

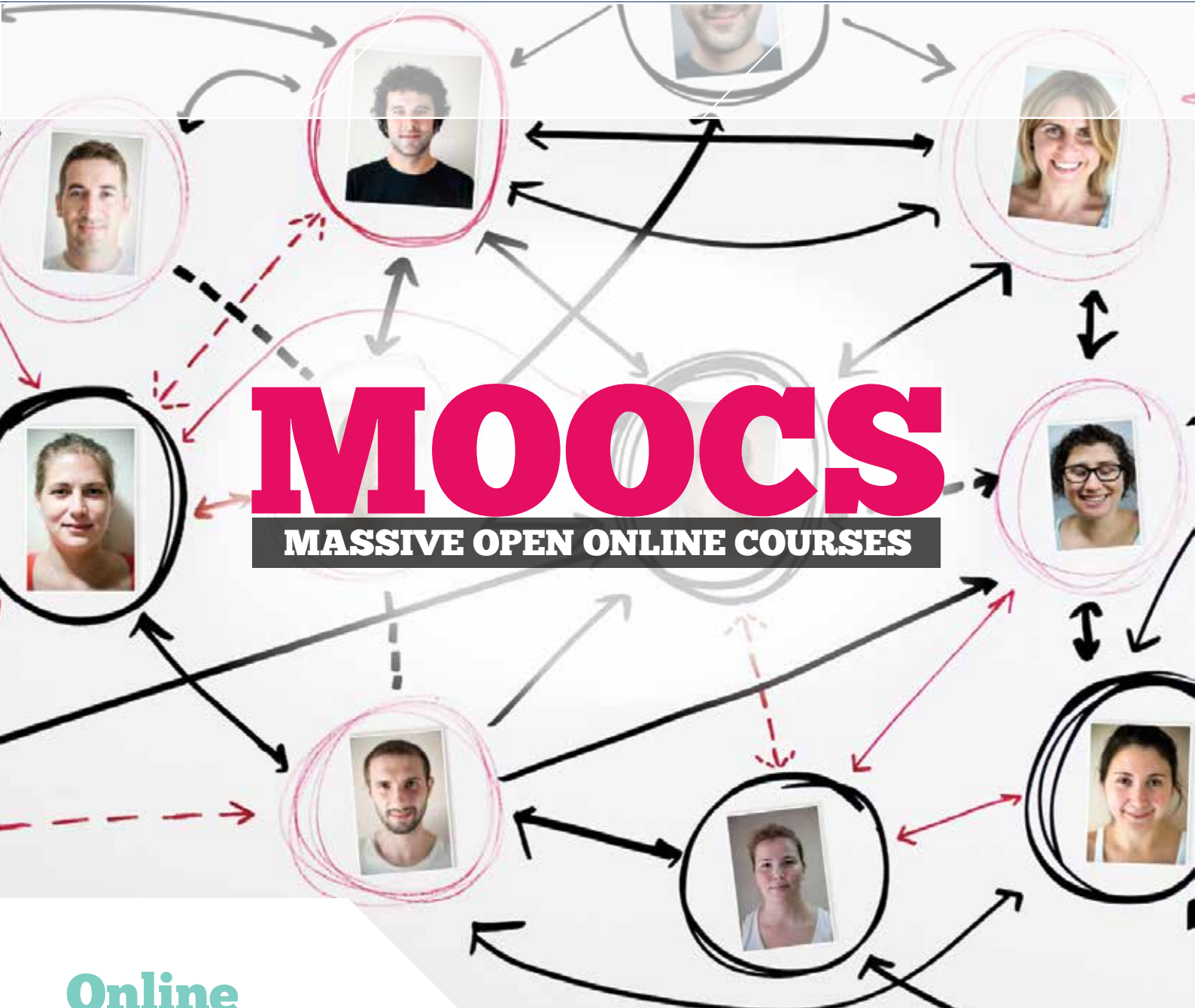


BITS

MAGAZINE

Issue 6, March 2013

Sharing news and stories across Information Services and the University



Online courses attract 300,000

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60 second interview

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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 issue of **BITS** is **3 May 2013**.

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



Editorial

How can the University recruit 300,000 new students in a year? The answer: Develop and deliver Massive Open Online Courses, otherwise known as MOOCs, and just watch recruitment numbers explode. Turn to page two to find out more about MOOCs, just what we are offering and how the MOOCs differ from our more established postgraduate online distance learning programmes.

The world of education is changing rapidly and we are changing with it. By delivering MOOCs we can learn more about online learning at a scale unforeseen even a few years ago. Academic colleagues have already started sharing their experience with colleagues from across the University. This can only ensure that Edinburgh continues to be at the forefront of international education.

Throughout the rest of this issue you will see how busy IS staff have been supporting the University to deliver quality services; from the KB data centre "rebuilding an aircraft in the air" on page nine; to page five where we can read about the new student email service launched smoothly in the middle of the academic year. Activities throughout the issue, not only from pages nine and five show that IS colleagues are constantly thinking ahead, delivering ever more support throughout the year, throughout the University. And the successful delivery of MOOCs shows that we are certainly not bound by any traditional nine to five mentality. Perhaps we might take MOOCs and make it our own in IS? Information Services: Massive, Open, Outward-looking and Collaborative?

Enjoy.

Dawn Ellis
Director, University Website Programme

FSC LOGO

News highlights

Competition success for **DMPOnline tool**

Florance Kennedy

The Digital Curation Centre's (DCC) Data Management Planning (DMP) Online tool, and its US counterpart, reached the finals of the prestigious 2012 Digital Preservation Awards. Present at the ceremony in London in early December were Martin Donnelly and Adrian Richardson of the DCC, and although we did not win, we did receive a very handsome certificate which is now on show at DCC Edinburgh.

www.dcc.ac.uk/news/future-plans-dmponline



Adrian Richardson and Martin Donnelly at the DPC awards with Sarah Shreeves of the US DMP Tool

New Head of Museums and Deputy of CRC



Jacky MacBeath has been appointed as the new Head of Museums and Deputy Head of the Centre for Research Collections (CRC) in the Library and Collections Division.

Jacky MacBeath

This is a very exciting time to be involved with University Collections, as we develop new partnerships and projects, and embark on a major redevelopment of our flagship museum, St Cecilia's Hall Museum of Musical Instruments. I'm looking forward to meeting with colleagues across the University to talk about how we can deepen and extend the use of our collections in teaching, research and knowledge exchange, and to creating programmes and initiatives to attract new audiences to the University.

The new **Communications Infrastructure Section (CIS)**

Chris Adie

The Telephones & Security System and Network sections of the IT Infrastructure Division in Information Services (IS) merged on 1 January, to form the Communications Infrastructure Section (CIS).

CIS is now responsible for the EdLAN data network, the University's telephone system, the access control door system, the EaStMAN network and the JANET Videoconferencing service. The merger means that IS will be able to provide a more flexible, effective and efficient service.

For now, you can continue to use existing contact points. In due course, the IS Helpline will become the first point of contact.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/iti/comms

IS strategic plan for next 4 years

Jo Craiglee

A series of IS hosted workshops well-attended by students, non-IS staff and IS staff provided a wealth of information and ideas, contributing to IS' strategic direction planning.

Key points from each workshop are posted on the wiki. Please feel free to contribute by adding your comments to the IS Staff Workshop Outcome page.

www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ISSP/Home

MOOCs

MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES

www.ed.ac.uk/moocs

Six free online courses attract 300,000 new learners to the University

Sarah Gormley



The University has launched six fully online short courses that are free to study for learners around the world. These courses, known as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), are a cutting edge development for the University and build on our reputation for online learning innovation.

The University's MOOCs went live at the end of January 2013 and have attracted more than 300,000 learners. They are in a range of subjects that reflect the diversity of subject areas at the University. The courses are:

- Astrobiology and the Search for Extra-terrestrial Life
- Artificial Intelligence Planning
- Critical Thinking in Global Challenges
- E-learning and Digital Cultures
- Equine Nutrition
- Introduction to Philosophy

Each course runs for between five and seven weeks. They are designed as University entry-level and there are no entry requirements for learners taking part.

What is a MOOC?

A MOOC is a short standalone course designed for a large group of learners. Learners typically interact with their peers in online discussion forums to discuss topics and issues raised during the MOOC. The academic team is supported by tutors who respond to learners' questions posted in the online forums. Learners are able to vote for the questions they want answered by the academic and tutoring team – this is how the large scale of MOOCs is possible.

Why is the University developing MOOCs?

MOOCs of the type seen through Coursera were first piloted in the US in early 2012. They proved hugely successful and quickly caught the interest of other institutions, keen to engage with new demand through developing their own courses. Edinburgh was the first non-US university to join the Coursera consortium (www.coursera.org) to develop our own MOOCs.

