



Annual Review 2014

*Leabharlann
Náisiúnta
na hÉireann*

National Library
of Ireland



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

Annual Review 2014

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Contents

1.0	ABOUT THE NLI	3
2.0	BOARD'S REMARKS	4
3.0	DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION	5
4.0	RESOURCES	6
5.0	2014 AT A GLANCE	7
6.0	INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF NLI'S RESOURCES	8
7.0	OVERVIEW OF KEY AREAS OF WORK 2014	9
	7.1 Visitor Numbers	10
	7.2 Collecting	12
	7.3 Exhibitions	14
	7.4 Events and Outreach	18
8.0	THE NLI'S WORK WITH EXTERNAL PARTNERS	21
9.0	SUPPORTING THE NLI	23
10.0	DONORS 2014	24



LIBRARY

About the NLI

The National Library of Ireland (NLI), located on Dublin's Kildare Street beside the Houses of the Oireachtas, was founded in 1877. It collects and makes available the shared memory of the Irish nation at home and abroad, caring for more than 10 million items, including books, newspapers, manuscripts, prints, drawings, ephemera, photographs and, increasingly, digital media.

From 14th century Gaelic manuscripts to 21st century websites, from the papers of Yeats and Joyce to the works of contemporary Irish writers, the NLI is the repository of Ireland's national written heritage. It is also the guardian of personal histories in the form of vast archives of letters, photographs and diaries, and family history sources such as the Roman Catholic parish registers.

The Office of the Chief Herald and the National Photographic Archive are also part of the National Library.

Every year, the NLI welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors to its magnificent reading rooms, its ground-breaking exhibition on WB Yeats, its programmes for families and lifelong learners and its free genealogy advice service. Increasingly, its collections are being made available online to people worldwide, and the NLI has an award-winning presence on Twitter, Facebook and the Flickr Commons.

Further information about the NLI is available at www.nli.ie.

Have you noticed the Emblem of the Owl?

The emblem of the owl and the motto 'sapientia' (wisdom) are set into the mosaic in the entrance hall, representing the Library's role as a centre of learning.



Board's Remarks

The National Library of Ireland continued to honour its mission and legislative mandate throughout 2014, and excelled in efforts to bring its collections to the public through its services for researchers and its numerous, high-quality exhibitions and outreach activity.

On a strategic level in 2014, much consideration went into the project to digitise the Library's holding of parish registers. In recent years, the Library has prioritised digitisation as both a measure to preserve collections for the future, and to ensure access by the public to its holdings. These registers for Catholic parishes are unique. They provide an early direct source of family information and have a relevance throughout the length and breadth of Ireland. Furthermore, they are of huge interest to the hundreds and thousands of people around the world who are part of the Irish Diaspora.

For the Board of the Library, our ultimate decision to make the records available - taken in 2014 - was informed by the importance which the freely accessible digital records would have on the lives of people and communities. In making the decision, we were conscious of the additional constraints, both in terms of staffing and budget, which this project would absorb.

As our term of office concludes, we regard the successful digitisation of the catholic parish registers to be one of the most ambitious and substantive projects in the Library's history.

As a Board, we have made significant achievements despite very limited resources. We are grateful to all the donors who graciously donated important papers, archives and materials to the Library. Undoubtedly a high-point of our term was the donation to the Library of the archive of the Irish Nobel laureate Dr Seamus Heaney.

However, we remain deeply concerned about under resourcing, both from a staff and a financial perspective.

Compared with National Libraries in Scotland, Wales and elsewhere¹, the National Library of Ireland, has always been significantly less resourced in terms of staff and capacity. As the Board exits our term of duty, the Library is serviced by just 78 full-time posts. In the past decade alone, over 30 posts have become vacant and have gone unfilled because of budget or headcount constraints. We are now in the challenging position of having only a quarter of the staff complement of comparable international libraries.

We continue to operate from a building which is not fit for purpose, which has not received substantial investment for some time, and where collections are at risk. Suitable storage, even off site, is expensive and beyond the scope of the Library under the current circumstances. Because of this, the Library has been compromised in acquiring collections of significant cultural and heritage import.

For the Library to achieve its potential and service its mandate, it needs the staffing, finances and a fit-for-purpose building to allow it operate as a Library of the 21st century. We hope that as the Minister embarks on a new policy for our cultural sector, these considerations will be central to her deliberations.

In 2014, the Library was guided and steered by Catherine Fahy, as Acting Director. The Board would like to acknowledge her invaluable contribution and service. We would also like to thank the staff who worked with Catherine for all of their efforts during her term, which resulted in some of the outstanding achievements outlined in this Review. The successful digitisation and publication of the parish registers is also a clear demonstration of the dedication and expertise of the NLI staff.

As the Board of the National Library of Ireland, we wish the Minister well and sincerely thank her for her support and interest in the Library since her appointment, and also thank her staff in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. We are confident that the staff and expertise that exists at the Library - and the leadership of our newly-appointed Director, Sandra Collins - will continue to support and work with the Minister and her Department in every regard.



H. Paul Shovlin

On behalf of the Board of the National Library of Ireland

Director's Introduction

I am truly delighted and honoured to be the newly-appointed, 14th Director of the National Library of Ireland.

