

Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann
The Library Association of Ireland

Annual Report 2004

*Professional Register
and Membership List 2004*

Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann
The Library Association of Ireland, 53 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2
Annual Report 2004
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Honorary Officers 2004/2005

President

Gobnait O'Riordan, Director, Library & Information Services, University of Limerick

Vice-Presidents

Ruth Flanagan, County Librarian,
Cork County Libraries

Teresa Walsh, County Librarian,
South Dublin Libraries

Hon. Secretary

Denis Murphy, Assistant Librarian,
Cork County Libraries

Hon. Treasurer

Catherine Watters, Senior Manager, Information and Research Centre, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Hon. Auditor

Gerard Maher, County Librarian,
Laois County Library

Executive Board 2004/2005

Bernard Barrett, *Mid-Western Health Board*
Kathleen Browne, *Kerry County Library*
Mary Burke, *University College Dublin*
Ann Cleary, *Dundalk Institute of Technology*
Mary Conway, *Waterford City Council Libraries*
Joe Donnelly, *Judges' Library*
Beatrice Doran, *Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland*
Deirdre Ellis-King, *Dublin City Public Libraries*
Ruth Flanagan, *Cork County Libraries*
Pat Lonergan, *Kildare County Library*
Geraldine McHugh, *Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Libraries*
Denis Murphy, *Cork County Libraries*
Áine Ó'Connor, *Arup Consulting Engineers*
Micheál Ó hAodha, *University of Limerick*
Gobnait O'Riordan, (Chair), *University of Limerick*
Liam Ronayne, *Cork City Library*
Marjory Sliney, *Fingal County Libraries*
Brendan Teeling, *An Chomhairle Leabharlanna*
Donal Tinney, *Sligo County Library*
Teresa Walsh, *South Dublin Libraries*
Catherine Watters, *PricewaterhouseCoopers*

The Executive Board met 7 times during the year.

13 May (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna), 24 June (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna), 9 September (PricewaterhouseCoopers), 21 October (Killarney Public Library), 2 December (Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse St), 20 January (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna), 16 February (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna)

Attendance Record

Bernard Barrett (4); Kathleen Browne (2); Mary Burke (4); Ann Cleary (5); Mary Conway (5); Joseph Donnelly (4); Beatrice Doran (3); Deirdre Ellis-King (4); Ruth Flanagan (5); Pat Lonergan (5); Geraldine McHugh (5); Denis Murphy (7); Áine Ó'Connor (6); Micheál Ó hAodha (3); Gobnait O'Riordan (7); Liam Ronayne (2); Marjory Sliney (6); Brendan Teeling (7); Donal Tinney (2); Teresa Walsh (4); Catherine Watters (6)

Development Manager

Antoinette Robinson.

The Development Manager attends meetings of the Executive Board.



Foreword from the President

Dear Member,

It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report of the Library Association of Ireland and through it to record the work undertaken by the Association during the year.

Cuireann sé áthás mór orm turarascáil bhliantiúil Cumann Leabarlann na hÉireann a chur ós bhúr gcómhair agus mar seo, chun a léiriú na cláracha éagsúla oibre a thug an Cumann faoi thuras í gcaitheamh na bliana.

The year 2004, as will be evident from this report, has been one of continued development for the Library Association of Ireland. The Development Plan adopted in 2003 provided the basis for many of the initiatives undertaken during the year. The most significant of these was the appointment of Antoinette Robinson as Development Manager. This appointment allows us to put a major focus on sponsorship, membership benefits and promotion of the Association. The President's Lecture, Membership card and discount scheme are first steps in improved membership benefits. Library Ireland Week, which will take place in March, is designed to promote the LAI, libraries and librarians at local and national level.

The groups and sections of the Association organised a full programme of seminars, visits, talks and conferences during 2004. Such events are essential to the effectiveness of the Association and provide for significant professional development. Members are to be congratulated for serving as officers and committee members of group and sections and for organising these events.

The Association is especially pleased to welcome the formation of three new groups which will provide members with an excellent opportunity for professional development and cooperation in particular areas of interest:

- Public Libraries Group
- Genealogy and Local History Group
- Prison Libraries Group.

These new groups represent an expansion in the areas of interest and professional expertise and we wish them every success.

As in previous years, the Association dealt with many enquiries regarding professional qualifications. The Association undertook an in-depth review of the regulations governing its award of Associateship. We encourage suitably qualified personal members to apply for the award of Associateship – this carries the post-nominals ALAI, as it demonstrates evidence of continuing professional development.

The Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and CILIP Ireland, held in Druid's Glen Co. Wicklow, provided members with an excellent opportunity to update knowledge and skills and to renew professional acquaintances and friendships. We were honoured to have an excellent line up of national and international speakers, chairpersons and guests.

Looking ahead, much work remains to be done to complete the implementation of the development plan. It presents challenges, but the positive response is an encouragement to us all. On behalf of my colleagues on the Executive board I would like to thank you, the members, for your support of the review process, and encourage your increased involvement with the Association in the future.



It is evident that the progress and achievements detailed in this report were realised through the vision, dedication and hard work of many individuals. On behalf of the members of the Association, I wish to thank and pay tribute to all who contributed to this success. In particular, we acknowledge with thanks the enthusiasm and dedication of Denis Murphy, Honorary Secretary, Catherine Watters, Honorary Treasurer and Antoinette Robinson, Development Manager. On behalf of members may I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the members of the Executive Board for their assistance and advice in directing the management of the Association. We also express our appreciation to all who served on committees, panels, groups and sections of the Association and to those who represented the Association on external bodies.

Serving as President of the Library Association of Ireland for the past two years has been an exciting, enjoyable and rewarding experience. I should like to thank all those who assisted me in fulfilling this role and in particular the Honorary Officers, members of the Executive Board, the Development Manager, the immediate past President Marjory Sliney and former Honorary Secretary Geraldine McHugh.

Gobnait O’Riordan, *President*

Annual General Meeting 2004

The Annual General Meeting took place in The Georgian House, 2 Pery Square, Limerick, on Thursday 25 March 2004. Gobnait O'Riordan, Head, Administration, Library and Information Services, University of Limerick, was elected President of the Association. Denis Murphy, Assistant Librarian, Cork County Libraries, was elected Honorary Secretary, and Catherine Watters, Senior Manager, Information and Research Centre, PricewaterhouseCoopers, was elected Honorary Treasurer. Ruth Flanagan, County Librarian, Cork County Libraries, and Teresa Walsh, County Librarian, South Dublin Libraries, were returned as Vice-Presidents of the Association. Gerard Maher, County Librarian, Laois County Library, was elected Honorary Auditor.

The following resolutions were passed at the meeting for action by the Executive Board.

1. That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to establish posts at Grade 7 level in all library authorities.
Proposed by Public Libraries Group
Amended to:
That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, to put in place an appropriate professional staffing structure in all library authorities.
Proposed by Public Libraries Group
2. That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to reaffirm to the Minister for Health and Children, the urgent need for a professionally qualified National Health Libraries Advisor, with substantial experience of working in the health sector, as well as information and knowledge management domains, be appointed to the staff of the Health Information and Quality Authority.
Proposed by Health Sciences Libraries Group
3. That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board, within the next twelve months, to progress Action point 14 of the Library Association Development Plan, namely the streamlining of Groups, Sectors and Panels.
Proposed by Health Sciences Libraries Group
4. That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to again call on the Minister for

Health and Children to publish the National Health Information Strategy.

Proposed by Health Sciences Libraries Group

5. That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to ensure that, in all library authorities, overall staffing levels, and in particular the ratio of professional to support staff, shall be at least of the standard detailed in National Network Local Service.
Proposed by Public Libraries Group
6. That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to set up a Prison Libraries Group of the Library Association of Ireland, to deal with the effective management, development and promotion of prison libraries in relevant local authority areas.
Proposed by Gerard Maher
Amended to:
That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to set up a Prison Libraries Group of the Library Association of Ireland, to deal with the effective development and promotion of prison libraries in relevant local authority areas.
Proposed by Ruth Flanagan
7. That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to create a new group of the LAI to cater for library and information professionals working within the corporate sector, targeting in particular libraries or information services based within the commercial sector and with a focus on corporate/business issues.
Proposed by Aine O'Connor.
8. That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to initiate a plan of action to ensure that new graduates join and participate in the Association.
Proposed by Aine O'Connor.
9. That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to put in place a system for updating the Association's website and thereby informing members of new developments such as submissions to Government, LAI policies on library and information issues, etc.
Proposed by Aine O'Connor
10. That this Annual General Meeting calls on the incoming Executive Board to write to the Government to emphasise the importance of maintaining government



library services, managed by professional librarians at appropriate professional grades.

