Library & Information Services Division

Annual Review

2010

CONTENTS

1   EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This review presents the activities, developments and achievements of the Library and Information Services Division for the period June 2009 to May 2010.

Library facilities

During this year the Glucksman Library and the Building and Estates Division have been working with the NDFA (National Development Finance Agency) and competing consortia on the much needed phase 2 extension of the library building. Final tenders are to be submitted in June 2010 and the successful bid announced at the end of the summer. It is expected that building will commence in January 2011.

Collections

IReL
The work of the IUA Librarians' Group, the HEA and the IUA Council to provide for the extension of IReL in 2010 and 2011 was the most critical achievement of the year. We retain access at UL to over 65,000 electronic journal subscriptions across all subject areas.

Arts Council funding
The university received funding from the Arts Council to establish Ireland's first national dance archive. The archive, a joint project with the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, will be based in the library. The funding came about through initiatives and a feasibility report carried out by Dance Research Forum Ireland, a body set up in 2003 by Dr Catherine Foley, Director of the MA Ethnochoreology and MA Irish Traditional Dance Performance at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at University of Limerick.

Wired and wireless internet through out the library

The decision by the library to extend wired and wireless throughout the library was warmly welcomed by library users. Wifi is now available throughout the building and wired access connected every study desk and group study room in the library with power and data points. Having the choice of both methods of access means more reliable, faster and convenient connectivity for all.

Electronic theses

The library worked with the Graduate School over the course of 2009/10 to amend academic regulations to allow for electronic thesis deposit. The first UL e-theses are now available on the university's Institutional Repository.

From 2010 postgraduate research students will submit an electronic copy of their thesis to the Graduate School, in addition to the three printed copies they are already required to submit. The electronic copy will be lodged in the library and will be uploaded onto the university's institutional repository so that it is accessible on the web. An option to embargo access is available for theses containing confidential information.

Open access to UL theses will advance the internationalisation of the university by raising our research profile with the global scholarly community. It will provide greater visibility and impact for UL researchers.

Strategic issues

The maintenance of services will be the key strategic issue facing the library in the year ahead. Reductions to the operations budget will make it unlikely that we will be able to continue to provide opening hours and interlibrary loan services at current levels. In the past two academic years, staff numbers have reduced by ten and it is likely that this too will impact on services.

Gobnait O'Riordan
Director, Library and Information Services Division

2 LIBRARY DATA 2009/10

2.1 Key statistics for the period June 2009 to May 2010

Area	9170 m2
Seating	1100 Glucksman Library 350 Campus Reading Rooms
Group Study Rooms	21
Catalogued books (print)	297,755
Electronic books	330,300
Items added to stock in 2009/10	13,591
Print and electronic journals	65,342
Bibliographical and full text databases	179
Number of library visits (entry gate)	905,125
Loans	190,000
Short loans	33,000
Inter library loans	2,717
Information desk enquiries	16,399
Current staff establishment	64 (59 females, 5 males)

2.2 Library materials budget

The budget for library materials for the accounting period 1st October 2009 to 30th September 2010 was €1,833,000. However, these budgets were further reduced in April 2010, leaving a materials budget of €1,711,000, of which €745,800 was ring-fenced for the book fund and the remaining €965,300 was allocated to annual journal and database subscriptions.

3 LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

3.1 Overview

The Library and Information Services Division provides resources, facilities and services in support of teaching, learning and research within the university. The university library is situated in the Glucksman Library and Information Services building and there are several campus reading rooms available in other parts of the university. In addition, the division administers the Regional Hospital Library in Limerick and the University Archive.

3.2 Library mission

The University of Limerick Library supports the teaching, learning and research activities at the university by providing quality information resources, education, support and facilities to students, faculty, staff and researchers. To achieve this, the library will:

Build collections to support current and future needs
Provide quality services and seek continuous improvement
Provide a safe and secure physical environment which encompasses the best traditional library practices and state-of-the-art resources and study facilities
Listen and respond to customers' needs promptly and efficiently
Treat all library customers with fairness and courtesy
Provide appropriate training courses and guidance to enable each reader to make the most productive use of all information resources
Co-operate with resource sharing, research and other initiatives at regional, national and international levels

3.3 Vision

Our vision is to be a vibrant and pioneering library service providing high quality scholarly resources and services, and an environment that encourages reflective and collaborative inquiry, so that the library enables the University of Limerick to achieve excellence in teaching, learning, research and community service.

3.4 Values

Knowledge and Education
We affirm the fundamental value of libraries in learning, research and the sharing of knowledge.
We hold important our role as a partner in the library and information community in which we collect, preserve and enable access to information.
We take responsibility for our own learning and growth to become more effective in our work.

Intellectual Freedom and Integrity
We support academic and intellectual freedom and the individual's right to privacy, confidentiality and fair access to information.

Valuing People
We encourage respectful, open and honest interactions and communications, which allow individuals to work productively and effectively.
We act with courtesy, professionalism and integrity in dealing with library users and colleagues.

Collaboration
We are committed to working together and sharing knowledge, with each individual taking responsibility for his/her work and for overall team effectiveness.
We participate in partnerships within the university and beyond to benefit library services and collections.

Service Excellence
We promote consistently high standards to ensure high quality in services to library users and colleagues.   We take responsibility for being responsive and positive in providing library services.
We strive to provide excellent collections to library users.
We aim to meet the challenges of a continually changing academic and information environment.

Initiative and Creativity
We aim to contribute to the university's pioneering and innovative spirit by encouraging innovation and responding creatively to new challenges and service improvement.
We value innovation and creativity in enhancing library effectiveness.
We are willing to take risks and to learn.

3.5   Management structure

Management Team:

Director
Associate Director [vacant]
Head of Administration
Head of Information Services
Head of Reader Services
Head of Technical Services

Areas of Responsibility:

Associate Director
        Staff Training and Development
        Management Information
        Quality Programme

Administration Department
        Human Resources
        Finance
        Regulatory Matters (FOI, Safety, Copyright, Licensing, Data Protection)
        Business and Technical Information Service (BTiS)
        Regional Medical Library
        University Archive

Information Services Department
        Information Skills Programmes
        Promotion of Library Use
        Coordination of Work of Faculty Librarians
        Research Support
        Information and Reference Desk
        Collection Development
        Institutional Repository

Reader Services Department
        Service Desk
        Inter Library Loans
        Collection Management
        Building Supervision
        Photocopying
        Digitization Centre

Technical Services Department
        Library Systems
        Acquisitions
        Cataloguing
        Web and Electronic Services

