

The Worth Library Trust
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Trustees' Annual Report 2025

**Patron: Uachtarán na hÉireann,
Dr Michael D. Higgins**



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1. Foreword

Anthony Kelly, Chair of the Worth Library Trust

The unique Edward Worth Library collection was bequeathed in 1733 to Dr. Steevens' Hospital by the 18th century Dublin physician, Dr. Edward Worth. At that time, his will restricted library access to just three persons in the hospital - the surgeon, the physician and the chaplain. Today the Worth Library, still located in the former Dr Steevens', is an independent collection in the ownership of the Worth Library Trust, a charity whose focus is on making the collection available to a much wider audience of national and international academics and the public. It is now seen as a treasure of Ireland's cultural heritage.

There were 8 Trustee meetings held during the year comprising a mix of online meetings and in-person meetings, held at the Worth Library and the National Library. The activities of the library - public education and outreach, through lectures, open days, research fellowships, an interns' programme and online exhibitions - all delivered on our mission to share the collections of the Worth Library with the general public, scholars, and institutions.

The targets of our 2025 Annual Action Plan supported our mission around public education and research facilitation. During the year, 15 'Open Days' were planned and organised, liaising in May with the Culture Date with Dublin 8 festival and in September-October with the Dublin Festival of History.

Our annual lecture series included the Griselda Steevens' Memorial Lecture, the Charles Benson Memorial Lecture in Book History, the Davis Coakley Memorial Lecture in Medical History, and the Brendan Prendiville Memorial Lecture. The seven 2025 lectures were delivered by Dr Jason McElligott, Director of Marsh's Library, Dublin; Dr Peter Murray Jones, University of Cambridge; Dr Cathy Scuffil, Dublin City Historian in Residence for the Dublin South Central area; Prof Andrew Pettegree, University of St Andrews, Scotland; Dr Priscilla Sonnier, Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland; Dr Brendan Twomey (Independent Scholar); Prof Pierce Grace, University of Limerick. In addition the Librarian, Dr Elizabethanne Boran, delivered four lectures relating to the history of medicine and history of the book.

There were 1,123 visitors to the library during 2025. Online visitors to the main website numbered 58,030 during the year and, combined with the exhibition websites, the total online visitors for the year number 108,718. -During the year it was agreed that the 19 large online exhibitions of the Worth Library would be included in the Digital Repository of Ireland next year, reflecting an acknowledgement of their importance as learning resources.

The 2025 large online exhibition, Birds at the Edward Worth Library, was launched by Dr Eanna Ní Lamhna on 24 September. The exhibition was curated Dr Elizabethanne Boran with photographic contributions from Dr Paolo Viscardi, Keeper of Natural History at the National Museum of Ireland, Mr Derek O'Reilly, BirdWatch Ireland, Dr Dominique Crowley, artist, and Mr Antoine Mac Gaoithín, Worth Library. The exhibition received coverage from both RTE and the Irish Times.

Two smaller exhibitions were undertaken by EUSA interns titled 'Sir William Petty at the Edward Worth Library' and 'Hannibal and the Second Punic War'. Antoine Mac Gaoithín, Library Assistant, photographed all of the Worth Library images for the online exhibitions and the seven blog posts undertaken during the year. In addition, there were three articles prepared by Elizabethanne Boran, Worth Librarian, that appeared in in Archaeology Ireland and the Blanchardstown & Castleknock History Society Journal.

The hosting of fellowships and interns continued as part of the Worth's engagement during the year. The Bríd McGrath Fellowship (Worth Library / Marsh's Library) was awarded to Dr Benjamin Hazard UCD. Interns from UCD (Public History), TCD (Public History and Cultural Heritage), Boston University, Massachusetts (English Literature and History), University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Virginia (Classical Civilizations) were hosted by the library.

Tours to both groups and individuals by staff continued throughout 2025 and there are now monthly tours provided to Dublin City Council's 'Culture Club' Culture Company. In October there was an inaugural poetry reading at the Worth Library, 'Celebrating Nature,' delivered by the poet Pat Boran.

During the year, the library received visits from Prof Peadar O'Mordha, Governor of the Company of Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland and Warden of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries (London); Dr Julie Neild, MBE, The Master Apothecary; and Professor Sir Mark Walport, Trustee of the British Museum and Vice-President of the Royal Society.

There were also some changes to the Trustee profile during 2025. The inaugural Chair of the Trust, Mr Kieran Hickey, died in February 2025 while still a member of the Trust. Kieran had served as a Trustee for three decades. Trustees and Library staff are saddened by his passing and miss his advice, support and presence.

The outgoing Chair, Prof Greta Jones, stepped down as a Trustee at the beginning of the year. Dr David Fitzpatrick (23 Jan 2025) and Ms Maureen Browne (31 March 2025) also stepped down after many years' service to the Trust. We thank them all for their years of commitment to, and support of, the Worth Library.

Following a recruitment process during the year, we identified four new Trustees by the end of 2025 - Prof Joe Barry, Fellow Emeritus of Public Health and Primary Care, TCD; Dr. Alison Boyle, Humanarium Director, RCSI; Ms Evelyn Flanagan, Director of Cultural Heritage, UCD Library; and Mr Esmond Fogarty, retired Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Mr Gerry Long had served as nominee for the ex-officio Trustee, the Director of the National Library, for a number of years and stepped down from his role on 16 Oct 2025 on his resignation from the NLI. We welcomed Mr Crónán Ó Doibhlin as the new NLI nominee in December 2025. We thank Gerry for his many years of service and advice to the Worth Library and welcome Crónán to his role.

