



## Library News & Events



### Arts days

The Library held an arts day on the 21<sup>st</sup> September. The day organised by Orna Farrell and Sinead Eccles involved the following events:

- Workshops on various online arts resources
- Library quiz
- Video recordings of students

The day was very successful with 100 students attending. Thanks also to Barnaby Taylor, Niall Hanlon, Ann Patton and James Bruton who also brought over their students to all of the above events.



### Borrowings up!

Library borrowings have increased by **12.5%** at the Undergraduate Library, Aungier Street and a whopping **40%** at the Postgraduate Library, Dame Street in comparison to this time last year. Statistics for Portobello Library are currently being compiled.

Thanks to all Library staff and to academic staff members for all their support. Particular thanks to Maria Rogers, the Postgraduate Librarian and her team Alex Kouker and Carmel Kilcullen for the significant increase in borrowings at the Postgraduate Library. Thanks also to the Postgraduate Library's evening and weekend staff.

To find out more about staff of the Postgraduate Library, please consult this month's staff profiles which are of Maria Rogers and Alex Kouker.



### Self issuing Stations

Currently 90 percent of all books at the Undergraduate Library are now issued on the newly acquired self issuing stations increasing from 70 percent at the start of term.

DBS Library is the first academic Library in Ireland to have a library site which is fully RFID enabled.

Thanks to the Reader Services Team: Emilie Jost, Colin O Keeffe and Gemma Callen for all their

efforts in promoting this convenient resource for students. Self issuing stations allow Library staff to assist students with their more complex research enquiries which have increased enormously over the last few years.

## Library Resources



### JSTOR

JSTOR is an interdisciplinary archive which provides full-text access to 1000 high quality full-text journals and other scholarly materials across a range of subject areas.

The Library is subscribing to collections III and IV which provides access to materials in law, the arts, psychology, education and business. To access lists of journals available in these collections, please click [here](#).

JSTOR is now available on campus and remotely via *Search all Resources* on the Library Website.

DBS is the first private college worldwide permitted to subscribe to the database. Thank you to Jane Buggle, Librarian Portobello for all her work in setting up this subscription. Thanks also to David Hughes for setting up access to the database both on and off campus.



### Ebsco's Integrated Search

The Library has set up a subscription to Ebsco's Integrated Search. It will replace Webfeat which is located under *Search all Resources* on the Library website.

Ebsco's Integrated Search allows more Library databases than Webfeat to be searched simultaneously; for example legal databases.

To see a preview of Ebsco's integrated search, please go to *Search all Resources* where it is currently housed. It will be launched in full imminently and will be accessible via *Search all Resources* as normal.

To find out more about Ebsco's Integrated Search, please click [here](#).

### Euromonitor's Passport GMID

The Library is offering a trial to Passport GMID which is an award-winning database allowing for in-depth research on established, emerging and developing global markets.

Research is available on 80 countries for FMCG consumer and service industries plus granular macro and micro economic countries and consumers data for 205 countries.

Key features and benefits include:

- 9+ million statistics on industries, countries and consumers
- 15,000 industry, company, country and consumer reports
- 12,000 company profiles and 8500 sector briefings
- 25,000 sources of further research information.
- Future demographic reports illustrating which consumer groups will expand, decline or disappear in the future and indicating which countries offer the best prospects for business.
- Comment on industry and global events making the news.
- Consumer lifestyle reports examining how people live their lives and factors influencing lifestyle choices. Topics include population segmentation, eating and drinking habits, income and expenditure.
- Strategy briefings revealing major and emerging trends in consumer behaviour which will have an impact on sales and marketing of all consumer products.
- Global risks and vulnerabilities analysis of opportunities and threats across 84 countries
- Data on 95% of global consumer spending.

To access this trial, please click [here](#). Thanks to David Hughes, Systems Librarian for setting up this trial.

## Book Reviews



Yalom, Irwin D.  
***Existential  
Psychotherapy***  
Basic Books, 1980

**Reviewed by Jane  
Buggle, Librarian,  
Portobello**

### **Portobello Library 616.89 YAL**

Existential psychotherapy is premised upon existential philosophy, expounded by Kierkegaard, Nietzsche and Sartre, which focuses on the meaninglessness and solitariness of the human condition. Although existential philosophies diverge at various points, all agree that it is incumbent upon individuals to take responsibility for their own actions and to shape their own destinies, thereby creating their own personal meaning.

The approach of existential psychotherapy emphasises the development of a sense of self-direction through choice, awareness and an acceptance of personal responsibility. Yalom builds on the foundations laid down by Rollo May, who is considered the father of the American existential psychotherapy movement, but diverges on May's acceptance of Freudianism.

