

Dramatic evolution of the University Library

This issue of *BITs* is devoted almost exclusively to developments in the Library. The needs of learners and researchers in the University are changing rapidly, as is the global information environment, and it is the duty of one of the world's leading academic libraries to deliver the best modern services it can, to accommodate these changes.

The range of developments currently under way in the Library is the widest in its 400 year history. Use of traditional services remains at a fairly constant level. In stark contrast, the number of hits on *Library Online* is growing rapidly.

There are many new electronic resources—e-journals, e-books, e-reference—and use of these is rocketing. There has been phenomenal growth in the use of some of the e-journal collections made available recently. For example, the number of full text downloads of articles from Elsevier e-journals is doubling every month at the moment—from 2,500 in September to almost 9,000 in November. Edinburgh's use of the IEL database in engineering is the second highest in the UK. The use of JSTOR, which supports humanities researchers, is also growing quickly, with 2,000 downloads in 1999-2000 becoming 16,000 in 2000-2001.

The popularity of the online services is hardly surprising. Without moving from his desk, a research scientist can read and download articles from some 3,500 journals. A Head Teacher can get a copy of a key educational management article at 2am on a Sunday morning (if the mood so takes her). The Oxford English Dictionary is at everyone's fingertips, and you can find things in it that would be totally impractical using the printed version. The new opportunities are simply astonishing—and it is the Library's task to deliver them to you.

Our thanks to all the contributors to this issue of *BITs*—particularly our academic colleagues who have taken time to write about the Library services they know best. We are glad to present you with this account of the changing Library. Explore the new services in *Library Online*, at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

Ian Mowat (University Librarian)



[CONTENTS]

Dramatic evolution of the Library	1
Staff training in February	1
The changing Library...	2
More benefits on the way	3
e-resources in learning & teaching	3
E-RESERVE	
Reserving (e-)space for Geography	4
e-reserve in Economics	4
e-reserve at a distance: Scottish Qualification for Headship	5
E-RESOURCES	
ejournals	5
Demo day for Patents Database	5
"I feel as if I'm in Aladdin's cave"	6
SciFinder Scholar	6
BIOSIS Previews coverage extended	6
Cultural Materials initiative	6
RESEARCH OUTPUT	
Electronic theses and abstracts	7
Web archives of publications	7
CATALOGUE AND METADATA	
Using the Library Catalogue	8
MALTS and the Library	8
Web resource recommendations	8
XML and Archives	9
E-SERVICES	
Reading list builder	9
Ordering books online	9
Any Questions?	10
The HE Archives Hub	10
Digital preservation	10
The Data Library	11
Electronic Document Delivery	11
Crisis in STM communication	11
Digital Resources in the Humanities	12
C&IT conference	12
Cold Fusion User Group	12
Glittering prizes!	12
EPCC Guest Lectures	12
BCS meetings	12

Staff training on Wednesday mornings in February

Such rapid evolution of Library services can only be sustained thanks to the energy and commitment of all library staff, and through the development of new skills. To facilitate this, all library sites will as normal delay opening until 10:15am on Wednesday mornings in February for staff training.

Sheila Cannell (EUL)

This issue of *BITs*: the changing Library...



Sheila Cannell
(Deputy Librarian)

The combination of the digital revolution and the World Wide Web has created a new challenge for the work of libraries everywhere. We believe that Edinburgh University Library has embraced digital opportunities which keeps us amongst the top academic research libraries in the world, and we give a flavour of this in this special issue of *BITs*.

Library functions and services are still very much what they always were. We still work with books and journals, though these—particularly the latter—are increasingly digital. We still answer your enquiries, provide indexing and reference tools, store theses, maintain archives, receive book orders and order items which we don't have in our own stock from other libraries. But in today's world, we do all of these things electronically—while continuing to deal with the printed materials which will form part of our 'hybrid' library environment for a long time to come.

The Library is now packaging e-resources in new ways to suit demand, for example in the development of electronic reserve

packages for particular courses. This 'e-reserve' service is popular with both staff and students, as seen in several articles herein, and the Library is keen to develop it—but the costs remain high. If you are interested in experimenting with e-reserve, please contact your Liaison Librarian (see <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/staff/liaison.shtml#liaison>).

Almost all of these electronic resources are included in the Library Catalogue, which can be used as a first resource for finding information. The Library is now inviting users to suggest Web sites for inclusion in the Catalogue.

We are rapidly gaining expertise in digital imaging. The images scattered through this issue of *BITs* are from the Library's expanding collection. Library staff deal with all sorts of images—books, journals, exam papers, museum objects. We are working with academic colleagues to develop digital resources of our own in areas such as Geography, Architecture and Fine Art. As well as creating the images, the Library is concerned with providing good metadata (catalogue data) to promote ready retrieval, and with long-term preservation.

Traditionally, Library staff have worked with academic staff to select and purchase material, catalogue it, preserve it, make it available through loans, and educate people about using the Library. We continue to do all these things, but with an added electronic dimension which benefits from the expertise of other parts of the Academic Services Group, particularly Computing Services, the Data Library and MALTS.

