

When information bites back...

In 2001 Bristol University featured on the BBC's *Newsnight*, when confidential research files containing the identities of alleged paedophiles and their victims were found on a second-hand computer. The incident caused serious distress to the people concerned, and had significant implications for research access to this sort of information.

The work of this University inevitably involves the collection and use of information about people – whether for research, teaching or administrative purposes. Much of this information will not be as sensitive as the information in the Bristol case, but there could still be serious implications if there is unauthorised access to it. These could include distress or actual harm to the subjects of the information, damage to a programme of research or the University's reputation, or legal action under the Data Protection Act.

The Records Management Section has prepared a short guidance document on the *Storage and Use of Electronic Personal Data: Data Protection Dos and Don'ts*, which highlights the issues to consider when storing and using information about living, identifiable individuals in an electronic format. This could be a word-processed document, spreadsheet, database, presentation or email, wherever it is stored – on your desktop or laptop PC, University servers, PDAs, mobile telephones, USB memory devices, CDs, DVDs *etc.*

The document is available at <http://www.recordsmanagement.ed.ac.uk/InfoStaff/DPstaff/ElectronicPersonalData.htm>

Susan Graham (Records Management)

Online election for Rector

The Rectorship of the University is one of our ancient institutions. Elected by staff and students, the Rector chairs the University Court, and is an informal 'ombudsman'.

Tam Dalyell completes his period of office next March. The Rectorial Election, on 15th and 16th February, will for the first time be conducted online, via the MyEd portal. (There will be a 'safety net' of postal voting for staff who do not have access to a computer.)

In order to vote, staff will need to use MyEd and to have registered with EASE. Please don't leave it to the last moment to arrange this!

For further information, and for a list of candidates (once nominations have closed on 17th January), please see <http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/rectoriaelection/>

Melvyn Cornish (University Secretary)

Hearing voices on the Internet: Voice over IP

Telephony over IP, or 'VoIP' – in which telephone calls are transmitted over the Internet – is certainly gaining momentum in the world at large.

Computing Services is working with the University's telephone exchange supplier, Philips, on a pilot project to enable considerable testing of VoIP systems during the closing months of 2005.

Full scale VoIP requires a major financial investment, with no real prospect, as yet, of significant call charge savings to compensate for the still-costly hardware and software needed to run the VoIP systems in full integration with the existing telephony system.

News of the pilot project will be published in future issues of *BITs*.

Murray Clayton (EUCS)

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(see page 4)

Removal of Novell NetWare

EUCS NetWork Services has announced that IPX routing will be turned off on 19th December.

The NDS NetWare tree relies on timesync over IPX, and as NetWare is now out of support it will not be possible to switch timesync over to IP. After 19th December, synchronisation of the NDS replica rings may be severely hampered by the lack of time synchronisation. It is difficult to state with certainty the effect this will have on any remaining NetWare file servers, but it is likely that NetWare operations will increasingly fail. Since we are out of support, no new accounts are being created within the NDS, so replica traffic is reduced to a minimum.

If you have the Novell Client 32 on your computer, you will still be able to log in to NetWare if the client is configured for both IP and IPX. If only configured for IPX, you will probably not be able to log in to the NetWare tree after 19th December.

It is vital therefore, given that NetWare is no longer supported, that users still currently logging into NetWare file servers are migrated over to the Windows College Servers by December.

The final NetWare file server backups were completed during August. These are being kept for three months in case a user should require files to be restored. A NetWare file server is being maintained with the Arcserve Backup software for this purpose.

This service will be withdrawn on 1st December 2005. At that point it will not be possible to restore from the NetWare tapes, as this server is being turned over to the Windows Backup service.

If you have questions about this, please contact archteam@ed.ac.uk.

Garry Scobie (EUCS)

EUCS service upgrades

Cold Fusion and SQL-Server

The servers for the Cold Fusion service (**ucs-fusion**) and SQL-Server service (**ucs-sequel**) were replaced in October. A single new server now runs both services. It has been sized to last well into the future, with four hyper-threaded processors (effectively eight processors) and 12Gb RAM. Local service names remain unchanged.

Cold Fusion has been upgraded from version 6.1 to version 7.

Ed Dee (EUCS)

Software news

DNASTAR/lasergene

DNASTAR has asked if we would like to group University orders for this software for analysing protein sequence data, to save money on the individual licence cost. At time of press we are still waiting for details, but if this is something you might be interested in please contact EUCS software services (email eucs.software.services@ed.ac.uk).

