ISG Strategic Vision from the CIO
- page 2

New e-learning resources
- page 6

DiscoverEd launches
- page 7

60 second interview
- page 13
Editorial

What a summer it has been! While the weather may not have been consistent, work in IS has been as busy as ever, presenting us with another packed issue of BITS.

Our feature this time is from our new Chief Information Officer, Gavin McLachlan, who outlines his strategic vision for IS. With three main strands of focus on Student Experience, Research and Innovation and Service Excellence, we have a positive and exciting, but also a challenging, time ahead as a division.

DiscoverEd has also successfully launched to positive feedback, and a useful outline of the discovery service’s key features can be found on page 7. Meanwhile, EdWeb, the new University web CMS continues to grow, with sites migrating very successfully. The ISG site is now fully migrated.

The Interactive Content team have done some great work launching two new e-learning resources, both of which are free – read about them on page 6. And congratulations are due to the CRC, which has been awarded Archive Accreditation status: this is a big achievement, joining only three other archive services in Scotland to gain this recognition.

Our Social Media page provides all of the latest updates from IS, including details of the new Social Media Guidelines, the launch of Lit Long and Stewart Lamb Cromar’s brilliant Ada Lovelace LEGO project – be sure to look at his designs and to vote for Ada to live on in LEGO for posterity!

Colleagues in L&UC have been busy working on the library’s biggest ever one-off digitisation project to make over 5,000 PhD theses available online, further opening up our research collections to users (see page 11). And we introduce the new Director of Library & University Collections, Jeremy Upton, in our 60 second interview – find out more about his background and interests on the back page.

Enjoy the new semester – I look forward to seeing what exciting new projects and ideas we bring to you in our next issue.
New Media Service

Anne-Marie Scott

IS is working to deliver a new media asset management service for the University. Our vision is to enable the University to meet the full breadth of our learning and teaching, assessment, research and engagement activities, by providing usable tools for making, editing, storing, sharing and disseminating video and audio files.

The new service will make it easy for staff to incorporate media into their teaching and learning practice and create their own original content. Students can be challenged to create their own content for accredited or unaccredited learning. Publishing to appropriate audiences will be simple and quick through our VLEs, the University website and other platforms, as part of a multi-platform broadcast strategy, and a YouTube-like web portal will make it easy for our staff, students and the wider world to search for and find University of Edinburgh media that interests them.

The new service will be delivered during academic year 2015/16.

For more information, please contact: anne-marie.scott@ed.ac.uk

Argyle House – a new location

Claire Maguire

Next year around two-thirds of IS staff will be relocated to one new space: Argyle House. Currently, we are based in a variety of buildings across the University campuses but, from mid-2016, around 500 of us will be re-located to Argyle House. Situated on Lady Lawson Street, Argyle House is opposite the Edinburgh College of Art campus at Lauriston Place. Moving to this new space will bring a number of benefits, such as the opportunity to leverage synergies between Divisions.

The IS Accommodation User Group has been set up to work with the architects on designing the space. We have also appointed a Change Manager who is tasked with looking across the whole of IS to advise on how we consolidate effectively, building a more integrated organisation that functions seamlessly, no matter where our staff are based.

The digital space for IS staff to follow the developments is now available at: www.ed.ac.uk/is/consolidation

EdWeb CMS migration: Saying goodbye to Polopoly

Bruce Darby

We started the migration journey from Polopoly to EdWeb in October last year with the beta release of the University Website Programme website. At the beginning of 2015, 7 early adopter units took control of 14 sites in the new system.

This set us on our way to migrate over 390 websites managed by over 100 business units through 2015 and into early 2016.

At the end of August 2015, we have 47 business units managing 18,000 pages on 111 websites in EdWeb, representing 40% of the central CMS-managed website estate.

The pace will pick up still further through autumn 2015, with migration and training processes now well established and colleagues across the University quickly getting to grips with the new features and flexibility EdWeb has to offer.

More about the Polopoly to EdWeb CMS migration process:

http://edin.ac/1KTMTkG

Archive Accreditation achieved

Rachel Hosker

The Centre for Research Collections has been awarded Archive Accreditation status. It is one of only four archive services in Scotland to have achieved this accreditation which recognises the professional standards and care taken to look after the University’s world renowned archive collections.
Over the course of the last 5 months the ISG management team, staff, stakeholders and many of our customers have helped shape a new vision for ISG which is encapsulated in the above picture.