Coursera is a company working in partnership with high-quality Higher Education institutions across the world to make courses available for free to learners. They developed the learning platform, and administrate the sign up of learners, whilst the University is responsible for designing, creating and tutoring our MOOCs.

How are MOOCs different from existing University courses?

MOOCs use a 'light-touch' tutoring model which is very different from the typical model of our online courses. MOOCs complement the University's existing online distance learning portfolio. There are now 42 online postgraduate programmes attracting approximately 1,700 students a year, who study fully online. Students on our online postgraduate programmes have access to the full student experience, including online resources from the library, support services such as careers, study skills, student representation from EUSA, and many other benefits.

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/online-distance-learning/programmes

What next for University of Edinburgh MOOCs?

The University is now entering the next phase of its MOOCs development. This stage will focus on MOOCs that more directly complement the University's strategic plan, with aims to reinforce student recruitment, knowledge exchange and widening access.

Amy Woodgate, MOOCs Project Co-ordinator
Amy.Woodgate@ed.ac.uk

Professor Jeff Haywood, Vice Principal Knowledge Management, Chief Information Officer and Librarian
Jeff.Haywood@ed.ac.uk



IT focus

UK RepositoryNet+

Andrew Bevan

Information Services is taking the lead nationally in the area of deposit, curation and exposure of Open Access research literature via the EDINA-coordinated UK RepositoryNet+ project, which is in the final stages of creating a socio-technical infrastructure to support those activities.

The current phase is focussed on outreach, and regular updates can be found via Twitter @UKRepNet.

2013 started with a flurry of activity promoting the latest developments. Over the coming months, a sustainability plan with business model options is being prepared for the funders, JISC, for longer-term success. The University's influence on the project is ensured with the participation of Information Services' Stuart Lewis and Kevin Ashley on the Project Advisory Board which oversees the development and delivery of the project.

www.repositorynet.ac.uk

Open Access Index project

Theo Andrew and Stuart Lewis

Digital Library Services recently completed the OA-Index project, aiming to investigate, and if possible develop, a metric to put a score on an academic author's level of engagement with open access publishing.

The project was funded under the inaugural JISC elevator scheme: an experimental platform used by JISC to crowdsource ideas for technology projects to improve education and research in UK Higher Education and Further Education institutions. Ideas were submitted to the site as five-minute video pitches, and the HE and FE communities voted for the project they would like to see funded. JISC then assessed the most popular bids and decided whether to fund the idea. In total, the JISC Elevator received 2,300 votes from 234 different institutions; the OA-Index project was one of six winning bids.

Initially, the project solicited views from interested parties on the practicability of an index for academics' engagement with open access publishing, using a wide range of techniques including online questionnaires, open workshop sessions, and focus groups. Building upon this, a draft specification for the index was developed and is in the process of being published.

The successful video pitch, project plan and results can be found on the project webpage:

<http://oaindex.org/>

New charges for the JANET certificate service

Graeme Wood

JANET will start charging for the Secure Socket Layer (SSL) Certificate issuing service from 1 May 2013.

For the time being, IS will absorb the cost of single domain or multi-domain certificates, which can be pre-purchased in bulk. You can apply for this type of certificate through IS using the existing process. However, if you have certificates that are likely to expire between 1 May and 31 December 2013, please renew your certificates before the charging period starts.

Unified Communications certificates, Wildcard certificates and Extended Validation certificates are not included in the bulk pre-purchase scheme and IS will not subsidise these. These are charged at £100 per certificate (ex VAT).

Details of JANET's certificate tariff:

bit.ly/Z5Dip0

Certificate service provided by IS:

www.ed.ac.uk/is/network/certificates



A new look for Unidesk

Matt Beilby

A new more user-friendly version of UniDesk will be coming by the end of Spring, making significant improvements to the user experience:

- Better display and customisable dashboards
- Easy-to-read timeline of actions which includes emails
- Tabbed navigation and single to-do lists
- Bookmark incidents and other cards for easy tracking

For more information: Service.Management@ed.ac.uk

New student email

Alex Carter

A new email service for taught students was launched at the start of semester two. Office 365 provides an integrated email and diary service, and has been very positively received.

Teams from across IS worked closely together to migrate email for more than 28,000 students and ensure that everyone knew how to access the new system.

