

Information Services

Edinburgh Bits



Graduating in the **real virtual world**



During the Winter Graduations at McEwan Hall in November, the School of Education hosted a parallel event in Second Life for their MSc in eLearning graduates who were in absentia. This was the first time a virtual graduation was attempted at the University and was deemed a great success by students and staff. Graduating eLearning students, current students, colleagues in the University and visitors from around the world gathered in Second Life to celebrate.

Virtual attendees particularly enjoyed the moment when Principal O'Shea took time to ask the McEwan Hall graduates to applaud all those attending the graduation in Second Life.

Collaboration between Education and Information Services ensured that the live stream of the graduation was available on a screen at the Venue @Vue in Second Life, where there was a stage, red carpet and seating for the event. Graduates could download their robes beforehand, and a virtual bar was created so attendees could celebrate virtually and virtuously!

The event was reported in the media, including the BBC website.

Other distance programmes at the University have shown interest in hosting virtual graduations for their off-campus students in future years. With tickets for the (real) McEwan Hall in such high demand, the virtual alternative provides an excellent opportunity to mark this important occasion, and offers the wider families and friends of graduating students a way of joining in the celebrations.

If you'd like to find out what is involved in hosting a virtual graduation, please contact Fiona Littleton (email fiona.littleton@ed.ac.uk).

Event details: <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/VueWiki/Virtual+Graduation>

Event photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/flittleton/sets/72157622913184972/>

BBC report: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/8378291.stm

Event twitter archive: <http://www.twapperkeeper.com/edslgrad/>

The MSc in eLearning: <http://www.education.ed.ac.uk/e-learning>

The Virtual University of Edinburgh (Vue): <http://www.vue.ed.ac.uk>

Winner of Edublog award: <http://edublogawards.com/>

Fiona Littleton (IS), Siân Bayne (Education)

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New Central Discussion Forum service

Our new Central Discussion Forum service, containing multiple forums within a single system similar to the current wiki service, is now available for use. This is a basic service designed to meet an immediate need for a simple EASE-authenticated forum. This service forms part of a collection of Collaborative Tool based services delivered by Information Services.

You can access the new service at <https://www.forums.ed.ac.uk/>

Alternatively, you can use the new Discussion Forum channel located on the Services tab in MyEd. Forums with public access will be visible to everyone from the board index, which is the first page you come to once you have logged in. From here, you can also request a new discussion forum and access FAQs.

Any member of staff in the University can have a discussion forum space. Usage is intended primarily for academic and administrative purposes (not intended for teaching). Collaborators/users from outwith the University may be given access to the forum by the owner or delegated administrator. Forum owners have control and responsibility for the use of the Forum, for content moderation, authorisation of users, etc.

If you would like to run a discussion forum, fill out the request form which is linked from the Discussion Forum board index. Your request will be dealt with by the Service Management team, who will set up your discussion forum and notify you when it is ready to access.

We welcome feedback and suggestions for developing this service further. Please use the 'Service Feedback & Suggestions' forum in the 'General Discussions' category to let us know what you think.

For more information on the service, please visit the IS website:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/services/computing/comms-and-collab/forums/central-forums>

Liza Zamboglou (IS)

Changes to Inter Library Loans service

The New Year brings major changes to the Inter Library Loans (ILL) service, with the introduction of the Illiad management system.

The new service launched at the start of January, with the introduction of an online application system for inter-library loans which replaces the current manual system. Further changes will be rolled out during the semester, and will include the facility to check the progress of ILL transactions online. Further details of the changes are available at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/services/ill1.shtml>

Liz Stevenson (IS)

Mobile and contextual learning

The latest issue of Alt-J, the Journal of the Association for Learning Technology, is a special issue on mobile and contextual learning. Members of the University have online access to this through the Library, at <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=g915843894>

Denny Colledge (IS)

GPU programming on the ECDF

Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) were originally designed for displaying graphics, and are now commonly used as general-purpose high-performance many-core parallel processors which are capable of very high computation and data throughput. Through supported programming interfaces, HPC users can achieve unprecedented computing power by porting their code from traditional CPUs to GPUs.