The aim of the vision is to state both internally and publicly what ISG’s purpose is, where its priorities are and where it wants to go.

The vision comprises three main sections: Student Experience, Research & Innovation and Service Excellence. Each main section is comprised of three vision areas. All are deliberately ranked in an indicative priority. The vision does not stand in isolation but is directly linked to the University’s strategic vision including such priorities as improving the student experience, expanding our lead in digital, online and distance learning, becoming a world leader in data sciences and enhancing our impact on society and social responsibility – to name a few.
In addition to the above themes, the vision announces our intention to be a national and international leader in the highly integrated and digital library of the future, leveraging and projecting both our unique collections and others to researchers, students and the world.

ISG and the University also have a stated higher purpose directed towards improving the sector and the competitive ability of UK higher education and research. In addition to the Library, ISG’s national organisations such as EDINA, the Digital Curation Centre and initiatives such as our open educational resources work speak to a critical role we play at a national and international level.

Information security is another key theme. Poor information security risks such areas as patient data, census data and student information, but also acts as a barrier to industrial partnership and relations. I was happy that two additional posts were allocated during the planning round to create an information security team and I will soon be starting the recruitment of a Chief Information Security Officer.

Finally, the constant cost pressure on the University must be addressed. ISG can be a huge help in a number of key ways: by supplying highly efficient, quality core systems that help the university become more efficient; by helping to transform processes across the university; and by looking inwards to ourselves to help drive down the cost of IT and Library services.

To meet this vision we face some challenges:

Technology, the University, the sector, legislation, government and funding are all changing rapidly around us and ISG needs to be agile enough to meet all the changes, challenges and demands. Agility and scalability will be key to our future. We must find ways of being able to easily scale beyond the immediate resource constraints of our staffing. We must find innovative ways of saving costs while understanding that ‘one size does not fit all’, especially in a hugely complex organisation such as ours.

The move of much of ISG to Argyle House will present opportunities for us to make changes to how we work and also enable us to integrate and work more closely together as divisions, sections, teams and individuals.

Innovation is a key theme in the vision, and we will foster and enable innovation across the University as Library, digital and technological advisors, while at the same time looking to innovate within ISG with an aim to improve the student experience, transform research and achieve service excellence. Innovation can also be a key to unlocking cost efficiencies – with the automation of processes and the use of astounding new areas of IT to drive down costs being the ‘bread and butter’ of what the University expects from ISG.

Finally, the vision is owned by all of ISG. It is intended to be a living document. Comments, questions, ideas and input are welcome from anyone.
As part of the Customer Service Excellence Project within Help Services, Andrew Kirk and myself explored the possibility that Google Glass may be able to provide an insight into Customer journeys within the library.

Google Glass is a type of wearable technology which is controlled by touch or voice-commands. Users can access the web wirelessly with information appearing on a display screen in front of their eyes.

Volunteers were recruited to wear the glasses and they filmed how they found a book in the Main Library. Four separate journeys were studied, with volunteers ranging from those with no experience of the Main Library to those who were already familiar with the layout. All filming was carefully publicised in advance, and no comments or concerns were raised by users.

Our volunteers soon adapted to using Glass and the high quality of the film recorded surprised us. It gave a wide view of what our volunteers were seeing and captured their thought processes as they travelled through the library.

As a result of our findings, the following action points are now being addressed:

• Inductions for students will include highlighting the importance of DiscoverEd, understanding the shelving system, and giving guidance on searching techniques
• Increased signage of our DiscoverEd searching points
• Ensuring our DiscoverEd searching points are available at all times
• Increased ease of searching using DiscoverEd
• Increasing awareness of ‘Recent Returns’ shelves.

www.glass.ed.ac.uk

Email insecurity: 'Phishing'

Cyber criminals know that ‘the human’ is the weak point. This is why phishing, enticing us to click on their ‘bait’ in email, is such a real and growing risk.

If you click on a phishing link, malware can run in your computer to gather the email addresses of your colleagues and friends, and use those to target a second stage attack.

It is in the second stage that the real damage is done. Your friends expect to receive email from you and are far more likely to assume it shall be safe. It can spread malware like wildfire.

