



# Space as a Service

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

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[www.ul.ie/library](http://www.ul.ie/library)

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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

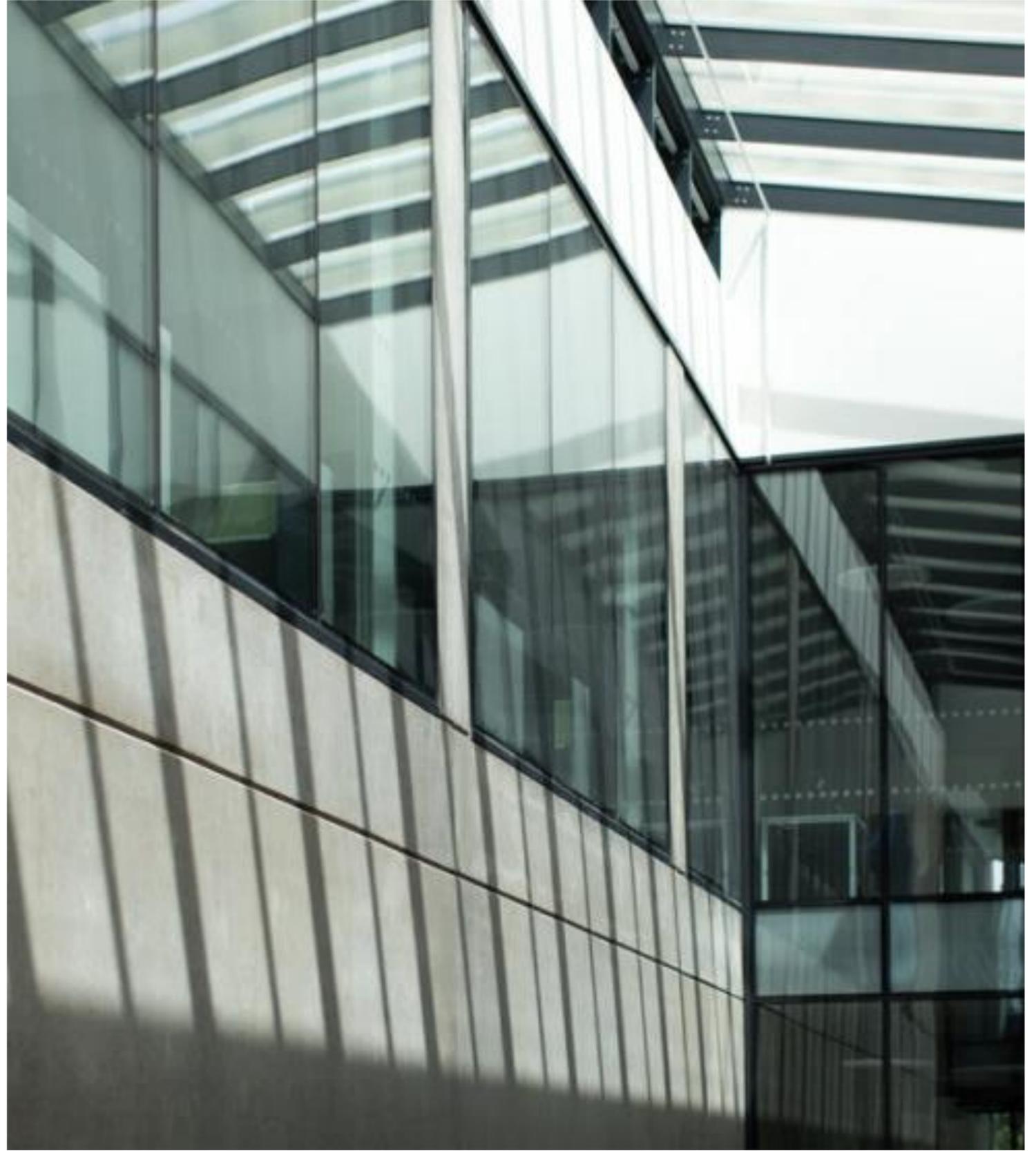
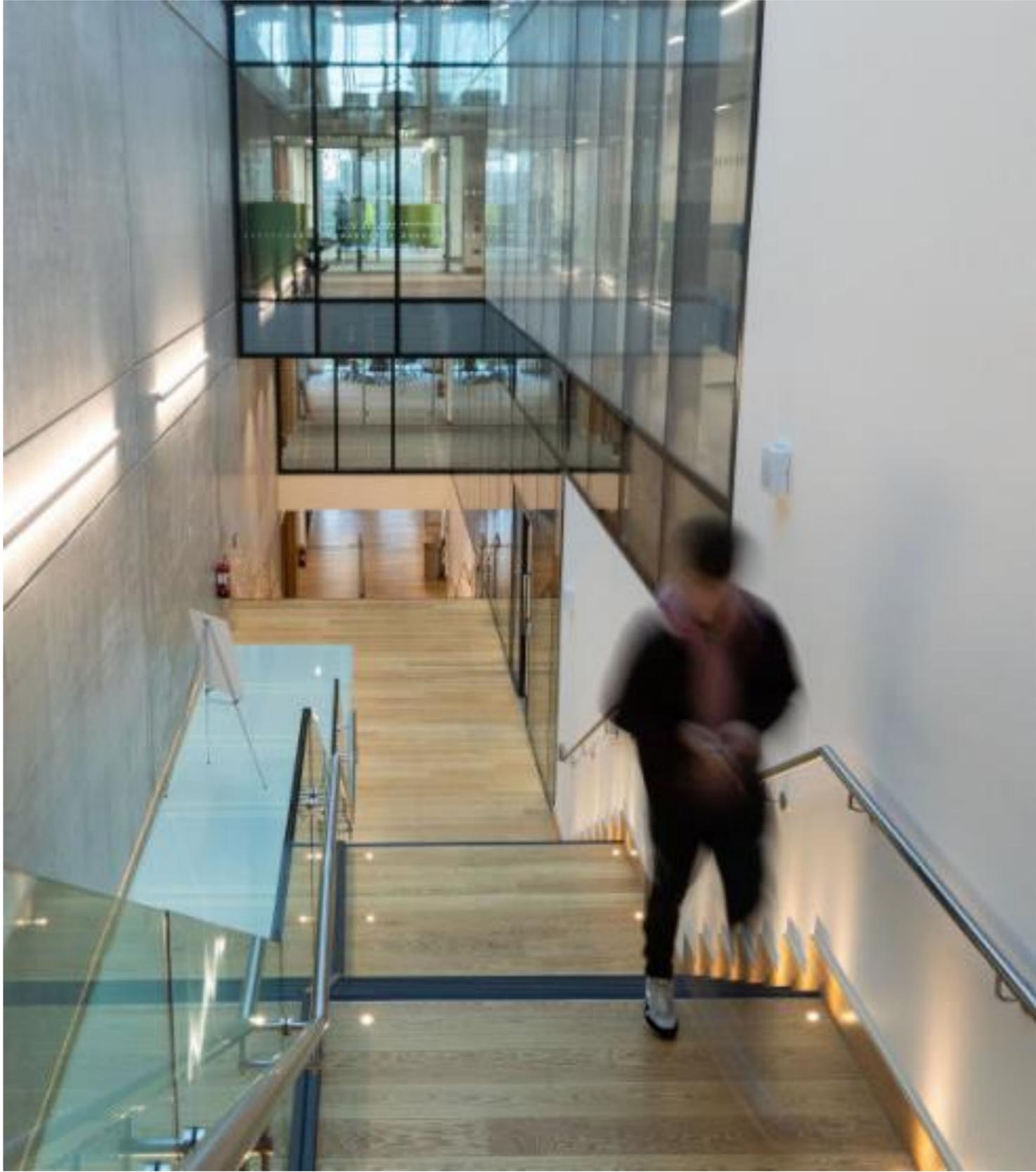
€31M in 2018

