



Kilkenny County Library Service

KILKENNY COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE

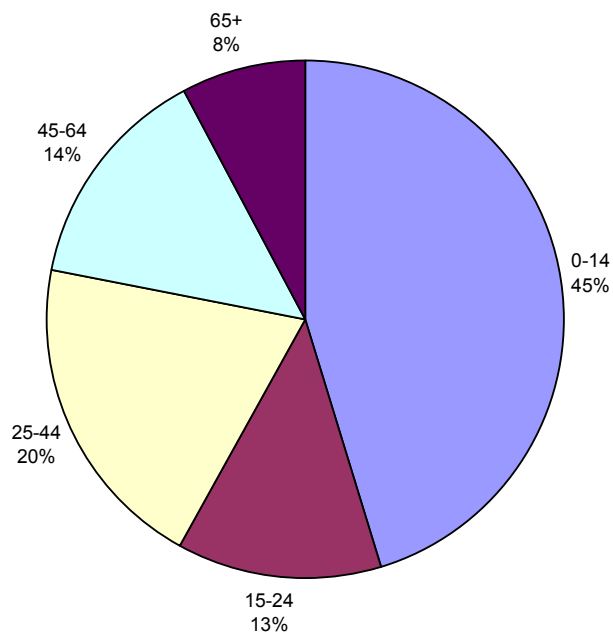
ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Kilkenny County Library Service aims to provide a quality, accessible service which enhances the lives of communities of Kilkenny, through the provision of a knowledge resource, promoting imagination, lifelong learning and culture.

Membership and Library Usage.

Current members breakdown by age



Kilkenny Library Service has experienced a significant increase in the amount of people who registered to use the library services over the past 2 years. There has been a 10.5% increase since 2009 and a 25% increase since 2008. 24,000 internet sessions were availed off in 2010 signifying the importance of the public internet service.

Over 275,504 items were issued in 2010 of which 32,000 which were non-book items - music resources, audio resources, multimedia resources and language resources.

Kilkenny Library Service had 161,800 visits to the county branch network in 2010.

New Services

A new mobile vehicle was delivered in 2010 and service delivery was reviewed to ensure that the mobile library service is relevant to community needs across the county. This vehicle was 100% grant funded and worth €153,000.



Self Issue services - A new self-service system which allows the public to borrow and return items, to monitor their account and renew items is now available in both the City and Loughboy branches. Funding was provided from the Public Libraries Access and Services Support Grant through An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.



Naxos Music Library services - This is an online resource that allows library members to listen to a broad range of music tracks from over 40,000 discs. Kilkenny County Library Service was the first public library service in Ireland to offer this resource to the public. The service can be accessed at the local library or from the comfort of your own home through the library's website.

Music PAL - the sharing of music information resources between public libraries, college libraries and music institutions. This service is available across the library network.



NO SIDE EFFECTS - READ YOURSELF WELL

Kilkenny Library Service has now available to the public high quality self help books covering a range of health issues in an effort to promote the health and well being of individuals and families.

Kilkenny Library Service's "No Side Effects" scheme has developed reading lists which have been distributed to health clinics, family resource centres and GPs in County Kilkenny and the collections will be housed in Graiguenamanagh and Loughboy Libraries but are available to all by request. It is hoped that these self help books will allow the individual to actively involve and empower themselves in their own recovery.

Information Communication technology and online resources.

Kilkenny Library Service recognises the important role that the public library plays in supporting and promoting digital participation. Digital library services remain a key service priority.

The branches offer a mix of supported access to get people online and in developing digital skills including support from frontline library staff and 3rd party organisations.

- The online learning initiative between in partnership with FAS and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna is available now in 4 library branches. Free computer classes are available to those who wish to get online or to up skill. These courses can also be accessed remotely outside the library.
- Mobile phone classes for the over 55's
- Nintendo Wii training classes.
- Basic computer skill classes hosted by Age Action Ireland.
- Digital photography classes.

Online learning services are now more vital than ever and include:-

Irish Times Archive

ECDL and Driver Theory Test

Britannica Online

Business databases - Lexis Nexis and Vision-Net

OSI Historic Map viewer

Griffiths Valuation

Ask about Ireland

www.writeon.ie

E-services are also available by using the website and catalogue at

www.kilkennylibrary.ie.

Services include online renewals, online reservations and access to online services.

Library Collection and Information

The library's collection is its prime asset and the key contributor to sustaining communities by meeting their need to access a wide variety of materials.

Kilkenny Library Service is continuously developing and updating its collections to reflect community needs.

Resources in 2010 were invested in children's stock, teenage stock, adult fiction and non-fiction, multimedia stock and audio books and the newspaper service.

The collection of traveller culture materials was extended in 2010 to include children's material and funding was received from the Social Inclusion Division of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs.

A distinctive logo was developed in conjunction with the children in the homework club to identify the stock within the collection.



A Space for All



In compliance with the Disability Act 2005 and Kilkenny County Council's Access programme, all 7 service points have now been audited re accessibility. All buildings and services have undergone review and redesign to improve accessibility for users.

Kilkenny Library Service recognises that simple adaptations can make a big difference in ensuring that building and services are accessible to all.

Works undertaken in 2010 include:-

Replacement of shelving and improved layout in City Library.

Installation of lighting in City Library.

A signage strategy has been developed and applied across 6 service points

Literacy and Reading Programmes

The support and development of literacy and reading form the core of what the public library service offers.



Six Book Challenge Adult Literacy Project

This literacy scheme is aimed at less confident readers and Kilkenny Library Service were the first public library service in Ireland to take part in this scheme.

A Highly Commended Prize was awarded to Kilkenny Library Service by the National Aontas Star Awards for this project.

