Editorial

Awards, cabaret, art in the asylum, chocolate buttons...this issue of BITS has it all!

As we near the end of 2013 it’s a good time to reflect on our achievements over the past year. Page 7 takes a look at the successful completion of two projects at Edinburgh College of Art Library which we hope will make our collections more accessible and easier to navigate for users. Meanwhile, the University’s breadth of involvement and success during the various Edinburgh festivals this year is the focus of page 9.

We’re also busy planning for the future. The annual planning round to determine the central IT developments for 2014–17 is well underway (page 1) and preparations for the roll-out of Office 365 to staff currently using Excedis is gathering pace (page 4).

We’ve listened to the demand for secure, backed up, networked storage for research productivity and are delighted to now be underway with the roll-out of our new Research Data Storage service. Turn to pages 2 and 3 to find out more about this service and what you can expect from it.

The growth of social media shows no signs of slowing down, and in response to staff in the University beginning to use social media for their teaching activities you can find out on page 10 all about the new service using Exeed is gathering pace (page 4).

The UWP works in close cooperation with Schools and departments throughout the University, and the new design was developed and implemented in collaboration with colleagues in Communications and Marketing and Information Services.

http://bit.ly/18VLVor

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 Friday 7 February 2014.

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

News highlights

University website wins web award

The work of approximately 800 editors who publish the University of Edinburgh’s website has been recognised in the award of a 2013 Standard of Excellence WebAward.

Presented by the Web Marketing Association, the judges select award-winners based on the quality of the design, interactivity, technology, content, innovation, copyrighting and ease of use to target audience in the website.

Dawn Ellis, Director of the University Website Programme (UWP), said: “This award is a tribute to the hard work of the hundreds of editors across the University who work together to create the best possible user experience.”

The UWP works in close cooperation with Schools and departments throughout the University, and the new design was developed and implemented in collaboration with colleagues in Communications and Marketing and Information Services.

http://bit.ly/18VLVor

Planning for 2014–17 IS Applications Annual Planning

Kevin Brogan

For a number of years IS Applications Division has run an annual process to determine the central IT systems developments needed for future years. Although this process has included projects which span multiple years, it has largely focused on requirements for the upcoming year.

This year the planning process is being aligned with the University’s updated three-year planning cycle. The process is rolling so that when the end of year one is reached, we will take stock and plan for the subsequent three years, using what were years two and three as our starting point.

Planning for the first three-year cycle 2014–17 is now underway.

https://www.projects.ed.ac.uk/planning/area/apps

Editor: Dawn Ellis
Editorial team: Andrew Bevan, Kevin Brogan, Loma Brown, Lizzie Cass-Maran, Lucy Janes, Helen Murphie, Nicola Osborne, Garry Scoible, Sonia Virdi, Susan Watson, Alisa Wilson, Rachel Xu

Design and production: The Multimedia Team, IS
Published by: Information Services, The University of Edinburgh
Contributions, contact and distribution queries: Email: BITS@ed.ac.uk
BITS on the Web: www.ed.ac.uk/is/bits
Printed by: J Thomson Colour Printers

If you need to use an alternative format, please contact Viki Galt, Disability Information Officer on 0131 650 6645 or email vikki.galt@ed.ac.uk

If you require this publication in an alternative format, please contact Viki Galt, Disability Information Officer on 0131 650 6645 or email vikki.galt@ed.ac.uk
Information Services recognises the importance of the University’s research data and has procured enterprise-class storage infrastructure to underpin the programme of Research Data services. The infrastructure ranges from the highest class of flash-storage (delivering 375,000 IO operations per second) to 1.6PB (1 Petabyte = 1,024 Terabytes) of bulk storage arrays. The data in the Research Data Management (RDM) file-store is automatically replicated to an off-site disaster facility and also backed up with a 60-day retention period, with 10 days of file history visible online.