## Architects

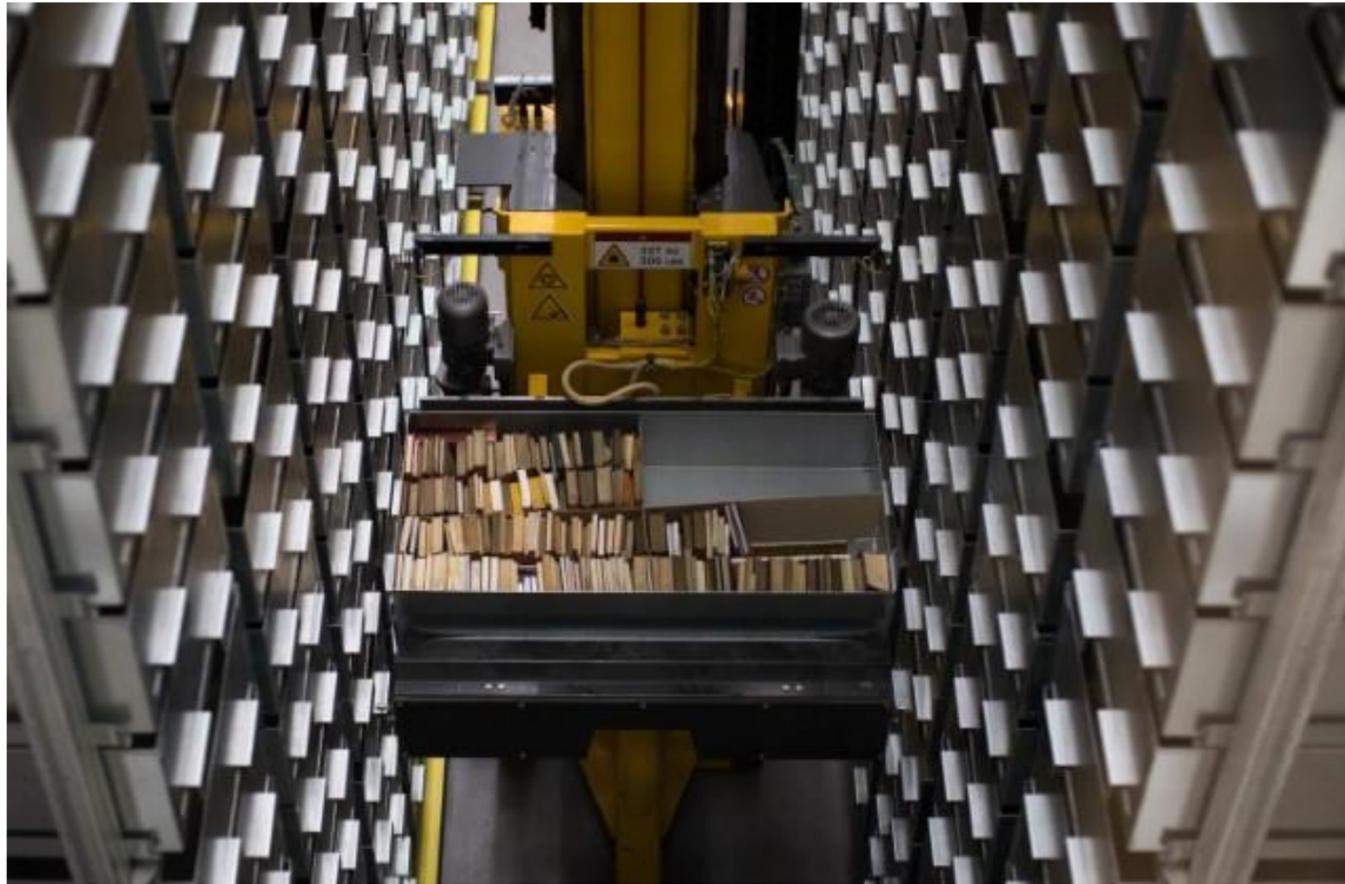
RKD 2018, RMJM 2010, Shepley

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

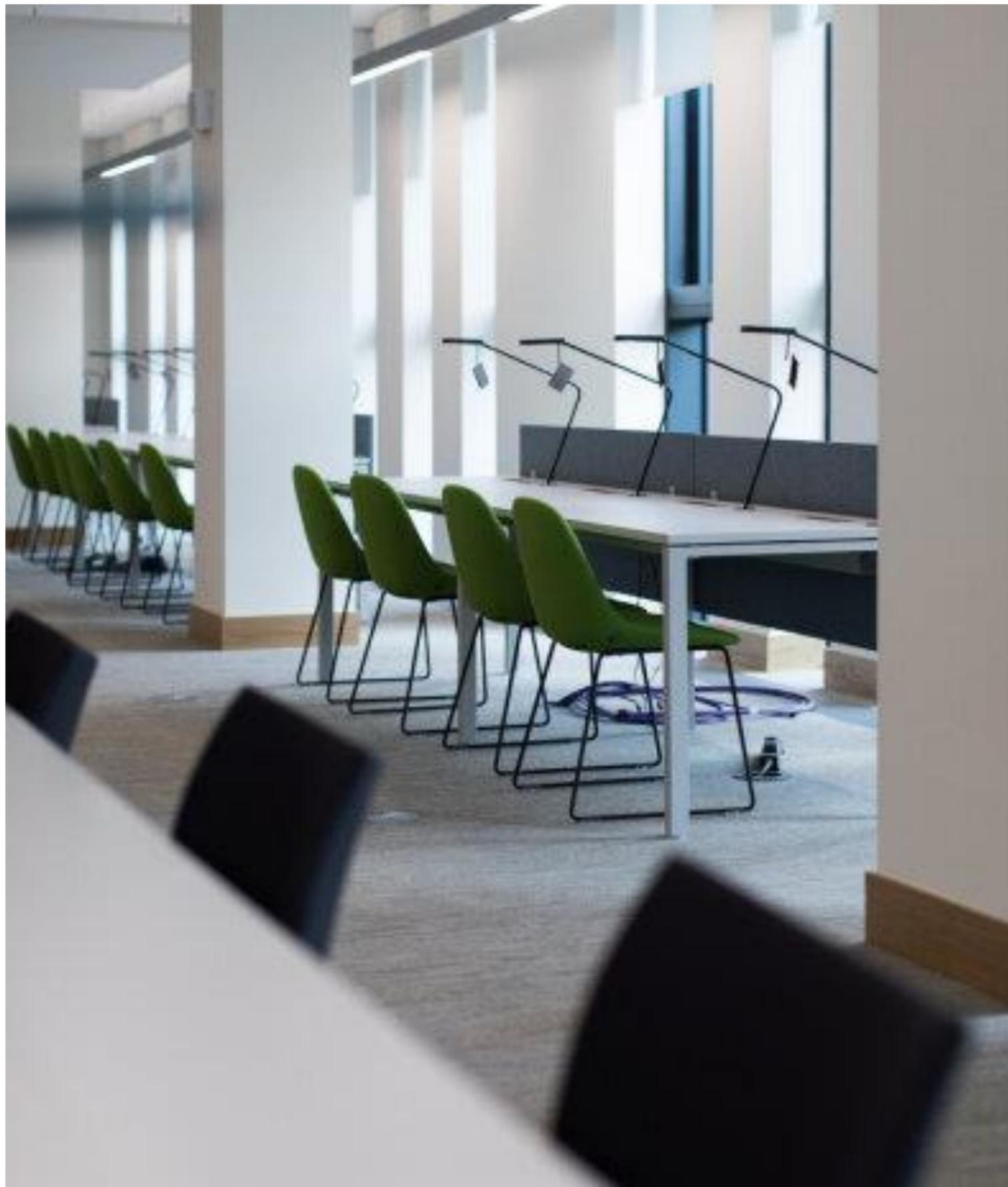