Negotiating good deals on

these new resources, which are often purchased in consortia, is now part of the library staff skill set. Many of the new resources are purchased in their first year using the Strategic Fund, recently set up by Library Committee to support change. However, electronic publications are expensive, and many are produced by a small number of publishers who have commercial rather than scholarly interests. Recent work by the Consortium of University and Research Libraries shows that, while the Retail Price Index has increased by 2.7% per annum since 1991, while journal prices have increased by 11% per annum over the same period.

There is indeed a crisis in scholarly communication. The setting up of an e-print archive—a Web-based repository of the research papers published in the University—provides an opportunity to re-assert the role of the University in scholarly communication. However, to keep within the resources available to the Library, hard choices are having to be made about what can be purchased, and journal cancellations are currently under review in several faculties.

The following articles highlight some of the issues and describe some of the electronic resources, but this is a rapidly changing landscape, and there are developments all the time: watch out for further news in *BITs*, and through *Library Online* at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

Contact your Liaison Librarian (listed at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/staff/liaison.shtml#liaison>) for further information about any of our resources or services.

Sheila Cannell (Deputy Librarian)

THE LIBRARY IN THE UNIVERSITY

More benefits on the way

This issue of *BITs* shows clearly the rapid changes affecting both the management of libraries and the ways in which all those involved in research can and must learn to access information. In many areas, the electronic format is now the first and sometimes the only form of production. Few journals yet go much beyond a digitised reproduction of printed text to offer linkages to datasets or enhanced bibliographies or static or moving images—but this will come.

Most staff in the University are aware of the existence of a raft of online bibliographic search tools which can transform the ways in which they and their students can keep up with the literature, but I continue to be disturbed that some of our colleagues and research students still do not exploit this technology at all, let alone to its full potential. There is a real challenge to departments to ensure that everyone is aware of what they may be missing, and Library staff can provide real help here.

Exploiting Web resources, including the growing volume of high-quality digitised images and full-text transcriptions, presents a further challenge to us as teachers: how do we teach our students to sift and profit from what is there, without drowning in the dross? Indeed, how do we ourselves keep up with this literature as we have always done with print in the past? Library staff can offer valuable advice in this area too.

As well as building new services in these areas, negotiating massively cut-priced deals on a University-wide basis to purchase them, and providing support for them, the Library faces other major challenges. The

increasing move to resource-based learning requires materials to be made available in new ways, including the provision of locations within libraries where students can work together in groups, and talk to each other without disturbing other readers.

The traditional library role of preserving knowledge also takes on a new meaning. While archiving of electronic publications will increasingly fall to the copyright libraries, the Library has a key role to play in preserving the electronic research record of the University's staff and students—because if we do not do it, no one else will!

Mike Anderson

(Economic and Social History)

Electronic resources in learning & teaching

Many new undergraduates these days have extensive experience of information technology in general, and the Web in particular. A few years ago we might have felt inhibited in using online resources in learning and teaching; now, we cannot use our students' lack of familiarity with C&IT as an excuse for avoiding such resources.

A new issue has arisen, though, born of this very familiarity. Most students now arrive with their own email address, and almost all claim confidence on the Web, but their view of these technologies comes from sources like Saturday morning TV. We must overcome any mistaken assumptions they might have as a result, by encouraging good habits of information use and awareness among our students; and the time to start is—now.

We teachers also need to re-examine our own assumptions about the use of resources. For

example, many of us may think that references to original journal articles are inappropriate for first or second year undergraduates, reserving such 'research' activities for the senior years. But it is no longer impossible to send a class of 350 to the current journals, if those journals are electronic.

Online access to journals removes many of the physical bottlenecks, but does introduce potential conceptual barriers. If (as we know to be the case) the sheer physical size and organisational complexity of some of our library collections intimidate many students, *Library Online* risks overwhelming them completely. Structured tutorial activities which lead students into these journal resources, first to known target articles, then progressively further afield, will help them see the scope and potential of what is available to them.

It is always tempting to value content over process, and to help students by taking shortcuts—for example by emailing an article in PDF to a tutorial group. Quite apart from being a breach of copyright, this approach denies the student the opportunity to gain valuable, generalizable, experience.

Supported and guided pointers to the resources in *Library Online* would be a good place for any course to begin experiments in the use of Web-based learning, or the building of a Virtual Learning Environment. Guided use of existing resources encourages exploration and autonomy, and helps students to develop technical and conceptual skills which will be of value during their undergraduate careers, and beyond.

Hamish Macleod (TLA)

E-RESERVE

Reserving (e-)space for Geography teaching

One of the points made by researchers about the advent of online access to textual sources is the 'collapse' of space, even the 'end of geography'. From a teaching viewpoint, however, placing teaching and learning materials on the Web as an electronic reserve can provide vital new space for geography.

For the last two academic years, a collaborative initiative between the Library and the Department of Geography has pioneered and developed an 'e-reserve' for reference materials for a core Geography course, *Philosophy and Methodology of Geography*. Student numbers are usually in excess of 110, and the course demands much use of a wide range of readings. This was placing great pressure on 'conventional' library resources, not least given copyright restrictions on multiple photocopied versions of key readings.

