



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



BITS

MAGAZINE

Autumn 2011 Issue 2

Sharing news and stories across Information Services and the University



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SUBMISSION DETAILS

If you would like to submit an article, or tell us about some news, please email: BITS@ed.ac.uk

The Winter edition of **BITS** will be published in February, and the **deadline for submissions is 16 December 2011.**

To keep up to date with IS news:
www.ed.ac.uk/is/news

Editorial

Welcome to our second issue of **BITS**.

After the re-launch of **BITS** in May this year, the Editorial Team asked colleagues in Information Services for their impressions of the first issue. We were all pleased with what we heard and read and so we thought we'd share the results with you. The word cloud on the back cover of this magazine illustrates the feedback we received.

We have been asked about the magazine's remit and here it is; The magazine's remit is to create a wider sense of unity and cohesion across Information Services and to provide colleagues around the University with an insight in to IS activities. **BITS** aims to encourage and inspire further knowledge sharing by informing colleagues about IS news, strategy, activities, values and ethics.

The editorial will provide the space for colleagues to talk about their work and to showcase their contribution to IS success. **BITS** will appear three times a year in print and online.

So, with this in mind, for our second issue we wanted to bring you up to date on recent activities: U@Ed, the new Mobile Campus app, which delivers personalised content to mobile phones is proving very popular. Within four weeks of launch, the app had already been downloaded almost 6000 times. See page 3 to find out how U@Ed is helping and impressing early adopters.

Read on and you will find support and guidance on encryption and data storage, to keep us all on the right side of the law. There's more news, features and updates from across Information Services throughout the magazine, with some interesting insights into colleagues' leisure and fund-raising activities in the People pages, pp12-13.

Do make sure you contact any of our contributing editors with potential content for future issues. Happy reading.



Dawn Ellis

Director, University Website Programme

News highlights

The Chancellor views University treasures

HRH The Princess Royal, made her first visit to the University as Chancellor on Friday 29th July when she visited the Main Library. Accompanied by her husband, Vice-Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, she was greeted by Senior Vice-Principal Nigel Brown and Sheila Cannell, Director of Library Services.

She was shown the redeveloped Main Library and asked about how we had kept the Library going during this major refurbishment. The staff of the Centre for Research Collections had set up a display of some of the University's treasures, including items relating to the history of the University, the University Charter, and the archive of items relating to the installation of her father as Chancellor 53 years ago. She also had the opportunity to see an exhibition on pioneering women in the University, which is currently being installed in the Meeting Suite of the Main Library, and to meet the EUSA sabbaticals. She took the opportunity to stop and talk to students who were working in the Library.

IS Services open at the new ECA

Bryan MacGregor

Information Services staff played a central role in the successful launch of the newly merged Edinburgh College of Art on 1 August.

Working closely with the School, College of Humanities and Social Science and other Support units we assisted with the migration of member data onto University setups, the distribution of new user credentials and reconfiguration of all library and IT systems to IS-supported standards. Edinburgh College of Art staff and students were among the first to receive the new University smartcards.

We look forward to working with colleagues in the new Edinburgh College of Art and to develop IS services to meet future business needs. Jane Furness (Library issues) and Chris Kant (IT issues) are the primary contacts for advice from IS.

First Day of Term 2011

The total number of visitors to the Main Library was 9,874

A new addition to the **UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register**

Ruth Honeybone

The University's Centre for Research Collections is now represented in the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register.

Eleven HIV/AIDS sub-collections from Lothian Health Services Archive (LHSA) are part of the catalogue of registered material documenting medical and social responses to HIV/AIDS in Edinburgh from 1983-2010. Combining the records of the NHS, local government, charities and campaign groups, the Register also demonstrates the subsequent external approach to tackle the disease across Lothian.

<http://tinyurl.com/67qb8wd>
www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk



John Scally:

This is a unique research resource for the study of HIV/AIDS in the local, national and international context.

Cover feature

University launches U@Ed, the Mobile Campus for Students

Liza Zamboglou



Arran Wiltshire

Postgraduate student
LLM European Law

The app not only gives you useful information but also updates you on fun and interesting things such as details of EUSA and other University events. It's clearly been put together with students in mind and gives you quick access to all the information you need.

