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ACADEMIC WRITING MONTH (ACWRIMO) AT MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

"A WRITER IS SOMEONE WHO WRITES."

-William Stafford

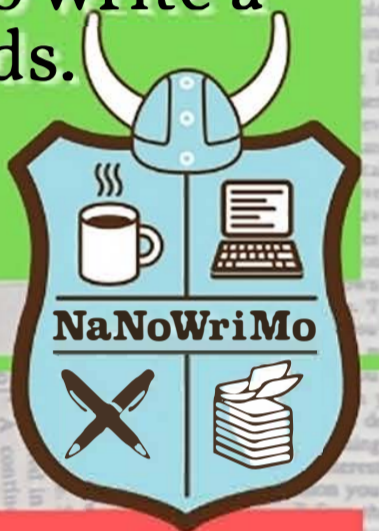
WHAT IS ACWRIMO

Academic Writing Month (AcWriMo) was developed across the globe by Academic staff to help facilitate writing groups with specific goals for the month of November.



ACWRIMO AT MU

MU library established an AcWriMo group for staff to help with professional development and virtual comradery during COVID. Attendees aimed to write a blog post of 700-1000 words.



HOW DID IT WORK?

- The MU Deputy Librarian, Helen Fallon, facilitated the writing group for interested staff members
- Six staff participated
- Wrote one hour a day, four days a week
- Met one hour a week on Zoom
 - Discussed progress, goals, and gave each other feedback
 - Assigned weekly tasks, such as writing a 150 word abstract

KEY LEARNING

- Put a fence around your writing
- Just write
- Consider your audience
- "I have to start to write to have ideas" - Françoise Sagan
- Learned how to give and receive feedback constructively

"I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in AcWriMo. It was a great way to get me to write, but also for me to get to know library staff that I haven't had a chance to meet in person yet."

-Michaela, participant and new MU library staff member



"Everyone in the group was encouraging and supportive and helped to create a safe and open space where we felt comfortable sharing drafts, exchanging thoughts and discussing feedback."

-Saoirse, participant

OUTCOMES

Six blogs were written on topics including:

- Developing a resilient mindset
- Seven steps for publishing your thesis
- Making a sideways move as a mid-career librarian

Four blog posts have already been published on www.libfocus.com.



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