

PROPOSAL FOR LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

ESTABLISHMENT OF/PURPOSE OF LIBRARY

The BICCA library will be unique in that it will be solely dedicated to the acquisition, maintenance and preservation of material, both current and retrospective, specifically related to Ireland, the Irish and the Irish in Britain. Until now the dedication of this kind of material has been severely limited. The purpose of this library development proposal is to rectify the restricted service offered at present by the existing information bodies. The BICCA development project offers an ideal location for such a dedicated collection. This could act as clearing house for information Irish related e.g. Irish, British and European official publications, directories, guides, hand-books etc. In addition to this the library will service the needs of the various groups which constitute BICCA.

The preliminary step in the development plan will be consulting the above mentioned groups on their various needs. The aim of this is to gather and analyse the relevant data needed to establish what information services are currently available and for whom they are provided. Ensuing from this, a secondary and fuller plan can be proposed and further consultation will be required prior to the adaptation of these proposals.

PLAN FOR LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

On the basis of the above investigations a plan would be drawn up for the development of the library. This would entail the following: space required; furniture; equipment e.g. microfilm reader, micro-computer, security check system etc. and stock.

The library stock should be extensive in its subject coverage. Subject areas should include the following: Politics, Education, History, Anglo-Irish literature, Books in Irish, Travel and Geography, Folk-lore, Genealogy, Children's books both in Irish and by Irish writers, Irish fiction, Works on emigration, migration etc., Social studies, Women's studies, Media studies, Auto/biographical works, Works of interest to pensioner and youth groups and material related to the Irish in Britain.

An audio-visual section could be developed with the cooperation of the Irish Video Project and the Irish film society and any groups with an interest in this area. This section should also include language tapes and the spoken arts.

The Music section could incorporate musical scores, records, tapes, and general background and biographical information on Irish music. The Commission for Culture and Education could make an important

contribution to the development of this .

The reference/information section could be developed on consultation with the various welfare groups, namely BIAS , AIY, pensioner and youth groups etc.

The library should also include an archive. This would be based on the present archive in the Irish in Britain History Centre which includes pamphlets, photographs, oral history tapes and other ephemeral material.

The library should also subscribe to newspapers, periodicals and any serials relating to Ireland or the Irish in Britain.

To avoid any unnecessary overlapping of stock and to ensure services offered and hours of opening suit the needs of the various groups, it will be necessary to convene a meeting with all the interested groups to discuss the above mentioned areas.

BUDGET FOR LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

Various budgets will be proposed with details of the type of facility possible at each budget level. Consultation with the groups will be necessary to identify priority areas for financial allocation. As the development will be piece-meal, a system of 'weighting' will need to be explored whereby it will be necessary to establish which aspects of stock, furniture, library systems etc. will take precedence over each other. It will also be necessary to examine the possibility of the financially assisted parties contributing a portion of their budgets to the servicing and upkeep of the library.

Fund-raising and acquiring donations will also be an integral part of the library development. This will involve contacting institutes, businesses, organisations, libraries and individuals both in Ireland and Britain.

The time-span necessary for researching and coordinating the outlined proposals will range from possibly 10-12 weeks. The fee is negotiable.