

The Library of Trinity College Dublin

Annual Report 2021/22

Developing the Library's Strategic Direction
2015–2020



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

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

—
www.tcd.ie/library



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

Below: Marking the centennial of the publication of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, Trinity led an online book club, *Ulysses in 80 Days*



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Context and Overview

Context of the Library Strategy

The Library Strategy 2015–2020 was created following very wide consultation across the Trinity community and lays out a far-reaching programme.

Provost Dr Patrick Prendergast wrote in his foreword:

This Strategy takes the Library in a new direction... It is bold and ambitious, as befits Trinity's bold ambitions. Given the universal reach of the Library — whether physical or virtual — and its impact on undergraduates, researchers, academics, and visitors alike, it is one of the most important documents in defining Trinity's future.

In the Introduction, Librarian & College Archivist Helen Shenton wrote:

...given the nature of the challenges and opportunities, it will take longer than five years to achieve; this is essentially a 15-year strategy... and... given that this is a longer-term strategy, the sequencing and pacing of specific projects will be determined by a number of internal and external factors.

And so, it has proven — although a full blown, global pandemic for two years was not one of the anticipated external factors.

The Library produces an Annual Report such as this one each year, outlining progress with the Pillars of the Strategy and it is presented at Council, the academic body of Trinity College Dublin. There are five Pillars, namely: Integrated Space; Integrated Digital; Teaching, Learning and Research; Prioritised Funding; and Policies. Underpinning the

Pillars are Communications, Operations, and Training and Development.

In March 2022, at the end of discussing the [2020/21 Annual Report](#), the Council of Trinity College Dublin recognised that it would take 15 years to deliver on the Library Strategy 2015–20. We are halfway through the 15 years.

Each year the Library reassesses the external landscape to recalibrate its overall direction. Every year there has been a different societal development, new substantial risk, and/or existential threat. These range from Brexit, the radically changing publisher model, the undermining of truth and democracy, the COVID-19 pandemic... to the global climate crisis, war in Europe, the energy crisis, inflation and supply-chain fractures, cyber-security and accelerating AI. They have necessitated degrees of course correction (see Fig1). It is anticipated that unforeseen and unpredictable political, technological and socio-economic events will continue, and that while the overall direction of the Library progresses, each strategic iteration is a snapshot in time.

Overview 2021/2022

A major feature of 2021/22 has been the multiple facets of the Old Library Redevelopment Project (OLRP), involving virtually all areas of the Library in one way or another, commensurate with this 'once in a century' undertaking. Interdisciplinary activities involving Preservation & Conservation; Cataloguing & Metadata Creation; Research Collections; Readers' Services; and Digital Systems have contributed to the substantial progress made in preparing and decanting 700,000

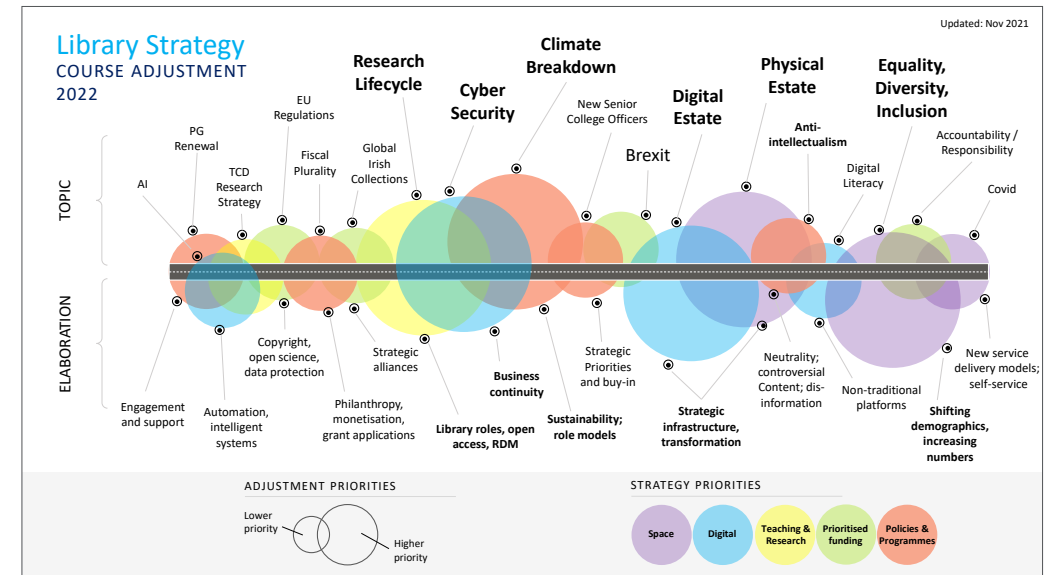


Fig. 1: Library Strategy course adjustment diagram.

of the most valuable and vulnerable collection items out of the Old Library to other temporary storage locations, including low-oxygen offsite storage.

In effect, the University is progressing three parallel and intimately interconnected building projects throughout 2021/22, to accomplish the OLRP's strategic commitment to continuity of access during the construction closure period due to start in 2024. As well as the OLRP, a second project has entailed extensive work to prepare the basement of the Ussher Library to accommodate an interim Research Collections Study Centre in order to provide seamless continuity of access to all the collections and to Library staff expertise for the entire scholarly community. A third project to create an alternative safe and

secure location for display of the Book of Kells and create an immersive exhibition to provide continuity of access for our visitors also made substantial progress. A major achievement in 2021/22 was to successfully align the three intertwined projects.

The Printing House, the third oldest building on campus and a nationally protected structure, is being conserved to securely house the Book of Kells display. The Library is leading out on the environmental, security and de-risking components. In the spirit of the OLRP's philosophy of long termism, this will bequeath another conserved monument to the University campus at the end of the Old Library's construction phase.

An interim, immersive exhibition led by Commercial Revenue Unit (CRU) colleagues is being created adjacent to

the temporary location of the Book of Kells. The Library is contributing content, both intellectual and virtual. Much of the digitised content has been created as part of the Virtual Trinity Library, thereby contributing to realising the vision of making digitised images and intellectual content of the Library's unique and distinct collections accessible to new audiences.

By the end of academic year 2021/22, these three parallel and interdependent projects had been successfully aligned. The decant of the Old Library progressed remarkably in this academic year, after pilots to determine the process. The volumes are being catalogued, cleaned and tagged with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags by a team of around 25 project assistants, under the supervision of experienced Library staff.

