

Refurbishing, extending, recreating, and renewing the Boole Library at UCC.



9 April 2008

Seamus McMahon (s.mcmahon@ucc.ie)

Key Library service facts

- Space occupied: 18,000m²
- Total annual budget: €8,500,000
- Staff: 132
- Reader places: 2,950
- Visits per year: 1,200,000
- Registered clients: 20,000
- Items loaned each year: 400,000
- Print collections: 1,000,000 items
- Electronic books: 300,000 titles
- Serials: 25,000 titles

- UCC Library is an Irish legal deposit library

New postgraduate Research Library goals

- More space for students and books
- IT Infrastructure.
- Secure, environmentally controlled areas.
- Support new forms of learning
 - Group study
 - Social spaces
 - Teaching rooms
- Quality finish: a place students would choose to be.
- Research support



Project Schedule

2003: approval and feasibility

2004: schematic design and planning

June 2005: construction commences

June 2007: refurbishment commences

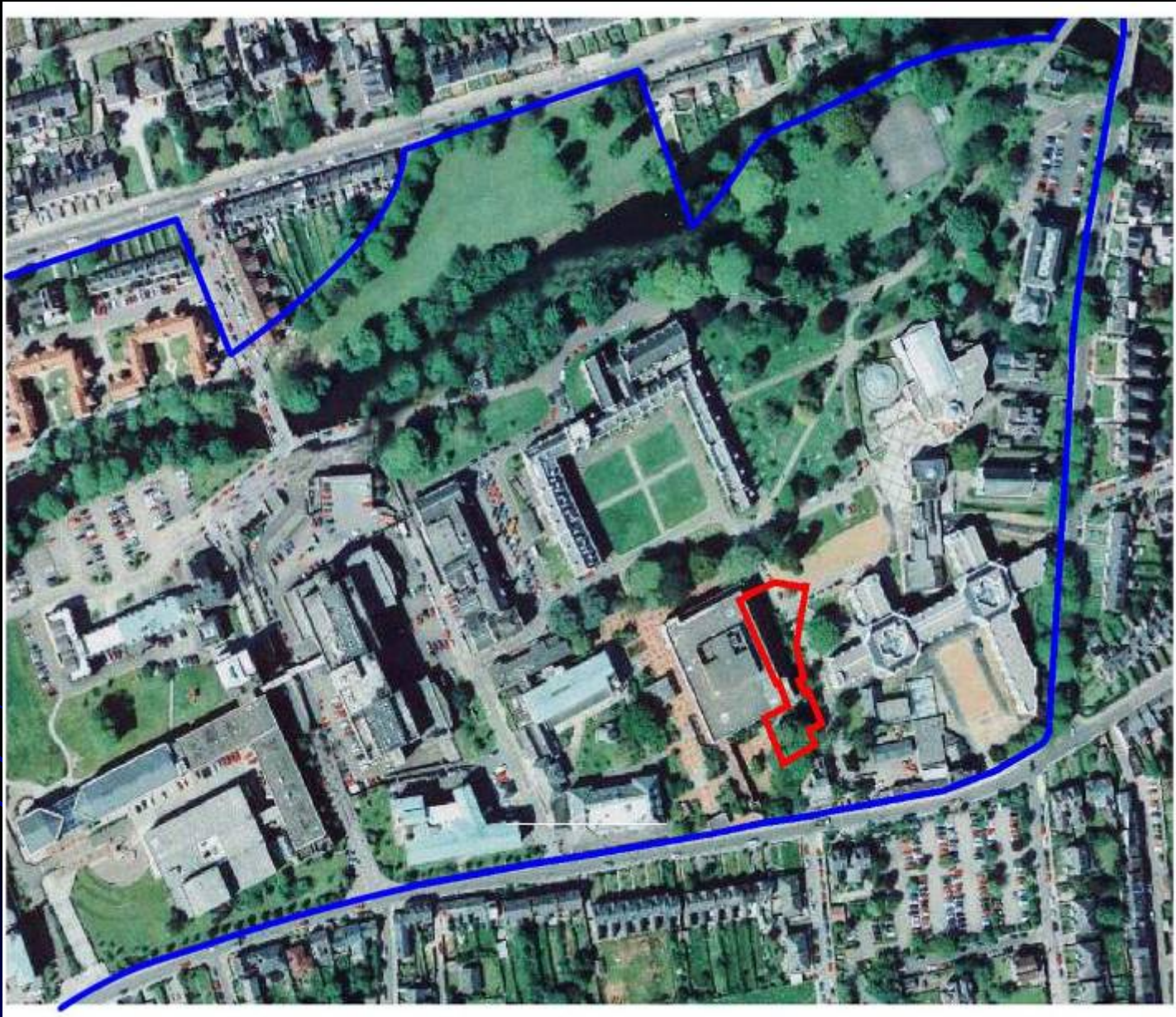
October 2007: handover

• *Jan 2008: official opening*



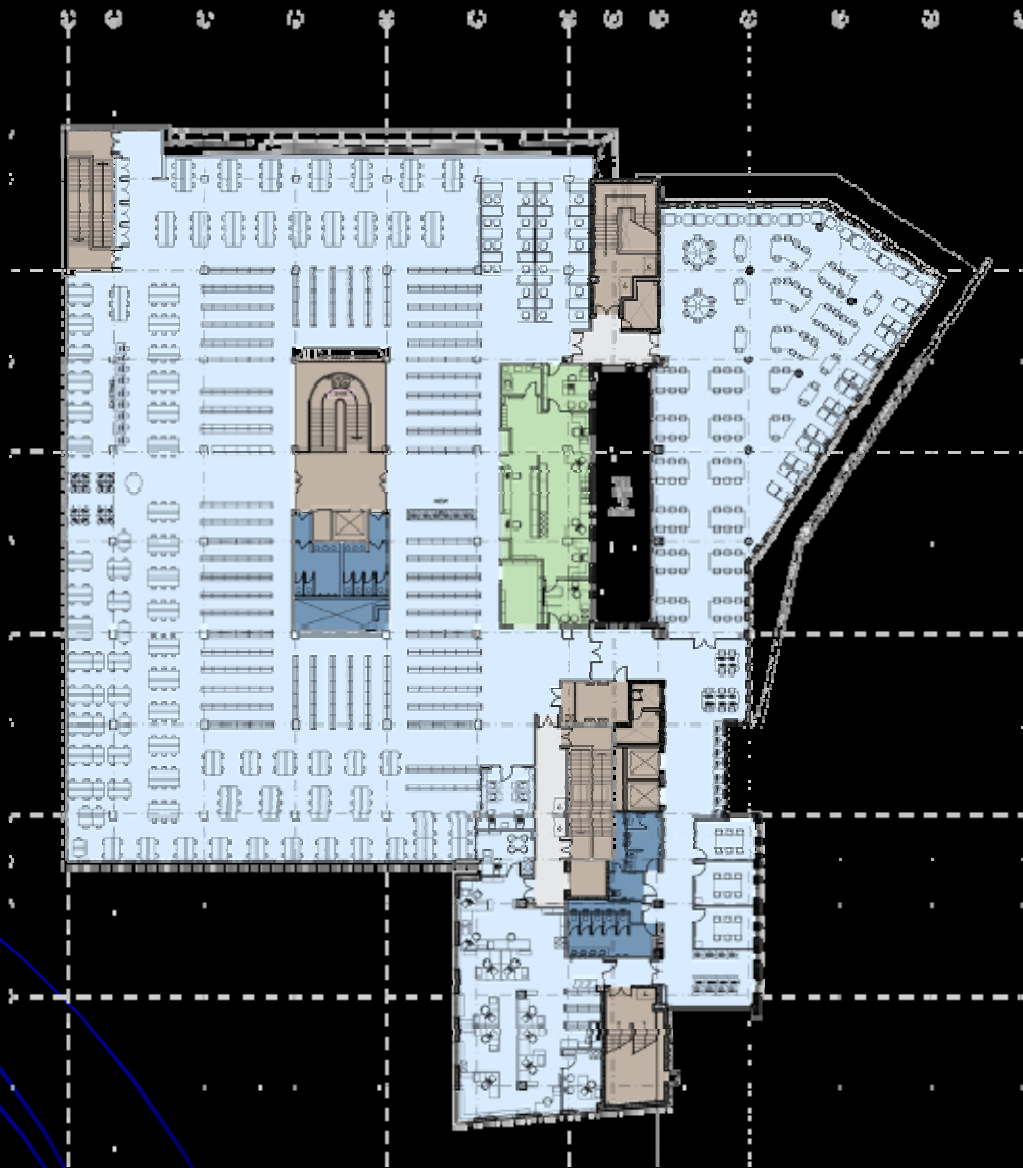
SCHEME SUMMARY

	Area	Seating		General Collections Shelving			Special Collections Shelving			
				Conventional			Conventional		Compact	
	m ²	Reader Places	% Expansion	Linear Meters	DFS	% Expansion	Linear Meters	DFS	Linear Meters	% Expansion
Existing Building	9701	1,722	---	11,562	1022	---	3,884	347	0	---
Extension	5948	760	---	2686	245	---	0	0	7,769	---
Total Building	15,649	2482	61%	14,248	1267	23%	3,884	347	7,769	100%



