The student digital experience

Learn VLE

EDIT WIKIPEDIA

MyEd

WATCH RECORDED LECTURES

EUCLID

Internships

SHARE DATASETS

Library Access

Student Systems

Exam Timetable

Maker Space

CHECK DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Digital Skills

GRADUATION

Student digital experience

If you require this publication in an alternative format, please contact Viki Galt, Disability Information Officer on 0131 650 6645 or email **viki.galt@ed.ac.uk**

FSC LOGO

Editorial

The quality of the student experience is a high priority for everyone who works in the University. This issue of BITS magazine aims to highlight just some of the many projects and activities colleagues in ISG contribute to improving our on-campus and online services.

The newly launched University of Edinburgh Teaching and Learning Strategy commits us all to the creative use of technology and to supporting the aspiration that every educator is a digital educator. Our students increasingly study and work in blended environments as they juggle busy lives while interacting with our systems. Our front cover image is designed to show the sometimes random progress students make on their journeys through our digital estate. Our double-page spread explains the thinking behind the investments we are making, and our many featured stories showcase enhancements, updates and service developments.

This issue includes more news from our student interns and innovation projects, more books and MOOCs published by our teams and more updates from our new facilities in Argyle House. As well as welcoming our new Director of EDINA, Janet Roberts, our 60 second interview introduces our new Deputy Head of Library & University Collections, Kirsty Lingstadt, and the work she does in her role finding digital solutions and platforms for our collections now and in the future. We are very proud of both our digital library and our physical libraries. In the Main Library this year, we have opened a new maker space and made three floors of the building available 24/7.

ISG colleagues engage with staff and students at all levels across the University on a regular basis via our many user groups, consultations and committee memberships. As you wait for the next issue of BITS, please keep up to date with all the news and updates from ISG throughout the year via our websites and social media.

Melissa Highton
Director of Learning, Teaching and Web

ISG news

New EDINA Director

Janet Roberts has joined the ISG Senior Management team as Director of EDINA. The team has developed a number of creative, signature products and services, including Digimap, which supports university researchers with their work, through to primary school pupils getting their first experience of data science.

> **"It is a very exciting time to join EDINA. As well as expanding its established products, the team continues to identify and produce new innovative projects to grow and develop into services. The work ahead will be very stimulating and challenging, and it is fantastic to be surrounded by a talented team, full of ideas and energy to grow the business."**

Janet previously worked in finance for eight years, including running a start-up business, before moving to roles in the not-for-profit sector. These included working for Oxfam in Bangladesh and Zambia, fundraising for the University of Oxford and Zoological Society of London and as Director of Global Engagement for Glasgow Caledonian University.

Main Library open 24/7

The Main Library is now open 24/7.

Three levels of the Library remain open to users all night – the lower ground, ground and first floors. At midnight, users working on the other floors are invited to move to lower levels. The upper floors re-open each day at 7.30am.

These extended opening hours will enhance the student experience, providing users with a staffed, secure and accessible environment for study.

Gary Jebb (Director of Estates), Alec Edgecliffe-Johnson (EUSA President) and Jeremy Upton (Director of Library & University Collections)

Principal's Teaching Award Scheme funding

Anne-Marie Scott

The Principal's Teaching Award Scheme (PTAS) aims to encourage and support activities that will make a significant contribution to the enhancement of learning and teaching and to encourage colleagues to explore new practice and innovations in teaching.

This year colleagues from ISG and Informatics are collaborating to investigate the student experience of flexible modes of online education and explore their application to undergraduate and postgraduate online learning.

If you have ideas for a project to explore the impact of digital initiatives, such as online distance learning or lecture recording, please apply via the PTAS scheme this year.

http://edin.ac/ptas

Enhancing the student digital experience

Gavin McLachlan
Chief Information Officer and Librarian to the University

The digital experience at university is a critical part of each student's life. We see students' experience with our physical estate first-hand, but students also spend a lot of time interacting with our digital estate online. For our thousands of distance learning students, the only experience they may ever have of us is via our digital estate: the range of websites and online services which support learning and study. The University's Strategic Vision 2025 highlights a future in which many more students benefit from the Edinburgh experience (largely or entirely) in their own country – supported by deep international partnerships and world-leading online distance learning.

Many universities are now investing in projects to understand and develop digital environments which meet students' expectations and help them to succeed. At the University of Edinburgh, our students experience a range of services online and navigate their work, study, learning and research tasks via our many digital services, including virtual learning environments, student systems, websites, timetabling systems, maps, data sets, libraries, journal collections, software tools and mobile apps. They also use a range of social media to communicate with each other, tutors and colleagues, and develop online profiles and digital footprints, which reflect their activities and interests. In a recent national survey by JISC, 72.2% of HE students and 70.1% of FE and skills students agreed that when technology is used by teaching staff, it helps their learning experience.

Last year ISG commissioned an external company, Headscape, to look at the student digital experience. They conducted research and followed a number of student volunteers as they navigated the digital University. We aimed to gather evidence from learners about their digital experience in order to make better-informed decisions about the digital environment and best target resources for improving digital provision.