2 large audience event spaces

3 demo/exhibition spaces

# Oasis of calm

Spaces for quiet, individual work













# Hive of activity

Spaces for groups to work together







# Digital hub

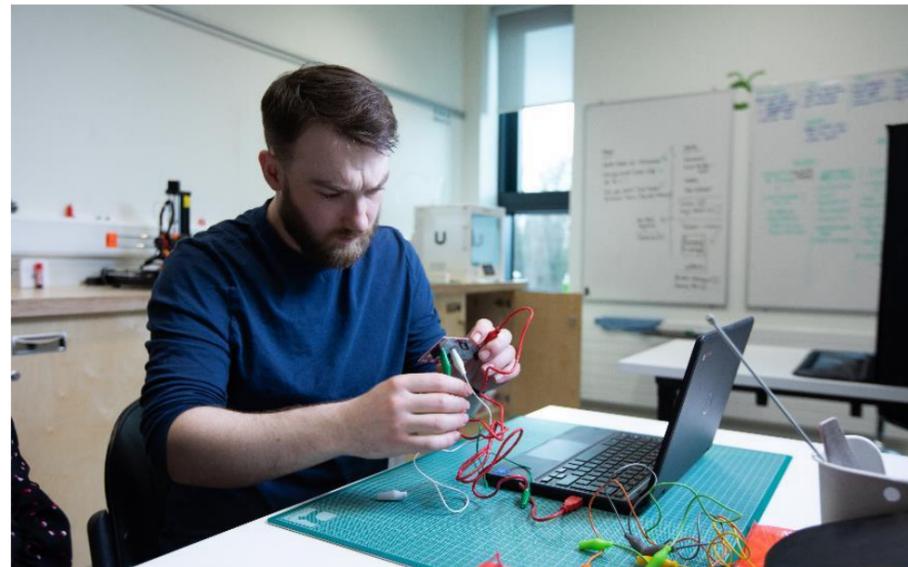
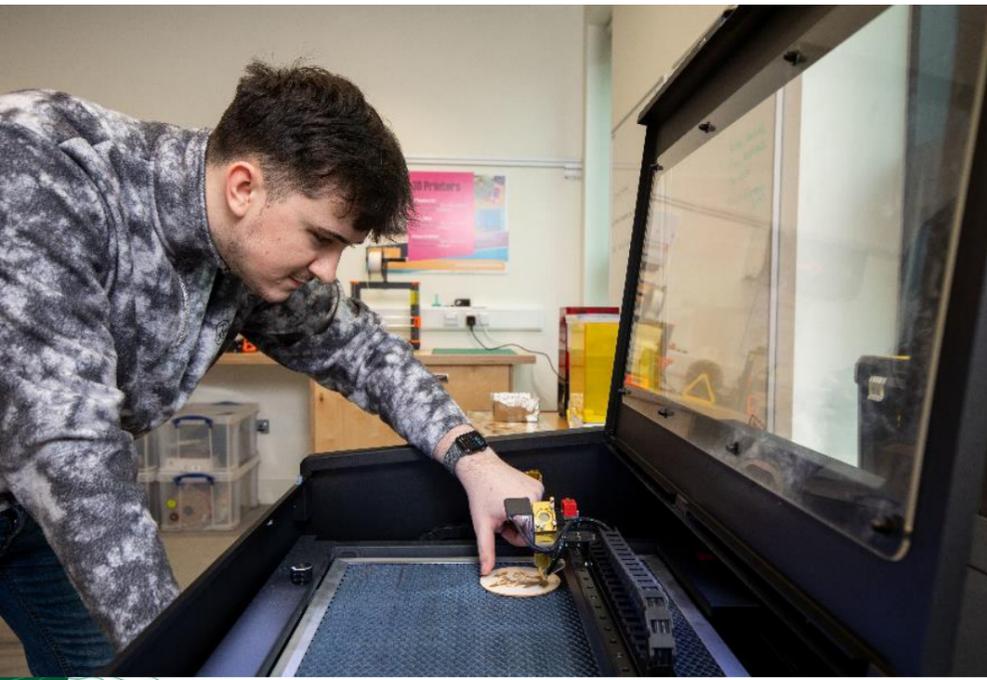
Spaces for digital creation & technology-enhanced learning

