



Note from your Editor

It's now been over a year since Mary Doyle penned her final GLINT editorial, leaving a very large pair of boots to fill. Fortunately she hasn't replaced these with a pair of slippers post-retirement, and judging from her report on page 5 she is just as active now as during her working life, if not more so! Mary has maintained a keen interest and involvement in government library affairs since her retirement, and earlier this year she helped prepare a joint submission to the Copyright Review Committee (see page 33).

As a key founding member and stalwart of the Government Libraries Section, Mary will be greatly missed by her colleagues and friends, and in this issue we pay tribute to her many achievements in the government library sector.

There has been plenty of activity in the government library sector recently, and some of the many interesting projects and developments involving GLS members are featured in this issue. These include the Marine Institute's Open Access Repository (page 7), experiences of a JobBridge internship at the Revenue Library (page 13), use of social media at the Oireachtas (page 17), the launch of the Department of Justice & Equality E-Library (page 28), and a collection of meteorological manuscripts at Met Éireann (page 29). Máire Caffrey gives an insight into a day in the life of a government librarian on page 33, and the photo galleries on pages 36 and 37 showcase two successful GLS events in March 2011: the social networking visit to Northern Ireland and the Anniversary Party at the Trinity Capital Hotel.

Keep up the good work everyone!

Contents

This issue includes:

Farewell to Mary Doyle
(Page 3)

Open Access Repository at the Marine Institute
Fintan Bracken
(Page 7)

JobBridge Internship at the Revenue Library
Muireann Tóibín & Samm Coadé
(Page 13)

Social Media at the Oireachtas Library & Research Service
Laura O Broin
(Page 17)

Launch of the Department of Justice Electronic Library
Zoë Melling
(Page 28)

Meteorological Observations at the Met Éireann Library
Mairead Treanor
(Page 29)

A Day in the Life of a Government Librarian
Máire Caffrey
(Page 33)

Photo Gallery
(Page 36)

GLS Web Address

<http://www.libraryassociation.ie/sections-and-groups/government-libraries-section>

Committee Report 2011-2012

Topics discussed at recent GLS meetings included:

- Copyright issues
- The use of social networking media
- Professional standards for librarians within government libraries
- Information literacy
- Co-operation between government libraries

The 2012 AGM was held on 6 June at the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland. A new Chair (Jean Cassidy) and Treasurer (Paula Murphy) were elected and the position of Secretary will be filled at the next ordinary meeting. A big thanks to Noeleen Murtagh, Donal McSweeney and Muireann Tóibín who made a great team as Chair, Treasurer and Secretary during their two year tenure.

The 2011 AGM was held on 22 June in the offices of the Food Safety Authority, and included a presentation by Anne Wilkinson on the Marine Institute's new institutional repository (see article by Fintan Bracken on page 7).

Mary Doyle retired as Head Librarian at the Department of Agriculture in June 2011 (see feature on page 3). She also retired from the GLS committee and as GLINT editor.

The GLS had a 25th anniversary celebration in March 2011 at the Trinity Capital Hotel (see photos on page 37).

Joe Donnelly stepped down from the LAI Executive Board in 2011, and was replaced by Zoë Melling. The term "Council" replaced the wording "Executive Board" in the new Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted at the LAI EGM in March 2012. Madeleine Dennision was elected to the Council at the AGM. Muireann Tóibín is a member of the LAI Task Force on Information Literacy and Zoë Melling is a member of the Task Force for the LAI Website.

Current Committee:

Chair: **Jean Cassidy** (Chief State Solicitor's Office)
Secretary: **Vacant**
Treasurer: **Paula Murphy** (DPP)

Other Committee members:

Máire Caffrey (Teagasc)
Joe Donnelly (Judges' Library)
Conor McCabe (DPP)
Donal McSweeney (Central Bank)
Noeleen Murtagh (Food Safety Authority)
Zoë Melling (Legal Aid Board)
Fiona Morley (Legal Aid Board)
Muireann Tóibín (Revenue)
Anne Wilkinson (Marine Institute)



Noeleen Murtagh, Muireann Tóibín and Donal McSweeney and the GLS anniversary party in 2011

Mary Doyle Heads for the Hills

Mary Doyle retired as Head Librarian at the Department of Agriculture in June 2011. Mary served as a key member of the GLS for over 25 years, and edited the GLINT newsletter for nearly 15 years from the inaugural issue in 1987. A function was held for Mary by her colleagues at the Department of Agriculture on 15th June, which was attended by a delegation from the GLS. Donal McSweeney spoke on behalf of the section; the following is a slightly amended version of his speech.



I work as a librarian at the Central Bank of Ireland and I'm currently Treasurer of the Government Libraries Section of the LAI. I worked with Mary for 6 months in 1993 and then as Assistant Librarian from 2001 to 2005 and I'd like to say a few words on behalf of the Government Libraries Section. I just want to acknowledge that Joe Donnelly from the Judges Library, who unfortunately couldn't be here, provided a lot of the content for this speech.

Valerie has already mentioned Mary's role as one of the founders of the GLS, the editor of GLINT and her involvement in training seminars, copyright and licensing. For many years, Mary has been an inspiration to other government librarians and has played a central role in motivating and organising government librarians for mutual support and professional development as well as initiating and sustaining the close links with our government library colleagues in Northern Ireland.

From personal experience, I am aware of how much she has done way above and beyond the call of duty, in developing a comprehensive library and information resource service for her own department encompassing print, electronic resources, information services, e-Zone content etc.

Her pioneering work using Cardbox Database Software and VBScript to create and develop the library catalogue and to provide access to a database driven intranet incorporating breaking news, legislation updates and electronic documents expanded the role of librarian and information resources manager to take in programming and systems design.

As Librarian she embodied all the expertise needed including a broad knowledge of the many types of information resources used by Agriculture and their content, platforms and search capabilities, the IT skills to facilitate making them available within Agriculture, a value-for-money approach to the acquisition and preservation of these diverse materials, expertise in negotiating online licences, in her detailed knowledge of copyright law, and in handling complex renewals of subscriptions and associated accounts as well as in cataloguing and classification so these materials can be identified, retrieved and presented.

Mary was always a pleasure to work with because of her positive attitude and infectious enthusiasm for her work. Her personal qualities also include an unassuming manner that belies

her abilities and vision, a lively intelligence, a willingness to get dug in and to tackle problems and innovate, and a great sense of fun. She is a joy to work with on any project as she gives 110% and is always flexible, considerate and good-humoured. She is also an extremely helpful person who is great at seeing the potential in others and at including other people or encouraging newcomers, who inspires loyalty and friendship, and who never bears a grudge.

Can I re-iterate how highly regarded Mary is in the Irish library profession and how lucky the Department of Agriculture is to have had such an able and innovative person running the library and information service for many years. In the Knowledge Economy, properly staffed and resourced library and information centres play an important role in central government and in state agencies and will need to be maintained in the context of public sector reform and re-organisation.

Knowing Mary's many interests including music and hill walking, I send her the very best wishes from all her colleagues for what I know will be a lively and fun-packed retirement.



Over the hills and far away... Mary enjoying life after retirement

Post-Retirement Update

Mary Doyle

Time flies. It is hard to believe I am now more than a year retired and enjoying every minute of it. Hill walking, trekking and music have been my main specific occupations and fitting in other options as they arise. I have made several trips to the Botanic Gardens, one of Dublin's treasures. The facilities there are a world apart from when I worked there many years ago when it was attached to the Department of Agriculture.