Frances Provan (EUCS)

PDF becomes a Standard

ISO, the International Organization for Standardization, has published a new standard to encourage the long-term reliability of the Portable Document Format – PDF.

It is estimated that the total size of the “surface Web” is currently around 167 terabytes (a large public library would hold about one terabyte), and 10% of this is in PDF.

The Standard allows documents to be archived electronically, with confidence that their content and appearance will survive the advances in hardware and software that will take place in coming years.

The details are at <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/pressreleases/2005/Ref974.html>

*Chris Rusbridge
(Digital Curation Centre)*

eLearning connections

Impatica OnCue

Impatica OnCue lets you create compact presentations from Powerpoint slides, video, audio, and notes. The resulting file is very compact for a multimedia presentation and, as it is web-based, requires no special installed software for the end user.

MALTS has installed OnCue on one of its editing machines, and can provide advice and support to help you create your own presentations. Further information is available from the MALTS elearning website, at <http://www.elearn.malts.ed.ac.uk/services/presentation/oncue.phtml>

SCONUL conference

The theme of the SCONUL Autumn Conference is *E-learning strategy through partnerships: the art of the possible*. It takes place on 29th November 2005 at the British Library Conference Centre, London. For further information see http://www.sconul.ac.uk/event_conf/egm2005/Teaching Quality: new website

This site helps prospective students to make informed decisions when comparing subjects and institutions (including HE courses in FE colleges). The site is managed and hosted by HERO – Higher Education and Research Opportunities in the UK – and is at <http://www.tqi.ac.uk/ALT-C 2006: the next generation> ALT-C 2006, the main conference for Learning Technology in the UK, will be held in Edinburgh on 5–7 September 2006, looking at next generation learning, learners, technology and providers.

The conference welcomes research papers for publication in the peer-reviewed *Proceedings of ALT-C 2006*, short papers, symposia, workshops, demonstrations and posters. See <http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2006/>

Wilma Alexander (MALTS)

Building the Digital Library: a CHSS perspective

The fastest growing area of library acquisitions in the humanities is digital material. This now easily outstrips traditional paper in terms of money spent.

Usage figures for these new forms of delivery are also increasing exponentially. But statistics don't tell the whole story. Such acquisitions offer exciting and novel ways of accessing and manipulating information, not just from the present, but also from the past. They make fresh demands on both suppliers and users: behind each new acquisition is a story of collaboration and skill-sharing.

Many products are arriving simultaneously, and the first challenge is to identify those with real potential for Edinburgh users. Information about them comes through a variety of channels – from publishers, from IT professionals, from librarians, and also from potential users who have specialist subject contacts. Sifting and evaluating is time-consuming and heroic work: not all products repay examination, especially at the pre-commercialisation stage.

The next challenge is to create exposure and articulate demand, by organising and promoting trials and consultations. Potential end-users are busy people, and need to be persuaded convincingly if they are to dedicate scarce time to trials. Snappy, imaginative descriptions of potential use, focus and functionality are crucial here.

If interest is shown, and the product appears to fill a need, finance has to be found. This can be substantial, and often in competition with other demands, including traditional periodicals and monographs. A particular challenge with digital resources is that their relevance can cross financial boundaries, requiring mechanisms for collaborative purchase. In keeping with University strategy, and recognising the inherent logic in digital information distribution, the College of Humanities and Social Science (CHSS) has held the view that electronic subscriptions should, where possible, be made on behalf of everyone in the University. CHSS, like the other Colleges, helps EUL directly with purchase funds. Increasingly, too, we rely on group purchases with other institutions, and on grant aid, from JISC for instance.

Liaison with such other bodies is an essential component of the digital promoter's job. Increasingly, in view of long-term digital archiving questions, legal advice from ERI is necessary to protect our investment.

Once funding has been agreed and put in place, IT specialists must ensure that the product can be properly distributed through the academic network, with suitable,

easy-to-use authorisations for end-users, using EASE and Athens for instance.

In the case of many products, our ultimate goal is to enable access to material through the Library Catalogue, as a virtual item. Librarians have played an unsung role in educating software producers into providing compatible metadata

records which can show up correctly on the OPACs. What we are after is an elusive compromise between perfectibility and timeliness. The content is useful now, but can we navigate it reliably yet? The key concept is access, which is constantly evolving.

Paradoxically, when an acquisition has been totally successful, the technical effort and the financial backing which secured it become invisible to the end-user!

