

From Froebel to Maynooth

merging library collections

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Maynooth University Library

In 2013 Froebel College of Education in Blackrock Co Dublin merged with Maynooth University (MU), becoming the first teacher education college physically incorporated into a university campus. This collaborative process included the integration of the Froebel library collections and two staff members into MU Library.



Froebel College

Established in 1943, the teacher training curriculum was influenced by the philosophy of 19th century educator Friedrich Froebel.



Collaborating



Preparation began in 2012. In 2013, 3000 items were selected for integration, 500 of these were prioritised as essential for the new academic year.



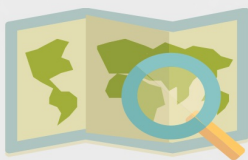
Merging collections

Collaborating with the Froebel Department, material was prioritised based on reading lists. Two former Froebel library staff offered valued insights on the collection and eased the merger by quickly answering queries. The project took one academic year to complete.



Maynooth University

In September 2013 Froebel College became the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, retaining the Froebel identity. Maynooth now offers the full spectrum of teacher education, from pre-school to adult education.



Challenges

- ◆ Continuing service during the merger
- ◆ Managing staff and student needs
- ◆ Project management and logistics
- ◆ Library systems not interoperable
- ◆ Creating original records
- ◆ Time constraints
- ◆ Culture change for staff

Impact



- ◆ MU library collection enriched
- ◆ Students benefit from enhanced library collection
- ◆ Froebel students now receive a university experience
- ◆ MU library and Froebel Department relationship cemented through integrated staff
- ◆ Importance of library's role in facilitating merger
- ◆ Applications for places have soared