A damp start to a sunny retirement



Crossing from Switzerland into France on the Tour of Mont Blanc trek

Farewell to Mary from the GLS

A retirement function and presentation was held for Mary after the GLS meeting in November 2011 to thank her for her many years of dedication and support for government librarians.



Muireann Tóibín, Donal McSweeney & Mary Doyle



Muireann Tóibín, Mary Doyle, Joe Donnelly, Noeleen Murtagh & Donal McSweeney



The founding committee at the inaugural meeting in 1985. Photo courtesy of Irish Library News.



From left: Muireann Tóibín, Joe Donnelly, Noeleen Murtagh, Mary Doyle, Donal McSweeney, Conor McCabe, Fiona Morley, Sheila Gallagher, Zoë Melling, Anne Wilkinson & Jean Cassidy

The Value of the Open Access Repository to the Marine Institute

Fintan Bracken
Library and Information Stagiaire, Marine Institute



Introduction

In March 2011, the Marine Institute launched its Open Access Repository <http://oar.marine.ie> (**Figure 1**). The Open Access Repository is the online collection of the publications of the Marine Institute. The Repository contains digital full-text versions of Marine Institute publications including reports, peer-reviewed articles, conference papers, information leaflets, educational resources, and MSc / PhD theses, which are divided into a number of different collections including: Status of Fish and Shellfish; Funded Research Publications; Survey Reports; Scientific Papers; Annual Reports; Marine Environment and Health Series; and Marine Resource Series. The staff of the Oceanus Library in the Marine Institute headquarters in Oranmore manage the Repository. The Repository uses DSpace software and is hosted externally due to technical considerations. The purpose of this article is to discuss the development of the Repository during its first 12 months.

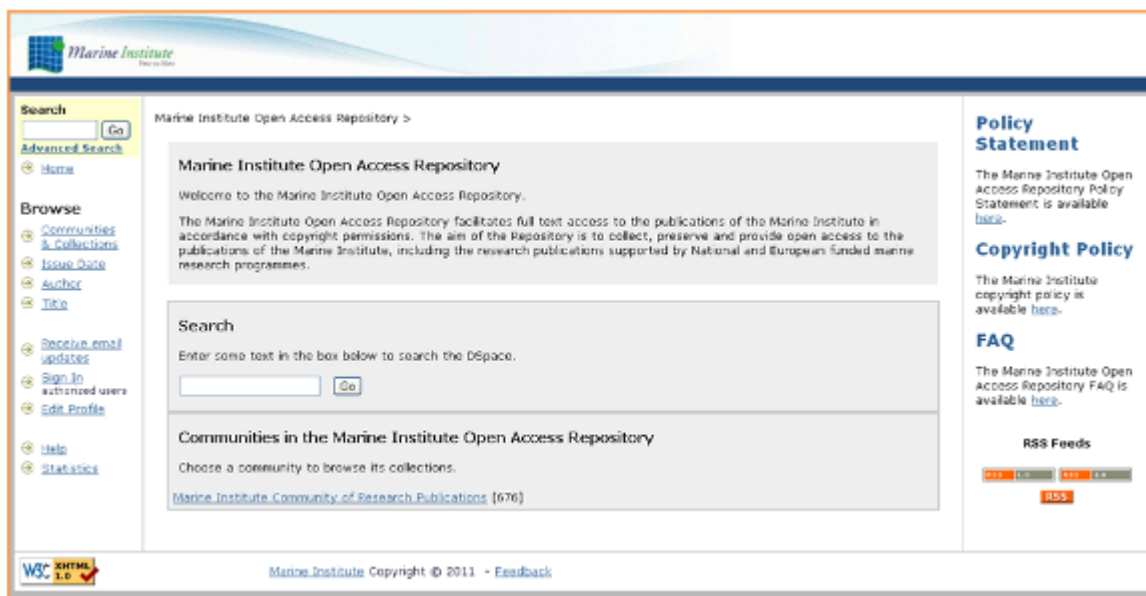


Figure 1: Screenshot of the Marine Institute Open Access Repository <http://oar.marine.ie>

Challenges and Solutions

Several challenges were faced by the Library team in order to populate the Repository with publications. The first challenge involved sourcing PDFs of all publications published by the Marine Institute since its inception 20 years ago, as well as older series such as Irish Fisheries Bulletin which predates the Institute. Much work had been completed over the previous number of years to scan and produce PDFs using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) of back issues of non-electronic publications, some which dated back to the 1930s. A bursar student spent eight weeks in 2011 digitising the remaining back issues of series such as Irish Fisheries Leaflets, Irish Fisheries Bulletin, and Irish Fisheries Investigations Series A and B. These PDFs and their related metadata were then uploaded to the Repository during the first four months that the Repository was operational (**Figure 2**). This created a critical mass of content which would showcase the potential and functionality of the Repository and proved of great assistance to overcoming the second major challenge.

The second challenge involved obtaining buy-in from management and researchers in the Marine Institute so that they actively engaged with the Repository and submitted their current publications to the Library for inclusion in the Repository. From April to June 2011, presentations were made to management and also to each research section of the Marine Institute to explain to them the purpose of the Repository and the benefits it would deliver for them. The biggest concern that many researchers had was that they would breach copyright regulations if they deposited their peer-reviewed journal articles in the Repository. It was explained during the presentations, and during informal discussions with individual researchers later, that most publishers allowed some version of an article to be uploaded to an institutional repository and that the Library team would ensure that any publication included in the Repository would not infringe on publisher's copyright.

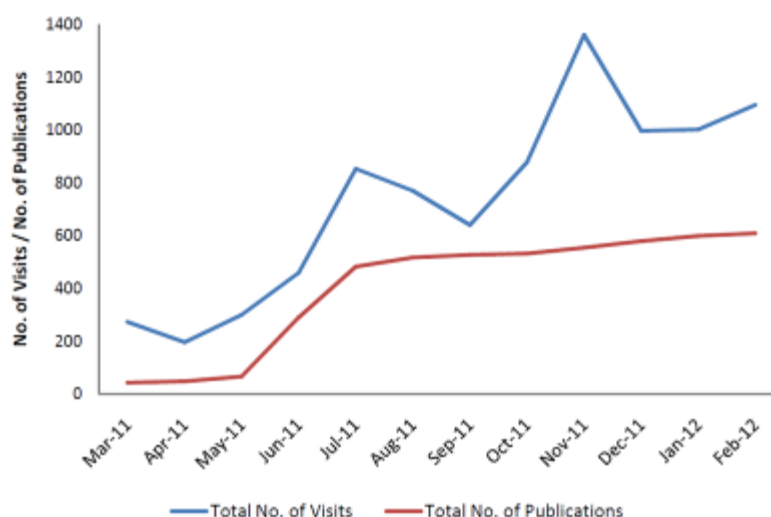


Figure 2: Total number of publications in the Open Access Repository and the total number of visits to the Repository per month from March 2011 to February 2012.

Continuing Promotion

After the initial phase of presentations and meetings with researchers, it was important that the Library team constantly pushed and promoted the Repository to staff whenever an opportunity arose. Several strategies were put in place to encourage increased use of the Repository. It was made a requirement that staff submit a PDF copy of all Marine Institute reports to the Library for inclusion in the Repository. Previously, reports were sent to the Library team and uploaded to the publications page on the Marine Institute website (<http://www.marine.ie>). By the end of August 2011, all of the publications on the old publications page were added to the Repository and this page of the Marine Institute website was removed and replaced with a link to the Open Access Repository.

An email alert was set up in Google Scholar to notify the Library team of any new journal articles, conference papers or book chapters by Marine Institute staff. The Library would then email the Marine Institute staff member(s) and ask them to send an author created final version, in accordance with copyright permissions, of the article for inclusion in the Repository. This proactive approach has been successful in obtaining items to deposit and often, once an author has been contacted in this way initially, they will send subsequent journal articles to the Library without further prompting.

