



**Library Association of Ireland**

**Academic & Special Libraries Section**



**Annual Report**

**July 2015 to June 2016**

**Presented to the  
Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 16th June, 2016**

**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 2015 - 2017**

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

**Hon. Secretary:** Caitríona Honohan (Contemporary Music Centre)

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

**Membership Officer:** Marie G. Cullen (Maynooth University)

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

### **Committee Members:**

Lorraine Curran (December 2015 -)

Seán Hughes (Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin)

Tom Maher (University College Dublin) (December 2015 -)

Deirdre McGuinness (William Fry)

Mick O'Dwyer (June 2014 - November 2015)

Erin O'Mahony (Houses of the Oireachtas)

Niamh O'Sullivan (Irish Blood Transfusion Service)

Maria Rogers (Barnardos Ireland)

### **Overview**

2015 - 2016 has been another 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 2016 attracted a very high attendance from delegates and a high level of interest from companies and organisations sponsoring the conference. The entire Committee worked very hard on the organisation of the conference. Particular appreciation goes to the 2016 Conference Project Managers - Erin O'Mahony and Laoise Doherty.

We also enjoyed collaborating on events with the Health Science Libraries Group (HSLG) and the LAI Career Development Group (CDG) during 2015 - 2016, and we introduced a new 'Librarians Aloud' Podcast, a monthly podcast

featuring interviews with a range of different librarians discussing their career paths. Special thanks goes to Laura Rooney-Ferris for this series.

## **AGM 2015**

The AGM was held on 17th June 2015 at the Royal Irish Academy. The guest speaker was Marian Keyes, Senior Executive Librarian at Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, who gave a very interesting talk about the new Dlr LexIcon : Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Central Library and Cultural Centre.

## **Committee meetings and membership**

The Committee met on 12 occasions from July 2015 to June 2016. This included 10 Committee meetings, this Annual General Meeting and a strategic planning meeting in July 2015 to plan the year ahead.

Mick O'Dwyer stepped down from the Committee in November 2015. He joined in 2014 and contributed greatly to the work of the Committee.

Many thanks and appreciation to Mick.

Lorraine Curran and Tom Maher were invited to be co-opted onto the Committee after the resignation of Mick O'Dwyer and took their places on the Committee in December 2015.

## **A&SL Section events for 2015 – 2016**

### **‘Librarians & Privacy’, August 2015**

The ‘Librarians & Privacy’ talk with Alison Macrina (Library Freedom Project) and Dr. Eoin O'Dell (TCD Law) took place at the Royal Irish Academy on 6th August 2015. The subject was the role of librarians in raising public awareness (and their own awareness) of security online. The Library Freedom Project runs training in the US to teach librarians about online privacy rights. The event was very well-attended and feedback was very positive.

### **A&SL Networking Event: 1916 Rebellion Walking Tour, October 2015**

The tour visited relevant sites of the 1916 Rebellion around Dublin 1 and 2. Lorcan Collins, one of the authors of the book *The Easter Rising*, was the guide. This was a free event and open to all A&SL members, but ticket numbers were

limited and it sold out. Further details of the tour can be found here: <http://www.1916rising.com/>

### **'Librarians Aloud' Podcast**

New podcasts are becoming available monthly in the 'Librarians Aloud' series presented by Academic & Special Libraries featuring librarians talking about their career paths, what they love about the profession and where the information profession is going. The series can be accessed here:

<http://www.aslibraries.com/#!/librarians-aloud-podcast/cj6y>

Episode 1 - October 2015 - Jane Burns

Episode 2 - November 2015 - Tom Maher & Mick O' Dwyer, The Forgotten Zine Archive

Episode 3 - December 2015 - Niamh O Donovan & Stephanie Ronan, Rudai23

Episode 4 - January 2016 - Aoife Lawton, Systems librarian, HSE & Author of 'The Invisible Librarian'

Episode 5 - April 2016 - Marie O Neill, Head Librarian, Dublin Business School

Episode 6 - Bonus episode May 2016 - Jan Parry, former CILIP president

### **Joint Christmas/New Year event with HSLG, January 2016**

The Annual (Post) Christmas Networking Evening was held on January 13th 2016 in the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson St, Dublin, co-hosted by the HSLG. Over 50 people attended the event, and €130 was collected for Focus Ireland.

The guest speaker was Dr. Sandra Collins, Director of the National Library of Ireland, who gave a very engaging presentation on the National Library's connection to 1916 and its 2016 programme of activities. The presentation was followed by drinks and canapes.

### **A&SL Section's Annual Conference & Exhibition, February 2016**

The Academic & Special Libraries Section 2016 Annual Conference & Exhibition took place on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th February 2016 at the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8. The theme of the Conference was Smashing Stereotypes: Librarians get loud!

The Keynote Speakers were Dr. Sandra Collins, Director, National Library of Ireland, Jan Parry, HonFCLIP, Immediate Past President, CILIP and Alison Macrina, Founder and Director of the Library Freedom Project.

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

Eva Hornung, Laoise Doherty and Caitríona Honohan attended the Meeting of the LAI Executive Council in May 2016 with officers of all Groups and Sections.

Erin O'Mahony attended the LAI Council Meeting in January 2016.

Eva Hornung and Laoise Doherty presented at the "Developing as a Professional: attaining a Library Association of Ireland (LAI) Award" event in November 2015, attended also by Lorraine Curran, Marie Cullen, Laura Rooney-Ferris and Caitriona Honohan.

### **Attendance and Presentations at Conferences and Training Events**

Niamh O'Sullivan and Laura Rooney-Ferris attended the Dublin Business School Library Annual Seminar in June 2016.

Deirdre McGuinness attended the BIALL Conference in June 2016.

Laura Rooney-Ferris and Marie Cullen presented at the CONUL Conference in June 2016.

Maria Rogers pitched at LibCamp Ireland in May 2016, attended also by Deirdre McGuinness, Laura Rooney-Ferris, Caitriona Honohan, Marie Cullen and Tom Maher.

Marie Cullen and Caitriona Honohan attended the LAI Cataloguing and Metadata Group's LCSH and FAST Training in May 2016.

Niamh O'Sullivan and Caitriona Honohan attended the LAI HSLG Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Seminar in December 2015.

Marie Cullen and Caitriona Honohan attended the LAI Rare Books Group Digitisation of Special Collections Seminar in November 2015.

Niamh O'Sullivan presented at the LAI CDG AGM in October 2015, and attended the HSLG Annual Conference in May 2016 and the CONUL Teaching & Learning Seminar in November 2015.

Laura Rooney-Ferris taught on 'Current trends in social computing' at UCD School of Information and Communications Studies in Mar-Apr 2016.

Niamh O'Sullivan and Maria Rogers delivered guest lectures at University College Dublin and Dublin Business School respectively in 2015 - 2016.

### **Bursaries**

The Committee once again awarded bursaries for full delegate attendance to the A&SL Section's Annual Conference & Exhibition 2016. Celine Campbell and Saoirse Reynolds 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 Committee continues to offer A&SL National & International Library Conference Bursaries, giving members the opportunity to attend major international library conferences as part of their CPD. The 2016 winners were

Jane Burns, Genevieve Larkin and Isabel Fleischmann. Jane attended the Transatlantic Connections Conference in Donegal (13-16 Jan 2016) where she gave a paper on the "Mary Martin Diary: a mother's story of 1916." The second bursary was shared by Genevieve and Isabel who attended LILAC 2016 in Dublin in March.

**Thank you to our members who have attended our 2015 – 2016 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