

Library Ireland Week Staff Exchange Scheme: Diary of an Exchange



Six library staff from NUI Maynooth took part in the staff exchange scheme during Library Ireland Week 2012 (12–18 November) . Overall, they found the experience very positive.

Bernie Gardiner

from NUI Maynooth describes her exchange day.

Tuesday 13th November, 2012:

I am participating in the LAI staff exchange scheme as part of Library Ireland week. I'm going from NUI Maynooth Library to the medical library at Tallaght Hospital. As I make my way down the hospital corridors I am feeling slightly anxious about what the day might hold. This is all so very different from the large university library where I currently work. My worries are quickly dispersed when I meet Anne Murphy, Head Librarian. She is so welcoming I immediately relax. She introduces me to her library colleagues - Tom, Felicity and Jean - who also give me a really warm welcome.

A tour of the Library follows. The Library Management System (LMS) is *Heritage*. It's an LMS for mid range sized libraries, quite different from Aleph our LMS in Maynooth.

The Library recently had a major review of their journal collection and now only holds print versions of journals which are not available electronically. This decision allowed additional space for casual seating and an area to host training and demonstrations from database suppliers. Such a demonstration has been



arranged on the day of my visit, and Jean and Felicity are heavily involved in organising this for staff and students.

Anne explains that access to their journal collection is via *Athens* authentication. However, the Library clearly brands the databases to make people aware that the Library is the subscriber. A recent assessment of the collection was carried out to ensure it encompassed the needs of all hospital staff. Interestingly the collection includes a wellness and good read section. The Library has two photocopiers and one printer. However, this service is currently under review. The Library is popular as a quiet study space.

At coffee, Tom updates me on the service the Library provides. It's a multidisciplinary health sciences library open to all staff in Tallaght Hospital, staff of the Health Services Executive (HSE) Psychiatric Unit, and Trinity College staff and students based in the Trinity Campus located on hospital grounds. It receives some funding for books from Trinity College. Their main book suppliers are Hodges Figgis and Clarendon Medical.

During the day I spend a short period at the Reader Services desk. I also attend a talk from Ovid Technologies to get a better understanding of Medline (one of the bibliographic databases available in Tallaght Hospital Library). At a database demonstration session, Maurice from Ovid Technologies explains multiple searching of different databases, the Medical Thesaurus and the My Projects facility.

Lunch is a whistle-stop tour of The Square shopping centre located close to the hospital followed by a talk from Emerald about *Accessing Emerald eJournals and eBooks*. Anne is very generous with her time, telling me

about the library website and other developments. She familiarises me with The Cochrane Library, an evidence-based database that is freely available to all (<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/view/0/index.html>). Not having a medical background, I find the plain language summary particularly useful.

Anne shows me how to access the A-Z list of journals. My main area of work back in Maynooth is inter-library loans. It's interesting to note the link available from their A-Z list to their inter-library loans facility for articles not held in their collection. Tom explains the daily work routines of library staff and demonstrates the processes involved in receiving new acquisitions and cataloguing.

As the day concludes, after exchanging thanks and farewell, extending an invitation to visit our new Library – due to open shortly – I'm feeling really glad I've had the opportunity to see how the library service operates in a different environment. Tom had packed a 'goodie bag' for me and as he shows me the way to the exit he kindly gives me a final tour of the hospital.

This was a really worthwhile day and one that I will remember. Sincere thanks go to Anne, Tom, Jean and Felicity (the staff of Tallaght Hospital Library) and also to senior management in the Library NUI Maynooth for supporting the job exchange initiative.

Tallaght Hospital Library Web-site: <http://www.amnch.ie/Departments-Clinics/Departments-A-Z/Tallaght-Hospital-Library/>

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