Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Trínóide, Baile Átha Cliath
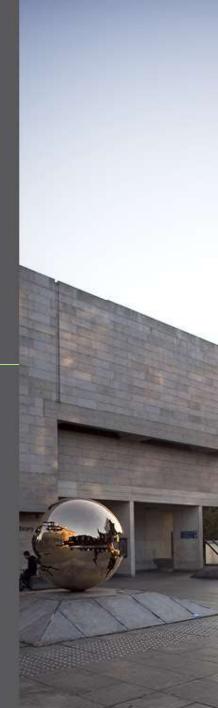The University of Dublin

2015
2020

**The Library of
Trinity College Dublin —**
Strategy

@tcdlibrary
#futurelibrary

Library of the future and Future of the Library

Prof Mary McCarron

Dean Faculty of Health Sciences

LIBRARY FOR THE FUTURE

What does the Library of the future look like for your Faculty – for your researchers, for your students - in the light of the digital shift and the social shift underway in libraries?

GATHERING USER OPINION & EVIDENCE

Faculty survey

- What <u>do we have</u> in the libraries that you would like to <u>retain</u>? **Preserve**

- What <u>don't we</u> have in libraries today that you would like to have in <u>the future</u>? **Achieve**

- What <u>don't you</u> have that you <u>don't want</u>? **Avoid**

- What do you have now that you don't want, what would you <u>like libraries to stop doing</u> in the future ? **Eliminate**

Over 170 responses

Multidisciplinary mix – across all schools

Students, Academics, researchers

PRESERVE

Human people
Subject librarians Personnel help
Bookable study rooms
Databases
Continued education and training
Original books
Electronic journals
Expert subject librarians Training
Quite space
Remote access
Online journals
Online access
Staff expertise
Extensive book collection

WHAT PEOPLE TOLD US…

'The technology is great, but please don't turn the library into a hub without staff, their expertise is invaluable'

The subject librarian – *'An expert who wears expertise lightly'*

'Don't digitise everything'

'While we change the function of the library retain the quiet spaces'

WHAT PEOPLE TOLD US...

What sums up the ethos of the library is this contributing quote:

'The visual and atmospheric experience of a physical library is so much more than the books and can be the most conducive environment to learning and productivity'

ACHIEVE

Access to water or tea

More space for JSL

Central book returns Individual space

Collaborative space

Greater marketing of resources

Greater digital access

Refresher courses

Think tank space Variety of space

Earlier opening times

Somewhere to know what's on offer

Access Hubs for refreshment so you don't have to leave

Digitalised theses More quiet space

More computers and printers

Bright spaces

Extended opening

Additional copies of recommended books

E-learning courses

Dedicated space for collaboration

Communal areas

Resources like charging facilities

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT WITH IMAGINATION

- **Improved marketing** – '*the skills of the librarian have great relevance for the future and are underused at the moment*'

- **Space** – '*quiet areas*', '*more collaborative space*', '*Individual booths/pods*', '*hotspots for informal areas*' '*catalyst for ideas & collaboration*'

- **Digitalisation** – '*Capacity to access simulated environments and computer generated imagery*'

- **Library Environment** – *that will not suffer from the Rosetta Stone syndrome*

AVOID

no specialists

Stuffy atmosphere and space

Total computerised service

People replaced by machines

A library without books

Unnecessary books

Loss of physical space

Reduced staffing

Noise

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- *'Automated library processes that remove the personal contact with the library staff – no thank you'*

- *'A library without books'*

- *'Over reliance on technology'*

- *'Overcrowding – need space'*

- *'One Direction - piped music everywhere!'*

ELIMINATE

Rude security

Concrete walls and ceilings

Unofficial desk reserving

Noise

Delele

Outdated material

Wooden floors

Poor rated publications

Unnecessary use of limited resources

Noisy windows

'STOP BEING SO TOLERANT'

- *'No need to retain outdated material'*

- *'the library needs to be able to identify material that will ensure its resources are not wasted trying to store everything, focus on preserving* **'knowledge of consequence'.** *In an era of information overload it will be impossible to archive everything that is published'*

- *'Noise, leaking headphones...'*

STRATEGY LINKAGES

VISION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF TCD LIBRARY SERVICE

- Integrated space
- Integration in to teaching, learning and research

- Integrated digital plan

- Prioritised funding strategy

CONSIDERATIONS FROM STAFF - ADDING VALUE TO THE USER

- Space conducive to collaboration, research and learning

- Digitalisation, online access, ebooks and journals

- Continued expertise, education and training

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Knowledge is free at the library. Just bring your own container.

- Unknown

Thank You