

This year's plans for the University's computing labs

This article summarises the plans for upgrading the open-access computing labs this year. Comments are welcome until the strategy is finalised in May. Details are provided at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/fmd/lab.upgrade.2008.html>

Changes to labs

All 315 four-year-old open-access lab PCs are due to be replaced with the current *SelectPC* configuration (the all-in-one Dell), in the KB Centre, Hugh Robson Basement, Swann/Darwin Library and Alison House. The replaced machines will be available for Schools to buy.

The entire Apple Macintosh stock was replaced in Summer 2005 with Mac Minis, so no replacements are required this year.

Some PC seats in the Main Library may be temporarily lost as the redevelopment work continues. There are over 200 PCs in the nearby Hugh Robson Basement that will help to offset this possible loss, and we are considering the provision of 16 PCs in Teviot House and in the DHT Café.

We plan to create four group-study desks in the KB Centre at The King's Buildings, providing group collaboration space for up to six students and their laptops, with a large wide-screen monitor attached to an open-access PC.

Software

The development, testing, documentation and training for the new Microsoft Windows operating system, Vista, will not be completed in time for Summer, so we propose to continue with Windows XP Professional on PCs for session 2008–2009. We will continue to use MacOS 10.4.x on the Macintosh.

Information Services provides a number of core software applications that are maintained centrally and updated as necessary. We believe there is no need to update the current versions of the majority of 'core' applications this year, though will respond to reasonable requests made before **1st April**.

For 'School' applications, Desktop Services must be provided with software (preferably as a fully tested MSI) and configuration instructions by **1st May**.

These deadlines are necessary to allow for essential preparation work.

Graham Newton, Dave Ross, Mike Baillie (IS-ITI)

Eddie at an Olympian peak of fitness

The Edinburgh Compute and Data Facility (ECDF) has recently completed its 'Phase 2' installation, and more than doubled the amount of compute power and storage available. The ECDF compute cluster – 'Eddie' – received another 118 IBM servers with quad core Intel 'Harpertown' processors. This has pushed the theoretical maximum performance of Eddie up to approximately 12 Tflops – that's 12,000,000,000,000 floating point operations per second!

The new ECDF storage platform has been expanded by 128 TB to 223 TB – available directly on Eddie, and remotely as Windows (Samba) or NFS shares.

This effectively completes the investment in hardware for the immediate future, and the ECDF team is looking forward to focusing on the provision of dynamic and flexible services required by the research community.

ECDF services are available to all researchers in the University and associated institutions. More information is available by emailing science.support@ed.ac.uk, and at <http://www.ecdf.ed.ac.uk/>

Orlando Richards (IS-ITI)

contents

University's computing labs	1
Eddie at peak of fitness	1
Kaspersky shoulders virus burden	2
SPSS 16	2
Improving service management	2
New era for online payments	2
edikt2008: computing in research	3
Main Library: out of its cocoon	4
Basil Spence exhibition	4
World Book Day	4
The Web undermining research?	5
Special Collections at Holyrood	5
Next-Generation VLE Project	5
eLearning conference 2008	5
Central Hosting Service	6
Mercury and Philology	6
CLOCKSS proves itself	6
Agility and Innovation	6
Into the Genetic Jungle	6
Encyclopaedia of Life	6
IT courses for Spring/Summer	7
March and April course dates	7
Writing for the Web	7
Podcasting workshop	7
Wikis: past, present and future	8
Science Festival	8
BCS meetings: privacy and biology	8
Public holidays for Easter	8

kwik-kwik

what is a wiki?

