THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

is

BITS
MAGAZINE

Issue 4

Sharing news and stories across Information Services and the University

Dawn Ellis talks University website

– page 2

ECA's rich heritage revealed

– page 6

Office 365 project underway

– page 8

60 seconds with Stuart Lewis

– page 13

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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 deadline for submissions for the next edition of **BITS** is **14 September 2012.**

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

FSC LOGO

Editorial

Hello and welcome to issue 4 of **BITS**!

In this issue you will find out how busy we've all been over recent months and how busy we need to be in the coming year!

In our news highlights page Jo Craiglee covers the key messages from our annual plan 2012/13. She talks about just some of our challenges and how we are tackling them. There's also an update on activity on the University Website, from yours truly, the **BITS** editor, whose day job is to run the University Website Development programme. Read on to find systems updates and innovations, and exciting news from Edinburgh College of Art.

Thanks go to all of you for completing the **BITS** feedback survey advertised in the last issue. You can find result highlights on the back cover. Also, look out for the quotes from IS staff scattered throughout this issue about what they think is the "best thing about working in IS". I am sure, like me you'll feel proud to belong to such a committed and creative group of people.

Have a lovely summer.

Dawn Ellis
Director, University Website Programme

News highlights

IS **Annual Plan 2012/13**

Jo Craiglee

During our consultations with the Colleges and other Support Groups a number of key messages emerged, and these form the focus of our proposed direction of travel for IS over the coming year.

The University community has grown significantly over the last few years and IS must now ensure the sustainability of core services that are sufficient for the purposes of the University in delivering its expanding business. These services underpin almost all University activities, and without reliable provision of them, projects and developments will be less likely to succeed. There is a growing pressure on IS to balance the need for efficiency with the growth in use of our existing services whilst also making investments for the future e.g. distance education, personal tutors, research data, Chancellor's Fellowships.

There is a short-term need to focus on PURE for REF2014 and the longer term imperatives of data storage, management and accessibility. The Brown Review of Library Collections highlighted the need for greater investment in library materials and we will work with the Colleges to achieve the best value for this increase resource. Interleaved with all of these is the desire for enhanced management information that enables more agile and better informed decision making.

These are our challenges for the year ahead.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/strategy-planning/annual-plans-reports

Good practice recognised

Viki Galt

The "creating accessible materials" section of the Accessibility pages on the IS website has been recognised as an example of good practice by the Scottish Accessible Information Forum and features on their website.

The web pages give practical advice on how to make Word documents, PowerPoints, emails etc accessible to disabled users.

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

> **The best thing about working in IS:**
> Seeing projects in learning and teaching spaces develop from an idea through a drawing to a physical reality.
> **Jim Sheach**

Managing Research Data **book success!**

Graham Pryor

The book 'Managing Research Data', edited by Digital Curation Centre's own Graham Pryor, and with contributions from many DCC staff past and present, was published to rapid acclaim in January and not only reached number one in Amazon's top books on library management but rapidly sold out of its first print run. We are really pleased with its success, and the positive comments it has received.

Managing Research Data is published by Facet Publishing, ISBN 978-1-85604-756-2, price £49.95.

is BITS MAGAZINE

Dawn Ellis gives some insight into the activities of the University Website Programme

You've been working hard over the years developing the University's web presence. The original aim was to develop consistency and coherence to those coming in from the outside world. To what extent have you achieved this?

We've now got all Support Groups, all Colleges and most Schools working within the publishing framework. This was no easy task; imagine asking people again and again to define their target audiences and their key tasks, and challenging their assumptions along the way! It's too easy for us to forget what we are doing and why we are doing it.

> **There is now a consistency of navigation, tone and experience to the user journey on the University website.**
>
> **We are just embarking on a site-wide redesign project.**

We have tried very hard to make sure that we don't just deliver technology for technology's sake, especially in these straightened times. Tests and anecdotal evidence are the proof of the pudding. Potential students find their way round our site much more easily now, and those who don't know us and need to find out about the University, and its international standing, can see straight away that we are a dynamic and diverse organisation.

What is the publishing framework? What are the benefits of joining?

The central University online publishing framework provides a complete publishing environment for information delivery, using the Polopoly content management system. By joining the central publishing framework, you can be assured of delivering legally compliant, technically assessable pages, thus protecting the University's brand and reputation.

Since the launch of the first phase of the new website, in April 2008, we have worked with colleagues across all key areas of the University to not only deliver new sites, but also improve web communication within a devolved web publishing framework. There is now a consistency of navigation, tone and experience to the user journey on the University website.

Joining the central University publishing framework is not just about choosing a technical tool to deliver your website; you are joining a community.

We've heard you've been reviewing the website and user requirements. How far have you got? It must be very difficult in a place like this?

Last summer we conducted several rounds of consultation to check requirements to help move our online presence on to meet our targets in our new strategic plan. We know colleagues want an easy-to-use tool, one that is more intuitive. They also want to have more flexibility in design terms, and how far we go there is yet to be decided. They also want continued resilience. The more we can provide for them, the better. Colleagues managing their web presence want to spend their time doing just that, not worrying about the technology.

Are you going to be changing the content management system?

We are currently looking at potential technology models for the future and are very keen to make sure that we offer a sustainable and resilient solution. Any changes to the CMS will be carefully managed to ensure continuity across the website.

You also offer web analysis support services. What does this mean?

We manage a number of web analysis support services to help web publishers monitor and appraise their websites. We also run a website review service to help improve the University web presence and give a prompt to web managers and Heads of School to look more closely at what they're doing online and why. We offer training and support on reviewing web strategy too.

What have you learnt about user behaviour and what tips can you share with us?

Understanding our users is fundamental to managing an effective website. We found that a small number of pages on our site are significantly more popular than the rest (the 'long neck') and most pages are viewed by relatively few (the 'long tail'). So we need to order and prioritise the presentation of content according to user demand and direct our limited website management resource to ensure that the most visited pages are well written and structured, meeting requirements of the target audience. Where content is not well viewed and not meeting a clear objective, we suggest removing it.

However, people can become too focussed on the numbers provided by their analytics tools, which usually tell us what is happening, but not why. We need to put these numbers into context and combine additional research techniques to provide a clearer picture of how we engage with our users. With this in mind, you may be surprised to find that your research programme website is constantly viewed by applicants from Hawaii while having their breakfast!

How can we find out more?

You can find out about what we do at
www.ed.ac.uk/website-programme
or contact any of the team at
website.project@ed.ac.uk

> **Colleagues managing their web presence want to spend their time doing just that, not worrying about technology.**

University Smartcards

Barry Croucher

Following successful roadshow events earlier this year, over 80% of Staff, Visitors and Students are now using the new, blue University Smartcard.

If you still have a red or white University card, please come to one of the Card Replacement Helpdesks listed below to exchange your old card:

- The Main Library, Ground Floor, George Square.
- The Edinburgh College of Art Library, Evolution House, West Port.
- The Darwin Library, The King's Buildings.
- The Lady Smith of Kelvin Veterinary Library, Easter Bush Campus.

A Smartcard will be required to access the Main Library from 25 June as swipe access is replaced entirely by Smartcard-operated speedlanes.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/smartcard

> **"**
>
> **The best thing about working in IS:**
> Being part of the large central support yet also enjoying the challenge of finding solutions for individuals with specific requirements.
> **Jo Kinsley**

PURE support

James Toon

The Research Publication Service team's work supporting the University's PURE research information management system continues to progress. The aggregate record of research activity has reached just under 38,000 items, and with an increasing level of academic engagement in the run up to the REF this seems set to increase considerably.

Work at the Research Publication Service combines maintaining a focus on issues surrounding data quality, and continuing to support the local administration teams and their academic staff. In addition to this day-to-day service work, the PURE implementation also provides some more interesting challenges to the team, such as how to manage non-textual research outputs. Another challenge under discussion is how PURE can be used to manage research data produced during the course of academic work.

