



Space as a Service

Collaborative, creative and community spaces in the new
library at the University of Limerick

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Leabharlann Glucksman
Glucksman Library



Today's presentation



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University of Limerick (UL) overview

50 years old

Total Staff 2000

Total Students 18000

25% postgraduates

64% regional

42% from disadvantaged/below average areas

11.6% International

THE Ranking 401-500



About UL Library

Number of seats	2,200
Total floor area	16,608 sqm
Library staff	53.6 FTE
Print book stock	467,000
ebooks	484,000
eJournals	60,000

New library building

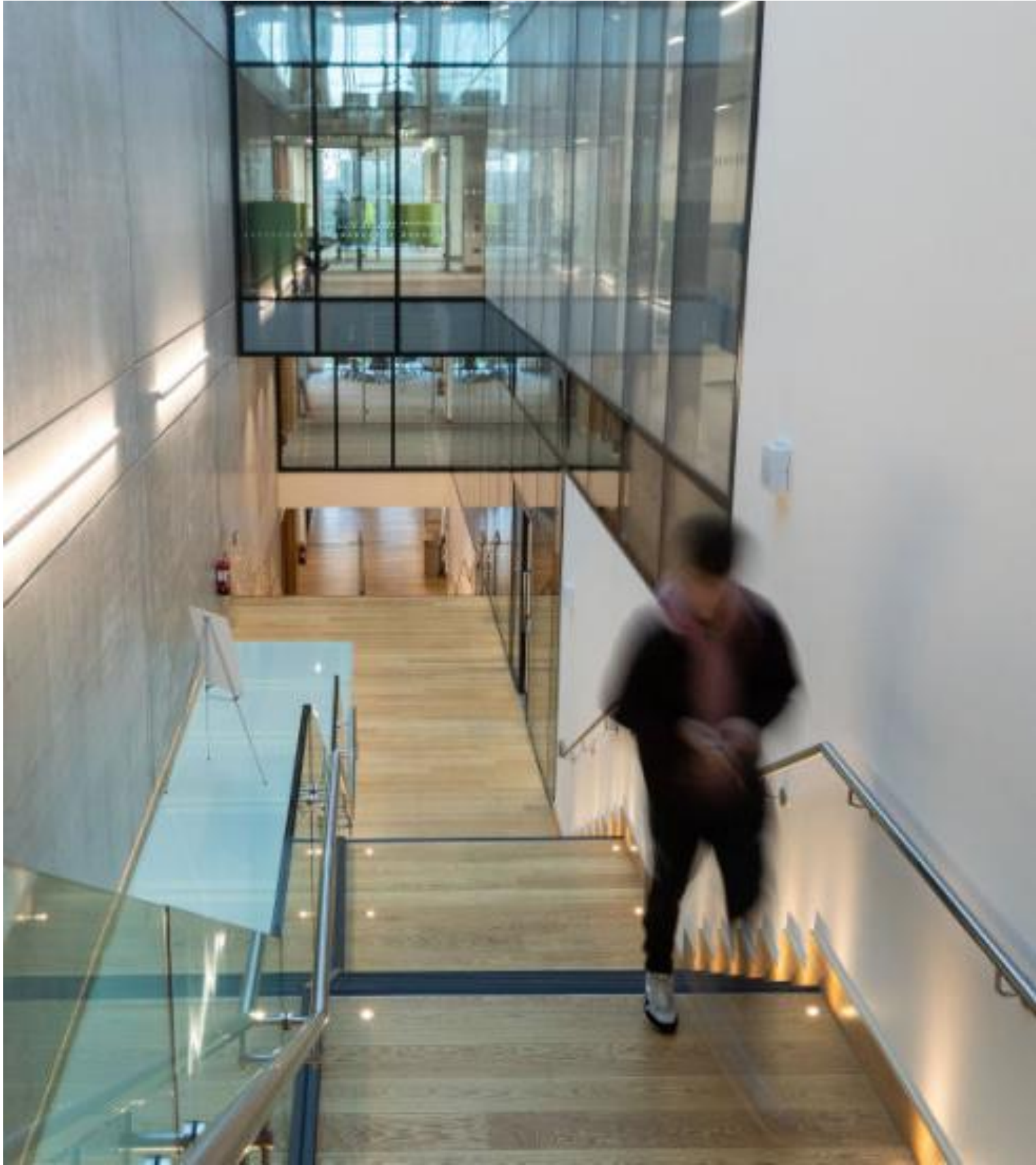
€31M in 2018

Architects

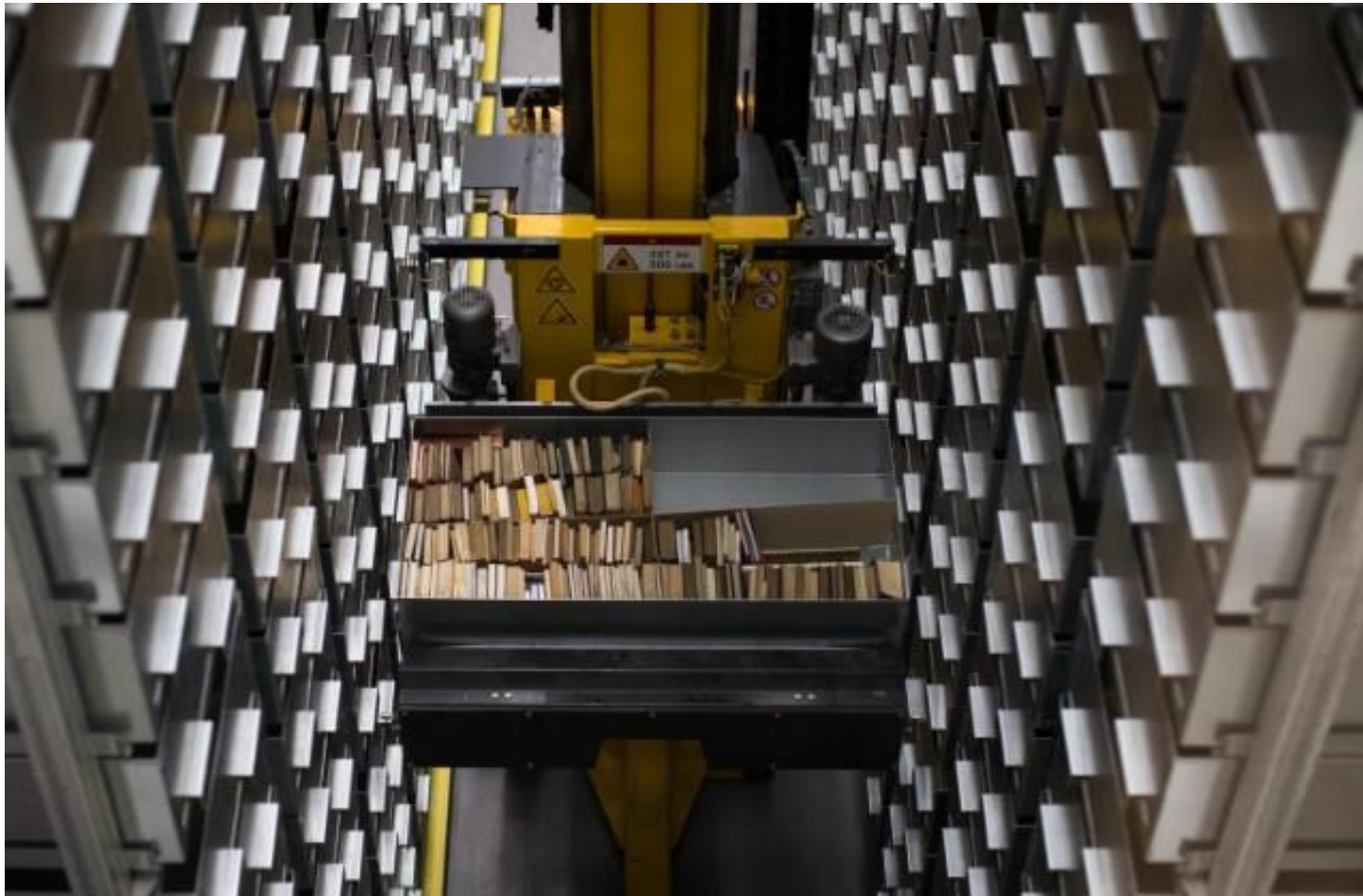
RKD 2018, RMJM 2010, Shepley

Bulfinch 2006, MOLA 1998





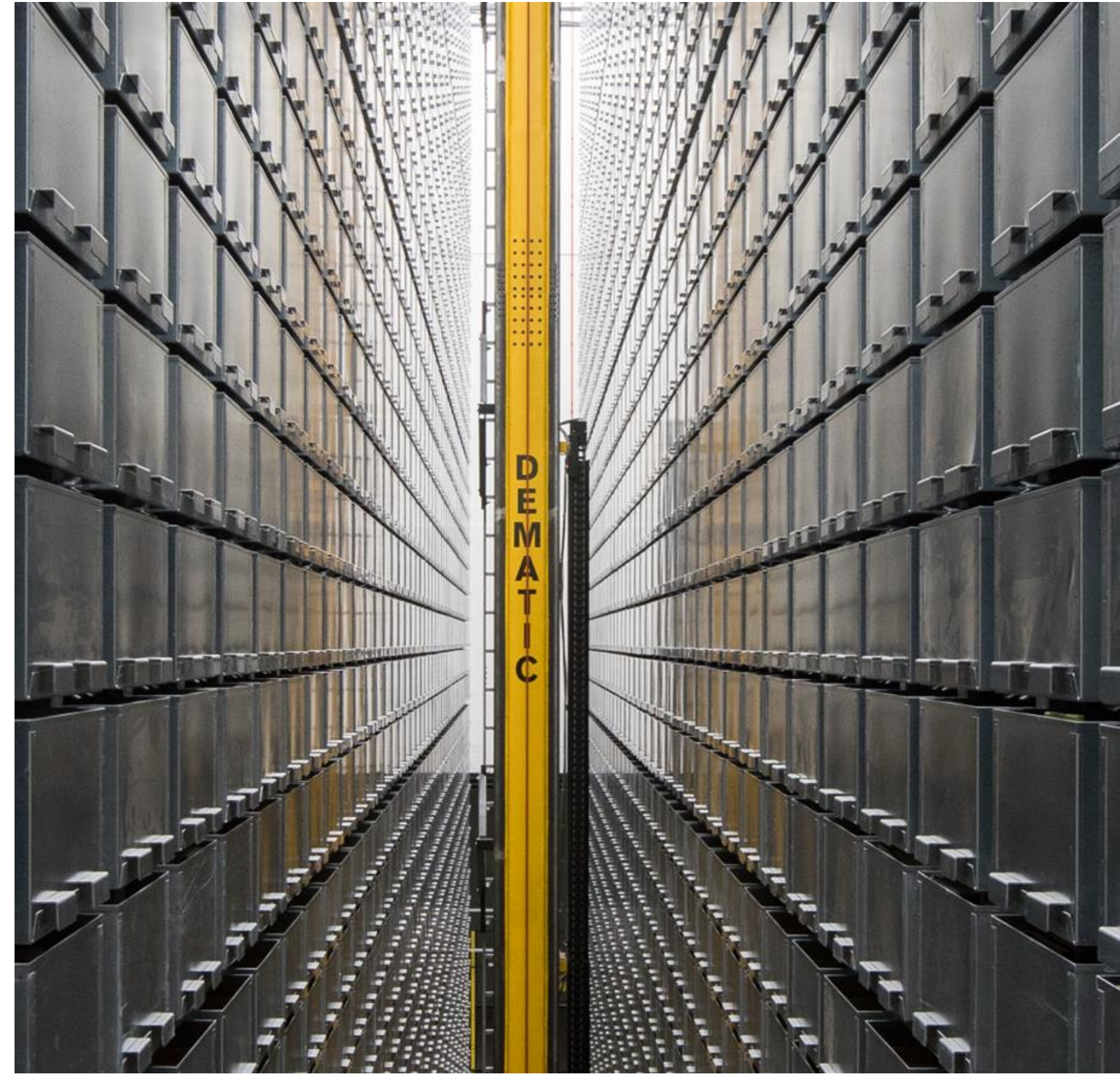
Automated Storage & Retrieval System



ASRS vault = 16.4 x 35.5 x 4.6 metres

Capacity = .5M books

6% of total building costs



2 minute video

Space as a service

Treat library space as a service, making clear to the community and partners that the availability of various shared, freely available in-person resources, spaces, tools and materials, is a unique part of the library's value

(2021 OCLC report New Model Library: Pandemic Effects and Library Directions)

