

Taobh Tíre
Update 10
December 2005 - March 2006

Background

Taobh Tíre – a better library service for rural areas is a pilot research project that is investigating and implementing new and innovative methods of delivering library service to rural and isolated communities. Fourteen models of good practice have been set up in locations across Donegal, including two on off-shore islands and two urban points. The project team is working in partnership with local stakeholders - community development groups, family resource centres, commercial companies, a rural transport initiative etc. While Donegal is the location for the pilot the results will be applicable to isolated communities throughout Ireland.

Extension to new areas

Training was delivered to the staff of Glenwood Youth Project, Letterkenny Community Development Project, An tSean Bheairic Falcarragh and Pettigo Family Resource Centre throughout December and January. The training consisted of showing staff how to navigate the WebOPAC, register users, request items on-line etc. and how to search the electronic resources. Equipment and taster collections were installed in An tSean Bheairic Falcarragh and in Pettigo Family Resource Centre. The Falcarragh site was launched on the 24th of February as part of Féile An tSean Bheairic. Other launches are scheduled for Spring 2006.

On-line Resources

Six online databases were purchased and are available by remote login through the library website www.donegallibrary.ie. Users can login

free of charge using their library card. The databases available are as follows: Newsbank, FACTfinder, Xreferplus, Grove Music, Grove Art, and Oxford Reference Premium. The provision of online resources such as these goes one step further to breaking down the geographical and social barriers to the Information Society.

Funding

An application was made to the Special EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace II) under Measure 3.3, Building better communities and improving rural communities in the border region. An evaluation took place on the 10th of February with a decision on the application on the 24th of March. Taobh Tíre was granted funding of €28,500. This will be used to continue the post of project co-ordinator until November and to hire a part time Library Assistant to assist in the mainstreaming of the project.

Research into other sources of funding will continue.

Reader Development

Teenagers in St Johnston have completed the research for their Ulster Scots Booklet. The Booklet comprises some local history of the St Johnston Carrigans area and a dictionary of Ulster Scots terms. The booklet has been sent to a graphic designer and will be launched in the summer after the exams.

Mainstreaming

Donegal County Council will work towards mainstreaming the services provided by Taobh Tíre. Preparations are underway to facilitate this. A comprehensive set of guidelines will be drawn up for the Taobh Tíre operators. A meeting of all library staff who support Taobh Tíre in the areas has been organised in April. This meeting may highlight other

issues in relation to mainstreaming. Visits to Taobh Tíre sites by Library staff will also be organised.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The Research & Policy Section of Donegal County Council commenced work on the evaluation of the project in December. Throughout December and January research officers visited the Taobh Tíre sites to carry out case studies of the various centres. Adult user questionnaires were designed and disseminated in January. The child friendly questionnaires were administered in February. The researchers imputed the available data throughout March. A consumer panel has been organised in May. This specialist panel will comprise of key stakeholders that have had varying levels of involvement with the project to date, they will provide significant insights into the evaluation. After this time analysis and write up of the evaluation report will take place.

For further information see also

Update 1 December 2002- March 2003

Update 2 April 2003 – July 2003

Update 3 August 2003 – November 2003

Update 4 December 2003 – March 2004

Update 5 April 2004 – July 2004

Update 6 August 2004 – November 2004

Update 7 December 2004 – March 2005

Update 8 April 2005 – July 2005

Update 9 August 2005 – November 2005

Or contact:

Donna Quinn, Project Co-ordinator, Donegal County Library, Unit 7,
Thorn Road, Magherennan, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal County Council
Phone 074 9168743

Email dquinn@donegalcoco.ie

www.donegallibrary.ie