Colleagues in the Library and in Geography therefore created a virtual library, or 'e-reserve', for the course, which has removed many of the problems of access associated with large classes and relatively few copies of key journal references. Many journals are now published electronically anyway, and where required we contacted publishers to secure their permission to have articles placed on e-reserve. Instructions on how to access the e-reserve are given in the (printed) Course Handbook. Students can now access and print copies of material hitherto held often only in one or two locations in the University libraries, and are regularly reminded to check the e-reserve for new additions.

The facility grows only as rapidly as publishers give their permission. This has proved difficult, not because publishers are unwilling but because we cannot guarantee to have the e-reserve ready for a particular week's course. At the start of the pilot course, lectures on the history of geography had almost no material on e-reserve, but there was a splendid set of articles for the second half of the course! These difficulties are steadily diminishing, though.

To judge from their comments, students like the e-reserve and use it. One student went out of his way to praise the *Phil and Meth* e-reserve and ask for more on it and more of them. It may be, of course, that having an e-reserve makes demands on students that staff don't see: do they now print e-articles when once they photocopied them? What happens when sites go down? Will

Professor Withers will give an illustrated talk on 'Charting the Nation', a digital imaging and cataloguing project to widen access to Scottish maps, at 6:30pm on 14th February, at the Dept of Geography, Drummond Street.

the Library start to charge departments real money for access to such 'virtual resource space'? These and other questions are not unique to this e-reserve or this one course. Yet the success of this initiative in Geography's engagement with space does make it worth continuing and, perhaps, expanding into other spaces of teaching and learning.

Charles Withers
(Geography)

e-reserve in Economics

In 2000 a pilot Electronic Reserve Collection was established for *Topics in Macroeconomics*, a compulsory Junior Honours course with an enrolment of 100 students. The initial collection comprised 12 key journal articles not otherwise available electronically. Copyright clearance was obtained from the publishers and the articles were scanned into PDF files. Most publishers imposed no charge for copyright clearance; a few set a high price, the maximum being £278 for one article. In 2001 the collection was extended to include extensive sections from two out-of-print books (with no copyright-clearance fee imposed).

Since its introduction, the e-reserve has been popular with students. It avoids peak demand problems in the Main Library Reserve collection. Moreover, unlike photocopies, the PDF files do not mysteriously disappear just when they are needed.

From the viewpoint of a course organiser, an attractive feature, at least of the pilot e-reserve, is that the administrative and copyright costs were borne by the Library. Obtaining permission on a case-by-case basis is costly, whoever pays, but the costs could be reduced if there were a standard pro-forma or if blanket permission were obtained from some key publishers. In the medium term, more teaching material will be directly available in e-journals, reducing the value of an e-reserve collection. But, for the time being, the e-reserve provides a valuable bridge between old and new technologies—at least if the administrative costs are kept down and the publishers who charge high permission fees are avoided.

Stuart Sayer (Economics)



University of Edinburgh Comprehensive Development Project 1961 (from The Percy Johnson-Marshall research project)
<http://www.johnson-marshall.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

e-reserve at a distance: Scottish Qualification for Headship

The Scottish Qualification for Headship, awarded nationally by the Minister of Education to those who obtain the Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership and Management, is now in its second year at the University of Edinburgh. It involves a two-year programme of work-based study, within a national template, jointly offered by the University and local authority employers.

The programme is delivered in a variety of ways: there are 6 to 8 full days of teaching per year; distance learning study sessions; and an online learning site for interactive discussion and networking. Isolation can be a problem.

Participants are busy senior professionals (mainly Assistant and Depute Headteachers) in schools, some nearby, some geographically remote, who have to combine the demands of this busy programme with their school responsibilities. Travel to the Holyrood Library can be difficult, and library opening hours do not suit—particularly since many do most of their reading during their ‘holidays’ and at weekends—so the standard reserve arrangements were unsuitable.

Working with MALTS and the Library, we created a password-secured Web-based resource of 55 key articles on Educational Leadership and Management, to widen the reading opportunities of those on the course. Participants can obtain and read these PDF files at whatever time best suits them.

The e-resource has been commented on positively by many of those involved in the past year, and this year our target is to respond to the cry “can we have more readings online?”

Danny Murphy (Education)

E-RESOURCES

Ejournals—only free at point of use!

During 2001 the Library was able to buy site licences for a number of new resources, including *ScienceDirect*, *Science Online* and *Nature*, thanks to the Library’s recently-established Strategic Fund which enables new initiatives.

Access to *Nature* generated demand for further *Nature* titles and, from the current Strategic Fund, a year’s trial subscription has been taken out to the *Nature Research* and *Reviews* collections. The following are now accessible at <http://www.nature.com/>

<i>Nature Biotechnology</i>	<i>Nature Reviews Cancer</i>
<i>Nature Cell Biology</i>	<i>Nature Reviews Genetics</i>
<i>Nature Genetics</i>	<i>Nature Reviews Immunology</i>
<i>Nature Immunology</i>	<i>Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology</i>
<i>Nature Medicine</i>	<i>Nature Reviews Neuroscience</i>
<i>Nature Neuroscience</i>	<i>Nature Structural Biology</i>

The Library has subscribed to the full Elsevier *ScienceDirect* service since August 2001. Benefits include:

- convenient 24 hour, full-text access to virtually all Elsevier’s scientific journals, including very heavily used current awareness titles;
- the facility to create a personal profile, including an alerting service;
- access to 900 titles to which the Library does not subscribe in print;
- off-campus access (apply to eishelp@ed.ac.uk for registration information)

Some recent comments about *ScienceDirect* from academic staff:

“It is really useful to have access to the *Journal of Chromatography*. It’s an important journal in my research area and we didn’t have the print version.”

