

ETBI FET Digital Library: A Shared Digital Library for the Irish Further Education and Training Sector

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About ETBI and the ETBs

Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) is the national representative body established to collectively represent the sixteen ETBs and promote their interests. The ETBs manage and operate Community National Schools, Post-Primary Schools, Further Education (FE) colleges, and a range of adult and further education centres delivering education and training programmes.

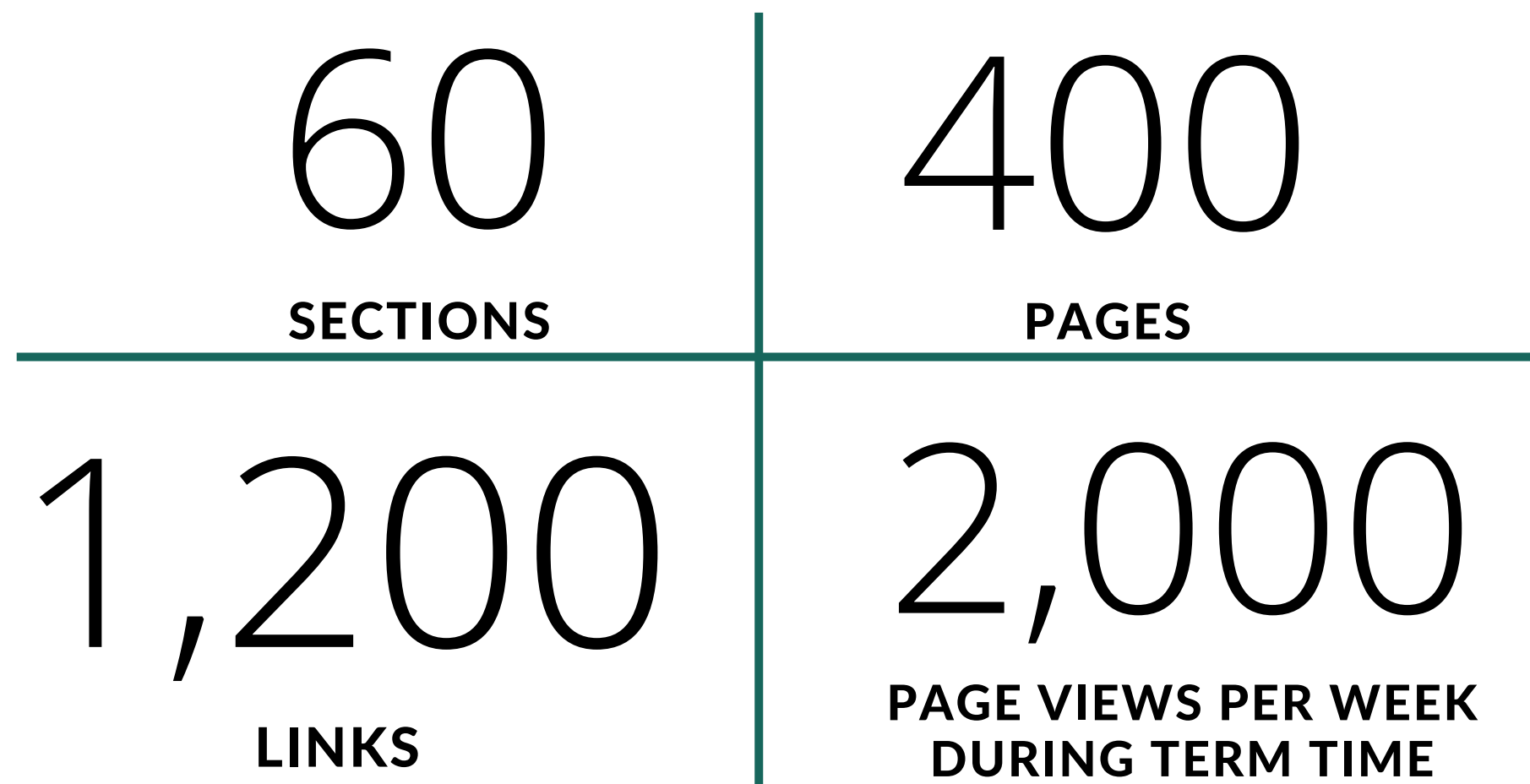
About the Library

The ETBI FET Digital Library went live in March 2020, shortly after the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Digital Library provides a 'one stop shop' for resources for the FET Sector. The website has a similar structure to other academic library websites. FET learners come from a very broad range of backgrounds. The digital library has sections on 'core' skills such as grammar and study skills as well as library skills such as academic writing and referencing.

The ETBI FET Digital Library:

- provides a cost-effective, shared resource to all ETBs
- improves learner access and experience
- increases the quantity, quality and comprehensiveness of online educational resources
- ensures these resources are easy to discover and retrieve for learners and staff in ETBs

Approximate Stats and Figures



Economies of Scale

The Digital Library provides excellent economy of scale to the FET sector. Rather than each resource being purchased 16 times by each ETB, resources are purchased only once.

Subscription resources are typically priced based on full-time enrolment (FTE) rather than the actual number of users. There are roughly 300,000 learners in FET in the 16 ETBs. eBooks have been purchased based on approximate number of users.

Efficiency

Sections and pages can be created quickly to fit new and arising needs. The Digital Library quickly created FET Resources for Ukrainians in Ireland section to help Ukrainian refugees navigate the FET sector as well as provide access to ESOL resources. This allowed for one link to be circulated rather than 16.