In conclusion, I wish to extend the Trustees' gratitude to Dr Elizabethanne Boran, the Worth Librarian, and Mr Antoine Mac Gaoithín, the Library Assistant, for the tremendous work and drive they have contributed to making 2025 such a successful year for the library. I wish also to express my appreciation to the Trust Administrator, Ms Bette Browne, and the Trust's Financial Advisor, Mr Leonard Clinton, for their support and commitment to the work of the Trust.

I also wish to convey my gratitude to each of the Trustees for the time and energy they have given to the Trust during the year in supporting and guiding the Worth Library.



Anthony Kelly, October 2026.

1.1. The Worth Library

The books collected by Dr Worth (1676–1733), include medical books, ancient and modern (i.e. 18th century), important contributions to the study of related sciences, philosophy, the classics and history.

The collection, which includes books Worth bought from places such as London, the Netherlands, France and Dublin, in addition to those he had inherited from his father and grandfather, reaches back to the origins of printing itself and most of the books are notable for their fine bindings as well as their printed content.

Worth, whose father, John Worth (1648–88), was the Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, studied for his BA at the University of Oxford, before travelling to the Netherlands to study medicine at the University of Leiden. Following his graduation at the University of Utrecht, he returned to Dublin where he was twice elected as President of the King and Queen's College of Physicians, and subsequently became a Trustees of Dr Steevens' Hospital. In 1723 he decided to leave his magnificent library to the hospital and on his death, ten years later, the books arrived, to be placed in a room which was designed and built to accommodate the collection on the first floor of the then unfinished Dr Steevens' Hospital. The original book-shelves, cases, glass panes and other fittings remain today

as they were in the 1730s. Dr Steevens' Hospital is now the Headquarters of the Health Service Executive.

1.2. Objectives and Activities

The Worth Library Trust, established by order of the High Court, preserves and maintains the Worth Library and the Worth Library Collection as a unit in its original form and in its original location in Doctor Steevens' Hospital, Dublin.

Its purpose is to advance public education and a greater general knowledge and understanding of science, literature and the arts, by enabling scholars and the general public to have access to a rare example of a uniquely preserved private library of an eighteenth-century scholar and physician which is of unique national and international importance.

The main activities revolve around public education and research in the context of expanding the profile of the library, nationally and internationally, as a centre for the history of medicine, science, and the history of the book.

2. Achievements and Challenges in 2025

All projected outreach activities took place. Significant achievements included the 2025 annual online exhibition 'Birds at the Edward Worth Library', which was featured on 'Morning Ireland' and 'Mooney Goes Wild on One' on RTÉ Radio 1. In addition, the Library co-hosted a very successful international conference with the Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance, in Pisa, on the topic: 'Medical Education in Europe, 1350-1750: Texts, Institutions, Practices'. The Worth Library also hosted extra interns, and the Librarian provided additional lectures.

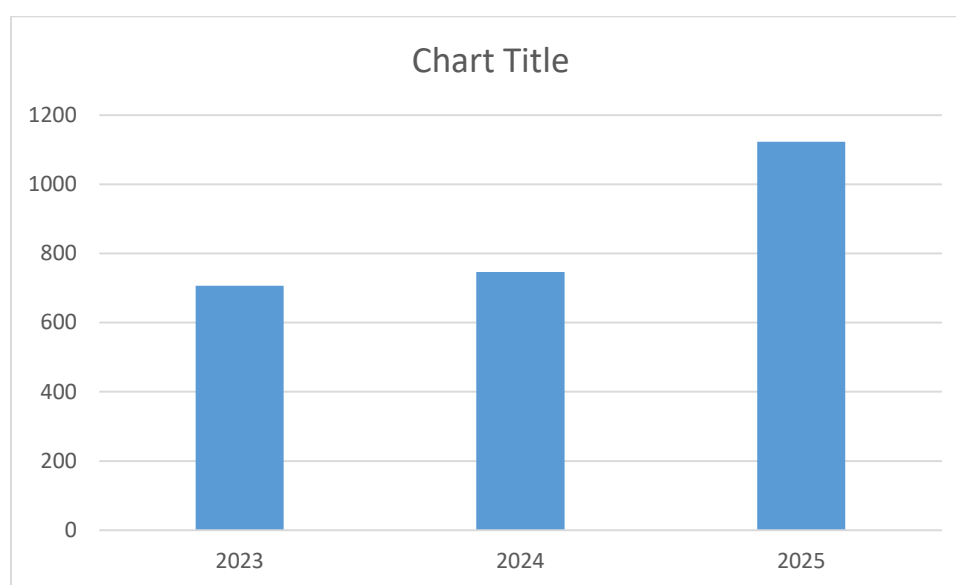
2.1 Education and Outreach

2.1.1. Open Days

In the 2025 Annual Action Plan the Library planned for **15** Open Days and all were held, where possible liaising with festivals such as Culture Date with Dublin 8 (May), and the Dublin Festival of History (September-October). Staff also gave tours throughout the year to individuals and tour groups and are now providing monthly tours to Dublin City Council Culture Company's 'Culture Club'.

2.1.2. Annual visitor numbers during the last three years

Footfall improved significantly and exceeded the Strategic Management Plan 2023-2025 target of 1,000:



Footfall: 2023 = 707 2024=746 2025=1,123¹

Online visitors in 2025:

The Worth Library has a substantial online presence and in 2025 it was agreed that the large annual online exhibitions of the Worth Library (now totally 19 websites), would be

¹ This figure includes footfall and attendance at onsite events in the Library but not onsite events elsewhere, such as the Librarian's lectures elsewhere, or the joint lecture which takes place in Trinity College Dublin.

included in the Digital Repository of Ireland in 2026, due to their importance as learning resources.

Main website: www.edwardworthlibrary.ie

2025: Since 1 January 2025 there have been **58,030** individual visitors to the main website (a decrease from the previous year's figure of 64,388). 99% were new visitors in 2025 and there have been **303,533** users since June 2010.

The connected online exhibitions have figures for the last four years as follows:

Exhibition Title	Launch Year	2023 Visits	2024 Visits	2025 Visits¹	Total Visits since launch.
Astronomy at the Worth Library	2009	1,554	1,250	1,935	216,769
Infectious Diseases at the Worth Library	2010	3,011	21,759	3,439	152,229
Alchemy and Chemistry at the Worth Library	2011	2,256	918	3,071	60,465
Newton at the Worth Library	2012	760	575	2,628	49,031
Botany at the Worth Library	2013	4,201	3,433	4,829	127,408
Dr Steevens' Hospital: A History	2014	2,410	1,958	3,300	53,171

¹ Figures for the entire year.

Aldines at the Worth Library	2015	1,724	15,380	1,759	58,877
Architecture at the Worth Library	2016	2,572	4,420	5,176	23,427
Mathematics at the Worth Library	2016	1,540	1,149	2,033	9,332
Van Dyck at the Worth Library	2017	1,437	1,775	1,491	9,132
Mythical Creatures at the Worth Library	2018	5,736	8,320	9,835	31,051
Surgery at the Worth Library	2019	457	1,091	1,907	4,180
Estiennes at the Worth Library	2020	385	656	1,117	3,425
Reading the Body	2021	796	846	1,614	3,946
Aldrovandi	2022	401	680	1,252	2,547
Printing in Sixteenth-Century France	2023 June	108	1,701	2,265	4,074
Exploring the Danube	2023 September	63	367	631	1,061
The Practice of Medicine	2024 September	-	1,048	2,039	3,087
Birds		-	-	367	367

Combining hits of the main website and all hits on the annual exhibition websites in 2025, the total online users for 2025 alone was **108,718**. The vast majority of these new visitors to the websites were predominantly based in China, the United States, Singapore, the

United Kingdom and Ireland. An analysis of the figures of individual websites demonstrates that most websites have received hits from these countries, but that different websites appeal to different catchment areas. The differing visitor profiles for our various annual websites demonstrates the ongoing benefits of maintaining them as a group and their crucial role in delivering on our mission to share the collections of the Worth Library with the general public, scholars, and institutions.

In addition, all lectures, conferences and tours are open to members of the public. Outside of Open Days, tours may be booked by either e-mailing info@edwardworthlibrary.ie or by phoning 01 635 2215.

2.1.3. The Worth Library Annual Lecture Series

6 lectures in the Worth Library Annual Lecture Series were projected in the 2025 Worth Library Action Plan and **7** were held: 6 of the 7 were held onsite (the joint lecture with Trinity College Dublin took place in TCD).

- **27 March:** Dr Jason McElligott (Director of Marsh's Library, Dublin): 'The libraries of the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, 1684-1929'.
- **10 April:** Dr Peter Murray Jones (University of Cambridge): 'Friars and Healing in Fifteenth-Century York'. This was the joint Trinity College Dublin–Worth Library lecture in Medieval and Renaissance Medicine and Science.
- **7 May:** Dr Cathy Scuffil (Dublin City Historian in Residence for the Dublin South Central area): 'Rialto Buildings - the place and the people'. This was the local history lecture in the Worth Library 2025 series.
- **16 July:** Professor Andrew Pettegree (University of St Andrews): 'Bookselling. Writing the History of a Restless Trade'. This was the Charles Benson Memorial Lecture in Book History.
- **26 September:** Dr Priscilla Sonnier (Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland): "'Of Her Charity": The Visual and Material Legacy of Grizelda Steevens'. This was the Griselda Steevens' Memorial Lecture.

- **9 October:** Dr Brendan Twomey (Independent Scholar): 'From Office-holding to Civil Service: managing the nation's finances in eighteenth-century Ireland '. This was the Brendan Prendiville Memorial Lecture.
- **29 October:** Professor Pierce Grace (University of Limerick): 'Medicine in medieval Ireland, 1200-1650'. This was the Davis Coakley Memorial Lecture in Medical History.

2.1.4. Teaching and Lectures

In the 2025 Worth Library Annual Action Plan we planned for **2** lectures/presentations (1 public and 1 academic). In fact the Librarian gave **4** lectures/presentations: 1 public lecture and 3 lectures to an academic audience.

- **10 February 2025:** The Librarian gave a lecture on the history of medicine to first year medical students in the School of Medicine, Trinity College, Dublin.
- **30 April 2025:** The Librarian gave a lecture on 'Exploring the Edward Worth Library: Medicine, Science and the History of the Book' to the TCD Centre for the Book 2025 series.
- **11 September 2025:** The Librarian gave a presentation on 'Theft, Vandalism and Conflict: Risks and Response: the work of the Blue Shield', to the Consortium of European Research Libraries conference on Collection Security, which was held in Trinity College Dublin.
- **22 October 2025:** 'Disseminating Medical Knowledge in late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century Dublin: Books, Experiments & Treatments'. (This was part of the Pisa conference).

2.1.5. Research Fellowship Scheme

In the 2025 Worth Library Action Plan we planned for **3** research fellows: **2** fellowships were awarded:

- Dr Benjamin Hazard (UCD), was the joint Worth Library/Marsh's Library Bríd McGrath Fellowship in 2025, and he worked on the topic 'The Horse in the Library'.
- Dr Mohammad Tehmash Khan (Archivist of The Aga Khan University (Global)): 'Plague and Public Health: Early Modern Epidemic Responses and Their Colonial Legacies'.¹

The Worth Academic Committee have recommended a shorter range of fellowships than the current one-month model, due to accommodation shortages in Dublin.

