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IVRLA¹ RESEARCH REPORT: THE DUBLIN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL AND CHEMICAL SCIENCE CATALOGUE

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1. CONTEXT

The aim of this project is to provide a full and complete catalogue of *The Dublin Journal of Medical and Chemical Science (DJMS)*² from its establishment in 1832 to 1949. *DJMS* is the longest established medical periodical in Ireland, and is an invaluable source for the history and development of medicine in Ireland. Amongst its contributors and editors are some of the most famous Irish medical practitioners of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In their survey of the literature on Irish medical history Malcolm and Jones have shown that in the past histories of medicine of Ireland have tended to be narrowly focused on institutions, biography and public health, and to be descriptive in nature (1). This project aims to open up *DJMS* as a source for medical historians who are developing an analytical and contextual approach to their subject, and will hopefully develop further interest in the history of Irish medical publications.

There has only been one article written specifically on *DJMS*, by T. Percy C. Kirkpatrick and published within the journal itself in 1915. Part of the reason for the limited use made of medical periodicals by researchers is the difficulty in locating material within journals. The two main indexes for *DJMS* prior to this project, SpringerLink³ and Hayes'

¹ The UCD Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive (IVRLA) is a major digitisation project which was undertaken by University College Dublin from 2005 to 2009. Material selected from UCD's extensive resources of archival and rare material was digitised and catalogued before being made available from a single virtual location (<http://ivrla.ucd.ie>). This digitised material covers a wide range of humanities and social science disciplines and is arranged in curated collections which can be browsed, searched, bookmarked, or downloaded. In addition to the digitisation of existing UCD collections, the IVRLA conducted a series of demonstrator projects. The remit of these projects was to develop additional digital research resources and to present these in the form of an exhibition collection. Some of these projects incorporated existing IVRLA material but many generated new content which was inspired by the potential of digital resources. Consequently, the IVRLA and its demonstrator projects show how digital repositories can provide access to diverse archival research materials as well as challenging the ways in which we consider digital content and generate research in a digital environment. The IVRLA is a component of the UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland and is funded under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLII) Cycle 3, administered by the Higher Education Authority.

² *The Dublin Journal of Medical and Chemical Science* went through four different titles between 1832 and 1950, for the purposes of this paper the acronym *DJMS* is used as a general title for the whole time period. Where necessary specific reference is made in the text to the different titles used and when they were changed.

³ SpringerLink is an online resource offering access to books and journals. It is available on a subscription-only basis and offers full-text pdf downloads of journal articles, including some of those from the *DJMS*. It is a useful resource for accessing the text of particular *DJMS* articles but its search facilities are limited, making it difficult to conduct research on a specific topic. See <<http://www.springerlink.com>> for further details.

Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation: Articles in Irish Periodicals,⁴ are limited in focus, concentrating only on the original articles published in the journal. This project has, for the first time, catalogued every individual entry in the journal; including book reviews, obituaries, clinical notes, special reports and occasionally advertisements. It is often in this type of entry that some of the most valuable data and developments can be found.

Section 2 of this research paper gives an overview of the history and development of *DJMS* between 1832 and 1949 with a particular focus on changes to the content of the journal, as well the editors and their influence. Section 3 deals with the catalogues themselves, explaining how they were constructed, and providing direction on how best to use them to search for material. Section 4 considers potential ways in which this research could be developed in the future.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW: History of the Journal

Prior to 1832 there had been several attempts to establish a medical periodical based in Ireland, but none of the publications lasted for more than six volumes (Wilde). Indeed *DJMS* was initially intended to be a scientific journal dealing with chemical investigations, not medicine. The founder of the new journal was Robert John Kane, who having studied chemical and practical science in Dublin and Paris, was one of the leading chemical researchers in Ireland.⁵ In 1831, at the age of only 22, he was appointed Professor of Chemistry to the Apothecaries Hall in Dublin (Gilbert). Kane's initial idea for a journal on chemical sciences was extended, before the publication of the first issue, to include medicine. To facilitate this Kane was assisted by two of his former teachers; Dr Robert Graves and Dr William Stokes. Drs Graves and Stokes both worked at the Meath Hospital, where they developed an international reputation for medical teaching and research. Graves had new ideas on medical education which called for a much more active participation by students and through his publications, including those in *DJMS*, he had a major influence on the development of clinical practice in the English speaking world (Magee, Curtis). The first issue of *The Dublin Journal of Medical and Chemical Science* was published in March 1832, with issues to be published every other month. The journal was divided into three sections;

⁴ A digitised version of this is now available from the National Library of Ireland at <<http://sources.nli.ie>>.

