



Library Association of Ireland

Academic & Special Libraries Section



Annual Report July 2013 to June 2014

Presented to the

Annual General Meeting

18th June 2014

6 p.m.

Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2

The Academic & Special Libraries Section of the Library Association of Ireland

The Academic & Special Libraries Section functions within the Library Association of Ireland to cater for the needs of librarians and information professionals working in academic, research, not-for-profit, corporate and other specialist libraries. The Committee is drawn from members working in all these sectors.

The primary function of the section is to provide a forum for discussion on issues relevant to academic and special librarians and information professionals and carries out this remit through the provision of conferences, seminars, workshops, talks and visits. These activities are open to all members of the LAI and are advertised on the LAI website, Leabharlann-E, on the A&SL Section e-mail discussion group and via our Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter accounts.

Overview

It has been a very busy year for the Committee. We organised a range of events during 2013/2014 which succeeded in attracting high attendances and interest. The Annual Conference & Exhibition held in February 2014 attracted an almost capacity attendance over the course of its one and a half days. It also attracted an unprecedented level of interest from companies and organisations looking to sponsor and or exhibit at the conference. The entire committee worked very hard on the organisation of the conference. Particular appreciation goes to the Conference Project Managers Ann O’Sullivan and Jessica Eustace-Cook. Ann kept us all on track with project updates at Committee and individual level and Jessica succeeded in generating an unprecedented level of interest from organisations interested in sponsoring and/or exhibiting at the Conference.

We collaborated and jointly organised events in association with the LAI Health Sciences Library Group (HSLG), the Digital Preservation Coalition and the Digital Repository of Ireland.

The Committee experienced significant change with five Committee members stepping down. Four of those were long standing members who had served in various capacities in the Committee.

Committee Members and Officers

Officers & Committee 2013/2014

Chairperson: Dr. Eva Hornung (CDET/Trinity College Dublin)

Secretary: Marie G. Cullen (National University of Ireland Maynooth)

Treasurer: Laoise Doherty (Royal Irish Academy of Music)

Members:

Lorraine Curran (Houses of the Oireachtas)

Jessica Eustace-Cook (Trinity College Dublin)

Caitríona Honohan (Contemporary Music Centre)

Seán Hughes (Trinity College Dublin)

Erin O’Mahony (Houses of the Oireachtas)

Sile O'Shea (King's Inns)

Ann O'Sullivan (Houses of the Oireachtas)

Niamh O'Sullivan (Irish Blood Transfusion Service)

Laura Rooney Ferris (Irish Hospice Foundation).

Committee meetings and membership

Five people stepped down from the Committee at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June 2013.

Áine Carey joined the Committee in 2005 and served as Chairperson from 2005 – 2007

Aoife Connolly joined the Committee in 2007 and served as Treasurer from 2009 – 2011

Margaret Irons joined the Committee in 2007 and served as Secretary from 2009 – 2011

Caitríona Sharkey joined the Committee in 1996 and served as Treasurer from 1999 – 2001 and as Chairperson from 2002 - 2005

Áine, Aoife, Margaret and Caitríona contributed greatly to the success and growth of the Committee over the past decade and will be greatly missed.

Jennifer Collery joined the Committee in 2010 and served as Treasurer from 2011 – 2012. Jennifer made an outstanding contribution as treasurer and to the Committee in general.

Many thanks and appreciation to Áine, Aoife, Margaret, Caitríona and Jennifer.

The Committee met on 12 occasions between June 2013 and May 2014. This included 10 Committee meetings, the Annual General Meeting in June and a strategic planning meeting in July to plan the year ahead.

The AGM was held on the 20th June at the Royal Irish Academy. In advance of the 2013 AGM, as per our Rules & Procedures, we issued a call for expressions of interest in membership of the Committee to serve for 2 years: 2013 - 2015. We received five completed nomination forms which were equal to the number of vacancies, therefore these nominees were deemed elected. The new Committee members are Lorraine Curran (Houses of the Oireachtas); Laoise Doherty (Royal Irish Academy of Music), Caitríona Honohan (Contemporary Music Centre), Sile O'Shea (King's Inns) and Niamh O'Sullivan (Irish Blood Transfusion Service).

