

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

THE FUTURE OF OUR PAST

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Outline of Presentation

- Opening address 1890
- Brief History of the NLI
- Collections in the NLI
- The Future of Our Past: The National Library in the 21st century

OPENING ADDRESS

The Central Role of the Library in
the City is clear

History: Timeline

- 1877: National Library founded by the Dublin Science and Art Museum Act
- 1890: The Library's own building opens for the first time
- 1926: Completion of the Library's East Wing
- 1927: National Library becomes a legal deposit library, entitled to a copy of everything published in Ireland
- 1943: The Genealogical Office, the oldest Office of State in Ireland, becomes part of the Library

History: Timeline

- 1990: Manuscripts Reading Room opens at 2/3 Kildare Street
- 1998: National Photographic Archive opens in Temple Bar
- 2004: New exhibition space opens with the exhibition *James Joyce and Ulysses*
- 2005: The Library becomes an autonomous semi-state organisation
- 2010: The Library celebrates 120 years in its building on Kildare Street





MUSEUM, DUBLIN, 1949. W.C.





THE LIBRARY TODAY

THE FUTURE OF OUR PAST

What we have to do.....(1997 Act)

- to conserve, restore, maintain and enlarge the material in the Library's collections for the benefit of the public;
- to establish and maintain a record of library material (including material relating to the Irish language) in relation to Ireland; and
- to contribute to the provision of access by members of the public to material relating to other countries

More than Books

- **PRINTED:**
 - Books, Periodicals. Music, Maps and Newspapers
- **MANUSCRIPTS:**
 - 1 million items spanning 1000 years
- **VISUAL:**
 - Photographs prints and drawings and Ephemera
- **DIGITAL**

The 21st Century Library

- What is the role of the National Library today? Huge changes in user needs. Information is now everywhere
- Leapfrog a century 19th to 21st!
- Build the Digital Library

Why?

- Cultural Heritage
- Cultural Tourism

How?

- Massive change and reform
- Re-engineering all processes within the NLI
- Large catalogue conversion project underway
- Develop sustainable new funding model for the NLI
- Mass Digitisation with commercial partners

IMPACT OF THESE ACTIONS

- The 'Lost Atlantis' of Cultural Heritage material is uncovered
- The collections are preserved and conserved and stored safely for future generations
- A global audience can interact with our incredible collections
- We can service tourists, researchers and citizens alike.