Join us in the New Media Consortium

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FSC LOGO

Editorial

New beginnings, perhaps appropriately, take the focus of our Spring issue of **BITS**: a new Library Management Platform service, research into new learning technologies and even a new Chief Information Officer.

We welcome Gavin McLachlan, the new Chief Information Officer and Librarian, to Edinburgh. Find out more about Gavin and his expectations of his new role in our 60 second interview on page 13. We shall certainly hear more from him in later issues.

This issue's feature (pages 2 and 3) looks at Learning, Teaching and Web Services Division's work with new technologies and the University's recent membership of the New Media Consortium, which provides an exciting opportunity to share knowledge with an innovative, active international community. Take a look at the fascinating work by colleagues on technologies such as Google Glasses and CogBooks to enhance and support teaching, learning and research within the University. We share news of a project looking further afield to support the University of Malawi with technology enhanced learning tool.

In this packed issue, learn more about the new Microsoft Office 365 rollout on page 4 and changes to King's Buildings on page 6. The EdWeb CMS project continues full steam ahead, with an update on page 8. IS Applications provide their update on page 9. News from our library services include recent acquisitions in the Centre for Research Collections on page 7 and the new Library Management Platform, 'DiscoverEd', on page 11, as well as news from the Library Labs project.

And our regular feature, Secret Lives of IS Staff, returns this issue with two new enigmas to solve – can you guess who they are and what their mystery lives are?

Enjoy!

Dawn Ellis
Director, University Website Programme

P.S. Congratulations to EDINA and IS Help Services on their recent awards, see opposite!

IS people in the news

EDINA Awarded RSGS Bartholomew Globe for Geographic Services

Andrew Bevan

> **Peter Burnhill Director of EDINA**
>
> This is a great honour, recognising the work of many staff who ensure that mapping data and geospatial tools are accessible online across for all disciplines and available for all universities, colleges and schools across the UK.

The Board of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS) has awarded EDINA with the Society's 2014 Bartholomew Globe, in recognition of EDINA's contribution to services to geography. This includes work in developing and delivering shared services and infrastructure for research and education and in promoting the teaching of Geographical Information Science (GIS) in Scottish schools.

New Head of Information Services

Sarah Gormley

Gavin McLachlan joined the University in February 2015 as Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Librarian to the University.

Gavin is responsible for the strategic development and efficient delivery of a wide range of services, including IT infrastructure, library collections and digital curation, and learning and teaching services. The CIO and Librarian to the University plays a crucial role in ensuring that the University remains at the forefront of technological innovations that promote a world class user experience for staff and students.

To find out more about Gavin please read our 60 second interview on page 13.

IS Help Services awarded **Customer Service Excellence**

Allyson Hayes

Help Services are pleased to announce the successful completion of assessment against the government's Customer Service Excellence Standard (CSE).

CSE is a practical tool for driving customer focused change and this success was the culmination of over two years project work to bring about the attainment of this coveted award. 57 elements make up the standard and it was extremely satisfying that Help Services achieved 1 compliance plus, 52 compliances and 4 partial compliances. The term of certification is held for 3 years and reviewed annually, by the external agency, to ensure continuous improvement.

Help Services are at the heart of customer facing services in Information Services and the CSE gives recognition of the staffs commitment and dedication to delivering a high quality service to all its user groups.
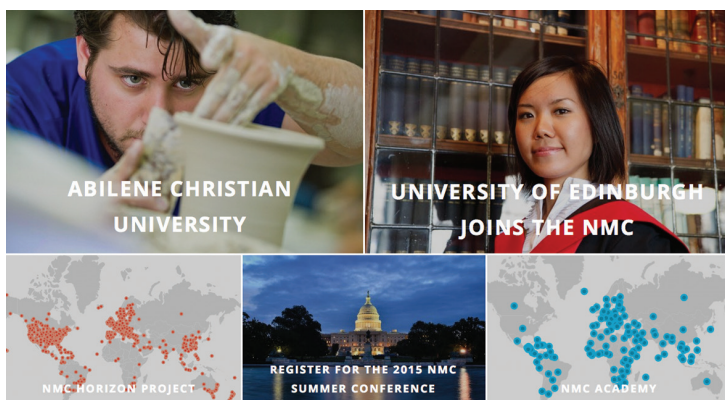
CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

CSE ®

Join us in the
New Media Consortium

Melissa Highton and Eugenia Twomey

The University of Edinburgh has joined the New Media Consortium, a group of more than 250 international higher education institutions, museums and companies conducting research into emerging technologies.

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH JOINS THE NMC

NMC HORIZON PROJECT

REGISTER FOR THE 2015 NMC SUMMER CONFERENCE

NMC ACADEMY

Adaptive Learning tool
CogBooks launched in the
School of Geosciences

Kelly Hall

In January Information Services and the School of Geosciences launched the Adaptive Learning tool CogBooks for the course Global Tectonics and the Rock Cycle (GTRC).

