



Government Libraries Section  
Library Association of Ireland



## **Access+Evidence: Information for Policy**

A seminar on the relationship between information,  
evidence and policy in the public sector in Ireland

Bedford Suite, Bedford Tower, Dublin Castle

Friday 31 January 2014

9:30am-4pm



The wifi password is **january1922**



If you will be live-tweeting today please use the hashtag **#gls2014**

# Access+Evidence: Information for Policy Programme

## 9.30 to 10.00 Registration & Tea/Coffee

Morning Session chaired by Jean Cassidy (CSSO)

10.00 **Welcome:** Jean Cassidy (Chief State Solicitor's Office)  
Chairperson GLS

10.05 **Keynote: Using Evidence to Inform Policy: cross-connecting research, evidence and policymaking in Ireland**  
Prof Frances Ruane, Director, Economic & Social Research Institute

## 11.00 Tea/Coffee

11.30 **KESS (Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series): promoting evidence-based policy and law-making in the Northern Ireland Assembly**  
Eileen Regan, Senior Researcher, Research & Information Service, Northern Ireland Assembly

12.05 **Informing Parliament - Informing You: the development of the Oireachtas Documents Laid website**  
Jennifer McGrath, Assistant Librarian, Oireachtas Library & Research Service

## 12.45 to 14.00 Lunch

Afternoon Session chaired by Noeleen Murtagh (FSAI)

14.00 **AIRO: Improving Evidence-Informed Planning in Ireland**  
Eoghan McCarthy, Data Management and Visualisation Co-ordinator, All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO)

14.30 **National Open Access Agenda for Ireland**  
Patricia Clarke, Senior Policy Analyst, Health Research Board

15.00 **Placing T-Stór in the Irish Repository Environment: opening access to Teagasc research outputs**  
Máire Caffrey, Head Librarian, Teagasc Library & Information Service

## 15.30 Q & A/Discussion

## 16.00 Close

# Speakers & Presentations

## ***Professor Frances Ruane, ESRI***



Professor Frances Ruane is Director of the ESRI. She is currently a member of the Economic Advisory Group in Northern Ireland and the Council of Economic Advisors in Scotland. She is also a Research Associate of the Institute of International Integration Studies, and an Honorary Professor at the Department of Economics at Trinity College. She previously held positions as an economist in the Department of Economics in Trinity College Dublin, the Industrial Development Authority, the Central Bank of Ireland and Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. She studied economics at UCD and at University of Oxford (Nuffield College).

Inter alia, Frances is member of the Royal Irish Academy, the Council of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, and the editorial boards of the Journal of International and Economic Policy and the International Review of Economics and Finance. In April 2010 she was elected an Honorary Fellow of TCD.

Her research interests lie in international economics and industrial development, and particularly the innovation and exporting behaviour of enterprises in the manufacturing and service sectors. She recently co-edited (with Pete Lunn) a book by ESRI researchers on *Using Evidence to Inform Policy*.

### **Using Evidence to Inform Policy: cross-connecting evidence, research and policymaking in Ireland**

"The most savage controversies are about matters as to which there is no good evidence either way." Bertrand Russell

The GLS is delighted to welcome Prof. Frances Ruane as keynote speaker for our seminar.

## ***Eileen Regan (BA LLM JD), Senior Researcher, Northern Ireland Assembly***



Since 2000 Eileen has worked as a Senior Researcher, responsible for a Research Team in the Research and Information Service (RaISe) of the Northern Ireland Assembly. RaISe is a support service, which assists the work of the Assembly and supports the MLAs in carrying out their legislative duties. Its services are delivered by a professional team of qualified researchers and librarians. Part of her current role is to manage RaISe's Public Finance Scrutiny Unit, which produces briefings for Assembly members and committees, to facilitate their scrutiny and advisory functions in the area of public finance. In addition, Eileen

organises the 'Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series' (KESS), which is annually delivered by the Assembly, in partnership with the Queen's University of Belfast, the University of Ulster and The Open University. KESS seeks to encourage engagement and debate about research findings, thereby promoting evidence-based policy and law-making in the Assembly.

### **KESS (Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series): promoting evidence-based policy and law-making in the Northern Ireland Assembly**

KESS is now in its third year, and occurs annually, from October through May; delivered by RaISe, in partnership with Queen's University, the University of Ulster and the Open University. It promotes evidence-based policy and law-making, by encouraging engagement

and debate about research findings for the purpose of facilitating Assembly decision-making, particularly in committees. Aiming to meet the committees' unique needs, KESS provides information and research on subject areas within the Assembly's legislative competence (mostly covered in the Executive's Programme for Government) and its business interests. Attendees include MLAs and their staff, Assembly staff, public and private sector employees, academics and representatives from voluntary and community groups.

### ***Jennifer McGrath, Oireachtas Library Service***



Jennifer currently works as a cataloguer in the Oireachtas Library & Research Service. Prior to this she worked as an information officer in the law library of the firm Davis Arnold Cooper in London and worked as an assistant librarian in Woodford Green public library in Essex. Before completing the Masters in Library and Information Studies in UCD in 2003 she worked as a graduate trainee in the inter-library loans department of Trinity College Library.

#### **Informing Parliament Informing You: access to Government documents via the new Oireachtas Library Online Catalogue**

The Oireachtas Library & Research Service went from a paper based system to an electronic submission system culminating in public access to government documents through the online catalogue. Since the foundation of the State Government departments and organisations have been obliged to lay copies of their official publications before the Oireachtas for the consideration of Members of Parliament in their role as legislators. This allowed the Library to develop a unique collection of approximately 70,000 official publications reflecting all aspects of the administration of the state throughout the twentieth century. This presentation will describe how this much sought after collection of official publications was made available to the public. It will detail the digitisation of the entire collection, the development of the electronic submission system and the launch of the public facing OPAC.

### ***Eoghan McCarthy, NIRSA***



Eoghan McCarthy is a graduate of the Masters in Regional and Urban Planning in UCD. Following a number of years working in transport planning consultancy he has been with the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) for three years. For this period he has been acting as the data management and visualisation coordinator for the AIRO Project. Here he has a brief to maintain, expand and analyse AIROs data systems, explore research opportunities and develop bespoke data visualisations and web GIS applications.

Eoghan's key interest areas are: spatial analysis, regional and spatial planning policy, web GIS, data manipulation, analysis and data visualisation.

#### **AIRO: Improving Evidence Informed Planning in Ireland**

The presentation will focus on AIRO's remit which is in the title to "improve evidence informed planning in Ireland". The bulk of the presentation will centre on how this is achieved by harnessing publicly available data and making it available free to the general public, planners, decision makers and policy makers, in an accessible format. To show this it will focus on a number of case studies showing the inputs (data and what source), the work carried out to prepare the data and then the outputs which allow users to access the data. The outputs are key to making the data accessible, so the presentation will show the various ways data is made available - through web GIS mapping tools, interactive data visualisations and data dashboards through the AIRO website.

## ***Patricia Clarke, HRB***



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

### **National Open Access Agenda for Ireland**

In October 2013 the first national statement from Ireland on Open Access was launched, providing an overarching framework for individual research organisation policies on Open Access and a pragmatic flexible approach to achieving the best value from Irish research. This presentation will consider the approach of the National Steering Committee on Open Access policy in preparing and implementing this national open access policy, and highlight the main achievements to date.