2014 was a year of significant achievements for the NLI. As part of the Library's work for the Decade of Commemorations, we undertook a major project to catalogue and digitise 23,000 items from the papers of the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation. The Library also joined with RTÉ and Trinity College Dublin to welcome 10,000 visitors to a 'World War I Roadshow' in July, and the remarkable Christy Brown archive was secured jointly with the Little Museum of Dublin, with generous financial support provided by Direct Medical, Athlone. 'Shaped by History', an exhibition of images by Gerry Andrews at the National Photographic Archive in partnership with the Hunt Museum, welcomed almost 32,000 visitors between August and December, and 'World War Ireland', our exhibition on the Irish experience of WWI, was launched in November with the support of the British Embassy in Ireland.

As I start in my new role in one of the most recognised cultural institutions in the country – an institution with a central place at the heart of Irish society, culture and learning – I see many exciting opportunities on the horizon. Despite this being a difficult time across the cultural sector, with institutions suffering reductions in budget and resources, I still hope for further progress towards confirming the position of the arts, culture and heritage as a key part of Irish society, with increasing recognition and action.

We thank the Minister and her Department for the steps taken in late 2014 to address the significant staffing and budget issues facing the Library, and for the commitment and investment in the Programme for Ireland 2016. This should enable the NLI to deliver an exciting programme of resources and engagement in the year ahead. Another important part of the broader cultural environment we work in is the development of the first ever National Cultural Policy, 'Culture 2025', and I urge the sector, and beyond, to contribute to this important initiative.

There is much to be optimistic about, and I look forward to working with the staff and the Board of the Library to build upon the achievements to date. I would like to acknowledge and thank Catherine Fahy as Acting Director, the Board of the NLI, and all of the staff, because it is their work that makes the NLI's Annual Review 2014 such a positive account. When I think of the trusted library services, the beautiful and irreplaceable collections, the digital innovation and online access, the programme of outreach and events, and indeed the history that fills these landmark buildings, I feel very proud to be a part of this institution.



Dr Sandra Collins
Director, NLI



2014 at a glance



OVER **270,394**
VISITS IN **2014**

5% INCREASE

OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR

90% INCREASE

SINCE 2009



RESEARCH
VISITS



INTERACTIONS ACROSS
NLI'S ONLINE PROFILES

(NLI WEBSITE & FLICKR COMMONS)