LAI Executive Board meetings, training and events

On the 27th June 2013, the Chairperson attended a meeting for the Officers of Groups and Sections. In advance of the preparation and submission of the A&SL annual accounts the Treasurer attended a meeting held on the 10th December 2013 with Treasurers of Groups and Sections.

Caitríona Honohan attended the LAI CILIP Joint Conference in Waterford on the 10th and 11th April 2014 on behalf of the A&SL. Niamh O'Sullivan and Marie G. Cullen both presented at the conference.

The Chairperson attended training for the content editors of Groups and Sections on the 21st May 2014. The A&SL can now update and add news, events and subpages to our section of the new LAI website.

Annual General Meeting 20th June 2013

The 2013 AGM of the A&SL took place on 20th June. The guest speaker was John Cox, University Librarian, National University of Ireland, Galway. He spoke about the partnership between the National University of Ireland, Galway, and the Abbey Theatre to digitise the archive of the Abbey Theatre <http://www.nuigalway.ie/abbey-digital-archive-partnership/>

The attendance of approximately 40 people was treated to a fascinating and informative talk by John, who was asked many questions about the project following his talk.

HSLG A&SL CPD survey August/September 2013

The Committees of the Academic & Special Libraries Section and the Health Sciences Libraries Group (HSLG) invited members to take part in a joint Continuing Professional Development (CPD) survey. The survey provided valuable feedback with regard to planning future events. For those who completed the survey one lucky winner could choose between a full delegate place at either the HSLG or A&SL conference or at one of the HSLG or A&SL training events. The winner Joanne Callinan, Milford Care Centre in Limerick chose to attend the HSLG conference held in May 2014.

Sarah Nolan conducted the survey on behalf of the HSLG and A&SL. Sarah also analysed and compiled the findings. Many thanks to Sarah.

The first event organised based on the findings of the survey is the **Folio “MAXIM” (maximising the impact of your service)** e-learning course, managed and certified by the University of Sheffield. It was due to run initially in March 2014 but was postponed to run during the Summer of 2014.

Digital Preservation workshop

Getting Started in Digital Preservation Friday, 1st November 2013, the Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson St. Dublin 2

Jointly organised by the Digital Preservation Coalition, the Digital Repository of Ireland, the Health Sciences Library Group and the Academic & Special Libraries Section of the Library Association of Ireland

Demand for places at this workshop exceeded availability. Further places were made available and all those on the waiting list were offered places.

2014 Conference and Exhibition 27th and 28th February 2014

The 2014 Annual Conference & Exhibition took place from the 27th - 28th February 2014 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Dublin. The theme of the conference was ‘**Information Innovators: Librarians evolving in the digital environment**’

For the first time the conference was held over one and a half days. In addition to keynote speakers and case studies, the conference had workshops, poster presentations and lightning talks from sponsors.

This year the Platinum sponsors were EBSCO, IEEE, ProQuest, Gold sponsors IET, Innovative and the Royal Chemistry Society, Silver sponsors Burgundy, SWETS and Taylor and Francis and Bronze sponsors Dawson Books, Interleaf Technology Koha and IOP Publishing. We very much appreciate the support of our sponsors.

Fionnuala Croke, Director of the Chester Beatty Library was the keynote speaker on the 27th and Ben Showers, Head of Scholarly and Library Futures Jisc was the keynote speaker on the 28th. Our Facebook and Twitter accounts featured speaker and sponsor spotlights. These spotlights along with the excellent range of speakers and topics generated lots of interest and demand for places.

For a second year the conference was live streamed by HEAnet. The videos and presentations from both days are available at <http://academicandspeciallibraries.blogspot.ie/p/asl-2014-ntations.html>

Approximately 135 people attended on the 27th and 140 (full capacity) on the 28th. Those who were unable to attend followed the conference using the Twitter hashtag #asl2014 and the HEAnet live stream.