The Edinburgh Compute and Data Facility (ECDF) team has set up a successful 'General-Purpose Computation on GPUs' (GPGPU) environment on Eddie, the University's high-performance compute cluster, based on:

- NVidia Tesla S1070 (four cards, totalling 960 cores, 4.14 TFlops, 16GB memory)
- CUDA 2.3 development package, SDK, debugger and profiler tools
- OpenCL 1.0 Library

In addition there are two ATI FirePro 5700 GPU cards in the development machine. For comparison, the GPU device of the type deployed by the ECDF has computing power equivalent to approximately 65 traditional high-performance servers.

A growing number of University researchers are already exploiting this new technology to benefit their research activities. If you are interested in finding out more, there is full documentation on the ECDF website at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ecdfwiki/Documentation>

You are also welcome to get in touch via IS.Helpline@ed.ac.uk.

Yuan Wan (IS)

GPU Special Interest Group

The new University of Edinburgh GPU Special Interest Group – GPU SIG – is for researchers who are interested in using Graphics Processing Units for general-purpose computation. The Group's first meeting is at 2pm on 13th January, in Room 6301, James Clerk Maxwell Building, The King's Buildings. Alan Gray of EPCC will give a presentation to introduce the GPGPU concept and give an overview of the latest technology (hardware and software). There will be opportunity for informal discussions after the talk.

You can join the SIG's mailing list by sending the message **subscribe gpu-sig** to Majordomo@lists.ed.ac.uk, and find out more about the Group through its wiki at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/gpusig>

There is a good introduction to GPGPU at <http://gpgpu.org/>

Alan Gray (EPCC)

The new **Research Publications Service**

The Principal will launch the University's new Research Publications Policy and Service at a special event in the Main Library Exhibition Room on 29th January.

The new service is for academic researchers and research administrators, and will help to raise the University's global profile.

The Research Publications Service aims to collect the University's entire research output for the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework (REF) and, where appropriate, make the University's research available via Open Access to the world.

The Research Publications Service brings together two repositories with distinct functions.

The Publications Repository grew out of the repository created for the Research Assessment Exercise, and is accessible only from the University of Edinburgh domain. It holds the University's entire research output, and access is restricted to University of Edinburgh staff.

The Edinburgh Research Archive (ERA) is the University's open access repository, and is for the publications which everyone in the world should be able to see.

Research Publications Policy

The launch of the Research Publications Service results from the University adopting an Open Access Policy in February 2009, aimed at maximising the visibility of its research output. This is itself supported by the Scottish Declaration on Open Access. Many of the organisations which fund research are similarly keen to see the widest possible visibility and uptake of the results.

The many benefits of the new Service, and instructions on accessing it, are available at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/services/research-support/research-publications>

You can reserve a place at the launch event through MyEd.

Simon Bains (IS)

Skills for Scientists

JISC and the Higher Education Academy are jointly managing a programme of projects, funded by HEFCE, in the area of Open Educational Resources (OER). These will act as pilots to explore the issues and practicalities of the open release of learning materials for reuse worldwide. The programme runs until April 2010, and is designed to inform a larger programme which will aim to cover a significant proportion of the HE sector.

The projects are looking at different approaches: institutional, subject, and individual. Edinburgh is involved as a partner in the subject strand, in a project called **Skills for Scientists**, which focuses on the physical science disciplines of chemistry, physics and astronomy, and forensic science. The consortium encompasses 17 universities and two professional bodies, and is led by Hull University, through the Physical Sciences Centre – one of the 24 Subject Centres in the Subject Network of the Higher Education Academy.

Edinburgh is involved primarily through the work of Professor Simon Bates, Chair of Physics Education in the School of Physics and Astronomy, who is adapting eLearning materials in use at Edinburgh for wider consumption as OERs. Information Services has signed up to the project as an 'Adopter', prepared to trial the resources that the project makes available, and is represented by Simon Bains and Rowena Stewart. Edinburgh has a wider role to play too, as the resources of all the projects in this area will be deposited in JorumOpen, a Jorum brand designed to cater for OER materials through the use of Creative Commons licences. Jorum is run jointly by Mimas at Manchester and EDINA at Edinburgh.

