**Pre-submitted Questions**

1. How does a single item get catalogued?
2. How does that item get connected with other related items (same media, different media)?
3. What intangible knowledge is lost when cataloguing the artefacts?
   1. How is this problem dealt with for traditional library materials?
   2. How will the cultural heritage value of each item in the Collection be retained? (e.g. how are photos different to drawings by hand?)
4. Is there a list of the types and amount of items within the collection based on the preliminary curation done?

**=====================**

**Interviewee** Librarian-1

**Attendees** Researcher-1, Researcher-2 and Researcher-3

**Date** 10-Dec-2020

**Note(s)** Permission to record requested and received before recording commenced.

**Transcript**

Researcher-3

00:02 Sorry Librarian-1. Yeah.

Librarian-1

00:04 Yeah. No. That's brilliant. We might have to delete it, because we may then listen back to it later and go that wasn't the right answer to that question. But, no worries.

Researcher-3

00:12 Ah grand and, a sure look it, like I'm afraid on our part, I'm sure will bug you all again and again. So, you know, there's this refinement. So, any, any clarification. So I corrections. I'm sure they'll come, but at the same time, keep it. I really, really appreciate it.

Librarian-1

00:27 Yeah, okay. Well, the only thing is I'm not ofay, and I can't remember now how to on zoom to share things. So it's like where I'm going.

Researcher-3

00:35 Yeah.

00:36 If you hover at the bottom of the screen somewhere.

00:38 This little menu pops up.

Librarian-1

00:41 Oh, okay.

Researcher-3

00:42 So then, and then I think pending or how expanded you I might not see more or you can see one that says

00:50 Share screen. It's like a green, button

Librarian-1

00:52 Yeah, if I share that, then I've got various things open I share that do I. Then just go to one of the things I've got open and you'll be able to hear

Researcher-3

01:00 If you've got one screen on several screens.

Librarian-1

01:02 I've opened a few different screens and things. I was going to show you

Researcher-3

01:05 Oh yeah, I think once you've got, say one computer screen like one VDU or a laptop screen, everything will come through that and then you can just pull things up. You've got like like pick one or two or three monitors, then you just pick which one you want

Librarian-1

01:18 On a

01:18 One or two, three on the home at the moment. Oh.

01:21 And I tell you what, let's have it. Let's just see if I hit share screen if this works.

Researcher-3

01:25 Okey-doke.

Librarian-1

01:28 So, now where do I want to go. I want to go. Okay.

Researcher-3

01:35 Okay.

01:36 So something's happening. Okay, so I can see the world cay and green here. Perfect.

Librarian-1

01:41 So if I go backwards.

01:44 So basically,

01:45 If you go into the world catalog, which holds all the books like for the work you know, as you can imagine, is the world catalog and library books.

01:53 And I just, just to show you I'm looking trying to show you probably the detail because you’re asking. How are things catalogued. So I just put in a title of a book called The eighth habit.

02:06 And I'm going to search obviously search books. So here we go. So I'm going to go into this one here, the eighth habit.

02:16 Okay, now I choose this book. So it's good. It is telling me where this book is available in all the various libraries. So I'm going to go to Trinity.

02:27 Okay, and then this me all the information on that book.

02:31 And you'll see at the top here, it says MARC display.

02:35 A mark is just a way of cataloging, so if I click on there.

02:42 It can look a little bit complicated, but basically every single code and define something so you'll see here 100 is Stephen Covey, that's your

02:53 Number 245 that's the actual title of the book. So you’re asking how are things classified. Everything is classified in a certain way is up to 900 different fields. And obviously, depending on what the item is just to what field us

Researcher-3

03:09 And literally, there are say up there are from like zero up to maybe a thousand within fields that potentially can have a code that is specific to a item. Is that it

Librarian-1

03:21 It goes it sort of goes as 10 or more than 10 in each sort of areas so different, different numbers down the side.

03:29 Denote different things. So here, like where it says 300 241 P that would say this 241 pages.

Researcher-3

03:37 Yeah

Librarian-1

03:37 In this book and

03:41 It will give you the date that the you know the price of it when it was actually publish all the various depending on what you're doing the information that you're looking to gather okay so

03:52 Probably that's kind of that side of it. Now, if I if I want to go back to like honestly another screen. Okay, back to New share. Yeah.

Researcher-3

04:03 I think it should could, you could click on your next screen and just try that and it should bring the next thing that you're looking at, because you only have one monitor it should do that. She says,

04:13 Yes. Here we go.

Librarian-1

04:15 This is just the, you know,

04:19 On our library on our library.

04:20 Page. If you go to wit, cat to search our catalog.

04:24 Yes. Do you know how to get to go back and do

Researcher-3

04:28 It. Yeah, just to the staff, if you don't mind, just so we have the full run of it. Perfect.

Librarian-1

04:33 Okay, so basically this is the library web page. And then if you come down to here where you actually searching for books over here on the right, it says connect to WIT catalog or WIT Cat

04:46 You click on there.

04:49 You then got the option to search. So if I go to Advanced Search.

04:54 And this time, I'm doing a search and I'm looking at one of our special collections, which are catalogued slightly differently. Okay, but in here. You won't actually see the MARC record because this is the student side as opposed to

05:07 Decide

Researcher-3

05:08 So like, rather than the administrative side.

05:12 This is the nice front end to the user.

Librarian-1

05:14 Exactly so.

05:15 So I go to series title.

05:18 All of our special collections.

