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Rising to the new challenges

Two cross-cutting strategic imperatives emerged as urgent priorities since the Library Strategy was published, namely Sustainability, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Both are highlighted in the newly developed ‘Continuity and Development of the Library Strategy — 2026’.

In 2022, the Library accepted Mary Robinson’s challenge issued at the 87th World Library and Information Congress to ‘increase tenfold’, ‘move faster’ and ‘talk about’ the climate crisis. The Library is starting to play its part in addressing sustainability and becoming a ‘Green Library’.

Developments and activities in the Library are being viewed through the cross-cutting lens of Sustainability, Biodiversity and Climate Action. This encompasses everything from the sustainability components of the Old Library Redevelopment Project to the relative long-term sustainable life cycle of both electronic and print collections, from procurement and supply chain of Library services to people’s individual actions. A ‘Sustainability Framework’ has been created for the Library [see Figure 1], in step with the University’s Sustainability Strategy 2023–2030 and national targets.

Unique library components cluster around the collections and content, including content creation, digital sustainability, the interplay between e-and print, and long-term preservation. The next step is a systematic implementation programme.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), is an equally critical, cross-cutting strategic imperative that emerged since the previous strategic cycle. The Library developed an EDI Framework [see Figure 2] in consort with the Sustainability Framework, as it became clear that there are significant intersections between the two. This year saw progress in specific Library areas such as sensory library tours, ‘intersectionality’ walks, inclusive thematic reading lists, and design thinking workshops.

The Library is part of the new Trinity Legacies Review Working Group, which this year examined the naming of one of the libraries after the philosopher, Bishop Berkeley inviting evidence-based submissions on the subject. The decision was taken by the Board to ‘dename and explain’ the name of Berkeley and an open process to elicit suggestions for a potential new name was created. In the interim, the former Berkeley Library is simply called ‘The Library’.

1 Mary Robinson keynote address at the Opening Ceremony of 87th World Library and Information Congress, Dublin, 26th July 2022.

Fig. 1: Library Sustainability Challenge diagram

Fig. 2: Equality, Diversity & Inclusion diagram
In addition to the substantial progress made on the enabling projects for the Old Library Redevelopment Project, a highlight of this year was the unveiling of the new sculptures of four trailblazing women in the Long Room, the first to celebrate the contribution of women scholars. The Chancellor Dr Mary MacAleese, Provost Dr Linda Doyle, and the Librarian, Helen Shenton, officiated at an exuberant unveiling event, very appropriately, St Brigid’s Day. Deeply insightful conversations between the four artists and current scholars are available on the Library website. The undertaking and surrounding events garnered extensive media coverage and reverberated far beyond the Long Room.

Overview 2022/2023

Within the five pillars of the Library’s Strategy — Integrated Space, Integrated Digital, Integration into Teaching, Learning and Research, Prioritised Funding, and Suite of Inter-Related Policies and Programmes — very significant progress was made with the enabling projects for the major Old Library Development Project. Up to 40 project assistants worked to decant the 700,000 collection items out of the Old Library, cleaning, cataloguing, security tagging and carefully boxing the most valuable and vulnerable of the Library’s collections to safe storage. Over 10 kilometres of books have been moved, with the enabling moves of other collection material, over 27 kilometres of material will have been moved during the decant phase of the Old Library Redevelopment Project.

All the Library activities were achieved in the wider context of substantial changes in the governance of the University with a newly constituted Board as amended by the Higher Education Act 2022 and the Supplemental Charter of 2022, and the consequential transition to new principal committees of Board. The Library & Information Policy committee was discontinued, and the Library will be part of the new Critical Infrastructure and the Environment & Sustainability principal committees of Board. The Library contributed to the Quality Review of the University and commissioned digital environmental scans and reviews by Ken Chad, independent consultant, and Tony Ageh, former Chief Digital Officer of the New York Public Library.

Interim Research Collections Study Centre in the basement of the Ussher Library. Protocols were established for extensive testing of the fire suppression systems for the Old Library, to be carried out in testing facilities in Norway.

Equally, there was substantial progress on the parallel enabling projects to ensure continuity of access for visitors to the Old Library. The Library contributed environmental and fire suppression requirements for the conservation of the Printing House, as a temporary exhibition space for the Book of Kells. The Library helped the evaluation of creators for an immersive ‘Book of Kells Experience’ in a temporary pavilion in New Square, contributing research and the extensive digital output of the Virtual Trinity Library to the narrative and imagery of the immersive experience. This included content from the Cuala Press, the Fagel Collection and the Medieval Manuscripts strands of the Virtual Trinity Library programme.

This substantial progress on the enabling projects advanced during a pause of the Old Library Redevelopment Project in the summer of 2023, to look at the scope of the programme, given pre-tender estimates had escalated beyond the budget. The scope of the overall programme is being revised ahead of tendering for a new design team in 2024.

Within the ‘Digital’ pillar, the procurement of a Library Services Platform, the ‘central nervous system’ of any library, progressed apace. This follows the successful deployment of the new access control system across the contemporary library complex.
The donation of the Elsbeth and Bettina Bollmann Collection is the most important collection of fine bindings the Library has acquired in over 200 years. The books in this collection are notable because of their fore-edge paintings, making this the largest collection of fore-edge paintings in Ireland. These exquisite, hidden paintings and their fine range of bindings have all been digitised ahead of a celebratory exhibition in the Long Room and are available online.

Highlights of philanthropic engagement this year included a delegation led by the Provost to New York, further events in Monaco and an exploratory visit to Luxembourg, which resulted in substantial support for the Old Library Redevelopment Project.