To capture these unique projects as part of the archival record of the University, and to provide updates internally and externally, there have been [videos](#), [interviews](#), and [timelapses](#) across different platforms. A documentary trailer has been created, and there was national and international newspaper coverage, such as [The Guardian](#) and the [New York Times](#). In addition, the Librarian & College Archivist gave a [keynote presentation](#) to the 2,000 delegates at the 87th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library & Information Congress — held in Ireland for the first time, in The Convention Centre Dublin — on *The Intertwined Digital and Cultural Heritage: A view from the Library of Trinity College Dublin*.

The Next Challenges

The keynote address to the IFLA World Congress was given by Dr Mary Robinson on 'Climate Justice'. In her challenging and [inspiring speech](#) (from 52.50' to 1.06), she threw down the gauntlet for every delegate to 'do ten times more; do it faster; and talk about climate action'. The Library has made modest strides in some

sustainability initiatives such as electrical upgrades and light sensors; introducing water fountains; recycling furniture and equipment; collating information sources; and Preservation staff were the first in Ireland to recycle nitrite gloves.

However, the Library has accepted Dr Robinson's challenge and in 2022/23, in step with the University rising to the **climate action and biodiversity** challenges, it will define its specific approach to becoming a 'green library' and step up its activities. The six areas to be addressed are: the Library Estate; the Library's content and collections; Library operations; proactive support from the Library for research into climate change and biodiversity; the Library as a trusted information source; and individual Library staff's actions, choices and behaviours.

Other cross-cutting challenges in the coming year include **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)**. There are many aspects to this, which the Library will take steps to advance in concert with the University's focus on EDI. We have made strides in specific Library areas, such as redesigning library skills programmes that embody inclusive practices for teaching and learning; research published with students with intellectual disabilities about their library experience; improved supports for international students; and a successful collaboration with the Disability Service and the TCD Sense Project to improve the sensory environment.

The Library is part of the forthcoming **Trinity Legacies Review**, which will be an important forum for addressing university-wide and Library specific aspects of Trinity's historic legacy. The major **Content and Collection Development Policy** will also have issues of legacy within scope. There are multiple strands to Content and Collection Development, and a specifically important one for Trinity is **UK e-legal deposit**, which will have its tenth anniversary in 2023.

The six research libraries, in four nations, have in effect created a seventh transnational digital library on an incredible scale. We will use the occasion of the tenth anniversary to reassess UK e-legal deposit as part of the Content & Collection Policy, especially through the lens of the relative sustainability of print and digital publications, and through the opportunities afforded for national and international collaboration.

In 2022/23, enormous milestones will be reached in the **Old Library Redevelopment Project** as it moves to closure at the end of 2023, including the move of expert staff to a temporary Research Collections Reading Room in the Ussher Library. There will be a series of events in the Long Room throughout 2022/23 during the countdown to its closure, such as the significant launch of the new sculptures of women on St Brigid's Day, and we will also be looking ahead to what outreach initiatives might be undertaken when the Old Library is being conserved.

One of the substantive outstanding major capital components in the [University Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#), is the new collaborative offsite Collections Resource Centre, to improve the environment for the collections and to enable the reimagination and reconfiguration of the contemporary Library spaces. This is a substantial challenge that needs to move to feasibility stage planning, within the context of the master planning for the Trinity Estate.

Strategic investment for reimagining existing Library spaces, including new learning spaces in the contemporary reading rooms, remains an outstanding development identified as a risk to the Library's ambition of remaining appropriate for our users' new ways of learning and researching. The COVID-19 pandemic powerfully demonstrated that the Library spaces are not just safe sanctuaries with environments conducive to study and concentration

but are critically important non-clinical support for the academic community.

A particular role that the Library has, and can increasingly play within geopolitics, is in the soft power of **cultural diplomacy** and **knowledge diplomacy**. Within Ireland, with the UK, with the EU and beyond, the Library can and will play a strong role, whether explicit or subtle, through **national** and **international collaboration**.

Tribute to Library Staff

This has been, and will continue to be, a period of much change for many staff. There has already been considerable change during and after the pandemic for Library colleagues. The Library worked on the different cross-university groups dealing with the pandemic, including the Trinity Living with Covid (TLC) group which ended after 61 meetings, and on the preceding 28 meetings of the 'Phased Resumption of Activities' group. There were 140 university-wide messages from the Provost, Chief Operating Officer, College Secretary, Director of Health Services and the Librarian. The Library instigated regular updates to all Library staff, which numbered 100 during the pandemic, and have been continued since. About a third of Library staff applied to the University's pilot Hybrid Working Policy which will be reviewed at the end of the pilot phase, in step with anticipated public sector guidelines.

I would like to pay enormous tribute to Library colleagues for navigating through the vicissitudes and after-shocks of the pandemic, for simultaneously embracing and stepping up to the challenges of major long-term programmes such as the Old Library Redevelopment Project, and for innovating and unstintingly supporting our students and researchers.

Helen Shenton

LIBRARIAN & COLLEGE ARCHIVIST
16 FEBRUARY 2023

Below: A low-distraction sensory room



1. Integrated Space

Access Control and Booking System Project Initiated

The Library is partnering with colleagues in Estates & Facilities on the installation of an access control system (consisting of access gates and software), and with IT Services on space booking software. The project will deliver the long-standing strategic goal of providing seamless access to Library spaces for staff and students, while also improving the security of Library collections and enhancing the look and feel of the entrances. For example, the system will yield detailed data on footfall and patterns of usage, which the Library needs to continually optimise its use of spaces and associated services.

In 2021, the project team developed the business case, engaged stakeholders and reviewed systems already deployed in the University against the Library's requirements. Having then selected systems and suppliers, the refurbishment of all Library entrances was scheduled, starting with the installation of the new access gates in October and November 2022.

TCD Sense Project

In partnership with the Disability Service, the Discipline of Occupational Therapy, and the Students' Union, the Library continued a major research and refurbishment project to expand and develop environments to ensure students and staff with different sensory preferences can flourish. Building on the successful first phase of TCD Sense — the procurement and installation of new sensory spaces and furniture in the 2020/21 academic year — the Library worked with colleagues in the Disability Service to complete these additional projects:

- The Assistive Technology Information Centre (ATIC) in the Hamilton Library was refurbished to provide a more user-friendly layout and replace traditional PC workstations with low-distraction study pods.
- The low-distraction room on the upper level of the Lecky Library was transformed into a respite room, with the introduction of plants, user-configurable lighting, and soft furnishings. The room is now an ideal space for students to take time out during the day to rest and recuperate. It is of particular benefit to students who experience fatigue, pain, or discomfort as a result of their disability, or who may experience sensory processing difficulties.
- Light dimmer switches were installed in several small rooms on the 2nd floor of the Berkeley Library to create spaces for quiet individual study in a peaceful environment. These spaces will become bookable to allow students to plan ahead, particularly for the use of text-to-speech software applications, and to ensure privacy.
- Based on user feedback, the Library redesigned a number of webpages to provide a more image-focussed overview of the sensory spaces and the specific supports available in each space.

