

Information Services Edinburgh Bits



LAMP Forum visits the IS Cream Van



The next meeting of the Librarians, Archivists and Museum Professionals' Forum is on Tuesday 29th June, in Room 1.07 of the Main Library. Bring your own sandwich lunch at 12.00, ready for the main presentation from 12.30 to 1.30. This time the topic is 'The IS Cream Van – an Information Services presence in Second Life', presented by Barry Croucher, Marshall Dozier, Fiona Littleton and Denny Colledge. Booking and further details are on MyEd.

Natasha Aburrow-Jones, Anne Donnelly and Deborah Morrison (LAMP Committee)

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Academic timetabling project

A major review is identifying the advantages of the University adopting a single coherent timetabling system

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ALDs complete their task

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Annual computing lab upgrade

The oldest computers will be replaced in the annual upgrade, and a new lab opened

TOPdesk settles in

The University's new system to support its Service Management initiative is ready to try out

EUCLID takes over from DACS this Summer

A programme of intensive scrutiny has determined that EUCLID is ready to take over as the University's student records management system in the coming session, 2010–2011.

The consequences of this decision include:

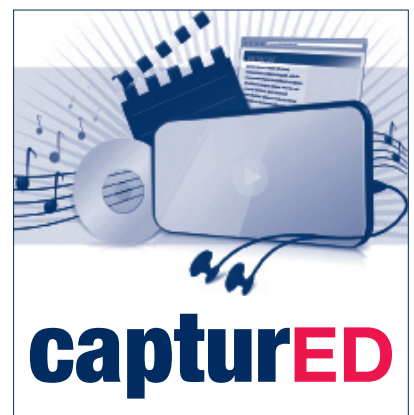
- The EUCLID database will be the sole system for student, course and programme data.
- All course enrolment will be performed online.
- EUCLID will provide the 'golden copy' data for relevant systems, including Finance, Accommodation Services, some Schools, the Library, and ID cards.
- EUCLID will supply the statutory returns to HESA, SFC etc.
- EUCLID 'Satellite Projects' will deliver such integrated functions as the postgraduate database and timetabling.

EUCLID's Strategy and Quality Assurance Group is monitoring progress closely to make sure that everything goes as smoothly as possible in this key development for the University. Registry, EUCLID and Information Services teams are working with colleagues in Colleges, Schools and business units to put the finishing touches to the various facets of this ambitious project, to ensure a smooth transition in the Summer. The Strategy Group acknowledges with gratitude all the staff who have worked so hard to bring the project to its successful conclusion.

The project team is well aware that in spite of all the careful preparations, it will probably take a few months to complete all the necessary staff training and fine-tune the systems and the data. When this work is complete and EUCLID fully bedded in, this new service will deliver major benefits and advantages to the University.

Vice Principal Jeff Haywood, Vice Principal Richard Kenway

Latest News



IS to equip ten locations for Event Capture – more next month!

Online Collaboration to enhance teaching, learning and research

Last year, Information Services ran a small pilot project to explore the potential usefulness in teaching, learning and research of what is essentially desktop videoconferencing.

The pilot was based on a system called Wimba, whose components include an online meeting space, two-way interaction with individual students or groups, and asynchronous audio communication, either standing alone or integrated with the local VLE. Systems such as this are designed to supplement and enhance traditional academic methods, and make Higher Education more accessible to the expanding range of people who want to benefit from it.

Examples of the use of an online classroom include:

- Giving potential students a taste of academic life at Edinburgh.
- Letting an international student's family see what Edinburgh is like.
- Running hybrid courses for working people, so they can mix local and remote study.
- Retaining alumni interest in the University.

Warwick Business School's online presence is said to be a major factor in making it the UK's best business school, with strong alumni groups around the world. Other leading British universities have announced plans to develop their online facilities rapidly.

Edinburgh is now expanding last year's Wimba pilot, and establishing a new and larger pilot exercise to explore: advantages for distance courses; engaging with UK-wide PhD research; administrative meetings; outreach to intending students; staff development; and helpdesk communication. There are probably many potential applications across the University, and the project will seek to identify these and involve them in the pilot project if wished.

