

# Library Newsletter

July 2009

## Library News & Events



### Opening Hours

The Undergraduate Library at Aungier Street and the Law and Postgraduate Library at Dame Street will be closed on Monday August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Both libraries will re-open at 9.30 on Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Aungier St building will remain open Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from 8 am until 6 pm should students wish to use classrooms for study.

Please note that the Library is now open until 10pm four evenings per week all year round.

### Newly merged Postgraduate and Law Library

The Postgraduate Library at Dame Street has been extended to accommodate the Library at Portobello.

Jane Buggle and Joan Colvin join Carmel Kilcullen to manage and develop this newly merged facility.

Jane will now head up the Postgraduate and Law Library and is also the Deputy Librarian overall whilst Joan Colvin is Assistant Librarian for the Postgraduate and Law Library.

Emilie Jost now joins Colin O Keeffe and Gemma Callen on the Reader Services Team at Aungier Street to assist with the expansion of reader services and will head up reader services at both sites.

Thank you to Jane Buggle, Joan Colvin, Alexander Kouker, Colin O Keeffe, David Hughes and the work experience staff for all their work during this merge. Thanks also to Tony Kenny and his staff for all their hard work.



### RFID: A First for DBS Library

The Undergraduate Library at Aungier Street is the first fully RFID enabled academic library in Ireland.

The entire collection at the Undergraduate Library some 30,000 items have been tagged since May 2009.

This technology allows students to independently issue and return

multiple books to their library accounts.

A promotional campaign targeted at Library users will get under way imminently.

Libraries using RFID technology have reported significant increases in the number of library materials borrowed due to the ease with which students can issue library materials to themselves.

Other benefits include increased customer and staff satisfaction, staff time being freed up to assist students with their research enquiries as well as reduced library expenditure. Please see link below for specific case studies:

[http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en\\_US/library/home/resources/case\\_studies/](http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/library/home/resources/case_studies/)

Thank you to Laura Rooney and David Hughes who project managed this transition. Thanks also to work experience staff in the Library.

Instant messaging (IM) represents a new and effective way for library staff to connect with the College's student population. For example: a recent survey of more than 27,000 undergraduates established that approximately half of 18-24 year olds use IM either daily or at least several times per week (Salaway et al. 2008).

Introducing a virtual reference service or instant messaging service is therefore a beneficial step in developing a user-centred library service.

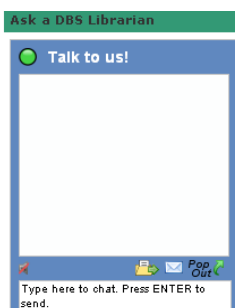
If you're wondering what a virtual reference service is and how it works? Simply take 2 minutes and check out our *Ask a DBS Librarian* "widget" at <http://dbslibrary.blogspot.com>. It's an easy and constructive way to get in touch with your library.

Reference:

Salaway, G., Caruso, J.B., Nelson, M.R. and Ellison, N.B. (2008), "The ECAR study of undergraduates and information technology, 2008", available at: [www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ERS0808/RS/ERS0808w.pdf](http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ERS0808/RS/ERS0808w.pdf)

Many thanks to Alex: for all his hard work on this service.

## Resources Update



**Ask a  
DBS  
Librarian:  
Instant  
Messaging  
Service**

**By: Alexander Kouker, Law and Postgraduate Library**

## Delicious.com

DBS Library is now on delicious.com. This site lists internet sites recommended by DBS librarians.

Recommended sites include: Intute; the Critical Skills Appraisal Programme and much more. Many thanks to: Laura Rooney for developing and maintaining this site. To access this site please go to:

<http://delicious.com/DBSLibrary>

## Mintel



Mintel Ireland has released their flagship report: Irish Lifestyles. This year's theme is

"Restoring confidence in the Irish consumer".