In addition, monthly reports detailing performance indicators such as the number of visits to the Repository and the most downloaded items are prepared and sent to the management team. This has generated interest and positive feedback from the directors as they can see the impact of the Repository in terms of measurable statistics.

In December 2011, a further promotional campaign was initiated with information leaflets distributed throughout the Marine Institute, posters placed on the notice boards and a news item placed on the staff intranet. This campaign further increased the awareness of the Repository amongst staff and has resulted in some additional articles and publications being submitted to the Repository. The campaign concluded in January 2012 with a news item on the Marine Institute website highlighting the Repository:

(<http://www.marine.ie/home/aboutus/newsroom/news/MarineInstitutePublicationsnowavailableOnline.htm>).

Benefits

The aim of the Repository is to collect, preserve and provide open access to the research outputs and other publications of the Marine Institute, including the research publications supported by National and European funded marine research programmes. The main benefits of the Repository are as follows:

- The Repository increases the visibility of the Marine Institute's research as the records in the

Repository are fully searchable by Google, Google Scholar and other search engines. The Repository is set up to share its records with subject specific search services that systematically collect the contents of the Repository such as Avano (<http://www.ifremer.fr/avano>). This means that the research of the Marine Institute becomes part of the greater marine research community.

- The Repository acts as a publishing platform for Marine Institute publications, especially as budgets inhibit expenditure on printing, many of the series become electronic only, such as Marine Environment and Health Series and Irish Fisheries Bulletin.
- The Repository provides a searchable database of Marine Institute publications from one central portal. Previously it was difficult to search for publications on the Marine Institute website as publications were located in different pages.
- The Repository acts as a digital archive of the research output of the Marine Institute. Each publication record in the Repository is permanently preserved and permanently accessible as each record is assigned a permanent web address (persistent identifier) that ensures the item is preserved digitally. The Repository preserves old reports and papers, such as the Irish Fisheries Leaflets series which dates from 1938, that may only exist in very small numbers in printed format.
- The Repository increases brand awareness of Marine Institute research.
- Inclusion of Marine Institute publications and articles in the Repository increases the probability of these publications being cited as research has shown that open access journal articles are cited more frequently than those that are not freely available online (Davis, 2009; Gargouri et al., 2010; Norris, Oppenheim, & Rowland, 2008).
- The Repository facilitates compliance with national and international funding bodies' requirements, who mandate that all publications arising from their funding be placed in an open access repository.
- The Repository offers performance statistics for each publication that provides information on where the research of the Marine Institute is being used (**Figure 3**). These statistics show where in the world people are viewing each publication, and how often it is being viewed and downloaded.

Conclusions

The establishment of the Open Access Repository has been a very important development for the Marine Institute. The Repository currently holds over 675 publications and has had almost 10,000 visits from more than 49 countries since its launch 12 months ago. The number of

publications available and the number of visits to the Repository have steadily increased over the 12 months of operation and the Library team are confident that the number of visitors will continue to increase as the collection develops (**Figure 2**).

The next steps in the development of the Repository are to continue to promote the Repository both internally and externally and to add new collections. It is important to regularly engage with management and researchers to ensure that the Repository becomes firmly embedded within the structures and policies of the Marine Institute. It is also planned to promote the Repository externally through writing articles in trade magazines and other publications such as the Public Sector Times. The new collections that are proposed to be added to the Repository in the coming year include lesson plans and worksheets developed for the Explorers primary school education programme and the addition of ICES Conference and Meetings Documents authored/co-authored by Marine Institute staff. It is also proposed that a deposit mandate be included in the overall policy of the Marine Institute so that all staff must submit all new publications, including an author-produced copy of peer-reviewed articles, to the Library for inclusion in the Repository. Another future development is to train and grant permissions to allow researchers to self-archive publications to the Repository rather than having Library staff input all the metadata. Publications deposited by staff would not become "live" online until Library staff have checked the metadata and copyright permissions of each item.

Although the Open Access Repository has been a success so far for the Marine Institute and is beginning to show signs of becoming embedded within the culture of the Institute, it is important to continue to promote and develop this valuable resource.

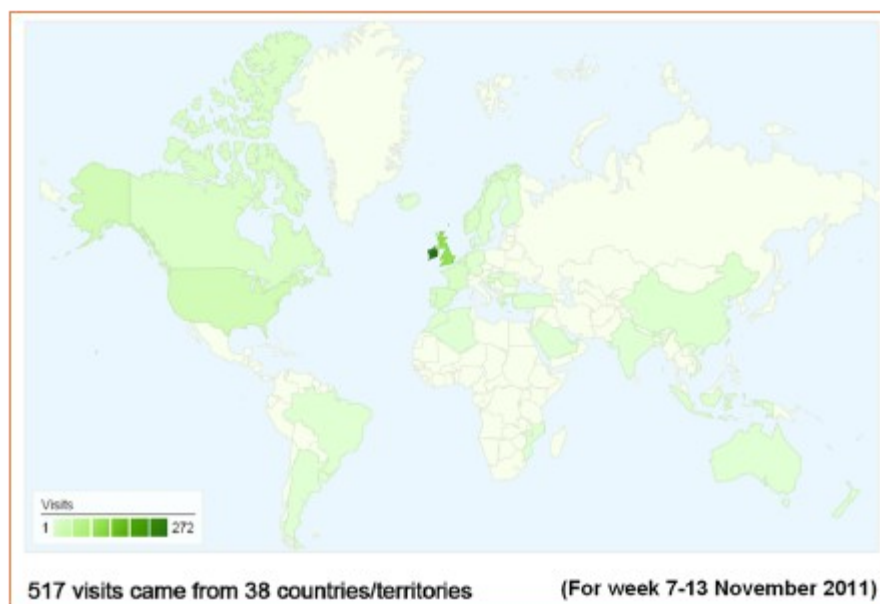


Figure 3: Graph from Google Analytics report for week 7-13 November 2011 showing that there were 517 visits to the Marine Institute Open Access Repository from 38 different countries or territories (The darker the green the higher the number of visits from that country).

References

- Davis, P. M. (2009). Author-choice open-access publishing in the biological and medical literature: A citation analysis. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 60(1), 3–8. doi:10.1002/asi.20965
- Gargouri, Y., Hajjem, C., Larivière, V., Gingras, Y., Carr, L., Brody, T., & Harnad, S. (2010). Self-Selected or Mandated, Open Access Increases Citation Impact for Higher Quality Research. *PLoS ONE*, 5(10), e13636. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0013636
- Norris, M., Oppenheim, C., & Rowland, F. (2008). The citation advantage of open-access articles. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 59(12), 1963–1972. doi: 10.1002/asi.20898

News in Brief

Copyright Review Submission Update

The Copyright Review Committee published a Consultation Paper on copyright and innovation in February 2012. The document is available online at:

<http://www.djei.ie/press/2012/20120305b.htm>

The Committee conducted an initial consultation in summer 2011, to which it received around 100 responses, including submissions from a number of library interest groups.

Public meetings were held in TCD in July 2011 and March 2012 as part of the consultation process, and attended by representatives from the library sector.

Further submissions were invited on foot of the Consultation Paper in June 2012, and 180 responses were received including submissions from the Library Association of Ireland (LAI) and a joint response from the British & Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL) and the Ad Hoc Group of Concerned Librarians on Copyright-Related Issues (headed by Mary Doyle).

