



### IT Support for Conferences

EUCS has reviewed its support for people organising conferences at the University, to meet the increased demand for IT facilities for conference attendees. The previous *ad hoc* arrangements have been formalised and can be found at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/isd/conf/conferences.html>

In brief, we can provide wireless access for attendees in lecture theatres or other spaces where the conference presentations take place, close to that space during meal or other breaks, and (in the future) in the public spaces of Pollock Halls. The service is designed to allow attendees to browse the Internet and reach email at their home site; we will *not* provide email or other server-based facilities for attendees.

We can also provide network access for associated exhibitions.

*Scott Currie (EUCS)*

### EASE into Athens

Students and staff can now access Athens-authenticated online resources through EASE, the Edinburgh Authentication Service. Once you are logged into EASE you can gain direct access to Athens-authenticated databases or e-journals that the University Library subscribes to without the need to remember yet another username and password.

To register with EASE go to <https://www.ease.ed.ac.uk/register/>

Separate Athens accounts will still be available, primarily for people who do not have access to EASE, or who have special features attached to their existing accounts, such as saved search strategies, and these accounts are still subject to annual renewal. Athens accounts created prior to 2nd August 2004 will expire on 31st October 2004; if you need to renew an account go to [http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/databases/athensnew\\_reregistering.shtml](http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/databases/athensnew_reregistering.shtml)

There is more information about EASE and Athens in *Library Online*. Any enquiries about them can be submitted via the enquiry form at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/databases/athensquery.shtml>

*Caroline Stirling (EUL)*

### MyEd arrives this month

The MyEd staff portal is due to be launched on **29th October**. Notification will be sent to staff a few days in advance to confirm the exact login procedure.

Staff who use WebCT should note that MyEd will become their access route. WebCT login pages will be re-directed to the portal with guidance to simplify the transition. Staff using WebCT are strongly encouraged to register for EASE prior to the launch of MyEd to ensure continuity of access; the current method of authentication via the Common Registration System will *not* be available after this date.

To help staff get the most out of MyEd, the MIS project team has scheduled a series of awareness events. These hour-long non-technical events will introduce users to MyEd, including items such as how MyEd can be used and customised, some sample content, how to find further content, service and support, and future development plans, with time available for audience questions. Sessions are open to all staff. If you would like to attend, it would help us to arrange enough sessions if you could note your interest at [http://www.eportal.mis.ed.ac.uk/MyEd/Project/forms/Awareness\\_Events.cfm](http://www.eportal.mis.ed.ac.uk/MyEd/Project/forms/Awareness_Events.cfm)

*Mark Wetton (MIS)*

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## Computing lab enhancements

EUCS has almost completed this year's upgrade of the open-access computing labs, delivering significant improvements even though the Summer vacation was shorter than usual this year. The labs are chiefly used by students, but are also accessible to staff using their universal usernames.

This year over 300 new PCs were installed, with the PCs they replaced being cascaded to Schools. These use the EUCS managed desktop system for maximum resilience and usability. All the Macs have been upgraded to OS X and offer a more modern and stable environment than they did last year.

The most significant work is being done in the Erskine Lab, which has been completely gutted and refurbished since the Library moved out in June. Phase One is now open, with 65 PCs. Phase Two is on schedule to open this month, and will have eight Macs and 150 PCs grouped in user-friendly work areas. There will be two bookable group study rooms each containing six PCs, and when Phase Two is open, Phase One will become a bookable teaching resource.

When this work is complete there will be around a hundred extra computing seats compared with the old labs on the ground and first floors, and students will have 24 hour access.

If you have any enquiries about this new lab please send them to [Mike.Baillie@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Mike.Baillie@ed.ac.uk).

*Mike Baillie (EUCS)*

## Making computers more accessible for disabled users

EUCS Disability Support has launched a new website, at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/disability/>

This has useful information about the IT support services that we offer to disabled staff and students. You can find the locations of the accessible workstations in computer labs around the campus, discover how to adjust your computer to make it more accessible, and browse through our useful web links to further information sources.

EUCS Disability Support can be contacted by email to [Disability.Computing.Support@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Disability.Computing.Support@ed.ac.uk), by telephoning 511197, or by dropping in and asking for us at EUCS Reception on the ground floor of the Main Library building in George Square.

