

The Library of Trinity College Dublin

# Annual Report 2023/24

Developing the Library's Strategic Direction

The Library of Trinity College Dublin  
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*Developing the Library's Strategic Direction*

Trinity College Dublin,  
The University of Dublin,  
Dublin 2, Ireland

—  
[www.tcd.ie/library](http://www.tcd.ie/library)



**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

**Image:** The Library's Oscar Wilde Collection as part of new immersive Book of Kells Experience  
Photo Credit: Ste Murray



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## Context and Overview

This introductory context is written by a person and is not a product of AI.

There are multiple, major technological, socio-political and cultural changes converging and interacting on many levels for the University and for the Library, of which the rapid development in Artificial Intelligence (AI) is but one, albeit very significant.

The continuing war in Ukraine and the conflict in Gaza have major implications for world security, political stability and economic consequences alongside the critical humanitarian consequences. Half of the world's population is due to go to elections in the next year, with potentially profound implications for geopolitics and the global economy.

Many of the tectonic shifts are paradoxical, boding both threats and proffering opportunities. Rapid expansion in AI is already producing positive developments, from accelerated medical analyses to automated transcription of manuscript texts in a fraction of the time a researcher would take. Increasingly, students are incorporating AI in their studies in Higher Education.

Knowledge security, which ensures the robustness of knowledge while mitigating risks to integrity, is important for its potential impact on research and information provision. It is potentially in tension with the University's work towards Open Scholarship and Open Access.

The impact of Dual Use on research; external threats to our digital autonomy; the burgeoning threat of cybersecurity and a host of legacy issues are all factors influencing the University and the Library.

The Library is an integral part of the University, which is an integral part of society. We are directly affected by external economic conditions and buffeted by socio-political events. This year saw encampments in Trinity's city centre campus with blockades of the Old Library and Book of Kells experience.

In response to the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, EU budgets are pivoting from strategic priorities of Digital Europe and European Green Deal to spending on defence and competitiveness, which will have direct consequences for Trinity and the Library.

The changes to the governance of the University following the Higher Education Act in 2022 are coming into effect this year. The Library and Information Policy Committee was dissolved, and the Library is now part of the Critical Infrastructure Committee, a Principal Committee of Board. Encompassing both digital infrastructure and capital infrastructure, the Library is, in the words of the Provost, a key part of the 'intellectual infrastructure' of the University.



New Book of Kells Experience

### Overview 2023/24

Given this context, the Library is making determined and remarkable progress on each of its strategic strands.

Many of the initiatives are embedded in the University's core values which need to be restated and observed now more than ever. The Library's core values are rooted in, and flow through, the Library Strategy especially in the reconfirmation of the 'Manifesto' and through the new strategic elements of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Sustainability.

The five pillars of the [Library's Strategy](#) are Integrated Space; Integrated Digital; Integration into Teaching, Learning and Research; Prioritised Funding; Suite of Inter-Related Policies and Programmes; and underpinned streams of EDI and Sustainability.

Within the '**Space**' pillar, the major enabling projects for the significant **Old Library Redevelopment Development Project** have been completed.

Three quarters of a million of the most valuable and vulnerable collection items have been safely moved out of the Old Library, security tagged and catalogued. The Interim Research Collections Study Centre was completed in the Atrium of the Ussher Library, where all these collection items can be consulted throughout the lifetime of the Old Library Redevelopment Project. The immersive, digital **Book of Kells Experience** was opened, with significant input from the Library and academic experts to the content of the displays, and images created within the Virtual Trinity Library.

The **Printing House** will house the Book of Kells while the Old Library is closed, and the conservation is well underway with input from the Library on its design. Tests for the **fire suppression system** for the Old Library were carried out by experts in a Fire Research Centre in Norway, watched online in real time through thermal imaging cameras. These extensive tests confirmed a misting system as the preferred option for the Long Room.

All these parallel enabling projects made significant progress or were completed. At the same time, after the Old Library Redevelopment Project was paused in July 2023 owing to the serious inflationary pressures, the plans were rescoped and the University Board approved a reformulated

project; the revised specifications were drawn up and an EU tender undertaken to procure an Integrated Design Team.

Another major development this year was the announcement of Trinity's eighth physical library and first 21st century library, as an anchor to the new Trinity East campus. Funded by a generous gift from the Laidlaw Foundation, the new **Research & Innovation Laidlaw Library** will be Trinity's first 'digital first and foremost' library. The new research and innovation library will be created from the refurbishment of an existing building on the **Trinity East** campus in Dublin's Grand Canal Quay, adjacent to the 'Portal' research and innovation hub due to open in 2025.



Former Berkeley Library



Denaming of the Berkeley Library



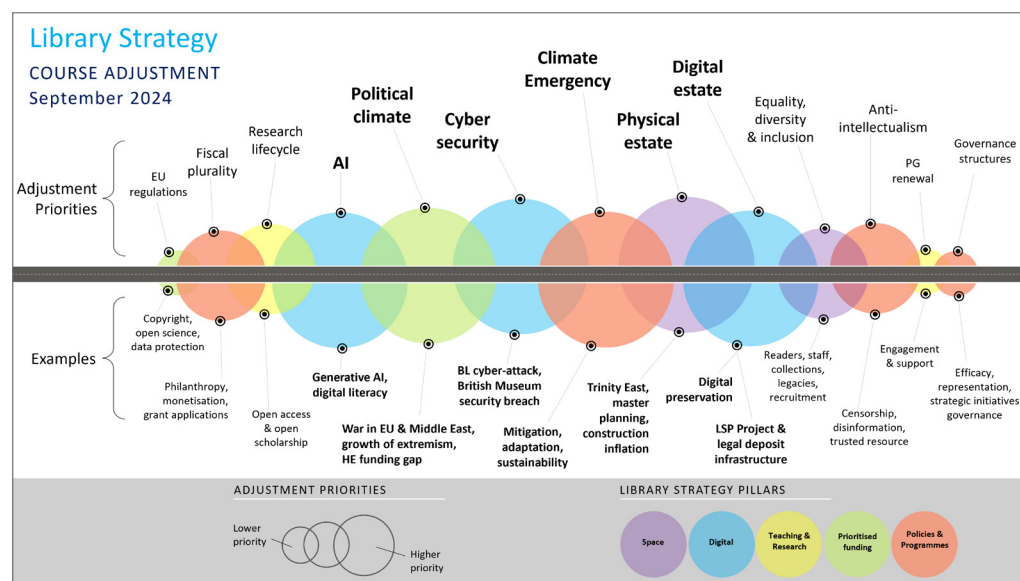
Research &amp; Innovation Laidlaw Library

Since the completion of the Ussher Library in 2003 there have been 3,100 study spaces across the eco-system of libraries. At that time, the student population was 15,500 and the ratio of student to seats was 5:1. The current student population is 22,000, yielding a student to seat ratio of 7:1. Student numbers have increased by 41% since the Ussher Library was opened in 2003, and the new Laidlaw Library will help address this capacity issue.

The decision was taken by Trinity's Board to rename the brutalist masterpiece building by Paul Koralek the **Eavan Boland Library**. The entire process was evidence-based and transparent, from publicly available submissions about whether or not to denote 'Berkeley', to over 850 publicly available suggestions for a new name.

The issue emanated from the Trinity Colonial Legacies Project, chaired by Chancellor Dr Mary McAleese. Within this university context, the Library also made its first appointment for a researcher to look at legacy questions in the multi-year 'Unlocking the Fagel' project, which is a major strand of the Virtual Trinity Library.

Other developments within Library spaces included a **360°** virtual tour of the buildings; plans for smart return points; trialing **24-hour** opening of the Hamilton Library in the period leading up to assessments, and further success with the **TCD Sense project** for people with sensory needs. These are not only assisting users now but are invaluable experience for the new Laidlaw Library.



Library Strategy Course Adjustment September 2024

Within the **'Digital'** pillar, the risk of cyberattack elsewhere materialised with the significant ransomware attack on the **British Library**, which has major implications for the shared digital infrastructure between the six UK Legal Deposit Libraries, of which Trinity College Dublin is one. In October 2023 the British Library was subject to a major **cyberattack** which took all its services offline. This directly affected Trinity, with access to e-books and e-journals collected under **UK e-Legal Deposit legislation** being disrupted. The Trinity network infrastructure was very quickly isolated, and any contagion prevented. Library and IT staff have been working with the British Library and the other Legal Deposit Libraries to address the impact of the significant damage to the British Library's digital infrastructure and create an interim access solution. Mitigation measures for Trinity community's temporary loss of access were put in place. Details of the incident have been shared by the British Library, and the Library has been sharing 'lessons learnt' from this ransomware attack across the university.

The contract for a **Library Services Platform**—the 'central nervous system' of the Library—was not awarded during this year, and the opportunity is being taken to rethink the Library's strategic approach. The first phase of the software upgrades to **TARA** (Trinity's Access to Research Archive) and **e-Deposit Ireland** were completed. **IReL** (Irish Research e-Library) celebrated its 20th anniversary, and there was progress with enhancements to the **Digital Collection repository** for **Virtual Trinity Library** with the inclusion of Fagel Collection, Cuala Press, Medieval Manuscripts and Brendan Kennelly material.

Within the **'Integration into Teaching, Learning and Research'** pillar, the **Library Life Pulse** measured six core Library metrics and the feedback from the 1000+ responses from users is being addressed through design thinking workshops and focus groups. The survey is also proving very insightful for the design of the new Laidlaw Library.

Evidence synthesis research continues to be a core role of the Teaching and Research Support Team.

Trinity is involved with seven of the **National Open Research Forum** (NORF) projects encompassing Open Access and Open Research.