2.1.6. Interns in 2025

In the 2025 Worth Library Action Plan we planned for **2** interns. In fact we hosted **5** interns:

- Ms Cera Linnell (UCD MA in Public History).
- Ms Apriliya Rida Nabila (UCD MA in Public History).
- Ms Jackie Beatty (TCD M. Phil in Public History and Cultural Heritage).
- EUSA intern Maeve Killion (Third Year Student, English Literature and History, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA).
- EUSA intern William Gawtry (Third Year Student, Classical Civilizations and Communication & Digital Studies, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Virginia, USA).

2.1.7. Exhibitions in 2025

The 2025 Worth Library Annual Action plan outlined **1** annual online exhibition and **1** smaller exhibition, the latter to be delivered by an intern from EUSA. In fact **3** exhibitions (**1** annual and **2** smaller exhibitions) were provided by the staff and interns.

¹ Mr Tehmash Khan will be taking up his fellowship in February 2026, due to unavoidable delays in visa processing.

Large annual online exhibition:

The exhibition '[Birds at the Edward Worth Library](#)', which was launched by Dr Eanna Ní Lamhna on 24 September 2025, celebrates Worth's wonderful books about birds. The large online exhibition was curated by the Librarian of the Edward Worth Library, Dr Elizabethanne Boran, with photographic contributions from Dr Paolo Viscardi (Keeper of Natural History at the National Museum of Ireland); Mr Derek O'Reilly (member, BirdWatch Ireland); Dr Dominique Crowley (artist); and Mr Antoine Mac Gaoithín (Worth Library staff). It was accompanied by a smaller display case exhibition in the Library itself. The exhibition received national coverage as it was included in two RTÉ radio shows: 'Morning Ireland' and 'Mooney Goes Wild on One'. In addition it was included in a piece in *The Irish Times*.

Smaller exhibitions

- '[Sir William Petty at the Edward Worth Library](#)' was launched on 1 May 2025. This small exhibition, with a longer online version, was curated by EUSA intern Maeve Killion.
- '[Hannibal and the Second Punic War](#)' was launched on 17 July 2025. This small exhibition, with a longer online version, was curated by EUSA intern William Gawtry.

2.1.8. Publications and blog-posts in 2025

In the 2025 Action Plan we planned for **3** blog pieces and **1** article: we provided **7** blog pieces, and **3** articles.

- April 2025: [Daniel Beeckman, A voyage to and from the island of Borneo, in the East-Indies ... \(London, 1718\)](#). Text: Ms Apriliya Rida Nabila, MA in Public History, UCD.

- May 2025: [Sir William Petty, *Political Arithmetick* \(London, 1691\)](#) .Text: Ms Maeve Killion, Third Year Student, English Literature and History, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.
- June 2025: [Luís de Camões, *Os Lusíadas* \(Lisbon, 1613\), and Luís de Camões and Richard Fanshawe \(tr.\), *The Lusiad, or, Portugals Historicall Poem* \(London, 1655\)](#). Text: Ms Jackie Beatty, M. Phil. in Public History and Cultural Heritage, TCD.
- ‘The Edward Worth Library’ in Summer issue of *Archaeology Ireland*. Text: Dr Elizabethanne Boran, Librarian of the Edward Worth Library.
- July 2025: [Thomas Ross and *The Second Punic War between Hannibal, and the Romanes* \(London, 1661\)](#). Text: Mr William Gawtry, Third Year Student, Classical Civilizations and Communication & Digital Studies, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Virginia, USA.
- August: ‘The Edward Worth Library, Dublin: a treasure trove of books’, in the *Blanchardstown and Castleknock History Society Journal*. Text: Dr Elizabethanne Boran, Librarian of the Edward Worth Library.
- October 2025: ‘[Representation of Indigenous Peoples in the Americas within the Edward Worth Library](#)’. Text: Ms Cera Linnell, MA in Public History, UCD.
- November 2025: ‘[Hernán Cortés and the Conquest of México](#)’. Text: Ms Cera Linnell, MA in Public History, UCD.
- November 2025: ‘William Bedell and James Ussher: Evangelization in early modern Ireland’, in Brendan Scott (ed.), *Bishop William Bedell, 1571-1642: his life, work and contemporaries* (Cavan, 2025). Text: Dr Elizabethanne Boran, Librarian of the Edward Worth Library.
- December: ‘*Memoirs sur le Commerce des Hollandois*(Amsterdam, 1717), by Pierre Daniel Huet. Text: Ms Apriliya Rida Nabila, MA in Public History, UCD.

3. Collections Management

3.1. Training

The 2025 Action Plan included training, subject to availability. The following courses were attended by staff and Trustees:

January 2025: Online Data Protection and Cyber Security Awareness Training provided to TCD Staff. This was completed by both the Librarian and the Library Assistant.

3 and 4 March 2025: Carbon Literacy course in Trinity College Dublin. This was attended by the Librarian.

6 March and 20 April 2025: ICA/EGATTT (International Council of Archives expert group on theft, trafficking and tampering), online meeting. This was attended by the Librarian.

7 July 2025: Fire Safety Awareness Training Refresher Course held in Dr Steevens' Hospital. This was attended by the Librarian and the Library Assistant.

5 September 2025: The Librarian attended a meeting in Preservation and Conservation Department of TCD concerning possible replacement environmental monitoring systems.

13 November 2025: Online seminar on cataloguing book provenance organised by the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) Provenance Working Group delivered by Marina Ruiz Fargas and Laia Navarro de Llobet from the University of Barcelona and Mira Krall from the Austrian National Library. This was attended by the Librarian and the Library Assistant.

5 December 2025: MSPI online training session in 'Customer Care', provided by Savinna Donohue. The Library Assistant is due to attend this training event.

3.2. Monitoring the Environment and Cataloguing Collections

3.2.1. Daily monitoring: The 2025 Action Plan outlined daily monitoring of the collection. This was undertaken using the Hanwell monitoring system. Dehumidifier and humidifiers were applied as necessary.

