

Library Newsletter



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Winter.

Newsletter available online at: <http://library.gmit.ie/screens/archive.html>

January 2009

update

A warm welcome back to the second term and good luck to those doing exams. We hope everyone found time to enjoy the Christmas holidays and recharge the batteries. A new year brings new challenges and from what we are being told each day by economists and politicians this year may bring more than usual. Please remember that the library is here to help you get through the college year. Use the library to study, read, search the databases, and get your interlibrary loans. Ask for help. You might want some tips on searching for the information you need, you might be having difficulty printing, or logging on to a database. Most of the time it is the small things that cause us grief so ASK. We welcome Deirdre Prendergast who has joined the library staff on a part time basis. You will meet Deirdre in the library on Monday mornings and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

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☀ Let's focus on the positive. Christmas came a little early for all of us at Castlebar campus when the **Enda McDonagh collection** arrived from Maynooth on Wednesday 3rd December. Many of you saw the containers in the corridors. Indeed many of you couldn't resist a peak in the boxes – rest assured you were seen and your offices have been searched! The campus has received 9,000 books, numerous journals and many of Professor McDonagh's private papers. They are now housed in Seminar Room 7, where, over a period of time, they will be sorted, processed and catalogued. Receiving such a collection is a tremendous honour and responsibility and we look forward to the day it will be available to students, staff and outside scholars.

☀ IReL (The Irish Research eLibrary). See page 3 and find out about the new research databases soon to be available to the Institutes of Technology through IReL. This has been a long fought battle by Institute Librarians. Heretofore only universities benefited (through HEA funding) from IReL.

☀ The library has a new 52" LCD screen. It is installed upstairs on the 1st floor in the computer area. It will be used for training in the use of electronic resources. We hope it will improve visual quality and help us provide a much improved service.

☀ We have moved the TVs to one side on the 1st floor to make extra room for Laptop use. Please feel free to plug in.

Reverend Professor Enda McDonagh – a little information....

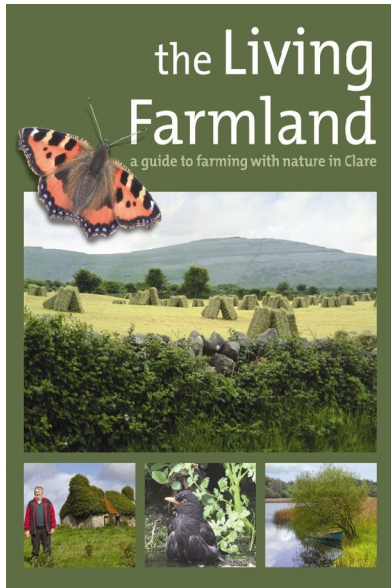
Enda McDonagh was born and reared in the rural village of Began, Co. Mayo. Ordained in 1955, he held the post of Professor of Moral Theology and Canon Law in Maynooth from 1958 to 1995. He became Director of Post Graduate Studies and Dean of the faculty of Theology at Maynooth. He also spent time abroad as Visiting Professor/Research fellow at various universities. He has been widely published and he has lectured widely in Europe and the USA. He was an elected member of the Senate of the NUI for over 20 years and served on the HEA. He was president of the National Conference of priests in Ireland and was official chaplain to Mary Robinson during her presidency.

And

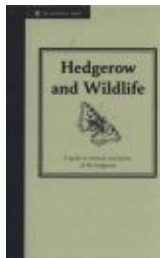
☀ This is also the year Barak Obama becomes President of the United States of America. In an address to the American Library Association in 2005 ("*Literacy and Education in a 21st-Century Economy*") the then Senator Obama firmly supported the work of libraries and the opportunities they offer to the ordinary citizen. "*I also want to work with you to insure that libraries continue to be sanctuaries for learning, where we are free to read and consider what we please, without the fear of Big Brother peering menacingly over our shoulders*". Surely, a noble aspiration.

