

eDiary: a strategic change of direction

The Project Board which is overseeing the implementation of a single electronic diary system for the University has determined that the Oracle Collaboration Suite isn't going to be able to do the job.

Information Services has made considerable progress towards the vision of the Project – to have a platform-independent ed diary for all staff to enable better inter-working; many key issues have been flushed out, and students have had a common ed diary since September 2006.

We now have to halt further migration of existing ed diaries and create a new service based on MS Exchange 2007. This version is considerably more advanced than earlier ones, and should be able to support the wide range of platforms and devices on which the University's smooth running depends.

We have initiated the new Project, but there are uncertainties over its timescale. This is a high-priority task for IS and for the University, and we need enough time to ensure that the service will provide, amongst other features, full lookup directory function, resilience, mobile synchronisation, and help and advice for users and support staff from the outset.

Once we have the transition to the new ed diary service under way, we will present the options for the mid to longer term for consultation.

I am most grateful to all the staff who have worked so hard for the Project so far. That effort is not wasted as we have gained much useful information from it, but we do now need to maintain that level of effort for longer than we'd hoped, and I apologise for the discomfort this will cause. I have confidence that this will get us to where we wish to be in terms of staff ed diaries, and also ed diary-email synchronisation with mobile devices.

Jeff Haywood (VP-IS)

EXSEED to replace OCS eDiary

The project to deliver a new staff diary with integrated mail and mobile services, based on Microsoft Exchange 2007, is operating under the working title EXSEED – EXchange SErvices for EDinburgh.

There is more information about the project, including the full announcement about the change, on the project website at <http://www.projects.ed.ac.uk/areas/servicemgt/colltools/ITS016/>

At this early stage we are reviewing requirements, talking to Edinburgh Napier University (who have a production Exchange environment), and exploring key issues around Exchange 2007 and Active Directory. We have arranged a series of technical meetings to be ready to report to the next meeting

of the Project Board, on 13th March, and hope then to be able to decide the best way forward.

The review will cover the University's Blackberry service, so we won't be able to add new staff to this for the time being. We recommend that staff using the existing service don't upgrade contracts until the details of the new service have been established.

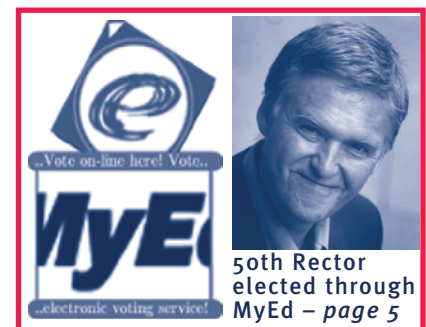
We will keep the project Wiki up to date, and welcome feedback through it; it is at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ITS016/>

If you have any questions about this please contribute through the project wiki, or contact Susan McKeown (Project Manager, email Susan.McKeown@ed.ac.uk).

Neil Bruce, Mark Wetton (IS)

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STOP PRESS!!
Main Library closed
on 28th March; see
Library Online

Staffmail improvements

Staffmail users may have noted a few service problems during January. On three successive Mondays there were delays in delivering mail due to mail storms (on two occasions caused by HPC compute clusters!).

There has been misunderstanding about the poor performance of the Outlook mail client since the migration from Exchange to the new eDiary service. This was not due to the Staffmail service, but to a side-effect of the Outlook connector used to support the new eDiary; a new connector is being deployed.

We have not just been fixing problems with Staffmail, but have been working to improve its performance and reliability also.

In December we introduced a new webmail front-end server to provide more capacity and greater resilience.

In January we introduced a new IMAP front-end server to increase capacity and allow for more simultaneous users of mail clients such as Outlook, Thunderbird and Apple Mail.

In February we moved the mail stores to new disks. This effectively doubled the performance of the service, providing speedier response to mail clients, and should allow us to cope better with adverse events such as those mentioned above.

Over the Summer we plan to upgrade the Staffmail software to provide the following capabilities:

- replicated message store for speedier response in the unlikely event of a disaster;
- delayed expunge and deletion of messages and folders, allowing us to recover mail deleted in error;
- support for larger mail quotas across all users;
- better server-side filtering that matches on text in the body of a message as well as in the headers.

