

One of the things that the 1916 commemorations, indeed the decade of commemorations as a whole, has done, is to highlight the importance of our archival and local studies collections.

These collections have allowed us give the public access to the primary materials of our history – through publications, exhibitions, lectures, and online publication.



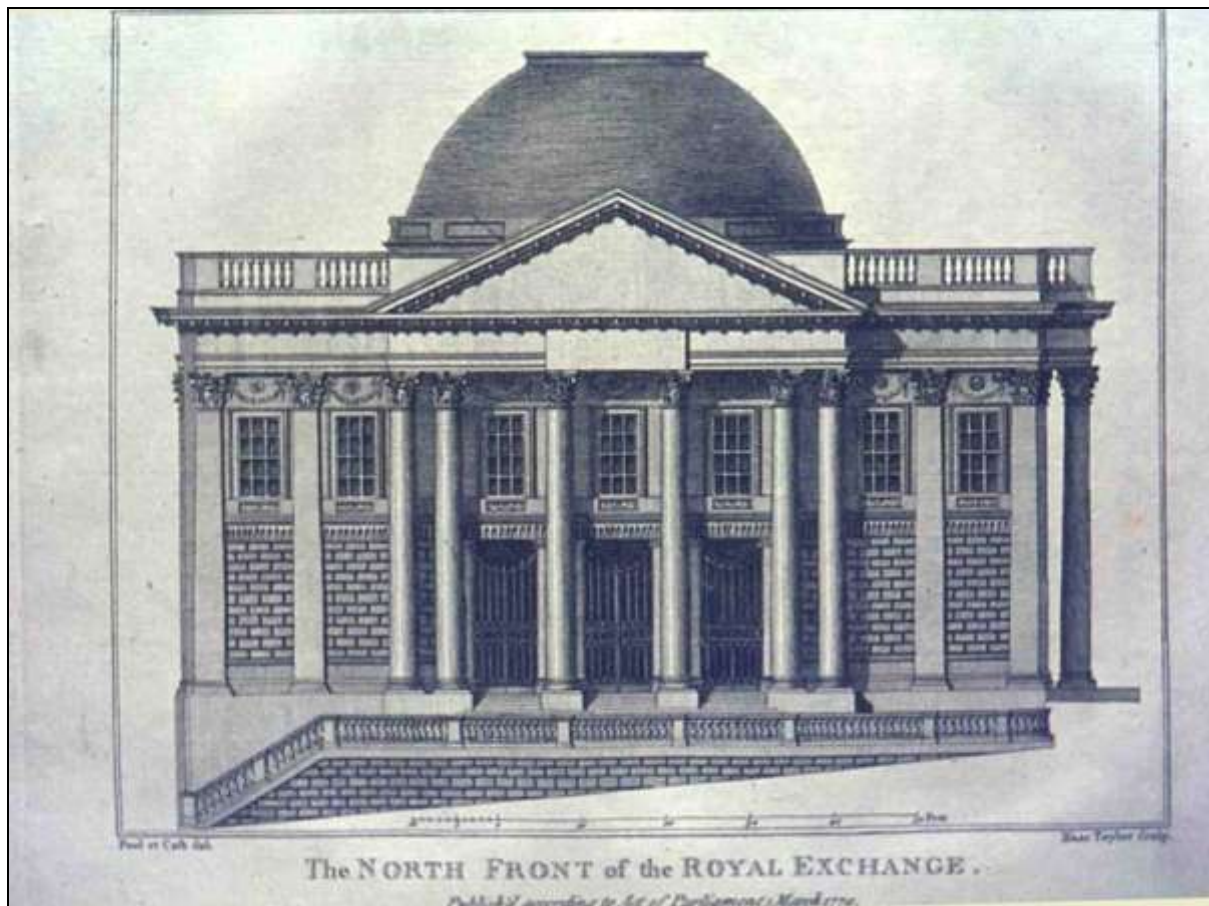
The success of the 1916 commemorations has led to a renewed and very welcome interest in our collections, and has also led us to pay renewed attention to our approach to digitization, and to how we find solutions to some of the major challenges.

These challenges relate to how we manage our collections, given the size, range and formats of what we hold, and how we make them available to the public and indeed to ourselves, for use in digital and print publications.

