

**Kaspersky anti-virus coming to desktop PCs**

As announced in January's *BITs*, the University is now in the process of changing its anti-virus software. The new package from Kaspersky provides deeper defence against viruses and malware, and replaces the McAfee software.

Upgrades for Supported Desktop PCs have already started, and are due to be completed by the end of May. The rollout is being managed by the IT User Services Division, and happens automatically without user action. Information Services has carried out a considerable amount of testing and evaluation to minimise any disruption in this change, but it is possible that software you use has not been tested against Kaspersky. Please let your IS support team know if any problems arise from the changeover.

**McAfee anti-virus on non-supported PCs and home PCs**

The licence for using McAfee software on non-supported PCs and home PCs does not expire until May 2010. IT User Services will be packaging software and documentation to allow staff to upgrade to Kaspersky before this deadline, and we'll announce availability in due course. In the meantime users are asked to continue using McAfee.

Please note that a fault with the updating process on this package was identified recently, and users should download and install a fix provided by the software vendor to ensure full protection. There are instructions on how to download and apply this 'hotfix' in the 'popular help topics' at <http://www.is.ed.ac.uk/itus/>

*Bryan MacGregor (IS)*

**Edinburgh scientists make quantum leap towards faster computers**

University scientists have helped to create components that could one day be used to develop quantum computers – devices based on molecular scale technology instead of silicon chips, which would be much faster than conventional computers.

The breakthrough combines tiny magnets with molecular machines that can shuttle between two locations without the use of external force.

Conventional computers work by storing information in the form of bits, which can represent information in binary code – zero or one. Quantum computers will use quantum binary digits, or qubits, which can represent not only zero and one, but a range of values simultaneously. Their complexity will enable quantum computers to perform intricate calculations much more quickly than conventional computers. The major challenges now are to bring many qubits together to build a device that could perform calculations, and to discover how to communicate between them.

*David Leigh (Chemistry)*

**May holidays**

The University recognises the May and Victoria Holidays on the 18th and 19th May.

The Main Library and IS Helpdesk will be open for normal semester hours on these days, but other library sites and computing labs may not be. You can check at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/about/opening/>

*Barry Croucher (IS)*

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**The Wode Psalter: page 3**

## Saving the World Wide Web

The University is investing a tremendous amount in its websites these days. Information Services is developing its new site The University Website Project has produced the new editorial framework and deployed the Polopoly content management system. The IS Digital Library Section is looking at the tools, technologies and services which tend to be lumped together unsatisfactorily but inescapably as 'Web 2.0', with a view to innovating in ways that will add value for students and researchers.

When I was at the National Library of Scotland (NLS), the pursuit of legislation to allow the legal deposit libraries to claim *digital* publications led to a lot of effort to explore the issues around the preservation of websites. The UK Web Archiving Consortium developed a prototype archive which collected samples from numerous sites of lasting interest and organised them into collections, focusing on cultural interest and major events; this archive is at <http://www.webarchive.org.uk/>

The notion of trying to 'save the web' first emerged outwith the library sector, with the creation of the Internet Archive at <http://www.archive.org/>

Credit for this is due to Brewster Kahle<sup>1</sup>, who had the vision of building 'Alexandria 2.0' and the courage to act on it. However, preservation is about more than simply collecting content, and it would be dangerous to rely on an independent organisation that is heavily reliant on philanthropic funding (and inconsistent in what it captures from the Web). This is why organisations like NLS – which can trace its history back over 300 years – are important in trying to ensure that the heritage of the 21st Century is retained as successfully as that of previous centuries. If no one does this, digital information such as emails and blogs which could be the historical manuscripts and records of tomorrow might be lost for ever (though many 'tweets' and Facebook updates *should* be lost for ever!).