To access this report go to **show my reports** section on Mintel Oxygen. To access Mintel: please go to **search all resources** on the Library Website.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Gateway

<http://www.thegateway.org/> -

This website provides access to:

- Access to over 50,000 learning resources
- Learning resources from NASA, PBS, National Science Foundation and over 700 other contributing education content providers
- Access to 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching tools, assessments and professional development
- Access to the achievement standards network, a digitized version of core academic standards

## Virtual Training Suite



Virtual Training Suite is a set of free internet tutorials which aims to develop internet research skill. All of the tutorials are written and reviewed by a national team of lecturers and librarians from universities across the UK.

The interactive, teach-yourself tutorials take around an hour to complete. It is possible to work through the material in your own time at your own pace. Tutorials are available across all subject areas.

### Recommended Titles

#### Corporate Governance and Regulation

Editors: Keane, Ronan and O'Neill, Ailbhe

Dublin: Round Hall, 2009

Dame Street Library: 346.066417 KEA

**Reviewed by Jane Buggle: Head of Postgraduate and Law Library**

The contributors to Corporate Governance and Regulation: an Irish Perspective are authorities in the field. For example, Ronan Keane spent time as both Chief Justice of Ireland and as

the President of the Law Reform Commission. His seminal Company Law is now in its fourth edition. Thomas Courtney has written the authoritative textbook on the law of private companies and is chairman of the Company Law Review Group.

This is a very timely book in the context of the worldwide recession and, in particular, of the global banking crisis.

The earlier presages of the Enron and Parmalat scandals had already suggested that standards of corporate governance were not being adhered to and, indeed, our worst fears have come to pass.

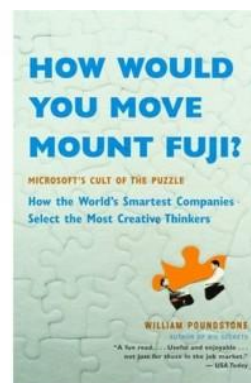
The publication of the proposed Companies Consolidation and Reform Bill is anticipated in late December 2009. There can be little doubt that we are facing into a period of stringent corporate regulation.

Irish company law is based on the English model which treats the public limited company as the norm, though this is not the case in Ireland. Thus, reform of Irish company law has been outstanding for some time. Issues of corporate governance are of higher import to public limited companies which must answer to their shareholders than they are to private limited companies. However, private companies have significant impact on the Irish economy and how they conduct themselves is consequential to their customers and creditors alike.

The book analyses key topics such as auditors' duties, analysis of directors' compliance statements, the role of the board in a takeover bid and the enforcement of company law against directors. Its aim is to broaden the

debate in these crucial areas of Irish company law in order to avoid potential over reaction in the reform of the legal rules and norms according to which Irish companies are currently managed and controlled.

This book is recommended reading for legal and economic academics, practitioners and students.



**How  
would  
you move  
Mt. Fuji?:**

**Microsoft's cult of the puzzle:  
how the world's smartest  
companies select the most  
creative thinkers**

By: William Poundstone.

Dame Street Library: 658.3112 POU

**Reviewed by: David Hughes, Systems Librarian**

*Four people must cross a rickety footbridge at night. Many planks are missing and the bridge can only hold two people at a time (any more than two and the bridge collapses). The travellers must use a flashlight to guide their steps otherwise they're sure to step through a missing space and fall to their death. There is only one flashlight. The four people travel at different speeds. Adam can cross the bridge in one minute; Larry in two minutes; Edge takes five minutes and*

*the slowest person, Bono, needs 10 minutes. The bridge is going to collapse in exactly 17 minutes. How can all four people cross the bridge?*

Until recently, this was indicative of the type of question asked of prospective employees interviewing for positions at Microsoft (questions have recently become more technical).

In this short, slight, but reasonably entertaining book, William Poundstone looks at the rise of the puzzle interview (in which the applicant is asked brainteasers such as the above) through its popularisation by Microsoft and adoption by other hi-tech companies and those of Wall Street.

Along the way, Mr. Poundstone touches upon the rise and fall of the IQ test (and the utility of intelligence quotient measuring in general), the fallibility of the traditional job interview, Microsoft corporate culture and gives his own views on how companies ought to interview.

