Does the medium make the message?
“Words fly, writing stays”

How is experience, memory, knowledge communicated through written records? How does format affect content? What do familiar words such as ‘writing’, ‘reading’, ‘publishing’, ‘library’ mean in the digital age? Addressing these questions in the home of a world-class library, Manuscript, Book and Print Cultures researchers engage with the very ‘stuff’ of Humanities.

The Egyptian Books of the Dead

The Egyptian Books of the Dead are Trinity’s unique collection of papyri documenting the social, economic, cultural and religious history of Egypt from 1700 to 100 BCE. This multi-disciplinary project addresses the conservation and edition of papyri, practices of collecting Egyptian artefacts in 19th century Europe, and ancient Egypt in modern imagination. Project leaders: Brian McGing (Classics) and Susie Bioletti (Library).

Roman Inquisitional papers (1389–1787)

One of the largest European collections of Holy See records, Trinity’s Roman Inquisitional papers (1389–1787) are invaluable documents for the study of early modern society and culture, religious and political ideas. This new project draws on conservation and historical expertise. Project leaders: David Ditchburn (History) and Susie Bioletti (Library).

The French Revolutionary Collections (1780s–1820s)

Trinity’s French Revolution Papers (1780s–1820s) include over 13,000 uncatalogued pamphlets, decrees, newspapers, plays and memoirs. The project brings together historians, archivists, art historians and literary scholars, engaged in the production of a resource for understanding a seminal moment in the making of modern Europe. Project leader: Joseph Clarke (History).

The Censorship of British Theatre (1737–1843)

Drawing on manuscript collections at the British and Huntington Libraries, the Marie Sklodowska-Curie funded project The Censorship of British Theatre (1737–1843) will deliver the first integrated study of British theatre censorship between the Stage Licensing Act and the Theatres Act. Project leader: David O’Shaughnessy (English).

The Book of the Heart: Music-Text Relations in 15th-Century Chansonniers

The interplay of words, musical notation and performance is at the core of The Book of the Heart: Music-Text Relations in 15th-Century Chansonniers. This international network brings together scholars in Music, Medieval Studies, French and English literature to understand the cultural role of poetry in Medieval and Renaissance societies. Project leader: Jane Alden (Music).

Images Courtesy of Trinity College Library, The Huntington Library, Bibliothèque Nationale de France.
Manuscript, Book and Print Cultures studies the cultures of reading and writing. Trinity research interrogates books as texts, as objects, as heritage and as consumables; examines practices of authoring, interpreting, publishing, collecting, buying and selling books; explores the relationship between the physical and the virtual in the 21st century; develops and shares expertise in textual research methods, in conservation and scientific analysis, in approaches to book history, to media studies, and to digital humanities.

“This research theme engages 80 researchers in 20 disciplines across Trinity’s three Faculties and the Library. Only a multi-disciplinary effort will achieve the goal of releasing the capacity of written records to transform inheritance into value for the third millennium.”
— Anna Chahoud, Theme Convener

For further information on this theme please visit
www.tcd.ie/trinitylongroomhub/themes/manuscript-book-print-cultures

This theme is one of Trinity’s five Arts and Humanities led research themes and is supported by the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute.