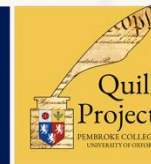




An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
RECONCILIATION FUND



# A Vision for Archiving Conflict and Reconciliation

20 February 2025 - Dublin Castle

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Quill Project – Pembroke College – Oxford University



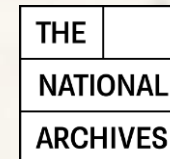
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National Archives



UCD ARCHIVES



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

# The Quill Project

- Understanding how groups of people reach agreement on the text of a document that will govern their shared future
- Through a formal process of negotiation and compromise, of 'reflection and choice' (Alexander Hamilton)





Archive box number and other relevant hierarchal information and groupings

Brief summary of document content

Logo of archive

The screenshot displays the UCD Archives website interface. At the top, a search bar and navigation links (Explore, Library, Tools, About, Contact Us) are visible. The main header features a large image of a man's face and a title: "Joint Declaration [JD10 with handwritten amendments made on 6 October 1993]". Below this, a brief summary of the document is provided. The left sidebar shows a list of items with their respective box numbers (P254, P255, etc.) and dates (1980-2008). The main content area displays the full text of the document, which is a draft joint declaration. The document is titled "Draft Joint Declaration [JD10 with handwritten amendments made on 6 October 1993]". The text is handwritten and includes the following points:

1. The Taoiseach and the British Prime Minister acknowledge that the most urgent and important issue facing the people of Ireland, North and South, and the British and Irish Governments together, is to remove the causes of conflict, to overcome the legacy of history and to heal the divisions which have resulted, recognising that the absence of a lasting and satisfactory settlement of relationships between the peoples of both islands has contributed to continuing tragedy and suffering.
2. They consider that the development of the European Community, in which both countries are partners, provides a broader framework for British-Irish relationships and will be a force for helping to reconcile progressively the historic conflict still taking place in Northern Ireland. The challenges and opportunities of the European Single Market will, of themselves, require new approaches to serve interests common to both parts of Ireland.

On the right side of the document, there is a sidebar with tabs for "ASSOCIATIONS (4)", "PEOPLE", "COPYRIGHT", "CITATION", and "TRANSCRIPTION". The "CITATION" tab is selected, showing the following information: "IE UCDA P254, Papers of Dermot Nally - Downing Street Declaration, UCD Archives, University College Dublin Library, Ireland, accessed via the Quill Project at [https://www.quillproject.net/resource\\_collections/34/](https://www.quillproject.net/resource_collections/34/)."

Document position in the archive box

Image of the document

Metadata relating to the document – citation, copyright information, transcription, etc.



Thank you!



# Archiving Conflict and Reconciliation

## 1. Networking

- Training and networking opportunities for archivists through two workshops in Dublin and Belfast.
- Fostering closer collaboration around collections relating to the conflict and reconciliation process.

## 2. Research

- A report assessing current archival work in this area and potential for development.
- Collaboration on a variety of aids, including a glossary and style guide to citing common terms in catalogues that will aid researchers in searching for material, particularly in online catalogues.
- An index of resources, offering clear information about where different records are located to aid research and to increase the visibility of archival material.

# State of the Archives Field

- Overarching Mandates – WHY?
  - Institutional Profiles and Roles – WHO?
  - Collections and Specialisms – WHAT?
  - Policies, Resources and Challenges – HOW?
- 
- Remaining gaps – Need further analysis
  - Formal report to be shared later this year (before June)

# We asked you...

## Training

*"Training on how to deal with sensitive topics such as recommended closure periods, data protection issues etc."*

*"More intensive 'conflict related specific' sensitivity review and redaction training"*

*"Trauma informed practice and participatory practices in relation to archives"*

*"Guidance on self-care when working with distressing materials"*

*"Guidance on when might restricted access be appropriate"*

*"How to sensitively but comprehensively describe records"*



## Collaboration

*"Shared or devolved collection development"*

*"Improving access and awareness of collections and opening them up to new audiences"*

*"Sharing skills, for example a more standardised approach to describing these kinds of materials across institutions"*

*"Building a network and understanding the kinds of similar materials held in other institutions"*

*"Opportunities for joint projects"*

*"Appropriate terminology to describe events, roles, groups, subjects/issues"*



# Breakout groups

## **Training and Professional Development**

- What would be the best medium for delivering training on, for example, dealing with politically sensitive material, GDPR implications, and conflict-related records?
- How can we facilitate the sharing of expertise on digitization workflows, cataloguing standards, and conservation practices?

## **Outreach and Public Engagement**

- How can we better coordinate exhibitions, conferences, and public programming to highlight interconnected collections? Could the use of a shared online platform help? Could a mailing list support this effort?

## **Resource Development/New Collections**

- Which collections are currently missing? Is it feasible to have a collective strategy for collection development?

## **Collaboration between Academia and Archives**

- What expertise from academia would be most valuable to your work? (e.g., internships organised by University partners; punctual/long-term; history/political science/technical...)
- How can we balance accessibility for research with the need for preservation?

## **Other**

- Are there any other ideas or initiatives that could support archival practices or enhance collaboration within the field?