*Esther Turner (EUCS)*

## Online enrolment of students on courses

As I write, Directors of Studies and Programme Directors are in the middle of the new online course enrolment and attendance confirmation processes. This year is the first year in which the option to record course enrolments on paper is not available. It also corresponds with the new academic year, implementation of the revised curriculum, and new registration and attendance confirmation processes aimed at improving the student experience. All in all, a lot of change at one time.

WISARD software had to be modified and enhanced significantly to support the new arrangements. The new software was used extensively for the first time during Freshers' Week. As the load built up during Tuesday morning, it became evident that there was a performance problem with both unacceptable response times being reported by Directors, and with other applications on the main database server running badly. We decided to turn off the finance applications, this being the quickest way to give WISARD greater resource. In parallel, we set about finding out what was causing the load on the machine. On Wednesday morning response times were still poor but we had identified the cause of the problem, a particularly inefficient piece of code that had been a part of WISARD for some years, but which had never been used so exhaustively until the new course enrolments process was introduced. A simple code change was made, tested and introduced into the live system early on the Wednesday afternoon; since then, response times have been very good despite heavy and almost continuous use of the system from 6am to 1am.

Despite the glitch, early indicators are that the new registration, attendance confirmation and course enrolment processes have been successful. Over 19,000 students have registered for the beginning of semester and thus far Directors and other School staff have confirmed online the attendance of over 13,000 students. In addition to course pre-enrolments and seeding, over 10,000 students have been enrolled on an average of 3.2 courses each since the beginning of Freshers' Week. Around 600 staff a day are using WISARD. Importantly, informal student feedback has been excellent. There have been some mixed reactions from Directors to the change in processes, but on the whole once the problems were ironed out, there has been a lot of very positive feedback.

*Simon Marsden (MIS)*

## Customers gain access to the EUCS Call Management System

The EUCS Call Management System is used throughout the University, by Computing Services and most College and School IT staff, for logging and tracking calls for support. The 'Customers' of this service are all University staff and students.

The Call Management System will be available through the MyEd portal when it is launched at the end of this month. This will provide the opportunity for us to open up the CMS to its Customers. Until then, Customers logged into EASE can view Calls entered in their name, simply by clicking on the Call Management System link on the EASE services page, <https://www.ease.ed.ac.uk/services/>

To register with EASE, go to <https://www.ease.ed.ac.uk/register/>

Note that this facility is 'read-only' and is provided to enable Customers to track the progress of any outstanding Calls they have made. Any communication about a Call will still have to be made by email to the Call, or by telephone, *etc.* Closed Calls created on or after 21st July this year can also be viewed, which could be useful for referring back to find the solution for a problem that has recurred.

When in the CMS, any current (*i.e.* non-closed) Calls for which you are the Customer will be displayed, by default, in the main window. Simply click on a Call number to open it and view, for example, the 'Resolution Diary' or any emails that have been generated in the process of seeking a solution to the problem covered by the Call.

To view previously closed Calls, use one of the search links in the blue panel at the left of the main window. Context-sensitive help is available in each CMS window: look for the word 'Help' in the top right for an explanation of that window's purpose and usage.

We hope this facility will be useful to all CMS Customers, and welcome suggestions on how it could be improved. To provide feedback, or for more information or help with the system, please email [cms-service@ed.ac.uk](mailto:cms-service@ed.ac.uk).

*Donald Morse (EUCS)*

## ISG working groups hard at work

### Advisory Group on teaching room infrastructure

The Teaching Room Infrastructure Advisory Group met in August to consider the following issues:

- the most effective ways to manage teaching space infrastructure in centrally bookable teaching spaces. This includes general fabric and fittings as well as A/V and IT infrastructure;
- the resource implications of achieving the above;
- how to work with Colleges, Schools and Estates & Buildings to develop a plan for refurbishing spaces, including rolling upgrades.

Issues currently under discussion are:

- What should be deemed centrally bookable and therefore centrally funded?
- What are the minimum requirements for designated types of space?
- How many are needed in premium, standard or minimum categories?
- What are the implications for new off-site areas?

The Group will report to Professor Anderson and the Space Management Group by the end of October.

### Learning and study spaces report

The committee looking at Learning and Study Spaces has produced a draft report, which is now available on the Knowledge Management Strategy website at <http://www.kmstrategy.ed.ac.uk/>

Comments on the draft report are welcome: please send them to the Vice Principal at [Information.services@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Information.services@ed.ac.uk).

### New Advisory Committee for education technologies

A new Advisory Committee has been set up to examine education and educational technologies for enhanced teaching and learning. Its membership is drawn from ISG, MIS, Registry, all Colleges, TLA and EUSA.