Graeme Wood (IS)

Annual labs upgrade

The plans for the 2009 upgrade of the University's open-access computing labs are now being finalised, and have been published at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/fmd/lab.upgrade.2009.html>

Comments and notification of software requirements need to be received by 1st April (email desktop.team@ed.ac.uk), to give time for the necessary preparation work.

Graham Newton (IS)

SPSS 17 available

SPSS 17 for Windows, Macintosh and Linux is now available; see <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/software/>

Personal copies can be ordered from the IS Helpdesk or online; details are at http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/student_offers.shtml#IS

For further information about this or any of the other software provided by Information Services, please email software.services@ed.ac.uk or see the Software Services home page at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/>

IS expects to move from SPSS 14 to SPSS 17 for Windows in the open-access computing labs for next academic year, 2009–2010.

There will be some taster sessions to discuss 'What's new in SPSS 17' and 'Moving from SPSS 14 to SPSS 17'; news of these, together with details of the differences between the two versions, will be posted on the statistical systems wiki space in March; see <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ISstatsComp/to+SPSS+17>

You can get advice about statistical computing by emailing statistical.systems@ed.ac.uk, or from <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/stats/>

Frances Provan (IS)

SelectPC change

The University's SelectPC Group has decided that the HP DC7900 – available under Procurement Scotland – should be the default SelectPC, with the following specification:

- Intel Core2Duo E8400 CPU
- 4GB RAM
- 160GB 7200 RPM HDD
- DVD/RW Drive
- 3 year warranty.

This will cost £327 + VAT until December 2009 (when Procurement Scotland will hold an E-Auction for 2010). The Group decided to retain Dell as an option for buying PCs, but not nominated as the SelectPC.

Further details will be provided on the Procurement website.

George Reid (Procurement)

Wimba experiments

The University is about to conduct a small pilot of the collaborative tools available from Wimba, focusing on:

- **Live Classroom** (offering web conferencing facilities)
- **Voice tools** (offering audio-enabled discussion board and email facilities)
- **Pronto** (instant messaging with desktop sharing)

These tools have a wide range of possible uses in both teaching and support, and across disciplines. They can be integrated into VLEs (such as WebCT) or used as standalone tools.

Information Services invites you to a demonstration of these tools and a discussion about their potential use on Tuesday 17th March, from 9:30 to 11:00am, in Room 2.01 (S.1), Second floor, Psychology Building, 7 George Square. If you can't attend this and would like to know more, or be involved in the pilot, please contact Stephen Vickers (email stephen.vickers@ed.ac.uk, tel 514093).

Stephen Vickers (IS)

Procurement news

eProcurement Scotland (ePS)

Last September, the University went live with eProcurement Scotland, the Scottish Government's award-winning eProcurement service. The ePS service provides users with an easy-to-use online order processing system, accessed via MyEd. Orders are raised, approved and sent to the supplier electronically, and ePS is fully integrated with the University's finance system for invoice matching and payment.

The service now has over 140 users, raising orders with 25 suppliers for a range of goods and services. The number of orders raised is approaching 1,000 with expenditure approaching £130,000.

We plan to roll out the ePS system across the University by 31st July, in a phased programme covering all Colleges and Support Groups. There is information on the roll-out and all aspects of the eProcurement Scotland service at <http://www.pps.ed.ac.uk/about/eps/>

eProcurement systems review

A new project is examining the relative strengths and weaknesses of the two eProcurement systems currently used in the University – SciQuest and eProcurement Scotland – to ensure that the University has the most efficient and effective eProcurement systems in place. This study will consult widely across the established communities of SciQuest and ePS users, and aims to report by the end of May.

For further information, contact Craig Henderson (tel 502839, email c.j.henderson@ed.ac.uk).

Procurement Strategy update

The University is reviewing its strategy for procurement, and comments are welcome on the new draft version available at <http://www.pps.ed.ac.uk/news/>

The Procurement Office has looked at leadership for customers, systems, information, training, resources and risk, and needs exemplars to develop procurement strategy for different areas of expenditure in line with the Scottish Government toolkit and public procurement policy. This will help to deliver best practice and financial/risk-reduction benefits.