Of course these challenges are faced by many Universities around the UK and we are pleased that the vibrant UK PURE user community provides an opportunity to work on common problems and feed these back into the system's future development plans.

www.ed.ac.uk/governance-strategic-planning/research/pure

Learn – stepping forward

Wilma Alexander

The latest version of our main centrally-supported learning environment, Learn, is being put in place this summer for use across the University in academic year 2012-13.

Students returning to their studies are likely to notice a cleaner interface that can be personalised. Staff are being offered training courses, demonstrations and self-help support materials to assist in the move from WebCT. For many courses this move is likely to be very straightforward, similar to the usual annual migration. We are confident that staff will welcome the new system for its ease of use and features including drag-and-drop for files and folders, copying items from one course to another, and managing student communications and groups.

Learn is now available for use by staff for all courses starting in August or later. WebCT will become 'read-only' from November 2012 after courses on that cycle are complete.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/learn

DCC cloud funding hits a high

Kevin Ashley

Last February (see BITS summer 2011) the DCC received £1.5m to increase capability for research data management in the UK and realise efficiencies as a result, through increased data reuse and development of cloud services. We spent the following 14 months educating HEIs of the benefits of investing now to deliver benefits in the future – including increased citation rates for their research.

The DCC took on new staff and now has 11 in Edinburgh alone. Road shows are taking place around the UK to give people a taste of what we do, and providing in-depth advice to 18 universities as part of a funded consultancy programme. EPSRC's requirement for a roadmap in 2012 has focused many previously sceptical minds!

We're just entering an external evaluation of our work which we hope will see new funding after February 2013; we know the work is there to be done. Our most successful publications can be viewed online:

www.dcc.ac.uk/news/5-steps-research-data-readiness

www.dcc.ac.uk/webfm_send/371

The Keepers Registry adds the Chinese Academy of Sciences

Adam Rusbridge

The National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NSLC) has joined other leading archiving organisations in The Keepers Registry.

Developed by EDINA and the ISSN-IC and funded by JISC, The Keepers Registry (Beta service) is a free service which provides easily accessible information about the archiving arrangements for electronic journals. It offers a single point of access to archiving agency metadata and an improved understanding of who is doing what with regards to e-journal preservation. The Keepers Registry also allows library staff to discover which publishers are participating in the NSLC and other archives and provides an overview of their preservation approaches and access conditions.

Project Co-Directors Peter Burnhill (EDINA) and Françoise Pelle (ISSN-IC) said, "We are very pleased to welcome the National Science Library into the Keepers Registry, as a sign of their commitment and enthusiasm to help the library community globally."

http://thekeepers.org

> **We are very pleased to welcome the National Science Library into the Keepers Registry, as a sign of their commitment and enthusiasm to help the library community globally.**

Edinburgh College of Art Collections Review

David Feeney

The ECA Heritage Collections – Art, Archives and Rare Books – represent an exceptional teaching resource, a comprehensive record of evolving art-teaching practice, and an inspiring perspective of the early careers of many celebrated artists.

At the point of merger with the University, the Scottish Funding Council provided funds for a year-long Review of the Heritage Collections. Launched last November, the Review is halfway through this voyage of discovery to reveal the scope, scale, significance and state of ECA Collections. There are four aims:

- to raise the profile of the collections, enhancing accessibility to the entire staff and student body and to the wider community

- to support the coordination of collection management structures across the merged institutions

- to optimise the availability of the Collections for teaching and research

- to propose a number of long-term measures aimed at ensuring sustainable preservation

So far we have unearthed very interesting examples of the College's diverse collections; 19th century hand-painted designs for Paisley-style patterned shawls – some of which are on display in Masterpieces II exhibition in the Main Library until 30th June; records of the 1982 student sit-in; a previously unrecorded copy of the works of St. Bernard of Siena printed in the 1480s; fragile Chinese and Japanese prints and stencils; and a collection of original fashion designs including artwork by a young Stanley Cursiter.

If you would like further information about the Collections Review process, contact Art Review Manager, David Feeney at **dfeeney2@staffmail.ed.ac.uk**

Libraries

Floor 4 popular with students

Floor 4 of the Main Library opened on February 20th 2012, marking the end of the user facing phase of the project. The redeveloped floor, which houses an extra 540 study spaces, proved popular within hours of opening.