3.2.2. Safe-Guarding: A shelf-count was undertaken in November by Library staff.

3.2.3. Pest traps: were checked regularly and records taken by the Library Assistant, as per MSPI guidelines. A problem with moth larvae was identified and measures taken included daily hoovering, Insetrac pheromone traps, and spot use of insecticide.

3.2.4. Exhibitions Maintenance Schedule: This was checked weekly as per MSPI guidelines. Condition assessments were developed for each display case exhibition.

3.2.5. Documenting the Collection: Cataloguing of cases M-N to 'basic' standard. The Librarian has completed case 'M' to 'basic' standard and is on course to complete case 'N' by the end of 2025.

4. Major Projects in 2025

4.1. The Museum Standards Programme of Ireland

Work continued on maintaining 'Full' MSPI accreditation. MSPI actions during 2025 included the following:

4.1.1. The 2025 Worth Library Financial Plan was approved by Trustees at their meeting on 3 April 2025.

4.1.2. The Worth Library Collection Policy was reviewed and approved by Trustees at their meeting on 16 October 2025.

4.1.3. The Worth Library Disposal Policy was reviewed and approved by Trustees at their meeting on 16 October 2025.

4.1.4 The Worth Library Loan Policy with Loan-In and Loan-Out Agreements was reviewed and approved by Trustees at their meeting on 16 October 2025.

4.1.5. The Worth Library Exhibition Policy was reviewed and approved by Trustees at their meeting on 16 October 2025.

4.1.6. The Worth Library Education Policy was reviewed and approved by Trustees at their meeting on 16 October 2025.

4.1.7. The Worth Library Complaints Policy was reviewed and approved by Trustees at their meeting on 16 October 2025.

4.1.8. The Worth Library Disaster Plan was reviewed and approved by Trustees at their meeting on 24 July 2025.

4.1.9. The Worth Library Business Continuity Plan was reviewed and approved by Trustees at their meeting on 24 July 2025.

4.1.10. The 2025 Audit was approved by Trustees at their meeting on 26 June 2025.

4.1.11. The 2026 Annual Action Plan was considered by Trustees at their meeting on 4 December 2025.

4.1.12. The 2026 Annual Education Action Plan was considered by Trustees at their meeting on 4 December 2025.

4.1.2. Digitizing our Archives Project

- The Library Assistant digitized and identified incomplete volumes and sections lacking their title pages and preliminary pages that pertain to three separate Dutch auction catalogues in 2025; and digitized a further two partially extant catalogues that have not yet been identified, but are possibly English in origin.
- The partially extant second volume and the almost complete third volume, lacking only its title page and preliminary pages, of the auction catalogue of the library of the Sardinian-born diplomat Vicente Bacallar y Sanna, marqués de San Felipe (1669-1726) that was published by the Hague firms of Johannes Swart and Pieter de Hondt (The Hague, 1727) were digitized. Bacallar y Sanna was the ambassador of the Spanish Empire to the States General of the Dutch Republic at the time of his death. The incomplete first volume, which has its title page, was digitized in 2024.
- The second part of the auction catalogue of the library of the Jansenist priest Jacobus Ignatius Krijs (1673-1714), the *Bibliotheca Krysiana*, that was printed by Pieter de Hondt (The Hague, 1727) was digitized. The second part has a separate pagination sequence to the first part, which has a title page and was digitized in 2024.
- Three partial sections from two parts of an auction catalogue of an anonymous collection, *Bibliotheca Exquisitissima Insignium & Praestantissimorum Librorum In Omnibus Facultatibus Et Linguis. quorum auctio habebitur*, which was published by Adriaen Moetjens II (The Hague, 1732) were digitized. One section is from the

first part and two sections are from the second part, which has a separate pagination sequence to the first part.

- In addition, the Library Assistant photographed all of the Worth Library images for the online exhibitions and blog posts.

5. Continuing Engagements

Our previous networks are still flourishing:

- The MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on ‘The History of the Book in the Early Modern Period: 1450-1800’, which had been coordinated in 2019 by the Librarian with colleagues Dr Jane Suzanne Carroll and Dr Mark Sweetnam (School of English, TCD), Dr Joseph Clarke (School of Histories and Humanities, TCD), and Dr Silvia Gallagher (Trinity Online Programmes), was deemed so successful that it is now available full-time on the FutureLearn website: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/history-of-the-book/1>. The 4-week online course, which has a 96% approval rating, includes 13 videos and 31 articles, as well as discussion questions and exercises. The general aims of the MOOC are as follows:
 - To share the treasures of the Edward Worth Library, Dublin, and the Long Room, Trinity College, Dublin, with as many people as possible. FutureLearn’s free online courses provided a perfect platform for this.
 - To highlight the rich learning resources in both libraries – and thus encourage future learning opportunities.
 - To explore innovative methods of teaching the History of the Book.
 - To introduce new audiences to the History of the Book.
 - To bring library and academic staff together to work on a project which draws on the strengths of the research interests of all involved.

Recent comments on the course include: ‘A very interesting and informative course showing and explaining how the history of ‘the book’ influenced the history of the wider world.