Proposed by Government Libraries Section.

11. That this Annual General Meeting requests the Executive Board to call on the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to review the guidelines (circular G.2/88 and memorandum G.286/17) for funding of public library capital projects and that it engages with the Executive Board of the LAI in this review.
Proposed by County and City Librarians Group
12. That this Annual General Meeting instructs the incoming Executive Board to prepare – in consultation with the members of the Association, and having regard to best practice in Europe and internationally – a draft Code of Ethics for consideration at the Annual General Meeting of the Association in 2005.
Proposed by the European and International Affairs Panel
13. Glaonn an Cruinniú Chinn Bhliana seo go n-iarrfaí ar an Roinn Comshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil na cáilíochtaí maidir le cumas sa Ghaeilge a láidriú ionas go mbeadh níos mó daoine sa tseirbhís in ann gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge.
Proposed by the County and City Librarians Section
14. That this Annual General Meeting reaffirms the importance of libraries in the Information Society and calls on the Executive Board to brief the Information Society Commission, the Information Society Policy Unit of the Department of the Taoiseach, and Irish delegates to the World Summit on the Information Society, on the central role of libraries in the information and knowledge society. It calls on the board to seek the support of these bodies in extending the existing network of library and information services, making available and preserving knowledge and cultural heritage, providing information access points and developing the twenty-first century literacies essential for the realisation of the information society.
Proposed by the Information Society Panel
15. That this Annual General Meeting calls on the Minister for Education and Science to implement the recommendations on school library provision as outlined in the Library Association of Ireland's publication *The Borrowers at School: a report on primary school libraries*.
Proposed by the Executive Board
16. That this Annual General Meeting calls on the Minister for Education and Science to make public the

findings/recommendations of the inter-departmental committee on school library provision.

Proposed by the Executive Board

Amended to:

That this Annual General Meeting calls on the Minister for Education and Science to implement the findings/recommendations of the inter-departmental committee on school library provision

17. That this Annual General Meeting deplores the failure of the Minister for Education and Science to provide funding on an ongoing basis for the very successful Babies Love Books Scheme, and now instructs the Executive Board to call on the Minister to reinstate the scheme on an annual basis.

Proposed by the Executive Board

18. That this Annual General Meeting recognises the crucial role which the Public Library Service network played in bringing the benefits of the Information Society to the general public through the provision of public access service points in public libraries since 1999. This Annual General Meeting now calls on the Minister to put in place a new tranche of capital funding to allow for the planned and timely replacement of these public access computers which have seen much public use and which are now nearing the end of their useful life.

Proposed by the Executive Board

19. That this Annual General Meeting gives authority to the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Executive Board to revise the subscription fees for personal and institutional members as follows:

Personal Members (Local and Affiliated)

Whose annual salary or income	pay
Does not exceed €20,000	€20
is between €20,000 and €29,999	€45
is between €30,000 and €39,999	€55
is between €40,000 and €49,999	€75
is €50,000 or over	€95

Unemployed or Retired members €20

Students (of recognised LIS course) pay €10 and a discounted Personal members rate of 75% for the first two years of postgraduate Membership.

B Personal Membership Overseas

i.e. Members who work outside the Republic of Ireland and are also members of a sister Library Association, pay €55.

C Institutional Members €300

These rates to be effective from 1 January 2005

Proposed by the Executive Board



National Activities

Advocacy

In 2004, as in previous years, the Association was active as an advocate for libraries in all sectors.

The Association's Seanad nominee, Senator Paschal Mooney, made representations on our behalf on various matters arising from the Annual General Meeting 2004. We are grateful to Senator Mooney for his continued support.

Following representations, meetings with the Department of Health and Children, Education and Science and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government were scheduled for 2004. These were postponed due to the local elections and the protracted nature of the Cabinet reshuffle. At time of going to press, we expect that they will be rescheduled at the earliest opportunity.

The Association has made many representations to the Department of Education and Science regarding school library services. Therefore, we warmly welcome the increased funding through the Public Library School Libraries Services for schools in disadvantaged areas and the increase to the per capita allocation to the school library services.

As in previous years the Association received and responded to a range of queries relating both to the validity of professional qualifications obtained outside Ireland, and to the requirement of professional qualifications for professional posts.

Following a request from the Department of Education and Science, the Association made a submission on the future of the Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann (ITE) Library.

The Education Committee provided the Department of Library and Information Studies (DepLIS), University College, Dublin, with a written submission in response to a presentation on courses offered at that Department.

A submission was also made in response to the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland's National Framework of Qualifications Consultative Paper. It is hoped that professional and international qualifications will soon be incorporated into the National Framework.

Associateship of the Library Association of Ireland

This year saw the successful review of regulations for the Associateship of the Library Association of Ireland, and the promotion of benefits which this award grants to members. Personal members who are suitably qualified are encouraged to apply for the award of Associateship – this carries the post-nominals ALAI. We are anxious to stress to employers, current members and intending members of the Association that ALAI signifies evidence of continuing professional development.

Congratulations to the following members of the Association: Jane Burns (Met Éireann), Eva Hornung (CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit) and Shane Mawe (Trinity College, Dublin) who have been awarded the ALAI in 2004. Certificates will be presented at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Full details of the ALAI are available on the Association website at www.libraryassociation.ie

Organisational Review of the Library Association of Ireland

Progress continued during 2004 on the key actions outlined in the Library Association of Ireland Development Plan.

Key Actions Implemented

A number of the action items identified in the Plan have now been implemented. These include:

- In June 2004, Development Manager, Antoinette Robinson, was appointed for a period of one year. (E-mail: manager@libraryassociation.ie)
- The drive on Institutional Membership and lapsed personal members continued in 2004
- LAI Membership Card organised for 2005
- Enhanced Membership benefits for 2005 including membership discount card; BUPA and VHI Health Schemes; Car, House and Travel Insurance Schemes and Bookshop Discount Schemes
- New sub-title added "representing libraries, librarians and information professionals"
- Electronic newsletter *Leabharlann-e* produced and circulated electronically



- Proposed Policy Papers presented to Executive Board
- Temporary Project Teams set up for: Annual President's Lecture, Website Review, Library Ireland Week.
- LAI Website being reviewed and updated
- New LAI Groups Brochure produced
- Public Libraries Group, Genealogy and Local History Group, and New Members Round Table set up. Contact E-mail addresses set up for groups and sections
- In October 2004, the Development Manager gave a presentation to the Health Sciences Libraries Group in Tullamore outlining the progress on the Development Plan.
- A review of the Development Plan with the Association's groups and sections was held in December 2004, prioritising the actions for 2005.

Membership Benefits

Improved membership benefits was one of the clear messages from the review sessions with groups and sections held in 2003. It is particularly welcome therefore that the appointment of the Development Manager allowed the Association to focus on improving membership benefits. From 2005, all members will receive an LAI membership card, which will permit them to avail of discounts from a wide variety of retail outlets and service providers. The discounts available to members from a selection of bookshops are particularly welcome. A booklet detailing the concessions available will be circulated on renewal of membership. We welcome any suggestions for improving this scheme.

Liaison with Department of Library and Information Studies, UCD

We are pleased to report that this year saw increased interaction between the Association and the Department of Library and Information Studies, UCD.

Professor Mary Burke delivered a presentation on courses currently offered at the Department and a written response was made by the Education Committee.

David Mockler, who attained first place in DipLIS 2002 and H.W. Wilson Foundation Medal winner, was invited to speak at the opening evening debate at the Annual Conference in April.

The Association was pleased to sponsor a reception for new students of the department in September 2004. This provided an opportunity to outline the benefits of

membership of the Association to the students. We hope that this might become an annual event.

As part of the Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Programme currently underway at DepLIS, the Education Committee participated in a focus group meeting at DepLIS together with representatives of the main stakeholders in librarianship in Ireland.

The President was pleased to attend the celebratory event for recent graduates of the Department and wished them well in their careers.