We are planning to roll out to early adopter Schools and institutes late November this year. This is dependent on all of the quality checks and performance testing on the system being completed successfully; however, confidence is high that the deadline will be met.

The early adopters for the initial service roll-out are: School of GeoSciences, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, and the Centre for Population Health Sciences. Phased roll-out to all areas of the University will follow.

The University has committed 0.5TB (500GB) of high quality storage with guaranteed backup and resilience to every active researcher. The important principle at work is that the 0.5TB is for the individual researcher to use primarily to store their active research data. This ensures that they can work in a high quality and resilient environment and, hopefully, move valuable data from potentially unstable local drives. Research groups and Schools will be encouraged to pool their allocations in order to facilitate shared data management and collaboration.

This formula was developed in close consultation with College and School representatives; however, there will be discipline differences in how much storage is required and individual need will not be uniform. A degree of flexibility will be built into the allocation model and roll-out, though if researchers go over their 0.5TB free allocation they will have to pay.

The storage roll-out is one component of a suite of existing and planned services known as our Research Data Management Initiative. An awareness raising campaign accompanies the storage allocation to Schools, units and individuals to encourage best practice in research data management planning and sharing.

Research Data Management support services: www.ed.ac.uk/is/data-management
Research Data Management Policy: www.ed.ac.uk/is/research-data-policy
To learn more about this cross-IS initiative follow the Edinburgh Data Blog: http://datablog.is.ed.ac.uk

Information Services is very pleased to announce that our new Research Data Storage hardware has been safely delivered.

Following a competitive procurement process, a range of suppliers were selected to provide the various parts of the infrastructure, including Dell, NetApp, Brocade and Cisco. The bulk of the order was assembled over the summer in China and shipped to the King’s Buildings campus at the end of August. Since then IT Infrastructure staff have been installing, testing and preparing the storage for roll-out.

John Scally, Stuart Lewis, Tony Weir, Robin Rice, Cuna Ekmeckioglu
The Open Access Implementation Project

Dominic Tate

The Open Access Implementation Project is being led by the Scholarly Communications Team in Library & University Collections to substantially increase the volume of ‘Green’ open access papers available in PURE and made available for free through the Research Explorer.

Inspired by Research Councils UK, using funds allocated by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the project comprises 17 staff based in Colleges and Schools and is led by Theo Andrew supported by Michael Bryce. Staff are sourcing suitable open access material in existing repositories and academics are working with staff within their units for post-prints suitable for uploading to PURE.

The project will run until December 2013 and Research Councils UK will carry out a review of policy implementation in 2014.

http://edin.ac/10cbi2w

Gold Open Access

Theo Andrew

Some Open Access Policies make their articles available for free through charging for the publication services before publication, rather than after publication through subscriptions. Research Funders consider this part of the cost of research, so the money for access comes through the research funder, rather than through the library budget.

Since receiving final confirmation in July 2013 to administer the £830,550 Open Access block grant received from Research Councils UK, the Scholarly Communications Team has set up a full support service to help researchers administer their Gold Open Access payments.

To make the block grant extend further the Scholarly Communications Team has also evaluated and signed up to a number of publisher Open Access discount and pre-payment schemes.

http://edin.ac/13yAfvx

Resource Lists using Talis Aspire

Angela Laurins

The Library is introducing Talis Aspire, a system for Course Organisers to create and manage online resource lists. A variety of resources can be added to a list, including, books, e-books, book chapters, journal articles and webpages.

Students can link directly to core texts and online resources, and items on a list are prioritised so students can easily see which items are essential reading. Course Organisers can also gather data on resource list use.


Search for Resource Lists: http://resourceLists.ed.ac.uk

If you are interested in using Talis Aspire please contact the IS Helpline: is.helpline@ed.ac.uk

Office 365 for staff

Stuart McFarlane

Following our students move to Office 365 earlier this year, the Exseed email and diary service for staff is being migrated to the Microsoft Office 365 for Education service.