The Committee's primary task is to advise the Knowledge Management Advisory Committee on the most effective ways to expand the use of technology in the academic activities of the University so as to enhance the quality and efficiency of teaching and learning, diversify and extend academic programmes, and provide students with a wider range of learning opportunities.

Related tasks will include ensuring adequate resources for new initiatives, helping Schools and Colleges to exploit them, and monitoring progress. Further details will be provided in due course at <http://www.isg.ed.ac.uk/>

*Helen Hayes (Vice-Principal, ISG)*

## EPCC consolidates Edinburgh's leading role in high performance computing

### Major EU award to commercialise the Grid

The European Commission is investing €52m in twelve research projects which will help to establish grid computing in business and industry. EPCC is coordinating the most ambitious of these initiatives, the €11m NextGRID project.

The idea of the Grid is that computer power is delivered when and where it's wanted, just as electrical power is now. The new European projects will simultaneously stimulate the development of the necessary technological tools to make this possible, and encourage the modification of 'real-world' applications such as climate modelling to take advantage of the new opportunities.

The goal of EPCC's NextGRID project is to develop the next generation of the Grid, by providing the 'middleware' which allows all the components of the Grid to work together harmoniously. This will permit the widespread uptake of the Grid, which is expected to become as ubiquitous – and as essential to business and commerce – as the Web is today.

The new initiative was launched at a European Grid Technology Day in September. Background information about EU Grid research is at <http://www.cordis.lu/ist/grids/>

The NextGRID website is at <http://www.nextgrid.org/>

*Mark Parsons (EPCC)*

### Advanced Computer Facility

Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre has taken over the University's huge old computer room at the Bush Estate and converted it into the Advanced Computer Facility – a new centre for some of the University's computer-based research programmes.

The first significant research system to be located here is the QCDOC system for particle physics research, which EPCC is constructing with purpose-built processors in collaboration with Columbia University and Brookhaven National Laboratory. A new 155 terabyte Storage Area Network (of the sort being considered for the University as a whole) has been installed to handle the vast amounts of data involved in the project, and a 10Gbit connection links the Facility to the national and international networks. The Grid-based 'middleware' which mediates access for the UK-wide research community is being developed by the National eScience Centre in South College Street.

There is further news about these developments and other aspects of high-performance computing in the latest issue of the EPCC newsletter, available at

<http://www.epcc.ed.ac.uk/>

*Mike Brown (EPCC)*

## Condor for high-throughput computing

The goal of the **Condor Project** is to encourage the development of *High Throughput Computing* on collections of distributed computing resources. The Condor system may be deployed on collections of computers (such as in computing labs and training suites) or on compute clusters. Condor is described at <http://www.cs.wisc.edu/condor/>

The National eScience Centre is hosting the inaugural UK Condor Week at its South College Street base from 11th to 15th October, supported by Prof. Miron Livny and the Condor Team from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. You can find out about the five aims of the workshop, and sign up for one or more of the sessions, at <http://www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/events/438/>

During the course of this week there will be a Public Lecture by Miron Livny on the *Democratization of Computing – Opportunities and Responsibilities*, at 4:30pm on 14th October, in the e-Science Institute, 15 South College Street. For information see <http://www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/events/486/>

*Dave Berry (NeSC)*

## Eduserv Research Grants 2004/2005

Eduserv invites brief expressions of interest from suitably qualified academics wishing to undertake research of benefit to UK education. This is the second annual round of funding for Eduserv Research Grants. Eduserv already funds four substantial research projects based at UK universities, as described at <http://www.eduserv.org.uk/foundation/>

This call is for original and innovative research in computer science on the effective use of IT in education, through technical projects in areas such as the use and management of online digital resources, access management systems, and e-learning. Funding is available for a period of up to three years, up to a maximum of £50k per year, and is intended to accommodate, for example, staff replacement costs or additional research resource costs.

If you are interested, please complete the short form at <http://www.eduserv.org.uk/foundation/pubs/resfelint.rtf> and return it to [grants@eduserv.org.uk](mailto:grants@eduserv.org.uk) by 5pm on **20th October 2004**. At this stage you do not need to include a firm commitment to the project by your home institution. Later in the Autumn the Eduserv Foundation will invite formal applications from amongst the initial expressions of interest, and at the end of December, will make offers of funding.