As well as using the system for distance courses, the pilot will look at educational development, personal group work by students, 'sandboxing' (where people can explore the potential of the system), contact with Edinburgh students spending their year abroad, contact with alumni, and integration with the University's VLEs.

If the pilot is successful, and demonstrates sufficient interest and need, the intention would be to initiate a procurement exercise in time to install a service for the University at the beginning of the next academic session.

If you would like to know more about this pilot please email Stephen.Vickers@ed.ac.uk, or for more information about Wimba products in general see <http://www.wimba.com/solutions/higher-education/>

Jeff Haywood (VP IS)

The attractions of virtual conferencing

The BBC reports the increasing interest in meeting online to avoid the costs of real-world conferences, at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8608417.stm>

Nick Stroud (IS)

FLoC 2010 in Edinburgh

'FLoC' is the Federated Logic Conference, a huge enterprise in which eight separate conferences take place together every four years. This year they are converging on Edinburgh from 9th to 21st July, and there will be several open meetings of general interest at which the public will be most welcome – including one which pays tribute to Robin Milner, an Edinburgh luminary.

The details of the talks are provided at <http://www.floc-conference.org/invited-talks.html>

You can find out about FLoC itself (and see a gorgeous photo of Edinburgh) at <http://www.floc-conference.org/>

Florance Kennedy (IS)

Academic Timetabling Review: can you help?

Colleges, Schools and Support Groups are currently examining how academic timetabling works at the University. This review – being managed by IS – will consider if there are ways to make the timetabling process better.

Why is timetabling being reviewed?

Student choice could be increased if timetable clashes could be better managed. New programmes and courses could be introduced more easily if an overall view of the academic timetable were available. Family-friendly policies and the needs of part-time academic staff could be better managed. More effective use of our teaching estate could improve student experience and save money.

A recent survey of the use of mobile devices at the University identified the top priorities for our students to be course information and timetable information. Delivering these priorities will be a major challenge, as currently data are fragmented over a number of different systems and are often incomplete or out of date.

Current timetabling practices have been largely unchanged for many years, and are increasingly costly and inflexible. It may be time to change.

How can you get involved?

The Shared Academic Timetabling project is consulting with key staff involved in timetabling. We will review how each School timetables its programmes and courses, the timetabling policies and constraints that are applied, the effectiveness of the supporting IT systems, and the benefits that could potentially be realised from a change in approach.

There is further information on the Shared Academic Timetabling Project website at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/STU173/>

This phase of the project will run until August. If you would like to contribute your views, please speak to your local representative or contact the project team direct by emailing sharedtimetable@lists.ed.ac.uk.

Sarah Gormley, Mark Ritchie (IS)

Multifunction Devices (MFDs): stabilisation programme

The University operates a vast fleet of MultiFunction Devices (MFDs/printers/scanners/fax) and associated software, which requires careful management to ensure value for money and observance of procurement rules.

A new tendering round was due in March 2010, but significant changes in the ending of the HEI agreement necessitated the negotiation with the current suppliers of the University's MFDs – Canon and OCE – of a postponement of two years. This in turn required the replacement of all current equipment that could not be supported through to March 2012. There were 105 such devices across the University, and a stabilisation programme involving Information Services, Procurement, Schools, departments, Canon and OCE has now replaced over 90% of these.

This programme will save the University around £120k, and will seek to make further savings by redeploying existing equipment rather than procuring new devices. The ordering and management of the MFD fleet is now the responsibility of the IS User Services Division, and Procurement and IS will be working with stakeholders to formulate the University's requirement for office equipment. There is information about this at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/mfd>

Please remember that if you have a working printer, scanner, fax or other equipment that you no longer need, you can offer it for exchange via the Equipment Exchange webpage at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/estates-buildings/waste-recycling/equipment-exchange>

If you have a Canon or OCE MFD that no longer meets requirements please email the details to IS.Helpline@ed.ac.uk.

Fiona Vine (IS), Stuart McLean (Procurement)

Academic Liaison Directors: **job done**



Jeff Haywood with ALDs Abdul Majothi, Liam McDowell, Marshall Dozier & Chris Adie.