Librarians
- Acquisitions Librarian
- BTiS Librarian
- Cataloguing Librarian
- Research Librarian
- Digital Initiatives Librarian
- Special Collections Librarian
- Electronic Services Librarian
- Faculty Librarian, Business
- Faculty Librarian, Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences
- Faculty Librarian, Education & Health Sciences
- Faculty Librarian, Science & Engineering (Architecture & Science)
- Faculty Librarian, Science & Engineering (CSIS, ECE, MAE, MOE)

Library Meetings
- Library Management Group
- E-Media Working Group
- Institutional Repository Working Group
- Library Quality Steering Group
- Library Marketing Group
- Safety Committee (jointly with ITD)
- Special Collections Meetings
- Staff Training and Development Committee

Liaison Meetings
- Library/ITD Liaison meeting
- Library Users Group Meeting
- Library Development Committee
- Library and Information Resources Development Committee
- Student Experience Committee
- LISB2 Planning Group
- LISB1 Refurbishment Working Group
- VLE Taskforce

4   LIBRARY MANAGEMENT - REVIEW 2009/10

4.1   Overview

The Library Management oversees planning and operations for the library and consists of the director, associate director and departments heads. This section will outline the significant activities and strategic developments at library management level for the year 2009/10.

4.2   Library phase 2

The tender process for phase two of the library was opened in September 2009. The process is managed by the National Finance and Development Agency (NDFA). In January 2010 three consortia were selected to produce full design and management tenders. Since then the Glucksman Library and the Building and Estates Division have been working with each consortia to bring the designs and management procedures to completion. Final tenders are to be submitted in June 2010 and the successful bid will be announced at the end of the summer. It is expected that building will commence in January 2011.

4.3   LISB1 refurbishment

An LISB1 Refurbishment Working Group with representation from the library and Buildings and Estates Division was established in 2010 to produce a scoping document on refurbishment of the current building to include access control, improved security, acoustic control measures, etc.

In 2009 a review was commissioned to look at the library building and give suggestions on how it could be improved to meet the needs of users, particularly in the area of noise management.

4.4   Library Development Committee

George Cunningham's term of office as governor on the University Governing Authority and chair of the Library Development Committee came to an end in 2009. George is a renowned teacher, scholar, author and bibliophile and has been a great friend and supporter of the library for many years. George brought his vision of the library as the essential engine and cornerstone of learning and research to the University of Limerick. This vision was critical in the decision to build the current library building and in its design. George also played a leading role in phase 2 of the building, to be completed in 2012. His involvement had a significant impact on the development of the special collections held in the library, particularly the Norton, Walsh and McAnally Collections. The Governing Authority and the library jointly hosted a presentation and reception in the Special Collections Department on 27th October to mark the end of George's term of office.

4.5   Quality

4.5.1   LibQUAL Survey

LibQUAL is a quantitative survey instrument derived from ServQUAL. Thousands of academic libraries worldwide conduct this survey annually. The survey asks 27 core questions and measures satisfaction rates in 3 areas - the physical space of the library, the materials and resources the library has and the service provided by library staff.

The Glucksman Library ran LibQUAL in April 2009, having run the survey two years previously in April 2007. The full LibQUAL report became available in the summer of 2009 and the results were analysed and integrated into the library's operational planning processes in 2009/10.

The survey allows us to:
- Provide quantitative evidence on user satisfaction
- Identify which services are most desired by our users
- Benchmark our library against other libraries worldwide
- Measure our own improvement over time

The results from the survey provide us with quantitative measurement of satisfaction rates amongst particular user groups:
- Individual colleges
- Undergraduate, postgraduate, staff
- Professor, senior lecturer, junior lecturer
- Research postgraduate, taught postgraduate
- Support staff

Main points of the 2009 survey
- The results were drawn from 1,620 responses.
- We performed best in customer service, well above the minimum standard.
- We performed worst in library spaces – we are not meeting our users' minimum standards when it comes to the physical library environment.
- We are just meeting our users' minimum standards in information collections and resources.
- We did not perform above desired standards in any area.
- Postgraduates are the most dissatisfied user group.
- Academic staff are the most satisfied user group.
- Undergraduates rated library spaces as most critical to them, while postgraduates and staff rated information collections and resources as of utmost importance.
- Respondents from the Faculty of Science and Engineering were most satisfied and those from the Faculty of Education and Health Science were least satisfied.

Since the 2007 survey
- Our performance has improved in all areas.

- All user groups are more satisfied with library services than two years ago.
- Greatest improvements have occurred in areas that respondents indicated were most important to them.
- Actions taken on foot of 2007 survey have had a significant impact. These include:
  - Increased book fund
  - Noise management interventions
  - Centralised desk services
  - Increased self service options
  - New website

4.5.2   Operational planning and KPIs

The LibQUAL survey provides quantifiable data measuring customer satisfaction levels. Broadly, the surveys indicate that the areas requiring attention are library as place, printed materials, promotion of electronic journals, availability of subject specialists and IT support.

The survey provides us with measurable KPI's in the form of the 27 LibQUAL questions. In 2009 every question measured a higher score than two years previously. Improving the scores of these KPI's is an integral part of the library's planning process, in terms of setting goals, identifying strategic priorities and allocating resources.

In the Operational Plan 2009/10, the following LibQUAL questions were prioritised based on questions which customers measured as most important to them together with questions measuring low satisfaction levels. These form a set of key performance indicators against which a number of objectives have been set. Running the survey a third time will measure improvements in these areas and forms a critical part of the library's quality management system.

1. The main texts and readings I need for my work
2. Making electronic resources accessible from my home or office
3. Library space that inspires study and learning
4. Quiet space for individual work
5. Modern equipment that lets me easily access needed information
6. Availability of subject specialist assistance
7. Print and/or electronic journal collections I require for my work
8. The printed library materials I need for my work
9. A haven for study, learning or research

4.5.3   Focus groups

As part of our quality processes and as a follow on from the LibQUAL survey, we are running focus groups to generate qualitative data on specific user needs in relation to library services. The first focus groups take place in May 2010 to investigate specific requirements of international students and postgraduate students. This research is being carried out by Invisio, funded by the Quality Unit and the results will be made available to us in the summer.

4.6   Finance

4.6.1   Pay budgets

The pay budget was reduced by 5% in 2009/10, having already been reduced by 5% in the previous year as part of the budgetary adjustments exercise conducted by the Finance Department. These cuts were met by the non-replacement of posts across departments and grades in the library.

4.6.2   Non-pay budgets

The non-pay library budget for 2009/10 was reduced from last year's sum by 5% at the beginning of the year with further cuts announced midyear. This follows a 4% reduction in 2008/09 and a 5% reduction in the 2007/08 non-pay budget. Maintaining existing library services on a much reduced budget is a very serious challenge, made possible largely due to a severe curtailing of all expenditure in each financial year. Any further reductions in the nonpay budget will put intense pressure on our ability to deliver existing library services.