Do not blindly trust email hyperlinks. If there is something odd about a message, even from someone you know, do not click on the link until you have considered it carefully.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/anti-phishing

Research computing upgrade

Nicholas Moir

Information Services have procured a £1.3m refresh of the University’s central research computing infrastructure, from Esteem Systems who will supply Dell hardware.

The new compute cluster was installed in July and will be in full service later in 2015. The infrastructure has around three times the compute capability of the current Eddie cluster, with an achieved performance of 152 Tflops. This cluster will form the next generation of Eddie service, as well as providing a platform for further research computing services (including a cloud platform), enhancements for supporting data science and integration of custom project-funded computing and data hardware.

We are pleased to be partnering with the Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine for this project, working together with design, procurement and ongoing service and support for an additional £1m MRC hardware investment to support their rapidly growing data analysis needs.

www.glass.ed.ac.uk

Karen Bonthron

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www.glass.ed.ac.uk
**Improving** the impact of research data

Kevin Ashley

If information can’t be found, it isn’t of much use to anyone. That applies particularly to research data, where the business case for its retention derives primarily from its potential value for future researchers.

Edinburgh, through its Datashare service, has long realised this, but many universities struggle to deal with discoverability. A cross-sector working party recommended to the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) that the Digital Curation Centre (DCC), working with research council data centres, should establish a national service to improve the visibility of datasets held in universities.

Edinburgh was one of six UK universities to participate in our pilot service from 2013. The project is now being led by Jisc with DCC and Edinburgh continuing involvement. We now have evidence that discoverable data is more likely to be reused, and that reuse leads to increased research impact. Fine-tuning what aids discovery, so helping researchers achieve maximum gain for minimum overhead, should be one of the key aims of the next phase of this work.

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**FOSTER** project

Martin Donnelly

For the last eighteen months, the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) has been involved in the EU-funded FOSTER project, which aims to increase awareness and capabilities among European researchers in the areas of Open Access and research data management.

While the UK has long been a world leader in these fields, the project – which stands for ‘Facilitate Open Science Training for European Research’ – has provided a way to drive up understanding of Open Science and its benefits in less experienced countries.

We hope that relationships formed via the project will lead to future partnerships and collaborative opportunities for both the DCC and the University going forward.

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**Developing a Data Vault**

Stuart Lewis

Research Data is being generated at an ever-increasing rate. This brings challenges in how to store, analyse, and care for the data. Part of this problem is the long term stewardship of data and associated files that need a safe and secure home for the medium to long term.

Edinburgh University Library have secured two rounds of funding from Jisc, to work collaboratively with the University of Manchester to develop a Data Vault platform. The platform will allow data to be archived directly from the University’s DataStore (provided to all University researchers). This is similar to a bank vault or deep-freeze: the data will be kept safe, and can be requested for retrieval when required.
A hat trick of website launches

Ruth Honeybone and Stewart Lamb Cromar

Lothian Health Services Archive (LHSA) have launched a new website packed with educational resources, images and audio visual material from their UNESCO-recognised HIV/AIDS collections (1983 – 2010).

The website’s educational resources are linked to the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence. Targeted towards teachers and educational professionals, the resources form the basis for activities with 12 to 15 year olds.

Work on the website was funded by a Wellcome Trust ‘Provision for Public Engagement’ grant, and the result of a collaboration between Library & University Collections and Learning Teaching & Web Services.

Two new national healthcare websites have also recently been launched, in collaboration with Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland, the British Lunch Foundation and the Learning Teaching and Web Services Interactive Content team.

‘My Lungs My Life’ is a self-management website for all people in Scotland living with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), asthma, and for the parents/guardians of children.

What an excellent website. I feel I now have direction and things to try. It has given me hope.

Person with COPD

The best brief overview of self-management I have seen since I became engaged with the subject.

Stroke survivor

University launches its first Open Source Archive Catalogue: ArchivesSpace

Rachel Hosker and Claire Knowles

Jeremy Upton, Director of Library & University Collections, recently launched the University’s first open source archive catalogue.

The Archives and Library Digital Development Team have collaborated on developing this system through ArchivesSpace to provide researchers with greater access to information on the University’s vast Archive and Manuscript collections. The University is the first institution in Europe to have developed and launched its ‘ArchivesSpace’ system and there are plans to continue its development. This includes working with international partners to link the catalogue entries to surrogate digital content and objects, films and a digital preservation system to provide access to born digital archives.
The Library’s new discovery service, ‘DiscoverEd’, launched on 30 June 2015. DiscoverEd replaces both the Library Catalogue and Searcher and is now the principal search tool for finding and accessing books, ebooks and ejournal articles.