The results were compelling and illuminating. Headscape not only pointed out issues of complexity (too many systems with confusing names) and inconsistency (different parts of the university using different systems and in different ways) – they also offered a view of the future, where we could leverage the latest technology to significantly transform the student digital experience.

The full presentation of results by Headscape is available on MediaHopper: **http://edin.ac/student-digital-experience**
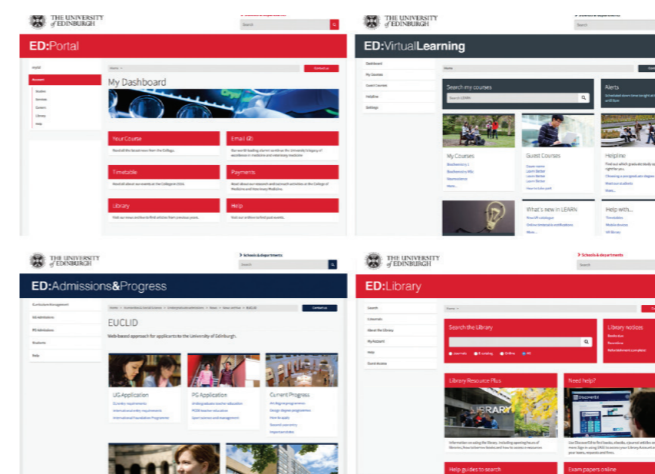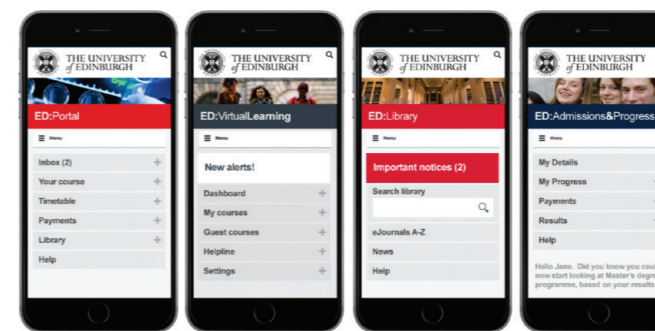
Our student digital experience projects are part of a wider strategy and programme to digitally transform the University. This digital transformation sets down a number of key challenges reflected in our University strategy to ensure access to learning experiences that will equip students for whatever path they follow once they graduate, including quantitative methods and digital skills.

1 **Is every student service available digitally?**
In a 24/7 world this has increasingly become an expectation.

2 **Is every educator a digital educator?**
Do colleagues have the confidence, skills and support to leverage the full set of digital tools available to them; to create digital material for their students and courses; and contribute to our overall digital presence in a number of ways?

3 **Is every student a digital student?**
Are all students able to access and use material to study, learn, revise and research digitally? Are they able to enhance and augment their own education and skills?

4 **Does every student and colleague have a digital skills plan?**
In a super-accelerated world, where skills and whole job categories can become obsolete in a matter of years, digital skills training has become increasingly important for employability and active citizenship. Do staff and students have all the digital skills they need to thrive in an increasingly digital world?

5 **Are our digital services optimised to be usable and accessible?**
Do we provide a consistent and integrated user experience that delights our students and staff?

ISG is making significant investment over the next three years to enhance and improve the physical and digital experience for our students. I hope that colleagues all across the university will give feedback and become involved in the shaping and building of digital services for the future. To find out more about our activities and new services, please keep in touch with ISG via our newsletters, social media, events and the IT Consultants who attend School and College committees.

Internet of Things

COMPLETE THESIS

Reading Lists

GAIN NEW SKILLS

Internships

Digital Library

Matriculation

TAKE ONLINE COURSE

Timetable on My Phone

Websites

Cite sources

COLLABORATE

Cloud Computing

Infographics

is BITS MAGAZINE

The Research Cloud Computing service – 'Eleanor'

Kenton D'Mellow

We are pleased to announce the launch of the University's Research Cloud Computing service.

The new service has been named Eleanor, after Eleanor Anne Ormerod, the first woman fellow of the Meteorological Society and first woman to be given an honorary doctorate by the University.

Providing cloud computation and storage akin to that of Amazon EC2 and S3, Eleanor is based on the widely-adopted OpenStack platform. This new service will provide support to researchers who require a platform to self-build their own server infrastructure and utilise the storage from Datastore.

http://edin.ac/eleanor

edin.ac/eleanor
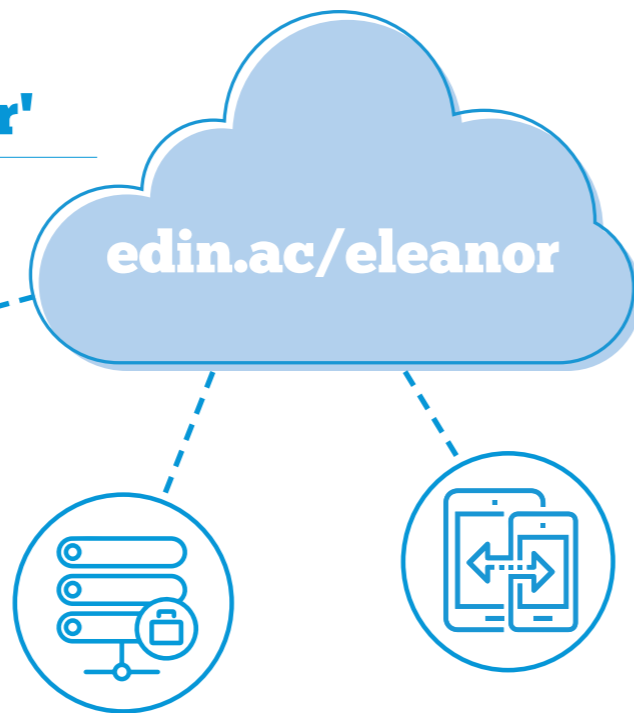
Applications for remote users