⁵ Robert Kane (Sir Robert Kane from 1846) was a founding member and first dean of the Royal College of Science for Ireland which was established in 1867, having previously been director of its predecessor, the Museum of Irish Industry. Another IVRLA project has carried out research into the history (and particularly the library) of the Royal College of Science for Ireland; see <<http://ivrla.ucd.ie/ivrla/researchproj/id/52>>.

Original Communications (or articles), Bibliographical Notices, and Scientific Intelligence. The bibliographical notices are short reviews of recent British and foreign works, and are generally unsigned although occasionally a name or initials are attached. The Scientific Intelligence section consists of notices or abstracts under various subject headings including chemical science, anatomy, physiology, surgery etc. Kane's connection with *DJMS* was short lived, in 1834 he became Chair of Natural Philosophy in the Royal Dublin Society and resigned his editorship in March 1835 stating that

[he had] anxiously watched over the infant struggles of the Dublin Journal, and seen it, after a brief adolescence, take a place amongst the Medical Periodicals of Europe, creditable to our country, and highly gratifying to its supporters.
(*DJMS* 7.19)

After Kane's retirement Drs Graves and Stokes were joined as editors by another colleague from the Meath Hospital, the surgeon and anatomist, William Henry Porter. Under the direction of these three men the proportion of the journal devoted to chemical sciences greatly decreased, and this change was recognised in May 1836 when the title changed to *The Dublin Journal of Medical Science*. At the same time the journal introduced reports of the proceedings of some medical societies, notably the Dublin Obstetrical Society and the Pathological Society of Dublin. In 1842, two young surgeons, John Hamilton and Robert Lee MacDonnell took over editorship of the journal, although no mention was made in the journal of this change and there was no perceptible change in the journal's content.

The next major change to *DJMS* came in July 1845 when William Wilde took over as editor, he completed the first series of the journal in November 1845, promising to increase the size of the journal and raise it "to the character of a quarterly periodical" (Kirkpatrick 7-8). Wilde was an ambitious man, who saw the journal as a stepping stone on his career path. In a fifty-page editorial he created a lineage for the journal and the medical profession back to the seventeenth century, aiming to support the reputation of the newly developing Irish medical profession (McGeachie 90-91). The first issue of the second series, under the title *The Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science*, appeared in February 1846. Wilde had kept the same three part structure as the first series, but he changed the name of the third section to Medical Miscellany, and introduced a number of new features within it; memoirs of famous Irish medical men, reports into advances in chemical sciences and material medica, and he increased the number of societies whose proceedings were published in the journal. Wilde remained as editor for only four years as his growing practice as an oculist required more of his time. He was replaced by Dr John Moore Neligan, a physician and dermatologist,

who was already an enthusiastic contributor to the journal. Under the editorship of Neligan and his successor, the obstetrician George Hugh Kidd, the journal continued much as Wilde had envisaged. Over the 1850s and 1860s an increasing number of clinical notes or records were published in the journal, to the extent that they were given their own subsection. In addition the proceedings of Belfast, Cork and Ulster medical societies were included as the journal began to reach out to a wider audience beyond the capital.

In 1869 James Little became editor and began to introduce changes to meet the needs of the current profession. Little's first change was to introduce a series of half-yearly reports on the progress of medicine in various branches of medicine, including Medicine, Surgery, Hygiene, Therapeutics and Obstetrics. These reports provide a very valuable summary of recent work and developments in the respective branches of medicine (Kirkpatrick 10-11). Little changed the frequency of the journal which from January 1872 appeared monthly. This third series reverted to the former title – *The Dublin Journal of Medical Science*. Initially the change to monthly publication created a problem, as there was not enough material to fill each issue. By 1875 this problem was dissipating, an improvement assisted by the incorporation of the *Irish Hospital Gazette* into the journal. Little did not long remain as editor of *DJMS*, and was replaced by Dr John William Moore from 1875. The third series of *DJMS* generally resembled its predecessors in layout and content. The reports Little had introduced were continued and expanded to new areas, such as Neurology, Medical Education, and Ophthalmic Surgery. From 1875 a new section called "Periscope" was added, initially edited by George Frederick Duffy; it contained abstracts and excerpts from current international medical literature. Wilde's idea for a series of biographies of famous Irish medical men was adapted, and the journal began to include obituaries of leading Irish, and occasionally foreign, professional men. Moore's primary interests were in infectious diseases, and especially in the effect of climate on infection (Lyons, "Moore"). A committed meteorologist, Moore contributed monthly "Sanitary and Meteorological Notes" from 1879 to 1919, which collected his own and other findings of the climate in Ireland and Britain together with the levels of various infectious diseases. The First World War had a noticeable impact on *DJMS* with both the size of the journal and quality of the paper declining. The content became increasingly military; articles were included on the injuries and diseases of war while the involvement of Irish medical men in the war can be seen in the new military titles of many contributors. The decline continued and the third series ended in 1919. Moore remained as editor until 1919, being assisted in this role by Dr Thomas Gillman Moorhead