The material was well presented and easy to follow.
Well worth doing'; 'An excellent course';

- 'The joint lecture on 'Medieval and Renaissance Medical History', set up by the Worth Library and the Department of History in TCD, continues to take place.
- In 2019 Dr Bríd McGrath donated money to set up a joint research fellowship between Marsh's Library and the Edward Worth Library. Fellowships continued in 2025.
- The Worth Library continues to provide monthly tours to Dublin City Council Culture Company's 'Culture Club'.
- A power-point and a link to the '[Practice of Medicine in Early Modern Europe](#)' exhibition, both produced by the Librarian, continues to be available on the website of the ICGP on the webpage on '[The History of General Practice](#)'.
- On 1 December 2020 the Librarian was elected as the Secretary General of the [International Commission for the History of Universities](#). In 2025 she organised a number of meetings of the Bureau of ICHU, two meetings of the Senate of ICHU and the Annual General Meeting which took place online on 21 November 2025. As Secretary General she and the President of ICHU, Professor Mauro Moretti (Università di Siena) represent the Commission at meetings of the International Commission of Historical Sciences.
- The Librarian continues to be an 'Associated Researcher' in TCD's [Centre for the Book](#), which was launched in 2023.
- The Librarian continues to be a member of the committee of the [History of Medicine, Science and Technology Ireland](#).
- The Librarian continues as the Secretary of the [Irish National Committee of the Blue Shield](#).
- The Librarian continues to be the Irish representative on the committee for the [Society for the History of Natural History](#).
- The Librarian continues to be a member of the [Rare Books Group of the Library Association of Ireland](#).

- The Edward Worth Library continues to be involved in the EUSA Scheme.
- The Edward Worth Library continues to be involved in the Culture Date with Dublin 8 festival.
- The Edward Worth Library continues to be involved in Dublin Festival of History.
- The Library Assistant continues to be the Worth's Library's representative on the Digital Scholarship Network Ireland.
- The Edward Worth Library is one of a group of libraries (including the CONUL libraries) who joined together in 2013 to become members of CERL: Consortium of European Research Libraries: <http://www.cerl.org/>.
- The Worth Library is part of the 'Manuscript, Book and Print Cultures' Research Theme (TCD).
- The Edward Worth Library is one of five Dublin libraries involved in the 'Reading East' website, hosted by University College Dublin: <http://www.ucd.ie/readingeast/>.
- The Infectious Diseases Society of Ireland has a link to the Worth Library 2011 online exhibition: <http://www.idsociety.ie/links/>
- Podcasts of presentations at 'The Book: History and Practice' workshop, held at The Humanities Institute of Ireland on 12 March 2012, continue to be available online on YouTube.
- A podcast of the paper the Librarian gave on the 'Scientific Collections of the Worth Library' in November 2012 is available on the website of the Royal Irish Academy.
- The Librarian, in her capacity as Secretary to the Irish National Committee of the Blue Shield, attended two meetings arranged by Carraig Consultancy for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage: Working Group C – Cross-Sectoral Engagement;
- The Librarian is now the MSPI mentor for the Joyce Tower Museum.

5.1. New Connections

- The Worth Library hosted 2 interns from the MA in Public History, University College Dublin, in Spring 2025.

- Ms Helen Stokes (Trustee), gave a presentation on 22 May 2025 to the delegates from the Hope Exchange Programme. The Library staff welcomed delegates from Denmark, Finland, The Netherlands and Portugal.
- The Worth Library agreed to work with the Digital Repository of Ireland in 2026 to ensure the long-term preservation of the Library's major online exhibitions.
- The Worth Library agreed to host interns from the TCD Ancient and Medieval History and Culture undergraduate module in Spring 2026.
- On 6 August 2025 the Librarian was honoured to welcome to the Worth Library Professor Peadar O'Mordha, Governor of the Company of Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland and Warden of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries (London); Dr Julie Neild, MBE, The Master Apothecary; and Professor Sir Mark Walport, Trustee of the British Museum and Vice-President of the Royal Society. Professor O'Mordha has requested that the large online medical exhibitions of the Worth Library be added to the learning resources section of the online M.A. course of the Society of Apothecaries (London).
- On 2 October 2025, there was, for the first time, a poetry reading in the Worth Library: 'Celebrating Nature: a poetry reading in the Worth Library' was delivered by the noted poet Pat Boran, long-time editor of *Poetry Ireland* and now director of the Daedalus Press.

6. Financial Summary

6.1.1. Funding

The Worth Library received funding of €250,000 from the Health Service Executive in line with the costings submitted to the HSE as part of the 2023-2025 three-year plan.

Administrative Expenses	(€219,071)
Income	€250,000
Operating surplus/(deficit)	€30,929
Interest receivable & similar income	€125
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation	€31,054
Tax on (deficit)/surplus	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	€31,054
Prior Year Adjustment	-
Non Current assets	
Property, plant & equip	€46,746
Current Assets	
Receivables	€11,833
Cash and cash equivalents	€120,438
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(€5,309)
Net Current assets	€126,962
Total assets less current liabilities	€173,708
Represented by Unrestricted Funds-general fund surplus	€173,708
Total Funds	€173,708

6.1.2. Staff and administration

The Worth Library Trust has an agreement with TCD to provide librarian services to the Trust. The Trust reimburses the costs to TCD via an invoicing mechanism on a monthly

basis. The Trust Administrator receives a stipend from the Trustees. The revenue charity status of the Trust exempts it from tax obligations.

7. Structure, Governance and Management

Following the closure of Dr Steevens' Hospital and its purchase by the then Eastern Health Board in 1988, a charitable Trust was established. Pursuant to a High Court judgment by Mr Justice Ronan Keane in 1995, the Worth Library Trust was established under a Scheme for its Administration and Regulation by Order of the High Court of 5th July 1995. The Trust is regulated by the Charities Regulation Authority. CRA number 20066093, Charity number CHY 17643.

The Scheme makes provision for the appointment of a number of Trustees. We commenced 2025 with 11 Trustees in place and, due to resignations and an untimely death, there were 8 Trustees in place at the end of the year. Following a recruitment process during the second half of the year the Trustees identified 4 new members who would come on board in 2026.

The Trustees have an agreement with TCD to provide librarian services to the Trust in line with the Scheme. Under the agreement two staff are engaged, the Worth Librarian and the Worth Library Assistant. The library staff report to the Trust on operational matters relating to the Library.

The Trust is also supported by a Trust Administrator and a Financial Advisor, each permitted under the terms of the Scheme.

