

Libraries as changemakers: Re-imagining the James Joyce Library and its role on Campus



University College Dublin
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How we went from this...



To this...

It is also a story of how the Library came to be viewed as:

- **Central to the student experience**
- **Connected to university goals**
- **Integrated into organisational operations**
- **Fundamental to institutional identity**



UCD Overview

- **Established in 1854 as the Catholic University of Ireland**
- **Currently the largest Irish university**
- **Over 38,000 students from 152 countries**
- **32% international representation, 5000 based outside Ireland**
- **37 Schools across 6 Colleges**
- **8 Research Institutes**

Library Overview

- Library originally located in city centre
- UCD relocated from the city centre to a 133-hectare campus in 1960
 1. Faculty of Science
 2. Faculties of Commerce and Arts
 3. Restaurant
 4. Administration
 5. Library!
- Currently 5 Libraries across 2 sites



James Joyce Library

- Phase one completed 1973, 3 floors 0-2
- Phase two completed in 1986, 3 additional floors 3-5
- Currently occupies 4 floors, 1-4
- Capital Development Project is focused on floors 1-3

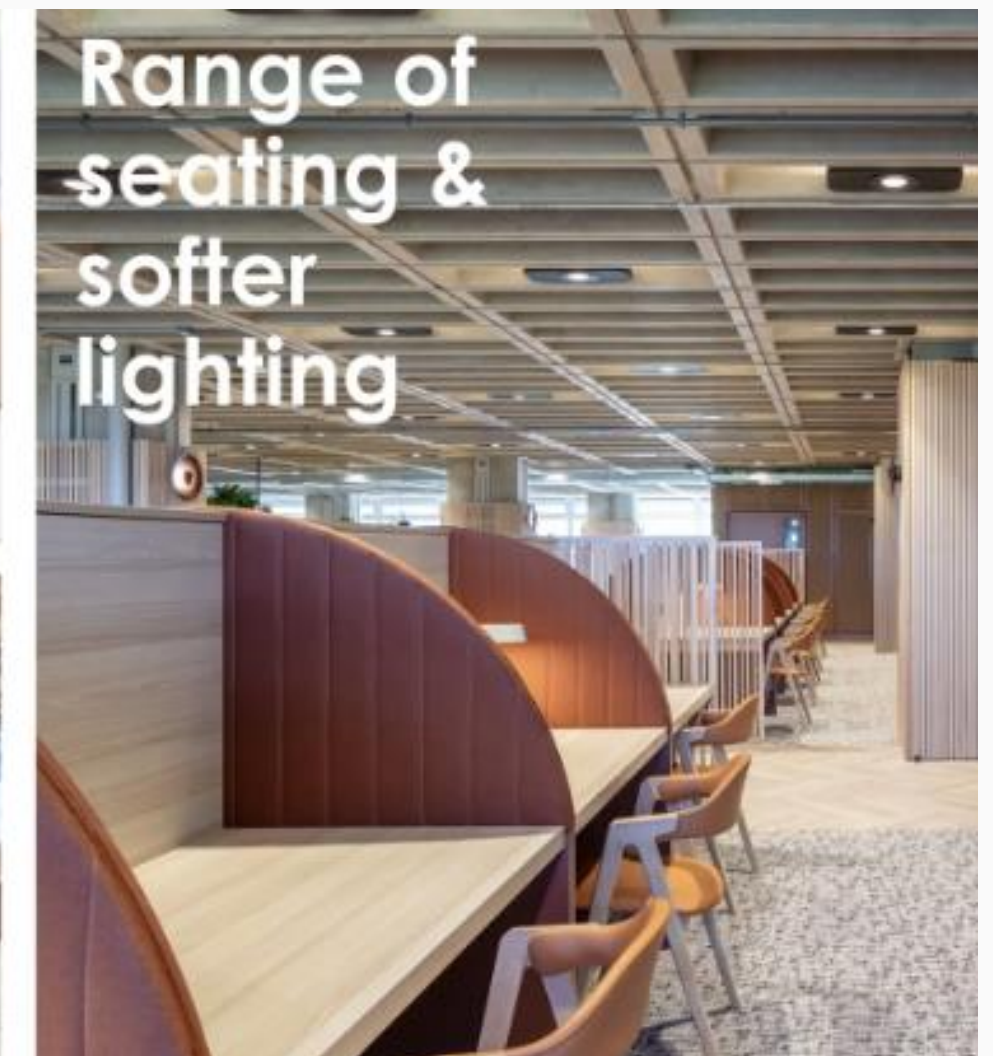
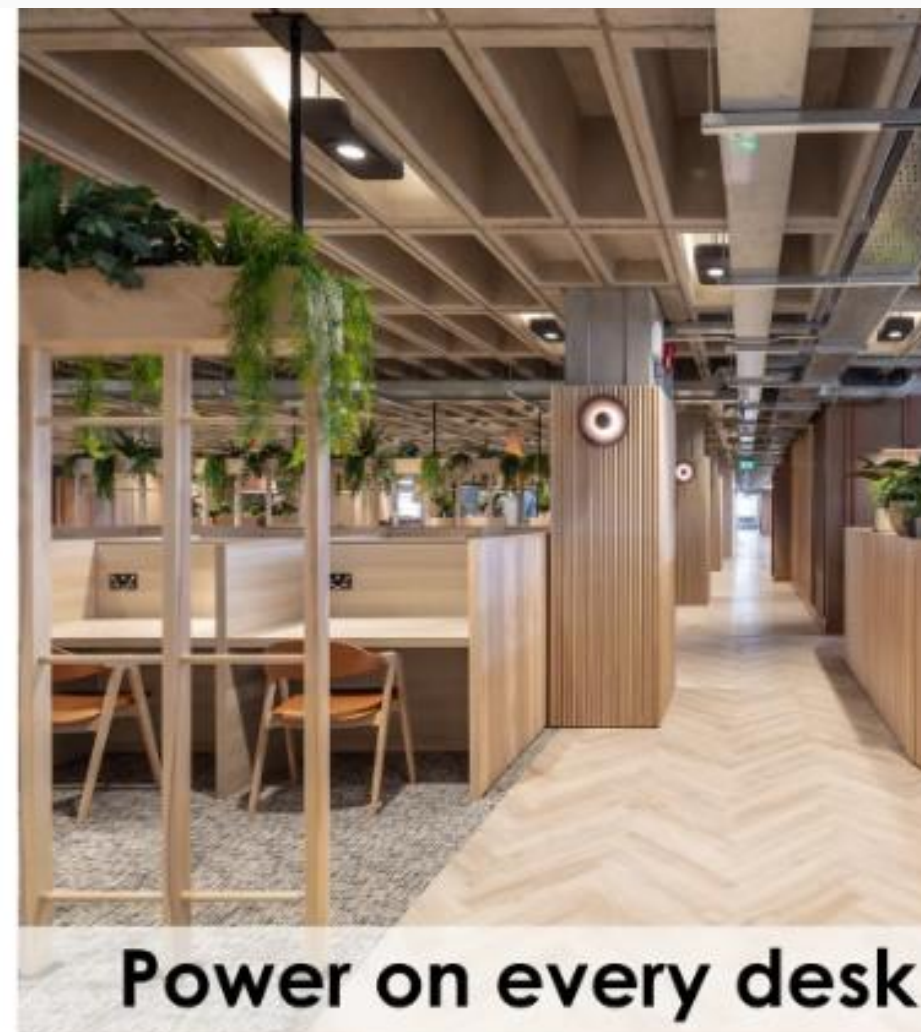
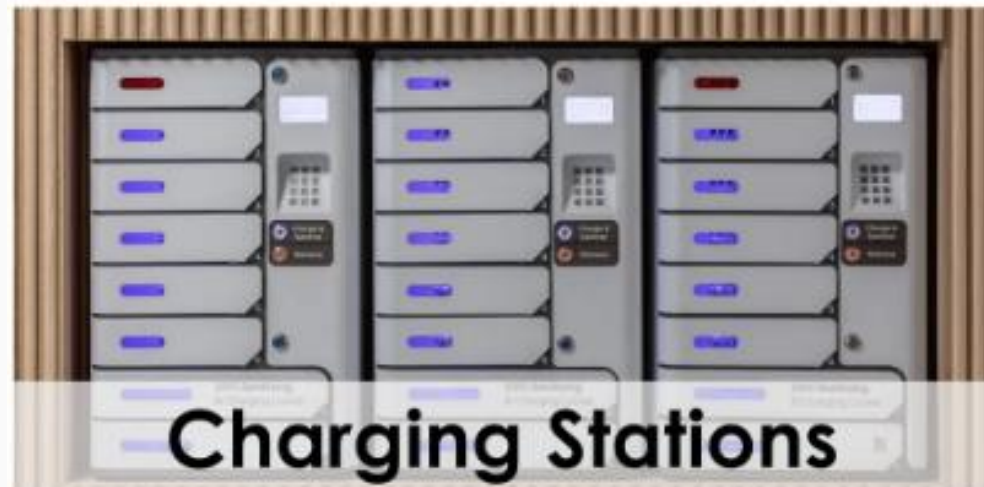