“The *Trends* journals are a very valuable online resource for teaching.”

“Now that we have *ScienceDirect* I make fewer inter-library loan requests.”

“... a lot of territory is easily covered without having to move very far.”

During 2002 use of the titles will be monitored and analysed. It’s likely that the data will demonstrate significant use and demand, at least for some titles, but the subscriptions can be maintained only if future funding is identified from within existing faculty budgets. Contrary to one user’s expectation, the University has not been given “free access” to these new resources...

Liz G. Stevenson (EUL)

Demo day for Patents Database

A vast database of patents information—the Derwent Innovations Index—is now available via the Web of Science service at <http://wos.mimas.ac.uk/>

Most of the wealth of technical information in patents is never published in journal literature, and much is difficult to find because of the deliberately obscure language used by the author—particularly where the work might be lucrative! The records in the DII database are indexed using terms that more usefully describe the contents of the patent—thus “spherical object with dimples” becomes “golf ball”. The database includes over 20 million patents from 40 patent-issuing authorities, across all fields of patenting activity.

Christopher Powell from ISI\Derwent will speak about the new service, and demonstrate it, at **2:30pm on Wednesday 27th February**, in the Swann Lecture Theatre at The King’s Buildings, and will cover developments such as linking to other Web-based services. Anyone may attend; booking is not required.

Jenny Flemington (EUL)

E-RESOURCES

“I feel as if I’ve been given the key to Aladdin’s cave”

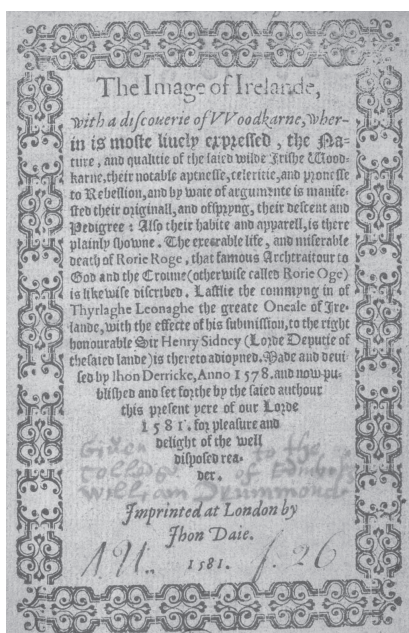
Oxford English Dictionary Online

<http://dictionary.oed.com/help/>

- Which words of Hindi origin, and relating to food, entered English before 1900?
- How many occurrences of the phrase “mad as a” are not followed by “hatter” or “March hare”?
- Which birds or mammals have links with Australia?
- Which nouns used by Jack Kerouac came into English between 1900 and 1950?

The many enhancements to OED Online just introduced, and developed in response to feedback from users, enable more powerful and flexible searching of the Dictionary. They are available on a new, user-friendly Advanced Search page. The original search page, for word look-up and simple searching, is unchanged. This means that OED Online retains its accessibility to general users while supporting serious scholarly research.

Simon Bains (EUL)



The Image of Irelande by John Derrick (1581) – Plates from the Masterpieces of the Research Collections of EUL.
<http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/about/bgallery/Gallery/researchcoll/ireland.html>

SciFinder Scholar

Easy access to chemical and related scientific information

The University now has access to the American Chemical Society’s SciFinder Scholar system. This provides easy access to the rich and diverse scientific information held in the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) databases.

Users can search millions of citations to the literature by topic, author, CAS Registry Number, patent number, and CAS abstract number. It is also possible to carry out searches for substances and reactions. No special training or knowledge of search command languages is required.

SciFinder offers:

- Chemical Abstracts databases, 1907-present (CAplus and CAS Registry)
- CASREACT, 1974-present (chemical reaction searching)
- CHEMLIST (regulatory information on chemicals)
- CHEMCATS (chemical source information from catalogues)
- MEDLINE, 1957-present (covers biomedical literature from over 3,900 journals and 70 countries)
- Links to some American Chemical Society full-text journals
- Substructure searching using the Substructure Module
- eScience—related information from the Web

The SciFinder Scholar software is now available on all *Library Online* computers, but for financial reasons access is currently limited to five concurrent users. Further information about SciFinder is available at <http://www.cas.org/SCIFINDER/SCHOLAR/index.html>

Queries should be addressed to D.Carroll@ed.ac.uk.

David Carroll (EUL)

Major expansion of life sciences references

BIOSIS Previews coverage now extends back to 1969

A much larger part of *BIOSIS Previews*, the world’s largest life sciences database, is now available via the EDINA BIOSIS Previews Web service, at <http://edina.ac.uk/biosis/>

BIOSIS Previews is the electronic version of *Biological Abstracts*, the printed reference publication for life sciences research information, and *Biological Abstracts/RRM* (Reports, Reviews, Meetings), the companion printed reference to books, meetings and research reviews. The result is a comprehensive worldwide coverage of research in the biological and biomedical sciences.

