

A new 'Research Publications Service' for the University

The Library is to offer a new service to researchers to support the implementation of the University's new **Open Access Publications Policy**.

The Open Access Publications Policy was passed by Senate in February 2009. It requires researchers to deposit their research outputs in the Publications Repository, and where appropriate in the open-access Edinburgh Research Archive (ERA) in order to maximise the visibility of the University's research. The Policy encourages the deposit of an electronic copy of non-peer reviewed research, particularly where this may be used for national assessments. Researchers (or their proxies, such as research administrators) will deposit their research outputs in the Publications Repository, and provide information about whether the research output can be made publicly available in ERA. The Policy will be formally implemented in January 2010; in the meantime, researchers are encouraged to deposit outputs.

What is the Research Publications Service?

- It joins the Edinburgh Research Archive and the Publications Repository together to promote a consistent deposit process for research papers, whether or not they are to be available as open-access documents.
- The **Publications Repository** is a closed repository, accessible only from the University of Edinburgh domain. It was adapted from the repository created for the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), with the addition of a new management tool, and can hold all the University's research outputs.
- The **Edinburgh Research Archive** is the University's open-access repository and makes author copies of research papers available to other researchers, while publisher versions of the same papers are hidden behind a subscription wall.

Benefits of the Research Publications Service

- It collects the University's entire research output into a single repository.
- It will ease the management of the successor to the RAE, and enable better direction and mentoring of research careers and overall outputs.
- The publications repository features extensive reporting tools, providing a variety of statistical presentations which can be easily incorporated into standard reports. The repository also features a tool to allow researchers to generate a publications list automatically for their own or their departmental web pages, built from the metadata records of items deposited in the repository. The publications list is dynamically updated.

The Research Publications Service will be available from January 2010.

How can I find out more?

The Library is organising a number of seminars around the University in May to explain the background of the requirement-to-deposit proposal and the Research Publications Service (please book your place through MyEd):

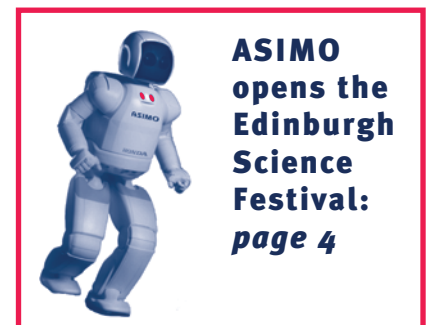
- Wednesday 6th May, 10–11am, DHT Conference Room
- Wednesday 13th May, 10–11am, Seminar Room 720, Swann Building, KB
- Friday 22nd May, 10:30–11:30am, Small lecture Theatre (GU216 NR1E), Chancellor's building, Little France

There will be a short presentation followed by questions and answers, or you can just drop in to collect information. Coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Philip Hunter (IS)

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What file management is required for research?

The Edinburgh Compute and Data Facility (ECDF) which runs the University's central high-performance computing service is considering general file services for the research community.

We are keen to round out the facilities we provide with general file services, providing access to data over common file access protocols such as CIFS (windows shares) and NFS (v3 and v4) – targeted at the needs of the University's research community.

We would therefore like input from anyone who has an interest or requirement for centrally-provided NAS file services.

Would you, or any of your research colleagues, be able to help design this service? We are particularly keen to hear requirements at this stage: please get in touch with Orlando Richards (email orlando.richards@ed.ac.uk) or Tony Weir (email tony.weir@ed.ac.uk) if you wish to participate in any way.

