



**Library Association of Ireland**

**Academic & Special Libraries Section**



**Annual Report**

**July 2014 to June 2015**

**Presented to the  
Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 17th June, 2015**

**Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson St, Dublin 2**

The Academic & Special Libraries Section (A&SL) functions within the Library Association of Ireland (LAI) to cater for the needs of librarians and information professionals working in Universities, Institutes of Technology, private third level colleges and research institutions; as well as the commercial, state and semi-state sectors. 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 seminars, workshops, talks and visits. These activities are open to all members of the LAI and are advertised on the new A&SL website <http://www.aslibraries.com/> and on the LAI website, Leabharlann-E, the A&SL Section e-mail discussion group and via our Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter accounts.

## **Committee Officers and Members 2013 - 2015**

**Chairperson:** Dr. Eva Hornung (CDETB Curriculum Development Unit/TCD)

**Hon. Secretary:** Marie G. Cullen (National University of Ireland Maynooth) (June 2013 - June 2014), Lorraine Curran (PwC) & Caitríona Honohan (Contemporary Music Centre) (job sharing) (June 2014 - June 2015)

**Hon. Treasurer:** Laoise Doherty (Royal Irish Academy of Music)

**Membership Officer:** Marie G. Cullen (National University of Ireland Maynooth) (June 2014 - June 2015)

**Communications Officer:** Laura Rooney-Ferris (Irish Hospice Foundation) (June 2014 - June 2015)

### **Committee Members:**

Jessica Eustace-Cook (Trinity College Dublin) (June 2013 - March 2014)

Seán Hughes (Trinity College Dublin)

Mick O'Dwyer (National University of Ireland Maynooth) (June 2014 - June 2015)

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)

### **Overview**

2014 - 2015 has been a very busy year for the Committee. We organised a range of events which were very successful in attracting high attendances and interest. The Annual Conference & Exhibition held in February 2015 attracted an almost capacity attendance from delegates and an exceptionally high 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 Manager Marie Cullen.

We also enjoyed collaborating on events with the HSLG and CDG Groups during 2014 - 2015, and we introduced a new A&SL Library Conference Bursary Scheme to offer A&SL members the opportunity to attend major national and international library conferences as part of their continuing professional development.

## **AGM 2014**

The AGM was held on the 18th June 2014 at the Royal Irish Academy. The guest speaker was Grace Toland, Librarian, Irish Traditional Music Archive, who finished her presentation with a song, making it a memorable evening for all who attended!

## **Committee meetings and membership**

The Committee met on 12 occasions from July 2014 to June 2015. This included 10 Committee meetings, this Annual General Meeting and a strategic planning meeting in July 2014 to plan the year ahead.

Jessica Eustace-Cook stepped down from the Committee in March 2014. She joined the Committee in 2010 and acted as joint Project Manager with Ann O'Sullivan for the Annual Conference in 2014.

Lorraine Curran stepped down from the Committee in January 2015. She joined the committee in June 2013 and served as Hon. Secretary on a job sharing basis with Cairtriona Honohan from June 2014 until her resignation.

Many thanks and appreciation to Jessica and Lorraine.

Mick O'Dwyer was invited to join the Committee after the resignation of Jessica Eustace-Cook in March 2014 and officially became a Committee member at the AGM on 18 June 2014.

## **A&SL Section events for 2014 – 2015**

Visit to the Little Museum of Dublin, October 2014

Newsletter Writing Seminar with the Health Sciences Libraries Group (HSLG) and the Irish Writers' Centre, November 2014

Launch of the new A&SL website [www.aslibraries.com](http://www.aslibraries.com), December 2014

### **Joint Christmas/New Year event with HSLG, January 2015**

The Annual (Post) Christmas Networking Evening was held on January 29th 2015 in the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson St, Dublin, co-hosted by the HSLG. The demand for attendee spaces was very high from both members and non-members; it reached the maximum possible amount in advance, and there was a very good attendance on the night. The speaker on the night was David Clarke of the 'Man on the Bridge' project. The presentation was followed by drinks and canapes, and it was a very enjoyable night for all concerned.