The Library made progress under the umbrella **Sustainability Framework**, ranging from an international collaboration to address the eco-footprint lifecycle of both digital and physical collections, to establishing an ecological emergency book club.

Within the **'Prioritised Funding'** pillar, a philanthropic event in London resulted in substantial support for the Old Library Redevelopment Project. The Library is very grateful for significant philanthropic gifts from **Martin Frank** and **Stephen & Rebecca Whyte** towards the conservation of the iconic, historic building.

The very generous support for the new **Research & Innovation Laidlaw Library** at Trinity East by the Laidlaw Foundation was announced this year.

The philanthropically supported **Michael Davitt Archive** made great progress, under the Virtual Trinity Library umbrella, and the conservation of the 12th century, Irish language **Book of Leinster** started which is supported by **Bank of America Art Conservation Project**.

Within the pillar of **'Inter-related policies and programmes'**, the important **Library Content and Collections Security Policy** was approved, and strategic collection care was advanced with the options appraisal for protecting the books being recanted back into the Long Room.

The donation of the **Bollmann Collection** of fore-edge paintings and bindings were the subject of a visually wonderful display in the Long Room, together with mesmerising video displays. An exhibition of **Cuala Press** material was launched, which will become a digital exhibition, and be a basis for international versions of the exhibition.

## A Tribute to Library Staff

Libraries have been called the 'last bastions of democracy'. As we enter an uncertain world, with half the world's population going to the polls, upholding this bastion of democracy is going to be more important than ever.

None of this remarkable progress on each of its strategic strands and on the major programmes would have been achieved without the conscientious hard work and dedication of staff across the many different roles across the Library ecosystem. It is a huge testament to each individual staff member that we have moved the Library on over the past year and progressed so many initiatives for the benefit of all our user community and I want to wholeheartedly thank them all.



**Helen Shenton**

LIBRARIAN & COLLEGE ARCHIVIST

**Image:** The Old Library following the decant of the Library collections



# 1. Integrated Space

## Old Library Redevelopment Project

### The Completion of the Decant of the Old Library

As part of the [Old Library Redevelopment Project](#), the Old Library has now been emptied of its collections amounting to over 700,000 items, including 350,000 book volumes. The decant of the Library collections from the Old Library was completed in April 2024, with the final transfer of the manuscripts and archive collections and 18,000 Fagel collection volumes. Specialist art handlers were brought in at the final phases to assist with the management of the complex and varied format of materials. The team of project assistants, who had been working with the Library throughout the project finished in March. A number of the team went on to secure permanent roles in the Library across various departments.

The tasks fulfilled during the decant were far-reaching and extensive: a complete inventory of the Library collections housed in the Old Library is now fully integrated in the primary online catalogue, Stella Search, making the collections more accessible. Substantial cleaning and conservation assessment work was undertaken; security tags were applied across all formats; and several thousand new records were created for newly discovered items forming part of the Library collections.

The transfer of this extensive material would not have been possible without the trojan work of Library staff, project assistants and colleagues across College, including Estates and Facilities. The decant project was headed up by the Deputy Librarian, Jessie Kurtz, and the Logistics and Collections Care Steering Group.

A primary objective of the Old Library Redevelopment Project is to preserve and protect the Old Library and its incomparable collections from fire. There will be multiple fire prevention measures and a fire suppression system. Extensive testing of potential fire suppression systems for the Old Library were carried out by experts in a Fire Research Centre in Norway, watched online by the project team in real time through thermal imaging cameras. These extensive tests and analysis of the results, confirmed a misting system as the preferred option for the Long Room.

### Interim Research Collections Study Centre

A contiguous equally complex project was necessary to ensure continuous access to the Library collections during the closure of the Old Library. This involved the transfer of the Research Collections Study Centre for Early Printed Books, Special Collections and Manuscripts & Archives housed in the Old Library to the Ussher Library and the completion of an interim space in the Atrium of the Ussher Library. The new Interim Research Collections Study Centre accommodates the reading room, seminar room, storage and staff accommodation necessary for reader access to the decanted collections. Readers will continue to have access to all research collections related material via this new Interim Research Collections Study Centre during the lifetime of the Old Library Redevelopment Project.

With only a one-week closure period between moving from the existing reading room in the Old Library, to the opening of the interim Research Collections Study Centre in May 2024, the project was finally realised.

This new space in the Atrium of the Ussher Library, including the Glucksman Map Library, has the capacity for 28 readers at any one time and has a highly flexible seminar space which has been in high demand for teaching with collections since opening.

### New Circulation System for Research Collections Material

A new circulation system, anchored to a new onsite warehouse management facility, was introduced to ensure that readers could continue to request and consult materials throughout the renovation phase of the Old Library Redevelopment Project. The system facilitates the retrieval, and return of Research Collections materials, while also integrating with the Library's automated storage requesting system, originally developed for modern materials.



Fagel Collection as part of the Book of Kells Experience  
Photo Credit: Ste Murray

### Book of Kells Experience

The Library also facilitated the opening of the new Book of Kells Experience exhibition in January 2024. The exhibition was conceived in 2021 and delivered by the end of 2023. An impressive, purpose designed pavilion was constructed and opened in New Square, adjacent to the main Library complex and the Old Library. Within the red pavilion is a fully digital immersive experience, divided into three main spaces: telling the story of the decant and the Library collections; a Book of Kells 360 dynamic experience; and the Long Room reimagined, which tells the history of the building and its custodians. Vast digital panels showcase a series of the Library's unique and distinct collections in great depth and detail, and narrative content highlights the importance of the preservation and care of these collections, as well as exploring their hidden histories.

The exhibition was facilitated by a decade of content creation by the Library through its blog series, academic publications and digital image creation from the Virtual Trinity Library. All of this content was redeployed by the exhibition designers (Event: the Experience Design Agency) to great effect. Additional academic consultancy was provided by Dr Rachel Moss, from Trinity's Department of History of Art and Architecture.

The exhibition has received widespread positive feedback from the media and the public, and is due to remain on campus for the duration of the Old Library Redevelopment Project.



The Glucksman Map Library

## Printing House

An associated project, which started in late 2023, is the refurbishment of the Printing House. It will host the display of the Book of Kells during the Old Library closure. The building, designed by Richard Cassels (who also designed Leinster House along with stately homes such as Russborough House and Powerscourt) is the third oldest building on campus, and, like the Old Library, is a protected structure. Working alongside Heneghan Peng Architects, the Library has been integral to the design of the interior spaces for visitors and the environmental specification for Ireland's national treasure.

## Developments Related to Contemporary Spaces and Services

### Denaming and Renaming of Eavan Boland Library

Trinity College Dublin denamed the Berkeley Library following a University Board decision in April 2023. The decision was taken after several months of research, analysis and public consultation overseen by the Trinity Legacies Review Working Group (TLRWG), chaired by the Senior Dean, Professor Eoin O'Sullivan. As part of its review, it received 90 submissions from the College community and public, on the subject of the name of the Berkeley Library.

The building, which was originally known as the 'New Library' when it opened in 1967, was named in 1978 after George Berkeley, the world-renowned philosopher and former Librarian at Trinity. Berkeley published some of his most important philosophical works while at Trinity in the 1700s. Berkeley travelled to America and settled in Rhode Island, where he had acquired a plantation worked by enslaved people. He also sought to advance ideology in support of slavery. The Board considered that the continued use of the Berkeley name was deemed inconsistent with the University's core values of human dignity, freedom, inclusivity, and equality.

The renaming process then started.

In November 2023 the Trinity Legacies Review Working Group sought submissions from the public and College community on renaming the Library. Over 855 submissions were received suggesting names of people, places, dates, and concepts linked to Trinity College Dublin and its values of being 'Inquisitive, Pioneering, Responsible, Inclusive, and Collaborative'. The consultation period lasted three months.

Following this further period of consultation and research by the TLRWG, the University Board made the decision to rename its main library in October 2024 after the acclaimed poet, Eavan Boland. This will be the first building on the city-centre campus to be named after a woman.

### Laidlaw Library

A year ago, Trinity [announced](#) plans for its eighth physical library and first 21st century library, as an anchor to the new Trinity-East campus.

It is funded by a gift from the Laidlaw Foundation, with which Trinity has a strong partnership, as a member of the international [Laidlaw Scholars Network](#), and hosts the [Laidlaw Trailblazers](#).

The new research and innovation library will be Trinity's first 'digital first and foremost' library and is expected to open in 2027, focusing on embracing modern and collaborative working and studying approaches. A variety of spaces are envisaged: collaborative spaces; multi-faceted spaces; spaces which address the needs of sensory and intellectual disabilities.

The new library will be created from the refurbishment of an existing building on the Trinity East campus in Dublin's Grand Canal Dock and will extend to over 2,000 square metres.

It is adjacent to the Research and Innovation hub 'Portal' building which includes an events space and café and is due for completion later this spring. There is anticipated to be porosity between the two new buildings.

The sustainable approach of refurbishment is at the heart of development work in Trinity East.

The new Library is the first phase of a multi-year, phased development of the Trinity-East campus. The campus will change as the phases unfold, and therefore the new library will need to morph as the campus develops. Equally, there are tectonic shifts underway in research, teaching and learning which need reflecting now, while being adaptable to enable future changes.

The concept for this 21st century Library is to be 'digital first and foremost', a phrase coined by Chris Bourg, Director of Libraries at MIT.

The very early decision to make this the first 'digital first and foremost' library enables more frictionless physical access. It creates the opportunity to radically rethink the library for the near and distant future, and the opportunity to create a hub for data science, digital research & scholarship.