05:20 Have a series title because

05:24 They joined everything together. So Bonaparte-Wyse is one of our special collections and we've probably got about 2000 items in there. So if I then search on Bonaparte-Wyse.

05:38 What it does do

05:40 Is bring up everything that's in the Bonaparte-Wyse collection. So say this first one was what exactly what I was looking now obviously you can then go and redefine your search on the left hand side. If you're looking for certain information.

05:55 Item wise, dates, that kind of thing. But just to give you just a top level Bagge family, I've decided this is what I want to look at. So click on that.

06:09 And so it's telling me the series.

06:12 We actually purchase this from the Adams auction house in Dublin and

06:17 It certainly be the subject, the description of the item here underneath this is actually an item type and it's reference because obviously our special collections.

06:29 Are called come out of the library. So they're purely reference. If you wanted to do something you'd make an appointment with me. Come in and

06:38 Actually look at the physical artefact. Now we are. I am slowly in the process of digitizing this

Researcher-3

06:47 And can I, and that's just then Librarian-1 when it's a reference thing like that. Is it reference because it's rare or because it's part of the collection. What makes it reference versus generally accessible.

Librarian-1

07:00 Okay, so at the moment on this catalog and it's. We don't have to digitizing on here. It's just, it's just letting you know that WIT hold this article. If you are looking for it.

07:12 It's reference because in this particular case, I think we spent an awful lot of money.

07:18 On the collection. So we would never, you would never be able to come in and take it out or book it out or anything if it really is pure reference

07:27 So the whole idea of digitizing this collection is as I was saying put it up on a digital repository of Ireland. Yeah. And it, you can then actually view it.

07:37 So I will have scanned it you'll have the digital view and in time. Obviously, we would look at translating that document as well so that you would have your original translation.

07:50 So you so we're making our collections. If you like available to the whole world.

Researcher-3

07:55 Fantastic.

Librarian-1

07:56 You wouldn't be having to come into the library as such to view an article.

08:00 An article unless obviously we start going down the road to copyright. If it's something we hold but obviously is copyright around it, we can't put it out there for everyone to view online. So then again it would be a case of you coming in and having to physically see the actual document.

Researcher-3

08:16 And when it's like that, just to side track, if it was a copyrighted thing would you then maybe have almost like a placeholder online where where people know it's there but then obviously instruction is somehow if they know that you must come in to view the physical. Okay.

Librarian-1

08:31 Yeah, you'd have to say something like this is available to you and put you know to view in person, but obviously juice copyright, you know, it can't go out.

Researcher-3

08:46 Okay

Librarian-1

08:46 well, you would know what you would know when you search that we are holding that. So you need

08:47 That information is available, but it won't be something that's going to be out online. So it really just depends on what collection is and what you're looking at. But basically here, this just giving you the basic information. It's located in the Luke Wadding library.

09:04 The call number just tells you

09:07 So if you were looking for that you would give me that call number and I would take that out the archives and have that ready for you to view.

09:14 Is telling you it's available there are always available because obviously they're not taken out of the library. So, there will always be in the library.

09:21 Title notes, which is the second column. It just tells you a little bit then about the article. So if you were searching, it would give you some of the information. So you may have known.

09:34 It was published in 1860 and that it's a manuscript so that again once once it will be in somewhere like the digital repository, and you will be able to sort of search under various

09:51 Fields and link them all together. So you would say it's part of the Bonaparte-Wyse collection. I'm looking at the Bagge family in 1860, that kind of thing. So all that information goes in there. And as I showed you earlier.

10:05 On the World Cat.

10:07 That's all that would all be defined on the various fields, you would be using depending on what what type of material. Your cataloging

Researcher-3

10:16 Okay, yeah, so that that that the other the other fine, we'll give you your meta data for the object itself. And this is the front end.

Librarian-1

10:27 System that was the students would say, but obviously some

10:31 Some libraries.

10:34 I think Trinity. If you search their catalog. I think you can actually see the MARC records and even as a student on ours, you can't

10:44 At the moment, and I don't know if that's ever going to be something

10:48 That we will make available.

10:51 On our system, obviously it's a system that a lot of the libraries are using. It's not customized just for us. Obviously we've treated tweet parts of it to accuracy WIT works.

11:05 But that's like a real broad stroke of kind of

11:10 How things are sort of catalogued and

11:13 And the fact we use MARC records. There's lots of different types out there. There's Dublin Core there's

11:20 Quite a few, actually, that different different libraries us. Yeah.

Researcher-3

11:24 And and so it you know because one thing then on this and say on the papers have been written. It seems like

11:35 An initial it's a test on on, I think it was I think the photograph but I could be wrong and that

11:42 That comparing say a similar type object catalogued using MARC versus METS, the report backwards that met seems to be a bit richer in it's descriptive qualities and so on, and is is the

11:58 Have you given past that Librarian-1, or is that maybe somebody else in the team who was kind of doing that technical bit with the with Researcher-2 and team to do the catalog to trial, it

Librarian-1

12:12 Basically I worked with a few of the students last year and

12:17 One guy already knew that. So he was looking at

12:19 What we were doing. And then, as you said, this is METS.

12:24 So I kind of was involved in bits and pieces. But obviously, showing them the MARCs side of it, how we did things but not necessarily

12:35 METS isn’t particularly something. I know, I know, I know it's around. It's not something a particular you know an awful lot about

12:43 So I think Librarian-2 actually did work with that student as well. That wasn't as Archivist 1. Was it also Librarian-2 who did it last year? I am not sure that did it the paper on METS.

