



Note from your Editor

It's hard to believe that two years have passed since the last issue of GLINT was published in August 2012. Plenty has happened on the GLS front in this period, despite the ever dwindling number of information professionals in central government. The committee report on page 2 gives an outline of some of our main activities, and on page 3 Mairéad Treanor reports on the very successful GLS seminar held in January 2014. On page 12 Joe Donnelly offers some helpful tips on chairing a seminar, and other aspects of event management will be covered in future issues of GLINT.

GLS members that have moved on since 2012 include Anne Wilkinson (Marine Institute) and Sandra King (Enterprise Ireland) who retired in 2013 and 2014 respectively, and Conor McCabe (DPP) who moved to a new role outside the library sector in 2013. Two key figures in the library education field; Professor John Dean and Bob Pearce, sadly passed away in 2012/2013. Joe Donnelly pays tribute to them on page 25.

The use of social media in the library profession is on the rise, and the GLS is becoming increasingly active in this area. This year's AGM included a presentation on social media in a government library context (page 21), and the possibility of creating a new Public Relations Officer to manage the GLS' online presence was discussed, which mirrors developments in the LAI. An update on the new LAI website is on page 23.

In our "Day in the Life of a Government Librarian" feature on page 33, Ann O'Sullivan gives an insight into her role at the Oireachtas Library and Research Service.

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Committee Report 2013-2014

The past two years have been busy and productive ones for the GLS.

Eight ordinary meetings were held since September 2012 and topics of particular interest discussed included the GLS presence on the new LAI website, the development of a public version of the Government Libraries Directory, the continued development of links with UCD SILS, updates to Trinity Information Service charges, and the development of a social media presence for the GLS.

The GLS hosted a seminar in Dublin Castle in January 2014, which was attended by 52 people from a range of backgrounds and professions (see report on page 3). This was organised by a sub-committee (Alex Caccamo, Máire Caffrey, Paula Murphy, Jean Cassidy and Mairéad Treanor).

GLS officers and committee members represented the group at a number of LAI meetings. Jean Cassidy attended the LAI Officers meeting in June 2013 and Mairéad Treanor attended the LAI Officers meeting in June 2014. Alex Caccamo, Jean Cassidy, Úna Cronin, Zoë Melling and Mairéad Treanor participated in LAI Website Training for content editors in May 2014 (see report on page 14.) Zoë also provided GLS members with training on the LAI website at the ordinary meeting in November 2013.

GLS member, Zoë Melling, is also a member of the LAI Council, the LAI Website Taskforce and the European and International Affairs Panel. Zoë represented the LAI at the EBLIDA

Council meeting and conference in May 2014 in Athens.

An updated edition the Directory of Irish Government Libraries and Information Services was produced in 2013. An abridged 'public' version of the Directory was produced by Mairéad Treanor in 2014 and this will be added to the GLS web pages of the LAI website.

On behalf of the GLS, group members continued to update and use social media tools such as LinkedIn (Órla Gillen, Máire Caffrey, Jean Cassidy) and Twitter (Sheila Gallagher, Noeleen Murtagh).

The 2014 AGM was held on 27th June at the Legal Aid Board and was preceded by a one-hour primer session on social media for Government Libraries and Information Centres presented by Bríd McGrath (see report on page 12).

Current Committee:

Chair: Noeleen Murtagh
(Food Safety Authority)

Secretary: Úna Cronin
(Office of Attorney General)

Treasurer: Máire Caffrey (Teagasc)

Other Committee members:

Jean Cassidy (CSSO)

Joe Donnelly (Judges' Library)

Donal McSweeney

(Central Bank of Ireland)

Zoë Melling (Legal Aid Board)

Fiona Morley (Legal Aid Board)

Paula Murphy (DPP)

Muireann Tóibín (Revenue)

Mairéad Treanor (Met Éireann)

GLS Seminar: Access + Evidence: Information for Policy

Mairéad Treanor
Librarian, Met Éireann



Braving the rain on the last day of January 2014, a diverse group of librarians, information professionals, policy-makers, academics and other public servants gathered at Dublin Castle for the GLS biennial seminar. Access to information was the key talking-point of the day as the seminar looked at two strands of information provision that are associated with information professionals working in government departments and state agencies in Ireland.

Focused on a central theme of access to information, proceedings for the day were divided into a morning session, which looked at the provision of quality information to policy-makers and government officials and an afternoon session, which focused on open access to public sector data and information. The seminar aimed to draw connections between these two strands of information provision and to open conversations between a wide range of interested groups and individuals; not just librarians.

After a welcoming introduction by GLS Chairperson, Jean Cassidy, the seminar was opened by our keynote speaker, Professor Frances Ruane, Director of the Economic and Social Research Institute. Professor Ruane gave a lively presentation on the connection between research, evidence and policymaking in Ireland, noting that there is now a

greater opportunity in Ireland for the use of research to inform policy and a greater need for a better system of engagement between researchers and policymakers. The presentation began by introducing 'evidence-based policy making', noting that the process by which evidence is used to inform policy is actually a much newer development than we might think. Professor Ruane noted that the practice of using evidence to inform policy follows a continuum whereby evidence is produced and then developed into high-quality research, which is then used to analyse policy and finally to develop policy, if political approval and support allows. She noted that while policy cannot generally be deduced from evidence, it can be informed by evidence. Drawing from her recent work as co-editor of *Using Evidence to Inform Policy* (2013: Gill & Macmillan), Professor Ruane noted that there are demonstrable benefits to using evidence-based policy in specific contexts or sectors such as education or health.

One important issue raised by Professor Ruane was the necessity for ensuring a

clear distinction between good-quality and bad-quality evidence for policy making. This is a familiar topic of GLS meetings, where the lack of information professionals in central government is often discussed. In the absence of information professionals and information units in government departments, where do our policy-makers



Fiona Morley (Legal Aid Board) and Jean Cassidy (CSSO) at the registration desk.

and policymakers and it is important to encourage and support cooperation

between these groups. She suggested that there is scope for researchers, research institutions and policy bodies to do more to improve engagement; researchers can increase the accessibility of research, use representative case-studies

access high-quality evidence and what type of evidence are they using to inform policy? Professor Ruane noted that there were some limitations to the provision of quality information and research for policy-makers in Ireland. She suggested

“a system of greater engagement is needed in order to encourage and develop the use of research to inform policy in Ireland” - Frances Ruane

that the more recent move toward evidence-based policymaking in Ireland was due in part to international norms and pressures, new rhetoric, governance, efficiency and a greater understanding of the need for accountability and transparency. Professor Ruane concluded that the relationship between evidence and policy is relevant to both researchers

and create multi-disciplinary teams; research institutions can recognise policy research in promotions, support engagement in policy graduate courses and develop funding systems to accommodate policy; policy bodies can promote greater specialist knowledge, education and concentration through their human resources function and can develop and promote research strategies that encourage links with academia. Addressing a varied group of researchers, policy-makers and information professionals, Professor Ruane suggested that a system of greater engagement is needed in order to encourage and develop the use of research to inform policy in Ireland. This was an excellent opening presentation for the seminar and the topic was highly relevant to the diverse range of attendees from different groups and professions.