Critically, there will be access to vast e-resources, databases, e-books, e-journals, e-content of born-digital archives digitised content available through the Library. Uniquely, Trinity has on-site access to the UK's electronic legal deposit publishing output, currently amounting to 1 million+ e-books and 11.5 million e-journal articles.

We already know from surveys that navigating digital resources is where users have the greatest difficulty and therefore providing expert advice and help is central to the new library.



Laidlaw Library

### TCD Sense Project

The Library further developed its partnership with the Trinity disAbility Service, the Discipline for Occupational Therapy and the Students' Union to expand and create environments and services across Trinity that cater to a wide variety of sensory preferences.

#### Space refurbishments

- **Ussher Library, Assistive Technology Information Centre:** working with the Trinity disAbility Service, the Library transformed the Assistive Technology Information Centre in the Ussher Library into a tranquil sensory space with new carpets, two new individual low-distraction study rooms, soft furnishings and portable privacy screens. Moss walls and height-adjustable tables were also added to create a space that is both accessible and beneficial for students' mental health.

- **Lecky Library, Sensory Cubicles:** additional sensory cubicles were installed in response to student demand, bringing the total number of cubicles in that building to 18.
- **John Stearne Medical Library, Sensory Furniture:** four sensory cubicles and a specially selected set of single-seater soft furnishings were added to the John Stearne Medical Library, helping to create a much-needed reflective space to complement the traditional study desks in the main reading room.
- **Library Complex signage project:** substantial progress was made on advancing the Library Complex signage project, which will transform wayfinding in the Eavan Boland, Lecky and Ussher libraries. Jointly funded by the Library and the Trinity disAbility Service, the project is part of the larger TCD Sense project and will put universal design principles and accessibility at the heart of navigation and wayfinding.

### Service enhancements

- **Booking system:** due to the popularity of the various sensory spaces, the Library's online booking system was extended to include all sensory spaces to help manage access and to ensure that students could more easily plan their visits to the Library.
- **Library 360° virtual tour:** to help with wayfinding and navigation within Library spaces, and to provide a means for readers to familiarise themselves with the layout of reading rooms before they arrive on site, virtual tours were developed for the [Library Complex](#), the [Hamilton Library](#) and the [John Stearne Medical Library](#). The tours provide intuitive visual impression of the reading rooms with useful information about reading room spaces, services and collections. They also allow readers to explore various routes in and around Library buildings, with a special emphasis on accessible options.
- **Noise cancelling headphones:** students can now borrow active noise cancelling headphones and passive ear defenders in each Library.

**'Smart' return points:** a suite of smart return boxes are being provided to allow readers to return materials when library reading rooms are closed. The Library lends approximately 140,000 print items a year, all of which have to be safely returned and quickly processed so that they can go back into general circulation. With the recent increase in demand for access to 24-hour library spaces, it is now a strategic imperative that infrastructure be put in place to enable staff and students to return print materials at any time of the day or night. It is anticipated that the 'smart' return points will be up and running in Spring 2025.

### Upgrade of Audiovisual Equipment in the Library's Training Rooms

A project was completed in 2023 to upgrade and replace Audiovisual (AV) equipment in the Library's two training rooms in the Eavan Boland Library. New and improved projectors, audio equipment, speaker system and lecterns were installed to create a more flexible environment for hybrid teaching sessions and meetings, improving the user experience for presenters and students alike.

### Hamilton Library 24-Hour Access

To meet the ever-increasing demand for late evening, overnight and weekend study space, the Hamilton Library was opened on a 24/7 basis for a six-week period from St Patrick's Day to the end of the main examination period in early May 2023. This provided an additional 600 study spaces for students, relieving pressure on the Library's existing 24-hour spaces (Kinsella Hall and the 1937 Reading Room). The initiative proved so successful that it will now be rolled out twice every academic year in the run up to exams.

### Library Bond

A decision was taken in April 2023 to discontinue the use of a library bond as a means of enforcing library borrowing regulations. The bond had functioned for many years as an indemnity to the Library in the event that books or other library materials were damaged or not returned. All new and existing staff members of the University now have borrowing entitlements. This has streamlined the induction process for new staff promoting further positive engagement with the Library's rich contemporary collections.



Space Refurbishments

Image: Data servers



## 2. Integrated Digital

### Cybersecurity

Awareness of, protection against, and response to cybersecurity threats featured ever more centrally in the work of the Library. Liaising closely with the University's IT Services teams at all levels remained essential. The communication channels and escalation procedures proved effective in the face of a few acute incidents, detailed below. In addition, the Library actively contributed to the work of joining up the multi-faceted activities, interests and requirements throughout the University in the face of the new or increased challenges. The Library continued to feed into the Knowledge Security Group, chaired by the Chief Risk Officer, and joined the new Federated IT and Cyber Group, reporting into the Critical Infrastructure Committee.

### British Library Cyberattack and Access to Uk E-Legal Deposit

At the end of October 2023, the British Library was subjected to a major cybersecurity incident, taking all services offline. Trinity staff in the Library and in IT Services worked overnight on the Bank Holiday Monday to protect Trinity's network infrastructure, cutting system connections to the British Library and blocking email traffic as a precaution. They confirmed that Trinity's systems had not been compromised.

However, students and staff lost access to the e-books and e-journals collected under UK e-Legal Deposit legislation since 2013, which was heavily dependent on the British Library.

The damage sustained by the British Library's digital infrastructure was very significant. Services could not simply be reinstated but required replacement—a multi-year undertaking. Whilst all digital collections were safe and unaffected, access to e-legal deposit content could not be restored before the end of 2024. Details of the incident and the lessons learned were published in a noteworthy paper in March 2024 by the British Library.

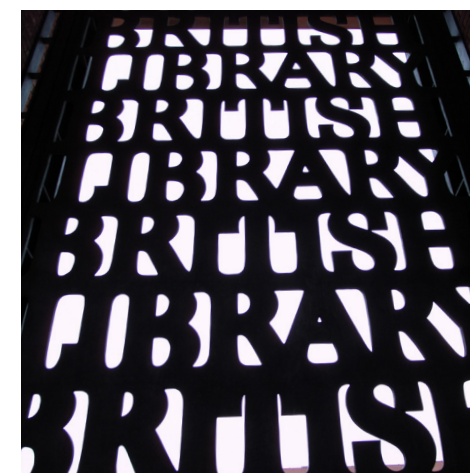


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## UK E-Legal Deposit: Update

The cyberattack on the British Library at the end of October 2023 disrupted nearly all work streams for collecting, cataloguing, preserving, and making available digital publications from the UK. The only exception was Geographic Information System (GIS) data and digital maps.

Once the consequence of the cyber incident was contained and sufficiently mitigated, colleagues in Trinity and across the other five Legal Deposit Libraries (British Library, National Libraries of Scotland and Wales, Cambridge University Library, and Bodleian Libraries, Oxford) focused on creating an interim access solution for the content collected until October 2023 anticipated for implementation during 2024/25.

Mitigations in Trinity for the temporary loss of access to the UK e-Legal Deposit (eLD) publications included a dedicated web page with options for alternative sources, a 15-month subscription to a large commercial e-book package with over 230,000 titles (over 30,000 matching UK eLD), and the continuation of the Reader Recommendation scheme for print copies. Records for UK eLD articles were removed from Stella Search—the Library’s primary public catalogue—but over 800,000 records for the e-books collected until October 2023 were kept in, linking to the Library’s information page about the cyberattack, as well as to the Reader Recommendation order page. Over 500 members of the Trinity community availed of this facility for their research or teaching needs and 779 copies were successfully purchased and added to the print collection.

## TARA

The repository software stack for both TARA (Trinity’s Access to Research Archive) and edepositIreland required a major upgrade, along with added security measures. Working with both IT Services and an external supplier, the first phase of the upgrade was completed at the end of the summer 2024. A second phase needs to be planned and implemented during 2024/25.

## Library Services Platform: Update

A project to renew the Library Services Platform started in November 2023. This followed a commissioned report on the international market of relevant platforms. Working closely with IT Services and Procurement, the process was overseen by a University Steering Group and representatives of key Trinity stakeholders including academic, administrative and student representation. The Education Procurement Service (EPS) was engaged to run an open tender which was carried out in May 2024.

The intention was to procure an integrated solution from a single vendor for the Library’s often complex needs regarding acquisitions, e-resources, metadata, circulation, discovery, and management information. Following a review, the project did not progress to contract award this year, and new avenues and opportunities are being explored including;

- The main database and back-office system, Sierra, will need migrating from its current servers to a new hosting infrastructure, either on-premises or in third-party ‘cloud’ datacentres. The main public catalogue and discovery interface, Stella Search, software is approaching its end-of-life (Encore Duet) and will need replacing.

- In addition, the Library intends to investigate separate software to handle inventory management.
- Finally, there will be an opportunity to review requirements and potential solutions at a very fundamental level.

## edepositIreland: Update

The Library’s voluntary scheme for Irish publishers, edepositIreland, continued to focus on public sector and non-commercial publications. Bolstered by staff returning from decant work as part of the Old Library Redevelopment Project during 2024, the repository grew by nearly 4,000 Irish born-digital publications—compared to just over 1,000 during the previous year. These included documents from a project to systematically capture all documents issued by government departments and agencies since 2019 via manual downloading; a first tranche of a backlog of Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) reports (to October 2022); as well as targeted additions to fill gaps in the Library’s collections for new depositors, e.g. the Institute of Public Health, the Adoption Authority of Ireland, and the Irish Biogeographical Society.