Wider issues and future challenges

The move out of the Old Library and into the temporary spaces in the Ussher Library in the coming year will see the opening of the interim Research Collections Study Centre and the completion of the first logistical phase of the Old Library Redevelopment Project. This is a major milestone in this complex programme. After the rescoping is complete, the new design team will be procured, and the next phase will begin. Inflation, especially construction inflation, and supply chain issues, in the wake of the global pandemic, war in Ukraine, and energy crisis remain the external context for this ambitious and vitally important undertaking.

Cyber security is the highest risk to both the Library and the University, together with emerging threats around Knowledge Security. Following the revision of the Library’s Emergency Response Plan to incorporate digital systems, an exercise in cyber security will be undertaken.

In the coming year, the outcome of the Trinity Legacy Review’s implementation of the ‘denaming’ of The Library will be known. The wider legacy issues of the Library’s historic collection will start to be formulated as one strand of the ‘Content and Collection Development Strategy’, together with a directional focus on collecting contemporary material and thereby collecting ‘the now’ and ‘the first draft of history’.

The Sustainability Framework is to be systematically implemented, in step with the University’s strategic sustainability imperatives. The economic sustainability of e-resources will continue to be a source of concern, and the Library is part of the e-book SOS campaign. Having been consulted by the President of the New York Public Library on issues around the sustainability and accessibility of e-resources, the Library will contribute to research in this area.

Appreciation of Library Staff

None of this could have been done without the sterling efforts of the staff in the multitude of different roles in the Library. Fifty staff have been part of the complex projects to decant books out of the Old Library and create the interim Research Collections facilities in the basement of the Ussher Library. The move of Research Collections staff from the Old Library represents the biggest change for the department, with all the myriad challenges and opportunities that brings. Progress on all these parallel fronts has been achieved while continuing all the vitally important operations within the Library on behalf of our user community. The Provost, Dr Linda Doyle hosted a ‘thank you’ for all staff in the Saloon of the Provost’s House, following a fascinating tour of the building.

With the rapidly evolving world of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), there will also be significant changes in how we educate future generations. Trinity is taking on these challenges. It is taking steps to define both the University and its Library in this rapidly changing landscape with the aim of equipping both our students and staff with the appropriate skills and resources. The Library will be central to this drive as we take on these challenges.

Donor, Bettina Bollmann with Principal Librarian of Early Printed Books, Research Collections, Lydia Ferguson.
1. Integrated Space

Old Library Redevelopment Project

Old Library Decant

The Old Library Redevelopment project and the conservation of the Old Library as one of Ireland’s foremost national heritage sites advanced significantly during 2022/2023. Major progress was made on the monumental task of decanting Library collections to external storage, with a total of 22,000 boxes containing approximately 160,000 items moved by the end of August 2023. Some founding collections were relocated, including the 10,000 volumes bequeathed in James Ussher’s library, 13,000 in Claudius Gilbert’s, and 4,000 in William Palliser’s, in addition to Irish and UK Legal Deposit collections dating up to the late 19th century.

One of the largest ever decant processes in a heritage building in Ireland, the project involved more than 50 Library staff from a number of departments, including cataloguing, conservation, archives, and systems, assisted by 40 project assistants from Glenbeigh Records Management. The process to clean, measure, inventory, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag, cotton-tie, and pack collections before transport offsite into low-oxygen storage was closely supported by the Project Manager and Project Team Supervisor, along with the Logistics & Collection Care Steering Group, headed up by the Deputy Librarian.

Interim Research Collections Study Centre

To ensure continuity of services for the duration of the Old Library Redevelopment Project, significant steps were taken to create a temporary study space in the lower levels of the Ussher Library. This Interim Research Collections Study Centre will be a reading room for manuscripts, archives, early printed books and special collections.
Significant preparatory projects to enable the construction works in the Ussher Library basement included a major stock relocation project initiated in the Santry Repository and the Ussher Library Mezzanine, between January and June 2023. This followed a similar project in 2021/2022 to clear material from the Ussher Library basement.

In total, these stock relocation projects involved the movement of approximately 16.5 kilometres of modern materials, improving the visibility and access of the collections to a wider range of users for research, teaching and learning. The linear metre count of materials moved roughly equates to a round trip from Trinity’s city centre campus to the Santry Repository.

The bulk of the material consisted of paperback publications, including monographs, annuals, calendars, travel books, local guides, local Council publications and ephemera. Nine project assistants were employed to collate the materials, check catalogue records, and scan the materials into containers for transport. The team successfully delivered all project goals, additionally creating growth space for collections in both the Santry Repository and the Ussher Library Mezzanine.

Developments related to the contemporary spaces

New Access Control System Deployed

In January 2023, a new access control system (access gates and associated software) was successfully deployed in the Library Complex, the Hamilton Library and John Stearne Medical Library. This new system provides seamless access to Library spaces, improves the security of collections, and enhances the appearance of entrances. Over the coming years it will yield important data on footfall and patterns of usage which will feed into the development and improvement of spaces and services.

An initial analysis of data gathered between January and August 2023 indicates that, on average, a reader enters the Library Complex every 23 seconds, capturing the huge demand for Library spaces.

Library Signage Project

The Library partnered with the Disability Service and Estates & Facilities to initiate a major signage project in the Library Complex. Joint funding was secured from the Library and the Disability Service to address long-standing challenges relating to wayfinding, accessibility and integrating plain English into all signage. The project will build on the work of the TCD Sense Project, which seeks to enhance the sensory environment for staff, students, and visitors. A process is underway to procure the services of Conservation Architects on core design requirements. The project is due to conclude in 2024.

Replacement of Windows in 1937

Extensive works took place in the 1937 Postgraduate Reading Room during summer 2023 to address issues with leaks and rising damp in the protected historical building.