*Annette Lafford (Eduserv Foundation)*

## Library opening hours

Library opening hours have been extended in response to the new academic year, the integration of the Erskine Medical Library into the Main Library, and specific requirements for additional opening hours:

- During Semester (including the Semester Break) and Consolidation & Exams, the Library's 'term-time' opening hours will be as previously on all sites.
- In addition, the Main Library will provide study space until midnight during examinations.

For full details of opening and service hours, see 'Opening Hours' in *Library Online* at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/about/opening/>

*Sheila Cannell (EUL)*

## Rapid access to IT information

Did you know that the University Library subscribes to a service that allows online access to the full-text of 39 IT books from the industry's leading publishers?

Through **Safari bookshelf** it takes just seconds to access IT books from sources you can trust – including O'Reilly, Que, Sams Publishing, Adobe, Macromedia, Microsoft and Cisco Press – often before they are available in print.

The current one-year subscription expires at the end of December, and discussions are taking place about its subsequent funding.

The University Collection in Safari Bookshelf has been tailored to meet local needs, and we are keen to ensure this continues to be the case. Whether you are familiar with the service or new to it, we would like to hear your thoughts on this resource. Please take a look at the Collection (either through searching

or browsing – see below) and let us know if we can improve the selection of titles. It is possible to exchange books within the Collection, and your feedback allows us to keep it current and relevant.

Safari Bookshelf offers a variety of options to help you find what you are looking for. To find books in the University Collection, use the **Basic** or **Advanced Search** to search every book in the collection cover to cover, or simply browse the collection by clicking on the **My Bookshelf** tab. Safari saves details of your recent search history.

You are then given two options for viewing the results that match your search criteria. If you wish to read around the subject, you can **View by Book** to see which books are most relevant to your query and the most relevant sections within each book. If you are looking for quick answers, the **View by Section** option gives you a short abstract allowing you to decide whether or not the book is likely to answer your query.

If a book is in the University Collection, every page is available in full-text and includes table of contents, glossaries, prefaces and graphical elements (including screenshots, diagrams and script). In addition, each instance of your search criteria is highlighted in the text. You can choose to read books from cover to cover, or simply flip to the page you need.

Safari Bookshelf includes a range of features that allow you to share information with colleagues quickly and easily, including printing, emailing and bookmarking features.

To search online from a University computer go to <http://proquest.safaribooksonline.com/?unicode=Edinburgh>

To gain access when off campus,

go via the Proxy Cache, using your universal username and password; see <http://webhelp.ucs.ed.ac.uk/docs/proxycache.html>

*Sarah Kelly (EUL)*

## IEEE/IEE Electronic Library growing

The IEEE/IEE Electronic Library – IEL – provides access to the full text of almost a third of the world's current electrical engineering and computer science literature, featuring high-quality content from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE).

The Library has subscribed to the IEL since November 2001 and the collection just keeps growing. In the last 18 months it has increased by more than 25%, including the addition of more than 80,000 archival backfile documents from 1950 to 1987, bringing the total number of documents now available to over 1,071,730.

The collection includes 121 journals and magazines, more than 400 conference proceedings each year, 900 active technology standards published by the IEEE, and a range of journals and magazines published by the IEE, including *Electronics Letters* and *IEE Proceedings*.

Features include advanced searching, searching by author, email alerting, and linking directly from the relevant records in the EUL Catalogue.

You can access this major resource at <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/>

If you want to use this from off campus you will need a password, which you can get from <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/secure/accounts.html>

*Sarah Kelly (EUL)*

## Have a break: have an eBreak...

eBreaks are lunchtime sessions for any University staff interested in using technology in teaching and learning, and the issues around eLearning at an institutional, departmental and individual level.

eBreaks happen on Monday lunchtimes in the Wolfson Suite in the Main Library, George Square starting at 12.30. The normal format is to have a short presentation or case study from an invited speaker, followed by an opportunity for discussion in a round-table setting (we invite you to bring your lunch!). No need to book – just come along.

The use of WebCT in a variety of types of course and contexts will form one of a number of themes for the series, which will run on most Monday lunchtimes throughout the Academic Year. Dates for eBreaks in 2004 are 27th September, 4th October, 25th October, 1st November, 8th November, 15th November, and 6th December. There will be further sessions in 2005.

