

Information Services Edinburgh Bits



IS Website

The screenshot shows the Information Services website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the University of Edinburgh logo and name, a search bar, and a 'Contact us' link. Below this is a main content area with a grid of sections: 'Your key services' (Students, Researchers and teachers, Support staff), 'Topic focus' (Library, museums & galleries, Computing, Learning and teaching, Research support), 'About us' (Policies and regulations, Organisation, Strategy and planning), 'Latest news' (Rebus' author Ian Rankin celebrates the redevelopment of the Main Library), 'Services' (Guide to IS services, Service status and alerts), and 'Quick links' (MyEd, Library catalogue, Help and advice). A footer contains links for Terms & Conditions, Privacy Policy, Accessibility Statement, Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, and Website Survey, along with a copyright notice for 2009.

This article was published on Sep 11, 2009

Information Services has a new website, integrated into the University's main website using the 'Polopoly' Content Management System. The new IS site has been created from scratch, bringing together information from the old Library, EUCS, MIS and MALTS sites, organised in a way which is more intuitive to users. The change has given us the opportunity to align both the site and IS services themselves more closely to the University's needs.

Our aim was to produce a stylish but businesslike site which, based on our research with users, helps you get the best from our services and makes our organisation easier to understand. The new site represents a significant step forward from the old IS sites, but it is just a starting point. We will continue developing the new site, taking full account of feedback – which is most welcome! – with a view to closing down all the old IS sites within a year.

The new Information Services site is at www.ed.ac.uk/is

Martin Morrey (IS)

University Website Project update

The Project is preparing to hand over first-line user support to the IS Helpline. Meanwhile new sites across the University continue to launch.

Planning and preparation over the past couple of months have seen over 20 helpdesk staff trained in the use of Polopoly, with processes put in place to deal with a range of common support queries. We plan to hand over front-line support in mid October.

Significant development of the Polopoly-driven University website continues, with several major sites going live recently:

- Centre for Sport and Exercise: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/sport-exercise
- Finance: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/finance
- Printing Services: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/printing
- Information Services: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services

Neil Allison (University Website Project)

Inside

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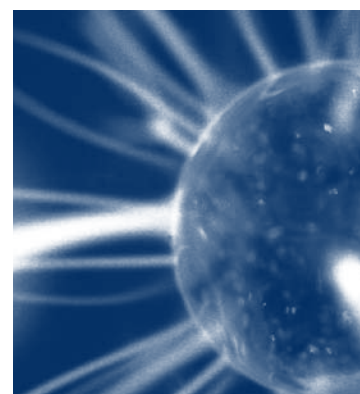
Replacement of network and telephony services

The Brain Imaging Centre

Study to map the fibre tracts in the brain

Services Day 2009

University's Services Day to be held in October





Library hours

For the final five weekends of the Summer vacation, the Ground Floor of the Main Library, George Square was open on Saturdays and Sundays to provide enhanced access to study space and other facilities. This came about after representation from EUSA President Thomas Graham.

For most of the time this was on a self-service basis, so only users with a valid Library card could gain admittance, and no new registrations were possible. There was access to the HUB Collection, photocopyers, PCs and printers, and self-issue facilities.

The revised opening hours were:

- Saturdays 5th & 12th September: Building open 10am to 8pm (staffed service 10am to 12.50pm)
- Sundays 6th & 13th September: Building open 12 noon to 8pm (no staffed service)

Full Semester hours in the Main Library commence in Freshers' Week, on Monday 14th September.

For full details of Library vacation and semester opening hours, see www.lib.ed.ac.uk/about/opening/

For further information, please contact Barry Croucher, Head of Help Services, User Services Division (email barry.croucher@ed.ac.uk, tel 513812).

The October issue of BITs will focus on the redeveloped Main Library, and library services in general.

Barry Croucher (IS)

New Framework Agreement for printing

The University of Edinburgh has adopted a new Printing Service framework agreement via APUC – Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges.

This will replace existing agreements from 10th September 2009. Workflow, order process and more information are provided at www.pps.ed.ac.uk/for/staff/contracts_suppliers/suppliers/more.cfm?MyID=409

These framework suppliers must be contacted through Printing Services or the print buyers listed on the web page above. If you require more information on using this contract please contact Stuart Mclean (email stuart.mclean@ed.ac.uk, tel 502509 or 508006).

It is imperative that this contract is used and that no orders are placed with print suppliers who are not contracted on the above agreement. The University's Printing Services will be the main service provider and key liaison with these providers.

Stuart McLean (Printing & Procurement)

IT Forum news

We had four people put their names forward to be the IT Professionals' Forum representative on the IS Change Advisory Board (Supported Desktops). Their names went into the hat, and Alan Wilson from the Business School came out victorious. Thanks to everyone who put their names forward.

