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## Quill Project Writing Peace

Using Archives Online Session – Hillsborough Castle, 12th June 2025





**FACULTY OF HISTORY** 





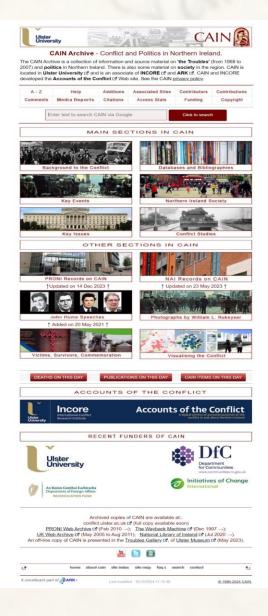
## Public Records on CAIN

Using Archives for Reconciliation Quill Workshop, Hillsborough Castle, 12 June 2025

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## CAIN - Background

- CAIN is recognised as one of the leading on-line resources on the Northern Ireland 'Troubles'
- Web user statistics some 26 million visits and some 94 million page views
- Alongside CAIN is <u>Accounts of the Conflict v2.8</u> (<u>ulster.ac.uk</u>) which holds information on storytelling in the region
- CAIN has always worked with others to make information available on-line
- 'Associated Sites' now over 30 on CAIN https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/associated/index.html



### **CAIN** and Public Records

'PRONI Records on CAIN' launched in October 2010

### http://cain\_ulster\_ac\_uk/proni/index\_html

- Selection of public records drawn from NI government departments & relating to the 'Troubles' post 1968 – over 4,600
- Since 2021 funding from the Department for Communities has supported the work
- Alongside this is 'NAI Records on CAIN' launched in October 2012 & containing a selection of Irish government records relating to Northern Ireland

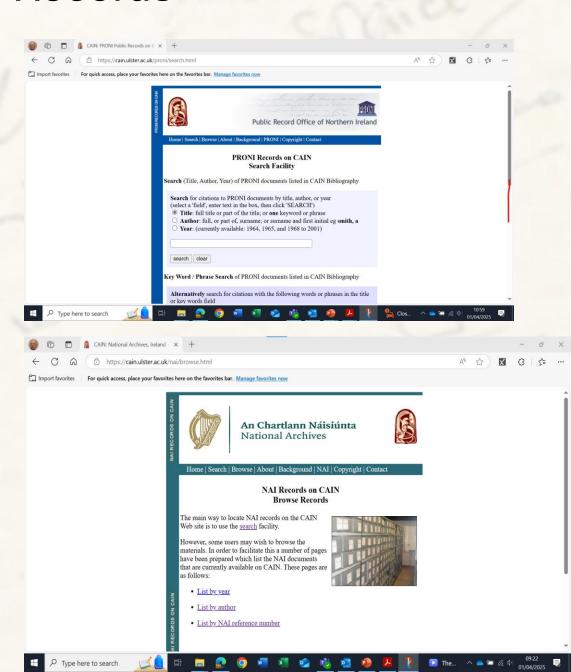
### https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/nai/index.html

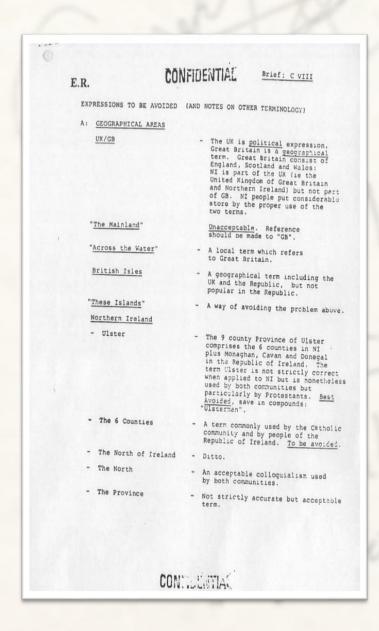
- Currently covers the periods 1965-1988 and 1992-1998 with some 5,600 items
- Work supported through Reconciliation Fund within the Irish **Department of Foreign Affairs**



### CAIN and Public Records

- The main way to locate NAI/PRONI records is to use the search facility by title (full or part; or one keyword or phrase), author or year
- Alternatively search for citations by way of a drop-down menu using certain words or phrases in the title or key words field
- However, some users may wish to browse the materials
- Number of pages prepared which list NAI/PRONI documents that are currently available on CAIN
- These pages are as follows list by year, list by author, list by NAI/PRONI reference number





### "Expressions to be Avoided" (1984)

'The Mainland' - Unacceptable

'Being out here' - Unacceptable

'The 32 counties' - to be avoided

'The Republic/The South' - Acceptable

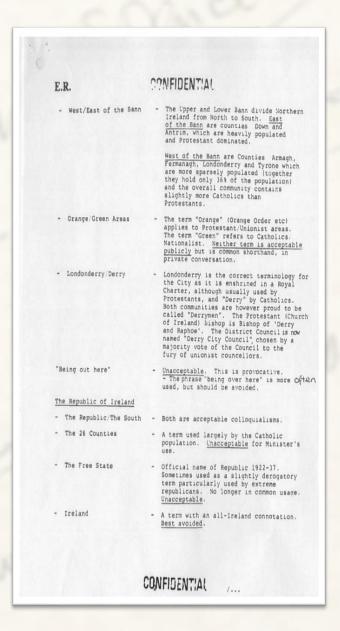
'Prods' - Unacceptable

'Fenians' - Unacceptable

'Taoiseach' (pronounced Teeshuck) - Acceptable

'British Army' – Unacceptable...refer to the "Army" or the "Security Forces"

'Long Kesh, The Kesh H-Blocks' – Unacceptable...refer to the Maze Prison



- "...information...very sensitive...its contents and the fact that there has been contact...kept secret..."
- "...disclosure ...could endanger the informant's life with possible risks for the...official involved."
- "[recent speech]...intention...give expression to...fears which Unionists have about Anglo-Irish talks and thereby to steal some of the thunder from Loyalist paramilitaries..."
- "[proposed agreement would] ...trundle Northern Ireland down the road to a united Ireland"
- "...volatility makes it impossible to predict accurately the forms of which Loyalist protest about an Anlo-Irish agreement might take..."
- "...a further target...could be 'you people'..."

SECRET

Meeting with Sammy Wilson (DUP)

Belfast, 21 September 1985

As instructed, I met Sammy Wilson, a leading DUP member of Belfast City Council, in Belfast on 21 September. Wilson, an articulate and intelligent politician from East Belfast, is also the party's Press Officer and one of the three DUP members of the OUP/DUP "think-tank" which was recently established with a view to coordinating Unionist strategy on the Anglo-Irish talks.

## Impact & Legacy

From CAIN's perspective the partnership has been beneficial in terms of:

- It provides researchers with direct access to a selection of the material held by NAI & PRONI relating to our troubled past
- Allows CAIN to add to and supplement existing resources
- Enables CAIN to work with others to make digital versions of relevant materials more accessible to a wider audience

Continue to work with NAI & PRONI to expand the resource by adding material relating to the key events and developments post 1998

