

The Library of Trinity College Dublin

# Annual Report 2020/21

Developing the Library's Strategic Direction  
2015–2020



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Annual Report 2020/21

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*Developing the Library's  
Strategic Direction 2015–2020*

Trinity College Dublin,  
The University of Dublin,  
Dublin 2, Ireland

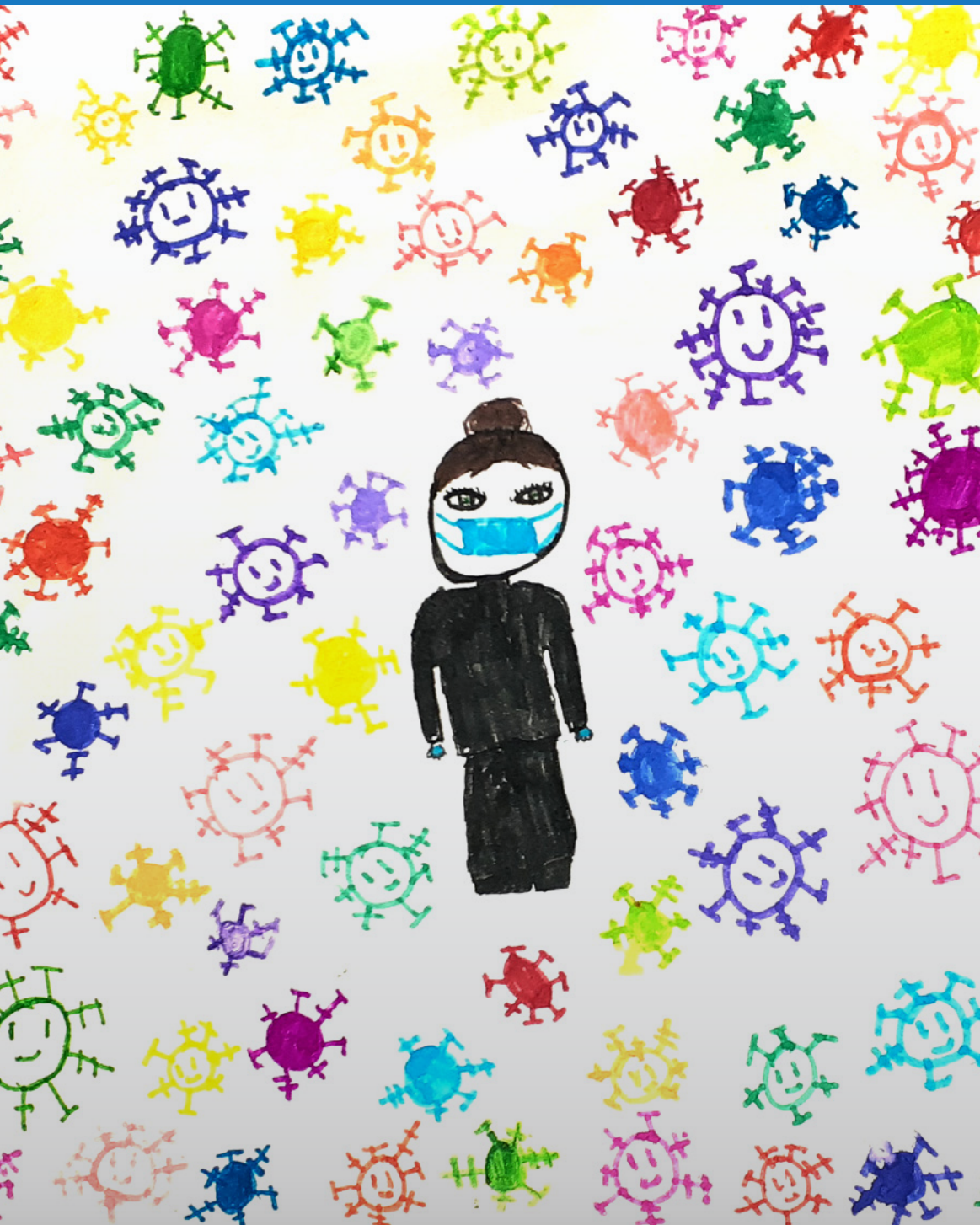
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**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

**... But Then Somebody Ate a Bat!**

In March 2021, to mark the anniversary of the first lockdown, the Library launched an online exhibition showcasing children's drawings, poems, diaries and fictional accounts from its rapid-response archives-collecting project *Living in Lockdown*. Of the hundreds of submissions, some of the most moving (and entertaining) were submitted by school children working with the Trinity Access Programme. Curated by Archivist Dr Jane Maxwell, this popular exhibition '... But then somebody ate a bat and the whole world went CRAZY' received widespread coverage, including in the Irish Independent and Irish Times



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## Context and Overview

The entire academic year 2020/21 was dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. After the initial crisis halfway through the 2019/20 academic year and the complete lockdown in March 2020, occasioning rapid somersaults to accelerate access to e-resources and to create a suite of swiftly engineered service alternatives, the whole year was characterised by the roller coaster of COVID volatility.

From a Library perspective, the worst of the pandemic was just after New Year 2021, when staff, students and researchers alike were anxious, exasperated, glum and shrouded in a smog of uncertainty. The best was when the students successfully navigated their way through the trials of pandemic-enforced hybrid exams and assessments.

Despite the domination of the pandemic throughout the year, the Library made remarkable progress, especially with the two major capital projects which cut a swathe across several of the pillars of the Library's Strategy.

[The Old Library Redevelopment Project](#) was awarded €25 million from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage towards the conservation of this national protected monument. It is one of the most significant awards of State funding to the College and followed a visit to the Long Room and new Book of Kells display by Taoiseach Micheál Martin in December 2020.

The project subsequently appeared in the Irish Government's National Development Plan 2021-30 as a key part of the heritage programme for the state over the next decade.

The Old Library Redevelopment Project, as a flagship project for the University's philanthropic campaign [Inspiring Generations](#), also made much headway in 2020/21. A major benefaction was celebrated when His Serene Highness (HSH) Prince Albert of II of Monaco visited Trinity, and his generous donation was recognised on the frieze in the Long Room.

In the light of these financial successes, a major milestone was reached in summer 2020 when the Board of Trinity College Dublin approved the overall business case for the Old Library Redevelopment Project, allowing the design team to progress to detailed design completion.

On-campus COVID restrictions notwithstanding, extensive pre-construction preparatory works were undertaken from pilot archaeological to geological surveys. Extensive planning has been completed for an interim Research Collections Reading Room in the basement of the Ussher Library to enable continuity of access to the collections during the estimated three-year construction phase of the Old Library Redevelopment Project.

In parallel, there has been significant planning for the decant of over 700,000 valuable and vulnerable collection items ahead of the construction phase. A major unexpected achievement during lockdown was the successful transfer of the contents of the 1872 Printed Catalogue into Stella Search. Over 50 staff members, from many different areas of Library who were forced to work from home due to the pandemic, made a concerted push to complete this project which was started 40 years ago. This means that 280,000 Research Collections items are newly visible and newly accessible in online searches and early indications are that more material is indeed being found and studied by students and researchers.

Also in the Long Room, the competition to commission four sculptures of women scholars was completed in the summer with awards to four different artists. The sculptures are due to be introduced into the Old Library by the end of the next calendar year.