This is an interesting area, essentially seeking to do for learning materials what Open Access is doing for research – something we have been involved in for many years. Further information is available from the project website at <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/home/projects/skillsforscientists>

Simon Bains, Rowena Stewart (IS)

One Size does not fit all in the Life Sciences

A new report from a study by the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) and Information Services has revealed that researcher practices in gathering, managing and disseminating information diverge from the policies promoted by funders and information service providers.

The report provides unique insight into how information is used by researchers across the life sciences. The study – undertaken in collaboration with the Institute for the Study of Science, Technology and Innovation (ISSTI) – concludes that 'one-size-fits-all' information and data sharing policies are not achieving scientifically productive and cost-efficient information use in the life sciences.

A significant gap was found between how researchers behave and the policies and strategies of funders and service providers. This suggests that current attempts to implement such strategies can have only a limited impact.

Key findings from the report include:

1. Researchers use informal and trusted sources of advice from colleagues, rather than institutional service teams, to help identify information sources and resources;
2. The use of social networking tools for scientific research purposes is far more limited than expected;
3. Data and information sharing activities are mainly driven by needs and benefits perceived as most important by life scientists rather than 'top-down' policies and strategies;
4. There are marked differences in the patterns of information use and exchange between research groups active in different areas of the life sciences, reinforcing the need to avoid standardised policy approaches.

Further information about the study can be found at <http://www.rin.ac.uk/case-studies>

Alternatively please contact Graham Pryor, DCC (email Graham.Pryor@ed.ac.uk).

Graham Pryor (IS)

New presentation-space in Main Library initiated



There is an area outside the new Exhibition Room on the redeveloped Ground Floor of the Main Library which has been arranged to encourage informal talks.

This was used for the first time in November, when a group of students in the University's 'Science Communication' course organised a fitting meeting for this Darwin anniversary year. Dr Norrie Wilson led a discussion of Darwin and Evolution, around the theme 'A Catch 22 situation?'

The meeting was a great success. The Library Forum is so large that the different activities going on around it have little impact on each other, and the full range of Library resources (including the Exhibition Room and cafe) are right on hand for follow-up study and discussion.

It will be possible to book this space for relevant events; the arrangement for doing this will be included in next month's BITs, which will also be highlighting the new meeting and training spaces on the First Floor.

Anne Donnelly, Angela Nicholson (IS)

Young people's needs in a **digital age**

Understanding how today's young people (16 to 24 year-olds) communicate, interact, access information and make decisions is a challenge for everyone involved in providing support or advice to this group.

A new report from YouthNet provides deep insight into how today's younger generation acts and interacts online, and unveils important issues confronting the young when online. The report aims to improve understanding, and lead to better advice and support for tomorrow's young Internet-enabled society.

You can find the report via <http://scottish-rscs.org.uk/newsfeed/?p=6365>

Hugh Dailly, Caroline Porteous (JISC Regional Support Centres)

Music Library Collections moving

The move of the Main Library's Second Floor collections will begin in the Winter vacation, as part of the preparation to redevelop this floor. The Music collections are due to move either just before Christmas or just after the New Year. There is likely to be a short period of unavailability in early January, but they will be fully available on the 3rd floor by Monday 11th January. Because of the move, Music CD loans to staff and postgraduates will be extended over the vacation, and will be available for the period Friday 11th December to Monday 11th January.

The Music collections will be located in the areas presently occupied by the current journals on the 3rd floor, with the music listening stations and keyboards alongside. There will also be a bookable study room in which the Clavinova will be housed.

Christine Love-Rodgers (IS)

Edinburgh an early member of **YouTube EDU**

YouTube is famous as a place where anyone in the world can share their videos with everyone else. Following along the lines of iTunes U, YouTube has created a special section to make it easier to locate educational material in amongst all the home movies. This is YouTube EDU, and it has just been revamped and opened to European institutions.