The changeover was arranged to minimise disruption, with no change to student email addresses and the final switchover timed outside of teaching time.

Big improvement to the student student mail system.

Chris Howard, Informatics

User friendly and clear introduction into the new service.

Niall Mulcahy - Energy Systems

Putting collaboration into practice

Mark Wetton and Louise Connelly

The Institute for Academic Development (IAD) and Learning Services in IS have been collaborating to improve the sharing of information, learning and teaching.

Regular inter-team meetings, demos and shared involvement in recruitment and selection have helped to build relationships. A number of secondments and shared workings on projects are also taking place between the departments to focus on the development of requirements for the Personal Tutor initiative; the delivery of lunchtime seminars focussing on themes of assessment; and the development of online self-help materials and training.

Ultimately, the aim is that this collaborative working will help improve the student experience collectively offered.

PebblePad upgrade

Robert Chmielewski

The PebblePad system will be upgraded to its latest version (PebblePad3) in June 2013.

Many personal development initiatives from across the University (such as the Edinburgh Award) use PebblePad to promote self-reflection and personal development of students. Some Schools (e.g. Law and SPS) require students to submit work through PebblePad for enhanced assessment and feedback provision.



The new features of PebblePad3 improve its potential for wider adoption and address feedback from existing users, including:

- new institutional space designed to support active teaching, learning and assessment (ATLAS)
- Learn and Moodle integration
- revised standard interface for portable devices.

www.pebblepad.co.uk/pp3.asp

The Student Systems Partnership (SSP)

Dave Berry and Sheila Fraser

Early in this academic year, staff from Student, Admissions & Curricula Systems (SACS) in the Registry and IS Applications Division held several workshops to look at new ways of working together.

The aim was to improve the level of communication and trust between the two Divisions and as a result better support students and staff. The outcome of these discussions was the creation of a new virtual team, called the Student Systems Partnership (SSP), comprising members of both divisions.

The SSP core team are co-located with Registry, with additional resources made available from within IS Applications Development Services to work on SSP projects as required.

New in-house Thesis Scanning Service at the Library Annexe and Centre for Research Collections

Maria O'Hara

Towards the end of last year the Library Annexe and Centre for Research Collections launched a new in-house Thesis Scanning Service, expanding the range of material available electronically to researchers. For a fee, Annexe staff will digitise any held thesis and deliver a fully optimised PDF copy directly to a user's email. Once scanned, the thesis is made available on the University's institutional repository, ERA, with the eventual aim of making the entire thesis collection available online.

The service has proved popular with topics from historical re-enactment to earthquakes, and one particularly challenging 1,200 page thesis written in Arabic. In the two months since being uploaded, the available works on ERA have been downloaded an average of four times each. Our most popular download so far is Fung's 2003 work, 'Calvin's Critique of the Papacy'.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/library-museum-gallery/scanning

www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/



Libraries

Restricted Library access during revision and exam period

Study spaces in the Main Library continue to be in very high demand during the revision and exam period, and action is being taken to prioritise availability for University staff, students and visitors. On a trial basis, the Main Library will restrict access to reference card holders between 20 April and 19 May 2013 inclusive, with no access for these users from opening time to 6pm. Visitors to the Centre for Research Collections and to site libraries will be admitted.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/library-museum-gallery/access-main-library

Main Library Redevelopment Project moves to Lower Ground Floor

The refurbished Lower Ground Floor will be handed over by contractors in late March and all staff and collections moves to repopulate the floor will take place during March, April & May. Staff will be relocating from Floor 4 of the Main Library and Buccleuch Place.

Library Annexe

Want to know more about the University's off-site store and see highlights from its collections?

Visit the new Library Annexe blog at: <http://libraryblogs.is.ed.ac.uk/annexe/>
Please leave your feedback and comments!

New student book exchange raises money for UNICEF

Barry Croucher



Students can exchange books they own through EdExchange, the latest student initiative in creating a viable and sustainable book exchange service.

EdExchange eliminates the need for buyers and sellers to meet. Sellers list their books online, and drop them off at the EdExchange Hub in the Main Library. Once sold EdExchange transfers sellers their money, and the buyer collects the book from the EdExchange Hub. By centralising and simplifying the process, EdExchange aims to encourage more students to sell their used books. With profits going to UNICEF on campus, it is also a social enterprise, aiming to entice all parties involved to keep regenerating the supply of books being sold.

www.EdExchange.co.uk

Staff Spotlight: Archivist



Louise Williams started work at Lothian Health Services Archive as Archivist in September 2012, for a 33 month project funded by the Wellcome Trust to catalogue a large collection of folder-based case notes from pioneering Edinburgh neurosurgeon Norman Dott (1892–1973).