The Library has since recorded its highest ever head count figures, with an afternoon headcount on March 7th of 1,794 users.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/mlrp

Update on KB Library and associated study spaces at KB

During the Summer, significant changes to library services and study space will take place at King's Buildings. These include:

- the opening of the new Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library. Situated in the centre of the campus, this will provide a staffed Helpdesk, a cafe, the newer book collection and a range of different types of study spaces. The JCM and Robertson Libraries will both close

- the reorganisation of the current Darwin Library upper floor to provide additional study space

- the redevelopment of the KB Centre floor one to provide reconfigurable study space and accommodation for the uCreate service

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

Towards Dolly : Special Collections to catalogue genetics papers

Clare Button

Special Collections is delighted to report the launch of 'Towards Dolly: Edinburgh, Roslin and the Birth of Modern Genetics'.

Funded by the Wellcome Trust's Research Resources in Medical History grants scheme, the project (which runs until 2014) will catalogue and preserve the archival records of the Roslin Institute (who famously cloned Dolly the Sheep in 1996) as well as the University's Institute of Animal Genetics and key geneticists such as Conrad Hal Waddington (1905-1975), Francis A.E Crew (1886-1973) and zoologist James Cossar Ewart (1851-1933).

The records and printed collections will be made available online on national networks as well as a bespoke website.

www.facebook.com/crc.edinburgh

www.wellcome.ac.uk

James Cossar Ewart with zebra, as part of his cross-breeding experiments, c.1900.

New College Library:
The Funk Donation Projects help uncover hidden treasures

Christine Love-Rodgers

As you may know, in 2005 New College Library was delighted to receive the support of American alumnus, Mr. Robert Funk, in the form of a donation of $1,000,000 to the School of Divinity over a ten year period. This donation was specifically gifted with the aim of benefiting Special Collections at New College Library. Over the last four years, New College Library has been putting these plans into action.

The Funk Projects up to now

One of the most striking changes that the Funk donation has brought is the new Funk Special Collections Reading Room at New College Library. This dedicated reading area for Special Collections is separated from the rest of the Library Hall by glass and oak panelling. The Funk Donation allowed us to purchase oak panelled lockers and refurbish the original furniture for the use of Special Collections readers. As well as improved facilities for readers, the Funk Reading Room has improved security management for library staff, adding to the new security gate and Special Collections fire safe also funded by the Funk donation.

The Funk donation has enabled our three cataloguers, Finlay West, Janice Gailani and Oreste de Tommaso to tackle some high priority Special Collections. The first collection catalogued online was approximately twelve thousand pamphlets dating between 1600 and 1900. This invaluable source of primary research material for Scottish theologians and historians alike has already

thrown up some surprises, such as the 150+ items discovered to not to be on the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC). This makes them, to the best of our knowledge, unique in the world.

This last year has seen the cataloguers move on to other key collections, including New College Library's collection of almost 100 incunabula, the Early Bibles collection and the more modern but well used collection of New College Theses. As part of the Funk projects, all these collections are benefiting from conservation boxing and cleaning to safeguard them for the future.

New College Library : Future Funk Projects 2012-2014

Over the next two years the Funk Donation is continuing to allow us to focus on cataloguing New College Library's Special Collections. At the top of the list is the Dumfries Presbytery Library, a substantial collection of seventeenth and eighteenth century works, and the Hymnology Collection. This numbers approximately five thousand works of sacred poetry, songs and catechisms, many collected and donated by the Edinburgh bookseller James Thin. Smaller collections include the Shaw Collection, relating to the Apostolic Catholic Church and the Longforgan Free Church Ministers Library.

We're looking forward to discovering more hidden treasures at New College Library!

IT systems for
Enhancing student support

Simon Marsden

The University has started a project to Enhance Student Support, which sets out proposals for a significant strengthening and updating of the arrangements for providing academic and pastoral support to students. The overriding aim is to ensure that, over the next decade and beyond, students have access to a framework of guidance and support that builds on the best of current practices, meets contemporary needs, and is of a quality and consistency appropriate to a university of high global standing. Professor Ian Pirie is leading the work.

