



Exhibitions Policy, Old Library, the Library of Trinity College Dublin

Long-term exhibition

1. The Book of Kells and associated collection items are displayed in the Old Library, in an exhibition entitled *Turning Darkness into Light*.
2. They are displayed securely and in a manner which protects the collection from risk, including environmental damage.
3. While the theme of the exhibition is long-term, items will be changed or pages will be turned every twelve weeks, for conservation reasons.
4. Label and online information about the exhibition is provided by Library curatorial staff.
5. Library curatorial staff assist with the provision of social media content concerning the display of the Book of Kells.
6. Photography is not allowed in the Treasury, where the *Book of Kells* is displayed.
7. Food and drink are not allowed in exhibition spaces.

Temporary exhibitions

1. The holdings of the Old Library are displayed in the Long Room in thematic exhibitions which may take into account events of College, national, international or historic significance.
2. Temporary exhibitions provide opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy aspects of the manuscripts, archives, and early printed book collections.
3. The duration of temporary exhibitions is no longer than six months.
4. All items are displayed securely and in a manner which protects the collection from environmental damage.
5. Non-flash photography is allowed in the Long Room, for personal use.
6. Due to copyright restrictions, some exhibition items may not be photographed. Signage is used to indicate where photography is not permitted.

Exhibition practice

1. The Old Library is closed to the public during display changes, or during conservation checks on items in the long-term exhibition or *Turning Darkness into Light*.
2. The Long Room is closed to the public during exhibition changes in the Long Room.
3. The themes of temporary exhibitions are decided by the Head of Research Collections and the Librarian & College Archivist eighteen months to two years in advance of the opening date. The



Exhibitions Operational Group reviews exhibition proposals, in order to make recommendations to the Head of Research Collections and the Librarian & College Archivist.

4. The content of the exhibitions is decided by the Head of Research Collections, who consults with the Keeper of Preservation & Conservation on suitability of the items for display and the display requirements.
5. Display support devices are provided by the Preservation & Conservation Department, who assist Library curatorial staff with installation.
6. The shortlist of items for temporary exhibitions are confirmed no later than six months before the opening date.
7. Some costs associated with temporary and long-term exhibitions are met by the Library, including for display cases and devices, labels and signage, promotion, security, and maintenance of environmental conditions. Additional costs associated with exhibitions may be raised through external sources.
8. Library curatorial staff provide signage and labels that provide information about the exhibits and enhance the exhibition.
9. The content of signage, labels, promotional text, and any supporting material produced by guest curators receive final approval from the collaborating Library curatorial staff.
10. All temporary exhibitions are promoted through social media channels and the Library website.

Permanent exhibition loans in

1. Items and exhibitions may be borrowed by the Library of Trinity College Dublin for display in the Long Room and *Turning Darkness into Light*, from time to time. All loans are subject to the conditions of a Loan Agreement.
2. The decision to borrow will be based on agreement between the Head of Research Collections, Keeper of Preservation & Conservation, and the Librarian & College Archivist.

Temporary exhibitions loans out

1. Collection items from the Old Library may be loaned to exhibitions held at cultural institutions if the material requested is considered appropriate to the theme of the exhibition, and the requesting Institution has a proven record of good practice in providing facilities and processes to an international standard.
2. All loans out are subject to the conditions of the Library of Trinity College Dublin's Loans Policy.
3. There are restrictions on the loan of material to external exhibitions: 'Manuscripts, limited editions, and material published in or before the year 1800 may be loaned with the consent of the Board on the advice of the Librarian ... Material published after the year 1800 may be lent by the Librarian at his discretion' (Statutes XXIV.5. b,c).



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

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4. In 2000, Board decided that, as a matter of policy, the *Book of Kells* will not be loaned to external exhibitions.

Review period

This policy will be reviewed after five years, or earlier should conditions require it: 2025.