Information Services may be the first to develop its framework for IT procurement practice, as recommended in the 'Kenway report'. An agreed framework for purchasing in IS will assist legal compliance, and should deliver both cash and non-cash benefits.

Procurement of printers/MFDs

Procurement, Printing and IS are considering the University's future procurement and monitoring strategy for printing devices. This should make us more efficient in implementing our contract for networked devices, in selecting the most sustainable options for printing, and in ensuring good support for installation and in use.

Public procurement reforms: user intelligence groups?

Several procurement strategies are being developed under the Scottish public procurement reforms to encourage collaboration in the supply of audiovisual equipment, computer consumables, printing, MFDs (multi-function devices), library, IS applications, IT hardware, networks, telecoms, IT consulting, temporary staff, and other areas.

Staff from IS and Procurement are involved in user intelligence groups (UIGs) to help APUC Ltd and Procurement Scotland to understand University requirements. For more on UIGs, ask George Sked, Assistant Director of Procurement (tel 508063, email george.sked@ed.ac.uk).

Best practice indicators (BPIs)

Our quarterly expenditure will be analysed starting in March, using a Procurement Hub online. Best practice indicators for procurement will be developed from this, and published. For more on Procurement BPIs, contact George Sked (tel 508063, email george.sked@ed.ac.uk).

Procurement Website: have a say!

With all these changes, and as our website is due for review under the Website Development Project, we welcome your comments on what you would like to see on our new site. If you would like to help, please contact Craig Henderson, Assistant Director eProcurement Efficiency (tel 502839, email c.j.henderson@ed.ac.uk).

Procurement skills

Training on procurement issues is available; to find out more, please contact Billy Hislop (tel 514380, email billy.hislop@ed.ac.uk).

Craig Henderson (Procurement)

New Digital Press at Printing Services

Printing Services has installed a new digital (D.I.) printing press. DI presses eliminate the chemical processing and use of water in traditional Litho processes, and can achieve cost savings of over 50%.

The D.I. press achieves its efficiency by imaging direct to the press, and producing dry sheet at output for finishing.

Volatile Organic Compounds – VOCs – have been linked to the breakdown of the Earth's ozone layer. The D.I.'s waterless process eliminates what was typically the largest part of a printer's VOC output. This and the Direct-to-Press imaging reduce VOCs by up to 90%.

For more information please email stuart.mclean@ed.ac.uk.

Stuart McLean (Printing & Procurement)

Research Collections enhanced

The Library has 'rediscovered' a lost special collection, of medical theses assembled by the famous Edinburgh doctor Andrew Duncan (1744–1828). Narrowly escaping disposal at some point in the past, this collection has now been catalogued and made available for the first time. (Andrew Duncan was one of Edinburgh's most important doctors. In his youth he was known as the 'smiling boy', and he kept his good nature all his life. He pioneered free health care for the poor, and was so moved by the death in Bedlam of the poet Robert Fergusson at the age of 24 that he helped to found the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. The theses were given to him by grateful students – he was a popular lecturer and teacher. This collection opens a window into his private library and is relevant to anyone working on medical history or the history of Edinburgh institutions.)

The Centre for Research Collections has acquired some books from the Roslin Institute library, including early editions of Darwin, some agricultural books with beautiful plates, and a book on horses printed in Venice in 1573.

If you would like occasional detailed bulletins from the Centre for Research Collections, please sign up for the mailing list by sending the message 'subscribe CRC-news' to majordomo@lists.ed.ac.uk.

Finlay West, Joe Marshall (IS)

Main Library sustains services while improving dramatically

A survey carried out amongst students during the pre-Christmas exam period found a high level of general satisfaction with the study space on the transformed fifth floor of the Main Library. Over half the students who responded were using the area every day, and a further third were there two or three times a week. The space was rated as 'good' by 22% and 'excellent' by 76%.

One of the University's strategic aims is to support the use of students' own laptop computers, so the fifth floor has power and data sockets for every desk and wireless network access throughout. The desks are larger than on other floors, and 93% of the respondents rated the desks and chairs as 'good' or 'excellent'. The Redevelopment Project will be striving to achieve the same high level of satisfaction as the project continues.