Neil Brown (Informatics)

AFS Hackathon

The School of Informatics is hosting an AFS protocol hackathon on 22–24 September. The event will focus on specifying major new functionality for the AFS protocol, and is attracting a number of interesting people to Edinburgh. Along with leading developers from the AFS and Kerberos worlds, representatives from a number of significant commercial and academic deployers will be attending.

This presents a perfect opportunity for folk in Edinburgh with Kerberos, AFS and like interests to chat with people from other sites, and other scales of working. If you would be interested in meeting up with us, please let me know! (email sxw@inf.ed.ac.uk)

Simon Wilkinson (informatics)

Edinburgh joins iTunes U

Apple achieved a runaway success with its iTunes site, which is now used by people throughout the world to manage and buy their music.

Interest grew with the arrival of 'podcasting', which allowed anyone to make their own radio and TV-like programmes and offer them to a global audience. When universities started doing this, Apple set up an academic section in iTunes to collect together all their podcasts. You can get the flavour of iTunes U at www.apple.com/education/guidedtours/itunesu.html

The University has now joined iTunes U, with an initial offering of recordings of lectures and interviews with world-leading thinkers, news and events, to promote the University and the city of Edinburgh to the world.

Anyone in the world can download material from iTunes U free of charge, then either listen to or view it on their computer or move it to their portable music player for complete flexibility in time and place.

New and non-traditional channels such as iTunes U are helping forward-looking universities to increase their visibility, enhance their international reputation and increase their exposure to potential new students.

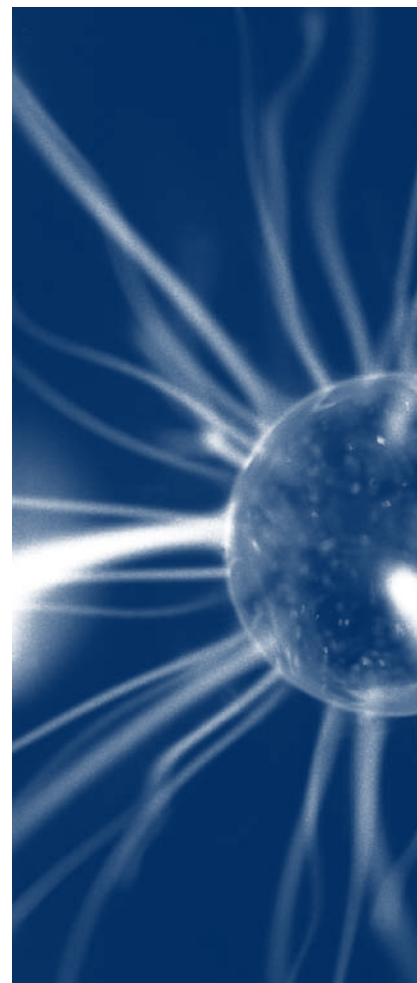
Do you have something to put in iTunes U?

Information Services provides an easy-to-use service for processing, managing and delivering audio and video, to help prepare material for iTunes U. To use this you will need to have an account on the podcasting service to host your files. We are also in the process of setting up bookable podcasting suites in George Square (in the Hugh Robson Building) and in the KB Centre at The King's Buildings, to make it as easy as possible to make high-quality recordings without needing any technical knowledge. University of Edinburgh branding is added during processing, producing professional-quality files for streaming or download.

For further advice and information please visit www.media.is.ed.ac.uk/richmedia/podcast_producer.html

If you have any further questions, please email media.services@ed.ac.uk.

Alex Carter (IS)



Peter Turfy

EXSEED update

August has been the busiest and most challenging period for the EXSEED project team. We encountered some infrastructure challenges, in one case needing to make an essential security-driven change, while also trying to design a process for diary and mail data migration that minimises the burden on users and support staff. We can report good progress in procuring the production system hardware, and have run a series of awareness presentations with the pilot communities so they know what to expect.

Testing

The users who agreed to help test connectivity and core functionality now have instructions and have begun user testing.

Testing has shown the need to be able to increase significantly the efficiency of automated data migration so we can complete migrations within a month as planned. We are making concerted efforts to ensure that automation remains viable.

A final decision on this will be made at the project board meeting in October.

The software required to run Blackberry devices is working in our test environment, with some basic tests having been successful. Further testing of this service component is planned.

Volunteers blazing the trail

We have a confirmed group of volunteer users who will be 'trail blazers' and begin using the Exchange 2007 service in advance of the pilot users. This pre-pilot phase is expected to run during October and will include final user acceptance testing sign-off. It aims to prove that the service will meet core business requirements, and also provide confidence that the whole migration process works. The pilot will then commence with around 200 live users.

Finishing touches

While we aim to automate as much as

possible, we still need to confirm that automation is the most cost-effective way forward. We know that in any event, some changes will need to be completed by users themselves. Clear guidance and support contacts will be provided.