Once we have obtained the product, and integrated it into our environment, we have to make sure it is visible, and that potential users are alert to its existence and utility. With such material growing and maturing so rapidly, we face a major challenge in organising intuitive, needs-driven access through simple portals. Designing interfaces which front and select the mass of information and services in a tailored way will take more and more of our energy. We are only at the beginning – and may, for instance, see the distinction between WebCT and *Library Online* become increasingly blurred.

Finally, the proof of whether it was all worth it lies in end-use. We must not be too compartmentalised in who we think the end-users might be. Some of the most important uses of such resources are unconventional. Databases of legal documents may be used not for case analysis but for corpus linguistics; English religious pamphlets from the seventeenth century may reveal an unsuspected enthusiasm for reading Petrarch; eighteenth century novel collections may present questions for the history of engraving; Chinese books online may open up completely new avenues in commercial law; electronic abstracts of PhD theses may stimulate radically different trains of thought even amongst established academics.

It is for all these reasons that the announcement of the Chinese e-book collection on the next page is so exciting.

Jon Usher (Convenor, CHSS Library Committee)



Prof. Jon Usher

Chinese Collection starts to go digital

The University Library has purchased a large Chinese e-book database. It thus becomes the first academic library in Europe, after the National Library of Germany in Berlin, to add a substantial online resource to its printed Chinese collection – which is already the best in Scotland.

The database is called *Apabi D-Lib*. Apabi is short for Aim for Paperless Application By Internet. The acronym does not sound like Chinese, but the sheer scale of e-publishing and the growing popularity of the database in China are typical: over 400 publishers in China are working with the Apabi owner Beijing Founder Electronics in producing electronic editions of their new publications, as well as digitising traditional classics. The vendor's database contains 130,000 Chinese e-books already, and the number is growing by several thousand each month. A search in Google for 'Apabi' indicates that there are at least a hundred libraries using the database.

The *Apabi D-Lib* we have purchased is now available, at <http://ed.lib.apabi.com/>

This is accessible on campus by IP recognition, and off campus by username and password. It already contains over 4,600 e-books, with subjects ranging from history, philosophy, literature, economics and law to science and traditional Chinese medicine. There are also over 200 yearbooks (almanacs) by region and category.

Search, find, and borrow

Apabi D-Lib is searchable by title, author, keyword, publisher or year of publication. Another wonderful feature is the cross-searching facility for words in the full texts of all the e-books.

Users can 'borrow' books (in which case, others won't be able to use them) or read them online. An administrator's facility lets the librarian control the loan period and the number of books each user can 'borrow', and monitor usage statistics by different categories.

When you 'borrow' (download) an e-book from the Apabi e-book site for Edinburgh University, Apabi Reader will be initiated automatically where the downloaded book will be kept and read. It takes just a few seconds or minutes to download a book. When the loan period of a book expires or the book is returned by the user, the record of the book will automatically be removed from the Reader.

Apabi Reader has been installed on all open-access lab PCs across the University, with the wonderful support of EUCS colleagues. It is accessible from 'All Programs → Library → Apabi Reader'.

Jot notes on a Library book!

If *Apabi D-Lib* performs the function of a virtual library, Apabi Reader provides a personal bookshelf or reading tool for users. Apabi e-books are readable through Apabi Reader, which is similar to Adobe's Acrobat Reader but handles Chinese characters much better. While reading, you can underline, circle, bookmark, and insert notes.

The built-in OCR (Optical Character Recognition) makes it possible to search for words in the full texts. It is also possible to copy texts or make snapshots of images from the books, but there is an automatic limit to the extent to which you can do so for copyright reasons. This is enabled by another built-in system called DRM – Digital Rights Management.

When you get tired of reading on screen, you can choose to listen to the reading of a full text if you download a voice plug-in from the Apabi website.

Edinburgh – Scottish centre for Chinese studies

The acquisition of the Apabi Chinese e-books demonstrates the University's ongoing commitment to be the centre of Chinese studies in Scotland.

The purchase was enabled by a strategic grant from the College of Humanities and Social Science. The College's support is a logical step following the SHEFC-funded 'Chinese Studies in Scotland Initiative' for the last five years which came to an end this Summer. Indeed, the spirit of collaboration in the China subject area is to be continued through this Chinese e-book project: according to the terms of the contract, access to this resource is extended to academic colleagues from other Scottish universities who collaborate with Edinburgh in teaching China-related courses.