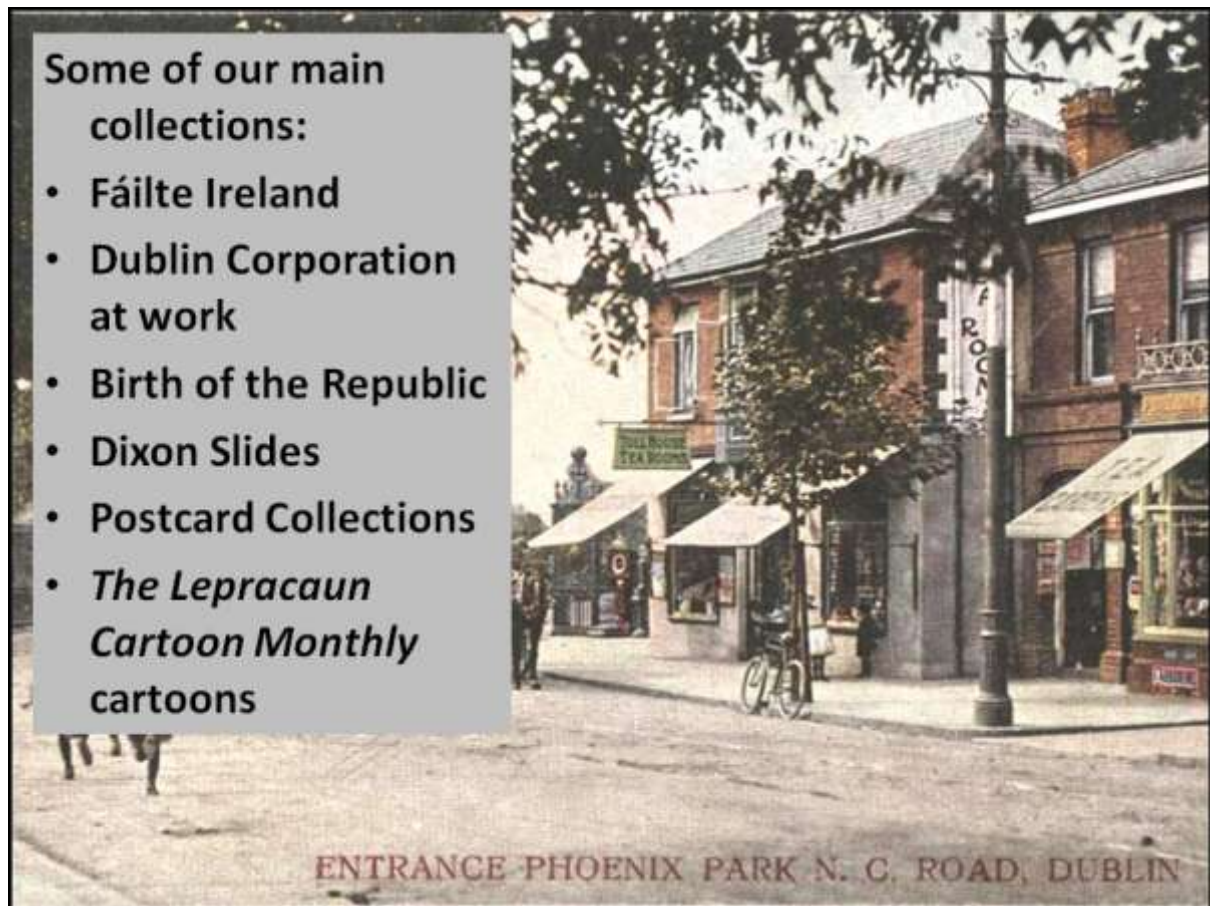


As members will know Dublin City Libraries & Archives has extensive local studies collections, collections which have been added to since the then Corporation purchased the library of Sir John T Gilbert in the last years of the nineteenth century. In addition, the City Archives, whose earliest records go back to the twelfth century, have also been added to extensively over the years.





We are fortunate, therefore, to have several large collections of images, maps, manuscripts, documents, and ephemera which we need to manage and preserve, both physically and digitally, and make available to the public.



This slide lists some of the main collections in our Dublin & Irish Collections.