The British Library is a key player in digital preservation efforts. Lynne Brindley, its Chief Executive, wrote recently about the importance of this mission, suggesting that "Historians and citizens of the future will find a black hole in the knowledge base of the 21st century". She points out that there are already some eight million websites in the UK domain, increasing annually by 15-20%<sup>2</sup>. Other libraries across the world are engaging in preservation efforts, many making their work available to others. Prominent examples are PANDAS from

<sup>1</sup> Brewster Kahle: [http://www.economist.com/science/tq/displaystory.cfm?STORY\\_ID=13174399](http://www.economist.com/science/tq/displaystory.cfm?STORY_ID=13174399)

<sup>2</sup> Lynne Brindley: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2009/jan/25/internet-heritage>

## Thousands of images from the National Library

The National Library of Scotland Digital Archive contains thousands of images of complete books, maps, manuscripts, photographs and drawings. The collection includes official photographs from the First World War, the poems of Robert Burns and Soviet Posters 1919–1930. The archive, which is in the early stages of development, is at <http://digital.nls.uk/>

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

the National Library of Australia<sup>3</sup>, and Netarchive from the Royal Library of Denmark<sup>4</sup>.

'Cloud Computing' presents another challenge, encouraged by the emergence of Web 2.0 social networking and media services such as Facebook and Flickr. We are putting more and more data on externally-hosted services, and may not always back up the data locally. Very recently, it was only prompt community action that saved 48TB of data when one of the world's largest game-hosting sites closed down. Will cloud computing make us even more oblivious to the dangers of losing data? We have got so used to Google that we might think it will be with us for ever, but Google is not yet ten years old, and it has no remit whatever to provide stewardship over any content it hosts, let alone the sites it simply directs us to.

The issues are not just to do with adequate backups; these are important, but over the long term we also need to think about the likelihood of changing software, operating systems and file formats which would make it difficult to retrieve data even if we've been looking after it.

All these issues emphasise the importance of the workshop 'Missing links: the enduring web', which takes place at the British Library on 21st July<sup>5</sup>. This will tackle a number of the questions facing librarians, archivists and data managers, in an immediate practical sense. With such significant effort being invested in the University's websites, it's certainly none too soon to start thinking about how we archive it over the longer term.

Concluding on a positive note, Chris Rusbridge, Director of the Digital Curation Centre, has discovered a success story about the retrieval of images taken by Lunar Orbiter 1 in 1966, stored for over 40 years on magnetic tape! <sup>6</sup>.

*Simon Bains (IS)*

<sup>3</sup> Australia: <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pandas.html>

<sup>4</sup> Royal Library of Denmark: <http://netarchive.dk/index-en.php>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.dpconline.org/graphics/events/090721MissingLinks.html>

<sup>6</sup> Chris Rusbridge: <http://digitalcuration.blogspot.com/2009/04/heroic-data-recovery-story-40-year-old.html>

## University Website Project

Following consultations with Heads of School over website consistency, priorities have now been set for the rollout of Polopoly to Colleges and Schools. Six websites based on areas of the University's organisational structure have been launched in the past few months.

The Project is currently engaged with Arts, Culture & Environment, Economics, Health in Social Science, Literatures, Languages & Cultures, Biological Sciences, Informatics and Veterinary Studies. Groundwork is under way with a number of other Schools which are getting involved in the near future.

The College Office of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, and the School of Clinical Sciences and Community Health launched new websites at the end of March. Further launches due in May. There is a summary of Project timescales at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/about/projects/website-project/what-when/timescales>

All three Support Groups are working with the Project, with a number of sites now live, including Corporate Services, Accommodation Services and the Internal Audit Office. Information Services is undertaking a major website reorganisation and has done a great deal of groundwork; the first phase of the new IS site will be launched in late Summer.

The Project continues to enhance the support for all editors using Polopoly, and is encouraging collaboration as a web publishing community. The EASE-authenticated support wiki contains a wealth of training and guidance materials, as well as a discussion area – at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/x/dRZyAg>

*Neil Allison (IS)*

## Making eLearning and websites accessible

There will be a meeting in New College at 2pm on 6th May to examine the issues around making online information as accessible as possible to as many people as possible.

Everyone in Higher Education has a legal and moral responsibility to ensure the widest possible access to our digital information. Simply putting it online does not automatically make it more accessible: several basic guidelines need to be followed to gain maximum benefit.