The database is also expected to be of value to the increasing number of students from China who are studying various subjects at the University, such as law, medicine and business studies.

Mutual benefits

In the professional context, the project has been a success story of how we the customers can influence the supplier's vision of its overseas market and benefit ourselves from the outcome.

A notable example is that we raised the demand for



MARC (MACHine Readable Catalogue) records and helped the publisher to improve the quality of its records. This has been beneficial for both parties: we have been supplied with the MARC records free of charge and will soon have the metadata of the Chinese e-books in our online Catalogue; and the supplier has added an attractive feature to its product. We have also influenced the supplier in the selection of material for digitisation to suit UK needs.

Boost for online strategy

The project ties in closely with the Library's strategic objective to develop rapidly the provision of online resources, the vast majority of which are currently in English.

From the earliest donation of the Chinese text Yi Jing by a local minister in 1603 to the acquisition of several thousand Chinese e-books today, the Chinese Collection in the University Library has come a long way. The *Apabi D-Lib* is just the beginning of the Chinese collection joining the University Library's ever growing list of online resources.



*Shenxiao Tong
Edinburgh University's Liaison Librarian for East Asian Studies*

Talks are already under way with other university libraries in Europe for a collaborative acquisition of the online edition of Siku Quanshu, the most celebrated 'Complete Collection of the Four Libraries' compiled under Qianlong Emperor in the mid 18th century.

Shenxiao Tong (EUL)

In China, this year's annual e-book conference took place last May, in Beijing. Several hundred participants from libraries and publishers took part. Edinburgh University Library was represented, in order to learn about the thriving e-publishing movement in China, as well as whetting the appetite for the future development of our own digital Chinese collection. The meeting was organised by Beijing Founder Electronics Ltd, producer of Apabi e-books.

E-book publishing is developing fast in China: at least a hundred publishers produce e-books at the same time as their printed books. This is made easy by the publishing software, made by Beijing Founder.

The user community includes 450 universities and colleges already. The prestige of a library in China has much to do with the size of its collection. It was interesting to learn that e-book titles are now being counted as 'proper' library items, which will encourage libraries to go digital. Their next step is to promote e-books to the general public: there are already 50 city libraries and 500 school libraries in China providing e-books services.

One interesting item on display was a portable e-book Reader made by American company 'Eink', using Sony technology. It was the size of a normal book, but as thin and light as a pamphlet. The image on the screen imitates the texture and colour of real books, and can be read at a wide angle. It can store at least 100 books and is powered by a normal button battery. This should reach the market quite soon, and may cost as little as £100 within two years.

The palm-top reader produced by Beijing Founder is also very attractive, with an audio facility that enables listening to the book as well as music in MP3.



A page from "The Romance of the Vulture Shooting Hero" by Jin Yong, the most famous contemporary author of Chinese historical romance. The Library has an almost complete collection of his works in Apabi, and none in the print collection; there is very little overlap between the Apabi and print collections. (NB: the screenshot does not print very clearly, but is crystal clear on-screen!).

More from the Library

NEW statistics database

Statistical Theory and Method Abstracts, published by the International Statistical Institute, is now available online and called STMA-Z. Access, mediated by IP address, is at <http://www.zentralblatt-math.org/STAT/>

STMA-Z is a component of Zentralblatt MATH, but our access only allows search and retrieval of records of statistical (and related) articles, books and conference papers. However, this does provide access to more than 280,000 records from the mid 1950s onwards.

NEW version of premier chemistry database

SciFinder Scholar 2006 is the newly available version of this powerful information tool for chemists and researchers in related subjects. Coverage extends back to 1907, with records of articles published in over 9,500 current journals. It includes information on patents, 26 million organic and inorganic substances, 56 million sequences and regulated chemicals, plus MEDLINE and some ArXiv.org records. Structure and reaction searching is possible.

Download SciFinder to your desktop using the instructions at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resbsub/scifinder.shtml>

SciFinder Scholar's interpretation of natural language search terms is particularly impressive, so give it a go if you haven't tried it before.

NEW to the EUCS open-access labs

SciFinder Scholar version 2004.2 is now available on computers in all EUCS open-access computing labs, and should be upgraded to 2006 in due course.

Rowena Stewart (EUL)

Annual Population Survey, 2004

Sponsored by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in conjunction with other government departments, the Annual Population Survey (APS) is a new annual survey of approximately 65,000 households and is a major source of key social and socio-economic variables down to Local Authority level across the UK.