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Dublin City Council conservation architects assisted Estates & Facilities on the scope and nature of the works. Specific types of glazing were required to preserve the building and to safeguard the integrity of its original design. The Library worked with the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Students’ Union and other stakeholders to manage the complex sequence of works, which involved rolling temporary closures. All windows, including clerestory windows and the domed roof section, were successfully repaired, restored and reinstated. Internal doors have been refurbished, and drainage pipework relined to rectify leaks and rising damp.

Exhibition Space in the Library Complex Foyer

The first in a series of exhibitions in the Library Complex foyer launched in June 2023 to coincide with the exhibition in the Old Library marking the achievements of the international project Unlocking the Fagel Collection. Run in parallel with the Old Library exhibition, the Library exhibition showcased the Fagel Collection in physical and digital format, offering the Trinity community and the public a glimpse of this extraordinary collection.
2. Integrated Digital

Virtual Trinity Library
Launch of Videos and New Web Content
In January 2023, a series of videos exploring the nine thematic areas of the ambitious, multi-year Virtual Trinity Library programme launched on YouTube and Library social media. These videos explore the earliest bequeathed collections to the Library, including world-famous medieval manuscripts, political and religious papers, objects, artefacts, and modern literary archives. Webpages associated with these collections were enhanced, and are available accompanied by a fascinating series of research blog posts.

Medieval Manuscript Cultures
By the end of the summer 2023, 36 manuscripts had undergone conservation, digitisation and presentation on the Digital Collections repository thanks to the major project supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The project’s second phase focuses on medieval music manuscripts in the collection, bringing a new dimension to the digital output. New audio performances of pieces from some manuscripts will create public engagement with the collections. Work started on the conservation of the 12th century Book of Leinster manuscript, following the announcement of support by the Bank of America Art Conservation Fund in 2022.

Europe’s Diverse Heritage
In 2022/23, the collaboration between the Library and the KB National Library of the Netherlands completed the first phase of the Unlocking the Fagel Collection project. New research activity, informed by the detailed cataloguing work of previous years, made the collection more accessible.

Supported by the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute, the project hosted a visiting three-month research fellowship to encourage innovative exploration of the Fagel holdings. Visiting fellow Dr Emily Monty engaged with the visual culture of the collection, particularly with regards to the depiction of the Americas in the Fagel collection, shedding light on this theme. This exceptionally productive fellowship inspired the Library and Trinity academics to develop a significant research funding proposal.

This first phase culminated in a three-day research symposium Unlocking the Fagel Collection: The Library and its Context, in June 2023. Twenty-six Irish and international scholars presented recent and ongoing research to a very engaged audience. The plenary presentations will be shared via the Trinity Long Room Hub’s YouTube channel.
Ireland’s Creative Legacy
The popular Cuala Press Project continued with extensive public engagement. Dr Angela Griffith and Dr Billy Shorthall, the Library’s academic partners in Art History, maintained an ongoing media presence, with the Cuala Press featuring on RTÉ Radio 1, the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales, the Bodleian Libraries, Oxford, and Cambridge University Library — had accumulated 26,000 e-journals (comprising 11.5 million articles and an additional 240,000 issues); 860,000 e-books, including 56,000 music scores; 1,300 large datasets of digital mapping; and a massive 1.5 petabytes of archived websites.

Library Services Platform
The Library Services Platform (LSP) is the central nervous system of the Library. It is time for a fundamental review of the international landscape of systems integration and interoperability, rethinking the best options for the Library’s collections and services. University funding was secured during 2023 for a new Library Services Platform. The Library commissioned a report from Ken Chad Consulting, which analysed the international market of relevant platforms, functional developments, and the influence of general trends in technology, such as cloud-hosting, system integrations and interoperability, open source, mobile applications, and artificial intelligence. A tender for a cloud-based Library Services Platform (LSP) will issue during 2023/24, following further market research, consultation with IT Services, and input from a cross-section of Library staff and beyond. The process will be overseen by a Steering Group with an academic chair and representatives of key Trinity stakeholders.

UK E-Legal Deposit: Update
2023 marked the tenth anniversary of collecting electronic publications under UK legal deposit legislation, and also saw the six libraries add their 10 millionth e-journal article. By September, the six partners — Trinity College Dublin, the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales, the Bodleian Libraries, Oxford, and Cambridge University Library — had accumulated 26,000 e-journals (comprising 11.5 million articles and an additional 240,000 issues); 860,000 e-books, including 56,000 music scores; 1,300 large datasets of digital mapping; and a massive 1.5 petabytes of archived websites.

Legal Deposit User Forum
Based on the recommendations of an academic report, Towards a User-Centric Evaluation of UK Non-Print Legal Deposit (May 2019), the six libraries convened a User Forum Planning Group in 2022. This Group organised online workshops attended by library staff, academics, members of the public and a cross-section of users representing diverse perspectives. Subsequently, ten members were recruited for a new User Forum, which met for the first time in July 2023. Chaired by Diane McAuley, Professor of Social Informatics in the School of Computing, Engineering & the Built Environment, Edinburgh Napier University, the User Forum aims to recruit an additional ten members during 2024. It is sure to play a crucial role in advising on the development of e-legal deposit services.

edepositIreland Update
In the absence of a full implementation of e-deposit in Ireland, edepositIreland is the Library’s voluntary scheme for Irish publishers. The completion of the curated Covid-19 collection was a major milestone: more than 2,600 born-digital documents issued between March 2020 and early 2022 from government departments and agencies, as well as other public bodies, were identified, checked, catalogued and uploaded into the repository. These can be browsed in Covid-19 Documents dedicated sub-collections under each issuing body. The collection represents a rich reflection of the official pandemic response, from statistics, speeches, signage, financial measures, and public health messaging, through to the reopening of public life. 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.