## IReL Update

The government-funded Irish Research e-Library (IReL) celebrated its 20th anniversary in June 2024. It had grown as a consortium from the seven state universities to 18 members representing nearly the entire Higher Education sector.

It was therefore fitting that the Chair introduced the new governance structure at the anniversary seminar: a Governance Committee, an Advisory Committee, and a Negotiation Group. Membership would be rotating among the IReL institutions in multi-annual cycles, with members acting for IReL, rather than representing their institution.

A review of the portfolio of licensed e-resources and open access publishing agreements in early 2024 concluded that IReL continued to deliver value for money, with balanced coverage of all disciplines. Usage and open access publishing were up significantly in 2023 compared to 2022, reflecting the larger membership, but also increased research activity. IReL’s significance in the national research infrastructure was further enhanced by the delivery of a pilot National Open Access Monitor (see also the National Open Research Forum Update), and by becoming the lead organisation for the Irish DataCite consortium, providing services for unique and persistent identifiers for research outputs. IReL also alerted its members to the limiting effects of new Artificial Intelligence (AI) clauses some vendors introduced to their licence agreements, for example preventing research based on text and data mining. By endorsing the ICOLC (International Coalition of Library Consortia) Statement on AI in licensing, IReL sent a strong signal in support of ‘non-commercial research, teaching, learning, and equitable access to information’ even in a changing world.

### Capacity Building—New Appointments

The Library filled two key senior manager vacancies, as well as an entirely new position, within the Content Management & Open Scholarship (CMOS) division. They include Deputy Head, CMOS, Digital, Charles Montague and Deputy Head, CMOS, Acquisitions & Metadata, Laura Rooney Ferris. In addition, the Library created the new position of Digital Preservation Librarian. The successful candidate will be instrumental in trialling a pilot digital preservation system, particularly for born-digital archives, with a view of deploying a full-scale system, along with mature workflows for a large range of digital assets, underpinned by a new Digital Preservation Policy.

### Collection Discovery Systems

The Library's Manuscripts and Archives catalogue records are now accessible through the main online Library catalogue. Users are able to search across the collections through just one online platform, Stella. They are also able to narrow their search parameters to specific collections such as Manuscripts and Archives whose catalogue has to date been available only through MARLOC. This enables more integrated searching and users of the catalogue have more control in their navigation of catalogue records and the retrieval of content.

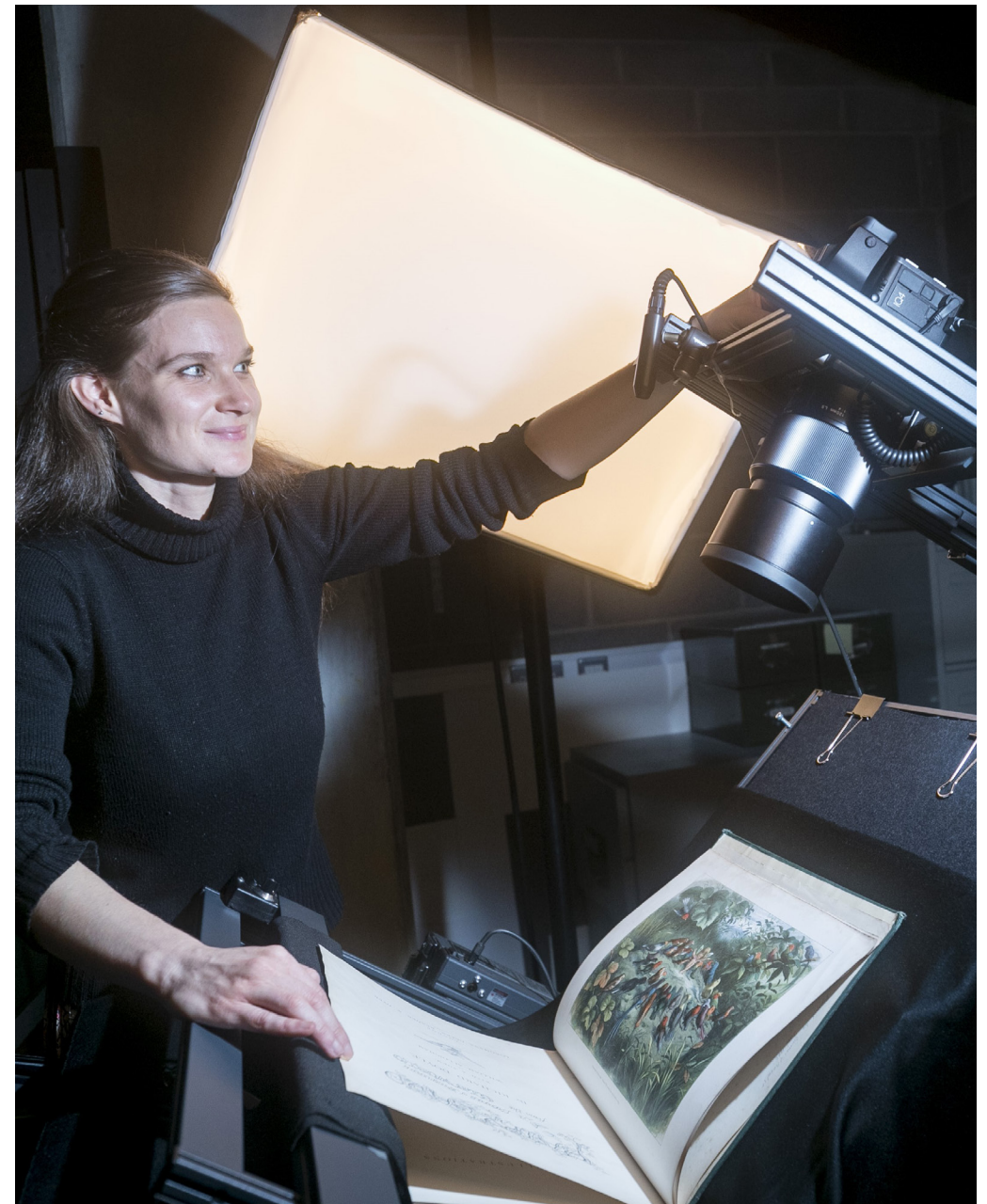
Work continues on the integration of Printed Catalogue records in Sierra with the *1872 Authorities Project*, the aim of which is to upgrade the author names to Library of Congress authorities, by downloading authority records for those authors, batch updating the headings, and tidying up their entries in the legacy records in the system.

Post-decant work on legacy records and queries from the Accessions Catalogue in Sierra has also been a focus in 2023/24.

### Virtual Trinity Library and Digital Collections Repository

The Virtual Trinity Library programme which is opening up the Library's unique and distinct collections went from strength-to-strength in the 2023/24 academic year with the addition of substantial data and content into the Library's online catalogue and the Digital Collections repository—including the addition of many thousands of high-quality records for the Fagel collection, and the ingest of thousands of images captured from the Cuala Press and Medieval Manuscripts collection. The cataloguing of the Brendan Kennelly literary and theatrical papers was completed, and ingested into Stella. The next phase of the Medieval Manuscripts project started, with the prioritisation of the next suite of 14 manuscripts for conservation treatment, enhanced research, and digitisation. All collections that are added to the digital repository undergo conservation assessment, resulting in a range of treatments from straightforward surface cleaning to complex conservation with extensive repairs, rehousing and rebinding or repairs to existing structures.

The Digital Collections repository was enhanced with a new feature to support research and widen the use and usefulness of the content: a self-service automated PDF conversion tool has been introduced for the digitised objects, including optical character recognition (OCR) where the images are text-heavy. The 'txt' files are made available to users whenever OCR has been applied.



Digitisation of Library collections by digital photographer, Caroline Harding

**Image:** Sustainability training and leadership: Subject librarian Caroline Montgomery is awarded her certificate in Education for Sustainable Development module, and former Head of Preservation and Conservation, Susie Bioletti is among the College Sustainability Leadership Awardees 2024



### 3. Integration into Teaching, Learning and Research

#### Catalysing Research

Evidence synthesis research including scoping, systematic, realist and rapid reviews remained a core role of the Library's Teaching and Research Support team. These reviews often resulted in large multidisciplinary team collaboration with colleagues in health and social science disciplines and were underpinned by the use of appropriate tools to screen results, extract data, and manage references. These screening and data cleansing processes assisted with the production of robust and significant research across Trinity, and in partnership with researchers and institutions across the world. By using expert librarians' evidence synthesis effectively, policymakers, healthcare institutions, clinicians, researchers, and the public continued to make more informed decisions about healthcare and social supports. Examples of research supported in a collaboration with the School of Nursing and Midwifery involving literature reviews include:

- *Crisis Situations Amongst Young Disabled People* commissioned by the National Disability Authority.
- *Traveller Community Engagement with Local Mental Health Services in Dublin North City and County* commissioned by the Health Services Executive (HSE).

#### The Role of Reviews in the Assessment of MPhil Students

Scoping reviews are also becoming increasingly popular as a means of assessing research skills. During the second semester academics in the Centre for Language and Communication Studies worked closely with their subject librarian to discuss how best to align these reviews to the existing dissertation format. The result was a substantial increase in the number of MPhil students completing scoping reviews cementing the librarian's role as an essential link in the research chain. Research topics included virtual reality for language and intercultural learning and teaching, acoustic analysis in tonal languages and an investigation into Chinese students' English learning motivation.

#### User Experience Research

##### Library Life Pulse

The *Library Life Pulse* survey was carried out from 20th November to 10th December 2023 and received 1,048 responses (for 2021 and 2019, that figure was 1,451 and 2,540 respectively).

The survey measured six core Library metrics: overall satisfaction and perceptions; finding and using resources; buildings and spaces; customer services; training and skills support; and communications.