Until now, the only social survey source large enough to produce any reliable local authority-level information between Censuses has been the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS).

While the Census of Population has always been the source for purpose-designed data collection at local authority-level, its drawback has been that the data are out of date before the next Census takes place.

Thus the APS improves inter-censal monitoring of key variables for a range of policy purposes, and provides local area information as part of the Neighbourhood Statistics Programme (NeSS). In addition, the increased sample size available from the APS facilitates better national estimates. Key topics in the survey include education, employment, health and ethnicity.

The 2004 APS is available from the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS), as a Special Licence version now, and with the usual ESDS End User Licence (EUL) version in due course. Both the EUL APS dataset and the 'Special licence' APS dataset contain approximately 550 variables, and whereas the EUL dataset contains data to a regional level the special licence datasets contain data at a unitary authority/local area district level.

For further information visit <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/aps/>
Alternatively, contact the Data Library (email datalib@ed.ac.uk, tel 511431 or 503304).

Stuart MacDonald (Data Library)

Mapping data courses

The Data Library and EDINA are running the following courses as part of the EUCS training series:

- 12 December 2005: *Using EDINA Digimap* (half-day: morning)
- 12 December 2005: *Introduction to Visualising Data in ArcGIS 9.0* (half-day: afternoon)

The Digimap course uses the EDINA Digimap online service, and includes how to make a map, save and print, use the advanced services such as Gazetteer, understand OS grid references, use Digimap Carto to customise online maps, and use Digimap download (as preparation for the afternoon course).

The afternoon GIS course focuses on practical issues of importing spatial data into desktop mapping packages and adding attribute data to a base map, rather than spatial analysis. It includes an introduction to GIS, converting data for import, thematic mapping (adding point data), and making choropleth maps from Census data.

To book a place on a course, see <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/usd/cts/courses/booking.shtml>

For further information contact the Data Library (email datalib@ed.ac.uk, tel 511431 or 503304).

Stuart MacDonald (Data Library)

BCS meeting: Digital Design Studio

The subject for the December meeting of the local branch of the British Computer Society is "Digital Design Studio", at 6:30pm on 7th December. The speaker is Martin Horner of Glasgow School of Art. As always, the talk is open to all interested. Further details, with an abstract in due course, are at <http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/events/>

David Muxworthy (BCS)

Help for course administration

The MyEd Service has developed a set of channels for Training and Development Course Administration and Booking. The admin channel allows administrators primarily to:

- view, create and edit courses;
- manage course creation authorisation and permissions;
- manage training provider reference data such as venues, categories etc;
- view or download class lists and manually book people on to courses;
- send MyEd announcements and automated reminder/cancellation emails to class delegates.

The booking channel allows users primarily to:

- browse all publicised courses via a system prospectus;
- view eligible courses and book places on 'current' courses that have firm delivery dates;
- view and edit all courses they are booked on;
- search for courses.

This service will be piloted by MIS from November 2005, then used by the Careers Service from January 2006. Further information is available at http://www.eportal.mis.ed.ac.uk/MyEd/Project/Training_Course_Index.htm#About

If you're interested in using this system, please contact misusers@ed.ac.uk.

Mark Wetton (MIS)

eScience

Course: Porting applications to the National Grid Service

17–18 November

e-Science Institute, Edinburgh

The computational Grid is the computing equivalent of the electrical power grid, in which huge computing power and resources can be accessed by simply 'plugging in,' while the underlying infrastructure hides the complexity.

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

The integrated GEMICA-P-GRADE portal gives a simple Web interface to a Grid. This course – intended for application developers and end users – provides lectures and hands-on tutorials on how NGS users can use the P-GRADE portal (<http://www.cpc.wmin.ac.uk/ngsportal>), and how legacy applications can be deployed on the NGS using GEMICA.

For more information, and to book a place, please go to <http://www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/events/626/>

Ensuring Long-term Preservation and Adding Value to Scientific and Technical Data (PV 2005)

21–23 November 2005

Royal Society, Edinburgh

This conference is the third of a series on long-term preservation of and adding value to scientific data, begun in 2002 in France. The importance of this topic is being recognised increasingly widely, and the term "digital curation" has come into use to cover similar ideas.

The vulnerability of digital data is a major concern. Storage hardware and access software change every three years or so, while over a decade or more the knowledge and software base of potential users will change drastically. Extraordinary efforts must be made to ensure that information remains understandable to users, especially as "users" can include automated processes.