Orlando Richards (IS)

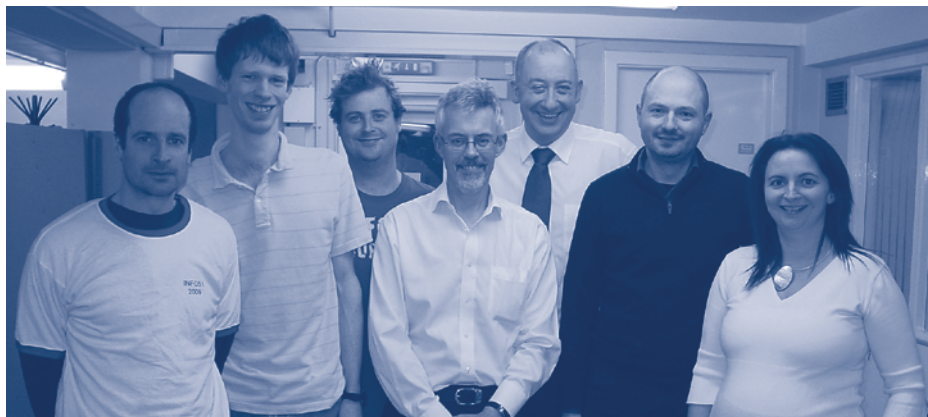
Wireless Network improvements

As part of its continuous programme of improving the University's data network, Information Services has installed new Wireless LAN Controllers to simplify management of the wireless network.

Wireless users will see slight changes – and improvements – as these are phased into use over the coming months. There will be a slightly different login page, and the observant may notice a temporary change in IP addresses.

This development removes a bottleneck from the current network, and improves resilience.

Bill Byers (IS)



A few members of the INF051 project team: (from left) Andy Garman (sporting the project T-shirt), Peter Jackson, Martin Campbell, Andy Stewart, Iain Fiddes, Stefan Kaempf, Gillian Henderson

Major upgrade completed

On 20th March IS staff from the Applications and IT Infrastructure Divisions celebrated the successful completion of the INF051 project, which moved some of the University's most important IT-based service on to new systems.

This was one of the biggest ever IS projects, and its major benefits include:

- greater use of the SAN and centralised backup system;
- acquisition of a highly resilient, load-balanced infrastructure;
- fewer single points of failure, with application delivery optimised across two sites and multiple hosts;
- a Disaster Recovery capability of less than one day for all critical systems.

After extensive infrastructure load and resilience testing, the project migrated over 60 Oracle databases, nearly 2 TB of data, and over a hundred applications such as Cedar e-financials, Oracle HR e-business suite, SITS and e-vision, EBIS and MyEd.

Iain Fiddes (IS)

Archive service upgrade

The University computing archive service has been upgraded. It has been moved to a new server, and the available storage space expanded to 5TB. The previous restriction of a monthly quota of 50MB has been lifted.

This is at least the 7th incarnation of this service, which has been running since 1972 when it was the EMAS Archive. It may well be the world's longest continually-provided service of its type.

The Archive is at archive.ed.ac.uk, and information on using it at <http://www.uccs.ed.ac.uk/fmd/unix/docs/archive/>

Graeme Wood (IS)

IS report to SQAEC for academic year 2007–2008

The Senatus Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (SQAEC) develops, operates and monitors policy on quality assurance procedures for the University, and encourages quality enhancement and the spread of good practice.

The Information Services report to SQAEC for academic year 2007–2008 is now available on the IS website, at <http://www.is.ed.ac.uk/reports/>

It outlines the consultations that help set IS priorities, summarises key initiatives, notes the results of student surveys, and highlights some forthcoming developments.

Jeff Haywood (VP-IS)

A next-generation VLE

The Next Generation VLE Project Board decided last Summer to postpone the Procurement Phase for a new VLE. When that decision is reviewed this Summer, it is likely in the current financial situation that the Board will decide to maintain the Project for another year, in which case Blackboard (WebCT Vista 8) will continue as the University's main VLE service until at least 2012.

We realise that academic and support staff need to know what VLE to plan their work around. There is no reason to postpone development work with Blackboard Vista: access to legacy materials will be a major consideration in the procurement process for our new VLE.

Meanwhile, we will continue the Blackboard VLE service through our annual licence. At present we have Vista 8, but a replacement just available (Blackboard 'Learn 9') marks the first step in bringing WebCT and Blackboard Academic Suite into a single product. We have asked a small panel of experienced Vista 8 users to assess Blackboard Learn 9, and will migrate to it as soon as the benefits and user community consultations justify this.