This event will be useful to anyone in eLearning and web development or maintenance, helping to clarify legal and practical issues, and providing advice on the creation of accessible documents, widely available tools to assist with specific requirements, and a general summary of the latest Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (W3C WCAG 2.0).

Full details are available at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/x/ZSqQAw>

Please book your place via the MyEd Event Booking channel.

*Karen Howie*

*(History, Classics and Archaeology)*

## For Librarians, Archivists and Museum staff

The next meeting of the Librarians, Archivists & Museum Professionals Forum – LAMP – will take place on Friday 12th June. John MacColl, European Director, RLG Partnership at OCLC Research (and formerly of the University's Digital Library Division) will give a presentation on the challenges facing librarianship. You can book your place through the MyEd Event Booking channel.

*Anne Donnelly (IS)*

## The Wode Psalter project

The Wode St Andrews Psalter comprises an important collection of manuscript musical part books of the Psalms, created by Thomas Wode, vicar of St Andrews, to support worship in post-Reformation Scotland.

The Library possesses five of the eight extant part books, and the University has won a Research Council grant of £303,000 for a three-year project to coordinate multi-disciplinary research on the Psalter, produce a series of musical concerts, and mount an international exhibition at the Library during the 2011 Edinburgh International Festival which will bring together all the existing part books. In addition to music, the exhibition will reveal new insights about religious worship and devotion, painting, poetry, patronage and material culture.

There are further details at <http://www.hss.ed.ac.uk/chb/WodePsalter.htm>

*Andy Grout (IS)*

## e-Inclusion Scotland '09

**“Probably the best e-Inclusion event in the world!”**

This one-day meeting in Glasgow on 27th May is hosted by the two Scottish JISC Regional Support Centres in collaboration with JISC TechDis, for the ‘movers and groovers’ in Scottish tertiary education, supporting accessibility and inclusion.

There will be workshops, and presentations by the top UK accessibility and inclusion speakers, as well as experts with a user's perspective. The conference fee is a mere £75, and there are full details at [http://www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/e-inclusion\\_scotland/](http://www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/e-inclusion_scotland/)

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

## Please help to make things even better...

### Son – or daughter – of Eddie

The Edinburgh Compute and Data Facility – ECDF – has been providing compute and data services to the research community since 2007. These services have centred around a compute cluster named Eddie – a 17Tflop system that has enabled researchers in (and associated with) the University to achieve great results.

The ECDF team is beginning to plan for the compute cluster that is to follow on from Eddie. We are calling this project ‘Eddie Mark 2’, and are currently working to the following timescales:

- August 2010: Eddie Mk 2 Phase 1 delivered
- Spring 2012: Eddie Mk 2 Phase 2 delivered
- Spring/Summer 2012: Eddie Mk 1 decommissioned

As with the current cluster, the new system will very much be owned by University researchers, and run entirely to meet their needs. If you would like to contribute to the design and implementation of Eddie Mark 2 in any way, please do get in touch – either to members of the ECDF team directly, or by email to [science.support@ed.ac.uk](mailto:science.support@ed.ac.uk).

We expect the new system to be fundamentally the same as the current one – a ‘Beowulf’ style cluster of commodity X86\_64 Linux machines. It is likely to be of a similar scale to the current one, but with increased performance; if Moore’s law continues to hold (and compute power double every two years), we can anticipate a 44Tflops system in Spring 2012.

*Orlando Richards (IS)*

### Would a Cloud help your research?

The ECDF Middleware team and NeSC Training have attracted some national funding to investigate Cloud Computing for researchers.

(‘Cloud computing’ provides IT resources over the Internet, and users don’t need to have intimate knowledge of the technology “in the cloud” that is doing their work. You can find out more at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud\\_computing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_computing) )

We would like to hear from anyone who is thinking of using Cloud services over the next couple of years, so that we can understand the projects you will want to use with this type of service, and build a local cloud to trial.

Our initial thoughts are that anything we do locally should be as compatible as possible with large commercial clouds (such as Amazon EC2), enabling researchers to scale their projects easily and rapidly.

We would welcome any feedback you could give us on this, particularly if you would be interested in beta-testing a possible future service (email [m.baker@ed.ac.uk](mailto:m.baker@ed.ac.uk)).