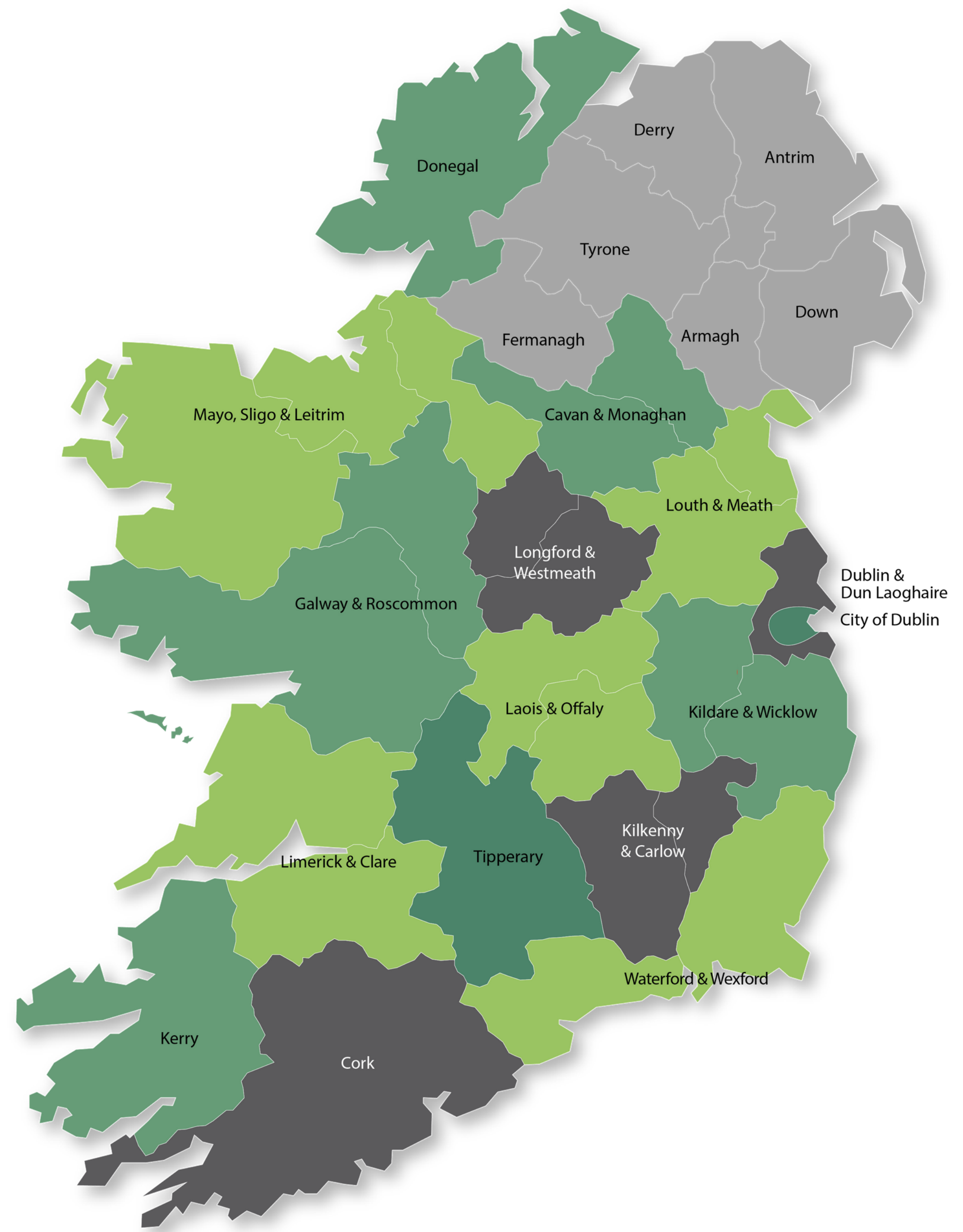
National Early Learning and Care Courses

The Certificate and Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care (ELC) are national courses delivered by each ETB. These courses have dedicated sections on the Digital Library as opposed to each ETB developing and hosting their own.

Connecting the Sector

The Digital Library hosts an online community of practice (CoP) for ELC managers who use private pages on the library website to share resources and share knowledge through an online discussion forum. Content for the Supports for Apprentices Group is also hosted through the library.

The Digital Library maintains a blog, Inside FET, in which posts are contributed by people throughout the sector.



Open Educational Resources



As many subscription resources are not suitable for FET learners, Open Educational Resources (OERs) provide an excellent replacement. The Digital Library has collaborated with the ETBI Support for Apprentices Group on creating a series of maths workbooks for the craft apprenticeships. These workbooks are publicly available on the library website and are available under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) Licence.

Raising the Intellectual Footprint of the Sector



Open Access Peer-Reviewed Journal

The FET sector in Ireland continues to grow and the Digital Library is working on creating an open access peer-reviewed journal to publish and disseminate the incredible work done by FET practitioners. The journal will be made available using the Janeway open source publishing platform.

Sectoral Repository

The Digital Library will soon launch EOLAS, an online repository, which will bring together, preserve and provide free access to the scholarly and intellectual output of the Irish FET sector. The repository will use the DSpace open source repository platform.

ETBI FET Digital Library
Homepage

<https://library.etbi.ie/home>



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