GLS members Mairéad Cassidy (Bord Bia) and Sarah Burns (ESRI)

A short break followed the keynote presentation and there was plenty to talk about over coffee and cake. The seminar reconvened with Eileen Regan, Senior Researcher at the Research and Information Service (RaISE) of the Northern Ireland Assembly demonstrating how librarians and researchers at RaISE have been instrumental in encouraging and developing greater engagement between researchers and policy makers in Northern Ireland. This presentation was an excellent follow-up to our keynote address because it described a real-world example of how greater engagement and cooperation between researchers and policymakers (as recommended by Professor Ruane) might be implemented. Eileen presented the 'Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series' (KESS), which is annually delivered by the information service at the Northern Ireland Assembly, in partnership with the Queen's University of Belfast, the University of Ulster and The Open University. KESS at

the Northern Ireland Assembly has made real efforts to achieve greater engagement and cooperation between researchers and policymakers. Taking us through the process by which KESS was established and developed, Eileen explained how KESS promotes evidence-based policy and law-making by encouraging engagement and

debate about research findings with the view to facilitating Assembly committee decision-making. Aiming to meet the unique needs of the various committees, KESS provides information and research on subject areas within the Assembly's legislative competence and its business interests. Eileen noted that attendees

KESS is an excellent working example of an information unit that is driving increased engagement between researchers and policy makers

include MLAs and their staff, Assembly staff, public and private sector employees, academics and representatives from voluntary and community groups.

The RaISE at the Assembly uses KESS to encourage engagement and support cooperation in three ways; an annual programme, individual seminars and widely-circulated publications. The annual programme focuses on 'hot topics'

that are most relevant to Assembly business. The seminars discuss two or three related themes under broad headings, which are considered to be 'hot topics'. Publications are distributed to Assembly Committees via Chairs and the Policy Briefings, Power Point presentations and video clips of each seminar are posted on KESS web pages. Eileen emphasised the role that KESS plays in establishing formal partnerships

between policy-makers in the Assembly and researchers in academia. She also stressed its value as a forum in which academic research findings on topics that are directly relevant to policy and legislation can be

presented and disseminated in a straightforward and accessible manner. While the impact of KESS has yet to be fully determined, the current value of the programme is that it encourages debate and understanding between decision-makers and the broader public sector and in so doing, promotes evidence-led policy and law making in Northern Ireland. Eileen's presentation demonstrated how KESS is an excellent working example of an information unit that is driving

increased engagement between researchers and policy makers through the provision of high-quality information and a forum within which engagement can take place.

Our next speaker, Jennifer McGrath, Assistant Librarian at the Oireachtas Library and Research Service, demonstrated another approach to the provision of parliamentary information

for policymakers and the general public. Jennifer showcased the new Documents Laid website developed by the Oireachtas Library and Research Service, which has transformed access to documents that are formally presented to parliament



GLS members Órla Gillen (Law Reform Commission) and Joe Donnelly (Courts Service) catching up at the GLS seminar.

by making these accessible electronically to government departments and the public within 24 hours. The Oireachtas Library & Research Service manages the Irish parliamentary library and provides an impartial research service to Members of the Oireachtas in support of their parliamentary business. The Service's primary users are the individual Members of the Houses of the Oireachtas, Committees and staff of the Houses. The

Library & Research Service provides these users with information and research in respect of their parliamentary duties. As the parliamentary library serving all members equally, all information and research provided is impartial and politically neutral.

Jennifer opened the presentation by describing the Documents Laid Collection, which is made up of government reports, annual accounts, and other important documents that are formally presented to the Houses of the Oireachtas by departments or agencies to support the democratic process. The collection dates from the 1920s to the present day. Approximately 2,000 documents are laid each year and this is now primarily done electronically. Jennifer explained how this project developed at the Oireachtas Library & Research Service from 2006 until the public launch in 2013. She outlined the different phases of the project and explained how it involved preparatory cataloguing work, the acquisition of a new Library Management System, the acquisition of digital repository software, a large-scale digitisation project, metadata mapping and a re-structuring of operational or procedural work to enable over 830 registered users to work with the e-docs system. The final step in the process was the extension of access to the public, and this was launched in November 2013. Jennifer concluded by noting that there has been a dramatic increase in usage statistics since the public launch, with a monthly increase in downloads from 200 to 2,000. Access is via www.oireachtas.ie library online

The new Documents Laid website developed by the Oireachtas Library and Research Service has transformed access to parliamentary information.

catalogue. Jennifer's show-case of the Documents Laid website demonstrated the role that information professionals play in supporting parliamentary research and in encouraging greater civic engagement. As the last presentation of the morning session, it neatly straddled

the two strands of information provision that were the topic of the seminar. Afterwards the seminar broke for lunch and attendees gathered for sandwiches and treats, with plenty of time for catching-up and networking.



Tucking in! Attendees enjoying the lunch and the chat at the GLS seminar.

The afternoon session was chaired by Noeleen Murtagh, GLS Committee Member, who welcomed attendees back after lunch and introduced the first speaker of the afternoon, Eoghan McCarthy from the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at NUI Maynooth. Eoghan is the Data Management and Visualisation Coordinator for the All-Ireland Research Observatory Project (AIRO) where he works to maintain, expand and analyse AIROs data systems, explore research

opportunities and develop bespoke data visualisations and web GIS applications.

AIRO aims to improve evidence-informed planning in Ireland and Eoghan began by introducing the type of work they do, the groups they work with and the tools they have developed to enable evidence-informed planning. Eoghan explained how AIRO provides tools to support better planning and decision making and to maximise the usage and benefit of publicly-funded and readily-available datasets. He outlined how AIRO harnesses publicly-available data and makes them freely available to the general public, planners, decision-makers and policy-makers, in an accessible format. Eoghan's presentation focused on a number of case studies that demonstrated the inputs (data and sources), the work carried out to prepare the data, and the outputs (which allow users to access the data) of AIRO work. He demonstrated the various ways in which these data are made available, for example through web GIS mapping tools, interactive data visualisations and data dashboards through the AIRO website.

Eoghan followed this with a case study of an AIRO project on mapping unemployment. This was a joint initiative of Southside Partnership (DLR) and the National Institute for Regional

and Spatial Analysis and its aim was to leverage public-sector data for policy



Speakers for the afternoon session. (L-R) Eoghan McCarthy, Patricia Clarke, Máire Caffrey.

implementation. He described how data were collected and analysed, with appropriate concern for data protection and security and followed this with an explanation of how the data are cleaned and given a spatial reference, which enabled each database entry to be mapped and aggregated to any boundary or catchment area. Eoghan then gave a live demonstration of this mapping tool in action which showed the potential for using public sector data in this way for policy development and implementation. The presentation concluded with a brief look at AIRO's new web pages and a little plug for the GIS workshops that are hosted by AIRO and aimed at planners, policy and decision makers, local partnerships, researchers and private consultants. Eoghan's presentation highlighted the potential for using public-sector data and information in new ways that could enable greater critical analyses of data, improve research and contribute to evidence-improved decision making. It was a stimulating talk and gave

attendees plenty to consider with regards to the availability and use of public data.



Attendees enjoying the networking opportunity at the GLS seminar.

Next up was Patricia Clarke, Senior Policy Analyst for the Health Research Board and National Delegate for Horizon 2020 Health. Heavily involved with a National Open Access Agenda for Ireland, Patricia has co-chaired a National Steering Committee on Open Access Policy in partnership with Science Foundation Ireland since June 2012. This committee works to coordinate activities and to combine expertise at a national level to promote unrestricted, online access to outputs which result from research that is wholly or partially funded by the State. Membership of this committee includes representatives from the Irish research funding agencies, Irish research performers, library associations and repository initiatives.