Graham Newton

To ensure a world-class student experience, we are currently developing a central service to provide software to online learning students. This new service, launching in September, will allow these students to participate in programmes of study that require the use of academic or teaching applications. We expect the service will also be well used by students in Edinburgh as they work and study from home and on the move.

Based on the industry standard Citrix technologies, this service will be able to support up to 500 concurrent users, providing applications currently available on open access computers to users connected anywhere in the world on their own devices. For the future, the infrastructure design will allow expansion to include access to campus students and staff, mobile classrooms and virtual desktops.

Online Learning

Improved login times for new open access computers

Graham Newton

The student experience has been enhanced by improved login times and application start-up times on open access computers.

Login times for newly replaced open access computers have improved by 40%. This is due to introducing Solid State Disks (SSDs) in place of traditional hard disks in open access computers at the Moray House Library and Mary Brück Building.

Other open access computers are due to be replaced soon, providing a total of 260 faster computers to the student community.

40%

New reading list system

Angela Laurins

Library & University Collections, with support from IS Applications, carried out a procurement project to select a reading list system to support the growing Resource Lists @ Edinburgh service.

Following a thorough and rigorous evaluation process, the contract was awarded to Ex Libris and their reading list system, Leganto.

The Library will migrate all existing 'Talis' reading lists to Leganto well in advance of the start of Semester 1 2017/18. Training sessions and new reading list guides will be available in due course. In the meantime, please refer to the Resource Lists blog for more information:

Contact: **Library.Learning@ed.ac.uk**

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

RESOURCE LISTS
SEARCH FOR LISTS, MODULES & COURSES

User-centred MyEd

Marissa Warner-Wu

Learning, Teaching and Web Services have started a three-year project to rebuild MyEd as part of the Digital Transformation programme. The project will create a personalised experience for students that makes it easy for them to find important information. Related information will be brought together in one place, instead of dividing details up by service or system. We also plan to highlight tasks and workflows, so that students can easily see what they need to do and when.

Timetable on My Phone for all students

Alex Carter

Students can now access their timetable more easily on phones and other devices via Office 365 calendars.

By working closely with the Timetabling Unit, we have delivered full integration with the central timetable to student calendars. We're delighted that this convenient way to access timetabling information has proved an immediate hit with students, enhancing their digital experience at the University.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/timetable-on-my-phone

Fantastic, just what I needed. Does exactly what I expect a timetable to do!

uCreate Studio launch

Fiona Hale

The new University maker space, within the Main Library, aims to provide staff and students with the resources to work on innovative ideas and projects related to making, while supporting their personal development and improving their creative and technical skills.

At uCreate Studio, you can find a variety of tools such as Arduino and Raspberry Pis, as well as 3D printers and scanners. Workshops are available and open to staff and students interested in making. These workshops are informal and focus on collaborative multidisciplinary work.