*Mike Baker (NeSC)*

### Majordomo replacement?

IS is consulting on changing the University’s mailing list service platform from Majordomo/Majorcool to a new more flexible service. Detailed technical information on the proposed change is available at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/x/YBSTAW>

If you would like to comment on the proposal, please use the ‘Add Comment’ link at the foot of that page, before the end of May.

*Graeme Wood (IS)*

### Should EASE remember you for longer?

IS is consulting on extending the lifetime of an EASE login session (currently it is eight hours). Detailed technical information on the proposed change is available at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/x/aBSTAW>

If you would like to comment on the proposal, please use the ‘Add Comment’ link at the foot of that page, before 15th May.

*Graeme Wood (IS)*

### Are you planning to buy any netbooks?

Procurement Scotland is carrying out a tendering exercise to obtain the best possible price for a standardised Netbook computer. If you might be interested in this deal could you please let me know (email [Justin.MacNeil@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Justin.MacNeil@ed.ac.uk)) how many ‘definite’ and ‘possible’ netbooks you plan to purchase in the next six months, so we can pass on an aggregated number for the University as a whole. Also please let me know if you would have any key requirement for a netbook, so it can be considered in future tendering exercises.

This process is likely to result in the lowest possible price for a machine which is considered ‘good enough’, though it does give less leeway to pick a superior but slightly more expensive machine.

*Justin MacNeil (Geosciences)*

### ITPF Summer Conference 2009

The IT Professionals’ Forum organises an annual Summer conference, and the date for this year’s is fast approaching. What would *you* like to see covered at this year’s conference? If you have an interest in IT, please take five minutes to complete a short (anonymous) survey to help us with our plans: [http://www.accom.ed.ac.uk/itpf/summer\\_2009.html](http://www.accom.ed.ac.uk/itpf/summer_2009.html)

*Iain Dobson (Accommodation Services)*

## Thank you!

### Please help redesign the Procurement website!

The Procurement Office is working to improve its website, and wants to be sure that the new one meets the needs of its users. If you use the Procurement website, please take five minutes to complete the short task survey at <http://websiterepository.ed.ac.uk/survey/procurement/>

*Craig Henderson (Procurement)*

### Survey of Taught Postgraduates

If you are a taught postgraduate, please help us to identify areas where improvements could be made to enhance the provision of taught degree programmes, at local and national level, by taking part in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES).

PTES is an online questionnaire organised by the University of Edinburgh and the Higher Education Academy, and should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. All responses will be held anonymously and securely.

The survey is at <https://www.survey.ed.ac.uk/ptes2009>

*Victoria Heathwood (Academic Affairs)*

### STATA

Some local STATA ([www.stata.com](http://www.stata.com)) users are interested in a service that could deal with large data sets (requiring 16Gb RAM or more) and use multiple processors to shorten processing time. I would like to hear from anyone who thinks they would make use of such a service, so that we can work out the best way to go about it (and whether it is economically viable). Please email [m.baker@ed.ac.uk](mailto:m.baker@ed.ac.uk) if you can help.

*Mike Baker (NeSC)*

### EXchange Service for EDinburgh (EXSEED): update

Good progress is being made in the project to deliver MS Exchange 2007:

- We now know we can run Exchange 2007 on our current Active Directory 2003.
- We have agreed postponement of the Windows Office upgrade.
- We have trained technical team members.
- We have gained valuable input from contractors and Liverpool University.
- We have architecture designs ready for sign-off by Microsoft consultants.

The feedback from the requirements workshops in March has been positive, and we have published a complete Functional Requirements Listing – at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ITSo16/Integrated+Communications+Latest+News+‘Sandbox’+testing>

Our test environment was a hive of activity in April, with various successes including Mac client access via Entourage and MacMail. We know that the next release of Mac OS X, ‘Snow Leopard’, supports Exchange connectivity directly.

We are installing a Linux server plugin to enable Linux client testing. We know that Outlook Web Access works, although the non-premium interface offers ‘daily’ view only. With lots to do, clear progress is being documented.