Next Steps

- Complete user and migration tests up to mid October.
- Complete the build of production infrastructure.
- Publish plans and dates for the phased migrations.
- Produce and make available core user and support guidance.

For more information on the Project please visit the Project's Website – which includes a Weekly Diary – at www.projects.ed.ac.uk/areas/itservices/integrated/ITS016

Mark Wetton (IS)

EPCC watches as room burns

Around noon on 29th October last year, a fire broke out in a small flat in Watford. It started in a sofa in the living room, and quickly spread to a nearby table and TV. The temperature increased to such a level that the walls and other furnishings burst into flames, a phenomenon known as flash-over that would have been fatal to anyone in the room. A ball of fire then coursed down the hallway, creating a plume of flame that curled around the front door.

The fire had burned for just under an hour, but in a crucial couple of minutes the flash-over raised the temperature dramatically, from a level tolerable for humans to over 700°C – vividly demonstrating the hazards faced by fire fighters.

Happily this fire took place in a state-of-the-art burn hall operated by the Building Research Establishment, and was safely extinguished. This is an important research facility, and on this occasion EPCC was helping to monitor the incident, predict what would happen next, and relay this valuable information to the emergency services.

The aim of the experiment was to test the prototype integrated emergency response system for built environments, which has been developed as part of the FireGrid project.

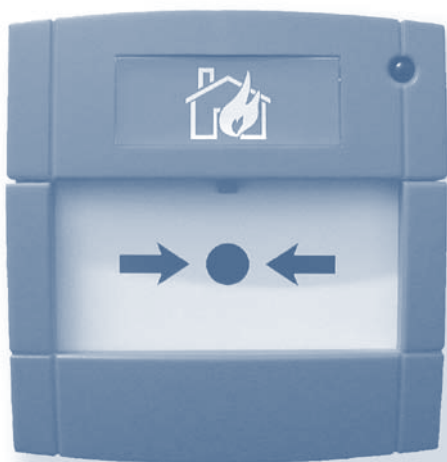
The system used a battery of sensors to measure quantities such as temperature, smoke levels, air flow and gas concentrations, and collected them in a central database. Different agents in the FireGrid system then used this data to report and predict the fire's progress.

The system was used to predict both structural collapse and flash-over. For redundancy it ran on two high-performance systems: ECDF, the University of Edinburgh's research compute cluster; and HPCx, one of the UK's two national supercomputing facilities, both accessed over the Internet using Grid protocols. The experiment demonstrated that Grid-based sensors and fire models can accurately predict fire performance, so that in time FireGrid could be part of an emergency response.

The FireGrid system is at the heart of the School of Engineering and Electronics' mission to establish a cross-disciplinary collaborative community to pursue fundamental research to develop real-time emergency response systems, using the Grid. Their website is at www.firegrid.org

There is a full account of the experiment and the FireGrid system, along with all the latest news from EPCC, in the Summer 2009 newsletter at www.epcc.ed.ac.uk/library/newsletters/epcc-news/

Tracy Peet (EPCC)



HECToR significantly upgraded

HECToR is the UK's main national supercomputing service, hosted and managed by EPCC, the supercomputing centre at the University of Edinburgh (www.epcc.ed.ac.uk).

The system, which facilitates world-leading research in a wide range of disciplines, received an upgrade this Summer: the theoretical peak performance increased to 208 Tflops, making HECToR one of the fastest machines in Europe.

In the upgrade all the old dual-core processors in the Cray XT4 system were replaced with new quad-core chips, doubling the total number of cores to 22,656. The total memory of the system was increased to 45.3TB. It took three weeks to perform this work, and the new system successfully completed acceptance tests in early July as planned. (The Cray X2 system comprising 112 vector processors, which is part of the HECToR service, was unaffected by this upgrade.)

EPCC continues to work closely with HECToR users to ensure their codes run as efficiently as possible on the resources available. Two examples from recently completed projects are:

- dramatic improvements to the CP2K Quantum Chemistry code, allowing it to take advantage of a larger fraction of the available resource than previously;
- substantial improvements to the mechanisms used by the NEMO Ocean Modelling code in reading and writing files on a system as large and complex as HECToR.

To find out more about our wide range of collaborative work, and for information on how EPCC can help your research benefit from advanced computing, please visit our new-look Research Collaboration web pages at www.epcc.ed.ac.uk/research/

HECToR has his own site, at www.hector.ac.uk

Alan Gray (EPCC)

Seeing stars at the **National e-Science Centre**

The leading article in the August issue of the NeSC newsletter looks at how astronomy has changed, from naked eyes through cold telescopes to warm computers. The changes taking place as astronomy goes digital – driven by policy, economics and technology – are the subject of the new e-Science Institute research theme, 'Next Generation Sky Surveys: Astronomical Opportunities and Computational Challenges', led by Dr Bob Mann.