9 April 2008

Seamus McMahon (s.mcmahon@ucc.ie)



Materials

- Use of indigenous Cork red sandstone.
- Contrast with limestone.
- Copper.
- Glass.
- Mature trees.



New atrium

- Old building has history of sick building syndrome.
- Atrium – light and ventilation.
- Students and staff close to sources of natural light.



Management of Project

- Consultation with stakeholders (staff and students).
- Involvement of staff in designing their own areas
- Library management attendance at design team meetings.
- Dedicated Project Officer
- Presentations/publicity



Building Project Liaison Group

- Regular consultation with stakeholders
- Students, Library staff, Project staff , and Builders.
- Dissemination of information.
- Pre-empted complaints about disruption to services
- Assisted in coordination of day to day management.

Refurbishment

- Integral part of a reconfigured service.
- Information desks were relocated into refurbished areas.
- Final refurbishment of total existing library at end of Project.
- Opportunity to invert floors.
- Massive logistical challenge.
- Result is a single complex.

Some issues

- Hardwire versus wireless?
- Private offices for subject Librarians?
- Number of information points?
- Future requirement of shelving for periodicals.
- Where to put Technical Services?
- Library administration?
- Group study rooms?

Flexible IT infrastructure

- Early decision not to flood new building with desktop PCs.