(find out via page 8)

Kaspersky shoulders virus burden

The University's Malware Group was set up to recommend a University strategy for detecting and preventing viruses and malware in its computer systems. The group conducted a review and has decided to adopt Kaspersky on Windows for staff and students, at work and at home, and is now planning the move to this from McAfee VirusScan over the coming year. Versions of Kaspersky for Mac OS X (still in development) and Linux will be kept under review. The details are at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/isd/archpub/Strategy.pdf>

Garry Scobie (IS-ITI)

SPSS 16

Ordering it

Software Services will distribute SPSS 16 for Windows and Intel Macs in March. We hope to add the Linux version to our site licence shortly. Please check the software news page or subscribe to our mailing list to find out when orders can be placed – at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/softnews.shtml>

Please note: IS cannot commit to support new software versions and platforms until it has completed its strategic and technical assessment.

SPSS 16 for next academic year?

The IS statistical systems team has begun a consultation on upgrading the University's open-access labs from SPSS 14 to SPSS 16 for 2008–9. A 'taster' session on what's new in SPSS will be held on **12th March** (bookable through MyEd). The talk will cover new features in versions 14–16 and hopefully a demonstration of SPSS 16. Further sessions, possibly 'hands-on', could be arranged if there is enough interest.

Please contact statistical.systems@ed.ac.uk.

Frances Provan (IS-ITI)

Improving service management

ITIL – the IT Infrastructure Library – is a widely accepted approach to IT service management in the world, promoting best practice drawn from the public and private sectors internationally. It is being adopted extensively in UK government and academia, and what's really good about it is that its principles apply to running any service – not just IT.

Information Services is running free introductory ITIL courses, to help its own staff to deliver the best possible services, and for anyone in the University who is interested.

These sessions are aimed at staff who need Service Management awareness but not to the level of certification, or for personal development. People who need a Foundation Certificate would find it easier to attend the full, three-day course, although should be able to pass the Foundation exam if they supplement these introductory sessions with personal study.

There are three sessions in the introductory course, on "The Frontline" (comprising an overview of Service Management, and coverage of Incident Management, Problem Management and the Service Desk), "Making Changes" and "The Strategic View". The sessions build on each other, so must be followed in sequence, although attendees can stop after one or two sessions.

The February and March courses filled up quickly, so this is early notice of the next scheduled session, on 8th May; this can be booked by any University staff, via the MyEd Event Booking channel. Extra courses may be provided if demand warrants.

There are full details about ITIL at <http://www.is.ed.ac.uk/itil/>

Robert Gormley (IS-LUSD)

New era for online payments

Managing and receiving payments for conferences, courses or services is changing, thanks to the new online payments system at

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

New functionality permits useful information to be set up for a conference or course, including:

- an overview of the conference or course with a description, images, text and HTML formatting;
- the agenda or course content, allowing delegates to book specific options if numbers are limited;
- facility to receive payments for one or more attendee categories;
- facility to book for one or more delegates, accepting separate information for each delegate. (This area is much improved: the old system only permitted one booking at a time.);
- ability to add accommodation to a conference or course;
- reports which provide information about the bookings and delegates.

New functionality offers a good opportunity to showcase University products or services. Gone are the limitations of one item per shopping basket per customer per School. This is replaced with a shopping basket approach with functionality such as:

- product catalogue with images, links and personalisation of items;
- multiple purchases and quantities;
- online and offline orders;
- stock level monitoring during order processing;
- invoices and address labels printed;
- customer emails generated.

This is the preferred method of making online payments. Any School interested in using this new functionality should contact **Garry Robertson@ed.ac.uk** or **E.Welch@ed.ac.uk** for further information.

Liz Welch (Finance)

edikt2008

Using computing in your research

E-SCIENCE INSTITUTE, 15 SOUTH COLLEGE STREET, EDINBURGH
09 APRIL, 2008

A symposium for Scottish researchers to discuss all aspects of research computing – from simulations to Grids and from visualisations to analysis – in a number of scientific disciplines.

Registration is free. Lunch and snacks are provided.

Topics: chemistry, bioinformatics, grid applications, neuroscience, social sciences, speech technology and computer science.

This event is unique in Scotland. It will bring together Scottish researchers who make heavy use of computer simulations, models or analysis to do research, allowing them to swap ideas and see how other scientists use the resources to maximum benefit.