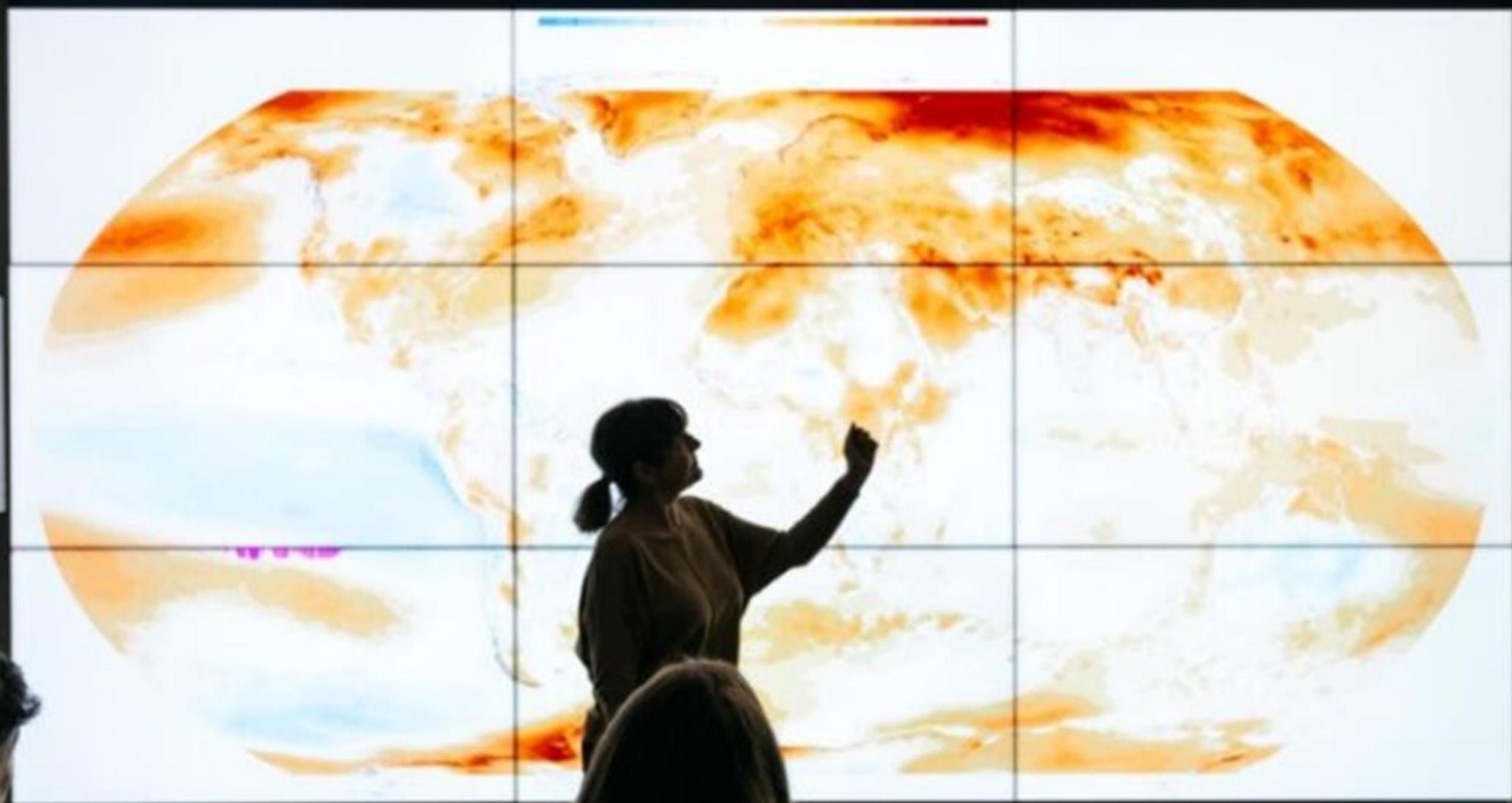
# The Edge@UL Library

Digital scholarship hub



# The Makerspace





# Connecting and belonging

Spaces for events and community engagement