## ***Máire Caffrey, Teagasc Library Service***




Máire joined Teagasc in 2004 as Head Librarian. Prior to this she worked in the pharmachem industry, providing library and information services to support research and regulatory affairs. She is responsible for provision of a range of Library Services to the nationwide Teagasc organisation. Her role is mainly in support of staff in the Research Directorate, as part of the Research Support team, but also encompasses library services for other parts of the organisation.

Máire is also responsible for the management and administration of Teagasc Open Access repository, T-Stór.

### **Placing T-Stór in the Irish Repository Environment: opening access to Teagasc research outputs**


This presentation will outline the Irish Open Access repository situation. It presents a case study of the process of setting up such a repository, namely T-Stór (<http://t-stor.teagasc.ie>), the Teagasc repository. Having presented this process and a profile of T-Stór, it will then consider the process whereby T-Stór was included in the RIAN ([www.rian.ie](http://www.rian.ie)) portal site, which gathers data from many Irish repositories, and which aims to become a one-stop-shop for Irish research outputs.



## Using Evidence to Inform Policy: cross-connecting evidence, research and policymaking in Ireland


*"The most savage controversies are about matters as to which there is no good evidence either way."*  
Bertrand Russell

Frances Ruane  
Economic and Social Research Institute




## Introduction

- **How is evidence used to inform policy?**
- **Differences in approach to evidence**
  - Evidence to support a proposition
  - Evidence to help make an informed decision
- **Differences in Quality of Evidence**
  - Robust argument based on theoretical insights
  - Empirical evidence: National and International
    - Causal relationships / Research-based
    - Indicators ? / Correlations ?
  - Inputs from Experts, Expert Committees and International Experts



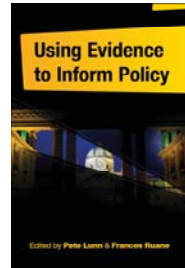
## Continuum of Evidence to Policy


- Production of evidence - quality data (e.g., CSO)
- Use of evidence – high quality research based on quality data (e.g., ESRI)
- Policy analysis – using quality research to analyse policy (e.g., Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service)
- Policy making – ideally based on the above process with political approval and support
- But this idea is more new than we might think....
- ESRI book: Using Evidence to Inform Policy



## ESRI book: Using Evidence to Inform Policy

- Look at the issue of evidence and how it can be used
- Show how it can be used in specific contexts, e.g., education, health, etc.





## Content of Remaining Slides

1. Introduction
2. Origins of the call for 'evidence based policy'
3. What is required of evidence to inform policy?
4. Can the potential for Evidence Based Policy be Overstated?
5. What limits the current availability of evidence?
6. Policy Making in Ireland



## 2. Origins of call for 'evidence-based policy'

**Driving Demand factors:**

- Weaker left-right divide
- Expansion of economy and government
- Demands for open government





 



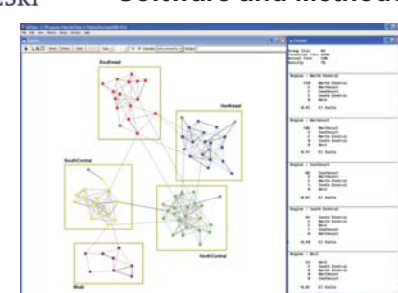

**Origins of the development of the movement for evidence-based policy**

**Driving Supply factors:**

- Computerised data
- Findings from 'evidence-based medicine'
- User friendly software for analysis and methodological developments

**Software and Methodology**

Randomised Control Trials; longitudinal data; natural experiments; etc.

**3. What is required of evidence to inform policy?**

Good Quality Evidence	Bad Quality Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theoretically based framework</li> <li>• Large scale data from NSIs or research quality surveys</li> <li>• Latest multi-factor methodology</li> <li>• Implications carefully derived from analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naive or partial framework</li> <li>• Data collected based on small sample and amateurish questionnaire</li> <li>• Outmoded bivariate analysis/correlations/etc</li> <li>• Strong conclusions that link loosely to analysis</li> </ul>

**Variation in how research relates to policy(1)**

- **Policy Challenges**
  - Researchers bring issues to policymakers' attention
  - Not likely to involve commissioned research
- **Policy Options**
  - Goal clear, research is about causes and measurement
- **Specific Policies**
  - Likely to involve research that evaluates policy effectiveness

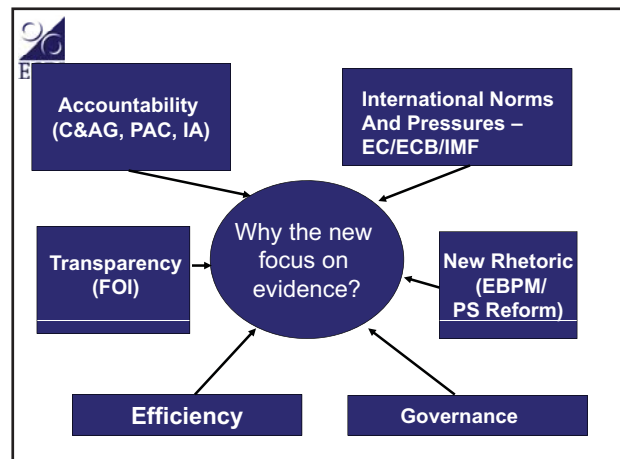
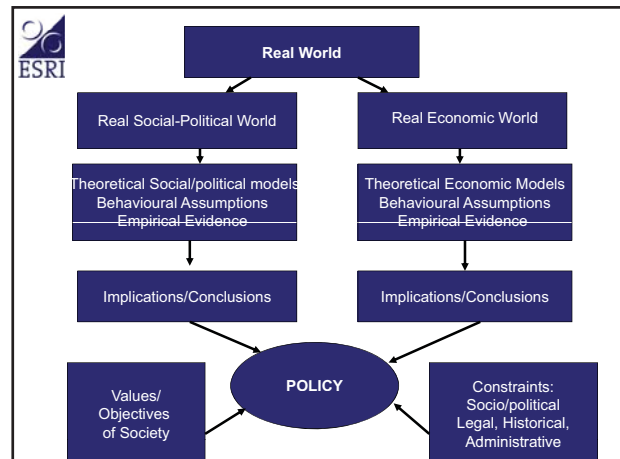
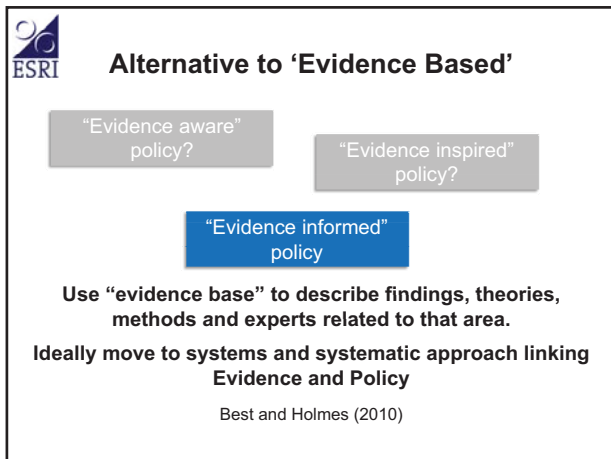
**Variation in how research relates to policy(2)**

- **Established Policy Areas**
  - Conducting research requires deep understanding of domestic policy context
  - Vital to examine policy implications for the established SYSTEM
  - Embedded practices, institutional memory, path dependency
- **Developing Policy Areas**
  - Relationship between evidence and policy can be more dynamic
  - Greater possibilities for policy transplantation
  - Difficulties of communication

**4. Potential for Evidence-Based Policy can be Overstated...**  
(See Sanderson, 2009)

Because...