IReL Update
The Irish Research electronic Library (IReL), the government-funded national consortium providing access to licensed e-resources which is headquartered in Maynooth University, reports on a calendar-year basis. The usage of licensed resources (e-journals, e-books, databases) reached a new record in 2022 of 19.1 million uses, up from 18.8 million in 2021. This was across a complex portfolio of 91 products for high-quality scholarly content: 68 ‘read’ subscriptions giving IReL members full-text access to journals and other publications, and 23 ‘publish and read’ deals which additionally facilitated the open access publication of over 2,000 articles by researchers from IReL institutions, making them available to anyone in the world for free: a 16% increase on 2021.

As IReL continues to analyse its portfolio, striving to increase cost efficiency and impact, it is also pivoting towards investing in open access and cementing its role in the national research infrastructure. An Open Access Analyst joined the team in March 2023, bringing capacity to fully embed and exploit IReL’s subscription to CELUS, an online software for usage statistics, with automated harvesting from publishers and sophisticated features for analysis and presentation.
3. Integration into Teaching, Learning and Research

**Catalysing Research**

The synthesis of evidence remains a key offering of the Library, and Subject Librarians continued to bring their expertise and experience as co-authors to a number of papers. During 2022/23, collaborative research was undertaken with researchers in: Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices; Trinity Centre for Ageing & Intellectual Disabilities; Trinity Centre for Global Health; Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research; Trinity Centre for Practice & Healthcare Innovation; and TrinityHaus. Librarians collaborated on studies with the following schools: Education, Linguistics, Speech & Communication Sciences, Medicine, Nursing & Midwifery, Pharmacy, Psychology, and Social Work & Social Policy. Research topics included:

- **Health Sciences**: Deglutition; postpartum depression; birth trauma; resilience in LGBTQI+ elders; drug tapering; trauma-informed care; continuity of midwifery services; the effects of COVID-19 on health and society.

- **Inclusion and Education**: The ethics of research; decolonising the medical curriculum; vulnerable people in the justice system; critical engagement by youth in democracy; gender equality in medicine; 21st century critical skills for young people.

Some of these high-profile studies received media attention, such as, *An Exploration of Conversion Therapy Practices in Ireland*, a report produced to inform government policy, and the scoping review which highlighted a significant health gap between members of the Traveller community and the general population.

A chapter in the publication *Adopting a UDL Attitude within Academia* (Quirke, McCarthy, & McGuckin) captures Library research and interventions to address universal design principles in library services and supports. Six Library papers and posters were given at the Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference hosted by the School of Nursing & Midwifery. There was a Library presentation about the impact of COVID-19 on the academic library at the prestigious Charleston Conference.
The National Open Research Forum (NORF) team launched a National Action Plan for Open Research, 2022–2030 on 21st November 2022. It will be realised through an annual series of HEA-funded project calls. Six projects started in late 2022, with Trinity participating in the following four:

- The National Open Access Monitor project, based in IReL, issued a public tender for the provision of a platform to analyse and track the open access proportion of Ireland’s scholarly publications — to monitor progress towards the Plan’s aim of 100% open access by 2030. The contract was awarded to OpenAIRE in July 2023.
- The Open Access Repositories project surveyed managers and staff to gain a comprehensive overview of the status of open repositories in Ireland. It confirmed a wide divergence of metadata practices, as well as a strong commitment to align around standards, provided resource or technical constraints can be overcome.
- The National Open Research Training Programme project, TTraining for OPen research in an Irish Context (TROPIC), recruited a post-doctoral researcher tasked with designing a survey to assess awareness of, and engagement with, open research practices.

ENGAGED aims to create a roadmap for public engagement in open research.

SCORIR (Secondary rights, Copyright, Open access, Institutional policies, and Rights retention), will assess paths to rights retention, via policies and legislative change.

A Library blog captured student reflections on the exhibition, and academic staff described how the exhibition improved students’ research and communication skills. Dr Céline Thobois, who delivered the module, observed: “Many of the students said that knowing that their work would be exhibited and archived motivated them to engage meaningfully with research and writing. Having a real public readership was exciting and empowering.” The zines have been catalogued as part of the Library’s permanent collection and added to TARA, Trinity’s institutional repository.

Academic Integrity

In collaboration with Trinity Teaching and Learning, Student Learning Development, and the Trinity Inclusive Curriculum, the Library reviewed and refreshed Trinity’s Guide to Academic Integrity to ensure that information was updated to reflect new regulations and practice approved by the University Council, and that greater emphasis was given to outlining what good academic practice is. The Guide includes interviews with students about their understanding of academic integrity and reflections on why it is central to learning. It also covers topics on stress, fear of failure, and the importance of students taking personal responsibility for their learning. Available supports included a redesigned Library Academic Integrity Workshop as part of the Library HTS (Helpful Information for Trinity Students/Staff) programme are also highlighted.

Digital Humanities Internships

The Library hosted two internships from the MPhil in Digital Humanities and Culture. One intern investigated potential use cases for the natural language processing tools that can be applied to the digitzed primary sources the Library purchased or subscribes to from Gale Cengage via the Gale Digital Scholar Lab. Another intern investigated how the striking and diverse cover art of the books in the Library’s Terry Pratchett collection of translations into 34 languages could be best organised and displayed to the public.