The University of Edinburgh is one of the early participants in this new venture, and you can already find over 70 films extolling the virtues of studying at the University and living in Edinburgh, along with recordings of some of the prestigious lectures that are given here.

You can find the University's section at <http://www.youtube.com/user/EdinburghUniversity>

If you would like to add your own video to YouTube EDU, please email media.services@ed.ac.uk to find out how Information Services can help.

Alex Carter (IS)

Walking through SpACE and Time

Three projects by Edinburgh-based academics are using Google maps, historical maps and/or smartphones to deliver online resources that enable students to explore the urban history of our city. EDINA, IS Applications and IS User Services have all contributed.

Most of us are used to seeing maps on our computers. If you search the web for a restaurant, shop or hotel, the search engine is likely to offer you a map even if the target's website does not. Route planners show you how to get somewhere. A smartphone may show you what's interesting nearby. How can this functionality provide new and engaging ways to teach students?

SpACE

The most mature of the three systems is SpACE (Spatial Activities in Course Environments) from Stephen Vickers (IS Learning Services) and Stuart Nicol (School of History, Classics & Archaeology). This allows a student to annotate a map with virtual marker pins, each of which is linked to information about the place. It can be used for a wide variety of activities such as walking tours, field trips, or the locations of distance students. The example on the website takes a simple tour from Old College to the Main Library, via McEwan Hall and the Anatomy Lecture Theatre – with options to follow this on maps from 1817 and 1861 as well as the present day.

The SpACE system was originally developed for the University's MSc in Landscape, Environment and History, and is now available for other Schools to use – either through WebCT or independently.

The SpACE tool was awarded the prize for the best VLE-related project in the JISC Developers competition in March 2009.

For further information and an example, see <http://space.ltiapps.net/>



Walking through time

The third project is led by Dr Chris Speed and Prof. Ian Campbell of the Edinburgh College of Art, working with EDINA and IS Applications. The idea of Walking Through Time is to make historical maps available on smartphones. Students from the College's MA course in Conservation Architecture can then carry their maps with them, noting information about extant landmarks of interest, allowing them to locate lost landmarks, and sharing their observations with other users. The GPS-enabled phones highlight the students' current location on a map from decades ago, giving them the sense that they are immersed in the historical setting.

'Walking Through Time' was funded by the JISC Rapid Innovation programme. It is a prototype which will need further funding and development if it is to become a service that anyone can use.

Walking Through Time Blog: <http://walkingthroughtime.eca.ac.uk/>

Dave Berry (IS)

SpACE Tool Example: Buildings of The University of Edinburgh

Map Order

Change map type: Kirkwood 1817 Find location

Anatomy Lecture Theatre Delete

Description Resources

Edit

Medical School 1884 and Anatomy Lecture Theatre 1950s

Anatomy was provided with magnificent accommodation, designed by Robert Rowand Anderson including a steeply raked lecture theatre. The remains of what was once an extensive museum is now located in the top floor area known as the Anatomy Resource Centre. This contains

Visualising Urban Geographies

A particular area of interest for these projects is the use of maps that were created many decades ago, showing the city as it was. Several organisations – including EDINA and the National Library of Scotland (NLS) – now make scans of historical maps available on the web.

Prof. Richard Rodger of the School of History, Classics & Archaeology saw the opportunity for visualising historical datasets, and is working with the NLS Map Library on the Visualising Urban Geographies project, funded by the AHRC, to create 'mashups' of historical maps with historical data such as the 19th century census and property registers. This will give users a visual, map-based display of historical data, set in a geo-spatial context, and available in due course to students, academics, local historians and the general public.

Visualising Urban Geographies: <http://geo.nls.uk/urbhist/>

Major new **Shakespeare resource**

The Shakespeare Quartos Archive is a digital collection of pre-1642 editions of William Shakespeare's plays.