- 1) Values and priorities matter
- 2) Attitudes to risk matter
- 3) Strength of evidence partly subjective
- 4) Extent of uncertainty also subjective
- 5) Political or financial realism
- 6) Problem of "policy-based evidence making":
  - Use of selective evidence by the powerful (Tombs and Whyte, 2003)
  - Evidence interpreted via an ideological framework (Boden and Epstein, 2006)







## Why has researcher/policymaker engagement been limited?

### Constraining factors:

- Rapid growth / overheated system [pre crash]
- Urgency of decisions [post-crash]
- Generalist tradition in public sector
- Increased specialism in research

### What can be done by:

- Individual researchers / research institutions
- Policy bodies
- Joint activities by researchers and policy makers

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## What can Researchers and Research Institutions do?

### Researchers:

- Increase accessibility of research [open access]
- Illustrate using representative case studies
- Build multi-person and multi-disciplinary teams

### Research Institutions:

- 'Recognise' policy research in promotions
- Support engagement in policy graduate courses
- Develop funding systems to accommodate policy

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## What can the Policy Bodies do?

### Human Resources

- Promote greater specialist knowledge
- Promote mobility of specialists / collaboration
- Promote research-based postgraduate education
- Build analytical centres in departments and agencies

### Research Strategy

- Develop research strategies
- Promote use of admin data in research
- Encourage academic and policy research links

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## What if Researchers and Policymakers work more closely?

### Benefits

- Shared agenda based on two-way flow
- Counter balance to sectoral powers in policy process
- More research-friendly information systems

### Cost/Risk

- Danger of group think – excessive consensus
- Mitigation strategies –
  - Chatham House Rule events
  - Peer review of outputs

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## Fertile Ground for Research when

- Policymakers are open to findings
- Researchers retain their objectivity
- Objectives and constraints are clearly specified
- The timeframe is sensible
- Relevant data are available
- Contributions are recognised as coming in many different ways
- Process of engagement with issues is as robust and transparent as possible
- *'A wise man proportions his belief to the evidence' – David Hume*




## 6. Conclusions (1)

- The expanding literature on the relationship between evidence and policy is relevant to researchers and policymakers
- Deriving policy implications requires understanding what research evidence can and cannot do
- Policy cannot generally be *deduced* from evidence, but it can be *informed* by evidence




## Conclusions (2)

- The policy context matters
  - How specific is the relevant policies/policy options?
  - How developed is the policy area?
- Ireland faces greater opportunity for use of research to inform policy
- System of greater engagement is needed:
  - Costs are small and potential benefits are considerable
- No reason to presume it will happen...



**Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)**

*...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland*




**Working in Partnership to Promote Evidence-based Policy and Law-making**

Eileen Regan,  
Research and Information Service

This presentation explains KESS:

- what it is; and,
- how it operates.



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

**KESS to date:**

**Series 1 :** March – July 2012 : the Assembly Research and Information Service (RaISe) and the Queen's University of Belfast (QUB)


**Series 2 :** October 2012 – May 2013 : RaISe, QUB and the University of Ulster (Ulster)

**Series 3 :** October 2013 – May 2014 : RaISe, QUB, Ulster and The Open University (OU)




Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

***Why has RaISe formally 'partnered' with academia to deliver KESS?***



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)


**What is the Assembly?**



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

Simply stated, the Assembly:

- Is composed of individual MLAs who sit in plenaries and committees.
- Constitutes the legislative arm of devolved government in NI, which holds the executive arm to account.
- Empowered to scrutinise, propose and advise on matters relating to the budget, policy and legislation within 'devolved' areas:
  - those areas in which the Assembly is empowered to act (legislative competence), as proscribed by the *Northern Ireland Act 1998*, as amended.
- Fulfils those roles and responsibilities by engaging in debates and making decisions.
- Is supported and informed by many evidence sources – such as academic research findings.



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

## What is RaiSe?

RaiSe is a support service in the Assembly:

- Staffed by qualified researchers and librarians;
- Meets the *unique research and information needs* of plenaries, committees and MLAs;
- Delivers written and oral products in a timely, objective, non-partisan and confidential manner; and,
- Thereby facilitates Assembly and Private Member (MLA) business.



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

## What are the *unique research and information needs* of the Assembly?

MLAs and committees must:

- Identify and assess evidence from multiple sources – such as an academic's research findings.
- Must do so:
  - within short time-frames;
  - while dealing with diverse, demanding workloads; and,
  - with support from, e.g., Assembly Secretariat and MLA/party support staff.



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

## How can RaiSe further enhance its support of plenaries, committees and MLAs?



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

## Work in Partnership with Academia – KESS:

**Series 1** : 2012 : the Assembly's RaiSe and the Queen's University of Belfast (QUB)

**Series 2** : 2012 – 2013 : RaiSe, QUB and the University of Ulster (Ulster)

**Series 3** : 2013 – 2014 : RaiSe, QUB, Ulster and The Open University (OU)



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

## Overall Aim of KESS:

To provide an annual seminar series where the **public sector** joins with **academics** to consider research findings for the purpose of promoting **evidence-based policy and law-making** in Northern Ireland (NI).



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

## KESS Objective 1:

To impact on the development of policy and law in NI, the seminars will seek to develop understanding and awareness of issues that relate to the Programme for Government of the NI Executive.



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

## KESS Objective 2:

To encourage engagement and debate among a spectrum of attendees, the seminars will aim to encourage attendance from MLAs and their staff, Assembly staff, public and private sector employees, academics and representatives from voluntary and community groups.



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

## *How has KESS sought to meet its aim and objectives?*



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

### 1. Annual Programme

- 'Hot Topics' - relevant to Assembly business

### 2. Format of Individual Seminars

- 2/3 related themes under broad heading (hot topics)
- RalSe Welcome; Committee Chair's Opening Remarks; Academics' Presentations; Discussion/Q&A; Networking

### 3. Publications

- Policy Briefings (5-6 pages) - key findings/observations and potential issues arising therefrom for decision-makers such as MLAs and Committees
- Power Point Presentations (20 minutes) - based on the Policy Briefings



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

## KESS Policy Briefings and Seminar Presentations include:

- 1) Evidence appraisal
- 2) Comparative analysis (e.g. prevailing policy and legislative contexts throughout the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and elsewhere)
- 3) Relevant statistics
- 4) Spatial analysis (local impact modelling, e.g., geographic information)
- 5) Public finance scrutiny (budget and public expenditure)
- 6) Potential issues/lines of questioning that arise from proposals/debates in light of research findings
- 7) A link (outlining how the research findings are relevant to the consideration of policy and legislative proposals)



