

The Library Association of Ireland

Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann



Annual Report 2008

with Professional Register
& Membership List

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Library Association of Ireland

The Library Association of Ireland
Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann
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Dublin 2

Annual Report 2008
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Honorary Officers 2008/2009

President

Deirdre Ellis-King,
City Librarian, Dublin
City Public Libraries

Vice-Presidents

Siobhán Fitzpatrick,
Librarian, Royal Irish
Academy. Fionnuala
Hanrahan, County
Librarian, Wexford
County Library

Hon. Secretary

Michael Plaice, Senior
Executive Librarian,
Cork County Library
& Arts Service

Hon. Treasurer

Hazel Percival,
Executive Librarian,
Wexford County
Library

Hon. Auditor

Gerard Maher,
County Librarian,
Laois County Library

Development Manager

Marian Keyes
(Jan-Sep). The
Development
Manager attends
meetings of the
Executive Board

Executive Board 2008/2009

Mary Burke, SILS, University College Dublin
Philip Cohen, DIT
Ciara Cunnane, Donegal County Library
Carmel Daly, Clare County Libraries
Joseph Donnelly, Judge's Library
Louise Farragher, Health Research Board
Ruth Flanagan, Cork County Library & Arts Service
Pat Lonergan, Kildare County Library
Mary Murphy, Meath County Library
Áine O'Connor, Arup Consulting Engineers
Willie O'Dowd, Longford County Library
Gobnait O'Riordan, University of Limerick
Maedhbh Rogan, Meath County Library
Liam Ronayne, Cork City Libraries
Marjory Sliney, Fingal County Libraries
Kathryn Smith, UCD
Brendan Teeling, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna

The Executive Board met 7 times during their term.

24 April	(An Chomhairle Leabharlanna)
12 June	(An Chomhairle Leabharlanna)
11 September	(An Chomhairle Leabharlanna)
23 October	(Dublin City Library & Archive, Pearse Street)
27 November	(Dublin City Library & Archive, Pearse Street)
15 January	(An Chomhairle Leabharlanna)
12 February	(An Chomhairle Leabharlanna)

Attendance Record

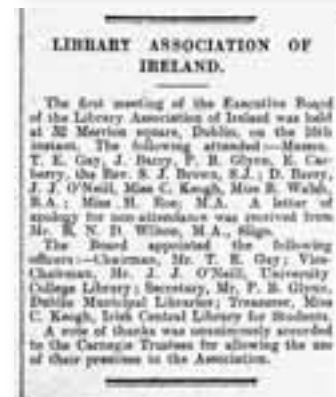
Mary Burke (2)
Philip Cohen (6)
Ciara Cunnane (1)
Carmel Daly (5)
Joseph Donnelly (4)
Deirdre Ellis-King (6)
Louise Farragher (5)
Siobhán Fitzpatrick (7)
Ruth Flanagan (2)
Fionnuala Hanrahan (1)
Pat Lonergan (6)
Mary Murphy (5)
Áine O'Connor (7)
Willie O'Dowd (5)
Gobnait O'Riordan (5)
Hazel Percival (6)
Michael Plaice (7)
Maedhbh Rogan (2)
Liam Ronayne (1)
Marjory Sliney (6)
Kathryn Smith (4)
Brendan Teeling (4)

Foreword

This years' annual report reflects the continuing vibrancy of a professional organisation which has grown in stature and status over a period of eighty years. The programme of the Joint Conference alone, incorporating presentations on the digitisation of the 1911 census, on a strategic vision for the National Library, on the concept of the European Library, on the potential for cross-border library co-operation, on managing special collections, on the development of professional education... to name only a few, provides an overview of a profession which concerns itself with the future, while preserving, supporting and strengthening opportunities for access to knowledge of the past. That suggests a sense of purpose built on a corner stone of valuing education and information provision in Irish life. I believe that such a sense of purpose, a purpose on which the Library Association of Ireland was built, emerges strongly from the reports of sections and groups, their activities as detailed in the body of this report, clearly focused on 'moving forward'.

The Executive Board working directly and through its standing Committees, exemplifies the future focused agenda of the Association in a changing world. Professional education continued in 2008 to be a leading agenda item with a particular focus on continuing professional development, on encouraging participation in the Associateship and Fellowship programmes, and on upholding standards of professional education within a European and international qualifications framework. The Finance Committee continued during the year to deal effectively with issues of corporate governance, particularly financial regulation. Taking account of external factors likely to affect professional practice, the Board also participated in consultative processes related to the Public Lending Remuneration Scheme and on copyright. Reflecting the need to support an informed membership, it also endorsed the publication, under the editorial control of Marjory Sliney, of a revitalised *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library*, and the continuing promotion of the sector to the public at large through Library Ireland Week. This event indeed serves to remind both public and professional of the importance of the knowledge society in its broadest sense, this being rooted in the concept of the 'informed citizen' and the 'informed community'. I must, on your behalf, thank the officers and members of the Executive Board, for the commitment, time, energy and enthusiasm, they provide in ensuring the effective governance of the Association.

2008 was indeed a special year, and it is worth noting the enthusiasm with which the Association and its groups and sections celebrated our 80th anniversary. I will mention only the special celebratory dinner held in Dublin's Mansion House, the location of the inaugural meeting of the Library Association of Ireland in 1928. There, we took the opportunity to remind ourselves of the legacy of purpose which underlines our origins. It was my privilege to welcome many of our former Presidents to the event and to present them with a commemorative scroll. Their spontaneous recollections, on the night, of involvement in the



Contemporary reports of the formation of the LAI in 1928



Association and in the profession, served to emphasise the people centred focus of an Association whose reach touches all aspects of Irish life, whose focus, working to the highest standards, is centred on enabling the intellectual and social fabric of society.

In this year in which The Library Association of Ireland celebrates its eightieth anniversary, the need for an Association whose focus is clear and unambiguous in its stand for support of the highest standards of professional librarianship, remains self evident. It has been my privilege as your President, to uphold the clarity of that stand as the Library Association of Ireland moves forward in an increasingly knowledge demanding society. That is the legacy, derived from the past, which we owe ourselves and hold in trust for future.

Deirdre Ellis-King
President

Annual General Meeting

2008

The Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday March 6th March 2008, in Dublin City Public Library & Archive, Pearse Street, Dublin. Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian was returned as President. Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Librarian, Royal Irish Academy, was returned as Vice-President, and Fionnuala Hanrahan, Wexford County Librarian, was elected as Vice-President. Michael Plaice, Senior Executive Librarian, Cork County Library & Arts Service, and Hazel Percival, Executive Librarian, Wexford County Library, were returned as Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively. Gerard Maher, County Librarian, Laois County Library, was returned as Honorary Auditor.

Resolutions Passed at the meeting for action by the Executive Board

1. That the incoming Executive Board facilitates and promotes the following annual meetings, in addition to the existing annual meeting of the Executive Board with the Sections & Groups:

- Sections & Groups Chairs with President or Vice-President;
- Sections & Groups Secretaries with the Hon. Secretary;
- Sections & Groups Treasurers with the Hon. Treasurer;

to both foster and develop relations between the nominated representatives of all the Sections & Groups and between these nominated representatives and the Executive Board.

In the case that any nominated representative from the Executive Board or Group / Section cannot attend, records of the meeting will be circulated to all parties.

Proposed: *Ann O'Sullivan.*

Seconded: *Kathryn Smith.*

2. That the Library Association of Ireland, as the main representative body of library and information

professionals in Ireland campaigns to raise awareness of the discriminatory lack of tax relief on professional subscriptions, membership fees for professional bodies and other professional financial commitments for members, associates and fellows of the LAI.

Proposed: *Eva Hornung.*

Seconded: *Brid McGrath.*

3. That the Library Association of Ireland, as the main representative body of library and information professionals in Ireland, undertakes a campaign to raise awareness among employers in all sectors of the roles and skills of library and information professionals, and the necessity to employ qualified library staff for professional posts. Specifically, that the incoming Executive Board is requested to engage with all potential employers to employ qualified librarians for professional posts and to advertise such posts appropriately.

Proposed: *Aine O'Connor.*

Seconded: *Ann O'Sullivan.*

4. That this Annual General Meeting calls on the incoming Executive Board to write to the Government to raise serious concerns regarding the closure of the Library of the Department of Finance and the dispersal of the collection, which indicates a lack of understanding of the important role professional librarians play in the development of a knowledge based society through their lead role in the provision of information and knowledge management services to government bodies. The Board calls on the Government to ensure that government libraries continue to be developed in line with its commitment to developing a knowledge based economy.

Proposed: *Louise Farragher.*

Seconded: *Kathryn Smith.*



5. That this Annual General Meeting calls on the incoming Executive Board to write to the Government to emphasise the importance of maintaining and developing government library services managed by professional librarians at appropriate professional grades. Libraries play a central role in the provision of timely information, research and knowledge ensuring government departments and their people have access to key information resources to enable them to carry out their role in government.

Proposed ; *Joseph Donnelly.*
Seconded: *Ann O'Sullivan.*

6. That this Annual General Meeting urges University College Dublin to proceed with filling the professorship of Library and Information Studies, in order to support the educational needs of the library profession.

Proposed : *Philip Cohen.*
Seconded: *Joseph Donnelly.*

7. That the Library Association of Ireland should propose to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government that the membership of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna/ The Library Council be reviewed in order to better reflect national and local development strategies, and in particular the priorities of the public library sector.

Proposed : *Ruth Flanagan.*
Seconded: *Marjory Sliney.*

8. That the Library Association of Ireland should ensure adequate and appropriate representation from amongst its members on any body to which it nominates, and that such nominees should rotate on a regular basis and serve not more than two consecutive terms.