The day will be arranged into four sessions covering a wide range of computational research including cell biology, computational chemistry, brain imaging, grid technologies and bioinformatics.

Speakers include...

- Prof. Jason Swedlow
School of Life Sciences
University of Dundee
- Dr Tanja van Mourik
School of Chemistry
University of St. Andrews
- Dr Graeme Stewart
ScotGrid
University of Glasgow
- Dr Paul Lambert
Department of Applied Social Science
University of Stirling

Information:

www.edikt.org/edikt2/edikt2008

Information and registration:

www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/events/839/

Contact

J.Hill@epcc.ed.ac.uk, 0131 650 6494

Main Library: out of its cocoon

The Library has emerged from its encasing scaffolding, its exterior now all as good as new. The remaining scaffolding supports the builders' hoist at the west side of the building, and will stay for the rest of the project.

The 5th and 6th floors are nearing completion, with finishing work being carried out; the shelving is fully installed in one of the Special Collections archive stores.

The priority this month is to move the IS Helpdesk and Reserve Collection up to the first floor – a big operation!

There will then be no further changes until the bulk of the exams are over in May, after which there will be major staff and stock moves to clear the ground floor ready for work to start there in the New Year.

The IS Helpdesk move will begin on 19th March, with completion on 1st April. The move will be phased so as to maintain services and minimise disruption for users. No closed period is planned. The Reserve collection will move with the Helpdesk. There will be a short interruption to the availability of Reserve books while they are in transit; lending arrangements will be adjusted at the time to minimise the impact on users.

Once on the First floor, the full range of Helpdesk services will operate as normal. The Helpdesk will be in the centre of the floor, opposite the entrance from the central staircase, with the Reserve collection alongside.

Sheila Cannell (IS-L&C)



Basil Spence exhibition in Main Library



An exhibition commemorating Sir Basil Spence, one of Scotland's most celebrated architects of the 20th Century – and designer of the University's Main Library – will be on show on the ground floor of the Main Library, George Square, from 5th to 19th March.

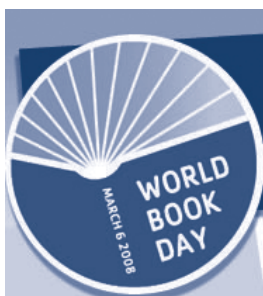
"Sir Basil Spence – Celebration of a Modern Architect 1907–1976" began touring Britain last year, the centenary of his birth. To mark the occasion, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), based in Edinburgh, launched the Sir Basil Spence Archive, with 40,000 items gifted by the Spence

family to RCAHMS in 2003. This unique archive was made available last August by RCAHMS, in partnership with the National Galleries of Scotland and The Lighthouse, Scotland's National Centre for Architecture, Design and the City.

Spence is most famously associated with his radical designs for the new Coventry Cathedral, a project for which he received a knighthood in 1960. He was involved in a varied range of high-profile architectural projects throughout his career, including the University of Sussex; Hyde Park Cavalry Barracks, London; the British Embassy, Rome; the extension of the New Zealand Parliament buildings; Glasgow Airport; and the University of Edinburgh Library.

The touring exhibition includes information from the Sir Basil Spence Archive and material from a series of interpretation workshops run throughout 2006 by RCAHMS and The Lighthouse. The workshops were held at twelve venues across the country; participants included primary and secondary school pupils, community groups and people who had lived or worked in a Spence building. There is information on Basil Spence at <http://www.basilspence.org.uk/>

Sheila Cannell (IS-L&C)



World Book Day

For World Book Day Special Collections plans to mount a web feature on our copy of the *Aberdeen Breviary*. Printed in Edinburgh in 1510, this is the first substantial book printed in Scotland, by Walter Chepman and Andrew Myllar, the country's first printers. The breviary was designed to give Scotland its own version of the Catholic liturgy, with prayers to Scottish saints such as St. Ninian. Our copy is the finest surviving example of this book in the world – it was donated by Edinburgh University students in 1635.