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

## Research findings facilitate a MLA's or an individual Committee's consideration of:

- an **Executive consultation** regarding a policy or legislative proposal <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index.htm>
- a **bill**, including legislation proposed by the Executive, a MLA or a Committee <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Legislation/>
- a **Committee Inquiry** into a devolved area that is of particular interest to the Committee <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Committees/>
- **Plenary debates on motions** made by MLAs <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/plenary/search.aspx>  
<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/No-Day-Named-Motions/>
- **Assembly Questions/Ministerial Answers** on issues asked by a MLA of a Departmental Minister <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/writtens.aspx>  
<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/subjectsearch.aspx>



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

#### 4. Dissemination of KESS Information

- Programme Publicity
  - RalSe and other Assembly business areas (KESS webpages, media briefings, distribution lists and Twitter)
  - Universities
  - DALOs (Department and Assembly Liaison Officers)
  - Public Sector Web Boards
  - Delivering presentations about KESS (e.g. to organisations like you)
- Publication Distribution
  - Assembly Committees via Chairs
  - KESS webpages post the Policy Briefings, Power Point Presentations and Video Clips of each seminar



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

#### 5. KESS Panel

- Includes representatives from RalSe and the universities
- Meets to plans and agree the annual Programme, as well as procedures and practices relating to the operation and delivery of KESS
- Supports academics presenting at seminars – e.g. Workshops

#### 6. KESS Administration Team

- Includes representatives from RalSe and the universities
- Provides administrative support to enable the organisation and delivery of KESS
- Supports academics presenting at seminars



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

#### In summary:

- KESS formally partners the Assembly and academia.
- It provides a forum to present and disseminate academic research findings in a straightforward and accessible format, on topics that are relevant to policy and legislation (i.e. Policy Briefings, as well as Seminar Presentations and Discussions).
- It encourages debate and develops improved understanding amongst decision-makers such as those in the Assembly, as well as the wider public sector.
- By doing this, it promotes evidence-led policy and law-making in Northern Ireland.



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

#### Impact of KESS:

##### Imprecise to date

- On-going monitoring of its operation and delivery by KESS Panel
- Incidences of further engagement between academics and, e.g. Committees, Departments and Voluntary/Community Sector
- Interviews with MLAs and Secretariat staff
- Feedback Questionnaires
- Attendance Levels and Range of Attendees

##### In future

- Develop and implement formal Monitoring and Review Strategy



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

**Thanks for your interest in KESS.**

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Research-and-Information-Service-RalSe/Knowledge-Exchange/>

**Any Questions?**



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)



#### Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

*...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland*



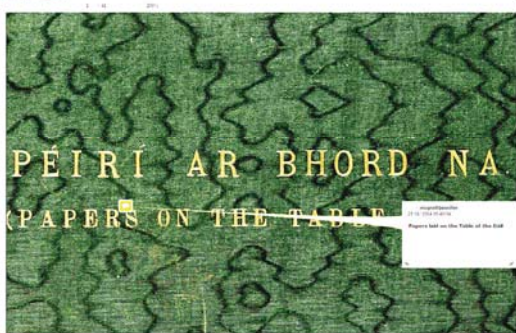
## *The Tip of the Iceberg: Access to Government documents via the new Oireachtas Library Online Catalogue*

Jennifer McGrath

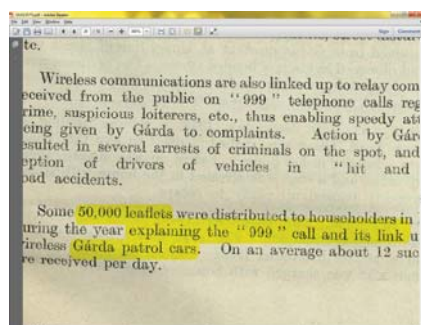
## Documents Laid

- Official publications of Government/State Agencies,
- Statutory Instruments,
- Committee reports, work programmes, International agreements
- Reports and correspondence relating to Tribunals
- Statements in respect of special advisers/Donation statements/Election expenses
- Registers of Members' interests
- European Union proposals (COM docs) ...

## Papers laid on the Table



## History of State Bodies



## Social history

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—NUMBER OF PRIVATE FAMILIES, CLASSIFIED ACCORD TO THE OCCUPATION OF TENEMENTS OF ONE ROOM, IN EACH TOWN OR VILLAGE, IN SAORSTAT ÉIREANN ON 18TH APRIL, 1926. THE FIGURES FOR THE YEAR 1911.

Total Number of Families	SIZE OF FAMILY								
	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons	9 Persons

## Medals for bravery

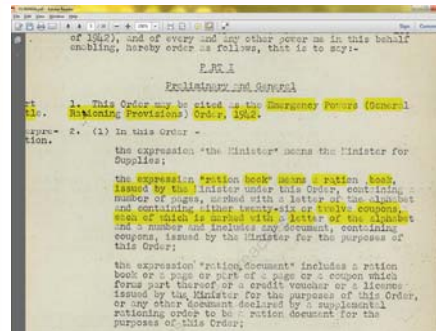
	awarded, and Certificate	and Certificate	only
Rescues or attempted rescues from drowning	50	—	32
Runaway horses	1	—	1
Fire	1	—	1
Coal Mine	1	—	1
Cliff	1	—	1
Blazing Aircraft	1	—	1
Flooded Houses	1	—	—
Total (1949)	56	—	36
Total (1948)	65	—	25

TABLE B.  
PERSONS RECEIVING AWARDS.  
Number of persons receiving awards.

## Tourism



## World War II - Rations



## Storage and Access



- Parcels
- Bound red volumes
- Registers
- Six copies/hand-written receipts



## Preparation



- **2006 – 2008: Cataloguing project**
  - Approx. 18000 documents laid prior to 1982 catalogued from red bound volumes
  - Comprehensive UK Marc records, S.I.s were omitted and laid information was unavailable
- **Technical overhaul 2009**
  - New Library Management System (Liberty) – Functionality to support digital objects and import and export metadata, integration with other systems
  - Digital Repository (Archival ware) – Storage of digital objects, extra functionality for external uploads
- **HARP C: Clean & Catalogue**

## Projects in 2009



### HARP D – Historical Archive Digitisation Project

- 66,000 Documents Laid sent off-site and digitized and Dublin Core catalogue records created

## Metadata mapping



- Parliamentary number as a match-point
- Laid information Online records → Print records
- Detailed metadata print records → Online records
- Good quality scans and catalogue records on LMS for Documents laid up to 2009

## Projects up to 2009



- Offline/Un-catalogued -> Online and catalogued
- Four projects: Update catalogue records/ Digitise and catalogue (HARP-D)/ Enhance online records and catalogue S.I.s (HARP-C)/Metadata mapping

## End User Submission

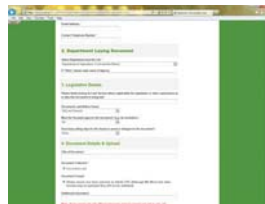


- On-going receipt of Documents Laid
- Procedural and technical changes
- Procedural: Cabinet hand-book, Standing orders, OPW
- Technical: EUS/EUS pilot April 2011

## EUS form



- EUS -> Archivalware -> Liberty
- 836 registered users of the e-docs system
- 99% documents laid in electronic format



## Access in 2013



- Desktop access to 80,000 PDFs of all Documents laid



- Accessible and catalogued within 24 hours of receipt

## Towards public access



- Preparatory work: Metadata, security settings and collection locations
- Launch November 2013
- Dramatic increase in usage statistics: 200 downloads per month to approx. 2000
- Documents laid: available to the public within 24 hours