We have had some success with sample mobile devices. Basic functionality is satisfactory for iPhones, Sony Ericsson k850i, Symbian Nokia E71 and Windows Mobile devices. A conference call with Vodafone has been arranged to help us understand our options for Blackberry devices and redraft the service offering.

#### Migration planning

We are aiming to make the process as painless as possible for users and Computing Officers through automation. A Java programmer is reviewing code from Liverpool University to migrate data from Oracle eDiary to Exchange. We are planning migration from our existing Exchange 2000 service and how we might handle both advice and implementation for any optional moves from Staffmail to Exchange mail. Early thoughts are documented on the project wiki at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ITSo16/Migration+Planning>

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, Mark Wetton (IS)*

### Temporary move of GMRC this Summer

The new KB Learning and Teaching Cluster is being constructed in the James Clerk Maxwell Building this Summer, requiring the temporary relocation of the Graphics and Multimedia Resource Centre (GMRC).

The GMRC – normally in JCMB Room 3901 – will move all its services to the Darwin Library before the initial (noisy) construction work begins in June.

The return date will depend on the impact of disruption on GMRC users; details will be posted in *BITs*, and on the IS Resource Centres website at <http://www.lrc.ed.ac.uk/>

The GMRC is one of two multimedia resource centres operated by Information Services, the other being the Learning Resource Centre in the Main Library. Both provide free DIY facilities for poster printing, scanning, and digital image, audio, and video processing. The GMRC also offers a digital media equipment lending service. Staff are available at both centres to provide advice and support. Full details can be found on the newly-updated IS Resource Centres website.

*David Findlay (IS)*

## IS skills development courses in May and June

Information Services runs free IT courses and short sessions for Edinburgh University staff and postgraduates. We're based at 19 Buccleuch Place in the central area, and also run some courses at The King's Buildings. Here is a summary list of our upcoming course dates; our web pages contain details and booking information, at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/cts/courses/>

Date	Course	Jenni Reeves (IS) Location*
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 (2)	BP
11	Looking good with Word's styles (T)	DHT
12	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Tables, Graphs and Diagrams	BP
12	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Movie and Audio Clips	BP
12	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	BP
13	Writing for the Web	DHT
14	Basic Image Manipulation Techniques using PhotoShop	BP
14	Getting to grips with filters and PivotTables in Excel (T)	DHT
25	Editing Web Pages with Contribute	BP
25	Writing essay-exams on laptop computers (T)	DHT
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
June 2	Creating and Editing Web Pages using FrontPage 2003	BP
3	Introduction to Access Database Management (Part 2)	BP
3	WebCT Vista Fundamentals	BP
3	PowerPoint: Basic Skills for Creating a Presentation	BP
4	SPSS 3: Changing Data in SPSS	BP
4	SPSS 4: Changing SPSS Data Files	BP
8	Creating accessible documents (T)	DHT
9	Excel Introduction: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts	BP
10	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	BP
10	Creating and Editing Web Pages with Dreamweaver 8	BP
10	Creating Templates and Managing Websites with Dreamweaver 8	BP
10	WebCT Communication Tools	BP
11	Making the Most of Your Wiki	BP
12	Producing a Thesis using Word	BP
15	Using EDINA Digimap	BP
15	Introduction to Visualising Data in ArcGIS 9	BP
15	Working smart with Excel hints and tips (T)	DHT
16	Creating a Database with FileMaker Pro	BP
16	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Images	BP
16	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Animation Schemes	BP
17	Introduction to Unix	JCMB
17	Word Introduction: Creating and Formatting Documents	BP
17	WebCT Assessment and Assignments	BP
18	Managing Bibliographies with Reference Manager	BP
24	Intermediate Unix	JCMB
24	Wikis: What can I do as an Administrator?	BP
25	Basic Image Manipulation Techniques using PhotoShop	BP
25	Using bookmarks and cross-references in Word (T)	DHT
30	Programming in Perl	BP
30	Introduction to Access Database Management	BP

Venues: BP – 19 Buccleuch Place  
 JCMB – The King's Buildings  
 DHT – David Hume Tower

(T) – lunchtime taster session:  
 bring your sandwiches!

