



# BITS

## MAGAZINE

Issue 25, Autumn 2019

Sharing news and stories across Information Services Group and the University



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**SUBMISSION DETAILS**

If you would like to submit an article, or tell us about some news, please email:

**[BITS@ed.ac.uk](mailto:BITS@ed.ac.uk)**

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of **BITS** is **24 January 2020**.

To keep up to date with IS news:

**[www.ed.ac.uk/is/news](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/news)**

**FSC LOGO**



## Editorial

This is our autumn issue of BITS magazine, and our theme and feature focus is on sustainability. Services and projects in ISG contribute to sustainability goals across the University through reducing the environmental impact of our IT products and infrastructure and the contribution we make to sustainable learning and teaching through digital education, open source communities and open educational resources.

In this issue you will find stories reflecting our commitment to social responsibility alongside our regular features celebrating success, innovation and digital transformation. You will also find updates about some of the stories which have attracted significant media coverage in recent weeks, including the virtual map of historic Scottish witches and the purchase of the notebooks of Charles Lyell. We welcome two new senior staff joining our Library & University Collections teams, and our 60 second interview features some of the ISG sustainability champions talking about their work.

I hope you will enjoy this issue and look back at our archive online. We have been printing BITS magazine in this format for nearly 10 years. As part of our commitment to sustainability in recent years we have reduced the number of copies we print as our online readership has grown. We now print only 350 of the print copies of our magazine, and these can be found in our ISG reception areas and at various places around the University which we replenish over each 4-month cycle.

I must give thanks on behalf of all of the BITS team to Lauren Tormey who is leaving us for a new job elsewhere in the University. She has done sterling work over many years to make BITS the success that it is.

In between BITS issues you can keep up to date with all the news and announcements from ISG by following our social media channels, blogs and LinkedIn pages.

**Melissa Highton**

Director of Learning, Teaching & Web

## ISG news

### New people

#### SarahLouise McDonald



SarahLouise McDonald has joined the Library Academic Support team as an Academic Support Librarian, supporting the School of Law. SarahLouise comes to us from a previous post as Sheriff Court Librarian, where she developed a library service to

serve the 38 Sheriff Courts of Scotland. She has also previously worked as a Learning Resources Coordinator for City of Edinburgh Schools and Library and Digital Services Coordinator at Fife College.



**I'm excited to join the Academic Support Librarian team in supporting staff, students and researchers. I'm particularly keen to contribute to the development of Information Literacy across the University community and advocate for the excellent work of my colleagues in ISG.**

#### Carla Arton



Carla Arton is the Digitisation and Digital Engagement Manager for the Digital Library. Carla was most recently at Oxford University, where she led digital projects for the Bodleian Libraries. Previously, she was Director of Technical Operations at Indiana University's

Media Digitisation & Preservation Initiative where she established the University's £9M mass digitisation programme for their film collections. Carla brings well over a decade of experience in the information profession including seven years at the United States Library of Congress.



**I'll initially be streamlining and potentially expanding our digitisation services to increase use and awareness of university collections for research and teaching. Additionally, I hope to connect our digital collections & resources to user's needs through innovative and high-impact digital engagement initiatives that add real value.**

## Awards

### Learning Technology Team of the Year

#### Lorraine Spalding



The Lecture Recording Programme was recognised at the Association for Learning Technology (ALT) awards in

September, winning the Learning Technologist Team of the Year Award. The award celebrates sector-leading projects, and the judges described the Edinburgh entry as an exemplar for the delivery of any learning technology. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of academic, technical and professional colleagues, as well as student interns and helpers in working with us to deliver Media Hopper Replay.

### HR Network National Awards Winners

#### Kevin Brogan and Satu Kapiainen



ISG colleagues, Jeanette King and Laura Richardson in ISG Human Resources and Kevin Brogan and Satu Kapiainen in Learning, Teaching and Web Services, have won a national award in the HR Network

National Awards 2019. They took first place in the Attraction and Resourcing Award of the Year category for the employment of students in ISG. The award recognises the contribution of colleagues across ISG in recruiting and managing our interns and the benefits that this brings to the organisation.