Championing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion are key themes in Trinity’s Strategic Plan 2020–2025. One of the Strategy’s primary goals is to foster an ever more diverse and inclusive student community. In alignment with these values, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion are critical cross-cutting strategic imperatives that are vitally important for the Library. A programme of initiatives include its participation in Trinity’s first Inclusive Trinity Festival this year. The Library hosted several events, including sensory library tours co-delivered with Occupational Therapy colleagues in the Disability Service. The Library took over a kiosk on the Arts concourse and ran pop-up ‘library anxiety’ clinics, providing a relaxed way for students to ask Student Ambassadors to share library tips, and to connect with Subject Librarians. Academic integrity was a common anxiety shared, with many students asking how to avoid plagiarism. Approximately 200 students attended this very popular pop-up.

The Library was delighted to host the Trinity-INC inaugural Inclusive Trinity Symposium, Cultivating Trinity’s Communities of Inclusive Practices in September. Trinity’s involvement in the National Charter for Universal Design for Tertiary Education was outlined in the opening address, and Trinity-INC Staff Champions and Student Partners shared their inclusivity experiences and practices. Attendees also participated in a re*/flexive workshop to develop their own inclusive practices.

Supporting Student Learning

Showcasing Undergraduate Research Skills

In collaboration with the Trinity Centre for Beckett Studies, the Library was proud to host a digital and in-person exhibition of zines by undergraduate students in the School of Drama. Part of the Studies in Samuel Beckett: Beckett Beyond module, the zines explored how Beckett’s drama investigates and intersects with themes of gender, perception, food, the Magdalene Laundries, translation and acting among others.

The Library of Trinity College Dublin Annual Report 2022/23
Neurodiverse Plus programme.

The Library delivered several initiatives to support the first phase of the Government’s Programme for Access to Higher Education. In order to expedite student integration and autonomy, the Library created a dedicated independent study facility for students on the Arts, Science & Inclusive Applied Practice (ASIP) programme which included workshops in a new task-based approach in digital literacy skills.

New resources include an Inclusive Library page highlighting the location of sensory spaces with photographs and QR codes on the Library’s 3D floor maps, and a new guide to the Library’s Assistive Technology Information Centre.

Inclusive Reading Lists

The Teaching and Research Support team published a series of thematic resource lists to support Trinity’s strategic aim of enhancing diversity and the student experience, including A–Z guides on race and ethnicity; LGBTQIA+; climate literacy; inclusive practices in higher education; and coping strategies for exam success.

Programme for Access to Higher Education

The Library delivered several initiatives to support the first phase of the Government’s Programme for Access to Higher Education. Design thinking workshops with staff and students examined how the Library could enhance digital skills and deliver accessible learning resources, both of which are key aims of the Programme’s fourth strand. Library website content was redesigned with more images and icons to complement easy-to-read text on student orientation and tutorial pages, and a student orientation crib sheet was created to support Trinity’s Neurodiverse Plus programme.

In November 2022, the Library acquired the most important collection of fine bindings in over 200 years. The books in this collection are notable because of their fore-edge paintings, making this the largest collection of fore-edge paintings in Ireland. The Elsbeth and Bettina Bollmann Collection of 52 books with fore-edge paintings and bindings was donated to the Library by Bettina Bollmann. She and her mother Elsbeth had assembled the collection over several decades. It includes fore-edge paintings executed over more than 250 years on books printed between 1639 and 1895. Subjects include landscapes, mansions, religious buildings, boats, coats of arms, and flowers. The Library celebrated this milestone gift by digitising the bindings and paintings in full, making them available online in preparation for the exhibition of selected books from the Collection in the Long Room which ran from September to November 2023. Videos showcasing the beauty of the fore-edge paintings and bindings were on display in the Long Room throughout the exhibition.

Château de Fontainbleau on the fore-edge of M. Menzikof & F. Dolgorouki: Histoire russe v.2 (London, 1805)

New acquisitions in Research Collections

In May 2023, the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts & Humanities Institute hosted an event to mark the acquisition of a substantial archive of 830 letters written by members of two related families, the Moores and Hughes who resided in Derry and Baltimore in the USA. The forced departure in 1798 of Robert Moore, a leading Derry United Irishman, was the catalyst for the scattering of a large family, and the letters document how they kept in touch during half a century from 1798 up to 1846, the eve of the Great Famine. The letters are the subject of the Moore Letters Project led by Trinity Fellow Emeritus, Professor David Dickson and Professor Brendan Mac Suibhne (University of Galway) and were acquired by the Library. The project has involved the transcription of the letters which are now being prepared for full publication by the Irish Manuscripts Commission.

The Elsbeth and Bettina Bollmann Collection of Fore-edge Paintings and Bindings

In September 2022, the Library acquired the most important collection of fine bindings in over 200 years. The books in this collection are notable because of their fore-edge paintings, making this the largest collection of fore-edge paintings in Ireland. The Elsbeth and Bettina Bollmann Collection of 52 books with fore-edge paintings and bindings was donated to the Library by Bettina Bollmann. She and her mother Elsbeth had assembled the collection over several decades. It includes fore-edge paintings executed over more than 250 years on books printed between 1639 and 1895. Subjects include landscapes, mansions, religious buildings, boats, coats of arms, and flowers. The Library celebrated this milestone gift by digitising the bindings and paintings in full, making them available online in preparation for the exhibition of selected books from the Collection in the Long Room which ran from September to November 2023. Videos showcasing the beauty of the fore-edge paintings and bindings were on display in the Long Room throughout the exhibition.

Château de Fontainbleau on the fore-edge of M. Menzikof & F. Dolgorouki: Histoire russe v.2 (London, 1805)
4. Prioritised Funding

The Library continued to work in very close partnership with Trinity Development & Alumni in securing philanthropic support for the two flagship programmes, the Old Library Redevelopment Project and the Virtual Trinity Library.