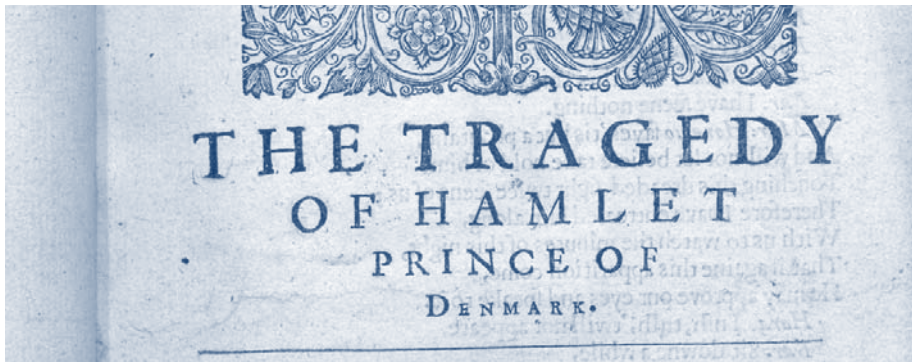
In the absence of surviving manuscripts, the quartos offer the earliest known evidence of what Shakespeare might actually have written, and what appeared on the early modern English stage.

A cross-Atlantic collaboration has produced an interactive interface for the detailed study of these geographically distant and rare quartos. The first phase of the project provides full functionality for all thirty-two quarto copies of Hamlet held by participating institutions – including Edinburgh University Library.

As a result, many of the earliest Shakespeare quartos are now freely available for in-depth study to students of Shakespeare across the globe. The project is the result of joint support from the US National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the UK Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC).

The Shakespeare Quartos Archive is at <http://www.quartos.org>

Andrew Grout (IS)



Where's your **evidence?**

The UK Educational Evidence Portal helps you find educational evidence from a range of reputable UK sources in a single search. It is designed for both professional and lay people interested in education and children's services, and is at <http://www.eep.ac.uk/DNN2/>

EvidenceNet is the place to find current evidence relating to teaching and learning in Higher Education. 'Evidence' is interpreted broadly, as data and conclusions drawn from that data. This can range from case studies emerging from particular practices in particular settings to the outputs arising from large-scale research projects which draw on a substantial amount of qualitative and quantitative data. EvidenceNet is at <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/evidencenet>

Robin Rice (IS)

edikt workshop

The eScience Data, Information and Knowledge Transformation project – edikt – stimulates the use of computational science to extract knowledge from vast datasets and simulation models. It is supported by the Scottish Funding Council and has been running since May 2002.

There will be an edikt workshop from 2pm to 5pm on 27th January, at The King's Buildings, to enable edikt2 participants to share information about the technical aspects around edikt2 activities.

There are full details at <http://www.edikt.org.uk/edikt2/WorkshopsActivity/2010-01-27>

Terry Sloan (EPCC)

LOCKSS saves journal

Pain Reviews, an open access electronic journal that ceased publication in 2002, is being securely preserved in the LOCKSS distributed preservation network.

LOCKSS Programme staff in the United States and the United Kingdom worked closely with Publishing Technology and Hodder Arnold to ensure that the journal would be preserved in a way that benefited all scholars, worldwide. Hodder Arnold first gave permission for *Pain Reviews* to be freely available, enabling LOCKSS Alliance members to collect and preserve the journal whether or not they previously subscribed to it.

The LOCKSS Programme (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) cooperates with over 400 important scholarly publishers to provide secure archiving and post-cancellation access to participating libraries. LOCKSS Alliance libraries are easily and inexpensively collecting and preserving their own copies of authorised subscription and open access scholarly e-content.

Peter Burnhill (IS)

e-Science **news**

The November issue of the National e-Science Centre's newsletter contains major articles on the boundless digital possibilities for making maps that illuminate key facts in a range of different types of data, the new director and deputy director for e-Social Science, and a magical time with the National Grid Service, as well as a roundup of general e-Science news. The newsletter is online at http://www.nesc.ac.uk/news/newsletter/NeSC_November09.pdf

Gillian Law (NeSC)

Look to the **future**...