Replacement of Ventilation Systems in the Berkeley and Hamilton Libraries

Extensive works took place to replace the aging ventilation systems which had operated at full capacity throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The plant rooms in each building were completely redesigned and outfitted with new mechanical systems, and the air vents and associated electrical systems were modernised. The Library worked closely with colleagues in Estates & Facilities to minimise disruption to readers throughout the project and to ensure that the new systems met the demands of a modern Library, especially in relation to quiet running and the efficient recycling of air to create a pleasant and productive environment.

Ussher Podium Works

A major programme of works took place to re-lay the protective layers underneath the Ussher Library podium to resolve existing leak issues and to future-proof the structure to withstand increased rainfall in the future. It involved removing surface tiles across the podium area and replacing the water-proofing layers underneath. The internal pipe system was redesigned to ensure surface water could be efficiently dispersed for drainage. The Library worked closely with colleagues in Estates & Facilities to ensure that internal spaces containing book collections and sensitive equipment were protected and made less susceptible to future leak risks.

Old Library Redevelopment Project

The Old Library Redevelopment project and the refurbishment of the Old Library as one of Ireland's foremost national heritage sites continued. The decant of 700,000 collection items from the Old Library to temporary storage was launched successfully on 1 April 2022. With a wide variety of collection types, shapes, sizes, locations and conditions, this decant is a highly complex undertaking. A set of standard operating procedures was developed and perfected to apply to nearly all items. The decant procedure runs as follows:

- Safe removal of material from shelves to processing stations, with use of scaffolding towers for the very high locations.
- Conservation actions, including cleaning, wrapping in acid-free tissues and securing with cotton tape, as required.
- Application of archival tags with both RFID chips and a human-readable barcode.
- Measurement, in millimetres, of items designated for custom-made slipcases.
- Inventory check against the relevant catalogues, especially Stella Search.
- Packing into standard-sized storage containers, involving acid-free liners and eco-wrap fillers, precise data capture of item ID and container ID, as well as tamper-proof security seals.
- Quality control and data integrity processes.

Each step is vigorously calibrated for efficiency and each intervention is carefully designed to preserve the items while future-proofing their use. For example, RFID tagging allows wrapped items to be tracked and traced unopened.

In parallel with the decant, a new circulation system, anchored to a new onsite warehouse management facility, is being developed. This will ensure that readers can request and consult materials held in offsite storage throughout the renovation phase and beyond. The system must facilitate the safe and secure requesting, retrieval, delivery, temporary storage and return of Research Collections materials, while also integrating with the Library's automated storage requesting system, originally developed for modern materials.

A safe and secure process means requested material can be tracked and traced in a way that minimises physical handling and risks. For example, external storage providers will never need to open a container as part of the delivery process, and therefore also never require descriptive information of the contents. Only authorised Library staff will open containers and handle collection items. While on Library premises, the containers will be securely stored and easily located.

An interim onsite warehouse management facility has been operational since the start of the decant, so readers can continue to consult Old Library materials. It provides a useful test space for the scaled-up version, which will be launched in 2023 as the decant winds down and renovation works begin.



Above: Boxing-up decanted Old Library books for transfer to offsite storage

Below: The Bank of America Art Conservation Fund awards the Library for the treatment of the 12th-century Book of Leinster manuscript



2. Integrated Digital

Manuscripts for Medieval Studies Project

The Manuscripts for Medieval Studies project, funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, continued this year. To date, 25 unique manuscripts from the Library's extensive collection have been catalogued, conserved, and digitised. We stabilised our capacity for continued digitisation with the purchase of new equipment, including a hi-spec camera and conservation-grade cradle to image manuscripts and other fragile items. These digitised manuscripts are used for teaching and learning as part of the M.Phil in Medieval Studies. They are also used for related research and outreach activities such as the online "transcribathon" event during the START EU European Researchers' Night 2021 (see also *Open Scholarship*).

Making the [Book of St Albans](#), a masterpiece by 13th-century scribe [Matthew Paris](#), available online was one of the year's highlights. One of the world's finest medieval manuscripts, the [Book of St Albans](#) contains 54 unique pieces of art, and was originally used by kings and scholars, circulating particularly amongst the women of the medieval English court. Prior to its digitisation, the only way to study all of the images was to consult a rare black and white facsimile published in 1924. The Book of St Albans is the last major Matthew Paris manuscript to be digitised, and joins others housed in the British Library, and the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, and Chetham's Library Manchester.

The launch of the digitised version included a video and online exhibition, and a promotional programme in partnership with other libraries, researchers, and community stakeholders. It included online articles by the British Library and the University of Exeter, and co-ordinated social media posts with the British Library, Cambridge University Library, Corpus Christie College Cambridge, St Albans Cathedral, St Albans Museum, and the British Embassy in Ireland. More researchers accessed the online version of the manuscript in the first week than had accessed the real-life manuscript in the Reading Room during the previous decade, and over 70 percent of those were first-time users of the Library's Digital Collections platform.

The Manuscript for Medieval Studies project secured further support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for Phase 2 of the project, which started in spring 2022. This second phase concentrates on ten manuscripts, including significant examples of Irish medieval music and Latin fragments.

In a related project, the Library was awarded funding from the Bank of America Art Conservation Project for the conservation and digitisation of the Book of Leinster, a 12th-century vellum manuscript. This is a very prestigious award; projects being funded include the restoration of Notre Dame, the Michelangelo drawing *Epifania cartoon* at the British Museum, and Edvard Munch's *Vampire* at the Munch Museum in Norway. This project commences in 2023.