OVER **27,000**



FOLLOWERS

19,286

BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS



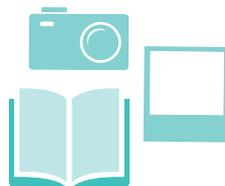
BOUGHT / RECEIVED
BY THE NLI



21,500

CATALOGUE RECORDS

FOR MANUSCRIPTS & PHOTOGRAPHS



18,266

ATTENDEES

AT NLI EVENTS
TOURS / LECTURES /
WORKSHOPS



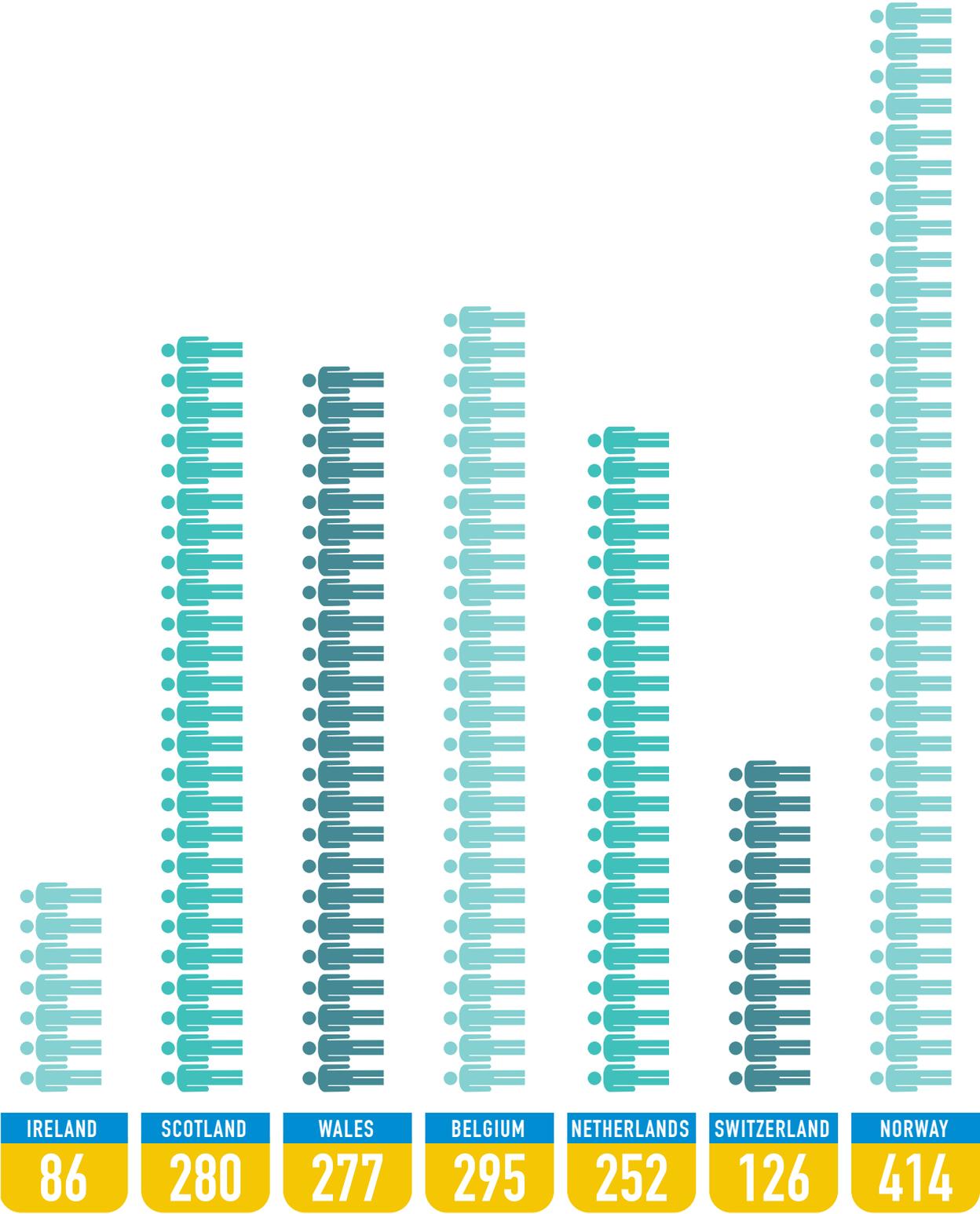
MAJOR
EXHIBITIONS
STAGED

ATTRACTING
176,189
VISITORS



International Comparison of NLI's Resources

The following infographic highlights the staffing levels of the National Library of Ireland, alongside the staffing levels of other stand-alone national libraries (i.e. not assimilated with university or public library systems) in similar sized countries in Europe.





Overview of Key Areas of Work 2014

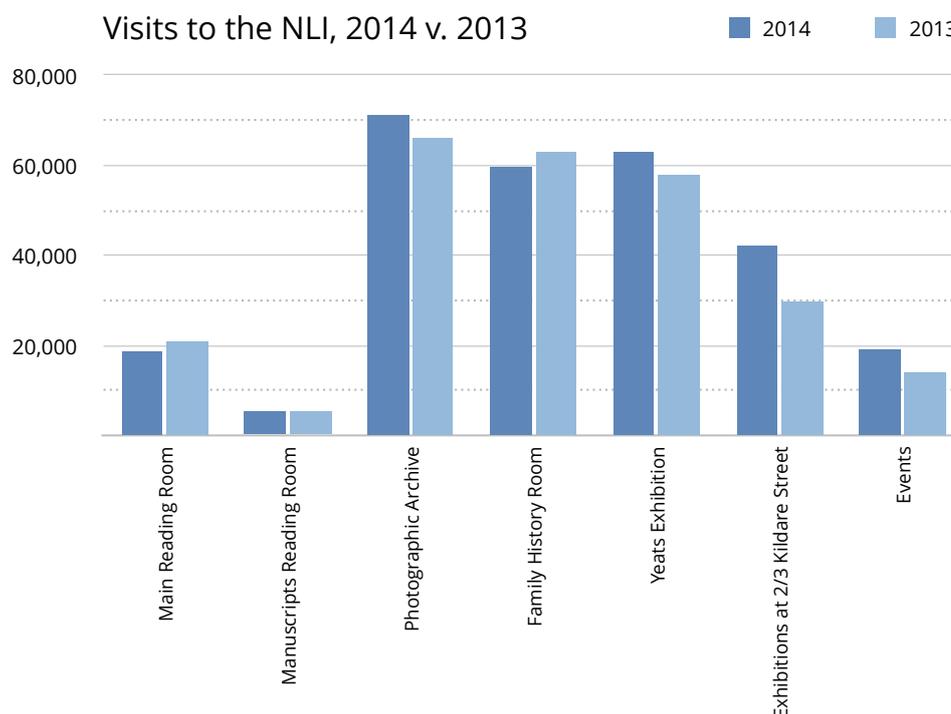
Visitor Numbers

Visitors to the NLI - Physical Sites and Events / Activities

The total number of visits to the NLI recorded during 2014 was 270,394, representing a five per cent increase over the previous year, and 90 per cent increase since 2009. Of these, well over a quarter (83,365) were research visits, i.e. to the NLI's main Reading Room, Manuscripts Reading Room or Family History Room.

The most frequently visited site within the NLI was the National Photographic Archive (71,162 visits - a seven per cent increase on 2013 figures), followed by the Family History Room (59,472 visits) and the NLI's Yeats exhibition (62,925 visits).

The table below summarises numbers of visits to different sites and activities within the NLI for 2013 and 2014.



Month-by-Month Visitor Numbers

The busiest month for visits to the NLI last year was August, when we had 33,405 visits to our premises. This was followed by September (28,812 visits) and June (25,166 visits). The quietest month was December, when there were 15,333 visits to the NLI.



Online Visitors

The NLI places significant emphasis on attracting visitors and followers to its online profiles. The NLI operates a website, www.nli.ie, as well as four key social media profiles:

1. Flickr Commons: www.flickr.com/photos/nlireland/²
2. Facebook: www.facebook.com/NationalLibraryofIreland
3. Twitter: www.twitter.com/nlireland
4. Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/nlieventarchive>³

The NLI attracted almost **15.7 million interactions** across its website and Flickr Commons profiles last year with 803,653 unique visitors to the website and 14,934,102 views of the NLI's profile on Flickr Commons.