There is a one-day conference for Scottish computing educators at Heriot-Watt University on 11th June. Details and booking form are at http://www.macs.hw.ac.uk/look_to_the_future

Nick Stroud (IS)

Riot! A recent purchase by Special Collections

Some things change and some things stay the same over the centuries at the University of Edinburgh. One thing that has not changed is the capacity of our students to enjoy themselves, sometimes with unintended consequences...

On 11th and 12th January 1838 a student snowball fight developed into a real fight with workmen, which led to heavy-handed police intervention and ultimately the arrival of the 79th Regiment of Foot from the Castle to restore order. A number of students faced criminal charges and there was a strong feeling that they had been treated harshly.

The Centre for Research Collections has recently bought a volume of songs, newspaper cuttings and pamphlets about these 'Snowball Riots'. This volume is a compilation of printed accounts, newspaper cuttings, broadsides, portraits and satires on the riots, with extensive manuscript notes and a number of illustrations. It comes from the library of the antiquarian James Maidment.

To give a flavour of the verse, here is an extract:

"Police, or no police, that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind, to suffer
The knocks and thumps of an outrageous Charlie,
Or to take clubs against a sea of rogues,
And, by opposing, finish them?"

There are also some amusingly scathing remarks about the Library: "the great fault lies in the bad management of the library. Professors get books by dozens, and keep them for years: the catalogues are imperfect, and to the Students inaccessible: the volumes are so ill arranged, as to puzzle the librarians themselves, and there are not assistants enough to give out the books. The library, in its present state, is next to useless..."

(RB.S.278 was purchased from Christian Aid with the support of the Friends of Edinburgh University Library, 2009.)

Joe Marshall (IS)

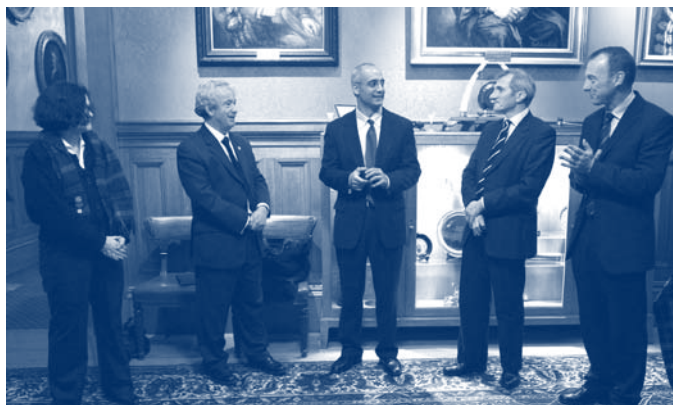
EPCC and Cray launch Exascale Technology Centre

The University of Edinburgh is to join Cray's Exascale Research Initiative with the creation of the **Exascale Technology Centre** at EPCC, the supercomputing centre at The University of Edinburgh. Today's Cray supercomputers can perform at over a Petaflop – a thousand million million calculations per second. An Exaflop is a thousand times more – a million million million calculations per second.

The Exascale Technology Centre in Edinburgh will explore new ideas and new technologies to meet the challenge of delivering an Exaflop within the next decade, for which many innovations will be needed in supercomputer hardware, software and applications.

Exascale computing will be vital for European competitiveness in many areas of daily life, including the design of new products, medical advances and climate change. By being at the forefront of such developments Cray and the University can be confident of reaping the benefits of this vital technology.

Tracy Peet (EPCC)



L-R: Ulla Thiel, Cray Vice President for Europe; Principal O'Shea; Peter Ungaro, Cray CEO and President, Arthur Trew, EPCC Director, Richard Kenway, EPCC Chairman.

Project Management: courses and forum

IS Applications Division offers project management training for staff across the University. 'An Introduction to Project Management' is a practically-based course that focuses on applying best practice project management techniques in a University environment. The course uses the wiki and HTML tools available on the Projects website at <http://www.projects.ed.ac.uk/methodologies>

Feedback so far has been very positive, with comments including "not only did I learn, I feel able to start using the newly acquired methodologies" and "what I've learned definitely will have a positive impact in my work".

Each course is advertised via MyEd and places can be reserved using the MyEd Events Booking channel.