What’s different?
There’s no more multi-digit barcode to remember. You can now sign into your Library Account using your EASE username and password to view your loan history, make requests or renew books and check for fines accruing on your account.

Staff and students can search Library collections from a single interface, with a greater range of options to refine searches.

Key features
• Single entry point to search most of the Library’s collections
• Option to search for ejournal articles or browse ejournals A-Z
• Extensive options to refine searches
• Advanced search
• Save results and/or searches using e-shelf, and export to reference management tools

Feedback
We’re really keen to hear what you think of the new service! Let us know by completing the feedback survey on the DiscoverEd homepage. Your feedback will help us develop the service over time.

Key policy changes
• Significant increase in loan entitlements for Staff, Postgraduate Researchers, Taught Postgraduates, Undergraduates and Alumni.
• Number of requests users can place increased from 5 to 10.
• Item available emails are issued as soon as requested items are checked back in.
• Users entitled to extended loan periods no longer require to visit Helpdesks to facilitate this – this is now automated at the self-issue machines and will be automatically applied to all renewals, including online.
• Reduction in daily overdue fines for short loan items.
• Library users receive a weekly account summary.

Help and support
A range of help and support materials are available on the DiscoverEd homepage, including short screencasts, help documentation and FAQs. Regular DiscoverEd drop-in sessions are also being held in the Main Library throughout Semester 1 to answer any questions you have about using the new service.

http://discovered.ed.ac.uk
EdWeb CMS evolution not revolution

Neil Allison

With the main development project to deliver the new EdWeb CMS and University website design coming to a close in early August, it’s a good point to reflect on how far we’ve come and where we need to head next. Website management isn’t like sending a brochure to print, it’s a constant process of evolution and improvement. The same goes for the CMS that underpins it. We need to keep moving forward to avoid falling behind.

We’ll be running consultation sessions with website owners and CMS users over the course of the autumn to help prioritise what comes next. We know that some of the great new features are whetting the appetite for still more enhancements and we are looking forward to seeing how our users’ priorities compare to those of the University Website Programme team.

Some of the EdWeb features that have been popular so far:

- An intuitive CMS editorial experience which has cut page creation and editing time by more than half in many scenarios
- Mobile friendly website layouts that adapt to screen size, and a new approach to navigation
- Greater design flexibility in the presentation of homepages, imagery and colour themes
- Powerful web form functionality enabling more data collection and interaction with website users without the need for extra system integrations
- Sophisticated integration of external system data to take advantage of information sources such as PURE.

Get a flavour of what the new CMS EdWeb can do from our demo site: http://edin.ac/1HUy2Mx

Results of the Collaborate User Survey 2015

Kelly Hall

Earlier this year, the Educational Design & Engagement team (EDE) and the Digital Learning Application & Media team ran the first ever Collaborate User Survey. Collaborate is the University supported virtual classroom/meeting communication tool. On average each month, 1,850 people participate in Collaborate sessions in Online Distance Programmes as well as Virtual Open Days, Staff Meetings, Online Training etc.

Over 74% of respondents indicated they are ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with the Collaborate tool and 81% would recommend the Collaborate service to colleagues.

Some changes that were suggested include simplifying the tool, having it run in the web-browser instead of through Java and improving the audio. We are pleased to be able to say that the new version we plan to upgrade to in 2016, Collaborate Ultra, will meet many of these.


automatEd

David McNicol

Do you work in IT? Are you interested in automating server builds or software deployments?

IS Applications is setting up a new group to look into all forms of automation called ‘automatEd’. We are interested in investigating tools, sharing knowledge and developing best practice across the University.

If you would like to join the group, and be added to the automatEd mailing list, please contact David McNicol:
david.mcnicol@ed.ac.uk
IT Systems – what’s new for the University Secretary’s Group?

Sheila Fraser

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 USG, including:

The Assessment and Progression in SITS project, which has enabled Schools to communicate progression decisions through EUCLID and with students accessing this via EUCLID self-service: over 19,000 decisions were communicated during the 2015 Semester 2 exam diet.

Enhancements to the PATH tool to enable students to make preliminary course selections ahead of their first Personal Tutor meeting, to use the most popular course data and the ability to add recommended courses within Schools to support students’ decision-making on their course options.