President's Lecture

The President's Lecture and reception was held on the evening of 27 October 2004, at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The lecture was delivered by Professor Shelia Corral, Dept of Information Studies at the University of Sheffield, and was entitled *The Concept of the Collection in the Digital Age and its effect on Library Services and Staffing*. The lecture challenged us to review ideas of library stocks, services and the role of the librarian as we integrate the traditional and the developing digital elements of our collections. This event was free to Association members and invited guests. It is intended that the President's Lecture will be an annual event.



At the President's Lecture: Gbnait O' Riordan, President, LAI, Professor Sheila Corral, Dept of Information Studies, University of Sheffield, Beatrice Doran, Librarian, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Joint Conference 2004

The Annual Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland (LAI) and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals – Ireland Branch (CILIP Ireland) – was held in the Druid's Glen Marriot Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, 19 – 22 April, 2004. The conference hosts were Wicklow County Libraries. John Graham, Chairperson of CILIP Ireland officially opened the conference and the trade exhibition.

The conference theme was *Libraries; beyond the digital* and covered diverse topics, encouraging attendees to return to thinking about library users and services, instead of the hardware and software used to deliver them.

The opening panel discussion on *Libraries beyond the Digital* was chaired by Sean Quirke, Director of Community and Enterprise, Wicklow County Council. The panellists were: Thomas McCarthy, Assistant Director of 'Cork 2005- European Capital of Culture', Deborah Shorley, Librarian, University of Sussex and President Elect, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, David Mockler, University College Dublin student speaker, first place in DipLIS 2002 and H.W. Wilson Foundation Medal winner, Cearbhall O Meadhra, President of the Institute for Design and Disability, and Marie Reddan, Librarian, National University of Ireland, Galway. Each speaker presented a

different approach to the topic, reminding us that we should not sit on our professional laurels and to remain energetic in our attempts to deliver services to library patrons that are usable, relevant and accessible for all. Delegates were exercised by the subsequent discussion which centred around the issue of seeing beyond the technology to the service being delivered.

The Conference resumed on Wednesday morning with Jane Morris, former Deputy Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly speaking passionately on *The E-citizen: how requirements for information have changed as a result of electronic information*, and the real challenges that this poses for libraries. The next session was given by Dr. Robert Wallace Vaagan, Associate Professor, Faculty of Journalism, Library and Information Science, Oslo University College, on *Ethical issues of the electronic information environment*, outlining current research on the perceptions and attitudes of library and information professionals while conceding that sectional differences remain. He also expressed a desire that Ireland partake in his studies.

John Anderson, Education Technology Strategy Coordinator, Department of Education, Northern Ireland spoke on *E-Learning: how the way people learn is changing*, examining generational change and globalisation; how boundaries are beginning to blur as the place and timing of learning are changing. The day's session concluded with John Fitzgerald, Librarian, University College Cork addressing the conference on the topic of *Libraries beyond the digital: staff skills*, highlighting that change is inevitable, and we as LIS professionals are agents for it. Therefore, we need to focus on library staff: their personal development and training in the areas of pedagogy, profession specific skills, people skills, technology skills, political skills, advocacy, and public relations. While a demand for an organised space, a neutral space exists, people will remain the preferred medium of interaction.

Wednesday afternoon allowed a visit to Powerscourt House and Gardens, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, where Brendan Martin and the staff of Wicklow County Libraries were on hand with their newly delivered accessible mobile library.

Thursday was Members' Day; it began with a insightful address by Mr. Filips Crucke, Head of EUROPA Coordination Team on the EUROPA web site. An overview of the current EUROPA web presence was given, followed by an outline of the proposed changes to this essential



At the Joint Conference: 1-r, Diarmuid Breathnach, Bray Librarian 1961–1966, Eileen Murray, Bray Librarian 1967–1998, and Joe Hayes (seated), Wicklow County Librarian 1965–1993.



Launch of Wicklow Mobile Library at the Joint Conference: l-r, Norma McDermott, Director, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Sean Quirke, Director of Services, Community and Enterprise, Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Michael Lawlor, Eddie Sheehy, Wicklow County Manager, Dr. Bill O'Connell, Chairman, Wicklow County Council, Gbnait O'Riordan, President, LAI, Brendan Martin, Wicklow Co Librarian.

resource on EU information. The concept of themed portals with information directed towards user groups was discussed. The aim of these changes is to allow millions of available documents be accessed in a very structured way, using a top-down approach.

Russell Drury spoke of his experience at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva and the difficulty civil society encountered in actually being heard as part of the business of the summit. He was concerned that the United Nations was not in control of the process, and how information was viewed as a tradable commodity rather than as something which should be accessible to all. The hope was expressed that the next round in Tunis 2005 will involve a more hands-on approach from the UN.

Gbnait O'Riordan opened Member's Day and addressed the conference. She called on LAI members to consider applying for the ALAI – forms for which are now available on the LAI website.

Aidín O'Sullivan, Librarian, Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown and Jens Thorhauge, Director, Danish National Library Authority spoke on *Building design for the Digital Age* giving a very good outline of the physical considerations, and planning stages required for today's library.

The afternoon took the form of a wide range of parallel sessions. These covered topics such as Siobhán Fitzpatrick's *Digitisation process for the Irish Script on Screen (ISOS)*. This project outlined her experience with the ISOS project at the RIA and the technical challenges that digitisation provided to the team. Mary Doyle's session *Licensing for Electronic Publications – some issues* gave advice on User Licenses, how to bring them to the attention of users, and steps to take when you want to renegotiate with suppliers. These sessions included advice for anyone considering similar projects.

The pre-banquet reception was hosted by Wicklow County Council where delegates were addressed by Dr. Bill O'Connell, Chairman, Wicklow County Council, and



Mr. Eddie Sheehy, Manager, Wicklow County Council followed by the Minister of State, Department of the Environment and Local Government, Pat 'the Cope' Gallagher. The Abbey 100 programme celebrating one

hundred years of the Abbey Theatre with a year long celebration and nationwide events was then launched, after which the Conference Banquet drew proceedings to a close.

77th Anniversary of the Library Association of Ireland

Over the past year a working group was established to examine how best to celebrate the 77th Anniversary of the LAI. The working group has plans for a number of activities, some of which have already occurred. These include:

- A web site celebrating past members, activities, conferences of the Association
- A publication describing people's experiences of Librarians & Libraries in Ireland.
- The President's Lecture was held on 27 October 2004. The lecture – delivered by Professor Shelia Corrall, Dept of Information Studies at the University of Sheffield – was entitled *The Concept of the Collection in the Digital Age and its effect on Library Services and Staffing*. The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland kindly hosted this evening event.
- A Library Ireland Week is planned for the week beginning 7 March 2005, when all libraries and librarians will be invited to showcase their contribution and achievements. We hope that all of you will use this

event to celebrate and advocate the role of your Library in your organisation. Details of the event have been sent to all groups and sections, and the Leabharlann-E list. PR material for the week is in preparation.

- The Group is also planning to create a virtual exhibition of LAI events and Librarians.
- We are actively seeking photographs and other items for our website. If you have items you would care to lend, please contact Áine O'Connor
- Finally, we are hoping to compile material for publication, that reflects the experiences of librarians and library readers about libraries in Ireland

The working group members are:

Aoife Connolly: aoife.connolly@pwc.ie

Áine O'Connor: [aie.oconnor@arup.com](mailto:aine.oconnor@arup.com)

Aoife Geraghty: aoife.geraghty@ul.ie

Aoife Lawton: aoife.lawton@ehss.ie

Ann Cleary: ann.cleary@dkit.ie



International Activities

EBLIDA

EBLIDA, the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, has agreed to hold its Annual Council meeting and Spring Executive meeting in Cork in May 2005. These will take place at the invitation of the Library Association of Ireland, and will be jointly hosted by the Association, Cork City Libraries and University College Cork.

North-South Liaison Committee

The North-South Liaison Committee comprises representatives from both the Library Association of Ireland and CILIP in Ireland. The business of the committee includes the organisation of the Annual Joint Conference, the publication of the journal *An Leabharlann/The Irish Library* and the *Directory of Irish Libraries*, all of which are joint projects between both associations.

The committee met six times in 2004, four in Dublin and once in Belfast and Derry. Among other issues, they dealt with the completion of the administration of the 2004 Joint Conference and the organisation of the 2005 conference, which will take place in Derry in April 2005.

