Library of the future and Future of the Library

Prof Mary McCarron
Dean Faculty of Health Sciences
What does the Library of the future look like for your Faculty – for your researchers, for your students - in the light of the digital shift and the social shift underway in libraries?
GATHERING USER OPINION & EVIDENCE

Faculty survey

- What **do we have** in the libraries that you would like to **retain?** *Preserve*

- What **don’t we have** in libraries today that you would like to have in **the future?** *Achieve*

- What **don’t you have** that you **don’t want?** *Avoid*

- What do you have now that you don’t want, what would you **like libraries to stop doing** in the future? *Eliminate*
Over 170 responses
Multidisciplinary mix – across all schools
Students, Academics, researchers
Subject librarians
Continued education and training
Expert subject librarians
Human people
Personnel help
Bookable study rooms
Databases
Electronic journals
Training
Online journals
Staff expertise
Extensive book collection
Original books
Quite space
Remote access
Online access
WHAT PEOPLE TOLD US…

‘The technology is great, but please don’t turn the library into a hub without staff, their expertise is invaluable’

The subject librarian – ‘An expert who wears expertise lightly’

‘Don’t digitise everything’

‘While we change the function of the library retain the quiet spaces’
WHAT PEOPLE TOLD US...

What sums up the ethos of the library is this contributing quote:

‘The visual and atmospheric experience of a physical library is so much more than the books and can be the most conducive environment to learning and productivity’
ACHIEVE

Central book returns
Individual space
More space for JSL
Collaborative space
Greater marketing of resources
Greater digital access
Think tank space
Variety of space
Somewhere to know what's on offer
Access
Hubs for refreshment so you don't have to leave
Digitalised theses
More quiet space
More computers and printers
Bright spaces
E-learning courses
Extended opening
Additional copies of recommended books
THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT WITH IMAGINATION

• **Improved marketing** — *‘the skills of the librarian have great relevance for the future and are underused at the moment’*

• **Space** — *‘quiet areas’, ‘more collaborative space’, ‘Individual booths/pods’, ‘hotspots for informal areas’ ‘catalyst for ideas & collaboration’*

• **Digitalisation** — *‘Capacity to access simulated environments and computer generated imagery’*

• **Library Environment** — *that will not suffer from the Rosetta Stone syndrome*
AVOID

Loss of physical space

People replaced by machines

Total computerised service

Stuffy atmosphere and space

No specialists

A library without books

Unnecessary books

Reduced staffing
‘Automated library processes that remove the personal contact with the library staff – no thank you’

‘A library without books’

‘Over reliance on technology’

‘Overcrowding – need space’

‘One Direction - piped music everywhere!’

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
‘STOP BEING SO TOLERANT’

• ‘No need to retain outdated material’

• ‘the library needs to be able to identify material that will ensure its resources are not wasted trying to store everything, focus on preserving ‘knowledge of consequence’. In an era of information overload it will be impossible to archive everything that is published’

• ‘Noise, leaking headphones...’
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY LINKAGES</th>
<th>VISION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF TCD LIBRARY SERVICE</th>
<th>CONSIDERATIONS FROM STAFF - ADDING VALUE TO THE USER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Integrated space</td>
<td>• Space conducive to collaboration, research and learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Integration in to teaching, learning and research</td>
<td>• Digitalisation, online access, ebooks and journals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Integrated digital plan</td>
<td>• Continued expertise, education and training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prioritised funding strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONCLUDING REMARKS

Knowledge is free at the library. Just bring your own container.

- Unknown
Thank You