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IVRLA¹ RESEARCH REPORT: JOYCE'S DUBLIN

Dr John O'Neill (Researcher)

1. CONTEXT

James Joyce is amongst University College Dublin's most famous alumni, and his connections with the University provide an opportunity to showcase archival holdings relevant to his life and work. Joyce is acknowledged as a leading Modernist writer and he remains one of the most significant figures in Irish literature. This project focused in particular on Joyce's short story, "The Dead." This, the final story in his 1914 collection *Dubliners*, is a pivotal work for Joyce and a key Modernist text, one with which many people are familiar, either as readers or through John Huston's film version of 1987.

UCD has existing research strengths in Joyce studies. Anne Fogarty of the School of English, Drama, and Film, is Professor of James Joyce Studies, Director of The James Joyce Research Centre, and Vice-President of the International James Joyce Foundation. Dr Luca Crispi is Associate Director of the Research Centre, a board member of the International Foundation, and has published widely on Joyce. Dr Crispi and Professor Fogarty are co-editors of the *Dublin James Joyce Journal*, a UCD co-publication with the National Library. Declan Kiberd, UCD's Professor of Anglo-Irish Literature, is well known for his writings on Joyce and recently published *Ulysses and Us: The Art of Everyday Living*. Professor Gerardine Meaney of the Centre for the Study of Gender, Culture and Identities has also published on Joyce, as has Professor Harry White of the School of Music. The research interests of Professor Mary Daly, Principal of the College of Arts and Celtic Studies, include the social and economic history of Ireland in the period about which Joyce is writing.

¹ The UCD Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive (IVRLA) is a major digitisation project which was undertaken by University College Dublin from 2005 to 2009. Material selected from UCD's extensive resources of archival and rare material was digitised and catalogued before being made available from a single virtual location (<<http://ivrla.ucd.ie>>). This digitised material covers a wide range of humanities and social science disciplines and is arranged in curated collections which can be browsed, searched, bookmarked, or downloaded. In addition to the digitisation of existing UCD collections, the IVRLA conducted a series of demonstrator projects. The remit of these projects was to develop additional digital research resources and to present these in the form of an exhibition collection. Some of these projects incorporated existing IVRLA material but many generated new content which was inspired by the potential of digital resources. Consequently, the IVRLA and its demonstrator projects show how digital repositories can provide access to diverse archival research materials as well as challenging the ways in which we consider digital content and generate research in a digital environment. The IVRLA is a component of the UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland and is funded under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLII) Cycle 3, administered by the Higher Education Authority.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The immediate aim of this project was to produce a series of short audio podcasts based around “The Dead” and to present them on a multimedia website that would showcase the digitised items available through the Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive (IVRLA), UCD’s archival holdings more generally, and relevant material available from collaborating institutions. This involved indexing relevant archive material (both digital and conventional), mapping the archives onto Joyce’s Dublin as it is laid out in the story, identifying relevant experts who could contribute to the podcasts, photographing contemporary Dublin, and working with a media company (Athena Media) to structure the podcasts, develop scripts, conduct interviews, produce the final podcast audio, and create the website on which the podcasts are presented. The research was conducted by Dr John O’Neill in the four months from September to December 2009, with Professor Gerardine Meaney and Professor Anne Fogarty as the principal investigators and Dr Luca Crispi as associate investigator. The project investigators, together with the other UCD academics mentioned above, were all interviewed as part of this project.

Selecting one well-known story has provided ample but manageable scope for a pilot project that demonstrates the possibilities for digital research outputs and outreach projects in the humanities and for the creative use of archival and academic content. The themes of Joyce’s original work and the connections drawn to its contexts will allow researchers from the humanities and the social sciences to examine the literary text in relation to the archives. By providing greater and more varied access the project enhances existing IVRLA collections and encourages both academic and general engagement with them.

3. DETAILED OUTPUT

It is in Belfield’s main library, the James Joyce Library, that Special Collections houses archive material relevant to Joyce. Much of this material has been digitised by the IVRLA, but a great deal remains to be digitised and this project has helped to identify those holdings. The Curran, Ó Lochlainn, O’Kelley, and Sweeney collections are of particular interest, but a broad range of material is relevant to the themes of Joyce’s work. The IVRLA has digitised photographs from the Curran Collection featuring Joyce as a boy; Joyce with his wife and children; Constantine Curran himself with Paul Léon, another friend of Joyce; and

the Sheehy sisters (including Kathleen, a possible model for Molly Ivors in “The Dead”). The Nineteenth-Century Pamphlets Collection makes available material providing background information on issues raised in “The Dead.” The Historic Maps Collection helps us to see Dublin in Joyce’s time, and the Folklore Photograph Collection shows early-twentieth-century scenes from the Aran Islands, Molly Ivors’s holiday destination. The digitised ballad sheets from the Ó Lochlainn Collection illustrate popular political concerns, recall Joyce’s interest in music, and preserve ephemeral archival material in a context that shows its lasting relevance and makes it available to a wide audience.²