Simultaneously, the second major capital project, the [Virtual Trinity Library](#), made significant progress on several fronts during this pandemic-dominated year. The launch of the overall programme was a highlight, featuring Vartan Gregorian, the late President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, who utterly inspired with his unique lifetime experiences of the humanitarian and civilising power of libraries. The Medieval Manuscript Cultures project is making an immediate impact, in that the conserved and digitised manuscripts are being used straightaway for teaching in the M.Phil in Medieval Studies. The project was awarded a second tranche of funding by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The Fagel international collaboration project started this year and was also awarded two more tranches of funding. The Cuala Press project, the Michael Davitt project and the Brendan Kennelly Archive all received funding and are underway.

Underpinning the Virtual Trinity Library is the improved and substantial Digital Collections Repository, into which the legacy digitised collections comprising 200,000 high resolution images were transferred, together with advances in functionality and sustainability. The wider challenge of addressing digital sustainability took a step forward with the establishment of a cross-University Digital Preservation Steering Group, with working groups on digital University records, digital humanities outputs and research data, and digital content creation and digital acquisitions.

The unsustainability and unaffordability of many e-textbooks was brought sharply into focus when the Library flipped to purchasing more in response to the pandemic. The Library is supporting a national cross-sectoral campaign to highlight e-book pricing and the unsustainability of e-textbooks. The Library is also part of the move to Open Access Transformative Agreements as a member of the Irish Research electronic Library (IREL). The aim is to ensure that Irish research is available to the broadest possible audience, and is a positive and practical step for our researchers in support of Open Scholarship.

Significant progress was made in 2020/21 despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Further progress will need to continue to be made in the coming year, despite the ongoing pandemic, to realise the very extensive, ambitious and demanding programmes underway.

In addition to progressing the two major multi-year programmes outlined above (the Old Library Redevelopment Project and the Virtual Trinity Library), highlighted challenges in the coming year include:

- The increasingly urgent and increasingly voluminous challenge of **digital sustainability**, in the wider context of the infrastructure for researchers.
- The increasingly urgent and increasingly voluminous predicament of **physical storage**. Addressing the objective of the [University Strategy 2020-2025](#) to ‘Develop plans for the new collaborative **off-site Collections Resource Centre**, thereby improving the environment for our collections and enabling the re-imagining/re-configuration of our contemporary library spaces.’ In the coming year there is the need to advance to the feasibility stage, this being the only outstanding short to medium term capital project of the current [Estates Strategy](#).

- Responding to climate action, **environmental sustainability** and advancing the circular economy of Library processes/activities and buildings, both retrospectively and prospectively.
- Implementing the next phase of emergency preparedness of the Library, especially the burgeoning area of **cyber security**.
- Advancing the unique resource available to Trinity community of **UK legal deposit**. Six very significant libraries in four countries have created, and are running, a seventh transnational e-library. Strategic development and the transnational digital infrastructure are being reviewed for the next five years against disruptions in publishing etc.
- On a Trinity level, the inclusion of a knowledge and library component of a **second campus** is critical to ensure researchers have **equitable access to UK legal deposit e-resources**.
- Supporting the campaign for **sustainability of e-textbooks**, including the wider publishing issues, and lobby for Irish web archiving legislation.
- Developing new areas of collecting and connecting, and opening archives to novel areas of researching the collections - for example, [Trinity Colonial Legacy](#) and African students at Trinity. This is preparatory work which will feed into a new **Content and Collection Development Policy**, provisionally planned for during the Old Library Redevelopment Project construction period, being the one outstanding major policy from the current Library Strategy.
- Continue to broaden the diversified **funding base**.

- Build on the opportunities in service evolution created by the COVID pandemic, implement the University’s pilot **Blended Working Policy**, and build on the disruptive benefits and advantages for staff and readers of the COVID pandemic.
- Developing the diverse and talented staff, with especial awareness of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Work with the Office of the Dean of Research on the next phases of [Open Scholarship](#) as part of the infrastructure support for researchers.
- Implement new access control system and start planning for a new Library Management system

This is a very challenging agenda, to continue the work of the Library to match and complement the wider University as both continue to evolve and grow.

Much was laid out in the [Library Strategy 2015-2020](#) which I introduced by saying ‘*Given the nature of the challenges and opportunities, it will take longer than five years to achieve; this is essentially a **15-year strategy***’

As we approach the halfway mark of those 15 years, and consider the value of producing a ‘Library Strategy Lite’, much has been achieved and much remains to be accomplished.

#### **Tribute to Library Staff**

As with every part of society, the personal and professional challenges for all individual members of Library staff were numerous. I want to pay tribute to every single member of staff for playing their part in supporting the academic community through such a tough year.

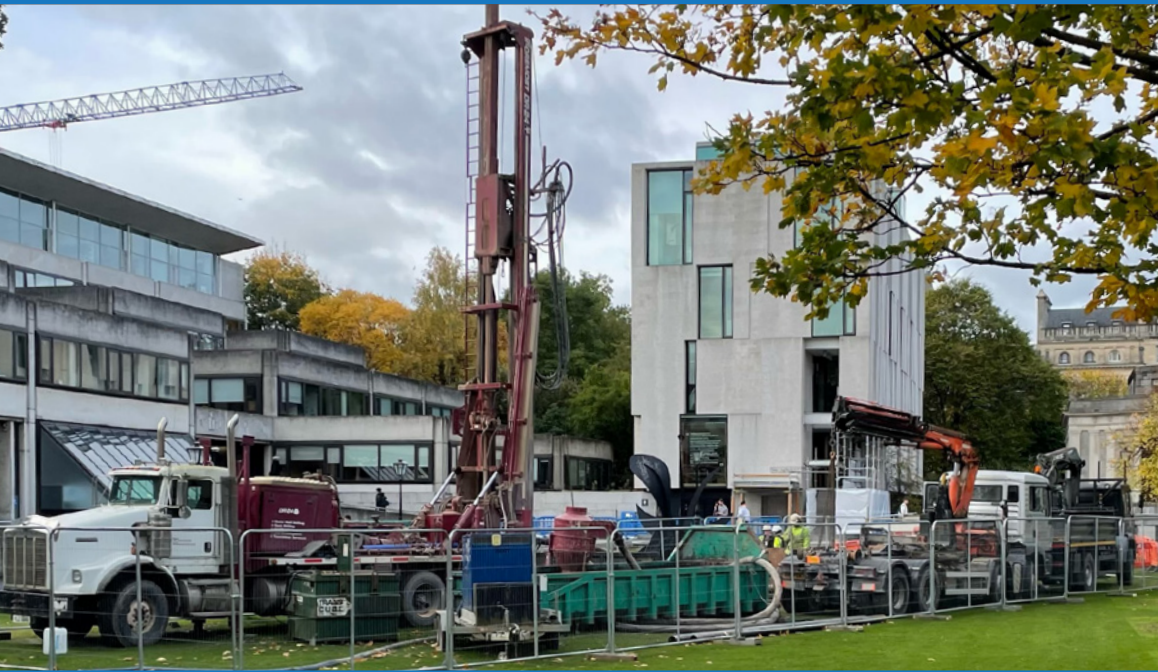
Our security staff, front-line staff in the reading rooms, conservators, and postal and cleaning staff were some of the first people back on campus. Readers’ Services staff collectively very quickly created new services such as Click and Collect (according to one reader, this was ‘better than Argos’), Scan on Demand, a timed booking system for the socially distanced and reduced number of reader spaces, and much more. The Subject Librarians were conducting consultations, giving inductions, and presenting training courses virtually with students. Collection Management staff caught up with the backlogs of new acquisitions that had piled up during lockdown, and the crates of UK legal deposit material were processed and catalogued. The Research Support System and TARA kept up with academic outputs and metrics. Digital Systems & Services enabled the rapid pivot to increased e-resources and advanced transformative open access agreements. Research Collections reconfigured their reading rooms and expanded as we recruited new staff to the successful Virtual Trinity Library projects.

