Exhibitions policy, Old Library, Trinity College Dublin

Long-term Exhibition

1. The Book of Kells and other early Irish manuscripts are displayed in the Old Library, in an exhibition titled *Turning Darkness into Light*, in a manner which enlightens the public.
2. They are displayed securely and in a manner which protects the collection from damage.
3. While the theme of the exhibition is long-term, items will be changed or pages will be turned every 16 weeks, for conservation reasons.

Temporary Exhibitions

1. The holdings of the Old Library are displayed in the Long Room in thematic exhibitions which may take into account events of College, national, international or historic significance.
2. Temporary exhibitions provide opportunity for the public to understand and enjoy aspects of the manuscripts, archives, and early printed books collections.
3. The duration of Temporary Exhibitions is no longer than 6 months.

Exhibition practice

1. The public is not permitted into the Old Library during display changes or conservation checks on items in the Long-term exhibition *Turning Darkness into Light*.
2. The themes of temporary exhibitions are decided by the Keepers of Manuscript and Early Printed Books and the Librarian one year in advance of the opening date.
3. The content of the exhibitions is decided by the Keepers of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books, who consult with the Keeper of Preservation & Conservation on suitability of the items for display and the display requirements.
4. The contents of temporary exhibitions will be confirmed no later than 3 months before the opening date.
5. A budget is allocated to temporary and long-term exhibition, for display cases and devices, labels and signage, promotion, security, and maintenance of environmental conditions.
6. Keepers provide signage and labels that provide information about the exhibits, enhance the exhibition, and enlighten the public.
7. All temporary exhibitions are promoted through an annual brochure.
8. When resources allow, supporting publications are produced.
Temporary and Long-term Exhibitions loans in

1. Items and exhibitions may be borrowed by Trinity College Library for display in the Long Room and *Turning Darkness into Light* from time to time. All items will be subject to the conditions of a Loan Agreement.
2. The decision to borrow will be based on agreement between the Keepers and the Librarian.

Temporary and Long-term Exhibitions loans out

1. Collection items from the Old Library may be lent to exhibitions held at cultural institutions if the material requested is considered appropriate to the theme of the exhibition.
2. All loans out are subject to the conditions of TCD Library’s Loans Policy.
3. There are restrictions on the loan of material to external exhibitions:
   ‘Manuscripts, limited editions, and material published in or before the year 1800 may be lent with the consent of the Board on the advice of the Librarian ... Material published after the year 1800 may be lent by the Librarian at his discretion’ (Statutes XXIV.5. b,c).
4. In 2000, Board decided that as a matter of policy the Book of Kells should not be lent to external exhibitions.

Review period

This policy will be reviewed after four years: 2015

LIPC May 2011