David Carroll (EUL)

Cultural Materials initiative

The Library has subscribed to *RLG Cultural Materials*, a major new research resource from the Research Libraries Group, an international alliance of libraries, museums and archives.

Cultural Materials is a unique, dynamic resource for discovery and scholarship, providing access to authenticated, rights-cleared, primary source materials in high-quality digital form, on the Web.

Content includes medieval manuscripts, maps, handwritten letters, drawings, paintings, sound recordings, books, and moving images. As a participant in the Cultural Materials Alliance initiative, Edinburgh University Library will be contributing material to the database.

Access information is at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/resources/databases/cultmats.shtml>

Simon Bains (EUL)



Photograph of a painting by Thomas Faed of Walter Scott reading from a manuscript to a circle of friends (from the Walter Scott Digital Archive)
<http://www.walterscott.lib.ed.ac.uk/portraits.html>

RESEARCH OUTPUT

Electronic theses and abstracts digitisation project

Edinburgh University Library has joined the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) with the intention of installing an abstracts database containing postgraduate theses by Edinburgh University students. The abstracts and full-text theses will be available via NDLTD in due course. More information about NDLTD is at <http://www.ndltd.org/>

As part of a joint pilot project with the Science & Engineering Postgraduate Faculty Office, several postgraduates have already submitted their thesis abstracts to the Library electronically. SELLIC is investigating the submission of “born digital” files to the database.

Electronic theses already submitted to the Library are now available via the Library Catalogue or from the draft theses project pages at <http://webex.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

SELLIC is seeking more theses for the pilot project. If you are a postgraduate at Edinburgh and wish to submit your thesis electronically to the Library, please see <http://webex.lib.ed.ac.uk/formpg.html>

Avril Conacher (SELLIC)

Creating Web archives of research publications

What is academic publication for?

Academics naturally see the purpose as being to disseminate and support access to academic work in the widest and easiest possible ways. Current academic publishing has, of course, a complex sociology: publishers and libraries have a status, a degree of power and control, and mechanisms for resourcing themselves, which are all threatened by Internet developments. As academics, we are sympathetic to these worries, but we will not see them stand in the way of improved access.

Of more concern are questions about the standard and quality of material accessible online. Eprint archives are without doubt an excellent answer to the problem of access—readily searchable material, instantly available anywhere. Many of us could hardly ask for more, but yet more is coming: intelligent search assistance, automated summarisation, cross-link generation, *etc.*, will soon be everyday tools.

Much of this will depend on the provision of accurate metadata about the archived publications, which may be non-trivial to generate, but the quality of which could be as important as the quality of the content itself. This is probably where a new partnership will have to evolve between academic authors and online publishers, through a gradual refocusing of roles in the area. New mechanisms for peer- and community-review have already been experimented with.

Not only the organisation, but also the motivation and reward of all participants in these processes will be important issues. Some of these may well be best addressed by and through institutions and their libraries, as well as on a disciplinary basis. Since no one can predict the nature of this evolution, supporting new processes while maintaining existing ones for as long as needed seems a wise strategy.

At Edinburgh, the SELLIC team is setting up an experimental archive of research papers using open source software which supports the ‘Open Archive Metadata Harvesting’ protocol. This means that all papers deposited in the Edinburgh Research Archive (ERA) can be found alongside other papers in similar university archives across the world. What is required is that the journal in which a paper is to be published accepts that the University retains an archival copy. This is not usually a problem. Library staff will take care of the copyright and metadata for authors wishing to support the development of this archive.

For details, contact John MacColl (email John.MacColl@ed.ac.uk) or Avril Conacher (email Avril.Conacher@ed.ac.uk).

John Lee (Informatics)

CATALOGUE AND METADATA

Using the Library Catalogue

There are certain things I always have open on my PC. One is the Library Catalogue, a wonderful scholarly facility that our predecessors could only dream of. Question: our students have this dream at their fingertips, but do they really know how to live the dream? We take it for granted that they do, since the Catalogue is so easy to use, but in my experience many students—postgrads too—don't know how to use it properly. Instead of tut-tutting, we should remember that we ourselves don't always find it easy to use the online catalogues at other universities.

Most students can manage a 'simple search', by author name or monograph title (though few realise that the first screen you see when you find a title doesn't display full details: you have to click on—wait for it—'Full Details.'). The main problem is that many students don't know how to do a Boolean search, either (a) through 'Simple Search' followed by clicking on 'Boolean Search', or (b) by clicking on the 'Search Builder' facility. This enables you to look for a given word anywhere in a title or, more widely, in the entire catalogue entry.

Students also have trouble with what is an undoubted bug in the system: definite and indefinite articles. Try asking the machine whether the Library has a copy of *Das Kapital* or of *The Hobbit*. 'Sorry, your search produced no results'. The screen does warn about this bug, but many students miss it. (Of course, you have to key in 'Kapital' or 'Hobbit'.)

Explaining to students how to use the Catalogue properly is easy and quick—and it can transform their academic lives.

George Gretton (Law)

MALTS and the Library

The growing digital dimension to the Library's work and the increasing use of communications and information technology in undergraduate teaching means that Library staff are increasingly working with colleagues in MALTS (Media and Learning Technology Service) to share expertise and resources. This is especially true of the work of the MALTS Online Services Division and SELLIC's Learning Technology team.

