



A TREASURY OF
DIGITAL DATA FOR
IRISH ECONOMIC HISTORY
www.duanaire.ie

The Duanaire project borrows the Irish word for song-book or anthology (loosely, a 'treasury'), to convey the sense of a rich, varied corpus handed down and explored anew. This project, led by Dr Aidan Kane, will open up a wealth of Irish economic history data, and in particular, Irish fiscal history data, by making accessible online a range of datasets in flexible forms to diverse audiences. The project is constructing a unique infrastructure for the imaginative curation, exploration, and sharing of significant tranches of Irish economic history data.

Duanaire aims

- To open up, for diverse audiences, a wealth of important Irish economic history data, centred on Irish fiscal history, over three centuries.
- To deliver a substantive and impactful research programme drawing upon these unique data resources.
- To thereby build capacity to contribute to a research agenda in other data-intensive fields of Irish economic history.
- To provide a sustainable platform for the long-term curation, management, exploration, and open sharing of Irish economic history data.

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Duanaire is supported by the technical, academic, and management resources of the Whitaker Institute. Duanaire also partners closely with the James Hardiman Library at NUI Galway to provide sustainable and high-quality data curation infrastructures and benefits greatly from the Library's resources and expertise in digital projects, archives, and special collections.

18th Century Irish Fiscal Data

Duanaire's first release is a fine-grained dataset of the public finances of Ireland in the 18th century. The core sources are the detailed accounts of revenues and expenditures printed in the Journals of the House of Commons of the Kingdom of Ireland throughout the 1700s. These are remarkably sophisticated and consistent accounts, giving unique insights into the evolution of the Irish economy and the press of political and military events in this fascinating period.

These accounts are presented on www.duanaire.ie in a variety of ways: one can browse the accounts year-by-year, use interactive graphs to explore the data, and download the full dataset, which comprises about 24,000 data items, to enable further research.

Next Steps

Next steps include datasets relating to:

- Public revenues and expenditures of Ireland since Independence
- The public debt of Ireland since Independence
- The finances of the grand juries of Ireland 1775–1898

Duanaire will also provide a platform for a wider community of researchers in Irish economic history to deposit datasets, in a curated environment.