Details are provided at <http://www.elearn.malts.ed.ac.uk/issues/news/ebreaks.phtml>

If this area is important to you, we would be very grateful if you would take a few minutes to complete our online questionnaire – whether or not you will be able to attend any eBreaks; this is at <http://www.elearn.malts.ed.ac.uk/issues/news/quest/>

For more information about any of our activities to support eLearning, email [ellearnhelp@ed.ac.uk](mailto:ellearnhelp@ed.ac.uk) or check the events page at <http://www.elearn.malts.ed.ac.uk/>

*Wilma Alexander (MALTS)*

## Organisational Hierarchy: what's it all about?

Every year since restructuring in 2002, Colleges and Support Groups have produced an agreed description of the University's structure – the *Organisational Hierarchy*.

Each unit has an agreed formal name, and a unique code which reflects the 'level' of the unit in the Hierarchy. Colleges and Support Groups are level 2 units, with codes in the form 'HSS' and 'ISG'; Schools and main Administrative departments are level 4 units, with codes such as 'S43' (School of Chemistry) and 'P52' (Library). The coding and formal descriptions have been developed for use in the University's databases and data systems, so that the various types of information which the University produces can be structured, retrieved and collated on a single straightforward basis.

This structure provides major benefits across-the-board, by producing useful information for both devolved and central management of the University, and ultimately will enable linkages across different datasets for the straightforward production of information to answer queries. For example, the Hierarchy allows you to ask for the postgraduate student headcount, academic staff headcount and research grant income for the School of Geosciences (S4B) and to be confident that the information from the three different databases relates to exactly the same part of the University.

The concept is clear when viewed schematically. The Organisational Hierarchy for 2004/05 is a secure java-based webpage at <https://www.org.planning.ed.ac.uk/browser/>

The Hierarchy has been implemented in the major corporate databases – staff, student, finance, *etc.* Its wider use with databases across the University is now being encouraged. To enable this, two XML files describing the current Hierarchy are available at <http://www.planning.ed.ac.uk/edin/OrgHier/XMLupdates.htm>

Further information is available at <http://www.planning.ed.ac.uk/edin/OrgHier/OHhome.htm>

For queries about the structure of the Hierarchy, ask your College or Support Group OrgHier Contact (see <http://www.planning.ed.ac.uk/edin/OrgHier/contacts.htm>).

Queries about the Organisational Hierarchy project as a whole should be addressed to [Judith.Miller@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Judith.Miller@ed.ac.uk).

Technical advice on using the XML files is available from the MIS Service Desk (email [misusers@ed.ac.uk](mailto:misusers@ed.ac.uk)).

*Judith Miller (Planning)*

## Charges for EUCS facilities and services

The charges for facilities and services provided by EUCS are reviewed at the start of each session, and the latest set have just been published at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/EUCS/charges.html>

These cover such aspects as use of central Unix services, access to EdLAN, printing charges and course fees, and are at three different levels for Schools, University-related organisations, and the commercial sector.

*Scott Currie (EUCS)*

## Data Library News

### Cronos

The *Eurostat New Cronos data* is available from ESDS International via the new Beyond 20/20 Web Data Server. *New Cronos* contains high quality macroeconomic and social statistics time series data from 1960 onwards for the 25 European Union (EU) Member states and in many cases for the central European countries, Japan, the United States and the main economic partners of the EU. Academic users have to register with ESDS to gain free access.

### Mosaic

The Data Library has acquired *2004 Mosaic Scotland* and *2004 Mosaic United Kingdom* data from Experian for use in research, learning and teaching. MOSAIC, normally used for profiling neighbourhoods as a marketing tool, is a classification system that divides Great Britain into postcode-based neighbourhood types. For further information please contact the Data Library (email [datalib@ed.ac.uk](mailto:datalib@ed.ac.uk)).

### Agricultural Census data

A new EDINA agcensus service is launched on 1st October to provide online access to grid square data derived from Agricultural Censuses. The Agricultural Census is conducted in June each year in England, Scotland and Wales by the government departments dealing with Agriculture and Rural Affairs. Each farmer declares the agricultural activity on the land via a postal questionnaire. The respective government departments collect the 150 items of data and publish information relating to farm holdings for recognised geographies.

Edinburgh University Data Library has developed algorithms to convert the data for recognised geographies, obtained from the government departments, into grid square estimates of agricultural production. These can be visualised or downloaded in ASCII delimited format at various resolutions from as far back as 1969.

Access to the data is free to members of subscribing academic institutions via Athens authentication. The service is also available to subscribing non-academic institutions (commercial, research, policy) and to individuals on a per-project basis.