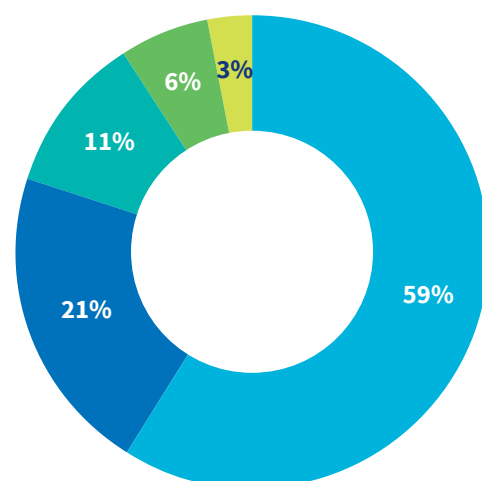
## Library Life Pulse

| User Group                      | %    | Count |
|---------------------------------|------|-------|
| An Undergraduate Student        | 61%  | 644   |
| A Postgraduate Taught Student   | 16%  | 167   |
| A Postgraduate Research Student | 10%  | 100   |
| A Member of University Staff    | 13%  | 137   |
| NET                             | 100% | 1048  |

| Faculty                            | %    | Count |
|------------------------------------|------|-------|
| Students & Academic Staff          |      |       |
| Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences | 48%  | 482   |
| Engineering, Mathematics & Science | 29%  | 288   |
| Health Sciences                    | 18%  | 184   |
| None of the Above                  | 4%   | 41    |
| NET                                | 100% | 995   |

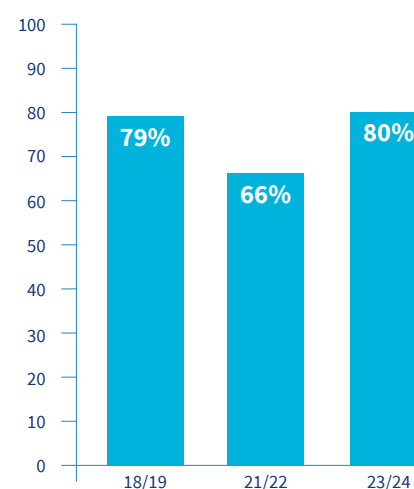
## Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your University Library?

Base: All respondents (1048)



■ Very Satisfied 
 ■ Satisfied 
 ■ Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied 
 ■ Dissatisfied 
 ■ Very Dissatisfied

## Year on Year % who state satisfied



A *You Said, We Did* guide, published on the Library's website, provided a detailed action plan charting progress against the core library metrics. This resource also included feedback received in response to two new open-ended survey questions reflecting the Library's cross cutting strategic imperatives, Sustainability and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (*Continuity & Development of the Library Strategy 2026*).

'What one action would you like to see the Library implement to make it more sustainable?'

'What one action would you like to see the Library implement to make it more inclusive?'

In the months following the survey, several focus groups and design thinking workshops have been undertaken to further explore the survey themes with students and staff.

## Sustainability Education and Research Staff Training

Five members of the Library's Leadership Team participated in the University's one-day Climate Action Leadership Training at the end of 2023. This fulfilled the Government's Public Sector Climate Action Mandate, issued in June 2023. It formed part of the aim 'to put the public sector on a clear pathway to achieving at least a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030'.

Similarly, the *National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)* provides a framework to support the contribution that the education sector is making, and will continue to make, towards a more sustainable future in recognition of the United Nations fourth Sustainable Development Goal—Quality Education. During the summer of 2024, five members of the Library's Teaching and Research Support team completed Trinity's five credit ESD module for staff.

Media, digital and critical literacy skills play a vital role in enabling students to recognise misinformation and disinformation as they relate to sustainable development and through their participation in the module, library staff shared their expertise in supporting the delivery of these skills to inform future ESD modules.

## The Ecological Emergency Book Club for Staff

The Library was delighted to partner with Dr Clare Kelly of the School of Psychology, to launch an Ecological Emergency Book Club. The book club was open to all professional, research and academic staff and met monthly. Participants were invited to read a selection of the best fiction and non-fiction books on the climate and biodiversity crisis to foster engagement with the ecological crisis, and to build a supportive community. A community forum set up on Yammer allowed participants to follow the conversation, share eco tips and build a sense of solidarity.

## Understanding the Eco-Footprint of Library Collections

The Library participated in two initiatives to understand better the eco-footprint lifecycle of its digital content and physical collections. The first is led by the Royal Danish Library (which is merged with the University Library of Copenhagen). Edinburgh University and Trinity are collaborating under the umbrella of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) Information Policy Group. The multi-year project *Reducing the climate footprint of the licence portfolio* focuses on e-resources and follows the path of the supply-chain, referencing Scope 3 of the EU's *Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive*. In the first year of the project, the three partners established terms of reference and ways of working; completed a first phase of a literature review; and started detailed engagement with its major commercial suppliers.

The second initiative was a successful application to the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) for an RSE Collaboration Grant to create a proof-of-concept for baselining and reducing the carbon footprint and other environmental impacts of legal deposit collections, both print and digital. The project is led by Professor Gobinda Chowdhury of the University of Strathclyde, with the National Library of Scotland and Trinity as collaborators, providing the case materials. The grant funds a part-time postgraduate researcher, workshops and travel costs from September 2024 to August 2025.

### Fagel Collection

The Library made its first specific appointment associated with the wider review of colonial legacies currently being undertaken at College level, through the *Unlocking the Fagel Collection Project*. The Research Fellow role encompasses assessing the provenance and acquisition process for the Fagel Collection which came to Trinity in 1802, as well as the use and development of the collection by the Fagel family for the purpose of colonisation during the Dutch Golden Age. With the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), the Fagel project hosted a virtual internship to work on provenance marks within the collection in the final months of 23/24. A total of 74 records were added to the CERL Provenance Digital Archive, with various ownership marks being identified e.g. owner's signatures and ownership inscriptions (including dedications), monograms, mottos, marginalia, and supralibros.

The Fagel collection is also being continually used in teaching and research across academic departments of the University. Art History has been deploying architectural plans of the Fagel house in an MPhil—and now in an associated project to 'reunite' the dispersed object collections previously belonging to the family.

### Manuscripts for Medieval Studies

The manuscripts featured in this project continue to be used on a regular basis for teaching and research. The project team has been working closely with the academic community at Trinity and beyond through teaching and publications, from *Introduction to Medieval Books and Documents*, an MPhil module led by Dr Mark Faulkner based on manuscripts digitised by the project, to writing and facilitating further publications including, David Woodman's *The Chronicle of John of Worcester* (OUP, 2024)—a translation of TCD MS 503 and Niamh Patwell's edition of *The Index of Middle English Prose Handlist XXV Manuscripts in Trinity College Library, Dublin* (Boydell, 2024).

### Digital Humanities Internships

The Library hosted its fourth Pratchett Project intern from the MPhil in Digital Humanities and Culture. She investigated existing 'non-consumptive archives' and the extent to which they could either serve as a model for the Library to facilitate computational linguistic and similar research on its holdings of the works of Terry Pratchett in all translations, or even provide a viable third-party hosting infrastructure. Non-consumptive archives provide a robust barrier between the original text and the researcher, such that copyright is fully respected: computational analysis is possible; reading or downloading significant portions of the text is not. However, no single, 'out-of-the-box' solution was identified during this internship, though the Hathi Trust Data Capsule comes close.

### National Open Research Forum (NORF)

NORF's work to realise the aims of Ireland's *National Action Plan for Open Research 2022–2030* continued to gather pace, with Trinity leading or contributing to seven of the ongoing Higher Education Authority (HEA)-funded projects: four from the 2022 funding round, and three from 2023. There was no funding round in 2024.

- **The Open Access Repositories project**, led by the University of Galway, published its main report in March 2024: *Advancing Ireland's Open Repository Landscape: A Strategic Roadmap*. It provides analysis of the current landscape and identifies serious challenges, such as metadata quality and continuing resourcing needs. Its roadmap for 2025 to 2030 includes strengthening the open infrastructures and collaborations, as well as continuing to enhance and align metadata.
- **The National Open Access Monitor project**, led by IReL, progressed its work to track open access in Ireland with the launch of a pilot monitor developed by OpenAire, a dashboard to view key indicators for Ireland's open access performance, and the publication in March of the *National Open Access Monitor Ireland Report*. Among the many observations, insights and recommendations, the report highlighted challenges posed by metadata inconsistencies and licence complexities, echoing the finding of the repositories project.
- **The Publish OA Ireland project**, co-led by Trinity and the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), published in October a *Comparison of Open Access Publishing Platform Software*, a mainly tabular report to serve as a springboard for more targeted assessments.

In May, the project published the first national guidelines for open access publishing, with separate documents aimed at authors and publishers.

- **The National Open Research Training Programme project (TROPIC)**, led by Maynooth, delivered training workshops to foster a network of open research practitioners.
- **The SCOIR (Secondary rights, Copyright, Open access, Institutional policies, and Rights retention) project**, co-lead by Trinity and TU Dublin, conducted a survey of institutional policies in May and progressed work on its two principal outputs, an open access policy framework for institutions and a draft legislative Bill.
- **The Roadmap to Embedding Open Research Practices in Ireland (ABOARD) project**, co-led by University College Cork and Trinity, continued to work on incentivising open research, promoting responsible research assessment and metrics.
- **The ENGAGED project, Co-Creating Ireland's Public Engagement and Open Research Road Map**, was working with stakeholders in higher education, government departments, funding agencies and community organisations to advance public engagement in open research.

