

## **BITs takes on a new role**

As *BITs* enters its 16th year of publication it is evolving slightly. It has always published news with an IT focus from all parts of Information Services, but from now on this will be its formal remit as the main IT publication for the Library, MALTS, the Data Library and the Digital Curation Centre, in addition to Computing Services. We will of course continue to include items from MIS and anyone else in the University who is using computers and other technology to improve our work.

A new logo has been created for Information Services internal publications, and *BITs* has been redesigned to adopt it. You will notice the IS logo starting to be used in various other ways and places around the University, as the work of all the IS units is integrated and streamlined.

*Helen Hayes (Information Services)*

*(BITs remains an economical two-colour publication as it has been for many years, albeit with two different colours. It is printed by the University's excellent Printing Services. Editor)*



## **Review of Information Services**

Information Services is committed to a programme of self review and external review aimed at improving our support for research, learning and teaching. This enables us to develop greater self-awareness and to acknowledge the perceptions of others so that we can put greater effort where it is needed most. We are currently reviewing our activities and progress in the following areas:

- The Information Services Plan and individual plans for IT (both EUCS and MIS), Library and MALTS (e-learning) in relation to our mission.
- Integration of IT, Library and e-learning activities.
- Our interactions with other groups in the University, such as MALTS with TLA, and EUCS with MIS and College IT groups.
- The structure of Information Support Services to achieve our vision.

The review will take place in October 2005, and as part of the review process we invite you to let us know what you think about the activities listed above. Please send comments to [jo.hamill@ed.ac.uk](mailto:jo.hamill@ed.ac.uk) by midday on 28th September 2005 so that they can be collated and sent to the reviewers.

*Helen Hayes (Information Services)*

## **CTS move**

Communication and Training Services – the group which arranges IT training courses, documentation and publicity – has moved from the Main Library to 19 Buccleuch Place. News of enhanced services will appear in *BITs* in coming months.

*Jean Ritchie (EUCS)*

## **Twenty years in data**

If you like backward glances to see how far computing has come in how short a time, you might enjoy Alison Bayley's reflections on 20 years with the Data Library, at <http://edina.ac.uk/news/newsline10-2/bayley.shtml>

*Paul Milne (EDINA)*

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## Upgrades to EdLAN connections

The links comprising the backbone of EdLAN, the University's computer network, use Gigabit Ethernet which runs at 1Gbps – 1,000,000,000 bits per second. A few Schools have connections to the backbone which operate at this speed, but most School networks are connected at one tenth of it.

For many reasons we need to plan for increasing this speed: the advent of storage consolidation, for example for the new College servers, the introduction of Storage Area Networks and bandwidth-intensive research activity, and the increasing requirement for remote management of systems. Indeed, several applications are now driving the requirement to exceed 100Mbps. Therefore, towards the end of the last financial year, funding was made available to upgrade most of the remaining School network connections to Gigabit Ethernet.

In most cases the current upgrade is limited to the connection between the EdLAN backbone and the closest switch in the School network, including upgrading or replacement of that switch if necessary. Some Schools are likely to want to upgrade other parts of their local network to take full advantage of the higher speed connection to the backbone.

Related projects already in progress or completed are an upgrade of the EdLAN core to increase the number of 1Gbps interfaces, and the connection of the EUCS-managed open-access Computing Labs at 1Gbps.

It has not been possible to apply the upgrade to all areas, for a number of reasons: some Schools and other areas already have suitable connectivity, others require upgrade to the wiring installation (under the re-wiring programme), and there are others where planning considerations or network structure make it difficult to identify useful simple upgrades.

It has been difficult to consult with Schools in the earlier stages of the project, because of the timing of the required spending. Most of the equipment has already been purchased, and the timing of work for each School is being planned. Work, which will require minimal disruption to service, will be timed to avoid clearing and registration, and is expected to be completed well within the first semester.

Full details of the project timetable and progress are provided at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/nsd/SchoolGig/>

If you would like to discuss the timing or the exact details of the upgrade, please contact Sam Wilson (email [Sam.Wilson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Sam.Wilson@ed.ac.uk), tel 504979).

*Sam Wilson, George Howat (EUCS)*

## Computer security

When you are using the University network and the Internet it is important that you have confidence in the security of your computer, and in the personal information stored on it and other University systems.

Daily there are more and more threats to your work and home computers to be avoided – more attempts to acquire your personal details fraudulently for identity theft and profit, more viruses (which disrupt your computer), and spyware (which records what you are doing). Security affects you directly, even if your computer is a University Managed Desktop! Good practice reduces the potential for the spread of malicious software and protects both you and, indirectly, your colleagues.