Edinburgh has two Virtual Learning Environments—VLEs—in use, and the Library is exploring ways of making its electronic resources available through these powerful teaching tools. So, for example, we are seeking ways of ensuring that the growing collection of e-books and e-journals which we hold is readily accessible to students directly from the VLE they use for their courses.

There is growing interest in Managed Learning Environments in the University, and both MALTS, with the Edinburgh Student Portal, and the Library with ANGEL (Authenticated Networked Guided Environment for Learning) are developing ways of managing student information in its many and varied forms for the benefit of students and staff. Close liaison will ensure that these projects produce compatible results.

Last Summer, the Library worked with MALTS to develop a Web-based introduction to the Library Catalogue. Using a combination of text and animated graphics, a tutorial was created which clearly explains and demonstrates the basics of using the catalogue to search for books and journals, save records, renew loans *etc.* Content

and images were provided by Library staff, and the design and animations were created by MALTS. We plan to develop further online tutorials using this template. See the module at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/howto/opac/>

Wilma Alexander (SELLIC)

Web resource recommendations

The Library has developed a tool to encourage academic staff to recommend Web sites for addition to the Library Catalogue, in much the same way as printed material is recommended for the Library shelves. Cataloguing these resources benefits users by highlighting sites of relevance to the academic community and providing access to them alongside traditional print material.

The University Web Editor has constructed a button link which can be dragged onto the personal toolbar of a browser. You then simply click on this link when viewing a site of interest and the relevant URL will be sent to the Library's Electronic Publications Officer, who will create a catalogue record for the requested resource.

Users can find these records and their live links interspersed with print material on the Catalogue, or can choose to limit their search to Web-only items, by selecting the Search Builder function and searching for "http" in 'Keyword Anywhere' in combination with other desired terms.

Details of how to add the button tool to your browser's toolbar are available at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/suburl/>

For further information contact the Electronic Publications Officer (email Zena.Mulligan@ed.ac.uk).

Zena Mulligan (EUL)

XML and Archives

The use of XML in the Library is being pioneered by a project in Special Collections called 'Navigational Aids for the History of Science, Technology and the Environment' (NAHSTE). The project aims to open up a variety of outstanding collections of archives and manuscripts of scientific material held across three Scottish HEIs—the Library, Glasgow University Archive Services and Heriot-Watt University Archives—by mounting catalogues to the material in a seamlessly searchable format on the Internet.

The data are being created to comply with the international archival data format standard (ISAD(G)2), which allows for hierarchically organised collection descriptions, from the general to the specific. What is new for the Library is that this data is marked up during creation using the XML document type definition Encoded Archival Description (EAD)—described at

<http://www.loc.gov/ead/>

This work is at the cutting-edge of developments within the archive community. NAHSTE is pleased to be in partnership with the Data Library, which is undertaking the Project's Web development. Work on hierarchical browsing and a hierarchical structured search facility is almost finished, and work is underway on free-text searching, stylesheets for data display and the graphical user interface.

NAHSTE's aim is to mount catalogue entries and related data on the Internet, in a fully searchable format, by the current funding deadline of 31st July 2002.

Sarah Higgins (EUL)

E-SERVICES

Reading list builder

Now anyone who wishes can establish a Web-based reading list which has links direct to the Library Catalogue.

The Reading List Builder developed through SELLIC allows you to compile a reading list of items from the Catalogue, add in URLs for Web references, annotate it as you wish for your students, and publish it on the Web, without any need for HTML or other techie know-how.

Students click on a 'more info' link to see the catalogue entry showing where the book is housed, how many copies are available, and its current loan status. We see this as a complement to the electronic reserve facility in the Library Catalogue, which allows staff to place electronic copies of much-used texts in a special area. To try out the tool for yourself, go to http://www.sellic.ed.ac.uk/resource/tools/drlt/drlt_instr.shtml

For further information contact SELLIC's Learning Technology Officer (email Wilma.Alexander@ed.ac.uk).

Wilma Alexander (SELLIC)

Ordering books online

The Library has introduced online recommendation for acquisitions, meeting a long-standing request from departmental Library Reps in Arts and Social Sciences, who have filled in hundreds if not thousands of order forms over the years.

Forms have not been abolished, but can now be filled in online, so it is easier for Library Reps to share the delights with colleagues. The form is on *Library Online*, under 'Library Services', then 'Bibliographic Services (for staff)'. Colleagues who complete an online form correctly will have it automatically copied to their Library Rep, who can keep track of spending across the department.

There are bound to be some teething problems as more staff use the system, but communication and cooperation between academic units and the Library definitely have improved. Colleagues interested in making full use of the facility should contact Jeremy Upton (email Jeremy.Upton@ed.ac.uk) of Bibliographic Services for information.

Alex Murdoch (Scottish History)



Portolano Charts, from the Map Collection

<http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/resources/collections/specdivision/maps.shtml>

E-SERVICES

Any Questions?

Library Online has the Answers!

Lost in the Library?

Can't find a telephone directory?

Don't know where the Europa Library Store is?

Not sure how many books you can borrow?

Where can I read a copy of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine*?

Answers to these questions and many more to do with finding your way about the Library and its procedures are in the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/faqs/faqs.shtml>

Feeling uninformed?