Patricia started by outlining why Open Access is important and by referring to the approaches and attitudes to Open Access as identified by a Science Europe

Survey. She then detailed the progress to date on the National Open Access Agenda for Ireland, noting that the first national statement from Ireland on Open Access was launched in October 2013. This provided an overarching framework for individual research organisation policies on Open Access and a pragmatic flexible approach to achieving the best value from Irish research. Patricia noted that there is now a good infrastructure in place for Open Access in Ireland but the challenge is to make this work sustainable. She called for a national implementation plan that would work to improve

infrastructure and sustainability, promote advocacy and coordination and enable further resourcing for Open Access initiatives. The presentation provided an excellent insight into the cooperative work that is currently ongoing between a range of partners (including research institutions, state agencies and funding bodies) to enable better access provision to publicly-funded research.

There is now a good infrastructure in place for Open Access in Ireland but the challenge is to make this work sustainable. - Patricia Clarke

Patricia's presentation on the national perspective with regards to Open Access repositories was nicely followed by Máire Caffrey, Head Librarian at Teagasc (and GLS Committee Member), who presented Teagasc's experience of the national Open Access movement. Máire showcased T-Stór, which is the Open Access Institutional Repository at Teagasc. She began by introducing the work of Teagasc, noting that as a publicly-funded research body,

it places a strong emphasis on the dissemination of its research outputs. Máire described the process by which T-Stór was established at Teagasc citing reasons for the development of the Institutional Repository such as increased accessibility, increased citations,

satisfying funding requirements, the value of co-located resources and the benefits of cooperating and collaborating with

other national and international research institutes. Máire then explained how the repository was implemented at Teagasc and briefly profiled the type of research material that is currently available via T-Stór. She demonstrated T-Stór in action, showing attendees the search interface as well as the different administrative capabilities of the IR such as statistical

reports on usage. Máire followed this by outlining the process whereby T-Stór was included in the RIAN portal site, detailing how they worked through the application process, co-operated with participating institutions, prepared crosswalks for data and managed the various issues that arose. She concluded by emphasising the value of participating in the RIAN portal, which gathers data from many Irish repositories and aims to become a one-stop-shop for Irish research outputs. Máire's presentation was an excellent example of how information professionals

are working cooperatively to enable better access to publicly-funded research and information.

This was the last presentation in a day of active audience participation, and was followed by an engaging set of questions

and answers directed at the afternoon speakers.

On behalf of the GLS committee, Noeleen Murtagh closed the seminar by thanking all speakers and attendees,

the event sub-committee and GLS members who volunteered on the day. The librarians, information professionals, policy-makers, academics and other public servants departed a rain-soaked Dublin Castle, hopefully leaving with refreshed ideas on information provision for policy and access to publicly-funded information.

Máire showcased T-Stór, the Open Access Institutional Repository at Teagasc, which is included in the RIAN national portal project.



Members of the organising sub-committee: (L-R) Mairéad Treanor (Met Éireann), Jean Cassidy (CSSO), Máire Caffrey (Teagasc), Paula Murphy (DPP) and Alex Caccamo (Botanic Gardens).



GLS members who helped to ensure everything ran smoothly! (L-R) Mairéad Treanor (Met Éireann), Jean Cassidy (CSSO), Máire Caffrey (Teagasc), Paula Murphy (DPP), Alex Caccamo (Botanic Gardens), Zoë Melling (Legal Aid Board), Fiona Morley (Legal Aid Board) and Noeleen Murtagh (Food Safety Authority).



Dublin Castle, the venue for the seminar.

Pointers for the Chair: ***A few tips as an aide-memoire if you find yourself chairing a seminar or training event***

Joseph Donnelly,
Librarian, The Judges' Library

Any professional group will have occasion to organise training events, seminars and maybe even large-scale conferences. In most cases, that also involves finding one or more individuals to chair a presentation or session, usually on a voluntary basis, and sometimes with little previous experience. This may be a relatively simple task of introducing a speaker, watching the time, and managing a few questions at the end, or it may be more complex when helping to keep multiple presentations on the rails, giving clear directions to a large audience, helping speakers and audience to communicate with each other, and possibly even a touch of crisis-management when something goes wrong, such as a delay setting up audio-visual aids or a last-minute change in running order. As Chair you try to be a calming influence on both the speaker (who may be feeling quite nervous) and the audience.

Although chairing a session need not make strenuous intellectual demands on you, it is worth having a list of points to help you prepare in advance for your role and to avoid forgetting something crucial on the day. It is surprising how easy it is to go into a stall or run dry if you have not thought about what you are going to say to open proceedings, or to link into a



new stage – or to buy time if someone or something else goes into a stall and there is an awkward pause. The following are some points that I have found useful when chairing training events or seminar sessions, and others have found them helpful too when called upon to fill the role. If you find yourself catapulted into the Chair, you may find something useful here. You can discard those points not relevant to your situation, and no doubt you will think of others to add that I have omitted.

Like so many things in life, these few points may all seem monumentally obvious once they have been written down, but they can be easily overlooked if they are not brought to mind in time.

Where I have suggested examples of what to say, they are no more than that – examples, because sometimes it is the conversational remarks that do not come readily to us. I am not, of course, suggesting you follow them slavishly or use them as a rigid formula.

If you prepare a list of points like those below but tailored to your own requirements for use on the day, you might care to paste into it any biographical notes about speakers for when you are introducing them.

A. Introductions

Opening words of welcome to the venue, and acknowledgment of the hosting body if appropriate.

"Good morning, and welcome to the Such-and-such Hall, kindly made available to us today by ABC"

Introduction to the event's objective and perhaps its organiser (especially if you have opened the event to a wider public, or need to publicise the role of the body holding the event).

"In today's seminar (or training event), organised by the Government Libraries Section of the Library Association of Ireland, we will be looking at the important topic of X, made all the more relevant because ..."

As a courtesy, remember to introduce yourself and your role.

"My name is X, and I am Librarian in Y. I will be chairing the morning session of today's seminar" or if you are one of a series of Chairs, it might be more like: "I'm X, and I have the pleasure of introducing our next speaker ..."

Are you required to make any "housekeeping" announcements before launching into the proceedings?



Registration sign at the GLS Seminar in January 2014.

Location of emergency exits.

"Please check that you've switched off mobile phones, alarms, pagers, etc."
Importance of keeping to schedule -
"please return promptly from breaks"

At the start of a full day, you may need to outline the plan for the day:

"The first presentations of the day will be by ... then we will break for tea and coffee in mid-morning...followed by ..."

"A buffet lunch will be available in the adjoining room, please be back by 2.00 pm sharp"

"Session after lunch begins promptly at"

"Tea/coffee break at 3.00 pm. followed by ... presentations ..."

"Questions and answers (or a discussion forum) will be at the end, and all speakers from the morning sessions will remain" (if this is the case).

Likely time of conclusion – this may be important for people relying on infrequent transport.

If lunch is not provided at the event, you may want to suggest some locations where a convenient, affordable and quick lunch can be obtained.