We continue to watch developments in the VLE field, for example through EEVeC, eScript and small installations of other VLEs such as Moodle and Sakai, to ensure that we are up to date when we are ready to proceed to procurement.

Our pilot e-portfolio service – currently based on the externally-hosted Pebblepad and which we will maintain through academic year 2009–2010 – is not tied to our VLE, so we will decide shortly on a procurement process for an e-portfolio to be the basis of a stable long-term service.

Jeff Haywood (VP-IS)

SHEDL!

Shared digital library offers research teams a vital edge

Scotland's researchers are to benefit from an online initiative that makes key journals more widely available.

The Scottish Higher Education Digital Library – SHEDL – has been backed by all Scotland's HEIs. It is the first of its kind in the UK, and will support learning and teaching as well as stimulating better research.

The new digital library will give academics easier access to more than 1,500 specialist publications, and boost the development of Scottish-based research – over half of which was rated internationally excellent or world-leading in the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

It should also boost research across disciplines, and support initiatives that pool research between institutions – a feature of the Scottish research scene which was singled out for praise in the RAE.

SHEDL delivers most current e-journals published by the American Chemical Society, Cambridge University Press (CUP) and Springer Publishing. Individual titles are available via the e-journals service at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/ejournals>

For the first time, the University has access to the wider collections of CUP, with over 100 extra titles. The pilot phase was negotiated by JISC Collections and led by the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL).

Differential access to journals was a problem for some researchers, but SHEDL levels the playing field. It not only provides universities with a greater range of materials, but will also encourage collaboration between institutions as it gives researchers access to journals on the fringes of their disciplines.

Sheila Cannell (IS)

Edikt2009: Using computing in your research

This meeting brings together Scottish researchers who make heavy use of computational techniques such as simulation, modelling or analysis. This will allow an exchange of ideas and provide an opportunity to see how other scientists use resources to maximum benefit.

The day's four sessions will cover a wide range of computational research – Computational Chemistry, Cell Biology and Bioinformatics, Medical Imaging, and Computational Techniques – with speakers from a range of Higher Educational Institutions around Scotland. A poster session will be held in the breaks.

The symposium is in WestPark Conference Centre, Dundee on 29th April. It is free of charge and lunch and snacks will be provided.

There is information on the edikt2 project and the symposium at <http://www.edikt.org.uk/edikt2/edikt2009>

Jon Hill (EPCC)

Following up LISA

The LISA Conference is *the* worldwide meeting for everyone involved in system administration. An informal meeting on 9th April (bring your own lunch!) will give an opportunity to hear from people who attended last year, and what you might do if you were interested in attending or contributing this year.

Last year's conference report is at <http://usenix.org/publications/login/2009-02/openpdfs/lisao8reports.pdf>

Next year's details are at <http://www.usenix.org/events/lisa09/>

The meeting will be in the McEwan Hall Reception Room, Teviot Place, from 12pm to 2pm on 9th April. Please book via the Events Booking channel in MyEd (provider 'IT Forum').

Judy Bird (CMVM)

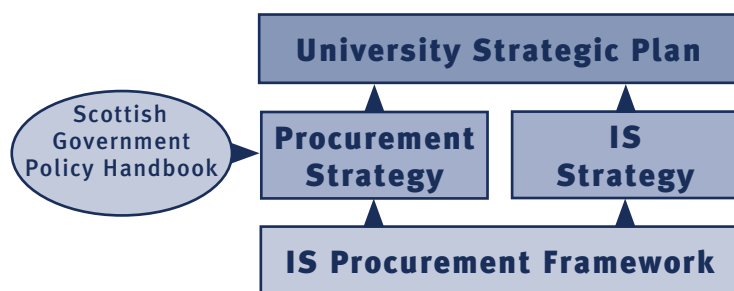
IS Procurement Strategy Project begins

This pathfinding project takes forward recommendations of the internal Phase II Review of Computing and IT Based Services (August 2007) in Information Services. The intention is to help ensure that the Review's recommendations are fully implemented across the University by 2010.