We are currently working through the immediate need for tools to support the personal tutor scheme for the start of academic year 2012-13. Looking forward we have a significantly longer list of things we need to deliver and we expect to use an incremental approach bringing out new features throughout next academic year rather than attempting a quick-fix. Ideally the longer term solution needs to work towards bringing together all the data required to support and manage interactions with our students from the initial enquiry to their successful emergence as alumni and make this easily accessible to all stakeholder groups from a single point of entry.

Students eager for **Office 365**

Andrew Stewart

The student community via EUSA initially expressed a strong interest in moving to a cloud hosted Office 365 service in preference to their current use of OCS eDiary and SMS Mail, with OCS eDiary being hardly used by students and SMS mail perceived as now outdated.

In response to the student interest, IS Applications Division enabled (with Microsoft's support), a sandpit environment to allow a delegation of EUSA nominated students to gain a better awareness of Office 365. This subsequently led to the request for IS to offer such a service to the student community.

The package to be delivered contains a number of functional modules:

- Web-based email, with a 25GB allocation per student
- Lync - Instant messaging, voice and video conferencing
- Office Web Apps (online versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote)
  - OneNote, is an online application for your notes, ideas, and research that can be private or shared
- File upload and sharing to personal web space with double the storage compared with the University network

The project is now underway and the planning process is currently reviewing the available options to ensure that the migration from one system to another is as seamless as possible, the appropriate support is available and the changeover is completed at a time to ensure that there is no impact to the on-going mail services supplied to the students.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/office365

Will's World: There is an app for that!

Nicola Osborne

As part of the JISC-funded Shakespeare Registry project, "Will's World", data around the text of Macbeth was made available for the recent Culture Hack Scotland event. Three teams selected to work with Will's World data and produced impressive and imaginative applications. One team focused on the emotions of the text, one built an interactive game and one looked at how Macbeth and social media could be combined. The winning team created a Shakey game app that allows players to take part in a production either as actors or spectators. Cast members are prompted to recite text whilst the audience can either throw virtual flowers or tomatoes. This provided very positive feedback to Will's World. Considering that only a fraction of the resources that will be added to the Registry were used, it emphatically demonstrates the project's aims for the potential aggregation and creative use of metadata/APIs of Shakespeare's works.

http://bit.ly/lj3FPs

Postgraduate
Virtual Open Days

John McEwan, Fiona Littleton

Following on from the successful postgraduate virtual open week in February 2011, the Student Recruitment and Admissions team have organised a series of postgraduate virtual open days with the assistance of colleagues in IS.

The series of one day events gives candidates greater flexibility to access relevant information at key points in the recruitment and admissions cycle, and allows academic units more flexibility to run events at times that suit their recruitment priorities. The events consist of a rolling programme of drop-in sessions that take place in virtual rooms created using the Wimba Classroom software. Some sessions begin with a presentation and all sessions enable prospective candidates to ask questions. Different media can be used including text chat, audio and video. No registration is required and participants are free to join or leave the sessions as they please.

Between February and May a number of sessions took place offering prospective students a cohesive set of discussions and access to information on the key issues associated with their application. These were generally considered to be very successful. The intention is to follow these up with further sessions focussed on the pre-arrival phase during June to September. All sessions are promoted via the Student Recruitment and Admissions' Online Events web pages and also through direct email to applicants, enquirers (where data available), open day registrants, international agents and Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

"

Shawn Brackett from Texas, USA

I was floored by this experience. I spoke with colleagues and students thousands of miles away. It was something that totally surprised me, … I would love to see more international education offices use Wimba or another software package to reach out to non-local prospective students.

The Wimba Classroom software is soon to be replaced with a new updated product called Blackboard Collaborate (see following article for further information).

