Space as a Service

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

Ciara McCaffrey, University Librarian & Director
University of Limerick

ciara.mccaffrey@ul.ie
www.ul.ie/library

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Today’s presentation
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of seats</td>
<td>2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total floor area</td>
<td>16,608 sqm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library staff</td>
<td>53.6 FTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print book stock</td>
<td>467,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ebooks</td>
<td>484,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eJournals</td>
<td>60,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
New library building

€31M in 2018

Architects
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
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
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
Ciara.McCaffrey@ul.ie


Thank you