Researcher-3

12:54 I actually don't know in fairness, I'd have to probably ask back on that from the team and they may know who did what you know

13:01 Give it and find that way.

Librarian-1

13:05 Yeah, so I think probably

13:09 Probably for the next meeting. What, what might be a better idea is if we if I speak to Librarian-2 and we actually come up

13:15 With

13:15 If you come up with a list of

13:17 Things you want to know and that we set up a proper demo so that we're showing you everything in the detail that you're actually looking for maybe

Researcher-3

13:25 And that it’s and possibly like you know and that's part of it. You know, like if you if we kind of handed you, you know, a letter from our article. Oh, this looks like it's from

13:37 This has Mike Cooley. Now this has, you know, the back that Bonaparte-Wyse kind of name attached to it. What do you do with this now. Like, how do you

13:48 Go and take this say handwritten letter and, you know, describe it, you know, and curated and slotted into the collection. How do you take that thing that we give you and move it from, you know, being handed over to the library you assess it. You catalogue it, you curated, you know, that kind of

Librarian-1

14:09 Yeah.

Researcher-3

14:10 Step by step process to to to to get it from hand to into the digital collection, if you if you have it now. Like for say

14:20 This particular example. What would you do if you know and and I guess. And maybe, and that's part of it. It's like, well, what happens in the real world, or it's a tangible assets. She knows so it may be just sits

14:32 You know in your, your it as a resource in your library. And then, how, how does that differ, or how is it, how is the process, the same or different you know to

14:44 Making it digital. I think that's probably the, the two things when we know nothing, having what happens to it physically and what happens to it digitally and what's the same things. And what's the difference

Librarian-1

14:57 Yeah, I guess, I guess so.

15:00 The standard, if you like.

15:02 The book side of things, which is probably like the main bulk of the stuff that's getting catalog.

15:10 So new books come in.

15:12 Now, Librarian-2, and also Librarian-3 tend to do

15:16 Most of the cataloging, so there's there's ways that they can actually. So obviously you have to go in and set up a MARC record for all of all the details for that new book or object that's come into the library.

15:31 For obviously books, it's easier because there's various catalogs like the World Cat and also a Library of Congress where you can actually go up.

15:40 And see all those records. And I think you can either pick MARC all METS depending on what your system uses and actually pull that information. So it's cutting out the middleman having to sit down with the book and actually say, Oh, right. This is the

15:56 This is the title. This is the ISBN number and this is when it was published and manually type all of those different fields in

Researcher-3

16:06 Yeah, it's like a drag. If I can drag and drop. You've got it there already

Librarian-1

16:10 You can go and get into yeah you can go up to these

16:13 Other massive

16:15 Catalog sites and pull that information down when it comes to a collection, a special collection, it's slightly different. So the Michael Cooley collection.

16:26 Has to be so at that came in and I don't know now about 16 - 20 different boxes and then a couple of hundred of physical books.

16:36 The books side, as I just said was a lot easier because we just had to get all the ISBN in numbers and then go and pull the MARC record data from the world cat and put it into our system on the actual artefacts that so is papers. His

16:54 His photographs. He’s got slides videos all sorts of materials there are different item types. We had an archivist who was from Maynooth.

17:10 Archivist 1 working with us and he was going through all the boxes, putting all the items into families, if you like. So what was academic papers. What was photographs and all the various different pieces that are built that form the collection.

17:30 But because of with Covid

17:33 He then couldn't come on site. So that was kind of he was working away on it and hoping that the end of it, we would have more of a handle of what was in all the boxes at that hasn't really progressed, as far as we were hoping really just because he could no longer come on site.

Researcher-3

17:50 And how far along through the collection did he managed to get it like a quarter of the way halfway, you know,

Librarian-1

17:59 I'm not, I'm not sure. At the moment we were we were hoping that we could get something back from him.

Researcher-3

18:04 Hmmm

Librarian-1

18:05 He that he had. I believe he has created a spreadsheet, which would give us. So I'm assuming that he's itemized every different type of item in the collection. How many documents are in there

18:18 Probably something that that level, not the actual individual details of each record.

Researcher-3

18:24 Got ya. Yeah. Yeah, it's like it's at the high level snapshot of

Librarian-1

18:27 Exactly.

Researcher-3

18:27 Exactly. Okay. And inventory of those and then just out of interest, Librarian-1 is

18:33 You know, like

18:36 To do that, the work of the catalog cataloging is, is it an archivist that you need versus something that you or the team do or is it just that it was extra hands to take on the work because you have day jobs managing the library already is that the difference

Librarian-1

18:54 It was it was it was a little bit of both. He was doing his

18:58 He was doing his degree get for to become an archivist and so he did a work placement with us from Maynooth. And so it was to his benefit. It was a

19:09 archivist like to work with old collections and you know when someone gets an archive coming into that possession. They kind of treated differently and they look at it and they look at what they think we should be collecting and the correct way to collect the metadata.

19:29 We have done some of our projects on the graves papers we literally just got all the papers out. We had a took over the lab.

19:39 And we started going through them and put it all into different types and then literally great big spreadsheet and looking at

19:47 Working out what information we wanted to collect so that this could all them become searchable and available to people. So that was just a real serious manual task where we actually rolled up our sleeves up and get our hands dirty.

Researcher-3

20:05 Interesting, interesting. Like it's

20:08 Like, like I said, like when you know when you know nothing. Just hearing this, everything's like really interesting

Librarian-1

20:15 Well, it is kind of it is really interesting because you could read as you're going to obviously have to read every document.