Finally, I would personally like to recognise the enormous contributions of each member of the Library Leadership Team, for their unstinting support during the roller coaster of the pandemic. As the Director, at times it felt like wading backwards through treacle, blindfolded with one arm tied behind my back. But every individual Library Leadership Team member stepped up, and constructively collaborated for the Library to better support our Trinity community of users. The next test is to build upon the experience, lessons and opportunities of the pandemic to enrich the Library for the future.

**Helen Shenton**

LIBRARIAN AND COLLEGE ARCHIVIST

**Below:** Enabling and building survey works in Fellows' Square and the Old Library as part of the Old Library Redevelopment Project



# 1. Integrated Space

## Ongoing Investment in Contemporary Spaces TCD Sense Project

The Library is a place of sanctuary for many, but issues with light and noise can affect the comfort of all Library readers. This is especially true for students who have high awareness of the sensory environment and thereby experience sensory overload. The Library partnered this year in a major research and refurbishment project with the Disability Service, the Discipline for Occupational Therapy, and the Students' Union to create environments across Trinity that allow students and staff with different sensory preferences to flourish. Existing findings from Library user-experience research with students with intellectual disabilities were further reinforced by a sensory audit of Library buildings undertaken with the Disability Service and Occupational Therapy.

Armed with data from the audit, the Library worked closely with the Occupational Therapy team to address issues with the Library's sensory environment. This action plan was funded in large part by a successful Strategic Initiatives Proposal application to the Higher Education Authority's *Fund for Students with Disabilities*, awarded in January 2021.

Eleven spaces across the Berkeley, Lecky, Ussher, Hamilton and John Stearne Medical Libraries were identified for refurbishment, including quiet individual study rooms, shared quiet study spaces, open spaces, transition zones near entrances and dedicated sensory rooms with soft furnishings, plants and adjustable lighting. A wide range of sensory furniture, including acoustic chairs and pods, portable activity tables and larger study cubicles in various configurations, was selected for flexibility, durability, and sensory characteristics such as shape, texture and colour.

In parallel with this furniture procurement process, the Library's 3D mapping software was updated to highlight sensory space locations. The intention is to use this as a basis for creating a sensory map of the entire campus, offering students an easy way to identify spaces and furniture that meet their needs. A physical signage project is also underway to further assist readers to navigate Library spaces and to take full advantage of the sensory environments.

## 1937 Postgraduate Reading Room Receives a Once-in-a-Generation Upgrade

A significant upgrade of the building's electrical infrastructure during summer 2021 yielded a comprehensive low-energy LED lighting system and a substantial improvement in the number, accessibility and layout of power sockets. In line with the University's sustainability goals, the building is now safer, more comfortable, and more environmentally friendly.

### Ussher Library Basement Major Stock Relocation Project

To facilitate the redevelopment of the Old Library, a major stock relocation project cleared the Ussher Library basement of contemporary collections, allowing it to be repurposed as an interim study centre and home for the Research Collections division. Initial planning began in 2020 to coordinate enabling moves between the Berkeley and Ussher Libraries, the Santry Book Repository and the Library's external storage provider.

A team of eight project assistants were recruited for a six-month period, supervised by Colin Brennan of the Library's Collection Management division. Preparatory collation work and shelf-checks began in June 2021, with stock moves commencing in July. A bespoke webpage kept readers informed of the availability of collections throughout the project, with urgent requests facilitated.

Periodical materials and both paperback and hardback legal deposit materials were relocated. The final move was completed on 26 November 2021, on schedule and within budget. In total, approximately eight kilometres of material was moved. A consolidated reference area on the first floor of the Berkeley Library now houses periodicals, general reference materials and Irish official publications. In addition, the project team developed a new and more efficient audit procedure for error-checking to ensure that all materials can be tracked, traced and reliably requested. This innovation will play a significant role in the decant of the Old Library, due to commence in 2022.

### Continued Commitment to Service Improvements

Despite the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library continued to develop and improve services.

#### Fines Suspended on Standard Loans

A review was carried out of Library fines to ensure all aspects of the circulation system was correctly tuned to readers' needs. The COVID-19 pandemic provided an ideal opportunity to trial a new initiative to cease fines on standard loans (i.e., loans of materials that have not been recalled by other readers). The change was implemented in October 2020 and proved extremely popular, with no significant impact on general compliance with the rules. Fines will therefore not be reinstated and will now only apply in cases where items go overdue that have been recalled by other readers.

#### Expansion of Borrowing Entitlements

In December 2020 the Library greatly expanded the range of materials that can be borrowed by the undergraduate community, effectively aligning their borrowing rights with staff and postgraduates. Of particular significance was a change to allow undergraduates to borrow materials requested from storage. Previously, undergraduate students could only borrow from the General Lending Collection, which consisted of purchased materials on open access in the reading rooms (approximately 150,000 volumes). The expansion of borrowing rights made it possible for undergraduates to borrow from collections consisting of approximately three million volumes, dramatically widening the scope for students to engage in self-directed learning and more in-depth research activities. It also brought to a successful conclusion a three-year project to simplify and expand borrowing rules, giving readers the ability to borrow more materials for longer periods and from a significantly wider range of collections.

### Library Booking System

The booking system introduced in June 2020 to help implement social distancing and to safeguard staff and students was wound down in most Library spaces in October 2021 following an easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The system had been used to make 499,823 bookings across five Library buildings, equating to 363,448 hours of study time, with each booking averaging 106 minutes. Consideration is now being given to more targeted uses of the system to help manage specific spaces.

### New Phase in Old Library Redevelopment Project

Following on from last year's successful planning permission application, work continued on this transformative project to restore and redevelop this globally recognised heritage site in line with the best international libraries and museums. Academic activities remain at the heart of the Old Library. Continuity is essential and has been at the forefront of planning. A new Research Collections Study Centre overlooking Library Square will provide scholars with a secure, accessible, and inspiring environment to study the unique collections.

Enabling work for the Old Library project, involving increasing numbers of staff across the Library, made huge progress this year, as can be seen throughout the different sections of this Annual Report.

On the capital project, a series of site investigations and opening up works were undertaken to inform the detailed design, particularly in historically sensitive parts of the building. This allowed the design team to develop the conservation and sustainability aspects of the projects while meeting the environmental, safety, and security requirements of the Library. The planning and execution of key enabling works commenced, including the design of an Interim Study Centre that will enable the Library to maintain access to all collections throughout the multi-year process.

Key announcements, including the Government's €25 million funding award in May, and the major benefaction by His Serene Highness (HSH) Prince Albert II of Monaco in September, generated national and international media coverage (see Sections 4 & 6).