A new section of the EUCS website describes the various aspects of computer security, and provides or points at advice. This can be a technically complex area, but we have attempted to describe the major threats and preventive measures in a readily understandable fashion, with links to more detail.

Note that simplification does not mean this is a trivial problem. It is vital that you understand fully the implication of using computers attached to any network, and take responsibility to protect yourself.

The website is at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/security/>

Comments and suggestions are welcome; there are feedback links on the website.

*George Howat, Jack McAulay (EUCS)*

## Improving email security

Starting on 5th September, EUCS will block incoming mail connections across the University network boundary, unless they are going to designated IP addresses, in accordance with the University's security policy on electronic mail. This will help to reduce the burden of unwanted 'spam' messages reaching University users.

We have identified the services which require direct connections from outwith the University, though would always recommend that incoming mail should be routed through the University mail relays so that the most up-to-date spam filtering is automatically applied, reducing the University's exposure to the Internet.



*Brian Gilmore (EUCS)*

## Training to keep your files in order

Are your files unruly? Do you tear your hair out searching for THAT document? Are you baffled by DP, FOI and EISR? If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes', the Records Management Section training programme can help!

The training programme includes briefing and training sessions for all University staff, as well as more detailed training for committee secretaries, and for the University's information practitioners. Whether you want a short briefing session on the implications of data protection, freedom of information or records management tailored to the needs of your unit, or you need detailed training on how to establish records management procedures, the Records Management Section training programme has something for you.

We are offering dates for our full range of training courses from September 2005. We will be re-running all of our most popular courses, including 'Introduction to Records Management: Principles and Practice,' and will be introducing updated training for new practitioners 'Practitioner Induction: Freedom of Information'.

Previous course participants have commented that they are "better equipped to understand the basics of FOI request handling, what my responsibilities are and who I can go to for help", that they "will now be able to put a proper sorting/filing system into place so that a retention schedule policy can be implemented," and that the course was "very useful" and included "helpful hints on how to keep things right."

To find out more about the training programme please see <http://www.recordsmanagement.ed.ac.uk/InfoStaff/Training/Training.htm>

Alternatively you can contact the Records Management Section (email [recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk](mailto:recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk)).

Anne Thompson  
(Records Management)

## e-Science Institute changing Introduction to Themes

The e-Science Institute – eSI – forms part of the activity of the National e-Science Centre. Its mission is to provide an international centre of research-led excellence in order to stimulate invention and exploitation of e-Science methods and technologies, as described at <http://www.esi.ac.uk/>

eSI has four years of experience in stimulating and organising events for the UK's e-Science community and of hosting visitors who interact with that community. The initial programme at eSI was shaped by the pressing need to form the UK's e-Science community across all disciplines, to help it develop an understanding of the challenges and available solutions, and to develop skills. That responsive programme has been very successful: during its four years, eSI has run an average of seven events a month, attracted over 10,500 delegates, clocked up 24,000 delegate days, and made over 3,000 talks and papers available on its website. Seven long-term researchers and 39 visitors have been associated with the Institute for periods of six months to a year. All have made significant contributions to the research activity of the UK e-Science programme and to the event programme of the Institute. This responsive mode will continue while there remains a need for a rapid response to community issues.

At the same time both the community and its needs are evolving, so the main thrust of eSI's work is changing to focus on longer-term and research-centred topics. This is being achieved by running *themes* that develop a topic over a period of six months to a year, through a series of workshops and meetings at eSI and elsewhere. Researchers who are interested in the topic and who want to collaborate on the work will be invited to apply to the visitor programme at eSI.

A call for suggested theme topics will be made on a regular basis (the latest is this month, but proposals can be made at any time). The selection of topics will be on the recommendation of the eSI Scientific Advisory Board. Themes will be developed by a 'Theme Leader' who is in effect a long-term funded visitor at eSI. For further details on all aspects of our themed programme, please visit our website at <http://www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/themes/>

We are delighted to announce that the first identified theme on 'Information Services for Smart Decision Making' is already under way, led by Dr Jennifer Schopf who has been a long-term visitor at eSI from Argonne National Laboratory.

The second theme, on 'Exploiting Diverse Sources of Scientific Data,' is currently in preparation and is initially being led by Malcolm Atkinson. To develop this theme fully, *we are looking for a Theme Leader* who has the knowledge and interest to develop this topic to its full capability (see the call on page 6).