from 1907 until 1916, when Moorhead joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (Lyons, “Gillman Moorhead”).

The fourth series is the shortest of the series, running for just under two years. The first issue was published in March 1920 as *The Dublin Journal of Medical Science* under the editorship of Arnold Kirkpatrick Henry, a surgeon and anatomist. The changes to the format of the journal went beyond a new title. The Original Communication still remained the first section, however the number of bibliographic reviews decreased and a new large section of abstracts from current literature, under various sub-headings, was introduced. The obituary section was increased in scope to include shorter reports of the deaths of less illustrious medical men, and the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland were the only society whose proceedings were included. The fifth series, which was published under the new title of the *Irish Journal of Medicine*, ran from March 1922 to December 1925 and retained much the same format and content as the fourth. Kirkpatrick Henry continued as editor until 1925 when he resigned on his appointment as Professor of Surgery at the University of Cairo (Hayes, Cathy). January 1926 saw the start of the sixth series which continued, with some numbering anomalies, until December 1949. The sixth series is dominated by the long editorial career of William Doolin, a leading Dublin surgeon who combined a gifted scientific mind with a keen literary talent, not just as editor but as a regular contributor of editorials, articles, reviews and abstracts. Doolin allowed his passion for the history of medicine to be displayed in several contributed articles, and he was a founding father of the Section of the History of Medicine in The Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland in 1954 (Lyons, “Doolin”).

3. DETAILED OUTPUT

Project Design

The first stage of the project was to ensure that a complete set of journals could be accessed and that the work undertaken was not repeating work already done elsewhere. Within UCD the *DJMS* holdings are split between two libraries; those published before 1922 are held by Special Collections in the James Joyce Library and those after 1922 by the Health Sciences Library. As the Special Collections holdings are incomplete in some instances the missing journals were generally consulted in the National Library of Ireland, which holds a complete set of *DJMS*. For the year 1903, the issue in the National Library of Ireland was awaiting repairs, and so for that year the collection in Early Printed Books, Trinity College Dublin, was used. The next step was to take a sample of journals, and compare the contents

with the existing indexes created by SpringerLink and Hayes' *Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation: Articles in Irish Periodicals*. This showed that in both cases only the first section of Original Communications was dealt with in any detail, meaning that two-thirds of every volume was left without a finding aid.

Having confirmed the need for the cataloguing project, issues of extent and design had to be considered. As the project was conducted under significant time constraints, with all work required to be completed by the two researchers between July and December 2009, it was not feasible to bring the catalogue up to the present day. It was decided to catalogue up to the end of the sixth series, which ended in December 1949. The most important stage of the project design was to create a cataloguing system which would adequately reflect the contents of the journal, as well as providing information that researchers would need. The programme used to create the catalogues was Microsoft Excel; this was chosen both for ease of use in inputting the data and to make the final catalogues easily downloadable to the largest number of users. Each series of the journal has been catalogued as a separate excel document. This was chosen as the most logical way to break down the material into more manageable sections reflecting the changes in the content of the journal. Within the excel documents the journals are in chronological order and the contents of each journal are dealt with sequentially. Every item in every journal is presented as one row of information. For each item there are thirteen columns containing the most important information about the item; hence each line contains all the information needed to locate that item in the hardcopy of the journal.

Data Number	This is a unique identifying number assigned by the researchers at the time of cataloguing. As the journals were not entered in chronological order the numbers are not consecutive. These numbers are used for archival purposes rather than for the users of the catalogue.
Date	This is the date of the issue the item comes from.
Volume	This is the number of the volume containing the issue. From series four onwards there are no volume numbers so the series number is entered instead.
Issue Number	The number of the issue within the volume.
Item Number	The number of the item within the issue. This column is only filled in where there is an item number published in the journal; in most issues this is only used in the Original Communications section of the journal.