Proposed: *Liam Ronayne.*
Seconded: *Kathryn Smith.*

9. That the Library Association of Ireland should work with the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to put in place procedures for assessing and managing public library development projects that are more transparent and timely, with the objective of expediting the delivery of an effective, accessible library service.

Proposed : *Liam Ronayne.*
Seconded: *Ruth Flanagan.*

10. That this Annual General Meeting gives authority to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to revise the subscription fees for Personal and Institutional members as follows:

Personal Members (Local)

Whose annual salary or income does not exceed €24,999 pay €25

Whose annual salary or income is between €25,000 – €44,999 pay €60

Whose annual salary or income is between €45,000 – €64,999 pay €95

Whose annual salary or income is €65,000 or over pay €110

Unemployed and retired members pay €15

Students of a recognised LIS course pay €15

Personal Members (Overseas)

Members who work outside the Republic of Ireland and are also members of a sister library association pay €60.

Institutional Members

Annual Institutional membership rate is €350.

The above rates to be effective from 1st January 2009.

Proposed ; Hazel Percival.
Seconded: Catherine Watters.

11. That as the Library Association of Ireland has a commitment in relation to government policy on social inclusion and extending the availability of electronic resources, this AGM calls on the Minister for Finance to remove VAT from Audio Books, language tapes, Braille and electronic publications.

Proposed : Marjory Sliney.
Seconded: Willie O'Dowd.

12. That the Library Association of Ireland, following the introduction of Public Lending Right, calls on the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to ensure that the administrative costs of, and payments made under, any Public Lending Right scheme be fully funded by the Exchequer and not, even indirectly, from Local Authority budgets.

Proposed : Liam Ronayne.
Seconded: Ruth Flanagan.

13. That this Annual General Meeting calls on the Minister for Education & Science to re-instate the Babies Love Books scheme immediately, in the light of the evidence published in the survey *Succeeding in Reading? : Reading standards in Irish primary schools*.

Proposed : Ruth Flanagan.
Seconded: Willie O'Dowd.

Certificates of Associateship were presented to Mary Conway (Waterford County), Carmel Daly (Clare), John Duffy (Bar Council Law Library), Marie Jennings (Oireachtas Library), Mary Murphy (Meath) and Orla Nic Aodha (St. Patrick's College, Dublin).



LAI members who received their Associateship certificates at the AGM in March. Left to right, Mary Murphy, Mary Conway, John Duffy, LAI President Deirdre Ellis-King, Marie Jennings, Carmel Daly, and Orla Nic Aodha.



Joint Conference 2008

The 2008 LAI/CILIP Joint Conference took place at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Athlone, from 15th to 17th April 2008. The conference, entitled *Future-proofing the Past: 80 years' commitment to access and cooperation*, was officially opened by the President of the Library Association of Ireland (LAI), Deirdre Ellis-King, who welcomed the delegates and wished them well in their deliberations at this conference, the 44th joint conference of the LAI and CILIP Ireland, occurring in the 80th year of the LAI. The conference was attended by 120 delegates.

The Opening Session entitled 'The European Library' was given by Louise Edwards, General Manager of the European Library. In the course of her forty-minute paper an overview of the participants in and the contents of this portal were given to participants. The European Library, based at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, in The Hague, is an initiative of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL), a foundation aimed at increasing access to the national libraries of Europe. Stretching to Armenia and soon to include the national libraries of Russia and Turkey, it already provides access to the catalogues of 47 national libraries, amounting to 170 million records.

The subject of 'Libraries on the Agenda' was examined next by Alan Hassan, President, CILIP Scotland. Alan spoke about future-proofing the past in the context of dealing with the political imperatives set by our masters. He pointed to some of the paradoxes which coexist in society today, including the fact that while society is, in general, more affluent, there is less willingness to support a panoply of services. He described the current Scottish situation, where emphasis is on the setting of five priorities with 15 outcomes at national and 55 at local level. This approach drills down very deeply at local level. On the positive side, there have been innovative responses to this reductionist approach, for example, authorities are looking at new models of structure, e.g. setting up trusts which have financial advantages and can help offset staff losses. Alan

concluded by confirming that libraries have been managing decline for a number of years, and needed to re-examine our mission and determine the resources required to deliver it.

The Tuesday session closed with a presentation by Ms Hayley Harris, Alexander Street Press on the product, Music Online.

The second day was members' day and began with the Presidential Address from Deirdre Ellis-King, President, LAI on, 'Tracing the path of professional education for public library staffs: 1928-2008'. Deirdre explored the various means by which public library staff acquired professional training prior to the formation of the LAI and subsequently. She particularly emphasised the tough economic conditions which prevailed in the emergent state and the consequent difficulty of ensuring that high standards of training and education were met. This placed demands on the association who set the standards and prioritised professional training. The LAI was incorporated in 1952 and distance learning activities were in place in the early 1950s. The President emphasised the need to maintain vigorous re-training processes which would be necessitated by changes in society and the continuing need for professional postgraduate education.

Following Deirdre's address parallel sessions took place.

'Services for All'

Pat Beech, (Royal National Institute for the Blind Library) emphasised the need to listen to blind people in order to provide services which are inclusive and equitable. She pointed out that the legislation only demands minimum requirements whereas we should aim for the maximum standards of provision. Blind people should be able to access information, which is their right, without intermediaries. The situation invites us to have policies to address the needs of blind and poor-sighted members of the community, to consult



Speakers and session chair at the 'Digitising Our Past' session at the Joint conference in Athlone in April. Left to right, Katherine McSharry, Assistant Keeper, National Library of Ireland, Aongus ÓhAonghusa Director of the National Library of Ireland, and Fionnuala Hanrahan, Wexford County Librarian and Vice-President LAI.

and develop community profiles, and to provide a wide-range of stock in all formats, among other possible initiatives.

Niall Crowley (Chief Executive, The Equality Authority), then stated that *Services for All* equates to a standard for equality. Equality should be a high standard and access should be the aim. Equality should be part of the decision-making process. He spoke about the implications of diversity and the barriers to equality of access which can be either physical or attitudinal. Referring to the *Equal Status Acts*, Niall said that compliance is the bottom line. Services should be pro-active in terms of equality. It is important to create an approach that is endemic rather than championed by individuals. Organisations should engage in evidence-based, participative, decision-making.

'Digitising our Past I'

The Changing Libraries Digitisation Programme was presented by Joan Ward, (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna/The Library Council). Joan described the Changing Libraries Programme, whose aim is to digitise local content and make it available online via the web site, *Ask about Ireland*. The site contains documents, images, links and contacts. Digitisation is labour intensive, but positive outcomes are: ease of

access; raising of the local library profile, and the fact that digitisation helps to preserve the original objects.

'Digitising Our Past 2'

Caitríona Crowe, (The National Archives), spoke on *The 1911 Census in the National Archives* and took the audience on a fascinating tour of the digitised 1911 Census, a project undertaken by the National Archives (Ireland) in partnership with the Library & Archives Canada. She explained that Ireland is unique in that it is the only country which preserved the original census forms. Added value has been added to the web site via the introduction of selections from photographic collections of the National Library of Ireland and the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, and tram timetables from the resources of the Irish Railway Record Society.

EU Information Everywhere: The Europe Direct Service was presented by Maureen Kerr, (Donegal County Library). Maureen began by describing the origins of the Europe Direct Service which arose in the context of a negative perception of the European Union (EU) as being bureaucratic and remote. The aim is to bring the EU closer to the individual citizen by providing information on opportunities offered by the Union, information about the EU and how to make your



voice heard in Europe. The service is funded by the European Commission with a grant to the Library Council for maintenance of the Web site.

The Director of the National Library of Ireland (NLI) Aongus Ó hAonghusa, and Katherine McSharry, Assistant Keeper II, NLI, talked on *The National Library of Ireland: Recent Strategic and Digital Developments*. Aongus Ó hAonghusa welcomed the opportunity to speak at the conference about developments at the NLI including a new Strategic Plan, 2008-10. The National Library holds over 8 million items, and underwent a change in status in 2005, whereby it gained a governing board and is now an autonomous cultural institution. This change offers new challenges and opportunities. The library aims to be a world-class institution by 2020, and has identified key strategic aims and objectives which are elaborated in the Strategic Plan, copies of which were circulated in the delegates' conference packs. Katherine McSharry elaborated the Library's plans to digitise images from the collections and the ongoing digitisation of major bibliographic resources such as Hayes's *Manuscript sources for the history of Irish civilisation*.

The COLICO Lecture: *Cross-border working makes sense, but more needs to be done*, was delivered by Andy Pollak, Director, Centre for Cross-Border Studies, and Secretary, Universities Ireland. COLICO (Committee on Library Co-operation in Ireland) is a North-South body whose function is to optimise the collective value of the combined resources of Irish libraries for their clienteles. Andy Pollak spoke about the work of the Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS) and indicated key factors for good practice in North-South co-operation. The CCBS is one of the most significant non-governmental North-South bodies to have emerged since the 1998 Belfast Agreement. Andy outlined the wide range of activities and research projects at all levels, which the CCBS has facilitated or managed. These include training public and civil servants in North-South co-oper-

ation. Andy emphasised the need, above all, to 'do things which make sense' and bring real benefits to the people of both jurisdictions.