By using the XML-based Encoded Archival Description standard, Louise is creating an online resource that will promote the use of modern case notes in clinical and historical research, whilst developing methods for cataloguing archives containing personal data that can be applied across collections in the University.

With the research and development stage complete, Louise is now starting to catalogue case notes from the beginning of Dott's career – a step closer to enabling researchers around the world to access these captivating and medically significant records.

www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk/projects/Cataloguingcasenotes.htm

Contact Louise: louise.williams@ed.ac.uk

“ I'm really excited to be leading this innovative project, giving researchers a 'way in' to these fascinating collections. ”



New RCUK policy Open Access Implementation

Theo Andrew and Stuart Lewis

The Research Councils UK (RCUK) have published a new policy concerning access to scholarly research outputs in peer-reviewed journals. The policy comes into effect on 1 April 2013, and states that RCUK “expect authors of research papers to maximise the opportunities to make their results available for free”.

Resources have been provided to support this process in the form of a transitional grant from the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS), to be spent this year.

The University has responded by setting up an Open Access Implementation Project which will ensure all papers submitted to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) are available on an open access basis via the PURE system.

It will achieve this by:

- putting in place appropriate policies to help ensure compliance with the RCUK Open Access Policy;
- developing systems to make sure that it's easy for authors to provide Open Access copies of publications;
- ensuring that appropriate support staff and processes are in place to help researchers. It is the intention to fund temporary project staff, one based at each School, to help this process;
- developing comprehensive training resources (in-person and online) to provide advice and guidance on issues surrounding copyright and licensing for support staff and academic authors.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/open-access-research



Using Social Media to turn dialogue into conversation

Sonia Mullineux

The archives are brimming with our correspondence with graduates. The alumni magazine highlights some interesting stories, but most tales remain locked in Charles Stewart House.

The Development & Alumni department is now experimenting with social media to open up these dialogues. This enables greater levels of participation, and helps us better understand what our strategic theme of “lifelong community” really means.

Our Facebook page calls for posts that bring back memories, inspire a sense of pride, and invite participation. Our “mystery location” feature posts images of campus nooks and invites identification – and sometimes more, like a 1974 romance tale posted during a debate about Appleton Tower. Recent surveys about the changing cost of student rents and beer in Edinburgh each elicited around 30 comments, with intelligence covering 1965–2011, and we are starting to understand the potential of Facebook for crowdsourcing social history.

We’ve also experimented with Pinterest and we’re now posting graduate memories from our student telethon online using this image based platform. The link to this story from our alumni newsletter received four times as many clicks as the average, suggesting a strong appetite for this kind of conversation.

www.facebook.com/edalumni
March 2012 - 3,192 likes | January 2013 - 4,225 likes

<http://pinterest.com/edinburghalumni/post-it-memories-of-the-university-of-edinburgh/>

Enabling Citizen Science in UNESCO Biospheres

Nicola Osborne

The €8.5m, four-year, Citizen Observatory Web (COBWEB) project has begun, developing a framework for citizens to collect environmental data suitable for use in research, decision-making and policy formation. The project is built around UNESCO’s World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), with test areas in Biosphere Reserves within the UK, Germany and Greece.

The consortium is led by EDINA and includes thirteen partners from five European countries. Funding comes from the EU’s FP 7 Programme, responding to Europe’s employment needs, competitiveness and quality of life.

The project will explore crowd-sourcing techniques around the concept of “people as sensors”, particularly use of mobile devices for data collection and geographic information. Concentrating initially on the Welsh Dyfi Biosphere Reserve, the project aims to use the enthusiasm of local Biosphere Reserve communities for improved environmental decision-making to help develop technology for wider application.

COBWEB Project Coordinator Chris Higgins said: “Empowering people and improving information flow is vital to addressing a range of environmental issues.”

<http://cobwebproject.eu/>

New JISC legal advice on Pinterest

Nicola Osborne

In December JISC Legal published new advice on the use of image-sharing websites, including Pinterest. The advice is primarily aimed at those looking to use image sharing in teaching and learning contexts. JISC Legal’s advice is cautious in tone, with a particular focus on copyright issues. However, those keen to use Pinterest in their own teaching, learning or engagement work still have lots of room to innovate: the guidance advises that images out of copyright, or where the person “pinning” images also holds the copyright can be used.