At the end of 2014, the NLI had 12,203 Facebook followers and 15,586 followers on Twitter.

The numbers of online visitors and followers increased across all social media platforms between 2013 and 2014, with the biggest increase observed in the numbers of views on the Flickr Commons profile (132 per cent increase). The number of Facebook followers increased by 24 per cent, while the number of Twitter followers increased by 54 per cent. Vimeo views reached 313 for the period of September-December.

Website and Social Media Visitors / Followers, 2014 v. 2013			
	2014	2013	% Difference
Website	803,653	874,894	-8%
Flickr Commons Views	14,934,102	6,418,582	132%
Facebook Followers	12,203	9,844	24%
Twitter Followers	15,586	10,131	54%
Vimeo	353	-	-

Did you know? The NLI is entitled to a copy of every printed item published in Ireland

The Industrial and Commercial Property (Protection) Act, 1927 gave the NLI legal deposit status for the first time. One of eight legal deposit libraries in Ireland, the NLI is entitled to receive a copy of every printed item published in the Republic of Ireland. In 2014, the NLI received 2,529 books under legal deposit.

2 The Commons Flickr photostream shares the NLI's publicly held collections of photographs online, and aims to enrich these collections with input from users not only in Ireland, but all over the world.

3 Vimeo views have only been counted since September 2014.

Collecting

Books, Newspapers and Periodicals

During 2014, NLI sent legal deposit claims for 2,711 publications to Irish publishers. This resulted in the receipt of 2,529 books received under legal deposit, with 463 claims outstanding at the end of the year. 1,546 books relating to Ireland were purchased, and 286 donations were received, including some 100 titles donated by the Irish Literature Exchange

6,007 new and antiquarian books were catalogued during the year. We also undertook three outsourced projects, which including the cataloguing of the Holloway book collection. The cataloguing of the WB Yeats Library is also underway, while a short book cleaning project of the Holloway and Encumbered Estates volumes was completed in the last quarter of 2014. In addition, a detailed stock check and catalogue enhancement project of 12,000 books from our rare book collections (the "LO" books) was undertaken and completed by the Printed Books team during the year.

Every issue of 246 current newspaper titles, including all national and provincial papers, were collected. This amounted to 10,183 individual newspapers in total. 4,742 periodicals were also collected.

Manuscripts, Prints and Drawings, Ephemera and Photographs

There were 107 accessions to the Special Collections (Manuscripts, Prints and Drawings, Ephemera and Photographs) during 2014. Particular highlights included the acquisition of the Christy Brown archive.

There were 36 donations of material to the manuscripts collections in 2014, and 25 purchases. Two donations to the Prints and Drawings collections were recorded, along with 13 purchases. There were eleven ephemera donations and 15 purchases. One album of photographs was purchased in 2014 and there were four donations.

Acquisition report by acquisition type:

	<i>Donations</i>	<i>Purchases</i>
Manuscripts	36	25
Prints and Drawings	2	13
Ephemera	11	15
Photographs	4	1

Collecting and Cataloguing Highlights

A total of 21,500 catalogue records were created in 2014. Particular highlights included the Christy Brown archive and the majority of the Decade of Commemorations cataloguing project.

Christy Brown Archive

At the Bonhams (London) auction of 19th March 2014, the NLI acquired the archive of the Dublin-born writer and artist Christy Brown (1932-1981), author of the autobiographical work *My Left Foot* (1954), the novel *Down All the Days* (1970), and other works. The NLI purchased the archive jointly with the Little Museum of Dublin, and the acquisition was made possible thanks to the generous financial support provided by the Direct Medical company, Athlone. We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to Direct Medical.

The collection consists of correspondence, documents of family interest, artworks, photographs, literary typescripts and drafts, poetry, personal memorabilia, press cuttings, magazines, tapes, theatre programmes, books, diaries belonging to Mrs. Bridget Brown (the writer's mother), and other items. There is also some material relating to the film 'My Left Foot'. Catalogue records for the collection are now available through the NLI's online catalogue.

An exhibition 'Dear Christy', based on the archive, opened at the Little Museum of Dublin on 30th April 2015.

Decade of Commemorations Metadata Project - Manuscripts Collection

During 2014, a major project was undertaken to create metadata – detailed descriptive information - for collections of, or relating to, the seven Proclamation signatories with a view to making them accessible to the widest possible audience. This project aimed to facilitate access to the collections, promote knowledge of the collections and provide direct support to the Government's programme of centenary commemorations, including the lead-up to the centenary of the 1916 Rising.



The collections selected were catalogued at a summary level in the 1960s for inclusion in the 'Sources' catalogue. However, the summary descriptions did not give enough detail to allow researchers to identify relevant items within the collections. This meant that they had to view and search the entire collections for items of possible relevance. A key issue was also that the summary descriptions did not have the administrative or technical metadata in place which enables digitisation.

The project was outsourced and a team of 10 cataloguers worked in the Library for a period of six months under the direct supervision of staff in the NLI's Manuscripts Department. The project was planned and managed by NLI staff.