'Curators of the Carriers of Civilisation'

Evelyn Flanagan UCD and Marie Boran NUI, gave a joint presentation on *The Role of the Rare Books Librarian in the 21st Century* in which they outlined the wide variety of collections handled by Special Collections librarians, the attendant activities for example, conservation, training readers in handling the collections, building up the collections, digitisation, organising lectures, exhibitions, classes etc. Marie and Evelyn referred in particular to the work of the LAI Rare Books Group, and the services which it offers to those working, however marginally, with rare books or special collections. These include cataloguing workshops, seminars on topics such as maps, drawings, ephemera, history of science collections, visits and lectures. The group has also published seminar papers and other works of interest to librarians, historians and bibliographers.

Resource Description and Access (RDA): A New International Standard, was presented by Ann Chapman, UKOLN, and Chair of CILIP/BL Committee on AACR/RDA. Ann described RDA as a new standard for creating bibliographic metadata, drawing on AACR and taking into account the requirements of bibliographic records and the often complex relationships introduced by multimedia and a plethora of formats and activities. Ann gave examples of how the rules might be applied in practice: many of the applications are simpler and more practical than the old rules permitted. RDA will be published as an online resource; the demo version will be shown at IFLA 2008. The national libraries will lead the field in implementation.

The conference featured a lively trade exhibition, a civic reception hosted by Athlone Town Council, an enjoyable conference dinner and a visit to the Athlone Library and Civic Centre with a tour of the Aidan Heavey Special Collection.

80th Anniversary Dinner



President Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin Lord Mayor Councillor Eibhlin Byrne and attendees at the reception hosted by the Lord Mayor in the Mansion House in October in conjunction with the 80th anniversary of the LAI.

The LAI celebrated its 80th anniversary in the most appropriate of locations by holding among other events an anniversary dinner in the Oak Room of the Mansion House on 23rd of October. The Oak Room was the location for the first meeting of the LAI in October 1928, and 56 members, including 8 past Presidents of the LAI enjoyed a pre-dinner reception, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Eibhlin Byrne. The Lord Mayor expressed her delight at being able to host the association on such a historic occasion. The LAI President Deirdre Ellis-King, in her turn thanked the Lord Mayor for her hospitality, and later in her address to attending members paid tribute to all the hard work and commitment to high standards of professionalism that went into running a professional association, over such an extended period. A scrolling exhibition of historical photographs from the LAI archives, and other sources was on display also. A presentation was made on the night to the past Presidents, a number of whom made impromptu and very entertaining speeches. An after-dinner speech on the

contribution of libraries to society, and their impact on his life was given by Dublin author, Pat Liddy.



President Deirdre Ellis-King pictured with LAI past presidents who attended the 80th anniversary dinner at the Mansion House. Left to right; Marjory Sliney, Gobnait O'Riordan, Noel Hughes, Harry Carson, Deirdre Ellis-King, William (Liam) Smith, Kathleen Browne, Beatrice Doran.



Development Manager's Report 2008

The post of Development Manager was held by Marian Keyes until 30th September 2008 when she left to take up a research scholarship for her PhD studies.

Library Ireland Week 2008

The Development Manager co-ordinated Library Ireland Week 2008, working initially with a group set up by Executive Board Member, Louise Farragher and composed of librarians and information professionals nationwide. Library Ireland Week took place from 3rd -9th March and was launched by author Joseph O'Connor and LAI President, Deirdre Ellis-King, at a reception at the National Library of Ireland on Thursday 28th February. Over 100 people attended the launch which was sponsored by John Treacy of International Education Services.

One of the most significant innovations for 2008's Library Ireland Week was the brand new website designed by Louise Farragher in partnership with Gillian Colton. A regular blog informed everyone regarding publicity materials, quizzes, sponsors and new developments. Fifteen librarians from an impressive cross section of library environments shared their work experiences in the section entitled *A Day in your Life*. Twenty-five authors, artists and journalists responded to a feature on their *Favourite Libraries*, demonstrating the importance of libraries

Author Joseph O'Connor delivered a specially written piece to celebrate Libraries and Library Ireland Week at the launch of Library Ireland Week in the National Library of Ireland in March



and their contribution to the creative process. Speeches from the launch in the National Library were recorded and made available as podcasts on the website. Joseph O'Connor's moving presentation was also published by the LAI in *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library* 17 (3).

Two events in particular during Library Ireland Week generated a great deal of media interest and these were the virtual events initiated by UCD and numerous showings of *The Hollywood Librarian* documentary, directed by Ann Seidl. Cathal McCauley of UCD coordinated several tours on Second Life and in partnership with Professor Mary Burke of the School of Library and Information Studies, carried out UCD's first lecture on Second Life. The Irish première of *The Hollywood Librarian* had been shown at the HSLG conference in February and was shown subsequently the length and breadth of the country during Library Ireland Week, with a gala showing at the Irish Film Institute in Dublin. Ann generously gave 25 copies of her DVD on loan and the Development Manager distributed these over the following six months to numerous venues and festivals. Ann also held an interactive Q&A event on Second Life, coordinated by UCD.

PR for Library Ireland Week was carried out by the working group, and proved very successful. Radio ads were aired for three weeks through the RTÉ Supporting the Arts scheme and interviews were recorded with the Dave Fanning Show, Newstalk, 103.2 Dublin City FM and Raidio na Life. TV features included Rob a Job for ICE on RTÉ 2, filmed in Cabra Library during Library Ireland Week and later in the week, author Claire Hennessy appeared on RTÉ 2. Newspaper coverage was extensive with photos and articles in *The Irish Independent*, *The Irish Times*, *Southside People*, *Sunday Tribune*, *The Tallaght Voice*, *Clare Champion* and a host of other local newspapers countrywide. Thanks to the generosity of numerous sponsors, it was possible to host competitions through the website during Library Ireland Week, attracting hundreds of entries.

The posters for 2008 were designed in a different colour scheme from 2007's design. Publicity material was sent to all institutional members of the LAI and all libraries holding events for Library Ireland Week. Further supplies were ordered via the website as demand arose.

LAI/CILIP (Ireland) Joint Conference

The Development Manager was Conference Secretary for the LAI/CILIP (Ireland) Joint Conference which took place from 15th-17th April at The Radisson Hotel, Athlone. In consultation with the conference committee, this involved coordinating bookings via the online system created by Brendan Teeling and Louise Farragher, overseeing production of the conference booklet and packs and liaising closely with the hotel and the technical support company. Responsibility for promoting sponsorship opportunities and the trade exhibition for the conference was part of the remit and forty-four trade delegates attended, twenty two companies with exhibition stands and five without stands. 157 delegates attended the conference overall.

The title of the Joint Conference was *Future-Proofing the Past: 80 Years Commitment to Access and Cooperation*. Staff from Westmeath County Council Libraries, led by County Librarian Mary Farrell, were involved at all stages of the planning of the conference and a photo report featuring many of their images from the conference is available in *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library* 17 (3). A useful online feedback form created by Louise Farragher provided important suggestions and comments which will be invaluable for future conference planning.

An Leabharlann: the Irish Library

The Development Manager worked closely with Marjory Sliney, Editor of *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library* and was the Production and Distribution Manager of two issues, 17 (2) and 17 (3). The journal

was posted to all personal and institutional members and extra copies were made available to promote the Library Association at conferences and events. A print run of 1,200 copies for each issue was produced. It is hoped to expand the list of subscribers from the March 2009 issue onwards and letters have been sent to all on the current list of subscribers to indicate that subscriptions will come into effect from the March issue, Volume 18: Issue 1.



Leabharlann-e

The LAI electronic newsletter *Leabharlann-e* was published twelve times in 2008 and was prepared and edited by Michael Plaice when the post of Development Manager was vacant. The Development Manager had secured sponsorship of €75 per month from Brendan Bannigan of The Open Book Company Library Service. This goes towards a prize for the popular monthly quiz and came into effect from February 2008.

80th Anniversary Dinner

The 80th Anniversary Dinner of the Library Association of Ireland was held on Thursday 23rd October 2008 and the Development Manager coordinated bookings and official invites for this event.

Packs to new members

New members of the LAI continue to receive a pack containing a welcome letter from the LAI President, the current annual report, a memorandum and articles of association, an information leaflet about the LAI, a leaflet about associateship and the most recent issue of *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library*. The Development Manager works with the Treasurer on this project and forwards packs to new members and adds their details to electronic mailing lists.



Committees and Panels of the Executive Board

Education Committee

Deirdre Ellis-King (Chair), Mary Burke, Philip Cohen, Joseph Donnelly, Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Mary Murphy, Áine O'Connor, Marjory Sliney (Secretary) and Teresa Walsh (resigned during year).

The Committee met five times during the year. In addition, between meetings much work was done electronically.

Apart from initial professional education, the committee has been involved in ensuring that LAI members are aware of the importance of being

involved in Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The committee has recommended that each LAI member should undertake a minimum of twenty-five CPD hours per annum. It is incumbent on all professional librarians to keep their knowledge up-to-date whether by means of attendance at formal CPD courses or other activities such as reading professional journals, writing for the professional press etc. To assist members organize their CPD activities and keep a record of them, a Learning Portfolio was launched at the end of the year. In addition, a CPD Record Sheet



LAI President, members of the Executive Board, and other members pictured at the conferring of the Honorary Fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland on Professor John Dean, in Dublin City Public Library & Archive, on October 23rd

will shortly be available on the Association's website.

Nine CPD courses run by sections/groups of the Association were approved during the year and Certificates of Attendance have been distributed.