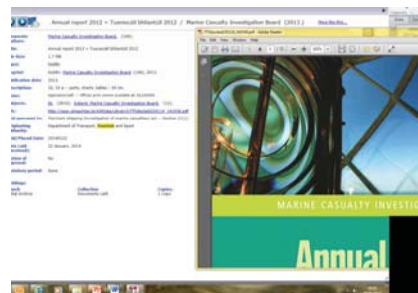
## Access via Oireachtas.ie



## Online catalogue



## Catalogue record



Improving evidence informed planning on the island of Ireland **AIRO**  
All-Island Research Observatory  
An tIonad Breithnathach um Thuaghaidh Lúic Éireann

Improving Evidence Informed Planning in Ireland

*Access+Evidence: Information for Policy*  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2014

Eoghan McCarthy  
Data Analyst, AIRO

+ MAPS  
+ STATISTICS  
+ RESEARCH  
+ TRAINING  
+ POLICY  
+ CONSULTANCY

**AIRO**

## Outline

- What is the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO)?
- Data Visualisation Tools & Demo
- Case Study: Leveraging Public Sector Data
  - DSP New Ways of Mapping Unemployment

## What is the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO)

AIRO is a **research unit** and **spatial data website** focused on improving evidence informed planning in Ireland

- Collects, analyses and provides evidence and tools to support better planning and decision making
  - Maps, data, policy advice, research and training
- Maximise the **usage and benefit** of publically funded and readily available datasets
- Highlight the benefit of **proper collection, management and dissemination of datasets**

Who do we work with?

- Government Departments (DECLG, DPER, DSP)
- Semi-State bodies (IDA, EI)
- Regional Authorities, Local Authorities, Local Partnerships etc
- Academics, Researchers, Public
- Private Sector
- EU Funding Bodies: INTERREG, SEUPB, ESPON

+ MAPS  
+ STATISTICS  
+ RESEARCH  
+ TRAINING  
+ POLICY  
+ CONSULTANCY

## Data visualisation through AIRO – Census 2011

- Public sector reform agenda, improve access to **publically funded data**
  - Working with the CSO to improve the dissemination of Census 2011 results
  - Vital step in encouraging use of Census 2011, justify 2016
  - Provide access for general public, government and private sector
  - Total cost €51.6m / €40m on enumeration.
- Public Good Mapping tools – National, Local Authority (34) and Regional Authority (8) Census mapping tools available on the AIRO site
  - Web GIS - InstantAtlas (GeoWise) software, ESRI Flexviewer
  - Flash and HTML 5 versions (use on tablets, smart phones etc)
  - Full set of variables for 2006 and 2011 at ED and SA level
  - 15 census themes, 770 indicators
    - Population, Nationality, Religion, Economic Status, Industry, Housing, Transport, Internet Access etc
  - Additional research output now included: accessibility scores to public facilities/retail, Deprivation Indices, LPT

Let's have a look  
<http://www.airo.ie/mapping-module>

**AIRO**  
All-Island Research Observatory  
An tIonad Breithnathach um Thuaghaidh Lúic Éireann

## Data visualisation through AIRO - Census 2011

- Invitation to LA and RA to embed these tools within corporate website
  - Planning sections, Community and Enterprise staff
  - No requirement for dependence on GIS/IS staff
  - 10 minute job for IT technician to create i-frame and embed link
    - It's a toolkit for planners, policy makers and researchers

South Tipperary County Data Hub

AIRO South Tipperary

Census Mapping Module: Waterford City

**AIRO**

## Interactive Maps - National Tools

National Viewer

- All-Island Atlas
- Entire Census available on one tool.
- Accessibility Mapping
- Deprivation Mapping
- Environmental – Wind Strategies
- All Island Atlas
- Feeder Schools
- Place of Work Employment Catchments
- Housing Vacancy and Ghost Estates

A simple way of navigating spatial data.

- No GIS skills required
- Printable Maps
- StreetView Enabled
- Analyse National trends or assess local areas



## AIRO Public Good Mapping Tools

- Visualising the Census 2011**
  - National, Regional & Local Authority census mapping tool with the Central Statistics Office (CSO)
- The All-Island Atlas**
  - Developing a comprehensive socio-demographic All-Island digital Atlas for 2011.
- All-Island Deprivation Index**
  - Mapping relative levels of affluence and disadvantage across the island
- AIRO All-Island Accessibility Mapping tool**
  - Developing a key evidence base for shared services – Drive Time Accessibility
- Monitoring House Price Change**
  - 'From boom to bust: mapping Ireland's house prices'
- Vacant Ireland** - Mapping housing vacancy and Ghost Estates in Ireland
- POWCAR Urban Area Employment Catchments**
  - The urban commuter map. Commuter catchments for every major urban area.
- Mapping Wind Strategies In Ireland – SEAI**
  - The first comprehensive spatial review of wind strategies in Ireland.
- New Ways of Mapping Unemployment**
  - Using GeoDirectory to map live register recipients
- Visualising Crime in Ireland**
  - Mapping Crime at Garda Station Level

## AIRO Interactive Tables - Data Visualisation

**Data Visualisation**

- Online interactive data dashboards used for non-spatial data
- Configure views to suit the user needs
- Select location, geography and time periods
- Customise views, save, download or print
- Data viz can compress millions of rows of data into one view.
- Ideal for non-spatial data.
- An accessible way to manage large datasets

## AIRO Interactive Tables - GHDI Reports

**SOUTHERN & EASTERN Regional Assembly**  
Promoting Our Region

**Gateways & Hubs Development Index 2009/2012**

- Socio-economic performance report available as 11 printed documents each with 8 sections
- Entire collection of reports 20,000 rows of data compressed into one visualisation
- Greatly enhanced access to headline figures, evidence base.
- Much more use than a printed report gathering dust.
- Print, extract, reuse.

## AIRO Interactive Tables - GHDI Reports

**Travel to Work: % Mode Share Private Car, 2006 & 2011**

**Mode Share-Travel to Work: Car Drivers**

- Data viz helps us to work across spatial geographies. National level down to local.
- Useful for monitoring trends, policy implementation and target progress.

## AIRO - Static Map Archive

- AIRO has a static map archive where users can view, download or reproduce static maps
- Search for Maps by theme and use for free.
- AIRO also produces bespoke mapping for public and private sector clients for use in reports, presentations and policy documents.

## AIRO Data Store – Open Data

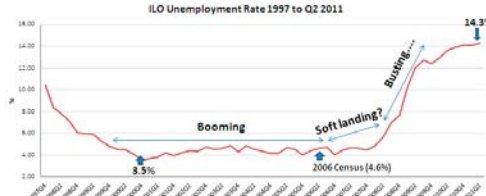
- Over 1,300 datasets available in four file formats (csv, kml, xml and shape)
- All datasets are available free of charge
- Data is available from a range of publishers including CSO, NISRA, NISRA, HSE, Department of Social Protection and Eurostat.
- The geography available of the datasets ranges from small area level to EU level.
- Coming soon.....April



### AIRO Case Study – New Ways of Mapping Unemployment

#### Leveraging public sector data for policy implementation

- A joint initiative of Southside Partnership (DLR) and the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis
  - Southside Partnership - A local development organisation serving Dun Laoghaire Rathdown with a remit to tackle socio-economic disadvantage and social exclusion.
  - Challenge : Targeting unemployment services and initiatives to the areas that need them most.