Highlights of philanthropic engagement this year included a successful delegation to New York led by Provost Dr Linda Doyle, which resulted in substantial support for the Old Library Redevelopment Project. Events included a special dinner co-hosted with the Ireland Funds, an alumni reception and meetings with US Foundations. The delegation also met with the Irish Permanent Representative to the United Nations and the Irish Consul to New York. The Librarian also took the opportunity to develop professional links with the New York Public Library.

Later in the year, building on the Library’s strong links within the EU, there were further philanthropic events in Monaco and Luxembourg and the Librarian also met with the Director of the Bibliothèque nationale de France when at the University of Sorbonne for LERU (League of European Research Libraries).

On campus, Dermot Smurfit’s generous benefaction for the Old Library was recognised by a celebratory event in the Long Room and the Library also hosted a reception for the Ireland Funds coinciding with their annual conference in June, as well as an event for the University of Notre Dame during their visit to Dublin for the American football game. Further continuing the symbiosis with cultural diplomacy, the Library welcomed the US Deputy Assistant for Education & Culture; the President of the European Parliament; Irish US Alumni Conference; the British, German and Greek Ambassadors to Ireland; the supporters of the Huntington Library, the President of the Boston Public Library, and members of the JFK Library Boston in Ireland as part of the celebrations hosted by the US Ambassador to Ireland of the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy’s visit to Ireland.
Sustainability

The Library aligns with the University’s Sustainability Strategy’s advancement of environmental sustainability across the focus areas of education for all staff and students; research; operations and partnerships, collaborations, and engagement with our community within and outside Trinity. In playing our part in becoming a ‘Green Library’, initiatives include full transition to low energy consumption for always on systems including security systems and return kiosks. The Library works with the Trinity Procurement office ensuring suppliers have sustainability credentials. Purchasing of computer equipment has been revised to increase life cycle and reduce e-waste. The Library has developed reading lists, book displays and a book club on sustainability in partnership with faculty. It participates in College initiatives including the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programme, embedding sustainability in the University curriculum in collaboration with the ESD Fellows. The Library also take part in Green Labs and Green Week.

At a sectoral level the Library has promoted dialogue in addressing challenges. At the League of European Research Universities (LERU) Information & Open Access (INFO) Policy Group meeting in March 2023, the Librarian & College Archivist, Helen Shenton led a workshop on the sustainability of digital resources. This session examined the largely unrecognised carbon footprint and other environmental impacts during the lifecycle of digital resources, from digitised objects, to born digital archives and research data, through to subscribed e-books and e-journals. There was universal agreement to proactively establish more clarity about this issue, with a view to continually reducing the environmental impact. Library staff also presented initial reflections at the CONUL Conference in May 2023 on the sustainability of the vast collection of UK print and electronic legal deposit.

Stewardship

The Old Library Redevelopment Project

The Logistics and Collection Care processes were successfully implemented to enable the safe removal of early printed books and manuscripts and archives collections from the Old Library to off-site storage. The most fragile items — including glass plate negatives from the Dun Emer and Boydell collections, as well as large, rolled items from Edward Worth’s Medical Collection from Dr Steevens’ Hospital – received bespoke conservation treatment and rehousing solutions.

Estella Solomons Archive

In a project funded by the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv, Europe, 662 artworks from the archive of Estella Solomons (1882–1968) were conserved and rehoused. The collection includes sketches, watercolour portraits and landscapes, etchings, bookplates, oil paintings on board and paper, scrapbooks, and photographs. She was a leading artist of her generation and one of an impactful female cultural network in Ireland in the early twentieth century, making the Estella Solomons Collection an important body of work for...
future research. A paper entitled Preservation of the Estella Solomons Collection: Preparing portfolios by Estella Solomons and Louise Jacobs for Access, on the treatment of works by Estella Solomons featured at the Irish Association of Art Historians symposium in the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts & Humanities Institute in May 2023. Seventeen collection items were loaned to the National Gallery of Ireland’s for the Estella Solomons: Still Moments exhibition, which ran from September 2022 to January 2023.

Conserving the Cuala Press Collection
The conservation of the Cuala Press business archive concluded with almost 17,000 items examined, and conservation treatments completed as required. Storage was improved, and the collection has been fully catalogued and is ready for researchers. In addition, 932 Cuala Press printing blocks were removed from the Printing House for stabilising treatment and rehousing.

Printing Presses
To enable the preparation of the Printing House as a temporary treasury for the Book of Kells when the Old Library is being conserved, the printing presses, printing type, and furniture were moved to storage by specialist handlers. The presses will be conserved and made ready for display following the completion of the Old Library Redevelopment Project.

The Book of Leinster
An anthology of prose, verse, genealogy, medical tracts and folklore, the Book of Leinster is the most important Irish language manuscript in the Library’s collection. With funding from the Bank of America Art Conservation Grant, conservation of this 12th century vellum treasure began. Phase one involved documentation and the removal of old repair tapes which had obscured text. Areas of loss are being stabilised and supported by new specially prepared vellum. Whilst being conserved, scholars can access a digital version through the Irish Script on Screen (ISOS) website.

Modern Collections in Santry
A new on-site preservation project in the Santry Book Repository is addressing legacy issues with collections in substandard storage and condition for circulation. This initiative included collections surveys and assessments; the remedial treatment of selected pre-1950’s collections, and the conservation of 600 volumes. The strategy for rehousing and environmental monitoring under development will increase the level of preventive care and conservation for newer material.