At the 2008 AGM, Mary Conway (Waterford County), Carmel Daly (Clare), John Duffy (Bar Council Law Library), Marie Jennings (Oireachtas Library), Mary Murphy (Meath) and Orla Nic Aodha (St. Patrick's College, Dublin) were presented with their ALAI certificates. On the recommendation of this committee, the Executive Board has also awarded the ALAI to Bernard Barrett (HSE-West). This will be presented at the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

Members attended the Public Library Conference and the Youth Libraries Group Seminar to promote awareness of the Associateship. Another promotional opportunity was at an Academic and National Library Cooperative Training (ANLTC) Workshop at NUI, Maynooth, at which the secretary spoke on ALAI. During 2009, it is hoped to have a more strategic approach to promotion.

The committee recommended to the Executive Board that an Honorary Fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland be conferred on Professor John Dean, first Professor of the School of Information and Library Studies at University College, Dublin. An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on October for this purpose.

European & International Panel

Marjory Sliney (Convenor), Jenny Aston, Joseph Donnelly, Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Liam Ronayne and Brendan Teeling

The committee conducts all of its work electronically.

During 2008, the committee prepared two responses on behalf of the Association on copyright issues. The response to the proposed term extension to recorded sound is published in *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library*, 17 (3): 47. The response to the

European Commission's *Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy* is available on the LAI website under Policy Statements.

In conjunction with the Education Committee, the Panel continues to monitor developments in the European Qualifications Framework.

The Convenor of the Panel represented the Association at the European Bureau for Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) Annual Council meeting in The Hague.

Finances and General Purposes Committee

Deirdre Ellis-King, Louise Farragher, Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Ruth Flanagan, Áine O'Connor, Hazel Percival, Michael Plaice, Liam Ronayne, Marjory Sliney, Kathryn Smith, Brendan Teeling.

The Finances and General Purposes Committee (F&GP) has a wide ranging remit which deals with administrative matters such as finance, membership and publications. The committee met seven times during the year, in advance of Executive Board meetings.

The F&GP, in conjunction with the association treasurer, monitors the finances of the association, which remain in a healthy state. This year's financial commitments included the publication of two issues of *An Leabharlann: the Irish Library*, payment of the Development Manager's salary, staging the joint conference and general administration of the association. The committee examined the membership of the association, and have put in train plans to use an online model. This will allow for more streamlined access to the membership database for administration purposes. The F&GP investigated digitising the LAI archive and creating an oral archive of association history. The committee also provided support for the committees and groups involved in the running of Library Ireland Week. The F&GP was involved in progressing motions



from the AGM, including a meeting of officers of the board with officers of the groups and sections in November. The 80th anniversary celebrations, in particular, the anniversary dinner in the Mansion House was co-ordinated by the committee. The F&GP also was responsible for the recruitment of the new Development Manager, Jane Clavin, who takes up her appointment in January 2009.

North – South Liaison Committee

Deirdre Ellis-King, Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Mary Murphy, Brendan Teeling, Michael Plaice. (CILIP Members, Elga Logue, Katherine McCloskey).

The North South Liaison Committee is involved in North-South initiatives, and the organisation of the annual Joint Conference. The committee met in November in Belfast and are involved in organising the 2009 Joint Conference in Belfast in April 2009.

Working Group on Information Literacy

Olivia Fitzpatrick, Rebecca Ford, Kate Kelly, Susan Kelly, Peter MacKenna, Dr. Claire McGuinness, Sue Miller, Terry O'Brien, Philip Russell, Jamie Ward. (Philip Cohen, Executive Board Liaison).

The Working Group on Information Literacy (WGIL) was formed by the Executive Board in order to review current IL activity in Ireland and to make recommendations for its further advancement. The group has been working throughout 2008, and has produced a comprehensive report, which is being presented to the Executive Board in early 2009. This review is a thorough examination of cross-sector IL activity from 2006 to 2008 and contains initial recommendations for further action.

Representing the Association

Nominees and Members of External Committees

Advisory panel to SILS UCD: *Ruth Flanagan, Deirdre Ellis-King.*

Branching Out Steering Committee: *Liam Ronayne.*

An Chomhairle Leabharlanna: *Deirdre Ellis-King, Ruth Flanagan.*

COLICO: *Philip Cohen.*

EBLIDA: *Marjory Sliney.*

EBLIDA Expert Group on Copyright: *Jennefer Aston*

Euro-Focus on the Cultural Heritage: *Ruth Flanagan*

International Committee of the Blue Shield: *Siobhán Fitzpatrick.*

An Leabharlann: the Irish Library Editorial Board:

Marjory Sliney (editor), Mary Burke, Beatrice Doran, Micheál Ó hAodha, Brendan Teeling.

Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network:

Brendan Martin, Austin Vaughan.

Newsplan: *Marjory Sliney.*

North-South Liaison Committee: *Deirdre Ellis-King,*

Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Mary Murphy, Brendan Teeling.

Schools Libraries Working Group: *Fionnuala*

Hanrahan, Mary Reynolds.

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

WTO/GATS: *Liam Ronayne.*

Conferences

- CILIP Wales annual conference, 15–16 May, Llandrindod Wells, Wales: *Michael Plaice.*
- CILIP Scotland annual conference, 3–5 June in Peebles, Scotland: *Deirdre Ellis-King.*
- Public Libraries Section Conference, 5–7 November, Portlaoise: *Deirdre Ellis-King.*
- County and City Librarians Annual Seminar, October, Trim: *Deirdre Ellis-King.*
- Networking Meeting of University and Special Libraries Section, December, RIA: *Deirdre Ellis-King.*
- World Library and Information Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council "Libraries

without borders: Navigating towards global understanding" 10–14 August 2008, Québec, Canada, (Council Meeting 14 August): *Gearóid Ó Luíng.*

Publications

Annual Report 2007. Dublin: Library Association of Ireland, 2008, ISSN 0791-6248.

Leabharlann-e: 11 issues published in 2008.

Library Ireland Week, Posters and Postcards.

An Leabharlann: the Irish Library – 2 issues: Vol. 17 (2) and (3).

Functions at which the LAI was represented

Presentation of the Impac Dublin Literary Award, Dublin City Hall: *Deirdre Ellis-King.*



Sections and Groups

Academic and Special Libraries Section

Chairperson: Ann O'Sullivan (*Houses of the Oireachtas*).

Secretary: Erin O'Mahony (*Houses of the Oireachtas*).

Treasurer: Kathryn Smith (*University College Dublin*).

Jane Burns (*Irish Taxation Institute*), Aoife Connolly (*PricewaterhouseCoopers*), Olivia Fitzpatrick (*University College Cork*), Eva Hornung (*Curriculum Development Unit, City of Dublin VEC*), Patrick Hughes (*Setanta Sports*), Margaret Kelly (*School of Celtic Studies, DIAS*), Graham Long (*Citizens Information Board*), Áine O'Connor (*Arup Consulting Engineers*), Caitriona Sharkey (*Ernst & Young*).

AGM 2008

The Annual General Meeting of the A&SL Section took place on Thursday, 26 June 2008 in the Royal Irish Academy. The guest speaker, Gráinne MacLochlainn, delivered a very informative and engaging presentation on "Developing Digital Strategies to Improve Access". Gráinne is Assistant Keeper, Services & Systems in The National Library of Ireland.

Library Ireland Week

A working group with representatives from the Committees of each Group & Section worked with Marian Keyes, the LAI Development Manager, to organise Library Ireland Week 2008. The A&SL Committee was represented by Margaret Kelly.

For Library Ireland Week 2008, the A&SL Committee organised and sponsored the second Careers Breakfast in UCD School of Information & Library Studies (SILS) on 5 March. This year the focus was on continuing professional development and each speaker spoke about the path their own careers have taken, the roles and libraries they have worked in. They highlighted the skills and competencies that they have developed since leaving Library School.

Annual Seminar

In May 2008, the Section held its annual seminar in the Clarion Hotel, IFSC, entitled *Digital Natives? Current Practices and Future Trends in Information Skills Training*. The day provided an opportunity for librarians and information professionals from all sectors to consider the theme of information literacy/information skills training. The speakers were: Dr. Ian Rowlands (UCL and CIBER), Terry O'Brien (WIT), Jamie Ward (DkIT), Sinead Curtin (Legal Information Manager, McCann FitzGerald Solicitors), Aoife Lawton (Health Service Executive), and Dr. Claire McGuinness (UCD SILS).

The Committee is currently organising the Annual Seminar for 2009, which will take place in the Radisson Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin on 12th February. The theme of the seminar is "Trends in Technology".

Informal Networking Evenings

The Committee continued their programme of informal networking evenings this year. In August, a visit to the refurbished Library & Business Information Centre in the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School was organised. John Steele gave a guided tour and a very interesting talk on the history and architecture of the building. Valerie Kendlin followed with a talk on the current services provided by the Library. The A&SL hosted a second joint Christmas Networking Evening with the committee of the Health Science Libraries Group (HSLG) in the Royal Irish Academy on Wednesday, 10th December 2008. The guest speaker, Beatrice Doran, gave a talk on the history of the LAI and the development of librarianship in Ireland.

Meetings & Representations

The A&SL had 11 Committee meetings in 2008 and additional meetings were held for three working groups (Annual Seminar, Internal Communications & Marketing). Olivia Fitzpatrick is the A&SL representative on the Working Group on Information Literacy

(WGIL). A&SL also sent representatives to the following meetings:

LAI AGM 2008 and EB Meeting with Groups & Sections. Two members of the A&SL Committee were elected to the LAI Executive Board in March 2008 – Áine O'Connor (re-elected) & Kathryn Smith.

Membership Database

A project was undertaken in Summer 2008 to update the A&SL Membership Database (co-ordinated by Ann O'Sullivan). There was a great response to this and 215 names have been added to the new discussion list.