**ILO Unemployment Rate 1997 to Q2 2011**

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)
1997	8.5%
2006	4.6%
Q2 2011	14.3%


### AIRO Case Study – New Ways of Mapping Unemployment

- Census data provides the best means of understanding unemployment levels at the local level
  - Every 5 years (96, 02, 06, 11)
  - ED level and EA level in 5 cities
  - New Small Area level in 2011 census
- Live Register at Social Welfare Office level
  - Not specifically designed to measure unemployment as it includes part-time, seasonal and casual workers entitled to Jobseekers Allowance and Jobseekers Benefit
- Advantages:
  - 122 Offices
  - Monthly Updates
  - Gender
  - Age Band
    - Under 25 years, 25 years and over



### AIRO Case Study – New Ways of Mapping Unemployment

- Data currently available at Office Level only
- Requirement to unlock the detail within the DSP database
- What are the specific catchments of the SW Offices?
  - What is the Live Register figure for Southside?
  - Have levels increased across the Partnership?
  - Can we map the data at neighbourhood level?



**Live Register - SW Office**

Office	Jan-08	Jan-11
DLR	2707	7558
Rathdown	1948	4854
Bray	1857	5407



### AIRO Case Study – New Ways of Mapping Unemployment

- Tallaght DSP Regional SW Office
  - Southside Offices: DLR, Nutgrove, Bray
  - Data extracts
    - w/e Jan 2008, w/e Jan 2009, w/e Jan 2010, w/e April 2010, w/e October 2010, w/e January 2011, w/e April 2011, w/e October 2011
- Data Protection a major concern for DSP
  - Confidentiality Agreement set up between DSP and NIRSA
  - Reviewed by Data Protection Commissioner
- NIRSA appointed as Data Processor
  - All data stored on encrypted USB
  - To be processed on non-networked PC
  - Individual records to be aggregated to EDs and EAs
  - Aggregates with <5 are to be compressed

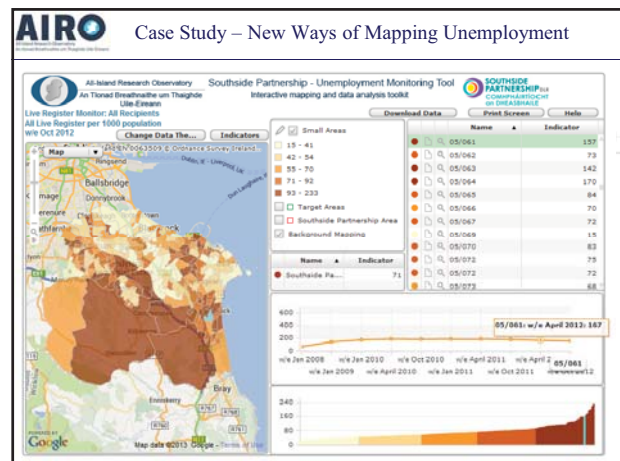
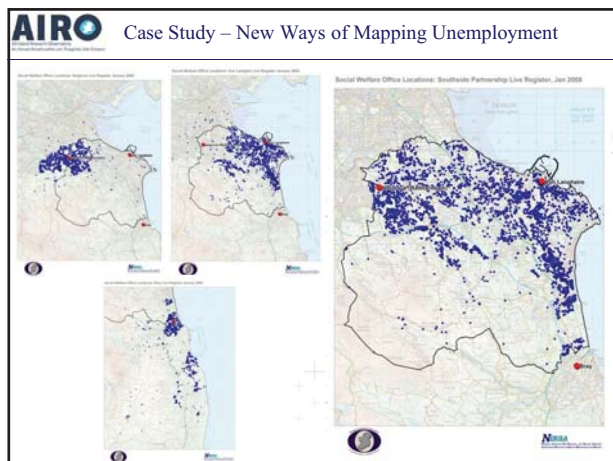
### AIRO Case Study – New Ways of Mapping Unemployment

- Data included in extracts
  - Claim Code:
    - Jobseekers Benefit
    - Jobseekers Assistance
    - One Parent Family
    - Back To Work
    - Unemployment Benefit Credits Only
  - Claim Start Date – Long term Unemployment
  - Prev. Occupation
  - Personal Rate, Net Flat Rate,
  - Sex
  - Date of Birth (Year only)
  - Marital Status
  - Country Code
  - Address Detail (Add1, Add2, Add3, County Name)
- Names and PPS excluded from extracts

### AIRO Case Study – New Ways of Mapping Unemployment

- DSP data is cleaned and given a spatial reference by matching to GeoDirectory
- Each database entry now has an x/y coordinate and can be mapped
- We now know where every Live Register recipient lives and can be aggregated to any boundary or catchment



### Data Days - QGIS

- Data for Decisions
  - GIS Workshop is aimed at planners, policy and decision makers, local partnerships and local authorities researchers and private consultants.
    - DPER, DSP, HIQA, Local Authorities, Private Consultants
  - Get a better handle on Irish spatial data and the potential of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to aid in evidence informed decision making
  - Designed around the free and open source QGIS software package and is pitched at those with little or no GIS experience
  - Costs: €295
  - Credits: 7 IPI CPD Credits
  - Next dates: March 11<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup>

### New AIRO Site – April '14

Thanks

Questions?

w: [www.airo.ie](http://www.airo.ie)  
 e: [eoghan@airo.ie](mailto:eoghan@airo.ie)  
 twitter: [airo\\_nuim](https://twitter.com/airo_nuim)

## A national approach to Open Access in Ireland

Patricia Clarke,  
Snr Policy Analyst/ ND Health  
Health Research Board



### Why is OA publication important (1)

#### High-level principled argument

- Results of publicly funded research should be publicly available
- OA enables research findings to be shared with the wider public, creating a knowledge economy with better informed citizens
- OA enhances knowledge transfer to sectors that can directly use knowledge to produce better goods and services



### Why is OA publication important (2)

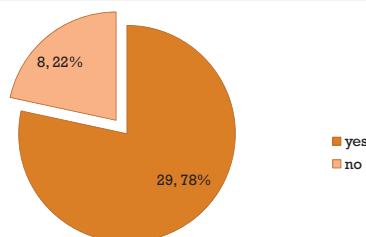
#### Practice-based pragmatic argument

- Improves research efficiency
- Enables reuse of research outputs
- Provides the basis for better research monitoring and evaluation
- Preservation of research outputs ensures our cultural heritage is protected and curated
- Scientific outputs are kept in formats that ensures they are permanently usable and accessible



### Science Europe Survey on Open Access

The vast majority (29 out of 37 institutions) have an OA policy.

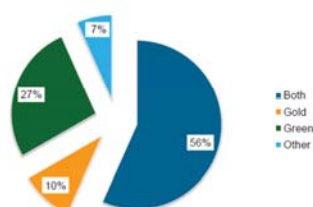


Reference: Science Europe Open Access Working Group.