Trinity's Scholarly Contribution to the World

Trinity Women Graduates Archive

Under the Virtual Trinity Library programme, cataloguing of the [Trinity Women Graduates Archive](#) was completed. Founders of Trinity Women Graduates include such inspiring figures as Lucy Gywnn, first female registrar; Olive Purser, the first female scholar in 1906; Averil Deverell, one of the first two women barristers in Great Britain and Ireland; and the first female Fellows — Ita Kirwan (O'Boyle), Catherine McNamara (Brock), Professor Barbara Wright, Professor Jocelyn Otway-Ruthven and Professor Frances Moran. In April 2022 an [exhibition](#) in the Long Room celebrated the centenary of this ground-breaking University Society.

Other Projects

The Born-Digital Archive Project and the cataloguing of the Brendan Kennelly Archive — two Virtual Trinity Library projects — continued to make excellent progress. Both are scheduled for completion in 2025.

Digital Preservation

Established in 2021, the University Digital Preservation Steering Group and sub-groups were active throughout the year with the long-term aim of developing the business case and working model for active preservation of born-digital content by the University.

Sub-Group 1. The University Records sub-group carried out a digital records management survey of selected units across the University to identify existing practices. Findings were used to inform the creation of a practical guide on digital records management which will be shared with units in due course.

Sub-Group 2. The Digital Humanities data sub-group created a practical guide on for researchers. Including advice on issues such as data management, file formats, storage, and how best to ensure the longevity of content.

Sub-Group 3. The third sub-group created an inventory of materials stored on external media and born-digital materials held by the Library. This inventory included a huge range of content and included deposited and donated materials, born-digital exhibitions, learning resources, and communications and outreach materials. It is vital that the Library continues to acquire collections of global significance. The increase in the number and complexity of born-digital records deposited in the Library, and the long-term preservation needs of electronic theses and born-digital publications, underlines the importance and urgency of enhancing capacity to secure the long-term preservation and access to these collections. The group created a born-digital appraisal document for use by Research Collections staff to inform initial conversations with the growing number of potential donors of born-digital materials.

Europe's Diverse Heritage

Unlocking the Fagel Collection

In collaboration with the Dutch National Library Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB) and funded by the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands, the extraordinary Unlocking the Fagel Collection project continues to reveal new aspects of the extensive Fagel Library which came to Trinity over 200 years ago. A total of 11,500 items from the collection, including the complete early pamphlet collection of 5,200 works, are now included in the Short Title Catalogue Netherlands (STCN), the Dutch National Bibliography — with 11.5% being the first copy recorded in any library.



Above: Project Archivist, Ciara Daly, at the launch of the exhibition to mark the centenary anniversary of the Trinity Women Graduates Association

The STCN not only allows works to be catalogued with great precision, but also links the Fagel holdings to those of other major research collections in Europe and beyond, enhancing the reach of the collection and affording new research insights. This initial cataloguing phase of the project will facilitate research and digitisation for the future in what will be a multi-year project.

The project team promoted their work across Europe, and hosted visitors from the Renaissance Society of America and colleagues from our project partner, the KB.

The second series of [videos on the Fagel Library](#) was launched, with Library colleagues highlighting some of the remarkable items in the collection and the work of the project in making this accessible.

Ireland's Creative Legacy

The Cuala Press Collection

The Cuala Press was founded by the Yeats sisters, Elizabeth and Susan, in 1908. Following earlier completion of the cataloguing phase of the project, the initial phase of digitisation commenced with the imaging of 111 hand-coloured Cuala Press prints (the Vin Ryan Collection, TCD MS 11574) which are available in [Digital Collections](#). The Schooner Foundation continues to support this project, and conservation and digitisation of the Cuala Press Business Archive is underway. Significant research has also been undertaken by the project's post-doctoral Research Fellow, Dr Billy Shortall, and academic lead, Dr Angela Griffith. Several [blogs](#) and [articles](#) were published, promoting public interest in the project. Additionally, a virtual recreation of the [exhibition Exposition D'Art Irlandais](#), a key part of the World Congress of the Irish Race Paris programme in 1922, highlights the enduring cultural importance of the Cuala Press.

Theses Digitisation Project: Update

After the COVID-enforced break, the project to digitise all eligible PhD theses resumed. By March 2020, a total of over 4,500 print volumes had been scanned, covering submissions from the year 2000 to 2017/18 (when e-theses were introduced), as well as frequently requested earlier ones. During summer 2022, the Library prepared a further 2,000 volumes for scanning, going back to submissions from the 1930s. Scanning the oldest theses and doctoral theses other than PhDs, is earmarked for 2022/23. Uploading the digital files to the theses collection in TARA will conclude the project. Work includes quality control, checks for data protection and intellectual property rights, as well as metadata enhancements, such as the addition of abstracts. It is expected to be completed during 2023/24.

UK E-Legal Deposit: Update

Joint Collecting Framework for Legal Deposit 2023–2030

One of the documents governing the Library's legal deposit partnership with the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales, the Bodleian Libraries, Oxford, and Cambridge University Library is a joint 'Collecting Framework'. For the first ten years of the UK Regulations for non-print legal deposit (2013), the emphasis was on safeguarding what was at risk of loss and scaling up the joint infrastructure for preservation and access to digital works.

Adopted in June 2022, the new framework brings print back into focus. By viewing print and digital as an integrated whole, it tasks the Legal Deposit Libraries to play to the strengths of each format with, crucially, the reader in mind. Accessing the publications must be an enabling experience for all users, and the breadth and depth of content collected must reflect all of society in the four countries. Increased, targeted community engagement will be necessary. Gaps to be addressed include minor print runs, complex digital objects, and elusive self-published materials.

As before, the new framework recognises that investment is needed to achieve these ambitions. The Legal Deposit Libraries are committed to continue their close collaboration to grow an efficient, sustainable, and low-carbon legal deposit ecosystem.

In June 2022, Trinity hosted the annual meeting of the UK Legal Deposit Libraries Directors. Meeting for the first time in person (on Bloom's Day) since the start of the Covid pandemic, the six directors instigated a review of the future strategic direction of UK legal deposit in the run-up to the 10th anniversary of the 2013 legislation, and the significant international infrastructure challenges.

Legal Deposit User Forum

The establishment of a User Forum was among the key recommendations arising from an academic research project in the UK, Digital Library Futures (2017–2019). Paul Gooding (then University of East Anglia) and his co-investigators argued that it was necessary to encourage and amplify the user voice in the planning and evaluation of e-legal deposit as a service.