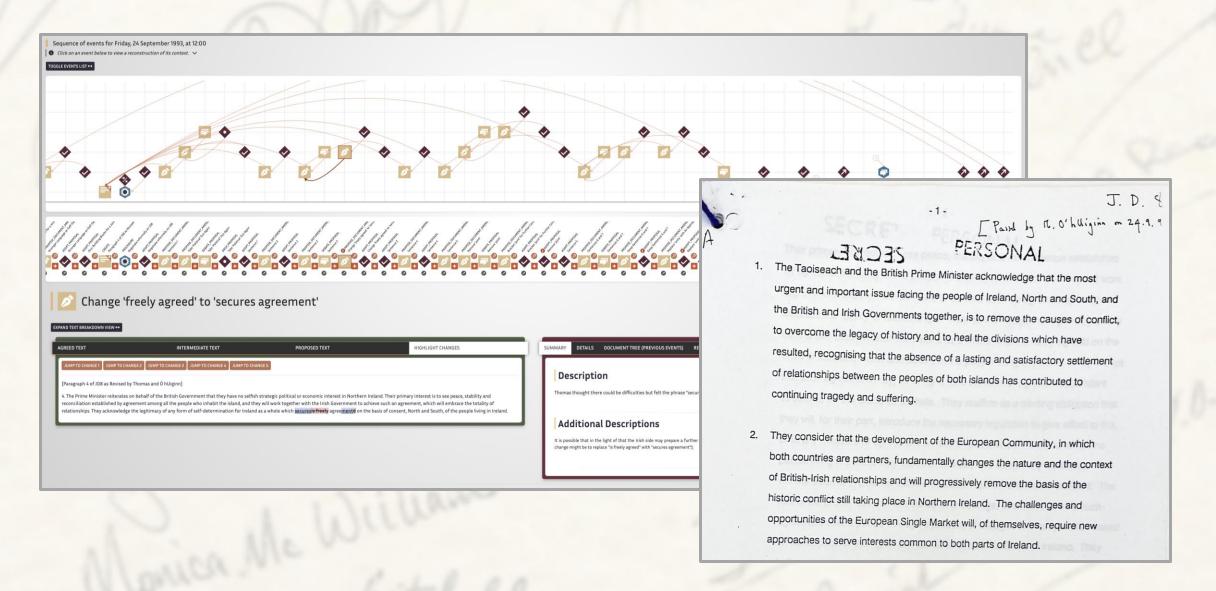
## The Quill Project

- 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)