2nd Term Opening Hours (Until further notice)

Mon –Thurs: 9.30am-8.00pm
Fri: 10.00am – 5.00pm



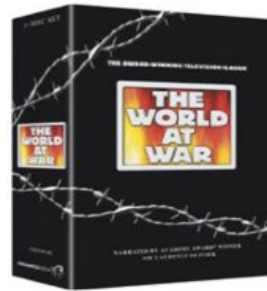
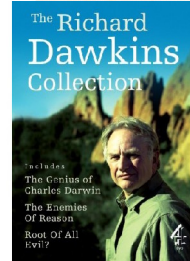
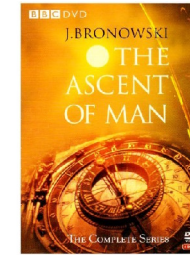
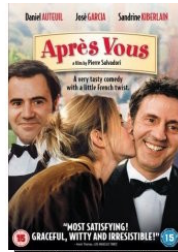
‘The Living Farmland - A Guide to Farming with Nature in Clare’ includes profiles of nine farmers who have successfully incorporated environmental management into their farming enterprises. The publication is a joint initiative between Rural Resource Development (Clare LEADER), Clare IFA, Teagasc and Clare County Council.



‘Hedgerow and Wildlife – A guide to animals and plants of the hedgerow’ this book offers an insight into hedgerow wildlife: how they developed (and managed by man), how to identify different types, and what plants, birds, insects and small mammals can be found inside. A mixed hedge, for example containing species such as elder, blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, wild cherry and field maple, is a refuge for wildlife: brimstone and peacock butterflies; long-tailed tits, wrens, hedge sparrows, blackbirds and chaffinches; bankvoles and wood mice; and of course the seven-spot ladybird. The plant life is equally as rich: the dog rose, the common violet, bluebell, garlic mustard and the hartstongue fern.



New DVD titles – longer lending period - new 2 night loan!!



Originally shown as 26 one-hour programmes, *The World at War* set out to tell the story of the Second World War through the testimony of key participants. The result is a unique and unrepeatable event, since many of the eyewitnesses captured on film did not have long left to live.

The last place on earth.

The double life of Veronique.

Le grand voyage.

The educators.

Après vous.

The miracle of Bern.

Downfall.

Goodbye Lenin.

Russian dolls pot luck 2.

The lives of others.

He loves me, he loves me not.

Into the wild.

The Richard Dawkins collection.

The ascent of man.

Stille Sehnsucht.

Les chœurs.

Wild food.

Bushcraft survival 1.
Bushcraft survival 2.

Earth: the power of the planet.

BBC coast series.

Paris, Je t'aime.
(Stories of love from the city of love).

Le goût des autres.
(The taste of others)

Comme une image:
Look at me.

database news for researchers



IREL – the Irish Research eLibrary is a nationally funded research library initially conceived in summer 2004 to support university researchers in Biotechnology and Information Technology. IREL expanded in 2006 to support research in the Humanities and Social Sciences. IREL delivers quality peer-reviewed online research publications journals, databases and index & abstracting services, as well as ebooks – direct to the desktop of researchers wherever they are located.

Just before Christmas, the Higher Education Authority announced the rolling out of the IREL initiative to the Institutes of Technology beginning with the funding of the Business Source Premier (BSP) and the Academic Search Premier (ASP) databases.

Business Source Premier is a database of over 2,300 full-text journals and magazines. It also includes full-text market research reports, industry reports, country reports, company profiles, and SWOT analyses.

Academic Search Premier, designed specifically for academic institutions, is a scholarly, multi-disciplinary full text database containing full text of over 4,600 scholarly publications, including more than 3,500 peer-reviewed publications. In addition to the full text, this database offers indexing and abstracts for all 8,052 journals in the collection.

This scholarly collection offers information in nearly every area of academic study including: social sciences, humanities, education, computer sciences, engineering, physics, chemistry, language and linguistics, arts & literature, medical sciences, ethnic studies, and many more.

These databases will become available to GMIT students during January 2009.

Database statistics, 2008.



There were 231 searches recorded on the *Safari* database between January and December 2008. January, February, July, September and October were the busiest months with July recording the biggest usage figures!



There were 35,618 searches on *Ebsco* for the year with pretty steady usage throughout. The busiest month was April.

