The Lifesaving Foundation Library Collection

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The Lifesaving Foundation Drowning Collection
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Introduction
WIT Libraries play a central role in the ongoing collation and dissemination of resources which are culturally and pedagogically significant to the South East region of Ireland. The establishment of a research partnership between Waterford Institute of Technology’s School of Health Sciences and The Lifesaving Foundation has resulted in the creation of a unique collection of materials to support research in lifesaving and drowning at the Institute.

Collection
The Lifesaving Foundation Collection has grown to in excess of 200 individual titles in the space of a 6 months period and is projected to grow substantially further as it is developed. The collection includes books, posters, fliers and other loose leaf materials, audio visual and electronic resources. It is the first collection of its kind in Ireland and WIT Libraries are committed to working with the Lifesaving Foundation to build and developing this collection which has the potential to become a hub for drowning research in the South East of Ireland and which will in turn act as a beacon for national and international audiences focused on saving lives from drowning.

Future Growth
In the absence of a dedicated budget, donations of relevant scholarly materials including academic dissertations by members of the Lifesaving community will be of the utmost importance to the future success of the collection. Recently the Collection received a donation of bound volumes containing the first 84 issues of The Lifesaving Awards Research Society Journal following the death of a society member. Synergies can be cultivated through collaboration with the lifesaving and academic communities, being able to call on specialised knowledge, library resources and expertise in developing collections.

A dedicated subject guide for the collection will be used to curate knowledge share information, and organize subject specific resources. In addition, it would provide a direct link to a selection of the books, websites, and other electronic resources relating to the Collection.

This session gave an overview of the drowning collection explaining and demonstrating how to access the collection using WIT library’s on-line search facility.
Kieran Cronin is Deputy Librarian, with responsibility for archives and special collections, at Waterford Institute of Technology’s Luke Wadding Library. He has worked at Waterford Institute of Technology Libraries since April 2007. He is responsible for the development of existing and new library services and resources for WIT’s students, staff and the local community.