Part one of the pilot will run for five weeks. Part two, Introduction to Geophysics, commences in February. This tool focuses on supporting students to master course materials through tailoring their learning path according to their individual responses to the materials.

Geophysics students will access the course material in CogBooks before the lecture, getting a flavour of a flipped classroom approach. GTRC decided that the students would access CogBooks after the lecture. Students gain access via their course in Learn.

A survey has been distributed to get student feedback about CogBooks to decide whether should be developed as a service.

Project: **www.projects.ed.ac.uk/project/tel014**
CogBooks: **www.cogbooks.com**

Our membership gives us access to a wide range of opportunities and an extensive programme of events and regular updates and online discussions.

The recent NMC Horizon Report offers a comprehensive five year overview of the future of technology. Predicted long term trends highlighted the need for increased cross-institution collaboration to drive technology adoption. Medium-term trends include measuring learning via learning analytics and the proliferation of open educational resources (OER). Immediate innovation included digital making, creating and coding for all students and the redesign of learning spaces.

Edinburgh is home to various projects aligned with the NMC vision. Some of those projects and initiatives have provided updates below.

We continue to support the delivery of a growing number of massive online open courses (MOOCs) and are supporting colleagues to publish open educational resources (OER) via Open.Ed. The Student-Led Individually Created Courses (SLICCs) pilot is supported by LTW eLearning tools and learning analytics are enhancing the University's virtual learning environments (VLEs).

Learning spaces are actively being redesigned as part of the University's larger estates program and to enhance the physical educational experience. The University's media engagement systems will be refreshed to include new tools for creating, managing and sharing media. We are exploring wearable technology for enhanced teaching and learning with the 15 student teams in our Google Glass project.

The University of Edinburgh's membership of NMC will provide access to leading professional development projects specifically designed to support our community of innovative teaching and learning practitioners.

Google Glasses in Edinburgh Classes

Jo Spiller

The LTW Glass Project project team will be working with the student teams over the coming months to turn their ideas into viable pilot projects to explore the opportunities for using smart glass technology in and around campus. The team held a number of hands on sessions for students and staff to try out Google Glass. These sessions were very popular, fun and interactive. Students were asked to put forward ideas for how wearable tech like Glass might support learning, teaching and life around campus. Proposals were received from students in all Colleges and some excellent and exciting ideas were put forward. If you would like to hear news about how the experiments progress please follow us on Twitter or read news on our website.

http://glass.ed.ac.uk

Twitter: **@uoeglass**   Hashtag: **#eduglass**

Learning design support at scale

Fiona Hale

A six-month project is underway to investigate processes, resources and tools to deliver an inclusive learning design service. The Educational Design and Engagement team through Fiona Hale are championing the initiative.

Learning Design enables academic course and programme teams to benefit from the input of a wider range of experience and skills when designing or reviewing courses, ensuring that learning technology; Library, Careers and student views are included. The work aligns well with the University need to provide ever-improved quality and consistency of student experience, through initiatives such as Programme and Course Information Management (PCIM) and the Enhanced Course Descriptor. Similarly it provides opportunity to build towards the 2020 vision for learning and teaching. The work provides an opportunity to clarify the capacity requirements both for IS and key University partners in order to develop and deliver learning design support at scale for online.

If you, or any of your colleagues, would like more information or discuss this project then please email: **fiona.m.hale@ed.ac.uk**

Supporting e-learning in **Malawi**

Ross Ward

The University of Edinburgh has been involved with a number of Scottish Government International Development projects over the past 9 years. The current project, which is being supported by LTW, aims to help transform education and training of clinical professionals who deliver maternal and child healthcare in Malawi.

The project involves supporting the University of Malawi to deliver a number of postgraduate programmes aimed at doctors, nurses and clinical officers. By introducing a number of technology enhanced learning approaches we aim to deliver the courses more efficiently and effectively with the intention of addressing the critical shortage of healthcare workers in Malawi.

http://malawi.mvm.ed.ac.uk

If you would like to have your name added to the University of Edinburgh NMC mailing list or if you are interested in playing an active part in our NMC Campus Leaders Advisory Board, please contact Melissa Highton, Director of Learning Teaching and Web Services Division.
The 2015 NMC Horizon report can be read online at: **http://edin.ac/1GZwRJc**

Get a University **Mobile**

Stephen Smith

Schools needing to equip staff with a mobile, smartphone or tablet with data services should contact the IS Managed Mobile Service.

Service Management delivers a comprehensive mobile service for staff at the University, handling aspects of the supplier relationship so you don't have to, including:

- supplier liaison;
- advice about devices, tablets and data plans;
- placing purchase orders, tracking and collection;
- arranging maintenance, replacement and renewal;
- bolt on features, security advice, overseas support;
- usage analysis helping you reduce mobile usage spend;
- central billing monthly (including itemised charges on request).

To place an order: **www.ed.ac.uk/is/mobile-exchange**

Enquiries to: **service.management@ed.ac.uk**

UniDesk community grows

Alex Carter

We're delighted that Ulster University and the University of Stirling have both signed up to use the UniDesk service management system.

www.unidesk.ac.uk

Microsoft Office **for All**

Stephen Smith

Staff and students can now download the latest Microsoft Office for personal use with their University Office 365 account.