The NeSC newsletter is at www.nesc.ac.uk/news/newsletter/August09.pdf

The other e-Science theme that has started up recently is 'The Influence and Impact of Web 2.0 on e-Research Infrastructure, Applications and Users'. There is information about this at www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/themes/theme_12/

The e-Science Institute is planning its work for 2010 and is keen to receive proposals for new themes. The deadline for suggestions is 16th October, and there are full details at www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/themes/

The University is again offering its MSc in Distributed Scientific Computing (formerly called the MSc in e-Science), for which applications are accepted throughout the year though funding favours early applications. There are full details at www.nesc.ac.uk/msc/

Gillian Law (NeSC)

New student network

The University is replacing its data and telephony services to the students it houses. The new services will be live by 12th September, provided by Keycom plc.

The service has been extended to cover just about all the properties managed by Accommodation Services, representing some 5,700 bed-spaces. The majority of these will receive a symmetric 8Mbps service, with the option to upgrade, for an additional charge, to 20Mbps. Those who only have an 8Mbps download service have been restricted due to location. Students at Pollock Halls will also be able to subscribe to IPTV if they wish.

The telephony service is delivered over a VoIP platform and allows free room-to-room calls, and free calls to University numbers and six other key numbers. Other calls are paid for by setting up an account or by using a voucher. The telephony service includes a pin-protected voicemail option.

Accommodation Services has introduced wireless to all common student areas – such as common rooms, kitchens, pantries and lounges – to support and encourage the use of these social spaces.

The whole service is connected by two 10Gb links provided by BT and Virgin Media to provide greater resilience. The links back to Pollock are either 100Mb or 1Gb. The network is connected direct to EdLAN, with another resilient link.

We have a five-year roadmap, covering the duration of the contract, to upgrade the basic and enhanced data products to keep up with the current domestic market.

One final feature of the new service is that both Accommodation Services and the Student IT Helpline under Noel Millar will have access to Keycom's Helpdesk Ticketing (call logging system) to provide extra support to students if they need it.

Claire Barnish (Accommodation Services)

University's wireless service to be simplified

JANET is the UK's academic and research network, and it provides a facility called 'eduroam' which enables you to log on with your own 'home' username and password from any academic institution in the world where the eduroam service is supported. It thus provides all the functionality required to log on wirelessly in Edinburgh, so it isn't necessary to provide our own independent wireless service name.

We therefore propose to phase out the use of 'central-wpa'. Initially we will simply replace references to it in documentation with 'eduroam', but at some point in the future we will actually switch it off, as its presence marginally degrades the overall network service.

If you have any concerns about this plan, please email b.byers@ed.ac.uk.

Bill Byers (IS)

A PhD on txtng

A Birmingham student has been awarded what is believed to be the UK's first PhD on text-messaging, based on the linguistic analysis of 11,000 SMS text messages – the largest corpus of text messages in English.

Nick Stroud (IS)

Need help?

IS Help Services provide a first point of contact for enquiries relating to library services, IT and e-learning.

Help Services includes the IS Helpline, IS Helpdesk at the Main Library and IS Helpdesks at site libraries.

To get help with IS services see www.ed.ac.uk/is/help

Barry Croucher (IS)



Putting a face on the Digital Curation Centre

The Digital Curation Centre – DCC – held its six-monthly Face-to-Face meeting for all partners at Gleddoch House Hotel in Langbank on 8th & 9th July – and captured a rare group photograph.

Florance Kennedy (IS)

Standing L to R:

Graeme Pow, Edinburgh (photographer); Graham Pryor, Edinburgh (Deputy Director); Colin Neilson, UKOLN, Bath (SCARP Project); David Giaretta, STFC, (Associate Director); Angus Whyte, Edinburgh (SCARP); Steven Rankin, STFC; Bridget Robinson, UKOLN; Alex Ball, UKOLN; Chris Rusbridge, Edinburgh (Director); Martin Donnelly, Edinburgh; Manjula Patel, UKOLN; Sarah Jones, HATII, Glasgow; Joy Davison, HATII (Acting Associate Director); Matt Dunckley, STFC; Patrick McCann, HATII; Brian McIlwrath, STFC; Paul Lyden, consultant.

Seated:

Sarah Higgins, Edinburgh; Liz Lyon, UKOLN (Associate Director); Florance Kennedy, Edinburgh; Emily Nimmo, HATII; Mags McGeever, Edinburgh.

Repository Fringe 2009

A successful follow-up to the Repository Fringe 08 un-conference was held in the Informatics Forum on 30th and 31st July, with almost 100 delegates attending.