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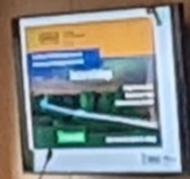
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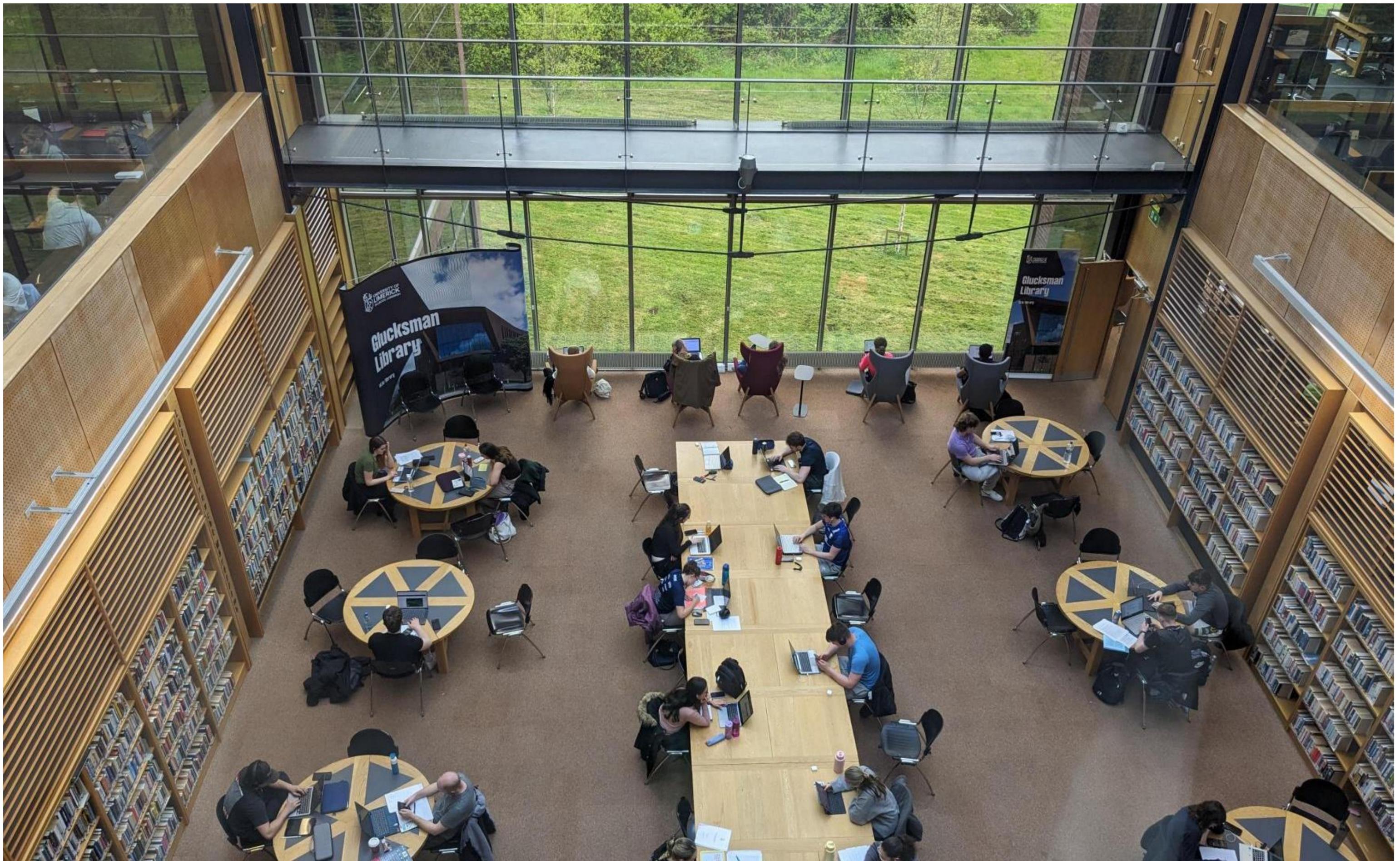
Leabharlann  
Glucksman  
Library