Space that supports people coming together for different purposes

- Individual study
- Group work
- Digital creation
- Culture & community



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Strategic context

Digital age

Declining focus on print = reimagining spaces

Teaching is changing

Assessment is changing

Societal drivers



General spaces

Quiet study

Breakout spaces

Digital scholarship space

Postgraduate reading room

Faculty reading rooms

Special Collections reading room

Exhibition room

Bookable spaces

21 student group rooms

4 faculty group rooms

4 flexible meeting/training rooms

2 PC training rooms

2 large audience event spaces

3 demo/exhibition spaces

Oasis of calm

Spaces for quiet, individual work











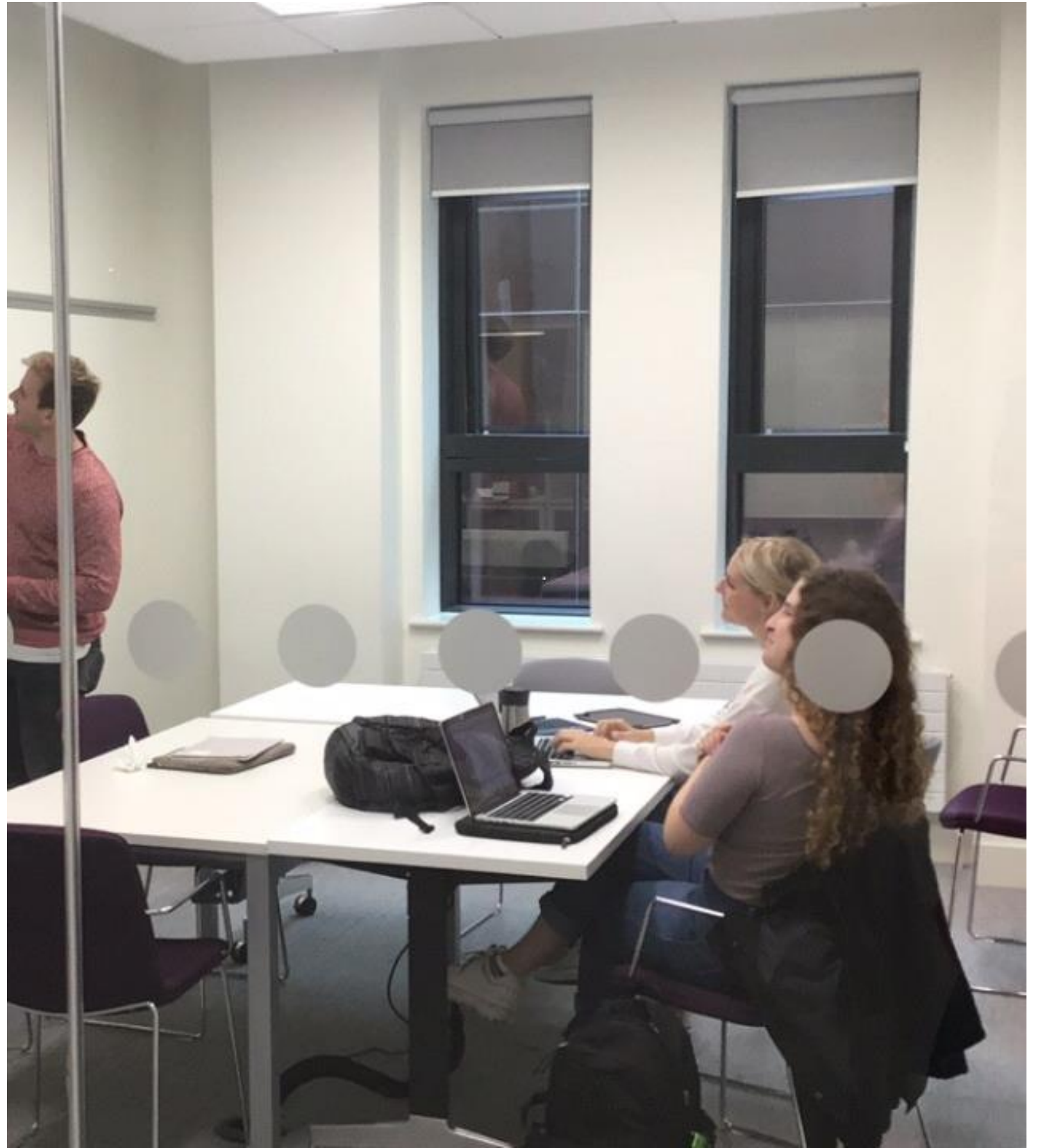


Hive of activity

Spaces for groups to work together







Digital hub

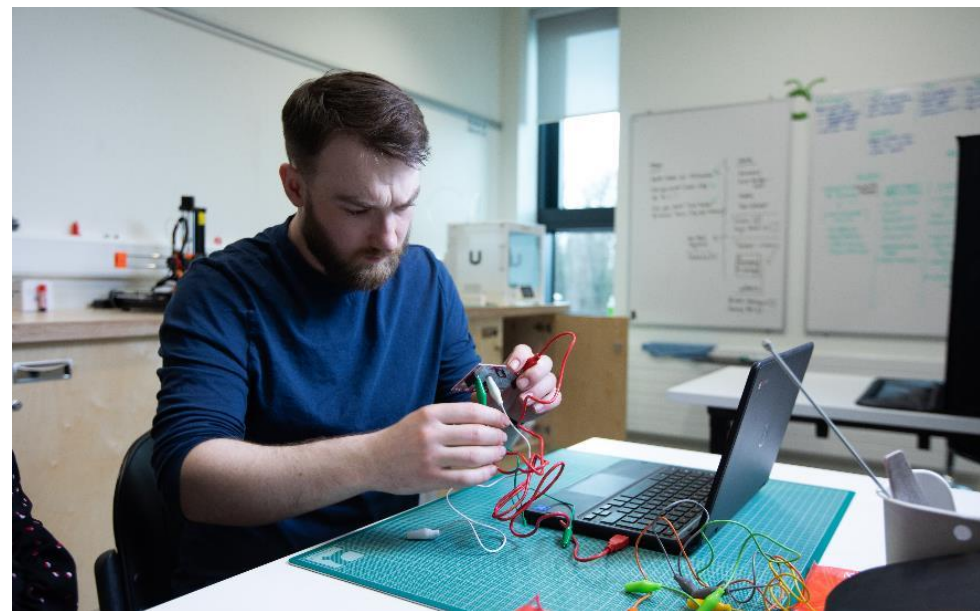
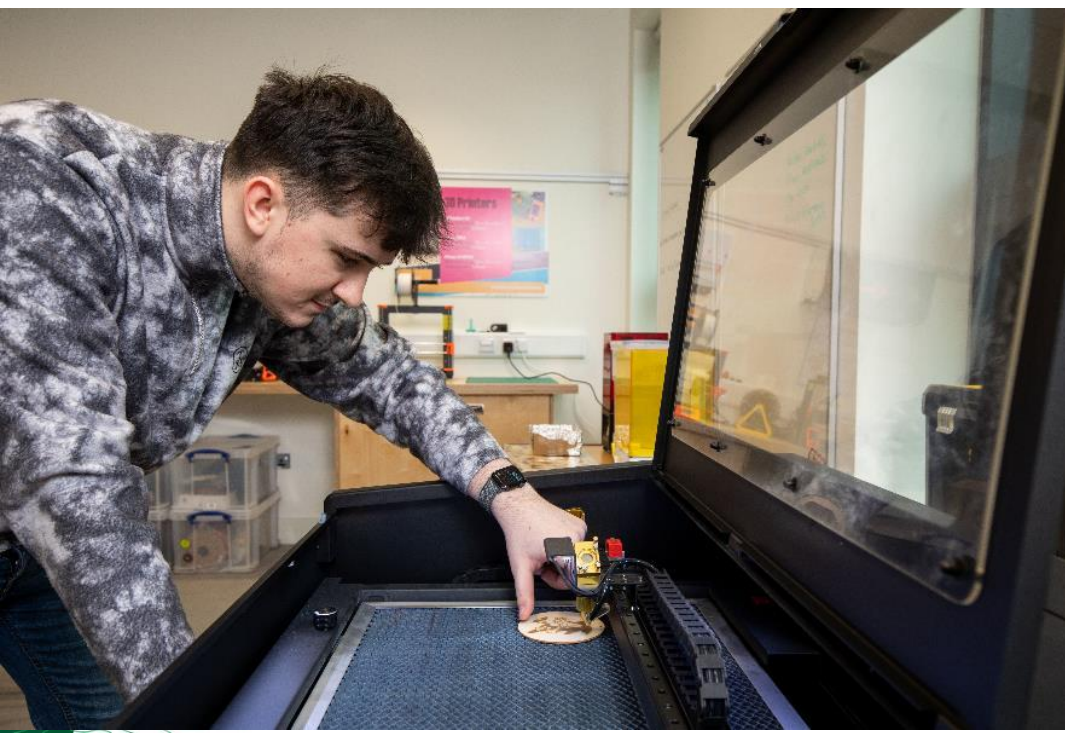
Spaces for digital creation & technology-enhanced learning