Joe Marshall (IS-L&C)

Libraries can stop the Web undermining research

Although most young people are completely at home with computers, they rely on the most basic search tools and do not possess the critical and analytical skills to assess the information they find on the Web.

This is the alarming conclusion of research carried out by the CIBER research team at University College London for the British Library and JISC, the Joint Information Systems Committee that promotes the use of academic IT in the UK.

The report 'Information Behaviour of the Researcher of the Future' also shows that research-behaviour traits commonly associated with younger users – impatience in search and navigation, zero tolerance for any delay in satisfying their information needs – are becoming the norm for all age-groups, from pupils through undergraduates to professors.

The study urges libraries to respond to the changing needs of researchers, and to understand the new means of searching and navigating information. Learning what researchers want and need is crucial if libraries are not to become obsolete, the report warns.

The findings warn the government that young people are dangerously lacking in information skills. Well-funded information literacy programmes are needed if the UK is to remain as a leading knowledge economy with a strongly-skilled next generation of researchers.

For further information, please go to <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/resourcediscovery/googlegen.aspx>

The report is the subject of one of JISC's many podcasts on key topics in education and IT, available at <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/podcasts.aspx>

Philip Pothen (JISC)

Special Collections trots down to Holyrood

On 24th January, Special Collections staff provided a one-off display of two of its rare books at an event in Holyrood Palace attended by HRH the Princess Royal.

John Hinds' *Conversations on conditioning: the groom's oracle* (London, 1830) is an attractive and slightly whimsical book on the care of horses, imagined as a dramatic dialogue between two grooms.

George Stubbs' *The anatomy of the horse* (London, 1766) is one of the most important books in the history of British anatomical engraving. Stubbs, from Liverpool, dissected



horses for almost two years in order to produce this book. The large plates are striking in the way they combine scientific accuracy and artistic quality. When this copy of the first edition is open, it measures 114 x 48 cm.

We have many books about riding, farriery and horse racing in our collections – some, like these, with attractive illustrations.

Joe Marshall (IS-L&C)

Next-Generation VLE Project

As part of the review phase of this project, we are now inviting written submissions from the main teaching areas within the Colleges to highlight their needs with respect to future VLE services. Any interested individual is also welcome to make a submission.

The project will be the subject of the IS Applications lunchtime seminars this month, providing an opportunity to find out more about the project and influence what future services will provide. The Seminar is on 10th March at Old College, repeated at The King's Buildings on the 12th and at Little France on the 14th. Further details and booking information are available at <http://www.mis.ed.ac.uk/services/seminars/ISAD-LTS-March2008-agenda.shtml>

An analysis of the usage of WebCT within the University shows that around 60% of all course instances have a WebCT presence, leading to 70% of all students having at least one course enrolment in WebCT. A summary of this analysis, together with further details on the project's activities, is available on the project wiki at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/VLEprojectwiki/>

Catherine Gillespie, Stephen Vickers (IS-Apps)

eLearning conference 2008: Improving Feedback through using Technology

This year's eLearning meeting will be held in the National e-Science Centre, South College Street, on the afternoon of 25th April – starting with a buffet lunch. Presentations will include demonstrations and descriptions of different tools and how they are being used to improve the quality and quantity of feedback for undergraduate students. Contributors include David Nicol (Strathclyde), Paul McLaughlin and Wesley Kerr (Edinburgh), Andrew Litchfield (Sydney), Michael Begg and Daniela Gachago (Edinburgh), and EUSA.

Registration for the conference is via the MyEd Events Booking channel. Full details are at <http://www.elearn.malts.ed.ac.uk/events/elearnconfo8/>

Nora Mogeys (IS-LUSD)

Central Hosting Service

For almost a decade the EUCS Information Tools Team, later known as Web Applications and Media Services (WAMS), provided research, teaching and administrative groups across the University with expert training, advice and support for an integrated range of database, web, application and media services. The team provided expertise and consultancy for several successful bids for grants, and built or supported a variety of online applications using a range of complementary skills and resources.