20:24 And you can read something I think oh my god that's really interesting that ties into something else and then later on as you're going through, you come across another documented and you go

20:33 Ah, understand, now that links to when they bought the roadway shares optical I'm just happens to be talking about the graves papers at the moment but you, you can then start building the pattern of well, how the business was doing and what what areas. Then they sort of moved into

20:52 But it is a manual task is a case of literally going through each document.

Researcher-3

20:59 And then having to go to that, then how do you keep a handle, and a track of.

21:04 That information as you're going, because until you get to the next piece, you don't know that it's there and you don't know the connection. So how'd you how do A remembered how to connect the connection and, you know,

Librarian-1

21:17 I guess when you're trying to collect the metadata you define from the beginning.

21:23 So you have a broad look at what you've got in the collection and then you're looking at, okay, what do we need to collect from this to make this findable for someone who's going to be looking for it. So things obviously like the date the author who it was written to

21:44 Any information. So you'd have various fields. And then we would use notes fields, three or four of them whatever we needed. So if there was something in it that we wanted to say this also ties in with

21:57 When this company was purchased all this was the managing director at the time or. So you create other fields so that

22:06 When we were later when when all the information goes into a system.

22:11 That it would then be able to link and that will all be searchable. So that could people could then actually find that document.

Researcher-3

22:19 Okay. So it's actually like you're making metadata notes as you go.

Librarian-1

22:23 You’re not actually cataloguing and it's actually collecting the meta data.

Researcher-3

22:28 Right, yeah.

Librarian-1

22:29 And then depending on what system you're going to put it into how that's going to fit into that particular system.

22:39 And ideally, then you would be then digitized in that document it would then get its own unique number

22:46 And if it's part of a special collection that would have the name of the collection, then it's unique number and that would then you put on the documents so that obviously it's findable physically

22:56 And then when we digitize it obviously it would have that number so that your ties into its metadata.

23:05 That kind of makes sense.

Researcher-3

23:07 It does. Yeah, yeah. I'm actually kind of like trying to picture. The picture. The, the process in my mind I can count you know and like let little a box connecting the dots to the next object and task and how you do it and frame it that way. I'm just trying to

23:25 Draw a picture in my own mind.

Librarian-1

23:28 I think personas, everything has got to be find the goal. So you've got to be collecting the right metadata can find it.

23:36 Then you know when you've got your searches that you can tie a number of things together. So, and if it's part of the Bonaparte-Wyse or it's part of graves and

23:47 Say Bonaparte-Wyse if I've come along and I'm doing some research on the Bonaparte-Wyse family. I might have a date of a particular

23:57 Time I want to be looking at. I like be pick a particular person out of that family that I want to investigate and then what other things that are, what am I actually looking for that you'd be able to type when you're different search filter criteria together.

24:13 So you may be first. When you do a search on like the names. The name of the person that may be the dates that you're looking at, then maybe the area that you're currently researching

24:25 So you pull back everything within your search criteria.

24:32 Yeah, I guess, a bit like a Google search.

Researcher-3

24:35 Yeah, anyway.

24:36 keep refining get to get

24:37 Close. If

24:38 You're looking for it. Yeah, yeah.

Librarian-1

24:43 Hi, Researcher-2

Researcher-2

24:45 Oh. Hey folks, I'm just playing with my with my earphones.

Researcher-3

24:50 Trouble again.

Researcher-2

24:55 Just need to get a new adapter

24:59 How we are keeping me well.

Librarian-1

25:01 Yeah, good.

Researcher-3

25:04 Good, good.

25:05 He can benefit. Yeah.

Researcher-2

25:07 Yeah. Did the time flies when you're busy was in the day I played a days are just flying. Yeah.

Researcher-3

25:11 I only said to somebody that they actually did for a year, I've not been able to do anything go go anywhere. I just can't believe how quickly it's gone by, you know, from just just from the blink of an eye from March to December. Yeah.

Librarian-1

25:26 Yeah.

Researcher-2

25:27 Yeah, no, it's it's it's incredible.

25:30 That was very interesting. Librarian-1 just listening to what you were saying they are you know

25:35 I may, I think it's kind of, it's really the nub of what we’re at to, to, to find the right kind of data and that that make your job easier.

Librarian-1

25:51 Yeah.

Researcher-2

25:51 And, and I think

25:57 Researcher-3 and Researcher-1 and then were very interested you know in in what the, what the process.

26:04 Is and particularly from your point of view when when when a new collection comes in or new items come in and that, you know, so it's great that and you know that were that were able to have to meeting. And then, and thanks so much for that.

Librarian-1

26:20 No problem. I'm not sure review their brand. Even I mentioned about Archivist 1.

26:24 Explaining see he was actually going through the collection for us.

26:27 Yeah, and but then with Covid and everything.

Researcher-2

26:30 Yeah, and

Librarian-1

26:31 We never really got that report at the end.

Researcher-2

26:35 And

Librarian-1

26:35 I know you're obviously he kind of got pulled away and he's working now. So I don't know what. Hopefully. Maybe. Maybe we need to have a chat with Larry because I think he was quite

26:47 Good friends there so

26:48 Again, that maybe we could even the work that he's done so far, would be a great help.

Researcher-2

26:53 It wouldn't. And I think from from from what I'd be looking into and what would be interested in would be a number of divers items

Librarian-1

27:04 Yeah, the collection. Yeah.