**Left:** Ussher basement decanted ready for creation of a new Interim Reading Room relocated from the Old Library

Below: Material being prepared for imaging



## 2. Integrated Digital

### Virtual Trinity Library Programme Comes to Life

Complementary to the Old Library Redevelopment Project, the Virtual Trinity Library is an ambitious programme to conserve, catalogue and digitise the unique collections of the Library. Harnessing current and developing technologies, these collections will be accessible to all and available for use in innovative ways for teaching, learning and research. The programme has attracted funding of €4.5 million to date.

The [Virtual Trinity Library](#) website and programme launched 1 March 2021. The online launch event featured the Librarian & College Archivist, Helen Shenton, 'in conversation' with the late Vartan Gregorian, former President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Their discussion *Creating a Virtual World Library for our Cultural Heritage* centred on the value and importance of libraries and projects such as the Virtual Trinity Library in making unique collections available to new audiences.

The digitisation element of the programme received a boost through funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. This allowed for the acquisition of a new conservation-grade book cradle to allow the safe photography of manuscripts, and a state-of-the-art digital camera for imaging to the highest international standards.

The success of the Virtual Trinity Library programme so far means that we are in the fortunate position of integrating digital sustainability into the programme. Continuous activity and planning by the Library will ensure that these Virtual collections are available over time.

### Manuscripts for Medieval Studies Project

Spring 2021 saw the establishment of the Manuscripts for Medieval Studies project, funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The project team consist of an archivist, conservator and photographer. A selection of important manuscripts has already been catalogued, conserved, digitised, and are available on the Digital Collections repository. The impact of this work was felt immediately, as manuscripts were used for teaching in the Trinity M.Phil in Medieval Studies. These manuscripts were extensively promoted to a wider audience through social media, blogs, workshops and seminars. An additional funding award in June 2021 ensures this project will continue to 2023.



Above: Preview of material which is in the process of being imaged for Virtual Trinity Library

### Unlocking the Fagel Collection

In collaboration with the Dutch National Library [Koninklijke Bibliotheek](#) (KB) and funded by the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands, this remarkable project commenced in October 2020. It sees the cataloguing of 32,000 books and pamphlets in the [Fagel Collection](#), which was originally purchased for Trinity in 1802. Titles with a Dutch imprint or author will be added to the Short Title Catalogue of the Netherlands (STCN) and all records will be discoverable through Trinity's Stella Search system. Success in securing two more tranches of funding will ensure ongoing progress with the conservation and digitisation of the titles being catalogued during phase one.



**Above:** Imaging of a book for Virtual Trinity Library

### Cuala Press Project

Funded by the Schooner Foundation, phase 1 of this project was completed in September 2021. A set of 111 beautiful hand-coloured prints recently donated to the Library were digitised, and the archival descriptions for the [Cuala Press Business Archive](#) were expanded. Extensive promotion of the project set the stage for the next phase.

Other new projects included:

- Cataloguing, conservation, and digitisation of the Michael Davitt Papers.
- Announcement in April 2021 of the Provost's funding for the position of archivist to the Brendan Kennelly Archive.

### New Developments in Digital Collections Repository

#### Introduction of Digital Object Identifiers

Digital Collections moved platform in 2020, with new features designed to enhance user experience and engagement. 2021 saw the completion of the ambitious project to transfer the entirety of our legacy digitised collections, totalling over 200,000 high resolution images, to this new platform. Each digitised object in the repository now has a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), a unique persistent identifier which will consistently identify it online. DOIs ensure the sustainability of users' citations and bookmarks beyond the generational lifecycle of the platform. Of major benefit to users, DOIs eliminate 'link rot', i.e., where a link no longer directs to the content that it did originally. Users can now cite or bookmark an object's DOI rather than its URL, confident that the link will remain persistent and useable regardless of platform changes, aiding in more efficient management and tracking of citations.

### New Digital Collections Exporter Tool

Aligned with the strategy to open up the Library's unique and distinct collections, making them accessible to a global audience, an exporter tool was developed to facilitate the publication of several digitised collections on the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) online platform. Available to date are selected papers of Michael Davitt, John Millington Synge, and Major Richard William Hingston, the Oscar Wilde collection, the Hardiman Atlas, and the printed slip ballad collection of John Davis White. DRI is an accredited aggregator for the Europeana cultural heritage platform, so the publication of Library collections on DRI's repository marks an exciting step forward towards progressing dissemination via [europeana.eu](#).

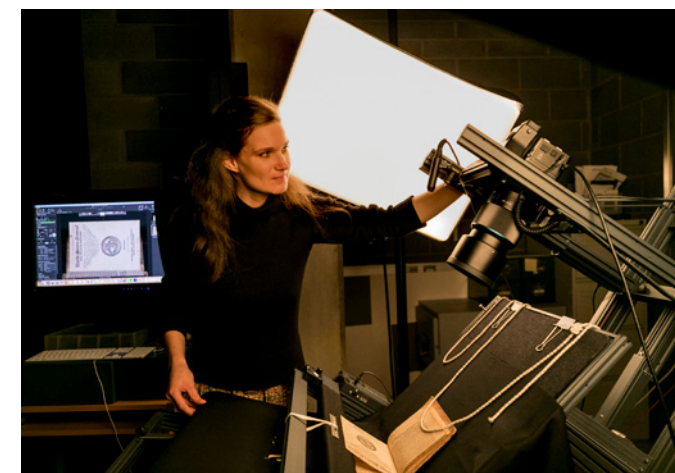
### Ongoing Improvements

The Digital Collections team continuously improve functionality, user experience and performance of the repository. Image viewer performance improvement work resulted in faster loading of thumbnails and images, and deep zoom functionality. The legacy Digital Collections cataloguing tool was no longer fit for purpose, and development of a new importer tool (MARCXML Hyrax importer) enabled cataloguing to transfer to Sierra, our Library Management System.

### Digital Preservation

#### Digital Preservation Governance

As the scale and diversity of long-term digital assets increase, digital preservation is essential to ensure they are accessible into the future. It is critical to strategically enhance capacity to secure the long-term preservation and access to a range of University outputs and acquisitions. In 2021 the Library & Information Policy Committee (LIPC) approved the establishment of a steering group and three sub-groups to work on digital preservation in the University. Chaired by the Librarian & College Archivist, Helen Shenton, the steering group will identify strategic aims and objectives, provide strategic leadership on digital preservation, advocate for embedding digital preservation as an essential consideration within the areas defined as of strategic importance, and act to bridge the gap between policy and practice. Each of the three sub-groups will focus on an area of strategic importance: digital University records; digital humanities outputs and research data; and the Library's digital resources and digital acquisitions.



**Left:** Photographer preparing material for imaging as part of the Virtual Trinity Library



Below: Students avail of sensory spaces provided by the TCD Sense Project. The Library partnered with the Disability Service, the Discipline for Occupational Therapy, and the Students' Union in a major research project to create environments that allow students and staff with different sensory preferences to flourish. Existing findings from Library user-experience research were reinforced by a sensory audit of Library buildings



### 3. Integration into Teaching, Learning and Research

#### Research Collaborations

##### Mapping Elder Abuse — Cochrane Review

The Library commenced collaboration on a major Cochrane review in support of the Trinity research theme of Ageing. The project aims to produce a mega-map which identifies, maps, and provides a visual interactive display of all aspects of elder abuse.

