



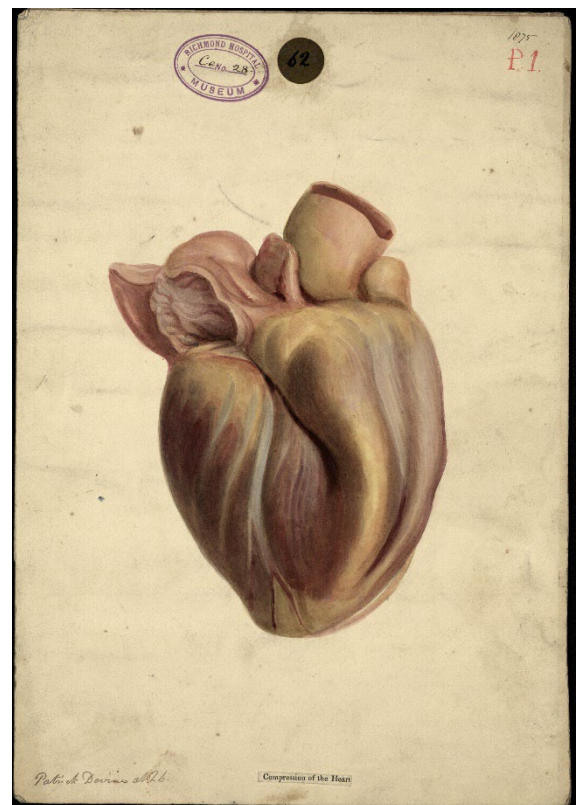
Nowlan Digitisation Grant Report

Recipient name:	Audrey Drohan
Discipline and subject area:	Nowlan Digitisation Grant
Year awarded:	2021
Title of project:	Drawing Disease: Nineteenth Century Medical Illustrations from Richmond Hospital, Dublin

Summary of findings:

Drawing Disease: Nineteenth-Century Medical Illustrations from Richmond Hospital, Dublin is a distinct archival collection of medical illustrations and two accompanying illustration catalogues from the nineteenth century. This project completed the digitisation of these illustrations (there are 321 outstanding from 1,000), fully digitised the two accompanying catalogues, and has made the collection available on two open access digital platforms. This enables broad access to this unique collection for research by the public and professionals and opens up the illustrations to public engagement activities such as art and design projects and exhibitions.

The project makes available these illustrations to a broad global audience, benefiting diagnostic medical training, enabling a deeper understanding of diseases that were common due to poor social conditions or the absence of effective therapeutic treatments, and enhancing the understanding of the historical treatment of disease. Many illustrations have accompanying case studies discussing the illustrated disease and the treatment used. The illustrations were made by professionally trained artists and often depict patients holistically in sympathetic portraits (not just parts of the body afflicted by visible disease), shedding light on patient experience generally. As portraits, they capture a cross section of society that would otherwise not be commonly depicted in nineteenth-century portraiture.



Please outline the objectives of the project.

The main objective of this project was to complete digitisation of the Richmond Hospital Medical Illustrations Collection (UCDA P263), held in UCD Archives. In conjunction with digitisation, the collection needed its metadata completed and augmented, and the digital collection was to be ingested into UCD Digital Library and the Digital



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Repository of Ireland, to ensure its long-term preservation. Further objectives include extensive publicity, a launch event, digital exhibitions, and publication via academic channels.

Please describe the methodology used in conducting the research.

This project was a joint collaboration between UCD Archives and the UCD Digital Library. This project digitised, described, and published online digital assets and descriptive metadata pertaining to the Richmond Hospital Medical Illustrations collection, leveraging existing workflows in place by UCD Digital Library. The collection has been fully catalogued to ISAD(G) standards. UCD Digital Library adheres to a comprehensive digital collections workflow when working with archival material. The eight-process pipeline is mostly linear and is comprised of:

1. Profiling (collection setup, surveying, and documentation),
2. Digitisation (temporary custody arrangements, scanning as TIFF files, image processing, data management),
3. Cataloguing (data cleaning and metadata augmentation in the in-house cataloguing software, IMAD),
4. Copyright (clearance and licensing, using Rights Statements and Creative Commons licensing),
5. Ingest (digital surrogate creation (JPEG2000 files), metadata transformation, persistent identifiers (DOI) assignment, upload to and publication on the UCD Digital Library (Fedora-Commons repository software), indexing using GSearch and Solr, backups and preservation activities),
6. Quality Review (pre-publicity quality checks of the images in Mirador Image Viewer (which offers high quality, zoomable images, along with a suite of interactive user tools) and the metadata on the website),
7. Publicity (on various channels, including the UCD Digital Library webpages, and social media),
8. Evaluation (post-publicity metrics using Google Analytics and Altmetrics, and an internal workflow review).

Additional processes were undertaken in concert with the described digital collection workflow, including research into the various surgeons and illustrators, and information about the diseases. Subsequent processes included long-term preservation activities (UCD Digital Library is a trusted digital repository and has been awarded the CoreTrustSeal), transfer of the digital assets and metadata to the DRI, in line with their ingest criteria, and further academic publicity activities, to be concluded in 2023.

Through the undertaking of this project, a new policy document was created for UCD Digital Library, which centred on ethical cataloguing guidelines, as well as the creation of a new sensitive data warning system for the UCD Digital Library, with additional metadata warning fields and graphic image advisory warning thumbnails.

Please outline the findings of your research and/or milestones achieved.

The major objectives of the project have been achieved.

The remaining Richmond Hospital Medical Illustrations were digitised. The original cataloguing database was converted into an ISAD(G) compliant finding aid, and this, in turn, was converted into fully searchable MODS and Dublin Core metadata, for digital library indexing, along with a fully searchable EAD.

The digital collection is now available in UCD Digital Library (via <https://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdlib:280000>) and the Digital Repository of Ireland (via <https://repository.dri.ie/catalog/hm517j58b>).



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The intended launch of the digital collection is March 2023, with an extensive programme of publicity, including digital exhibitions, which will focus on the surgeons and the illustrators featured in the collection.

How will you continue to communicate the results of your project?

The project will be formally launched with publicity through UCD Library and the DRI using social media channels, university marketing publications, blogs, digital exhibitions on the Google Arts & Culture platform, and other media channels, yet to be confirmed.

What are your publication plans?

Publication plans are ongoing, and it is hoped that the collection will be available for academic and public engagement soon.

How did the award enhance your professional development?

This particular project fostered relationships with other archives that hold similar medical illustrations. It also resulted in a new ethical cataloguing guideline document for UCD Digital Library, which enables us to review historical finding aids to change outdated and insensitive terms, and to flag to users, with warning notes and content advisory thumbnails, any items that contain sensitive material.

What plans (if any) do you have to further your proposal/project?

This digital collection has strong synergies with other similar medical illustration collections within Ireland, and across the UK. Further exploration will be undertaken to investigate the possibility of creating an aggregator portal or indeed, creating signposted webpages, so that researchers can find and utilize the multiple collections now available digitally.