Planning for the migration of mailboxes has started, with testing and pilot migrations underway. Consultation with Schools and departments will follow to plan a migration schedule that ensures minimal disruption to users. We would envisage all Exseed mailboxes moving to Office 365 by the end of March 2014.

In addition to email and calendars, Office 365 will make new cloud services available:

- SkyDrive Pro file storage (25Gb);
- Lync Online with instant messaging, web video and voice communications;
- SharePoint for document sharing and collaboration;
- Office Web Apps providing Word, Excel and PowerPoint online.

Enhancing the student experience – online

Alisa Wilson

The University Website Programme team (UWP) is helping to deliver an outstanding student experience online in collaboration with colleagues across the Student Experience Project.

UWP is working closely with teams dedicated to improving the student experience throughout the student lifecycle to enhance key information and support services provision across the University website.

Developments so far include delivery of a new ‘Enhancing the student experience’ corporate website giving staff information about the range of student experience activities taking place around the University and a new ‘Preparing for study’ section providing academic pre-arrival support to help new students with the transition to university life.

Further work is planned to provide an online presence for the Student Information Point team, consolidate web content to support Student Surveys and refresh the New Students website.

Using user experience tools and techniques, UWP is helping the student experience teams gain a clearer insight into their audiences, the decisions which drive their behaviour and find ways to optimise their content.

www.ed.ac.uk/student-experience

MANTRA refreshed

Robin Rice

The University Data Library is pleased to announce that Research Data MANTRA, the free online course designed for researchers or others planning to manage digital data as part of the research process, has been refreshed.

Shortlisted recently as one of 15 good practice examples designed to enhance information literacy skills* MANTRA has been upgraded to Version 2 of Xerte Online Toolkits, the e-learning development environment used to create the MANTRA learning materials.

data-lib.edina.ac.uk/mantra/

*http://datablog.is.ed.ac.uk/2013/06/26/mantra-shortlisted

Ordnance Survey County Series – historic metadata

Sandy Buchanan

In partnership with EDINA, the National Library of Scotland (NLS) has completed a project to list all their Ordnance Survey six-inch and 25-inch to the mile County Series maps of England and Wales – totalling 152,332 records.

The County Series records have been linked to historic metadata – online

The County Series maps of England and Wales – mile County Series records have been linked to historic metadata

http://edin.ac/1aMI7pX

http://maps.nls.uk/geo/records/

http://datablog.is.ed.ac.uk/2013/06/26/mantra-shortlisted

http://edin.ac/17q777a
**Libraries**

**Darwin Learning and Teaching Cluster**

Over the Summer, the former Darwin Library upper floor has been redeveloped to provide an attractive social and study environment. This complements other spaces at The King’s Buildings: the Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library; the KB Centre and the JCM Learning and Teaching Cluster.

The Darwin Learning and Teaching Cluster provides:

- reconﬁgurable study space with a mix of furniture
- computing, printing, copying and scanning facilities
- quiet study space
- study carrels
- ﬁve bookable group study rooms
- one bookable accessible study room.

There is also a new catering facility, the Darwin Café, providing drinks and light snacks (open Monday to Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm).

The Darwin Learning and Teaching Cluster is open from Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 5.00pm.

**Library blog**

As well as highlighting project work, collections and exhibitions, the Library blog publicises new acquisitions, e-resource trials and other library-related activities.

The Library blog uses Wordpress and is populated by posts from other library blogs on the platform: this includes The AnnoXe Factor (from the Library Annex), the DIU (Digital Imaging Unit) blog, Universities Archives and project blogs (such as Godfrey Thomson). Existing library blogs, on other platforms, such as, Lothian Health Services Archive and Library Matters, are available via the blogroll.

http://libraryblogs.is.ed.ac.uk

**Journal Hosting**

Supported by the Library’s Journal Hosting Service, Res Medica, the Journal of the Royal Medical Society published its ﬁrst online issue in September.