The project team exceeded all of their targets and additional material was added, including the Sir Hugh Lane Papers and certain photographic collections from the National Photographic Archive. Originally, the team expected to have 16,000 catalogue records, but 23,000 records were added in 2014. Once the material is digitised in full in 2015/2016, there will be over 90,000 images in the collection.

Leinster House: The NLI's First Home

The Dublin Science and Art Museum Act of 1877 established the National Library and National Museum. The National Library was based in Leinster House until 1890 when the present building, (along with the National Museum building) designed by the architectural practice of Thomas N. Deane and Son, was opened.

Exhibitions

Seven major exhibitions were staged by the NLI over the course of 2014, in three different locations:

- the main NLI building on Kildare Street, Dublin 2;
- the NLI's premises at 2/3 Kildare Street;
- and the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar.

These exhibitions were:

1. Yeats: The Life and Work of William Butler Yeats



The NLI houses the most extensive collection of WB Yeats papers, manuscripts, volumes and memorabilia in the world. These are showcased through innovative multimedia interfaces in this exhibition, which also charts the life of the renowned literary figure.

This exhibition at the NLI's main Kildare Street premises opened in 2006. It has won a number of awards at national and international levels, and has been described by The Irish Times as "one of the most important literary exhibitions yet staged internationally".

In 2014, the exhibition attracted 62,925 visits, a 9% increase from 2013.

2. The Dublin Lockout

This exhibition – based at 2/3 Kildare Street – was launched in August 2013, and ran until 27 October 2014.

A partnership between the NLI and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions' 1913 Commemoration Committee, it examined the background, events and aftermath of the 1913 Lockout, a seminal event in 20th century Irish history.

Original documents from the NLI collections, such as Jim Larkin's hastily scribbled advice to his union colleagues on the eve of 'Bloody Sunday' 1913, helped to bring the period to life.



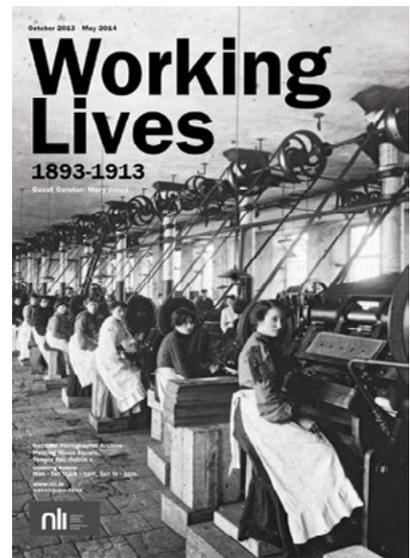
The exhibition was part of a wider programme of events to commemorate the Dublin Lockout – organised by various State bodies, cultural institutions and non-governmental organisations – as part of the Decade of Commemorations.

.....
There were 37,965 visits to the exhibition during 2014.
.....

3. Working Lives, 1893-1913

'Working Lives, 1893-1913' ran from October 2013 to May 2014 at the National Photographic Archive (NPA) in Temple Bar.

A collaboration with Arkhive Productions, curated by Mary Jones, it presented a selection of images from the Mason and Poole collections to exhibit the day-to-day life of industrial workers in Ireland over 100 years ago.



.....
From January to May 2014, the exhibition
attracted over 28,000 visitors
.....

4. DIT Graduate Photography 2014

This exhibition represented the culmination of four years of study, featuring the photographic projects of 15 final-year students from the BA Photography at Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT).

The exhibition ran at the NPA in Temple Bar, Dublin, from 31st May to 15th June 2014.

5. Belonging: Irish Queer Youth

A collaboration with BeLong To Youth Services enabled us to feature the exhibition “Belonging: Irish Queer Youth”, which ran from 21st June to 27th July 2014.

The exhibition, which grew out of the work of BeLongTo Youth Services, documented young people’s participation in Pride events, campaigns to end homophobic & transphobic bullying in Irish schools, advocacy work, political protests and actions, global solidarity work and portraits of the young people themselves.



Over 7,000 people visited the NPA over the duration of the exhibition

6. Shaped by History

‘Shaped by History’ ran at the NPA from 1st August 2014 to 5th January 2015. The exhibition consisted of 85 black and white photographs of Limerick Milk Market taken between 1971 and 1978 by the Limerick award winning social documentary photographer, Gerry Andrews. It was presented in collaboration with Limerick City of Culture, the Hunt Museum, Limerick Milk Market and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Gerry Andrews’ stunning images were evocative and challenging portrait studies of the community of merchants, traders and characters of Limerick’s historic quarter in the 1970s, during a period of transformation.



Pictured at the launch of ‘Shaped by History’ on 7th August 2014, were photographer, Gerry Andrews and Curator of the National Photographic Archive, Elizabeth Kirwan.

Almost 32,000 visitors saw “Shaped by History” during 2014.

7. World War Ireland: Exploring the Irish Experience

'World War Ireland' opened at the NLI on 20th November 2014, supported by funding from the British Embassy in Ireland. It focuses on the unique aspects of the Irish WWI experience, drawing on the NLI's collections of letters, diaries, recruiting posters newspaper reports, cartoons, handbills and leaflets dating from 1914-1918.

With original artefacts, first hand personal accounts and eyewitness testimony, World War Ireland brings visitors dramatically inside the lives of those who experienced WWI.