The University received no complaints or appeals citing the Main Library over December's exams, reflecting the success of the strenuous efforts made by Library staff in sustaining services and a good study environment while the Redevelopment work carries on all around them.

Fiona Boyd (IS)



Part of the magnificent glass 'display wall' on the Sixth Floor of the Main Library, currently showing a collection of historic photographs by Hill & Adamson.

Main Library Christmas Opening

After a successful trial in 2007, the Main Library was again open for two days in the Winter vacation. Each person who used the Library on those days completed a questionnaire to help us understand user requirements.

Unlike 2007 when 44% of users were postgraduates, this year 42% were undergraduates and only 37% postgraduates. Around 70% came from the College of Humanities and Social Science, and over a third were international students. Almost 40% spent less than an hour in the Library, some simply borrowing or returning books, while 16% spent over five hours there. Several mentioned the peaceful atmosphere of the refurbished 5th floor. Comments from University of Edinburgh users were mainly positive. One thoughtful undergraduate observed that "library staff are entitled to a break"!

Winnie Chambers (IS)

New CILIPS President from the University

Margaret Forrest – Academic Liaison Librarian for the School of History, Classics and Archaeology – has been elected as this year's President of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland; see <http://www.slainte.org.uk/cilips/cilipsindex.htm>

Margaret plans to use her year as President to promote three themes which are relevant to the University Library: collaboration, accessibility and CPD.

Denny Colledge (IS)



MyEd wins another election

The MyEd online voting service delivered another successful election last month, with the high-profile Rectorial Election 2009. Voting took place on 11th and 12th February, with the result being declared within a few minutes of the close of polling. Iain Macwhirter was chosen as the University's 50th Rector, taking 4,822 votes (69% of the total) in a contest with MSP George Foulkes. (Details at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/>)

The EUSA General Elections are soon to follow, and the Sports Union has arranged to deliver its second online election for Sports Union President in April. One important benefit is that the service has been fully scrutinised and approved by the Electoral Reform Society, giving confidence to election providers, voters and candidates. There are environmental benefits too, with reductions in the use of paper ballots, no need for polling stations, and counting that takes just minutes to complete. Election stakeholders can rest easy, knowing that votes are cast in a secure, reliable and accessible environment. Voters can even change their minds and re-vote while the polls are open.

If you'd like to hold an election via MyEd for online voting, IS Applications staff will get you started with your flavour of election, helping with a communications plan and supporting you through counting votes to announcing the successful candidate and election closure. Simply contact myed@ed.ac.uk.

Stephen Smith (IS)

OLL course bookings now open online!

Information Services and the Office of Lifelong Learning (OLL) have been working together to deliver the Open Studies Course Catalogue and Online Booking system. This allows users to find OLL Open Studies courses, book and pay for them, all online.

Course bookings are open now for OLL's Session 3. Courses run from April to June, and include everything from 'Alexander Technique: helping to help yourself' and 'An Introduction to Stem Cell Science' through to 'Vampire Fiction' and 'Writing for Radio'.

Staff, students, visitors and alumni log in to the service via EASE, and external users via EASE Friend. The OLL service is the first to use the new eVisitor system – a lightweight registration process which allows external users to create their own EASE Friend accounts for access to permitted University services.

Anyone wishing to explore the course catalogue or enrol on a course can access the application through the Open Studies website, a MyEd channel, or directly at <https://www.course-bookings.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/>

Nikki Stuart (IS)

EPCC helps to set up new Software Centre

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has granted £5m for Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt and Strathclyde universities to establish the Numerical Algorithms and Intelligent Software centre, NAIS. NAIS will develop mathematical foundations for innovative tools for scientific and engineering computation on multiprocessing high-performance computers, and aims to place UK researchers in an ideal position to exploit national supercomputer systems such as HECToR.

EPCC will play a crucial linking role in NAIS, applying novel tools and techniques to real applications. The combination of algorithmic advances and the massive power of parallel supercomputers will allow simulations to be done at previously impossible levels of scale, complexity and accuracy.