4.6.3   Materials budget

The budget for library materials for the accounting period 1st October 2009 to 30th September 2010 was €1,833,000. However, nonpay budgets were further reduced in April 2010, leaving a materials budget of €1,711,000, of which €745,800 was ring-fenced for the book fund and the remaining €965,300 was allocated to annual journal and database subscriptions. This continued decrease in the materials budget over recent years will negatively impact the library's book, journal and database collections over time.

4.6.4   Arts Council funding

The university received funding from the Arts Council to establish Ireland's first national dance archive. The archive, when established, will be based in the library. The funding came about through initiatives and a feasibility report carried out by Dance Research Forum Ireland, a body set up in 2003 by Dr Catherine Foley, Director of the MA Ethnochoreology and MA Irish Traditional Dance Performance at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at University of Limerick.

4.7   HR

4.7.1   Staff changes

In the past year, the library has worked with HR on a number of staffing changes. During the year, there were four retirements, two end of contracts and one resignation. Two members of the library management group retired in 2009 - Lindsay Mitchell, Associate Director and Patricia O'Donnell, Head of Information Services.   Two library assistants, Maura Doyle and Liz Moore, also retired. One recruitment took place - that of Aoife Geraghty, Head of Information Services, formerly the Research Services Librarian. A number of applications for special leave including career breaks, shorter working year, parental, maternity and paternity leaves were facilitated.

The decline in staff numbers over the past two years, due to the non-replacement of contracts and the recruitment embargo, is increasingly having a negative impact on library services. In response to this economic pressure we have merged desks,

reviewed processes and moved staff across functions. However the retirements and departures in the coming year will put tremendous pressure on an understaffed workforce, and reducing library services may be an inevitable outcome.

4.7.2   Workflow reviews
In preparation for LISB2 and to plan for predicted retirements in 2010, a workflow review of the Technical Services Department and the Inter Library Loans section is taking place over the course of the summer.

4.8   Marketing and communications

The fifth and sixth issues of the library newsletter were produced during 2009/10. The issues showcased a number of library developments, including the 23 Things @ UL programme, the library's growing ebook collection, the library survey results, services for alumni and the digitisation unit. Both issues included contributions from a number of library staff and book reviews from Lindsay Mitchell, Colin Fitzpatrick, Brian Fitzgerald, Jennifer Schweppe and Sheila Killian.

4.9   Electronic theses

The library worked with the Graduate School over the course of 2009/10 to amend academic regulations to allow for electronic thesis deposit. From 2010 postgraduate research students will submit an electronic copy of their thesis to the Graduate School, in addition to the three printed copies they are already required to submit. The electronic copy will be lodged in the library and will be uploaded onto the university's institutional repository so that it is accessible on the web. An option to embargo access is available for theses containing confidential information. More information about the submission process is available in the Handbook of Academic Regulations and Procedures or from the Graduate School. The institutional repository is available at http://ulir.ul.ie/.

This development brings with it many benefits. Open access to UL theses will advance the internationalisation of the university by raising our research profile with the global scholarly community. It will provide greater visibility for UL researchers and allow previously hidden content to be easily searchable and immediately accessible to scholars within and outside the university.

4.10   Increased library services for UL alumni

The library's fee-based service enhanced its alumni service to offer UL alumni full text access to hundreds of electronic journals. Standard alumni library membership includes physical access to the library and borrowing services. The new premium membership allows alumni to access the library's electronic collections from anywhere in the world.

4.11 Regional Medical Library, HSE West

For over 30 years UL provided library services to the HSE for an annual fee. The Regional Medical Library (RML) is based in Dooradoyle Regional Hospital and supports the information needs of HSE West employees. For a number of years the HSE has been unable to provide sufficient funding to cover the costs of running the service and in 2009 was unable to provide any funding at all. Therefore at the end of January 2010, UL was left with no alternative but to cease providing services in the RML and to move the library staff back to the main campus. The university continues to engage in negotiations with the HSE in an effort to resolve the difficulties experienced by the HSE so that library services may be restored in the hospital.

4.12 Health and safety

4.12.1 Threat of flooding
In response to the threat of flooding which arose in the university in January 2010, the library developed a plan in the event of receiving notification from Buildings and Estates Division that the risk of flooding to LISB was high. The purpose of the plan was to preserve valuable material stored in the basement compact shelving rooms. The plan identified critical actions such as exit strategies for high value material and preventative measures including closing mobile shelving, sandbagging shelving and doors, and closing reader access to the basement.

4.12.2 Swine flu
The library dealt with the potential swine flu outbreak in the university by working with the Health and Safety Officer and Buildings and Estates Division to provide liquid soap in the library bathrooms and hand sanitizers at the entrance to the buildings.

5   INFORMATION SERVICES – REVIEW 2009/10

5.1   Overview

The Information Services Department aims to provide print and electronic collections in support of university needs and to develop self-sufficient learners and researchers by providing, disseminating and promoting information and skills in a friendly and mutually supportive academic context. The Information Desk service provides day-to-day reference and information services for all library users. The faculty librarians and research services librarian act as liaison and contacts for faculty and the research office, and focus on developing the collections, providing information skills training and providing learning, teaching and research activities.

This section will outline the significant developments and activities of the Information Services Department for the year 2009/10.

5.2   UL institutional repository

5.2.1   UL Library developments
The university's institutional repository, ULIR, was established a year ago and library staff have been marketing, promoting and adding to the repository since then. The IR can be used to store a great deal of research output but currently we are concentrating on peer reviewed published material and UL theses. UL's faculty and researchers have been actively depositing their work in the repository in recent months. Evidence strongly indicates that providing open access to research papers increases the numbers of citations and many UL researchers want their work to be accessible to those who do not have access to subscription-based journals and databases. ULIR can be accessed directly at http://ulir.ul.ie or from the library website.

5.2.2   National developments
This year sees the launch of RIAN, a national portal to the research output of all seven Irish universities, via their individual institutional repositories. As well as providing improved access to Irish research and increasing the research profiles of individual researchers and their institutions, RIAN also allows for detailed statistical analysis of the use of that research, nationally and by institution.

Participants in RIAN have agreed joint metadata standards, so more accurate searching and retrieval is possible, not just by those accessing the research via RIAN, but by other search engines including Google Scholar, and by other agencies, including the European DRIVER project. This project, the Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research, is a collaboration co-funded by the European Commission to build a network of freely accessible digital repositories with content across academic disciplines.

RIAN is the outcome of the HEA, Strategic Innovations Fund project, directed by the seven IUA Library Directors. The initiative began in April 2007 and was completed, on schedule, by March 2010. It is intended to extend RIAN to include other Irish academic research institutions over time.

5.3   Information skills training

The research librarian, faculty librarians and information assistants continue to provide tours, lectures and hands-on training to undergraduates, postgraduates and faculty in each college.