Emerging evidence indicates that the prevalence of elder abuse both at community and institutional level increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Led by the World Health Organization, the project team draws on expertise from sixteen global institutions, with the Nursing & Midwifery Librarian leading the expert searching team.

In parallel with the mega-map, the project will develop a taxonomy of interventions to prevent, detect, and respond to elder abuse and outcomes of such interventions.

##### RESTORE Project Draws on Library Resources

Resilience in Health System Performance & Reform research has been funded by the Health Research Board to support the effective and thorough implementation of the Sláintecare reform programme. RESTORE is examining key challenges facing the progress of reform in the light of health system shocks and burdens on healthcare staff. Based in St James' Hospital, our Medicine Librarian is undertaking a 'realist review' of the literature on the legacy of shocks to health systems resulting from the financial crisis of 2008. A realist model of research synthesis is designed to work with complex social interventions or programmes, and is based on a realist approach to evaluation. This important project is examining how the financial crisis can provide insights into how to respond to COVID and other future shocks in an Irish healthcare context.



## Building Relationships with Flexible Supports

*New LibGuides Series*

Whilst systematic reviews continue to represent one of the fastest growing areas for Library collaboration with researchers in the health and social sciences, academic staff also observed the benefits the rigour of a systematic approach to literature searching can bring in advancing students' research skills. In response, the Teaching & Research Support team developed a suite of online guides to assist readers searching for and synthesising information. [Writing a Literature Review](#) provides practical support on approaches to the many types of reviews required for student assignments and theses. [Doing a Systematic Review](#) covers everything from frameworks for structuring a research question to developing a protocol, and writing up research for publication. Finally, [Fake News & Misinformation](#) includes a timeline charting the history of 'fake news' and provides practical tips on evaluating online sources.



Above: 'How to Spot Fake News' poster, COVID-19 edition

## Support and Consultation

The Teaching & Research Support team continued to deliver classes for academic staff, researchers and students in the online classroom while also building deeper connections with readers based around the globe. Screen-sharing research consultations enabled Subject Librarians to advise students on search strategies with the added flexibility of inviting academics to join the call to provide further guidance.

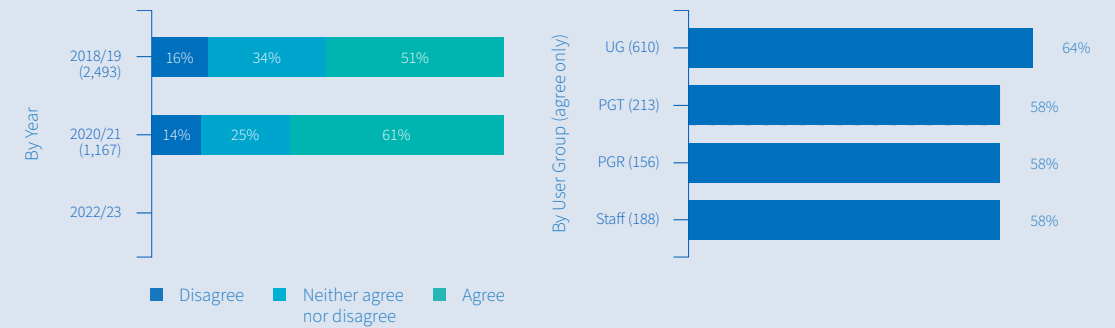


## User Experience

### Library Life Pulse

A biennial survey of staff and students, *Library Life Pulse* was carried out from 7-27 April 2021. It measured six core Library metrics: overall satisfaction and perceptions; finding and using resources; buildings and spaces; customer services; training and skills support; and communications. The #TCDLibrarySurvey social media campaign launched across Twitter, Facebook and Instagram received 1,189 responses. Across all demographic groups, the wellbeing score improved, which reflects the essential role the Library played in providing non-clinical support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following data were captured in response to the statement, 'The Library has a positive impact on my wellbeing':



Demographic Group	Satisfaction This Academic Year	Change From Last Survey Period
Non-Distance Learner	N/A	N/A
Postgraduate Research	58%	+9%
Female	62%	+13%
From Another EU Country	64%	+18%
Student Aged 22-25	57%	+11%

Each of the core measures was examined in relation to its impact on overall satisfaction with the Library to generate an opportunity score. An action plan to address the following areas for improvement is underway:

Suitable study/work space is readily available in the Library building(s)

It is easy to access help and support when I am using Library services online

It is easy to find the location of suitable study/work space in the Library building(s)

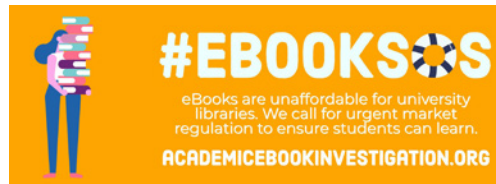
The Library has helped me to develop the skills I need for my studies/role

The study/work space provided by the Library meets my needs

### Augmented Reality in the Long Room

As part of the shift toward digital, the Library collaborated with researchers in the School of Creative Arts and V-Sense. This resulted in a virtual reality rendition of the Long Room in the Old Library featuring a volumetric video of Jonathan Swift (played by actor Jonathan White). The scenery was built using a combination of manual modelling and photogrammetry. An article capturing the user experience of the AR and VR project was published by the Association for Computing Machinery in a special issue on culture games in *The Journal on Computing and Cultural Heritage*.

### The Challenges with E-Books



Many academic publishers produce e-books that are unaffordable, unsustainable and in some cases, inaccessible to the Trinity community after just one year. The COVID-19 pandemic meant access to print books was restricted and e-books became the predominant purchase option, which brought the market challenges sharply into focus:

- The Library has to purchase e-books licensed to universities, yet some titles are only licensed for individual use.
- The Library wants to provide access to e-books in perpetuity; however, some publishers do not provide this option.
- The purchase cost can be substantial.

**Right:** Virtual reality rendition of Jonathan Swift in the Long Room of the Old Library

In addition to e-books licensed via standard e-book suppliers, the Library had to make a substantial investment to secure 12-month access to 100 e-book titles considered essential reading for disciplines across all three faculties.

A national cross-sectoral campaign led by the Library Association of Ireland and the Irish Universities Association Librarians Group announced a call for action to highlight the unsustainability of electronic content, e-book pricing and the objectionable terms and conditions under which they are made available.

### Resuming Processing Print Collections

Once Library buildings were again accessible to staff in summer 2020, the processing of new print acquisitions to support teaching, learning and research activities resumed, with books and journals received through legal deposit, purchase and donation. Most materials come from the UK, so supply was affected by the new Brexit customs arrangements. While procedures became more complex and partly more expensive, they were in place successfully by September 2021.



### Open Scholarship

#### National Open Research Forum

As members of Ireland's National Open Research Forum (NORF), the Library and research-support staff participated in a series of inter-institutional working groups. The resulting publication, *The National Open Research Landscape Report*, provides a snapshot of the current state of open research in Ireland, and identifies challenges across five strategic areas:

- Open access to research publications.
- Enabling FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) research data.
- Infrastructures for access to and preservation of research.
- Skills and competencies.
- Incentives and rewards.

Targeted consultation with the Trinity community, both on the report and a series of policy briefs created by NORF working groups, was replicated across the Irish higher education sector during spring 2021. The policy briefs and consultation results will be reviewed by the NORF Steering Group and Funders Forum to inform an open research national action plan.