### CHARM-EU

The Library was invited to participate in the first Libraries network meeting of the CHARM-EU European University project in Budapest on 23–24th September 2024. Leadership Team members, Siobhán Dunne and Laura Shanahan represented the Library at this event and explored means by which to ensure equity of access to learning resources for all students on CHARM-EU programmes.

Image: Book of Leinster  
TCD MS 1339 page 159

## 4. Prioritised Funding

### Old Library Redevelopment Project

The Library is very appreciative of several significant philanthropic gifts towards the vital conservation of the Old Library this year.

Librarian & College Archivist, Helen Shenton, spoke at a major philanthropic event in London, which resulted in substantial support for the [Old Library Redevelopment Project](#). The Provost, Dr Linda Doyle and the Librarian & College Archivist, Helen Shenton, met with foundations, supporters and alumni in New York, and spoke at an important philanthropic event, after which

significant philanthropic gifts were made by **Martin Frank** and **Stephen & Rebecca Whyte** towards the conservation of the iconic, historic building.

Philanthropic donations are critically important in realising the ambitious and vitally necessary Old Library Redevelopment Project and the [Virtual Trinity Library](#). We would like to wholeheartedly thank and acknowledge all our benefactors and patrons for all their support.

### The Old Library Redevelopment Project (to date):

#### Benefactors of the Library:

- Carol & Murray Grigor
- HSH Albert II of Monaco
- Trinity Trust
- Martin Frank
- Stephen & Rebecca Whyte
- Anonymous
- The Boucher Family
- Frances & Denis Daly
- Thomas Foley
- Denis O'Brien
- Dr Beate Schuler
- Dermot Smurfit

#### Patrons of the Library:

- Patrick & Evelyn O'Sullivan
- Gilliane Quinn de Schonen
- Mark Ryan
- Trinity College Dublin Alumni
- Michael Nesbitt & Family
- Fiona Thomas
- The Jerome L. Greene Foundation
- The Manitou Fund

### Benefactors of the Virtual Trinity Library:

- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Arcadia
- Bank of America Art Conservation Project
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
- The Schooner Foundation
- Anonymous



Chief Manuscript Conservator Dr John Gillis and Curator, Caoimhe Ní Ghormáin examining the Book of Leinster

### Laidlaw Library

The Library is delighted that the strategic aspirations to create a digital first and foremost library can be realised through the generous support of the Laidlaw Foundation. The new research and innovation library will be Trinity's first stand-alone digital library and is expected to open in 2027, focusing on embracing modern and collaborative working and studying approaches. Trinity College Dublin is expanding its relationship with the Laidlaw Foundation with the establishment of this new research and innovation library at its Trinity East campus funded by a gift from the Foundation. Trinity has a strong partnership with the Foundation and is a member of the international Laidlaw Scholars Network, consisting of 20 universities around the world, and hosts the Laidlaw Trailblazers, which assists women from disadvantaged backgrounds in Trinity to pursue and achieve leadership positions.

### Bank of America Art Conservation Book of Leinster Project

The project to conserve and research the Book of Leinster, the 12th century Irish language manuscript, and the Library's earliest manuscript in the Library collections written entirely in Irish—began in earnest in 2023. Significant progress was made in treating individual folios throughout this period, and the Library hosted a visit by a group of representatives from the Bank of America in December 2023. This complex conservation continued into 2024 and codicological evidence was recorded as we explore the materiality of the manuscript.

### Michael Davitt Archive

The philanthropically supported project to catalogue, conserve and digitise the papers of the Irish nationalist and social reformer, Michael Davitt (1846–1906) began in 2024 as part of the Virtual Trinity Library. A project conservator was appointed to prepare and conserve the wide range of material from the Davitt archive, including many letters, documents and multiple notebooks in preparation for digitising. The newly recruited project team made up of an archivist, conservator, digital photographer will make the collection of national importance more widely available.

Image: Work in progress during the decant



## 5. Suite of Inter-Related Policies and Programmes

### Library Content and Collections Security Policy

In light of the many incidents of physical theft and cybercrime against cultural and educational institutions reported in the UK and Europe, the Library reviewed its security measures to protect its collections and its digital assets, using the [CERL Quick Audit Tool](#). Following this, it created a new Content and Collections Security Policy to establish clear principles, aims, and working methods for the Library to provide security for its collections in all formats, including digital content. Policies from selected legal deposit libraries as well as the updated *Archives and Records Association (UK and Ireland) Security Guidance Document 2025* were consulted in the process. It was approved by the University's Critical Infrastructure Committee and by Council, and subsequently submitted to Board. A working group is set to be formed in the Library during 2024/25 to oversee the implementation process and monitor compliance.

### Stewardship

The Preservation and Conservation Department continued with its key role of ensuring all collections were fit for purpose, including preparation for exhibition, or loans, conserving items prior to digitising or imaging and ensuring collections can be safely accessed in the reading room. Multiple and single items including the Cuala Press, Solomons archive, and the Book of Leinster were under its stewardship during this term.

### Old Library Redevelopment Programme

As highlighted above, the Logistics and Collection Care Decant Project of the [Old Library Redevelopment Project](#) completed in May 2024. Throughout this activity, the entire Preservation and Conservation team had deep involvement in the handling, cleaning, measuring and condition grading of printed items by the project assistant team, and provided conservation guidance and targeted treatment and rehousing of objects and manuscripts. A programme of work follows on from the condition grading completed during the decant project, prioritising single items for targeted activity in the coming years.

The collection care strategy for the recant of collections into the Old Library also progressed, with the design solution for the book slipcases being confirmed in a pilot exercise led by Preservation and Conservation. These slipcases will be applied to each item returning to the Long Room and gallery of the Old Library after its redevelopment, and will ensure protection from contact with pollutants and also provide a safer enclosure for item handling—whilst also allowing the book spines to remain visible to visitors.



Santry Book Repository

### Santry Book Repository Stock Move

A large stock move and storage improvement project was undertaken during the first half of 2024. From March to the end of July, up to eight project assistants from Glenbeigh Records Management, supervised and supplemented by Library staff, moved 2,077 linear metres of books and newspapers from the Santry Book Repository to external storage. This freed up growth space on the shelves in Santry to accommodate new legal deposit and other acquisitions to the end of 2025. All materials moved were checked against the Library's catalogue to ensure an accurate inventory and a seamless retrieval process to service reader requests. In addition, the project improved the preservation condition for over 40 20th-century newspaper runs by transferring the loose issues from acidic or fragile boxes into sturdier warehouse boxes, with an innovative inner lining of acid-free card. A total of 3,195 such boxes were prepared, filled, and moved. The environmental conditions and housing standards are monitored through strategically placed data loggers and scheduled visits onsite by the Library's Preventive Conservator.

### Visibility and Access Programme

The once-in-a-lifetime undertaking of decanting all books from the Old Library, from a cataloguing perspective, had mostly been achieved by the end of 2023. Other initiatives included a long-standing project to ensure all items in the Irish Official Publications collection on the first floor of the Eavan Boland Library were represented in Stella Search was brought to a successful conclusion. Over 2,000 items have been made visible since late 2017, most dating from the 1920s to the 1970s and requiring a new catalogue record. Examples include minimum wage rates issued by the new Irish state in the 1920s, international treaties and exchange of notes, and examination papers for joining An Garda Síochána in the early 1970s.

A further 530 children's books have been catalogued as 'Additions to the Pollard Collection'. The additions, of which 1,464 are now catalogued, were acquired to complement the Pollard Collection of 11,454 children's books from the 17th to the early 20th century. The newly catalogued additions are predominantly 19th century, mostly published in England, and include the work of over 80 women authors.

They include books donated by R.B.D. French, formerly of the English Department, Trinity College and from the collection of Robert Magill Young of Belfast. A surprise find was a Viking story book won in 1909 by a 12-year-old Mainie Jellet (later to become known as the doyenne of Irish modernism) for 2nd prize in an art competition awarded by Elizabeth Yeats.

In music, several donations, recent and from decades past, have been catalogued and made available via Stella Search amounting to over 1,200 items. This includes large sets of early 19th century scores, including Dublin imprints, as well as a collection of theatre music by Charles Dibdin published in the 1790s.

Within contemporary, general collections, a backlog of over 5,000 legal deposit books was cleared, which had been built up during the Old Library decant. As part of the Shared Cataloguing Programme of the six UK Legal Deposit Libraries, Trinity is a trusted point of origin for bibliographic metadata, describing and identifying new publications and their creators, which is used and re-used by libraries and related organisations worldwide. Approximately 2,000 records and associated data were added to international databases.

**Image (top):** President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Dame Louise Richardson speaking at the Medieval Manuscripts Symposium Launch

**Image (bottom):** Schola Hyberniae singing at the launch



## 6. External-Facing Events and Communications

Among the many initiatives of the Library of Trinity College Dublin in the course of the year, there was substantial public engagement, media and social media around key events, many of which were linked to the flagship strategic projects of the Old Library Redevelopment Project and Virtual Trinity Library.

### Symposia

#### Manuscripts for Medieval Studies Symposium and Launch Event

The academic symposium, *The Many Lives of Medieval Manuscripts* took place in the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts & Humanities Research Institute over two days (30 November to 1 December 2023) with maximum attendance. It was launched by President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Dame Louise Richardson whose organisation sponsored this multi-year project to widen access to the collection of medieval manuscripts in the Library's care. The symposium included speakers and attendees from across Ireland, the UK and Europe. A corresponding evening reception held in the Old Library's Long Room included a choral performance of the transcribed *Office of St Patrick* from TCD MS 78 a 15th Century Antiphonal, alongside a digital display of the manuscripts featured in the project.