"Beyond the Repository Fringe" consolidated its reputation for innovation by including what is believed to be the first *Pecha Kucha* session to be held in Scotland. In this, each presenter is allowed 20 slides, each of which is shown for 20 seconds only. A presentation therefore lasts 6 minutes and 40 seconds. Delegates voted with gold nuggets into the cowboy hats last seen decorating the busts in the Playfair

Library a year before, and the runaway winner was Julian Cheal from UKOLN for his show entitled 'Repository Deposit using Adobe Air'. The other winner of the week was Patrick McSweeney of Southampton who took the Grand Challenge prize.

The opening keynote was a double act by Ben O'Steen and Sally Rumsey of Oxford on 'A sneak preview at the A-list stars of future repositories: blockbuster technical developments and the cultural drivers behind them'. Clifford Lynch flew in for Day 2, and thanks to the extensive streaming, blogging and tweeting, was

able in his closing keynote to refer to events he had not witnessed in person.

The boardroom-style round tables generated a lot of interest and participation, and tutorials and presentations rounded off the events for which presenters had volunteered themselves. Two formal workshops, on Datashare and Digital Curation 101, were also held.

You can see photos and details of presentations at <http://wiki.repositoryfringe.org/>

Florance Kennedy (IS)

Using Fol in research

The Research Information Network is holding a free event in Glasgow in September to raise awareness of the use of the Freedom of Information Act (Fol) as a tool for researchers, and to aid understanding of the new access regime.

The day will cover how to use Fol to access records and information, and how to make successful requests. Case studies will be presented to explore how to use Fol in practice, offering strategies for what works well for particular disciplines and types of research, and insights will be provided from the Scottish perspective.

'Freedom of Information: what's in it for researchers?' is on 14th September, from 10am to 4pm, at The Lighthouse, 11 Mitchell Lane, Glasgow G1 3NU. Key speakers are:

- Professor Duncan Tanner (Welsh Institute for Social and Cultural Affairs, Bangor University)
- Sarah Hutchinson (Scottish Information Commission)
- Bruno Longmore (National Archives of Scotland)
- Hugh Hagan (National Archives of Scotland)

The workshop is aimed at academic researchers, librarians, archivists and other information professionals who provide research services and research training.

For a full programme, more information and to book your free place, please visit www.rin.ac.uk/foi-scotland

Sarah Gentleman (Research Information Network)

International Conference on The Book

The Seventh International Conference on The Book will be at the University of Edinburgh on 16–18 October.

The Conference creates an inclusive forum for examining the past, current and future roles of books, recognising that the book is an old medium of expression which embodies thousands of years' experience of recording knowledge. The pervasive influence of this experience continues to shape newer forms of information technology, while at the same time providing a reference point for innovation.

Broadly speaking, the Conference engages the interrelation between changes in thought, creation, production and distribution, and the role and meaning of the book and other information technologies.

Papers will be published in the fully-refereed *International Journal of the Book*, and there is a Conference YouTube Channel (see the 'Online Sessions' link on the Conference website for further details).

Full details of the Conference are on the Conference website, at <http://book-conference.com/>

Garett Gietzen (University of Illinois)

COBOL is 50 years old

Believe it or not COBOL (COmmon Business-Oriented Language) was born 50 years ago. Its slow birth throughout the first part of 1959 was overseen by a short-range committee of the CODASYL group – which officially named it on 18th September 1959.

Liam McDowell (IS)

BCS talks

There will be two BCS talks in September:

- On the 9th: 'The state of the Scottish job market', given by Sam Wason, Computer Futures.
- On the 22nd: 'JANET – the first 25 years', a joint meeting with the Computer Conservation Society.

Both meetings will be at 6:30pm in the University Informatics Forum, 10 Crichton Street. Further details are provided at www.edinburgh.bcs.org/events/

All welcome.

David Muxworthy (BCS)

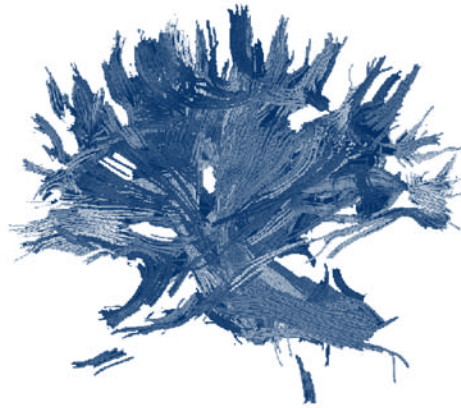
Sources, courses and resources!

ISskills has a MyEd channel. You can use this to develop your information, research and IT skills by quickly finding sources, courses and resources tailored to your needs.

For example, find immediate help in citing references, when and where to go to get a check-up for your Windows laptop or what help is available with web publishing. The channel is on your 'Library' and 'Search & Info' tabs in MyEd.

Rowena Stewart (IS)

Does your brain look like this?



The Brain Imaging Centre at the Western General Hospital is carrying out a study to map the fibre tracts in the brain using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and to correlate brain structure with cognitive ability.