Unfortunately the book is somewhat of a curate's egg. While the non-puzzle material is engaging and the book has a little of note to say about improving hiring methods, too much emphasis is placed on the puzzles themselves; the main text of the book covers 149 of the book's 277 pages with the majority of the remaining pages devoted to providing (far too) detailed answers to the puzzles and interview questions scattered throughout the text.

As an example, if the interested reader has tried and failed to answer the puzzle above, a detailed exposition of the solution can be found on pp 219-223. Potential readers attracted to

the employee selection aspects of the book should not be too interested in say, the design of a bathroom for Bill Gates (pp 179-182), while puzzle fiends and those seeking an insight into puzzle interview questions and their answers may find the human resource management-related sections quite dull.

Now that Microsoft has moved away from the puzzle interview, other companies are sure to follow, rendering the book more of historical than current interest.

## LIBRARY TRIVIA

### Librarians in Film

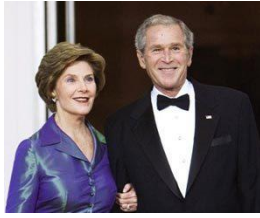
#### It's a Wonderful Life



George Bailey (played by Jimmy Stewart) is suicidal. His guardian angel, Clarence (Mitchell), shows him how his town, family, and friends would turn out if he had never been born.

In this alternative depiction of this life his vivacious wife Mary (Reed) has become a timid spinster librarian! Although the film has become a much loved Christmas classic, it unfortunately reinforces the classic stereotype of Librarians!

## Famous Librarians



### Laura Bush

Before marrying a fellow named George, Laura worked at the Houston Public Library and was the librarian at Austin's Dawson Elementary School.

## Quotes about Libraries

*'Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.'*

### Broadcaster Walter Cronkite

## Famous Libraries



### New York Public Library <http://nypl.org/>

Founded in 1911 New York Public Library has 83 branch libraries augmented by bookmobiles and contains more than 10,000,000 books. It ranks as one of the great knowledge repositories of the world. Apart from a research function, NYPL has substantial special collections including rare books and manuscripts from the 15th to the 20th century. The Library also houses the papers of American authors in the Manuscripts and Archives Division.

## Update from Carol Clifford, Careers Advisor

The class of 2009 have graduated into an uncertain job market and with this in mind the careers office has produced a series of student guides to offer advice on how to adapt the job search to meet the new challenges.

The idea behind the guides is that the techniques that work in a boom will not be effective in an economic downturn and those who are successful will be the job seekers who know how to adapt their approach to the current economic climate.

The series includes 'Tips for Job Hunting in a Recession', 'Effective Networking' and 'Preparing for a Job Interview'. More titles will follow.

The guides can be found outside the Careers Office at the Aungier Street library.

## Staff Profile



### Kellie Griffiths International Admissions Officer

Kellie Griffith has worked at DBS for just over 4 years. She was originally employed on reception in the postgraduate building at Dame Street. She subsequently moved to Aungier Street reception before accepting a job with the

International Department in  
December 2008.

Whilst in the International Office, Kellie has worked in student services and is currently working in international admissions.

Originally from England, Kellie moved to Dublin in 2003 for 'a change of scenery' she says. This change was intended to last for 6 months but 'has lasted for over 6 years!'

Prior to working at DBS Kellie worked in Dublin, Kildare and also spent a year in Cork.

Kellie is currently studying for a BA (hons) in Business with Psychology at DBS. This September she will enter the final year of her studies. Kellie says that she 'can't wait to graduate' so that she has more time to travel.

In her spare time Kellie likes to cook and spend time with friends 'who I force to try my culinary creations!' she says. She enjoys going to the movies and 'watching TV series box sets back to back with lots of popcorn.' 'I spend lots of time' she says driving my slightly battered VW Golf around Ireland, finding new places to watch the world go by. '

Kellie loves to travel when she has 'the time and the funds'. So far she has spent time in Europe, Africa and the States. In the future she says 'I want to visit India, Asia and Australia, and also see more of America and Canada.'