This entitlement is included in the licensing subscription the University pays Microsoft at no additional charge to individuals.

Here's what you get:

- Install Office on up to five personal PCs or Macs, plus five tablets, iPad, or iPhones.
- Simple setup, no need for help from your IT department, this is a self-help service.
- Office subscription continues as long as you are at the University.
- Includes 1TB secure cloud storage, soon to be unlimited, via OneDrive.

Find out how to get your copy: **www.ed.ac.uk/is/office365**

Improvements to **Committee Sites**

Alex Carter and Stephen Smith

The University Committee Intranets service currently supports over 200 committee sites, hosting details of committee papers, meetings and membership. These committees manage many essential functions around the University but the Intranet Service has not been improved for many years.

Information Services are now taking advantage of the power of SharePoint in Office 365 to update these sites to provide an improved service for committee members and administrators as well as significantly improving the search and discovery options for all.

The new service will provide simpler to manage security and easy-to-use options for new features such as integrated calendars, collaborative working on documents, task lists, and version control. The key aim is to make the service as easy to use as possible to support the work of the University's committees.

For further information please visit the project pages at:

www.projects.ed.ac.uk/project/com016/

Statistical Analysis
without Statistical Software

Laine Ruus

The Data Library now has a Survey Documentation and Analysis (SDA) server and is ready to load numeric data files for access by either all users, or University of Edinburgh users only.

SDA provides an interactive interface, allowing extensive data analysis with significance tests. It also offers the ability to download user-defined subsets with syntax files for further analysis on your platform of choice.

For teachers, SDA can be used to teach statistics, in the classroom or via distance-learning, without having to teach syntax. It will support most statistical techniques taught in the first year or two of applied statistics. There is no need for expensive statistical packages or long learning curves. SDA has been awarded the American Political Science Association Best Instructional Software.

To request a data file be made available at:
http://stats.datalib.edina.ac.uk/sdaweb
contact datalib@ed.ac.uk

A selected list of textbooks, tutorials and other instructional materials, including other institutions using SDA is at:
http://sda.berkeley.edu/otherarc.htm

A sample teaching module based on SDA is available at:
www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/instructors/icsc/index.jsp

EUDAT

Lorna Brown

The Digital Curation Centre (DCC) will be part of the EUDAT 2020 project which launches this spring and will involve further development of our internationally acclaimed tool to assist researchers to write Data Management Plans, DMPonline. EUDAT is supported by the European Commission to deliver data infrastructure that supports researchers in managing and sharing their data. As part of the project, DCC will further customise DMPonline for Data Management Planning, integrating it with the EUDAT suite of services to provide a seamless data management environment and workflow.

We'll also be providing online and face-to-face training to help researchers meet the requirements of the European Commission's open data pilot.

Analogue to digital –
a logical move

Jim Sheach

The Learning and Teaching Spaces team continues to support 1,500 open access PCs and Macs together with over 200 teaching rooms. In addition to this our Development Team research, design, deliver and install technology in learning and teaching spaces as part of refurbishment programmes and new build projects. This is a challenging and exciting time for us: responding to the migration from analogue to digital widescreen presentation systems, the greater use of BYOD devices and wireless connectivity. These technologies provide innovative learning spaces to promote students' collaborative work using cutting edge technology.

Libraries focus

Changes at KB this summer

Richard Battersby

During the summer vacation, there will be changes at the King's Buildings, due mainly to the College of Science and Engineering's estate developments.

The **KB Library Store** closes on 22 May. The library print collections will be moved to the Library Annexe from where they can be requested using the delivery and scanning services. The collection of PhD theses will be digitised and made available.