5.3.1   Information skills delivery 2009/10

This year approximately 234 hours of group teaching was delivered to 2,481 students, staff and researchers. A further 320 hours of one-to-one instruction was provided to 364 people by appointment with their faculty librarian or research support librarian.
The Information and Reference Desk received over 16,000 queries during the year.

The programme of information skills provided by library staff in the above sessions include:

> Literature searching for researchers
> Literature searching for FYP students
> Referencing, RefWorks and Endnote
> Research proposal preparation
> Access to other libraries
> Overview of resources and services for new faculty
> Setting up table of contents email alerts
> Impact factor queries
> Selection of resources and collection development
> Patent searches
> Copyright queries
> Introduction for new students
> Drop-in service for access students

5.3.2   Teaching new students how to use the library

At the beginning of semester 1, the library ran a series of drop-in, hands-on training sessions to help new students to familiarise themselves with library services. These introductory "Find it Fast" sessions covered topics such as understanding reading lists, finding books and journals, searching for material for assignments and reserving or renewing loans. The sessions took place twice a day for four weeks, from 28th September to 23rd October, 2009.

5.3.3   Orientation video

The university Orientation Committee arranged for an A-V company, Shannon Images, to make two minute videos of selected divisions for the purposes of orientation of new students. The library worked with Shannon Images to produce a short orientation video to help new students familiarise themselves with the library building, collections and services. The video is available on the Student Service website and on the University of Limerick YouTube channel.

5.3.4   EndNote training

The Research Support Librarian continued to provide regular training sessions on the bibliographic management tool, EndNote, throughout the 2009/10 academic year. These sessions are well attended and always in demand. Follow-up support, including email, phone contact, and drop-in sessions was provided throughout the year for all those who had attended training over the past four years. Time spent on follow-up

queries varied from five minutes to two hours per request. Training was also made available to all researchers from the Shannon Consortium.

5.3.5 *Information Literacy Irish Award 2010*
To mark the holding of LILAC (Librarians' Information Literacy Annual Conference) in Ireland this year, the Library Association of Ireland (LAI) and the Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL) jointly offered an award for achievement in the field of information literacy in Ireland. The Glucksman Library submitted two proposals, "Cite it Right - the library's referencing initiatives" and "the 23 Things @ UL programme." Cite it Right - the referencing initiatives, developed and delivered by the Information Services Department, came second in the national competition and received a commendation from the judging panel.

5.3.6 *Cite it Right: a Guide to Harvard Referencing at UL*
The Glucksman Library's Harvard referencing guide, Cite it Right, was reprinted in 2010 and is now sold at the Borrower Services Desk on the ground floor of the library at a price of €2. This fee is to cover the production costs - unfortunately in the current economic climate we could not continue to provide the guide for free. This resource continues to be popular and heavily used by the student body. Copies are also available for borrowing from the short loan collection and the full pdf version remains freely available on the library website.

5.3.7 *Academic literacies*
The academic literacies programme was pioneered in the faculty of AHSS in 2009-10 and delivered by the Writing Centre. The AHSS librarian participated in the design and delivery of the programme, delivering lectures on using the library, finding information and wise use of the internet. Bloom's taxonomy was used to develop the information literacy component and to build problem-based learning values into the interpretation of information literacy education.

5.3.8 *Writing Centre, the library and online learning*
Íde O'Sullivan, Research Officer with the Writing Centre joined with Aoife Geraghty, Head of Information Services at the Glucksman Library to present at the international Information literacy conference, LILAC, held in the Strand Hotel, Limerick from March 29-31, 2010. The conference, attended by 300 delegates from 19 countries, was hosted by the Limerick Institute of Technology and the Shannon Consortium.

Aoife and Íde spoke about collaborative work being done in UL to support the development of the researcher from pre-university through to full-time research, and of adopting a shared approach to academic and information literacies. Until recently, while sharing similar goals, librarians and writing instructors have been working separately in the achievement of those goals, which are best summed up by the Irish Universities Association statement regarding graduate skills:

"The new graduate must not only have specialist knowledge in their field, but also have a range of generic competencies required to participate in a workplace subject to constant change, the skills to continue learning throughout a professional lifetime and sufficient breadth of knowledge and understanding to reach to entirely new challenges and to place their work in a broader social and cultural context" (Irish Universities Association, 2005).

The Glucksman Library and the Writing Centre are working together to reconnect writing with what has been written, encouraging an integrated approach to the research and writing process. The paper looked at the various initiatives in UL, online and on-campus, aimed at developing well-rounded scholarly readers, writers, researchers and lifelong learners of whom UL can be proud.

5.3.9   Research skills e-learning tutorials
The library's suite of e-learning tutorials, which seek to develop research skills for postgraduate students, was expanded in 2009/10 through the addition of four more modules, available on the library homepage:

> Research Methods in the Arts and Humanities
> Research Methods in the Sciences
> Research Methods in the Social Sciences
> Doing a Literature Review

5.4   Faculty liaison

5.4.1   New programme support
The faculty librarians continue to work with course teams and individual faculty to ensure resources and services are in place for new programmes. Books have been ordered and journal holdings reviewed. Revision and updating of modules in a variety of subject areas has required updating of resources.

Some of the new programmes supported in 2009/2010 included:
- BSc Energy
- BSc Civil Engineering
- Structured PhD in Education
- Bachelor of Business Studies (Hons) by Flexible Learning
- MSc International Management and Global Business

5.4.2   Departmental quality reviews and accreditation visits
The faculty librarians contributed to a number of departmental quality reviews and accreditation visits during the year, drafting review documents, meeting with peer review groups, gathering statistics and giving tours of the library for the following departments and programmes:
- Chemical and Environmental Sciences (quality review)
- Life Sciences (quality review)
- Medical School (part of accreditation)
- Dept of Psychology (accreditation)
- Personnel and Employee Relations (accreditation)
- School of Architecture (part of RIAI accreditation)
- Centre for Project Management (Project Management Institute accreditation)
- Personnel and Employment Relations (Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and Psychological Society of Ireland accreditations)

5.5   Collection development

5.5.1   IReL

The first round of IReL funding, so influential in our collection development in recent years, came to an end in December 2009. The IUA Librarians' Group engaged in positive discussions with the HEA and the IUA Council which resulted in a significant continuance of funding for IReL for 2010 onwards. Unfortunately a reduction of 12% in the cost of subscriptions made some cancellations unavoidable. Resources identified for cancellation, through methodical annual statistical analyses, were those which incurred the highest cost per use.