Discussion List

The A&SL mailing list is open to members of the A&SL section. To subscribe send an email to asl@lists.libraryassociation.ie

Cataloguing and Indexing Group

Chair: *Justin Furlong (National Library of Ireland)*
 Secretary: *Niamh Walker-Headon (Institute of Technology Tallaght)*
 Treasurer: *Jennifer McGrath (Oireachtas Library)*
 Committee: *Claire Bell (University of Limerick), Mary Broderick (National Library of Ireland), Sonia Freaney (NUI Galway), Elizabeth Harford (National Library of Ireland), Marie Jennings (Mater Dei), Padraig Kirby (Limerick Institute of Technology)*

A two-day training course in AACR2 was held in the University of Limerick on the 19-20th March. Fourteen librarians attended this course run by Keith Trickey, a CILIP trainer. The feedback was very positive.

The group's annual seminar took place on the 19th November in the National Library and was entitled 'Sources for MARC records and Authority Control: Demystifying the process'. Over fifty attendees heard talks from Justin Furlong (National

Library of Ireland), Hugh Murphy (UCD), Claire Hogan (Dublin Public Libraries), Niamh Walker-Headon & Astrid Albertini (ITT), Maritta Coppieters (Backstage Library Works) and Charles Quain (Interleaf). A lively panel discussion was held at the end of each session.

The AGM which took place on the same day saw the election of officers & committee for 2009.

Chair: Justin Furlong (National Library of Ireland)

Secretary: *Claire Bell (University of Limerick)*

Treasurer: *Mary Broderick (National Library of Ireland)*

Committee: *Marie Jennings (Oireachtas Library),*

Padraig Kirby (Limerick Institute of Technology),

Jennifer McGrath (Oireachtas Library), John Mc

Manus (Trinity College), Hugh Murphy (UCD), Dot

Porter (Digital Humanities Observatory), Christoph

Schmidt-Supprian (Trinity College), Niamh Walker-

Headon (Institute of Technology Tallaght).

County and City Librarians' Section

Chair: *Mary Reynolds, Longford County Library.*

Vice-Chair: *Mary Farrell, Westmeath County Library.*

Secretary: *Eileen Burgess, Donegal County Library.*

Treasurer: *Brendan Martin, Wicklow County Library.*

The AGM of the County & City Librarians Section (CCLS) was held in Trim, Co. Meath, in October 2008, with the above officers re-elected for a second term.

Significant issues discussed by the members during the year included: the Irish language, staff training, Public Library Research, *Branching Out: Future Directions*, the Public Library User Survey, and the Public Lending Remuneration Scheme.

A workshop was held on *Branching Out: Future Directions* to consider the new policy document, focusing on the areas of Social Inclusion; Books, Reading & Culture; Learning; Marketing; Research; Co-operation; and Infrastructure. The new policy was welcomed and recommendations on the review of the capital funding procedures made to the Department.



The theme of the Autumn Seminar, held in Trim in October, was *The Irish Language in Libraries*. The programme included presentations by Seán Ó Cuireáin (An Choimisineára Teanga); Dylan Hughes (Wrexham County Borough Council) on the Welsh experience of language in libraries; Liam Ronayne and Seán Ó Súilleabháin on the Irish experience; and Anna Ní Gallchóir (Ionad na dTeangacha, the National University of Ireland, Maynooth) on the online Irish training programme. Visits took place to Ashbourne Library in County Meath and to Leixlip Library in County Kildare.

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Library Association of Ireland, the CCLS invited retired County & City Librarians to join them for dinner in October in Trim. Twelve retired colleagues accepted the invitation both to dinner and to be interviewed

about their experiences (these interviews have now been recorded to DVD). They were each presented with inscribed bog oak sculptures to commemorate their personal contribution to the public library service.

The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer attended the LAI dinner at the Mansion House to mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the LAI and the CCLS, which was the first section to be formed.

The section welcomed Mairead Owens who has been appointed as Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Librarian.

To mark their retirement and to honour their contributions to the development of the public library service, further presentations were made to Muiris Ó Raghail, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Librarian and Ann Ward, Louth County Librarian.



Speakers with County & City Librarians at the Autumn Seminar 2008, the theme of which was *The Irish Language in Libraries*.

Sections and Groups

Genealogy and Local Studies Group

Membership 2008

Chair: *Kieran Swords* (South Dublin)
 Deputy Chair: *Evelyn Flanagan* (NUI, Galway)
 Secretary: *Sile Coleman* (South Dublin)
 Joint Treasurer: *Monica Cullinan* (UCD)
 Joint Treasurer: *Crystal Fulton* (UCD)
 Auditor: *Colette Allen*
 Committee: *Jeremy Black* (Fingal County Libraries), *Sile Coleman* (South Dublin Libraries), *Mario Corrigan* (Kildare Library and Arts Service), *Monica Cullinan* (UCD), *Carmel Flahavan* (Carlow County Libraries), *Evelyn Flanagan* (UCD); *Dr. Crystal Fulton* (SILS, UCD), *Matthew Gammon* (Roscommon Libraries), *Miriam Lambe* (Marino Institute of Education), *Gearoid O'Brien* (Westmeath Libraries); *Colette O'Flaherty* (NLI), *Celestine Rafferty* (Wexford Libraries), *Mary Conefrey*, (Leitrim County Libraries), and *Marie Boran* (NUI Galway).

Thanks

Thanks are due to the members of the committee who have worked so hard to make this another successful year for the group. Particular thanks is due to *Sile Coleman*, Secretary who has carried out this onerous task in a most effective and businesslike manner.

Thanks also to all our speakers: *Séamus Dooley*, *Seán Ó Suilleabháin*, *Colette O'Daly*, *Colette O'Flaherty*, *Niall O'Connor*, *Dr. Mark O'Brien*, *Helen Kelly*, *Dr. Terence Dooley*, *Ciara Kerrigan*, *Marie Boran*, *Brigid Clesham*, *Frank Tracy*, *Bernadette Cunningham* and *Siobhan Fitzpatrick*

Annual General Meeting 2008

The Annual General Meeting of the Genealogy and Local Studies Group took place on Thursday 11th December 2008 in the Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

The meeting was followed by an introduction to the Royal Irish Academy, its Library, and its genealogy and local history resources. The group also had an

opportunity to see the exhibition "Treasures of The Royal Irish Academy".

Members of the group	125
Attendance at Newspaper Seminar, Friday 7th March 2008	75
Attendance at Landed Estates: Records and Research day	35
Attendance at AGM and visit to National Archives, December 2007	21

Newspaper Seminar

On Friday 7th March 2008 the group in association with The National Library of Ireland presented a seminar on newspapers. 75 people attended the event.

To celebrate Library Ireland Week, this event was free of charge and open to all. *Séamus Dooley* (National Union of Journalists) delivered a thought provoking talk entitled *Are journalists still writing the first draft of history*; *Seán Ó Suilleabháin* (Leitrim County Librarian) spoke on the topic of *Newspaper Indexing and Digitisation: The Leitrim Experience*. The Committee of the group later visited Leitrim County Library to see at first hand the indexing and digitisation project.

Colette O'Daly (NLI) spoke on *The National Library of Ireland's Newspaper Collections* and *Colette O'Flaherty* (NLI) gave an update on *The NEWSPLAN project in Ireland*. *Niall O'Connor* (Irish Times) spoke on *Digitising The Irish Times - The Project Story*. *Mark O'Brien* (Dublin City University) spoke about *Using Newspapers for Research*. The final talk of the day was given by *Helen Kelly*, Genealogist who considered *Newspapers and Family History*.

The event led to the foundation of the Newspaper and Periodical History Forum of Ireland. For more information please see http://www.nuigalway.ie/news/main_press.php?p_id=865

Landed Estates Seminar

This daylong seminar on Landed Estates was held in The National Library of Ireland in May. *Dr. Terence Dooley* (NUIM) spoke about *Sources for the Study of*



Big Houses and Landed Estates in Ireland; Ciara Kerrigan (National Library of Ireland) spoke about *Estate Records in the National Library of Ireland*.

Marie Boran and Brigid Clesham from NUI Galway spoke on the topic *“That auld Ballycloran Castle”: bibliographical and topographical evidence for Landed Estates in Connacht, c.1700-1920*. The day finished with a talk delivered by Frank Tracy, Local Historian entitled *If Those Trees Could Speak: The Story of the Massy Family of Duntrileague and Killakee*

Visit to Leitrim County Library, Ballinamore

On Thursday July 3rd, the committee of the group travelled to Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim to visit Leitrim County Library. The committee met with County Librarian, Seán Ó Suilleabháin who outlined library and local studies services in Leitrim County. A committee meeting was then held followed by lunch.

Members of the group visited Leitrim Genealogy Centre in Ballinamore where the range of services offered by the centre was explained. The group then returned to Ballinamore Branch Library where Mary Conefrey gave a guided tour of the extensive and ever growing collection of accessible local studies material held in the Local Studies Section in Ballinamore Branch.

The Committee is most grateful to Seán Ó Suilleabháin, to all his staff and especially to Mary Conefrey for their hearty welcome and instructive tours.

Government Libraries Section

Chair: Zoe Melling (*Legal Aid Board*)

Hon. Sec and PRO: Conor McCabe (*Office of the DPP*)

Treasurer: Laura O’Broin (*Houses of the Oireachtas*)

Committee: Maire Caffrey (*Teagasc*), Nuala Canny (*OPW*), Mairead Cassidy (*Bord Bia*), Joseph Donnelly (*Judges’ Library*), Mary Doyle (*Department of Agriculture and Food*), Valerie Ingram (*OPW*), Frances Keaney (*Judges’ Library*), Donal McSweeney (*Central Bank*), Noeleen Murtagh (*FSAI*).