Full guidance note:

bit.ly/ZOSNTC



KB Data Centre “rebuilding an aircraft in the air”

Jim Sheach

September 2012 saw the successful completion of a three-year project to refurbish the Information Services Data Centre at King’s Buildings. This major capital project, including the replacement of ageing air conditioning systems and power distribution, rerouting the majority of the internal and external network connectivity at King’s Buildings, and asbestos removal and raised floor replacement, provided the project team with very significant challenges.

Described as “rebuilding an aircraft in the air” the project team from IS, Estates and Buildings, and the contractors Taylor and Fraser, devised a phased approach to deliver the refurbishment. It is a measure of the success of this approach and the attention to detail of the project team that this complex project, replacing the entire infrastructure surrounding our core IT and Network systems located at King’s Buildings, has been delivered with minimal downtime to services.



Get your data cited!

Robin Rice

The Data Library is pleased to announce that Edinburgh DataShare, the University repository for research data, has been selected by Thomson-Reuters to be indexed in the new Data Citation Index.

Researchers familiar with Thomson-Reuters Web of Knowledge platform know the value of getting their research outputs indexed. According to Thomson-Reuters, the new Data Citation Index will:

- enable the discovery of data repositories, data studies and data sets in the context of traditional literature
- help researchers find data sets and studies and track the full impact of their research output
- provide expanded measurement of researcher and institutional research output and assessment
- facilitate more accurate and comprehensive bibliometric analyses.

Edinburgh DataShare is a service for all University researchers:

<http://datashare.is.ed.ac.uk/>



High metadata standards

Florance Kennedy

The issue of disciplinary metadata standards - what they are, who’s using them, how to use them - has been gaining attention in the RDM community.

To support this, the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) has created a web page for those who need help figuring out what standards might address their own needs. This is the information a repository manager might give to a researcher who is curious about what the minimum information kept alongside their data sets should be, for their discipline.

The resource provides information about 19 metadata standards, as well as their associated profiles, tools to employ the standards, and links to current implementations in over 60 repositories and data portals.

www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/metadata-standards



Social media

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

Will's World Online hack trials Google+ Hangouts

Muriel Mewissen

Last December, EDINA held a week long online hack to encourage innovative uses of the registry of online Shakespeare resources developed by their Will's World project. A hack is usually a 24-hour, in-person event where people collaborate on quick prototypes and ideas around a given theme or data. Social media tools were essential in enabling this event and were used to spread information, support the communication between participants, share progress, and encourage collaboration.

Google+ Hangouts, a free video conferencing tool, allowing up to nine participants to join a call with live streaming and archiving to YouTube, was trialled. It was used for the hack launch, final presentation, and daily drop-in sessions. Check-ins provided a forum for questions, updates, ideas and discussions. Sessions were shared live on YouTube allowing an unlimited number to view the meeting in addition to the maximum of nine active participants and for the camera-shy participants to take part without featuring in the video. Following each session, the recording was made available automatically on YouTube for catch-up and archive, which was very effective.

The event was very successful. Participants were happy and able to use Google+ and we found it worked well, but would caution others that making sessions public to join can be risky. The format was new to most which first caused some teething issues: facilitating team formation online was challenging, and the timing of the event and extended length played a part in this.

You can read much more about the event on the Will's World Blog: <http://willsworld.blogs.edina.ac.uk/tag/willhack/>

View the check in sessions on YouTube: bit.ly/10KJEdL

Guardian Higher Education blog network launched

Nicola Osborne

Do you or one of your colleagues write a great blog? Late in 2012, the Guardian Higher Education launched a "Blog Network" where bloggers from across academia have an opportunity to have their work showcased through the listings, which are updated regularly. The network is also a great place to read and find new blogs to engage with and be inspired by, so is well worth a look even if you've never written a blog post!