Following feedback from researchers at all IReL member institutions (the seven universities and RCSI), a number of journals and other publications were prioritised for retention. A major national negotiation exercise with publishers delivered significant reductions in subscription costs and it proved possible to fund continued subscriptions in 2010 and 2011 to all but 12% (by cost) of the total 2009 IReL resources. Only those resources whose retention did not attract support at a majority of member institutions were not renewed. Credit was paid by the library to the President, the Vice President Academic and Registrar, the Vice President Research, and the IReL Steering Group for a major commitment of effort locally and nationally in securing this better than expected outcome.

The IReL Steering Group and the IReL Monitoring Group continue to meet regularly to ensure that the available funding is spent on the most valued resources.

5.5.2   Additions to electronic resources

The following notable resources were added during the year and are available to users from the library website:
- Origins (family history database)
- UpToDate (medical database funded by the Medical School)
- Film Indexes Online
- American Film Institute Catalogue (AFI)
- International Index to Film Periodicals Plus (FIAF)
- Horse Hero

5.5.3   Collections acquired by donation

During the year, in addition to our normal purchase of material, we acquired many items through generous donation:
- The final allocation of Irish Aid money was spent in 09/10
- Spending of the Atlantic Philanthropies fund for women's studies is almost complete
- Additional funding for the Pat Whelan Architecture Collections was secured to add new titles to the collection.
- The law faculty continued their collection development in the area of criminal justice by transferring additional monies to the library

Other donations included:
- a collection of chemistry books from Peter Childs

- a collection of material on electronic device design and associated technologies from Kalil Arshak
- a donation of occupational therapy texts from Elizabeth McKay
- A collection of French literature from Eoghan Mac Aodhan
- a donation from Robert Denis Collison Black of the journal *History of Political Economy* 1969-1997

5.6   International participation

The library hosted a visit from Eeva Hakkinan, University of Jyväskylä (Finland), as part of an international ERASMUS scheme for hosting and comparing best practice on educational methodologies for information literacies.

Participation in the European Documentation Centre (EDC) Special Training Seminar in Bruges in May 2009 led to the setting up by the AHSS librarian of the EDC development working group this year. The group are proactively planning for a fully electronic EDC, building on exchange projects hosted by UL Library in the last five years.

6 READER SERVICES - REVIEW 2009/10

6.1 Overview

The Reader Services Department primarily manages circulation services, inter library loans, library stock and building maintenance. Its objective is to ensure that these library services are performed in an efficient and customer-focused manner, by supportive and skilled staff for the benefit of all library users. This department consists of three units – Operations, User Services and Digitization.

This section will outline the significant developments and activities in the Reader Services Department for the year 2009/10.

6.2 Wired and wireless internet through out the library

In semester 1 the library engaged in an internet access expansion project. Wifi is now available throughout the building and wired access connected every study desk and group study room in the library with power and data points. Library users have the ability to easily charge their laptops or any other mobile devices and to connect directly to the internet. This is a major development for those wishing to use the internet in any area of the library. Having the choice of both methods of access means more reliable, faster and convenient connectivity for all.

6.3 Centralising services

All front-of-house library services were relocated to a central location on the ground floor in Oct 2008. These include borrower and information services as well as a central sorting area for shelving. These changes were made so that we could provide more seamless access to services, reduce noise in the building and generally enhance the library environment for both students and staff.

To date general feedback on this area and the combination of services has been favourable. The library plans to further develop this area and integrate desk services and functions more closely during the next academic year in advance of the library extension due in 2012.

6.4 Collection maintenance

A project was initiated in summer 2009 to greatly reduce the number of surplus materials lying on trolleys and desks on floors 1 and 2 of the library due to a lack of shelving space for new acquisitions. These arrangements are confusing for library users and wasteful of both study spaces and library equipment. As a result, a carefully planned and lengthy process involving stock movement of approx. 17,000 items took place. A major task was also carried out in compact shelving in terms of moving and tidying stock.

6.5   Digitisation Centre

The library's digitisation centre was established in late 2008. The purchase of the equipment was enabled by a successful bid by the Department of History for funding from the HEA Equipment Renewal Fund 2008. In the past year library staff have digitised and made available important research material via the university's institutional repository (ULIR http://ulir.ul.ie/).

6.5.1   Limerick Chronicle
The earliest copies of the Limerick Chronicle, the oldest surviving newspaper in the State, dating back to 1768, were digitized and made available to read online in full text on ULIR. The digitisation process took many months to complete and was made possibly by means of the sophisticated scanning equipment in the unit. Online accessibility to this unique digital resource has been welcomed by scholars, researchers, academics and those with a keen interest in the history and heritage of 18th century Limerick. This exciting development for the Limerick region has been covered by the Limerick Leader and the Limerick Chronicle.

In partnership with the National Library of Ireland we secured an opportunity to digitise a second volume of the Limerick newspaper (1799-1801). The digitisation process is nearly completed and plans to make it available online will be publicised in the coming months.

6.5.2   Chronological Index to the records of the Genealogical Office and An Seabhac
In conjunction with the History Department, the Chronological Index to the records of the Genealogical Office has also been digitised and we are currently scanning a collection of documents from An Seabhac, the great poet, writer, teacher, Irish language storyteller and politician.

6.6   Interlibrary Loans

Interlibrary Loans are currently installing and testing a new ILL system (Clio). Maintenance for the old system ILLOS has been discontinued. At present the two systems are operating alongside each other and the plan is to transfer fully to Clio during summer 2010.

7   TECHNICAL SERVICES REVIEW 2009/10

7.1   Overview

The Technical Services Department manages the acquisition of library resources in both print and electronic formats, maintains the library catalogue and prepares physical materials for use.   The department oversees the library's computer operations, the Talis library management system, the library IT hardware and the library website.

This section will outline the significant developments and activities of the Technical Services Department for the year 2009/10.

7.2   Electronic services and systems

7.2.1   Library website
The library has upgraded the search box on the library home page, the single line search box not only searches the federated search engine "360 search" but now also searches the electronic and print journals portal and the library catalogue. This offers a single access point to students both on and off campus to find electronic and print resources available from the library.

Many new additional databases that the library subscribes to have been added to our federated search engine "360 search", making it a more comprehensive search tool for users to search for UL electronic resources. The interfaces of 360 search and of the journals A-Z portal have been updated and branded with the UL Library logo and corporate image.

7.2.2   Importing student records
In cooperation with ITD staff, we improved the process which imports new student records into the library management system.   Data relating to a student is automatically sent from the student administration server to the library server as soon as the student registers.   This improves our service to students and reduces administration tasks in the library. Further work in this area accommodated the new student ID numbers and allows for personal details of borrowers to be deleted after a given period of time while retaining loan information for statistical reporting.