The project has also demonstrated the centrality of national collections and the viability in this area of collaborative output utilizing the holdings of a number of institutions. The research has drawn on the National Library’s Clarke, Independent, Lawrence, and Wiltshire photographic collections, and on the Brocas Collection of prints and drawings. It has also made use of the National Archives’ digitised census returns from 1901 and 1911, as well as documents from the Archives’ 2004 online exhibition “James Joyce and *Ulysses*”.

Potential for further digitisation exists, and sample items identified during the research for this project have been digitised by the IVRLA. These items include travel guides to Dublin (featuring photographs of locations such as Sackville (O’Connell) Street and advertisements for the Gresham Hotel), descriptions of Usher’s Quay taken from Wilmot’s *Memorable Dublin Houses* of 1909, and accounts of the Usher’s Island parish from the Bishop of Canea’s *Short Histories of Dublin Parishes*.³ Eoin MacNeill’s *Irish in the National University of Ireland* sheds some light on the arguments made by Molly Ivors and Gabriel Conroy. Constantine Curran’s library plate and his manuscript marginalia help to remind us of the living history behind the archived texts. The items were selected to show a range of materials: some are directly relevant to Joyce himself while others illustrate the city and

² The image of Joyce as a boy (the original of which is UCD Special Collections CUR P 14) is at <http://hdl.handle.net/10151/OB_1000538_SC>, the Joyce family portrait (CUR P 6) at <http://hdl.handle.net/10151/OB_1000533_SC>, the picture of Curran and Léon (CUR P 13) at <http://hdl.handle.net/10151/OB_1000537_SC>, and the group portrait of the Sheehy sisters (CUR P 26) at <http://hdl.handle.net/10151/OB_1000555_SC>. The Curran Photographs, Historic Maps, Folklore Photograph, Nineteenth-Century Pamphlets, and Ó Lochlainn Ballads Collections can all be accessed by going to the IVRLA’s home page at <<http://ivrla.ucd.ie>> and then clicking on the Collections page. A full list of relevant items digitised by the IVRLA is included in the Joyce’s Dublin project research resource list at <http://hdl.handle.net/10151/OB_9100015_RP>.

³ The Gresham advertisement appears on the rear cover of *Mecredy's Pictorial Guide to Dublin*, p. 16 of which features a photograph of Sackville Street. Curran’s library plate is found in his own copy of *James Joyce Remembered* (in UCD Library Special Collections at I.S.5), which also features Curran’s inscription on the half-title page. Again, a full list of relevant items digitised by the IVRLA is included in the Joyce’s Dublin project research resource list at <http://hdl.handle.net/10151/OB_9100015_RP>.

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society about which he wrote; the items include printed texts, photographs, ballads, ephemera, and manuscripts.

Curran's working notebook on James Joyce is particularly interesting. In the digitised sample Curran recounts an evening he spent with Joyce's sisters, Eva and May, at his home in Garville Avenue, Dublin, in June 1954. The conversation touches on Joyce's love of music, more particularly his love of song rather than orchestral music. They discuss "The Dead" and "The Lass of Aughrim," with an amusing recollection of Joyce taking great pleasure in trying to sing the entire (rather lengthy) ballad. The opportunity provided by the IVRLA to make available to a wider audience such personal recollections of Joyce, recollections explicitly relevant to his work, is invaluable.⁴

The audio component of this project allowed for collaborative work both within and outside UCD. Professor Kevin Whelan of the Keough-Naughton Centre of the University of Notre Dame in Dublin contributed an extensive interview to the academic audio part of the project. Important musical extracts for the podcasts as well as relevant resource listings were sourced from Rónán Galvin of the IVRLA's Folk Music research project and from UCD's National Folklore Collection. The National Folklore Collection in UCD houses recordings of "The Croppy Boy" and "The Lass of Aughrim" (also known as "Lord Gregory" or "The Lass of Loch Royal"), as well as interviews from the Urban Folklore Project that refer to many of the theatres mentioned by Joyce in "The Dead". For example, the third podcast ("The Dead: Looking East or West?") uses a 1972 recording of Patrick Farrell singing "The Croppy Boy" in a version digitised by the IVRLA.⁵ The project's focus on Joyce also led to a connection with IVRLA researcher Dr Clara Cullen, whose work on another of Joyce's stories in *Dubliners*, "Clay", and more particularly on the archival records concerning the Dublin by Lamplight Laundry mentioned in that story provided a useful comparison to the research into "The Dead" and demonstrated the scope for an expansion of the Joyce project.