Res Medica was founded in 1957 with the purpose of promoting academic research amongst medical students at Edinburgh. The Digital Imaging Unit has scanned all back issues of the journal and, over the next few months, they will be made available online from the archives section of Res Medica. Full issues have been scanned and all pages have been OCR’d to make them searchable.

The back issues offer a fascinating insight not only into medicine of the time, but also into the history of the Society and the University.

Res Medica: http://journals.ed.ac.uk/resmedica

Journal Hosting Service: http://journals.ed.ac.uk

**ECA Rare Books Collection**

We have recently loaned 12 important and rarely-seen art works: 11 items from Special Collections and 1 item from Lothian Health Services Archive (LHSA). All examples of art were created in the asylum.

The Special Collections items, from our Laycock Collection, were created by William Bartholomew at the Crichton Royal Hospital in the 1830s, while LHSA’s was produced by John Willis Mason in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. They are some of the earliest examples of art created within an asylum and were collected by asylum Physician Superintendents. These striking portraits depict patients with labels to categorise their particular condition as understood at the time, e.g. “Mania” or “Melancholia”. They have just gone on exhibition loan to the Djanogly Art Gallery at the University of Nottingham. A subsequent loan of 10 drawings by another patient of the Crichton, Andrew Kennedy, to Halle Saint Pierre in Paris subsequently loan of 10 drawings by another patient of the Crichton, Andrew Kennedy, to Halle Saint Pierre in Paris or “Melancholia”. They have just gone on exhibition loan to the Djanogly Art Gallery at the University of Nottingham. A subsequent loan of 10 drawings by another patient of the Crichton, Andrew Kennedy, to Halle Saint Pierre in Paris. For an exhibition of ‘outsider art’ called ‘Raw Vision’ further demonstrates the appeal of this type of material.

CRC loans illustrate art in the asylum

Ruth Honeybone & Dr Joseph Marshall

The back issues offer a fascinating insight not only into medicine of the time, but also into the history of the Society and the University.

**Reclassification project concludes at ECA Library**

The project to reclassify 60,000 books at Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) Library has ﬁnished on time and on budget, thanks to the hard work of everyone involved from teams across User Services Division and Library and University Collections. The successful completion of the project concludes the ﬁnal part of the merger of the ECA Library with the University Library.

Funded by the Scottish Funding Council, the reclassiﬁcation project was undertaken in two phases. Firstly the ECA Library’s Voyager catalogue data was processed externally by the US company, Backstage Library Works, to reclassify the general collection from Universal Decimal Classiﬁcation to Library of Congress (LC), which is used widely across our other Libraries. Following this, the physical collections were relabelled and reshelved in their new LC sequence in the ECA Library in Evolution House.

The reorganised ECA Library collection was ready for library users arriving at the start of the academic year. With the ECA collections now sharing the same classiﬁcation scheme as the Main Library and other site libraries, it is hoped that users will be able to ﬁnd items more easily.

ECA Library blog: http://sites.ace.ed.ac.uk/ecalibrary/

ECA Rare Books Collection catalogued

Jane Furness

The Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) Rare Books Collection of around 1,500 items is now fully catalogued, including some outstanding items on the history of architecture and art and design.

Parts of the collection date back to the eighteenth century when the Trustees Drawing Academy of Edinburgh was established by the Board of Trustees for Fisheries, Manufactures and Improvements in Scotland in 1760. The Trustees Drawing Academy of Edinburgh later became the Edinburgh College of Art in 1907.

Many books in the collection were used for practical teaching purposes and in some cases there is evidence, such as paint splatters, but overall the condition of the items - particularly the rarer volumes such as the sets of Piranesi’s works - is good. Of particular importance are the hand-painted Edinburgh shawl designs and the volumes of textile samples, such as calico samples.