Some thought needs to be given (in consultation with the organisers and the speakers) about whether members of the audience should ask questions during the presentation or reserve them until the end. This will partly depend on the format of the event (e.g. a practical training session or a more formal paper). One solution is to suggest that speakers might be interrupted for brief points of clarification, but perhaps complex questions are better kept to the end of each presentation, or the end of a set of related presentations.

When members of the audience are making a point or asking a question, do you want them to state their name and affiliation? If so you could mention this at the start, and remind them at the start of a Q&A session.

B. Biographical notes and introduction to each presentation

Depending on the format of the event and the time available, the Chair may want to say a few words about speakers

individually (at the start of the day or just before each one speaks), then something about their involvement in the topic, and then a few words about what

the presentation is supposed to achieve. Obviously this is something that needs to be ascertained in advance, by you or the event organisers. It may be useful,

when seeking this background information from each speaker, to give an idea of the type of information you require, both in order to focus the answers, and to be reasonably consistent in introducing several speakers.

Biographical notes

Speaker's name (if necessary, seek clarification on pronunciation).

Some of the following may merit mentioning:

- Academic/professional qualifications (librarian, lawyer, IT etc.)
- Current position, and how long he/she has been there.
- Previous/other relevant experience.
- Involvement in relevant group, professional body.
- Involvement/interest in today's topic (author of ...)

This should provide you with a short but relevant paragraph giving the audience the context from which the presentation emerges, something along the lines of:

"Our next presentation will be by XY, who has been an active member of the GLS

for several years. For the past two years she has been Assistant Librarian in ABC, where her responsibilities include ... Before that she gained valuable experience working on ... X will be concentrating on such-and-such aspect in her presentation today, which is called Squaring the Circle”.

You may want to use linking phrases similar to the following examples to produce an introduction to an individual presentation, in particular to show how it relates to others during the day, or to the overall theme, or what it seeks to achieve.

"We heard a little earlier about A ... We will also hear after lunch about C ... However, we are going to turn now to the closely related area of B ..."

"Having looked at the issue from the perspective of the information producer, in our next presentation we will turn our attention to that of the consumer of information, in particular those in the academic environment..."

"This is (or is not) a comprehensive treatment of the subject ... intended to... (raise some issues ... equip you to ... counter the usual claim ...)"

C. Managing time

Since you will need to keep an eye on time, first make sure you have the use of some kind of reliable clock, be it a clock on the wall, a wrist watch or a phone.

There are always time constraints of some kind, but this is especially important when there will be a series of speakers. If each of them over-runs by just a few minutes, the entire schedule can be disrupted. When a speaker is

delivering a presentation, he or she can completely lose track of the time, especially if nervous. You might like to have a pre-arranged signal to let the speakers know when they have 5 minutes left (so there is still a little time for them to make adjustments and skip something if necessary) and when time is just about up.

There are always time constraints of some kind, but this is especially important when there will be a series of speakers.

At an event with a large crowd and spacious platform, it may be more convenient to give this task

to someone planted in the audience, who can unashamedly hold up a sign saying "5 minutes" and another saying "time". In a small group, it may be more tactful to have a subtle, but mutually understood, signal, such as the Chair tipping a large pen from end to end, or moving it from one location to another. Once this clear signal has been agreed, it can work surprisingly well, without making the audience conscious of the fact that time is being measured out. Whether the signal is subtle or broad, whoever is doing the signalling must also remember not to lose track of the time and so perhaps mislead the speaker!

Remember that, particularly in the case of a subtle signal such as moving a pen from the left of the desk to the right, when a speaker is actually giving the presentation, he or she may fail to notice your signal, especially if slightly nervous – or indeed gripped by terror. You may have to give a clearer signal in a good-humoured way, such as a softly spoken "two minutes".

In the absence of a long stick with a hook on the end, you may want to have a contingency plan in case someone shows signs of unwittingly (or deliberately) running way over time. You do not want to cause embarrassment to yourself, the speaker or the audience, so perhaps have some polite formula to hand such as "I'm just conscious that the clock is

against us, and interesting though this is, I want to avoid eating into the next speaker's time. You've certainly given us plenty of food for thought in the material covered so far, and perhaps if there is time during discussion/Q&A we might manage to tease out some of the other points. Thank you very much ... etc."

Equally, delays may come from the audience. If you suspect that a question may require a very detailed answer, or you feel that the questioner is turning the brief question into a prolonged debate, you may need to step in and suggest that the question might be better dealt with in a later discussion forum, or elsewhere.

D. Brief Comment by Chair after each presentation

You will probably say a polite thank you to the speaker, after applause from the floor. Have a couple of phrases at the tip of your tongue, such as "thank you, Mary, for that admirably clear guide to ..." or perhaps (if the topic did not lend itself to clarity) "thank you very much, John, for bravely taking on the notoriously complex matter of ..."

It can appear that the presentation has been received coldly if at its conclusion the Chair simply goes on, without any comment, to introduce the next speaker. As Chair you may want to make a note of one or two things said during each presentation in order to be able to add a very brief, positive remark on the talk afterwards, such as "I am sure we are all grateful to you for teasing out the complex area of ..." or "I was particularly

interested in your point about ..." If the speaker provides a handout that summarises a complex matter, the Chair might say that it is very useful to have this summarised in the handout, "which is in your pack".

E. Discussion Forum or Questions from the floor

Whether questions are taken at the end of each presentation or at the end of the morning/afternoon session, the Chair should, while listening to the papers, prepare at least a couple of questions (and ideally at least one question for each speaker) so that if there is a pause and the audience is slow to ask the first question, the Chair can come in with "while you are thinking about that, I'd like to ask about ..." or "I have a question myself, if I may ..." Likewise, if one speaker seems to be unduly neglected in questions from the floor, the Chair might redress the balance with a question likely to be of interest to some delegates.

If there is to be a group discussion or questions for several speakers, at the end of the day or at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, you

might invite all the speakers to take seats at the front of the hall. But first be sure that this has been planned in advance, in terms of seating, and having all speakers remain to a certain time.

If there is a roving microphone you can ask the contributors to kindly wait for the microphone to reach them before asking the question.

You might want to remind delegates that when asking a question or making a point, they can introduce themselves by name and organisation, and indicate whether the question is directed to anyone in particular.

If there are any changes to people on the podium for Questions & Answers (maybe additional people have joined for the discussion), it may be best to update the introductions: "We have already introduced Prof. X of Y College and Joe Bloggs from Such-and-Such ... We are also joined by N, whose background / interest lies in ..." Likewise, after a long interval, the delegates may find it useful to be reminded who is who, and what their area of expertise is.

The Chair should try to listen carefully to questions from the floor. He or she may have to help interpret the question, for example if the presenter of the paper is



Joe Donnelly chairing questions during the GLS Conference on Freedom of Information, held in the Coach House of Dublin Castle in November 1997. He is flanked by Gerry Kearney, who headed the Freedom of Information Central Policy Unit in the Department of Finance, and Senator Brendan Ryan. Other speakers at the conference included Eithne Fitzgerald who, as Minister of State at the Office of the Tánaiste, steered the Freedom of Information Bill to enactment, and Maeve McDonagh, a lawyer with expertise in Freedom of Information. Journalism, consumers and academia were also represented in presentations. The proceedings, edited by Mary Doyle and Joseph Donnelly, were published by Blackhall Publishing in 1999.

not a native English speaker and is asked a question by someone with a pronounced accent, or if someone from one specialisation is posing a question to someone from a different field. If sound facilities are not sufficient to allow everyone to hear remarks from the audience, the Chair may also have to repeat the question for the benefit of the rest of the audience.