The University of Edinburgh is one of the latest universities in the UK to roll out a mobile campus, providing an effective method of supporting and communicating with students who are on the move.

U@Ed is a smartphone app that gives access to a range of personalised information direct to mobile devices. It integrates with key University systems, including Library, Finance and WebCT in order to deliver personalised content to mobile phones.

Students have a number of services available to them. They can search Campus Maps using GPS, view live PC availability information and locate open access computing labs using interactive maps. They can also access information about their courses and grades, library record, search the catalogue, view news and events and check their finance details. Secure modules, such as Finance and Grades information, require authentication.

Whilst the app has been developed with students in mind, staff can also use it. Modules such as News / Events, Library and Extras may be of interest.

Based on the results of two surveys carried out in 2010, we know that students are extremely keen to use mobile phones to support their studies and other activities. Unsurprisingly, access to course information and timetables were voted most popular in terms of desired mobile functionality.

One of the most significant findings from the survey in October 2010 was the dramatic increase in smartphone ownership among students: 67% said they owned a smartphone, an increase of 17% from those students surveyed seven months earlier. The results clearly indicate a rapid growth in the number of students owning smartphones and suggest that this number will continue to grow.

In the first four weeks of service, there have been 5,583 downloads of the app.

- breakdown of registered users: 84% Students; 9% Staff; 7% Guests
- breakdown of registered devices: 65% Apple; 26% Android; 9% Web

U@Ed is designed for leading mobile platforms such as iOS and Android. Supported devices include the iPhone and iPod touch as well as hundreds of other mobile devices, making it easier than ever to access University information on the go.

For information on how to download U@Ed to your mobile device, go to the Mobile Campus service pages located on the IS website: www.ed.ac.uk/is/mobile-campus



My Courses

Students can view their course details and grades, plus WebCT courses, general notices/events and unread WebCT mail.



Campus Maps

Everyone can use Campus Maps to find their way around University buildings using GPS.



News/Events

Anyone can receive the latest University News and Events whilst on the move.



Library

Students can view their library record to check outstanding charges and current books on loan to them. They can also search the library catalogue, all from their mobile phone.



Finance

Students can view their financial details such as tuition and accommodation fees in a secure manner, whilst on the go.



PC Availability

Staff and students check PC availability and find the nearest open access labs on campus.



Freshers

Quicklinks specific to Freshers include activities which are happening at the start of term.



Pocket Guide

Pocket Guide contains information about Services & Facilities for new students who would like to know more about what Edinburgh has to offer.



Extras

Students can easily access the University's Facebook, Twitter and iTunesU accounts, plus video & audio from the University's Podcasting and Streaming service.



Timetable (MVM only)

Students in the College of Medicine and Vet Medicine (MVM) can view their exam and course timetables.



Friend Finder

Friend Finder lets students and staff see where friends are on the campus so that they can arrange to meet up. This service works by mutual consent and does not compromise privacy in any way, (currently available on iPhone version only).

Know when to encrypt **IT!**

Anne Gryzbowski

Since 6th April 2010, the Information Commissioner has had the power to fine organisations up to £500,000 for a serious breach of the Data Protection Act. This year, these powers have been used to fine organisations that:

- lost laptops containing unencrypted personal information
- inappropriately sent sensitive personal information (including health information) by email
- misdirected communications containing personal information to unintended recipients
- used an inadequately secured externally provided file server to store personal information.

In each case, following University policy would have prevented such incidents occurring at the University. It is therefore more important than ever that we all follow University policies and procedures, especially the policy on the storage, transmission and use of personal data and sensitive business information outwith the University computing environment.

Data protection: five key points every member of staff needs to know:



- 1.** Individuals have the right to ask to see any information The University of Edinburgh holds about them. The University has 40 calendar days to respond. If someone asks to see information that you hold about them, contact your local Freedom of Information practitioner as soon as possible.
- 2.** You must tell individuals what you do with information regarding them, including to whom you disclose it.
- 3.** You must keep personal data securely, for example if you use large amounts of personal data or sensitive personal data, store them on University networks or use encryption.
- 4.** If you pass personal data outwith the University, follow University policies and procedures. This includes publishing personal information on the internet, allowing contractors access to systems, and sharing personal data with government agencies and others.