Plans for the next Celtic Connections Conference are proceeding well, with the venue and dates now selected. The conference will take place during the week of 15 May, 2006, at the Thistle Hotel, Cardiff. Brendan Teeling attended the advance planning meetings in Wales on behalf of the committee during the year.

A new *An Leabharlann* Editorial Board was appointed and the LAI representatives are: Mary Burke, Beatrice Doran, Pat McMahon (Editor), Brendan Teeling and Michael Ó hAodha. The Board held its first meeting in November.

On behalf of the Committee, Florence Curley revised the basic data in all ROI entries in the *Directory of Libraries & Information Services in Ireland*. The Directory will be re-launched in 2005.

International Committee of the Blue Shield

The Blue Shield is the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross. It aims to protect cultural and heritage sites from attack in times of armed conflict or natural disaster, and to

promote awareness of the importance of preserving these sites and their contents in peacetime and during wartime. The International Committee of the Blue Shield comprises four constituent bodies: the International Council on Archives (ICA), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Council on Monuments & Sites (ICOMOS) and IFLA. It is intended that national committees would be established in each country, with the same basic composition. In 2000, the joint United Kingdom and Ireland Blue Shield committee (UKIRB) was formed as the umbrella organisation under the auspices of the British Library and IFLA. This committee has met several times.

An Irish committee – members of which are also members of UKIRB – was set up in 2004, with four representatives:

Pat Cooke, Pearse Museum (ICOM)

Pat Cox, (ICOMOS)

Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Royal Irish Academy (IFLA/LAI)

Frances McGee, National Archives (ICA)

Two meetings have been held and two primary objectives have been identified, viz. to raise the matter of Ireland's ratification of the Hague Protocol in the appropriate quarters and to promote awareness of the aims and work of the Blue Shield organisation among the armed forces.

Visits from International Colleagues

We were very pleased to welcome Professor Mitsuhiro Oda, a member of staff at the Department of Education, Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, on a study visit to Ireland. Professor Oda attended the Annual General Meeting.

IFLA 2004

Libraries: tools for education and development was the theme of the World Library and Information Congress/70th IFLA General Conference and Council held in Buenos Aires, 22–27 August, 2004. This was the first time that the IFLA conference was held in Latin America. While the main sub-themes – *the integration of libraries to education* and *the development of the region as a means to fight poverty* had a special resonance for delegates from the region, the issues



raised were of interest to all library and information professionals. A number of topics – information literacy for lifelong learning, the right to information, and the need for continued revision of skills for all LIS professionals – recurred through different sessions.

In addition to the 166 sessions of the conference, there was the opportunity to visit libraries in the Buenos Aires area and to learn about the development of libraries in Latin America. While it was winter time in Argentina, the cold weather did not prevent delegates from visiting various places of interest in and around Buenos Aires. Delegates also had the opportunity to sample some of the rich culture of Argentina including several tango displays.

Members of the Association who attended included Mary Burke (DepLIS), Norma McDermott (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna) and Marjory Sliney (Fingal County Libraries).

The Campaign for the World's Libraries @ Your Library

This is a campaign of IFLA, ALA and libraries throughout the world, to promote the value of libraries and librarians. It is designed to showcase the unique role of public, school, academic and special libraries, using the trademark brand @YOURLIBRARY. Three salient messages emerged from the campaign: libraries are changing and dynamic places; libraries are places of opportunity; libraries bridge the world.

The Library Association of Ireland has joined the campaign and administers use of the trademark on behalf of the library community in Ireland.



Committees and Panels of the Executive Board

Children and School Libraries Panel

Marjory Sliney (Convenor), Micheál Ó hAodha.

This Committee welcomes the recent initiative of the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, in prioritising literacy in disadvantaged areas. Eighty six thousand primary school students in 600 schools will benefit from a recent allocation of €500,000 to purchase books through the Public Library School Libraries Service. *Under the Giving Children an Even Break* Programme, local authority school library services are co-ordinating the acquisition and delivery of books to the selected schools.

In launching the initiative, the Minister stated that the books are being provided so that children – along with their parents and teachers – can learn to love reading, through the experience of reading at home at a young age. This exposure to reading will improve children's literacy skills and ensure that children most in need of support do not fall behind in reading skills.

We also understand that in the coming year, the *per capita* allocation to school library services from the Department of Education and Science will increase.

The Association continues to sell copies of *The Borrowers at School: a report on Primary School Libraries and Library File*.

Education Committee

Deirdre Ellis-King (Convenor), Mary Burke, Ann Cleary, Mary Conway, Joe Donnelly, Beatrice Doran, Áine O'Connor, Gonnait O'Riordan, Marjory Sliney (Secretary), Teresa Walsh.

The Committee met once during the year and conducted most of its business via e-mail. A sub-committee (Beatrice Doran, Deirdre Ellis-King, Gonnait O'Riordan, Marjory Sliney and Teresa Walsh) updated Regulations for the Associateship of the Library Association of Ireland. These are now available on the Association's website at www.libraryassociation.ie

The Education Committee has begun a marketing initiative to encourage suitably qualified personal members to apply for the award of Associateship – this carries the post-nominals ALAI. It is important to stress to employers, current members and intending members of the Association that ALAI signifies evidence of continuing professional development. On the recommendation of this Committee, the Executive Board has awarded the ALAI to the following members of the Association: Jane Burns (Met Éireann), Eva Hornung (CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit) and Shane Mawe (Trinity College, Dublin). Certificates will be presented at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland (FLAI) was considered during the year. Revised Regulations for the award of FLAI will be prepared.

The Committee is responsible for maintaining standards of professional education within Ireland, and strives towards raising these standards in line with best international practice. Professor Mary Burke delivered a presentation to the 2003 Committee on courses currently offered at the Department of Library and Information Studies (DepLIS), University College, Dublin. The Education Committee responded to this with a written submission.

In conjunction with the Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Process currently underway at DepLIS, the Education Committee participated in a focus group meeting at DepLIS, together with representatives of the main stakeholders in librarianship in Ireland.

Numerous queries- especially those relating to professional qualifications obtained outside Ireland – were received and responded to during the year. The Association may recognise professional qualifications accredited in the country in which they were obtained. It is important to stress this aspect of the Association's role to employers.

A submission was prepared in response to the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland's *National Framework of Qualifications Consultative Paper*. It is hoped that professional and international qualifications will shortly be incorporated into the National Framework.



European and International Affairs Panel

Liam Ronayne (Convenor), Joseph Donnelly, Deirdre Ellis-King Micheál Ó hAodha, Marjory Sliney, Donal Tinney,

Much of the time of the Panel Convenor during 2004 was taken up with preparations for the EBLIDA Annual Council and spring Executive meetings.

The Executive Committee will meet on 12 May in Cork; while the Council meeting will take place on 13–14 May.

The Panel was also concerned with a number of EU-related issues during the year: including the recognition throughout the EU of professional qualifications gained in one member state. To date, library and information posts have not been included in the schedule of professions affected, but the Panel is keeping the matter under review and has been in touch with the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government regarding the possible implications for qualifications for public library professional jobs. Other European matters of concern are EU cultural policies, and the Directives on Intellectual Property and Public Lending Right. The Panel continues to monitor developments relating to the World Summit on the Information Society and WTO /GATS /TRIPS.

Preliminary work took place on the drafting of a Code of Ethics for the Association; research was carried out on the codes adopted by sister organisations in Europe and elsewhere.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Gobnait O'Riordan (Convenor), Bernard Barrett, Ann Cleary Geraldine McHugh, Denis Murphy, Áine O'Connor, Antoinette Robinson, Liam Ronayne, Marjory Sliney, Brendan Teeling, Catherine Watters

The Finance & General Purposes Committee is the administrative Committee dealing with finance, membership and publications. The Committee met seven times during the year.

The financial situation of the Association continues to be healthy. The Committee considers all the activities of the Association to ensure the best possible use of its financial resources. Continuing financial stability is vital for the development of the Association.

Once again, the business of the Committee was dominated by the LAI Review and the implementation of

the Development Plan. In particular, the Committee examined ways to encourage and retain membership. The Committee is delighted to report that membership, particularly Institutional and Student Membership, increased in 2004. In working with the Development Manager to introduce new services to members, including membership cards and discount schemes, the Committee is confident that membership will continue to increase.