### CPD certification for Data Management

#### Alex Delipalta

The Delivering Research Data Management Services Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) has been certified by the CPD Certification Service. The certification confirms that the course conforms to the principles of Continuing Professional Development. Co-developed by the Digital Curation Centre, the course teaches learners how to develop and deliver effective data management services to improve research in their organisation.

# Introducing Sustainable IT

**Gavin McLachlan**

Vice-Principal and Chief Information Officer, and Librarian to the University

It is very clear that we are experiencing a global climate and environmental emergency. The University has a key sustainability goal to be carbon neutral by 2040 and to work on all fronts to reduce our impact on the environment.

We have launched a new major University-wide initiative supporting this goal called Sustainable IT. Sustainable IT builds on the principles of Green IT – reducing the environmental impact of our IT products and infrastructure – while adding aspects of social responsibility, such as working environment and socially responsible manufacturing of IT products.

The IT sector has a dark side with significant carbon, environmental and societal impacts. Datacentres are quickly becoming some of the greatest concentrated users of electricity – with some large datacentres consuming more electricity than a small city. The mining, manufacture, transport and disposal of IT equipment has a huge impact on the environment as the need for IT equipment of all types increases each year. Furthermore, there is a societal impact as many IT manufacturers either directly or indirectly operate in or through supply chains or regions where there are poor humanitarian practices, including slave labour and child labour.

There are growing concerns about the effect of IT equipment in our landfills. In particular chips, touch screens, circuit boards and printer cartridges may continue to leak toxins into the environment for hundreds of years after they are buried. Action is needed to investigate and address these serious concerns.

Sustainable IT will consist of a series of projects, initiatives, policies and actions. The first of which is the sustainability of personal computing devices. This will take the form of a new University policy and process for personal computing devices aimed at a very simple core goal: to reduce the total number of personal computing devices (PC, Laptops and tablets) that we purchase and dispose of each year.

Additional Sustainable IT projects will be launched to address sustainable printing, green datacentres and other key areas of IT and technology.

We look to your expertise and action both within ISG and across the University to help achieve our goals. Without the help of all staff and students we will not be able to make a change. Sustainable IT is everyone's responsibility.

You can find more information on the Sustainable IT wiki:

<https://edin.ac/sustainable-it>

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## New personal computing device policy

**Graham Newton**

To help the University become zero carbon by 2040, our first Sustainable IT policy focuses on personal computing devices. The main elements of this policy are to:

- limit the number of devices we use to do our jobs
- rationalise the number of devices we offer and manufacturers we purchase from
- replace devices to an optimal cycle (5 years for desktops and 4 for laptops)
- centralise purchasing and reduce delivery times for standard items from 15 to 2 days

We believe that across the University estate these 4 elements will help reduce our CO2 output, ensure we are purchasing from environmentally sustainable sources, improve our purchasing power and deliver efficiency savings.

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## Green printing

**Gareth Phillips**

To make printing more sustainable at the University, our Cloud printing services allow us to reduce paper wastage and consume less energy.

We reduce waste by printing double-sided and black-and-white as default, deleting unwanted print jobs after 24 hours, and providing scan-to-email functionality in place of photocopying.

Compared to small devices, our large Multi-Function Devices consume less energy, contain less embodied energy and use fewer consumables per page printed.

Additionally, we print on 100% recycled paper and recycle our consumables. To learn how to recycle printer cartridges in your area, visit: [edin.ac/printer-cartridge](http://edin.ac/printer-cartridge)

## Know your bins

The University has an extensive programme and process to recycle waste. It is absolutely critical that we are at the forefront of both thought and action in this area so we can do our part to help the environment and serve as an example to other organisations.

## Recycling hardware

**Tracy Steinberg**

### How do you go about recycling hardware?

Speak with your line manager so that they can take note of any equipment moving away from the department.

Depending on the condition of your hardware, you can either:

- contact Reuse IT, who can help rehome your equipment: [edin.ac/reuse-it](http://edin.ac/reuse-it)
- or
- follow the WEEE process to arrange a waste uplift: [edin.ac/weee](http://edin.ac/weee)



### How can you help to do your part?

One way is to know the different types of recycling bins provided in your office

Find out more:

[edin.ac/know-your-bin](http://edin.ac/know-your-bin)



## JCMB Datacentre renamed after **Mary Somerville**

**Graeme Wood**

The datacentre in the James Clerk Maxwell Building has been renamed after Mary Somerville, a pioneering science writer and polymath.