One of the key deliverables of the project is an IS Procurement Framework, to be developed by the newly-formed Procurement Review Team. The team is made up of senior representatives from across the IS group, representatives from IT communities in the Colleges, and members of the Procurement Office.

The Framework will aim to:

- ensure that IS procurement is efficient, effective and legally compliant;
- provide clarity of roles, responsibilities and ownership;
- ensure that the full commodity lifecycle is considered in any purchase, from initial concept, through purchase and use, to re-use/recycling or disposal;
- support procurement collaboration amongst University Schools, Colleges and departments, and with other universities and public bodies in Scotland;
- provide clear routes for good procurement information/advice;
- ensure that the Procurement Office is included in any procurement activities as early as possible in the process;
- ensure that processes are applicable for both project-led and non-project-led procurement;
- ensure that processes are applicable for all sizes of procurement activity;
- promote procurement best practice, the key goals of value for money, and achieving maximum overall benefits;
- align with and support the IS Strategy, the Procurement Strategy, the University Strategic Plan and the Scottish Procurement Strategy (in particular the Government Policy Handbook):



- University strategic plan: http://www.planning.ed.ac.uk/Strategic_Planning/SP2008-12/
- Procurement strategy: http://www.pps.ed.ac.uk/about/strategy_policy/
- IS strategy: <http://www.vp.is.ed.ac.uk/content/1/c4/07/11/itstrat.pdf>
- Scottish Government procurement policy handbook: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/12/23151017/0>

Analysis of IS non-salary costs shows the five highest-spending 'commodity' groups to be AudioVisual, Library and Publications, Computer Supplies, Telecommunications, and Professional Services. These accounted for ~85% of IS non-salary costs in 2007–2008, and will form the main focus of this project.

For more information, or to follow our progress, you can see the Terms of Reference and other documents as they emerge on the University's Projects Website, at <http://www.projects.ed.ac.uk/areas/finance/Procurement/FIN052/>

Dawn Nicholls (IS)

Science Festival turns 21

The Edinburgh International Science Festival celebrates its 21st anniversary this year with the usual vast range of events. Launched by ASIMO, the world's most advanced humanoid robot, on 4–5 April, the Festival also marks Darwin Year and the International Year of Astronomy.

Events with a flavour of IT include:

- Royal Institution Christmas Lectures reprised: Prof Chris Bishop and the quest for the ultimate computer (10 & 11 April)
 - Decoding the Heavens: solving the mystery of the world's first computer (11 April)
 - A gentle introduction to climate modelling: see following article (15 April)
 - Great Scots who changed the world: James Clerk Maxwell (6–18 April)
- And for youthful audiences:
- Robot Fun (10–14 April)
 - Higgs Boson and the LHC (10–14 April)
 - Creative Computing (10–14 April)

The full details are at

<http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk/>
Nick Stroud (IS)

Sidney Michaelson Memorial Lecture

Simon Tett of the School of Geosciences will give this year's Sidney Michaelson Memorial Lecture, with the title 'A Gentle Introduction to Climate Modelling, Observing and Projections', at 8pm on 15th April at the University Informatics Forum, Crichton Street.

This is part of the Edinburgh International Science Festival from which tickets are available, price £6. Further details are available at <http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/events/090415.htm>

David Muxworthy (BCS)

WebFirst to be upgraded

WebFirst is the in-house, web-based financial information and reporting system that is used by nearly 1,500 people to access transactional and account balance information held on the University's corporate finance system, eFinancials.

The Finance Department and Information Services are working together to update WebFirst, to integrate it with EASE and to provide additional reports to users.

The main focus of the new reports will be on forecasting, improving commitment information, and stores reporting. It is hoped to implement these changes in the next two months, and briefing sessions and training will be offered.

If you'd like to know more please contact Gordon Forbes (email Gordon.Forbes@ed.ac.uk), or watch out for further news in *BITs*. After this first phase of changes is implemented there is an opportunity for some further, limited refinement of the reports offered via WebFirst. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for these changes (email E.Welch@ed.ac.uk).