### Open Access Transformative Agreements

The Library is part of the [Irish Research electronic Library \(IREL\)](#) consortium, negotiating open-access publishing agreements with scholarly publishers (including Elsevier, Wiley, Sage, Oxford University Press and others). Such agreements allow Trinity researchers to publish open-access articles in the publishers' academic journals without paying an Article Processing Charge (APC).

To date IReL has introduced 20 new transformative open-access agreements across many disciplines, helping to ensure that Irish research is available to the broadest possible audience. The introduction of these agreements required the development of new approval workflows in the Library, a new set of information webpages, and the dissemination of agreement news and information across the University community. For Trinity researchers who publish articles via these publishers, these agreements will now enable immediate open access to their work. In line with the TCD Open Access Publications Policy, researchers deposit their final published work in [TARA](#) via the Research Support System. This major development for the Irish research and publishing landscape has seen an unprecedented uptake of open-access publishing.

**Below:** His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco in the Long Room on the occasion of his benefaction to the Old Library Redevelopment Project



## 4. Prioritised Funding

### Major Awards for the Old Library Redevelopment Project

#### National Development Plan 2021-2030

The conservation and redevelopment plan for the Old Library is a multi-million-euro flagship project in the University's Inspiring Generations Campaign and the Government's National Development Plan 2021-2030. This landmark restoration project uses leading technology and preventive conservation, providing optimum environmental conditions for the building and its precious collections, including the world-renowned Book of Kells. The new exhibition by Opera Amsterdam and Studio Louter will guide visitors on an immersive journey that places the manuscript in the context of Trinity, Ireland and Europe. In May 2021, the Government announced €25 million in funding for the Old Library Redevelopment Project. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, and Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan, made the announcement in the Old Library. It was the most significant funding award for the cultural heritage sector that year.

#### His Serene Highness (HSH) Prince Albert II of Monaco Award

The philanthropic campaign for the Old Library continued throughout the year. A highlight was the announcement in September of a major benefaction by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, the second significant funding award for the preservation

of the Old Library. The name of HSH Prince Albert II was added to the frieze in the Long Room of the Old Library, alongside those of the founding donors to the Library, to mark his visit and benefaction. The visit received extensive media coverage (see Section 6).

#### The Virtual Trinity Library Programme

The Virtual Trinity Library is the corollary to the Old Library Redevelopment Project, and equally part of the University's Inspiring Generations Campaign. This programme seeks to catalogue, conserve and digitise the vast unique and distinct collections (many of which are housed in the Old Library) and make them available to a local and global audience. This aspect will be particularly important during the redevelopment of the Old Library. Successful relationships with philanthropic Foundations such as the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Schooner Foundation and the Rothschild Hanadiv Foundation are supporting projects which began in 2021 and continue over the next two years. Extensive preparatory work is underway to ensure continuity of the large projects and to support new projects across the nine themes of the Virtual Trinity Library.

It is especially notable to have made such progress, not least, leading to the creation of many new positions for example, conservator, bibliographer, post doc researcher, digital photographer, metadata cataloguer and project manager, during the societal challenges of the pandemic.

**Below:** Conservation of items from the Old Library in preparation for the Redevelopment Project



## 5. Suite of Inter-Related Policies and Programmes

### Preserving the Treasures of the Past for the Future: Stewardship Strategy

#### Preparing for the Old Library Redevelopment Project

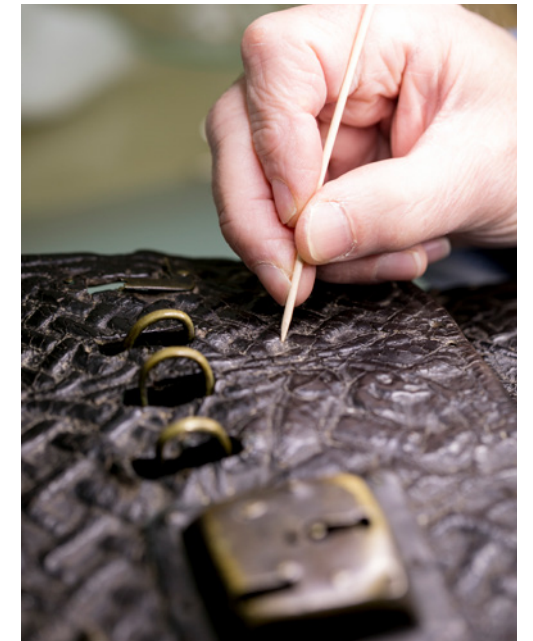
Excellent stewardship underpins all activities involving Library collections and their environments. This year the focus was on pre-planning activities for the Old Library Redevelopment Project. Over 700,000 items will be moved out of the building to allow the conservation and redevelopment of the building. Our Stewardship Policy 2015-2020 identified that 0.2% of the collection is stored in an adequate environment. When the Old Library Redevelopment Project is complete, 100% of the collection will have an improved environment which will provide for its preservation for the next 100+ years.

With risk assessment and mitigation measures informing decant processes planning, work was begun into quantifying subsections of collections in terms of criteria including: size; collection type; location; and tracking and tracing systems. The aim was to smooth out any roadblocks to a well-defined and safe decant programme in advance. Completed activities include refining a methodology to use Radio Frequency Identification Tags (RFID) for tracking, tracing and security of the collections. Pilot decant sessions were carried out to test collection movement, inventory, preservation processes, and packing for transportation to off-site storage. Confirming the details of every activity, calculating all the materials and equipment requirements, and timing the processes

enabled the logistics team to define resources for the project. Work commences on the decant proper in 2022 and is scheduled for completion in 2023.

#### Conservation Highlights

Alongside this momentous project, the conservation team continued detailed conservation work on priority collection items from the Early Printed Book and Manuscripts and Archives collections, as well as the Fagel, Cuala Press and Carnegie medieval manuscripts projects.



**Above:** Conservation treatment of The Armagh Satchel

*Exhibitions and Loans*

Items from the Trinity Women Graduates Archive were treated in preparation for exhibition and digital imaging, and a loan was prepared and installed in Dublin Castle for the *Vicereines of Ireland: Portraits of Forgotten Women* exhibition (May-September 2021).

The display of the Book of Kells recommenced with the reopening of the Old Library to visitors in August, with bimonthly display changes carried out along with the management of the case environment.

*Planning, Preparing, Participating*

The development of a prototype slipcase for Long Room items and large transport boxes for collections moves were carried out in consultation with materials suppliers and library stakeholders. These will improve long-term storage of items on open shelves, and the handling and movement of large volumes.

The Library's role as the lead for Disaster Preparedness & Business Continuity planning continues annually, to ensure it is relevant to stakeholders, along with our role in monitoring the Book of Kells exhibition case and the storage locations.

We continue to participate in philanthropy and grant applications where the conservation of the collection is often a significant driver, and through our outstanding success in funded projects, have increased the amount of collections that are stabilised, conserved, and safe for access and enjoyment.