- 5.** You must not keep personal data for longer than is necessary.

Further advice on the data protection implications for your job is available from the Records Management Section:

<http://tinyurl.com/qzcb2v>

Encryption policy:

<http://tinyurl.com/3bc5z8u>

Encryption guidance:

www.ed.ac.uk/is/encryption

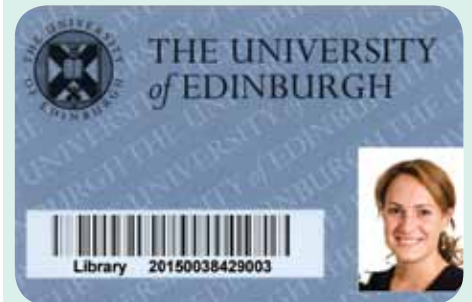
**There are
over 1,000,000
logins to MyEd
every month**

The new, blue University of Edinburgh card

Barry Croucher

A new, blue University ID card is being issued to students, staff and visitors in a phased distribution strategy throughout 2011. The card's microchip holds essential data securely and supports existing and new functions, including a cashless payment facility available at a range of Accommodation Services catering outlets across the campuses.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/card



Online Print Credit Channel in MyEd

Barry Croucher

You can now add credit to your printing/photocopying account online using the Online Print Credit channel in MyEd.

This channel allows you to make credit and debit payments using RBS WorldPay's secure system. You can also view your current printing account balance and recent printing account history.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/online-print-guidance

Research focus

Research Data Policy

Florance Kennedy

In May 2011, the University of Edinburgh Court approved a policy to guide researchers and support staff in their management of digital research data.

Jeff Haywood, Vice Principal Knowledge Management, CIO and Librarian to the University, said "The University of Edinburgh has a strong interest in openness of research outputs. So we need, as a University, a way of setting standards for ourselves and for our Pls about how we're going to handle research data. A research data policy defines the different responsibilities of the institution and the researcher."

Consultations were carried out with individual researchers and relevant University Committees to shape the policy, which is

aspirational, and will enable Information Services and the Institute for Academic Development to develop jointly the training and services that many researchers will wish to draw on to manage their digital research materials.

We are now developing services to support the policy. Further information to support researchers in their use of data is available at www.ed.ac.uk/is/data-management, recently praised by the Guardian Higher Education Weekly as providing answers to questions about research data management.

We are fortunate in having the Digital Curation Centre and EDINA in Edinburgh who are carrying out work in this area.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/research-data-policy

DCC takes to the road

Graham Pryor

The world of research data management is one of foment and change and the University of Edinburgh is in the vanguard of institutions delivering support. The Digital Curation Centre, hosted by The University of Edinburgh, has embarked upon a programme of regional roadshows to promote a comprehensive package of tools and services to manage research data. These roadshows, a key deliverable of the national Universities Modernisation Fund, will be sustained by a series of eighteen individual institutional engagements, where advice, support and targeted training will be given for strategies and techniques for effective data curation.

Major research funders in the UK and USA increasingly require grant applicants to develop and implement Data Management Plans (DMPs) to describe in detail how data produced from publicly funded research will be organised, preserved and shared. The DCC has responded to this major policy shift by producing a data management planning tool. This tool, **DMP Online**, has proved inspirational on a global scale, having been adopted by institutions in the USA who are struggling to meet similar expectations for DMPs recently imposed by the National Science Foundation.