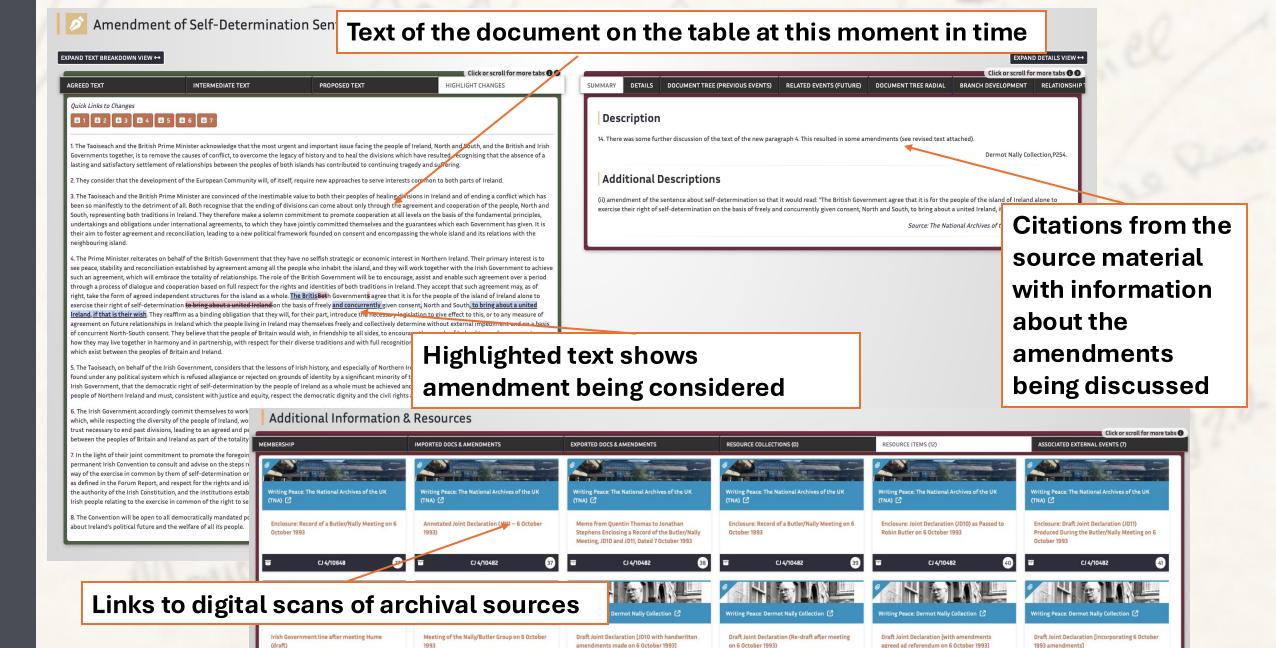


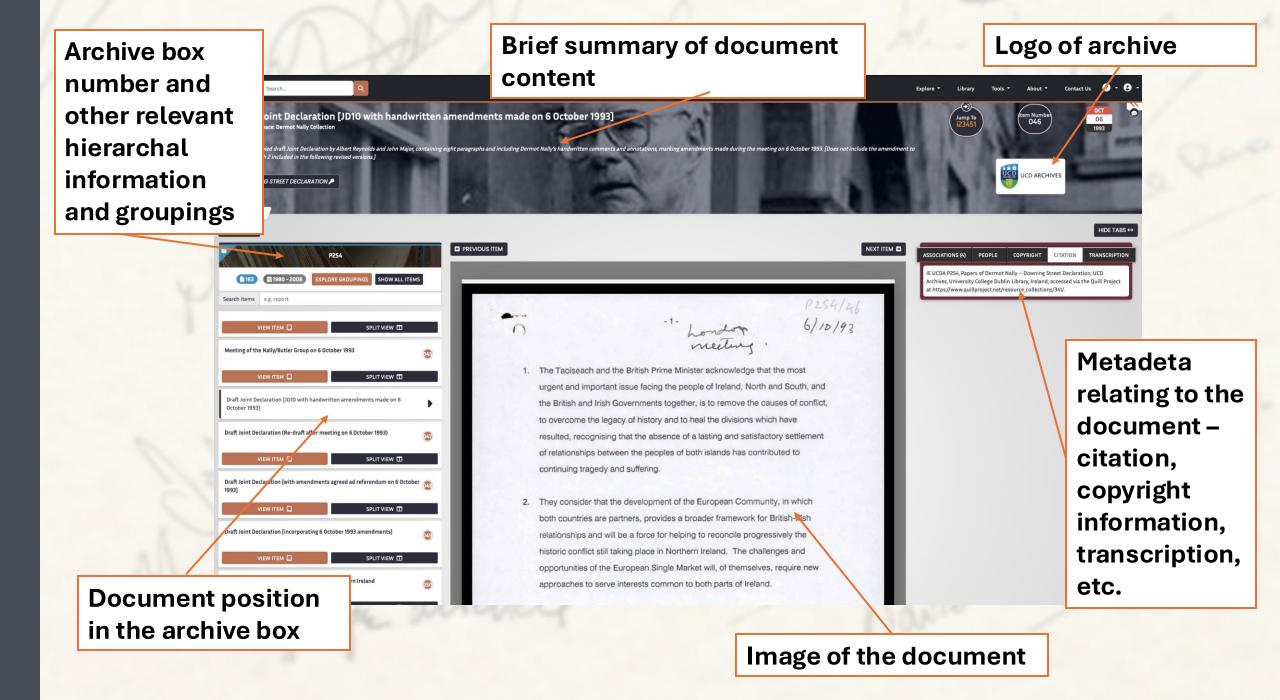






### Making connections

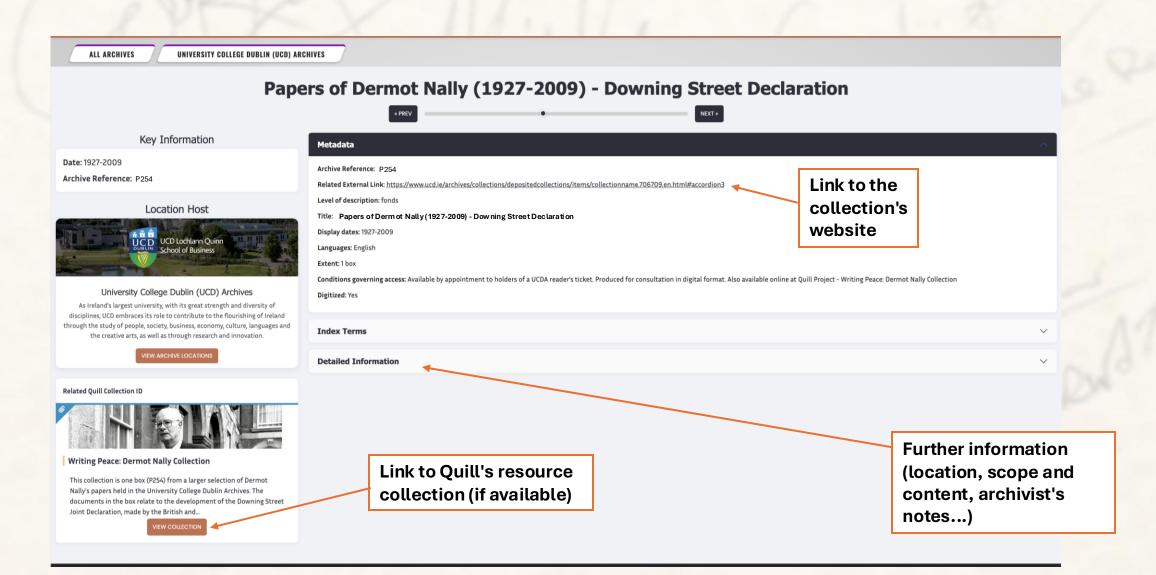




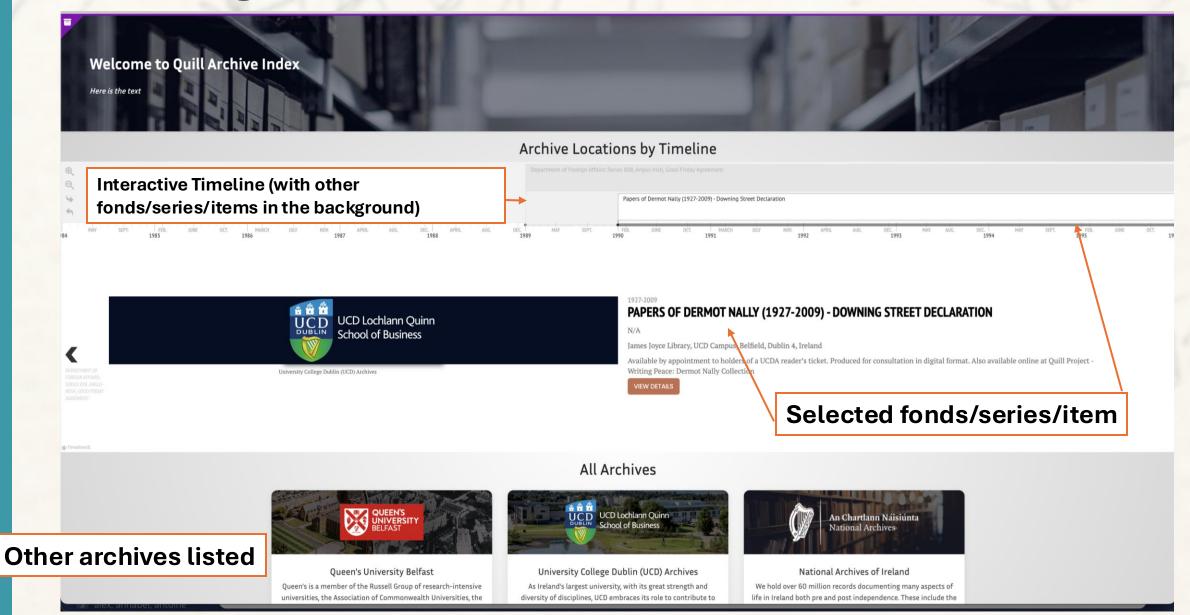
# The Writing Peace Index An online gateway to archival collections on the Northern Ireland peace process

- A user-friendly gateway that will bring disparate resources together in a central hub
- Will allow users to find out about and locate new collections or compare information about different collections in one place
- Will increase visibility for archival holdings by directing users to institutional repositories
- Will be flexible enough to be explored in a variety of ways: by timeline as well as by institution and location
- This will offer users a clearer understanding of how particular records and collections relate to one another and fit within the chronological landscape surrounding the peace process
- The index is collaborative, and we're currently developing a way for archivists to list their collections on it. Please contact us if you're interested.
- Forthcoming in July 2025.