Liz Welch (Finance)

Blogging at the School of Law

The School of Law has long since followed a philosophy of building as much as possible into its website, and integrating as many elements as possible. Hence, its VLE is available as a seamless element of the site, linking dynamically to staff profiles, and feeding messages into digital signage.

The School has extended this thinking to include blogs, which can now be browsed and searched without leaving the main School site.

Benefits expected from this approach include an expanded pool of searchable content, thereby bringing in more visitors. Subject-specific blogs will improve the visibility of School research efforts, and link back to teaching and publications.

We now have four subject-specific, locally-hosted blogs, with ten members of academic staff participating. One blog, 'Scots Law News', has been going for some years now, and regularly finds its way into our web-traffic top ten.

Blogging is proving to be an interesting and effective way of getting participation from academic staff in generating web-based content, creating and disseminating articles on research-based themes, and generating traffic for the website as a whole.

Law's website is at <http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/>

Nick Dyson (Law)

Travel Safely!

The Occupational Hygiene and Safety Unit has produced guidance and a risk assessment for use when travelling on University business, and has published it at http://www.safety.ed.ac.uk/resources/General/travelling_abroad.shtm

The advice includes guidance from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and tips on such topics as ill health insurance and prescriptions while abroad.

To help you prepare to travel abroad for work, research or study, there is a Risk Assessment template at

http://www.safety.ed.ac.uk/safenet/risk_assess/Overseas_RA.shtm

Candice Schmid (Health and Safety)

Learning & Teaching Forum

The TLA Centre is holding an inaugural event in May to discuss how to innovate and develop teaching and learning at the University, and to showcase the Principal's Teaching Award Scheme.

Teams of Edinburgh staff will present educational research and development projects, to help the Forum identify the broad themes and issues involved in supporting teaching and learning across the wider Edinburgh community.

This is the first such showcasing of the Principal's Teaching Awards at Edinburgh, and we expect it to grow into a highly regarded, celebrated and well-attended annual event. We are joined for this first Forum by five internationally-renowned scholars of teaching and learning in Higher Education who will chair the discussions following the various presentations. Opening and closing keynotes will address the challenges of innovations and developments in teaching and learning.

The Forum is intended for all academic and student support staff from across the University. It offers an opportunity to (1) learn about the projects colleagues have been working on, (2) pick up practical ideas and (3) hear more about how engagement in such research and development work might lead to new insights and changes in practice.

Free refreshments (coffee breaks, lunch, and tea and cake following the closing keynote) will be provided for this special event.

The meeting is on 12th May at Moray House; full details are provided at <http://www.tla.ed.ac.uk/services/LTforums/TeachingLearningForum2009.htm>

Nora Mogeys (IS)

IS skills development Courses in April and May

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 April and May, and our web pages for further details and bookings: <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/cts/courses/>

Jenni Reeves (IS)

Final 2008–2009 Service Improvement sessions

The final dates for the popular Service Improvement course are coming up. There are only two full sequences (parts 1–3) remaining for this academic year, beginning on 7th April and 20th May.

182 people have attended this course in the last 15 months, with two-thirds progressing through all three sessions. 65% of attendees have been IS staff, with College of Science and Engineering and College of Humanities and Social Sciences staff making up a further 14% and 8% respectively.

This means that about one in five of all IS staff have attended this course, keen to know the theory that is driving the Service Improvement Programme in IS.

Part 1: 7th April, 9:10–12:40, DHT*

Part 2: 27th April, 9:10–12:40, DHT

Part 3: 7th May, 9:10–12:40, JCMB*

Part 1: 20th May, 9:10–12:40, DHT

Part 2: 3rd June, 13:30–16:45, DHT

Part 3: 23rd June, 13:30–16:45, DHT

Robert Gormley (IS)