Researcher-2

27:06 You know,

27:08 So how many types of different item are there that would be really interested in, I think, because if there's diverse items and we're describing them will then there's meta descriptions for each item, but there's also a profile for each item, you know,

27:21 Yeah, so that would be that would be really, really interesting. And yeah, Archivist 1 was doing great. Great work, and

27:30 In the

27:32 In the, in the room that he had lads that was boxes wasn't around at boxes of stuff and Archivist 1 was in there and he was going through the boxes and trying to put some kind of order on them, you know, and so

27:47 Really from from it from. It's very, very raw state and and and you know Fair play to him and

27:57 meetings says, well, Librarian-1. He was a mine of information, wasn't it

Librarian-1

28:01 Oh no, absolutely. And there is, there are standards out there as well. So basically if it's a video that you're describing the types of information you need to be collecting yeah that fits the correct

28:18 Best best practice if you like so.

28:20 We're video, whether it's an documentation, whether it's a book, whatever it is.

28:27 It's not just a sort of a case of deciding what you fancy, say collecting yourself. Yeah, we have to actually follow a certain format.

28:35 Or even with the digital repository of Ireland, you know, they have certain standards which this is going to be brilliant. When we joined because we will have access to all the standards and best practice.

28:49 And then what format if when you are digitizing, what are you going to digitize them in that in 10 years time, they are still accessible because as they change.

29:02 Search so PDFs. If you talk to the digital repository. Basically what they want, TIFF files.

29:11 JPG, they may or may not, depending on what version. So there's certain things that, you know, at least if you've done the work now in 10 years time someone's still going to be able to access that or that there will be a new piece of software that you can convert all of your files to

29:31 So that they are still available.

Researcher-2

29:33 Yeah, yeah, that's it. I suppose design and with the future in mind, imagine what kind of system changes to that is still usable.

Librarian-1

29:42 Exactly.

Researcher-2

29:42 Exactly. I was

Librarian-1

29:43 Even in one collection. I was looking at a good while ago now, it's the red kettle in Waterford

29:51 We had their files and they had a lot of do you remember.

29:56 Discs that used to put into your PC.

29:58 That little black one

Researcher-2

30:02 Yeah, what were they

Researcher-3

30:03 Mini cartridge disc something like that

Researcher-2

30:07 Cartridge discs were they

Librarian-1

30:08 It all your little black start getting kind of things. It used to get

30:12 But then looking at it and I wanted to see what was on it and the extension on the end of it. None of us have heard of. And I'd asked all the IT guys because we couldn't work out how to actually. Well first we had to find a PC that you could actually put the goddamn thing into

30:28 And you're trying to work out what software we needed to open it.

Researcher-2

30:33 Yeah yeah yeah

30:35 Yeah.

Researcher-3

30:36 I remember that my problem actually isn't. Sorry, sorry.

Researcher-2

30:39 No, go ahead.

Researcher-3

30:40 I was gonna say it's probably gonna be a problem as you get collections starting that that have formed you know maybe began in the last maybe 20 years as people do have things on hard drives and you know when you know a lot of there maybe.

30:57 A lot of that items and data was written, you know, on word or whatever or text files or is is digital photographs and and so on, you know, if we go 20 - 50 years down the line, trying to access what we create now could be more more of a problem.

Librarian-1

31:15 Yeah, and I with Michael Cooley's he seemed to be a great fan of dictation machines. So there's hundreds of the tiny little

31:25 Disk tapes. Yeah. But we've got to work out a how, what are we going to convert them to. But what do we need to be able to actually play them now to find on them and then obviously convert them into something that's going to

31:41 Be around for the next whatever and that there's lots of

31:47 Material in there that obviously we really do have to the slides and things are easier because there's various things that you can

31:55 You can get a TPU to go on a scanner and put them in and actually scan them, but some of the other materials. He's been using could could present more of a problem.

Researcher-2

32:07 Yeah, I'm just thinking about what you're seeing there about those little tips in a previous lifetime, a long time ago.

32:15 I used to do kind of secretarial work and we used to have a Dictaphone machine, you know,

32:21 You'd have

32:21 A thing under your phone to started pain and you'd have the headphones on and he'd be typing up these reports or whatever. So even like to play those to you know to get one of those old headphones and pick the phone playing device and

32:41 causes problems in itself doesn't that Librarian-1 and and we came upon that last year as well. I think with the VHS tapes, we had to get them converted before we could actually look at them, didn't we.

Librarian-1

32:52 Yeah. We actually yeah we had our education department converting them from the tape to DVDs, which is going to be obsolete. But at least we

33:03 Can view them and then work out what how we then converted the DVD to something else. And it's, it's all of those kind of things. And I suppose

33:13 One of the problems is not having enough resources ourselves and you're kind of relying on others to help and I suppose not having the funding to get someone there are companies out there that can do it for you. But again,

Researcher-2

33:29 It’s all about the money

Researcher-3

33:30 It just costs more, when you go outside the

33:35 Unit do you find and then gave find that

33:39 Technology is actually say helping and a benefit or is it kind of just adding it not just it kind of adding to the workload. So you're having to do two jobs, you've still got to manage the physical

33:52 But now you also have to take care of the digital or is it or is it is it extra work that maybe it's it's a good thing to have because of the wider access that it gives you know people looking to use WIT resources and the sharing of knowledge, how are you

Librarian-1

34:10 You're, you're hoping that also, I think it's a learning curve because once you tackle a collection that's got all these various different items type item types in it.