Information Services and the Colleges established three part-time Academic Liaison Director (ALD) posts in 2006 to help maintain good communication and interaction at a strategic level between IS and each College. Since then, Chris Adie (CSCE), Marshall Dozier (CMVM) and Abdul Majothi (CHSS) have greatly improved relations between IS and the Colleges and Schools.

I have now agreed with the Heads of College and their Senior Officers that the three new College Consultancy Teams in IS User Services are sufficiently established to take over from the ALDs at the end of July 2010. We will take care that there is good hand-over, to sustain and enhance the high-level interface to the IS and College senior management teams.

I record my thanks to the three College ALDs, who have done excellent work, as also to the Liaison Director for the Support Groups, Liam McDowell, who has maintained our close working relationship with Corporate Services and Student & Academic Services; when Liam retires this Summer his role will be taken over by senior staff in IS Applications.

The IS College Consultancy teams which are taking over the role of the Academic Liaison Directors are led by Abdul Majothi (CHSS), Irene McGowan (CMVM) and Richard Battersby (CSE).

Jeff Haywood (IS Vice Principal)

Change in IT support for the **School of Education, Moray House**

Information Services has changed the way it provides IT support to the School of Education at Moray House, to bring it into line with most other Schools. This change takes account of the transition away from FirstClass and the fact that the School is now making much greater use of standard University systems than previously.

The IS Helpline now provides the first point of contact for IT help for staff and students of the School. The preferred method of contact is by email to IS.Helpline@ed.ac.uk; the IS Helpline telephone number is 651 5151. Further information, including service hours, is provided at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/helpline>

The Help Desk formerly in Thomson's Land (room 1.8) has closed; the old email address and telephone number for support should no longer be used.

IS runs a Laptop Clinic (Windows or MacOS) every Tuesday (except in June and July) to help staff and students who have problems with laptop computers. This runs between 2pm and 4pm in room 1.8, Thomson's Land. Booking is via the Events channel in MyEd.

Barry Croucher (IS)

Web becomes a little more **World Wide**

The organisation which regulates the Internet – Ican – has introduced a system that permits the use of Web addresses that contain no Latin characters. Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are among the first countries to make use of this, with a score of others in the pipeline, including Chinese, Thai and Tamil. The BBC report is at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/10100108.stm>

Nick Stroud (IS)

Egypt: مصر
Saudi Arabia: السعودية
United Arab Emirates: ات

Open-access computing lab upgrades, Summer 2010

The annual upgrade of the University's open-access computers will take place as usual over the Summer vacation.

The Main Library Second Floor is expected to open before the start of the session, following its comprehensive redevelopment, and will include a new study area of 116 PCs. The Third Floor will close for its redevelopment during the session.

Following discussions with EUSA, some 'quick access' PCs will be installed on the Ground Floor of the Main Library. These will run a reduced set of applications, and sessions will be limited to 15 minutes to provide a high-throughput environment for users who need a quick check of email or the Web.

The primary aim of the upgrade programme this year will be to replace all four-year-old PCs. Some in the Main Library will not be replaced over the Summer but will be removed later in the academic year as part of the Main Library Redevelopment Programme. This year a total of 132 PCs will be replaced. The replacement PCs and the 116 new PCs for the Library will be of the current SelectPC configuration, using an all-in-one case design. Cascaded four-year-old machines (Dell GX620 all-in-one, Pentium 4 3.2GHz, 1Gb RAM, DVD/ CDRW, 80Gb hard disk and 17" TFT) could again be sold to Schools.

We will continue with Windows XP Professional on PCs for session 2010–2011, and with Mac OS X 'Leopard' on Apple Macs.

Information Services provides a number of core software applications that are maintained centrally, and updates are usually provided where required. For the coming session we are only updating software where absolutely essential, to allow for the ongoing effort in IS to develop the supported desktop and lab service for Windows 7. One item of software, Splus, will be withdrawn as not enough subscribers have committed to its site licence.

Please contact desktop.team@ed.ac.uk if you require further information about the proposed upgrades.

Graham Newton, David Ross (IS)



BCS meeting: in the wake of the Digital Economy Act

David Flint (Partner, MacRoberts LLP) will speak on "Filesharing – particularly after the Digital Economy Act and looking towards ACTA", on Wednesday 9th June, starting at 6:30pm, in the Informatics Forum, Crichton Street (EH8 9AB). Refreshments are available from 6pm. (ACTA is the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement.)