The team is looking for healthy, right-handed, NHS or University of Edinburgh volunteers (or friends and family) between the ages of 25 and 65 years, who are not on any long-term medication and have not had any cranial surgery.

The MRI scan takes an hour and does not involve ionizing radiation or the use of drugs. Cognitive testing, which can take place on another date, also takes one hour. Reasonable travel expenses to and from the Western General Hospital are covered. The study finishes on **2nd October**.

For more information please contact Shadia Mikhael (tel 537 3284, email Shadia.Mikhael@ed.ac.uk).

Shadia Mikhael (Medical Physics)

Eddie upgrade enhances performance

Eddie, the high-performance compute cluster run by the Edinburgh Compute and Data Facility (ECDF), was upgraded at the start of September to Scientific Linux 5 – based on RedHat Enterprise Linux 5.

This gains new features and performance for the service, and brings the cluster in line with the University's supported version of Linux.

Improvements over Scientific Linux 4 include:

- Updated to kernel version 2.6.18, offering many enhancements and improved hardware support
- GCC updated to version 4, offering huge performance boosts
- glibc updated to version 2.5, offering enhanced performance and compatibility

The upgrade was done without any interruption to service, maintaining the ECDF's commitment to providing enterprise-quality service to the University.

Orlando Richards (IS)

IT Forum has new Convenor

Iain Dobson of Accommodation Services is the new Convenor of the IT Professionals' Forum. Iain has been a member of the ITPF committee almost since its inception, and takes over from Neil Brown immediately.

The Forum's role is to serve the interests of the University's IT staff, through formal and informal means. The Convenor is a member of the Knowledge Strategy Committee which oversees IT developments in the University, and another member of the committee – currently Kenny MacDonald – represents the Forum on the IT Committee. The ITPF is encouraged to organise other events and activities to suit the needs of its membership.

As he takes over as Convenor, Iain is particularly keen to investigate ways of pooling resources to support the staff development objectives of the three University Forums – for IT, eLearning and Librarians and Archivists, initially by driving forward the engagement with Human Resources which has been recommended in the past. He would like to see the ITPF increasing its contribution to the University through feedback on policy, proactive discussion of problems, and demonstrating its organisation skills.

Iain's core aim is to provide the resources for IT professionals to obtain the qualifications they identify as necessary to further their development. The introduction of new measures which demonstrate IT staff achievements will show how the University can benefit from additional employee ability, innovation and fulfilment.

Iain is committed to reorganising the ITPF to deliver opportunities to its members to participate and develop their skill set. You can see his full manifesto on the ITPF wiki at

<https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/x/e7iSB>

Nick Stroud (IS)

BITs evolves with IS

Information Services has been undergoing some radical restructuring as it works to align its services with the University's evolving strategic priorities, and the restructuring is reflected in the ways it presents itself.

The new IS website has been created from scratch from its users' point of view, and the design we have implemented for that is being adapted for use with all our publications – including BITs. This month's issue crept up to 12 pages because so much is going on; after a special Library issue in October it will drop back to the usual eight pages in November, and we will start publishing more news through the website.

We would be pleased to receive your feedback about these developments! To tell us about the website please use the link "Your feedback about this page" at the bottom of the left-hand column on most of the site's pages; about BITs, please email BITs@ed.ac.uk.

Nick Stroud (IS)

IS skills development courses in September and October

IS Skills Development runs IT courses and short sessions for Edinburgh University staff and students. We're based at 19 Buccleuch Place in the central area, and also run some courses at The King's Buildings.

See below for upcoming course dates and our web pages for further details and bookings: www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/cts/courses/

Jenni Reeves (IS)

Date	Course	Location
Sept 1	WebCT Communication Tools	BP
7	Writing for the Web	OC
8	WebCT Assessment and Assignments	BP
9	WebCT Vista Fundamentals	BP
10	Writing for the Web	WR
16	Basic Image Manipulation Techniques using PhotoShop	BP
16	Excel Introduction: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts (1)	BP
23	Excel Introduction: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts (2)	BP
24	Introduction to Access Database Management	BP
24	Producing a Thesis using Word	BP
28	Introduction to Computing	BP
28	Introduction to Wikis	BP
30	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	BP
Oct 1	Creating a Database with FileMaker Pro	BP
1	Creating Web Pages with HTML	BP
5	Programming in Perl	BP
7	Introduction to Unix	JCMB
8	PowerPoint: Basic Skills for Creating a Presentation	BP
8	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Tables, Graphs and Diagrams	BP
9	Looking good with Word's styles (T)	DHT
13	Using templates and slide masters in PowerPoint (T)	DHT
13	Word Introduction: Creating and Formatting Documents	BP
13	Excel Introduction: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts (1)	BP
13	Writing for the Web	DHT
14	Intermediate Unix	JCMB
14	Producing a Thesis using Word	BP
14	Making the Most of Your Wiki	BP
15	Managing Bibliographies with Reference Manager	BP
15	Introduction to Access Database Management (Part 1)	BP
19	Editing Web Pages with Contribute	BP
20	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	BP
20	Excel Introduction: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts (2)	BP
21	Programming in Fortran 95	JCMB
22	Introduction to Access Database Management (Part 2)	BP
22	PowerPoint: Adding Media and Graphics	BP
26	Word Intermediate: Document Layout and Customisation	BP
26	Creating and Editing Web Pages with Dreamweaver 8	BP
26	Creating Templates and Managing Websites with Dreamweaver 8	BP
27	Basic Image Manipulation Techniques using PhotoShop	BP
27	Wikis: What can I do as an Administrator?	BP
28	Unix Shell Programming	JCMB
29	Excel Advanced: Manipulating and Managing Data	BP
29	Introduction to Adobe PDFs and Acrobat Professional	BP
29	Intermediate Adobe Acrobat Professional	BP
30	Microsoft Access queries (T)	DHT