NAIS will draw on many areas of scientific computing and numerical analysis. For more information, see <http://www.nais.org.uk/>

Tracy Peet (EPCC)

e-Science news

In the latest newsletter from the National e-Science Centre you can read about saving lives with the Semantic Web, the new e-Science MSc, new eSI themes, a review of e-Science, and much more.

The National e-Science Centre is holding a two-day event on 16–17 April to take a fresh look at the changing landscape of the e-Science world. The main focus of the second day will be on forging strong links between e-Science, HPC researchers and university IT providers, with success stories and demonstrations.

The Edinburgh e-Science MSc is being renamed the MSc in Distributed Scientific Computing from 2009–2010, and will include three new mandatory courses – Web Programming, Computing with Distributed Resources and Internet Computing – which will better meet the requirements of our students (and their future employers).

There are details of the meeting, the MSc and much else at http://www.nesc.ac.uk/news/newsletter/NeSC_news_Jan_Feb_09.pdf

Gillian Law (NeSC)

JISC news

Conference: Smarter Greener Learning

The Smarter Greener Learning Conference takes place in three UK locations, culminating in Edinburgh on 22nd April. The conference brings the latest strategic thinking and practical advice to managers in universities and colleges to help them accelerate their implementation of sustainable business practices.

This free, all-day event will inform management decision-making, disseminate findings from the JISC SUSTE-IT project, and encourage the sharing of good practice in IT management. In addition, the conference programme will highlight sustainable best practice in further and higher education contexts.

Details are at http://www.rsc-eden.co.uk/events/event_details.asp?eid=13

TASI becomes JISC Digital Media

TASI, the JISC Advisory Service specialising in all aspects of digital images, has been re-branded as JISC Digital Media. The Bristol-based team will continue to provide advice, training and guidance on creating and using digital media collections, and now provides expertise in moving images and sound in addition to still images and their use in learning, teaching and research. For further information see <http://www.jiscdigitalmedia.ac.uk/>

Hugh Dailly, Caroline Porteous (JISC Regional Support Centres)

JISC on TV

The JISC-supported Regional Support Centres have been using Instant Presenter to offer web-based presentations which we have called RSCtv. They are presented at lunchtimes and are available for staff in any college or university to log in to live. They are also recorded and archived on the RSC website – so just like on the telly, you can watch again ‘on demand’.

Information about forthcoming and archived RSCtv sessions is at <http://www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/rsctv/RSCtv.htm>

Recent additions include sessions focusing on inclusion in eLearning which may be of particular interest:

- ‘How not to break the law whilst adapting materials for accessibility – The Quick Blow Guide’.
- ‘TechDis – Ensuring eAssessment Process is inclusive’.
- ‘TechDis – Ensuring eAssessment Content is inclusive’.

Margaret McKay (JISC Regional Support Centres)

JISC Legal webcasts

JISC is the organisation which provides IT infrastructure for UK Higher and Further Education. ‘JISC Legal’ is its free information service offering high-quality legal information to HE and FE on the use of information and communications technologies.

Two forthcoming JISC Legal ‘webcasts’ may be of interest:

Staying Legal with Web 2.0 in UK FE and HE is on 11th March at 2pm. This online meeting will delve into the Web 2.0 world to tackle the legal barriers and provide you with relevant information to help you make legally-informed decisions when facilitating Web 2.0 use at your institution.

Digital Copyright with Confidence is at 2pm on 6th May. This will examine the legal issues surrounding copyright, licences, and digital content such as texts, images, sounds and films.

There are details of both events at <http://www.jisclegal.ac.uk/Webcast/>

Nora Moge (IS)

Education 2.0? – Web 2.0 in teaching and learning

The latest booklet in the series of ‘Commentaries’ produced by the Technology Enhanced Learning phase of EPSRC’s Teaching and Learning Research Programme provides a helpful overview of current debate around Web 2.0 technologies and what they mean for education in the ‘post-compulsory sector’.