All meetings are free of charge and no reservation is required. Non members are welcome. All meetings qualify for BCS CPD credit.

The BCS Edinburgh website is at <http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/>

David Muxworthy (BCS)

New Windows 7 Supported Desktop

IS has started work on a new supported desktop based on Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system. The existing Windows XP desktop has served us well for eight years but is now two generations out of date. The new desktop will be a blend of the features that worked well on the XP desktop and some new features introduced with the new operating system. Windows 7 is designed with much more of a focus on mobile computing, and one of our key goals is to deliver a service for notebook users which is the same as the one for desktop users, making it easier for staff working away from the University network.

The project is currently going through extensive consultation with School Computing Officers to determine their requirements. This feedback is key to developing a desktop that meets the needs of what is a very broad user community. We intend to release 'work in progress' builds of the new desktop regularly during the development process in order to allow Computing Officers to familiarise themselves and provide us with further feedback.

Several new technologies are being introduced to help us to be more versatile with the administration of the desktop. AppV is Microsoft's system for producing virtual application packages and will be our primary tool for creating software packages. We also plan to take much more advantage of Microsoft's System Centre Configuration Manager tool (SCCM) for the automatic deployment of applications. We'll be organising awareness sessions for the wider community shortly.

Along with the new Windows 7 desktop we will be rolling out Office 2010, the latest version of the Microsoft Office suite. This software was only released at the end of April and we're going through an evaluation process at the moment. We're looking at how to handle the migration from the old office suite and what training and support users will need to make this move.

We aim to launch the finished product later this year. Progress will be recorded on the Wiki at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/Win7SDP/Home>

Neil Bruce (IS)

Strategy for Windows-hosting infrastructure

The IS Applications Division has produced a long-term strategy for the University's Windows hosting service and designed the technical architecture to deliver services based on business area requirements.

Such a strategy was needed in order to accommodate the evolution of technologies and hardware. We also needed to develop a standardised approach to take advantage of new deployment methods that have been introduced in recent years, such as virtualisation (in which several servers are hosted on a single hardware system to give big savings in money and Carbon footprint), clustering, and the University's Storage Area Network (SAN).

The project's achievements included:

- a policy for hosting services in a virtualised environment, including disaster recovery, a definition of the types of services/systems suitable for migration, and a tool/checklist to assess suitability for placement in a virtual environment.
- the creation of a virtual environment to replace the servers in Old College.
- the design of a system architecture to hold development, test and live environments, accommodating the wider requirements of the University's infrastructure.
- initial training of support staff.
- the definition of procedures for moving services to the new environment, including an analysis of the opportunities for virtualising SQL resources.
- the migration of several services to a new virtual environment.

If you would like to know more about this project please email David.Smyth@ed.ac.uk.

David Smyth (IS)

Service Improvement: TOPdesk report

The University along with St Andrews and Abertay chose TOPdesk to support its Service Improvement programme. The software has now been installed and a demonstration environment created; if you would like to try this out, please email Robert.Gormley@ed.ac.uk for further details.

Information Services is now consulting on a draft process for the IS management of incidents and service requests, and hopes this will be of interest to others in the University who plan to move to TOPdesk. It must be emphasised that the aim is to have a mechanism for Continual Service Improvement, so it will be possible to enhance and modify processes over time. The plan is to have the system configured as required by the Incident Management process and ready for 'real world' testing by the end of July.

The transition from the current Call Management System (CMS) will hopefully take place in early October. Precise plans are yet to be made, but on the advice of TOPdesk consultants existing calls in the CMS will not be migrated to TOPdesk. The draft migration plan is to direct new calls to TOPdesk and make the CMS "modify only" to allow existing calls to be tidied up. The CMS will be made "read-only" at the end of this year, so calls that require further work will need to be recreated in TOPdesk.