Title	The full title of the item.
Author(s)	This column is sub-divided into four, giving space for the surname and forename(s) of up to two authors. Where there are more than two authors “Various” is recorded in the first surname column. Where only the initials of the author are given these are recorded in the surname column. Where no authors name is given the cell is left blank.
Category	This indicated either which section of the journal the item comes from or the type of item it is. The categories vary slightly over the six series as explained further below.
Page	The page range of the item.
Illustration	“Y” or “N” are used to indicate if the item is illustrated.
Location	Where the volumes can be found, using the abbreviations below. UCD SC: University College Dublin, Special Collections UCD HS: University College Dublin, Health Sciences Library NLI: National Library of Ireland TCD EPB: Trinity College Dublin, Early Printed Books
Reference	The library reference or catalogue number.
Notes	Additional notes about the item; these generally concern misprints or damage to items.

These headings were designed to be, and are for the most part, self-explanatory and the information was reproduced directly and without alteration from the journal. The only exception is the category section which requires a little more explanation. For the main part the information in the category section is taken from the titles of the three main sections of the journal; Original Communication, Bibliographical Notice (Review from the fourth series), and Scientific Intelligence (later Medical Miscellany). However, the third section contained such a wide range of material a further set of categories was introduced based on the subsections within Medical Miscellany. Examples of this would be “Clinical Notes,” “Obituary,” “Sanitary and Meteorological Notes,” various series of reports and the proceedings of medical societies. On occasions where a particular entry clearly fitted into one of these categories, although it was not identified as such in the journal, it has been included. For example the series of memoirs and articles on the lives of illustrious physicians clearly sits better in the “Obituary” category, rather than that of “Medical Miscellany.” To make searching for certain types of material across series easier, there has been some standardisation of category names. Given the shift in content of the journal from the fourth

series, this has been done in two parts – across the first three series, and then for series four to six.

Searching the Catalogue

The use of excel and the design of the catalogue aims to facilitate searching, and this can be done in two ways. The simplest way is by using the find tool within excel. This can be brought up either by opening the edit menu on the top left of the screen and selecting Find, or by pressing CTRL and F. This tool can be used to search the entire document for a key word or phrase, for example if you were looking for works on a particular disease (for example, Bright's Disease), or an institution (for example, The Rotunda). The second search tool uses the Auto Filter setting. At the top of each column, in the bottom right corner of the cell containing the heading is a small downward pointing arrow. Clicking on this brings up a drop down menu of all the different data entries in that column; clicking on any of the words in the menu will bring up all the lines that contain that data in that column. This is particularly useful when searching for work by a particular author, or a set of similar entries, for example "Proceeding of the Dublin Obstetrical Society" or "Reports on Ophthalmic Surgery." The drop-down menu also contains a Custom option, where it is possible to search for, say, every category that contains a particular item. This is useful if searching on a particular subject so that doing a search for every category heading that contains the word "Obstetric" would bring up proceedings of relevant societies as well as obstetric reports. Having filtered or limited on one field, the researcher can then filter on further fields if required.

Care needs to be taken when searching for particular entries to ensure that all possibilities have been explored. For example, to research Robert Graves in the second series, the most obvious search would be using the Auto Filter tool in the author surname column, which brings up thirteen contributions from Graves. However, an additional search using the find tool for the key word "Graves" highlights further material, including a notice of his death and reviews of his works, as in these cases Graves' name appears in the title rather than the author column. It also needs to be considered that material of a similar nature does not always appear in the same section of the journal. For example, the reports of the Rotunda Hospital are published in the "Original Communication" section, and those of the Londonderry City and County Infirmary are published in the "Medical Miscellany" section. In addition when hospital reports have been published, there are often reviews of them in the "Bibliographical Notice" section.

4. FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

The suggestions on detailed searching given in the previous section are designed to help users begin to navigate the project outcomes and to make use of the wealth of information and resources available within the *Dublin Journal of Medical Science*. This project was developed in conjunction with the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland, and it is envisaged that it will provide an invaluable research tool for scholars of the subject. It is hoped that this project may be further developed, either by bringing the cataloguing of this journal up to the present or through the creation of companion catalogues of other Irish medical journals. The digitising of the actual journal contents (whether on a partial/thematic basis or on a complete chronological one), which would undoubtedly provide a major resource for researchers, is not feasible at present but may become so in the future. Regardless of how this project may be developed over the coming years, the catalogue that has been created allows scholars to easily locate material relevant to their research and facilitates academic investigation into the history of medicine in Ireland. The research team looks forward to seeing and engaging with many future outputs of such research.

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