If you would like to find out more about the course, or would like Project Services to run a dedicated course for your area, please contact apps-projects@lists.ed.ac.uk.

Project Management Forum

Project Services has introduced a regular forum for staff who manage University projects. Each meeting features guest speakers, discussions and presentations on all aspects of project management, and is a great opportunity to meet colleagues and share experiences.

The forum is supported by a wiki to provide ongoing support, training materials, forum presentations, useful links, articles, and access to a discussion forum – all at <http://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PMSupport/Project+Management+Support>

Each forum will be advertised via MyEd and places can be reserved using the MyEd Events Booking channel.

For further information please contact apps-projects@lists.ed.ac.uk.

Rhian Davies (IS)

Ultimate Library

The BBC shows off the British Library's £26m automated book store at Boston Spa, at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8393710.stm>

Nick Stroud (IS)

Virtual Worlds: Development Role

The Learning Services section of the IS User Services Division is keen to support Virtual Worlds development in teaching, learning and research in Higher Education. Fiona Littleton has recently joined Learning Services to provide this service for the University.

Fiona is a founding partner of Virtual University of Edinburgh (Vue), the creator of Holyrood Park (the home of the School of Education in Second Life), and a published researcher in the area of Virtual Worlds. She was instrumental in the successful virtual graduations reported on page 1. She recently hosted a lunchtime taster session 'An Introduction to Second Life', and is developing a taught IS skills development course to be delivered in 2010.

Fiona plans to host lunchtime sessions on 'Virtual Worlds in Higher Education' for central service colleagues and for each College in early 2010; details will be announced in BITs. She is currently working with colleagues at the e-Science Institute, Education, and Film Studies on virtual world projects for teaching and learning. She will be attending 'Where next for Virtual Worlds in UK Higher and Further Education' in London on 25th January, which promises to take a provocative look at whether virtual worlds work in teaching and learning (see following article).

Please contact Fiona (email fiona.littleton@ed.ac.uk) if you have any queries or would like to know more about Virtual Worlds.

The Virtual University of Edinburgh is at <http://www.vue.ed.ac.uk>

Nora Moge (IS)

Virtual Worlds: book and conference

A new book 'Higher Education in Virtual Worlds: Teaching and Learning in Second Life' has been published. It combines theoretical perspectives on virtual worlds in education with practical case studies, and aims to help educators understand both the pitfalls and the potential of virtual worlds in education.

Chapter 10, 'The Theatre of Performance Appraisal – Role-Play in Second Life', was written by colleagues Shona Morse, Fiona Littleton, Hamish Macleod and Rory Ewins, with results of a joint project between the MSc in eLearning and the MSc Management of Training and Development, programmes based in the School of Education.

The book website is at

<http://books.emeraldinsight.com/display.asp?isb=9781849506090&CUR=GBP>

The event 'Where next for Virtual Worlds in UK Higher and Further Education' takes place at the London Knowledge Lab on 25th January, hosted by Eduserv to take a provocative look at whether virtual worlds have any benefit in teaching and learning.

Fiona Littleton, Virtual Worlds Developer with Information Services, is attending the event and will happily report back to anyone who is interested. Email fiona.littleton@ed.ac.uk if you have any queries.

The event website is at <http://wn4vw.eventbrite.com/?ref=ebtn>

Fiona Littleton (IS)

Edinburgh showing up well in the other world

The 7th Eduserv Snapshot of virtual world activity in UK Higher and Further Education has been published at <http://virtualworldwatch.net/2009/12/12/activity-snapshot-7-winter-2009/>

The work of Vue (<http://www.vue.ed.ac.uk>) and the MSc in E-learning in virtual worlds feature quite heavily, with the collaborative projects on Vue – IScream Van, Virtual Graduation, MSc Film Studies work, and the MSc in eLearning work with Deaf Education – all getting a mention.

Overall, the picture is one of more virtual world activity in UK academia than in previous years. Several universities, such as Edinburgh and the Open University, are into their third or fourth year of using Second Life and an academic development community continues to grow.

Fiona Littleton (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 February BITs:

Thursday 14th January