In advance of the conference, we had a very successful call for Case Studies, Workshops and Posters. In addition calls for Student Conference Assistants and Conference Bursary submissions were also made.

Student Conference Assistants

The 2014 conference was the first time we put a call out for Student Conference Assistants. The successful applicants were Edel O'Shea and Jennifer Finnerty. Many thanks to Edel and Jennifer for their hard work at the conference.

Sponsored Attendee Bursary A&SL Conference and Exhibition 2014

Due to the number and quality of submissions and the generosity of our sponsors the Committee decided to offer three bursaries. The bursary covered the cost of the conference delegate fee (including meals) for the 27th and 28th February 2014. The bursary recipients were Stephen Buck, Dublin City University, Lucy Frey, Department of Finance and Personnel, Belfast and Sarah Connolly, All Hallows College, Dublin. A review of the conference by Stephen, Lucy and Sarah will be published in the Autumn issue of An Leabharlann The Irish Library. A report by the 2013 bursary winner, Marta Bustillo's report is available at <https://libraryassociation.ie/sites/default/files/groups/AcademicSpecial/Bustillo-ASL-Report.pdf>

Networking Evenings

Visit to the Library at NUI Maynooth 4th July 2013

A brief introduction to the Library was followed by a tour of the recently opened library extension. The visit included a tour of the Special Collections Reading Room During the visit there was an opportunity to view art works on loan to NUI Maynooth from AIB. Artists such as Cecily Brennan, Louis le Brocquy, Basil Blackshaw, Rita Duffy, Martin Gale, Maria

Simonds-Gooding and Robert Ballagh were featured. The visit was followed by refreshments in a local venue. Many thanks to the University Librarian, Cathal McCauley for facilitating the visit and to Hugh Murphy, Senior Librarian Collection Management Services and Barbara McCormack, Assistant Librarian Special Collections: Russell Library & John Paul II Library for conducting the tours of the Library and the Special Collections Reading Room respectively.

A&SL and HSLG Christmas/New Year Joint Networking Evening 24th January 2014

The Joint Christmas/New Year Networking Evening held in the Royal Irish Academy on Tuesday 28 January 2014 was a great success. It was wonderful see 70+ attendees and lots of new faces on the night.

Attendees enjoyed two presentations by Nicola O'Shea, formerly of University of Limerick and now in Trinity College Library and Mary Dunne from the Health Research Board. Nicola's talk was entitled '**From Storage to Flickr: the UL40 digitisation project**'. Mary read a poem entitled '**A Librarian's promise**'.

A collection was made on the night for Down Syndrome Dublin. €146.74 was collected. Thank you to all who contributed.

Thank You

Thank you to our members for your ongoing support for our events. Despite increased working hours, under and unemployment and cuts in funding, members have attended and contributed to our events as individuals or through the support of their employers. We hope you will continue to support and contribute to our events over the next year.

Communications

Members can join our emailing list by sending an e-mail to asl-on@lists.libraryassociation.ie
Members can post to the list by sending an e-mail to asl@lists.libraryassociation.ie

Website

<http://www.libraryassociation.ie/groups-sections/academic-and-special-libraries-section-asl>

Social media

Twitter @ASLIBRARIES

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/ASLIBRARIES>

LinkedIn: Academic & Special Libraries Section of the Library Association of Ireland

Joining the A&SL Section of the LAI - select A&SL when renewing your LAI membership



Fionnuala Croke (3rd right) Annual Conference keynote speaker with Committee members Ann O'Sullivan, Marie G. Cullen and Laura Rooney Ferris



Ben Showers (middle) Annual Conference keynote speaker with Committee members Jessica Eustace-Cook and Ann O'Sullivan



Conference Sponsored Attendee Bursary winners Stephen Buck, Sarah Connolly and Lucy Frey.