Some blog highlights that might be of particular interest include:

- The Thesis Whisperer, a great and lively blog covering all manner of PhD and research student questions and issues. <http://thesiswhisperer.com/>
- The Ed Techie, Simon Paul Atkinson's blog on educational technologies and social change. <http://spatkinson.wordpress.com/>
- Science of the Invisible, AJ Cann's frequently updated blog particularly concerned with teaching in the sciences and technology. <http://scienceoftheinvisible.blogspot.co.uk/>

Guardian blog network: www.guardian.co.uk/higher-education-network/blog/2012/oct/05/the-higher-education-blogs-network

Submit your blog by emailing nancy.groves@guardian.co.uk or tweeting @GdnHigherEd with the #HEblognetwork tag.



Conferences

Save the date for Repository Fringe 2013

Nicola Osborne

The fifth Repository Fringe, an "unconference" on all aspects of repositories and their use, will take place on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 August 2013. There will also be opportunities for workshops on Wednesday 31 July. The event is organised by the University, EDINA, and the DCC, and we welcome ideas and contributions from our colleagues.

Please do get in touch: reporfringe@gmail.com

Find out more at: <http://repositoryfringe.org/> or follow @reporfringe



DCC annual conference

Florance Kennedy

The 8th International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC), organised by the Digital Curation Centre, was held on mainland Europe for the first time, from 14 to 17 January 2013 in Amsterdam. It was sold out, and feedback was extremely positive.

IDCC brings together those who create and manage data and information, those who use it and those who research and teach about curation processes. Highlights included an opening keynote by Ewan Birney of European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI) on how DNA could be used to archive digital data, our own Robin Rice (EDINA & Data Library) on Implementing the Research Data Management Policy at Edinburgh, and Patricia Cruse of the University of California Curation Center on 'Building Services, Building Communities, Supporting Data Intensive Research'.

The conference archive includes all the presentations: www.dcc.ac.uk/events/idcc13/programme-presentations

IDCC14 is planned for California!

EDUCAUSE 2012 REVIEW

Dave Berry

The annual EDUCAUSE conference was held in Denver last November. EDUCAUSE is a USA-based association for IT in Higher Education and their annual conference is an excellent opportunity to discover how our counterparts in the USA are using IT to advance teaching research and administration.

Highlights of the conference included:

- IT as a Core Academic Competence, the opening talk from Clay Shirky (Social Media Theorist), which explored how digital media, blogs, and crowdsourcing will change the way academic work is done and the impact this will have on academic institutions
- Starting Conversations across Silos during "Times of Change", a case study of Change Management by Marilu Goodyear and Jenny Mehmedovic from the University of Kansas

- Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice: What Grassroots Projects Reveal about Learning Analytics in Dutch Higher Education, an overview of "quick win" learning analytic projects from the Netherlands, by John Doove of SURF (the Dutch equivalent of JISC)
- Business Intelligence at the University of Arizona, a report in which Henry Childers III explained how his unit implemented a major project to provide good quality business intelligence data.

It would be great to see our University presenting at future EDUCAUSE conferences, to spread the word about the good work that we do and to enhance the reputation of our University on the global stage.

Resources from this year's conference: bit.ly/14C9XmE

More about the conference and other topics on Dave Berry's blog: <http://distributed-thinking.blogspot.co.uk>

Do you have social media news to share?

Are you doing something innovative with Pinterest, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter or any other social media environment? We are always keen to hear about your projects and case studies for future issues of BITS, so please get in touch: Nicola.Osborne@ed.ac.uk

University Social Media Guidelines: bit.ly/YvaWBW



Bette Johnston retires

Mary Allison



Bette Johnston, IS Learning & Development Specialist, retires in March 2013 after seven years with the University. She has worked tirelessly with staff to embed learning and development into the IS culture – most notably via the IS Management Development Programme, which gave many IS managers the opportunity to enhance their management skills.

She has also been committed to one-to-one personal development sessions and many IS staff have progressed in their university careers as a result of her help.

Hers will be no quiet retirement and she's likely to be passing on her experience through continued work in the voluntary sector.

She will be missed by her colleagues in HR for IS for her warmth and personal kindness.

Give 'em enough rope!

Andrew McFarlane



"After a shaky-handed climb over the railing, I perched on a pathetic slip of a platform jutting out from the underside of the majestic Forth Rail Bridge. This was it, 160 feet up and no way back. Strangely, when the time came, it was surprisingly easy to step off the platform into mid-air – there was no panic, no plunge towards the waves below. The motive for all this was to raise money for Waverley Care, and with the help of IS staff, I raised £377.50. A big thank you to all who supported me, and stay tuned for more (ground-based) stunts in 2013!"