For further information including information on cost and site licences contact EDINA at [edina@ed.ac.uk](mailto:edina@ed.ac.uk) or visit <http://edina.ed.ac.uk/agcensus/>

*Stuart Macdonald (Data Library)*

## Withdrawal of Apple Remote Access

It is proposed that support for Apple Remote Access Protocol (ARAP) on the EdLAN Dial-up Service will be removed on 1st December 2004. This is because there has been no measurable usage of ARAP for several months.

Also note that, in line with the closure of Netware services, dialup Netware support will cease on 1st September 2005.

Please email [j.leitch@ed.ac.uk](mailto:j.leitch@ed.ac.uk) if the withdrawal of ARAP will cause you any problem.

*Jim Leitch (EUCS)*

## The managed Desktop

News of the EUCS Managed Desktop service, anticipated in last month's issue of *BITs*, has been held over until next month, with apologies.

*(Editor)*

## Procurement News

### New website

The Procurement Office, incorporating Printing Services, has a new website, which complies with the new Freedom of Information requirements. Please visit regularly to get the latest news, advice and information, at <http://www.pps.ed.ac.uk/>

Suppliers can now expect to see all the University's tendering opportunities here.

If you are considering procuring anything over £25,000, please contact the Procurement Office to ensure that the tender gets published as required.

### Procurement project files

We are implementing a web-based, procurement-process document management service (In-Tend) for major EU and other tenders, to be launched next January.

We will have standard project files and documents, and easy access for academic colleagues to see their procurement project documents ongoing and after completion, to allow us all to deal better with any enquiries under Freedom of Information or for research funding bodies audit.

New procurement projects we support during November may be asked to test this system.

### Authorisation for purchasing

A new web-based form for authorised buyers will be released as soon as a revised policy on delegation of authorisation is approved, hopefully this month: watch our news pages at <http://www.pps.ed.ac.uk/news/>

*Karen Bowman (Procurement)*

## BCS meetings in October

There are two public meetings in October organised by the local branch of the British Computer Society:

- *The Chinook incident and safety-critical software*, by Karl Schneider of *Computer Weekly*, on 6th October;
- *Career Builder*, by a speaker from BCS HQ, and *How Graduates for Growth can help you*, by Louise Ewart, on 27th October.

Both meetings will start at 6:30pm at the RPSGB, 36 York Place. Further details are provided at <http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/>

*David Muxworthy (BCS)*

## Course vacancies

Places are still available on the following courses run by EUCS:

- 5th October: *Creating Accessible Websites*
- 5th October: *Introduction to Outlook 2003*
- 6th October: *PowerPoint for Mac Users – a new course*
- 11th October: *Advanced Outlook 2003*

Full details of all EUCS courses, including vacancies, are provided at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/iss/courses/>

*Fiona Kneale (EUCS)*

## Mapping courses

Places are available on forthcoming EUCS training courses organised by the Data Library, in online mapping (Digimap) and thematic mapping (GIS). These are free to staff and postgraduates of the University; you simply need to register in advance. The courses are:

- 13th October (am): *Using EDINA Digimap*
- 7th December (am): *Using EDINA Digimap*

- 7th December (pm): *Using spatial data in a desktop GIS; ArcGIS 8.3*

To book a place on a course, go to <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/iss/courses/booking.shtml>

The half-day Digimap courses use the EDINA Digimap online service (which has recently had new mapping datasets added to it), to make a map, save and print it, use the advanced services such as Gazetteer, understand Ordnance Survey grid references, use Digimap Carto to create customised large-format maps online, and to download Ordnance Survey vector and raster data.

The afternoon GIS course focuses on practical issues of importing spatial data into particular desktop mapping packages and adding attribute data to a base map. Topics include an introduction to GIS, converting data for import, thematic mapping (adding point data), merging datasets, and making choropleth maps from Census data.

*Emma Sutton (EDINA)*

## How do you search?

The CREE Project at Hull University, funded by JISC, the UK's Joint Information Systems Committee, is researching user preferences for conducting library resource and Internet searches, to inform the development of next-generation Internet and library search tools.

If you use Internet and library search tools, please complete the short questionnaire (taking less than ten minutes, and giving you a chance to win an iPod music player or Amazon vouchers) at <http://www.learndev.hull.ac.uk/creesurvey/>

The closing date is **18th October**. Thanks for taking part!

*Chris Awre (CREE Project Manager)*

## Happy retirement, Bill!



EUCS last month bid farewell to Bill Peacock, the storeman/driver who for many years has helped to keep things running smoothly behind the scenes. We wish Bill a long and happy retirement!

*(Editor)*

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