Yalom addresses the four core existential concerns, death, freedom, isolation and meaninglessness, and the conflicts which arise from our confrontation

with each. He bases his findings on his clinical experiences and those

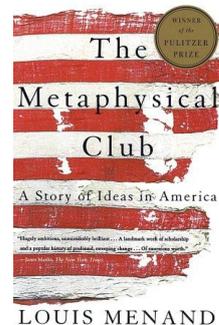
of other psychotherapists, existential philosophies and other writings as diverse as those of John Donne and John Fowles. The central thesis of the work is that the various existential angst may stymie us until we renounce them in order to accept our personal dynamic constructs of meaning and self-responsibility which will free us to live our lives and to grow.

He demonstrates the psychotherapeutic method through which the individual can affirm life, live in the present as fully as possible and accept the fact that "existence cannot be postponed" (p.161).

This is a very accessible and readable book and this differentiates it from the works of earlier existential psychotherapists such as Viktor Frankl. Here, the dialectic of existential psychotherapeutic thought is clearly outlined and augmented. Yalom has been accused by some critics of using religion to resolve existential conflicts as did Kierkegaard and Buber. While he accepts that religion may be the personal meaning to which some adhere, Yalom does not promote this adherence.

He concludes with his hope that the theories and methods which he has expounded in this book will prove to be "organic", that they will stimulate debate and further advance empirical research. This has indeed proven to be the case as theorists such as Schneider, Diamond and Heery continue to

drive forward the discourse on existential psychotherapy.



## The Metaphysical Club

Reviewed by  
David Hughes,  
Systems Librarian

### Aungier Street, 973.8 MEN

If, horror of horrors, the library ever caught fire and I was asked to retrieve some stock, then *The Metaphysical Club*, would be one of the few books I'd want to save and this is despite the book failing at its primary objective. Of course, I'd be far more inclined to save my miserable skin than run through smoke-filled stacks looking for books, but that does make for a good first sentence to introduce a book review.

The *Metaphysical Club* is ostensibly a history of the development of the philosophical concept of pragmatism (as a philosophical construct, pragmatism holds that something is "true" if it works in practice, that the meaning of a proposition is to be found in the practical consequences of its acceptance and that unpractical ideas should be rejected) outlined through the lives and works of four of its founding fathers, Oliver Wendell Holmes, William James, Charles Peirce and John Dewey. Menand offers biographies of each these

individuals, attempts to show how they are connected and how they were influenced by contemporary events and thinkers.

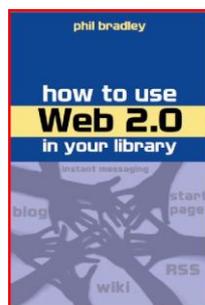
As such the book would be more accurately defined as a history of American culture and thought from the 1860's up to the Cold War era. Along the way he digresses into topics as diverse as evolution, statistics, forensic science, labour relations and a myriad of other subjects and it is these which make the book so entertaining to read. Sometimes however the digressions have more content than the main theme of the book; for example, around 10 pages are devoted to the philosophical views of Charles Peirce compared to around 30 pages on his father. The book has two flaws however: unfortunately, the Metaphysical Club of the title, a philosophical club that is supposed to link the four protagonists, only met for a few months in the year 1872 and is only featured briefly in the writings of Peirce and James. Thus, it would only have had a very minor, if indeed any role in the development of pragmatism. The second is more serious: Menand's central theme is that pragmatism arose as a consequence of the American Civil War and its influence on the thinkers of the time.

He certainly makes the case that the war had a profound influence on Oliver Wendell Holmes and informed Holmes' opinions as a jurist; his rulings and writings support the idea that it is better to pursue the case for an idea through debate and discussion rather than on the battlefield. However he presents no evidence (hence

perhaps the digressions) that the war affected the opinions of his other protagonists (indeed we are given no indication of the thoughts of the 5 year old John Dewey on the end of the war). The following quote, from the last chapter, is as much as Menand can do to link the four thinkers:

Holmes would never have called himself a pragmatist; he associated the term with a desire to smuggle religion back into modern thought with a pseudoscientific cover. But his belief that life is an experiment and that since we can never be certain we must tolerate dissent is consistent with everything that Peirce, James and Dewey wrote.

Forget the history of pragmatism and treat the book as a very entertaining insight into the development of 20<sup>th</sup> century American intellectual thought.



Bradley P, (2007). *How to use Web 2.0 in your Library*, London: Facet Publishing.