There is a call for more research and for educational institutions and educators to take the initiative in shaping the development of these technologies to suit 21st century teaching and learning. A copy can be downloaded from <http://www.tlrp.org/pub/commentaries.html>

Wilma Alexander (IS)

Web 2.0 workshop

The National e-Science Centre is holding a five-day Web 2.0 workshop in Edinburgh on 23–27 March, on the theme of ‘The Influence and Impact of Web 2.0 on e-Research Infrastructure, Applications and Users’. The event is open to all. For details see <http://www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/events/968/>

Anna Kenway (NeSC)

Two eLearning conferences

The ‘Shock of Digital Literacy’ and ‘Beyond Walls’ take place on 2nd and 3rd April at the Said Business School, Oxford. The former is about academic literacy and the challenge of new technologies. Programme details are at <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ltg/events/shock2009/>

‘Beyond Walls’ will look at issues around the expansion of institutional audiovisual work with experts from the field of multimedia and educational video. For details and booking see <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ltg/events/beyond2009/>

Grazyna Cooper (Oxford University)

IS Skills Development Courses in March and April

Information Services runs free IT courses and short sessions for University of Edinburgh staff and postgraduates. We're based at 19 Buccleuch Place in the central area, and also run some courses at The King's Buildings.

See the table alongside for course dates in March and April, and our web pages for further details and bookings: <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/cts/courses/>

Jenni Reeves (IS)

Time for a bite?

Our lunchtime 'taster' programme for March and April is now available for booking. Bring your sandwiches and learn while you eat.

- Producing an academic poster with PowerPoint (10th March)
- Tracking changes to Word documents (26th March)
- Sharing workbooks and protecting data in Excel (27th March)
- PowerLinks and add-ons: enhancing your teaching with WebCT PowerLinks (8th April)
- Using templates and slide masters in PowerPoint (23rd April)
- Getting sectioned: creating variable page layouts in Word (27th April)

For more information and to book a place, see the MyEd Event Booking channel.

Shona Matchett (IS)

Date	Course title	Location*
Mar 3	Introduction to Computing	BP
4	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	BP
5	Producing a Thesis using Word	BP
5	Basic Image Manipulation Techniques using PhotoShop	BP
10	Excel Introduction: Basic Spreadsheets and Charts (Part 1)	BP
10	Producing an academic poster with PowerPoint (T)	DHT
12	Excel Advanced: Manipulating and Managing Data	BP
16	Introduction to Sun Grid Engine	BP
16	Introduction to Basic Shell Scripting	BP
16	Testing the Usability of your Website	AT
17	Introduction to Access Database Management	BP
17	Excel Introduction: Basic Spreadsheets and Charts (Part 2)	BP
17	Introduction to Wikis	BP
19	PowerPoint: Basic Skills for Creating a Presentation	BP
19	Writing for the Web	DHT
24	Managing Bibliographies with Reference Manager	BP
24	Introduction to Unix	BP
25	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Images	BP
25	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Animation Schemes	BP
25	Creating and Editing Web Pages using FrontPage 2003	BP
26	Excel Advanced: Manipulating and Managing Data	BP
26	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	BP
26	Tracking changes to Word documents (T)	DHT
27	Sharing workbooks and protecting data in Excel (T)	DHT
31	Producing a Thesis using Word	BP
31	Editing Web Pages with Contribute	BP
Apr 1	Word Introduction: Creating and Formatting Documents	BP
1	Basic Image Manipulation Techniques using PhotoShop	BP
2	Intermediate Unix	BP
2	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Tables, Graphs and Diagrams	BP
2	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Movie and Audio Clips	BP
7	Creating a Database with FileMaker Pro	BP
8	Excel Introduction: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts	BP
8	Making the Most of Your Wiki	BP
8	PowerLinks and add-ons: enhancing your teaching (T)	DHT
9	Word Intermediate: Document Layout and Customisation	BP
16	Excel Advanced: Manipulating and Managing Data (Part 1)	BP
21	Introduction to Access Database Management	BP
21	Creating Web Pages with HTML	BP
21	Formatting Web Pages with Cascading Style Sheets	BP
22	Programming in Perl	BP
22	Introduction to Sun Grid Engine	JCMB
22	Introduction to Basic Shell Scripting	JCMB
23	Unix Shell Programming	BP
23	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	BP
23	Excel Advanced: Manipulating and Managing Data (Part 2)	BP
23	Using templates and slide masters in PowerPoint (T)	DHT
24	SPSS 1: Getting Started with SPSS	BP
27	Producing a Thesis using Word	BP
27	Getting sectioned: creating variable page layouts in Word (T)	DHT
28	Intermediate Access Database Management	BP
28	Creating and Editing Web Pages with Dreamweaver 8	BP
28	Creating Templates and Managing Websites with Dreamweaver 8	BP
29	Using EDINA Digimap	BP
29	Introduction to Visualising Data in ArcGIS 9	BP
29	Introduction to Mac Operating Systems: Mac OS X	BP
29	PowerPoint: Basic Skills for Creating a Presentation	BP
30	Mail Merge with Word	BP
30	Excel Introduction: Basic Spreadsheets and Charts (Part 1)	BP
30	Wikis: What can I do as an Administrator?	BP