Invitations to the authors to present their findings at legal deposit meetings, followed culminating, during 2021/22, in Trinity convening a user forum. Online workshops were attended by Library staff, academics, and the public thus representing a diverse range of perspectives. Draft terms of reference for the Legal Deposit User Forum were agreed. The Forum will bring together a cross-section of the UK Legal Deposit Libraries' user communities, including potential users. Library representatives will provide clarifications, but will not have a vote. The Forum will support the understanding of different user needs and perspectives, and communicate these to the Legal Deposit Libraries. Doing so will inform and provide feedback on developments in legal deposit infrastructure and services, and influence decision making.

The recruitment process for the Forum begins in January 2023, with a view to having a core group of forum members in place ahead of the tenth anniversary of UK e-legal deposit in April that year.

IReL Update

The consortium behind the [Irish Research electronic Library \(IReL\)](#), continued to grow: welcoming new members, securing more funding, and increasing its portfolio of high-quality scholarly content. Usage of these licenced resources by IReL members increased significantly from 16.6 million times in 2020 to 18.8 million times in 2021.

Within this portfolio, IReL expanded its 'open access transformative agreements' with publishers (new additions included the American Psychological Association and the Royal Society of Chemistry). Its first open access report revealed that these

agreements 'resulted in 2,813 journal articles being published open access in 2021, which accounts for 42% of the articles published annually by corresponding authors from IReL's members' (see blog post on [IReL's year in review, 2022](#)). In February 2022, IReL announced its twentieth such agreement: its first with a fully open access publisher, [PLOS](#). In addition, IReL started to [fund](#) initiatives that are creating an increasingly mature open access infrastructure: Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ); Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) and the related OAPEN Foundation; and Sherpa Romeo (an aggregator of publisher open access policies). Similarly, IReL continued to lead and expand the [national ORCID consortium](#), with the Higher Education Authority and Mary Immaculate College joining.

The direct financial and organisational investment in national, open research infrastructure is important. It is worth remembering, too, that in many cases the open access transformation via publisher agreement remained incomplete. For example, the agreements with Wiley, Springer and Elsevier only covered a percentage (albeit a high one) of articles that authors from IReL institutions could publish without having to pay an article processing charge (APC). This was potentially confusing and inevitably frustrating for researchers. The Library mitigated the confusion with a multi-layered communication plan, and continued to work with IReL and other partners, such as the National Open Research Forum (NORF), towards removing the frustrations by facilitating comprehensively open access publications.

Below: Edward Ng, Global Student Ambassador and LLM in Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law, with DELTACINE staff recording the Library's welcome guide for international students



3. Integration into Teaching, Learning and Research

A Universal Design Approach to Teaching

The Library's Teaching & Research support team completed the Trinity Inclusive Curriculum (Trinity-INC) Professional Learning Module in Inclusive Practices for Teaching and Learning. The module is grounded in the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and recipients received a digital badge from AHEAD and the National Forum for Teaching and Learning. Supported through peer engagement with academic colleagues, the team developed insights into inclusive pedagogical approaches and work practices.

Learning from the UDL module was put into practice via a root and branch review of *Library HITS*, the Library's interdisciplinary skills programme. This included the introduction of new classes, including *Smart Searching* and *Defining Your Research Question*. Applying a UDL lens, classes were flipped to enable active learning activities for students with their peers and Subject Librarians. Accompanying learning aids, including captioned video tutorials, were posted online, so students could consolidate their learning to suit their needs.

Support for International Students

Given Trinity's rich multicultural student population, the Library is always keen to hear the international student voice. A user experience consultation exercise revealed that this cohort want clearer information about locations, services, collections, and further supports for understanding academic integrity.

The Global Student Ambassador team worked with the Library to script and present an orientation video highlighting services and supports. The video guide enables international students to understand how the library might be different to the libraries in their home countries.

New Module for Doctoral Students

In Hilary term, a new five-credit module for PhD students was delivered by the Library's Teaching & Research Support team with the Postgraduate Advisory Service and Student Learning & Development. *Planning and Managing Your Research Journey* provides doctoral candidates with opportunities to develop and enhance their research process and reflect on their journey. The module focuses on self-management, academic and communication skills, and personal effectiveness and wellbeing. Feedback such as:

...being able to discuss situations and difficult subjects about my PhD with other PhD students and find solutions to them

and

...talking to each other and discovering my troubles were normal and shared

showed the importance of a sense of belonging and discussing experiences.

The Impact of Unsustainable Publisher Practices on Scholarly Activity

Delivering access to e-books to support teaching, learning and assessment proved challenging again this year. Several publishers removed e-books without advance warning days before the start of term, including titles which some lecturers had already assigned as core texts.

The Library Association of Ireland condemned the use of a new model which saw publishers selling e-books as 'e-textbooks' on a subscription model based on class size and for exorbitant fees, as unsustainable, anti-competitive and a highly problematic use of public funds. In addition to price gouging, other publishers bypassed the Library and sold e-books directly to students.

These trends in publishing are having detrimental impacts on current students and future researchers. If the Library is unable to provide access to a subset of e-books, students from poorer socio-economic backgrounds will lose out. In addition, if it is not possible for scholars to undertake research using these publications, future scholarly output will be affected.

The Library is working with Trinity authors to inform them of the 'broken' e-book market and to equip them with the appropriate knowledge around the requirement for an institutional licence prior to negotiating book contracts with publishers.

The Library is a member of the Irish, cross-sectoral ['e-book SOS' campaign](#) and has raised this issue at the League of European Research Universities (LERU) INFO Group held in the 'Black Diamond' National Library in Copenhagen in March 2022.

Substantial New Electronic Resources Acquired

In response to requests from researchers in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Library was delighted to announce the purchase of 14 new databases supporting multiple disciplines. With access to millions of primary source collections, the resources provide a fantastic opportunity for scholars to expand their research. On hearing about the acquisition of Digital Theatre+ and the National Theatre Collection, a Lir Academy colleague commented:

Terrific news to have access to these databases. The timing couldn't be better, as I'll be assigning students to engage with these resources directly. Thank you so much ... I'm tremendously excited for the possibilities these open up for the students to explore models of excellence in the various disciplines in which they are getting training.

Open Scholarship

National Open Research Forum (NORF)

In early summer 2022, NORF announced six funding calls to progress the National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030 (then in draft form; it was launched in November). Working closely with colleagues across the University, and collaborating with a range of partner institutions, Library and research-support staff contributed to four successful bids:

- National Open Access Monitoring
- Open Access Repository Assessment and Alignment
- Open Access Transition Programme
- Open Research Training Programme

Projects commence in November 2022 and are scheduled to run for two years.

