehy. Featured writers in the coming months will include MJ Hyland and Jennifer Johnston. Library Late has been one of the most successful events initiatives of the past few years. The public response is hugely positive and the writers involved have been immensely generous with their time and really pleased to be asked to participate in an NLI event.

Cré na Gaeilge lecture series – Nov- Dec 2006
In cooperation with Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, the Library facilitated a series of four evening lecture and receptions to mark the centenary of Máirtín Ó Cadhain. This the Library's first Irish-language events programme and it is hoped that it will mark the beginning of similar cooperative events.

Poetry Aloud 2007

Following the success of Yeats Aloud in 2006, the Library is running Poetry Aloud, a national poetry-speaking competition for post-primary school pupils, in cooperation with Poetry Ireland. The closing date for entries was 28 February. 716 entries have been received including some from Northern Ireland. The final will be held in May, following a succession of heats.

3. Services

With the completion of the remedial work to the cornice in the main Reading Room in March 2007 after a six week closure and the agreement on the Library's Action Plan under *Towards 2016*, a number of significant service improvement have been put in place. These include:

- The opening of the Library on Easter Tuesday.
- The refurbishment of the existing microfilm reading area and the provision of an additional microfilm reading area on the mezzanine level.
- The installation of a number of microfilm printers so facilitating self-service copying from newspapers.
- The setting aside of a dedicated area for the consultation of online resources.
- The relocation of the Genealogy Advisory Service.
- With effect from 16 April, the opening of all public facilities (with the exception of the National Photographic Archive) at the earlier time of 9.30 a.m., Monday to Saturday; and
- The introduction of a limited self-service photocopying service from books.

Visitor numbers to the Library's Reading Rooms (RR) and other public facilities are as follows:

(Comparison for two years Oct – March).

	2005 - 2006	**2006 - 2007**
Main RR	13565	11300
Manuscript RR	1771	1829
Family History Room	3807	2883
Photographic Archive	18187	12792
Exhibition	10120	12402

Irish Language Scheme
Following consideration at Board level and through the Partnership process, and informal discussions with the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, the Library's Irish Language Scheme required under the Official Languages Act 2003 has now been finalised and it is expected that it will be sent formally to the Minister for Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in April.

Website
Work on the development of a new website for the Library, which is critical to the Library's policy of maximising access to its collections, is continuing but has been slower than expected because the content management system has required time consuming development work to meet NLI requirements such as the ability to include images with captions. The redesign of the website is a major project that involves the addition of much new data and the editing of all data migrated from the old site. The Library continues to commit very significant staff resources to the project and it is anticipated that the English site and selected Irish pages will be ready for a launch at the end of May.

4. Organisational Development

Following the change in status of the National Library on 3 May 2005, the process of putting in place the necessary structures and procedures to support the organisation as an independent state body is continuing apace.

Board
The Board has continued to be very active during the period under review meeting on a monthly basis and working, inter alia, closely with Library management on the development of a three year Strategic and Operational Plan which it is expected will be launched in May/June.

The Board Committees – the two statutory Committees (Readers Advisory Committee (RAC) and the Committee on Genealogy and Heraldry) and the Board Audit Committee - have also been very active. In January 2007, the RAC visited the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, in fulfilment of its remit 'to advise the Board in relation to any matters pertaining to the provision of a library and information service to members of the public' and submitted a report to the Board at its meeting in March. The Board's Audit Committee have recently selected, following a tender process, a company (Helm Ltd) to provide internal audit services to the Library and the company have commenced work on a risk assessment with a view to drawing up a three year audit work programme.

In March 2007, the Board agreed the terms of reference for the establishment of a Board Acquisitions Policy Advisory Committee, the purpose of which is:

1. to advise and assist the Board in relation to its functions of acquiring library material of different kinds to enlarge the collections of the Library;

2. to advise and assist the Board on the development of its acquisition policy with a view to ensuring enlargement of the collections of the Library with due regard to financial and all other relevant considerations;

3. to advise the Board on how it can best support the management of the Library in identifying material which might be acquired for inclusion in the collections of the Library and in identifying gaps in those collections which need to be filled.

Building Programme

An Bord Pleanála's decision in relation to the storage building is due in May. Repair work to the Reading Room cornice was completed on time by OPW and the Reading Room re-opened after a closure of 6 weeks approx on 20th March. During the closure, services to the public were maintained with the full co-operation of Library staff.

OPW are proposing to replace the old lifts in the West Wing and East Wing of the National Library for safety reasons. Discussions have taken place with OPW in regard to the proposal and it is expected that work will commence shortly.

The small works project in the main Library building which resulted in improved service areas for the public, including increased space for the Library's shop, and improved staff accommodation was completed in the latter part of 2006. A case in relation to a further package of small works is being prepared at present. This package would include the replacement of all old co-axial cabling in the Library's premises with modern cabling thus improving the Library's IT infrastructure. Other work would include alterations to the front hall of the main building in order to offer a better and more welcoming service to the different categories of Library users.

Corporate Development

Work is nearing completion on the Library's three-year Strategic Plan and three-year Operational Plan. It is expected that both documents will be launched in May/June 2007. Work will also commence shortly on the 2007 PMDS cycle which will be linked to the Library's new Strategic and Operational Plans.

The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) were contracted in late 2006 to carry out a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) of the Library with a view to preparing a three year Training Plan for the period 2007-2009 to support

delivery of the Library's business objectives. The TNA been completed and work is well in hand for the preparation of a three year training plan which should be ready by May/June 2007. A programme of manual handling training for all Library staff has recently been completed and the Library will be going to tender shortly for a full safety audit of the organisation to ensure full compliance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and the preparation of an updated Safety Statement for the Library. A programme of training on the Library's Positive Working Environment/Anti-bullying policy is scheduled for May 2007. This follows a two day training programme for "contact persons" (as set out in the Library's anti-bullying policy) which volunteer Library contact persons attended in January/February 2007.

A number of recruitment and promotion competitions took place in the period under review including:

- Recruitment of an IT Manager with effect from January 2007;
- Recruitment of Library Assistants, Services Attendants, Assistant Keepers Grade 11 and administrative staff;
- Promotion competitions for Keeper and Assistant Keeper Grade 1.

The first statutory accounts for the National Library in respect of the period 3 May 2005-31 December 2005 were prepared and audited meeting the statutory deadline for submission to the Comptroller and Auditor General/Minister. The accounts also contained the necessary pensions' liability information consistent with the new FRS17 Accounting Standard.

Following a tender process, the Library has recently selected consultants to assist with the preparation of the Library's pension scheme consistent with Department of Finance guidelines and the model scheme for the public service.

The Board adopted the full version of its Code of Conduct and Corporate Governance document in October 2006. The Library is now a listed body under the Ethics in Public Office Acts and all Board members and relevant Library staff were informed of their obligations under the Acts in January 2007. A draft Code of Ethics for Library staff was submitted to the Library's Partnership Committee in March 2007 consistent with the Department of Finance Guidelines on the Governance of State Bodies. A revised Internet and email usage policy was also submitted to the Library's Partnership Committee in March 2007.