34:22 It's a learning process cause your learning. Okay, how are we going to get this converted

34:27 And then what are we going to convert it to

34:30 And sometimes it's a case of converting it from one thing, as we did with VHS tapes to DVD tapes and then obviously those DVD tapes are going to have to be converted to something else. Because having his have got DVD players at home. Now I can record it.

34:45 So it's kind of it is a learning curve. And I suppose the more if you did it 24 seven and that was your only job. I'm sure

34:56 You'd have all the knowledge because you know what systems out there, what software is out there.

35:02 And what's best practice.

Researcher-2

35:08 Yeah, yeah. No, it's, it's

35:12 It there's there's

35:16 There's a huge learning curve, the whole way along the process isn't really Librarian-1.

Librarian-1

35:21 Yeah.

Researcher-2

35:21 You know, on that.

35:24 No, go ahead.

Librarian-1

35:25 Now, and I think, I think. And I'm hoping with the digital repository. They have so many people working there and technologists and various different types of different people with different parts

35:39 That you can work with them as well and use their knowledge base.

35:45 You're learning from the, from the experts and getting the right advice and also because they've got all the documentation on best practice and how you should tackle.

35:55 Various areas. Yeah. And as we were saying earlier, the archivists are quite useful as well because they're involved in it. So there's lots of different sort of strings to the bow, if you like, and a lot of expertise that's actually out there.

Researcher-2

36:13 Yeah, yeah, yeah. No, it's it's really interesting and and i think Librarian-1 as well the interdisciplinary nature of it, you know, that kind of merging of see archivists and librarians like yourselves and then the technical people

36:31 And

36:33 We're involved with this aura network. It's a, it's a collaboration between Ireland and the UK to do with born digital archives and

36:43 I was talking to Larry about it and what we noticed was whereas there seems to be a lot of an acknowledgement say of interdisciplinary work in, in fact, a lot of people feel very

37:00 awkward about mixing the disciplines. You know, like when they're asked to go into breakout rooms and things like that, you know, and so there's probably

37:11 We're probably talking a lot more about it than actually doing it like in general. Yeah. And so I think there's a real opportunity there for us now as well. And, you know, and for the lab and and and everyone in the lab. I think I can confirm that can be something really, really good.

Librarian-1

37:28 Yeah, I think, even with an own digital. I mean it is amazing because even in WIT at the moment they're collecting all those stories and videos of

37:38 What people did over the lockdown and how it affected them and and getting if you like the human stories because we always say is the people that know the history. It's all in their heads. And if you do that oral history and recording with them. It gets lost it. So,

38:01 Far that will then be another problem. Not a problem. But the presenters with another challenge because

38:07 When they have finished all that. But then this to be stored somewhere is really that probably does need to come into the library's remit so that it's somewhere.

38:16 In 100 years if someone wants to say what was WIT during in 2020 you go straight to this fantastic archive that we have all this kind of information

38:29 And it's accessible where it's not sort of in a box in someone's office or on equipment that's been recorded that now no longer works or all of this kind of thing.

Researcher-2

38:41 Yeah, yeah, yeah.

38:43 No it's, it's, it's the whole the whole area, but it's absolutely

38:49 Fascinating, and I'm sure Researcher-3 and Researcher-1. Researcher-1 would would feel the same.

38:55 About that and and I suppose what what you're trying to do lads, Researcher-3 and Researcher-1 is

39:02 Kind of and find out where your where your starting point is with this and what direction we're going to go when

39:11 So in in regards to that. It's really good to have Librarian-1

39:17 Meet and and be able to, I suppose, fill in the missing pieces of the puzzle and give us some idea of the direction and going forward and

39:33 I of course I missed the beginning of the meeting there lads but

39:38 I suppose

39:41 Going forward for a system, Librarian-1. If you had a wish list. Maybe insanity. I don't know. But if you had a wish list of a system and what would it be quite quite functionality but you put into it.

Librarian-1

39:55 I suppose that's a tricky one because really, I'd like off the cuff right you know if we've had sort of discussion around

40:03 Okay. Can everyone, you know, can you sit down and come up with what is the perfect system, I suppose, perfect system is I suppose your world’s your oyster in that whatever we do is going to be searchable findable.

40:19 And reusable all of these, these things that everyone's talking about

40:24 That and that I said I guess that the this I suppose the physical looking at the document will never change. But if you've got if you've got all your formats already defined for you.

40:39 Yeah, I guess you know what box one box is your you're filling in. And what you should be collecting and and

40:47 Yeah.

40:49 Somewhere along those lines, I guess.

Researcher-2

40:52 Yeah, yeah. So I suppose that it would be searchable usable and findable in in 100 or 200 years time.

41:00 Yeah, gosh.

41:03 Gosh.

41:04 Even if that meant and changing technologies as as technologies improve that it would it would maintain the searchableness, findability and usability that it would have saved from from from the day it's created

Librarian-1

41:21 Exactly. I think something that is is easy.

41:25 So you have to

41:26 Lay man and you're looking at. You're doing your research in a particular area. How do you go into this site and find what it is you're looking for that that isn't painful.

41:38 You know, right. You know when you're going through screen after screen after

41:41 Screen and to get to the endpoint.

41:45 And some of us a better doing the research and finding the information. Yeah.

Researcher-2

41:52 Yeah, some, something that you wanted to take that

41:57 Yeah, someone that when someone looks at something that they don't get queued up halfway through and just abandoned the

Librarian-1

42:03 Exactly. You're

Researcher-2

42:04 Looking at it.

