

The Library of Trinity College Dublin

Librarian & College Archivist. Helen Shenton, B.A. (LOND.), M.A., F.R.S.A., F.I.I.C.

The Library's history dates back to the establishment of the College in 1592. Today it has six million printed volumes with extensive collections of journals, more than half a million maps and very large collections of manuscripts and music reflecting over four hundred years of academic development. More recently, it has established a collection of over 80,000 electronic journals and over 350,000 electronic books. It is the largest library in Ireland and has been a legal deposit library for Ireland and the United Kingdom since 1801.¹ The Library continues to add to its collections through purchases, private donations, acquisitions and as a library of legal deposit.

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

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

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

Admission of readers

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

Holders of an ALCID² card may apply for a visiting reader card on production of a current Identity Card from their home institution.

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

All readers are required to observe the terms of the Library declaration and the other Library regulations as set out under the *Calendar*, PART II - GENERAL REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION.

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

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

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Hours of opening — reading rooms

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

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

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

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

Kinsella Hall in the Ussher Library has swipe card access for all Trinity students when the Library is closed.

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

The Old Library — admission of members of the public

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

Mondays to Saturdays	9.30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sundays (October to April)	12 noon – 4.30 p.m.
Sundays (May to September)	9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

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

Donations

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

TRINITY CLOSET PRESS

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

*FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY*³*

President. Patrick John Prendergast, B.A., B.A.I., PH.D., SC.D., C.ENG., FIAE, HON. F.A.S., F.R.ENG., M.R.I.A.

Chair. Peter Costello, B.A.

Hon. Secretary. Elizabeth Louise Fleeton

Hon. Treasurer. Bryan O'Sullivan, B.COMM., F.C.A.

The society known as the Friends of the Library was founded in 1945 to promote an interest in the general welfare of the Library and to provide an income for the purchase of books and manuscripts. The annual programme of the society includes lectures, meetings and a summer outing. The Friends also sponsor exhibitions in the Library and the society publishes *Long Room*, a journal of general and bibliographical interest. The minimum subscription is €30 per annum. Gifts and bequests of appropriate books or manuscripts are welcomed by the society.

³Societies which are recognised by the College but in respect of whose activities the College does not accept any responsibilities are marked with an asterisk. They are listed in this section for information purposes only.

THE TRINITY LONG ROOM HUB

See under RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND CENTRES.