### Science Europe Survey on Open Access

Q. What approach to OA does your policy take?



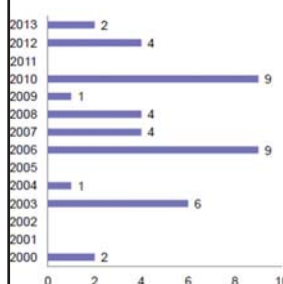
The majority cover Green & Gold Open Access policy, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> cover only Green, 3 institutions cover only Gold OA.

Reference: Science Europe Open Access Working Group.

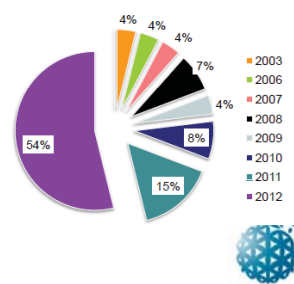


### Science Europe Survey on Open Access

Q. When was your OA policy launched?

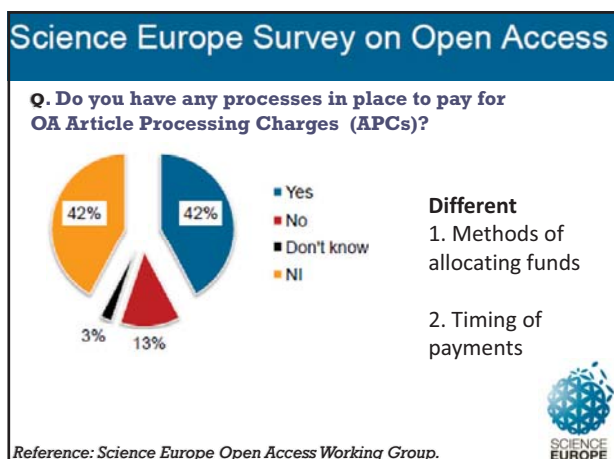


Q. When was the OA policy last reviewed?



Reference: Science Europe Open Access Working Group.






### Irish National Steering Committee on Open Access Policy

*“Coordinate activities and combine expertise at a national level to promote unrestricted, online access to outputs which result from research that is wholly or partially funded by the State”*






### National Membership

- **Funders:** HRB, SFI, HEA, IRC, Teagasc, Marine Institute, DAFM, and EPA
- **Researchers :** IUA, HSE, IOTI, DIT, WIT, RCSI
- **Library and repository:** CONUL, IUALG, Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI), RIAN,
- **Expert Individuals**



### Phased approach

1. Broaden infrastructure coverage beyond universities
2. Increase number of publicly funded publications made available
3. Use OA to develop a national picture – funding acknowledgements and value-added metrics
4. Promote OA to any underlying research data and materials
5. Develop sustainable long-term solutions.

### National Principles for Open Access Policy Statement

- Definition of Open Access
- Definition of research outputs



**Reaffirm:**

- Freedom of researchers
- Increase visibility and access
- Support international interoperability, link to teaching and learning, and Open Innovation
- built on best practice here and abroad




### General principles (1)

- All researchers to have deposit rights for in an OA repository

**Deposit**

- post-prints/ publishers version & metadata
- peer-reviewed journal articles and conference publications. Others where possible
- at time of acceptance for publication
- in compliance with national metadata standards





## General principles (2)

- **Release**
  - immediate for meta-data
  - Respect publishers copyright, licencing and embargos (not normally exceeding 6 months/ 12 months)
- Green route policy – but not exclusive
- Suitable repositories
- Research data linked to publications



## High-level principles

### Infrastructure and sustainability

- Depositing once, harvesting, interoperability and long-term preservation

### Advocacy and coordination

- Mechanisms for and monitoring of implementation, awareness raising and engagement for ALL

### Exploiting Open Access

- Preparing metadata and national value-added metrics



## Signatories



## Implementation: here and abroad

### Key elements

- Infrastructure and sustainability
- Advocacy and coordination
- Exploiting OA
- Resourcing OA

### Comparators

- RCUK
- EU Commission
- Denmark/ Portugal
- MedOANet



**Thank you**

**Dr Patricia Clarke**  
**Health Research Board**  
[pclarke@hrb.ie](mailto:pclarke@hrb.ie)



## Placing T-Stór in the Irish Repository Environment

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[www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)  
<http://t-stor.teagasc.ie>



## Teagasc

- **Teagasc** is the agriculture and food development authority in Ireland.
- Its mission is to support science-based innovation in the agri-food sector and the broader bioeconomy that will underpin profitability, competitiveness and sustainability.



## Teagasc Research

- The leading organisation in agricultural and food research in Ireland
- Annual portfolio of over 300 research projects
- Annual output of around 400 research articles, plus reports and working papers
- Extensive collaboration within Ireland and in Europe, the USA and New Zealand
- Participation in EU Framework programmes



## Background

- Growth of Open Access movement
- Teagasc supports Open Access Principles
- Teagasc is largely publicly funded
- Our mission includes dissemination of our research outputs
- Irish universities and other research bodies set up repositories
- Funder mandates



## What is a Repository?

- Open Access Repositories are digital collections of documents which are freely available online, searchable and open to free download by users, with only very few conditions – for example that articles are attributed when cited by others.
- The repository software exposes the metadata of each article (the title, authors, and other bibliographic details) in a format compliant with the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAIPMH).
- This enables the articles to be found by search engines, such as Google, Google Scholar or one of the specialised search engines.
- The software also enables other functions, such as usage stats.
- Open Access Repositories supplement journal publishing, they don't replace it.



## The jargon

- **"Gold" OA:** publishers make the peer-reviewed journal articles freely available to users, normally funded by a charge to the author (or her institution) to reimburse the publisher for the costs involved
- **"Green" OA:** Author self-archiving/Institutional archiving, usually either in an **Institutional Repository**, or a subject-related Repository.
- **Pre-print** = article that was actually submitted to the journal, with no modifications
- **Post-print** = Authors version of article, after changes suggested by peer-review process (but not with the editing, formatting, logo, etc as finalised by the journal publisher)
- **Hybrid Journals:** Publishers offer an option to make your article OA by paying, but not all articles in the journal are OA.





## Irish Repository Landscape

- Dublin City University
- National University of Ireland, Galway
- National University of Ireland, Maynooth
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- University of Limerick
- Dublin Institute of Technology
- Waterford Institute of Technology
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- Teagasc
- HSE (Health Service Executive)
- Marine Institute
- Mary Immaculate College
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- National Documentation Centre on Drug Use
- Digital Repository Ireland
- Dublin Business School



## RIAN – pathway to Irish Research

- outcome of a higher education project supported by the Irish Government's 'Strategic Innovation Fund'.
- aim is to harvest to one portal the contents of the repositories of Irish research bodies in order to make Irish research material more freely accessible, and to increase the research profiles of individual researchers and their institutions.
- Originally 7 Irish universities, now includes 13 organisational repositories



## Why build T-Stór?

- Increase accessibility of Teagasc research in line with our mission
- Increase citations and impact of our research
- Satisfy funding requirements – EU, DAFM, ERC, HEA, HRB, IRCSET, SFI mandates
- Preserve the intellectual output of Teagasc
- T-Stór brings Teagasc into the national and international repository community, with all the Irish universities and other research bodies
- All Teagasc research is co-located, so leading to better "branding".
- See where our research is being used - T-Stór offers statistics
- Collaboration



