

The Inside Out Library: collaboration, inspiration, transformation

LAI's Academic and Special Libraries Section Annual Conference
26-27 February, 2015: The Gibson Hotel, Dublin.

The conference¹⁴ included keynotes, case studies, Pecha Kucha sessions and a workshop.

Malachi Browne ([Reported.ly](#)) spoke of validating the credibility of sources, outlining key tools and technologies that can be leveraged online to do so. The parallels with both information literacy and verifying catalogue records were recognised by the attendees. Being a small organization, Reported.ly has the

opportunity to respond and investigate in real-time. Verification can take less than an hour, using online tools and services.

Helen Shelton
(University Librarian,
Trinity College Dublin)
reminded us that

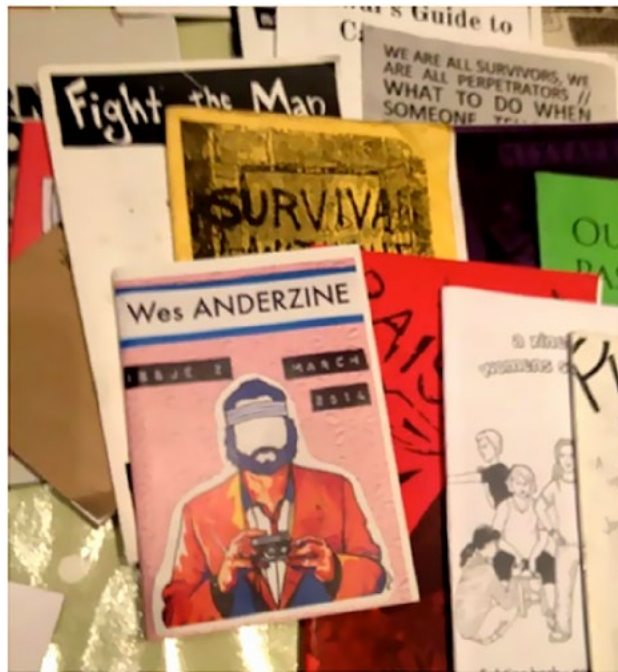
Wikimapia, Dataminr,
Wolframalpha,
Flickr, GoogleImages API gee
'Who LinkedIn, GoogleMaps,
registry, Geo-feedia, is'
GoogleTranslate,
Topsy, GoogleStreetview,

Some verification tools used at Reported.ly

14 The conference sponsors were [IEEE](#), [ProQuest](#), [LM Information Delivery](#), [Taylor and Francis](#), [Dublin Business School](#), [IET](#) and [EBSCO](#).



we are all competitors for time, space, resources and attention. We work in spaces that are Inter/Multi/Anti-Disciplinary. Big data, big content, MOOCs, Digital Humanities, mobile technologies and open access all impact on us. Resources are under pressure in our environment. From digitisation to digitalisation, expectations of what libraries can and should deliver have shifted. Libraries are experienced in working with content, data and metadata; this has evolved into having expertise in dealing with big content and big metadata. The library is now many things to many people: laboratory, social space, or cultural space.



Examples from the Zine Archive image: Shona Thoma

Case Studies

Helen Fallon (Maynooth University) recounted how the Ken SaroWiwa archive was digitized and made publicly available at Maynooth University Library. This has resulted in significant publicity for the library and the entire university. The project has also enabled the successful introduction of archival literacy to undergraduate courses.

Jenny O'Neill described her role as a "databrarian" at the DRI and Trinity, which involves collaboration with Software Engineers, Systems Administrators, and Librarians on behalf of the six partner institutions (RIA, DIT, MU, NUIG, NCAD, and TCD) while serving on working groups. The key to the selection of a metadata scheme for the project was ensuring that researchers have the greatest possible capacity for information discovery.

Tom Maher (Kenny's Bookshop) and Mick O'Dwyer (Maynooth University) described working outside the mainstream, with *The Forgotten Zine Archive*, a collective community archive of zines while reaching out to a virtual community of "zinesters" via social media. They have also reached out to other zine archives, sharing advice and support.

From his experience of coordinating the Sir Henry's



Sir Henry's Curators, image: Martin O'Connor

exhibition, Martin O'Connor (UCC) found that crowd sourcing is the ultimate act of outsourcing. Martin spent six months online building awareness and collecting materials for a virtual exhibition, followed by a physical exhibition in UCC library about Sir Henry's Nightclub in Cork. RTE News and various local radio stations and national media carried coverage of the exhibition. Promotional opportunities like this can be aligned with the strategic objectives of the university and the library.

Elaine Bean and colleagues (Maynooth University) designed a programme for transition year

students, covering topics such as the catalogue, shelf numbers, digital foot print, and search versus research. The programme helps with the move to third level, given the absence of school librarians in these schools, and builds the reputation of the university.

Monica Crump (NUIG) discussed showcasing the librarian's new roles and skills to colleagues beyond the library by getting involved in external projects. She also noted the university's lack of awareness of the services offered by subject librarians. To highlight these services and skills, the library collaborated with the Academic Writing Centre, and in so doing also helped to meet the changing needs of the students.

Fintan Bracken (UL) and Arlene Healy (TCD) presented using bibliometrics to evaluate the impact and value of e-journals subscribed to by IReL. Data and usage statistics were blended to establish the value to university libraries participating in IReL. A baseline citation level was established and articles, cited more than the global average, were then identified for further analysis.

Aoife Lawton (HSE) outlined how she measured the impact of collaboration in order to justify the time and effort involved. She also identified possible pitfalls including: communication, scope creep, differing expectations or participants not actively contributing. Successful collaborations between library and information professionals, both nationally and internationally, were identified and called

for further collaboration.

Hugh Murphy and Michael Leigh (Maynooth University) provided an overview of how 3D printing fits into the library as the next step in offering innovative services to users. Although not all library projects and collaborations can be as high profile as 3D printing, the innovation that it represents and the attention this project has gained, reflects the evolution of library services.

Pecha Kucha Sessions included:

1. RIAM Library & RIAM Opera: performing in perfect harmony – Laois Doherty
2. Digital literacy and scholarship: why libraries are critical to teaching, learning and research in higher education – Mary Delaney (IT Carlow)
3. Collaborative relationships: essential to university orientation – Jenny Collery (UCD)

Workshop

Jane Burns' (RCSI) workshop included active participation by attendees. The 'Scavenger Hunt' devised by Jane tested team skills and observational abilities. It encourages the development of collaborative skills and proves a useful tool as group assignments now form a significant component of many university courses.

Laura Connaughton (Maynooth University) presented the winning poster presentation on Continuing Professional Development in

Librarianship: Applying for the Associateship of the LAI

Shoma Thoma, IReL Officer, HeaNET and Niamh Walker-Heaton, Systems Librarian, Library ITT Dublin. The authors of this report were recipients of the A&SL Conference Bursary, 2015.

Further reading

- Conference papers and videos are available online at: <http://www.aslibraries.com/#!asl2015-presentations--videos/c1puf>
- Shona Thoma's conference report on Libfocus is available online at: <http://www.libfocus.com/2015/03/lai-academic-special-libraries-annual.html>
- Niamh Walker-Heaton's conference notes are available online at: <http://anleabharlannai.blogspot.ie/2015/07/academic-and-special-libraries.html>