Dr Ann Buckley of Trinity's Medieval History Research Centre transcribed the chant from the Library's newly digitised manuscript *Clondalkin Breviary*, for wider scholarly study and prepared it for contemporary performance. A very [special choral performance](#) of the chant in the Long Room at the launch was performed by Schola Hyberniae. The event was hosted by the Chancellor of Trinity College, Dr Mary McAleese, with Dame Richardson as guest speaker. Further outputs from the project are recorded on the [Medieval Manuscripts project](#) webpage and [podcasts](#) of the talks were produced by the Trinity Long Room Hub.



Illumination in the 12th century West Dereham Bible

## Exhibitions

### Bound to Please: The Fore-Edge Paintings and Bindings of the Bollmann Collection

Intricate scenes painted on book edges depicting landscapes, flowers and buildings were the subject of an [exhibition](#) in the Long Room along with video displays in September, 2023. They formed part of the Bollmann Collection of fore-edge paintings and bindings, the largest collection of fine bindings acquired by the Library of Trinity College Dublin since the early 19th century. The collection includes exceptional bindings alongside unique fore-edge paintings, invisible to the naked eye without manipulation of the text block. The practice was conducted from 1639 to 1895. The books displayed in the exhibition form part of a collection of 52 books which was donated to the Library in 2022 by Bettina Bollmann, who had joined her mother Elsbeth over several decades in assembling the collection.

### The Yeats Sisters and Irish Design: Making, Identities & Legacies

As part of the [Cuala Press Project](#) supported by the Schooner Foundation, the Library, the Department of the History of Art & Architecture in Trinity, and the Department

of Foreign Affairs collaborated on this exhibition, which launched in June 2024. The exhibition celebrated the significant contribution of the Yeats sisters to Irish craft culture in their lifetime and across the decades since as featured in the [Irish Times](#) and RTÉ Radio 1 [The Business](#). Featuring works from the Library's collections, along with a work of needlecraft from a private collection, the exhibition showcased the entrepreneurial nature of the Cuala Industries. It also highlighted their continuing influence on artistic practice today, for example in the work of contemporary artists such as Alice Maher.

The exhibition is being transformed into a digital exhibition in 2024/25, and is expected then to travel via the embassy network globally: responding to local arts and crafts technique and enterprise.

The eclectic nature of this collection required condition assessment prior to exhibition and digitising. The Preservation and Conservation Department carried out the necessary cleaning and treatments, stabilising and repairing items as well as recording features of interest for later scholarly study.



Cuala Industries Exhibition curator, Dr Angela Griffith, Provost, Dr Linda Doyle, Head of Research Collections, Laura Shanahan and Department of Foreign Affairs Cultural Director, Eugene Downes and colleague

## Other Events

### Marking the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement

As part of the Good Friday Agreement 25th anniversary events, the Library hosted an exhibition in November 2023 on the deceased Northern Irish MEP, John Hume and his role in the peace process. The exhibition titled *He made Hope and History Rhyme*, was hosted in conjunction with the European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland and featured themes such as Hume's life as a political activist, his vision of peace and his legacy among others. Government officials, representatives, the media and College community attended the event.

### New Book of Kells Experience

The new Book of Kells Experience in New Square opened in January 2024 which received extensive media coverage in the [Irish Independent](#), [Irish Times](#) & [Irish Times Culture Section \(The Ticket\)](#), [The Times](#) and [The Guardian](#). The immersive exhibition builds on the Library's digitisation of its most valued collections through the flagship programme, the Virtual Trinity Library and academic colleagues and Library staff contributed much to the content creation.

**Image (Left):** Dame Louise Richardson joined by Chancellor of the University, Dr Mary McAleese, the College Librarian & Archivist, Helen Shenton and the Medieval Manuscripts Project team from Research Collections and Digital Collections and Research Collections.

### LIBER Conference 2024

The Librarian & College Archivist, Helen Shenton presented at the European Association of Research Libraries' LIBER Conference in Limassol, in July 2024. She spoke about developing state-of-the-art 18th and 21st century libraries at Trinity College Dublin and the challenges and opportunities faced in the Old Library Redevelopment Project, the Virtual Trinity Library Immersive 'Book of Kells Experience' and the 'digital first & foremost' library, the Laidlaw Library at Trinity East.

### CONUL Conference 2024

The Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL) conference took place in Belfast, 29-30th May 2024. The theme was *Libraries as Changemakers* and 19 members of staff from across the Library attended the all-Ireland Library conference. The Librarian & College Archivist, Helen Shenton presented at a plenary session on *Creative and collaborative change-making*

at Trinity College Dublin focusing on the Virtual Trinity Library and the redevelopment of Trinity East. Library staff, Niamh Harte and Joe Nankivell gave a presentation *From Historical Bibliography to Warehouse Stock Control: converting Trinity's printed catalogue for the 21st century* as part of the parallel papers session on *Change, Collaboration and Organisational Culture* on the second day of the conference.

### Rough Magic's 40th Anniversary

As part of the Theatre Company, Rough Magic's 40th anniversary celebrations, Trinity's School of English, the Drama Department, and the Samuel Beckett Centre hosted a special series of discussions at the Trinity Long Room Hub—Arts & Humanities Institute in April 2024. The Rough Magic Theatre Company archive was donated to the Library in 2017 and the Library was involved in marking its 40 years.



The Rainbow  
Mary Cottenham Yeats, Artist  
Cuala Press, Printer

## 7. Appendices

### FACTS AND FIGURES

| Space                                                                    | 2023/24   | 2022/23        | 2021/22   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Total gross floor area<br>(in square metres)                             | 18,785.29 | 18,785.29      | 18,785.29 |
| Reader Spaces                                                            | 3,317     | 3,317          | 3,317     |
| <b>Information Resource Provision</b>                                    |           |                |           |
| UK & Irish Legal Deposit print items added<br>(books, maps, sheet music) | 39,637    | 43,992         | 51,162    |
| Purchased print items added<br>(books, maps, sheet music)                | 3,681     | 3,913          | 2,884     |
| Purchased e-book titles added<br>(various access licences)               | 658       | 730            | 818       |
| Donations & Theses print items added<br>(books, maps, sheet music)       | 1,866     | 2,089          | 1,023     |
| UK & Irish Legal Deposit and<br>purchased print serial titles added to   | 3,995     | 4,912          | 5,155     |
| Total number electronic<br>serial titles subscribed to                   | 135,038   | 143,578        | 187,459   |
| Purchased electronic resource<br>packages and databases added            | 7         | 13             | 18        |
| UK electronic Legal Deposit serials<br>—article level added              | 0         | 0 <sup>1</sup> | 810,511   |
| UK electronic Legal Deposit serials<br>—issue level added                | 318       | 42,547         | 41,983    |
| UK electronic Legal Deposit<br>monographs added                          | 18,389    | 98,718         | 81,354    |

| Library Use                                                | 2023/24      | 2022/23              | 2021/22   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Information skills workshop participants:                  |              |                      | 141       |
| 1. Interdisciplinary (open to all)                         | 3,461        | 3,517                | 3,292     |
| 2. Programme specific                                      | 10,827       | 11,578               | 11,009    |
| 3. Research Collections<br>—programme specific             | 320          | 130                  | 284       |
| 4. Research consultations                                  | 851          | 909                  | 839       |
| Searches of Stella Search<br>(Library's online catalogue)  | not recorded | 3,929,978            | 3,549,421 |
| Total loan of items to readers<br>(including renewals)     | 138,000      | 139,100              | 117,900   |
| Full-text electronic article downloads                     | 5,629,375    | 5,748,540            | 3,964,918 |
| Electronic book chapter downloads                          | 725,570      | 760,612 <sup>2</sup> | 952,856   |
| Research Collections reader<br>visits to the reading rooms | 2,324        | 2,662                | 2,206     |
| Research Collections email queries                         | 9,230        | 7,154                | 8,651     |

<sup>1</sup> The Library encountered an issue with updating its database for UK eLD articles, requiring a pause; the cyberattack on the British Library occurred before a new solution was implemented.

<sup>2</sup> The continued decline in e-book usage continues to be under investigation. Note: figures for previous years have been revised as a result.



The Fiddler of Dooney  
WB Yeats, Author  
George Atkinson, Artist  
Cuala Press, Printer  
Forming part of the Book of Kells Experience

## PUBLICATIONS, POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS BY LIBRARY STAFF

- Banka-Cullen, S. P., McCarthy, E., Tobin, K., **Eustace-Cook, J.**, & Comiskey, C. (2023). *An evidence review on effective interventions and approaches in the delivery of integrated alcohol services in community settings* Advancing Alcohol Research in Ireland Conference, Dublin.
- Bramhill, C., Langan, D., Mulryan, H., **Eustace-Cook, J.**, Russell, A.-M., & Brady, A.-M. (2024). A scoping review of the unmet needs of patients diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). *PloS One*, 19(2), e0297832. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0297832>
- Brennan, B., Strawbridge, J., Stewart, D., Cadogan, C., **Eustace-Cook, J.**, Lowrey, M., Brady, A.-M., & Ryan, C. (2024). An umbrella review of pharmacist prescribing: Stakeholders' views and impact on patient outcomes. *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice*, 32, i7. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijpp/riac013.009>
- Clive, A., Brady, V., Dunlea, M., Panda, S., & **Eustace-Cook, J.** (2024). *Partners and support persons experiences of maternity care during the Coronavirus Pandemic: A qualitative systematic review* Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference, Dublin.
- **Daly, C.** (2023). *Notes in the margins: Cromwell and the Brendan Kennelly Literary Archive* Brendan Kennelly's Cromwell at 40: Reception and Legacy Event, Dublin.
- Delamere, T., Balfe, J., Fraser, L. K., **Sheaf, G.**, & Smith, S. (2024). Defining and quantifying population-level need for children's palliative care: Findings from a rapid scoping review. *BMC Palliative Care*, 23(1), 212. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12904-024-01539-8>
- **Eustace-Cook, J.** (2024). 2024 Graphic Medicine Conference: Finding your magic! *HINT: Health Information News & Thinking*, 22(2), 15–16.
- **Eustace-Cook, J.** (2024). *Empowering librarians in research* Covidence Invited Talk, Online.
- Fennelly, O., Moroney, D., Doyle, M., **Eustace-Cook, J.**, & Hughes, M. (2024). Key interoperability factors for patient portals and electronic health records: A scoping review. *International Journal of Medical Informatics*, 183, 105335. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijmedinf.2023.105335>
- **Gittins, E.** (2023). *The Manuscripts for Medieval Studies Project* The Many Lives of Medieval Manuscripts Symposium, Dublin.