### **A&SL Section's Annual Conference & Exhibition, February 2015**

The Academic & Special Libraries (A&SL) Section's Annual Conference & Exhibition 2015 took place from 26th - 27th February 2015 at the Gibson Hotel, Dublin. The theme of the conference was: **The Inside Out Library: Collaboration, Inspiration, Transformation.** The Keynote Speakers for 2015 were Malachy Browne (Managing Editor Reported.ly / former News Editor Storyful) and Helen Shenton (Former Executive Director of Harvard Library and now Librarian and Archivist at Trinity College Dublin).

### **Library Camp 2015 with the LAI Career Development Group, May 2015**

Library Camp 2015 took place on Saturday 23rd May 2015 at Saint Patrick's College Library, Drumcondra. This was a joint venture between the A&SL Committee and the CDG Committee, and it was very successful.

### **Attendance at LAI Executive Board Meetings and other LAI Events**

Eva Hornung and Laoise Doherty attended the Meeting of the LAI Executive Council in 2015 with officers of all Groups and Sections.

Laoise Doherty attended the LAI Council meeting in September 2014 and Mick O'Dwyer attended in October 2014 on behalf of the Committee.

Laoise Doherty, Mick O'Dwyer and Eva Hornung attended the CDG AGM in October 2014 and Eva Hornung joined the Education: CPD Committee.

Eva Hornung presented at the "Developing as a Professional: attaining an LAI award" event in October 2014.

## **Attendance at Conferences**

Laoise Doherty and Mick O'Dwyer presented papers at the A&SL Section's Annual Conference and Exhibition in February 2015.

Marie Cullen, Ann O'Sullivan and Erin O'Mahony represented the A&SL Committee at the CILIP Ireland/ Library Association of Ireland Annual Joint Conference in Belfast in April 2015.

Laura Rooney-Ferris presented a paper and Niamh O'Sullivan presented a poster at the HSLG Conference in May 2015.

Niamh O'Sullivan presented a pitch and Ann O'Sullivan, Erin O'Mahony and Laura Rooney-Ferris represented the Committee at Library Camp 2015.

Marie Cullen presented a paper and Seán Hughes represented the Committee at the CONUL conference in June 2015.

## **LAI Associateship & Fellowship**

Laoise Doherty obtained her Associateship of the Library Association of Ireland (ALAI) in 2015.

Eva Hornung obtained her Fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland (FLAI) in 2015.

## **Bursaries**

The Committee once again awarded bursaries for full delegate attendance to A&SL Section's Annual Conference & Exhibition 2015. Shona Thoma and Niamh Walker-Headon were the winners of the sponsored places. The bursaries cover the cost of the conference delegate fee (including meals) plus travel costs up to a maximum of €100.00. Each bursary winner provided a conference review.

The new A&SL Library Conference Bursary Scheme offered A&SL members the opportunity to attend major national and international library conferences as part of their continuing professional development. Bursary Winners Kate McCarthy (Digital Repository of Ireland) attended the International Data Curation Conference, London, 9-10th February 2015 and Padraic Stack (Maynooth University) attended Open Repositories 2015, Indianapolis, 8-11th

June 2015. The bursaries covered the costs of conference attendance, including conference fees and reasonable travel and accommodation expenses.

The Committee supported the NPD Shine event in 2014 supplying the prize for the best presentation - free attendance at the A&SL Conference 2015.

**Thank you to our members who have attended our 2014 – 2015 events.**

## **Communications**

Members can join our emailing list by sending an e-mail to [asl-on@lists.libraryassociation.ie](mailto:asl-on@lists.libraryassociation.ie).

Members can post to the list by sending an e-mail to [asl@lists.libraryassociation.ie](mailto:asl@lists.libraryassociation.ie)

## **Websites**

<http://www.aslibraries.com/>

<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**

To join the A&SL Section, select A&SL when renewing your LAI membership