

Trinity College Library Dublin

Librarian. David Robert Hutchinson Adams, M.A., DIP. IN LIB. STUD.

The Library's history dates back to the establishment of the College in 1592. Today it has five million printed volumes with extensive collections of journals, more than half a million maps and very large collections of manuscripts and music reflecting over four hundred years of academic development. More recently, it has established a collection of 30,000 electronic journals and 250,000 electronic books. It is the largest library in Ireland and has been a legal deposit library for Ireland and the United Kingdom since 1801.¹ The Library continues to add to its collections through purchases, private donations, acquisitions and as a library of legal deposit.

The Library serves the needs of the College's teaching, learning and research activities of the undergraduate and postgraduate students and of the academic staff. It is a research library of international repute, making available much rare material to scholars from all parts of the world; and in addition it provides an information service to government departments, to research organisations and to technical, industrial and commercial bodies within Ireland. The Library's Digital Resources and Imaging Service is making many of Trinity's unique materials available to scholars in digital format through an ongoing programme.

Six of the Library's buildings are located on the College campus. The Old Library, completed in 1732, now contains the Department of Manuscripts, the Department of Early Printed Books and Special Collections, the Long Room, The Colonnades and the Treasury. The Berkeley (1967), Lecky (1978) and James Ussher (2002) Libraries form a linked complex of buildings which functions as a single library housing collections in arts, social sciences, business studies, law, nursing, geography and geology. It also contains the Glucksman Map Library and Conservation Department, the Library's main service and administrative areas and a closed access bookstack. The Hamilton Library (1992) houses collections in science, engineering and systems sciences and health sciences. The 1937 Reading Room serves as a study centre for postgraduate students and the Stearne Medical Library is at St James's Hospital. The Library also co-operates with the Library of the Adelaide and Meath Hospital, Dublin incorporating the National Children's Hospital (AMNCH) at Tallaght in providing services to Trinity staff and students based there. Less heavily used material is stored in a book repository at Santry.

The Library's online catalogues give access to all the modern collections and the majority of the historical collections. Catalogues covering manuscripts collections and digital archives are in development and cover much material. All the Library's catalogues and further information on services and facilities are available from the Library home page at <http://www.tcd.ie/Library/>.

Admission of readers

Members of the College staff and students of the College may be admitted to the Library on production of a current College Identity Card.

Holders of an ALCID² card may be admitted on production of a matching current Identity Card from their home institution.

Other persons engaged in study or research may be admitted as readers, with the approval of the Librarian, who shall also determine the period for which their admission shall be valid.

All readers are required to observe the terms of the Library declaration and the other Library regulations as set out under GENERAL REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION, section H.

¹The privilege was first given in the year 1801 (41 Geo. III, c. 107). The latest act for British books is of the year 2003 Legal Deposit Libraries Act (2003, c. 28). By the Industrial and Commercial Property (Protection) Act of the Irish Free State 1927, the copyright privilege of the Library was continued in respect of books published in Ireland. It is continued under the terms of the Copyright and Related Rights Acts, 2000 and 2004.

²The ALCID scheme (Academic Libraries Co-operating in Ireland) provides library cards for postgraduate students and staff members of fourteen academic institutions in Ireland.

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Hours of opening — reading rooms

The opening hours of the Library's reading rooms are available on the Library's website at: www.tcd.ie/Library/.

Generally, during term, the reading rooms are open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday mornings with some extensions for student access at weekends.

Out of term, the reading rooms close at 5 p.m. and are entirely closed on public and other holidays.

Opening hours and service levels are subject to ongoing review and details are maintained on the Library's website.

The Ussher 24 hour Reading Room has swipe card access for all Trinity students when the Library is closed.

The 1937 Postgraduate Reading Room is available by swipe card access for postgraduate students.

The Old Library — admission of members of the public

The areas of the Old Library which are open to the public are the Treasury, where the Book of Kells and other manuscripts are displayed; The Colonnades, a gallery for temporary exhibitions; the Long Room, and the Library Shop. There is a charge for admission to areas other than the Shop. The Old Library is open to the public as follows:

Mondays to Saturdays	9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.
Sundays	12 noon – 5 p.m.

Opening hours on public and other holidays are given on the Library's website.

Donations

The Librarian is indebted to the many governments, international agencies, universities, libraries, firms, societies, private persons in various parts of the world, and to members of the College staff who have presented material during the year.

TRINITY CLOSET PRESS

Trinity Closet Press is a hand press run by members of the Library's Department of Early Printed Books. It was founded in 1973 as a teaching tool to give students and staff first-hand experience of book production methods in the hand-press period. It provides practical work for M.Phil. students in early modern history and in textual and visual studies. Among its other activities it organises an annual workshop in the book arts, which have included demonstrations of printing, engraving, bookbinding, typefounding and paper decoration. The Press is housed in the basement of the Printing House.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

See under SOCIETIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS, section V.

THE TRINITY LONG ROOM HUB

See under UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE OFFICERS, section B, Research institutes and centres.