**Visibility and Access Programme**

**Completion of Catalogue Conversion Projects**

Both catalogue conversion projects which had been scaled up at the beginning of the pandemic were concluded: the complete contents of the 1872 Printed Catalogue, as well as of the Accessions Catalogue (1872-1964) are now in Stella Search. Since March 2020, Library staff added upwards of 280,000 item records. In addition, the lead of the 1872 project, Niamh Harte, organised enhancements to those records. For example, she found huge variations in the names of the places of publication (such as 363 ways to denote Frankfurt am Main), so added a standardised form. Another noteworthy example is the re-instatement of Greek script, which had become corrupted during the scanning process. Tidying-up activities, such as identifying and merging duplicate entries, are being scoped next.

*The New World of Historic Trinity*

Readers interested in the Library's older publications already feel the benefit of not having to consult more than one catalogue, and early indications suggest that more material is being found and requested than before. It is now far easier to do research on the 1872 Printed Catalogue itself and explore what it reveals about Trinity as a 19th-century library. Niamh Harte's initial research illustrates the potential. For example, the places of publications as well as the languages show an astonishing global reach [see map], reflective of the stories of colonialism and Christian missions. By 1872, Trinity had 1,000 Bibles in 59 languages, some of which are close to extinction today. A second approach is via the authors: it features at least 1,250 women authors, most of whom were writing in the 19th century.

*Ebenezer Prout Collection Catalogue*

Ebenezer Prout (1835-1909) was Professor of Music at Trinity from 1894-1909. His collection was purchased for Trinity in 1910. Comprehensively catalogued by Music Librarian Roy Stanley over three years, the nearly 3,000 items in the collection have accessible online records in the Library's Stella Search for the first time.

*Unlocking the Fagel Collection*

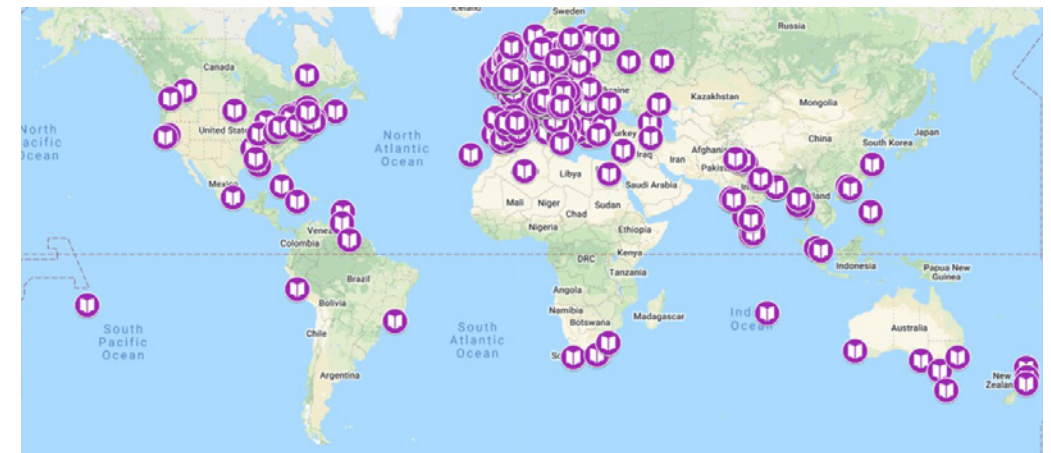
Part of the Virtual Trinity Library programme, this collection of 32,000 titles will have individual catalogue entries accessible digitally, making them known to learners and researchers across the world (see also Section 2).

**Disposal Policy**

As part of the Library's regular review of its policies, the University's Library & Information Policy Committee approved an updated Disposal Policy in May 2021. This Policy merges two previous documents, one for Research Collections in the Old Library, and another for contemporary collections. It reinforces the Library's commitment never to dispose or otherwise withdraw its unique collection items, including publications received under legal deposit. Second copies of titles acquired for teaching and learning, however, have always been routinely withdrawn from stock and destroyed. The new Policy allows the Library to pass these on for re-use, thereby extending their lifespan and reducing the Library's environmental footprint.



**Left:** Conservation work on a manuscript from the Library's Research Collections



**Above:** Places of publication indexed in the 1872 Catalogue

**Below:** French President Emmanuel Macron, accompanied by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Simon Harris, viewing the Brian Boru Harp in the Long Room



## 6. External-Facing Events and Communications

### Continuing Engagement During COVID-19

Against a backdrop of one of the longest and strictest lockdowns in the world between December 2020 and May 2021, the Library adapted from the physical to the virtual and engaged externally via launches, events, exhibitions, media and social media campaigns. Many related to the flagship initiatives of the Old Library Redevelopment Project and the Virtual Trinity Library. The Library continued to be at the fore of activities across the University with staff, students, and alumni; beyond the University with wider academia; the Gallery, Library, Archives and Museum sector; schools; government; media; philanthropy; and the general public.

Alongside these engagement activities, there have been constant Library and College website updates throughout the lockdowns with important information on opening hours, new online offerings and public health advice for those accessing the Library and its services. Communicating with the College community of students, staff and alumni, as well as externally, was a key priority.

### Old Library Redevelopment Project Funding Announcements

In May 2021, the Government announcement of €25 million in funding received widespread media coverage, including the [Irish Times](#) and [Irish Independent](#).

On 3 September 2021, to mark the visit and major benefaction by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, two unveiling ceremonies took place. Both received widespread media coverage across Irish, UK, German, French and Monégasque publications including: [Irish Independent](#); [Irish Times](#) (online & print); [Education Matters](#); [Department of Foreign Affairs](#); [Daily Mail](#); [Monaco Tribune](#); [Monaco Info](#) (video); [Monaco Channel](#); [Monaco Daily News](#); [MonacoLife](#); [NiceMatin](#); [Gala](#); [Royal Central](#); [RTÉ online](#); [Breaking News](#); [University Times](#); [Qoshe](#); [Promipool](#); [ExpressDigest](#); [Headtopics](#); and [Irish Lives Remembered](#) among others, with a reach of up to five million with certain international publications.

### International State Visits

French President Emmanuel Macron viewed the Book of Kells on 26 August 2021, accompanied by Librarian & College Archivist, Helen Shenton, Provost, Dr Linda Doyle and Mr Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. He also met students to discuss topics that included post-COVID Europe, climate change and digital equality for all citizens.

The German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and First Lady Elke Büdenbender visited on 27 October 2021. While in the Long Room, President Steinmeier viewed a number of collections, including a leaf from the original Gutenberg Bible dating from 1455.

Both visits generated widespread national and international media coverage.

### First Sculptures of Women for the Long Room

In July 2021 the commission of the first sculptures of women for display in the Long Room of the Old Library was announced. There are currently 40 marble busts in the historic space – all of men. The four women to be honoured, chosen from more than 500 nominations in a College-wide competition among students, staff and alumni, are: Ada Lovelace, Mary Wollstonecraft, Rosalind Franklin and Augusta Gregory. Artists Maudie Brady, Rowan Gillespie, Vera Klute and Guy Reid have been commissioned to create the sculptures. Coverage included: [Irish Times](#); [Irish Independent](#); [Irish Examiner](#); and [RTÉ](#).

### Director's Choice at Christmas

Following the success of the publication of [Director's Choice: The Library of Trinity College Dublin](#), during Christmas 2020 the [Director's Choice Uncut](#) online exhibition and a Christmas #TCDLibraryTreasures social media campaign encouraged readers, staff, students, alumni and the public to connect and be inspired by the diverse riches of the collections. The #TCDLibraryTreasures social media campaign showcased highlights of the collections each day over Christmas. The Librarian & College Archivist, Helen Shenton, was joined by Library staff in telling the fascinating stories of each chosen object. Coverage included [Irish Central](#).