Date	Course title	Location*
Apr 1	Word Introduction: Creating and Formatting Documents	BP
1	Basic Image Manipulation Techniques using PhotoShop	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 with WebCT (T)	DHT
9	Intermediate Unix	BP
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
21	Writing for the Web	DHT
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: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts (Part 1)	BP
30	Wikis: What can I do as an Administrator?	BP
May 1	SPSS 2: Using SPSS Output	BP
5	Managing Bibliographies with Reference Manager	BP
5	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Images	BP
5	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Animation Schemes	BP
6	Introduction to Adobe PDFs and Acrobat Professional	BP
6	Intermediate Adobe Acrobat Professional	BP
7	Excel Introduction: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts (Part 2)	BP
12	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Tables, Graphs and Diagrams	BP
12	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Movie and Audio Clips	BP
13	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	BP
14	Basic Image Manipulation Techniques using PhotoShop	BP
25	Editing Web Pages with Contribute	BP
26	Word Intermediate: Document Layout and Customisation	BP
26	Excel Advanced: Manipulating and Managing Data	BP
27	Introduction to Access Database Management (Part 1)	BP
27	Creating Web Pages with HTML	BP
27	Formatting Web Pages with Cascading Style Sheets	BP
27	Introduction to Wikis	BP
28	Creating Leaflets and Posters with InDesign	BP

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

* Locations: BP – 19 Buccleuch Place

DHT – Conference Room, David Hume Tower

JCMB – room 2009a, JCMB, The King's Buildings

A clutch of meetings

Enhancing WebCT

A short informal lunchtime session will introduce some tools and applications which have been created as additions to WebCT – covering a range of specially-written powerlinks and tools including RSS feeds, the University of Edinburgh Toolbox, the SpACE mapping and placemarking tool, and a form-filling application. The hour-long taster session starts at 1pm on 8th April, in the DHT Conference Room. You can book your place through MyEd.

ALT webinars

The Association for Learning Technology and the E-Learning Network are running three free 90 minute lunchtime webinars:

- Using Webinars for Real-Time Learning (1st May)
- Serious Games (16th June)
- Video on a Shoestring (15th October)

For brief descriptions of each webinar, and to book to take part, go to <http://tinyurl.com/cfzydr>

Conference on learning spaces

As the 21st century unfolds, ideas about ‘learning spaces’ in Higher Education are looking beyond the traditional lecture theatres, seminar rooms and studios, and can now include any environment in which learning takes place. This year’s ADM-HEA Annual Forum, SPACE, will explore the theme of ‘learning spaces’ in art, design and media higher education, and will provide opportunities for both ‘virtual’ and ‘vital’ participation.

Virtual SPACE, the online forum, is open from 29th April until 13th May. The physical meeting, Vital SPACE, takes place at the Wales Millennium Centre Event on 9th May. There are full details at <http://www.adm.heacademy.ac.uk/news/subject-centre-news/space-adm-hea-annual-forum-2009>

Future of Education: research discussion day

Futurelab is holding a Research Discussion Day in London on 19th May, featuring a mix of Futurelab’s current research findings and latest thinking from the wider worlds of education and industry. There will also be an opportunity to learn more about the DCSF/Futurelab ‘Beyond Current Horizons’ project which is exploring longer term challenges for education, helping to understand potential transformations in society and technology in 2025 and beyond. The details are at <http://www.futurelab.org.uk/events/>

Wilma Alexander (IS)

A JISC miscellany

O Voice of Scotland

CALL Scotland is a small service and research unit based at Paterson’s Land, Moray House, that provides specialist expertise in assistive technology, especially for children who have communication difficulties.

Believing that there is a strong educational imperative for Scottish pupils to listen to Scottish curriculum resources spoken by a Scottish voice, CALL Scotland has made available a very high quality Scottish synthetic voice, free to Scottish schools and at £30 for others. The voice can be used with a range of documents such as PDF and Microsoft Word files, and with Web browsers. You can find out more, and listen to the voice, at <http://www.thescottishvoice.org.uk/>

CALL Scotland has a Family Fun Technology Day on 25th April, for families of children with additional support needs to find out about the software, hardware and specialised technologies that might help them; see <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/>

Huge collection of historic British periodicals online

Over 500 British Periodicals – representing over 250 years of content – are now available free of charge to UK universities, colleges and research councils thanks to a new agreement between JISC Collections and ProQuest.