7.1. General Management in 2025

Trust Administrator: Ms Bette Browne.

Trust Financial Advisor: Mr Leonard Clinton.

Worth Library Staff

Dr Elizabethanne Boran, Worth Librarian

Mr Antoine Mac Gaoithín, Worth Library Assistant

Under the 2025 Annual Action Plan the following targets were outlined:

5 Trustee Meetings per year.

2 Management Committee meetings per year.

There were **8** Trustees' Meetings held in 2025: 23 January; 3 April; 29 May; 26 June; 24 July; 25 September; 16 October; 4 December. No Management Committee meetings were held. Instead, a new Fundraising Strategy group was initiated by the Chair of the Worth Library Trust.

Trustees considered replacements for 4 Trustees throughout the year and 4 new Trustees will be in place in Spring 2026.

During the year Trustees reviewed and approved the following:

7.1.1. The Trustees reviewed the Financial Policy on 29 May 2025.

7.1.2. The Trustees reviewed the Credit Card Policy on 29 May 2025.

7.1.3. The Trustees reviewed the Procurement Policy on 29 May 2025.

7.1.4. The Trustees reviewed the Travel & Subsistence Policy on 29 May 2025.

7.1.5. The Trustees reviewed the Online Banking Policy on 29 May 2025.

7.1.6. The Trustees approved a Reserves Policy on 26 June 2025.

7.1.7. The 2024 audit was reviewed and approved by Trustees on 26 June 2025.

7.1.8. The Trustees updated the New Trustees Policy on 25 September 2025.

7.1.9. The Trustees reviewed an updated Risk Register on 16 October 2025.

7.1.10. The Worth Library Internship Policy was reviewed and approved by Trustees on 16 October 2025.

7.1.11. The Trustees approved the 2024 Trustees' Report on 16 October 2025.

7.1.12. The Trust's Code of Conduct Policy was reviewed and approved by Trustees on 16 October 2025.

7.1.13. The Trust's Conflict of Interest was reviewed and approved by Trustees on 16 October 2025.

7.1.14. The Trust's Hospitality Policy was reviewed and approved by Trustees on 16 October 2025.

7.1.15. The Trust's Gifts Policy was reviewed and approved by Trustees on 16 October 2025.

7.1.16. The Trustees are due to approve the 2025 Compliance Record Form, which has been compiled by the Administrator of the Worth Trust, Ms Bette Browne.

7.2. Trustees of the Edward Worth Library in 2025



Mr Anthony Kelly (Chair)

Anthony Kelly, Architect and Project Manager. Bachelor of Architecture – UCD; Post Graduate Diploma in Project Management - Trinity College; Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management - Irish Management Institute. Mr Kelly has worked in the airports design sector, the healthcare estate sector and private sector leading building project design, project management, capital programme management, technical auditing, facilities management & estate portfolio management.



Mr Bernard Gloster, CEO of the HSE (ex officio)

Bernard Gloster took up the post of Chief Executive Officer of the HSE in March 2023. He has worked in health and social services for over 34 years, and re-joined the HSE from the state Child and Family Agency Tusla where he served as Chief Executive Officer from September 2019.

Prior to that he held several senior management positions within the HSE, including Chief Officer of HSE Mid West Community Healthcare, and he worked and managed both in community and acute hospital operations. Mr Gloster is a social care worker by profession, holds an MBA from Oxford Brookes University and an MSc in Management Practice from UCC.



Professor Linda Doyle, Provost, TCD (ex officio)

Dr Linda Doyle is the Provost and President of Trinity College Dublin. She took office in August 2021 having been appointed by academic staff and student representatives.

She served previously as Dean of Research (2018-2020) in Trinity, and was the founding director of CONNECT, Ireland's national telecommunications research centre, with 300 researchers across ten higher education institutions. Before her appointment as Provost, Dr Doyle was Professor of Engineering & The Arts in Trinity College Dublin.

Her expertise is in the fields of wireless communications, cognitive radio, reconfigurable networks, spectrum management and creative arts practices. She has raised over €70 million in research funding and has published widely in her field. She has a reputation as an advocate for change in spectrum management practices and has played a role in spectrum policy at national and international level. As well as her contributions to research and the arts, she is also a strong advocate for women in engineering and computer science.



Dr Audrey Whitty, Director, National Library of Ireland (ex officio)

Audrey Whitty, a curator, art historian, and archaeologist, has been the Director of the National Library of Ireland since February 2023. From 2019 to January 2023 she was the Deputy Director/Head of Collections and Learning at the National Museum of Ireland (NMI). During 2015-19 Dr Whitty was Keeper of the Art and Industrial Division, at NMI. Throughout 2013 and 2014 she was Curator of European and Asian Glass at The Corning Museum of Glass, New York. From 2001 to 2013, Dr Whitty was Curator of Ceramics, Glass and Asian collections, Art and Industrial Division, NMI.

A graduate and postgraduate of UCD, she also has a doctorate from Trinity College Dublin in History of Art as a result of her thesis, *'The Albert Bender (1866-1941) Donations of Far Eastern Art to the National Museum of Ireland in the context of his Cultural Interests in Ireland and California'*.

She has authored over 90 publications and lectured to such institutions as the Sorbonne, Paris; Trinity College Dublin; Art Institute of Chicago; the American Irish Historical Society, New York City; the Irish-Chinese Cultural Society;

University College Dublin; National University of Ireland, Maynooth and National College of Art & Design, Dublin. She was Chair (2020-2023) of the Irish Museums Association.



Ms Maureen Browne (Resigned 31 March 2025)

Maureen Browne is a Dublin-based health analyst, journalist and communications consultant, who has worked in the health area for many years. Ms Browne is currently proprietor of Hartcliffe Communications, which specialises in medical journalism, crisis management for the health services and media training services.