The **Darwin Learning and Teaching Cluster** closes on 22 May. The café and study spaces will be moved to the ground and first floors of the new Mary Brück Building and will open for the start of the new session.
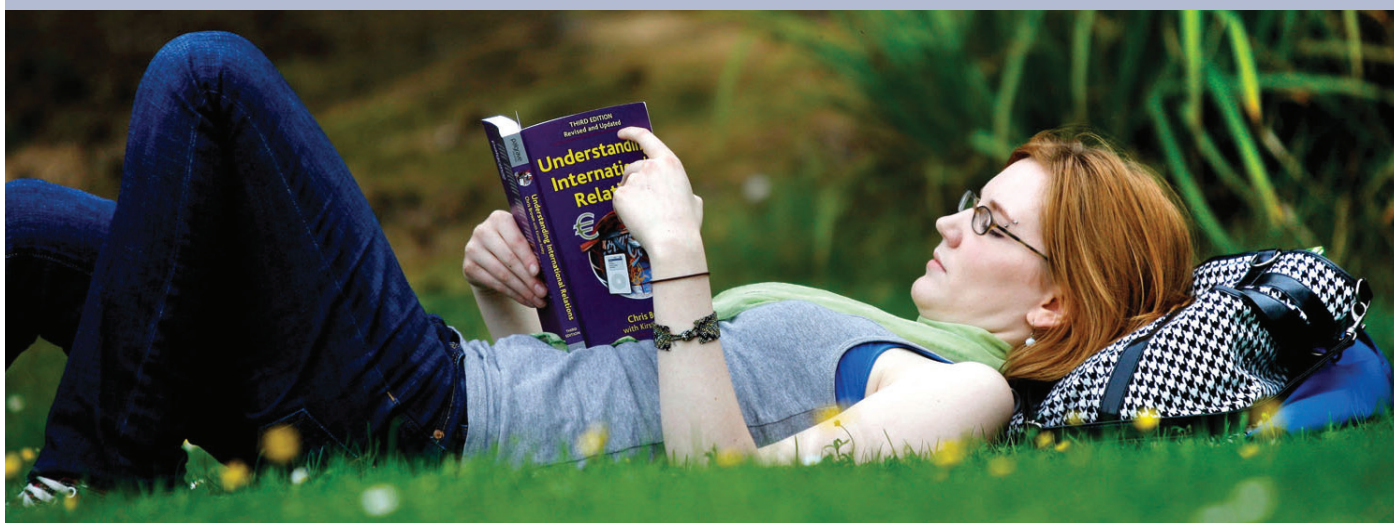
KB Centre level 2 closes for refurbishment on 22 May and re-opens for the start of the new session.

The **Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library** and **KB Café** – will operate as normal throughout the vacation.

KB Centre levels 1 and 3 – will continue to be available, but users should be aware that there will be noise from the redevelopment work, together with booked sessions by Summer Schools.

The open access computer area in **JCMB room 3210** will be available throughout the vacation.

Further information will be made available on the IS website and on posters around KB.

Supporting library skills for **student success**

Christine Love-Rodgers

The Library Academic Support team in IS User Services Division delivers bespoke information literacy training to Schools across the University. Teaching in a variety of settings including library tours, lectures and hands on workshops, the team aims to help students develop the skills that will enable them to be successful learners and researchers.

Academic Support Librarians also support and advise on the management and purchasing of print and digital resources in their subject areas, and their teaching is informed and enriched by these collections. That means their information literacy training can be anything from showing students theological books from the fifteenth century to helping students develop a strategy for a

systematic literature review of the latest medical research. The diversity of their approaches – large scale lectures, small group workshops, online screencasts – is matched by the diversity of subject areas that the Academic Support team engages with. The team also works with IS Skills to deliver a programme of seminar sessions open to all subject areas.

Can we help you in the new 2015/16 academic year? To plan bespoke information literacy training for your students, find your Academic Support Librarian at:

www.ed.ac.uk/is/ASL

Follow the team on Twitter @EdinLibAcademic

ECA Rare Books Collection **Bookplate**

Jane Furness

A beautiful 'Ex Libris ECA' bookplate, created by Jonathan Gibbs, will be proudly displayed in each item in the Edinburgh College of Art Rare Books Collection.

In August 2011 Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) merged with the University of Edinburgh, and the Centre for Research Collections became the new home for the ECA Rare Books Collection. The rare books now enjoy a state of the art climate controlled and safe environment. The collection has been fully catalogued and some items have already been used in exhibitions within the library and in digital displays.

Jonathan Gibbs, a professional artist and illustrator, and Programme Director of Illustration at ECA, was asked to design a bookplate that would reflect the activities of ECA and that would embody the spirit of ECA.

> **I believe Jonny has captured this spirit wonderfully in his box-wood bookplate print. My colleagues and I are delighted with the bookplate.**
>
> **Jane Furness, Academic Support Librarian: ECA**

Rare books and major Scottish acquisitions

Joe Marshall

Edinburgh University Library has been collecting modern literature ever since William Drummond gave us his library of contemporary poetry and drama in 1626 – at a time when many leading libraries were not accepting such material. Special Collections continues to build on these strengths, particularly in the area of modern Scottish poetry.

In recent months we have acquired an exceptional range of collections. First, we were given a collection of some 1,000 pamphlets from the library of songwriter and activist Hamish Henderson, whose papers we already hold. We were also given an amazing collection of poetry, including many rare, annotated and signed copies, from the library of Tessa Ransford. Tessa was the founder of the Scottish Poetry Library and a major poet herself. Finally, we have purchased at auction a unique collection of manuscripts including work by Hugh MacDiarmid, Compton Mackenzie and Robert Garioch. This archive is directly connected to the University through The Jabberwock magazine – whose editor Ian Holroyd apparently retained all these items. The Jabberwock was in the 1950s an important vehicle for what was then new Scottish writing. This purchase was possible with support from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Friends of the National Libraries.

Modern Scottish literature is a key teaching and research area at the University and these collections will be directly relevant to students and academic staff.