### Virtual Trinity Library

Virtual Trinity Library was launched on 1 March 2021 with former President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the late Vartan Gregorian as guest of honour 'in conversation' with Librarian & College Archivist, Helen Shenton. More than 300 people from Ireland, the US, UK, Australia and the Netherlands attended the memorable event online. It was to be one of his last public appearances, as Vartan Gregorian sadly passed away soon after. Coverage included [Irish Central](#).

A series of #VirtualTrinityLibrary social media campaigns, developed around key milestones and themes, told the stories of digitised material to a broad range of audiences from academia to the general public. Activities led by the project managers/archivists Dr Ann-Marie Hansen, Dr Alison Ray and Ciara Daly featured stunning visual material from newly digitised texts. Activities included weekly blogs and social media in the *Explore Your Archive* series, on the completion of cataloguing the business archive of Cuala Press as part of the *Ireland's Creative Legacy: Performance, Creative Arts and Architecture Archives* theme; milestones in the digitisation of manuscripts under the *Medieval Manuscript Cultures* theme; and *Europe's Diverse Heritage: from Ussher's Library to the Fagel Library*. A series of engagement activities were also held as part of the Virtual Trinity Library.

### The Brendan Kennelly Literary Archive Launch



On 15 April 2021 a celebratory online event marked the late poet's eighty-fifth birthday, and announce the funding of the Literary Archive Project. Hosted by the Provost with the Brendan Kennelly Literary Trust, the event featured a read message from the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins, along with selected poems recited by U2 singer Bono, poet Paula Meehan and Trinity student Lily O'Byrne. 364 people attended the live online event, and the [YouTube video](#) has been viewed nearly 3,000 times. Brendan Kennelly attended from his home in Co. Kerry. Following his sad passing on 17 October, the recording has a special poignancy. Coverage included [RTÉ](#).

### Centre-Stage for the Fagel Collection

During the Embassy of the Netherlands' annual King's Day celebration event on 27 April 2021, the Head of Research Collections, Laura Shanahan, and the Project Manager for the *Unlocking the Fagel Collection* project spoke about the impact of the collaboration with the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB), and launched the first in a series of videos. A suite of widely promoted [short videos](#) developed around the Fagel family were filmed in The Hague, and another eight were filmed in Trinity and Dublin. More than 270 people watched the launch event online.

### Samuel Beckett Archive: *Rockaby* Launch



Marking the acquisition of an archive about Beckett's iconic 1981 play *Rockaby*, an [online exhibition](#) curated by Archivist Dr Jane Maxwell was launched. The entire archive will be made available in 2022 as part of the Library's Digital Collections.

### *Saucy Mistress Boldface* Documentary and the Bishop of Elphin Collection

Broadcast on RTÉ Lyric FM on 4 April 2021, this documentary explores a series of letters between Bishop Syngé and his daughter, described by Archivist Dr Jane Maxwell. An estimated 23,000 listeners tuned in live; it was the single-most listened to podcast from the channel in April and May of that year, and was nominated at the New York Radio Awards. Listen back to the [Lyric FM feature](#) and learn more in [Director's Choice Uncut](#).

### Showcasing Ina Boyle Event

As the manuscripts of Irish composer Ina Boyle (1889-1967) continue to garner interest, in October 2020 three prominent Irish singers recorded 33 Boyle songs at the Wigmore Hall, London. Manuscripts had been made accessible via Digital Collections, enabling performing editions to be created. Those involved, including artists and score editors, described the project in an RTÉ television news piece and a [YouTube video](#). Released by Delphian in August 2021, the CD received critical and popular acclaim, demonstrating how scholarly research can create positive public impact.

### Terry Pratchett Project Talks

A series of talks held online on Culture Night, 17 September 2021, focused on neuroscience and included a presentation from the research laboratory Terry Pratchett funded to combat Alzheimer's disease. As in previous years, the Library's collections, the inspiration for the Project, featured prominently. The issue of translators was highlighted, and the challenges of identifying and giving them their due in the catalogue records discussed.

### Inspiring Ideas Webinar and Out of the Ashes Lecture Series

Librarian & College Archivist Helen Shenton took part in the Inspiring Ideas @Trinity webinar series hosted by Trinity Development & Alumni. She and Chief Executive of the British Library, Roly Keating, held an 'in conversation' on The Future of Libraries on 24 March 2021 with 355 attendees and 1,000 views of the video. Helen Shenton also spoke at the final lecture in the three-year Out of the Ashes series between the Beyond 2022: Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury project and the Trinity Long Room Hub on 25 May 2021. She responded to the lecture by Bodley's Librarian Richard Ovenden, exploring the theme of Burning the Books.



## 7. Appendices

### FACTS AND FIGURES

Space	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Total gross floor area (in square metres)	18,785.29	18,785.29	18,785.29
Reader spaces	3,317	3,317	3,317
<b>Information Resource Provision</b>			
UK & Irish Legal Deposit items received (books, maps, OPUBs, sheet music)	22,584	29,144	47,902
Purchased items (books, maps, sheet music)	2,141	3,263	6,425
Donations & theses items (books, maps, sheet music)	293	892	3,514
Number of print serial titles purchased or free	5,500	5,633	6,813
Number of electronic serial titles purchased or free in electronic form	142,729	153,850	145,111
UK electronic Legal Deposit serials – article level	914,455	700,000	1,837,336
UK electronic Legal Deposit serials – issue level (from 2019/20)	30,046	123,338	n/c
UK electronic Legal Deposit monographs	97,824	78,608	196,004

Library Use	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Orientation tour participants Undergrad, TAP, Mature, Postgrad	46	5,340	5,587
Information skills workshop participants:			
1. Interdisciplinary [open to all]	1,698	2,328	1,867
2. Programme specific	9,838	12,003	6,743
3. Research consultations – Programme specific	47	68	400
4. Research consultations	805	1,027	n/c
Searches of Stella (Library's online catalogue)	4,048,822	5,319,882	4,679,152
Total loan of items to readers (including renewals)	67,100	158,900	242,300
Full-text electronic article downloads	3,028,973 <sup>1</sup>	3,463,957 <sup>2</sup>	3,590,586
Electronic book chapter downloads	989,888 <sup>3</sup>	1,064,654 <sup>4</sup>	763,641
Research Collections reader visits to the reading rooms	386	2,064	4,748
Research Collections email queries	6,572	5,586	6,854
<b>Services introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic</b>			
Online chat service	3,202	n/a	n/a
Scan on demand	2,090	n/a	n/a
Postal deliveries	2,080	n/a	n/a

<sup>1</sup> The 12.5% decrease on the previous year can be attributed to i) a general decline in usage during this period of STM e-journals also experienced by other Irish libraries, ii) a transition to use of a usage report which filters out open access article usage.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics have been revised

<sup>3</sup> The 7% decrease on the previous year can be attributed in part to a sharp decline in usage during this period of an STM e-book collection (Lecture Notes in Computer Science) also experienced by other Irish libraries.

<sup>4</sup> Statistics have been revised

## PUBLICATIONS, POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS BY LIBRARY STAFF



Above: *Harmonia Macrocosmica* by Andreas Cellarius (Amsterdam, 1661)

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