A DCC roadshow was recently held in Glasgow. The next Scotland Roadshow will be at Dundee next year. Edinburgh researchers and research support staff are welcome at any of other events across the UK. For more info: info@dcc.ac.uk

www.dcc.ac.uk/events/data-management-roadshows
www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/data-management-plans

New Book - Managing research data

Graham Pryor



Graham Pryor of DCC Edinburgh has produced a book on Managing Research Data, with chapters by DCC staff and associates from the UK, Australia and the USA. It is scheduled for publication in December 2011.

www.facetpublishing.co.uk

DCC Collaboration with US institutions

Magdalena Getler

The Digital Curation Centre (DCC) recently announced a partnership with a group of US institutions – the University of California Curation Center (UC3) at the California Digital Library, the UCLA Library, the UCSD Libraries, the Smithsonian Institution, the University of Virginia Library, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and DataONE - to adapt DCC's Data Manager Plan (DMP) Online tool for the US institutional context.

www.dcc.ac.uk/news

Libraries

Longer Main Library building opening in Semester 1

The Main Library building will be open from 9am, rather than the usual 12 noon, on eight Sundays in Semester 1 - from Sunday 30th October until Sunday 18th December 2011 inclusive.

Helpdesk staffed services will open at 12 noon, as usual.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/main-library-opening

Main Library Floor 3 now open

The refurbished Floor 3 of the Main Library opened on 4th July. The floor is proving popular with students and includes the LC Collection (P-Z), East Asian Studies Collection, quiet study spaces and computers. Student Services have moved in, encompassing the Careers Service, Student Counselling Service and Student Disability Service.

Library borrowing limits increase

Library borrowing limits (the number of items an individual may have on loan at any one time) were increased on 1st August for staff and postgraduates to 40 and undergraduates to 25.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/library-limits-increased

Materials on the move

During the Summer the journal collections and the older book collections from the James Clerk Maxwell and Robertson Libraries were all moved to the Darwin Library lower floor. This is in preparation for the move of the remaining book collections to the new King's Buildings Library, due to open in Summer 2012.

www.ed.ac.uk/science-engineering/kb-library

The Lady Smith of Kelvin Veterinary Library

A new library for Veterinary Medicine is now open.

The library is located on the first floor of the new Veterinary Teaching Building at Easter Bush and includes:

- 97 study seats
- Self-service issue/discharge
- 5 group study rooms
- 85 seats in The Study Landscape: lets students study independently using online and other resources

The library forms part of the new Veterinary School designed to create a world leading centre of Veterinary education and research and a vibrant campus environment for students and scientists.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/vet-library

Augmented reality for **smartphones**

Ben Butchart

A state-of-the-art TechWatch report is now available online. The publication was commissioned by JISC Observatory. It describes the latest developments in smartphone and augmented reality technology in creating novel learning experiences. It can be downloaded from the EDINA blog which charts 'Mobile GIS' progress in UK Academia.

<http://mobilegeo.wordpress.com/>



Bruce Sterline, science fiction writer on wired.com blog:

This is a fine piece of comprehensive research work.

Team wins grant to investigate **online accessibility**

Wilma Alexander

A small University team led by Wilma Alexander in Information Services has won an Accessibility Grant from Blackboard to investigate features of accessible online courses. The year-long project will seek to evaluate the accessibility of different approaches to structuring online materials and activities within a Virtual Learning Environment.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/blackboard-grant

Events management just got easier

Kevin Brogan

The popular Events Booking Channel has been redeveloped with the focus on making the running of events as easy as possible.

With full control over who can attend, there's no need to manage attendee lists by hand.

Major improvements include events being open to external audiences and booking confirmations including calendar invites.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/event-booking



Illegible, erratic and entertaining Cataloguing Carmichael's notebooks

Arnott Wilson

At the heart of the Carmichael Watson collection in The University of Edinburgh Library are the papers of the pioneering folklorist Alexander Carmichael (1832–1912): a treasure-chest representing half a century of tireless collecting throughout the Gaelic speaking areas of Scotland, especially in the Outer Hebrides. The value of the collection goes far beyond folklore, embracing history, philology, place-names, archaeology, botany, and environmental studies.

Five Years of Research

A jumbled arrangement, an eccentric catalogue, as well as the compiler's own appalling handwriting, meant that he had long been neglected in Scottish Studies. To make matters worse, Carmichael was suspected of polishing his texts for publication. Until his original field-notes were unearthed, nobody could gauge the extent of his alterations. Over the past five years, the Carmichael Watson Project has identified for the first time 23 original field notebooks and five transcription notebooks. These notebooks have been investigated, transcribed, tagged, catalogued, and indexed, with the aim of making these previously under-used but internationally important materials available to a wider audience, both in academia and among the general public, bilingually in English and Scottish Gaelic.

