

The *Dictionary of Irish Biography* (DIB), a project of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), was published by Cambridge University Press in November 2009, simultaneously in nine print volumes and online. The DIB project has its origins in an RIA pilot scheme established in the 1980s. Intensive production of the Dictionary began in 1997 with the inauguration of an annual grant from the Irish government's Higher Education Authority. The DIB comprises articles on persons born in Ireland who pursued careers in Ireland; persons born in Ireland with careers outside Ireland; and persons born outside Ireland who pursued careers in Ireland, or careers that had a substantial impact on life in Ireland. There are articles on twenty-five persons born in Germany, and on thirty-five who died there (including two persons who died in Munich: nineteenth-century novelist Jemima Montgomery von Tautphoeus, and Liam Whelan, Manchester United footballer who died in the 1958 air crash).

The first edition includes 9,014 signed articles written by some 700 contributors covering over 9,700 lives; articles vary in length from 200 to 15,000 words; the chronological range is from the earliest times (effectively the fifth century AD) to the year 2002. The decision to publish online as well as in print was made in 2004, seven years after the intensive production (research, writing, and editing) of articles had begun. Cross-references in the online version link the reader to the relevant article. The online version allows both name and text searches; name searches can be made in several categories (or combinations of categories), including date and place of birth or death, gender, religion, and occupation or field of interest. Supplements shall be added to the online version twice every year.