Open Scholarship Appointment

Dr Christoph Schmidt-Supprian took up the new position of Head of Content Management & Open Scholarship on 20 June 2022. His previous roles in the Library focused on legal deposit and metadata services. He will lead on the content development and management direction for the mainstream collections, print, digital, and open access, maximising synergies between the different strands. This role signifies the Library's commitment to Open Scholarship and the associated multi-layered transformations in research, teaching, and collections. Dr Schmidt-Supprian is working closely with the Associate Dean of Research and other partners across the University on the plans and infrastructures this transformation requires.

Digital Humanities Internship

The Library hosted a second intern from Trinity's M.Phil in Digital Humanities and Culture, working on topics related to the Terry Pratchett collection. In 2021, a student conducted a feasibility study on transforming the bibliographic descriptions into linked open data and made recommendations for a fully-fledged project. In 2022, a student undertook computational analyses of the different editions of Pratchett's first novel, *The Carpet People*, following its 50th anniversary. The selection of visualisations added to the Library's [Pratchett Project](#) webpage is a good illustration of the potential for providing access to the full texts of special collections.

Primary Source Collections Used in Teaching and Research

Research Collections continued to be actively used in taught programmes, including courses in the School of English, Department of French, Department of History of Art and Architecture, and Department of History. Material presented is as wide-ranging as medieval manuscripts, 18th-century Dutch maps and architecture books from the Fagel Collection, Shakespeare's folios, and children's literature.

The Manuscripts for Medieval Studies project continued to partner with the M.Phil in Medieval Studies programme, providing the core materials for student engagement with the physical manuscripts and the digital versions. The team developed other teaching, learning and research events, including a two-hour online event *Getting to Grips with Manuscripts Online* for European Researchers' Night in September 2021. Trinity's first live "transcribathon", it included participants from across Europe and further afield. In December 2021, a joint palaeography workshop with the University of Kent built upon the success of the September event with a transcribathon challenge for postgraduate students and colleagues.

For the September 2022 European Researchers' Night, the Manuscripts for Medieval Studies team partnered with the Manuscripts Book and Print Culture research theme to provide a range of in-person activities including Matthew Paris colouring sheets, a Match-the-Script game, handling examples of pigments, and a Beat-the-Computer transcription challenge.

Below: Benefactor, Tom Foley and family, pictured with the Provost, Dr Linda Doyle, on the occasion of the unveiling of a frieze in his honour in the Long Room



4. Prioritised Funding

The Library developed and further evolved as a flagship of the university-wide *Inspiring Generations* campaign. The Librarian addressed the Campaign Council at its annual session in June 2022, with an update on the Old Library Redevelopment Project, and reflections on the nature of the philanthropy in support of both the Old Library and the Virtual Trinity Library.

Several generous benefactors to the Old Library Redevelopment Project were recognised by celebratory events in the Long Room, perhaps most notably, His Serene Highness Prince Albert of Monaco on 3rd September 2021.

The visit marks sixty years since the Irish state visit of Prince Rainier and Princess Grace (1961) and ten years since the first state visit of Prince Albert II (2011).

The Librarian presented in many forums on the Old Library, for example, to the Trustees of the Trinity College Dublin Association and Trust, and the Trinity Women Graduates.

Given the symbiosis with cultural diplomacy, the Library welcomed ambassadors and diplomats to the Old Library, including an extensive group of women ambassadors to Ireland.



Above: Head of Preservation and Conservation, Susie Bioletti, Librarian and College Archivist, Helen Shenton, and CEO of Bank of America, Europe, Fernando Vicario, on the occasion of the Book of Leinster funding announcement

Below: The Old Library Redevelopment Project aims to conserve and safeguard the Old Library building and its precious collections for future generations



5. Suite of Inter-Related Policies and Programmes

Stewardship

The Bank of America awarded funding for the conservation and digitisation of the Book of Leinster; written during the 12th century by Áed Úa Crimthainn, abbot of Terryglass in Co. Tipperary, it is one of the most important manuscripts in Irish to have survived. An anthology of prose, verse, genealogy, medical knowledge, and place-name lore, it contains the Irish equivalent of the Book of Genesis, *Lebor Gabála Éirenn*, which establishes the places of Ireland, and the Irish people and their language, in a biblical world setting. A very important version of the saga *An Táin Bó Cúailnge* and the story of *Cú Chulainn* is included in the collection.

Currently inaccessible due to risk of damage if handled, the treatment will stabilise the vellum, and repair extensive losses and tears, thus allowing it to be re-sewn and rebound. This transformation will enable the digitisation of the manuscript and open it up for research into the materials, decoration, text and meaning of this uniquely complex and fascinating record from the early Middle Ages.

Other highlights include:

Continuation of grant-funded projects.

Funding to enable conservation, digitisation and research resulted in the treatment of ten important medieval manuscripts for the Carnegie Corporation of New York funded project, and 30 volumes from the Fagel Collection.

Cuala Press project.

A survey across over 4,500 items was achieved, and the stabilisation, rehousing and conservation of items identified for focused attention.

Estella Solomons Collection.

The Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe has funded the conservation of this collection, which has led to the treatment of 74 items from a survey of 470 artworks; 354 works are in preservation housing.

Visibility and Access Programme

Ebenezer Prout Collection

The private library of Ebenezer Prout (1835–1909), Professor of Music at Trinity from 1894–1909, was purchased by the University in 1910 and immediately made available in the Library, but details of its contents were not easily discoverable, as the sole finding aid was Prout's own hand-written rudimentary card catalogue, which was only available onsite. As a result, the Prout Collection, one of the Library's principal resources for musicological research, was under-utilised for over a century through insufficient visibility.

The programme to add the collection to the Library's online catalogue began in 2017 and was completed in 2021. 2,840 detailed records were created, providing access to 2,247 printed music scores, 48 music manuscripts, and 545 books and journals.

Having these records in the catalogue opens up the collection more widely for study and facilitates analysis. The collection reflects Prout's interests and practical requirements as a composer, teacher, performing musician, writer, and theorist, so the books and journals cover the history and theory of music, while the scores range across musical genres, encompassing opera, choral, keyboard and orchestral music.

Most items were published during Prout's collecting lifetime, but he also purchased antiquarian publications, particularly those from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. These comprise about one-sixth of the collection, and are probably the most valuable in terms of rarity and research potential. The collection also includes autograph manuscripts of most of Prout's compositions, some of them unpublished.

