



The University of Edinburgh

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New home pages Web service

If you publish Web pages from **holyrood** with a URL containing a tilde '~' character – in the form **http://www.ed.ac.uk/~fred/** – then the address of your pages is going to change.

Any *official*, departmental, Web sites with such addresses will be changed so that the tilde is no longer used.

Any *unofficial* (personal) pages now appear on the new Web server **www.homepages.ed.ac.uk**. Old URLs will continue to work for a transitional period, but users who advertise their Web addresses should start to use the new ones – in the form **http://www.homepages.ed.ac.uk/~fred/** – as soon as possible.

For most people, this change will not entail modifying the content of their pages (except where the URL of the site is given). The main aim is to remove potential confusion between 'official' and 'personal' pages. EUCS will do all it can to ensure a smooth changeover.

Full details are at **http://webhelp.ucs.ed.ac.uk/homepages/**
Graham Rule (EUCS)

Oxford Internet Institute

Oxford University is creating what it believes is the world's first truly multidisciplinary Internet Institute based in a major university. The Oxford Internet Institute, with initial funding of £15m, will carry out research and make policy recommendations about the effects on society of the Internet, with the goal of putting Oxford, the UK and Europe at the centre of debates about how the Internet could and should develop.

The full story is at **http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/po/010504.htm**
Nick Stroud (EUCS)

University Web strategy

The University Web Editor, Bryan Martin, would like to remind all concerned that he is available to consult with any department thinking of embarking on any form of Web development.

Consultation is important to ensure that your Web site meets legal requirements and accepted codes of practice. It may also be beneficial in ensuring linkage between your development and the main University Web Site, and any similar or related sites across the University.

Contact Bryan Martin, University Web Editor, Online Services Division, Main Library, George Square (email **web-comment@ed.ac.uk**, tel 511826).

Bryan Martin (EUL)

Library Online

Library Online evolving

The front page, news, FAQs and other areas at the top level of Library Online, the main Library Web site, have all been redesigned recently, with the following key objectives in mind:

- Compliance with disability legislation and accessibility initiatives
- Improved coherence and usability
- Enhanced performance: fewer graphics and faster download

The changes have been introduced in response to feedback from users and research by Library staff. The site remains constantly under review, and comments are most welcome.

Steve Scott (EUL)

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The General Election: to be won on the streets or online?

Election campaigns are nowadays conducted through electronic media more intensively than ever before. Behind the television promotions comes the telephone (with at least one political party thought to be experimenting with text-messaging to get through to the new generation of voters). And then there are computers and the Internet.

All the main parties have Web sites, for example:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Conservative: | http://www.conservatives.com/ |
| Labour: | http://www.labour.org.uk/ |
| Liberal Democrat: | http://www.libdems.org.uk/ |
| Scottish Green: | http://www.scottishgreens.org.uk/ |
| Scottish Nationalist: | http://www.snp.org/ |
| Scottish Socialist: | http://www.scottishsocialistparty.org/ |

While many British households do not have a computer and Internet access, the Government is keen that everyone should be able to use online information. It is therefore setting up public online access points at the same time as it is putting much of its own information and sources online (<http://www.ukonline.gov.uk/>). This includes a link to a page of election information at <http://www.ukonline.gov.uk/online/ukonline/electionInformation>, where, although it's too late to do so for this election, you can register to vote, or print the form to get a postal vote.

One current application of the Internet which some may find a little less than wholesome is its use to foster tactical voting. There is an analysis of tactical voting in the 1997 General Election at <http://www.strath.ac.uk/Other/CREST/p64.htm>, and this makes the point that a relatively small number of people can have quite a large impact on the outcome of an election under our first-past-the-post system. Web sites such as <http://www.tacticalvoter.net/> encourage such tactical voting, offering to 'pair up' Labour and Liberal voters in different constituencies to keep out Conservative candidates. This site does at least include a link to an online petition at <http://callfordemocracy.org/> which calls for a more representative voting system in UK elections.