Lothian Health Services Archive awarded **accredited status**

Ruth Honeybone

Towards the end of 2014, Lothian Health Services Archive was awarded Accredited Archive Status and externally recognised for its performance in all aspects of governance, collections management, and provision of services to all users. Accredited Status is an endorsement of a high quality service within the Centre for Research Collections, and we will be building on this success with a subsequent application for accreditation for Special Collections and Archives in 2015.

ACCREDITED ARCHIVE SERVICE

www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk

CMVM Information Strategy

Paul Clark

The College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Information Strategy 2015-2018 was agreed and published in November 2014.

Aligned to the strategy, some exciting developments which are already underway include:

- Delivery of a high resolution, 3D interactive virtual walkthrough app of the world-famous Anatomy Museum for public engagement and future learning and teaching purposes.

- Exploring the use of innovative technology such as LiFi, which utilises the visible light spectrum instead of radio frequencies to enable wireless data communication, providing a number of significant benefits over WiFi.

- The migration of all College staff to Office 365 for email and diary services.

- Proposals for the College to adopt the IS supported cloud printing service across the estate.

- Developing a roadmap for Information Governance standards, including the storage of sensitive data.

- Working with the NHS to develop a joint IT strategy, including the proposed rollout of eduroam across the NHS Lothian WiFi estate.

While not exhaustive, this provides an insight into some of the exciting changes happening within the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine aligned to some key IS and University strategies.

JCMB, ITI Open Plan
Office Space

Garry Scobie

A successful project which formed part of the wider main library refurbishment and decant process finally came into fruition in November 2014. The Architecture, Desktop and Software Services teams moved from the basement of 4 Buccleuch Place to a newly designed and refurbished open plan office space at JCMB, Kings Buildings.

The project addressed various requests which included larger desks to accommodate the use of multiple monitors, workspaces with enhanced privacy for managers and small meeting pods. This move has brought all IT Infrastructure colleagues together into one central location, which has been of particular benefit to the Architecture team and members of the UniX Central Systems team.

The project has been a huge success and staff have embraced and welcomed their new working environment.

EdWeb CMS Update: timelines and milestones

2014	October	November				December	
	Phase 2 EdWeb development work completed.	First website live in new central EdWeb CMS. University Website Programme. **http://www.ed.ac.uk/website-programme**				Phase 3 development work started.	

2015	January	March	April	May	June	August	December
	Phase 2 training and migration of 14 early adopter sites to EdWeb complete.	Phase 3 development work completed; EdWeb Distribution update available; Engagement with phase 4 migration lead publishers begins; Phase 4 development work begins; Phase 3 training and migration of 55 sites to EdWeb begins.	Phase 3 training and migration of 55 sites to EdWeb.	Phase 4 development due to be completed; EdWeb Distribution update available Phase 5 development work begins.	Phase 4 training and migration of 170 sites to EdWeb begins; Engagement with phase 5 migration lead publishers begins.	Phase 5 training and migration of 70 sites begins.	Polopoly decommission planning begins.

IT Systems – what's new for Information Services Group

Adam Wadee

IS Applications run a rolling three year planning process to identify and prioritise the IT systems development needs of the University community. Strategic projects are currently underway to improve the IT systems and services delivered by ISG, including:

Improvements to MyEd and its mobile interface are in progress. Following the release of the **MyEd Mobile platform** in 2014, IS have been engaging with students to obtain their feedback. Based on this feedback, a follow-on project to enhance the MyEd mobile interface will start in March, aiming to complete for the start of the new academic year.

Following the upgrade to the University's **Management Information Reporting Service**, a project to deliver new features of the service is underway. A new reporting tool, BI Crystal Reports, will be available allowing business areas to offer standard reports. A BI Dashboard tool will also be released, which will show key strategic and operational information. This will enable the University to improve decision making based on more accurate data reporting.

A project was recently completed which has improved the underlying infrastructure for corporate applications. Several business applications have been migrated to new **Virtual infrastructure** which offers improved performance as well as the ability to easily extend the specification of server hosts. The migration of applications to the new infrastructure have been planned throughout 2015.

Information on current ISG projects is available on the Projects Website at:
https://www.projects.ed.ac.uk/portfolio/isg/14-15

If you have any questions please contact Adam Wadee (ISG Portfolio Manager) **Adam.Wadee@ed.ac.uk**

CESAR transforms OLL processes

Chris Konczak

The Office of Lifelong Learning (OLL) launched a new Continuing Education System for Administration and Registration (CESAR) in January 2015.

OLL offers a range of courses for University staff, students and the wider community. The system used for OLL administration, 'OLLIE', has become increasingly costly to maintain and OLL have had to rely on multiple manual processes outside the system: OLLIE no longer effectively supports the student experience expected from a world-class University.

CESAR was developed by IS Application Division in partnership with OLL to address these problems. It has been developed using an 'agile' approach with highly skilled software development staff working alongside business experts from OLL to:

- define the desired end to end business and student processes and remove redundant business processes;

- develop a new bespoke system which meets the needs of OLL and its students;

- improve the student experience by automating data capture where possible and provide a high quality user interface;

- migrate relevant data from OLLIE to CESAR.