Contact: **uCreate.Studio@ed.ac.uk**

www.ucreatestudio.is.ed.ac.uk
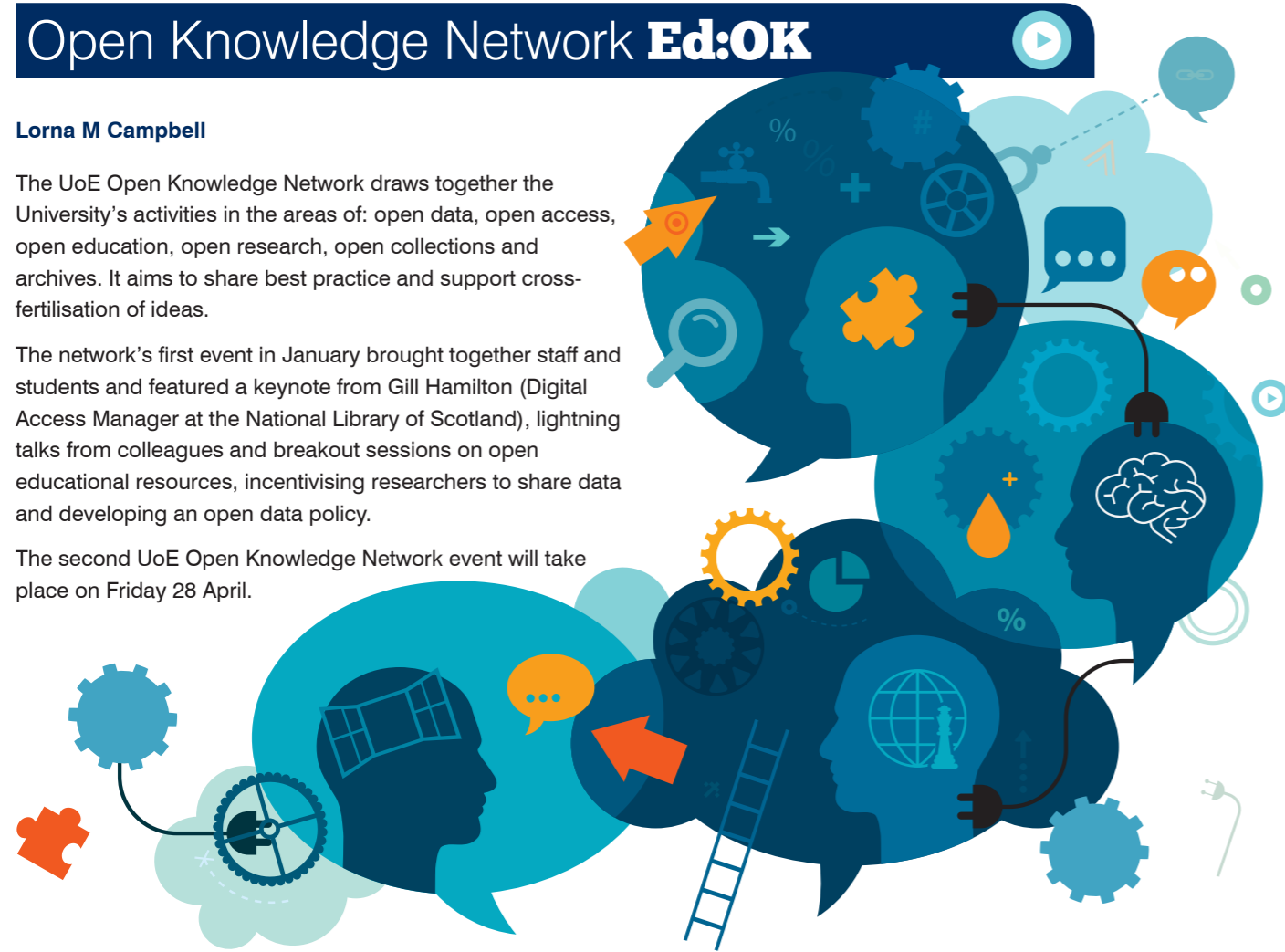
Innovation Fund Projects

Open Knowledge Network Ed:OK

Lorna M Campbell

The UoE Open Knowledge Network draws together the University's activities in the areas of: open data, open access, open education, open research, open collections and archives. It aims to share best practice and support cross-fertilisation of ideas.

The network's first event in January brought together staff and students and featured a keynote from Gill Hamilton (Digital Access Manager at the National Library of Scotland), lightning talks from colleagues and breakout sessions on open educational resources, incentivising researchers to share data and developing an open data policy.

The second UoE Open Knowledge Network event will take place on Friday 28 April.

For further information on UoE OKN, please visit **http://okn.ed.ac.uk/** or join our mailing list **open-uoe@mlist.is.ed.ac.uk**

Listen to the Library

Claire Knowles

Listen to the Library is an Innovation Fund project to develop a web site that allows users to see and hear the content of the University as it is added to the web. This is based on **http://listen.hatnote.com/** that allows users to listen to edits of Wikipedia. Our intern is currently identifying data sources for this project and developing a prototype. Please get in touch with Claire Knowles **claire.knowles@ed.ac.uk** for more information.

Reference deference

Sarah Ames

A joint project between Library & University Collections and User Services Division to look at the University's provision of citation and reference management tools began in January. Following a successful application to the Innovation Fund, we have employed a PhD student intern to investigate student needs, practices and preferences.

While the University has a longstanding subscription to EndNote, there is now a wide range of newer tools available. An in-depth exploration of these will allow for assessment of the most suitable to support an improved digital experience for all users, whether on-campus or at a distance.

The project will involve consultation with stakeholders from across the University. Please direct any queries to **sarah.ames@ed.ac.uk**

Festival of Creative Learning

Edinburgh IoT Challenge Week

The University's Internet of Things (IoT) co-ordination group staged a weeklong sponsored IoT hackathon style event. The event was runner-up in the Festival of Creative Learning Awards for most collaborative event.

Student teams each undertook one of four challenges set by collaborators from Transport for Edinburgh, the Edinburgh International Science Festival, the City of Edinburgh Council and Pycom, an industry-leading specialist IoT device board manufacturer.

The challenges addressed the use of IoT in: enhancing the Edinburgh student experience; identifying the use of multiple forms of travel in a single journey; monitoring traffic; and enhancing the festival experience for festival goers.

The teams came up with impressive solutions, including an ultrasound-based sensor that can differentiate between pedestrians and cyclists, and a mobile-app-based system for real-time question/answer submission for students in a lecture.

Crowdsourcing Conservation

Emily Hick

The Centre for Research Collections hosted its first ever conservation crowdsourcing event. Over a two-day period, with the help of 24 participants, we rehoused 110 out of a possible 136 boxes from section II of the Laing manuscripts. The new housing provides better protection for the collection and improves access to the material. The Laing collection is the University's most important manuscript collection. David Laing (1793-1878) was the son of an Edinburgh bookseller, who became the leading Scottish expert on early books. When he died, his manuscript collection was gifted to the University Library, including beautiful items of iconic importance, such as Michael Van Meer's wonderfully illustrated 'Album Amicorum'.