## Fancy a bite?

Our taster programme for May and June is now available for booking. Come along at lunchtime to learn how to format your Word document quickly and easily with styles, analyse your data with filters and pivottables in Excel, make your documents accessible for people with disabilities, pick up lots of Excel hints and tips, and find out how to create cross-references in Word that update automatically. For more information and to book a place, visit the MyEd Event Booking channel.

*Shona Matchett (IS)*

## Final 2008–2009 Service Improvement sessions

The dates for the final full sequence (parts 1–3) this academic year of the popular Service Improvement course are coming up:

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

Around two-thirds of the attendees on these courses so far have been IS staff, keen to exploit this new method for improving services, with the rest welcomed from Colleges and Support Groups.

*Robert Gormley (IS)*

## BCS meeting: Virtual tour guide with personality

Rob Pooley of Heriot-Watt University will speak at the next meeting of the Edinburgh BCS branch with the title 'Virtual tour guide with personality', on the evolution of a handheld virtual guide for PDA or mobile phone use. This will be in the University Informatics Forum, 10 Crichton Street, EH8 9AB at 6:30pm on Wednesday 13th May.

All are welcome. There are further details at <http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/events/090513.htm>

*David Muxworthy (IS)*

## Finance courses, May–July

Finance runs free training courses for University staff, covering a wide range of topics including eFinancials, eExpenses, eInternal Transfers (eITs), Financial Procedures, Budgeting, Forecasting, and Your Finances. Courses are offered as either ‘hands on’ or presentations, and take place in Charles Stewart House, 9–16 Chambers Street. For information about content see <http://www.finance.ed.ac.uk/finweb/training/>

Further information on training is available on our website and booking is via MyEd.

A summary of dates is shown in the table below; please use MyEd to book a place. If you would like anything to be added to the training programme please contact [E.Welch@ed.ac.uk](mailto:E.Welch@ed.ac.uk).

*Liz Welch (Finance)*

May 5	Introduction to eFinancials
6	Managing your Research Budget
7	eInternal Transfers
12	Purchase Order Processing
15	eFinancials Sales Invoices
20	eFinancials Journals and Reports
21	eExpenses
26	Managing Non-research budgets
28	Webfirst
June 2	Introduction to eFinancials
4	Introduction to Corporate Finance Systems
9	Purchase Order Processing
11	eInternal Transfers
15	eExpenses
17	eFinancials Sales Invoices
18	Your Finances
19	eFinancials Journals and Reports
24	Introduction to eFinancials
26	Purchase Order Processing
29	eInternal Transfers
July 1	Introduction to Financial Procedures and Processes
2	WebFirst
7	Downloading from WebFirst
9	Introduction to Corporate Finance Systems

## e-Science news

The April issue of the National e-Science Centre’s newsletter includes news of a ground-breaking collaboration between the University and the NHS: the new Clinical Research Imaging Centre is creating a state-of-the-art facility to promote the mutual interests of clinicians and researchers. There is also news of two theme issues of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London (Series A)* with papers from the All Hands Meeting 2008, and of continuation funding for the National Grid Service. The NeSC newsletters are at <http://www.nesc.ac.uk/news/newsletter/>

*Gillian Law (NeSC)*

## Problems with mail to BT Internet

For the last two months the University – and many other organisations in the UK academic community – have been experiencing problems getting email to BT addresses (we are aware of @btinternet.com, @btoopenworld.com, @talk21.com). A similar problem with mail to Yahoo addresses seems to have been resolved, but the problem continues to affect BT mail, with long delays being experienced before mail is accepted by BT servers.

The University, and others in the Community, have tried repeatedly to contact BT in an attempt to discover the cause of this problem and rectify it. Recently UKERNA – the body that operates the Community’s national network JANET – has tried to make contact at a higher level. No meaningful response from BT has been received, and there is at this time no sign that any progress can be made. So, while IS is aware of the problem, we are at a loss to know what more we can do about it.