Following the restructuring of Information Services last year, the management and development of this service passed to the Content Hosting team in the new IS Applications Division. This team can call on dedicated graphical designers, and experienced web and application developers, to handle a wide range of web and application design, implementation and hosting, and will continue to develop the service to meet the evolving needs of the University.

A sample of projects currently under way that will be hosted centrally includes a dynamic website for the National e-Science Centre to manage and share documents and events; a centrally-managed software environment for Occupational Health; a scalable and long-term solution for curricular management in the School of Engineering and Electronics; and help in migrating the New Langwill Index – a directory about musical wind instruments – to an information retrieval system with web interface.

For further information on our services, please contact Jay Coleman in the IS Service Management team, or email web.hosting@ed.ac.uk.

Jay Coleman (IS-Apps)

The Marriage of Mercury and Philology

A conference on Problems and Outcomes in Digital Philology takes place on 25–27 March at the e-Science Institute, South College Street. Martianus Cappella wrote his *De nuptiis Mercurii et Philologiae* in the fifth century, to propose the then revolutionary synthesis of technique (Mercury) and culture (Philology). Inspired by Cappella, this conference will explore the interaction between IT systems and the philological analysis of ancient and modern manuscripts and printed texts: Digital Philology. Further information is on the wiki at http://wiki.esi.ac.uk/International_Seminar_of_Digital_Philology

For registration and details see <http://www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/events/854/>

Anna Kenway (e-Science Institute)

CLOCKSS proves itself

Edinburgh and Stanford universities have ensured continuing access to a journal that is no longer available from its publisher. Last month, e-journal content for 18 issues of *Graft: Organ and Cell Transplantation* (SAGE Publications) was released from the CLOCKSS archive and made available to the world, free to all researchers and students without subscription.

CLOCKSS – subject of a feature in February's *BITS* – is a trusted and secure 'dark archive', preserving scholarly journal content from the world's leading publishers. There is more about CLOCKSS, and access to *Graft*, at <http://www.clockss.org/>

Peter Burnhill (IS-EDINA)

Agility and Innovation

The next IT Futures seminar will be on 16th April, at 3–5pm, In Lecture Room 1, New College. The topic is 'Agility and Innovation' – how quickly should the University adopt change, how should it choose the right changes to make, and how should it manage innovation while maintaining routine services?

A presentation by Simon Marsden will initiate a Panel session involving the various constituencies in the University – teaching, research, administration and support. We anticipate a lively discussion! Please book via MyEd.

Jessie Paterson (Divinity)

Into the Genetic Jungle

A free public-awareness event on 7th April will be exploring the use of genes in medicine. This Open Day will be a satellite event to the annual conference of the British Society for Gene Therapy, and will provide an informal opportunity to discuss and debate gene and cell therapy research with scientists, patients, journalists and clinicians.

For free admission, including lunch, please register online as soon as possible. Details of the programme and registration are at <http://www.bsgt.org/BSGT2008/EducationDay/>

Irene McGowan (IS-LUSD)

Encyclopaedia of Life

The website that aims to catalogue and document all living things has been launched – and struggled to cope with the demand.

The *Encyclopedia of Life* presents itself as 'an ecosystem of websites that makes all key information about all life on Earth accessible to anyone, anywhere in the world'. The constantly-evolving online encyclopaedia intends to aggregate virtually all known data about every living species – though so far it only has a fraction of the 1.8 million known species.

The site, with an introductory video tour, is at <http://www.eol.org/>

Nick Stroud (IS)

IT courses for Spring/Summer March and early April course dates

The new schedule of IT training events is now available for booking. Courses are free to most staff and postgraduates at Edinburgh University. Details of sessions and online bookings are available on our website at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/cts/courses/>

The *Writing for the Web*, *Introduction to Wikis* and *Introduction to Blogs* courses introduced in our previous schedule are still proving very popular, and further dates have been arranged.

