

## Change to Library Subscriptions 2018 Academic eBook Collection

The Library began a subscription to the Academic eBook Collection database in January (replacing our previous ebrary subscription). This e-book resource has over 155,000 books available in full text in all discipline areas. Featured Publishers include: Elsevier, Ashgate Publishing, Taylor & Francis, Sage Publications, John Wiley & Sons, Oxford University Press, MIT Press, State University of New York Press, Cambridge University Press, University of California Press, McGill-Queen's University Press, Harvard University Press and many others.

### Library Fines

The Library reintroduced a fine system for overdue books on **Monday 5th March**. We had suspended fines when we went live with the new Koha system in Semester I. However now that the new system has been operational for some time we feel it is necessary to reintroduce fines to ensure fair access to material is maintained for all students. While the initial lending period for items is one week for undergraduate students and two weeks for postgraduate students, items on loan will generally be **automatically** renewed up to six times before you must return them. However, if another reader places a hold on an item you have on loan you will be required to bring the item back sooner i.e. on the next due date. We will notify you by e-mail if this happens.

We will also notify you by e-mail when an item is due back under normal circumstances. In both cases this will be one day before the item is due to be returned. If items are not returned by the due date fines are levied at the rate of **50c per item per day**. All fines will be removed from library accounts up to and including March 5th. However, from that day, items that are already overdue will start to accrue fines.

Please note that:

- If fines exceed €5 you will be unable to borrow material from the Library.
- If items are 15 days or more overdue, your Institute IT account will be suspended by the Library.

If you are a Students on Placement or absent due to illness, etc., we understand that there may be difficulties in returning items in these circumstances. If you contact us by e-mail or phone we will always take account of individual circumstances or difficulties providing a reasonable effort is made to return overdue items where possible.

### 'The play's the thing' – An Inspector Calls.

The Library will host a rehearsed reading of J.B Priestley's An Inspector Calls, in aid of the ITT's Charity Committee on Friday evening April 27<sup>th</sup> and on Saturday afternoon April 28<sup>th</sup>. The drama group includes IT Tralee staff members Tadhg O'Shea, Aisling Sharkey and Fr. Donal O Connor with guests Sean Lyons, Abe Boland and Yvonne McCarthy. Set in 1912, 'the unsuspecting Birling family are visited by the mysterious Inspector Goole. He arrives just as they are celebrating the engagement of Sheila Birling to Gerald Croft. The Inspector reveals that a girl called Eva Smith has taken her own life by drinking disinfectant. The family are horrified but initially confused as to why the Inspector has called to see them. What follows is a tense and uncomfortable investigation by an all-knowing Inspector through which the family discover that they are all in fact caught up in this poor girl's death.' \*

(\*taken from the BBC -Bitesize GCSE)

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## Library Staff & Student Surveys 2017 Summary of results

The Library carried out its biennial online survey in March last year. A summary of the main findings is outlined below. There were a total of 99 replies from Students (70% based in the North Campus and 30% based in the South Campus) and 30 replies from staff (77 % NC / 20% SC / 3% both). In all there were 18 questions on both surveys. The responses to four of the survey questions are listed below. The full survey results are available online via the library website. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

In the summary below we have combined responses of Excellent or Good and taken this to reflect a positive view of the particular service. Average is listed separately; Poor and Very Poor are combined to indicate where a service there is significant dissatisfaction with a service. Responses of N/A are not included although it is important to note that they are sometimes significant e.g. South Campus opening hours (66% N/A for students and 55% N/A for staff. It is also worth noting the relatively small sample size for students – approximately 4% of students – and to a lesser extent staff at 10%. The next library survey will be held in 2019

Library Survey responses 2017	Excellent/Good		Average		Poor/ Very Poor	
	Student	Staff	Student	Staff	Student	Staff
Please rate....						
Level of service provided by the library	78%	86%	16%	14%	4%	0%
Professionalism/helpfulness of library staff	84%	99%	11%	0%	3%	0%
Library staff success resolving information queries	80%	96%	12%	4%	2%	0%
North Campus opening hours	79%	63%	7%	19%	8%	11%
South Campus opening hours	15%	12%	10%	12%	31%	32%
The Library's communication with users	73%	93%	25%	7%	1%	0%
NC Library rated as a place in which to study / work	83%	69%	5%	3%	2%	0%
SC Library rated as a place in which to study / work	22%	15%	14%	15%	10%	4%
The Group Study room (NC) rated as a place in which to study / work	54%	30%	9%	11%	2%	4%
The Cube rated as a place in which to study / work	54%	22%	15%	19%	4%	4%

### Analysis of the survey, comparison with 2015 survey and feedback from open-ended question in the survey

The satisfaction rating among students in terms of North Campus opening hours showed a marked increase since the 2015 survey; those describing opening hours as Excellent or Good increased from 65% to 79%. This most likely reflects the increase in opening hours on four nights a week from 8pm – 9pm. Extra opening hours on Saturdays around exam times and May Bank Holiday opening would most likely have had an impact also. However it should be noted that the number of students describing the hours as poor/very/poor also increased as did the dissatisfaction level among staff.

In general the level of dissatisfaction levels with the South Campus in terms of opening hours has increased from the 2015 to the 2017 survey. On the other hand, as a place to study, the South Campus library has seen some improvement overall.