Mr Kieran Hickey (RIP 28 Feb 2025)

Kieran Hickey, DPA, BComm, MBA, FHMI. Chief Executive Officer of the Eastern Health Board for 10 years up to the end of 1996. Inaugural Chair of the Worth Library Trust, 1995 to 2004. President of the Health Management Institute of Ireland, 1995 to 1998. Elected a Fellow of the Institute in 2010. A founder member of the European Institute for Health Records, EUROREC. Elected Vice President of EUROREC from 2004-2008. Recipient of the O'Moore Medal from the Healthcare Informatics Society of Ireland in 2012.



Dr Emer Lawlor

Emer Lawlor is a retired consultant haematologist and a qualified barrister. She became a Trustee of the Worth Library Trust in 2008 and was Chair of the Trust from October 2017 to June 2021. Dr Lawlor and the Librarian, Dr Elizabethanne Boran, co-curated a major online exhibition on the theme of 'Botany at the Edward Worth Library' in 2013, and in 2016 she was awarded an M. Litt. by Trinity College Dublin for her thesis 'Enquiries into vegetables : botanists in Ireland and their sources, 1680-1775'. Dr Lawlor, Dr Charles E. Nelson and Dr Boran subsequently edited *Botany and Gardens in Early Modern Ireland* (Dublin, 2022), which includes a chapter written by Dr Lawlor on 'Caleb Threlkeld: dissenting minister, physician and botanist'.



Mr Pat McLoughlin

Pat McLoughlin is Chief Executive of Virtue Integrated Care, comprising primary care, 3 homecare companies and 14 nursing homes. He was CEO of The Alzheimer Society until March 2022. His career included being CEO of the Eastern and Southeastern Health Boards, Planning and Commissioning Director of the ERHA, first national director of the National Hospitals Office and Deputy CEO of the HSE. Mr McLoughlin assisted Governments, on a pro bono basis, on local government efficiency, public expenditure control, childcare services and Dept of Justice review. He is Chair of

the Audit Committee of the Houses of the Oireachtas. He holds B.A., L.L.B. and M.B.A. degrees and additional diplomas in Risk Management, Compliance and internal Audit and in Executive Coaching.



Ms Helen Stokes

Helen Stokes was born in Dublin in 1963, and has been working in the health services since 1981. She has worked in the Eastern Health Board, Eastern Regional Health Authority and now the Health Service Executive. She has also spent some time in the private healthcare sector. She was Secretary to the ERHA Board from 2000 to 2004 and became Secretary to the Worth Library Trust during this time.

She became a Trustee of the Worth Library in December 2011 when she resigned as Secretary. Currently Acting Assistant National Director and Facility Manager of the HSE National Infectious Diseases Isolation Facility.



Mr David FitzPatrick (Resigned 23 January 2025)

David FitzPatrick, MA, MCh, FRCSI, FRCS. 1971: Appointed Orthopaedic Surgeon Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals assigned to Adelaide, Dr. Steevens', and National Children's Hospitals. 1976-77: Fellow in Orthopaedic Pathology Hospital for Special Surgery - New York. 1988: Transferred to Adelaide Meath and National Children's Hospital (MANCH). 1989-1992: Specialist Orthopaedic Surgeon Nyangabwe Hospital Francistown, Botswana, on secondment to UK Ministry for Overseas Development. 1992: Completed Diploma in Hospital Management (RCSI). 1992: Continued at MANCH until retirement in 2001. Former member of Board and Chairman of Tallaght Hospital Medical Board.



Professor J. Bernard Walsh

An tOllamh Séamas Bernard Breathnach, Clinical Professor, Dept of Medical Gerontology, Trinity College and St James's Hospital Dublin. Hon Consultant, Bone Health & Osteoporosis Treatment Unit, Mercer's Institute, St. James's Hospital. Clinical Director, MedEL Directorate, St James's Hospital 1992-2001 & 2008-2011. Lead Hospital Clinical Director & Medical Director of St James's Hospital, 2011-2014. Director of The Mercer's Institute for Research on Ageing 2002-2018. Graduate of University College Cork. Trained in Cork and Mater Hospital in Dublin. Registrar in King's College Hospital, London. Senior Registrar in Medicine for the Elderly, Royal Liverpool Hospital. Consultant Physician in Co Durham North East England 1981-1984. Visiting Professor to the University of California, San Francisco 1982. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.



Mr Brian Murphy (Nominee for CEO of HSE)

Brian Murphy has over 35 years' experience in the public health service, having served in the Department of Health, the Western Health Board and the HSE in a variety of local operational and national strategic roles. He has extensive experience in many health management areas, including Strategic Reform, Primary Care, National Service Planning, Budgetary and Governance. He has led on several national reform and innovation programmes. He currently holds the position of Head of Corporate Affairs in the HSE.



Ms Laura Shanahan (Nominee for Provost of TCD)

Laura Shanahan, MA, is Head of Research Collections at the Library of Trinity College Dublin, leading Manuscripts and Archives, Early Printed Books and Special Collections, the Map Library and Music. She has previously performed a variety of roles in the National Library of Scotland and the University of Edinburgh Library.



Mr Gerard Long (Nominee for Director, NLI) (Resigned 16 October 2025)

Gerard Long has worked in the National Library of Ireland since 1983, and is an Assistant Keeper in the Department of Special Collections. His research interest is the history of the National Library of Ireland, on which he has published several articles.



Crónán Ó Doibhlin (Nominee for Director, NLI) (Joined 4 December 2025)

Crónán Ó Doibhlin is Head of Special Collections at The National Library of Ireland and a member of the library's Leadership Team. He leads and oversees the development and management of the NLI Special Collections Department as well as contributing to its strategic planning and overall management. Crónán previously spent 20 years at University College Cork and held positions of Head of Research Collections and Head of Collections.