Nick Stroud (EUCS)

Digital Resources for the Humanities 2001

School of Oriental and African Studies, London 8th – 10th July

This conference brings together the creators, users, distributors, and custodians of digital resources in the Humanities, presenting itself as the major forum for all those involved in, and affected by, the digitization of our cultural heritage. Further details of the conference and an online booking form are available from the Web site at <http://drh2001.soas.ac.uk/>

Bruce Royan (SCRAN)

Online Information 2001

London, 4th – 6th December

Billed as the world's largest event for the information industry, this conference provides an international forum for 16,000 attendees, while 300 exhibitors showcase online information databases and solutions for managing and exploiting knowledge resources. The event brings together publishers and content owners with providers of online publishing technology, services and solutions.

There are full details at <http://www.online-information.co.uk/>

Roddy MacLeod (Heriot-Watt University)

Television and radio index online – 'TRILT'

The Television and Radio Index for Learning and Teaching, TRILT, aims to provide the most comprehensive online listings of forthcoming television and radio programmes on all major channels receivable in the UK, including regional variations.

The index will be available five days in advance of transmission and will build up as an archive of programme information, going back to 1997. Selected programmes of value to higher and further education will be evaluated by subject specialists, and there will be Web links and indications of sources of post-transmission videotapes. The aim is to encourage greater integration of moving images with other resources in learning and teaching.

EDINA – the national datacentre hosted by Edinburgh University Data Library – has won the contract to develop and host a Web service to deliver TRILT on behalf of the British Universities Film and Video Council (BUFVC), and will be responsible for the following tasks:

- database development and integration
- data storage and management of the data archive
- service delivery to the Web
- DNER standards conformity
- user support

A trial service should be available later this year.

TRILT (<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/dner/programmes/projects/trilt/>) is funded as part of the JISC's programme to build the Distributed National Electronic Resource (DNER) for UK tertiary education (see <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/dner/programmes/projects/>).

Margarete Tubby (EUCS)

Office XP

The new version of Microsoft Office for Windows – Office XP – is now available under our Microsoft Select Scheme. Any department which buys Office from 1st June will get a licence for Office XP, but can choose to use Office 2000 or 97 instead. (Note that the Select Scheme is not available to individual staff or students.)

New 2002 versions of the following products are also available: Access, Excel, FrontPage, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher, Word and Visio. Again purchasers will receive a licence for the 2002 version, but can choose to use an earlier one, e.g. 2000.

For details of the new versions, please see Microsoft's Web site, <http://www.microsoft.com/>

If you have Maintenance or Maintenance Plus for any of these products, then you can upgrade for just the cost of the CD.

These new versions require an Activation Key for installation, which will be supplied with the CDs. Unfortunately, Microsoft has given us a selection of Activation keys, but cannot say exactly which key applies to which product. So if one doesn't work, just try another!

Please send internal order forms to EUCS Purchasing, JCMB, The King's Buildings.

Charlotte Moon (EUCS)

Dialling in to EdLAN

BTsurf calls not free...

If you have signed up to BT's Talk Together package in the hope of getting free off-peak calls to the University's dial-up service on 473 0000, you are in for a disappointment.

Unfortunately BT has added our number to their 'hitlist' of numbers to which calls will be charged, pointing out that their terms and conditions – which can be found at http://www.bt.com/BTChoices/Trade_tc.jsp – limit the free calls to voice calls only. BT is obviously monitoring what 'heavy' users are doing, and excluding dial-up numbers from the free service. A University departmental number which also provides a dial-up facility has also been excluded.

The painful way to find out about this is to receive a very large bill, but you can also see the full hitlist – just in case you dial-up elsewhere – at <http://www1d.btwebworld.com/BTownuse/trade.htm>

Have you moved up yet?

Please note that the Web page which enables users of the old dial-up service to register automatically for the new one (<http://dialup-auth.ucs.ed.ac.uk/>) will be withdrawn on 31st July 2001. Thereafter anyone who is not a registered user of the new service will have to go through the normal EUCS registration procedure to become one.

Scott Currie (EUCS)

Fetch 4.0 for the Mac

'Fetch' is a leading file transfer utility for the Apple Mac, and a new version has just been released: Fetch 4.0 is compatible with Mac OS X, and has several new features.

This was made possible when Jim Matthews, creator of Fetch, appeared on the US TV game show 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire', winning enough cash to set up Fetch Softworks to develop and support the program.