The collection features British journals from the 1680s through the Victorian ‘age of periodicals’ to the 1930s, with six million keyword-searchable pages covering the arts, the built environment, humanities and the social sciences.

Many different types of periodical are represented, from magisterial quarterlies and scholarly journals to coterie art periodicals, penny weeklies and illustrated family magazines. All are now accessible in the UK National Academic Archive, through <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2009/02/periodicals.aspx>

Virtual World Watch – Spring 2009 Snapshot

This report is the fifth in a series of snapshots of virtual world activity in UK Higher and Further Education, and the first to be conducted through Virtual World Watch (funded by Eduserv).

A variety of research methods have created a more rounded picture of virtual world activity in UK academia than was achieved in earlier snapshots, identifying four main geographical clusters of academic Second Life activity in the UK:

- Edinburgh: Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt Universities
- Milton Keynes: the Open University
- West Midlands: Coventry, Birmingham City and Warwick Universities
- Leeds: Leeds and Leeds Metropolitan Universities, and Leeds Art and Design College

You can find the report via

<http://scottish-rscs.org.uk/newsfeed/?p=4175>

*Caroline Porteous & Hugh Dailly
(JISC Regional Support Centres)*

EXSEED update: towards the new Exchange service

A programme of workshops to gather user requirements has been completed successfully, with 65 people from across the University participating. The project team and board thank everyone who has provided feedback.

Analysis of the feedback began immediately, with the aim of publishing the draft requirements document by 10th April.

A basic installation of MS Exchange 2007 has been set up to help people on the Project Team and from the IT Professionals' Forum gain early familiarisation with it, on both user and technical levels. We are grateful to colleagues in Liverpool and Edinburgh Napier Universities, and in Microsoft consultancy, for help with the details of the necessary infrastructure planning.

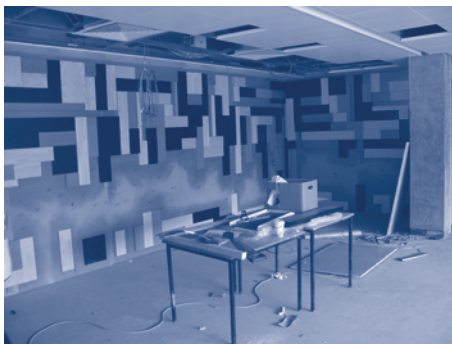
Test groups will be based on broad coverage for user scenarios and will involve IT Professionals' Forum representatives and willing users, including those involved in the requirements workshops. The test infrastructure should be completed during April, to allow user testing in May as planned (see <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ITSo16/Milestones+and+Tasks>)

As well as producing the draft requirements, establishing a testing platform and planning for the necessary test groups, the project is planning for service resilience and Blackberry integration.

If you have any questions about the project, please contribute via the project wiki at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ITSo16/>

Stephen Smith (IS)

Main Library's new Ground Floor starting to take shape



The Director of Library Services and the Lead Architect stand in the corner of the new cafe to discuss progress, while a stylish new feature wall and various items of cafe equipment are installed around them. The project is on schedule to hand the Ground Floor back to the University in May, so it can open for business in June.

The Project website is at <http://www.is.ed.ac.uk/mlrp/>

Fiona Boyd (IS)

e-Science news

The March issue of the National e-Science Centre's newsletter includes news of how UK e-researchers are helping to investigate climate change, and the stone inscriptions which are the main clues to the Ancient Greeks' explorations around the Black Sea. The NeSC newsletter is at <http://www.nesc.ac.uk/news/newsletter/March09.pdf>

Gillian Law (NeSC)

EUCLID 'elements'

Following last month's special issue, this month sees a return to the normal 'elements' format, with updates on the new Postgraduate Admissions Task Force and how EUCLID is moving to deliver its key projects. You can view the current issue of 'elements' at <http://www.euclid.ed.ac.uk/elements/>

Bridget Hanna (EUCLID)

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Contributions to *BITS* are welcomed.

Copy deadline for May *BITS*:

Thursday 16th April