Staff in the Centre for Research Collections welcome individual researchers and student groups to view the ECA collections, and can tailor selections of materials to speciﬁc class interests.

Find the items in the catalogue (shelfmarks starting at ‘RECA’): http://catalogue.lib.ed.ac.uk/

ECA Rare Books Collection: http://edin.ac/16pSlig

Jane Furness & Dr Joseph Marshall

The back issues offer a fascinating insight not only into medicine of the time, but also into the history of the Society and the University.
Andrew McFarlane:

Staff spotlight:

IT Service Manager Andrew McFarlane manages the ‘Reporting + Analytics’ service, and assists with the UniDesk service support tool.

Andrew was born with congenital cataracts in both eyes. Childhood glaucoma destroyed the sight in his left eye and pain from that condition meant he was recently given a prosthetic eye. He has good vision in his right eye, despite suffering a retinal detachment in 2009.

Andrew studied at the University of Aberdeen and worked abroad as an English teacher. He then did a Theology PhD at the University of Edinburgh when he also got a job helping students with their computer problems.

“Computers have always been a big part of my life,” he explained. “My dad ran a computer club for people with sight problems back in the 1980s that I went to; and I’ve always liked programming and playing computer games. So when an IT job appeared here helping students with their computer problems.

Andrew believes employers who assume they couldn’t possibly take on someone with sight loss are missing out on potentially crucial assets for their business.

“It needs said time and time again, visual impairment in itself is no indicator of intelligence, competence or motivation. What Edinburgh University seems to appreciate is that an individual who is challenged by sight problems need not be a challenge to work with and support. In fact, we are just as capable as the next person of coping with work pressures and of making a valuable contribution.”

Disability computing support for staff

Information Services offers a service to support all disabled University staff in the workplace.

The service helps identify assistive software, hardware or standard IT solutions which may be of assistance. There is also a small pool of equipment which can be borrowed by staff to trial.

To access the service please contact the IS Helpline: is.helpline@ed.ac.uk or call 0131 651 5151.

Putting on the show right here!

Lucy Janes

Edinburgh was busier than ever this summer and the University was no exception.

University buildings and grounds are used as venues for some of the biggest shows of the festivals making us the largest single landlord on the Fringe.

In total this year there were 1,253,021 tickets sold/visitors recorded for performances in University buildings over the summer festivals period.

But providing a home for the shows is only one aspect of the University’s involvement, as a new website published for the first time this year explained.

The University is an official partner of the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the Edinburgh International Festival.

The University at the Festivals website highlighted how many events at these festivals and the Fringe were led or organised by University staff. In video interviews, participants and festival organisers talk about the synergy between the University’s mission to spread knowledge and the festivals’ capacity for reaching audiences.

The website had approximately 1,700 visitors in a month from its launch in late July, with 70% of visitors coming from the Edinburgh area.

www.ed.ac.uk/news/events/festivals

www.ed.ac.uk/news/2013/university-at-the-festival-310713

Cabaret causes a stir

Sarah Anderson

EDINA was a Fringe pioneer this summer, being one of the first shows to appear in the Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas.

Part of the Assembly Rooms Fringe, the Cabaret gave great minds – including more than 20 University staff – a chance to challenge common assumptions. Speakers addressed the full circle of life, proposing we have theatre for foetuses while embracing the idea of our own death.

The Cabaret, which attracted more than 400 audience members for the 14 University of Edinburgh-related shows, was curated by the Beltane Public Engagement Network and Fair Play Productions.

http://bit.ly/13kANOT

Fringe debut for Edinburgh academics

Dr Dan Ridley-Ellis & Nicola Osborne

The ‘Bright Club: Scotland’s Fringe’ run saw nearly 90 academics from 10 Bright Clubs across the UK engaging an audience of more than 1,000 in their research through stand-up comedy. It was an intense month for all involved but paid off with respectable reviews, great ticket sales and, most importantly, abundant laughter.

