

Special Collections Libraries in Flux: A Dynamic Blend of Innovation and Creativity

When Past Meets Future



Unique and Distinctive Collections (UDCs) enable libraries to embrace virtually every aspect of development and innovation; creatively using outreach, digitisation, discovery systems, transformative space management, and curriculum support.

How We Innovate Using Special Collections at Maynooth University Library

Digitisation Projects



At MU Library we collaborate with our colleagues in the Digital Humanities Institute on a number of digitisation projects such as the creation of 3D models using artefacts from the cuneiform tablet collection and the digitisation, transcription and encoding of correspondence from the Sir Edward Baker Littlehales collection.

Outreach



Interaction with national campaigns and local festivals e.g. Culture Night, The Maynooth Local Festival & Explore Your Archives. Through collaboration with other organisations we have been able to increase our visibility and accessibility.

Space Development



In 2012 a dedicated Special Collections Reading Room with an environmentally controlled secure storage area was created in the John Paul II Library. This complements the historic Russell Library which houses the collections of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Exhibitions



Modern technologies have enabled us to share and exhibit collections both locally and internationally through the development of online exhibitions and high quality facsimiles.

Social Media



We engage with a wide range of audiences through our *MU Library Treasures* blog and by utilising various social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

Collection Development



We strive to develop, curate, preserve, and facilitate access to our UDCs through collection development and descriptive cataloguing in line with the Library's strategic plan.

Visits to Special Collections



Results