F. Close of Seminar

At the end of the event, it usually falls to the person in the Chair (possibly with contributions from someone on the conference committee) to wrap things up with a few polite statements, and possibly some practical matters. Be aware that some people prepare to sprint once the main event is over, and this in turn can make the entire group start to shift or talk, so if you have anything important to say (including a polite expression of gratitude to those who have contributed in one way or another, but also possibly some very practical matters) be ready to catch the attention of the audience.

Something along the lines of:-

"We're almost at the end of what I hope you have found to be an interesting and informative day's work".

Before briefly thanking various people, have you to catch the audience's attention for any housekeeping announcements?

Feedback forms perhaps?

"Remember to take your belongings from the cloakroom".

"Please be sure to leave the car park by xxx time".

"Kindly return name-badges".

Or maybe you want to mention a forthcoming event ("In the Autumn we hope to organize ...")

As always, expressing thanks can be a minefield because of the danger of omitting someone crucial, so have a note of those to be acknowledged.

"I would like to thank ABC for making this venue available to us, and the people who helped with organizing the seminar, the catering, the bookings, the registration desk, documentation and so on".

"I thank all of you who attended, for your interest and participation".

"I would ask you to join me in thanking all of our speakers today" (if you are going to name them, have the names to hand in your notes in case you suddenly go blank).

Be aware that some people prepare to sprint once the main event is over, and this in turn can make the entire group start to shift or talk ... so if you have anything important to say be ready to catch the attention of the audience.

If the event is part of a series (e.g. an annual conference), you may wish to add "I hope to see you again at ..." or simply wish all a safe journey home or a pleasant stay as may be the case.



CHECKLIST FOR CHAIRING A SEMINAR

A. Introductions

- ✓ Opening words of welcome to the venue
- ✓ Introduction to the event's objective and perhaps its organiser
- ✓ Introduce yourself
- ✓ Housekeeping announcements
 - ✓ Emergency exits
 - ✓ Phones, alarms etc.
 - ✓ Importance of schedule – please return promptly from break
- ✓ Plan for the day
 - ✓ Presentations, breaks, lunch, likely time of conclusion
 - ✓ Time and etiquette for Questions and answers (or discussion)

B. Biographical notes and introduction to each presentation

- ✓ Biographical notes
 - ✓ Name
 - ✓ Qualifications
 - ✓ Current position
 - ✓ Previous/other relevant experience
 - ✓ Involvement in relevant groups
 - ✓ Interest in today's topic
- ✓ Link to other presentations or to overall theme/context

C. Managing time

- ✓ Clock
- ✓ Pre-arranged signals – for “5 minutes” and “time is up”
- ✓ Manage questions/debate during a presentation

Page 1



CHECKLIST FOR CHAIRING A SEMINAR

D. Brief comment by Chair after each presentation

- ✓ Thank the speaker(s)
- ✓ Brief positive comment on some point in the presentation

E. Discussion forum or questions from the floor

- ✓ Listen to each presentation and have a question or two prepared
- ✓ For group discussion/questioning, invite all speakers to the platform?
- ✓ Microphone available?
- ✓ Ask delegates to introduce themselves by name and affiliation and identify to whom the question is addressed
- ✓ Clarify or repeat the question if necessary

F. Close of seminar

- ✓ Close of event by Chair and/or conference committee
- ✓ Beware of signalling a general breakup before all business is done
- ✓ Brief positive comment on the event
- ✓ Housekeeping announcements
- ✓ Thank organisers and their assistants, venue if appropriate
- ✓ Thank delegates for interest and participation
- ✓ Ask audience to join you in thanking all speakers (name them individually or not?)
- ✓ Wish all a safe journey or pleasant stay, or hope to see them at next event

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GLS AGM 2014

The 2014 AGM was held on the 27th June at the Legal Aid Board. It was preceded by a one-hour session on social media for Government Libraries/ Information Centres, presented by Bríd McGrath of McGrath Barrett & Associates. A new Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were elected during the AGM to replace Jean Cassidy, Mairéad Treanor and Paula Murphy who had served their two year tenure. All three will continue to serve on the committee. It was the last meeting for Sandra King, Librarian at Enterprise Ireland and a long standing member of the GLS, who has retired. The AGM was followed by the annual GLS "post-Christmas" lunch in *Il Primo* restaurant.



Sandra King who retired in 2014.



Some of the attendees at the GLS AGM and social media session.



Brid McGrath (McGrath Barrett & Associates), Louise Galligan (Director of Public Prosecutions) and Jill Corish (Department of Foreign Affairs).



Post-AGM lunch. From left: Zoë Melling (Legal Aid Board), Fiona Morley (Legal Aid Board), Noeleen Murtagh (Food Safety Authority), Úna Cronin (Office of Attorney General), Mairéad Treanor (Met Éireann), Órla Gillen (Law Reform Commission), Jean Cassidy (Chief State Solicitors Office), Sandra King (Enterprise Ireland), Emmet Keoghane (Department of Taoiseach), Muireann Tóibín (Revenue) and Sheila Gallagher (Legal Aid Board).

Update on LAI Website

Zoë Melling,
LAI Website Taskforce



A new website for the Library Association of Ireland was launched at the end of 2012. Hosted on a Drupal platform and developed by Gary Hammond and Luis Rodriguez Castromil of Iterate, data from the old Wordpress site was migrated in September 2012 and the new interface went live in October. New features that have been implemented to date include an online membership module with the ability to renew and pay online, access to *An Leabharlann* in electronic format for members, incorporation of Library

Ireland Week content, social media integration, standardisation of page categories for groups and sections, a membership list for each group/section, and the ability to make content visible to specific groups of users.

A training session for content editors was held in Dublin in May 2014 and was attended by 16 representatives of groups/sections, committees, panels and taskforces with responsibility for maintaining their area of the site.

The new LAI website home page



The LIBRARY ASSOCIATION of IRELAND

Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann

REPRESENTING LIBRARIANS AND LIBRARIES IN IRELAND

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An Leabharlann Volume 23: Issue 1 March 2014
An Leabharlann (Online) ISSN 2009-6062

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Volume 22: Issue 2

An Leabharlann Volume 22: Issue 2 October 2013
An Leabharlann (Online) ISSN 2009-6062

The archive of *An Leabharlann* issues is available to members

A number of recommendations for enhancements to the site emerged during the training, including an automated approval process for joining reserved groups/sections, the ability to export membership lists, a wider range of file formats for news and basic pages, greater functionality in the events template, additional categories for events, and a centralised online payments system that can be used by all groups/sections. Follow-up training will be scheduled later in the year when the new features have been implemented.

The LAI website is available at:
<http://www.libraryassociation.ie>.

Terms of reference of the Taskforce can be viewed at:

<https://libraryassociation.ie/library-association-ireland/policy-and-guidelines#tfweb>

Current members of the Taskforce are:

Kieran Swords (Convenor)

Jane Burns

Jessica Eustace-Cook

Louise Farragher

Gillian Kerins

Zoë Melling

Emer O'Brien

Mary Stuart

Sandra Taylor

Brendan Teeling

Remembering Professor John Dean ...



Mr Bob Pearce. Photo courtesy of Linda Pearce.