Pictured at the launch of 'World War Ireland: Exploring the Irish Experience' on 20th November 2014 were: Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD, and Sir Jack Leslie, nephew of Norman Leslie who is featured in the exhibition.

.....
More than 4,000 visitors saw the exhibition between 20th November
and 31st December 2014.
.....

Travelling Exhibitions: 2014

The NLI has a selection of exhibitions available in travelling format. These pull-up information banners are adaptations of former NLI exhibitions or themed explorations of material in our collections, ranging from the story of heraldry and the grants of arms, to Ireland's experience of WWI.

A full list of travelling exhibitions currently offered is available on [our website](#).

Travelling exhibitions continue to be popular with schools, county museums and libraries. 2014 saw an expansion in the number of locations that the NLI exhibitions travelled to.

'Gallant Sons' travelled to Donegal County Museum and Monaghan, Wexford and Wicklow County Libraries; 'Ireland from Maps' travelled to Ferns Castle; 'In Shield or Banner' went to Athlone Castle; 'LifeLines' went to Stratford College, Dublin; and 'The Past from the Press' went to Loreto College, Foxrock, Dublin, and Cork City Library.

First Work Prepared for Printing Press by Irishman

Maurice O'Fihely O.M. (Mauritius Hibernicus, "Flos Mundi"), theologian, author, and archbishop of Tuam (d. 1513), was famous as a student of Duns Scotus. He edited Scotus' 'Questiones subtilissime Scoti in metaphysicam Aristotelis' (Venice, 1497), the first work prepared for the printing press by an Irishman. This rare work is preserved in a volume in the NLI: LO LB 12.

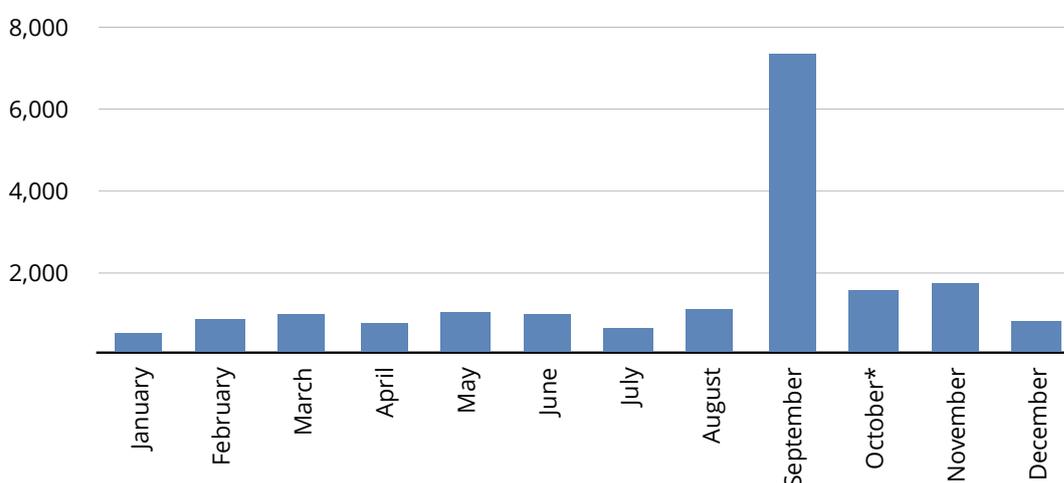
Events and Outreach

The NLI runs a programme of events on an ongoing basis, encompassing tours, workshops, lectures, genealogy events, performances and family-focused events. Events cater for all ages, and are run during the day, in the evenings and at weekends.

During 2014, 18,266 people attended events at the NLI. This includes 7,100 people who visited on Culture Night in September. The best-attended events (13,323 attendees in total) were those that took place in the evening-time, including lectures, discussions and performances. Public tours attracted 1,066 people to the NLI over the course of 2014, while a further 2,530 people took part in school tours / workshops and third-level visits.

The busiest month for events was September, when 7,350 people attended NLI events. This was followed by November (1,724 attendees at events) and October (1,553). The quietest month was January, when 511 people attended NLI events.

Month by month attendance stats, 2014



*960 Poetry Aloud regional event attendees not included in Oct figures.

Event Highlights

Some of the event highlights from 2014 were as follows:

Inaugural Joseph Hassett Yeats Lecture

Professor John Kelly, Emeritus Research Fellow in English, St John's College, Oxford, delivered the inaugural Joseph Hassett Yeats Lecture, on Friday, 20th June 2014, discussing Yeats and Heaney as 'National Poets'.

Professor Kelly is a distinguished Yeats scholar and general Editor of 'The Collected Letters of WB Yeats'. Joseph Hassett is a graduate of Harvard Law School and holds a PhD in Anglo Irish Literature from UCD. He is the author of 'W.B. Yeats and the Muses', published in 2010 by Oxford U.P. The NLI would like to acknowledge Joseph Hassett's support for this event.

Culture Night

The NLI welcomed thousands of visitors to the National Library for Culture Night, Friday, 19th September 2014. The NLI presented a programme of events, with activities for all ages, including public talks, exhibition tours, music and supper.

A special addition to the evening was a series of 30 minute "Walk and Talks" by award-winning social documentary photographer, Gerry Andrews, of his exhibition, 'Shaped by History' an exhibition of photographs taken at Limerick's Milk Market in the 1970s. These talks took place in the NPA in Temple Bar.