Anna Kenway (e-Science Institute)



## Welcome to the 18th Century!

*ECCO – Eighteenth Century Collections Online* – is a large full-text electronic resource, and it is now available at the University of Edinburgh, both on and off campus.

*ECCO* features 150,000 printed works comprising every significant English-language and foreign-language title published in the UK between 1701 and 1800, along with thousands of important works from the Americas. The titles are based on *The Eighteenth Century English Short Title Catalogue*. A wealth of original material is included in *ECCO* – from books and broadsides, Bibles, tract books and sermons to printed ephemera – with works by many well-known and lesser-known individuals.

Together with the resources available from *EEBO*, *Early English Books Online*, there is now online access to 275,000 books published in the British Isles and abroad for the British market from 1475 to 1800. Eventually a bibliographic record for every title in both collections will appear in the Library Catalogue.

### Access

Authentication is not required on campus. Off campus, access is via EASE/Athens (please see the Athens service update at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/databases/athens.shtml>).

For enquiries about using *ECCO*, or other Library electronic resources, please use the online enquiry form at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/databases/eisquery cms.shtml>

For more information about e-books provided by the Library, see <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/collections/ebooks/>

*Shenxiao Tong (EUL)*

## Library Catalogue upgraded

The Library Catalogue was upgraded during August to enable it to display special characters found in non-Roman scripts like Chinese and Arabic. At the same time, improvements have been made to the main search interface and to usability throughout. These include clearer, more legible fonts and thumbnail images to highlight e-resources.

The Catalogue has been moved to more powerful hardware, and new versions of the operating system and database management software. This should enhance both performance and reliability.

The Catalogue is normally available 24 hours a day, with a break of about 20 minutes at 10:15pm (GMT/BST) for regular maintenance.

The Catalogue is at <http://catalogue.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

*Steve Scott (EUL)*

## Ejournals at Edinburgh

### New one-stop shop for information

Over the last few years libraries have faced the growing challenge of providing timely information about the increasing range of ejournals available from a wide variety of sources. The content of these collections has grown dramatically, and is more dynamic and diverse than the print equivalents, placing a growing pressure on libraries to try to maintain accurate data.

This last academic year saw some improvement in the provision of this information, with the generation of the ejournals A-Z list from the catalogue database, but over the Summer the Library has taken a further step by outsourcing work on the maintenance of ejournals holdings information to a service called Serials Solutions. This type of service is increasingly used by libraries to help maintain bibliographic, holdings, and links information for ejournals.

For the first time the ejournals list will include comprehensive information about individual titles available within full-text databases – such as Business Source Premier, PCI Full Text – as well as the growing number of open-access ejournals available via the Directory of Open Access Journals.

At Edinburgh this important new service is being implemented in two phases. Phase 1 will provide an ejournals portal, similar to the present ejournals A-Z list. Phase 2 will provide updated records for the Library catalogue, which will match the information in the ejournals portal. The new service will continue to develop during this year, and we very much welcome feedback. For information about the service please check <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/collections/serials/ejintro.shtml>

Please send us feedback via the form at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/databases/eisquery cms.shtml>

*Liz Stevenson (EUL)*

## The Library's information screens

The new plasma information screens in the Main Library – mentioned in last month's *BITs* – are in service, now that various technical difficulties have been overcome. (Only one of the screens was supplied by Youth Media, not all three as stated in the *BITs* article.)

*Pam Clouston (EUL)*



## New electronic resources

The Library has licensed a number of new electronic resources, including some journal backfile collections and reference works. In some cases, the content has been licensed in perpetuity.

- **Annual Reviews**  
<http://www.annualreviews.org/>  
Following the recent subscription to the current collection, the complete back files have been licensed.
- **JSTOR**  
<http://www.jstor.org/about/collection.list.html>  
A further three collections have been licensed from JSTOR, meaning the University now has access to all of the current collections from JSTOR: Arts & Sciences, Biological Sciences, Business, General Science, Language and Literature, Mathematics and Statistics, Music. The current agreement with JISC runs until July 2006.
- **PCI Full Text Collections 1 & 2**  
<http://pcift.chadwyck.co.uk/>  
PCI (Periodicals Contents Index) Full Text is already licensed on an annual basis. Collections 1 & 2 have been licensed in perpetuity.
- **Referex Engineering**  
<http://www.ei.org/referexengineering.html>  
This engineering reference product has been licensed in perpetuity.
- **ScienceDirect**  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com>  
The Cell Press backfile and the Veterinary Science and Veterinary Medicine backfiles have been licensed in perpetuity.
- **Springer Link ejournals**  
<http://www.springerlink.com/>  
The complete collection of current ejournals, and the historical archive, have been licensed. This covers access to all ejournals published by Springer/Kluwer, but does not cover material published by Kluwer Law International.
- **Wiley Interscience** <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/browsebyproduct?type=1>  
The complete collection of current ejournals has been licensed, from 1998 onwards. Sax's Dangerous Properties, Cell and developmental biology backfile, Neuroscience backfile and Theses journal backfiles have been licensed in perpetuity.