Venues:

BP – 19 Buccleuch Place

JCMB – The King's Buildings

DHT – David Hume Tower

OC – Old College

WR – William Robertson Building

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

A multitude of retirements

Information Services is coping with the loss of a large number of experienced and valued colleagues who retired over the Summer. We wish all these valued colleagues the best of good fortune in the future.

Nick Stroud (IS)



Mike Baillie

Mike joined the University on 1st November 1968, becoming one of the team that helped 'Tommy' Thomas build up the Edinburgh Regional Computing Centre into a formidable national force. Mike started as a Computer Assistant, working up to Computing Officer by the early 90s when he played a key role in setting up the University's open-access computing labs. He helped to ensure the smooth running of the labs ever since, as well as supervising the refurbishment of the main computer rooms at The King's Buildings and Appleton Tower.



David Carroll

David started working for the University in 1985, initially to help look after the GEAC systems which provided the Library Catalogue and all the other IT-based functions at that time. In 1991 he moved to the Darwin Library at The King's Buildings as Biological Sciences Librarian and Geological Sciences Librarian. He remained at the Darwin Library until his retirement, playing a key role in day-to-day operations and helping to cover for Richard Battersby's secondment.



Jim Duncan

Jim joined the University's nascent computing centre straight from school in June 1968, and was ex-EUCS's longest-serving staff member when he retired in July. He started work with the KDF9 – the University's first mainframe, which had 16k of memory (fairly average iPods have a million times this much). He was a supervisor in the EMAS era, and when computing became distributed he joined the new microcomputer support unit. After a secondment to Linguistics and a stint helping to set up the GMRC, Jim joined the Medicine and Veterinary Support Team, specialising for the last several years in vet support at the Bush.



Naresh Mooljee

Naresh joined the Edinburgh Regional Computing Centre on 1st April 1969 as a programmer, supporting software applications on EMAS – the University's world-leading operating system. He moved to the 'Advisory Service' where he maintained the Numerical Algorithms library, and helped to edit the ERCC staff magazine *Centrist*. He moved to the Centre for Applications Software and Technology (CAST) in 1984, and when that merged with ERCC to form Computing Services he joined the Science & Engineering Support team, then moved 'down town' to the Medicine and Veterinary Medicine support team.



Charlotte Moon

Charlotte started working for the University in 1990 as the Computing Services Software Coordinator, where her job was to obtain the best possible software licensing deals for staff and students. She then moved into Ed Dee's database team to support BRS Search and Cold Fusion, and led the procurement exercise which selected Polopoly as the content management system for the University's new website. Charlotte has now set up her own business providing web consultancy for charities and non-profit organisations; see www.whitecherry.co.uk/

Lavinia Brophy

Lavinia came to Edinburgh University as a Napier placement student in 2002, in the Learning and Resource Centre and Student Support. She returned to work for the University in 2004 in the Medicine and Veterinary support team, where her skill and commitment were appreciated by users and colleagues alike.

Gill Chetty

Gill joined the Computing Services training and documentation team in 1994, and remained in that evolving team until she retired at the end of July. She played a key role in providing documentation for IT services, in planning, supervising and delivering courses to help people gain a variety of IT skills, and in the rapidly expanding use of eLearning in the University.

Irene Ferguson

Irene joined the Library in the mid 1960s as a typist, when it was still the Playfair Library in Old College. After a brief maternity gap, she returned in 1975, working first in the Erskine Medical Library, then being promoted to the cataloguing department in the Main Library, and in 1985 joining Special Collections. In 1999 Irene became Assistant to the University Archivist, among other things dealing with the large number and variety of enquiries to the University Archives – many seeking information on former students and staff which is an important aspect of the University's community role.