The submissions can be viewed online at:

http://www.djei.ie/science/ipr/crc_submissions2.htm

The Copyright Review Committee is currently evaluating the responses and will publish a final report setting out any recommendations for legislative change.

JobBridge Internship – the Revenue Library’s Experience

***Muireann Tóibín, Librarian,
Revenue Commissioners***



Having heard so many stories of graduates from Library Schools facing unemployment after graduation, I had been giving some thought to providing work experience for a library studies graduate in the Revenue Library. When the JobBridge scheme was launched, I brought it to the attention of the management team and suggested we advertise a position. Some members of the team –myself included – had some misgivings about the fact that our new member of staff would essentially be unpaid for their work. However, in the end we decided it would be up to the intern themselves to decide if they could afford to participate in the scheme, and that we would endeavour to support them in looking for paid employment, while providing them with valuable work experience.

Samm has brought a huge amount of enthusiasm and energy to the Revenue Library, and it has been of great benefit to us to have a fresh pair of eyes to see where things might be changed or improved. She has carried out a lot of work on various projects that had been on my “wish list” for a number of years, but which had taken second place to the day-to-day running of the Library. She is currently immersed in cataloguing and classifying the collection of books and journals in our Archive Library, and is also assisting me in the development of an information literacy training course for delivery to Revenue staff.

While I would not hesitate in recommending the JobBridge scheme to other libraries, I would advise a little more planning and preparation perhaps than I had given to the process! Depending on the staffing levels in your library, it might be wise to discuss with other employees in advance how tasks will be divided between the intern and the existing library staff. Also, do not underestimate how quickly an enthusiastic intern will fly through the tasks you give them – keep adding to your “wish list”!

Bridging the Gap: A Librarian's Experience of the National Internship Scheme

Samm Coade

I am in the unusual position of holding a professional qualification in librarianship without holding the relevant postgraduate award. My degree in Information and Library Studies certainly prepared me for a lot of the issues I would face when I emerged from the safety of the college cocoon into the professional world – but what it didn't prepare me for was the competition I would face, and be at a severe disadvantage to, in these "recessionary" times.

There has been a recent surge in the number of qualified librarians in the Irish information profession, many of whom hold the necessary Masters or HDip and a very few who, like me, are degree level only. With competition as stiff as it is, I found myself in a sticky situation; my little baby degree excludes me instantly from applying for many jobs, and without a job I cannot obtain the necessary experience to justify the €5,000 a Masters course would cost, and without a Masters, I cannot apply for a job.

What saved me from this endless, hopeless cycle – thankfully – was the JobBridge National Internship Scheme.

I must admit, when I first announced to my friends that I had applied for a position under this new scheme, the response was a mixture of abject horror and disgust. "Full time employment for nothing but dole money?" roared a friend who shall not be named. "That's slave labour! Child abuse!"

And sure, the scheme has received some harsh criticism. While some laud the opportunity for otherwise jobless, skilled and qualified people to upskill and stay in touch with the working world, there are those who would disagree with the ethic of the whole thing – so far as to say that the interns are being hired to fill positions for free that a person should be paid a wage for.

Luckily for me, the scheme has been one of the best career opportunities I've had. I entered into a wonderful job where I was given new opportunities, individual responsibilities, independent projects and, perhaps most importantly, a warm and welcoming experience of the profession.

I'm sure there are plenty of young librarians in a similar position – eager to work, learn and develop their skills, but lost in a sea of professional overstock. And I'm sure there are also

plenty of experienced librarians who struggle just as hard to find a settled job despite their years of professional practice. Where permanent positions are few, far between and fiercely contested, there is some salvation in the internship scheme.

You leave library school with plenty of theory, but not necessarily a lot of practice. The course requirements to obtain a degree in Information and Library Studies ask for six weeks of practical experience, and the same quantity of practical experience is a pre-requisite for entering a postgraduate course. That's not a lot – you've only started to get into the swing of things before your brief flirtation with librarianship is over. So JobBridge, offering nine (sometimes six) months of full time work, was perfect to acquire some real experience, to work a sturdy stint and face real scenarios, real challenges, real problems – for a long enough period to actually feel not only comfortable in the job, but competent and confident.

I started working in the Revenue Library and Research Centre in October. I suppose my official title during my stay here has been "Assistant Librarian", although sometimes I think "Apprentice Librarian" would be more appropriate!

For me, one of the best parts of working this internship has been adjusting to the new environment and getting to know the resources I deal with on a day-to-day basis. In my little dreamscape during final year, I never foresaw myself working in a government library – let alone a tax library, a topic about which, even until recently, I knew next to nothing! Having previous experience only in public libraries, there was a lot to learn about such a specialised service. Familiarising myself with the daily runnings, the print collection and the databases was tough enough without having to familiarise myself with legal jargon and fiscal terminology, but I could safely say that trying new things has broadened my horizons. When I leave, I'll have some pretty special experiences to decorate my CV. Nothing like a unique environment to spruce up your professional skill set!

The level of trust and responsibility bestowed on me has been daunting sometimes, but ultimately rewarding. Some of the projects I've undertaken, when first given to me, were terrifying – re-catalogue a sizeable chunk of the collection, write a collection policy document, organise the whole archive... But from having attempted and (mostly!) completed these tasks, I have developed real confidence in my ability. When I do find permanent employment, thanks to my experiences in these projects, I won't be going in blind. It's wonderful to have practical knowledge behind the theory I acquired in class, experiences that I can apply in my future work pursuits.

What has also been vitally important is learning from my colleagues. There is plenty you can learn on your own, but the best lessons are learned with other people. I have been very fortunate – my boss has had saintly patience and has always taken the time to answer my "stupid question of the day", to discuss and debate projects with me, and to advise me on

climbing the career ladder. My other colleagues have been equally patient and helpful, even when I've made silly mistakes. Working with experienced people has been of so much benefit, especially coming into this internship with so little experience of my own to brag about. It has helped me to start thinking about how I might instruct and guide a newcomer in the future, or how I might impart my own skills to somebody who is starting out on their career in the information services.

There are a few downers about JobBridge as a scheme. For one, actually registering my participation with FÁS and the Social Welfare office was a tense experience, and there was a long enough wait to see all that administration fall into place. Interns who are coming into the government libraries should also be aware that they will not be guaranteed a job with the host organisation after their contract ends.

So my mantra is this: get the most out of the experience while I can, and enjoy my time working in my new library, but have a game plan. Think about these new skills I'm developing and how I can use them to my advantage for future job applications. Work hard and get that glittering reference from my boss (hint, hint), and hopefully I can cross that bridge to a job. Oh, the terrible, terrible puns.

About me

- Graduated UCD in 2011 with BA (Hons) in Information and Library Studies with History.
- Previously interned at Bray Public Library, currently with Revenue Library and Research Centre.
- Hope to enrol in a Masters programme in the Information and Library field in the next few years.

News in Brief

George Woodman Awarded MBE

George Woodman, Parliamentary Librarian at the Northern Ireland Assembly Library since 1981, was awarded an MBE in the 2011 New Years Honours List. Congratulations to George on this great achievement, which recognises his significant contribution to the field of librarianship in Northern Ireland over the past three decades.



Approaching Web 2.0 Social Media Applications at the Oireachtas Library & Research Service (L&RS)

***Laura O Broin, eServices Librarian, with thanks to
Erin O'Mahony and Maedhbh McNamara***



Not everyone has heard of Slideshare, Reditt or blogspot. But who hasn't heard of Facebook and who hasn't heard of Twitter? Even those who have never touched a PC keyboard, will have seen Vincent Brown's Twitter address on their TV screens; heard the Tubridy shows repeated on their radios and noted numerous links to Twitter and Facebook on the pages of their magazines and newspapers.

