

Taobh Tíre

Update 6

August 2004 – November 2004

Background

Taobh Tíre- a better library service for rural areas is a pilot research programme run by Donegal County Council in partnership with other agencies and groups. The main objective of the project is to investigate and implement innovative methods of delivering library services to isolated communities. Phase 1 of the projects is now complete, implementation of models (please see earlier updates) and the project has now moved onto phase 11. Funds permitting the project will run until December 2005 with a final report with recommendations due after that time.

Local Launches – Tory Island

The launch for the Tory Island model was scheduled for the 20th of September but due to gale force winds on the day the launch had to be cancelled. Discussions followed as to organising a virtual launch over the radio but due to changes in personnel on the project this was not feasible. Although there was no official launch on the island the model is working very well. 46 of the islands population (133) are now Taobh Tíre members and regularly request items on the webOPAC. The Tory Island service point is situated in the island co-operative.

Interim Report

An external consultant is putting the finishing touches to the projects interim report which is due for publication in the Spring 2005.

Review

The project underwent a mid term review in October by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna's Public Library Research Programme review committee.

The conclusion of the review committee was as follows: '*This is a very good project and reviewers were impressed with the work carried out so far. It is a worthwhile and dynamic initiative and it is agreed in principle to recommend funding Phase II.*'

Cross Border Mobile Library Service

The cross border mobile library was officially launched in Strabane Library on the 19th of October. The library, funded by the EU programme for Peace and Reconciliation, serves the border regions of Donegal, Tyrone and Derry. Funding for stock and staff will be available until 2006 at which point the service will be mainstreamed. A full schedule is available from the County Library. Since going on the road there have been numerous requests from the public for the mobile to stop at more locations. This is indeed an indication of the success of this cross border initiative.

Inspiring Readers

An application submitted to the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation for a cross border reader development project was successful. This led to the establishment of the ***Inspiring Readers*** Project in November. Two staff members were seconded from Donegal County Library Service and the Western Education and Library Board to run this reader development project. The project will run for two years. A major element of Inspiring Readers is staff training to enable the setting up and sustaining reading initiatives beyond the project end date. Training will take place in a range of locations throughout Donegal, Derry and Fermanagh. Additional elements include a major festival of childrens literature, development of a website, reader activities with a range of target groups and sharing best practice.

Phase II

This phase will allow models to develop to their full potential and will allow for meaningful results with project running over all four seasons. From the beginning of phase II marketing will be an important element. The project co-ordinator will receive marketing training and in turn put in place a structured marketing programme to run throughout 2005. Phase II will also see the development and implementation of reader development programmes tailored to the target area and its constituent target groups. Access to information will also be improved with the development of on-line information sources such as 'Ask a Librarian' element of the website and access to on-line databases.

Extension to the project

As knowledge of Taobh Tíre facilities spreads so does the demand from communities to become part of the network of sites. Funding permitting Donegal County Library proposes to extend services to six new locations including one urban site.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The project co-ordinator continues to monitor the progress of the project. An outside evaluation company will conduct a post implementation report at the end of phase II. When the project is complete the management team will produce a final report. Success to date would imply that the final report will recommend the mainstreaming of the Taobh Tíre project and its replication in isolated communities across the country.

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

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