The Committee worked with the Association's Anniversary Working Group, supporting their activities and assisting with the organisation of Library Ireland Week.

Healthcare Libraries Panel

Bernard Barrett (Convenor), Beatrice Doran.

FOR LAI members of the Health Care Libraries Sector, responding to and building on our capacity to influence change continued to be top of the agenda in 2004.

Much of the drive for this resulted from the decision of the government to completely reform the structures of the health service, in which many group members currently work. The new structures, Health Services Executive (HSE), came into operation from 1 January 2005. While change is not always comfortable, it can nonetheless be an opportunity, and on-going discussions are being held with project managers in the new HSE, to discuss not only the future shape of health library and information services, but of equal importance, the role that Health Science Librarians can and should play within the health service.

It is intended that the *Standards for Health Care Libraries* will be launched in May 2005, which is tabled for the Executive Board of the Library Association in February 2005.

The panel is delighted that its international profile has increased during 2004. Among the activities we participated in were:

- A Health Executive Advisory Group of CILIP's Health Libraries Group, which has now been published and makes recommendations for the development of the Health Sciences sector of the profession. Many of the recommendations are also relevant to other sectors of the profession.
- Participation in the Health Libraries Group conference in Belfast, last September, where our Chairperson was asked to deliver a paper at one



of the plenary sessions; we also ran a break out session.

The Panel continued to benefit from two free places on yearly systematic review training- facilitated by the UK Branch of the Cochrane Collaboration – which was this year held at the University of Limerick. A new All-Ireland Cochrane group has recently been set up, and we are fully involved in this.

In order to guide and co-ordinate all this activity and more, a strategic planning process was initiated at the Health Sciences Group annual conference in November. This will operate on a three year cycle. It will provide the sector with an opportunity to discuss, agree and become involved with a programme to advance the work and meet the challenges facing the entire sector.

Information Society Panel

Joseph Donnelly Deirdre Ellis-King, Denis Murphy, Micheál Ó hAodha, Donal Tinney, Teresa Walsh

The past year provided an opportunity for reflection on the World Summit on the Information Society (wsis): Geneva, December 2003, and an eager anticipation for the second phase: Tunis, November 2005.

The second Preparatory Sessions, accompanied by Regional Conferences, were held during 17-25 February. In responding to the Summit's Declaration of Principles IFLA emphasised its core vision for an Information Society, that

everyone can create, access, use and share information and knowledge; this is based on the fundamental right of each human being to access and express information without restriction.

In offering a commitment to further address the digital divide, IFLA recognises that inequality of access to information occurs both within and across nations.

IFLA also expressed concern about Internet governance and opposes any measures which would lead to control of information access and free expression by commercial, governmental or sectoral interests. Careful attention will be paid to monitoring the implementation of the Geneva Action Plan, although it became clear from an early stage that insufficient funds were allocated.

It is important that an increase be provided for Tunis, especially towards providing a communications infrastructure to underpin ICT development.

Media coverage of Geneva was also disappointing, although it did coincide with the Brussels EU Summit.

Civil society needs to promote its role in the wsis process among the mass-media outlets.

Prominent world leaders are now placing the problems of Under-Developed Countries centre-stage on the world political agenda; we should exploit this opportunity in the run-up to Tunis to further extol the powerful role which information can play in addressing these issues.

Information may not have the life-saving immediacy of a vaccine or a generic drug, but it remains central in the fight against poverty.



Executive Board meeting in Killarney Library: 1-r standing, Brendan Teeling (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna), Áine O'Connor (Arup Consulting Engineers), Ann Cleary (Dundalk Institute of Technology), Pat Lonergan (Kildare County Libraries), Denis Murphy (Hon. Secretary LAI), Catherine Watters (Hon. Treasurer, LAI); seated: Mary Conway (Waterford City Council Library), Gbnait O'Riordan (President, LAI), Kathleen Browne (Kerry County Libraries), Ruth Flanagan (Cork County Libraries).

Representing the Association

Nominees and Members of External Committees

Branching Out Steering Committee: Liam Ronayne, Donal Brady (to November), Teresa Walsh (from November)

Celtic Connections Conference 2006 Committee: Brendan Teeling

An Chomhairle Leabharlanna: Deirdre Ellis-King, Ruth Flanagan

COLICO: Leslie Bryan

EBLIDA: Liam Ronayne

EBLIDA Expert Group on Copyright: Jennifer Aston

Euro-Focus on the Cultural Heritage: Ruth Flanagan

International Committee of the Blue Shield: Siobhán Fitzpatrick

An Leabharlann Editorial Board: Mary Burke, Beatrice Doran, Pat McMahon (Editor), Micheál Ó hAodha, Brendan Teeling

Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network: Brendan Martin, Austin Vaughan

Local Government Computer Services Liaison Committee: Tom King

Newsplan: Marjory Sliney

North-South Liaison Committee: Ann Cleary, Brendan Teeling, Gobnait O'Riordan,

Marjory Sliney, Catherine Watters, Niamh Walker-Headon

Schools Libraries Working Group: Fionnuala Hanrahan, Mary Carlton-Reynolds

Standing Committee on Public Library Staff Training and Development: Pat Loneragan, Austin Vaughan

WTO/GATS : Liam Ronayne

Conferences

Welsh Library Conference, 11-12 March, Llandrindod, Wales: Ruth Flanagan

CILIP Scotland Conference, Peebles 7-10 June: Marjory Sliney

World Library and Information Congress, 70th IFLA General Conference and Council, Buenos Aires, 22-27 August: Mary Burke

Functions at which the LAI was represented

Re-opening of Waterford City Council Central Library, Waterford, February 2004: Fionnuala Hanrahan

Launch of the online exhibition of records of the Office of the Secretary to the President, Dublin, May 2004: Teresa Walsh

Official re-opening of Baldoyle Library, Fingal County Council, 3 June 2004: Marjory Sliney

Book launch *The Heart has its Reasons: Short Stories* by



LAI Reception for DepLIS students: 1-r, John Steele (DepLIS), Dr Ian Cornelius (DepLIS), Dr Judith Wuusteman (DepLIS), Dr Clare Cullen (DepLIS), Gobnait O'Riordan, President, LAI, Prof. Mary Burke (DepLIS), Marjory Sliney, Fingal County Libraries, Jessica Bates (DepLIS)



Criostoir O'Flynn, University of Limerick, 1 July 2004:
Gobnait O'Riordan

Launch of document entitled *Making Access Happen*, National
Library of Ireland, September 2004: Teresa Walsh

Twenty -Five years of Society of Archivists, Ireland and 30
years of professional archival training in the Archives
Department, University College Dublin. Newman
House, St. Stephen's Green, 8 October 2004:
Catherine Watters

Public Libraries Conference Sligo, November 2004:
Donal Tinney

Employers and Past Student Focus Group QA /QI
Assessment, UCD, 13 December 2004: Gobnait
O'Riordan, Deirdre Ellis-King, Marjory Sliney, Teresa
Walsh, Beatrice Doran, Joe Donnelly, Aine O'Connor
and Mary Conway

Parliamentary Librarians, OPW, St Stephen's Green,
Dublin, 13 December 2004: Gobnait O'Riordan
Graduation Reception for Class 2003/2004, UCD, 14
January 2005: Gobnait O'Riordan

Roscrea People of the Year Awards, 19 January 2005:
Gobnait O'Riordan

Booksellers Association Annual Dinner, Clontarf Castle,
28 January 2005: Marjory Sliney

LAI Genealogy and Local Studies Group, Inaugural
meeting, 24 February 2005: Gobnait O'Riordan

Publications

Annual Report 2003 Dublin: Library Association of
Ireland, 2004. ISSN 0791-6248

Sections and Groups

New Groups

This year saw the establishment of three new special-interest groups in the Association:

Public Libraries Group

Genealogy and Local History Group

Prison Libraries Group.

We are especially pleased to welcome these new groups, as they offer members an increased opportunity for professional development and cooperation in particular areas of interest. Congratulations to all involved in their formation, and every success in their future development.

Cataloguing and Indexing Group

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Jane Gribbon, University of Limerick
<i>Secretary:</i>	Barbara McDonald, Trinity College Dublin
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Breda Long, University College Cork

The Cataloguing and Indexing Group held a training workshop on Dewey 22 in the University of Limerick. The purpose of the workshop was to enable existing users of Dewey 22 to update their skills on the changes in the new edition of the classification. It also enabled participants to evaluate WebDewey as a classification tool.