The University of Edinburgh was well represented with 17 academics, researchers, students and recent graduates making jokes about their work from Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Physics, Engineering, Languages and Linguistics, Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience, Education and Veterinary Science.

Find out more about Bright Club Edinburgh, which runs regularly at The Stand and is always eager to recruit performers, here:

http://brightclubedinburgh.blogspot.co.uk/
Susie Greig

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

Social and cloud based learning and teaching

The service will not support specific products, but will be able to help share experience relating to tools in this fast-moving area. We will develop the offering in response to questions and requests from staff and students, so if you are interested in these tools in your teaching and/or learning activities and you already have burning questions, please contact us. Equally if you are already using these types of tools in your learning and teaching, and would be willing to share your experiences, we would also love to hear from you.

http://edin.ac/186XpcZ
For enquiries please contact: is.helpline@ed.ac.uk

Many staff at the University have started to use online social tools, such as Twitter and Facebook, or cloud-based tools such as Google Drive or Dropbox, with some starting to use them for teaching activities. We are also aware that students increasingly use these types of tools to manage their studies.

In response to this interest, Learning Services have launched a new service to support staff and students in using social and cloud-based tools in their learning and teaching activities. The service will offer advice and guidance (supported by a Working Group of University experts) through self-help web materials and through IS Helpline contact.

Facebook and LinkedIn update policies

Nicola Osborne

Facebook has recently made changes to their governance documents and policies, largely around the use of personal data, particularly in relation to commercial content. LinkedIn have also changed their User Agreement and Privacy Policy including measures to accommodate the newly launched ‘University Pages’, and the expansion of the site to younger users.

Read more:
• Facebook proposed updates http://on.fb.me/18Fx3KG
• LinkedIn’s Terms of Service updates http://linked.in/tap1SY3

Engaging the scientists and engineers of the future

Kathryn Mood

The College of Science and Engineering Recruitment and Admissions team have seen that social media can be a key point of first contact for prospective students, cultivating Twitter and Facebook presences and sharing application dates, information, and updates from related organisations. The team also tweet live from open days, informing attendees of practical arrangements, talks, and answering questions. Engaging prospective students this way helps maintain a valuable dialogue and help convert them from “just looking” to actively applying and accepting their offers.

Follow their ongoing progress:
www.facebook.com/sciengra

Jacqui Taylor, who has been working with the UK Cabinet Office to make their data more open, provided the opening keynote, focusing on the importance of open data. She kicked off a programme drawn from participant ideas and contributions including presentations from Pecha Kuchas, and round table discussions. A Developer Challenge also took place in parallel with the winner, Russell Boyat, exploring an idea to preserve MOOCs.

The event also featured a presentation in the medium of song, and our artist-in-residence, Scott Renton (Library and University Collections), sketching his notes of the event.

Liveblog posts and videos from each session, and images from the event can be found via the repositoryfringe.org/ website.

If you would be interested in participating in or helping to organise Repository Fringe 2014 please email: repofringe@gmail.com

Mark Hahnel, founder of FigShare, provided a closing keynote that reflected on his own record activity but also looking ahead to the changing shape of repositories and the role in research.

IT Futures Conference:
The impact of disruptive technology on higher education

Fiona Littleton

December 2013 will see the highly anticipated return of the IT Futures conference. This year’s conference will feature high-profile guest speakers and also key thinkers from within the University, all debating the potential for technology to fundamentally disrupt the very idea of what a university is about.

Keynote speakers are confirmed as Aleks Hrotoski (BBC Radio 4 and Guardian columnist) and Cory Doctorow (Sci-Fi author).

We hope you can join us.