Over 120 people registered to participate in 2010 from various organisations such as WordAid, TASK,SOS, CDCD and KEY.



Summer Reading Challenge for children -

Kilkenny Library Service runs a Summer Reading programme for children every year. The aim is to create/develop a love of reading and to prevent a loss of reading skills over the summer months. Over 300 children read 1500 books across the library network.

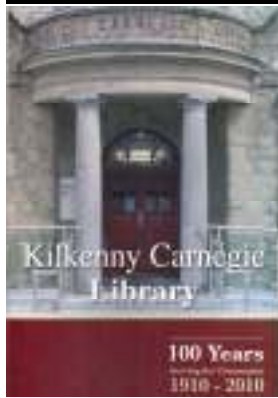
It has been recognised internationally that public libraries play a significant role in helping to close the achievement gap in school performance.



One Book - One Kilkenny project -

This project is a family literacy project between Kilkenny Library Service, the RAPID Co-coordinator and the home school liaison officers from 3 DEIS schools in the City. The idea behind the One Book- One Kilkenny project is to encourage children to read both in school and at home in an effort to encourage parental involvement. We believe that developing literacy skills with children may contribute to improving the literacy ability of parents and all family members. 400 pupils were involved in this project supported by their teachers, siblings and parents.

Local studies and Genealogical Service



This service is accessible on-line or by members of the public. This service is a reference and research service dedicated to preserving and enhancing the collective of Kilkenny City and County. It comprises a number of comprehensive collections including:-

- The Local History Collection
- The Kilkenny Collection
- Local History Files
- Local newspapers
- Photographic Collections
- Genealogical/Historical Sources

In addition the County Collection of Archives can also be accessed through the Local Studies Department.

Outreach activities and events to promote the collection and disseminate information were also organised in 2010.

- In-house and external presentations to teachers and adult education and third level students.
- The digitization of Kilkenny local interest titles through An Chomhairle Leabharlanna available under digital books through www.askaboutireland.ie
- Workshops entitled "Tracing your Family Tree" were carried out across the library network as part of National Heritage Week.
- Rediscover Kilkenny Authors - a selection of the works of Kilkenny-born authors were made available to coincide with the Carnegie 100th year anniversary and Heritage Week.
- A booklet on the social and historical importance of the Library Service over the last 100 years was developed and published by the Local Studies staff. It was sponsored by the Heritage Council and the American Embassy.

Partnership Opportunities

Kilkenny County Library Service remains committed to working with local organisations and agencies to share resources, skills and expertise in an effort to provide a quality service to the public. Many initiatives were undertaken in 2010.

Gardening Together



A 6 week programme developed by Kilkenny County Library Service to bring parents and children together in a fun activity and encourage use of the public library. In partnership with Gardenia garden centre this project proved very popular with everyone.

Writer Mentoring Scheme in partnership with Kilkenny Arts Office - to support emerging and established writers. In conjunction with this scheme prose and poetry workshops for writers across the library network were available.



In association with Kilkenny Arts Festival, the library service ran a series of craft workshops around the children's book of the festival - *Skulduggery Pleasant*. The children attended the festival reading by the author in their costumes.



As part of the national Culture Night initiative, Kilkenny Library Service along with Kilkenny County Council, CKLP and KTCM celebrated the Traveller Culture in Loughboy Library with an attendance of over 150 people. Exhibitions of artwork, photographs and crafts as well as entertainment by local singers were organised for this special night of celebration. The Castlecomer Writers and Arts Festival was also launched on Culture Night.

Participation in Local and National Events and Festivals

Kilkenny Library Service continued to get involved and organise a range of activities and events around well known festivals and initiatives.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Aontas Adults Learners Festival | February |
| • Kilkenny Energy Week | March |
| • Rediscover your library week | April |
| • Bealtaine | May |
| • Youthfest | June |
| • National Heritage Week | August |
| • Graiguenamanagh Town of Books Festival | September |
| • Castlecomer Writers and Arts Festival | September |
| • National Childrens Bookweek | October |
| • Science Week | November |

A range of talks, exhibitions and workshops were arranged by the library service to celebrate these events.



CARNEGIE LIBRARY 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Kilkenny Carnegie Library celebrated 100 years providing community access to reading, cultural and learning resources in 2010. To mark this special birthday Kilkenny Library Service hosted a varied programme of events in September and October culminating in a day of celebrations on the 3rd November - the date the library was officially opened 100 years ago.



The Kilkenny Carnegie Library 100 celebrations incorporated a series of Centenary talks including the following speakers: Joseph O'Connor, Peter Sheridan, Anne Enright (Man Booker Prize winner), Thomas Kilroy, Dermot Bolger, Brendan Grimes (the History of Carnegie Libraries), Dr Kevin Whelan (the History of Hurling in Kilkenny before the GAA) and Paul Howard of Ross O'Carroll-Kelly fame.



The action packed programme included KCLR96fm who broadcasted the Sue Nunn show from the Carnegie library on the day of the anniversary. Also included was Gospel singing, exhibitions, storytelling, competitions and children's activities - visits by Eanna Ni Lamhna, Niall de Burca (storyteller) and Melissa Baker with her storytelling caravan.

A booklet on the social and historical importance of the Library Service over the last 100 years was also published and distributed.



Something for Everyone

Kilkenny Library Service continues to provide and facilitate a broad and varied range of other services and facilities across the county branch network illustrated by the below graph.

- Story time for toddlers
- A range of exhibitions throughout the year
- Art and Crafts workshops
- Local historical society meetings
- Knitting groups
- Book club meetings and events
- Creative writing classes and writing circles

