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UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

THEMED BOOK DISPLAYS

Building connections one book at a time

through UCC Library's inclusive and collaborative themed book displays



Cork Pride was the first book display in 2022. I asked a student I knew for his opinion. He was surprised and touched that our library had such a broad, positive selection of books relevant to him.
This brought home to me how meaningful the displays can be for students.

UCC Library's Boole Book Display features thematic displays of books from general collections.

By celebrating events like Cork Pride and Black History Month, book displays foster connection and inclusion with students and staff. Guest displays with UCC student societies enable collaboration by engaging students in theme selection and curation, highlighting the breadth of our collections.

Guest displays align with UCC Library's Vision and Plan 2024-2028, which champions Students as Partners.

We also collaborate with UCC departments and units to promote events such as Equality Week. Wellbeing displays at exam time support students with stress management and resilience.

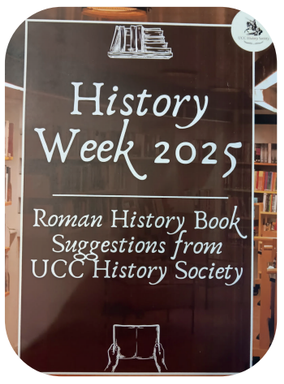
Collaborations with UCC departments:

Bystander Intervention
Equality Week
Trans Awareness week



Collaborations with UCC student societies:

English Literature Society
History Society
Pop Culture Society



Collaborations with colleagues:

Shush Music Show
International Poetry Day
Trees



International days/events:

Black History
Cork Pride
International Womens Day
Seachtain na Gaeilge



How do we measure engagement?

Books checkouts and social media.

- Trans Awareness Week had the highest reach (6,167* unique visitors)
- English Literature Society display
- had 1,928* unique visitors.
- Blind Date with a Book was the most borrowed with approx. 40 checkouts in a week.

*Source: Instagram

The future?

- More collaborations with student societies and students.
- Expand our wellbeing support.



Anne O'Callaghan and Leah Magrone, UCC Pop Culture Society committee

Could I do this in my library?

Yes! Here's how:

- Re-use shelving or buy mobile shelving.
- Place the display in a high traffic area.
- Use visually appealing books.
- Share book display calendar with colleagues.
- Invite student groups or departments to participate - most are happy to do so.
- Have backup displays that are easy to put up e.g. Art Books.
- Have a link/QR code to eBooks for a display.
- Have a feedback form on the Display.

Thanks to Martin O'Connor for social media support and Mona Power for help with display posters.

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