The Web 2.0 phenomenon, Social Media, is 'big news'. As information professionals, we find that we must respond, if only to fully understand the implications. There has been a significant shift in the relationship between the individual and the World Wide Web. The familiar and effective World Wide Web publishing methodologies that have served us well in the past may not be sufficient for the future.

The development of the World Wide Web (Web 1.0) transformed the way human beings share information with each other. It allowed expert Webmasters to build virtual sites where text, images, sounds, videos and software could be provided for viewing and downloading. All the new end-user needed to access this information was browsing software such as Netscape or Internet Explorer, and the address of a website or home page.

The ability to 'hyperlink' sites and files formed the basis of the web of information we now call the World Wide Web. Search engines, particularly Google, meant that the user didn't even need to know the address of a particular site to get started.

The advent of web editing and content management software, such as MS Front Page and Adobe Dreamweaver, meant that the level of expertise required for the creation and management of websites was considerably reduced. Even so, significant training, coupled with the procurement of the appropriate hardware and software was essential. Publishing on the World Wide Web remained within the domain of the Webmaster.

A new and very different domain has recently emerged. Millions of end-users worldwide,

have opened accounts and published personal profiles, music, video, favourites lists, presentations and much more. The Web 2.0 development of software-as-a-service (SaaS) means that today, end-users can sign up for accounts on websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and many, many others. These accounts provide automatic access to easy-to-use, purpose-designed software that allows the untrained end-user to upload information to the web and readily share it. There's no need to buy the software, and no need to download it. To access the software and immediately publish, the end-user just signs on!

More importantly, and centrally to the change, people can now readily see and connect with each other online. The speed and immediacy of the uploading process allows a level of real-time, 24/7 human interaction on the Web that was never before possible. Combined with the ability to instantly create on-going links to other account holders, this has led to these services being termed, Social Media.

The Oireachtas L&RS has committed itself under Action 13 of the Houses of the Oireachtas Service Corporate Business Plan, to 'build on our innovative use of ICT by implementing and exploring new technologies'.

We are aware that attitudes to information technology are changing in a number of ways. The new Programme for Government expresses support for the closely related area of Cloud Computing. TDs and Senators are increasingly engaging with Social Media. Public Service organisations need to maintain and develop services with fewer resources. ICT Network Managers are reconsidering some of the more rigid barriers to Social Media applications in the workplace. Finally and perhaps most importantly, Web 2.0 technologies appear to have real potential for librarians and researchers both as consumers and as producers of information.

For these reasons, an action to explore and implement some of the new, Web 2.0 technologies underlying Social Media was included in the L&RS Business Plan 2010 – 2011. The project plan included two phases:

Phase 1

1. An assessment of how various web 2.0 tools, resources and applications can be used within a library and research service.
2. Identification of the positive aspects of using these tools as well as the risks.
3. An evaluation of the potential of these tools/applications for the delivery of information to L&RS staff and to our end-users

Phase 2

1. A review of our current online presence in the context of Phase 1 findings.
2. The development of new specifications for our online presence, based on this review.
3. Selection of the most suitable application to deliver a new online presence as specified.
4. The effective implementation of this application in 2012

The initial research approach included primary and secondary methods. A literature review was combined with conference and seminar attendance; the setting up of limited experimental accounts on selected social media sites; and a survey of the use of social media within the parliamentary library and research services of the inter-parliamentary research and information network (IPRIN).

The findings were reported to the staff of the L&RS at a knowledge sharing meeting in April 2011 and an invitation extended to form a Web 2.0 Project Phase 2 development team.

Assessment of how various web 2.0 tools, resources and applications can be used within a library and research service:

Application	Description	Common uses
Facebook	A social network service and website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For campaigning • Networking and discussion • By organisations to communicate with large or targeted audiences • To market library services • To promote events, news and special announcements
Twitter	A social networking and micro-blogging service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following people, organizations, trends, events, conferences & seminars • Finding information • Exchanging news • Marketing and promotion • Alerting
RSS	A technology used to update users on newly updated web content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic delivery of current real-time updates from blogs, news services, websites etc. • Readers subscribe to feeds – no need to visit favourite websites
Podcasts	Audio or video files made available on the Web and fed to subscribers for download and playback on their PC or mobile device.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessing news • Accessing archived radio programmes • Accessing lectures • Listening to concerts • Language courses

Blogs	A type of website called a weblog, often administered by an individual with regular posting of new information and content.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Posting/sharing new information and content ● Alerting users to new developments & services ● Soliciting feedback from users or customers via comments
Wikis	Websites that allow collaborative editing of content and structure by their users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sharing knowledge ● Aggregating content ● Reference queries ● Collaborative editing and updating ● Contributing to projects
Slideshare	An online slide-hosting service for uploading and sharing presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sharing presentations online ● Accessing content from conferences, speakers, courses, workshops, academics ● Archiving training ● Allows for online comments, editing and feedback
LinkedIn	A business-oriented social networking site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professional networking ● Uploading & sharing CV online ● Finding jobs, people and business opportunities ● Advertising jobs

Reports from other Irish libraries on their experience of using social media, proved useful in demonstrating the overall potential of this technology for the delivery and promotion of services. However, we noticed that little specific distinction was made between the *reading* of content on social media sites and the creation of new content. Similarly, there was little clear distinction between personal and corporate usage. Furthermore, as the Oireachtas L&RS manages unique challenges relating to the nature of its work, we wished to explore the experiences of others in a similar position. To this end, we surveyed our counterparts in the Houses of Lords and Commons, the Welsh Assembly, the Scottish Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly, collectively, the Inter-parliamentary Research and Information Network (IPRIN). The purpose of the survey was to evaluate their use of Web 2.0 technologies and to seek their observations and advice.

An anonymous Survey Monkey questionnaire was circulated online and analysed, November 12 – 26 2010. The purpose of the questionnaire was to establish not just the level of Web 2.0 usage, but the purpose and type of usage involved. Five distinct types were queried:

1. Personal usage referred strictly to non-professional, non-work related use.
2. Social-Professional referred to use as members of alumni or professional organisations such as the Library Association of Ireland.

3. Receiving work-related use referred to the user's current post only. An example might be setting up an RSS feed aggregator on a topic of particular relevance to your work.
4. Providing information to *internal* organisational users.
5. Providing information to *external or public* users.

The questionnaire was confined to the nine applications that had been selected for evaluation by the project team; Twitter, Facebook, RSS Feeds, Delicious, Podcasts, Blogs, Wikis, Slideshare and LinkedIn.

Respondents were asked to reply only on their own behalf, not on behalf of their organisation. So if, for example, their organisation uses Twitter to provide information to the public, but they have no personal involvement in that, they say 'no' their use of Twitter for that purpose.

With the exception of Facebook for personal social use, the most popular application by far, was blogging. The selected tables below set out some of the data returned from the survey.