The introductory session combined presentation with hands-on practice using the new edition. The course itself covered changes and updates in Dewey 22, a practical session with the printed schedules, and a WebDewey overview. The participants, from a range of libraries, also engaged in practical exercises using WebDewey. The course presenter was Stuart Hunt of OCLC/Pica.

County and City Librarians Section

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Breda Gleeson, Kildare County Library
<i>Vice-Chair:</i>	Jane Cantwell, Waterford City Library
<i>Secretary:</i>	Brendan Martin, Wicklow County Library

The AGM of the section was held in Bunclody, Co. Wexford, on 18 November 2004.

A variety of issues were discussed by the section during the year: staff training, schools library service, prison library service, library access and the Intersearch Project. These items provided the core of the County and City Librarians' Autumn Seminar, which had as its theme – "Public Libraries – towards a new philosophy".

Maureen Gilbert of the National Equality Authority provided an innovative approach to dealing with issues for the disabled. Four library authorities had signed up to the pilot project and Maureen invited others to avail of the full training course.

Galway County Librarian, Pat McMahon delivered a paper entitled *The Tiger is in the Library*, which questioned our approach to collection development.

Mary Burke, Department of Library and Information Studies, UCD, provided an update on training and education of librarians.

Kevin Warner, Dept. of Justice spoke with librarians regarding the Prison Library Service, and was very positive that significant improvements will occur in this area in the near future.

Annette Kelly, Assistant Director, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, discussed the plans of the Information Society Commission and the DOEHLG regarding the planned Intersearch Project. It was agreed that the ability to search across all our catalogues will be a welcome development.

Teresa Walsh, South Dublin County Librarian and Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian, gave progress



County and City Librarians at their Autumn Seminar in Dingle



reports on the Public Library Research Projects concerning marketing and multicultural issues in the public library sector.

The Autumn seminar was held in Dingle, and included a visit to An Bhlascaoid Mhóir, An Oidhreacha Chorca Dhuibhne and Dingle Library to view Irish Language Resources. It also included a presentation on a multi-media package for Irish language learning.

The County and City Librarians' Section noted with sadness the death of Colin Smith, (LGCSB) in 2004, who had been directly involved in automation projects with many County and City Librarians during his career.

Genealogy and Local Studies Group

The Genealogy and Local Studies Group is an exciting new Group of the LAI, founded in response to an initiative of the Genealogy and Local History Section of IFLA.

A preliminary meeting was held on 28 October 2004 in the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Present were: Síle Coleman (South Dublin Libraries), Monica Cullinan (UCD Library), Crystal Fulton (Department of Library and Information Studies UCD), Colette O'Flaherty (National Library of Ireland), Kieran Swords (South Dublin Libraries).

The primary aim of the Group is to provide a forum for LAI members working, or with an interest, in genealogy and local studies. Thus the Group could help members to:

- meet other people working in libraries and information centres with similar concerns and interests;
- promote the continuing professional development of genealogy and local studies staff;
- promote best practice in the delivery of traditional and electronic genealogy and local studies reference services;
- foster the use of genealogy and local studies collections within the broader community;
- facilitate networking among those working with genealogy and local studies collections in libraries, archives and museums serving genealogists and local studies researchers;
- promote international cooperation in the preservation, conservation, and dissemination of Irish genealogical and local studies sources.

An inaugural seminar entitled *Taking Stock*, at which the Group will be formally launched, has been organised for the National Library, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 on Thursday, 24 February 2005, and a day-long seminar is planned during May on aspects of the County Bibliography.



Interim Committee of the Genealogy and Local Studies Group: l-r, Kieran Swords and Síle Coleman (South Dublin Libraries); Mario Corrigan (Kildare County Libraries); Monica Cullinan (UCD Library), Colette O'Flaherty (National Library of Ireland); Dr. Crystal Fulton (Department of Library and Information Studies UCD); Celestine Rafferty (Wexford County Libraries).

A constitution has been drawn up and is awaiting approval by the Executive Board of the LAI. The initial committee has been joined by Mario Corrigan of Kildare County Libraries and by Celestine Rafferty of Wexford County Libraries. The committee agreed that Colette O'Flaherty would serve as Chairperson and that the post of Secretary would rotate until formal elections at the first AGM of the Group.

Government Libraries Section

<i>Chairperson and</i>	Donal McSweeney
<i>Webmaster:</i>	Dept. of Agriculture and Food
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Valerie Ingram, Office of Public Works Library
<i>Secretary and PRO:</i>	Joseph Donnelly, Judges' Library
<i>Committee:</i>	Mary Doyle, Dept. of Agriculture and Food Niamh O'Sullivan, Irish Blood Transfusion Service Madelaine Dennison, Office of the Attorney General Orla Fitzpatrick, National Museum Noeleen Murtagh, Food Safety Authority of Ireland Michelle Touhey, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

The Government Libraries Section (GLS) represents the interests of staff working in government libraries and aims



**Introducing the President at the Joint Meeting of the Government Library Section and the Northern Ireland Government Library Services Group in the Office of Public Works Boardroom:
l-r, Gobnait O’ Riordan, President, LAI, Donal McSweeney, Chairperson, GLS, Joseph Donnelly, Secretary and PRO, GLS**

to promote and develop the role of libraries in the Civil Service and promote co-operation between government libraries. The GLS met eleven times during 2004, including the AGM in May. The Group continues to keep abreast of developments in copyright law. Matters discussed include the implementation in January 2004 of outstanding elements of the Copyright Directive, technological protection measures, the Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Directive and licensing by the Irish Copyright Licensing Agency. In July, a training session was held in the Office of the Attorney General on the European Convention on Human Rights – its significance, relationship to domestic law, documents, the European Court of Human Rights and the HUDOC (European Court of Human Rights) database. In December the GLS hosted the 2004 joint meeting with the Northern Ireland Government Library Services Group. LAI President Gobnait O’ Riordan addressed the two groups on the topic of likely trends in the library world over the next ten years, which led to a discussion about prospects for government libraries in the future. This was followed by lunch and a visit to Farmleigh House and Library.

GLS representatives attended the meeting with the LAI Executive Board in November for an update on the LAI review. Representatives also took part in the Focus Group on professional education in the Department of Library and Information Studies in UCD. A GLS motion was passed at the LAI AGM in March, calling for government support of professionally staffed government library services.

The Directory of Irish Government Libraries,

compiled for use by GLS members, was updated twice during the year. Issue 16 of the GLS journal *GLINT* (edited by Mary Doyle), was issued by e-mail in April 2004, and is available for all in the GLS section of the LAI website. It includes articles on knowledge management, disaster recovery from fire, flood etc. (based, with permission, on a training course given to GLS members by Harwell Drying & Restoration Services), and a number of articles on planning and moving libraries.

Health Sciences Libraries Group

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Bernard Barrett, Mental Health Directorate, Mid Western Health Board;
<i>Secretary:</i>	Timothy Collins, NUI, Galway;
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Rose Buttimer, University College Cork
<i>Communications Officer:</i>	Louise Farragher Health Research Board
<i>Committee:</i>	Sue Faulkner, Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary, Monasterevin Brian Galvin, Health Research Board Muriel Haire, Irish Nurses’ Organisation Jean Harrison, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda Aoife Lawton, Eastern Health Shared Services Ciara McCaffrey, University of Limerick Fiona McCarthy, James Connolly Memorial Hospital Maire McClarnon, National Disease Surveillance Centre Emma Quinn, Waterford Regional Hospital Penny Wiggle Adelaide, Meath & National Children’s Hospital, Tallaght.

In addition to two Strategic Planning workshops held in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and in the Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore, the committee met seven times in venues hosted by committee members in Dublin (3), Cork (1), Limerick (2) and Tullamore (1).



The committee had a very busy and fruitful year, with great unity of purpose. Individual committee members undertook tasks in addition to committee work, which focused on formulating a Strategic Plan for the Group. Rose Buttimer and Sue Faulkner prepared a draft Policies and Procedures document to provide a framework for the committee. In response to the mandate received from the delegates who attended the 2003 Annual Two-day Conference, the Continuing Professional Development Working Group under Aoife Lawton and Fiona McCarthy hosted six training days in Dublin, Limerick and Galway, with an ongoing programme planned for the coming year.