*Liz Stevenson (EUL)*

## Web of Knowledge

A new search interface for the ISI Web of Knowledge databases (Web of Science, ISI Proceedings, Journal Citation Reports) has been implemented. There is no change to the access point, at <http://wok.mimas.ac.uk/>

After PsycINFO, Web of Science is the database with the longest online coverage, including:

- Science Citation Index 1945–present, with over 5,300 fully indexed journals;
- Social Science Citation Index 1956–present, with over 1,700 fully indexed journals;
- Arts and Humanities Citation Index 1975–present, with over 1,100 fully indexed journals.

New search facilities include the following:

- Save searches on the Web of Science server, rather than on your own computer;
- Save searches as Auto-alerts, or create a 'citation auto-alert' (to know when a specific article has been cited);
- Analyse results by publication frequency trend by topic, most prolific author, or most prolific institution;
- External databases can be searched simultaneously, though search results are presented separately.

For more information about the new interface, including a self-paced workbook, see

<http://wok.mimas.ac.uk/support/#transition>

*Marshall Dozier (EUL)*

## OVID Gateway upgraded

The Ovid Gateway, through which we get some key bibliographic databases (such as SportDISCUS, Medline, CINAHL and Global Health) was upgraded over the Summer (log on to EASE and see <http://gateway.ovid.com/athens/>).

The changes to the search interface are mostly in colour scheme and placement of links and buttons. The principal new search features are:

- Saved searches covering multiple databases;
- Timing of Auto-Alerts can be chosen (*e.g.* monthly);
- Citation Matcher, allowing targeted searching for references by combining known elements like an author and title words. (This is handy when you have an incomplete reference and need the full details.)
- Citing Articles, showing you who has cited a reference since it was published. (The data is generated from Journals@Ovid and is quite limited compared to the Web of Science tool.)
- Find Similar, to retrieve related articles by matching key title words in other articles.

*Marshall Dozier (EUL)*

## The Grid battles malaria

Last month an Enabling Grids for E-science (EGEE) project harnessed a thousand computers in 15 countries around the world to analyse potential drugs for treating malaria. Thanks to the Grid, it was possible to get results in six weeks that would have taken a single PC around 80 years to return, and 500 times more than on a classical computer cluster.

The Drug Discovery application uses *in silico* docking to compute the probability that potential drugs will dock with a target protein, and is one of the most promising approaches to speed up the development of new drugs to combat diseases such as malaria. The sheer amount of data generated indicates the potential benefits of grid computing for drug discovery, and other life science applications.

The project also demonstrated the ability of the grid infrastructure and services to cope with massive amounts of data, in this case millions of files, adding up to a few Terabytes (one million megabytes, the equivalent of around 1,500 CDs). The next steps for the drug discovery application include sorting through the large amounts of data to identify potential drugs to treat a range of diseases, and to reduce the gap between virtual screening and real world drug development.

The EGEE project has established a broad portfolio of applications across a wide range of industrial and academic sectors, including High Energy Physics, Life Sciences, Earth Sciences, Astroparticle Physics and Computational Chemistry. Over 20 different applications are now running on EGEE.

EGEE is described at <http://public.eu-egee.org/>

Alison McCall (NeSC)

## Induction course on Grid Computing

Grid computing empowers collaborations across different institutions by enabling them to share resources of data and computation. Current applications of grid computing are in research, engineering, public service, and provision of digital data libraries.

The National Grid Service (NGS) is the core UK grid, for the production use of computational and data grid resources. NGS is the core service resulting from the UK's e-Science programme (<http://www.ngs.ac.uk/>).

An induction course in Edinburgh this month aims to give participants:

- an understanding of the concepts of Grid Computing and e-Research;
- an orientation to the NGS and the Grid Operations Support Centre (<http://www.grid-support.ac.uk/>);
- sufficient practical experience to allow initial use of the National Grid Service in future.