Visibility and Access Programme
Cataloguing has significant impact and value for researchers improving ease of access and aiding navigation and discovery through the Library’s vast collections. The decant of 350,000 Early Printed books and a total of 700,000 collection items as part of the Old Library Redevelopment Project was supported by 15 cataloguing staff. Between April 2022 and November 2023, this team made many corrections to the existing bibliographic descriptions and added approximately 7,000 new records to Stella Search for some 14,000 volumes which made them visible for researchers.

More than 2,000 of these records (representing over 7,500 volumes) constitute the Library’s near-complete ‘Bound Set’ of British Parliamentary Papers between 1801 and 1921. New records contain rich bibliographic detail assigned to publications up to 1864, aiding discovery and identification. More brief records were assigned to volumes from 1865 that will be further developed in the future.

In addition, approximately 2,600 music publications from the late 18th and early 19th centuries were catalogued to a high standard, and are available in Stella Search. Approximately 1,200 come from the Library’s Townley Hall Collection, with imprints from Dublin, London, and Paris. The Unlocking the Fagel Collection project finished cataloguing the Dutch imprints into the Short Title Catalogue of the Netherlands. Almost 3,000 additional records were transferred to Stella Search.

The work to catalogue 28,000 printed items continues into 2023/24. The project team catalogued more than 400 non-Dutch imprints directly into Stella Search. The rudimentary descriptions from the 19th century, which researchers had to rely on until now, are being replaced with modern records, rich in scholarly detail.

Cataloguing during the decant of the Old Library Redevelopment Project
In modern collections, more than 800 films on DVD (and some on VHS tape) were catalogued, sent to offsite storage, and made available via Stella Search. The remainder of several legacy donations, they include films from around the world in over 30 languages (approximately a third are non-English language) and can be seen at the viewing stations in the Ussher Library.

Major Tenders
In accordance with procurement regulations, key commercial services to the Library were re-tendered during the year. Trinity Procurement and the Library went to the market and concluded new contracts for external storage and ancillary services, such as non-specialist digitisation. National, multi-institutional tenders were co-ordinated by Educational Procurement Services (EPS) in Limerick for subscriptions to print and electronic serials, and for purchases of print and e-books. The Board of the Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL) approved funding for a union catalogue, instituting a Task & Finish Group to specify requirements.
6. External-Facing Events and Communications

Among many significant events during the year, the flagship strategic initiatives the Old Library Redevelopment Project and the Virtual Trinity Library Programme generated substantial public engagement, media and social media coverage.

**Old Library Redevelopment Project**

Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform Views the Decant

Minister of State for Heritage & Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan visited the Old Library on October 19th 2022 to witness first-hand the monumental task of decanting the Library collections. Over the 18-months of the decant, a series of time-lapses captured the painstaking work involving the removal of up to 700,000 items, including 350,000 early printed books amounting to 10.5 km of material from the shelves. Minister Noonan was joined by Provost, Dr Linda Doyle; Bursar, Professor Eleanor Denny; and Librarian & College Archivist, Helen Shenton, and met the Library team working on this historic project. It was featured in the Irish Times.
First Sculptures of Women Installed in Trinity’s Old Library

A highlight of the year was the installation of new sculptures honouring the scholarship of four trailblazing women: scientist Rosalind Franklin, folklorist, dramatist and theatre-founder Augusta Gregory, mathematician Ada Lovelace, and pioneering women’s rights advocate Mary Wollstonecraft. Most appropriately, the unveiling took place on St Brigid’s Day, 2023.

Launched by Chancellor, Dr Mary McAleese at a ceremony in the Long Room, the sculptures were commissioned from four accomplished artists: Maudie Brady (Ada Lovelace); Rowan Gillespie (Mary Wollstonecraft); Vera Klute (Rosalind Franklin) and Guy Reid (Augusta Gregory).

An in-depth In Conversation with the artists and the Trinity champions of the scholars was hosted by the Library in the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts & Humanities Institute. They were joined by Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Professor Orla Sheils; Dean of Arts Humanities & Social Sciences, Professor Gail McCluggage; Professor of Visual Computing, Carol O’Sullivan; and Associate Professor in Drama Studies, Melissa Sihra, in a riveting discussion.

To mark International Women’s Day, a video was produced of highlights of the historic launch. It includes the artists filmed in their studios creating the sculptures, and behind the scenes footage of the sculptures’ arrival and installation. A second video features fascinating in-depth discussions with artists and scholars for the In Conversation series, also available on the Library’s YouTube channels. Extensive media reporting included coverage in the Irish Times, the Irish Independent, Irish Central, the Financial Times and Silicon Republic.

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This exhibition drew attention to the diversity of holdings in the Fagel Collection, its unique and exquisite quality, and significance for European heritage. The exhibition generated significant media attention in Ireland, with a feature piece in the Irish Times, and an online article in Fine Books & Collections magazine. KB Board of Director, responsible for Sustainable Access and Heritage, Geertrui Verbraak and the Librarian & College Archivist, Helen Shenton joined the Ambassador in opening the event.

Shakespeare the Irishman

The year, 2023 marked the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare’s First Folio. This first collected edition of his plays was published in 1623, seven years after his death. Without it, half of his plays would have been lost. Trinity’s volume is the only copy on the island of Ireland. The physical and digital exhibition, co-curated by leading Shakespeare scholar, Professor Andy Murphy of the School of English, focused on the influence of Shakespeare on Ireland, and why Trinity’s First Folio is unique. The work has been digitised and is available to view on the Library’s Digital Collections Repository. The digital exhibition remains available on the exhibition’s homepage. The exhibition was launched in the Old Library by author Anne Enright on April 13th 2023 as part of the global Folio400 celebrations. The event generated extensive media attention across radio, digital and online, and was featured by the Irish Times, RTE News Online article, RTE’s Arena, Irish Independent, and The Mirror among others.

