

Scottish Declaration on Open Access

The 16 Scottish universities have joined together to commit firmly to open-access publishing.

All the universities will set up online libraries to contain their research output and doctoral theses, as Edinburgh is already doing with its Research Archive ERA. The principle behind this initiative is that the research was funded by the public in the first place, so its results should be freely available to the public. As well as the universities, funders of research are considering how best to encourage this open access development.

The Science and Technology Committee in the House of Commons recently expressed concern at the cost to the taxpayer of the rising cost of academic publication, but was unable to suggest a solution.

The Scottish initiative will help to raise the visibility of Scottish research: there is evidence, from the rate of citation, that open access articles are read more than conventionally-published ones, which should in turn lead to wider recognition of the quality of Scottish research, and hopefully more investment in it.

There are further details of this collaboration on the CPA website at <http://www.cpa.ed.ac.uk/release/?FMRecord=1148>

This is one of the achievements of the Open Access Team for Scotland, whose website is at <http://scurl.ac.uk/WG/OATS/>

You can explore the Edinburgh Research Archive at

<http://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

Sheila Cannell (EUL)

Director of Digital Curation

The University is very happy to welcome Chris Rusbridge as Director of the Digital Curation Centre.



Chris comes with a wealth of experience, most recently having been Director of Information Services at the University of Glasgow from 2000, where he was responsible for the Library and Archives together with the Computing Service, Management Information Systems and Media Services.

In the previous five years Chris was programme director of the JISC Electronic Libraries Programme (eLib), a £20M national digital library research and development programme, which included a significant element of digital preservation. Before this, Chris was the IT Director at the University of Dundee, in charge of academic Computing Services at the University of South Australia and its predecessor, and a manager of major development projects for ICL and for the South Australian Hospitals Department.

Helen Hayes (Information Services)

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April Fool!

Everything in the April issue of *BITs* is completely genuine, but other publications may not be so scrupulous. You can see a 'top 100' list of April Fools at <http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/>

(Editor)

Developments in Information Services

Common Services Working Group

At its February meeting the IT Committee agreed to set up a working group to look at the issues concerned with locally-based workarounds and duplicated systems. The ITC paper describing the background to this is at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/ucsinfo/cttees/itc/2005-02-23/paperC.html>

Knowledge Management

The ranked list of the 2005 'Must-do Milestones', as chosen by the entire University, is now available on the Knowledge management website at <http://www.kmstrategy.ed.ac.uk/>

Far and away the most popular items are improvements in admissions, curriculum and student records services, and maintenance of budgets for books and journals (both print and electronic).

E-learning Project Fund

The deadline for submission of bids for the E-learning Project fund is 5pm on **Wednesday 20th April 2005**. Further information and forms are available at <http://www.e-learning.ed.ac.uk/>

IS Disability Audit Coordinator

In conjunction with the Disability Office, Information Services will be making a temporary appointment to the post of Disability Audit Coordinator to coordinate and publish disability audit information within Information Services, so that compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (Part IV) is understood and adhered to for existing and future services. The post will be advertised internally as a secondment.

Helen Hayes (Information Services)

Support for reading/writing difficulties

Read&Write is software which provides help to computer users who have reading and writing difficulties, such as dyslexia. It can read text aloud, help with the construction of words and sentences, check spelling, and assist with essay preparation.

The University has a site licence for Read&Write GOLD and plans to provide it in the open-access Computing Labs for the coming academic year. Catherine Jones, Esther Turner and Robert Gormley of Disability Computing Support have recently become Certified Trainers for Read&Write 7.1 GOLD.

Read&Write is described at <http://www.texthelp.com/>

Enquiries about this software, and assistive technologies in general, may be made to EUCS Disability Computing Support (email DOCS@ed.ac.uk, tel 511197, on the Web at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/disability/>).

Robert Gormley (EUCS)

New service from Printing

The University's printers are offering a new service to complement their traditional printing and photocopying services: envelope filling.

Printing Services, at 13 Infirmary Street, can now offer machine insertion of leaflets, letters *etc* into envelopes, closed and delivered to the post room or returned to you. More complex material such as promotional and communication publications can be inserted by hand.

Other enhancements mean that leaflets, letters, invitations and other documents can be personalised, in colour or mono, and addresses printed on any size of envelope.

If you would like your School or Unit to benefit from this complete 'One Stop Shop' service, please contact Stuart McLean (email Stuart.McLean@ed.ac.uk) or Janet Dalgarno (email Janet.Dalgarno@ed.ac.uk).