**Reviewed by Alex Kouker,**

**Aungier Street and Dame Street  
006.76024025 BRA**

The static web is a thing of the past: may it rest in peace. The

web's evolution is rapid and does not take any prisoners. Tech-savvy people know this and are well attuned to Web 2.0 even if they're not aware of the term itself. "Web 2.0" is usually associated with web applications facilitating interactive information sharing, interoperability and user-centred design. There are numerous examples out there, which young and old alike utilise on a daily basis. These include social networking sites (Facebook, Beebo), web applications (collaborative online spreadsheets, presentation tools etc.), Wikis (Wikipedia) and Blogs (DBS Library Blog <http://dbslibrary.blogspot.com/>) just to name a few. In essence, it's about collaboration on the World Wide Web.

The reason for all this virtual chatter and collaboration is the sharing of all sorts of information on all sorts of subjects. Information provision is the central theme of the library too (public, academic, special etc.). Nowadays, many libraries extend their provision of traditional information resources to the virtual realm where applicable (e.g. electronic journals). It is thus important for libraries to go one step further and appeal to the Web 2.0 generation to whom the physical library and static online resources may be invisible or simply not attractive enough.

This is where Phil Bradley's "How to use web 2.0 in your library" comes in handy. He provides a sound introduction to the concept of Web 2.0, and a practical guide how various Web 2.0 applications can be utilised effectively for libraries (RSS, Weblogs, podcasts, social bookmarking services,

instant messaging etc.). This is all very well, but the important bit is that not all Web 2.0 solutions are necessarily suitable for all libraries. Careful consideration must be given whether a particular service achieves the sought after objective (e.g. increase usage of library information resources etc.). Bradley takes note of this fact and provides useful case studies and examples to this end, which represents the core strength of his practical book.

For any librarian considering the use of Web 2.0 technology in his/her library, Bradley's how-to guide provides a sound entry point for getting started: a very useful little helper...

See also:

<http://philbradley.typepad.com/> -

BLOG

<http://www.philb.com/>

## Careers Corner



***What are your weaknesses?  
How to reply to this question in an interview:***  
by **Carol Clifford, Careers Advisor**

The interviewee perks up. She has prepared for this question and launches into her patter. She tells me that she is a perfectionist, she works too hard and stays too late after everyone else has gone

home. She cringes as she answers attempting to convey that this incredible work ethic and the inevitable dividends that it brings to those who employ her are things she is embarrassed to admit to, flaws that she should have ironed out years ago.

I don't believe in her perfectionism. I don't believe that she feels that hard work and attention to detail are weaknesses. I think she is lying and now I am wondering what else she has been lying about. Everything presumably. Suddenly the whole interview seems like one long performance that I have no intention of falling for.

It is natural to be reluctant to admit to a negative attribute in a situation where you are trying hard to impress but if asked this question you must own up to some kind of shortcoming. They are trying to see how much self awareness you have and to check that you are being candid.

The voice in your head telling you that it would be a mistake to admit to your laziness, tendency to fall out with employers and your complete inability to do the job you have applied for is your common sense. Listen to it. You mustn't volunteer anything that will automatically disqualify you from being hired. Rather you have to come up with a small and less important weakness and explain the steps that you are taking to conquer it. The best way to prepare for this question is to list out your real weaknesses, pick the not so serious ones and then think of ways that you could work to improve on this area.

Being a nervous public speaker is a good one as long as it is not a crucial part of the job. You can explain that you always volunteered to give presentations at college as you know that the only way to get over the nerves is to keep on getting up and doing it and that thorough preparation helps you to feel more confident on the day.

In an interview for a counselling role you could mention that when you worked in a telesales role one summer it was clear that you were not a salesman and that you were motivated by helping people rather than by making profits. You can explain that this experience was an important factor in your career path decision.

Telling them that you are more task oriented that detail oriented and that you use a to-do list everyday to ensure that nothing is forgotten allows you to highlight a strength at the same time as a weakness and to outline your strategy for preventing your weakness being an issue at work.

This question is not always asked but when it does come up it is almost impossible to answer it well unless you have thought about it in advance. Once you have an answer that you are comfortable with feel free to email it to [careersservice@dbs.ie](mailto:careersservice@dbs.ie) and I can let you know if it is safe to say to an interviewer.

## Staff Profiles



### **Maria Rogers, Postgraduate Librarian**

I hail from the grand metropolis of Mohill in the lovely County of Leitrim. On completion of six great years in Marian College, Mohill and after a wild summer working in New York, I embarked on a new adventure in the University of Limerick in the year 2000. In UL I did my best to study History, Politics and Social Studies whilst enjoying everything that the university campus had to offer. In my 2<sup>nd</sup> year, as part of UL's Cooperative Education Programme, I headed back up northwards to County Longford where I spent seven months working on the frontline of Longford's Public Library Service and so began my love affair with libraries.