MOJO and Beyond

Stephanie (Charlie) Farley

MOJO and Beyond was a unique opportunity for insight into the techniques and technology of mobile film making. A show and tell introduced the mobile film making kit we have for loan at the University with tips and techniques. This was followed by a panel of experts from the world of broadcasting and media who provided insight into what's happening in media and what is to come.

Charity giving for **Turing Trust**

Over the past two years, ISG has worked with the Turing Trust to fundraise for the charity. Started by current PhD student James Turing, the Trust provides rural African communities with access to quality technology and IT training. Thanks to searches done via the Easysearch charity search engine installed on open access computers, ISG has raised nearly £300. These funds have helped the Turing Trust install 1,105 computers in schools in Malawi, Ghana and Kenya.

http://turingtrust.co.uk

#1Lib1Ref

Ewan McAndrew

To mark Wikipedia's 16th birthday, ISG staff took part in Wikipedia's global campaign, '1 Librarian 1 Reference'. #1Lib1Ref asks Information Services professionals to assert that facts matter by taking five minutes to add a citation to Wikipedia. Using the fun 'Citation Hunt' tool, participants contributed to open knowledge with a grand total of 63 edits, doubling last year's efforts. Try it for yourself:

http://bit.ly/2mqsLH6

Multimedia assessment and **feedback**

Mari Cruz García

Last semester's Multimedia assessment and feedback workshop aimed to explore the potential benefits of using video and audio in assessment and feedback. The workshop fostered an interesting debate, with attendees concluding that video assessment is not as time consuming as it looks and that students should be engaged in the process, inviting them to provide feedback on the marking criteria of a video assignment activity.

Students access **online training**

Anna Marshall and Jenni Houston

University staff and students have access to Lynda.com, an online video subscription library with more than 5000 courses that teaches the latest digital, technology, creative and business skills. Natalie Gilfedder, Business School student, shares her experience:

> "As a final year student, Lynda.com has been such a time saver for me when writing my dissertation. Courses like 'Word 2016 top tips and tricks' have helped me to make my dissertation more presentable and without taking any extra time."

www.ed.ac.uk/is/lynda

Winter graduations

This winter we successfully broadcast our second set of graduations through Media Hopper, and for the first time, introduced virtual graduates.

> "Live streaming was an essential factor in providing a virtual graduation experience for our medicine, vet and nursing students who could not attend in person. We watched live and communicated via text chat to applaud, cheer and celebrate the event with our graduands, their friends and family around the world."

Sharon Boyd
Lecturer in Distance Student Learning
The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

12,642 plays from **103** geographic regions

893.5hrs watched

7,011 viewers
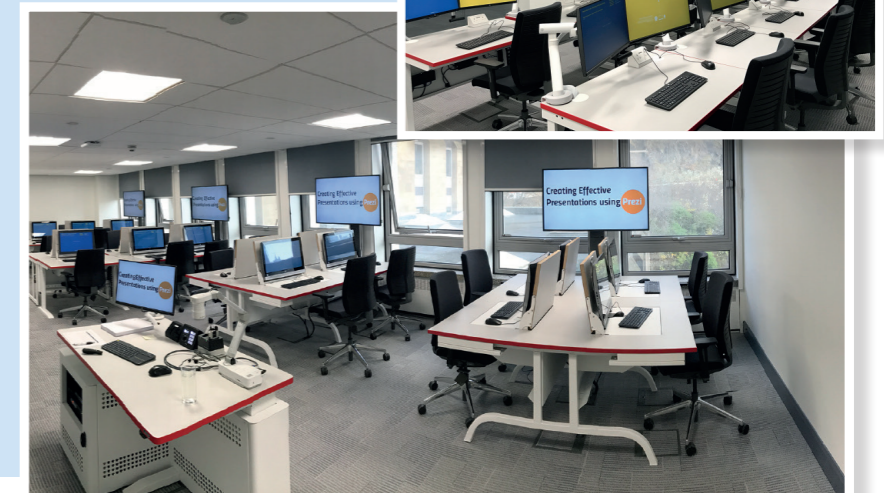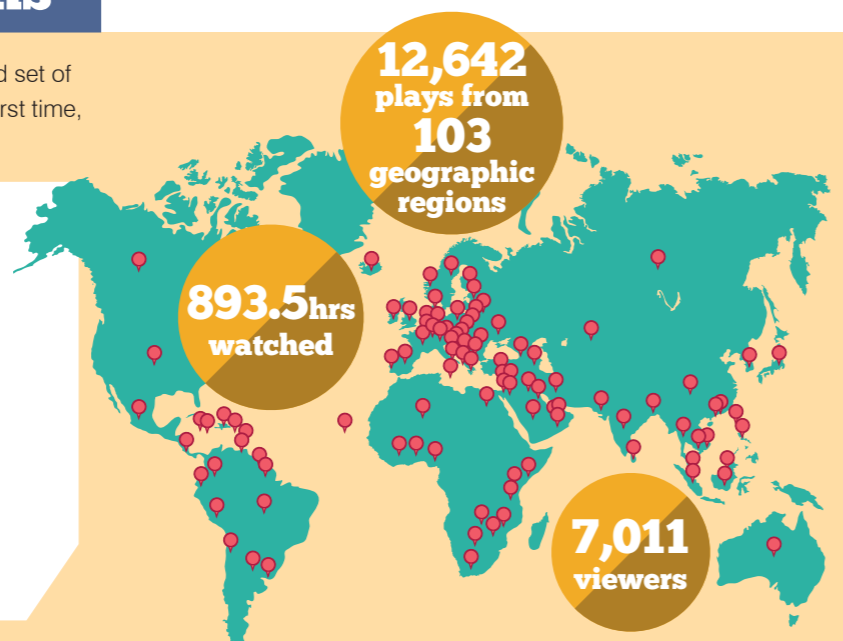
New Digital Skills
Training facility

