

Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown Libraries

Local History Strategic Plan

2009-2012

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Introduction:

Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown Libraries Local History Strategy sets out a path for the future of the Local History Service of this County. It aims to take stock of what the service currently offers and provides realistic objectives of how to develop and improve the service in the future. The strategy places a strong focus on making users aware of the collection content, delivering access – both physical and digital, and cooperating with other individuals and agencies with similar remits.

Branching Out - Future Directions (2008: 55) states that libraries should aim “to collect and make available local studies material in all formats, documenting the changes in our towns, cities and communities.” Recording this change provides communities with a window to the past and an understanding of the development of the County. The plan has been formulated in the context of the DLR Libraries Development Plan together with the DLR Libraries Culture Strategy and aims to incorporate their philosophies and policies.

Local History Mission Statement

To collect, maintain, preserve and make available material and online resources pertaining to the history and heritage of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and to encourage greater public awareness and understanding of the County's rich culture and traditions.

Core Elements

Place:

- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries' local History Department is based in Dún Laoghaire Library. There are also Local History collections in the other branch libraries across the County.
- An increasing amount of material is available online, providing a virtual context for local history.
- Future developments include the provision of a dedicated and expanded local history department in the new Central library in Moran Park.

People:

- Customers of all ages - local, national and international
- Serious students of history conducting research
- Searches for historical material on places and buildings.
- Research on particular historical figures or events.
- Genealogical searches

Content:

The stock in the Dún Laoghaire Library Local History Collection includes:

- Local history books relating to Dublin and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.
- Periodicals, including the Dublin Historical Record, the Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland, and collections from local history societies located around the County.
- Access to websites such as www.askaboutireland.ie, the Ordnance Survey Ireland maps, Dublin census returns and Griffith's Valuations.
- A selection of material on microfilm, including the Irish Times, Thom's Directories, the Irish Builder and the Tithe Applotment Books.
- Online newspaper resources include the Irish Times and the Irish Newspaper Archive, as well as Library PressDisplay.
- Collections of maps of the greater Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and Dublin areas.
- A range of county council archive material including Development Plans, County Council Minutes and Electoral Registers.
- Eneclann Historical CD-ROMs.
- Local History files.
- Photographic collections.

Objectives

Objective 1: Collection

Goal: Develop the Local History Collection.

Actions:

- Organise, preserve and make available existing Local history Stock
- Acquire local history material and ephemera relating to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown as it becomes available
- Extend the range of electronic local history resources.
- Deliver an oral history project for the County.
- Promote the Local History Department as a focal point for local heritage and history through the media
- Record Local History usage

Objective 2: Cooperation

Goal: Cooperate with relevant County Council Departments and Local Organisations to promote and develop the local history collection.

Actions:

- Collaborate with the County Arts and Heritage Officers
- Document changes in the physical, cultural and social life of the County.
- Promote greater use of the collection among the local community.
- Link with local schools & colleges.
- Support local history societies.
- Develop staff expertise in local history resources through training.

Objective 3: Access

Goal: Improve physical and virtual access to the local history collection.

Actions:

- Provide a dedicated local history department, in Moran Park library Dún Laoghaire.
- Prepare the collection for future expansion.
- Develop our website as a portal for local history resources.
- Participate in national initiatives which develop digital access.
- The Local History Strategic Plan 2009-2012 will build on the work and projects already completed and will seek to preserve, conserve and manage the knowledge and enjoyment of history and heritage of the County.