Particular thanks go to Bob Carr, Jemma Wallace, Craig Middlemass, Sabrina Niziolek, John Allison, Thalia Nikolaidou, Chris Konczak, Peter Jackson and Dave Berry for their hard work throughout this successful project.

More information on the project at:
https://www.projects.ed.ac.uk/project/hss001,
and on OLL courses available at: http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk

Jemma Wallace, Office of Lifelong Learning

The system was constantly being developed in line with OLL's needs. The project was a pleasure to work on and the resulting system has exceeded our expectations. CESAR provides our staff with flexibility, easier access to information and the possibility to simplify and improve internal OLL processes.

Libraries and Museums now on **Facebook**

Stephanie Farley

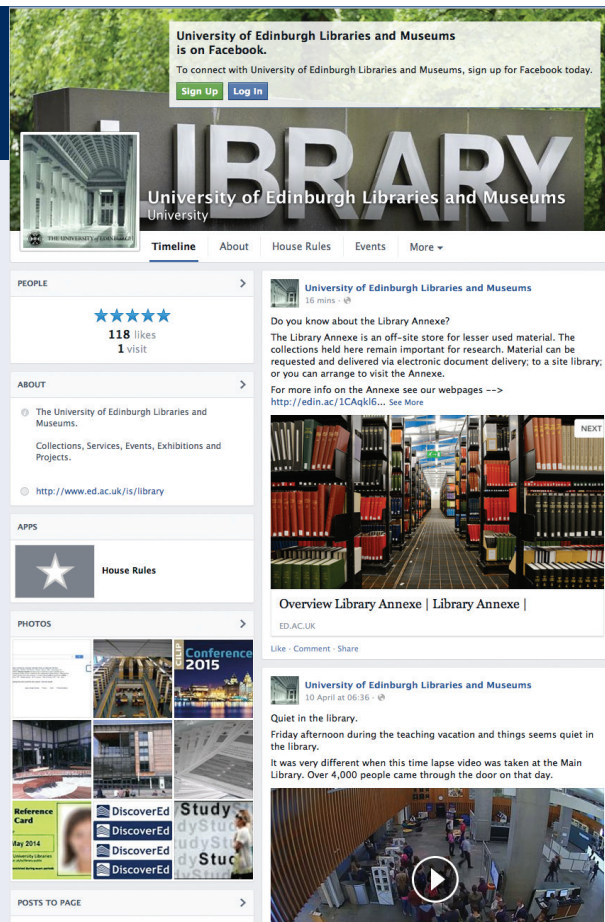Like it, share it, tell all your friends and colleagues!

The University of Edinburgh Libraries and Museums are now on Facebook.

https://www.facebook.com/EdUniLibraries

Run by staff from Library & University Collections (L&UC) and User Services Division (USD), the new Facebook page aims to:

- Engage with staff and students.

- Complement the Library's existing social media accounts: Centre for Research Collections (CRC) Facebook page and Library Twitter accounts (@EdUniLibraries, @EdUniMainLib and @CRC_EdUni).

- Promote content from the Library Blogs (libraryblogs.is.ed. ac.uk).

- Provide information on upcoming Library and Museum exhibitions, events, and training sessions.

- Provide reminders and updates on Library services.

Library Labs **online**

Claire Knowles

A Library Labs website has been launched to showcase the experimental and innovative work undertaken by staff within Library and University Collections. The site will be used as an incubation area for projects related to library, archives and museum collections and services.

Our first project looks at gamification in the form of Metadata Games, where users tag digitised items from the collections by saying what they see on screen. This enables additional search data to be crowd sourced for images taken by the Library's Digital Imaging Unit.

The Tag It metadata game was part of Innovative Learning Week, when 3,352 tags were created for 472 images of the University's Art Collection. This additional data will be used to improve the discoverability of our collections online.
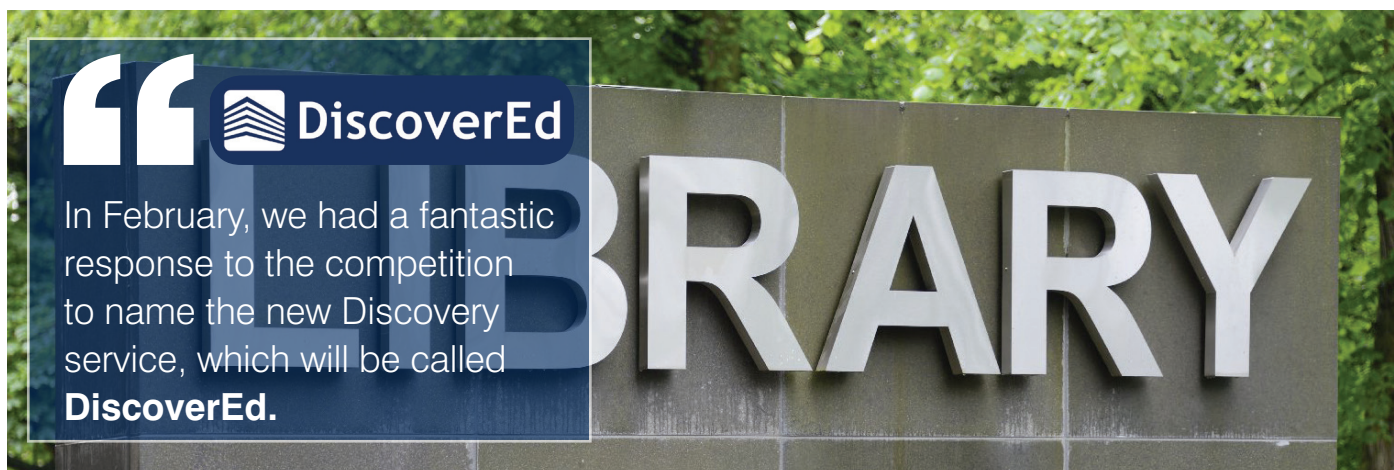
Library Labs website: **http://librarylabs.ed.ac.uk**