Building on the identification and digitisation of relevant archival material this project produced a series of high-quality audio podcasts and a multimedia website. These were produced by UCD and the IVRLA in partnership with Athena Media. The website⁶ hosts six

⁴ Curran's notebook is housed in UCD Library Special Collections at CUR ms 6. It is a hardback notebook of 240 pages with numerous inserts. Curran has included two hand-written sets of index sheets to the contents.

⁵ The original is held by the National Folklore Collection at UCD (TM39/A/2). Although this was digitised by the IVRLA Folk Music project, the recording is not currently available online. The Joyce's Dublin resource list (at <http://hdl.handle.net/10151/OB_9100015_RP>) includes a list of this and other items held in the National Folklore Collection.

⁶ This website can be found at <<http://www.joycesdublin.ie>>.

podcasts, each between about eight and twelve minutes in length. The first five episodes are broadly thematic and address the significance of the story's main location at Usher's Island; the story's lasting resonance and its importance as a literary work; the tension set up in the story between east and west (and the related tensions played out in the arguments between Gabriel Conroy and Molly Ivors) and in Gabriel's relationship with his wife, Gretta; the significance of music in the text; and the story's concerns with class, gender, and sexuality. The final episode is a brief tour that brings listeners along the route followed by Gabriel and Gretta Conroy as they leave the party at Usher's Island and make their way to the Gresham Hotel.

Podcast episodes one to five include extracts from a range of interviews with academics and archivists. The IVRLA houses full archival recordings of all the original interviews as well as the interview transcripts. The interviews have allowed UCD academics to discuss Joyce's work in ways that are less formal than conventional academic outputs and to put on record a sort of academic discussion that is often lost. The interviews also reinforce the importance of national repositories, with Catriona Crowe of the National Archives and Katherine McSharry of the National Library both interviewed. UCD's Dr Luca Crispi also considers the importance of the National Library's holdings of Joyce material. Other interviewees are Seán Ó Laoire, President of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, who discusses the house at Usher's Island, and the tenor Noel O'Grady, who discusses and sings "The Lass of Aughrim." The website hosting the podcasts also has a gallery page and slideshow featuring images drawn from the IVRLA's collection alongside items from the National Library, and a video of Noel O'Grady performing "The Lass of Aughrim."⁷

The final podcast is voiced entirely by Barry McGovern, who also voices the links in the other podcasts. McGovern is a highly respected and accomplished actor whose involvement in the project will help to connect it with a wider audience. In the weeks following the launch of the website the podcast series gained immediate media attention. On 19 December 2009 *The Irish Times*'s Literary Editor, Caroline Walsh, wrote about the podcasts and website in her "Loose leaves" column, and on 21 December BBC Radio Ulster's "Arts Extra" featured a discussion of the series and the site with Helen Shaw of the IVRLA's production partner Athena Media. RTÉ's digital station, Radio Choice, broadcast the podcasts as a weekly series over six weeks from 6 January 2010, and RTÉ Radio One's "The Curious Ear" of 9 January 2010 focused on the podcast series. Additionally, online output can be

⁷ These can be found at <http://www.joycesdublin.ie/?page_id=5>.

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efficiently publicised and disseminated through Athena's existing social media channels. UCD Communications will also be involved in publicising the resource, in particular to UCD students, staff and alumni but also through the University website to a broader academic and general audience.

The IVRLA has acquired through this project not just the final podcast audio and the website but also complete archive-quality (WAV) audio files and transcripts of the original interviews, together with original photographs of interviewees, of Dublin street scenes, and of the Joyce bust on the Belfield campus.⁸ The project has also established useful collaborative links with the Keough-Naughton Centre of the University of Notre Dame in Dublin, the National Library of Ireland, and the National Archives of Ireland. Within UCD it has seen research collaboration involving other IVRLA projects, the National Folklore Collection, the James Joyce Research Centre, the Humanities Institute of Ireland, and the Schools of Music, of History and Archives, and of English, Drama, and Film. The project's collection on the IVRLA also includes a research resource list that draws on a wide range of archival sources (detailed in Appendix 1) to present a thematically coherent subject collection of archived items relevant to the project. This is itself an important scholarly resource.