Euan Murray and Jenni Houston

Three fully accessible training rooms, located on the ground floor of Argyle House, are now the main location for Digital Skills and Training courses. Staff and students can book these rooms for non-curricular teaching and events, providing the perfect opportunity to enhance learning while taking in the stunning views of Edinburgh Castle.

EW09 and EW13 feature desks with dual displays, allowing the user to view both their computer feed and the tutor's feed simultaneously. EW10, a collaborative space, has four group tables with flip down multi-use work stations, allowing for the use of the built-in computers, the user's own mobile device or a clear desk space for writing. In all rooms, users are able to share their work by wirelessly projecting their mobile devices and desktop computers onto any of the large display screens.

Book these rooms through the Timetabling channel in MyEd. For general enquiries, contact:

is.roombookings@ed.ac.uk

All change for **Comms and Branding**

The work of the ISG Change Programme Communication and Branding theme is focused on social media, internal communications, branding, developing a core brief and student communications. We are working hard to make this an area of the organisation fit for the future. There are a range of projects as part of the theme, and you can get involved by contacting any of the project leads.

For more information about the ISG Change Programme, contact **ISG-Change-Programme@ed.ac.uk**

ISG staff can keep up to date with news from all the themes via the SharePoint site.

http://edin.ac/isg-change

Internet of Things pilot project

ISG has piloted an Internet of Things (IoT) project, deploying wireless sensors and devices in Argyle House meeting rooms. These sensors enable us to monitor environmental and space occupancy, and provide evidence to help underpin future choices in provisioning meeting room facilities. With the School of Informatics, our goal is to develop a shared IoT infrastructure that will support research, development and teaching with a range of partners both inside and outside the University.

http://iot.ed.ac.uk/
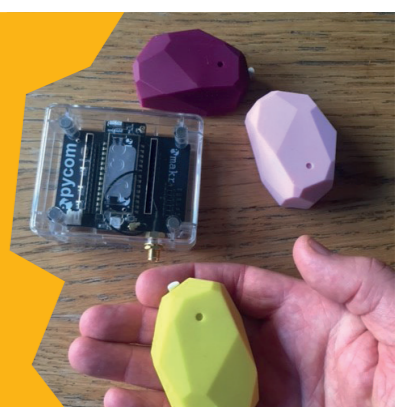
DATA-X Exhibition and Symposium

Cindy Nelson-Viljoen

DATA-X facilitated University of Edinburgh students developing collaborative installations to explore interdisciplinary data use and boundaries. The exhibition consisted of six installations and three performance pieces in the Sculpture Court of the Edinburgh College of Art. In the accompanying symposium, students presented the installations and the tools and processes utilised. Guest speakers included Dr J Haley (Edinburgh Neuroscience) and Dr J Howie (ASCUS), who highlighted the efficacy of art-sciences collaborations.

http://edin.ac/data-x

DATA-X

Digital texts for students

Hannah Mateer

The Collections Lifecycle Management (CLM) team in Library & University Collections have provided students with over 11,000 digitised journal articles and book chapters. The team digitise copyright-cleared material from the Library's print collections that are required or recommended reading for taught courses.

The CLM team also digitise Library print materials to provide accessible electronic copies of texts for disabled students. This provides a valuable service for students who would otherwise be unable to access the content required for their courses. This service is part of a range of services offered by ISG for students who have had reasonable adjustments identified by the Student Disability Service.

CLM

New training helps us become more user-centred

Neil Allison

A new training package has been developed and piloted to help colleagues adopt new approaches to understanding and communicating user needs, and developing more user-friendly products.

During the autumn, staff at the Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh took part in new workshop-based, collaborative training in user experience research and design techniques developed and delivered by UX Manager, Neil Allison.