Researcher-3

42:05 Yeah, and and tell you, Librarian-1. When you say about the user us, are you thinking about

42:10 That from a work perspective from the librarians and archivists doing the the curation collection archiving. Are you thinking more about your end users who are trying to access those resources, your customers, as it were.

Librarian-1

42:26 Yeah, I suppose the I'm thinking that the end users because I think you need things have to be made as as simple as possible even like on our library page we use multi search. So instead of having to know

42:40 If you're just starting out, you may not know what databases over could be most relevant to you and multi search will search everything that's in the WIT collection, whether it be a book.

42:54 A special collection.

42:57 So it will select all the databases and it'll come back with all the information for you and then you can just say, okay,

43:06 Maybe then you just like that's going back too far. I only want if you're doing say cancer research. I only want the latest research.

43:15 In the last five years or three years or two years and then start refining it, or I only want this particular author, because he's the expert in that field.

43:25 That. So that is simple that you're not going through searches and searches, I guess, trying to actually get to the point, you need to be.

Researcher-3

43:34 Yeah, yeah. And how would you would really kind of looking safer that the collection say it is what the WIT site has a good example, would you say I would you have you seen better options.

43:46 You know, on different institutions for their, their user interface like that, you know, like the way it works and how many times you have to click through things and so on. Is this a good site that you see now.

Librarian-1

44:02 Our site, I suppose, if you think about it. It's really a library site so it's it's main function is obviously finding the books and the databases and the papers.

44:18 That's why and joined to make some of the Special Collections fits into that mode probably isn't perfect, and I think that's why

44:27 METS came about as I said Librarian-2 would be the expert. He's more technology side and he would be looking and obviously he's done a lot of cataloging so

44:41 When we start putting our special collections. That's, that's kind of that we were looking at probably it's not the library site if you like.

Researcher-3

44:50 Yeah.

44:50 You're going to be a new

44:51 A new interface that's more more adaptable and richer and more

44:57 Focused on user experience and be the objects themselves isn’t it

Librarian-1

45:02 Yet, and I think also with keep saying the digital repository of Ireland I'm a bit in awe of as at the moment, but also

45:09 Us being on something like that we actually get to use their logo, but more than that. We're then we're actually then putting ourselves out to the world. We're not just you have to fall and

45:20 Oh yes, maybe WIT has got that. Let's go on their site and search their catalog people on a site that I'm in America. I'm in Japan on wherever I am. I'm seeing all your information because it's on a site that everyone has access to and that would come up

45:39 Even if you do a Google search it would link to digital repository of Ireland that kind of Europeana and all these different sites. So you're not you're not creating something that isolation, I guess.

Researcher-2

45:52 Yeah. You're, you're combination of the silo. Yeah.

Librarian-1

45:54 Yeah yeah yeah

Researcher-2

45:56 You know what, I'm wondering as well Librarian-1 in relation to technology say that that libraries use like software wise.

46:06 Like is is there specific software that that libraries have been using

Librarian-1

46:13 Most of the IoT is and I've seen earlier. We've actually moved to the Koha system and mostly IoTs are on that system. Now some of the universities use different systems and some of them use MARC and some of use Dublin Core. Some of us use METS believe so there is

46:34 You know, depending on who you are and how much money you've got as to what you do. We obviously want a system that everyone got so we've tweaked bits and pieces of it to make it so the volume of work.

46:49 And it and it does the job that it needs is that it needs to do. But if you're looking at special collections. That's kind of slightly different

46:57 And we probably need something that's

47:00 Probably more advanced. Yeah.

Researcher-2

47:03 Yeah.

47:05 Do ye use them premise as a as a Schemer, you know, to, it's usually for preservation of items and just wondering, do you use that at all.

Librarian-1

47:16 No one does, what does it actually do

Researcher-2

47:19 It's it's a it could know be used more by museums for preservation of items.

47:26 And it's, it's a, it's, it's, I suppose it's an ontology, or our schema, but

47:33 To put it in, in simple terms, I suppose the list of of items that you keep track of. If you're going to preserve something, you know, the fields that you that the metadata for the fields.

Librarian-1

47:47 Ah, okay

Researcher-2

47:48 Reserve something. No, I was just wondering maybe

Librarian-1

47:52 Not, not as far as I'm aware.

47:54 Now, Librarian-2 might have tinkered with it, but I don't. I don't think we've we've all any particular software.

48:03 Recently, for what we do.

Researcher-2

48:07 Yeah, yeah, yeah. No. Great, thanks. Librarian-1 for that. Thanks, Researcher-1, do you have any questions that you may be like as Librarian-1 about

48:17 The system, or systems has Librarian-1 been well used to

48:22 Wants in use out there

Researcher-1

48:25 Oh, I was just wondering how they are doing they search. How can you search things

48:30 Currently,

48:31 To put the keywords or is it automatic

Librarian-1

48:37 So can you see, you see, you can still see my screen can't

Researcher-2

48:41 You can Librarian-1 yeah

Librarian-1

48:43 If you go top left hand corner advanced search, you can actually hear and if you click on the keyword. You can search by any of these things so

48:53 The title of the book, the court if you actually know the call number, the author. So there's various the bar code the ISBN. So you can actually whatever it is that you're looking for. Put that information in

49:07 You can then if you want to say the title of a book and the author, you then change this to end keyword also

49:17 And then you if you're just looking for a particular book or it was a CD.

49:22 So you can kind of limit your search. And then once you bring up records if you then wants to say when I see down here, you can say certain date ranges.