For further information on Wimba Classroom and Blackboard Collaborate contact: **IS.Helpline@ed.ac.uk**

Student Recruitment and Admissions' Online Events webpages:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/open-day

Collaborate and share -
on and off campus

Mark Wetton, Fiona Littleton

In August 2011, IS embarked upon a programme of work to replace its retiring Wimba Virtual Classroom service with a new updated product that would enable online classroom and meeting events for the whole University and also support the Distance Education Initiative. Blackboard Collaborate was selected as the tool of choice.

What is a Virtual Classroom?
A virtual classroom is an online teaching and learning or meeting space where we can collaborate and learn in real time and across multiple geographic locations, and time zones. Users interact using a number of methods including text chat, audio and video.

Key features
Key features of the Blackboard Collaborate system include:
*   an unlimited number of participants in a virtual room
*   multiple webcams display
*   the facility for users to upload documents, present slideshows, access an interactive whiteboard and share desktops, applications and websites
*   classroom archiving

Uses and integration
With a wide range of possible uses in teaching, research and support, and across all disciplines, Blackboard Collaborate is currently used in the University is to host synchronous tutorials and seminars in online distance learning programmes, to improve recruitment of students through Virtual Open Days and to save on travel costs by hosting research meetings with UK and European partners.

The tool has full integration capabilities with our new central VLEs (Learn and Moodle), and work is on-going with internal partners to develop supported integration for other services and VLEs such as EEMeC/EEVeC and MyEd.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/collaborate

For information on using Blackboard Collaborate in your teaching, research and recruitment contact: **IS.Helpline@ed.ac.uk**

BITS MAGAZINE

Twitter
Social Media
Facebook
YouTube
Blogging

Social media

Nicola Osborne, Social Media Officer, looks at what is happening in the social media space

In the eyes **of the Beholder**

Shawn Coulman

The Beholder exhibition, held recently at Talbot Rice Gallery, was based on artists, individuals and organisations across Scotland nominating a work of art or object they consider to represent 'beauty'. Interactive discussion on the themes of the exhibition was encouraged and visitors were asked to describe what beauty means to them, responses included:

Beauty is...

- expanding our mind to something happier.

- easy to miss.

- an idea, constantly sold to us.

- inclusive and enveloping. Beauty is for everyone and anyone to appreciate and when encountered, on any scale, can completely immerse your senses.

With dedicated areas for visitors to respond both within the exhibition and on our Facebook page for visitors to respond, many preferred to comment via a paper slip in the gallery. I can imagine that when it comes to writing a more critical kind of comment there is perhaps no substitute for seeing the works in person at the time of writing; however, the content on Facebook served as a reminder of what people had seen and the chance to comment in their own time.

We are still learning how best social media can be utilised as a means of communicating with the gallery's audience, but we are very pleased with the extra engagement it has brought.

www.facebook.com/talbotricegallery

Digital HSS workshops

Sian Bayne

Following the series of hands-on workshops looking at social media for teaching and research in the College of Humanities and Social Science, a large one-day internal conference was recently hosted by Digital HSS.

'Digital Scholarship: a day of ideas' brought world-class researchers in the areas of digital humanities and social science to Edinburgh to discuss their work. Talks ranged from a discussion of how to establish an institutional digital humanities presence (Melissa Terras, UCL) to the 'new' domain of 'culturomics' (Erez Lieberman-Aiden from Harvard/Google). Our own Chris Speed (eca) also gave a captivating tour of some of his research in new, digital articulations of space, place and story.

The archive from these events is available from the Digital HSS website:

www.digital.hss.ed.ac.uk/

Keep an eye on Twitter #digitalhss where events for next academic year will be advertised or contact Sian Bayne, Associate Dean (digital scholarship) in CHSS for further information **sian.bayne@ed.ac.uk**

Facebook page **timelines launched**

Nicola Osborne

Facebook page owners should already be aware that pages were converted to a new Timeline format launched earlier this spring. The change introduces the idea of "Covers" - large images of 851pixels by 315pixels which provide a great new opportunity to customise and brand your page. The new pages also raise the profile of your About page and enable you to edit the icons shown at the top of your page so, if you haven't updated your Facebook page in a while, it's a good time to do a little spring cleaning!