It is possible that BT might be more willing to respond to its paying customers. If you are one, and you have seen delays in email from the University or any other UK academic organisation being delivered to your BT mail account, we encourage you to contact BT and ask for an explanation. If you get any useful information, please feed it back to us via your usual User Support channel!

*Scott Larnach (IS)*

## Dugald Stewart at charity book sale

Have you ever wondered what happens to retired librarians? Well, rather than fading away, they tend to come and help at the annual charity book sale at St Andrew’s and St George’s Church in George Street.

Since 1974, this sale has raised over £1.7m for Christian Aid, and as well as every kind of book (some 150,000 individual volumes last year), the sale includes antiques and collectables, printed ephemera, pictures, paintings, CDs, DVDs, records, stamps and postcards.

This year’s sale has a first edition of *Outlines of Moral Philosophy* (1793) by Dugald Stewart – chair of moral philosophy at the University (1785–1810) and counting Walter Scott, Francis Jeffrey and Henry Thomas Cockburn amongst his pupils. The School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences’ new home is named for him.

The success of the sale is due to the generosity of donors and volunteers throughout the year. Sorting continues until 6th May, and the sale runs from Saturday 9th to Friday 15th. For information about helping, donating or opening hours please see [http://www.standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk/christian\\_aid\\_book\\_sale.php](http://www.standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk/christian_aid_book_sale.php)

*Jason Wardley (IS)*

## What the Digital Curation Centre can do for you



John Robertson of CAPLE at Strathclyde University (left) receives his prize from DCC Director Chris Rusbridge for successfully completing a high-pressure crossword. The DCC (Digital Curation Centre) had a stand at the JISC Conference in March where it launched its new brochure 'What the Digital Curation Centre can do for you'; see [http://www.dcc.ac.uk/docs/publications/What\\_the\\_DCC\\_can\\_do\\_for\\_you.pdf](http://www.dcc.ac.uk/docs/publications/What_the_DCC_can_do_for_you.pdf)

## New datasets at the Data Library

The following new datasets – from the UK Data Archive – are now available to University staff and students:

- Growing up in Scotland, 2005–2006
- Health Education Population Survey, 2007
- Scottish Crime & Victimization Survey, 2004 & 2006
- Scottish Demography: Scottish migration to, and return from, South East England, 2005–2006
- Scottish Election Study, 2007

The Data Library has also obtained updates to the following:

- Scottish Crime Survey
- Scottish Household Survey
- Scottish Social Attitudes Survey

The Data Library Catalogue is at <http://www.datalib.ed.ac.uk/catalogue.html>  
For further information contact the Data Library by sending email to [datalib@ed.ac.uk](mailto:datalib@ed.ac.uk).

Anne Donnelly [IS]

## IT futures meeting: future-proofing your space

The next meeting of the University's IT Futures Group is about planning the use of spaces. Many University staff have to plan a new space, or a new use of an existing space – equipping new teaching areas; turning a seminar room into a computer lab; trying to figure out how students want to use laptops and wireless; working out how to maximise usage. Usually technology is an issue, and it's easy to get this wrong, the technology changing even as it is installed.

This seminar will share experiences (good and bad) and best practices, with the emphasis on local problems and solutions. The meeting is at 2pm on 26th May, in the Informatics Forum. Booking is via MyEd, and there is more information at <http://www.itfutures.ed.ac.uk/Seminar09.shtml>

Jessie Paterson (Divinity)

## Unnecessary costs of IT

A recent report from the 'Alliance to Save Energy' suggests that UK businesses are wasting some £300 million a year in powering idle computers – and the UK is said to be the leader in environmentally friendly PC power. There is an account at <http://www.itpro.co.uk/610323/idle-computers-waste-300-million-a-year>

Several ways of reducing the cost of printing are summarised at <http://scottish-rscs.org.uk/newsfeed/?p=4250>

While we can all switch off our computers and reduce printing costs, the world seems unable to stop the production of spam email – the generation, detection and filtering of which is reported to consume as much power annually as 2.4 million homes: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8001749.stm>

Nick Stroud (IS)

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Contributions to *BITS* are welcomed.

Copy deadline for June *BITS*:

**Wednesday 20th May**