

Continuing professional development opportunities at Dublin Business School



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Introduction

Dublin Business School (DBS) was founded in 1975 and is the largest independent third-level college in Ireland, offering a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate and professional degrees in business, arts, law, IT and more, to 9,000 students. DBS degree, postgraduate higher diploma and masters programmes are validated by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). DBS's accreditation partners include ACCA, King's Inns, the Commercial Institute of Ireland, the Irish Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy and the Psychological Society of Ireland.

DBS has been offering an MSc in Information and Library Management since 2009. This is accredited by the Library Association of Ireland and validated by QQI.

DBS also provides a range of CPD opportunities to library professionals via the following mechanisms:

- DBS Library annual seminar;
- MSc in Information and Library Management – library professionals can now study individual modules for CPD purposes;
- The hosting of external library workshops and seminars.

DBS Library annual seminar

Over the past decade, DBS Library has been modernising and developing its staffing and IT infrastructure as well as its collections and services. There are just nine full-time staff members – a Head of Library Services (me); a Deputy Librarian (Jane Buggle); an Assistant Librarian, Reader Services (Trevor Haugh); a Teaching Librarian (Colin O'Keeffe); a Research Librarian (Alex Kouker); a Postgraduate and Law Librarian (Joan Colvin); an Assistant Librarian, Acquisitions (Marie O'Dwyer); a Systems Librarian (David Hughes); and a Library Assistant, Reader Services (Debora Zorzi).

The library has highly evolved digital and print collections and uses a variety of proprietary and open source library software, including LibGuides, EBSCO's EDS, Shibboleth access management software, Koha library management system, Loughborough's Online Reading List System (LORLS), dSpace, EBSCO's PlumX platform, OJS journal publishing platform, instant messaging software, assignment planning software and more. The library offers validated and programme-embedded information literacy and now publishes an arts journal (<http://sahjournal.com/index.php/sah>). DBS is currently developing the publishing of business and library journals. In 2009, DBS Library lobbied for and developed an MSc in Information and Library Management in association with established lecturers and practitioners from the library and information management sector. Two members of library staff, Colin O' Keeffe and David Hughes, teach on the programme.

DBS library and the MSc in Information and Library Management have been developing rapidly. The library has a highly skilled and committed staff, the majority of whom have worked at the library for over ten years. Library staff members have a superb personal and professional rapport and chemistry, with a shared vision and passion for library developments and innovation.

There was a shared feeling that as a library and a library school, we had stories and developments that we wanted to share with the wider library profession. However, as the library team is small, it was difficult to take time out of the library in order to present at external library conferences. I suggested to library staff the possibility of hosting a DBS Library annual seminar. The purpose of the seminar would be six-fold:

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- to showcase developments at DBS Library and on the MSc in Information and Library Management
- to showcase developments in the libraries of private higher education providers
- to develop DBS Library staff professionally. The seminar provides opportunities for presenting, event organisation and management, etc.
- to provide networking opportunities with the wider library profession
- to showcase developments in the wider library sector in Ireland and beyond
- to provide a free and Library Association of Ireland (LAI) accredited CPD opportunity to library staff and students in Ireland and beyond.

There was enthusiasm for the idea from the outset, but there was some concern that an annual seminar might be too ambitious given our small size. Library staff wondered whether we would have enough to talk about every year. I felt certain that we would, as we are working on four or five projects concurrently in any given year.

Library staff came together as a group and started to flesh out the ethos and scope of the seminar. One of the first decisions was that the seminar would invite external speakers in addition to speakers from DBS Library. The library had recently lobbied the Higher Education Colleges Association (HECA), an association of independent higher education providers (<http://www.heca.ie/>), for the establishment of a HECA library committee so that private college libraries could share ideas, expertise and training as well as negotiate better deals with vendors as a collective. The HECA library committee was established and has met these goals. The DBS Library annual seminar could also be a vehicle for showcasing library developments in the private higher education sector in Ireland. DBS Library staff subsequently scoped out what has become a tried and tested formula for this event. The seminar should adhere to the following rules:

- It should be free of charge in order to provide accessible CPD opportunities for library professionals. To this end we have secured sponsorship from a wide range of library suppliers including Ebsco, Mintel, Lexis, Urkund, Euromonitor International and Interleaf.
- DBS Library should submit an application for accreditation by the Library Association of Ireland each year. These applications have been successful.
- It should be open to library students from any library school not only to attend, but also to contribute to its organisation, poster competitions, etc. Next year's seminar will include a student speaker. This will be open to all library studies programmes. This year a library student from the University of Aberystwyth and two library students from DBS won the poster competition.
- There should be external as well as internal speakers.
- One speaker should be from the MSc in Information and Library Management at DBS or from DBS faculty.
- One speaker should be from the HECA library committee.
- It should promote new and interesting developments and ideas emanating from DBS Library and other libraries.
- It should ignite discussion and debate within the wider library profession and should not rehash old ground. The event should challenge existing practices and focus on innovations and developments.

From the outset, the seminar has met this brief. DBS Library staff such as myself, David Hughes, Colin O' Keeffe and Alex Kouker have spoken on Koha,

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LORLS, information literacy and employability, research services for faculty and the librarian as publisher.

The generosity of speakers from other libraries has been impressive. The seminar has attracted speakers such as Andy Priestner (Futurelib, University of Cambridge, and Andy Priestner Training & Consulting (<https://andypriestnertraining.com/>); Dr David Prosser (Executive Director, Research Libraries UK); Dr John Howard (University Librarian, University College Dublin); Dr Brendan Devlin (College Librarian, Dublin Institute of Technology); Margaret Hayes (Dublin City Librarian); Gary Brewerton (Middleware and Library Systems Manager, Loughborough University) and more. Presentations have challenged the way that libraries market their services (Andy Priestner); our understanding and practice of information literacy (Brendan Devlin); have presented a vision for a new city library in Dublin (Margaret Hayes); have introduced reading list software and challenged us to revitalise our use of reading lists in higher education (Gary Brewerton); have highlighted ten open-source softwares that can transform libraries and their budgets (David Hughes); shown valuable metrics that libraries can gather to demonstrate library impact (David Hughes) and the challenges and opportunities of hosting on the cloud (Brian Hickey). In the 2016 seminar Pauline Sargent, a faculty staff member at DBS, spoke on a digital marketing strategy for an academic journal (<http://sahjournal.com/index.php/sah>), whilst Dr Prosser spoke on enhancing the discoverability of digital collections: the view from the UK.

HECA library speakers have included Robert McKenna, Librarian of Griffith College, and Audrey Geraghty, Librarian of Hibernia College. Robert was a panel member on a discussion about disruptive technology and Audrey spoke on the challenges and opportunities of managing an online library.

The seminar now attracts approximately 80–100 attendees a year from a wide sector of libraries at all levels (university, medical, corporate, public, charity and institute of technology.) Ken Chad, library consultant, popped up in this year's seminar audience along with two librarians who had flown over from Germany.

To date, we have held three annual seminars. Planning for the fourth is already under way. For the first time last year we had a waiting list of those wishing to attend. The logistics of the event have evolved to such an extent that Jane Buggle, Deputy Librarian, project manages the event on the ground to ensure its smooth operation. This is a wonderful testimony to the success of the event, as can be seen in its Twitter analytics, which for 2016 illustrate the social media reach and impact of the seminar (see Fig.1). Twitter responses are positive and enthusiastic and confirm that its mission is being achieved (see Fig. 2 for examples). To see the full Twitter coverage of the event, refer to [#dbslib16](#)