Face-painting at the National Library of Ireland's Culture Night

Words on the Street - European Literature Night

The NLI participated in 'Words on the Street,' on Thursday, 15th May 2014, an evening of celebrity readings of work by contemporary European authors. The NLI hosted the UK reading which was sponsored by the British Council. Writer Jon McGregor read extracts from his book 'Even the Dogs', which won the IMPAC Dublin Literature Award in 2012.

Noli Timere: Reflections on the life and work of Seamus Heaney

On Tuesday, 2nd December, Professor Michael Parker and Professor Stephen Regan, with Dr Esther Armstrong, presented a programme of readings of and commentaries on Heaney's poetry, as well as specially filmed interviews with Roy Foster and Bernard O'Donoghue.

The evening also incorporated extracts from Charlie McCarthy's documentary, 'Out of the Marvellous', produced by IceBox Films for RTÉ on the occasion of the poet's 70th birthday.



Prof. Michael Parker and Prof. Stephen Regan read at the Noli Timere event, December 2014

Twentyx20 genealogy lunchtime talks

In August, the NLI hosted Eneclann and Ancestor Network's programme of 'Twentyx20' lunchtime talks on Irish family history. A talk was held each weekday in August, consisting of a 20 minute introduction to a key area, essential source or genealogy research method, followed by a Q&A session with the expert. Talks were free of charge.

Hedge Schools

The NLI worked in partnership with History Ireland to offer a further series of 'Hedge Schools' on various topics in 2014.

Child Ballads

For the second year, a group of singers researched and performed a selection from the Child Ballads collection at the NLI over four Wednesday evenings. The series began with a talk by Jerry O'Reilly entitled, 'There was a Lord Who Lived in this Town - Early Classic Ballads in the Irish Song Tradition', which provided the background to the series.

This project is co-ordinated by Wexford artists Michael Fortune and Aileen Lambert, and funded by the Arts Council with support from the NLI, the Bealtaine Festival and the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA).



Grace Toland and Jim MacFarland at the Child Ballads performance in the NLI, 2014

Open Evening for Dublin City Councillors

On the evening of Monday, 30th June 2014, the NLI welcomed members of Dublin City Council to the Library for a tour and overview of the NLI's services, including information on accessing a library card and use of our reading rooms.



Dublin City Councillors Andrew Keegan, Sean Haughey, Ruairi McGinley and Kate O'Connell view archived election material at the NLI, June 2014.



Contributors at the World War I Roadshow in TCD, July 2014

The Decade of Commemorations

In 1916, the National Library of Ireland was at the centre of social and cultural life in Dublin. One member of staff was serving on the Western Front; one took part in the Easter Rising and was dismissed, later reinstated after the foundation of the State; one, a promising poet, tried to prevent looting in Dublin during the Rising and was accidentally shot and killed.

Just as it was centrally involved at the heart of that turbulent period, now, 100 years later, the NLI is a key organisation for the centenary events. The NLI is contributing to the countrywide conversation through a programme built around our unparalleled collections and our national significance.

Throughout 2014, the NLI was engaged in a series of events marking key moments of 1914, and planning for and building towards 2016.

Alongside our extensive digitisation project on the papers of the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation, the NLI partnered with UCD on the adult education course 'Uncovering 1916'; launched the exhibition 'World War Ireland' (which will run until 2018); and initiated a series of meetings with Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland to raise the profile of the NLI's major projects for this period.

We also joined with RTÉ, Trinity College Dublin and Century Ireland to put together a major 'World War I Roadshow' on Saturday, 12th July, 2014, to mark the outbreak of WWI. At the centre of the Roadshow was a community collecting day in the Examination Hall, run and managed by the NLI, supported by an internship programme with the Institute of Irish Studies at Liverpool University.

Building on similar events run over a number of years since 2012, families were invited to have personal items connected to WWI catalogued and digitised, and to tell their family stories about that war. More than 150 families brought photographs, letters, diaries, and objects that had been crafted in the trenches and in Prisoner of War camps, eager to recount their stories and have them added to a Europe-wide online archive, at www.europeana1914-1918.eu.

Over 10,000 visitors attended the lectures, performances and other events throughout the Trinity campus as part of the Roadshow, with the NLI playing a major role in this important commemorative event.

The NLI's Work with External Partners

Partnering with other bodies is key to maximising the reach and potential of the NLI. Working collaboratively allows the NLI to combine its particular strengths and expertise with those of its partner organisations, and 2014 was a very active year on this front.

In the online space, the NLI worked with the Digital Repository of Ireland on the Inspiring Ireland prototype platform, contributing expertise and digital content to the site which launched in March 2014 and which subsequently won three eGovernment Awards. The NLI collaborated with the Zurich James Joyce Foundation to make an important collection of material concerning James Joyce's work available online, and also supplied extensive digital content to Century Ireland, the online historical newspaper.



The NLI's programme for life-long learners continued to be enhanced by the ongoing partnership with UCD Adult Education, who provide a series of adult education courses drawing on the NLI's collections and delivered by UCD tutors in the NLI. The NLI were also research partners with the Arts Council of Ireland, The Irish Traditional Music Archive, Age and Opportunity and the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, on 'Man, Woman and Child', devised and co-ordinated by Michael Fortune.