You can find out about the entire range of printing services at <http://www.pps.ed.ac.uk/about/printing/>
Stuart McLean (Printing)

Introduction to international data

The Data Library is hosting a training event for time series data users in the Wolfson Suite on 19th April, from 1pm to 5 pm. The course will be taught by Celia Russell, from Manchester.

Introduction to the ESDS International Databanks is aimed at postgraduate students, researchers, data librarians and teaching staff from the social sciences. It will give an in-depth guide to the resources available through ESDS International, which is a specialist data service of the Economic and Social Data Service providing online access to the major databanks produced by international governmental organisations such as the World Bank and United Nations. Access to the service is free for staff and students of UK academic institutions.

The course has a particular emphasis on the service's extensive data portfolio, introducing the structure, content and research potential of the international databanks, and providing practical experience in accessing, exploring and visualising the data using Beyond 20/20 and CommonGIS in hands-on sessions. A brief overview of the Economic and Social Data Service as a whole is included.

There are no pre-requisites for the course and attendance is free. For further information contact datalib@ed.ac.uk.

To register, go to <http://www.esds.ac.uk/International/support/teach.asp>

Robin Rice (Data Library)

The University on the Web

The University will soon embark on a major development of its website.

The Principal's Strategy Group initiated a planning and options project by consultants Siemens Business Services (formally BBC Technology) to evaluate and advise on the strategic development of the site. The project took place from October to December, and a summary of the report, highlighting the key findings and recommendations, is available at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/webpub/redevelopment/>

The next step is to draw up a detailed Statement of Requirements, which will require technical and business needs analysis, and will report on:

- Polopoly's capacity to host the new web presence;
- a design specification procedure;
- an assessment of the skills and capacity available to do the work required;
- issues of workflow, authorisation, ownership and responsibility for content;
- migrating from old to new.

Bryan Martin (EUCS)

Progress with Polopoly

We have been making good progress towards implementing the Polopoly Web Content Management System (see articles in the January and September issues of *BITS*).

The system has been integrated with the EASE service (<https://www.ease.ed.ac.uk/>), so you will be able to use your EASE username and password to log in and edit web pages. This also paves the way for integration with the MyEd portal (<https://www.myed.ed.ac.uk/>).

The first website will be migrated into the system after the Easter break: the School of Divinity's website design has been successfully duplicated, including multi-level navigation menus and stylesheets; the next tasks are to copy across the pages and familiarise staff with the system. We expect to start work soon on helping to move several other Schools' and Units' websites into the WCMS.

We have given several presentations, with mostly positive feedback, and some useful ideas for enhancements. If you would like to see the system for yourself, contact us to arrange a presentation, or explore our small demonstration website, by emailing wcms.support@ed.ac.uk. We will need to know your Universal Username in order to authorise you, and you must have registered with the EASE service. There is a brief user guide to get you started, on the project website at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/projects/wcms/>

Charlotte Moon (EUCS)

(Simon Marsden will be speaking about the University Website Redevelopment project, and Charlotte Moon will be demonstrating Polopoly, at the May meeting of the MIS Web Clinic; for details contact Rose.Dewar@ed.ac.uk. Editor)

Informatics Jamboree

This year's Informatics Jamboree takes place on 25th and 26th April; for the programme (including a link to ceilidh instructions) see

<http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/events/jamboree/2005/>

One of the highlights will be the 2005 Milner Lecture: Dr Gérard Huet, of INRIA, will speak on 'Functional Foundations for Web Services', at 5:15pm on 26th April, in the Reid Concert Hall, Bristo Square. This is a public lecture, open to all. Details are given at <http://www.lfcs.informatics.ed.ac.uk/milner/>

Diana Sisu (Informatics)

AI conference: IJCAI-05

The Nineteenth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence takes place in Edinburgh from 30th July to 5th August 2005. The deadline for early registration and accommodation is 21st May. Full information is provided at <http://www.ijcai-05.org/>

The conference itself takes place in the EICC from 2nd to 5th August, and is preceded by three days of tutorials and workshops in the University. The event is hosted by the British Computer Society Specialist Group on Artificial Intelligence and the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh.

Peter King (BCS)

Conference: The Digital Object

This meeting will tackle the challenges of presenting objects on the Web, following the themes of visualisation, interpretation and sustainability.