For more information please contact the Library Digital Development team: **lddt@mlist.is.ed.ac.uk**

Collections online: **http://collections.ed.ac.uk/**

New Library Management Platform and Discovery service

Laura Shanahan and Angela Laurins

> **DiscoverEd**
>
> In February, we had a fantastic response to the competition to name the new Discovery service, which will be called **DiscoverEd.**

The Library is in the process of implementing a new Library Management Platform (LMP). This is possibly the most significant project a Library can undertake. To give you an idea of just how momentous the current project is, the last time the Library Management Platform at the University Library was replaced was in 1999, 16 years ago!

The Library Management Platform underpins all the back office functions of the Library such as acquisitions, cataloguing and circulation and provides Library users with access to search collections via the Library Catalogue.

Time for change

The current LMP, Voyager, was designed to deal primarily with print-collections, such as books and print journals. With 86% of the library materials budget now spent on online resources, Voyager no longer provides the necessary functionality to manage the breadth and format of the collections acquired by the University Library. We also know from feedback that students and staff can find it confusing to search multiple systems to find the resources needed for study and research.

Selecting a new platform

Throughout 2014, teams in the Library, Procurement and IS Applications Divisions worked with academic staff and students to develop requirements, engage with suppliers and evaluate subsequent bids. Following a rigorous tendering process, in December Library systems vendor Ex Libris was awarded the contract to provide the new Library Management Platform.

A range of research libraries, including University College London, University of Manchester and University of York already use the same Ex Libris platform.

Alma and Primo

There are two elements to the new platform, 'Alma', which is the back office system and 'Primo', which will provide the new Discovery Service and replace the current Library Catalogue.

In February, we had a fantastic response to the competition to name the new Discovery service, which will be called DiscoverEd.

DiscoverEd launches this summer

As the summer 'go live' date approaches, teams across nine Library-related functional areas will work together to configure the new platform, migrate data and ensure integration with existing systems.

IS Applications is providing a leading role on the project management and governance, as well as technical expertise for the integrations with core University systems such as the Identity Management system and eFinancials.

The Library will also be working with two user groups focusing on Discovery. Academic staff and students are represented on the groups and will be providing us with valuable feedback to help us to configure DiscoverEd to meet your study and research needs.

Communication

We'll be communicating regularly with Library users to keep you up to date with developments. We've set up a blog which you can follow to find out more about DiscoverEd and the benefits you can expect such as: single sign-on (no more long barcode to log in to your library account!), one search box to search across Library collections and an easier, more streamlined way to find and access the Library resources you need.

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

IS Healthy Working Lives: first 2015 event

Steven Skeldon

IS staff are taking part in a range of events organised around the UK-wide Healthy Working Lives initiative, a project aimed at UoE students to improve their health and wellbeing. The first event took place in February, and featured guest speakers Helen Ryall and Ross Brain from the Centre for Sports and Exercise.

Helen presented and introduced the Healthy University initiative, while Ross gave the group an introduction and virtual tour of the University's impressive sports facilities. Staff were presented with a CSE towel and sports membership forms, to help kick start the New Year's resolutions.

IS Healthy Working Lives wiki:
https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ISHWL/Home

Learning Teaching and Web Services look at **innovative technologies**

Helen Murphie

At our LTW staff meeting earlier this year we tried out a number of 'wearable technologies' including an oculus rift (virtual reality headsets) and Google Glasses. There was a lot of discussion on how these gadgets could be used for teaching and learning. We also had a lot of fun!

In the photo above Jonah Mclachlan looks to the future with Google Glasses.

Kelso High School **pupils visit**

Anne Robertson

Kelso High School S5/6 Computer Science pupils recently visited EDINA to experience the real-life process of developing information systems.

The students spent an afternoon working with the team behind the Digimap for Schools service, which enables school pupils to, explore and annotate Ordnance Survey mapping.