## The Writing Peace Index – Item view



## The Writing Peace Index - Timeline View



## The Writing Peace Index - Collaboration

1 Archive Name	Quill Collaborator ID ~	Archive Reference	Related External Link	Location	✓ Level of d ✓	Rela	Title	Display Dates	Start Date ~	End Date	Langua ~	Extent
2 University College Dublin (UCD) Archives	UCD	P82	https://www.ucd.ie/archives/collections			Tiotal	Papers of Conor Cruise O'Brien (1917–2008)	1917-2008	??/??/1937			21 boxes
3 University College Dublin (UCD) Archives	UCD	P147	https://www.ucd.ie/archives/collections				Papers of Professor John Kelly TD (1931–91)	1931-1991	??/??/1954		English; Ir	
4 University College Dublin (UCD) Archives	UCD	P171	https://www.ucd.ie/archives/collections				John Whyte Oral Archive of British-Irish & Northern Irish Negotiations 1			??/??/2018		34 items
5 University College Dublin (UCD) Archives	UCD	P175	https://www.ucd.ie/archives/collections				Papers of T.K. Whitaker (b. 1916)	b. 1916		??/??/1996	English	14 boxes
6 University College Dublin (UCD) Archives	UCD	P176	https://www.ucd.ie/archives/collections				Records of the Fianna Fáil Party	1913-1995	??/??/1913		English	148 boxes
7 University College Dublin (UCD) Archives	UCD	P205	https://www.ucd.ie/archives/collections				Papers of Dr P.J. Hillery (1923–2008)	1923-2008		??/??/1995		ris 18 boxes
8 University College Dublin (UCD) Archives	UCD	P215	https://www.ucd.ie/archives/collections				Papers of Garret FitzGerald (1926–2011)	1926-2011	??/??/1973	??/??/1977	English: Fi	re 47 boxes
9 University College Dublin (UCD) Archives	UCD	P254	https://www.ucd.ie/archives/collections	James Joyce Library,	UCD (fonds	r341	Papers of Dermot Nally (1927-2009) - Downing Street Declaration	1927-2009	??/??/1990	??/??/2001	English	1 box
10 University College Dublin (UCD) Archives	UCD	P270	https://www.ucd.ie/archives/collections	James Joyce Library,	UCD (fonds		Papers of Professor James Dooge (1922-2010)	1922-2010	??/??/1948	??/??/2003	English	27 boxes
11 University College Dublin (UCD) Archives	UCD	P272	https://www.ucd.ie/archives/collections	James Joyce Library,	UCD (fonds		Papers of Richie Ryan (b.1929)	b. 1929	??/??/1927	??/??/1996	English	25 boxes
12 University of Galway Archives	UCG	POL28	https://www.calmview.co.uk/NUIG/Cali	n' Archives and Specia	l Colle fonds		The Ruairí Ó Brádaigh Papers	1956-2005	??/??/1933	??/??/2005	English	108 items
13 University of Galway Archives	UCG	POL35	https://digital.library.universityofgalway	ie Archives and Specia	l Colle fonds	r357	Brendan Duddy Papers	1969-2009	??/??/1969	??/??/2009	English	9 boxes (14
14 Bowdoin College Library	BCL	M202.7	https://archivesspace.bowdoin.edu/rep	o: George J. Mitchell De	epartn series	r125	George J. Mitchell Papers, Northern Ireland Records, 1995-2008 (bulk	1:1995-1998	??/??/1995	??/??/2008	English	29.5 Linear
15 Queen's University Belfast Archives	QUB	Unknown	https://www.quillproject.net/resource_	McClay Library, Que	en's U sub-fonds	r295	Monica McWilliams Papers	1996-2003	??/??/1988	??/??/2003	English	32 grouping
16 Queen's University Belfast Archives	QUB	Unknown	https://www.quillproject.net/resource_o	McClay Library, Que	en's U sub-fonds	r384	David Trimble Papers	1996-1998	08/05/1949	31/03/1998	English	13 lever arc
17 Queen's University Belfast Archives	QUB	Unknown	https://www.quillproject.net/resource_o	McClay Library, Que	en's U sub-fonds	r297	John Alderdice Papers	1996-1998	??/??/1973	??/??/1998	English	1443 digitis
18 Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive	e: NISDFA	325	https://digitalfilmarchive.net/collection.	/tl Unknown	fonds		The Road to Peace: Five Years of the Peace Process in Northern Ireland	1993-1998	15/12/1993	16/10/1998	English	89 media it
19 Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive	e: NISDFA	312	https://digitalfilmarchive.net/collection.	tl Unknown	fonds		The Anglo-Irish Agreement: Archival news reports following the reactio	n 1985-1986	01/11/1985	23/12/1986	English	72 media it
20 UVA Miller Center	UVA	Unknown	https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/	p Miller Center's Scrip	ps Lib sub-fonds	r354	The Edward M. Kennedy Oral History	2005-2013 (for NI)	27/09/2005	06/09/2011	English	280 oral his
21 UVA Miller Center	UVA	Unknown	https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/	p Miller Center's Scrip	ps Lib sub-fonds	r354	The Bill Clinton Presidential History Project	2007-2019 (for NI)	10/05/2007	07/11/2019	English	134 oral his
22 Linen Hall Library	LHL	NIPC	https://linenhall.com/collections/north	er 17 Donegall Square	North, fonds	r349	Northern Ireland Political Collection	1969-present.	??/??/1969	??/??/2025	English	350,000 it€