After seven months of manning the library desk I needed a break and so I headed off to Canada for four months where I attended Wilfred Laurier University in Kitchener-Waterloo near Toronto, Ontario. On successfully completing my semester on that side off the Atlantic I returned to finish my final year in UL. I graduated in 2004 and with a dazed expression on my face wandered out to see what the world had to offer.

Initially I ended up living in Sligo and working in the Town Hall, arguing with people over parking fines and telling confused tourists that I couldn't, in fact, speak fluent Irish. After ten

months of living in the beautiful but somewhat soggy shadow of Benbulbin, I took a deep breath, packed my bags and headed for the Big Smoke. That was five years ago and I've been a Dublin girl ever since.

On landing in Dublin I tried out a job in the Finance Department of the VEC in Tallaght but got itchy feet after a couple of months and so decided to hang up my abacus for good and move back to the wonderful world of libraries. In 2005 I started work with An Chomhairle Leabharlanna where I had the opportunity to work on some exciting nationwide, public library e-initiatives such as the Learning Zone of the AskAboutIreland website (<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/learning-zone/>) and the launch of an online inter-library loan service called [www.borrowbooks.ie](http://www.borrowbooks.ie), for which I was the poster girl – don't ask!

After a year and a half with An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, I took another deep breath and returned to full-time education, this time in UCD, where I undertook a Masters in Library and Information Studies (MLIS). It was at this point in time that I serendipitously applied for a part-time library assistant position with Dublin Business School. The wonderful David Hughes thankfully took me in and showed me the ropes and throughout the year that followed I learned just as much about Library Management behind the desk of the Dame Street library as I did in the UCD classroom. I graduated in 2007 and continued working part-time with DBS library until the end of that year.

In January 2008, I began work as an Assistant Librarian with LK Shields law

firm, where I gained extensive experience and knowledge of legal research and information management in the corporate sector. Unfortunately, due to the economic downturn, my hours were reduced and so I left the firm in April 2009. I then started work on an interesting cataloguing project for the Oireachtas Library and Research Service in Leinster House, where I got to combine my historical knowledge from my undergraduate degree and my cataloguing skills. I spent five months getting down and dirty in the basement of Leinster House, researching, cataloguing and preserving 30,000 items in their historical collection as part of a large multidiscipline team.

Throughout this time, I always maintained my interest and friendship with DBS and so when the post of Postgraduate Librarian came up some months ago I jumped at the opportunity to return. Thankfully the team at DBS wanted me and so I returned as the full-time Postgraduate Librarian in September. Since then I have also begun teaching the Information Literacy module (a topic which I focused my MLIS dissertation on), on the MSc in Information and Library Management which began in DBS this September. So in all, it's been a very busy couple of months but I'm very glad to be back in the DBS fold.

By the way, if you're still reading you may like to know that in my free-time I like to sleep, eat and go to the theatre and the cinema. And I like to read as well, of course... I am a Librarian after all!



**Alex Kouker,  
Library Assistant,  
Postgraduate Library**

I was born in Aldekerk in the state of North Rhine Westphalia, a tiny outpost on Germany's western border with Holland. Not a single mountain or hill anywhere near or far; the area is simply a flat, green canvas broken up by the odd patch of woodland. This most exciting landscape is held together by a dizzying network of dedicated cycle paths, the sole purpose of which, I'm convinced, is to admire the millions of cows and sheep lazily grazing in the fields visible from any angle whilst cycling along. Venlo (a 25 minute cycle across the border) is a lovely little town on the river Maas with great architectural and social character: a destination of choice for many German tourists.

One day (a good while ago that was), I left this utopia for Dublin. The plan was to get away from the humdrum of the countryside for a while, experience something different and gain some new perspectives. Somehow the trip extended from a twelve months' stint into a 12 year permanent stay at this stage. Whilst here, I killed time by completing a part-time degree in Media and Marketing Studies at DBS and a Master in Library and Information Science from UCD. Over the years, I worked in different jobs around Dublin primarily as assistant bookshop manager in the Blanchardstown Bookstore (Blanchardstown) and

Scholar Bookshop (Swords). I also spent some time at Microsoft as a corporate trainer, and helped out as a tutor in the library and information studies department at UCD. I currently work in the DBS Dame Street library and at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

My favourite activities when off duty include: socialising, current affairs, fiction and non-fiction books, hiking, and the most pleasurable pursuit of all (and I'm sure many would agree with me on this) – sleeping.