Project Round-Up

Following the successful completion of the large-scale catalogue conversion programmes during 2020/21, the Library turned its attention to the known patches of duplicate records in Stella Search. During 2021/22, nearly 20,000 duplicate records were removed, and any unique information was copied into the remaining records. This reduces complexity for researchers and makes the request and retrieval of items more streamlined.



Above: Dr Angela Griffith of the Department of History of Art and Architecture, with representatives of the Schooner Foundation, Stephanie and Bill Ditenhafer Schooner, who have sponsored extensive research, archival and conservation work on the Cuala Press Business Archive and prints

Below: UK Labour Party leader, Sir Keir Starmer, during his visit to the Old Library



6. External-Facing Events and Communications

Old Library Redevelopment Project

Significant international media attention of this transformational flagship conservation project continued throughout the year, with coverage in the [The Guardian](#), [New York Times](#), [BBC World News](#), [Sunday Times](#), German national broadcaster [ZDF](#), and [France 2](#) television. The complex decant programme captured particular attention.

Celebrating the Poet Derek Mahon

The life and work of poet Derek Mahon was celebrated in November 2021 with a conference organised by Trinity's School of English in association with Poetry Ireland. An online exhibition *Derek Mahon: Piecing Together the Poet* was organised jointly by the Library and the Stewart Rose Library of Emory University (home to the principal Mahon archive). The exhibition featured readings by Derek Mahon and Stephen Rea, along with specially commissioned interviews with friends and fellow poets. It also featured atmospheric photographs by John Minihan.

Trinity Women Graduates Centenary Exhibition

In April 2022, the first new exhibition in the Long Room as society emerged from lockdown restrictions marked the centenary of Trinity Women Graduates Association. *If A Female Had Once Passed the Gate: Trinity Women Graduates Centenary Exhibition 1922-2022* traced the campaign

for the admission of women to degrees in Trinity. It also charted the foundation of the Trinity Women Graduates Association. The online exhibition, hosted on Google Cultural Institute, extended its accessibility beyond the Long Room, fulfilling the aim of Trinity Women Graduates to keep their members connected with Trinity and its own fascinating history. The archive was donated by the Trinity Women Graduates Association in 2019, which went on to fund the Virtual Trinity Library Archive Project in 2021. The centenary events were covered by the [Irish Independent](#) and Irish Central. The Library led a social media campaign and gave an online tour and webinar for members of Trinity Women Graduates.

The exhibition was launched on 27 April 2022 in the Long Room of the Old Library by the Provost, Dr Linda Doyle, with speakers including Librarian and College Archivist Helen Shenton; Ambassador of Ireland to Italy Patricia O'Brien; and alumna and poet Paula Meehan.

The title is taken from a Statement of the Board of Trinity College Dublin in July 1895 which included the line:

*If a female had once passed
the gate, it would be practically
impossible to watch what buildings
or chambers she might enter, or
how long she might remain there.*

Living in Lockdown Project

In April, the Library welcomed 60 school children from St Patrick's Loreto Primary School, Bray who had participated in the *Living in Lockdown* project. Ranging in ages from four to 12, these recorders of the pandemic presented high-quality booklets containing their memories, reflections, and artwork to the Library.



Above: School children from St Patrick's Loreto Primary School, Bray, present their booklets containing their memories, reflections and artwork to the Library as part of the *Living in Lockdown* project

Trinity-INC Student Ambassador Reflections on Learning During COVID

As part of the *Defining Disabilities* art exhibition organised by the Students' Union, the Trinity Ability Co-op and Disability Services, the Library was delighted to showcase pieces by the Trinity-INC Student Partner team. These artefacts presented insights from a workshop exploring the experiences of commonly under-represented and disadvantaged students about Trinity's approach to learning online during COVID-19, and the transition back to learning on campus.

Virtual Trinity Library

Book of St Albans

The launch of the digitised medieval manuscript the Book of St Albans received extensive media coverage, with features in [Irish Central](#), the [Irish Times](#) and [Irish Independent](#). There was significant engagement and collaboration among the Library's peer institutions, and those who marked the event online included the British Library's [Medieval and Earlier Manuscripts blog](#), and the University of Exeter's [Medieval Studies blog](#). Reach went beyond academic circles too, with [St Albans School](#) in Washington DC posting a blog, and St Albans Cathedral celebrating it as part of St Alban's Day in June 2022. To enjoy the full experience, view the [online exhibition](#), [video](#), and the digitised manuscript in the [Digital Collections Repository](#).

Cuala Press

The digitisation of 111 hand-coloured Cuala Press prints was featured in the [Guardian](#), [Arena](#) on RTÉ Radio 1, RTÉ's [Brainstorm](#), and the [BBC World Service NewsDay](#).

Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland

In June, Taoiseach Micheál Martin, and Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin, launched the [Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland](#) at Dublin Castle as part of the all-island legacy for the Decade of Centenaries. The *Beyond 2022* project is led by Trinity's historians and computer scientists in the SFI ADAPT Centre. The Library is a core partner, together with the National Archives of Ireland, the UK's National Archives, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, and the Irish Manuscripts Commission. It was covered by the [Irish Times](#), [The Guardian](#), [RTÉ](#), [BBC](#) and others.

Conservation and Digitisation of the Book of Leinster

In June, Bank of America announced funding through its 2022 global Art Conservation Project to conserve, research and digitise the Book of Leinster, the 12th-century parchment manuscript of incalculable value to the history of Ireland and the Irish language. The extensive coverage the [Library announcement](#) received included [Irish Times](#); [RTÉ 6.01 News](#); [RTÉ One News](#); [RTÉ Radio 1 News at One](#); [RTÉ Online](#); [Irish language television TG4 News](#).

International State Visits

The Provost Dr Linda Doyle and the Librarian and College Archivist hosted a visit from the UK Labour Party leader Keir Starmer, and the Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Peter Kyle, to the Old Library in June. There was extensive discussion about education, research, and the Library in the context of the current political situations in the UK, Ireland and the EU.

Other international visitors to the Old Library included Mariya Gabriel the EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth.

IFLA World Congress

On 23 July 2022, the Library hosted an IFLA World Congress satellite event on Knowledge Management (KM) in the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts & Humanities Research Institute. Talks and discussions ranged from the proportion of IT-related staff in modern libraries, to libraries' role in repurposing knowledge, and the benefits of KM platforms and KM managers in organisations. The speakers and attendees came from far and wide, including the US, Finland, Hungary, South Africa and Nigeria. Trinity's Front Square was also the location for a flash mob of 50 librarians from around the world who read out excerpts from Joyce's *Ulysses* in their own language.