UK Museums and the Web 2005 is on 21st April at the University of Leicester. Full details are provided at http://www.museumscomputergroup.org.uk/meetings/1_2005.htm

Mike Lowndes (Nottingham)

Eduserv Foundation Symposium

Many for Many: Collaborative e-Resource Development and Use

27th April, London

The first Eduserv Foundation Symposium will bring together teaching and learning staff, researchers and managers in a group of seminars addressing the collaborative development and distributed reuse of e-learning resources.

For further information about the Symposium and to book a place please visit <http://www.eduserv.org.uk/foundation/symposium/>

Annette Lafford (Eduserv)

Software News

Uniras agreement to end

The CHEST Uniras agreement is due for renewal at the end of March 2006. Uniras has provided exceptionally good-value software for scientific graphics to the UK university community for nearly 20 years, and when the agreement was signed there was nothing of similar price for the Unix platform. Usage of the software has dropped over the years and the port of the software to the PC platform was too late to be taken up. The original interactive packages – Unigraph, Unimap and Uniedit – are no longer used, and the new interactive package Gsharp is used by only a handful of people. No monitoring has been done of the Toolmaster routine libraries, but their use is not believed to be great.

It seems unlikely to be cost-effective for the University to sign up to Uniras beyond the end of March 2006. All existing and prospective users of the Toolmaster/Uniras software suite, either on **holyrood** or other platforms, are invited to email J.Blair-Fish@ed.ac.uk with any concerns and to discuss alternatives.

John Blair-Fish (EUCS)

Notice: GLIM and Genstat

This is a reminder that GLIM and Genstat will no longer be part of the University's NAG Chest site licence when it is renewed in July. This means that they will no longer be available on **holyrood**, and annually-rented Windows versions will not be renewed.

Glim can be purchased directly from NAG, <http://www.nag.co.uk/>

Genstat is now provided by VSN (<http://www.vsn.com/>) and personal copies at education prices can be bought through

<http://www.adept4education.co.uk/>

Frances Provan (EUCS)

Software for Students

Students can buy and download personal copies of Microsoft software, for Windows only, at <http://www.studentoptions.com/>

There is more information about software offers for students at http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/student_offers.shtml

Frances Provan (EUCS)

Systat

Chest is offering an extended free trial of Systat software products (including Systat, Sigmaplot, Sigmastat etc). Full details are provided at <http://www.systat.com/>

Find out more by emailing EUCS.Software.Service@ed.ac.uk or from the Chest Messenger article at <http://www.eduserv.org.uk/chest/messenger/messo9-03-05.html>

Frances Provan (EUCS)

'winmail.dat' on a Mac

Microsoft Outlook sends email attachments in a proprietary format called TNEF. This is interpreted transparently for other Outlook users, but not in Outlook Express, and not on Macs, where the attachment appears as a file called 'winmail.dat'. A utility called 'Enough TNEF' can extract the attachments, and is available for Mac OS 9 and OS X from <http://www.joshjacob.com/macdev/tnef/>

Nick Stroud (EUCS)

Virtual training courses for Arc

Our ESRI/Chest site licence for Arc products gives us access to 'Virtual Training Courses' for Arc products such as ArcGIS and ArcView. Most of these courses are free and open to all University staff and students.

To find out about Arc's 'Virtual Learning', and the courses available, please visit <http://campus.esri.com/>

If you would like to enrol for a course, please email the course details to Joyce.Anderson@ed.ac.uk.

Joyce Anderson (EUCS)

IT in the Science Festival

Edinburgh's Science Festival will appeal most to parents of young children who like gooey, noisy distractions, but includes a couple of items of a more thoughtful, IT bent:

2nd April, 4pm, Museum:

Cyberlaw – who controls access to ideas on the net?

10th April, 4pm, Museum:

What supercomputers can bring to life (Arthur Trew, EPCC)

The Science Festival website is at

<http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk/>

Nick Stroud (EUCS)

Holiday this month

The Edinburgh Spring Holiday is on **Monday 18th April**. The Main Library will be open from 10am to 5pm; most other sites will be closed. All staffed services provided by EUCS will be closed. The open-access labs in the Main Library will be available, with a Supervisor on duty. Students will also be able to use the 24-hour High School Yards and KB Centre labs. (See 'opening hours' in *Library Online*.)

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Contributions to *BITS* are welcomed.

Copy deadline for May *BITS*:

Friday 15th April