The Edge@UL Library

Digital scholarship hub



The Makerspace





Connecting and belonging

Spaces for events and community engagement





















Cultural centre

Spaces for heritage, exhibition, art











Library Year in Numbers*



1 million library visits



24,000 books
borrowed



3 million downloads
ebooks & articles



25,000 study
room bookings



500,000 water
fountain refills



14,000
laptops borrowed



64% UL
publications
open access
(2023)



1,500
Makerspace
engagements

*2022/23 data



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Survey Data

iBarometer International Student Survey

122,975 international students, across 25 countries, and 155 institutions

- **No. 1 in Ireland**
- **No. 1 in Europe**
- **No. 2 Globally**

99% satisfaction - Library Service

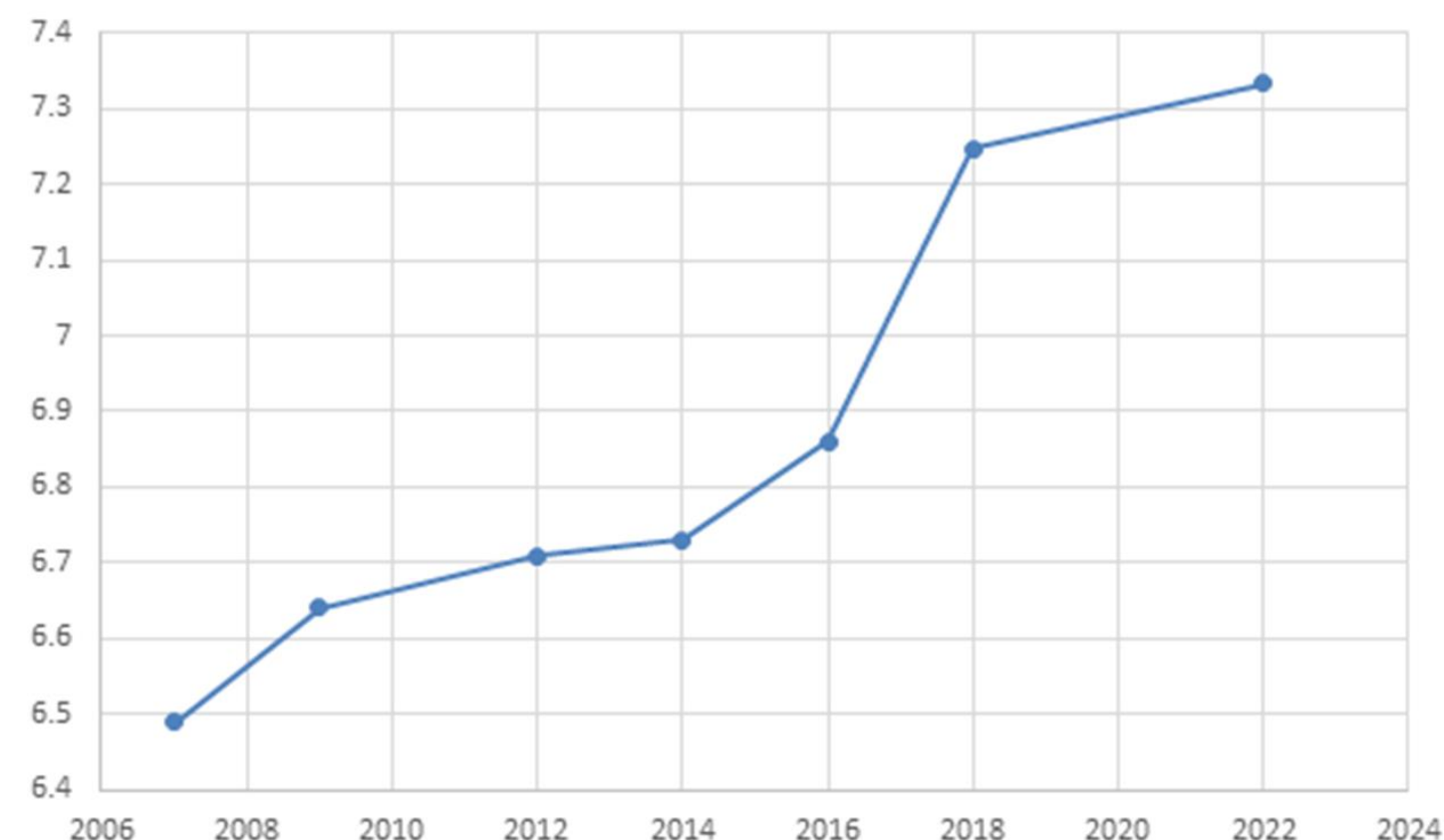
97% satisfaction – Physical Library facilities

95% satisfaction - Online Library

LibQual

Satisfaction with UL Library 2007-2022

LibQUAL Library Survey n=13,475



Future plans



More information available

www.ul.ie/library

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O’Riordan, G. (2019) ‘Re-imagining the university library – a transformative opportunity’, in Koen, D. and Engel Lesneski, T., eds., *Library Design for the 21st Century: Collaborative Strategies to Ensure Success*, Berlin: De Gruyter, 221-230, available: <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110617535-017> Open access version: <https://hdl.handle.net/10344/8498>

McCaffrey, C. (2021) 'Planning and implementing an automated storage and retrieval system at the University of Limerick', in Atkinson, J. ed. *Technology, Change and the Academic Library*. Hull, UK: Chandos Publishing, available: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-822807-4.00014-2>. Open access version: <http://hdl.handle.net/10344/9369>

McCaffrey, C. (2019) 'Planning a new library building: using assessment and data to transform spaces, services and collections', *International Conference of Performance Measurement in Libraries*, Aberystwyth, 23-25 July 2019, available: <https://libraryperformance.files.wordpress.com/2020/06/libpmcproceedings2019.pdf>



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Thank you



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