In October, the Government Libraries Section (GLS) held a day-long conference in the Bedford Suite, Dublin Castle. The theme of the conference was *Publishing Government E-Information: Challenges and Opportunities* and it featured speakers from both the academic and public sector.

Grainne Maclochlainn (National Library of Ireland) gave a presentation on strategies for development of digital access to open-access repositories; Ian Cornelius (School of Library and Information Studies) spoke about information policy issues; George Moir from the OPW explained the practice behind government publishing on the web; Niamh Brennan (Trinity College, Dublin) spoke about open access to research and institutional repositories, and Margaret Flood (Trinity College, Dublin) and Colette O’Flaherty (National Library) ended the morning session with a talk on electronic legal deposit. The afternoon session began with a presentation from GLS committee member Joe Donnelly, who highlighted on behalf of the GLS, various issues relating to electronic publishing by government bodies; David Flood (Enterprise Ireland) and Miriam Walsh (Teagasc) discussed intellectual property rights and public sector information. The final speaker was John Dolan (Department of Finance) who presented the European Union perspective of public sector information.

The conference ended with a general discussion before a tour of the State Apartments, courtesy of the OPW.

The GLS held its AGM in May, which included a presentation from Marian Keyes on her role as Development Manager within the Library Association.

Major issues of interest to the GLS this year included copyright, open-access repositories, professional standards for librarians within government librarians (including qualifications, continuing professional development, salaries) and creation of a union catalogue.

Sections and Groups

Health Sciences Libraries Group

Acting Chair and Treasurer: *Brian Galvin, (Health Research Board)*

Vice Chair: *Louise Farragher, (Health Research Board)*

Secretary: *David Mockler, (Trinity College Dublin)*
[Resigned 2008]

Communications Officer: *Susan Boyle, (University College Dublin)*

International Liaison Officer: *Joanne Callinan, (Daughters of Charity Service)* [Resigned 2008]

Committee: *Michael Doheny, (Athlone Institute of Technology)* *Jane Farrelly (HSE Tralee General Hospital)* *Seán Hughes, Events Officer (RCSI, Beaumont Hospital)* [Resigned 2008] *Majella King (Sligo Institute of Technology)* *Fiona McCarthy, CPD Working Group Leader (Temple Street Children's Hospital)*

Chairperson's Report

2008 has been a period of assessment and reflection, as we evaluated what had been achieved under the various objectives we had set ourselves in our 2004-07 Strategic Plan. For the HSLG committee it has been a period of rebuilding as long-standing members left and we welcomed new ones.

During the year the excellent and frequent courses arranged by our CPD working group have helped members keep abreast of developments in many disciplines.

Our annual conference again provided rich opportunities to learn from experts in several fields and for intensive discussion of the implications for our work. The organisers of the conferences, the managers of the website, those who compile and publish *HINT*, manage the group's affairs through the committee and working groups or engage in any way in the groups activities have all contributed to the group's success. Their energy and commitment will be needed more than ever as we face more difficult economic times in the coming years.

Reports from Committee Officers and Working Groups

Communications Officer The primary focus for the communication office this year has been the publication of the *HINT* newsletter and promotion of key events:

- Joint Christmas Networking Event with the Academic and Special Libraries Group
- HSLG Strategic Planning Day.
- Two issues of *HINT* were published in 2008 and a *HINT* Working Group will be established in 2009.

Continuing Professional Development Working Group (CPDWG) *Fiona McCarthy (Team Leader), Aoife Lawton, Aoife O Connor, Kathryn Smith, David MacNaughton, David Mockler, Dymphna McGettigan, Anne Madden, Tara Kenny (Part time), Sheila O Flynn*

The CPDWG organised 6 training events:

- 4 traditional training sessions
- Web 2.0 – Tools to make life easier
- Information skills: Is Google enough?
- Marketing Information Services within the Health Sector
- Effective coaching and mentoring for Managers and Team Leaders
- 1 workshop: Evidence based Library & Information practice workshop: Walking the walk

CPD sessions at the HSLG Conference

- Thinking inside the box: Making the most of Library space
- Preparing a business plan
- Principles for designing web searching instruction
- Emerging technologies

All sessions were very well attended and judging from the very positive feedback received, we hope these CPD sessions might become a regular feature at future HSLG conferences.

Aoife Lawton resigned her post this year as CPD Team Leader; she will remain as a member of the



working group. Aoife has given tremendous commitment and energy to the group throughout her years and has been vital to the growth and continued success of the group.

EAHIL Workshop 2009 Local Organising Committee

Louise Farragher Chairperson (Health Research Board), also a member of the EAHIL International Programme Committee, Michael Doherty (Athlone Institute of Technology), Gabrielle Doyle (St. Luke's Hospital), Jane Farrelly (HSE Tralee General Hospital), Brian Galvin (Health Research Board), Muriel Haire (Irish Nurses Organisation), also a member of the EAHIL International Programme Committee and EAHIL Council member Niamh Lucey (St Vincent's University Hospital) Also a member of the EAHIL International Programme Committee Anne O'Byrne (Rotunda Hospital) Also a member of the EAHIL International Programme Committee and EAHIL Council member Julie Hayes (South Infirmary-Victoria University Hospital) Caroline Pfeifer (Irish Hospice Foundation) [resigned 2008] Kathryn Smith (UCD Health Sciences Library)

The EAHIL Local Organising Committee continued to meet and plan for the forthcoming Workshop.

The EAHIL Workshop 2009 International Programme Committee is chaired by Paul Murphy (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland). The committee was convened and met in Helsinki in June 2008 and again in Dublin, in November 2008.

Seven Irish delegates joined over 420 health librarians and information professionals at the 11th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries in Helsinki in June, and the LOC issued a formal invitation to EAHIL members to attend the June workshop.

HSLG Conference Organising Committee 2008

Bernard Barrett (Leader), Louise Farragher, Jane Farrelly, Sue Faulkner, Seán Hughes, Fiona McCarthy, Anne Madden, Aoife O'Connor, Pamela O'Connor

The conference committee organised and



At the EAHIL Conference Gala dinner in Helsinki, June 2008, left to right, Paul Murphy, Gabrielle Doyle, Niamh Lucey and Louise Farragher.



HSLG members Bernard Barrett and Beatrice Doran at the 2008 HSLG Conference held in Athlone, in February.

Sections and Groups

managed all aspects of the HSLG annual conference held in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone 20-21 February 2008. The theme was *Quality and Innovation: Creating Opportunities*. 61 delegates attended over the course of two days. Speakers included:

Cathy Doyle (Dublin Dental School)
Linda Moore (HIQA-Health Information and Quality Authority)
Beatrice Doran
Penny Wiggle (Adelaide and Meath Hospital)
The Gaiety School of Acting

The HSLG Annual General Meeting was also held. Two long standing HSLG Committee members did not seek re-election. During the Gala dinner, Bernard Barrett was presented with an engraved silver salver in thanks for almost eight years of service on behalf of the group. Sue Faulkner has served over five years on the committee and has greatly contributed to the development and growth of the committee. HSLG wishes to record their thanks to Bernard and Sue for their invaluable contributions to the development and continued success of the group.

The Hollywood Librarian had its European premiere at the conference, and included a question and answer session with film director Ann Seidl. Many thanks are due to conference organiser, Jane Farrelly, who made this possible and who originally came up with the idea of screening the film at the conference.

An Mheitheal Oibre/Irish Language Group

Cathaoirleach/Chair: Eibhlin Uí Dhonnchadha
Runaí/Secretary: Follamh/Vacant
Cisteoir/Treasurer: Etáin Ó Siocháin
Members/Ballra: Cathal Ó Cuinn, Sean Ó Suilleabháin, Niamh Walker-Headon, Caitlín de Brún, Seán de Bhulbh, Frances Fox, Máire Uí Chonnacháin, Fran Hegarty

The group had two meetings during the year and were represented at two other Executive Board meetings. Areas being actively promoted by the Irish Language group during 2008 included the drive to increase the use of the Irish language in libraries with the public and among staff. The group also helped with efforts to promote Irish language events, for example, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Irish language story times, quizzes etc. in libraries. The urgent need for Irish Language Officers in each library authority was also an area under consideration, and the need to put the Irish language on the agenda in staff meetings in libraries. An Mheitheal Oibre also discussed the question of cataloguing documents and books in Irish and the problems that arise here.

A survey was conducted among all County Librarians regarding regular events in libraries as Gaeilge, such as Ciorcal Comhrá (conversation groups), Ranganna Gaeilge (Irish language classes), and Tráth na gCeist (Irish language quizzes).

In this survey the question was also asked if the scheme under the *Acht Teanga (Languages Act)* had been adopted and the result showed that of the twenty-six who replied sixteen replied Yes and ten No.



Munster Regional Section

Chairman: *David O'Brien (Cork City Libraries)*

Vice-Chair: *Ruth Murphy, (University College Cork)*

Treasurer: *Orlagh Forde, (Cork County Library and Arts Service)*

Secretary: *Matthew Farrell (Cork City Libraries)*

Committee: *Dolores Casey (Cork County Library and Arts Service), James Cashman (Fexco), Rebecca Crichton (Cork City Libraries), Elizabeth Desmond (Cork County Library and Arts Service), Sinead Feely (Cork City Libraries), Cathal Kerrigan (University College Cork), Denis Murphy (Cork County Library and Arts Service), Claire O'Brien (University College Cork), Maureen O'Mahony (Cork County Library and Arts Service), Kate O'Callaghan (Cork City Libraries), Beata Molendowska (Cork City Libraries), Bernie Wallace (Cork County Library and Arts Service).*

The Munster Regional Section represents the interests of LAI members working in the South of Ireland. The Section organises 3-4 activities annually, including a one day seminar, a series of evening lectures, social gatherings, and visits to libraries and other places of interest. The group aims to inform and educate library staff in the Munster region, as well as providing opportunities for social interaction. A committee is elected at the AGM and all LAI members are welcome.