10 Social media
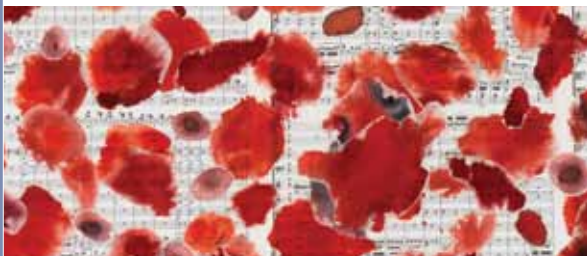
Exhibitions

City of Words: Writers, Readers, and Critics in Edinburgh

3 August – 27 October 2012
Monday – Saturday, 10am-5pm
Main Library Exhibition Room (Ground Floor)

This landmark exhibition celebrates the 250th anniversary of the oldest Chair of English Literature in the world, founded at the University of Edinburgh in 1762. It uncovers pivotal events and characters in the literary life of the University, and reveals their manifold interconnections with writers and readers in this City of Literature. Highlights include: letters written by Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott to various Edinburgh professors; previously unseen memorabilia from famous former students; documents of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, signed first editions, and letters from distinguished prizewinning authors.

Talbot Rice Gallery

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (after Mendelssohn and Shakespeare) 2009-2010 Courtesy Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zurich; Galleria Raucci/Santamaria, Napoli © the artist

Festival 2012 Exhibitions
4 August – 20 October 2012

Tim Rollins and K.O.S.: The Black Spot

Tim Rollins and K.O.S. make artworks through education and the exploration of music and literature. The first exhibition in Scotland of their work will include a new painting inspired by Stevenson's Treasure Island and highlights from their remarkable career.

Working Papers: Donald Judd Drawings, 1963-93

Donald Judd changed the course of sculpture in the last century. This is the first exhibition in Scotland to study Judd's studio methods, featuring the instructional drawings he and his fabricators created.

www.trg.ed.ac.uk

Roslin Doors Open Day

8 September 2012

Visit The Roslin Institute Building at the University of Edinburgh's Easter Bush Campus, home to The Roslin Institute and the Scottish Agricultural College.

Look around the building, participate in interactive displays for all ages explaining the science going on in The Roslin Institute Building, listen to short talks, meet one of the building's architects and join in discussions with the scientists.

www.roslin.ed.ac.uk/ doorsopendays/

The best thing about working in IS:

Detective work and grateful service users! Working with a great team, we put library users first and enjoy the positive feedback.

Claire Leach

Past, present and a future without Cannell:
the end of a chapter in Edinburgh University Library

John Scally

For many colleagues, the prospect of Sheila Cannell's imminent retirement was brought home when she gave her valedictory lecture on 24 May, entitled: Past, Present and Future Conditional: Reflections on a Chapter in Libraries. Spanning a 36 year career in which she reached the highest peaks of her profession as Director of Library Services at the University, this was not only a golden opportunity for the audience to share the many highlights of her career but also to get some idea of where libraries may go in the future. On both counts Sheila did not disappoint. Of the manifold successes in her career two of them figured prominently in her presentation. First, Sheila's championing of Open Access, particularly in the area of published research outputs and the establishment of Institutional repositories and their successors. And second, the outstanding success that is the Main Library Redevelopment, which has transformed the space into a dynamic, relevant and congenial destination for learners, students, academics and staff.

As for the future, her emphasis on the continued relevance of libraries and the staff who work in them was confidently predicted – as long as we remain nimble and responsive to the needs of the people who use the spaces, collections and services. Finding our way, without the sight of Sheila marching confidently in the right direction, will be a challenge for all of us after 13 July.