Our *PowerPoint* course has been redeveloped. We now offer a shorter, modular format. The introductory course, *Basic Skills for Creating a PowerPoint Presentation*, lasts half a day; you can then build up your skills by choosing from four 90-minute modules. These cover: adding images; adding tables, graphs and diagrams; working with animation schemes; and adding movie and audio clips and creating action buttons. The first introductory course is on 30th March with modules thereafter.

The latest additions to our catalogue are 90-minute introductory modules to *Sun Grid Engine* and *Basic Shell Scripting*, developed by Brian Fletcher of Science Support. These are for research staff and students who wish to use the Edinburgh Compute and Data Facility (ECDF), and look set to be very popular. They can be booked through the MyEd Event Booking channel

Apart from these new developments, we continue to offer a wide range of face-to-face courses covering MS Office, email, bibliographic management software, WebCT, graphics and multimedia, databases, operating systems, programming skills and web technologies. Subscriptions for online learning materials are also available.

For further information please refer to our webpages or contact is.skills@ed.ac.uk.

Jenni Reeves (IS-LUSD)

Date	Course	Venue*
March 5	Producing a Thesis using Word	BP
6	Introduction to Unix	JCMB
11	Introduction to S-Plus	BP
12	Introduction to Windows XP Operating System	BP
12	Introduction to Wikis	BP
13	Intermediate Unix	JCMB
14	Writing for the Web	WTR
17	Introduction to Sun Grid Engine	JCMB
17	Introduction to Basic Shell Scripting	JCMB
17	Managing Bibliographies with Reference Manager	BP
17	Basic Image Manipulation Techniques using PhotoShop	BP
18	Excel Introduction: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts	BP
19	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	BP
26	Excel Advanced: Manipulating and Managing Data	BP
28	Writing for the Web	WTR
31	PowerPoint: Basic Skills for Creating a Presentation	BP
April 2	Unix Shell Programming	JCMB
3	Introduction to Access Database Management	BP
7	Writing for the Web	DHT
8	Creating a Database with FileMaker Pro	BP
8	Introduction to Wikis	BP
8	Learning to use the Plagiarism Prevention System: TurnItIn	BP
9	Powerpoint Intermediate: Adding Images	BP
9	Powerpoint Intermediate: Adding Tables, Graphs & Diagrams	BP
9	Creating Web Pages with HTML	BP
9	Formatting Web Pages with Cascading Style Sheets	BP
10	Word Introduction: Creating and Formatting Documents	BP
14	Introduction to Sun Grid Engine	BP
14	Introduction to Basic Shell Scripting	BP
15	Introduction to Unix	JCMB
15	Creating and Editing Web Pages with Dreamweaver 8	BP
15	Creating Templates and Managing Websites with Dreamweaver 8	8BP
16	Powerpoint Intermediate: Adding Animation Schemes	BP
16	Powerpoint Intermediate: Adding Movie and Audio Clips	BP
16	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	BP
16	Excel Introduction: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts (1)	BP
16	Editing Web Pages with Contribute	BP
17	Using EDINA Digimap	BP
17	Introduction to Visualising Data in ArcGIS 9	BP
17	Introduction to Mac Operating Systems: Mac OS X	BP
17	Introduction to Blogs	BP

* Venues: BP: IS Skills Centre, 19 Buccleuch Place; JCMB: King's Buildings DHT: David Hume Tower Conference Room; WTR: Wolfson Teaching Room

Writing for the Web

Do you want to make your online information easier to read and to find?

Our *Writing for the Web* course offers help on structuring page content, basic guidance on copy editing, guidelines on improving page performance in search engines, and advice on data protection and information retention.

The session is non-technical and doesn't reference any particular web publishing technology. You'll find the session useful if you contribute to a website, even if someone else publishes on your behalf.