From agricultural statistics to women in parliament, the PARQs (Previously Answered Reference Questions) record the many and varied reference enquiries we have been asked, along with our answers. Find these at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/faqs/parqs.shtml>

Still stuck?

Through Library Online, you can always "Ask a Librarian"! Dealing mainly with reference enquiries, this service will try and help, whatever your question. Go to <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/faqs/ask.shtml>

For specific enquiries about databases, electronic journals, Athens, inter-library loans, and book renewal problems, there are also other dedicated Web forms on the Ask-a-Question page, and there are contacts for queries relating to printed journals and special collections.

These query forms are at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/services/requests.shtml>

Graeme D. Eddie (EUL)



History of the World, by Rashid al-Din (707 AH, 1307 AD), from the Masterpieces of the Research Collections of EUL – Islamic Art
<http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/about/bgallery/Gallery/researchcoll/islamicart.html>

The HE Archives Hub

The Library's Special Collections Division has won resources to continue participation in the Higher Education Archives Hub gateway Web site. The Lothian Health Services Archive (LHSA) – which is located within the Division – was also successful.

The HE Archives Hub is a gateway to the holdings in the special collections and archives departments of UK universities, and includes descriptions of all the collections. The teams from Edinburgh joined over 30 other Hub participants across the UK. The HE Archives Hub is at <http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/>

There are now 243 descriptions in the Hub from Special Collections, and nearly 120 LHSA descriptions.

To browse the Edinburgh descriptions, select **Advanced Search**, then at **Repository** select **Edinburgh** or **Lothian Health Services Archive** from the drop-down menu, and then **Search**.

Graeme D. Eddie (EUL)

Digital preservation

Six months on, the Digital Preservation project is making progress in the digital archiving of key online University documents, including the University Calendar. In order for these documents to be preserved and made permanently accessible, they need to be preserved in a 'virtual' archive – a safe repository that, among other attributes, is subject to strict access control.

Before documents are ingested into the archive however, suitable metadata must be added, and difficult questions about version control as the document is updated must be dealt with. A checksum process will ensure that the bit stream has not been tampered with. Ideally, the Calendar files will be held in an application-independent format such as XML, to safeguard against technical obsolescence.

We are participating in a Web archiving pilot project with the US-based OCLC. Their archiving system enables bibliographic information to be harvested from any online document. We are the only UK institution participating, and the only university library, so the project is proving very useful for planning functional requirements for a H.E. digital repository.

By successfully archiving the online version of the Calendar, we can be certain that it will remain a legally-admissible corporate document far into the future. By applying the same techniques to other key documents, such as student or administrative records, we can guarantee their successful storage, retrieval and lifecycle management. This will also ensure that they adhere to recent laws such as the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts.

Further information is available from Najla Semple (email Najla.Semple@ed.ac.uk), and at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/sites/digpres/>

Dr Veena O'Halloran, Director of Registry, observes: "In order to validate electronic student records for the long term, it is vital that preservation standards are built in from the start. We have to make sure that these records are not duplicated and are maintained in a systematic and methodical manner. Only in this way can we ensure that legal obligations will be fully met."

Professor R.J. Morris, of Economic and Social History, adds: "Once all confidential access concerns have been satisfied then electronic student records could at some point in the future form part of a research base for historians and social scientists. It is essential that these digital records be properly preserved for long-term access, especially given the fragility of digital media."

Najla Semple (EUL)

The Data Library: serving the University

Edinburgh University Data Library, in Computing Services, works closely with the Library to deliver services based around existing datasets. The Data Librarian and Assistant Data Librarian help researchers, teachers and students to acquire and use digital data for analysis and presentation. Further information is available at <http://datalib.ed.ac.uk/>

The Data Library is the home of EDINA, the JISC-funded national datacentre which provides many of the bibliographic and geospatial database services used in the University. For details see <http://edina.ac.uk/>

Robin Rice (EUCS)

Electronic Document Delivery

Prior to the opening of the new Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh at Little France in July 2002, Medical Libraries staff have been developing an Electronic Document Delivery service. The library at Little France will be expected to meet the needs of students, academics and NHS staff based at the new site. Due to size constraints much of the demand for resources will have to be met with online technologies.

In order to provide access to the medical collections held at the Erskine Medical Library, we are developing a service that will eventually deliver requested articles direct to users' desktops.

This currently involves using a package called Ariel 2.2, developed by the Research Libraries Group, to scan a document, send the digital copy across the Internet, then delete the original copy from the scanning PC. The receiving computer (also running Ariel) prints the article and deletes the digital document. The end user collects the article from the receiving library.

With the latest release of Ariel, version 3, we hope to be able to send the digital document to a space on a Web server where the end user can access it using an individual password, and print a copy without having to go to a service desk. The digital copy will then become inaccessible to the user until it is automatically deleted by the system, in order that we continue to comply with copyright legislation. This service is also being tried out in other parts of the University.