Ground-breaking methodologies

The project has employed the most up-to-date internationally recognised standards for transcribing and tagging, TEI (Text Encoding Initiative); and for cataloguing, EAD (Encoded Archival Description). The project is breaking new ground by creating biographical records for significant individuals using new EAC (Encoded Archival Context) standards. In order to create a flexible research tool, all place-names have been geo-referenced, enabling users to follow Carmichael through the islands as he gathered lore. Links to images on Flickr and Geograph will give a flavour of the places and communities he visited during his life's work.

Working in close collaboration with University Collections staff, EDINA supplied the software engineering skills to deliver sophisticated online access. EDINA also developed and designed the project website.

www.carmichaelwatson.lib.ed.ac.uk



An example of Carmichael's "appalling handwriting".



Carmichael Watson portrait.



John Scally with Alasdair and Eoghan Carmichael, great-grandsons of the folklorist (Eoghan with the beard).



Speakers and Carmichael team together for a team photo on top of the Main Library.

The end of the Disability Discrimination Act and the birth of the Equality Act 2010

Viki Galt

On 1st October 2010 the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 was replaced by the Equality Act 2010.

The Equality Act 2010 aims to consolidate equality legislation making it simpler. In practice, discrimination is defined largely as before and good practice remains the same. There are, however, a few key areas to be aware of:

- It is no longer legal to ask about an applicant's health or disability prior to offering a post.
- The Act highlights the importance of making information accessible, whether it be electronically or on paper.
- There are now nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.



www.ed.ac.uk/is/accessibility/creating-materials

Link Google Scholar search results to Library eJournals

To get more seamless access to electronic journals from your Google Scholar results, you can set the Library Links option in Scholar Preferences to link to University of Edinburgh. Search results which are available via the Library eJournal subscriptions will then have a 'findit@edinburgh' link to the right which should take you to the article via an EASE login.

For search results that do not display 'findit@edinburgh' links, check the Library catalogue as the article may be available in the print collections.

Library catalogue: www.ed.ac.uk/is/catalogue

MANTRA

New online training course

Robin Rice

Research Data Management Training (MANTRA) is a new online course for PhD students and researchers developed by the Data Library with support from the Institute for Academic Development, with funding from JISC. An interactive, online module comprises self-paced units with video clips and quizzes. Practical exercises in data handling skills such as merging and documenting data are also available, in four specific software environments: SPSS, NVivo, R and ArcGIS. Users may download instructions with screenshots and work through the exercises at their own pace.

<http://datalib.edina.ac.uk/mantra/>

Analysing Edinburgh's 1881 Census data

Christina Hussell

The IS Skills team in Learning Services has developed a course that analyses the 1881 Edinburgh Census data using Microsoft Office. It was designed for postgraduate students in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, and uses a database covering Buccleuch Place, George Square, Charlotte Square and Young Street.

<http://tinyurl.com/6byx8eg>

For more information on IS Skills tailored courses, contact is.skills@ed.ac.uk

China Medical Journals – supporting Chinese students

Marshall Dozier, Shenxiao Tong



In May 2011 the Library purchased current access to the Medicine & Public Health series of China Academic Journals (CAJ), establishing The University of Edinburgh as the only institution in the UK to have gained access.

Staff and students can now access the full-text of 1179 medical journals published in China. Like other CAJ series, articles are mostly in Chinese with English abstracts so the database is searchable with keywords in English. The journals can be accessed via the CAJ portal. All CAJ titles are indexed in the Electronic Journals database and can be retrieved with Chinese characters.

This resource is particularly useful for medical scientists and research students interested in Chinese medicine and in forging research-based links with China.

The subscription is a pilot and will be reviewed after the first year.

CAJ portal: <http://goo.gl/m8Scu>

Electronic Journals database: www.ed.ac.uk/is/ejournals

Distance Education Initiative (DEI) gathers momentum

Bryan MacGregor

The Distance Education Initiative (DEI) is now well underway and has already approved funding (£1.7M) for nine Masters/CPD programmes which will begin recruiting in 2011 or 2012. The new programmes span all three Colleges: creative writing, health and social care, law, dentistry, epidemiology, surgery, physics education, drug discovery and global challenges.