To book a place, use the MyEd Event Booking channel.

Shona Matchett (IS-LUSD)

Podcasting workshop

Netskills is bringing its new podcasting workshop to Edinburgh. The day-long course is at the IS Skills Centre, 19 Buccleuch Place, on 2nd April.

Details are available at <http://www.netskills.ac.uk/content/products/workshops/range/podcast.html>

Steve Boneham (Netskills)

Wikis: past, present and future in the University

This event is organised by the eLearning Professionals and Practitioners Forum – eLPP – at 2pm on Wednesday 19th March in the Brenda Moon Room, Main Library.

Wikis have rapidly become one of the most popular and exciting new platforms for collaborative working. Among the many ‘Web 2.0’ applications making their presence felt in the HE environment, it is wikis that have quickly asserted their potential in formal teaching and learning contexts.

The University’s Confluence wiki service is now live and available to all staff, so it is an appropriate time to bring together those who are interested in exploring this new tool with the innovators who have already incorporated wikis into their teaching and research activity.

The event will feature several short presentations highlighting various uses of wikis, followed by an extended period of open discussion.

We hope the event will share experience, inspire further activity, provide pointers towards successful implementation – and prove a valuable networking opportunity for those with an interest in wikis.

Contributors include Lorenzo Vigentini (psychology), Sian Bayne & Hamish Macleod (Education), Simon Riley & Simon Edgar (Medicine) and Liza Zamboglou (IS).

Please register for this event using the MyEd Events Booking system.

Michael Begg (eLPP Convener)

IS-Apps: Applications: Director Simon Marsden
 IS-DCC: the Digital Curation Centre: Director Chris Rusbridge
 IS-EDINA: EDINA and the Data Library: Director Peter Burnhill
 IS-ITI: IT Infrastructure: Director Brian Gilmore
 IS-ITUS: IT User Services: Acting Director Bryan MacGregor
 IS-L&C: Library and Collections: Director Sheila Cannell
 IS-LUSD: Library User Services: Acting Director Richard Battersby

Science Festival

The Edinburgh International Science Festival celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, and its regular Easter programme includes the usual wide variety of lectures and children’s activities, including several with an IT flavour, and the traditional Sidney Michaelson memorial lecture (see next item).

There are full details on the Science Festival website, along with an experiment to see if your name makes you more attractive or especially successful, at <http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk/>

Nick Stroud (IS)

BCS meetings: privacy and biology

The British Computer Society local branch is organizing two meetings this month. Professor Anne Anderson, University of Dundee will talk on “Is Privacy dead? Do we care?” at 6:30pm on 12th March in the Royal Scot Club, 29/30 Abercromby Place, EH3 6QE. This is an open public meeting.

This year’s Sidney Michaelson Memorial Lecture takes place on 26th March at 8pm in the National Museum of Scotland Lecture Theatre, when Professor Muffy Calder, University of Glasgow will speak on “Systems biology: what is the software of life?”. This is in partnership with the Edinburgh International Science Festival from which tickets must be obtained.

Further details are at <http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/events/>

David Muxworthy (BCS)

Public holidays for Easter

Good Friday is on 21st March this year, and is traditionally a holiday in the University, while Easter Monday is traditionally a normal working day. Since last year, staff have been entitled to exchange Good Friday for an alternative day which meets their own beliefs, and the Edinburgh Spring Holiday in April for Easter Monday.

IS will be fairly traditional, with all site libraries closed on Good Friday and some of them open on Easter Monday. The Main Library will be open as usual on both days, from 8:30am to midnight, though with restricted service hours. Full details are provided at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/about/opening/>

Please note that the IS Helpdesk and Reserve collection in the Main Library will be starting their move to the first floor around this time.

Pam Clouston (IS-LUSD)

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<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.

Contributions to *BITS* are welcomed.

Copy deadline for April *BITS*:

Wednesday 19th March