

IReL

*the Irish Research e-Library  
(Consortium)*



John FitzGerald, UCC

# Content of my presentation

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- ❑ Consortial purchasing by Irish libraries
- ❑ Birth of IReL
- ❑ IReL in a nutshell
- ❑ IReL now and in the future
- ❑ Implications

# Consortial purchasing by Irish libraries

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- ❑ CHEST
- ❑ JISC
- ❑ JSTOR
- ❑ Irish University periodicals supply contract
- ❑ Web of Science..LION..Science Direct..Patrologia Latina..ECCO..
- ❑ IReL

# Driving Forces for IReL

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- Emerging role of scientific **research**
- User demand and...
- User **pressure** on university/research funding agencies
- Subscription price inflation
- Value for money
- International exemplars (FINELIB, Canada, JISC)
- Technological progress

# Birth of IReL

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- May 2004 – invited proposal
- Science Foundation Ireland and Higher Education Authority decisions
- €20M over 5 years
- Universities, initially
- Phase I live by December 2004
- Aim of at least 3,000 titles
- No central web site

# Birth of IReL

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- ❑ Publisher package model
- ❑ IUA Librarians' Group oversight
- ❑ Negotiating agent – Content Complete Ltd.
- ❑ IRIS Ltd. as the managing agent
- ❑ Direct consultation with users
- ❑ IReL Model Licence
- ❑ 2-3 year licences

# IReL in a Nutshell

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- ❑ A consortial purchasing scheme
- ❑ Seven universities
- ❑ Access to **scientific** material
- ❑ Supported by State agencies – research/education
- ❑ **Supplementary** funding
- ❑ 3,000+ e-titles
- ❑ Centrally negotiated
- ❑ Centrally administered
- ❑ Likely to expand

# What's Available Now? – Journal Sets

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- ❑ **ACM Digital Library**
- ❑ **American Medical Association**
- ❑ **American Chemical Society**
- ❑ **American Institute of Physics**
- ❑ **Annual Reviews**
- ❑ **American Physical Society**
- ❑ **BMJ Journals**
- ❑ **Cell Press**
- ❑ **CRC Press**
- ❑ **Faculty of 1000**
- ❑ **Genome Biology**
- ❑ **IEL/IEEE**
- ❑ **Institute of Physics Publications**
- ❑ **Kluwer Journals – incorp in SpringerLink**
- ❑ **Lippincott Williams & Wilkins**
- ❑ **Nature Publishing Group**
- ❑ **Oxford UP**
- ❑ **Royal Society of Chemistry**
- ❑ **Science**
- ❑ **Science Direct (Academic & Harcourt titles)**
- ❑ **Scientific American**
- ❑ **Scientific World Journal**
- ❑ **Springer Link**
- ❑ **Synergy STM Collection**
- ❑ **Wiley Current Protocols Series**
- ❑ **Wiley Electronic Reference**
- ❑ **Wiley Interscience Journals**

# What's Available Now? -Databases

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- ❑ **Biosis Previews**
- ❑ **CAB Direct**
- ❑ **Compendex**
- ❑ **Crossfire Beilstein/Gmelin**
- ❑ **EI Village**
- ❑ **Embase**
- ❑ **Emerald**
- ❑ **ESDU Engineering**
- ❑ **INSPEC**
- ❑ **SciFinderScholar**
- ❑ **Web of Knowledge**
- ❑ **Zentralblatt Math**
- ❑ **Remaining in negotiation are one major journal set, two databases and c.5 'single' titles.**

# What's to Come?

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- Social Sciences & Humanities resources
- CHIU E-Resources Steering Group
  - Monitoring
  - Service evaluation
- Increase in demand
- Greater need for information literacy
- More “undergraduate research”
- More funding....

# IReL: the +ve Implications

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- ❑ Powerful resource for research, teaching, learning
- ❑ Attract high-flyers
- ❑ Promotes local academic and national socio-economic objectives
- ❑ Establishes top-slicing model
- ❑ Hugely popular: affirms role of the library and restores our image
- ❑ Reduces physical processing
- ❑ Prompts joint print rationalisation

# IReL: the 'not so +ve' Implications

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- ❑ Relies on external funding
- ❑ Ties up local funds
- ❑ Reduced meta-searchability
- ❑ Obscures the role of the library..for some
- ❑ Eclipses print information needs
- ❑ What happens after 2008/9?
- ❑ Reinforces the commercial publishing model