Overall Web 2.0 application usage rates:

IPRIN Survey and Findings



Overall Web 2.0 application usage rates:

	Application	%
1	Blogs	93%
2	Facebook	81%
3	RSS Feeds	65%
4	Wikis	60%
5	Podcasts	46%
6	Twitter	43%
7	LinkedIn	28%
8	Slideshare	10%
9	Delicious	10%

Most popular applications for particular uses:

IPRIN Survey and Findings



Most popular applications for particular uses:

	Type of Web 2.0 use	Application
1	Personal social	Facebook
2	Personal professional	Blogs
3	Receiving work-related information	Blogs
4	Providing to internal clients	Blogs
5	Providing to external clients	Twitter

Reasons for Web 2.0 use in order of popularity:

IPRIN Survey and Findings



Reasons for use in order of popularity:

	Type of Web 2.0 use	%
1	Personal social	71%
2	Personal professional	55%
3	Receiving work-related information	48%
4	Providing to internal clients	22%
5	Providing to external clients	10%

Total usage levels V usage levels for creating/providing information:

IPRIN Survey and Findings



Total usage levels V usage levels for creating/providing information:

	Application	Total IPRIN usage	Percentage of them using to <i>provide</i> information
1	Blogs	93%	14%
2	Facebook	81%	2%
3	RSS Feeds	65%	15%
4	Wikis	60%	16%
5	Podcasts	46%	16%
6	Twitter	43%	18%
7	LinkedIn	28%	5%
8	Slideshare	10%	0%
9	Delicious	10%	0%

Most used applications V Most highly rated applications:

IPRIN Survey and Findings



Most used applications V highly rated applications:

Use	Most used	Best rated	Rated as essential
Personal social	Facebook (91%)	Blogs (80%)	RSS (13%)
Personal professional	Blogs (52%)	Blogs (81%)	RSS (18%)
Receiving work-related information	Blogs (69%)	Blogs (80%)	RSS (16%)
Providing to internal clients	Blogs (45%)	Blogs (58%)	RSS (5%) Blogs (5%)
Providing to external clients	Twitter (38%)	Blogs (43%)	RSS (3%) Blogs (3%) Wikis (3%)

Relevant and important opportunities and challenges identified in Web 2.0 applications	
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free at the point of use • Easy to use • Marketing, promotion and profile-raising • Harnessing collective intelligence: information sharing, collaboration and cooperative working • Targeted service delivery: use of technology to tailor and customise services • Innovative delivery and communication mechanisms
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For campaigning • Staff resources for development, maintenance, administration and evaluation • Motivating and training staff • Creation of policies/guidelines for appropriate professional use of social media by employees • Variation in levels of user expertise and interest • ICT security and access policies • Trust and privacy concerns • Selecting the best tools • Rate and speed of change in the development of these technologies • Lack of end-user control of hardware and software

The Web 2.0 development team discussed and finalised a list of specifications for their online presence. These combine elements of the current site with new and innovative design, structural and content features.

To achieve this specification any proposed Web 2.0 application would be required to meet the following criteria:

1. Security
 - a. Security of data against deliberate or accidental unauthorised access.
 - b. Security of the Oireachtas network against malicious or otherwise unauthorised access.
2. Reliability
 - a. Reliability of the software itself
 - b. Reliability of service availability on a medium to long-term basis

3. Low-cost

While premium services and upgrades can be chargeable, the overall cost of the basic application should be low by comparison with current applications.

4. Ease of implementation and use

- a. It should be easy for an untrained end-user to access the online presence and find content.
- b. It should be easy for an authorised staff user with basic training to author, add and edit content.
- c. The application should be easy to design, build and implement.

5. Direct authoring and content management

- a. It must be possible for an authorised staff user to directly author, add and edit content.
- b. A hierarchical user role structure for the management of content and access must be provided.

6. Flexibility

- a. The application must integrate effectively with other applications, particularly Web 2.0
- b. The application must be extensible in terms of the volume of users and content
- c. It must be possible to upgrade and add to the software as required.

The team agreed unanimously, that a blogging application would best provide for our requirements.

This would provide for a single, streamlined, interactive point of access to Library & Research Service online. Web 2.0 features such as RSS feeds, email alerts, category clouds and comments would greatly enhance the end-user experience. L&RS subject specialists could add and update content directly via posting, ensuring the currency, relevance and authority of the site as well as real time responsiveness to the information needs of Members.

Having evaluated a number of options, a locally-hosted implementation of Wordpress was selected .

Why WordPress?

1. While a private site could easily be provided on the Web at www.wordpress.com, Oireachtas Members and other end-users would be required to sign in with a user name and password every time they wished to view or interact with the site. There was a strong view that this would pose a significant barrier to access.

Access to a locally-hosted site would remove the need for sign-in, providing direct and immediate searching and viewing access to the service. Sign-in would be necessary only for L&RS staff wishing to add or edit content.

Furthermore, as it would be contained within the Oireachtas network, a locally-hosted site would readily meet Oireachtas network security standards.

2. A significant level of expertise and experience in Wordpress implementation and maintenance was already available within the Oireachtas ICT Unit and the L&RS.
3. Wordpress is a stable, well-established and well-developed service with 11 million sites worldwide.
4. Searchable, comprehensive, end-user support is provided via Wordpress.org and numerous support forums on the Web.
5. Fully operational software for hosting on a local server may be downloaded free of charge.
6. A large range of customisable blog templates is available for selection and immediate use, as well as an extensive range of very useful widgets. Widgets are ready-to-use , mini-programmes such as a Delicious widget that automatically adds relevant links from the L&RS Delicious site into all posts.
7. Multi-site networking functionality allows for the provision of additional specialist blog sites within the L&RS Wordpress network. This allows a consistent corporate appearance to be maintained throughout, whilst still allowing end-users to directly access the subject areas of most interest to them. L&RS subject specialists can also directly and independently manage their blogs within the overall L&RS administrative framework.
8. Recent Wordpress themes provide for 24/7 access via mobile devices such as Smartphones and iPads.

Next steps

The WordPress site will be ready for rollout to the L&RS in July 2012.

A policy and procedures document will be prepared and approved for user guidance.

User feedback and usage statistics will be used as part of an on-going review and development process before the final launch of the site in September 2012.

The new WordPress blog will support and provide for a separate but integrated, Information Literacy Project currently under way at the L&RS. Feedback from this project will contribute to site improvement and development in the future.

Further Reading

- How to use Twitter - <http://digitalorchard.ie/2010/03/19/how-to-use-twitter>
- Six Ways to make Twitter useful - <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2341087,00.asp>
- Top 10 Twitter Tips for Beginners - <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2341109,00.asp>
- The Common Craft video: "Wikis in Plain English"
- The Common Craft video: "Blogs in Plain English"
- The Common Craft video: "RSS in Plain English"
- The Common Craft video: "Social Bookmarking in Plain English" www.commoncraft.com
- *Social Media: A Guide for Researchers* (Feb 2011), Research Information Network (RIN)
<http://www.rin.ac.uk/our-work/communicating-and-disseminating-research/social-media-guide-researchers>
- Social Networking, Microblogs and other Third Party Websites: Personal Use
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guidelines/editorialguidelines/page/guidance-blogs-personal-summary#summary-of-main-points>
- Social Networking, Microblogs and other Third Party Websites: BBC Use
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guidelines/editorialguidelines/page/guidance-blogs-bbc-summary#summary-of-main-points>

Launch of Department of Justice and Equality Electronic Library

***Zoë Melling, Librarian,
Legal Aid Board***



The Department of Justice & Equality launched their Electronic Library to end users at a function on 15 February 2012, which was attended by Secretary General of the Department Brian Purcell, DJE staff, and representatives from the Legal Aid Board.

The DJE library system, SirsiDynix Symphony, has been hosted on a shared server with the Legal Aid Board since April 2011. Librarians at the Legal Aid Board are responsible for configuration and maintenance of the system, while staff at the DJE Information Resources Unit (IRU) handle cataloguing, circulation, serial control and requests for DJE users. The end user catalogue interface is known as 'e-Library OPAC Justice'.