(T): lunchtime 'taster' session (bring your sandwiches!)

* Locations: AT – Appleton Tower

BP – 19 Buccleuch Place

DHT – Conference Room, David Hume Tower

JCMB – room 2009a, The King's Buildings

Data Walkabout

In January, as part of the DataShare project, I went on a study tour to Australian universities in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, and to Auckland, New Zealand.

There's a lot of interest and action in Australian academic libraries around new forms of support for data management. I was surprised at the very high level of interest I received in our DataShare and Data Audit Framework projects, through meetings and seminars organised by my Australian contacts. For more information about these projects see <http://www.disc-uk.org/datashare.html> and <http://www.data-audit.eu/>

One striking impression I got was how closely the library/repository community interacts with the eResearch community in Australia. This is eminently sensible, since both sides admit they need the other to provide a holistic service for data management and curation.

Another insight was how important it is to have drivers from the top as well as the bottom to bring about cultural change. The government is apparently embracing the 'open' agenda for both publications and data, and institutions are developing policies that take explicit responsibility for data management. With help from national coordinating bodies like the new Australia National Data Service and the Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories, libraries and IT services are raising their game to develop services for research data management that go well beyond simple storage and backup.

I've been blogging about my meetings; if you are interested in data management, read on at <http://jisc-datashare.blogspot.com/2009/01/data-walkabout.html>

Robin Rice (IS)

Women in technology – what's the problem?

Heather Jackson, Chief Information Officer at HBOS, will speak at the next meeting of the Edinburgh branch of the British Computer Society, tackling the subject of "Women in Technology – What's the problem?". The meeting will be in the University Informatics Forum, 10 Crichton Street, EH8 9AB, at 6.30pm on Wednesday 11th March. All are welcome. There are further details at <http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/events/090311.htm>

David Muxworthy (BCS)

Engineering papers online at proof stage

Professional Engineering Publishing is the publisher to the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. It has recently set up a new system – InPress – to give researchers online access to new papers when they have been accepted for publication, as uncorrected proofs. Each paper is fully searchable and citable, so InPress allows the publication of fully citable articles up to eight weeks before publication in a printed journal issue. For the latest papers, see the individual journal homepages at <http://journals.pepublishing.com/>

*Catherine Chimes
(Professional Engineering Publishing)*

Desire Lines walkabouts

While the Talbot Rice Gallery is being refurbished, Art has spread out around the Campus – and there are walkabouts on alternate Wednesdays from 25th February to 17th June to help you find it. Tours take around 45 minutes, and are partly outside. There is information about the exhibition and tours at <http://www.trg.ed.ac.uk/>

Martin Minton (IS)

Higher Education encourages interest in arts

The Scottish Arts Council's latest survey of public involvement with the arts, 'Taking Part', shows the significance of Higher Education: 74% of those without a qualification will attend or participate in the arts, the percentage rising to 97% amongst those who have a degree.

People with a Higher Education qualification are 10% more likely to attend or participate in arts or culture events than the general population. The 2008 survey found that 90% of adults living in Scotland had participated in arts or cultural activity in the previous 12 months, with 41% of Scottish adults attending visual arts events, up slightly from the level recorded in 2006.

The full findings are presented at <http://www.scottisharts.org.uk/1/latestnews/1006112.aspx>

Pat Fisher (IS)

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