Fetch is free for educational or charitable institutions, whose staff can 'buy' a licence for \$0 from <http://fetchsoftworks.com/>

Nick Stroud (EUCS)

Apple offer and developments

Digital Video tools for education

Apple is promoting the uptake of digital video – DV. If you buy any five iMacs at standard education prices you can get a Canon MV 300i digital camcorder at 50% of its normal education price (£340+vat), or any ten iMacs to get the camcorder free. The offer runs until 30th June or until stocks run out, and includes the complete range of iMacs, all with iMovie, the DV movie-editing software.

For further information please speak to Kevin Malcolm (0845 606 2641); to take up the offer, fax your order to Scotsys at 0845 606 2642.

Mac OS X

Mac OS X, which was due to be installed on all new Macs from July, has proved so popular and stable that it will be available on all Macs ordered from now.

New flat-panel display

Apple has stopped selling CRT computer displays, replacing them with flat-panel displays in everything except iMacs. A new 17" display is now available, for £642+vat. The new lower prices for the existing 15" and 22" displays are £412+vat and £1,652+vat respectively.

Maureen Dolan (Scotsys)

Emoticons revisited

The URL given in last month's *BITs* for a good summary of the emoticons and acronyms used in email messages unfortunately disappeared a few days later. Some more places to try are:

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~ernstmul/emoticon.html>

<http://www.uselessknowledge.com/trivia/smiley.shtml>

<http://www.AcronymFinder.com/>



Nick Stroud (EUCS)

Personal Bibliographic Software

For anyone who produces academic written work, managing a personal bibliography is a vital skill. Bibliographic software assists in the tasks of collecting references, recording them correctly, storing them for future use and reproducing them in a form suitable for the task in hand.

It is possible to undertake the whole process of bibliographical management through specialist software, but selection of the best software is becoming increasingly difficult as the number of packages increases.

Within Edinburgh University the two most widely used packages are Reference Manager and EndNote. EUCS provides half-day courses ten times per year for both of these: you can find the details at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/iss/courses/>

Details about pricing for Reference Manager can also be found on EUCS pages. EndNote prices with academic discount can be found at <http://www.adeptscience.co.uk/>

Specific information about how to configure Reference Manager and EndNote within the local environment can be found at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/biblio/>

Further information about how to use these packages within Edinburgh will be provided over the summer, as will links to other useful information.

A mailing list has been set up for items, news and discussion about bibliographic software and related items. If you wish to join this list please send mail to majordomo@lists.ed.ac.uk with 'subscribe bibliographic' in the main body of the message.

Angi Lamb (EUCS)

Gallery of Library Benefactors



The Library has set up a 'virtual gallery' of Web pages to commemorate and celebrate donations, bequests and other benefactions to Edinburgh University Library, since its founding in 1580 by Clement Litill's bequest. Those displayed have been carefully selected, and the Library is always ready to consider adding others, retrospectively as well as prospectively.

Each 'room' contains information about the benefactors and benefactions, including illustrations and links to further information where possible. There are sections on Friends of EUL, Recent Donations, and Islamic and Middle Eastern benefactors, as well as straightforward chronological sections. The Gallery is accessible via the Quick Access box on the Library's Web page at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/>



(David Laing)

The Gallery has been realised by a lot of hard work by colleagues in Computer Science, MALTS and EUCS as well as in EUL: I am very grateful to everyone who has helped.

We hope you enjoy exploring the Benefactors' Gallery, and welcome any comments or suggestions.

Peter Freshwater (EUL)

Gnutella

Gnutella, like the better-known Napster, is a system which enables people to share files directly from computer to computer across the Internet. Both are controversial because one common use is to share music without paying the royalties that are due on items covered by copyright. More importantly, both can generate large quantities of transatlantic network traffic for which the University is charged.

EUCS has therefore started blocking the use of Gnutella in the University's open-access computing labs – to reduce the overall charge to the University and also the portion of the charge attributed to EUCS and which cannot be reclaimed from individuals using the labs. Gnutella works in such a way that we cannot guarantee to stop all Gnutella access, but we hope to prevent most of it.

If a department can provide an academic justification for use of Gnutella then we will consider how to provide the service, otherwise its use is certainly at odds with the open access provision.

Enquiries should be addressed to network_support@ed.ac.uk, 650 4933.

Sam Wilson (EUCS)

Edinburgh BITS

Editor:

Nick Stroud, EUCS.

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Telephone: 0131 650 3345

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Contributions to *BITS* are welcomed from all readers.

Copy deadline for July BITS:

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