AGM

The AGM was held on April 6th 2008 in the new Cork School of Music building. The outgoing chairperson Dolores Casey addressed the meeting and outlined the activities of the previous year. A special mention was made of the film *Hollywood Librarian* screened in the Briary Gap Arts Centre and facilitated by the staff of Macroom Library. It was a great success with nearly 100 people attending the reception. Dolores also thanked the School of Music for their hospitality in hosting the meeting and in providing a guided tour on the evening for all who were in attendance. The meeting proceeded to the election of officers for the coming year. A new committee was elected with

David O'Brien (Cork City Libraries) as the new Chairman, Ruth Murphy as Vice Chairperson, Orlagh Forde returned as Treasurer and Matthew Farrell elected as Secretary for the coming term. The meeting was given a guided tour of the new facility by the head of the School of Music, Aiveen Kearney. The meeting agreed to follow with established patterns and to hold a full meeting of the officers and the committee within two weeks to discuss plans for the year ahead.

Annual Trip

The annual trip which is organized by the group during the summer months was deferred to Spring of 2009 as the regrading process was still in train in a number of counties and there was some difficulty planning attendance for the trip.

Annual Seminar

The annual seminar was held on September 8th in Brookfield Campus of University College Cork. The title of the seminar was *The Coming Years: the Challenge and the Change* which focused on libraries and library staff adapting to meet future challenges in the light of our changing financial environment. The seminar was opened by David O'Brien and the guest speakers included Brendan Teeling, Assistant Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna who outlined the changes envisioned in Branching Out 2 and the positive results of the Plus 2 Survey, Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Vice President of the LAI, who spoke of her work in the RIA, and Tommy O'Connor Kerry County Librarian and Valerie O'Sullivan Director of Services, Cork City Council both of whom gave insights into their professional roles and how they shape the operation of the public library service in their respective authorities. The final speaker was Des McHale, Professor of Mathematics, humourist and author who gave a very witty presentation in his *Confessions of a Bibliomaniac!* A very varied and interesting programme was presented to a large attendance drawn from the Munster area.

Sections and Groups

Ongoing project : Libraries in the Munster region

The group has decided to work towards contacting all libraries in the Munster region – public, academic & special, company, libraries in third level colleges, institutions etc. in an effort to widen the scope of the section. First mailings and contacts are due to take place in 2009.

Table Quiz

The annual charity table quiz was deferred until January of 2009. The recipient charity this year is Marymount Hospice. Sponsorship was secured from library book suppliers and local bookshops for the event.

Prison Libraries Group

Chair: *Gerard Maher (Laois County Library)*

Vice Chair: *Liam Ronayne (Cork City Library)*

Secretary: *Richie Farrell (Roscommon County Library)*

The development of prison libraries throughout the country is being conducted in association with the relevant local authorities and the Irish Prison Service. Current developments, plans, strategies and objectives for the prison libraries continue to be explored under the initial strategy statement of 2003, the *Development of Library Services in Prisons*. Targets relating to the phased implementation and various revised proposals for the development of services including infrastructure, staffing, opening hours and capital finance requirements are some of the key discussion elements of the working group agenda.

The Prison Library Group, have been actively engaged with these strategies and formally met on two occasions in 2008, in Portlaoise in March and Limerick in September. At the request of the group Mr Kevin Warner, Education Coordinator with The Irish Prison service attended the March meeting and gave an outline and overview of the current issues and developments.

These issues concerned particular reports in respect of individual Prison Library Services developments at Wicklow, Roscommon, Limerick, Cork, Dublin and Laois. The roll out and timeframe delivery of services had to be considered both in light of the nature and status of prison library services required and the pressure on funding. The financial implications for both capital and revenue expenditure had increased substantially and clarification and approval for various projects was been made in each case. Arrangements for the delivery of services were being progressed with each Library Authority.

The staffing agreements and arrangements within the Prison Library Services are dependent on a number of factors. These include the nature, status and size of the prison services, the type of service required, the crucial role played by Prison/Library Officers in supporting the delivery of services, the security and operation, local support arrangements with the Library Authorities and the overall discretion and decisions of the Governors. Agreements in terms of positions and grades have been reached

A number of further issues relating to the development of services formed part of the groups discussions during the year including the broadening of membership and representation of the group, the education and learning programmes with the Vocational Education Committees, the cooperation and involvement with the education units within the prison, the increase in Open University participation and the application of standards and models of service delivery to ensure

During the year the group discussed the proposal and need to develop and work on a five year plan, setting out the direction envisaged for the prison libraries over the coming years. It is hoped that the scope of this plan apart from recognising the current primary stakeholders would be broadened to include other agencies and would involve research and best practice from an international perspective.



Public Libraries Section

Chair: *Brendan Teeling (An Chomhairle Leabharlanna)*
Secretary: *Melanie Cunningham (Waterford City Libraries)*

Treasurer: *Elizabeth Keane (Galway City Library)*

Committee: *Patricia Cusack (Limerick City Library)*
Carmel Daly (Clare County Library) *Emer Donoghue (Galway County Library)* *Orlagh Forde (Cork County Library)* *Shauna Henry (Meath County Library)* *Grainne Keane (Limerick City Library)* *Maureen Kerr (Donegal County Library)* *Hilda King (Leitrim County Library)* *Jacqueline McIntyre (Laois County Library)* *Pat Lonergan (Kildare County Library)* *Helen McNutt (Donegal County Library)* *Mary Murphy (Meath County Library)* *Edel Olcese (Westmeath County Library)* *Carolyn Tunney (Roscommon County Library)* *Jo Vahey (Galway County Library)* *Barbara Varley (Mayo County Library)*

During 2008 the Public Libraries Section Committee met on four occasions, including the AGM which was held in the Watch House Cross Community Library, Limerick City.



David Coleman, Clinical Psychologist, who spoke at the Public Libraries Section conference, with Melanie Cunningham, Public Libraries Section Secretary

The annual Conference of the section was held in The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, from 5th – 7th November. The theme of the conference was *Teenage Kicks!: Library Services to Teenagers*. Over 100 delegates from a broad range of libraries attended the conference. The first day commenced with a presentation by David Coleman, Clinical Psychologist, on understanding and connecting with teenagers. This was followed by a very informative talk by Mark French-Mullen (Dublin City Libraries) on Dublin City Libraries' Youth Zones Project.

A talk from author Claire Hennessy on reading for girls concluded the morning's sessions.

Delegates then visited Mountrath and Abbeyleix Libraries and the section would like to extend its thanks to the staff of both libraries for a welcoming and interesting tour.

The second day of the conference began with a presentation from Cork City Libraries on the results of their recent Teen Survey. The next talk was from the School Librarians from the Junior Certificate Schools Programme (JCSP) Demonstration Library Project to give an account of their experience of providing services to teenagers through their school libraries. This was followed by Waterford City Council Library Service, Cork County Library Service and Kildare County Library Service who each provided an account of innovative services to teenagers in their libraries. Finally, author Oisín McGann gave insight into his experiences on reading for boys.

Feedback from both days has been extremely positive with delegates taking away ideas to put into practice in their own libraries.

Rare Books Group

Chairperson: *Ken Bergin (University of Limerick)*

Secretary: *Celine Ward (Chester Beatty Library)*

Treasurer: *Charles Benson (Trinity College Dublin)*

Committee: *Marie Boran (NUI Galway)*, *Frances Clarke (National Library of Ireland)*, *Julie Cummins (Farmleigh)*, *Siobhán Fitzpatrick (Royal Irish Academy)*, *Evelyn Flanagan (University College Dublin)*, *Crónán Ó Doibhlin (University College Cork)*, *Loretto O'Donohoe (NUI Galway)*, *Teresa Whittington (Central Catholic Library)*, *Penny Woods (NUI Maynooth)*

The AGM was held on the 27th of February, in the Royal Irish Academy. Ken Bergin was re-elected as Chairperson, and Charles Benson and Celine Ward were re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Joanna Finegan (NLI) resigned from the Committee. Following the AGM, Mary Davies gave a

Sections and Groups

talk entitled *The rise and fall of the traditional seaside town*. Frances Clarke (NLI) and Loretto O'Donohoe (NUIG) were co-opted as Committee members at the meeting of the 29th September. The Committee met four times during the year.

Identifying Historical Bindings Workshop, 6th June 2008, Russell Library, NUI Maynooth

Sixteen participants attended the workshop, which received CPD approval from the LAI. The programme included talks by David Pearson (University of London Research Library Services) on *Binding types and structures*; Paul Hoary, (Russell Library, NUIM) on *Examination of bindings from the Russell Library collections*; Penny Woods, (Russell Library, NUIM) on *Description and cataloguing of bindings*, and Ken Bergin, (University of Limerick) on *Electronic resources for bindings*.

Visit to the Library of the Royal College of Physicians, 29th August

RCPI Librarian Robert Mills accompanied Group members on a tour of the renovated building and the College Library, followed by an opportunity to browse some of the rare books and archival material on display.