For post-primary schools, the NLI worked closely with its partners Poetry Ireland to deliver the annual event Poetry Aloud, involving over 1,700 post primary students from all over Ireland. The national final took place on 4th December 2014 and brought 35 students from all over Ireland to the NLI. The winner, Megan Nar, from St Louis Secondary School, Monaghan, was presented with the perpetual trophy, the Seamus Heaney Poetry Aloud Award, by Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, one of the judges of the final. This was the first time in the history of the competition that the overall winner came from the junior category.



Megan Nar, Scion Flanagan and Cian Siggins pictured at the Poetry Aloud national finals, 4th December 2014

The exhibition programme was greatly enriched by the NLI's partner organisations throughout the year. 'World War Ireland' was generously supported with Foreign and Commonwealth Office Funding from the British Embassy in Ireland. At the National Photographic Archive, 'Working Lives' (working with Arkhive Productions) and 'Shaped by History' (with the Hunt Museum and the photographer Gerry Andrews) both ran very successfully. 2014 marked the bicentenary of the birth of Thomas Davis and the NLI partnered with the MPhil in Public History in Trinity College Dublin to produce a travelling exhibition which was displayed in Mallow during commemorative events there, and which subsequently travelled to local schools.

NLI Collections on Loan

The NLI lends collection items for temporary exhibitions in cultural institutions in Ireland and overseas. In 2014, material from the collections was loaned to 10 different exhibitions in Ireland, the UK and Germany.



"Poetry Aloud" participants pictured at the WWI Roadshow in TCD

Working with RTÉ and Trinity College Dublin, the NLI were key partners in a major World War I Roadshow in July [see page 20], and throughout 2014 the NLI continued to work with UCD as a key partner in developing a major Joyce-based visitor attraction at Newman House, following an invitation to tender which issued to specialist exhibition suppliers in December 2013. The NLI also participated as collaborative partners with a broad spectrum of significant national and cultural events and festivals, benefitting from the publicity and infrastructure associated with these. These included: Heritage Week; Bealtaine; the Adult Learner's Festival; One City One Book; Culture Night; and the St Patrick's Festival. Our ongoing partnership with History Ireland also continued, with a number of the popular Hedge School panel discussions hosted in our lecture theatre during the course of the year.

NLI Collaboration with the James Joyce Foundation, Zurich

In 1904, the year in which Joyce's 'Ulysses' is set, the National Library was at the centre of Dublin's cultural and intellectual life. One of the chapters of Joyce's epic novel – 'Scylla and Charybdis' – is actually set in the National Library's reading room and features the real-life librarians of the day, whom Joyce knew well. In addition to having provided a refuge for the young James Joyce at the outset of his intellectual and creative journey, the NLI houses an extraordinary collection of Joycean material, including Copy No.1 of 'Ulysses' - the first copy of the first edition of the novel, published in 1922.

With these long Joycean connections, the NLI was delighted to collaborate with the James Joyce Foundation in Zurich to host digitised versions of the James Joyce manuscripts which they own. The manuscripts were bequeathed to the Foundation in Zurich by Professor Hans E. Jahnke, the son of Giorgio Joyce's second wife, Dr. Asta Osterwalder Joyce (Giorgio was the only son of James Joyce and his wife, Nora). They include 90 letters by Joyce to his family – 42 of which relate to Joyce's last work, 'Finnegans Wake' – and 21 documents of drafts, fair copies and typescripts of poems. Digital versions of all of these materials are now available through the NLI's catalogue, at <http://catalogue.nli.ie>.

The Foundation approached the NLI to host these materials because of its expertise in digitising and making Joyce manuscripts available online. The NLI's collection of manuscript drafts for 'Ulysses', along with letters between Joyce and a number of correspondents, had already been digitised and could be viewed on the NLI's online catalogue.

The NLI's collaboration with the Zurich-based Foundation has opened the doors for those interested in James Joyce to easily access their materials online, for the purposes of research or private study, and offers the opportunity to explore both the NLI's and the Foundation's collections together, providing further insights into the mind of one of the most talented creative writers of the 20th century.



Supporting the NLI

Since its foundation in 1877, the National Library of Ireland has enjoyed great support in the form of financial and material donations, which have enabled it to become the world's leading repository for Ireland's history and heritage. Almost all of the NLI's services, public events and programmes are open to the public free of charge, and donation boxes are located throughout the NLI's buildings to help support the ongoing programme of work.

In addition, the National Library of Ireland Trust was established to facilitate the generosity of people who wish to endow the NLI by financial donation or bequest. The Trust is an approved body within the meaning of section 484 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 which, in effect, means that donations to the Trust are tax deductible, subject to certain conditions. Full details of conditions can be found on www.revenue.ie.

For further information about the Trust, please contact the National Library of Ireland by email to nlitrust@nli.ie or by phone at 00353-1-6030244.

Ireland's First Ever Symphony Uncovered in NLI

Parts of the first-known symphony composed in Ireland in the 19th century, previously thought to have been lost, were uncovered in the NLI in 2011 by RISM Ireland / DIT researchers during a scoping study of the NLI's uncatalogued music collection. The symphony was written in c.1816 by the French-born composer, Paul Alday, who lived in Dublin from 1805 until his death in 1835.

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The NLI gratefully acknowledges the generous support of its donors in 2014.

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