The course is on 29–30 September, at the e-Science Institute, South College Street, Edinburgh. Details are at <http://www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/events/563/>

Alison McCall (NeSC)

## Wanted: a Theme Leader in 'Exploiting Diverse Sources of Scientific Data'

The e-Science Institute is preparing a series of workshops and events around the above theme topic. Three events are already in advanced stages of planning; the first, in



November, which is already open for registration, is on *Spatiotemporal Databases for Geosciences, Biomedical sciences and Physical sciences* (see <http://www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/events/608/>).

This will be followed by a meeting sponsored jointly with Oracle in which Chris Date will present a talk entitled 'Temporal Database in Depth: Time and Data Warehouse.'

We are seeking a long-term visitor (a 'Theme Leader') who has the knowledge and interest to carry the development of this topic forward to its full capability. The Institute will fund half salary (up to a maximum of £25k for a year *pro rata*), travel and some other expenses. For full details on the themed programme please visit <http://www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/themes/>

If you are interested in leading this topic, please contact [anna@nesc.ac.uk](mailto:anna@nesc.ac.uk), enclosing your current CV.

Anna Kenway (eSI)

## Send your name to Pluto

It is 75 years since the planet Pluto was discovered, and four months until NASA sends a spacecraft to this lonely outpost of the Solar System (although it is apparently no longer our most remote planet).

The Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University has set up a website counting down to the launch of this mission, and it includes a facility to let people put their names on board. If you would like your name to be carried on this "first mission to the last planet", you can add it (free) until 15th September at <http://pluto.jhuapl.edu/>

(Editor)

## Plagiarism

You can find almost anything you can possibly imagine on the World Wide Web – including information which would come in very handy for a late-running essay. Sadly a few students occasionally succumb to this temptation, and try and pass off someone else's work as their own.

The Web delivers a solution, as well as the problem. The **Plagiarism Detection Service** searches the Web to build up databases of reference material, against which it can compare newly-submitted content to identify any duplication of work. Each new submission is compared with all the existing information.

The software does not state that a student has plagiarised: it simply highlights sections of text that have been found in other sources. In most cases this will have been cited correctly (all work will continue to be reviewed by the course tutor). All work submitted to the system becomes part of the ever-growing database of material against which subsequent submissions are checked.

If you would like to try this service, please contact the eLearn HelpDesk (email [elearnhelp@ed.ac.uk](mailto:elearnhelp@ed.ac.uk)).

### JISC dealing with plagiarism

The JISC Plagiarism Advisory Service provides advice and guidance on all aspects of plagiarism prevention and detection. Its plans for 2005–2006 include course materials for students and academics, institutional plagiarism audits and national plagiarism awareness seminars.

This is in response to feedback from a survey conducted in November 2004. Nearly two thirds of UK HE institutions responded, and nearly all recognised plagiarism as a problem. For full details go to [http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=jisc\\_plagiarism\\_announce\\_260705](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=jisc_plagiarism_announce_260705)

*Wilma Alexander (MALTS)*

## Clinics, Clubs and Societies

An exhibition celebrating 25 Years of Collecting by Lothian Health Services Archive will take place in Edinburgh University Library from 27th September to 28th October.

Twenty-five years ago Lothian NHS Board and the University of Edinburgh, with support from the National Archives of Scotland, entered into a partnership to store and provide access to Lothian's historical NHS Public Records and related material. The collection was originally housed in the Medical Archive Centre, High School Yards, which opened on 26th September 1980. In 1988 the Centre moved to the University Main Library, and became the Lothian Health Services Archive – LHSA.

LHSA is rich in hospital records. The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh is Scotland's oldest hospital (1729) in the modern sense of the word. Edinburgh's other 'Royals,' providing in-patient mental health, maternity and paediatric care, have equally distinguished histories, and large quantities of their records have survived. With Lothian's on-going Acute Services Strategy, a number of specialty and cottage hospitals have closed, which has led to further accessions of this kind.

This exhibition focuses on other health-related institutions, such as clinics, clubs and societies, in order to illustrate the diversity of LHSA's collection as a whole. The records of the **Royal Victoria Chest Clinic**, the **RIE Residents' Club** and the **Society for the Relief of the Destitute Sick** have been chosen for display from amongst a surprising range of similar institutions.