By academic year 2015-16, there should be approximately 900 students enrolled on DEI-funded courses, generating approximately £3.5M per annum in gross fee income. Four working groups are currently re-designing services to ensure a high-quality student experience, an appropriate technology base, support in online teaching and learning, and market research & marketing.

The closing date for applications for the next funding round is April 2012.

https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/x/_w7-Bg

capturED from lecture theatre to mobile

Alex Carter

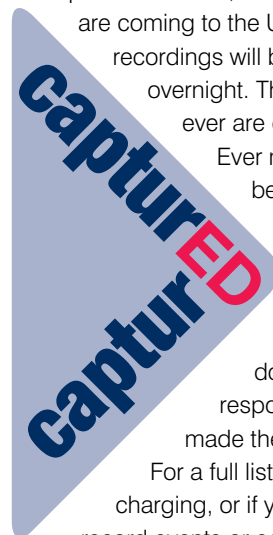
capturED lectures, already available on desktop computers, are coming to the U@Ed mobile application where recordings will be made available automatically overnight. This year more lecture theatres than ever are equipped for automated recording.

Ever more Edinburgh students are benefiting from IS investment in supporting teaching.

In a successful first year over 20,000 hours of lectures were watched online and 70,000 hours downloaded, with 90% of students responding that lecture recording had made their studying more effective.

For a full list of current capturED locations and charging, or if you are interested in registering to record events or equip a room see:

www.ed.ac.uk/is/captured



We are hosting the 9th **Let's Talk About Text** conference, in co-operation with **TxtTools**, on Tuesday 8th November. This promises to be a worthwhile event for those already using, or interested in using, our SMS text messaging service.

<http://goo.gl/gWgCJ> www.ed.ac.uk/is/sms-text

Social media

Our regular look at what is happening in the social media space



Talbot Rice Gallery is now on Facebook

Shawn Coulman

Many of Edinburgh's galleries have pages on Facebook as an additional way of engaging with their audience. At Talbot Rice we recognise the benefits of this popular social media platform and recently created our own page. This gives the Gallery another way to connect with visitors, generate interest and increase attendance. It allows the Gallery to offer content that we feel adds value to the visitor's experience and we regularly post engaging links, such as reviews from the press, video interviews, and presentations from recent talks.

TRG went live on Facebook on 25th August, we have had 220 people 'like' it. Beyond this there are some very interesting statistics that Facebook call 'insights'. For example, our dozen or so posts have been collectively viewed over 7000 times, by national and international visitors. 'Insights' give us a useful breakdown of audience demographics in terms of gender and age, and also the languages people use.



Additionally the comments visitors have left can illustrate the benefits of the Gallery using Facebook. One visitor writes:

Thank you for uploading videos. Since I can't be there in person this is a great learning tool and visual experience. I love the close up of the textures and shapes. Hearing from the artist's perspective gives added value.

This kind of feedback also demonstrates how Facebook gives the public a context in which they feel comfortable expressing opinions.

The capacity of social media to generate an interactive dialogue is important for us as a centre for art and ideas. With this in mind we want our next exhibition, 'Beholder' to have even more public participation. Artists, individuals and organisations across Scotland have been invited to loan or nominate a work of art, or object, they consider to represent 'beauty'. Through Facebook and in the Gallery, we will be asking our visitors to choose the work of art, or object, they consider to be the most beautiful. We hope this will prove to be popular, democratic, and generate interesting results.

'Beholder' opens on Saturday 19 November and runs until 18 February 2012. Get involved by visiting: www.facebook.com/talbotricegallery

UoE social media activity

Nicola Osborne

There are now over 50 University of Edinburgh Facebook pages: some help new students through the admissions processes or publicise events and activities. Others have been set up to help support the community of staff and students around a College, School or course.

Many staff in IS have attended events on social media and these experiences have been feeding into internal projects. Recent work has included projects; to survey and gauge interest in professional blogging, an investigation of the issues around cloud computing, development of social media guidelines, and planning for a new web tools advisory service.