This event also marked the launch of the Trinity Centre for the Book. Hosted in the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts & Humanities Research Institute in collaboration with the Library, this new centre will co-ordinate and share research on the rich cultural and social importance of books of all types.

Legal Deposit Libraries of Ireland

and the UK Celebrate Tenth Anniversary of Digital Collecting

The six Legal Deposit Libraries of Ireland and the UK celebrated a decade of collecting and preserving digital publications on April 6th 2023. As the only library on the island of Ireland with UK Legal Deposit status, the Library is entitled to receive a copy of every item published in Ireland and the UK. In 2013, these powers were extended from printed publications to include non-print (electronic) legal deposit. The inclusion of websites, e-books and online journals means readers can now access an unprecedented collection of digital and online publishing which capture contemporary living. The Legal Deposit Libraries marked the anniversary with the social media campaign #EverythingForever and press announcement. A one-day symposium, A Celebration of Legal Deposit: The Inspiration of Collecting and Preserving our Nations’ Written Heritage followed in September 2023 in the Stationers’ Hall in London. Co-hosted by the six Legal Deposit Libraries, the event celebrated the decade of digital collecting which has enabled the creation of a seventh, transnational digital library for the benefit of all. It also reflected on the significant impact of legal deposit through the centuries, and the unparalleled record of intellectual and cultural heritage it has built. Colleagues, including those from the publishing industry, joined from across the globe to learn about legislation in different parts of the world, and create a community of practice to ensure the long-term viability of digital collecting.

Legal Deposit at the LAI/ CILIP Ireland Annual Joint Conference 2023

The Head of Liaison & Governance for the Legal Deposit Libraries, Linda Arnold-Stratford, presented UK and Irish Legal Deposit as a transnational endeavour at the Library Association of Ireland (LAI) and Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals Ireland (CILIP) Joint Annual Conference in Dundalk in April 2023. This event was a great opportunity to highlight to a broad audience of public and academic librarians the unique work undertaken by the six Legal Deposit Libraries in close partnership.
7. Appendices

FACTS AND FIGURES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space</th>
<th>2022/23</th>
<th>2021/22</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total gross floor area (in square metres)</td>
<td>18,785.29</td>
<td>18,785.29</td>
<td>18,785.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reader Spaces</td>
<td>3,317</td>
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Information Resource Provision

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<th>2021/22</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
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<tr>
<td>UK &amp; Irish Legal Deposit print items added (books, maps, sheet music)</td>
<td>43,992</td>
<td>51,162</td>
<td>22,584</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchased print items added (books, maps, sheet music)</td>
<td>3,913</td>
<td>2,884</td>
<td>2,141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchased e-book titles added (various access licences)</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>818</td>
<td>1,392</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations &amp; Theses print items added (books, maps, sheet music)</td>
<td>2,089</td>
<td>1,023</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK &amp; Irish Legal Deposit and purchased print serial titles added to</td>
<td>4,912</td>
<td>5,155</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number electronic serial titles subscribed to</td>
<td>143,578</td>
<td>187,459</td>
<td>142,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchased electronic resource packages and databases added</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK electronic Legal Deposit serials — article level added</td>
<td>0¹</td>
<td>810,511</td>
<td>914,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK electronic Legal Deposit serials — issue level added</td>
<td>42,547</td>
<td>41,983</td>
<td>30,046</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK electronic Legal Deposit monographs added</td>
<td>98,718</td>
<td>81,354</td>
<td>97,824</td>
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Library Use

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<th>2022/23</th>
<th>2021/22</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information skills workshop participants:</td>
<td>6,045</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Interdisciplinary (open to all) | 3,517 | 3,292 | 1,698 |
2. Programme specific | 11,578 | 11,009 | 9,838 |
3. Research Collections — Programme specific | 130 | 284 | 47 |
4. Research consultations | 909 | 839 | 805 |
| Searches of Stella Search (Library’s online catalogue) | 3,929,978 | 3,549,421 | 4,048,822 |
| Total loan of items to readers (including renewals) | 139,100 | 117,900 | 67,100 |
| Full-text electronic article downloads | 5,739,672 | 3,964,918 | 3,028,973 |
| Electronic book chapter downloads | 805,069² | 956,046 | 989,888 |
| Research Collections reader visits to the reading rooms | 2,662 | 2,206 | 386 |
| Research Collections email queries | 7,154 | 8,651 | 6,572 |

¹ The Library encountered an issue with its harvesting and indexing methods for the UK eLD articles, requiring a pause and re-design.

² The continued decline in e-book usage is under investigation — usage statistics for them are notoriously difficult to aggregate. It seems the decline is driven by reduced usage of language resources (Thesaurus Linguae Graecae, down by 34%, Oxford Language Dictionaries for German and Italian, down over 90%), the British Pharmacopoeia (down nearly 60%), engineering e-books (Knovel), and medical e-books (Medicines Complete, down by 34%), as well as the discontinuation of an expensive resource of e-textbooks (BibliU).
The publication was co-written by Map Librarian, Paul Ferguson

PUBLICATIONS, POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS BY LIBRARY STAFF


- Sheaf, G., van Wijngaarden, H., Mengel, L., & Griffiths, J. (2022). The changing role of the library: Did adapting to COVID-19 make room for lasting changes or is there more to be done? Charleston Conference, Online.


Front Cover Image: Pictured on the front cover is the sculpture of Mary Wollstonecraft by artist, Rowan Gillespie as part of the newly installed sculptures in the Old Library honouring the scholarship of four trailblazing women.