## What can be deposited in T-Stór?

- Articles from peer-reviewed journals - subject to publisher terms & conditions: author's version of the pre- or post- print
- Papers presented at International Conferences
- Reports
- Proceedings of Teagasc Conferences
- Teagasc Submissions, Briefing Notes, Position Papers and Working Papers
- RERC Research Series



## How we proceeded

- Library and ICT department worked together
- Considered options for software and hosting – decided on external hosting
- Internal consultation to decide content, policy and structure
- Invited Tenders for set up and maintenance



## Process continued

- Contract awarded to Central Solutions
- Work commenced April 2012
  - Set up test version to iron out glitches
  - Recruited researchers to trial it
- T-Stór live August 2012
  - Ongoing training for Researchers
  - Ongoing promotion internally to encourage deposit



## Issues

- Publisher terms & conditions
  - Versions
  - Embargoes & bans
  - Linking, Citations & Statements
  - Finding policy for smaller publishers
- Researcher buy-in
  - Building awareness
  - Addressing concerns
  - Availability of correct version
- Staff time



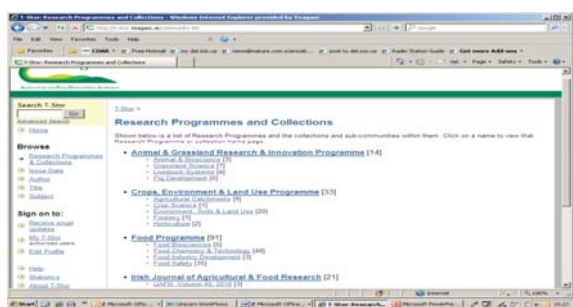
## Let's look at T-Stór

Search and browse options on this side

Information on this side – Step-by-step guide



## Structure



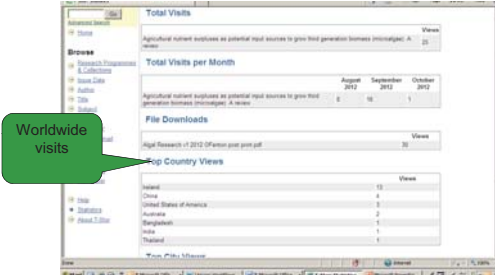
## Search results



## Item record



## Who's looking?



### Search and harvesters

- OpenDOAR
- Worldwidescience.org
- Google scholar
- 2-way process
  - Biomed Central
  - Rian Teagasc-sponsored research



### Joining RIAN

- Application to IUA Librarians
- Information & documentation from RIAN metadata group
- Co-operation with Marine Institute and HSE
- Support from Joseph Greene, UCD
- Crosswalk prepared
- Central Solutions – Crosswalk implementation



### Rian harvesting continued

- Enovation Solutions - Test version of RIAN
- Test harvest - Issues identified
  - Rian needs at least one subject entered
  - Rian displayed incorrect full-text link
- Changes implemented
  - Time-consuming – had to manually change a few hundred records



### What's next?

- Implementing improvements to T-Stór
  - Make uploading interface more user-friendly
  - Implement changes to design identified by Rian project
  - Implement changes required to become OpenAIRE compliant
  - Integrating with RMIS



### International developments

- OpenAIRE plus
- Open Data
- Awareness
  - Public access to publicly funded research
  - Encouraging researchers to build deposit into their workflows



**Access + Evidence: information for policy | GLS Seminar 2014**  
**Delegate List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Martina Zenia Baldi	School of Information & Library Studies, UCD
Sarah Burns	Economic & Social Research Institute
Alexandra Caccamo	Office of Public Works (National Botanic Gardens)
Máire Caffrey	Teagasc (Speaker)
Jean Cassidy	Chief State Solicitor's Office (Chair, GLS)
Mairéad Cassidy	Bord Bia
Patricia Clarke	Health Research Board (Speaker)
Bernadette Cogan	Dublin City Public Libraries
Jill Corish	Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
Una Cronin	Office of the Attorney General
Sarah Cullinan	Pobal
Alison Davidson	School of Information & Library Studies, UCD
Mary Dempsey	Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine
Joe Donnelly	Judges' Library, Courts Service
Peter Dowie	Teagasc
G Honor Fagan	Department of Sociology, NUI Maynooth
Helen Farrell	Consultant Librarian
Maria Fitzsimons	Houses of the Oireachtas
Louise Galligan	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Órla Gillen	Law Reform Commission
Rebecca Grant	Digital Repository Ireland, Royal Irish Academy
Nora Harrington	
Niamh Harte	Trinity College Dublin Library
Brian Harvey	Brian Harvey Social Research
Maura Hiney	Health Research Board
Lisa Ann Kennedy	Centre for Effective Services
Sarah Kennedy	Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
Clodagh Kingston	Dublin City Public Libraries
Stephanie Kingston	Trinity College Dublin
Tracey Lauriault	National Institute for Regional & Spatial Analysis, NUI Maynooth
Paddi Leinster	Digital Repository Ireland, Royal Irish Academy
Philomena Lyons	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Conor McCabe	Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government
Eoghan McCarthy	All-Island Research Observatory (Speaker)
John McDonough	Houses of the Oireachtas
Helen McGrath	Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government
Jennifer McGrath	Houses of the Oireachtas (Speaker)
Zoe Melling	Legal Aid Board
Fiona Morley	Legal Aid Board
Anne Murphy	Tallaght Hospital
Evelyn Murphy	Met Éireann
Paula Murphy	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Treasurer, GLS)
Noeleen Murtagh	Food Safety Authority of Ireland
Irene O'Callaghan	
Colleen O'Kane	LK Shields Solicitors
Cormac O'Sullivan	PublicPolicy.ie
Caroline Philpott	

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**Delegate List**

Patricia Quigley	
Ciaran Quinn	John Paul II Library, NUI Maynooth
Eileen Regan	Northern Ireland Assembly (Speaker)
Frances Ruane	Economic & Social Research Institute (Speaker)
Kalpana Shankar	School of Information & Library Studies, UCD
Mark Sweeney	School of Information & Library Studies, UCD
Keishia Taylor	Trinity College Dublin
Clare Thornley	Innovation Value Institute, NUI Maynooth
Mairéad Treanor	Met Éireann (Secretary, GLS)
Patricia Trotter	Institute of Public Administration
Kieran Walsh	Central Statistics Office
Anne Whelan	Mason Hayes & Curran Solicitors



## Government Libraries Section Library Association of Ireland



**The Government Libraries Section of the Library Association of Ireland is a professional network of librarians and information professionals working in central government and State agencies in Ireland.**

Government librarians provide a wide range of services to staff in government departments and agencies. This includes access to books, journals and online information services as well as provision of current awareness services, enquiry and research services and information skills training. In addition to managing the provision and development of information services, government librarians are also leading knowledge management initiatives and open access projects, co-ordinating the provision of information through intranets and websites, and contributing to the overall management of government organisations through their work on committees and working groups.

In addition to central government, there are libraries serving the legislature, the judiciary and a wide variety of other authorities, agencies and offices of the State throughout the country.

The Government Libraries Section within the LAI promotes co-operation between government libraries. It creates an environment for the sharing of experience and expertise through regular meetings, training sessions and its journal GLINT. It has worked at the forefront of several library and information issues in recent years, most recently in the area of copyright law.

For more information on GLS, visit our website at <https://libraryassociation.ie/groups-sections/government-libraries-section-gls>.



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