

Irish-language biographies Web site www.ainm.ie launched by Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht

Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht, launched a new Irish-language biographies Web site today at the National Library on Kildare Street, Dublin. Each of the featured 1,693 lives has made a unique contribution to the Irish language over the last five centuries.

The project

Ainm.ie, the new Irish-language biographies project is being developed by Fiontar, DCU since 2009, in collaboration with Cló Iar-Chonnacht, and Diarmuid Breathnach and Máire Ní Mhurchú, authors of *Beathaisnéis*, the nine-volume series of biographies published by An Clóchomhar (1986-2007). The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht funded the initial phase, digitization of the material and online publication.

The biographies

This work is a valuable research tool comprising almost 1,700 biographies from 1560 to the present day. The objective of the project is to provide easy access to this knowledge base, which contains 1.3 million words, through the digitization of the original material and its publication online. The enhanced search and browsing features allow users to explore this resource in innovative ways.

Enhanced features

The enhanced features available on the site include:

- Alphabetical listing of biographies
- Comprehensive cross-referencing
- Sophisticated full-text search of keywords and phrases
- Timeline
- Lists of themes tagged in the biographies (placenames, works, organisations, references to Conradh na Gaeilge, educational institutions)
- Featured biography of the week
- Interview with authors

Speaking in Irish at the launch, Minister McGinley said: “Fiontar, DCU has brought the *Beathaisnéis* project to a new digital generation... The authors of the printed volumes provided us with bedside reading which will now be more frequently accessed by iPad”.

New biographies will be added to the Web site as these become available and existing biographies will be updated as new research and fresh information emerges. Search and browsing facilities will be enhanced on a continuous basis.