Donald Morse

Donald was first at the University as an academic researcher in Economic and Social History, starting in 1986. He became a key figure in the emergence of the University's Data Library in the early 1990s, leading work on the provision of census data. When EDINA came into being in 1995, Donald ran the high-profile UKBORDERS service, before moving to Computing Services to manage the CMS service and chairing the CMS Forum. In 2003 Donald took on a liaison/training role for the Exchange eDiary rollout, and he led the project to deliver the Oracle eDiary service from 2005 to 2007.



Sam Soyombo

Sam joined the Library as a Systems Librarian in 2002, and was seconded to the Computing Services Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Support Team a year later. He was based at the new Royal Infirmary, moving out to join Jim Duncan at the Vet School in 2005. Outwith the University he worked for the Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Committee. Sam is returning to Nigeria to set up his own business, an organisation called 'MaxMe' to help disadvantaged young people, and intends to retain his link with Edinburgh by helping to recruit students for the University.



Dave Stone

Dave has been a database guru for 40 years. He joined the University in 1969 to work on IDMS and RAPID, then moved into Ed Dee's Information Tools team where he specialised in Oracle and Access projects, where his teaching and his eye for design were much appreciated. He completed his career in the Applications Division following IS reorganisation.

Dave plans to inaugurate his retirement by climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania (19,331ft) to raise funds for Community Projects Africa. If you would like to support educational, medical and infrastructure projects in Tanzania by this means, please go to www.justgiving.com/DStone-Kili



Carole Symington

Carole joined Moray House in 1972, part-time while her children were small, then in a variety of positions. She was active in the Union, which led to her joining the new Moray House Personnel Department in 1989. When Moray House merged with the University in 1998 she moved to HR in Chambers Street, and from there to Information Services in 2005. Carole's role since then has been to assist the almost continuous reorganisation and restructuring of IS, most recently with the creation of the new User Services Division.



Anne Wright

Anne joined the University Library in 1983, working in the Erskine Medical Library before moving to the Royal Infirmary Library in 2004, where her calm and friendly manner were greatly appreciated by both students and staff.



Susan Wexler

Susan came to Edinburgh University as an undergraduate in 1966 to do maths and "as much computer science as possible – but there wasn't a lot!", (though Sidney Michaelson soon changed that). After a family break she returned to the University in 1978 to work in maths, geophysics and meteorology before arriving in CAST – which merged into Computing Services and thence to Information Services. Susan joined the Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Support team and was seconded to the Medical School, where she set up the faculty microlab in the Greenfield Suite and continued with general service support until her retirement.

The Bindery

There has been an onsite Bindery in the Main Library since 1967; at the end of July this highly-regarded facility finally closed.

The Bindery Manager, Kenny Bushnell, had been a member of staff for 30 years, and left the University, as did Lynda Jenkins who worked here as a Booksewer for 18 years, and Bookbinder Ian Miller who was here for ten years. Bookbinders Douglas Hewat, Ian Cruikshanks and Matthew Kennedy have moved to the Works Division of Estates & Buildings.

The convenience of a special-purpose, fully-equipped Bindery with skilled, experienced and dedicated staff will be sorely missed.

University pledges to cut carbon emissions



The University and the Students' Association – EUSA – have formally signed up to a national drive to cut carbon emissions.

Participants in the 10:10 initiative aim to reduce emissions by 10% in 2010. The University's staff and students will lead the way in the collective ambition to reduce our carbon footprint.

Staff and students are invited to take part in two open workshops on these themes, on 1st October in the Informatics Forum. You will be especially welcome if you would like to champion a local or thematic initiative.

For more information please email david.somervell@ed.ac.uk.

The 10:10 website is at www.1010uk.org

David Somervell (Sustainability Office)

Services Day 2009



Communications & Marketing is repeating last year's inaugural University Services Day, through which all members of staff can see a 'shop window' of some of the resources that are available to support and assist their work.

This year's event takes place in the glorious surroundings of McEwan Hall, on Friday 2nd October, from 11:30am until 2:30pm.

Information Services will again have a big presence, and among other things will be demonstrating instant podcasting, EXSEED on iPhone and Blackberry, and 'Walking through Time' – a mobile phone app that puts you in the streets of 18th century Britain.

Others who will be demonstrating their services are expected to include Communications & Marketing, the Centre for Sport & Exercise, Estates & Buildings, Edinburgh Research & Innovation, Human Resources, Printing & Procurement, and Records Management.

We look forward to seeing you in the McEwan Hall on 2nd October!

Nick Stroud (IS)

If you require this document in an alternative format (e.g. large print, Braille) please contact Nick Stroud, Information Services, University of Edinburgh, Main Library, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LJ, or by email to BITS@ed.ac.uk.

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Contributions to BITS are welcomed.

Copy deadline for November BITS:

Friday 16th October