Staff social media survey

Martin Morrey

Earlier this year, IS ran a survey of IS staff's use of social media in a professional context. There were 91 responses, split roughly equally between staff with positive or negative attitudes to social media.

Apart from wikis, which are a centrally-provided service, the most frequently-used tools were Twitter, Facebook and blogs. These tools also had the most even balance between consumption and contribution. The largest contact group was University colleagues, but service users were also a significant target in Twitter.

There is a presentation of the results at

<http://goo.gl/71Za8>



University Calendar 2012

Andy Grout and Jenny Gypaki

The University has recently embarked on a project to redevelop St Cecilia's Hall, which will become the single site for the University's historic instruments collection.

In celebration of this, the University Calendar in 2012 will feature historic musical instruments from St Cecilia's Hall.

The Calendar, priced at £10, is now on sale at the Main Library Helpdesk, Centre for Research Collections, University Gift Shop, and St Cecilia's Hall.

All profits will fund the conservation of University Collections.

<http://tinyurl.com/3hrahwd>

Talbot Rice Gallery

Beholder

19 November 2011 – 18 February 2012

In 2011 The University of Edinburgh celebrates the tercentenary of David Hume. In this context Talbot Rice Gallery puts beauty in the frame with Beholder, an exhibition exploring taste and subjectivity in the visual arts. Artists, individuals and organisations across Scotland have been invited to loan or nominate a representative work of art they consider to be beautiful. In this way the exhibition opens up a visual dialogue around the subject.

Real and virtual works will be displayed together to generate a dynamic visual dialogue about beauty. Democracy is key to this project and we invite you to participate by voting, in the Gallery or online through Facebook, for your favourite.



Easter Bush Portraits

Jill Forrest

Following conservation work funded by Museums Galleries Scotland, University of Edinburgh Development Trust and University Collections, seven portraits, originally from Bush House, have been hung on display at the new Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at Easter Bush.

These 18th century portraits are of friends, family and contemporaries of the then landowner, Robert Trotter (c.1750-1807). They were donated in 1946 by his descendent Mr Robert Durant Trotter when the University bought Bush House and its environs.

The Bush Portraits enhance the working space for staff and students and bring a real sense of local history to this wonderful new building.

<http://tinyurl.com/3sxxmao>

Fine art in the Library Annexe

Jill Forrest

When Nicola Moncur was appointed Library Annexe Supervisor, she decided to bring a touch of colour and decoration to the building by choosing some paintings from the Fine Art Collection store to be hung in the Reading Room.

The plain, white windowless Reading Room is now enlivened with various paintings by modern Scottish artists. Some of the pictures have been arranged in themed tonal groups while others command a wall to themselves, like the stunning seascape January Flow Tide by Joan Eardley.

We hope that staff and visiting researchers alike will benefit from the presence of these inspirational paintings during moments of reflection within their busy working schedules.



I felt great for the first five hours and the last five hours but I had a bad patch in the middle of the race....stomach cramps, couldn't eat...only problem it lasted for about 30 hours..!



Jamie's amazing race

Kevin Brogan and Jamie Thin

How do you squeeze 10 days mountain walking into a long weekend... you start running on the Friday night, run all night, run all day Saturday, all Saturday night and then finish some time on Sunday!!... That was the challenge...

Jamie Thin, Senior Project Manager, IS Applications Division recently completed the Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc 2011, running round the Mont Blanc Massif, starting in France, over several high passes into Italy, then over more high passes to Switzerland and then back into France.

He used the opportunity to raise money for the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, as his daughter has had a several of operations at the hospital, and generally to support the life saving treatments they carry out every year.

Jamie recounts his experience of starting in torrential rain as a storm swept through the mountains, leaving fresh snow on the mountain passes and forcing a few route changes, so the race kept getting longer. In the end it was 170km and 9,700m of climbing.

He had done a few endurance events before - running 24 Munros in 24 hours and also the 95-mile West Highland Way race, but this was like doing the two together, comparable to running the West Highland Way and adding on seven times up and down Ben Nevis as well!