- **Gittins, E.** (2024). *Manuscripts for medieval studies in digital libraries: Processes, challenges and the future of manuscript digitisation* International Medieval Congress, Leeds.
- Glinzer, J., Flynn, É., Tampoukari, E., **Harpur, I.**, & Walshe, M. (2024). Dysphagia prevalence in progressive supranuclear palsy: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Dysphagia*, 39(6), 1052–1064. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00455-024-10681-7>
- **Hansen, A.-M.** (2024). *Fagel-Leufstabruk: Comparative commentary of culturally dislocated Dutch libraries* Books in New Contexts Conference, Uppsala.
- **Hansen, A.-M.** (2024). *Sammelbände and 18th-century collecting practices. A case-study from the Fagel Collection* Sammelbände in Dutch Heritage Libraries Conference, Amsterdam.
- **Hansen, A.-M.** (2024). Trois modes de secret stratégique épistolaire dans l'échange autour des lettres choisies de Pierre Bayle (1714). In S. Drouin & S. Côté (Eds.), *Secrets et surveillance épistolaires dans l'Europe du dix-huitième siècle* (pp. 61–77). Oxford University Press.
- **Hansen, A.-M.** (2024). *Unlocking the Fagel Collection: Revisiting an 18th-century library in the 21st century* Un/Known: Correcting, (re)Collecting, Texts, Stories, Languages, Time Conference, Sheffield.
- **Hansen, A.-M.**, & der Weduwen, A. (Eds.). (2024). *Publishers, censors and collectors in the European book trade, 1650–1750*. Brill. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1163/97890004691940>.
- **Hansen, A.-M.**, & Richardson, R. W. (2024). *The Fagel Collection—A Dutch library in Dublin* Maynooth University Retired Staff Association Meeting, Maynooth.
- **Harte, N.**, & **Nankivell, J.** (2024). *From historical bibliography to warehouse stock control: Converting Trinity's Printed Catalogue for the 21st century* CONUL Conference, Belfast.
- Hogan, L., **Brennan, N.**, Hegarty, R., Kane, D., Madden, F., & Schwamm, H. (2023). *Publish OA Report: Comparison of open access publishing platform software*. <https://zenodo.org/records/8431769>
- Hu, S., Guinan, E., **Mockler, D.**, & O'Neill, L. (2024). Retention rates and reasons for non-retention in exercise oncology trials in the post-treatment phase—a systematic review. *Journal of Cancer Survivorship*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11764-024-01569-4>
- Husband, S. P., Wainwright, B., Wilson, F., Crump, D., **Mockler, D.**, Carragher, P., Nugent, F., & Simms, C. K. (2024). Cycling position optimisation—a systematic review of the impact of positional changes on biomechanical and physiological factors in cycling. *Journal of Sports Sciences*, 42(15), 1477–1490. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02640414.2024.2394752>
- Jiang, J., Kim, N., Garrido, M. M., Jacobson, M., **Mockler, D.**, & May, P. (2023). Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of palliative care in natural experiments: A systematic review. *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care*. <https://doi.org/10.1136/spcare-2022-003993>
- Kearney, N., Connolly, D., Begic, S., **Mockler, D.**, & Guinan, E. (2024). Feasibility metrics of exercise interventions during chemotherapy: A systematic review. *Critical Reviews in Oncology/Hematology*, 195, 104272. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.critrevonc.2024.104272>
- Keogh, B., Carr, C., Doyle, L., Brady, A., Higgins, A., & **Eustace-Cook, J.** (2024). *Traveller community engagement with local mental health services in Dublin North City and County*. <http://hdl.handle.net/2262/108614>
- Leroy, V., Martinet, V., Nunkessore, O., Dentel, C., Durand, H., **Mockler, D.**, Puisieux, F., Fougere, B., & Chen, Y. (2023). The nebulous association between cognitive impairment and falls in older adults: A systematic review of the literature. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(3). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20032628>
- Loughnane, C., Joy, C., Callaghan, F., Ronan, S., **Schmidt-Suppran, C.**, Drohan, A., Ó Doibhlin, D., Holdan, D., Harnett, S., Connell, B., Simpson, A., Manning, P., Derven, C., & Brennan, N. (2023). *Advancing open repositories in Ireland: A survey and strategic recommendations for national progress*. <https://zenodo.org/records/10390626>
- **Maxwell, J.** (2023). *Hark! the herald-archivists* HER-ald: HER Archives, Literature, Documents Symposium, Dublin.
- McBrien, B., O'Brien, F., Shetty, S. R., **Eustace-Cook, J.**, & Byrne, G. (2024). *Assessment of workplace integration of migrant nurses and midwives within international healthcare settings* Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference, Dublin.
- Mitchell, C., McDonnell, S., Oganezova, K., **Mockler, D.**, & Fleming, N. (2023). The effect of surface compliance on overground running biomechanics. A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Sports Biomechanics*, 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14763141.2023.2236058>
- Mulcahy Symmons, S., Ryan, K., Aoun, S. M., Selman, L. E., Davies, A. N., Cornally, N., Lombard, J., McQuillan, R., Guerin, S., O'Leary, N., Connolly, M., Rabbitt, M., **Mockler, D.**, & Foley, G. (2023). Decision-making in palliative care: Patient and family caregiver concordance and discordance—systematic review and narrative synthesis. *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care*, 13(4), 374–385. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjspcare-2022-003525>
- Ó Briain, E., Byrne, A. O., Dowling, J., Kiernan, J., Lynch, J. C. R., Alomairi, L., Coyle, L., Mulkerrin, L., **Mockler, D.**, **Fitzgerald, G.**, Rehman, L. U., Semova, G., Isweisi, E., O'Sullivan, A., O'Connor, P., Mulligan, K., Branagan, A., Roche, E., Meehan, J., & Molloy, E. (2024). Diuretics use in the management of bronchopulmonary dysplasia in preterm infants: A systematic review. *Acta Paediatrica*, 113(3), 394–402. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/apa.17093>
- O'Brien, T., Darker, C., **Mockler, D.**, & Barrett, E. (2024). 169 Strategies for recruitment of adolescent girls into physical activity programmes: A systematic review. *European Journal of Public Health*, 34. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckae114.109>
- O'Grady, M., Connolly, D., Kennedy, M., **Mockler, D.**, Broderick, J., & Barrett, E. (2024). P43 Connecting people to community-based physical activity and exercise: what are the processes of intermediaries? A scoping review *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 78, A66.63–A67. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jech-2024-ssmabstracts.138>

- O’Grady, M., Connolly, D., Kennedy, M., **Mockler, D.**, Broderick, J., & Barrett, E. (2024). The role of intermediaries in connecting community-dwelling adults to local physical activity and exercise: A scoping review. *International Journal of Integrated Care*, 24(2), 12. <https://doi.org/10.5334/ijic.7731>
- Pilch, M., Cooper Lunt, V., Hickey, A., Thomas, S., Hayes, C., Kaminiecki, B., Korpak, J., **Mockler, D.**, & Doyle, F. (2023). Factors influencing engagement in advance care planning in the community: A mixed-research synthesis. *European Journal of Public Health*, 33. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad160.1011>
- **Power, B.** (2023). *Digital preservation at the Library of Trinity College Dublin* Research Libraries UK Digital Scholarship Network Event, Glasgow.
- **Power, B.** (2023). *Digital preservation at the Library of Trinity College Dublin* Digital Scholarship Network Ireland Event, Dublin.
- **Shanahan, L.** (2023). *The Old Library Redevelopment Project* Friends of the Princess Grace Irish Library Event, Monaco.
- **Shanahan, L.** (2023). *The role of philanthropy* Impressing Irishness: Cuala, A Yeats Family Enterprise Event, Boston.
- **Shenton, H.** (2024). *Creative and collaborative change-making at Trinity College Dublin*, CONUL Conference, Belfast.
- **Shenton, H.** (2024) *Developing state-of-the-art 18th and 21st century libraries at Trinity College Dublin*: LIBER Conference, Limassol, Cyprus.
- Walls, M., Claffey, A., **Mockler, D.**, & Galvin, M. (2024). Working with people living with motor neurone disease and the impact on professionals’ emotional and psychological well-being: A scoping review. *Palliative Medicine*, 2692163241291745. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02692163241291745>
- Walsh-Garcia, S., Spirtos, M., **Mockler, D.**, & Cremin, K. (2024). The impact of complex trauma on occupations and daily functioning in childhood: A scoping review. *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*, 44(4), 489–512. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01942638.2023.2299272>