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Impact of digitisation on libraries and special collections

• Context
• Teaching
• Special/Research Collections
  – potentials
  – risks
Trinity College Library

- Est. 1592
- 4.6m items
- Legal Deposit 1801
- Medieval mss, papyrii, literary mss, public & private archives, early printed & maps
- Academic focus
- Research intensive agenda
- Teaching & learning support
- Preservation, conservation & digitisation programmes
- National & international role

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Teaching and learning

- Reduced use of print collections
- Reduced foot-fall
- Significance of the library as study place
- Increased use of e-resources
- Greater library involvement in the teaching process
- Greater integration in the research process
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Access

• Greater use of materials
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Impact of digitisation
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New user groups

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New research relationships

• Textual interpretation
• Cross-disciplinary research
• Cross format research
New Research Relationships

What is the Trinity Long Room Hub?

The Trinity Long Room Hub initiative will facilitate the College's strategic development of research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences through the fuller exploitation of the College’s outstanding research collections and the creation of a community of scholars across a range of disciplines. It will seek to answer questions about human identity in global contexts, focusing research energies and thereby helping to realise the creative potential of Trinity College as a great national and international institution.

The Trinity Long Room Hub represents a living community of scholars. It aims to enable arts, humanities and social science research in College by:

The Trinity Long Room Hub was established in late 2005. The Executive Management Committee is composed of the following members:

- Professor Moray McGowan (Chairman), Acting Academic Director of the Long Room Hub, Professor of German and Head of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies;
- Robin Adams, the Librarian;
- Professor Terence Brown, Professor of Anglo-Irish Literature, School of English;
- Dr. Jennifer Edmond, Executive Director of the Long Room Hub;
- Dr. Richard Kirwan, Research Officer, Long Room Hub;
Collection development

- Acquisitive drive
- Primary materials & archives
- Scholarly demand
- Reinforcement of strengths
- Historical responsibilities
- Collaborative collection strategy
- New special collections
Value of special collections

- Book/item as artefact
- Globalisation
- National and ethnic identity
European institutional and national initiatives

- Biblioteca Virtual de Patrimonio Bibliográfico
- Digital Library of Slovenia
- Dutch Historical Newspapers
- EDLproject
- Electronic Theses Online Service (EThOS)
- Joint Information Systems Committee
- KB Digital Library
- Manuscriptorium
LIBER, Statement of Principles, European research libraries and their commitment to Special Collections

• ‘They have artistic, historic or research importance beyond their purely textual content that justifies their preservation as artefacts whatever surrogates may be available. They provide important evidence for our material, intellectual and cultural heritage and reflect our human diversity. ‘
European Union initiatives

• European Digital Library
  – The European Library
  – Digital Libraries Initiative
  – i2010
  – eContentplus
  • ‘Bring together selected complementary content on specific themes from different countries in the European Digital Library, through the targeted digitization of material held by cultural institutions (libraries, museums and archives).’
Risks and barriers

• selection of collections and materials for digitisation
  – At risk
  – In demand
  – Format
  – Preservation
  – Profile
  – Income generation
Risks and barriers

• selection of collections and materials
• cost
• impact on special collections skills
• bibliographic gap
• Standards
• Service model
• un-coordinated activity
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"When you are face to face with a difficulty, you are up against a discovery."

Lord William Thomson of Kelvin