

# Connecting with schools during the pandemic and initiating a remote digital research service

## Research support for second level history students

Students taking History for the Leaving Certificate, the final year exam in the Irish secondary school system, must undertake a history research project on a chosen topic.

Cork City Libraries Reference Department has traditionally been a key support for Cork Leaving Certificate students researching their chosen topic.

### Pilot remote research service

Unable to provide our in-person research service or host class visits, we piloted a remote research service with two Cork city schools.

We developed a **Digital History Research Pack**, individualised for each participating student's project topic.

The pack contained digitised source materials from our collections along with a range of research guides.

The individualised packs were then delivered electronically to the participating schools.

### Digital History Research Pack

After a successful pilot phase, we scaled up quickly to offer the service to all schools in our catchment area and to date have delivered over 300 project packs to students across our city.

Since public health restrictions have eased we have maintained our remote, digital research service. The Digital History Research Pack is now a standard offering to all Cork city schools along with our traditional in-person research service.

This has allowed us to widen our reach and enhance our service to students and teachers across our city.

### Positive experience and outcomes for students and staff

Through this project we connected with students and teachers in new and innovative ways. We reached out, asked them how we could help and we listened!

We worked on adapting our service to meet their needs as best we could in what were difficult circumstances for all, and we then delivered our research resources electronically.

Through this project we enabled students to continue their project work to completion and widened their access to new resources. We enabled students to acquire new digital research skills.

The project was a very positive experience for library staff as it allowed for an innovative flow of ideas and allowed staff to develop new technical skills.

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