Sheila has set up a Postgraduate Student Award Fund as a celebration of her time at the University of Edinburgh. Should you wish to contribute, please visit **http://bit.ly/NSbyC1**

Marathon achievements
May 2012

Mike McMonagle, from Applications Development Services section, successfully completed his first ever 5k race at Scotland's biggest running event, the Edinburgh Marathon Festival. Mike was raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

www.justgiving.com/MikeMcMonagle

Anne Robertson, from EDINA, ran the Edinburgh Marathon on Sunday 27th May in a great time of four hours and 17mins raising over £1,300 for Parkinson's UK.

http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/annerobertson

A walk on the wild side!
Walk for charity

Helen Murphie

Congratulations to a team of walkers from Information Services who tackled the 100km of St Cuthbert's Way – from Melrose in the Scottish Borders to Lindisfarne – over four consecutive days, ending up on the Holy Island on May Day.

Intrepid fellow walkers were Angela Laurins, Alex Forrest, Claire Knowles, Elize Rowan, Laura Macpherson and Liz Stevenson from Library and Collections, Allyson Hayes from User Services Division and Zena Mulligan from EDINA.

The girls trekked through rain, hail, uphill and down dale, through soggy bogs and were even fortunate to have a few rays of sunshine! They rose to the challenges of horse whispering, cattle wrangling, deftly avoiding the far-reach of muck-spreading tractors and dodging 100 mile per hour trains on the East Coast Main Line to reach their destination.

Generously, everyone in the group agreed that their walk could be a springboard to raise funds for charity, and Maggie's Centres was chosen.

If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile charity, the JustGiving page is still open for donations.

www.justgiving.com/St-Cuth-2012

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The best thing about working in IS:

Access to training and personal development opportunities that clearly promote career advancement.
Duncan MacGruer

60 seconds with:
Stuart Lewis
Head of Digital Library Services

> "
The library is a fascinating place, and the services we provide are very well regarded.

How long have you been at the University?

I've been here for about three and a half months now. Before that, I was working as the Digital Development Manager at the University of Auckland Library, although I'm from the UK originally. I was looking to come back to the UK after our overseas adventure, and found out about this position through email lists and local contacts.

What was your perception of the website as an outsider trying to find out about the University?

The website is exceptionally good for providing information to potential job applicants. From an external perspective it's very well structured. You can find your way around, find out how IS is put together, what services they provide, and how they fit into the university as a whole. This was invaluable when preparing for the interviews!

How did you interview for the job remotely?

There were two interviews. The first one used Skype, that was the main interview with four people on the panel, who took it turns to talk using the headset. Then there was a second interview, a more formal panel discussion with six or seven different staff members. That was done using the JANET video conferencing system. The staff in Edinburgh used the proper videoconferencing suite, and I could install some software from where I was, without having to use the full suite.

What did you think of that experience?

It's a bit strange sitting in the dining room with a suit on! One of the downsides of remote interviews is that you can't have that personal contact – you can't make eye contact, you can't shake hands – but other factors you can play to your advantage; you can have notes pinned up on the wall, and you can feel more relaxed.

What do you love about your job?

The library is a fascinating place, and the services we provide are very well regarded. The history at the University of Edinburgh actually shapes our work a lot, as we work alongside University Collections, and all their vast collections.

We have to provide access to millions of our own items alongside many others through subscription services, so it's quite a large operation from an IT perspective. This amount of materials provides us with plenty of challenges, one of which is enabling the easy discovery of the resources that we have.

There are technology challenges involved with this too. For example, we're starting to get access to the full text of many of our online materials, so people can perform much deeper searches. However, this means that now if you search for a particular word, you'll get 500,000 results, rather than 50, so the ranking of these search results becomes even more important.

We're better at it now that we were five years ago but hopefully in another five years we'll be even better.

What do you enjoy doing when not at work?

I have two small children, so it's been great living in New Zealand with them, and seeing as much of the country as we could. Now we live in Scotland we have a whole new country to explore.

is BITS
MAGAZINE

Survey feedback

Thank you to everyone who responded to our reader survey advertised in the last issue. We were delighted to hear your thoughts about **BITS** and your suggestions of what you would like to see in the future.

The survey results can be viewed at:
http://bit.ly/JpijFb

The **BITS** editorial team will be carefully reviewing all of these comments and suggestions, and are always happy to receive your feedback and comments.

BITS@ed.ac.uk

BITS magazine survey results

1

2

3