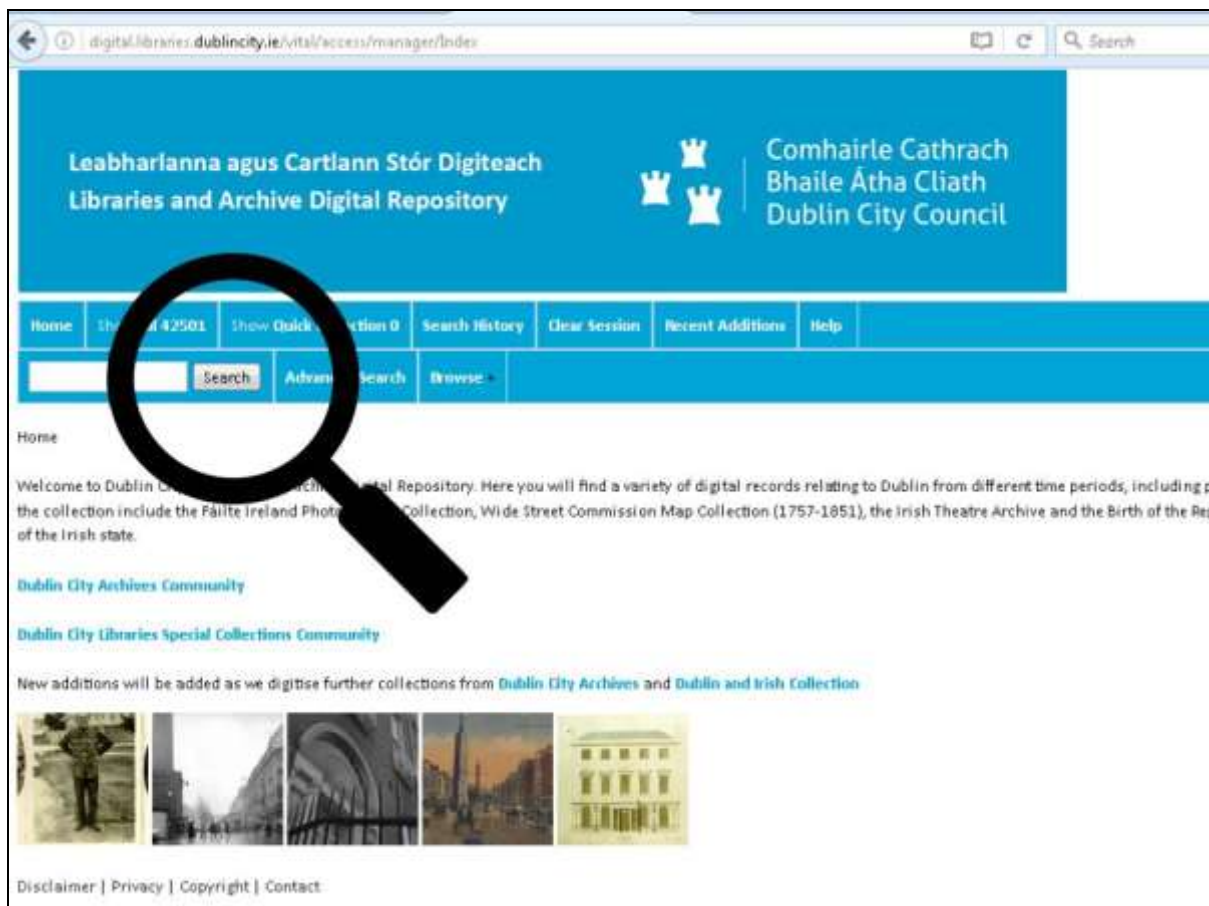


This slide lists some of the main collections from the City Archives.

These slides give some idea of the amount of material we have to deal with: for example, the Bord Fáilte collection alone contains 100,000 images.

Managing and publishing collections of this size presents challenges.





In 2016 we began using a new cloud-based application called VITAL which has allowed us put in place efficient systems to digitize, store, search and publish our collections.

So far we have uploaded 42,000 images and documents to VITAL. VITAL also has the capability to store and make accessible other digital objects such as PDF files, sound files, Powerpoint presentations and audiovisual files. We will add many thousands more images and files in 2017.

Our VITAL site is at <http://digital.libraries.dublincity.ie/>.

The site is live and we will begin promoting and publicising this new free resource shortly.

I'll now go to <http://digital.libraries.dublincity.ie/> and give you a quick demonstration.