Joseph Donnelly, Librarian, The Judges' Library



Joe Donnelly studied under, and later worked with, both Professor John Dean, who had established the Department of Library & Information Studies, and Bob Pearce, two figures who will be remembered with affection by many members of the library profession in Ireland.



Professor John Dean

... and Bob Pearce

Many in the library profession in Ireland who studied in University College Dublin's Department of Library and Information Studies (DeplIS) were saddened to learn of the death of Professor John Dean on 18th June 2012, some weeks before his 88th birthday. A piece on John Dean was not ready in time for GLINT 19, which appeared shortly after his death, and since then his colleague in DeplIS, Mr Bob Pearce, also passed away, on 22nd January 2013. It seems fitting that two figures who played such a central role in professional education in Ireland over many years, and who were known to so many of us, should be remembered, albeit rather belatedly, in this issue of GLINT.

When education for librarianship moved from the Library School within UCD's Library under Ellen Power, to the newly-established Department of Library and Information Studies (now SILS, the School of Information and Library Studies), John Dean was the foundation

Professor, and he will be remembered warmly by many Irish librarians as the Head of Department from 1977 until 1989. He

made important contributions to the development of the department, to curriculum and academic activity, and to the professional education of Irish librarians.

After his retirement as Head of Department, he continued

to lecture in Management of Libraries and to mentor students until 2005. He had also served as Acting Head of UCD's Computer Science Department, and worked in the International Office and as Chair of the Computer Services Board. The Library Association of Ireland awarded Honorary Fellowship to John in 2008, the presentation being made by the then President of the LAI, and SILS adjunct professor, Deirdre Ellis-King, at an Extraordinary General Meeting, held in Pearse Street Library on 23rd October 2008.

In recent years, Parkinson's disease had impaired John's mobility and his voice, but not his sharp mind. When I last met him, on 9th April 2011, at a party held for him in Prof. Mary Burke's home, his

speech was muffled, but his interest in former colleagues and former students was undimmed, and he enquired about



Deirdre Ellis-King (right), President of The Library Association of Ireland, at the award of Honorary Fellowship to Professor Dean, accompanied here by his daughter, Susannah Hanlon. Photo: Alastair Smeaton, courtesy of Dublin City Public Libraries.

various people we both knew. Quite apart from his role as an academic and scholar with an international reputation, who contributed enormously to the formation of the library & information profession in several countries, he will be remembered above all as a very humane man. During my years working in DepLIS, on more than one occasion I saw how supportive he was to colleagues and how understanding and helpful he was to students.

In one case that comes to mind, a transient problem arose for a student whose ability and dedication were already clear, and it fell to Professor Dean and to me to assess the matter and see whether the student could be assisted over the temporary bump.

Assuming that I was more conscious of, and sympathetic to, the student's plight than the somewhat imperious-looking Professor, I wondered how best to state the student's case to John, without appearing too accommodating. I need not have worried. With his experience of academic issues and of human nature, he instantly saw straight to the heart of the matter, and to the evidence of the student's ability, and a solution to the problem was promptly arranged.

That formidable head and sharp eye also concealed a lively sense of humour – though not for very long. I recall an occasion when John and I were both in the small office of the then Secretary, Noreen Hayes. Noreen said she hoped the new photocopier would be located further down the corridor, and she complained about the constant buzz and hum of the copier and other equipment in her small space, adding “there's enough *drones* around here as it is”. I couldn't help an apologetic “present company excepted, I hope” and John's monumental face, as imposing as W. Somerset Maugham, broke into a broad grin.

Professor Dean's career has been documented in his own publications on, for example, developments in librarianship in Africa and library education generally. His career was also traced in an interview with Helen Fallon, published in *An Leabharlann: The Irish Library* in March 2009 (and the broader

history of professional education in Ireland from 1928 was tackled by Deirdre Ellis-King in *An Leabharlann: The Irish Library* in October 2008). I am indebted to Helen Fallon's article, drawn from John's first-hand account, for details of the chronology of John's career, below.

Professor Emeritus Albert John Escott Dean, to give him his full name, was born on 5th July 1924 in Dorchester, England (with Irish ancestry on his

Apart from his role as an academic and scholar with an international reputation, who contributed enormously to the formation of the library & information profession in several countries, Professor Dean will be remembered above all as a very humane man.

mother's side), but his career spanned the globe. On leaving school during World War II, he served for three years in the RAF from 1943, and then studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at St. John's College, Oxford. He next worked for three years in the Library of the University of

Southampton, becoming Assistant Librarian, taking the LA professional qualification while there, and gaining his Associateship in 1953.

John's long association with Africa began when his career took him for three years to Khartoum (then administered by Britain) as Deputy Librarian in the University of Khartoum from 1953 to 1956. Among the challenges facing him were being left in charge for a couple of months almost at once, an impending strike (later averted) and his desire to learn Arabic. He became involved in the development of a syllabus for local training of library assistants, and much of his career in the developing world involved devising solutions appropriate to

local needs, and training local people to take over positions of authority from colonial staff. This process of preparing local people to manage affairs was then still viewed with suspicion by some colonial officials, who also considered many university staff to be dangerously liberal, a view shared by some Sudanese.

There followed a five-year spell back in Britain, at the London Library in St. James' Square, the world's largest independent lending library, and one with some impressive members, where he served as Deputy Librarian.

The next decade in John's career saw him in West Africa, with his wife Miriam and daughter Susannah. All three took the opportunity to learn about life there and to travel in Nigeria, but they also experienced the dreadful effects of the Biafran war, which occurred while they were living in Nigeria. With the Council for Overseas

Education (later the British Council) John went first to the newly independent Ghana (formerly the Gold Coast) from 1961 to 1965. At this time newer universities in

West Africa were often linked to European universities as the awarding body. However, the process of reorientation as African institutions required the development of syllabi, the extension of subjects, and the enrolment of greater numbers of students. The emphasis on promoting a literate and educated population for social, economic and political progress did, however, mean that libraries were valued.

In West Africa in the 1960s, the emphasis on promoting a literate and educated population for social, economic and political progress meant that libraries were valued.

As University Librarian in the newly established University of Legon, Ghana, John Dean was instrumental in setting up a Library School under the Ghana Library Board, later incorporated into a newly-created Department of Library Studies in the University of Ghana in 1965. The earlier practice of sending people to the UK for professional library education had been an expensive drain on resources, had severely limited the numbers able to qualify, and did not provide them with an education tailor-made for local conditions.

Moving to Nigeria in 1965, John became Director of Professional Education at Ibadan University, where the Institute of Library Education, which fell within his remit, had already benefited from grants from the Carnegie Corporation. John laid emphasis on research into issues affecting West African librarianship, as

well as the need for a syllabus appropriate to the requirements of Nigeria and neighbouring countries, and the development of standards for buildings, automation and national bibliography. A Carnegie grant also allowed John, while working in Nigeria, to

spend three months visiting North American universities, to look at collections, and best practice in professional education. It was during this American visit in the 1960s that John developed his interest in the impact computers would have on information management.

Leaving Nigeria in 1970, John shortly afterwards became the first Head of the

Department of Library Studies in what is now Curtin University of Technology, in Perth. He lectured there (and was external examiner to other universities) until 1977, when he came to Dublin. While still in Australia, however, he carried out advisory work in Singapore, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines.