A pilot of the new External Examiners Online Reporting System by ten Schools was successful in improving the experience of students and External Examiners and reducing the administration effort from Schools. This has now been rolled out across the University providing a consistent approach, and over 200 reports were submitted online by the end of July 2015.

Students are now able to register with the Student Counselling Service and complete the pre-initial appointment questionnaire via Online Forms. This will significantly decrease the waiting time for students requesting an appointment through faster processing and reduced manual errors.

The USG projects have a direct positive impact on students at the University of Edinburgh, improving their experience and supporting their knowledge, learning and future careers.

Information on current USG projects is available on the projects website:
http://edin.ac/1Yb892G

If you have any questions please contact Sheila Fraser (USG Portfolio Manager):
Sheila.Fraser@ed.ac.uk

10th Open Repositories Conference, Indianapolis 2015

Claire Knowles

I co-authored a paper with Tiltfactor, Dartmouth College on the work we have been undertaking to crowd source metadata tags for digitised content for the Open Repositories Conference this year, and also co-chaired the new Developer Track and Ideas Challenge. This year’s keynote speakers were from Mozilla Science and Google Scholar. The conference focuses on repository systems and their use for open research and scholarship. For more information visit the Open Repositories Conference website or read my post on the Library Labs blog.

http://www.or2015.net/
http://edin.ac/1gqee9r

Dates for your diary

The following conference locations are now confirmed. Do please remember to share any feedback you have or let us know if you are speaking at any conferences, so we can pass this on.

IDCC16 - 11th International Digital Curation Conference
22-25 February 2016, Amsterdam
The DCC’s annual international conference. The theme for this year it will be ‘visible data, invisible infrastructure’.
http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/idcc16

EDUCAUSE Annual Conference 2015
27-30 October 2015, Indianapolis, Indiana and online
IS Applications two proposal submissions were successfully accepted on to the agenda for face-to-face conference sessions:
- Partnership Powered IT Change
- Mind the Gap: Helping Non-Project Managers to Deliver Success
http://www.educause.edu/annual-conference
Vote now for the Ada Lovelace 200th anniversary LEGO project

Helen Murphie

Stewart Lamb Cromar from LTW has designed a LEGO model of Charles Babbage’s early mechanical general-purpose computer, the Analytical Engine. If his design receives over 10,000 votes LEGO will consider manufacturing it. Please vote now to give this fun innovation your support. If the project reaches 5,000 supporters by May 2016, the final deadline will be extended to May 2017.

Ada Lovelace Day takes place on October 13th and is an international celebration of the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). LTW will be marking this occasion with a number of exciting open education events, including a guest appearance from Ada ‘LEGO’ Lovelace.

https://ideas.lego.com/projects/102740

Social Media Guidelines

Lizzie Cass-Maran

Over the last few months, we’ve reviewed and updated the University Social Media Guidelines. With advice on responsibilities, legislation and good practice, the guidelines are useful for anyone responsible for setting up or maintaining a social media presence for a University business area. The guidelines have been added to the added social media wiki space for ease of updates and to enable people to link to or comment on them, with an option to download them as a PDF if you prefer.


Lit Long is Live!

Nicola Osborne

July saw the launch of a new Lit Long: Edinburgh iOS app which highlights the wealth of literature set in and about Edinburgh. It allows you to explore over 47,000 extracts from 550 books mentioning Edinburgh – you can choose to look at those near your current location, or you can browse a map and select pins to see how far that place is from you, and what texts are mentioned there.

The app accompanies the Lit Long: Edinburgh website, which features a range of maps and visualisations, which enable you to interact with Edinburgh’s literature in a variety of ways, exploring the spatial relations of the literary city at particular times in its history, in the works of particular authors, or across different eras, genres and writers. The website also features some contemporary works by authors including Alexander McCall Smith, as well as ‘Candlemaker Row’ by Jane Alexander, which was the winning entry in our short story competition.

Both the app and website have been developed by the Palimpsest project, a collaboration between the University of Edinburgh’s School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures; the School of Informatics; the University of St Andrews’ SACHI research group; and EDINA. The team, who would love feedback on Lit Long: Edinburgh, includes literary scholars, computer scientists specialising in textmining and information visualisation scholars.