For more information and photos of his amazing achievement and for details of his sponsorship page, please go to: www.justgiving.com/Mont-Blanc-Ultra

Staff on screen

Susan Watson

On Saturday 30th July, Louise Peterkin (who works at the IS Helpdesk in the Main Library) was filmed as part of a comedy programme due to be broadcast on Dave in November.

Comedian Reginald D. Hunter, born in Atlanta Georgia, visited the Main Library with a film crew as part of a tongue-in-cheek mission to trace his genealogy back to Scotland.

During the filming, he did some stand-up comedy and Louise was filmed assisting him with some queries in the Main Library.



It was a nice way to spend a day at work, out of the ordinary!

Louise Peterkin

Moonwalk/Race for Life

Angela Laurins

We're pleased to report that on 11th June the following amazing ladies - Dawn Ellis, Alex Forrest, Ally Hayes, Claire Knowles, Angela Laurins, Laura Macpherson and Liz Stevenson - completed the 26.2 gruelling miles through the night in beautifully decorated bras, surviving sore feet, and sleep deprivation to raise an outstanding £2,875 for breast cancer research.

The following week, IS colleagues put on walking/running shoes again to take part in the Race for Life. Joining in were Anne Bell, Flora Speirs, Ian the Hind, Karen Moran, Linda Cooper (and her friend, Monica), Marshall Dozier, Mary Allison, Meg Grozier, Phil Sheail, Selma Mitchell and Sheila Cannell. An amazing £2,249.49 for cancer research was raised.

That's an overall total for both events of £5,124.49!!

We'd like to say a big 'thank you' to all our friends and colleagues who supported us. And a big 'thank you' to Alex and Allyson for providing a well-deserved feast of egg sandwiches, cake and pink fizz at the end!



60 seconds with:

Fiona Brown

Liaison Librarian



They've also got a life-sized cow and a life-sized horse, so the students can practice tethering a cow and putting a halter on a horse.

How long have you been at the University?

I started in January 1990, as Library Assistant at the Darwin Library, then moved in 1993 to the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine library. In October 2001 I became Liaison Librarian for Veterinary Medicine. Because of various changes and mergers, I'm now Liaison Librarian for Veterinary Medicine, the Roslin Institute, and Biological Sciences. I'm part of the MVM Consultancy team (for Veterinary Medicine and the Roslin Institute) and the SCE Consultancy team (for Biological Sciences). I'm based in the new Veterinary Teaching building at Easter Bush campus.

What do you think of the new Veterinary Teaching building?

It's fantastic, I really like it. The building is lovely. The Library is linked into the Study Landscape, and that has a variety of physical and electronic resources. It has twelve display cases that students can take scientific specimens out from. They've also got a life-sized cow and a life-sized horse, so the students can practice tethering a cow, and putting the halter on a horse. There's also lots of veterinary equipment, like hoof picks, which students can take out and handle.

How does this tie into your library work?

We're represented on the School Study Landscape Committee, and we look at what displays of books we can show in the Library that are relevant to what they're showing in the Study Landscape. The feeling is that the whole of the first floor is a student resource – the Library is there, the Study Landscape is there, they have a Clinical Skills Laboratory, too.

How have you been involved in the Distance Learning Initiative?

Last year, we used Wimba for the first time with the students who were entering their dissertation year in the MSc in Equine Science, and it meant that we could do a live demo, and the students could ask questions and hear what other students were asking, which is quite useful - research has shown that if Distance Learning students feel a sense of belonging and community, it increases their retention rates.

What do you love most about your job?

The variety. I get to work with colleagues with completely different specialisms. I've worked with Fiona Littleton on Second Life and Wimba, but then I also work with colleagues in Special Collections and Archives, on some of the rare book material. I also enjoy getting to work with colleagues from elsewhere in the University - Development and Alumni, and Estates and Buildings.

What are you interested in outside of work?

Anything book related! I'm just back from the Wigtown Book Festival. I love it because it's less busy than Edinburgh, there's more time to ask questions. I try and do something each semester at the Office of Lifelong Learning. This year I'm doing 'Quarks to Quasars', and I've done courses on French cinema, and music – a nice variety!

