



Library Association of Ireland

Academic & Special Libraries Section



Annual Report

July 2016 to June 2017

**Presented to the
Annual General Meeting**

Thursday 1st June, 2017

BOI Workbench, Hamilton Building, Trinity College, 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 (Trinity College Dublin)

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 (Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology)

Seán Hughes (Trinity College Dublin)

Tom Maher (National College of Art and Design)

Deirdre McGuinness (William Fry)

Erin O'Mahony (Houses of the Oireachtas)

Niamh O'Sullivan (Irish Blood Transfusion Service)

Maria Rogers (Barnardos Ireland)

Overview

2016 - 2017 has been another very busy year for the Academic & Special Libraries Section Committee. We organised several events which were very successful in attracting high attendances and interest. The Annual Conference & Exhibition held in February 2017 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 2017 Conference Project Manager Laoise Doherty.

We also enjoyed collaborating on events with the Health Science Libraries Group (HSLG) and the LAI Career Development Group (CDG) during 2016 - 2017, and we continued to produce the very popular 'Librarians Aloud' podcast series. Special thanks to Laura Rooney-Ferris for this series.

AGM 2016

The AGM was held on 16th June 2016 at the Royal Irish Academy. The guest speaker was Aoife Lawton, author of “The Invisible Librarian: A Librarian's Guide to Increasing Visibility and Impact.” She gave a very interesting presentation followed by a quiz, which was enjoyed by all.

Committee meetings

The Committee met on 12 occasions from July 2016 to June 2017. This included 10 Committee meetings, this Annual General Meeting and a strategic planning meeting in July 2016 to plan the year ahead.

A&SL Section events for 2016 - 2017

A&SL Summer Networking event, Visit to the dlr LexIcon, July 2016

This event took place on July 7th 2016. The visit included a tour of the library which took just over an hour, after which there was an opportunity to network and socialise locally. The event was very well-attended.

Cryptoparty - online privacy and digital security training, August 2016

This two-day event took place on August 6th-7th 2016. There were two consecutive workshops with the aim of introducing the basics of practical online security and data protection. It was a free event held at Dublin Business School, and was booked out. Topics covered included concepts in encryption, the role of librarians in online privacy, browser plugins and password best practices. There was also a hands-on session exploring tools and practices, threat modelling, TOR Browser, data and communication encryption.

A&SL Film Event for Library Ireland Week: The Safe House: A Decline of Ideas, December 2016

This event took place on Saturday 3rd December at University College Dublin Cinema. This was the Irish premiere of the film, which was written and directed by Greta Bellamacina & Davina Catt. This documentary explores the heritage and significance of the British Public Library, and documents its dramatic decline in recent years. There was a Q&A session after the screening with the filmmakers, facilitated by Tom Maher.

A&SL & HSLG Annual New Year Gathering, January 2017

The A&SL again collaborated with the Health Sciences Libraries Group (HSLG) to co-host the Annual New Year Gathering on Thursday 12th January 2017 in the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson St, Dublin. Our Guest Speaker was

Samantha McCombe, Librarian of the Linen Hall Library, Belfast, and she was introduced by Philip Cohen, President of the Library Association of Ireland. There was also a collection for Focus Ireland on the night, which raised €151.85. Many thanks to all who contributed.

A&SL Section's Annual Conference & Exhibition, February 2017

The A&SL 2017 Annual Conference & Exhibition *The Sociable Librarian: Connecting & Creating Communities* took place on Thursday 16th & Friday 17th February 2017 at the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8. The Keynote Speakers were Scott Bonner - Director, Ferguson Municipal Public Library, Ferguson, Missouri and Brenda O'Connell, Department of Psychology, University of Limerick.

Library Leadership Workshop with Andy Priestner, March 2017

This event took place on March 29th 2017 at the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street, Dublin 2, co-hosted by the Career Development Group of the Library Association of Ireland. This was a one day course for emerging or new leaders in librarianship, designed to explore what effective leadership involves and explore different leadership approaches. The course focussed specifically on what is required of leaders in libraries based on the current state of the industry and the opinions of library directors from all over the world.

'Librarians Aloud' Podcast

The A&SL 'Librarians Aloud' podcast series now consists of thirteen episodes, featuring librarians talking about their career paths, what they love about the profession and where the information profession is going. Special thanks to Laura Rooney-Ferris for this series. The podcasts 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

Episode 7 - Ian Clark @ijclark Talks to Tom Maher

Episode 8 - David Hughes - Systems Librarian, Dublin Business School

Episode 9 - Siobhan Britton @wigglymittens Talks to Tom Maher

Episode 10 - Ann O Sullivan @annieosullivan, Knowledge Services Manager, A&L Goodbody

Episode 11 - Louise Farragher @farragher, Information Specialist, Health Research Board

Episode 12 - Dr Sandra Collins, Director of National Library of Ireland

Episode 13 - Scott Bonner, Director, Ferguson Municipal Public Library

Attendance at LAI Executive Board Meetings and LAI Council Events

Tom Maher attended the LAI Council Meeting in January 2017.

Eva Hornung, Caitríona Honohan and Marie Cullen attended the LAI AGM in March 2017.

Eva Hornung continued to serve on the LAI Education CPD Committee, and co-organised the LAI CPD PKSB Event in March 2017, attended also by Marie Cullen and Erin O'Mahony.

Attendance and Presentations at Conferences and Training Events

Eva Hornung, Laura Rooney-Ferris, Niamh O'Sullivan and Marie Cullen represented the A&SL with a stand at the Information Professionals' Network Careers Expo in May 2017.

Caitríona Honohan presented at the LILAC conference in April 2017.

Erin O'Mahony, Niamh O'Sullivan, Tom Maher, Marie Cullen and Caitríona Honohan attended the *Alan Carbery: Fake news is an oxymoron, and a LibGuide won't cut it* event in April 2017.

Erin O'Mahony, Laura Rooney-Ferris, Marie Cullen and Caitríona Honohan attended the Professor John Dean Annual Public Debate in March 2017.

Erin O'Mahony gave a guest lecture for the Dublin Business School Master of Science MSc Information & Library Management class in March 2017.

Marie Cullen, Niamh O'Sullivan and Laura Rooney-Ferris attended the Library Leadership Workshop with Andy Priestner in March 2017.

The A&SL Section sponsored prizes for the speakers at the New Professionals Day Ireland event "The first rung on the ladder" at Maynooth University Library in November 2016.

Caitríona Honohan attended the University College Cork Library Seminar in November 2016.

Niamh O'Sullivan and Laura Rooney-Ferris attended the Career Development Group Seminar and AGM in collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Library event "Lead to Succeed: a vision for Irish libraries" in October 2016.

Bursaries

The Committee once again awarded bursaries for full delegate attendance to the A&SL Section's Annual Conference & Exhibition 2017. Lynne Gault and Joanne Carroll 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 2017 winner was Elizabeth Murphy, who attended the National Acquisitions Group's (UK) 7th Collection Development Seminar for Academic Libraries in Birmingham in May 2017.

Thank you to our members who have attended our 2016 – 2017 events.

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

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