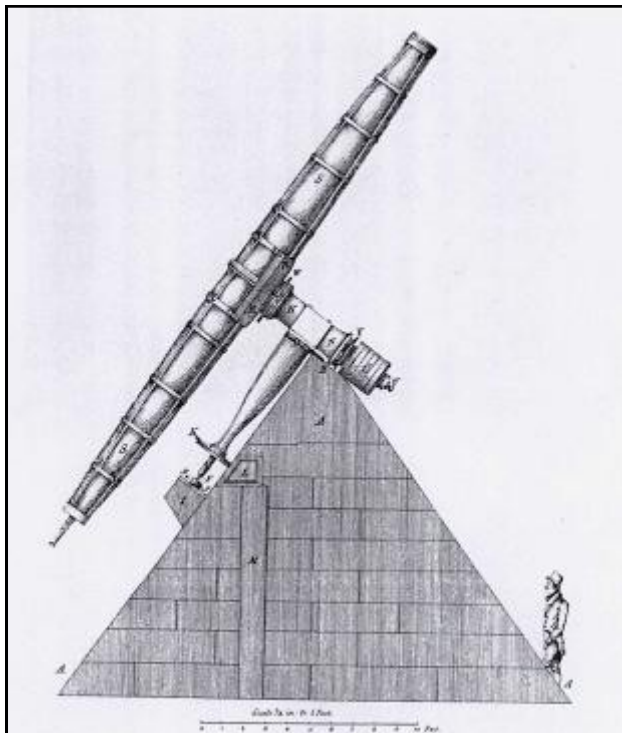


Front row - left to right : Vera Keating (IRU), Kay Kennedy (former head of IRU), Brian Purcell (DJE Secretary General), Marian Miller (IRU), Mary Fallon (IRU), Ann Ryan-Reedy (IRU)

Back row - left to right: John Roycroft (DJE), Gerry Shannon (DJE), Jim O'Brien (DJE)

Star-gazing in Sligo

***Meteorological Observations at the Met Éireann Library
Markree Castle, Co. Sligo (1870s)***



The 13.3 inch refracting telescope at Markree Castle.
©Sligo County Library

***Mairéad Treanor,
Librarian,
Met Éireann***



*Where everything that meets the eye,
Flowers and grass and cloudless sky,
Resemble forms that are or seem
When sleepers wake and yet still
dream'*

Under Ben Bulbin (1939)

W.B. Yeats

Few of you will be surprised to learn that the Sligo sky isn't always cloudless. And if any of you dreamy-poet types are doubtful, I can assure you that we have ample evidence to prove it! Exactly 70 years before W.B. Yeats wrote 'Under Ben Bulbin', meteorological observations began at Markree Castle, Co. Sligo and this work has continued until the present day. The Met Éireann Library holds the first 99 years of the Markree record as part of our country-wide collection of scientific manuscripts, which dates as far back as 1855.

Last year, Met Éireann celebrated 75 years as Ireland's National Meteorological Service and to commemorate the event, the library produced a small poster presentation on some of the highlights of our manuscript collection. This article reproduces our poster on Markree Castle for GLINT readers. While the manuscripts were originally created as scientific records, they now offer much more than scientific data. Each of the manuscripts now tells its own special story of the history of meteorology in Ireland.

'A Gentleman's Observatory': Markree Castle

In the mid 1800s, Markree Castle was home to Edward J. Cooper, an enthusiastic (and wealthy) amateur astronomer, who set up and supported an observatory. It was a type of 'gentleman's observatory', which wasn't uncommon in Ireland in those days – there was also one in Birr and one in Armagh.

The Markree Observatory is significant because it was home to one of the largest telescopes in the world at the time – a 13.3 inch refracting telescope. When Edward Cooper died in 1863, the observatory was left idle for about 9 years, until his nephew Colonel Cooper reactivated the observations.

Colonel Cooper's interests were mainly meteorological, and the observatory at Markree was later described in the monthly notices of the Royal Astronomical Society as "...one of the best meteorological stations in Ireland".

'Book post to Victoria Street': The Meteorological Records

The Met Éireann Library holds meteorological records from Markree Castle from 1869 to 1968.

The records give readings of atmospheric pressure, temperature, wind direction, wind speed, cloud cover and rainfall. Observations were made at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. every day.

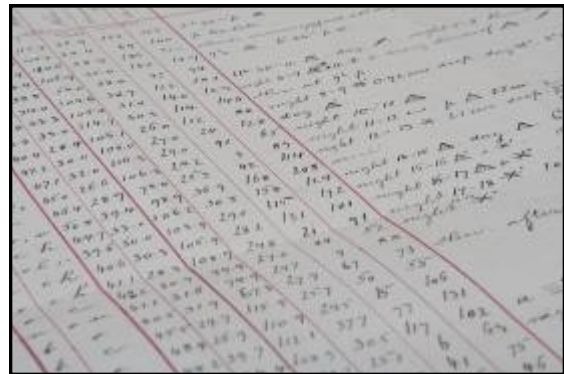
The records were handwritten on broadsheet-sized templates which were issued by the Meteorological Office in London. At the end of each month, the pages were folded into the size of an envelope and posted to London. The picture shows the postage stamps and the address of the Met Office, written on the reverse of the observation sheet. You can also see the creases where it was folded into the size of an envelope.



Markree Castle drawn on the spot for Colonel Cooper by William Frederick Wakeman. ©Sligo County Library



The address of the Met Office was simply written on the back of the observation sheet. Note the creases



Overview of a meteorological observation re-

'The Female Touch': Anna Doberck

The observations illustrated here were taken by a woman of Danish origin, named Anna Doberck. Anna's name appears on the Markree records from 1874 to 1876. Her records are distinctive because she draws the prescribed weather symbols in the notes field more frequently than other observers. For example,

for hail ▲

for snow *

Why was a lady of Danish origins, recording meteorological observations in County Sligo in 1876? Anna Doberck's brother, William, was an acclaimed astronomer and he was in charge of the Markree Observatory from 1874 to 1882. Anna assisted William at the observatory.

It was while the Dobercks were at Markree that Ireland's record lowest air temperature was recorded; that is -19.1°C (-2.3°F) on 16th January 1881.

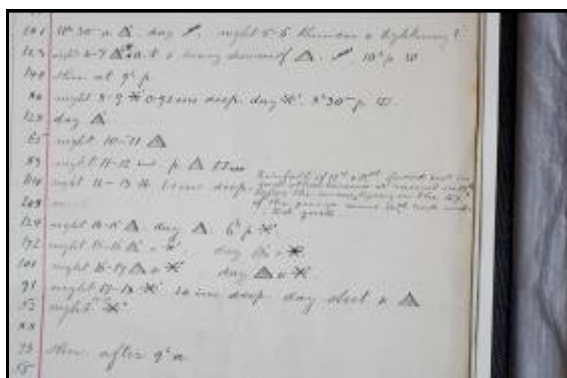
'Typhoon Annie': The Hong Kong Connection

In 1882, the Dobercks left Markree for Hong Kong, when William was appointed Director of the new Hong Kong Observatory. Ten years later, in 1892, Anna was appointed Assistant Meteorologist in the same institution – only after lengthy negotiations with the Colonial Office, who it seems were hesitant to appoint a woman.

Anna's appointment was noted in the journal *Nature* Vol. 46 (108) 1892, where she was misidentified as Dr. Doberck's daughter.