Under Brian Galvin and Louise Farragher, the Web Site Working Group are in the final stages of going live with a newly designed web site which will incorporate the new Group logo. Terms of Reference for additional committee officers were agreed, following which Ciara McCaffrey became Cochrane Library Liaison Officer and Maire McClarnon became International Liaison Officer. In addition, a Finance Advisory Group was set up to assist Rose Buttimer in her work as Treasurer.

To further raise the profile of the Group, and keep members informed of relevant developments, issues of the Group's newsletter *HINT* were produced and distributed by joint editors Emma Quinn and Louise Farragher.

Closer links were forged with our sister organisation, CILIP's Health Libraries Group, following last year's initial contacts. As well as attending meetings of the HLG Health Executive Advisory Group, members also attended various conferences. Louise Farragher was a guest speaker at the Annual Joint CILIP/LAI Conference in Wicklow in April, and Bernard Barrett was a guest speaker at the HLG Annual Conference in Belfast in September.

For many Group members, the high point of the year is

attending the Annual two-day Conference, successfully held once again in Tullamore in November: entitled *Strategies for success: claiming our future*. Delegates heard speakers from the UK deliver addresses on aspects of strategic planning, before forming workshop groups to formulate objectives for agreed goals. The success of this formula of including delegates is based on experience gained from previous conferences, and the participation is welcomed by all, especially as these workshops give, in effect, a clear mandate to the incoming committee to implement what was discussed and agreed upon at the conference.

An Mheitheal Oibre / Irish Language Group

<i>Cathaoirleach/</i>	Cathal Ó Cuinn,
<i>Chairperson:</i>	Fingal County Libraries
<i>Leas-Chathaoirleach:</i>	Nicole Seabrook,
<i>Vice-Chairperson:</i>	Trinity College Dublin
<i>Cisteoir/Treasurer:</i>	Etaín Ó Síocháin, NUI, Maynooth
<i>Rúnaí/Secretary:</i>	David McNally, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Libraries

An Mheitheal Oibre aims to act as a central body providing advice and support on the use of Irish in academic, public and specialist libraries in Ireland. We aim to assist those people who are not fluent speakers of the Irish language. The provision of dual language signage, bilingual internet sites and OPACs with a standardised terminology in Irish are among the objectives of the group. The strengthening of library services offered through the medium of Irish would be a core aim of *An Mheitheal Oibre*. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, David McNally at dmcnally@dlrco.co.ie

Bhí cruinniú beag againn ag tús na bliana. Tionóladh an



An Mheitheal Oibre/Irish Language Group:

1-r, Fiona Heffernan (DLIADT);
David McNally (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries); Nicole Seabrook (TCD);
Cathal Ó Cuinn (Fingal Libraries);
Máire Delargy (University of Ulster);
Seán De Bhulbh (IT Limerick);
Etaín Ó Síocháin (NUI Maynooth)

chéad chruinniú mór den *Mheitheal Oibre* ar an 27 Feabhra 2004 i leabharlann Sráid an Phiarsaigh, i mBaile Átha Cliath. Bhí díospóireacht spreagúil faoina hábhair éagsúla. Bhí caint againn faoi pholasáí na Gaeilge agus úsáid na Gaeilge san ionad oibre. Lúadh go raibh gá le oifigí Gaeilge i ngach údarás áitiúil agus i ngach ollscoil. Dúradh go mba choir níos mó fógraí dátheangacha a bheith ar fáil sna leabharlanna éagsúla ar fud na tíre. Pléadh an téileamh ar Leabhair Gaeilge sna leabharlanna poiblí freisin.

The next meeting of *An Mheitheal Oibre* was held on 27 May 2004 in Trinity College Dublin. A Chairperson (Cathal Ó Cuinn), Vice-Chairperson (Nicole Seabrook), Secretary (David McNally) and Treasurer (Etaín Ó Síocháin) were elected and the primary aims and objectives of the group were outlined. Mary Delargy, University of Ulster and Seán Ó Súilleabháin, Leitrim County Library, were thanked for their work on the previous committee. The need for an Irish language terminology for libraries was discussed.

On 7 October 2004, in the Henry Jones Room, Trinity College, Pádraig Ó Flatharta of Áisinteacht Dáiliúcháin Leabhar (Irish language book distributors), gave an interesting lecture on his personal experiences travelling the length and breadth of the country marketing Irish language books. An informal meeting of *An Mheitheal Oibre* was held afterwards.

Initial work has begun on a special project providing a list of standardised Irish language terms for a WEB OPAC.

Prison Libraries Group

Following the passing of a motion at last year's AGM of the Library Association of Ireland, an initial meeting was held at the County and City Libraries autumn seminar in Bunclody, Co. Wexford. The Group is open to those working in or with an interest in prison libraries. Its aim is to promote the use of libraries in prisons by both prisoners and the teaching staff of prisons for leisure and educational purposes.

One of the first objectives of the Group is to secure proper staffing of prison libraries. A submission on staffing has been sent to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform by the Co-ordinator of Education in the Irish Prison Service and agreed by County and City Libraries. The submission proposes professional library management of certain prison libraries and non-professional staffing of others, depending on prisoner numbers.

Public Libraries Group

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Josephine Vahey, Galway County Library
<i>Vice-Chairperson :</i>	Carmel Daly, Clare County Library
<i>Secretary:</i>	Brenda Frawley, Limerick County Library
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Pat Lonergan, Kildare County Library
<i>Committee:</i>	Eileen Burgess, Donegal County Library Jess Codd, Tipperary Libraries Tony Cox, Westmeath County Library Melanie Cunningham, Waterford County Library Gerard Flannery, Tipperary Libraries Cora Gunter, Galway County Library Liz O'Sullivan, University of Limerick

The Public Libraries Group was formally established this year to replace the Assistant Librarians Group. The AGM took place on 25 February, Westside Public Library, Galway. The meeting was preceded by a tour of this new library and its facilities. The committee then met a further four times during the year. The annual conference was held on 14–16 October, at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Sligo. The conference was entitled *C'mon Everybody: Libraries and Interculturalism* and was officially opened by Donal Tinney, County Librarian in Sligo, deputising for Gobnait O'Riordan, President of the Library Association of Ireland. There were approximately seventy delegates at the conference representing library authorities throughout the country and library supply trades.

The keynote speakers at the conference touched on many of the issues and challenges facing librarians in our increasingly multicultural society. Kensika Moshwunge, Training and Resource Officer with the National Consultative Committee on Racism & Interculturalism, gave the opening address entitled *Interculturalism in an increasingly diverse Ireland*. This was followed by a short talk from Michéal Ó hAodha, University of Limerick, highlighting the work of the university's Traveller/Roma Initiative. Delegates were then introduced to Donat Mabana from the Republic of Congo and Ernest Bishop from Sierra Leone, who recalled the role libraries had played in helping him adapt to Irish society. This was followed by a presentation from Maureen Gilbert of the



Equality Authority on the Library Access Project: a joint project by the Library Council and the Equality Authority, which reports on issues of library access for people with disabilities. Delegates were then treated to two interactive, role-playing workshops led by Pete Mullineaux and Kensika Moshwunge respectively.

That afternoon, delegates visited the beautiful and historic Lissadell House for a guided tour and were treated to readings by internationally acclaimed writer Moya Roddy and poems by W.B. Yeats, appropriate to the location. Guest of honour at the conference banquet on Friday evening was the Mayor of Sligo, Declan Bree who warmly welcomed us to Sligo.

Saturday morning's programme got underway with three talks on ongoing library projects. The first speaker was Lisa Murphy from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries who outlined the work of their Fusion Committee in bringing the library service to non-national users and the publication of an in-house library information leaflet in several languages. Next to speak was Eadaoin Quinn who told us of the successful multicultural initiatives undertaken in secondary schools by the Junior Certificate School Programme Demonstration Library Project. Jane Cantwell, Waterford City Librarian, concluded this series of talks with details of the pilot research project: *Libraries and cultural diversity: a new public library initiative on the development of library services in a multicultural society* in which Waterford City, Dublin Public Libraries and Meath County Libraries are participating under management of the Library Council. The closing address was given by journalist and broadcaster Shalini Sinha and was entitled: *The role of libraries in defining an intercultural Ireland*. This proved to be a most interesting and stimulating talk followed by a rousing discussion.