This conference encourages contributions from the areas of e-Science and digital libraries. The full programme is available at <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/pv-2005/>

For further information please email pv2005@ukoln.ac.uk.

First intake for e-Science MSc

The start of the academic year saw the first intake of students on to the University of Edinburgh's new MSc in e-Science.

This inter-disciplinary degree programme features core courses taught by academic staff from the Schools of Physics and Informatics and trainers from the National e-Science Centre. Additional options can be chosen from over 100 courses already offered by Physics, Informatics and GeoSciences.

The first cohort of students have a range of nationalities, ages and educational backgrounds, reflecting the broad spectrum of areas within which e-Science and Grid computing techniques can be applied. The intake to the programme is planned to expand significantly in the coming years. It is hoped that more Schools will want to become involved, gaining exposure to e-Science and Grid technologies in return for supervising student projects.

Further details of the e-Science MSc can be obtained from the Programme Director, Bob Mann (email rgm@roe.ac.uk).

Alison McCall (NeSC)

Meetings about the new Web Site

As mentioned in last month's *BITs*, the University has initiated a major exercise to redevelop its Web Site, and is conducting a series of town-hall-style open meetings in November to discuss the project and receive feedback.

The wide variety of times and locations is aimed at attracting as many staff as possible:

- Monday 7th November, 1–2pm, Paterson's Land Main Hall;
- Tuesday 8th November, 10.30–11.30am, Room 129, Easter Bush Veterinary Centre;
- Thursday 10th November, 3–4pm, Swann Lecture Theatre, The King's Buildings;
- Wednesday 16th November, 1–2pm, Lecture Theatre A, David Hume Tower;
- Tuesday 22nd November, 1–2pm, 4th Floor Lecture Theatre, Outpatients Building, Western General Hospital.

The panel will include Helen Hayes, Ian Conn and Simon Marsden.

We very much hope you will be able to join in one of these meetings!

Bryan Martin (CPA)

Looking for trouble

EUCS will shortly start to scan all active addresses on the University's network, EdLAN, to identify any computers which have been infected with a virus, or otherwise compromised, are poorly configured, or have other vulnerabilities which could be exploited by the ne'er-do-wells who lurk in the dark corners of the Internet.

This is in accordance with the policy approved by the C&IT Committee in October 2004 (see <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/ucsinfo/cttees/citc/policies/scanning.html>).

People who wish to opt out of this process must be able to demonstrate that they have adequate alternative mechanisms to ensure that risks from their computer(s) are minimised.

As well as being official policy, this 'safety check' has been implemented in consultation with School Computing Officers, who have been given extra technical information.

As time goes on more information will be added to <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/nsd/scanning/>

Scott Currie (EUCS)

SHEFC + SFEFC = SFC

Our Higher and Further Education Funding Councils have finally united. The Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council (SFC) was formally established on 3rd October, creating a single body to provide a strategic overview of tertiary education in Scotland and secure a more coherent system of high-quality learning and research. The SFC is at <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/>

First Aid info online

A new online service from St. John Ambulance shows basic First Aid techniques. Text files and spoken commentary can be downloaded from <http://www.sja.org.uk/firstaid/info/>

Chemistry videos

Health and safety regulations and reducing budgets mean that some classic chemistry experiments are rarely performed in the lab. Now you can see them online, in movie clips from the Journal of Chemical Education. Light the Bunsen burner at <http://jchemed.chem.wisc.edu/jcesoft/cca/cao/sampmovs.htm>

Caroline Porteous

(JISC Regional Support Centre)

New venue for EUCS computing courses

EUCS is now using the Wolfson Training Suite in the Main Library for some of its IT courses.

The Suite will be closed for the first week of November to allow for refurbishment. New furniture will be provided, and the room layout changed to accommodate more workstations. New PCs will be installed, and will be managed using the University's Supported Desktop. There will also be a few Apple Macs.

The Computing Skills Centre at 19 Buccleuch Place continues to be the main site for IT training. The addition of the Wolfson Suite brings some important advantages, notably in disabled access and proximity to other EUCS and Library services. Many of our regular courses will be presented here in coming weeks.

The courses website is at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/cts/courses/>
Tracey Athay (EUCS)

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Nick Stroud, Computing Services.

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NB: if you fail to access a URL shown in *BITs*, please email BITs@ed.ac.uk.

Contributions to *BITs* are welcomed.

Copy deadline for December *BITs*:

Friday 18th November