While libraries and library education had been making progress in West Africa, with enthusiastic locals taking advantage of Carnegie Corporation grants, developments in East Africa had been slower, with no library school comparable to that of Nigeria's University of Ibadan. The problem of sending prospective library professionals overseas to study continued to consume resources and limit numbers in the profession. Funding from the Ford Foundation enabled a study of the possibility of postgraduate education, and John prepared a report on setting up a library school for English-speaking East Africa, looking at such matters as curriculum, staffing, location, etc. and

John became the foundation professor of the newly-established Department of Library and Information Studies in UCD in 1977 ... there were many of the qualities of a family about the small, close-knit group that staffed the Department.

taking in Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Which brings us to 1977, when John Dean became the foundation professor of

the newly-established Department of Library and Information Studies in University College Dublin, where the first staff member he appointed in October 1977 was Mary Burke, a later Head of Department. There were many of the qualities of a family about the small, close-knit group that staffed the Department over the following stage in its history – with contributions from practitioners in the profession, a link that Professor Dean had always encouraged. This sense of community within DepLIS, I believe, was especially valuable to John after the death in 1993 of his wife Miriam. I recall Noreen Hayes, Departmental Secretary, making sure that John ate a proper lunch that she prepared for him, and John chortling when I knocked on his office door and told him that the lady from Meals-On-Wheels was outside.

In later years, Parkinson's Disease was to limit Professor Dean's activities, and a respiratory infection led to his death on 18th June 2012. A service, celebrating his life, was held at the Church of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, UCD, Belfield, on Saturday, 23rd June 2012. Those who attended were welcomed by Professor Emeritus Mary Burke, who also introduced the various contributors to the service. Family members of Noreen Hayes (former Secretary to DepLIS) and her husband Frank contributed to the music (Declan, Áine and Frank), and Pat Coldrick performed much of the other music, including some of his own compositions. Poetry was read by Patricia O'Loan and Jessica Bates.

John Dunnion, Head of the School of Computer Science and Informatics, spoke



On the occasion of the awarding of Honorary Fellowship to Professor John Dean by The Library Association of Ireland, in Pearse Street Library on 23rd October 2008. Guests included former colleagues from DepLIS/SILS. Left to right: Dr Crystal Fulton, Prof. Mary Burke, Susannah Hanlon (Prof Dean's daughter), Prof. John Dean, Noreen Hayes, Dr Ian Cornelius, Dr Barbara Traxler-Brown, Sean Phillips (UCD Library and DepLIS), John Steele (UCD Library and DepLIS). Photo: Alastair Smeaton, courtesy of Dublin City Public Libraries.

of John's role in the late 1980s and early 1990s as acting Head of Computer Science, describing him as a steady hand on the tiller in choppy waters, a gentleman and a scholar with an ability to digest facts and come to a clear decision.

Bob Pearce, formerly a lecturer in DepLIS, spoke movingly about John's work in various tropical counties, of his bookmanship, his interest in his staff and their families, and his development of the Department of Library and Information

Studies. Following the death of his wife Miriam in 1993, he continued to work, and although in the last few years his voice became inaccessible to all but his daughter, Susannah, he had already encompassed the world.

John's cousin Timothy Dean, who was, like John, an only child, said that he always thought of him as the brother he had never had.

John's daughter Susannah Hanlon (Dean) read Ralph Waldo Emerson's *To Succeed*,

and spoke of John's emotional honesty. His stepson Geoff Guttman, who flew to Dublin for the service by way of Heathrow, Brazil and the US, also spoke of his honesty and directness and of his role as a much-loved grandfather to Geoff's two sons, as well as his contribution to setting up library schools around the world.

Fr. John McNerney concluded the service with a prayer.

Among the many mourners (apologies to those I fail to mention by name) were Noreen and Frank Hayes with Declan, Áine and Frank, Prof. Mary Burke, Prof. Michael Casey (with Fabiola), Dr. Ian Cornelius, Bob Pearce (with Linda), Dr. Barbara Traxler-Brown, Dr. Judith Wusteman, Dr. Jessica Bates, Dr. Claire McGuinness, Joe Donnelly and Patricia O'Loan. Also in attendance were many colleagues and former colleagues from UCD departments and of course from UCD Library, including former Librarian Sean Phillips (with Eileen), and several members of the Library Association of Ireland, including the President Fionnuala Hanrahan, Deirdre Ellis-King, Marjory Sliney, and Brendan Teeling.

The service in Belfield was followed later that afternoon by a private cremation service in Mount Jerome's Garden Chapel, attended by immediate family and close former colleagues.

In 2003, the John Dean Medal for the best performance by a mature student

was established to recognise Professor Dean's contribution to academic and professional education in Library and Information Studies in Ireland.

Bob Pearce was born in London in 1932. Like John Dean, he travelled to many parts of the world in the course of his career, and clearly enjoyed his globe-trotting, which ultimately brought him to Dublin. Once, several years ago, when Bob heard that I would be stopping off for a short stay in Fiji, he chimed a cheery "Bula!" and shared happy memories and useful travel tips with me. When Bob spoke so affectingly at John's funeral service in June 2012, he was coping with his own illness. Nevertheless, as I travelled with Bob and his wife Linda to Mount Jerome Cemetery for John's cremation service, he told me that he was planning a visit to the Far East, and I was pleased to learn later that he had in fact made that journey. Bob died peacefully at home in Dublin on 22nd January 2013. His funeral, on 26th Jan 2013, at Harold's Cross, was attended by his family, many old friends and his colleagues from UCD.

In 1979, Bob came to UCD, lecturing on public libraries and audio-visual librarianship. He later developed courses on communication of information, presentation of information and electronic publishing.

Bob worked in public library services in Canada as well as the UK, and as a lecturer in the College of Librarianship in Wales at Aberystwyth. Mainly in connection with the British Council Library Service, he also offered

his services to the development of libraries in Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria ... oh, and of course Fiji (bula!).

In 1979, Bob came to UCD, lecturing on

public libraries and audio-visual librarianship. He later developed courses on communication of information, presentation of information and electronic publishing. I am sure that many of us – librarians of a certain vintage – still regularly think of Bob when we spot such everyday audio-visual phenomena as the “noddies” inserted into television interviews (when the camera appears to cut to the interviewer during the conversation for a reaction shot, such as a tilted or nodding head).

As students, we enjoyed Bob’s bonhomie and jovial manner (which is not to say that he was a push-over for easy marking!). Our lectures, practical coursework, field trips or library visits were also leavened by his lively sense of humour. One day when we were learning how to use some piece of optical equipment, an over-anxious student, instructed to close one eye, enquired which eye he should use to look through the view-finder. “The open one” Bob advised.

As a colleague, he was supportive and generous. When I found myself appointed to replace him during his sabbatical year, with a relatively short

As students, we enjoyed Bob’s bonhomie and jovial manner ... one day an over-anxious student, instructed to close one eye, enquired which eye he should use to look through the view-finder. “The open one” Bob advised.

time to prepare my lectures after serving out my notice elsewhere, I met him in his office for a briefing. He handed over all

his material – research, lecture notes, illustrative material – and told me that I could use as much of it, or as little, as I wished. I thanked him with genuine gratitude, and assured him that whenever I used his material, I would acknowledge it as that. “Oh no,” he gently corrected me, “don’t do that – the students must have confidence in you”.