Blending well-established sessions with new activities and online materials in Lynda.com, the pilots were enthusiastically received at both institutions. Further delivery of the 3-day course will take place in the coming months for colleagues working in the Service Excellence and Digital Transformation programmes.

http://edin.ac/ux-training-posts

Effective Digital Content – Writing for the Web goes online

A pilot version of the popular 'Writing for the Web' course is now available on Learn, combining resources from Lynda.com with University-specific advice. The course, now known as Effective Digital Content, teaches you how to:

- Engage your key audiences
- Create a great digital experience for everyone
- Keep on top of your web content
- Navigate legislation on data management and equality

Although it's still being tested, completing the pilot will qualify you for EdWeb access (along with EdWeb training). Read more on the Website Programme blog: **http://edin.ac/digital-content-course**

Library self-registration for visitors

Barry Croucher

The Library has recently introduced a revised self-service online application form for public visitors. Applicants now have a photograph taken when joining for production of a yellow identity smartcard. The card enables passage through access-controlled library entrances and exits for an improved user experience. The University Library offers membership for reference use (free) or borrowing books (fees may apply) to Alumni, NHS Lothian staff, staff and students from other universities and the wider public.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/join-library
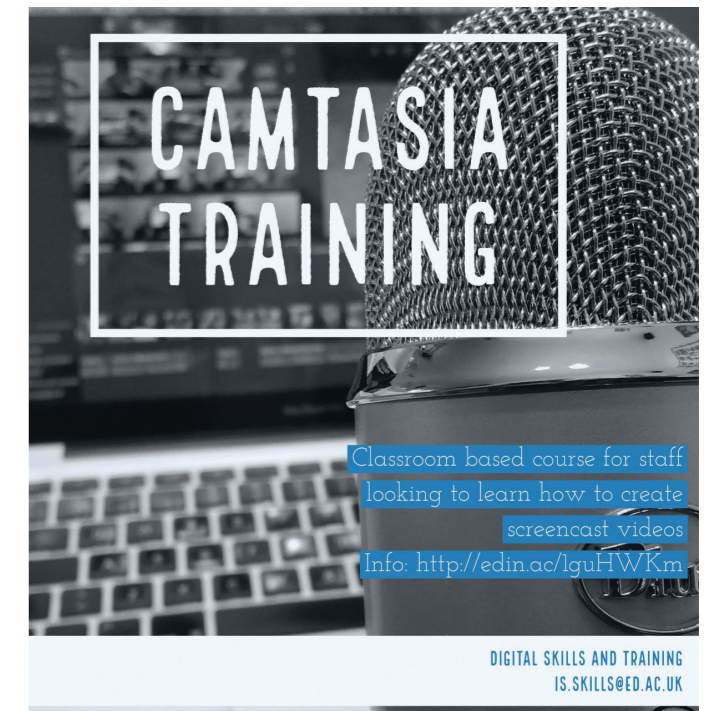
User research providing insight for enhanced student experiences

Neil Allison

We are investing in new skills and processes to help ensure our technologies and services better meet the needs of students.

A User Experience (UX) research & design team is being established through the Digital Transformation Initiative to:

- Provide consultancy to a wide range of projects
- Help staff improve their skills in the field of UX
- Pilot new processes that will ensure more user-focused products
- Introduce guidance & design patterns that will speed up delivery and reduce project risks

Read more about our UX-related projects to date: **http://bit.ly/UWP-UX**

CAMTASIA TRAINING

Classroom based course for staff looking to learn how to create screencast videos

Info: http://edin.ac/lguHWKm

DIGITAL SKILLS AND TRAINING
IS.SKILLS@ED.AC.UK

Lecture recording & the student experience

Anne-Marie Scott

We worked intensively with market-leading companies to find a new lecture capture system which will bring real benefits for students all across the University. Feedback shows that students value recordings to support revision, exam preparation and learning threshold concepts. Recordings can be particularly helpful for our many international students and those who juggle complex work, life and study responsibilities.

The new service will make it quick and easy for users to find the sections of recordings that they are most interested in. Comments or questions to further aid understanding can be shared with peers or teachers where appropriate, and academic colleagues will be able to see what parts of recordings are most popular. Recordings will be easy to include into Learn VLE and optimised to play on mobile devices.

All of this gives us confidence that lecture recording can bring significant benefits for our students, and help us enhance the teaching experience in interesting and creative ways.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/lecture-recording

Curious Edinburgh **app teaching pilot**

Nicola Osbourne

A new Android version of the Curious Edinburgh history of science app has been launched as part of a teaching pilot funded by PTAS and led by Dr Niki Vermeulan (Science, Technology and Innovation Studies). The Curious Edinburgh app is being used in undergraduate history of science teaching across colleges during 2016/17 to explore how students engage with the app as a pedagogical tool. The app, which was built by EDINA, was also featured as part of the Edinburgh International Science Festival 2017 'Moments in Time' exhibit. Find out more at **http://curiousedinburgh.org/**

Q URIOUS EDINBURGH

Featured thesis

Gavin Willshaw

This issue's featured PhD author is Isabel Emslie Hutton, a 1912 MD graduate and Scottish Women's Hospitals volunteer who served in France and Salonika. She was celebrated as a 'British Heroine of the First World War in Serbia' in a 2015 stamp.

Read her thesis at: **http://edin.ac/emslie-thesis**

Healthy Working Lives

Kathryn Mackay

In December ISG staff took part in a Christmas tree decorating competition. Each team was given a tree and a box of craft materials to use to create whatever decorations they wanted. The LTW Web, Graphics and Interaction team won with their tree that featured handmade smartphone ornaments.