Scoil an Dlí  
School of Law



Internationalisation Sustainability

Doctoral College

















# 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

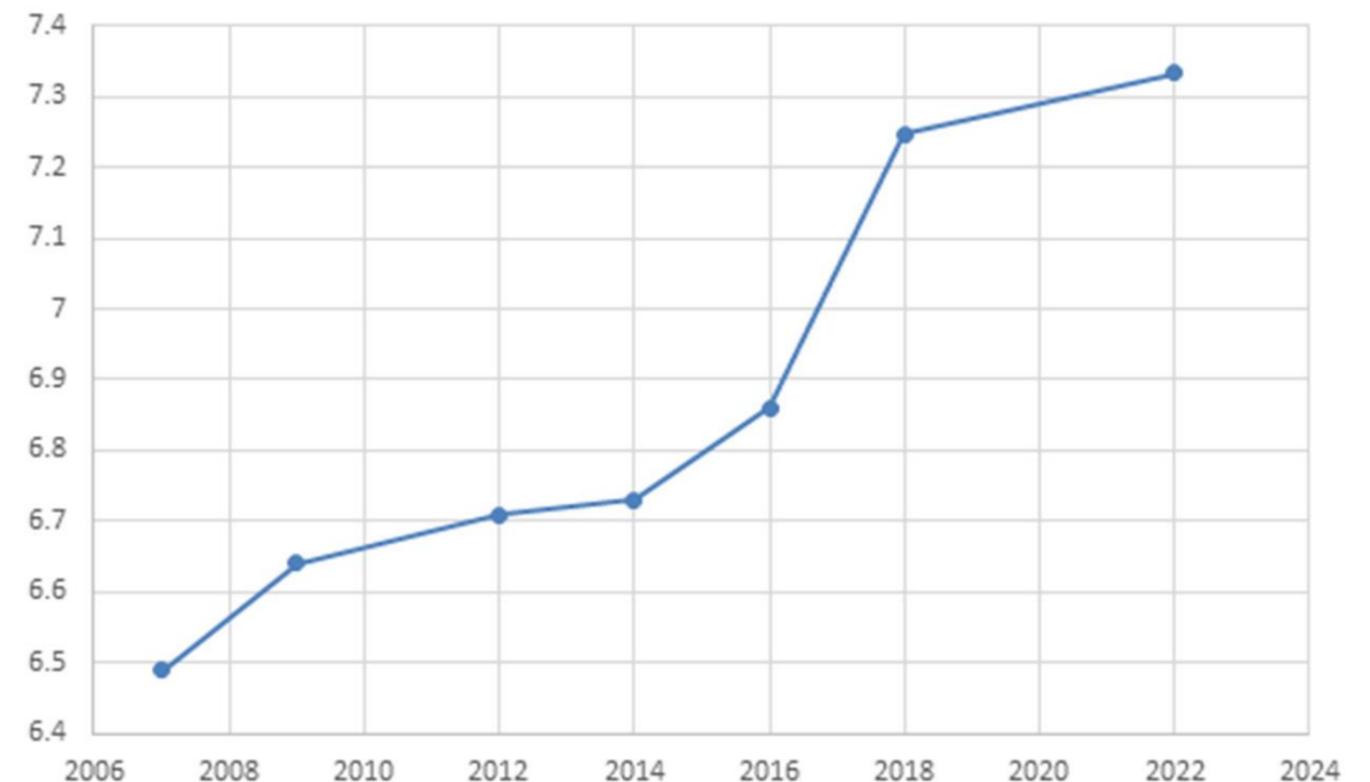
122,975 international students, across 25 countries, and 155 institutions

- **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](http://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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