You can find details of the Service Management Package Installation project at http://www.projects.ed.ac.uk/areas/itservices/service/ITS017/index_table.shtml

The wiki maintained by the Project Manager as an open area for anyone to submit ideas and questions is at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ServManITIL/Service+Management+Package+Installation+Project>

Alison Downie (Informatics)

Jorum Learning and Teaching Competition 2010

Do you create open educational learning and teaching resources? If so, the Jorum Learning and Teaching Competition might be of interest to you! Last year's successful competition resulted in six highly creative and valuable resources winning places, and the 2010 competition is now open and accepting entries.

The judges will be looking for exciting and innovative resources created under a Creative Commons licence, which demonstrate appropriateness, engagement, effectiveness and reusability. The competition again runs in conjunction with the ALT-C conference, this year in Nottingham on 7-9 September, and the six winning entrants will have the opportunity to present and showcase their resources at the conference. The closing date is Friday 25th June.

There are full details at <http://www.jorum.ac.uk/altcCompetition.html>

Wilma Alexander (IS)

University Services Day – early notice

This year's 'Services Day' – at which the University's support services highlight the ways in which they underpin the University's core mission – will be held over lunchtime with New Staff Induction Day on 2nd November, in the Playfair Library Hall.

Further details will be published nearer the time.

Deepthi de Silva Williams (C&M)



Open Knowledge Scotland, May 2010

The first Open Knowledge Scotland event took place on 13th May at the contemporary InSpace area of the Informatics Forum. It was organised and supported by iDEAlab and EDINA at the University of Edinburgh, and by the Open Knowledge Foundation.

In the true spirit of openness and exchange participants were invited to offer contributions on any aspect of creating, publishing or reusing open content in accordance with the guiding principles laid down at <http://opendefinition.org/>

The event thus brought together open knowledge practitioners from a diverse range of organisations and institutions, including academia, local government, libraries and information services, and the general public. It was full to capacity, with additional virtual viewing of a live video stream and active Twitter hashtag. The afternoon opened with 17 'lightning' talks, arranged into three topical groupings: Open Research Practice; Open Data for Scotland; and Open Knowledge and Linked Data.

Talks addressed various aspects of open data issues from very different perspectives. Highlights included: Research Information Network insights into data and research sharing practice and support requirements in UK Academia; a Mr Benn-inspired talk on how open knowledge and collaboration can inspire school pupils to 'try on' various career and educational possibilities; an overview of current National Library of Scotland open mapping projects, including the new NLS Maps API; a request to the Scottish Government asking for more efficient data sharing; the value of open data and innovation, highlighted via discussion of the forthcoming Digital Strategy for Scotland; and different approaches to realising the benefits of context-rich open linked data.

The event culminated in an 'Open Data Licensing: Legal Challenges' clinic session where Charlotte Waelde and Andres Guadamuz of SCRIPT answered questions on the legalities and restrictions of sharing data.

Anyone interested in joining in the Open Knowledge discussions or events can join the Open Knowledge Scotland discussion forum by joining the ok-scotland list at <http://lists.okfn.org/mailman/listinfo/ok-scotland>.

Presentations are available at <http://wiki.okfn.org/okscotland/>

Videos of presentations: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/open-knowledge-scotland>

The tweets from the event are archived at <http://twrapperkeeper.com/hashtag/okscotland>

There is an initiative to set up a Scottish Linked Data Interest Group at <http://www.webofdatadblog.com/articles/scottish-linked-data-interest-group>

Stuart Macdonald, Nicola Osborne (IS)

AQMeN: Applied Quantitative Methods Network

For much of the past year the Data Library has been actively involved with the development of, and ongoing support for, the website of the recently established Applied Quantitative Methods Network (AQMeN) in Scotland.

AQMeN is a collaborative initiative funded jointly by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) from July 2009 to June 2012.

Headed by Director Susan McVie, Senior Research Fellow at Edinburgh Law School, AQMeN is a collaboration of eight Scottish universities aimed at boosting capacity in quantitative methods in Scotland.

The network, which is based at the University of Edinburgh, was formally launched last Autumn and now boasts around 600 members, comprising academics and non-academics from a range of organisations and disciplines, all with an interest in quantitative methods. AQMeN resources include training, expert statistical advice and support, online learning resources and knowledge exchange.

There is a range of local activities, and members are kept informed about events hosted by other organisations which may be of interest.