Find out more:

LitLong Website: http://litlong.org/
Palimpsest Website: http://palimpsest.blogs.edina.ac.uk/
Or follow @litlong or @LitPalimpsest for updates from the team.
Download the app: http://apple.co/1LVdh6z
IS Learning, Teaching and Web Services faced a particularly novel challenge during the University Graduation ceremonies in June. Each year we stream the ceremonies live on the web, so that friends and family of our students across the world can be a part of the event. Due to the McEwan Hall refurbishments, graduations were held in the Usher Hall this year. There is no suitable networking infrastructure in place for web casting and so we had to source and install a satellite unit on the roof. Finding 21st century tech that would fit through a 19th century access hatch in the roof was not easy!

**Over 1m pages scanned**

in library’s biggest digitisation project

Gavin Willshaw

In the library’s largest ever one-off digitisation project, L&UC have been working with RedRock, a scanning company and member of the supported business framework, to digitise and make available online over 5,000 Science and Engineering PhD theses.

Approximately one million pages of unique research, dating from the early 1900s to the present day, will be scanned and added to ERA, the library’s digital repository for University research, in the early part of the coming academic year.

The project will double the number of fully-searchable Edinburgh theses available online and open up a vast collection of material which had previously only been accessible from the King’s Buildings’ library store.

Visit this valuable collection of digitised research, and the rest of our online theses, at:

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

Please contact Gavin Willshaw, Digital Curator in Library and University Collections, if you would like more information about the project:

gavin.willshaw@ed.ac.uk

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**Repository Fringe 2015**

Lorna Brown

DCC, EDINA and L&UC hosted another successful and sell-out Repository Fringe this year at the start of August. This year’s theme was ‘Integrating repositories in the wider context of university, funder and external services’ and saw sessions from Research Libraries UK’s David Prosser and the University of London Computer Centre. There was also a closely fought poster competition and a non-competitive developer challenge organised by EDINA’s Paul Walk.

You can visit the Repository Fringe website to catch up on the live blog from Nicola Osborne and all the speaker slides.

http://rfringe15.blogs.edina.ac.uk/
Healthy Working Lives

Vicki Galt

The Healthy Working Lives Group has had a busy couple of months: thank you for all the wonderful feedback – we know folk are particularly enjoying the monthly calendars. Recently, we have seen regular bat and ball sessions in the Meadows, a yoga taster session, the formation of an IS choir and the launch of the IS Photography Competition. Entries are starting to roll in for the competition so don’t miss out on your chance to win a framed copy of your photo or a £50 voucher of your choice - get your entry in today! Look out for more bat and ball and a mindfulness session. If you have any ideas or suggestions for events or simply want to keep up to date with what is happening, please visit the Wiki pages. We are already plotting our next events!

Healthy Working Lives wiki: https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ISHWL/Home
IS Photography Competition: https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/x/kn5VDw

Student partnerships in action

Eugenia Twomey

Summer 2015 saw six student internships completed in LTW. Three were supported by the University’s Employ.Ed program.

Fourth year Fraser Lennon delivered ODL Snapshots, an EDE initiative to capture creatively the ODL’s community through audio clips; read about it below.

Craig Peden, another fourth year, interested in Artificial Intelligence worked with DLAM to support the simplification of MOOCs data analytics. This could make significant contributions to Open Data practice; it makes an interesting read.

Website Programme intern Mattias Appelgren built a Cookie Audit tool, to detect privacy-invasive cookies on the University website. Read his thoughts on the University workplace in his blog post.

Within WGI, Judy Duong, Paul Sinclair and Hans Christian Gregersen developed a real-time, study space booking, mobile-first app. Close collaboration with the Timetabling Department has made this possible and it has been a rich experience.

This programme has been highly successful, giving an opportunity to witness student co-creation and has supported the development of new LTW services.

More information on the above can be found at the following:

Secret Lives of IS staff

Several times a month, and sometimes a couple of times a week, I can be found at various music venues across Scotland in the photo pit shooting bands. These acts range from little known, unsigned bands like One Last Secret and Something Someone, to established artists like Lily Allen, Clean Bandit and The View.

I first took to the stage at the age of seven and have been ‘on the boards’ ever since. Singing or drama, it didn’t matter which. I took part in school choirs, musicals and drama, and gained a gold medal in speech and drama from L.A.M.D.A. On leaving school I took up folk singing and joined a local drama society. I have played parts from Shakespeare to Burns to Ayckbourn. I am still taking part in theatre either backstage, directing or performing. The stage still has the same allure for me as it did then and I have loved every minute of it.