To kick start 2017, in January we encouraged colleagues to write down their New Year's resolutions on posters displayed in staff areas. These posters have helped colleagues to keep on track by checking off the days that they have kept their resolutions.

In March we hosted a table tennis evening, the first of our sporting events we're hosting this year. There was mixture of knock-out singles, random doubles and round-the-table competitions.

Enhancing employability: where ISG interns are now

Student internships with ISG provide real life skills and valuable employment experience. You can find our internships via the Careers Service: **http://edin.ac/internships**

"Since completing my summer internship I've started working as a Software Developer for Microsoft at their Prague office. The internship gave me a big leg up during the recruitment process and helped me gain key skills that I apply every day at my new job."

Faye Richards, MyEd Developer Intern, 2016

"I do not believe I could have got my current employment as a project conservator at the Boots Archive in Nottingham without the experience at the Centre for Research Collections. I am finding that every day I am using the invaluable knowledge and skills I gained there."

Victoria Haddock, Conservation Intern, 2016

60 seconds with: Kirsty Lingstadt

Head of Digital Library

" I am fascinated by long-term preservation opportunities.

Tell us about your role.

I am Head of Digital Library and Deputy Head of Library & University Collections. My main responsibility is linking a wide range of digital library services and resources, ensuring they are provided at the highest standards. I oversee the delivery and development of DiscoverEd; this includes exploring new ways of making it easier for students to find resources, for example, developing and improving the finding aids in the library catalogue. I am also responsible for finding new ways to allow communities and researchers outside the University to engage with our collections. In addition, I supervise the digitisation projects and the long-term preservation of digital holdings – a challenging activity due to issues such as changing formats.

What are the challenges you face?

One challenge is to make people aware of the full range of resources the University has, showing that our collections are not exclusively formed by books. This means ensuring that our systems point people to a variety of media and information sources.

The other great challenge of my role is doing archival work in the digital world. I have to help raise the profile of the University through digitisation and to find digital solutions for the collections that allow them to be accessible in the future, with special reference to the general collections and material like manuscripts and one-off items. I also need to deliver the technical side of these innovations in the Digital Library team. Moreover, I have to work out which digital content must be preserved to give a picture of life at the University.

What do you find most exciting about your job?

I like the idea of investigating how to provide platforms and ways through which people can easily find and discover the resources of the University. I am fascinated by long-term preservation opportunities and new ways of accessing resources for the students. Being responsible for the whole Digital Library team is very exciting, and it gives me the opportunity to develop significant projects.

I am gaining a full understanding of the ways in which the University works, and I am excited by its clear focus on students and researchers.

Could you tell us about your professional background?

My background is heritage. I have worked for over two decades with everything from military collections, through mining machinery, to architectural archives, supervising large and small projects. In the last ten years at Historical Environment Scotland (initially RCAHMS), my focus shifted from using software to manage collections to using it to engage with wider audiences. I supervised the development of Canmore, the online catalogue to Scotland's archaeological sites, buildings, industrial and maritime heritage, and I developed various online projects like MyCanmore and online crowdsourcing project Scotland's Urban Past. My field of expertise lies in connecting databases, catalogues and people to each other in ways that are productive and inclusive, and to ensure that the results will be available for future generations.

What do you like to do outside work?

I love spending time with my husband and kids, and we can often be found exploring historic sites and walking, playing board games or watching TV together. When I do get a quiet moment to myself, I enjoy knitting and I have recently mastered stranded colourwork.

Digital Footprint **MOOC**

Nicola Osbourne

A new Digital Footprint MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) has launched, extending the work of the Managing Your Digital Footprint project to a global audience. The MOOC is led by Louise Connelly (Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies) and Nicola Osborne (EDINA) and provides opportunities for participants to learn about their online tracks and trails, reflect on their practice and consider how they will better manage their digital presence in the future.

Register now: **https://goo.gl/jgHLQs**

Architectural History
of the University

Susan Pettigrew

A wonderful collection from the University archives was photographed at the Digital Imaging Unit for a new publication written in collaboration between the University and Historic Environment Scotland. *Building Knowledge: An Architectural History of the University of Edinburgh* tells the story of the University buildings from the first college buildings through to the magnificence of Robert Adam's Old College and beyond. Authors Nick Haynes and Clive Fenton bring to life the fascinating history of the University through its celebrated buildings.
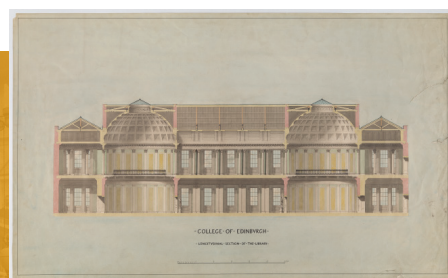
Practical guidance
for librarians dealing with data

Robin Rice (Data Library, EDINA) has co-authored a recently released key reference text, *The Data Librarian's Handbook*. Written with John Southall (University of Oxford), the handbook unpicks the everyday role of the data librarian and offers practical guidance on how to collect, curate and crunch data for economic, social and scientific purposes. This a must-read for all new entrants to the field, Library and Information Science students and working professionals.

http://edin.ac/data-librarian-handbook