FREE HISTORY ARTICLES AT



Our electronic journal *History Today* proved popular with 3,862 ‘hits’ overall and 253 articles viewed. February was the busiest month on this resource. A list of the most popular articles read available on request.

new journal



January's *Blueprint* uncovers rural regions that are rich areas for experimentation. London-based **Matthew Springett Associates** recently travelled to County Cork, Ireland, where they built a shelter using plastic raincoats in a three-day design and build project.

statistics 2008

Circulation statistics, 2008.

23,990 activities on the circulation system: items borrowed, returned, renewed, and requested.

13, 812 books, videos and DVDs were borrowed by staff and students in 2008.

Sourcing books and journal articles elsewhere:

Castlebar borrowed 410 items from other GMIT campus libraries.

Castlebar loaned 240 items to other GMIT campus libraries.

31 books and journal articles were borrowed from Irish and UK university libraries through the British Library System.

40 items borrowed from other Institutes of Technology:

39 journal articles were sourced from our German supplier, Subito.

A life well read



Anne Donnelly, Head of Administration.

Q1. What book or author was your favourite as a child?

Any book particularly any one written by Enid Blyton!! In my teenage years I loved reading history books, autobiographies and biographies.

Q2. Were there books in your house growing up?

Yes. My parents were and still are avid readers and passed on their love of reading to my brothers and I. They still have the World Book Encyclopaedias that they bought for us when we were children. We didn't have the Internet then. My parents still use the Encyclopaedias when they are doing crosswords so they have stood the test of time. We were also weekly visitors to the local library. We would take ages choosing our books while my mother caught up on all the local gossip from the librarian!!!

Q3. Do you tend to read a particular genre?

*It tends to vary depending on what is going on in my life. I read a lot of non-fiction. I have a weak spot for cookery books. My kitchen is littered with them! I also like reading chick lit for pure escapism. I'm the kind of person that would read two or three books at the same time though sometimes I don't get them finished! I am currently reading *The Gift* by Cecelia Ahern, *Thanks for the Memories* by Cecelia Ahern and *Paul O Grady's biography*.*

Q4. How do you choose your reading? Do you check book reviews or do you prefer to browse subject areas?

I am somewhat influenced by book reviews in papers and magazines.

I would also browse subject areas if I was looking for a book on a particular topic.

Q5. Do you buy books and / or use libraries?

I usually buy them. I would probably buy on average 3-4 per month sometimes more. Though I think in the current climate I may be visiting the library more often. My problem with borrowing them is that I am not very good at getting them back to the library on time. I am a librarian's worst nightmare!!

How do you buy? Do you use online book websites or bookshops – which do you prefer?

A mixture of both. I use Amazon a lot. Having said that I love browsing in bookshops, when I have the time!

Q6. Is reading an integral part of your life?

Yes most definitely. When I was young my family used to call me a bookworm!! As well as books I read a lot of magazines and papers. I usually buy two daily papers on Saturday and love sitting down with a cup of tea at the table going through them after lunch.

Q7. Any other thoughts on reading you would like to share?

Not really. I hope that I am passing on my love of reading to my children as I think it's very important particularly in today's world when they have access to so much entertainment. Sitting down with them to read a story before they go to bed is a great way to end the day.

The library has:

Galway and Cluain Mhuire libraries have the following titles by **Cecelia Ahern** which you may borrow through inter-campus loan:

'PS. I love you'



'Where rainbows end'

'Of love and life' / three novels selected and condensed by Reader's Digest



'A place called here'

Cookery.....

Borrow a myriad of cookery titles from Galway campus library including:

'Focus on breakfast cookery' by Bruce H. Axler.

'Delia Smith's complete illustrated cookery course' by Delia Smith.

'Rose Elliot's vegetarian cookery'

'A year at Ballymaloe cookery school', by Darina Allen.

And for some 'alternative' cook books Castlebar campus has:

'The expedition cookbook' by Carolyn Gunn.

'It's so natural' by Alan Hayes.

'Wild foods' by Ray Mears, Gordon Hillman.

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