Froebel College

Froebel College of Education was established in 1943 and located in Blackrock, Co. Dublin. It was named after the 19th century German educator and founder of Kindergarten, Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852). He advocated reverence for the child, learning through activity, exploration of the environment, enjoyment of beauty in all its manifestations and acceptance of the gifts of each individual.

In 2010 the merger of Froebel College of Education with Maynooth University (MU) was announced. The merger date was set for September 2013. As part of the process the collections of Froebel College were merged into the collections of Maynooth University library.

Collaborating

Froebel Library Preparations

Preparations began in 2012. Froebel College library began by checking their collection against the MU library catalogue for items already held by MU library. Froebel library staff and MU library staff liaised with each other to agree processes and procedures in advance of the Froebel collections arrival in Maynooth.

Deselection of material began in June 2013 and 3000 items were selected for integration, 500 of these were prioritised as essential for the new academic year. Remaining material being integrated into MU library were partially processed - tattle tape and MU library barcode. Teaching Practice material was deemed suitable to be stored in a resource room within the Froebel Department. The physical moving date was set for August 2013.

Maynooth University Preparations

Considerations included temporary storage space and existing shelf space as many of the items were in the 300 Dewey range. Staffing of the project team and data exchange – possible migration of MARC records from Froebel library system into MU library management system? Liaison with Froebel library Staff and Allen Removals regarding the logistics of the collection move.

The 500 high priority items required for the beginning of the semester were delivered to MU library in early August 2013. The balance was delivered at the end of August.

Maynooth University

In September 2013 Froebel College became the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, retaining the Froebel identity. Maynooth now offers the full spectrum of teacher education, from pre-school to adult education. Two Froebel library staff became MU library staff bringing with them valuable knowledge, experience and insight into the Froebel Department’s resource requirements and established relationships with Froebel staff and students.
Merging collections

The integration of the migrated collection began in September 2013. The retrieval of MARC records was not possible as the systems were not interoperable. The Froebel library system (AccessIT) was maintained to aid record creation. If available OCLC records were downloaded. Froebel library classification numbers were retained for all items with the exception of literature. MU library uses a different in option in Dewey for classifying literature.

Material was processed by subject with items prioritised based on reading lists provided by Froebel Department academic staff and requests from department staff and students. The department was contacted each time a reading list was completed and available.

Concerns from Froebel staff and students were managed through an enquiry system and dealt with in consultation with former Froebel library staff members. A meeting was held with the Froebel Department Student Union representative to explain the process.

The project took one academic year to complete.

Challenges

- Continuing service to Froebel staff and students while the collections were being merged
- Managing staff and student needs based on reading lists and requests
- Project management and logistics - between Froebel library staff and Maynooth library staff, the moving company and the project team in MU library
- Library systems not interoperable – It was not possible to export records from AccessIT the Froebel library system to MU library management system
- Creating original records if none available in OCLC
- Time constraints – items moved in August with semester beginning mid-September
- Culture change for staff – Former Froebel College staff now members of a Department in a University

Impact

- MU library collection enriched. The specialised Froebel College library collection, centred around teacher training, enhanced the existing MU library collection and filled gaps in literature, special collections and education. The MU library collection enriched Froebel students’ access to wider material and facilities
- Students benefit from enhanced library collection
- Froebel B.Ed students are the only primary teacher training students in Ireland studying at the heart of a major university. Applications for places have soared
- MU library and Froebel Department relationship cemented through integrated staff

References and links

Created using Piktochart https://magic.piktochart.com/

Friedrich Froebel Portrait

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/82/Frederick-Froebel-Bardeen.jpeg/200px-Frederick-Froebel-Bardeen.jpeg

Froebel College of Education crest

http://campus.ie/sites/default/files/froebel_0.jpg

Maynooth University

https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/

Maynooth University Library

https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library

Maynooth University Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education


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