(Tim Gray www.tartanzone.net)

(Sally Pagan)

Answers from last edition of BITS:
Scottish Hillrally sports: Ian Stuart
Band supported The Stones: Norman Rodger

If you have a secret life you would like to share, email your teaser (maximum 80 words) to BITS@ed.ac.uk
Tell us a bit about your professional background?

I studied music at Edinburgh and then spent a year at the British Library before completing my postgraduate library qualification at UCL. My first full-time post was in the music library at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College and I then moved to Edinburgh as the music librarian in the Reid Music Library. When the Library was restructured in the early 2000s I took a management role, becoming the Bibliographic Services Manager. From Edinburgh, I moved to St Andrews as their Collection Manager, later Deputy Director. Here, as well as further developing my knowledge of content management and getting involved in national procurement initiatives, I had the opportunity to take a lead on a number of building projects including a major refurbishment of their main library building.

I currently chair the Scottish Libraries Procurement Steering Group and represent Scottish Libraries on the JISC Electronic Information Resources Working Group.

What does your job as Director of L&UC entail?

I provide oversight of and strategic direction for the teams delivering the services upon which the University’s Library and Museum Collection services are built. These days the activities range from traditional content acquisition, description and management and the development of our heritage collections, to providing infrastructure to help the University manage and distribute the outputs of its academics. We have to ensure the services we provide are fit for purpose and that we are continually able to improve and innovate to meet the expectations of our users.

I see my role as providing leadership, monitoring our activities to ensure they are in line with the University’s strategic objectives, being a good listener and knowing when to intervene to provide support.

What are you enjoying about the role so far?

No surprise if I say working with my colleagues in L&UC: I’m very fortunate to have a team with the ability to be creative and innovative. As a true librarian, you never lose the excitement of working with collections, having the occasional moment to learn a little more about some of the incredible books and manuscripts held by the University. As a musician, I’ve enjoyed learning more about our plans for St Cecilia’s Hall and having an opportunity to contribute to this project. I would challenge anyone not to get excited about some of the stunningly beautiful objects we have in our instrument and other collections.

And what do you do outside of work?

Family takes up a fair amount of my non-work time and I also play my trombone with Scottish Sinfonia. I’m delighted the ISG Choir has started up as it provides a great opportunity to make music and relax away from the stresses of work. I recently took up hockey again after a 30 year gap: like many people, I realised I had reached that time in life when I needed to make more effort to be active. It’s a great game which encourages you to run, allows you use your skills (if you have any!) and you can play with all the family.

Quick questions

Stevenson or Scott?
Stevenson for me.

Kindle or book?
One of my Library colleagues once pointed out to me it is not ‘either/or’. Some information is more easily read online; some better read on paper. When I buy books for myself, I still buy hard copy.

Old Town or New Town?
I love the grandeur and beauty of the New Town; however, I prefer the jumble of the Old Town.

International Festival or Fringe?
I’ve seen great performances at both, and taken part in the odd Fringe performance. As classical music is my main interest, I would say I’ve seen more memorable performances during the International Festival.
Our summer exhibition, 'Towards Dolly: a century of animal genetics in Edinburgh', hosts an array of items from Special Collections, illustrating Edinburgh’s outstanding contributions to genetics, from 19th century animal breeding to current stem cell research. Also on display is Dolly the sheep, on loan from National Museums Scotland, as well as the microscope used to clone her from the Roslin Institute. Additional exhibition content is available via the Izi Travel app. Come along and say ‘hello, Dolly’ to the world’s most famous sheep!


http://edin.ac/towards-dolly

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The world as it looked in Shakespeare’s day (Calendar)

Gavin Willshaw

The 2016 Library & University Collections calendar is out now and offers a fascinating insight into how the world looked at the dawn of the modern era.

Featuring maps, city plans and illustrations from the 16th century Civitates Orbis Terrarum, it contains an incredible diversity of content ranging from an engraving of London at the time of Shakespeare through to stunning illustrations of the great American capitals of Mexico City and Cusco on the eve of the Spanish conquest.

http://collections.ed.ac.uk/calendars

The calendar is available from a number of locations across the University and it can also be purchased online from:

www.giftshop.ed.ac.uk/2016-Calendar.html