Suggestions from students focused on requests for more PCs, more power points for laptops, extended opening times and allowing coffee/tea to be brought in to the library. Staff had concerns regarding the lack of student meeting rooms, inadequate budgets for library books and a need to extend opening hours. A teaching and learning unit facilitated by the library was also suggested.

## Institute and Library Developments in 2017/2018 that relate to issues in the survey

The Library has introduced extended opening hours since our last survey, opening an extra hour until 9pm Monday-Thursday, as well as extended exam time opening. In Semester I of this year it was agreed to have library users bring coffees/teas in re-useable cups into the library.

The opening of the Kerry Sports Academy building and the move to the North Campus in Semester II next year will bring improved access to library resources for Health & Leisure students. It will also reduce pressure on South Campus resources in terms of study space and PC access for the students that are based there. In the North Campus Library and Information Resources Building we will be bringing on stream a PC booking system for approximately half of our PCs which should ensure a fairer access to PCs for students in the face of increased demand. It is also hoped that we will be able to install more power points for laptops on both Campus libraries also.

### *KOHA - Implementing a new Library Management System.*

The Koha Library Management System (LMS) went live in IT Tralee in August 2017. Facilitated by Educampus, the tender process for the IoT sector had concluded in December 2016 with Koha nominated following a Competitive Dialogue procurement procedure.

The system that was chosen - **Koha** - is an advanced open-source Integrated Library System. We commenced implementation in June 2017 and we went live with the new system two months later.

The move to a new LMS is a major undertaking for any library. Library staff worked closely with EduCampus, Interleaf and IT Tralee Computer Services to ensure that we successfully met our target of going live in August, for the start of the new Academic year. The process involved all staff, with intensive training and testing throughout the summer. We also went live with EDS Discovery in September. EDS is the software through which we search our Library and Online Resources, searching most of our online databases and other resources simultaneously.

Both of these projects were not without their challenges, particularly as two major projects were being implemented almost simultaneously. The library team did an excellent job in delivering this project

#### **Future plans:**

**New Library website:** a new library website is at the final design stage and is planned for delivery in Spring 2018. The focus is on improving search functionality and interfaces with additional access points based on user group and improved navigation options. A preview of the homepage can be seen below.

**Further delivery of new software applications under Educampus tender:** the delivery of new software and applications will continue over the next year with plans to bring new materials booking, reading list and electronic resource management software on stream as well as a new digital repository.



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# WELCOME TO IT TRALEE LIBRARY

## Display in the Library

The current Chinese artefacts on display – see images below - were gifts given to the President Oliver Murphy on his visit to Guandong Province in November 2017



### A Student's Reflection - Silvia Harrington

In a few weeks, my studies for a BA Hons in Creative Writing for Digital Media will come to an end. We studied 'traditional' forms, like plays or novellas, as well as 'modern' ones like scripts for film, TV and radio. Mastering inner coherence, applying logic and rhetorical devices are abiding crafts, important for any type of writing. Having something worthwhile to say is aided by critical thinking and an awareness of socio-historical and philosophical contexts. Lecturers like Peter van de Kamp and Ashley Gaskin ensured our studies were a learning experience infused with timeless knowledge, passing down truly 'transferable skills'

The college library is my secret den. It supplies me with the books I need and has me find books I didn't know I needed. I am a book addict. The day I saw the old library in Trinity College, my heart fluttered. Had the devil appeared there and then, demanding my soul in exchange for a bedsit in a corner of that beautiful cathedral of old books, I might have considered the offer. Modern libraries might be less glamorous, but still contain treasures: the work of the minds of countless people, squeezed between pages, waiting silently, until someone brings them back to life by reading.

The college library is also a great resource for digital publications, but physical books are still my first love. Research has shown that we absorb more when reading paper books. Despite that, I see their digital doubles as good supplements for research.

During my work experience in the Irish Writers Centre in Dublin, I met writers of all levels and learned much about the writing landscape in Ireland. The beautiful Georgian building is used for workshops, writing groups, book launches, events and as a space for writing. Big events like 'Women Across Borders' had the house abuzz. Writers can be solitary creatures; exchanging ideas with others helps to keep us sane. Since my return to Kerry, I harbour the wish that a similar home for writers may become a reality here.

Ireland has a wonderful heritage of the Arts. Today's world, dominated by pressures of 'the markets' and incessant search for so-called 'success', is showing wear and tear at the edges. Writers and other creatives have the power to dream up new and better ways and to make others dream as well. As the Buddha said 2,600 years ago: 'It is our mind that creates this world'.



### Theses in the Library

We would like to remind staff and students about the Postgraduate theses collection in the North Campus Library and Information Resource Centre; we have recently added eleven new theses to the collection. It is worth noting that it is possible to use the Advanced Search facility in Koha to search for Theses only. A reminder that Theses held are available for consultation purposes only and may only be viewed in the library on a short term loan basis (2 hour loan). The same rules apply for theses borrowed on Inter Library Loan. Theses may only be viewed at the Reference Desk in the North Campus Library. To ensure access requests to view a thesis should ideally be made in advance. Please see our website for more details, copyright notice, etc.