7.3   Missing items working group

In response to comments in the LibQual survey, a cross-departmental working group was established to examine the problem of users reporting that items shown in the catalogue are not on the shelves. The group reviewed procedures, collected statistics and made suggestions to improve our service. Users are now encouraged to enquire at the library's Information Desk about any items which can not be found, rather than filling in a form. This means that staff members ensure that users have taken notice of things such as location and sequence, and are made aware of any material which might have been returned very recently. The work of this group showed that although

the proportion of our missing stock is below the average for academic libraries, there are a small number of high demand items which are problem. The library is working to address this matter.

7.4   Electronic books

Electronic journals and databases are firmly established as essential resources for learning and research, and now electronic books are increasingly used by students and faculty.   They are in the news with frequent mentions in newspapers and general news sources. E-books, however, have been around since project Gutenberg, which began in 1971 and has since digitised over 30,000 out-of-copyright titles. There is also the much publicised Google Library Project which has digitised out-of-copyright books from the collections of prestigious libraries around the world.

With regard to in-copyright, recently published academic titles, many publishers see electronic formats as a viable way to do business and so an increasing number of titles are becoming available. For libraries, e-book acquisition at first followed the e-journal 'big deals' model with large and expensive collections of titles, some of which are more useful than others in an individual library.

7.4.1   E-books on a title by title basis

More recently e-book acquisition has tended to follow print acquisition practice with selection on a title-by-title basis in line with a library's collection development policy. This route has been followed in UL Library and we have at present over 1,000 individually selected electronic books. Faculty members can request the library to purchase a title in e-format, as print, or both. Many e-books are sourced from general library book suppliers; while others are sourced directly from publishers, for example Safari computer books and Royal Society of Chemistry titles. Usage statistics of our e-books indicate a good level of acceptability among our users and this has encouraged us to try to expand the number of texts available as e-books, thus attempting to alleviate the situation of never enough copies of core texts being available, and providing access to resources 24/7 for students.

7.4.2   E-book collections

Another source of e-books for users of our library are those within databases such as the American Council of Learned Societies' Humanities e-book collection (2,200 titles), the Making of Modern Law (22,000 titles), Eighteenth Century Collections Online (180,000) and Early English Books Online (125,000 titles). A project is underway to add individual titles from these collections to the library catalogue. Finally the library also provides a number of electronic reference works including the Encyclopedia of Computational Mechanics, the Encyclopedia of Language and Education, Grove Music Online, the Oxford English Dictionary Online, which together form an authoritative academic alternative to Wikipedia.

The print book will not disappear, but the era of the e-book has definitely arrived and the library will endeavour to exploit new developments as they come along to provide timely and appropriate access to information in all formats to our users.

8 STAFF DEVELOPMENT - REVIEW 2009/10

8.1 Overview

The Staff Development section is responsible for ensuring that all staff receive high quality training to perform effectively in their roles and for providing opportunities to library staff for further career development and growth.

This section will outline the significant developments and activities of the Staff Development section for the year 2009/10.

8.2 Library Network Support Services

The Library Network Support Services (LNSS) project began in August 2008 as a collaboration of the Shannon Consortium libraries of UL, LIT, IT Tralee and Mary Immaculate College. Funding was provided through the SIF 2 program for a Regional Network for Staff Development, to provide training for library staff to enhance their skills and their professional development.

The Regional Network for Staff Development project was managed by UL Library. The objective of the project was to up-skill participating staff in a range of areas, the scope of the training included reflective practice, information literacy training, new technologies, digital collections and customer service. These themes were identified by the partner libraries in order to support staff to deliver services in an evolving information environment.

An extensive training program ran from February 2009 to January 2010. In total 89 training places were filled by UL library staff throughout the period. The training events provided were as follows:

February 2009   Making the most of development opportunities
March 2009   Presentation skills for library staff
March 2009   Effective customer care and service
April 2009   Train the trainer
May 2009   Designing and implementing portals
May 2009   Web 2.0: building on the basics
June 2009   Digitisation
October 2009   Learning and information literacy in web 2.0
October 2009   Metadata
November 2009   Marketing information literacy
November 2009   Advanced internet searching skills
November 2009   Developing and exploiting e-book collections
November 2009   Skills for the information desk
January 2010   Copyright
January 2010   Conflict resolution for library staff

Based on evaluations conducted throughout the programme the overall impact was very positive, with the desired outcome of improving networking between the

participating institutions and up-skilling of staff. In the recent revision of SIF projects by the HEA, funding for the LNSS was discontinued. UL Library's participation in the project ceased in May 2010.

8.3   23 Things @ UL

The 23 Things programme is a 12 week, online, interactive, training programme that allows participants to explore web 2.0 tools at their own pace. Participants set up blogs, RSS feeds, worked with YouTube, podcasts, e-books and experiment with social networking, wikis and other collaborative tools. Originally developed for staff in a public library system in the US and licensed under a Creative Commons licence, the programme has been picked up and adapted by libraries worldwide.

In 2009 the Glucksman Library at the University of Limerick customised the 23 Things programme for library staff and became, we believe, the first library in Ireland to adapt the programme. Following the initial success with library staff, we extended the programme outside the library, to all university staff. In the summer of 2009 we piloted the programme in two specific departments - the Kemmy Business School and the Careers Office. Both had heard about the programme and expressed interest in participating. Following this trial run, we opened the programme to the whole university and had participants across the departments and divisions of the institution. The range of participants was diverse, from heads of departments to lecturers to administrators and a few researchers. We are now planning to rerun the programme in the university for the third time.

The programme is based on self-learning, where each participant is asked to track their learning journey online through their own blog. Each week participants are emailed by the 23 Things @ UL team with that week's exercises. The twelve week programme covers the following:

Week 1:	Getting started
Week 2:	Blogging
Week 3:	RSS feeds and newsreaders
Week 4:	Downloadable videos and podcasts
Week 5:	Online photos and images
Week 6:	Tagging, Delicious and Technorati
Week 7:	Office 2.0
Week 8:	Your own digital library
Week 9:	Wikis
Week 10:	Social networking
Week 11:	Personalised homepages and Google maps
Week 12:	Your final thoughts on 23 Things @ UL

In addition to the online programme, the library hosted a number of lunchtime talks for participants and the wider university community. Presenters included librarians, faculty and staff who are known to use 2.0 tools in their teaching, research and work, or who are well known champions of collaborative devices. In January, Gabriela Avram from CSIS presented on the power of wikis for collaboration and Zoe Lawlor from the Languages Centre presented on using social networking in the language classroom. Later in the programme, Jane Gribbon from the library presented on the

joys of tagging and Tracey McKillen from ITD spoke on web 2.0 technologies and Google Wave.

We intend to offer the programme to faculty and staff in the university for the third time, beginning in semester 1 of 2010/11.