- Full wireless access through building. Also hardwired for power and data.
- Proximity access at entrance.
- More self-issue machines and new mechanical book sorter.
- Upgrade of multi-media area with high end equipment.
- Digital signage.
- RFID open reserve.



Working with SBRA and Wilson architecture

- SBRA have experience in building libraries. Great advantage in detailed planning stage. Dialogue with Library staff using same language.
- Cultural differences. Video conferencing not recommended for sensitive discussions.
- Library study tours important in establishing relationships.



Working relationships

- Opportunity to articulate shared vision of future in statement of requirements.
- Consultation mechanism for each section with Library management, external project management and architect. Formal and recorded.
- Private sector deadlines were a challenge.
- Staff were asked to sign off on what they had agreed.

Lessons learnt

- Identify clear service objectives through consultation with stakeholders.
- Invite managers to sign off.
- Attention to detail is important.
- A thorough consultative process pays off.
- Keep an eye towards the future by insisting on flexible spaces. Repeat this.
- Do not take anything for granted. Keep asking questions.





Áras Uí Rathaille
O'Rahilly Building
Bialanna na Foirne/Mac Léinn
Student/Staff Restaurant
Áras na Mac Léinn
Student Centre
Séipéal Uí Ónáin
Honan Chapel

9 April 2008

Seamus McMahon (s.mcmahon@ucc.ie)