49:33 So there's lots of different ways that you can go action, but that it's more, I would say, This site was more is more as built for libraries in their normal function which is books physical books and eBooks and databases.

Researcher-2

49:52 Yeah.

Librarian-1

49:54 And we do have, as I said, there's some of our special collections are on here so keyword as I showed earlier, if you went to series title.

50:04 And Bonaparte-Wyse and so that's a special collection, and it would bring up everything in that collection. And then you would either have to

50:14 Go over here to redefine your search or you go through the whole thing handwritten letter here.

50:22 And then I might think well 1845 that's a year that I'm particularly interested in. I wonder what that's about. And you go and you look at it and have a look at the title notes. Yes.

50:34 And if

Researcher-3

50:35 And sorry does this site show the letter. How do you see.

Librarian-1

50:40 Is not good. You see this. This is a library system. It's not our did digitalization is that we don't have a home for the moment, that's fine, just joined the DRI.

50:51 I think we have got

50:54 A few comments, we call them library guides and so there's we've got a little bit on Michael Cooley. And we've got it shows some of these books and different bits and pieces but

51:05 Then link you to the physical document. All this is telling you is its a reference it and it's available in the reporting library, but then you can click on it to actually see it.

Researcher-3

51:16 Okay, I get you. And that's, that's where the benefit will come with the next the next level of of the interface that is more sophisticated and more designed for special collections that you actually can drill into them and view them.

Librarian-1

51:33 Yeah, yeah. And obviously the other side as well as we actually need to do the physical digitizing of them which is

51:42 Going through and physically scanning all the documents.

Researcher-3

51:49 Massive work.

Librarian-1

51:50 Yeah.

Researcher-2

51:54 Yeah, and pick a you're, you're a mine of information there. I don't

Librarian-1

51:59 Know that

Researcher-2

52:01 It's brilliant.

52:04 That, you know, thanks for your, for your time this morning and now very, very much appreciated.

52:13 Lads, are you okay. Do you want to ask Librarian-1 anything else you're wondering about

Researcher-3

52:21 I'm certainly. Okay, thank you very much. I just think this has been just so helpful like just a set of spotlight the overview and just

52:31 The Q&A. A it's been just really, really helpful just to kind of get a feel for it and a bit of a handle on on the work because, as I say, I came in knowing nothing and at least I have a little bit of a

52:43 You know when I you know when something is said, Next time I'll kind of get concept. So, have some kind of idea of what's being spoken about which I didn't have before. So thanks

Librarian-1

52:55 Organized something with Librarian-2. Maybe next time and he could probably go into a lot more detail because he also worked with [previous MSc student / Researcher A]

Researcher-2

53:05 The guys surname now.

Librarian-1

53:07 Yeah, yeah. He was Researcher A that did the the METS project. Wasn't that

Researcher-2

53:12 Was that's right yeah he

53:15 He he investigated the different types of

53:19 And what would you see of standards that were there and then and the record to Librarian-2 and Librarian-2 then had a look at it and felt that METS was a much richer than MARC and and so I suppose that's how we went in that direction, you know,

Librarian-1

53:37 Yeah, that's something to be a great help to you because I think he's he's got far more of an insight into it all.

Researcher-3

53:45 Yeah, maybe. Yeah. Maybe if like if people like I'm conscious you've obviously got everybody's got their day job. But if, like maybe

53:52 I don't know, maybe this time next month, you know, like, you know, after everybody's back to work after the Christmas break, I don't know if you guys go back earlier, but like, you know, from, say, the middle of January. Maybe we could set something up maybe

54:04 It's us four plus Librarian-2 and and and maybe have a look at it again, you know, end to end with the technology if that's okay. Obviously like

54:13 You know, maybe fitting in with your schedule on the classes, Researcher-2 is like have a see how that goes. I'm not sure when if you know yeah but at least then if we're all in, we can kind of

54:22 It, it's three of students as it were taking taking up your time versus three separate you know q&a things which we all get bang for our buck and we get a

Researcher-2

54:33 Diversity of questions. Yeah, I think that's a brilliant idea and and and and we can certainly as you say, Researcher-3, try and set it off. Maybe after Christmas, and when we're all back and refreshed.

Researcher-3

54:50 I don't know about that.

Librarian-1

54:54 if you get a chance if you kind of define exactly the kind of areas that you really need some some more solid information on

Researcher-2

55:01 Yeah yeah

Librarian-1

55:02 And we could actually put something together.

55:05 Here and give you a presentation.

55:07 On the different areas.

55:08 And obviously, show you in a lot more detail, and I should have probably opened up Koha system rather than the library region, which would have shown me more. But again, you guys don't get to see that at this time. You don't have access

Researcher-3

55:22 Maybe next time that part of it that if that's part of a bit of a drive through an overview of the Koha half system then that'd be another side to it.

Librarian-1

55:30 Yeah, definitely.

Researcher-3

55:31 Thank you.

Librarian-1

55:33 Okay, or

Researcher-2

55:34 It depends so much. And that's, that's fantastic tips, you’re a star

Librarian-1

55:38 I hope it helps a little bit

Researcher-3

55:40 It does definitely. Thank you.

Researcher-2

55:42 Okay. So will we will we finish up now and

Researcher-3

55:45 Wrap it up now. Yeah. And we'll see each other later this afternoon.

Researcher-2

55:50 So, 1:15 is it

Researcher-3

55:51 You're be sick if looking at it in talking to us.

Librarian-1

55:55 Take care.

Researcher-3

55:55 All right. Thank you very much.