23 National Library of Ireland	NLI	MS 49,494	https://catalogue.nli.ie/Collection/vtls0	0 National Library of Ir	eland, sub-fonds		Irish Labour Party Archive	1919-2014	??/??/1919	??/??/2014	English	79 boxes, 1
24 Cardinal Tómas Ó Fiaich Memorial Library a	r CÓFLA	OFCA	https://www.ofiaich.ie/conflict-archive	Cardinal Tomas Ó Fia	aich M sub-fonds	r352	Cardinal Ó Fiaich Conflict Archive: The Church Response to the Northe	r 1977-1990	??/??/1977	??/??/1990	English	Over 4000
25 CAIN	CAIN	NAI	https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/nai/	Unknown	fonds		NAI Records on CAIN	1965-1998	??/??/1965	??/??/1998	English	5602 items
26 CAIN	CAIN	PRONI	https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/proni/	Unknown	fonds		PRONI Records on CAIN	1968-2001	??/??/1968	??/??/2001	English	4619 items
27 CAIN	CAIN	TNA	https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/tna/	Unknown	fonds		TNA Records on CAIN	1994-1997	??/??/1994	??/??/1997	English	26 items
28 CAIN	CAIN	SFP	https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/sean_farren/	Unknown	fonds		Sean Farren Papers	1977-2017	??/??/1977	??/??/2017	English	Over 300 it
29 CAIN	CAIN	Unknown	https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/sean_farren/br	oc Unknown	sub-fonds		Sean Farren Papers: Papers and Publications	1977-2017	??/??/1977	??/??/2017	English	43 digitised
30 CAIN	CAIN	SFP_BM	https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/sean_farren/br	oc Unknown	sub-fonds		Sean Farren Papers: Brooke / Mayhew Talks	1991-1992	??/??/1991	??/??/1992	English	4 binders, :
31 CAIN	CAIN	SFP_MT	https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/sean_farren/br	oc Unknown	sub-fonds	r371	Sean Farren Papers: Mitchell Talks (Negotiations on the Multi-Party Agr	e 1996-1998	??/??/1996	??/??/1998	English	135 digitis€
32 CAIN	CAIN	John-Hume-Speeches	https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/john_hume/	Unknown	fonds		John Hume: Speeches, Statements, and Articles	1969-2004	08/05/1964	03/08/2020	English	434 items
33 Margaret Thatcher Foundation	MTF	PREM19	https://www.margaretthatcher.org/arch	iv The National Archive	s, Kev fonds		Margareth Thatcher Official Files as Prime Minister (1979-90)	1979-1990	07/10/1966	17/03/1997	English	3725 folde
34 The Stationery Office of the Northern Ireland	d TSONIA	Unknown	https://www.quillproject.net/resource_o	Northern Ireland: Th	e Stati fonds	r303	Record of Debates in the Northern Ireland Forum for Political Dialogue	1996-1998	14/06/1996	24/04/1998	English	71 items
35 Houses of the Oireachtas	НО	Unknown	https://www.oireachtas.ie/	Unknown	fonds	r388	Irish Constitution Collection	1922-2020	18/09/1922	??/01/2020	English; Ir	ris 240 items
36 University of Ulster Archives	UU	Unknown	https://guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/specia	Ulster University Spe	cial C fonds		Lady McCorkell British Red Cross Collection	1962-1998	??/??/1962	??/11/2002	English	9 folders
37 National Archives of Ireland	NAI	DFA/12	https://nationalarchives.ie/advanced-se	ea National Archives, B	ishop series	r353	Department of Foreign Affairs: Central Registry files, 800 series	1973-2001	??/??/1973	??/??/2001	English	100 subser

## Dialogue with Attendees

### **Hopes and Fears:**

- Does your archive now have a presence online?
- What is your greatest hope and your greatest fear as you consider the role of archives in the twenty-first century digital world?

### **Cybersecurity Challenges:**

- What cybersecurity concerns have you encountered in managing digital archives, and how are you currently addressing these?
- Will this involve assistance from outside your archive?

### **Sustainability and Long-Term Access:**

- What measures are you taking to ensure that digital/digitized materials remain accessible and intact over the long term (e.g. 10+ years)?
- How do you handle questions of storage, format obsolescence, and digital decay?
- Have you begun to consider such questions of storage, format obsolescence?

### **Collaboration in the Digital Age:**

- In what ways has the shift to digital impacted your collaboration with other archival institutions?
- What kind of partnerships or shared approaches would you like to see emerge around online access and digital preservation?
- Are there any potential issues/challenges in a shared approach?

#### **Innovative Access and Engagement:**

- Digitisation offers new opportunities for researchers and the public to engage with archival materials in dynamic ways (e.g. tools like Quill and timeline visualisations). What innovative methods or tools have you explored—or would like to explore—to enhance user interaction with digital records?
- If new methods/tools are to be used will your archive require assistance?