Further information about AQMeN, its resources and planned activities may be found on the network's website at <http://aqmen.ac.uk/>

Anne Donnelly (IS)

Lewis Grassic Gibbon's library reconstructed

The library of the novelist Lewis Grassic Gibbon (real name James Leslie Mitchell) was donated to Edinburgh University Library by his daughter. Until now the books have been scattered in the printed special collections, but thanks to a volunteer's work, all 300+ books have been brought back together and reconstituted as a distinct collection. You can find them through the online catalogue by doing a shelfmark search for "Gibbon". The collection includes works on Scottish history and culture, as well as the classical past, and provides evidence for the sources he used when writing works such as 'Sunset Song' and 'Spartacus'.

If you would like to find out about volunteering in the Main Library's Centre for Research Collections, please email is-crc@ed.ac.uk.

Joe Marshall (IS)



NVIVO: a new deal

The University has signed up for a five-year site licence for NVIVO software, covering staff and students. Information on pricing and availability will be announced in next month's BITS, meanwhile anyone interested in buying the software should email is.software.sales@ed.ac.uk.

What is NVIVO? Nvivo 8 analyses audio, video, pictures, and documents. If you need to handle very rich text-based information, where deep levels of analysis on both small and large volumes of data are required, Nvivo 8 is your solution. It removes many of the manual tasks associated with analysis, like classifying, sorting and arranging information, so you have more time to explore trends, build and test theories and ultimately arrive at answers to questions.

There is full information about NVIVO at http://www.qsrinternational.com/products_nvivo.aspx

Joyce Anderson (IS)

eAssessment Scotland 2010: Marking the Decade

Last year, Scotland's largest annual e-Assessment conference brought together speakers from schools, colleges and universities to showcase innovation and best practice in the field. This year, the conference is moving to a larger venue and broadening its scope to examine how technology can be used to enhance the use of assessment in education, training and the workplace.

This year's conference takes place on 3rd September at the University of Dundee. You can find further details and book your place at <http://www.e-assessment-scotland.org/>

Wilma Alexander (IS)

eLearning@ed: another chance to see and hear...

The 2010 eLearning@ed conference, organised in April by the eLPP Forum, focused on the learner experience in relation to elearning, and attracted almost a hundred participants from across the University to hear invited speakers, case studies and students themselves.

Presentations and videos from the day are now available to view (to University of Edinburgh only) on the eLPP wiki at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/x/kwOdBQ>

Feedback on the day has been very positive. The eLPP committee would welcome comments and suggestions for future events (please email e.jackson@ed.ac.uk).

Erin Jackson (eLPP)

Reminder: the Robertson Library is moving

As announced in BITs last month, the Robertson Library at The King's Buildings is moving to a temporary home in the James Clerk Maxwell Building this month, as part of the preparations for a possible KB Library and Learning Resource Centre. The Robertson Library will close at 5pm on Friday 4th June, and re-open in its new home at 9am on Monday 21st June. While it is closed, all possible services and enquiries will be dealt with by the Darwin Library in the Swann Building. If you need any advice or help while the Library is closed, please contact the Darwin Library Helpdesk (email Darwin.Library@ed.ac.uk, tel 505784) or the IS Helpline (email IS.Helpline@ed.ac.uk, tel 515151).

Richard Battersby (IS)

IS Skills for IT skills

The IS Skills Development team runs courses and short sessions for staff and students to help them use IT effectively in their work and studies.

The dates of taught courses and taster sessions in June are listed below. Please see our web pages for further details and booking, at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/skills>

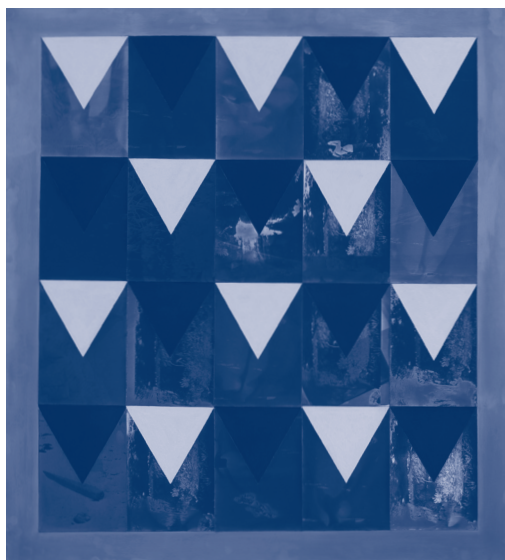
Jenni Reeves (IS)