With software engineers on hand to help and learn from the students' questions and feedback, the pupils undertook some usability tasks and a coding exercise using mapping data – an experience the students and their teacher hope develop into a lesson plan.

The afternoon was a hugely useful opportunity to engage with the community, and pass on our passion for working with geospatial data to the next generation of coders.

http://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk

Secret Lives of IS staff

Taking **the Mick**	**Driving me** mad
It's not very often that you find yourself in a broom cupboard, dressed only in a pair of underpants, being introduced to one of your teenage idols and a genuine worldwide superstar at that. Mr Jagger (this was pre-knighthood) was clearly very impressed by my M&S designer briefs! This wasn't quite how I'd envisaged hanging out with The Stones.	Since 1996, the same year I joined EUCS, I have been involved in motor sports in Scotland. I spent 3 years helping guide my chosen sport at national (UK) level. I have been a competitor, and an organiser. I have experienced coming first, and last – the joy is in being part of it. I'm happiest when miles from the nearest road, with a few friends, working out the best route to take.

All will be revealed in the next edition of **BITS**.

If you have a secret life you would like to share, email your teaser (maximum 80 words) to **BITS@ed.ac.uk**

Could you tell us a bit more about your professional background to date?

Most of my background is in the commercial world: I worked in the sports apparel industry and then moved over to the collision repair industry. I moved on to the education provider industry here in the UK, where I learned a lot about the university sector and about university administration. And then I moved on to UCL and worked there for almost six years.

Where do you see our IS services in five years' time?

We need to adapt ourselves to changes in the environment and the changes in the technology. It's about evolving ourselves and looking at how we can use IT to transform the University.

There are said to be three eras of IT: the first was when IT technology was first used to help assist people, so you could replace or automate an individual process (like word processing) with a piece of software. The second era was when IT was used to underpin and automate whole areas of business processes within an institution and the information collected became an asset in its own right – the information age – where the idea of IT as a service was born. And now we're entering the third era, where technology has reached such a level capability that it can transform the way an entire institution operates, even creating new business models. And it's this transformative nature of technology and information which is really going to be a hallmark of what I want to try and accomplish in IS. It's about completely changing the way whole things operate: ten or twenty years ago, for example, it wasn't possible to give a full online student experience, but now it is – because the technology exists. And it wasn't possible to do most research in a computational fashion, but now it is – the whole game changes. And that's what we need to look at: we need to advise the University about how to use technology and information to transform the way it operates.

What challenges do you expect in this role?

I think some of the challenges are around 'IT debt' – we've under-invested in areas like infrastructure, IT security, architecture – areas that aren't immediately apparent. Take architecture, for example: at first glance it doesn't appear to be a big problem, but it is – it's like having the foundation of your house being built on quicksand and you don't realise until you try to add another floor to your house and it starts sinking.

Also anything involving cultural change is difficult. A big challenge is to win the trust of the Colleges and the Schools, so we can work in a collaborative way. And then there's funding, which is always a challenge: IS services are quite expensive!

What do you like to do outside of work?

I do a lot of digital photography and I'm a big science fiction reader – I've actually written two unpublished novels. I love walking, and my wife and I consider ourselves to be 'perpetual tourists': we always enjoy visiting all of the historical and artistic sites wherever we live.

60 seconds with:
Gavin McLachlan

Chief Information Officer and Librarian to the University

Quick questions

Favourite lunch spot?
I don't know that many yet, but I always think that Pret a Manger is consistently overpriced, but good, food!

Who do you look up to?
Researchers – it's a very difficult profession, especially in some areas where they know the chance they will make a big discovery is small, but they still commit their lives to contributing knowledge.

Do you have any favourite sports?
I'd probably say the National Hockey League (NHL), and I always find the Winter Olympics fascinating..

Mars Bars – plain or deep-fried?
I'd have to go for plain!

Main Library Exhibition Gallery

...Something BLUE.

2 April – 27 June 2015

Blue has delighted and captivated humanity for thousands of years. It is used to describe immeasurable concepts, such as the depth of the sea or the colour of the sky. Despite this, it very rarely occurs in nature and is the most difficult natural pigment to obtain.

This exhibition in the Main Library Exhibition Gallery presents an exploration of the University's Collections on the colour and concept of blue. From blue stockings and opals to lullabies and rhapsodies, offering new opportunities for academic and abstract associations.

'The blue colour is everlastingly appointed by the Deity to be a source of delight; and whether seen perpetually over your head, or crystallised once in a thousand years into a single and incomparable stone, your acknowledgment of its beauty is equally natural, simple, and instantaneous.'

John Ruskin (1819 – 1900)

One Last Fright!
15 – 17 May 2015

What lurks in our storerooms? Throughout its history, the University has been a repository for all things macabre and the inspiration for many of literature's iconic characters. From Deacon Brodie, Professor Moriarty, to the notorious Burke and Hare, all are connected to the University of Edinburgh.

We will draw upon this mysterious side of Edinburgh's past to present a series of events themed 'One Last Fright'.

https://onelastfright.wordpress.com/