After his retirement from DepLIS in 2003, Bob remained active, writing, teaching and travelling, and, in spite of his own illness, he continued to visit John Dean, at whose funeral he delivered the heart-felt eulogy. Bob is survived by his wife Linda, four daughters, two sons, ten grandchildren and four great grandsons.

John and Bob will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by their families, a wide circle of friends around the world, by colleagues and by the many students whose lives they touched. May they rest in peace.

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A Day in the Life of a Government Librarian

***Ann O'Sullivan, Acquisitions & Research Librarian,
Oireachtas Library and Research Service***



Who are you and where do you work?

My name is Ann O'Sullivan and I am an Assistant Librarian in the Houses of the Oireachtas Library & Research Service.

Where does the Library fit in your organisation?

The Library & Research Service is part of the Parliamentary Services Division of the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Who do you cater for?

The Houses of the Oireachtas Library & Research Service is responsible for delivering information and research services to support the work of both Houses, Committees and individual Members in respect of their parliamentary duties. Our Statement of

Services is available here <http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/about/libraryresearchservice/>

What facilities and services do you offer?

Our services include: on-demand research and reference services for individual Members; proactive research e.g. Bills Digests and Spotlights for all Members; research briefings to Members and Committees and information literacy training.

The collections include a contemporary subject collection, documents which are laid before the Houses, the historical collections and Oireachtas publications. Items range from the 17th – 21st centuries and total some 200,000 titles. The contemporary material comprises books, journals and databases with a broad focus to meet Members' wide-ranging information and research needs. Key collecting areas are law, economics, the social sciences, Irish history and politics. The largest collection is that of documents laid which dates from 1926 and is a unique collection within the State of documents tabled, presented or laid for Members. The curation of this collection is a statutory responsibility of

the Houses of the Oireachtas and is in high demand both internally and externally. The historical collection includes material inherited from the Chief Secretary's Office, Dublin, and the Irish Office, London, in addition to materials purchased during the early years of the State. The historical collection contains a range of parliamentary, biographical, literary and general historical works of Irish and European interest.

The Library & Research Service also manages the Members' Reading Room located in Leinster House. This room is staffed by four Assistant Librarians and access is restricted to Deputies, Senators, former Members and Members of the European Parliament.

What's the first thing you do at work each day?

Get a coffee, check emails and voicemails and set up the Members' Reading Room for the day!

What type of work can take up your day?

As I have two main areas of responsibility - acquisitions (print and electronic) and enquiry handling - my days are very varied and interesting; and the daily schedule of both Houses can also have a significant impact on my plans for the day. I juggle answering reference/ short research enquiries with managing our journal and database

subscriptions; information skills training and book orders. It's never dull!

Have you always been a librarian?

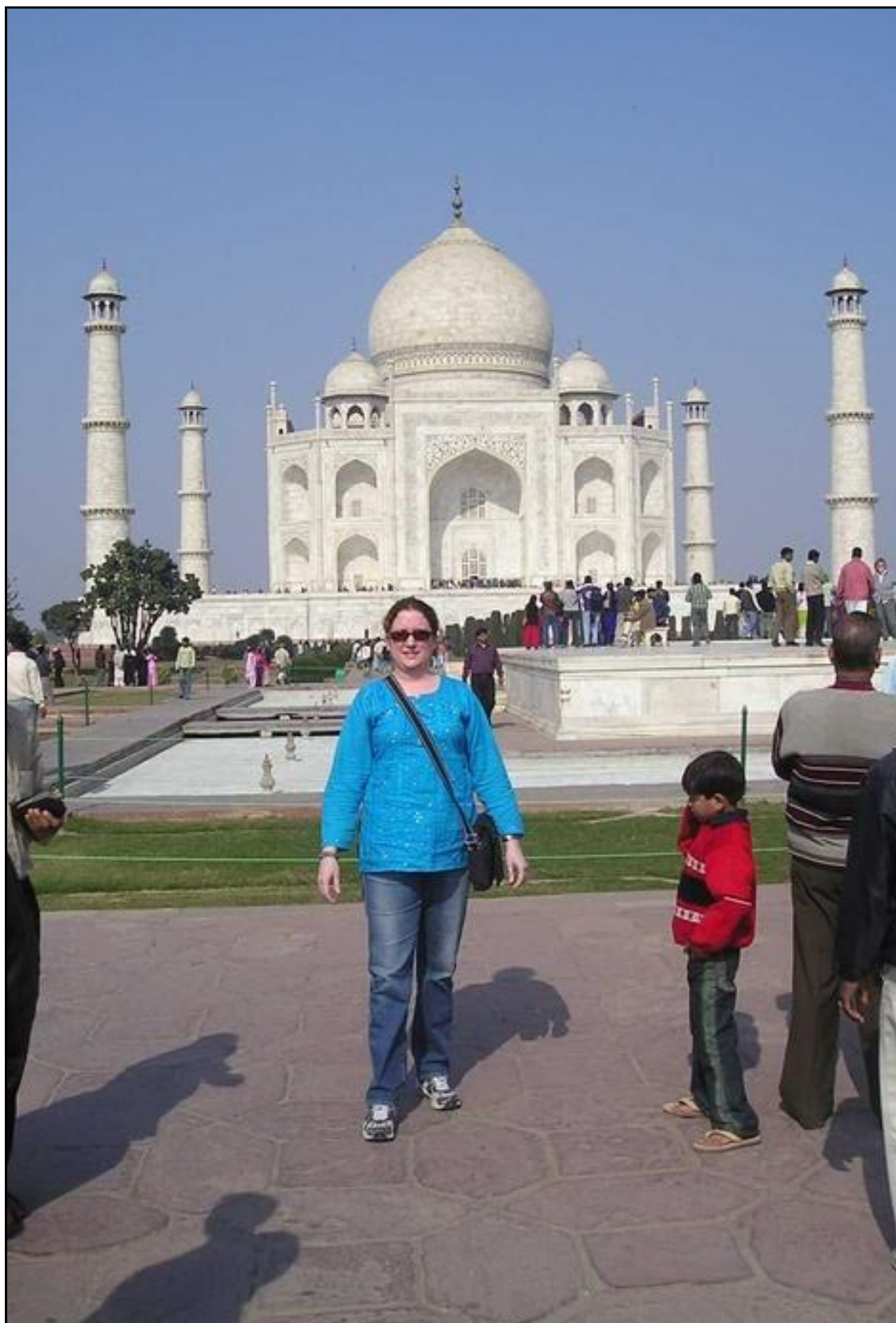
I had a short lived career as an English teacher in Madrid just after graduating from UCC; I then worked as an Air Hostess with Royal Jordanian Airlines and lived in Jordan for 2 years, before moving to Dublin and embarking on a career as a Librarian.

Are you a member of any professional associations?

I am a member and an Associate of the Library Association of Ireland. I am a GLS member and I have been a member of the Committee of the Academic & Special Libraries Section since 2005; I was the Hon. Secretary from 2005-2007 and the Chairperson from 2007-2011.

What do you like to do outside work?

I absolutely love to travel and I have been very fortunate to travel to many countries around the world from Argentina to Yemen and a few in-between! I have a new found interest in recent years - singing - I am a member of CÓRus, the biggest choir in Ireland. In the past 2 years I have sung on the stages of the Helix and the RDS, I have also been involved in events at the Taste of Dublin, the Botanic Gardens, Stephens Green and Croke Park.



Ann at the Taj Mahal in January 2005.