8.4   INULS 2009

Ireland's National and University Library Staff conference (INULS) 2009 took place at the University of Limerick on June 18th and 19th. This two day conference was hosted by the Glucksman Library and attracted delegates from all Irish universities, including Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster. The conference theme was *'Connecting People to Information'* and the programme emphasised the need for library staff to engage with technology to deliver information and services to students, faculty, and researchers in an academic library setting.

8.5   ANLTC

The Academic and National Libraries Training Cooperative (ANLTC) has been running a series of cooperative training events open to the member organisations since 1996. In the period covered by this report the ANLTC has hosted six events. In total one member of staff attended the writing for academic publications event.

8.6   Induction programme

The library continues to run its induction programme for either new or relocated staff. This year the programme ran for a two week period involving all departments, to accommodate the integration of the staff from the Regional Medical Library into the Glucksman Library.

8.7   Conference papers highlighting UL Library developments

UL Librarians have presented papers highlighting some significant library developments at a number of conferences held in March. The Head of Information Services, Aoife Geraghty, presented a joint paper with Ide O'Sullivan from the Writing Centre on "A whole university blended approach to developing academic and information literacies for researchers" at the international *Librarians' Information Literacy Annual Conference (LILAC)* in Limerick on 29th-31st March. The Kemmy Business School Librarian presented a poster on the 23 Things @ UL programme at the same conference.

The Head of Administration, Ciara McCaffrey, presented a paper at *Irish Universities Information Services Colloquium (IUISC)* in Maynooth on 10th-12th March, entitled "Quality in recession: customer satisfaction, library assessment and successful change management using LibQUAL at UL."

8.8   Attendance at training / development events 2009/2010

Event	Number of attendees	Organiser
LIR	1	External
CONUL training session	1	External
Talis information	3	External
SCONUL	1	External
Writing for academic publication	1	ANLTC
LILAC	2	Conference
IUISC	4	Conference
INULS	25	Conference
Excel expert	1	HR
Sharepoint training	4	HR
The skills of highly effective managers	1	HR
Project management	2	UL
Reviewing front-of-house services	11	In-house
TOTAL	**57**	

9 SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - REVIEW 2009/10

9.1 Overview

The Special Collections area contains the library's collections of archives and rare books. The year 2009/10 has been a very busy year in Special Collections with the acquisition of some rare and unique items. Usage of the area by researchers continues to grow.

This section will outline the significant developments in Special Collections for the year 2009/10.

9.2 Distinguished visitors

4 June 2009	Mr. Robert J. Faucher US Charge d'Affaires
26 June 2009	Ms Loretta Brennan-Glucksman
08 October 2009	Ms Maureen McCarron
16 November 2009	Mr. Yvon Roe D'Albert, Ambassador of France to Ireland
1 December 2009	Mr Robert Devriese, Ambassador of Belgium to Ireland
25 March 2010	Visit from the Friends of the Museums of Ireland
21 May 2010	Mr Julian King, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Ireland

9.3 Donations and acquisitions

2009-2010	Fr John Leonard donated some 3000 Limerick items such as postcards, ephemera and books
2009-2010	O'Mahonys Bookshop donated €743.70 worth of material to the Leonard Limerick collection
16 June 2009	Donation of collection of Vatican stamps by Fr. Patrick Conlan
2 July 2009	Mr Des Long donated republican posters and pamphlets
22 October 2009	Mr Conor Kenny of Kenny's Galway donated a rare Frank McCourt broadside to Special Collections
3 Nov 2009	Rosemary Black donated 25 volumes of the Dublin University Magazine and Catholic Bulletin
25 Nov 2009	Dr John Logan donated four 19th century school books
1 Feb 2010	Irish Historic Town Atlas donated three copies of the Limerick Atlas
17 February 2010	Donation of Patrick and Susan Mulcahy republican library and archive
9 March 2010	The Irish Architectural Archive and Mr Robert Towers donated a set of Ireland of the Welcomes to the library
14 April 2010	Dr John Logan donates 2 manuscripts and 7 maps to the library
19 April 2010	Mr Tim Donovan donated a copy of a limited print on Tim Madigan
20 April 2010	UL Library and the Dept of History acquire the Tom McCarthy archive.

9.4   Notable acquisitions

9.4.1   Limerick Atlas

In February 2010, Special Collections took possession of copies of one of the most eagerly awaited Limerick publications in many years. The Limerick atlas by Eamon O'Flaherty is the latest publication in the Irish Historic Town Atlas series published by the Royal Irish Academy. The atlas is the single most important publication on the history of the city in the last 150 years.

The Limerick atlas examines the topographical development of its three urban centres, from Viking, to Anglo-Norman to Georgian, depicting the strategic importance of the city on the Shannon for military and trading purposes from the 9th century. Histories of over 4,000 sites are documented with a rich collection of maps and illustrations from the 16th to the 21st centuries. The fascicle consists of a comprehensive essay on the development of Limerick and is accompanied by 31 maps, photographs and watercolours.

It is remarkable that one volume can so comprehensively chart 1,000 years of the physical development of Limerick. It will become an essential resource for anyone interested in the history of the city. The Special Collections Department is especially proud to note a number of maps and pictures in the atlas which originate from the Leonard Limerick Collection here in UL.

9.4.2   Token from Limerick's general strike of 1919

The Special Collections Department acquired a very scarce Ten Shilling token produced during the Limerick general strike of 1919. The rare strike token for 10/- Ten Shillings is printed in two colours. No.285 was issued on behalf of 'The Workers of Limerick' during their general strike against British militarism in April 1919. It is signed by Jn. Cronin, Chairman, and James Casey, Treasurer of Limerick Trades and Labour Council. It is approximately 9 x 14cm.

On April 14, 1919, Limerick City went on strike with shops and factories closed. The strike was begun by the Limerick United Trades and Labour Council to protest against the proclamation of the city by the government as a Special Military Area. The Strike Committee, or the Soviet as it became known, became the effective governing body of the city.   The Soviet regulated the price and distribution of food, published its own newspaper and printed its own currency, of which this ten shilling note is a good example. The token is available for consultation in Special Collections.

9.4.3   Rediscovery of Glenstal Castle scrap books

The Special Collections Department recently acquired two scrap albums belonging to Winifred Frances Barrington of Glenstal Castle. Winifred Frances Barrington was born on 5 July 1897. She was the daughter of Sir Charles Burton Barrington, 5th Bt. and Mary Rose Bacon. Winifred Barrington was tragically shot in the War of Independence on 14th May 1921, aged 23 years. The only daughter of Sir Charles Barrington, she served as a nurse in WWI, and was by all accounts a universal favourite with those who knew her.

She struck up a friendship with District Inspector (Major) Henry Biggs, one of the most notorious and hated Black-and-Tan officers. Winifred was travelling in a car

with Biggs on 14th May when their vehicle was ambushed by the IRA and Winifred was mistakenly shot and mortally wounded. She died later the same day at home while Biggs died at the site of the ambush.