Date	Course	Location
June 1	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Media and Graphics	ML
2	Introduction to Wikis	ML
8	Making the Most of your Wiki	ML
8	Excel Basic Skills: Creating Spreadsheets and Charts (Part 1)	ML
9	Creating and Editing Web Pages with Dreamweaver 8	ML
9	Creating Templates and Managing Websites with Dreamweaver 8	ML
9	WebCT Basic Skills: Vista Fundamentals	ML
10	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	ML
11	Writing for the Web	DHT
15	Testing the Usability of your Website	ML
15	Excel Basic Skills: Creating Spreadsheets and Charts (Part 2)	ML
15	PhotoShop Pilot: Introduction	ML
16	Producing a Thesis using Word 2003	ML
16	Access Database Management: Basic Skills (Part 1)	ML
17	Photoshop Pilot Part 2 : Selections and Adjustments	ML
18	Wikis: What can I do as an Administrator?	ML
22	Excel Intermediate: Manipulating and Managing Data (Part 1)	ML
23	Access Database Management: Basic Skills (Part 2)	ML
24	Word Intermediate: Document Layout and Customisation (Part 1)	ML
24	Introduction to Visualizing Data in ArcGIS	ML
24	Using EDINA Digimap	ML
25	Life in Real Time: Twitter, Buzz, Facebook etc	DHT
29	Excel Intermediate: Manipulating and Managing Data (Part 2)	ML
30	Testing the Usability of your Website	ML

Venues:

- ML – Main Library Training Suite
- DHT – David Hume Tower

Coming up in the **Talbot Rice Gallery**



They Do Things Differently There
Saturday 5 – Saturday 19 June, 2010

'They Do Things Differently There' is the result of a collaborative curatorial project by students on the Contemporary Art Theory and Material Cultures MA programmes at Edinburgh College of Art. It features the work of a diverse range of artists, including the Turner-Prize-nominated Otolith Group. The students are from diverse backgrounds and have come together as part of their assessment to explore the many facets of curating. The culmination of their collective project is this exhibition at the Talbot Rice Gallery, which develops the group's interest in the archival process, enriched by the historical significance of the gallery itself.

The Gallery is open from 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Its website is at <http://www.trg.ed.ac.uk/>

Shawn Coulman (IS)

Eduserv Symposium 2010: The Mobile University

Several people from Information Services attended last month's symposium in London on the Mobile University, where a strong line-up of speakers emphasised the increasingly important role mobile technology will play in the delivery of UK Higher Education in the future.

Christine Sexton, IT director at the University of Sheffield, spoke about the implications for universities and their Computing Services of an increasingly mobile, 24/7 world. She mentioned the CampusM service recently delivered to Sheffield, which allows their students to access services through their mobile phones. This was of particular interest to us as we are currently working on a project to deliver this type of functionality for Edinburgh.

The meeting included a series of 'lightning talks' in which a panel of four speakers were each given six minutes to express one point really clearly and then move on. The speakers were from the universities of Bristol, Canterbury Christ Church and Oxford, and our own Simon Marsden, who gave an engaging snapshot view of what students at Edinburgh would like to see delivered through their mobiles, based on the results of the student survey we carried out in March.

Slides and videos of the day's talks are available at <http://www.eduserv.org.uk/events/esym10/presentations>

Lunchtime meeting presents plans for Edinburgh

Members of the IS team will present plans for 'mobilising the University' at a lunchtime meeting (with a buffet sandwich lunch) on 16th June at The King's Buildings and on the 18th in the Main Library, both starting at 12:30. Full details are included in the Event Booking channel in MyEd.

Liza Zamboglou (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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www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/ucsinfo/acronyms.html

NB: if you fail to access a URL shown in BITS, or if you need information from it in a different format, please email BITS@ed.ac.uk

Contributions to BITS are welcomed.

Copy deadline for July BITS:

Thursday 17th June