In addition to the in-person Keynote address at the IFLA World Congress in Dublin in July 2022 (see page 4), the Librarian delivered a presentation and discussion in the series of events staged by Bibliotheken der Universität Zürich (UZH) and Zentralbibliothek Zürich (ZB) celebrating the founding of the new University Library under the theme; Virtual Books, Data, Rooms. The University Library in the 21st Century: *The role of libraries in the dialogue between academia and society*.



Above: Marking the centennial of the publication of *Ulysses*, a "librarians' flashmob" took place in Library Square, where participants read excerpts from *Ulysses* in their own languages. The event was organised by the World Library and Information Congress (IFLA-WLIC)

7. Appendices

FACTS AND FIGURES

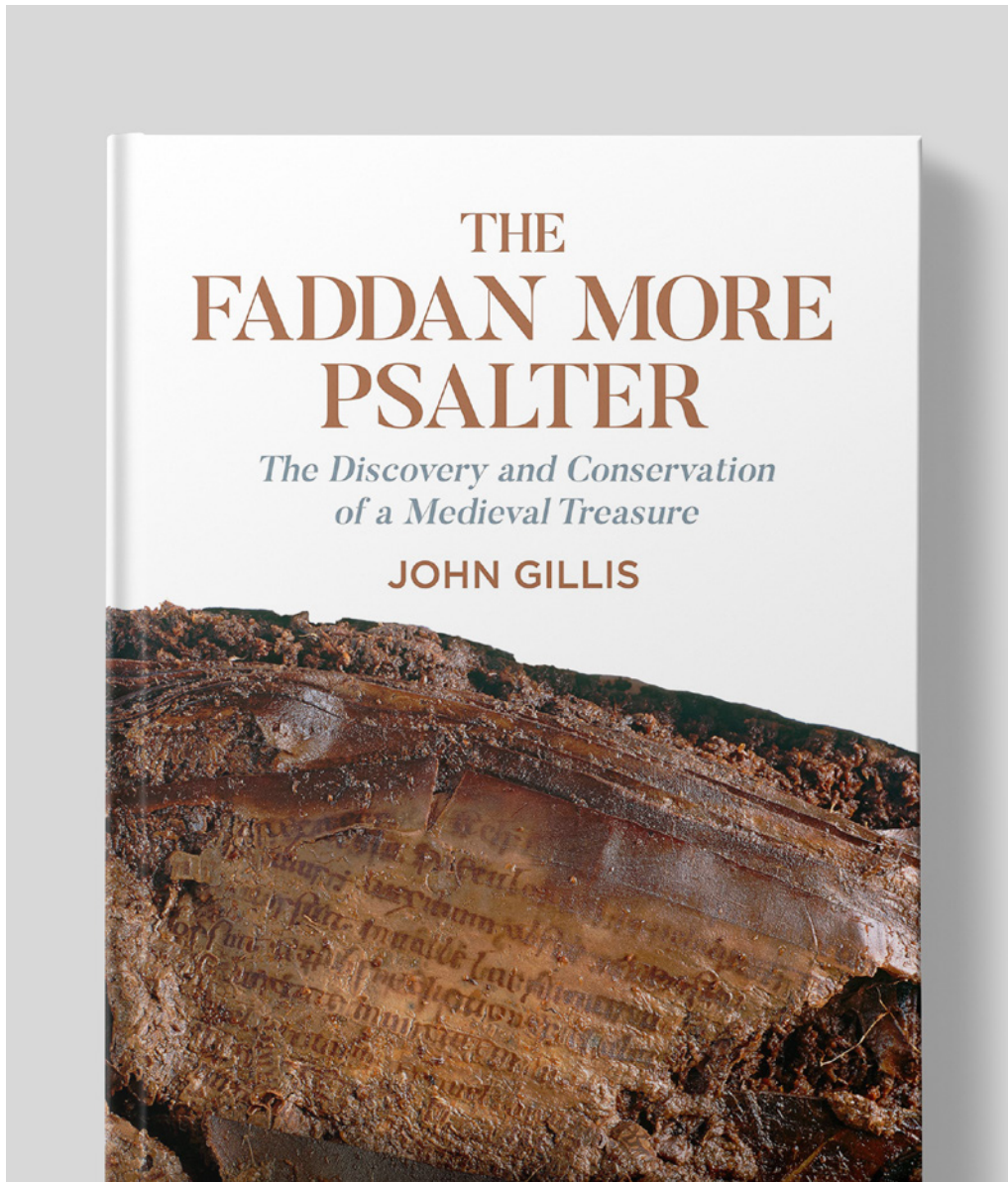
Space	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Total gross floor area (in square metres)	18,785.29	18,785.29	18,785.29
Reader spaces	3,317	3,317	3,317
Information Resource Provision			
UK & Irish Legal Deposit print items (books, maps, sheet music)	51,162	22,584	29,144
Purchased print items added (books, maps, sheet music)	2,884	2,141	3,263
Purchased e-book titles added (various access licences)	818	1,392	1,894
Donations & Theses print items added (books, maps, sheet music)	1,023	293	892
UK & Irish Legal Deposit and purchased print serial titles added to	5,155	5,500	5,633
Total number electronic serial titles subscribed to	187,459	142,729	153,850
Purchased electronic resource packages and databases added	18	28	not counted
UK electronic Legal Deposit serials — article level added	810,511	914,455	700,000
UK electronic Legal Deposit serials — issue level added	41,983	30,046	123,338
UK electronic Legal Deposit monographs added	81,354	97,824	78,608

Library Use	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Information skills workshop participants:	141	46	5,340
1. Interdisciplinary (open to all)	3,292	1,698	2,328
2. Programme specific	11,009	9,838	12,003
3. Research consultations — Programme specific	284	47	68
4. Research consultations	839	805	1,027
Searches of Stella Search (Library's online catalogue)	3,549,421	4,048,822	5,319,882
Total loan of items to readers (including renewals)	117,900	67,100	158,900
Full-text electronic article downloads	3,964,918	3,028,973 ¹	3,463,957
Electronic book chapter downloads	956,046	989,888 ²	1,064,654
Research Collections reader visits to the reading rooms	2,206	386	2,064
Research Collections email queries	8,651	6,572	5,586

¹ 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.

² 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.

PUBLICATIONS, POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS BY LIBRARY STAFF



Above: The publication of *The Faddan More psalter: The discovery and conservation of a medieval treasure* marks a successful collaboration between the National Museum of Ireland and the Library

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