

GLINT

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GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES INFORMATION NEWSLETTER



LETTER OF WELCOME

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I am pleased to introduce the first issue of the Government Libraries Group Newsletter. I hope it will serve to keep our members in touch not only with the activities of the Committee, but also with each other. As its name suggests, the Government Libraries Information Newsletter, GLINT, will primarily carry reports from the Committee, announcements of forthcoming events, and news items concerning libraries in Irish Government departments. However, as one of the reasons why we decided to start a newsletter was the realisation that we have many members who do not work in Government libraries, our horizons will not be strictly limited. Indeed, we are very pleased at the interest shown in the Group not only by colleagues in Ireland, but also by those abroad. Regular contact between the Committee and Group members can only help us all, so any contributions to the newsletter will be most welcome. In conclusion, it must be said that getting a newsletter such as this off the ground is no easy job, and all praise is due to the editorial committee for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Aisling Judge, Hon. Chair.

HISTORY OF THE GROUP

For the benefit of those who have only recently joined, we would like to include a brief history of the Group in this first newsletter.

The idea of forming a Group was first raised in 1983. Mary Doyle, Mary Moore and Oliver Marshall met to discuss it. They felt that Government libraries were not fully catered for by existing library groups. One of the reasons for this was that there was a lack of awareness of the very existence of the libraries in many cases. As a type, however, they felt that the Government libraries were sufficiently distinctive to warrant having a group to cater specifically for their needs.

It was agreed that the aims of the Group should be:

- a) to promote and develop the role of libraries in the Civil Service
- b) to promote cooperation between Government libraries

The Inaugural Meeting was held on 14 March 1985 and the high attendance and enthusiasm to join the Committee showed that the Group would indeed meet a need.

COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON: AISLING JUDGE, LIBRARIAN STATE LABORATORY

SECRETARY: VALERIE INGRAM, ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

TREASURER: NOREEN O'SULLIVAN, INFORMATION OFFICER DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: MARY DOYLE, LIBRARIAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

MEMBERS: LISA SHIELDS, LIBRARIAN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE; MARGARET ROONEY, LIBRARIAN, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY; OLIVER MARSHALL, LIBRARIAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; LEO COLLINS, LIBRARIAN, DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR; GAVIN FREEMAN, LIBRARIAN, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT; VERONICA SCANLON, LIBRARIAN DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE; MARY MOORE, LIBRARIAN DEPARTMENT OF THE MARINE.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Directory

The first activity undertaken by the Committee was to distribute a questionnaire, designed to elicit as much information as possible about each Government library. As a result, libraries of which we had not been previously aware were discovered in some Departments. A Directory of Government Libraries, which will show the value of the collections held is being launched by Mr Kevin Murphy, Secretary (Public Service Management and Development), Department of Finance, in the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin on Thursday 10th December at 4.30 pm.

VISITS

To date, visits have been arranged to the libraries in the Department of Agriculture and Food(HQ), the Meteorological Service, and the laboratory complex at Abbotstown, including the Fisheries Laboratory, the State Laboratory, and the Veterinary Research Laboratory. The visit to Abbotstown incorporated a demonstration seminar of the library software package INMAGIC, which is installed in the State Laboratory. In February, Noel Hughes of An Foras Forbartha hosted a seminar on "Computerisation in Libraries".

A visit took place to the Department of Education library on Thursday 3rd December. The librarian gave a short talk on the history of the buildings and the library. This was followed by tea, and a demonstration of the computerisation programme currently being installed.

POLICY DOCUMENT

An important aspect of the Group's activities is the preparation of a policy document on how Government Libraries should be developed. A sub-Committee is working on this document at the moment.

A DIRECTORY OF GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

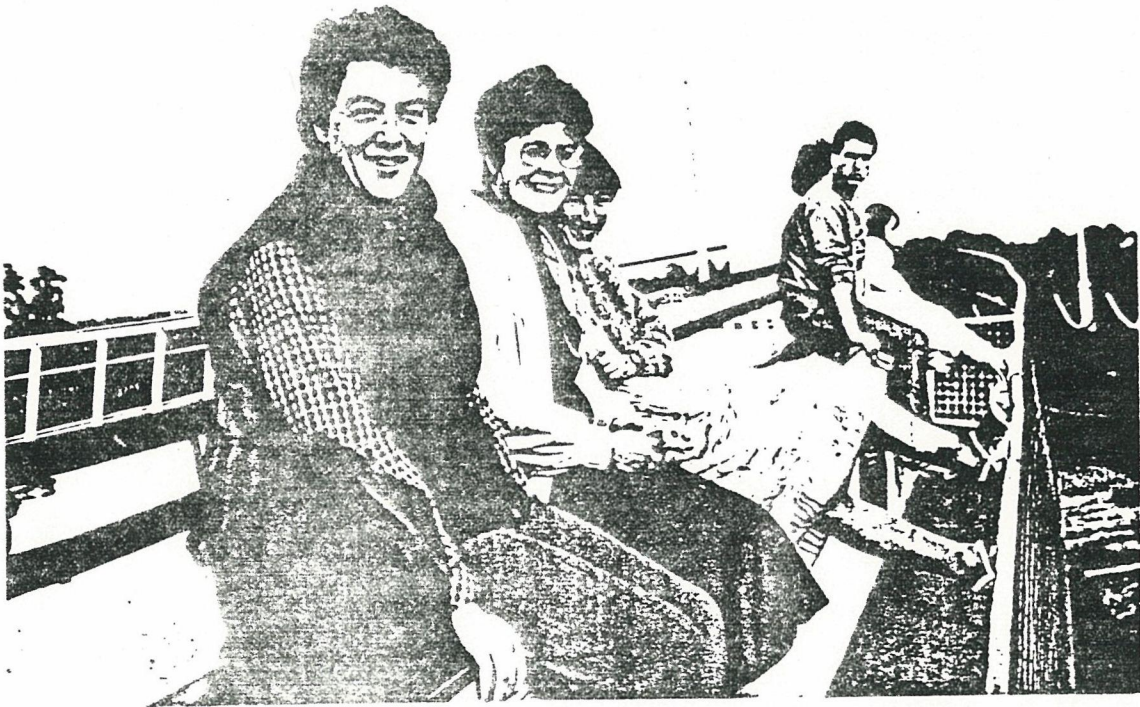
Prepared by
THE GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES GROUP
of the
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND



DUBLIN
1987

WENN ENGEL REISEN, LACHT DER HIMMEL

Our picture shows CLAIRE HANNON (ENERGY), MARY MOORE (MARINE), and (looking as if she's about to fall in) MARY DOYLE (AGRICULTURE AND FOOD), on the Group's first social outing. Our fourth angel, AISLING JUDGE (STATE LABORATORY) is there by way of guardian of the trip for posterity. A short account of the trip is to be found at the bottom of the page.



TRAINING

AS many of those given responsibility for running Government libraries have no previous experience, training featured prominently in people's expectations of the Group.

The Training Sub-Committee was discussing with the Civil Service Training Centre the possibility of the Centre organising a 3-day course for staff in Government Libraries, when events unfortunately overtook us. The activities of the Centre have been scaled down to such an extent that there is no possibility of such a course in the near future.

It has been suggested that untrained people might like to spend a day or more in a well-run library. The Committee would like to hear from anyone interested.

We would also like to draw your attention to IRISH LIBRARY NEWS which can be obtained from the Library Council, 53/54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. It gives details of happenings in the library world in general, including courses and seminars which are being held.

There is a German proverb which goes "Wenn Engel reisen, lacht der Himmel" and, sandwiched as the 20 September was between two very wet days, the heaven certainly smiled on the four "angels" who gathered outside the National Gallery for the trip to Castletown House and Robertstown. We were disappointed at the poor turnout, but the beauty and interest of Castletown House soon enthralled us, especially as it was a first visit for all of us. It almost certainly will not be the last.

Then followed the drive to Robertstown where we had afternoon tea, followed by a trip on the barge. The weather was beautiful and, in a week in which we had been reminded of some of the horrors of modern rural architecture, the trip through the unspoilt countryside of Kildare was a treat.

Not a word spoken of libraries or cutbacks, but we will know each other a little better when we next lift the phone to look for information.

LIBRARY SNIPPETS

CLAIRE HANNON has recently been appointed Librarian in the Department of Energy. Claire previously worked in the Department of Finance and in the Accounts Division of the Department of Energy. We congratulate Claire on her new appointment and wish her every success.

MAURA CASEY has been appointed Librarian in the Oireachtas Library. Maura began her career in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and went from there to the Oireachtas as Assistant Librarian. We wish her many happy years in her new post.

THE DEPTS OF EDUCATION AND THE MARINE have just bought the Inmagic library software package. The STATE LABORATORY is already using the package and we hope to have further details of their experiences with the package in our next newsletter.

Peggy Burke

Former Librarian in the Department of Agriculture

When I joined the Department of Agriculture I found no other Mayo person there, but happily, soon found someone from Sligo, Peggy Burke, who was the next best thing, so to speak. Indeed she was very much the "next best thing" because she came from Curry which was a mere two miles from my own home. Besides she was a person of some importance in the Department. There was then no Government Department with a library of the status of that in the Department of Agriculture. It boasted a librarian, an assistant librarian, two library assistants and a number of clerical staff.

Peggy despite her tiny stature was a femme formidable in the best sense of the phrase. She ran her library with enthusiasm and helpfulness laced with a dry wit and a critical turn of mind.

Apart from information on things agricultural, visits to the library produced a wealth of other information also. This ranged from views on the political state of the country to the merits of convent education and included commentary on our colleagues.

Peggy was a great walker. I doubt if she ever took the bus in from Dartmouth Square where she lived for so many years. Her walking habit resulted in our meeting frequently in Baggot Street or along Stephen's Green for a long time after she retired, so that I continued to have the pleasure of conversation with her.

Unfortunately, her eyes gradually came against her and this made the walking and the reading she so loved more difficult. But she bore it bravely and always managed to turn the conversation in a direction away from her own problems.

In recent years we lost touch, sadly, but when we read of her death those of us in the Department who had known her had a wealth of reminiscences to exchange. She was a lovely lady.

SEAN DOONEY
Assistant Secretary
Dept of Agriculture and Food

GLINT is produced by an editorial committee consisting of Mary Doyle, Valerie Ingram and Oliver Marshall. Contributions for future issues should be sent to Mary Doyle, Librarian, Dept of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, telephone 789011 extn 2163.