Drivers for Change

- **2019 Curation Project already underway**
- **2021 University sought to increase student numbers by 30%**
- **2022 UCD President resigns**
Interim President and Registrar
appointed
UMT LSG Group established
- **2023 Development of Level 3 begins**
- **2023 New President and Registrar**
- **2024 Development of Masterplan**
for James Joyce Library



Redevelopment of Floor 3 of the James Joyce Library



Redevelopment of Floor 3 of the James Joyce Library



Redevelopment of Floor 3 of the James Joyce Library



Outcomes

- **EDI: Focus On accessibility** contributed to the Library being seen as a leader on campus
- **Student Partnership:** The Library is seen as an exemplar of best practice
- **Trust:** Demonstrated the Library's ability to deliver on investment
- **Efficient:** Demonstrated how the Library can work efficiently and meet deadlines
- **A Critical Asset:** The refurbished floor used in promotion and recruitment Changed perceptions
- **Proof of Concept:** Illustrated the potential for the rest of the James Joyce Library
- **Building Heart of the University:** Response to the refurbishment demonstrated how the Library is at the heart of the student experience

A New Vision for redevelopment

To transform from a traditional archive into an inclusive, sustainable, and technology-driven hub.



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Project Deliverables: Library

- Increased quantity of Library study spaces
- More inclusive facilities, including sensory study rooms
- Enhanced welfare facilities
- Enhanced individual study facilities
- Enhanced group study facilities
- Postgraduate facilities
- New services and Facilities
- Curated and easily accessible Modern Teaching and Research Collections

Project Deliverables: Cultural Heritage Centre

- **New Cultural Heritage Centre, bringing 3 worldclass heritage collections together into a purpose-built space: better for researchers, students and staff**
- **Safe, suitable storage for the National Folklore**
- **Collection with fire suppression and environmental control**
- **Technical spaces: conservation lab, digitisation studio, audio digitization room, exhibition preparation space, specialist workspaces**
- **Engagement spaces: shared Reading Room, teaching & learning room, audio listening booth, cultural heritage seminar room, visitor room (donors)**

New inclusive student-centred services: Guiding Principles

- Continuous engagement with students
- Collaboration with ALL, Student Services, UCD Estate Services, UCDSU etc
- Universal Design approach
- Ongoing observation of student behaviours
- Constant horizon scanning
- Committed to investment
- Embedded into organisational design/function
- No assumptions



Neurodiverse and accessible spaces



New model of Service Delivery

- Move away from College Liaison Librarian model
- However a librarian will still manage relationships with Schools & Colleges (*but not delivering all services to Schools & Colleges*)
- Team of librarians delivering support for teaching & learning – greater balance in workloads
- New roles with expertise in supporting:
 - Undergraduate teaching & learning
 - Academic Integrity
 - Digital Literacy & AI
 - Student Experience
 - Systematic Reviews for researching and teaching
 - Citizen Science

Recognition



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BREAKING BOUNDARIES

STRATEGY TO
2030

Strategic Initiative Student Experience

“prioritise the delivery of high-quality accessible and inclusive spaces, services and programmes that build community and enhance the student experience. These will include a reimagined **library**, sports and social facilities, accommodation, food offerings, public transport and digital campus”.



Strategic Initiative Physical and Digital Campus



“successfully complete major capital developments in the Centre for Future Learning, Science Phase 3, student residences, sports and leisure amenities, Lyons Farm, the

James Joyce Library, and the Newman Building, together delivering state-of-the-art space for learning, research and the student experience”

Thank you!
Σας ευχαριστώ!



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