Anna remained at the Hong Kong Observatory until her retirement in 1915. Part of her role in Hong Kong was to visit ships in port to excerpt weather observations from their navigation log

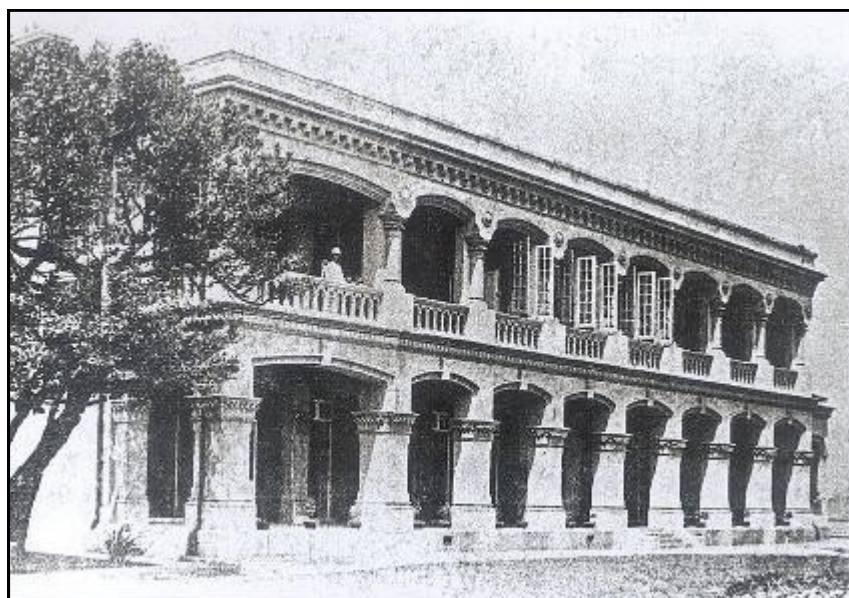
books. Because of the nature of her work, she was nicknamed 'Sampan Annie' or 'Typhoon Annie'.



Anna Doberck drew prescribed weather symbols on the Markree records.

27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
EXTREMES FOR MONTH.												
Highest corrected reading of Barometer <u>30.412</u> on <u>7</u> at												
Lowest " " " " <u>28.653</u> on <u>16</u> at												
Highest temperature in Shade <u>49.0</u> on <u>1</u> ✓												
Lowest " " " " <u>-2.3</u> on <u>16</u> ✓												
Highest " in Sun (if <u>103.5</u> on <u>29</u>												
Lowest " on Grass taken) <u>1.6</u> on <u>17</u>												
Greatest daily rainfall <u>0.167</u> on <u>11</u>												
Signed												

The lowest air temperature ever recorded in Ireland was -2.3° F, 16th January 1881.



Hong Kong Observatory 1913.

The Library gratefully acknowledges the work of Aisling Keane, Archivist and Ríoghnach Ahern, Librarian in helping to prepare the material for the poster presentation. Aisling and Ríoghnach worked on special projects at the Met Éireann Library for nine months in 2011 as part of the FÁS work placement scheme.

A Day in the Life of a Government Librarian

Máire Caffrey
Head Librarian, Teagasc



Who are you and where do you work?

My name is Máire Caffrey. I work as Head Librarian for Teagasc, the Agriculture & Food Development Authority.

Where does the library fit into your organisation?

Teagasc has three Directorates – Research, Knowledge Transfer and Operations. The Library Service is part of the Research Directorate, and is one of the Research Support Services, along with Science Communications, the Tech Transfer/IP office, Research Funding Support, the administration of our Walsh Fellowships and Research Management Information Systems and Programme Co-ordination.

Who do you cater for?

I cater for any staff member who needs the Library & Information Service, but the main focus is on support to the researchers.

What facilities and services do you offer?

There are physical libraries at six Research Centre locations around Ireland. Each of these has a stock of books and journals relating to the different topics researched in that location. There is specialisation at each Research Centre, for instance our Oak Park Centre in Carlow carries out Crops Research, whereas the researchers at the Ashtown Centre, where I'm located, work mainly on the Food Research Programme. We have an online catalogue which includes all the locations.

Our journal subscriptions are now mainly online and we offer access via our catalogue, EBSCO's Electronic Journals Service or our A-to-Z listing to over 200 titles. We also provide online databases, such as Web of Science, CAB Abstracts and others, along with some other subscription information services.

The Library also offers Inter-Library Loan and Document Supply services. As the Teagasc Research Programme is so wide-ranging, it is impossible for us to subscribe to all the journals covering the research topics, so the document supply service is heavily used.

I provide training in the use of all our services as well as assistance with information searches or literature reviews if needed. I also answer queries in any "information" related area, from managing references with Endnote, to navigating statistical websites, to organising translation of a foreign-language article. As the library staff at the other locations work only part-time in the library, and aren't professional librarians, I also provide training, support and advice to them.

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

The first thing I do is check my email. I'll deal with anything which can be completed quickly and prioritise the others. Most queries and requests come to me by email. The typical contents of my inbox include:

- Requests for me to source a number of articles or Inter Library Loans
- Email newsletters or alerts from various industry associations, publishers or societies – these I circulate to relevant groups and/or file in our DMS in a Current Awareness folder for everyone
- Queries relating to the library services – there could be a problem with access to an e-journal or request for help in searching a database for instance
- Usage reports from journal publishers

General emails as you'd get in any organisation

What type of work can take up your day?

My work is quite varied. There could be ILLs or Document supply requests, other queries as mentioned above, training, problems relating to journal subscriptions, journal access, preparing a report for management, cataloguing, updating the library site on our Intranet or meetings. Last week I spent a few days working on a report for the Director of Research analysing our journal subscriptions and usage by the different research programmes – this involved compiling the usage statistics for our online subscriptions, cost for each subscription (print and online) for the previous two years, then analysing the figures according to programme and summarising in a report. In December, January and February a lot of my time is taken up with renewals. At the moment I have an intern working with me from the JobBridge programme, so I'm spending some time on training with her.

Are you working on any big projects at the moment?

Yes, I've started work on a project to set up an Open Access Institutional Repository for Teagasc research outputs. I'll be working closely with a colleague in our ICT department on this. We've just finished evaluating tenders for the set up

and hosting of the Repository.

Do you get involved in any other work apart from the Library Service?

Yes. I've been involved in evaluation of tenders for other departments/functions. I'm also involved in the organisation of our Science Week events each year. I've participated on a number of organisation-wide project teams in a few different areas.

Have you always been a librarian?

No, I started my career as a scientist, working as a chemist in a small pharmaceutical firm. I spent a few years as a full-time Mum, and then decided to change direction. So I went back to college to SILS. Since becoming a librarian, I've always managed to combine my science background with librarianship, working in several science-based company libraries before joining Teagasc.

What do you like to do outside your work?

I'm a long-time member of Coolmine Musical Society and really enjoy being involved in musical theatre productions. I'm also a member of a book club and enjoy gardening.



Máire (centre) performing in Coolmine Musical Society's production of Mack and Mabel

Photo Gallery



Patricia Webb, Anne Peoples, Mary Doyle, Janice Ewing, Fiona Morley & Noel Menary



George Woodman & Laura O Broin

Social Networking Visit to Northern Ireland : 3 March 2011



Jean Cassidy, Laura O Broin, Joe Donnelly, Mary Doyle, Muireann Tóibín, Sheila Gallagher, Noeleen Murtagh, Fiona Morley & Bella Bolger



Gabrielle Kelly & Judith Finlay



Kirby Porter & Anne Peoples



Carol Flynn & Mary Doyle



Joe Donnelly & Mary Doyle

GLS Anniversary Party: 25 March 2011



Ann O'Sullivan



Lisa Shields, Valerie Ingram & Mairéad Mullaney



Jean Cassidy



Mary Doyle, Muireann Tóibín,
Donal McSweeney, Kirby Porter & Noeleen Murtagh