Clinics interact closely with local communities as agents of social medicine. The Royal Victoria Chest

Clinic began as the oldest TB Dispensary in the world, in 1887. Clubs are voluntary associations of doctors and others; the RIE Residents' Club (1895) display reminds us that friendship, relaxation and amusement featured prominently, as well as intellectual improvement. As such, they add richness and depth to historical medical culture. Edinburgh's Destitute Sick Society (1785) is an early expression of citizens' charitable concern about the care of hard-pressed, non-hospitalised patients. Like the RIE Samaritan Society, it still operates today.

All three types of institution suggest that, as well as preserving the records of past and present hospitals, it is also important for local NHS archives to collect material relating to medicine and health care in the community.

The exhibition is open to the public from 9:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, in the Exhibition Room, Ground Floor, Edinburgh University Library.

*Jenny McDermott (EUL)*

## Improve your IT skills

All adults in Scotland are being offered up to £100 to improve their computer skills. The Scottish Executive's Individual Learning Account (ILA) Scotland scheme offers low income learners up to £200 a year to pay for courses, and this has been extended to provide funding of up to £100 a year for basic skills in Communications and Information Technology for everyone in Scotland over 18, regardless of income.

For full details see <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/08/01093137>

*Nick Stroud (EUCS)*

## The return of the E-Break

MALTS has organised a second series of e-breaks – informal lunchtime sessions on a wide range of topics related to learning technology – which start on Monday 26th September with Jeff Haywood discussing the development of the University's e-learning strategy and some of its implications.

E-breaks are held every fortnight during semesters, in the Wolfson Suite of the Main Library, from 12:30 to 2pm. Join us, bringing your lunch and lots of questions!

The full programme of e-breaks is available at  
<http://www.elearn.malts.ed.ac.uk/issues/news/ebreaks.phtml>

*Wilma Alexander (MALTS)*

## Microsoft Campus Agreements

The University currently has nine separate Microsoft Campus Agreements, giving Schools and Colleges the right to use and upgrade certain Microsoft software, including Windows, in return for an annual payment. As agreements approach their annual renewal date, Microsoft is changing the rules of eligibility, seemingly in order to encourage institutions to consolidate multiple agreements into a single one.

The EUCS Software Services team is negotiating with Microsoft, Schools and Colleges, to harmonise the various campus agreements into one central one. The new Campus 3.4 Agreement will have an Autumn renewal date and will cover most of the University. Participating Schools and Colleges will of course still have to pay their share of the annual subscription, channelled through EUCS to Microsoft.

Campus contacts for the current agreements should now have details of the new deal. For any queries please contact Software Services (email [eucs.software.services@ed.ac.uk](mailto:eucs.software.services@ed.ac.uk)). More information and details of current agreements can be found at <http://webdb.ucs.ed.ac.uk/software/select/campusinfo.cfm>

*Frances Provan (EUCS)*

## Procurement qualifications for information specialists

Information specialists are taking the opportunity to have their procurement skills assessed against the National Vocational Qualifications standards, following the mandatory policy on authorised signatories in the University.

Key staff in MIS and EPCC, who undertake major procurement exercises for hardware and systems in the University, are now registered for assessment to NVQ Level 4 in Procurement, which can take about two years to complete. If successful they will become Members of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, entitled to use the designation MCIPS.

This is a professional qualification, assessed by the Director of Procurement or Assistant Director, and verified under a scheme sponsored by the UK HE procurement strategy group (Proc-HE), saving the University training budget.

Certain support staff have also registered for Levels 2 and 3 to demonstrate skills in procurement to national standards.

For more information on procurement training, contact [George.Sked@ed.ac.uk](mailto:George.Sked@ed.ac.uk).

*Karen Bowman (Procurement)*

## Edinburgh Autumn Holiday

Much of the University will be closed on Monday 19th September for the Autumn public holiday.

The Main Library will be open from 9am to 5pm. This is the only Library site which will be open that day. The IS Helpdesk will be staffed, and the Lab Supervisors will be on duty in the 4th floor computing lab.

(The Erskine computing lab in the Hugh Robson Building will also be open, and supervised, from 9am to 5pm that day.)

*Pam Clouston (EUL)*



### EDINBURGH BITS

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Nick Stroud, Computing Services.

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<http://www.pps.ed.ac.uk/about/printing/>

#### *BITS* on the Web:

<http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/bits/>

#### *BITS* RSS feed:

<http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/bits/bits.rss>

#### Some acronyms explained:

<http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/ucsinfo/acronyms.html>

NB: if you fail to access a URL shown in *BITS*, please email [BITS@ed.ac.uk](mailto:BITS@ed.ac.uk).

Contributions to *BITS* are welcomed.

Copy deadline for October *BITS*:

**Friday 16th September**