The largest album contains seventy leaves, several pages of autographs, 2pp. with mounted signatures, incl. Prince George dated 1914, author George Grossmith, publisher Andrew Lang, Lord Roberts, Duke of Bedford, and Lord Lansdowne. The remainder of album is mostly filled with watercolours and pen and ink drawings by different hands, including portraits, cartoon, animal and nature studies, landscapes and seascapes, some signed or initialled, e.g. Madeline Clayton, E. Powell, Kitty Haynes, F.M. Gilbert, A.B.N. Noel, C. Reeve, Victoria Arkell, E. Tennant, K. Courtenay, C.J.M. Sparks, B. Angus, L. Barnicot, some dated (1910s). The smaller album has numerous watercolours, pen and ink drawings, poems, etc.

9.5   Bolton Library

The Minister with Special Responsibility for the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the Arts, Dr. Martin Mansergh, TD, announced in May 2010 that the OPW will be taking in charge the Bolton Library, Cashel, Co. Tipperary.

The OPW will present the library as part of the Rock of Cashel complex, mindful of the historic relationship between the Bolton Library and the Rock of Cashel, i.e. it was originally the Library of the Cathedral on the Rock.

The library contains a unique collection of antiquarian books and pamphlets from all over Europe, including early material of Irish interest, and covering subjects from theology to history, including 18th century political pamphlets, to mathematics. They were first collected by Theophilus Bolton, Archbishop of Cashel from 1730 to 1744, and are now housed in the Chapter House of the Cathedral Church, John St., Cashel.

The book collection will remain in the Bolton Library and the ownership will in due course be lodged with Marsh's Library, while the building will be on long-term lease from the Church Representative Body of the Church of Ireland to the Office of Public Works. The books and other documents, while remaining in situ, will be managed in association between the University of Limerick Library and the Office of Public Works. A Board of Visitors/Advisory Body will be established with representatives from the OPW, the Church of Ireland, the University of Limerick and other interested bodies to draw on their expertise in the management of the library.

The Rock of Cashel, Ireland's medieval acropolis, has been experiencing up to a quarter of a million visitors each year, which is putting a strain on existing visitor facilities and on the National Monument, particularly the Vicar's Choral. The opening of a complementary visitor facility at the Bolton Library is expected to assist in the spreading of the visitor load. It will form part of the Rock of Cashel complex, and will be promoted and managed in association with the Rock of Cashel, and visitor traffic can be directed to it.
(Adapted from the Clare Herald, 25th May 2010).

10 STRATEGIC ISSUES

The maintenance of services will be the key strategic issue facing the library in the year ahead. Reductions to the operating budget will make it unlikely that we will be able to continue to provide opening hours and interlibrary loan services at current levels. In the past two academic years, staff numbers have reduced by ten and it is likely that this reduction will impact on services.

APPENDIX

Library Involvement in External Bodies and Organizations
Such involvement provides a framework for many of the activities currently under way in the library

ALCID
A scheme which provides mutual access to Ireland's university libraries for UL staff and students.

AHIS - Animal Health Information Specialists
A group of library and information professionals whose aim is to promote communication and resource sharing amongst colleagues working in the area of animal health.

ANLTC - Academic and National Libraries Training Cooperative
An organization which provides training and development opportunities to library staff in the Irish universities.

Bolton Library Board
The Special Collections Librarian works one day per week at the rare books Bolton Library in Cashel for the purpose of cataloguing and conservation of the collection to make it available for scholarship.

British Library National Preservation Office Preservation Advisory Panel
A panel providing information on the conservation and preservation of library collections.

CHEST Ireland
A body which acts as an agent for the acquisition of software and datasets on behalf of Irish third level institutions.

CONUL – Consortium of National and University Libraries
This body has a particular role in identifying and evaluating new developments in information provision. CONUL has a series of sub committees and working groups which UL Library staff participate in:
Sub Committee on Copyright and Regulatory matters
Sub Committee on Preservation
Working Group on Information Skills
Working Group to Review Legal Deposit
Irish Theses Working Group
CONUL/ALCID Joint Working Group on Collection Development

IATUL – International Association of Technological University Libraries
Provides a global forum for the exchange of ideas relevant to librarianship in technological universities and gives senior managers an opportunity to develop a collaborative approach to solving common problems.

IUA Copyright Committee
A cross-institutional body which looks at copyright licensing for print and electronic materials.

IUA Librarians Group
A sub-committee of IUA (formerly CHIU), consisting of the Irish university librarians. This group has a particular role in the cooperative purchase of journals and electronic resources via IReL.

Institutional Repositories Working Group
A sub-committee of the IUA Librarians Group whose focus is on the development of open access institutional repositories in Ireland

INULS - Irish National and University Libraries Staff Conference
A body which organises an annual conference for the staff of Ireland's university libraries.

IRIS Board
An inter-lending and datasets procurement agency for libraries. Fiona McGoldrick, the former Acquisitions Librarian in UL is on secondment to IRIS in the role of Manager co-ordinating the IReL negotiations.

IUISC - Irish Universities Information Systems Colloquium
A cross-institutional committee which coordinates a joint annual conference for library and computing staff.

LIR: HEAnet User Group for Libraries
A cross-institutional committee which and aims to explore and develop awareness of electronic information resources and to promote the use of HEAnet in exploiting these resources. In March 2007 the librarian representing the University of Limerick was voted in as chairperson of this national group for a two year period.

Munster Ecclesiastical & Monastic Libraries Project (MEMOLIB)
An initiative to protect the religious libraries of Munster and to provide access to these collections for scholars

SCONUL – Society of College National and University Libraries
An Irish and UK academic libraries body that promotes library cooperation to facilitate access to a wide range of library collections and information resources.

Library Staff are also involved on a personal basis in the following professional bodies
Library Association of Ireland (LAI)
LAI Education Committee
LAI Academic & Special Libraries Group
LAI Information Society Panel
LAI Rare Books Group
LAI Cataloguing and Indexing Group
LAI Library Staff Training Committee
LAI School Library Committee
International Association of Sports Information
Acquisitions Group of Ireland
Society of Indexers
Financial and Business Information Group
International Association of Music Libraries Archives and Documentation Centres
EUROLUG – European Online User Group
Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
Audio Visual Information Technology Group
Sports and Recreation Information Group
Internet Users' Group
UK Online Users Group
European Information Researchers Network
British and Irish Association of Law Librarians
LIR Library Research Group
British Business Schools Librarians' Group
Irish health Sciences Librarians' Group
All Ireland Society for Higher Education
Folklore Society of Ireland Group
American Library Association
International Federation of Library Associations
British Business Schools Librarians' Group