Bristle Sprouts

Morna Findlay



IS Applications "Bristle Sprouts", otherwise known as David Smyth, Iain Fiddes and Jamie Thin, raised over £300 during "Movember" for prostate cancer research.

Curry in a hurry

Kevin Brogan

IS Applications staff sponsored Morna Findlay and her student nurse daughter Rosie to raise money for a children's hospital in Zanzibar. Morna and Rosie cycled from Glasgow to Edinburgh along the Forth and Clyde and Union canals on 3 January. Morna and Rosie quite enjoyed the first 25 miles, stopping off at the Falkirk Wheel for fuel. Thereafter they were kept going by thoughts of a big curry but were very glad to finish! The money raised – £375 so far – will be donated to Mnazi Mmoja hospital, where Rosie worked as a nurse in January and February.



Arthur Wilson in IS Applications has been working very hard in his spare time producing and launching his new Album "Those Precious Things". His song "Meet me by the Big Wheel" has been shortlisted in a national songwriters competition and he'll be lining up some local gigs around Edinburgh and the Lothians soon.

Download the album:
www.thosepreciousthings.com



60 seconds with: Stratos Filalithis

Web CMS Support Officer,
University Website Programme



**Coming back here...
it's a dream come
true!**

Stratos Filalithis joined the University Website Programme team in January this year after relocating to Edinburgh from his native Greece.

What is your role at the University?

My tasks are mainly to support the users of Polopoly CMS in terms of their technical needs - either when there's a technical problem, or when they need technical advice. But it's not just about Polopoly, it's also about the widgets and applications we as a programme provide, like the cookie-free alternatives we're currently working on to ensure legal compliance. I use my technical background and know-how to give advice to the Programme team, and to investigate future applications.

What is your background?

I've been working in the web development business for over six years now, and had my own web development company in Greece before coming to the University.

I have a Masters' in Distributed and Multimedia Information Systems from Heriot-Watt, but most of my knowledge has come through experience working in the web development sector in Greece. I've developed and rolled out lots of medium sized and large scale commercial projects in e-commerce, crowdsourcing and tourism. These included an accommodation listings website for students in Greece (www.studenthouse.gr) and the sales subdomain CMS for Keytours (www.keytours.gr).

Why did you decide to come to Edinburgh?

When I lived here in 2002, while I was at Heriot-Watt, I liked the city and the people a lot, and enjoyed life here. The weather might be not as good as in Greece, but that's not such a big factor when you're talking about everyday life. So I'd thought a lot about coming back here – and now that I have it's a dream come true!

What are you enjoying about the role so far?

It's challenging, but at the same time there's a chance to address those challenges in the best possible way; there are lots of things to do, but you have time and resources to do them.

All my colleagues, and everyone I've met so far, have been extremely helpful and my induction to the University has been great. Working for such a big organisation means you have access to all kinds of experience and know-how.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I have lots of hobbies and interests. I like sports – both playing them and watching them – and I like reading. I also like walking, meeting new people and seeing new things. Living in Edinburgh is very interesting, as there are lots of new places for me to visit in the place where I live – it's like travelling somewhere new every weekend!

Exhibitions



Talbot Rice Gallery

Drawn Away Together

16 March – 4 May 2013

Talbot Rice Gallery is transformed by a series of abstract shapes, forms and colour, featuring the work of 11 Scottish, or Scottish-based, painters, sculptors and installation artists. Drawn Away Together represents a dialogue between different generations of artists in Scotland who, whilst connected by their shared interest in and exploration of abstract art, span a wide range of ages and career stages; from Malcolm O'Connell, a current undergraduate, to Alan Shipway who has been exhibiting for over 30 years.

Image: *Untitled* (2013) by Rachel Barron

Main Library Exhibition Gallery

Masterpieces III

5 April – 6 July 2013

Acting as a sequel to Masterpieces I and II, shown in 2009 and 2011, Masterpieces III continues to explore and expand the concept of a 'masterpiece', but this time takes an unusual turn by approaching it from the perspectives of science and medicine.

Is there beauty in science? What are the aesthetics of scientific innovation? Can a statement be beautiful?

Structured around the themes of 'science as innovation', 'science as art', and 'science as statement', the exhibition brings together a wide range of pinnacles of scientific and medical endeavour - from the first woodcuts depicting a baby in the womb to innovative surgical tools, breakthrough medical substances, early scientific films, design books on prosthetics and a host of other objects.