Fig. 1 Twitter analytics for DBS Library's annual seminar

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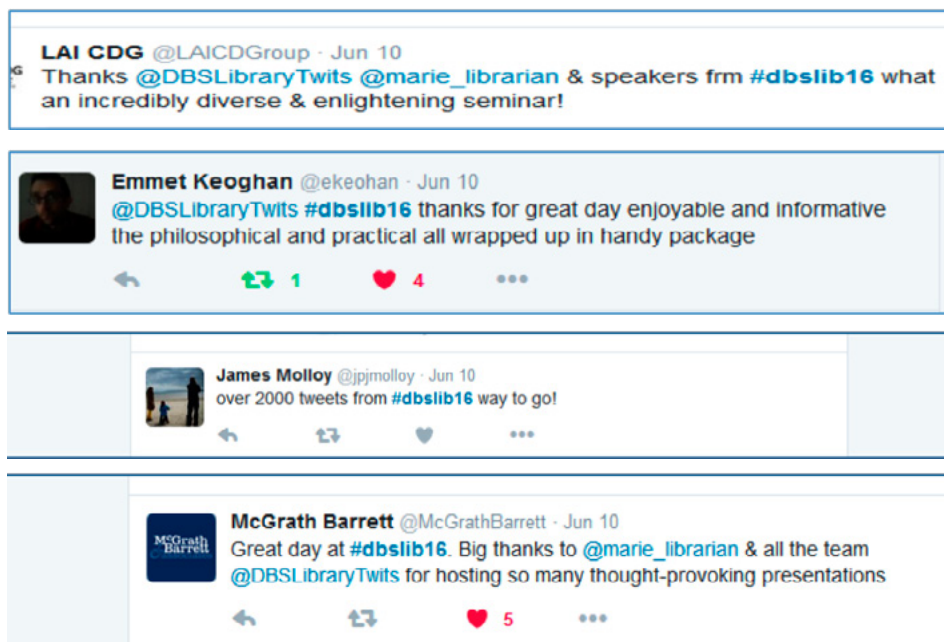


Fig. 2 Sample Twitter responses, DBS Library seminar 2016



2016 Annual Seminar. Left to right: Ken Chad, Library consultant and seminar attendee; Jane Buggle, Deputy Librarian, DBS; Alex Kouker, Research Librarian, DBS; Marie O' Neill, Head of Library Services, DBS; Dr David Prosser, Executive Director, Research Libraries UK and Pauline Sargent, Lecturer, DBS. Pauline and David were speakers in the 2016 Annual Seminar.

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Delegates at DBS Library's Annual Seminar 2016



DBS MSc in Information and Library Management students: Ryan O' Dea and Stephanie Chen

MSc in Information and Library Management

In response to a growing number of queries from library professionals about upskilling, DBS Library has lobbied for qualified librarians to be able to take individual modules of the MSc in Information and Library Management programme for CPD purposes. Those who complete these modules receive a CPD certificate from the Library Association of Ireland.

Modules are offered on a full-time day and part-time evening basis. The provision of CPD on a part-time evening basis is particularly advantageous to library professionals who are working. The following modules can be taken for CPD purposes:

- teaching librarian
- management for information and library professionals
- network resource management
- information architecture
- information technologies
- records management
- information organisation

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Line Up- DBS Library Seminar 2016

To date the majority of queries the college has received pertain to records management and IT modules as library professionals seek to upskill regarding the legal side of records management and the changing IT landscape of libraries (growth of cloud computing, etc.)



Dr David Prosser, Keynote speaker at the 2016 DBS Library Seminar. (You can delete the photo with Brendan Devlin)

Hosting of library events

DBS is increasingly hosting library events and workshops such as Library Camp 2016, which is organised by the Career Development Group of Ireland and the Academic and Special Libraries Section (AS&L) of the LAI, and has held a recent two-day workshop on privacy. The college also hosts smaller meetings, for example, of various LAI groups.

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Registration for Library Camp 2016 at Dublin Business School



Library Camp 2016, held at Dublin Business School

Conclusion

For over a decade DBS Library and its staff have been committed to contributing to the advancement of the library profession in Ireland not only by implementing best practice and innovation in its library, but also by supporting the development and delivery of an MSc in Information and Library Management, which now also offers CPD opportunities for qualified librarians. DBS Library hosts a free annual seminar and provides space for external library bodies to host seminars and workshops. There are further developments in the pipeline in relation to both the library and the MSc. Watch this space! Examples of past presentations from DBS library seminar can be accessed on the library's institutional repository eSource (<http://esource.dbs.ie/>).

2014 Annual seminar: <http://esource.dbs.ie/handle/10788/1759>

2015 Annual seminar: <http://esource.dbs.ie/handle/10788/2415>

2016 Annual seminar: <http://esource.dbs.ie/handle/10788/2939>

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