The conference will be held on Thursday 12th December in the Informatics Forum. Registration will be required and we are confident that the conference will be a “sell out.” For more details of the conference (and booking links) please visit: www.itfutures.ed.ac.uk

Alerted to many new faces amongst more than 90 participants from staff and students, so if you are interested in these tools in your teaching and/or learning activities and you already have burning questions, please contact us. Equally if you are already using these types of tools in your learning and teaching, and would be willing to share your experiences, we would also love to hear from you.

http://edin.ac/186XpcZ
For enquiries please contact: is.helpline@ed.ac.uk
Meadows. Laura Gould, Lisa McDonald and Alex Stuart all braved the Edinburgh weather in what proved to be an informative and fun lunchtime session in the Meadows.

James Jarvis led the session and offered advice on why you might want to run, how to get properly kitted out, good running technique and also got the tools to make sure I don’t do myself an injury. James Jarvis & Susan Watson. Thanks James!

The IS Healthy Working Lives Group has been running a series of taster sessions designed to introduce different activities to IS staff. The latest ‘Begin Running with Chocolate Buttons’ gave a gentle introduction to the idea of running - with chocolate buttons at the finish line as an incentive to come along!

Kerry Miller, originally from Falkirk, studied Genetics & Immunology at Aberdeen and went on to a postgraduate diploma in Library & Information Studies at Strathclyde. She takes up a post as Research Data Management (RDM) Service Co-ordinator in December 2013.

What’s your background?

I’ve done research for various organisations, in industry and charity sectors - including what is now GlaxoSmithKline and Cancer Research UK as well as the Ministry of Defence and the British Council. I then joined the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) in 2011 as an Institutional Support Officer. This involved working with Higher Education institutions across the UK, to help them improve their Research Data Management policy and practice, in response to Research Councils UK and other similar requirements.

Tell us about the new position.

My new post, RDM Service Co-ordinator, is a newly-created post, aiming to bring together and co-ordinate all the different aspects of the research data management work that’s currently being done throughout the University: lots of infrastructure improvements, and new tools and support for researchers. There are things like Datashare, which has been active for a while now, but which we’re promoting, so more researchers are aware of it and know when to use it. There are also a few more services that are still in the design phases. You can read all about the RDM work that is going on via the RDM Blog: datablog.is.ed.ac.uk

What particularly excites you about the new role?

The work we do at the DCC is in many ways quite theoretical; we go out and talk to institutions about what they ought to be doing, what they need to do to meet requirements, and that sort of thing, but this new role will be going from talking to walking the walk; I’ve got to actually do what I’ve been telling people at other institutions to do! It’s quite scary but also quite exciting; just to see whether or not I can actually turn that into a real, successful service.

Where exactly will you be based?

I’m based within IS, within the Research Data Management team, on the lower ground floor of the Main Library. There is a huge number of people involved in the area, but the RDM team itself is small and there aren’t that many people full-time at the moment. RDM is part of a lot of people’s jobs – people like Stuart Lewis and John Scally from the library side, Tony Weir in IT Infrastructure and Robin Rice in the Data Library, but I’ll be one of the few people for whom it’s a full-time, dedicated role.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I watch a lot of films, and do a lot of cooking and baking. I’ve been doing a recipe a week from The Great British Bake Off, with greater or lesser success. I often use my office colleagues as a waste disposal system!
Adding analytics to the University portal

University web portals can often be black holes when seeking useful information about user activity. In this lunchtime seminar, run by IS Applications Division, attendees will be asked to imagine adding their dream analytics solution to their portal and will then be shown how these desired capabilities can be implemented in a practical solution.

If you would like to attend ‘From Black Hole to Gold Mine: Adding Analytics to the University Portal’ on Wednesday 27 November, please book a place on MyEd.

Keep your eyes peeled for announcements of topics for future lunchtime seminars.

New Writing for the Web course

The ever-popular Writing for the Web course has been given a major update. Dates are now open for booking through the academic year.

We’ve updated our examples, brought in new research and reading references, and introduced more activities.

If you want to learn how to communicate more effectively online in web pages, emails, help text and more, book a place on MyEd.