Greig Christie (EUL)

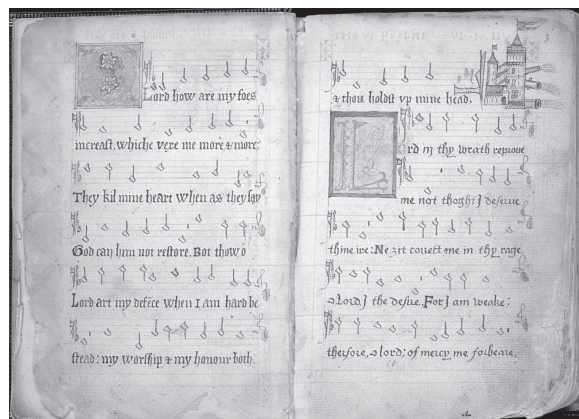
Crisis in STM (Science, Technology and Medicine) publications and communication

Julia Blixrud, of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition—SPARC—will be giving a talk on the crisis in scholarly communication on **4th March** in Lecture Theatre A, JCMB. Further information will be circulated in due course, but in the meantime please contact Richard Battersby (email R.Battersby@ed.ac.uk) or John MacColl (email John.MacColl@ed.ac.uk) for more details.

SPARC is an alliance of research libraries, library organisations and research institutions that supports increased competition in scientific journal publishing (see <http://www.arl.org/sparc/>). It was established in 1988 as an initiative of North America's Association of Research Libraries to address the problems of the high price of scientific journals, and membership has now spread across the world.

CURL, the Consortium of University Research Libraries, is actively discussing with SPARC the creation of a European presence (see <http://www.curl.ac.uk/>).

Richard Battersby (EUL)



Scottish Metrical Psalter Books—16th century, from the Masterpieces of the Research Collections of EUL
<http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/about/gallery/Gallery/researchcoll/16thcentury.html>

Digital Resources in the Humanities

**Conference, 8-11 September 2002
The University of Edinburgh**

Digital Resources in the Humanities is a UK-based international annual conference which will be hosted in 2002 by Edinburgh University Library.

The DRH conferences are a major forum for all those affected by the digitisation of our common cultural heritage: the scholar, the teacher, the publisher, the librarian, curator or archivist responsible for the digital information that characterises contemporary culture, and the computer or information science specialist seeking to apply new technical developments.

The conference will give the Edinburgh humanities community opportunities to demonstrate what it is accomplishing, and to learn of new projects elsewhere.

The local organising committee, led by Frances Abercromby (email F.Abercromby@ed.ac.uk), includes members of Edinburgh University, the National Library of Scotland and SCRAM. The Programme Committee is chaired by Jean Anderson of Glasgow University (email J.Anderson@hatii.arts.gla.ac.uk). Papers are now invited: for further information, contact the local organiser or see <http://www.drh.org.uk/>

Frances Abercromby (EUL)

C&IT conference

The first University conference on Information Technology will be held in the Prestonfield rooms of Pollock halls, on 20th February.

If you are interested in the development of C&IT within the University, and would like to have a say in the planning process for its future use, then do let us know by registering at <http://www.hcrc.ed.ac.uk/~john/itc/>

John Lee, Ian Main (C&ITC)

Cold Fusion User Group

The Cold Fusion User Group will meet at 1pm on 12th February, in the Brenda Moon Room, Wolfson Suite, Main Library. The Cold Fusion service run by EUCS allows you to connect databases to the Web and build Web applications. Topics to be covered include new features in Cold Fusion Server 5 and Cold Fusion Studio 5, best practices in writing CFML pages, and the new Fusebox methodology for structuring applications.

All are welcome, whether already using Cold Fusion or wishing to find out more about it. Please email cold.fusion@ed.ac.uk if you would like to attend.

John Smith, Charlotte Moon (EUCS)

Glittering prizes!

We see some very high quality work done in the Graphics & Multimedia Resource Centre, and are always pleased when one of our users' productions wins an award. We encourage you to aim for the big prizes! For instance, there is news about an annual student prize of €20,000, as well as awards for professional work, at <http://www.europrix.org/>

With the Resource Centre's facilities and support, all kinds of video, audio, graphics, modelling, animation and multimedia projects are possible. If you can imagine a winning project, we have got what you need to produce it. See <http://www.graphics.ed.ac.uk/gmrc/>

The Resource Centre is in the middle of a complete overhaul. It is currently based in room 2901 while room 3901 is refurbished. When this is complete, which should be by 25th February, the Resource Centre will continue to operate in the two rooms.

Contact us by email to graphics.support@ed.ac.uk or call 504965.

John Wexler (EUCS)

EPCC Guest Lectures

The final lectures in a series run alongside the EPCC MSc in HPC take place shortly:

15th February: 'Experiences of the Grid', Dr Steve Newhouse, Imperial College

1st March: 'Biomolecular Modelling', Dr Jonathan Hirst, University of Nottingham

The talks are open to all and are at 3.30pm in room 3305, JCMB. For more details see <http://www.epcc.ed.ac.uk/msc/seminars/>

Neil Chue Hong (EPCC)

BCS meetings

There are three local BCS meetings in February, on the 5th (Mentor Capitalism and the new economy), the 13th (Internet banking—where next?), and the 27th (Information age government).

Full details are provided at <http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org.uk/01-02/>

David Muxworthy (EUCS)

Edinburgh BITs

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Nick Stroud, EUCS.

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Contributions to *BITs* are welcomed from all readers.

Copy deadline for March BITs:

Wednesday 13th February