As the project title suggests, research was focused as much on the context as on the text. The interdisciplinary scope of the research reflects this. The website and podcasts are based around "The Dead" but showcase archival holdings relevant to Joyce's work and to the city and society about which he wrote. Approaches developed for the project in consultation with UCD Corporate and Legal Affairs Office and with the IVRLA management team allowed this broad contextual research to be conducted from the outset with respect for the Joyce Estate's copyright. Establishing appropriate working practices is particularly important when digital output is used rather than more established modes of academic publication, and even more so when radio broadcast is envisaged. The involvement of Athena Media, who brought multimedia and radio experience, and who provided training in podcasting and in social media to the project researcher, was helpful in this regard, particularly given the very short timeframe in which the research was conducted and the podcasts and website produced. With digital research output becoming increasingly significant and diverse it is important for the IVRLA and UCD as a whole to establish appropriate procedures for researchers and this project has contributed to that process.

⁸ While time constraints prevented this material from being catalogued and added to the IVRLA repository, it is hoped that it may be added in the future.

4. FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Overall, the podcasts and website provide a teaching and research resource, promote and develop the IVRLA's archive, and offer greater and more varied pathways for archival access. In so doing, the site itself demonstrates the possibilities for research support provided by centralised access to a variety of thematically related archival resources with a broad reach across partner institutions. Digital and multimedia modes of research output are becoming increasingly important, and this project can support related graduate education efforts by demonstrating how the acquisition and digital presentation of archival material can show the context of a literary text, but, more generally, it can also serve as a model for the digital dissemination of research. This need not be restricted to literary study. The project process has been collaborative, and the output is open-access with a relevance that ranges widely from the literary to social geography, social history, music, architectural history, and beyond, and with an appeal to varied academic and general audiences.

The Joyce's Dublin project itself has significant potential for expansion in the future. Additional research on "The Dead" or further digitised resources (including the photographs taken for this project) could be incorporated. This project also serves as a pilot demonstrating the viability of a much larger-scale project addressing Joyce's work. As already mentioned, discussion in relation to another Joyce short story ("Clay") suggests that a similar approach could be applied to that text; the richness of Joyce's corpus offers huge potential for the expansion of the multi-layered approach which this project has implemented in relation to "The Dead." Any such large-scale project has the potential for IVRLA collaboration with UCD IT Services and CLARITY CSET⁹ to develop richer websites or location-based presentation systems that could exploit location-aware mobile devices or augmented-reality applications. The success of this project has already led to a follow-up in the Joyce's Dublin Mediascape project, a new collaboration between the College of Arts and Celtic Studies, CLARITY CSET and Athena Media in the use of mobile smartphone technologies to deliver cultural content. Joyce's Dublin Mediascape will act as a prototype for a technologically-embedded approach to enhance and enrich the study of literary works and the development of new ways of accessing and understanding our cultural heritage, providing new lenses through which to survey the landscape of the past.

⁹ CLARITY CSET is a Science Foundation Ireland Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET). Established in 2008, it is a partnership between University College Dublin and Dublin City University, supported by research at the Tyndall National Institute (TNI) Cork. It focuses on the so-called Sensor Web, which captures the intersection between two important research areas, Adaptive Sensing and Information Discovery.

APPENDIX 1

Excel Resource File

This file lists over 600 documents, visual material, audio material, and ephemera which relate to James Joyce and to the Dublin in which “The Dead” was set. The items are from thirteen different archival and other sources as indicated in the “Reference Type” for each item. These references relate to the following sources:

IVRLA:	Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive. The IVRLA collection in which each item is held is also specified, as is the URL for that item.
Folklore:	The National Folklore Collection in UCD.
Other UCD:	UCD Library Special Collections.
NAI GEN:	National Archives of Ireland, URL has been specified for each item.
NAI Census:	National Archives of Ireland, 1901 and 1911 online census data.
NAI Death:	National Archives of Ireland, collection re Joyce's death in 1941.
NLI Clarke:	National Library of Ireland, Clarke photograph collection.
NLI Lawrence:	National Library of Ireland, Lawrence photograph collection.
NLI Wiltshire:	National Library of Ireland, Wiltshire photograph collection.
NLI Brocas:	National Library of Ireland, Brocas drawing and etchings.
Street Images:	Photographs of Dublin in 2009 taken by John O'Neill for the IVRLA.
Other Images:	Other photographs, mainly taken by John O'Neill for the IVRLA.
Athena Media:	Interviews, transcripts, and podcasts created for the project.

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