Annual Seminar

This year's Seminar, entitled *A mirror up to nature: Irish botanical works*, took place in the National Library of Ireland, and in the Long Room, Trinity College Dublin on 21st November. This interesting programme consisted of, *Irish botanical works and flower painters* by Patricia Butler, *One artist's role in a special edition* by Susan Sex, *Rare anthologies and uncommon flowers: a plantsman and his books* by Dr E. Charles Nelson, who also gave a guided tour of the exhibition *Nature's bounty: botanical beauties in Trinity College Library*. The Rare Books Group would like to thank the institutions which facilitated events during the year: the National Library of Ireland, NUI Maynooth, and the Royal Irish Academy.

Western Regional Section

Chairperson: Emer Donoghue (Galway County Libraries)

Secretary: Eileen O'Connor (Galway County Libraries)

Treasurer: Colette Harlowe (GMIT)

Committee Members: Kay McCormack (Galway County Libraries), Olive Greaney (GMIT), Siobhán Arkins (Galway County Libraries)

Networking Morning

The WRSLAI held a networking morning for all members in Ballybane public library on the 12th May, 2008. 15 members from across the library sector in the West of Ireland were in attendance. As well as informal networking over coffee, themes for future training seminars were discussed.

Denise Duffy (UCHG) proposed *Bibliotherapy* as a possible theme and Una Mulligan (Galway County Libraries) proposed *Collection Management and Promotion* as another possible theme. These proposals were discussed enthusiastically and there was a good exchange of information on these topics. The committee undertook to consider these proposals when organising future seminars.

AGM and Training Seminar

The WRSLAI held its AGM in Merlin Park Hospital Library on 1st December, 2008. Sixteen members attended the AGM. The AGM was accompanied by a training seminar entitled *Breaking Barriers: Libraries and Social Inclusion Services*.

Breaking Barriers: Libraries and Social Inclusion Services

Patricia Fitzgerald of Clare County Libraries gave a presentation on *The WOW Transatlantic Reading Challenge*, which is an international reading incentive scheme where libraries liaise with schools and other libraries on both sides of the Atlantic in association with the local police forces. The scheme was a response to statistics which reveal a link between low literacy and criminal conviction.



Miriam Leonard (Dublin City Libraries) and Alastair Smeaton (Dublin City Libraries) gave a presentation of *The North Inner City Books Prescription Scheme*. They outlined the preparatory work involved in getting the project off the ground: forging partnership links with the medical profession, the provision of staff training for dealing with customers with special needs and the selection of quality material to be “prescribed”. They also presented feedback on the scheme to date.

Siobhán Arkins of Galway County Libraries gave a presentation on the *Health and Wellbeing Reading List* produced by Ballybane branch library in conjunction with the HSE and a report from Books Prescription Wales.

Denise Duffy of UCHG lead a discussion on an article entitled *Bibliotherapy for mental health service users: a systematic Review* by Deborah Fanner & Christine Urquhartt which was recently published in the *Health Information and Libraries Journal*.

Both presentations were of huge interest to those in attendance. At the feedback session at the end of the seminar, a number of people expressed an interest in setting up similar models in their own libraries.

Youth Libraries Group

The YLG committee has met three times this year.

2008 Officers and committee:

Chair: Jude Western (Donegal County Library)

Secretary: Deirdriu Mc Quaid (Monaghan County Library)

Treasurer: Karen Mc Kenna (Monaghan County Library)

Committee: Eleanor O Toole (Mayo), Frances Crampsie (Donegal), Ciara Cunane (Donegal), Mary McLaughlin (Dublin City Libraries), Aileen Ivory (Alexandra Secondary School), Marguerite Drake (Fingal), Deirdre Broderick (Louth), AnneMarie Hennessy (Louth), Sheila Tierney (Louth), Gemma Larkin (Tipperary), AnneMarie Mullins (Tipperary), Joan Kelly (Mt. Anville Secondary School), Catherine

Gallagher (South Dublin), Aisling Donnelly (Kildare), Nuala Hartnett (Kildare), Helen O'Donnell (Dublin City), Mary Bohan (Leitrim), Breda Hasset (Cork City Libraries), Patricia Looney (Cork City Libraries), Maedhbh Rogan (Meath).

Throughout the year, the committee have actively sought to encourage new members through our various events and competitions. Emails were sent to all CBF co-ordinators, County/City Librarians and LAI members who ticked the YLG box on their application form.

Aims for next year

- to raise the profile of the Children's Book Festival at government level – we feel it should get as much recognition as Science Week – if a child can't read they have nothing!
- to continue to develop our relationship with Children's Books Ireland and see how we can increase our contribution to the festival
- to facilitate another *Recommending with Confidence Seminar*

Success Stories 3 – 17th September 2008, Omagh Library, County Tyrone.

This is our second year to coordinate this event with colleagues in Northern Ireland Libraries. Eighty-four librarians from across the country participated on the day.

As like the previous Success Stories Days, the event was designed as a forum for the exchange of ideas and good practice and was aimed at frontline and support staff involved in developing and delivering innovative projects, programmes and activities in local libraries.

The workshop format involved four parallel sessions and there were twelve workshops in total, covering a range of themes

- Services for Children & Young Adults
- Services for Children & Young Adults with disabilities

Sections and Groups

- Cultural Services
- Local History/Studies
- Reader Development
- Social Inclusion
- Services for Older People

Each workshop was facilitated by staff from the Northern Ireland Library Boards and librarians from the Youth Library Group in the Republic. Each workshop highlighted two or three projects which had been submitted and staff directly involved in these gave a brief summary of what had been achieved and how. Then there was an opportunity for all participants to discuss what they had heard, to talk about other successful stories in their libraries and what might be implemented in their own library. Over seventy Success Stories were submitted in advance. Participating counties/Boards received a copy of all the stories on cd on the day.

Recommendations made by participants and committee:

- Attendance by a representative from the County/City Librarians from the Republic
- Attendance by a representative from the Library Association
- Annual local/regional Success Stories Day
- All Ireland Libraries Success Stories Day every two years
- Development of a link or database of the Success Stories for the LAI website

Children's Book Festival 2008

Once again CBF proved to be a very successful event with thousands of children and young people attending events in libraries throughout the country. Every year the events get bigger and better. This can only be achieved because of the dedicated librarians across the country – many of whom are YLG members. We also recognise that the Public Library Group members play a major role in putting the CBF together. The CBF is very much a joint effort.

As part of CBF the Youth Libraries group ran a new competition this year, Design a T-Shirt. A total of twenty-five library authorities participated. The two overall winners were judged by Oisín McGann, author/illustrator. Their t-shirts were printed and one was framed. All participating authorities received two €50 vouchers for their two winners. The competition was divided into under-11 and over-11 categories.

The Youth Library Group took the orders for the CBF bookfest guides/packs. All counties in the republic ordered some packs. A meeting was held with CBI about the packs and Bookfest guide. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that from next year to leave all the ordering of the packs with CBI. It was felt that the Youth Library Group should be more involved with Bookfest guide, as last year (CBF 2007) no librarians were asked to review books, but this year we had a number of librarians doing reviews. It was recommended to CBI that they try to secure the authors who have been short-listed for the Bisto Awards, for CBF and that libraries have guaranteed audiences. It was suggested that we put forward a nominee from the YLG to the Board of Directors of CBI at their next AGM, which will be May 2009.

Recommending with Confidence, Seminar Day

The committee were delighted to have Kathryn Crowley who is Director of the National Council for Curriculum & Assessment Unit, under the Department of Education & Science, and Rosemary Hetherington (Dublin City Libraries) as speakers at this seminar. Kathryn spoke about how the public libraries can support schools in teaching and learning across the curriculum. She also discussed the Home School Community Liaison project in schools which are designated disadvantaged. Rosemary spoke about how librarians can choose and recommend books for the developing readers. Over forty librarians attended this seminar, which took place in Blanchardstown Library.



Inis Magazine, Article

The committee were asked to submit an article on the issue of Age Banding on children's books. Maedhbh Rogan-McCann, wrote a fantastic article and this was published in *Inis*.

Meeting with Discover Science

Ellen Byrne, Science Week Coordinator and colleagues, met with the committee in September to showcase and discuss Science Week. This year they have changed from paper guides of their events to an online guide and they spoke about the possibility

of when they advertise the week, they advertise public libraries as a place to go to check out the events, via the public internet facilities. They have a certain amount of funding for events, but it must be booked well in advance. Suggestions for possible events will be considered for funding by them. This year they printed bookmarks and the youth library group took the orders for the bookmarks from libraries.

To conclude, the YLG has had a very productive and successful year and we hope to build on this success in 2009.

Obituaries

The Executive Board notes with regret the deaths of former Presidents of the Association, Seán Bohan and Mairín O'Byrne.

Membership

In 2008 the figures for personal and institutional membership respectively were, 612 and 80.

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.

The Association would like to thank Dublin City Library & Archive for the use of their conference room for meetings.

We thank Brendan Teeling, Niamh O'Donovan, and other LAI volunteers for their work on the LAI website. We thank South Dublin Libraries, Dublin City Public Libraries, Fingal County Libraries and the Royal Irish Academy for storage facilities.

We extend grateful thanks to all those who provided sponsorship, support and facilities to Groups and Sections of the Association for their meetings, seminars and activities.

The LAI would like to thank the Director and Board of the National Library of Ireland for providing facilities for the launch of Library Ireland Week.

The Association would like to thank all County Librarians and other service leaders who permit staff to attend group events.

We thank Marian Keyes for her efforts to promote the Association during her term as Development Manager, and welcome Jane Clavin who has taken over that role.

Professional Register & Membership List

Fellows of the Library Association of Ireland (including Hon FLAI)

Armitage, Thomas, BA, DLT, FLAI, Retired
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