Rare Books Group

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Royal Irish Academy
<i>Secretary:</i>	Teresa Whitington, Central Catholic Library
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Charles Benson, Trinity College Dublin
<i>Assistant Secretaries:</i>	Celine Ward, Chester Beatty Library Helen Davis, University College Cork
<i>Committee:</i>	Joanna Finegan, National Library Julia Cummins, Farmleigh Marie Boran, NUI, Galway Penny Woods, NUI, Maynooth, Ken Bergin, University of Limerick

The AGM meeting was held on 11 February 2004 in Marsh's Library, and was chaired by Siobhán Fitzpatrick. Siobhán Fitzpatrick and Charles Benson were re-elected as chairwoman and treasurer respectively. Penny Woods retired as secretary to the committee. The chairwoman thanked Penny for her sterling service to the group and noted with pleasure that Penny would continue to serve on the committee. Teresa Whitington was elected secretary. Celine Ward and Helen Davis were elected assistant-secretaries.

Cataloguing Workshop

On 4 March a Rare Books Group workshop entitled *Cataloguing your old books: principles, practice and delights* was held in the Henry Jones Room, Trinity College Dublin. The workshop was very well attended, and was felt to be of great practical relevance to the working world of librarianship. Brian Hillyard opened proceedings with a paper entitled *Current developments in rare-book cataloguing rules*. He was followed by David Pearson on *The uses and importance of provenance*. Ken Bergin focused on *Developing the market for collections in the University of Limerick*, and Susie Bioletti on *Good housekeeping on a tight budget*. Finally, Charles Benson and Lydia Ferguson gave attendees the benefit of their own experiences with a talk entitled *Getting the best out of your books: practical cataloguing of old books in TCD*.

Outing

On 11 June, a visit was organised to the Jesuit Library at Milltown Park. Librarian Patricia Quigley spoke about the history of the building and its collections. Patricia also



arranged a display of beautiful items from the library's store of older printed books. The afternoon was concluded with refreshments and conversation, during which participants expressed their appreciation both of the library and of its hospitable and enthusiastic staff.

Evening Talk

On 8 September Dr. Stacey Herbert gave a detailed and well-illustrated talk entitled *Publishing James Joyce: fine arts presses in Paris*. Held in the Meeting Room of the Royal Irish Academy, the talk was organised in the context of the Heritage Week programme for 2004. Dr. Herbert's expertise was fully in evidence as she took questions after her presentation, and all who attended went away with a deeper knowledge of Joyce's indebtedness to the avant-garde literary publishers of early twentieth-century Paris.

Annual Seminar

This year's seminar, *From discovery to dissemination: 500 years of scientific communication in Ireland*, was held on 12 November in the Royal Irish Academy. The seminar was very well attended, drawing people from a broad range of professional backgrounds and interests. Dr. Juan José Perez-Camacho looked at *Early Irish scientific publishing (1495-1687)*; Dr. Aoibheann Nic Dhonchadha discussed *Medical writing in Irish (1400-1600)*; Sarah Ball presented a paper *Eighteenth and nineteenth-century Irish publications in the plant sciences with particular reference to the collections of the National Botanic Gardens*. After lunch, the eminent scholar Dr. Duncan Thorburn Burns spoke on *Robert Boyle: the prototype 'European chemist'*, followed by Juliana Adelman whose topic was *Scientific societies in nineteenth-century Cork*.

Youth Libraries Group

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Helen O'Donnell & Lynda Beasley (Joint)
<i>Secretary:</i>	Lynda Beasley, Fingal County Public Libraries
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Helen O'Donnell, Dublin City Public Libraries
<i>Committee:</i>	Mary McLaughlin, Dublin City Public Libraries, Sinéad Cummins, Waterford City Public Libraries Eileen O'Sullivan, Cork City Public Libraries Deirdriú McQuaid, Monaghan County Libraries Mary Bohan, Leitrim County Public Libraries Ciara Farrell, Dublin City Public Libraries Frances Crampsie, Donegal County Public Libraries Anne Gannon, Dublin City Public Libraries Laura Ó Broin, South County Dublin Public Libraries

The Annual General Meeting of the Youth Libraries Group was held on 30 September 2004 in Cabra Public Library, Dublin. The Committee for 2004/2005 was elected. Prior to the AGM, an invited speaker, Dr. Máire Kennedy, Divisional Librarian in charge of Special Collections, Dublin City Public Libraries, gave a most interesting, informative and entertaining presentation entitled *Once Upon a Time, two centuries of children's book illustration from the collections of Dublin City Public Libraries*. Another speaker – Mags Walsh, Co-ordinator, Children's Book Festival 2004, highlighted aspects of this year's Festival held from 14 – 31 October 2004. The AGM was well attended with representatives from many of the Public Library Authorities and School Libraries countrywide.

The committee was delighted with the attendance at the one-day seminar held on 6 May 2004 – hosted by the Youth Libraries Group – in the new Westside Public Library, Galway. Fourteen different Library Authorities and a local Community College were represented. The seminar focussed on the Primary Curriculum Support



Programme and more specifically the Social, Personal and Health Education and the Science modules. Sean Gallagher and Karin Bacon were the speakers and gave very informative and interesting presentations. Both speakers act as trainer and advisor to schools and deliver in-service training to primary school teachers. Michael Moylan, entertained an audience of approximately 30 with his interactive science show. The Youth Libraries Group would like to thank most sincerely the staff at Westside Public Library and Galway Public Libraries for their generosity and courtesy.

The committee met on six occasions this year. The YLG maintains an e-mail contact list of people throughout the country. This list allows us to communicate relevant information efficiently and effectively and any LAI member interested in joining our e-mailing list should contact us at youthlibrarygroup@hotmail.com. For e-mail communication with the secretary of the YLG please use ylg@libraryassociation.ie.

As usual YLG members from around the country reviewed books for the Children's Book Festival bookfest list of recommended books and YLG committee members Helen O'Donnell, Mary McLaughlin, Lynda Beasley, Ciara Farrell and Anne Gannon acted as Bookfest section editors. Two YLG committee members, Lynda Beasley and Helen O'Donnell served on the national organising committee for this year's Children's Book Festival and attended four meetings throughout the year.

The nationwide Public Library competition for this year's Children's Book Festival was again the 'Design a Bookmark' competition. The competition proved highly successful with 27 different Library Authorities taking part. The YLG sponsored the €50 prize given to the winners of the competition in each of these authorities.

In all, over five hundred events took place in libraries, schools and bookshops around the country. Congratulations to all who took part!

Acknowledgements

The Association would like to thank An Chomhairle Leabharlanna for making facilities for meetings available to the Association, and for providing an office and correspondence address at 53 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.

The Association in particular appreciates and wishes to thank all those who provided sponsorship, accommodation, facilities and support for the many meetings, seminars and activities of the Groups and Sections of the Association throughout the year.

We would like to thank Eddie Byrne for maintaining the Association's website (www.libraryassociation.ie)

We would like to extend our thanks to PricewaterhouseCoopers for providing facilities and hospitality for meetings of the Association during the year.

We wish to thank Kerry County Library, in particular County Librarian, Kathleen Browne and the staff of Killarney Library for their hospitality in hosting our October meeting.

Thanks to Dublin City Public Libraries for the use of their conference room for our December meetings and interviews.

We wish to offer our thanks and congratulations to Brendan Martin and his team at Wicklow County Libraries for organising the Annual Conference.

We thank Fingal County Libraries and the Royal Irish Academy for storage facilities.

We would like to express our appreciation to Beatrice Doran and to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland for hosting the President's Lecture and reception.

Membership

In 2004 personal and institutional membership increased respectively to 559 and 71.



Professional Register and Membership List 2004

Please note that any individual who is named in the Fellows or Associates lists is also a member of the Library Association of Ireland.

In these lists members names, professional and other qualifications, and places of employment are given as they appear in the Association's membership records. If any error appears in the lists, please notify the Hon. Treasurer by e-mail at hontreasurer@libraryassociation.ie

For information on the Fellowship and Associateship schemes of the Library Association of Ireland, please contact the Hon. Secretary by e-mail at honsec@libraryassociation.ie

Professional Register

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 Royal Society of Antiquaries Of Ireland
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- Byrne, Mairead, HDipLIS, BA, Bord Bia
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