The renaming commemorates the completion of major work at the datacentre to create a fully modernised, highly resilient facility. Our next challenge is to build on this work to drive up efficiencies.

We have a small project running to use innovative Internet of Things-monitoring devices to create a map of various environmental conditions across the datacentre space. We aim to use this data to manage the cooling temperatures and air flows to ensure equipment is adequately cooled, and to reduce power and greenhouse emission impacts.

The data will also be used to give a holistic 'health' measure of the datacentre performance that can be used to alert staff to issues for our service performance dashboard on the University website. The project will be providing employment experience for one of our students.



## Interns supporting **CMVM moves to Windows 10**

**Mark Hay**

ISG staff in CMVM worked with 2 student interns to deliver the migration of 4,000 computers to Windows 10. Paul Moore and Charlegne Rambanapasi worked across the College's 4 campus areas and were instrumental in helping meet targets.

“The work was really varied and interesting from simple tasks like renaming computers to going out around laboratories and chatting with researchers. We even learned to love all the spreadsheets while we discovered many other organisational tools. The team there are all wonderful people as well, and we loved getting to work with them each day.”

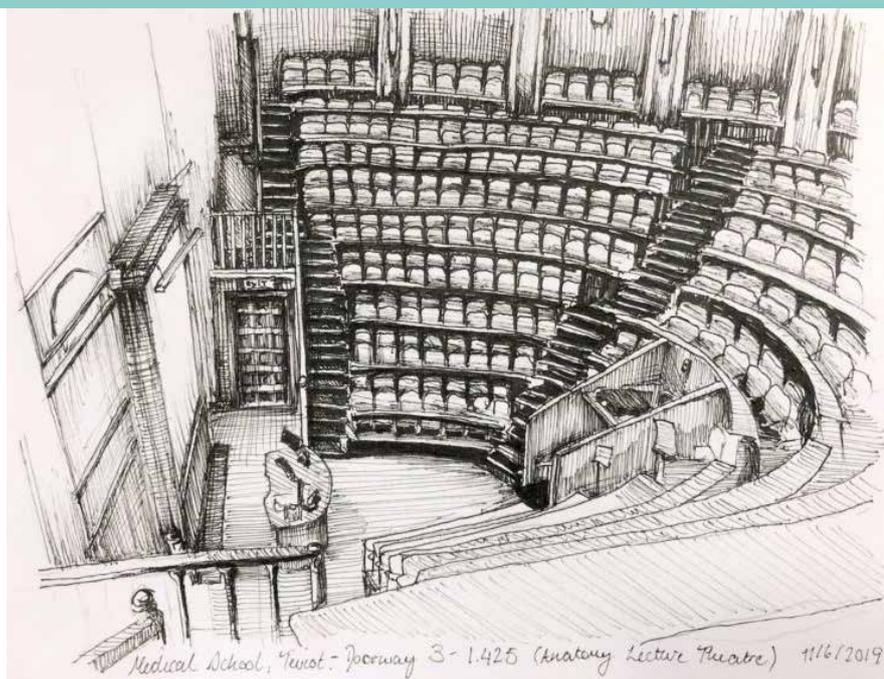
**Paul Moore and Charlegne Rambanapasi,**  
student interns

## Teaching spaces **remote management**

As part of our new Remote Support Helpdesk, we are leveraging remote technologies to monitor and control the use of teaching space devices.

Learning Spaces Technology manage 373 central teaching spaces. Each of these venues is self-service; we rely on our users switching off projectors and LCD screens when not in use. When this doesn't happen, it can lead to situations of equipment being left on overnight and over weekends.

With these new technologies, we now schedule a power-off command to all display devices at 10pm each night, and live monitor the usage stats and connection status to ensure these remote commands continue to work.



Learning Spaces Technology summer intern Shona Carr produced fantastic sketches of our teaching spaces, including this one of the Anatomy Lecture Theatre. See all of Shona's sketches at: [edin.ac/what-cable-do](http://edin.ac/what-cable-do)

## Witches Wiki generates buzz



Student intern Emma Carroll worked with Ewan McAndrew, Wikimedian in Residence, to geolocate the place names recorded in the Survey of Scottish Witchcraft Database (1563 to 1736) and create an interactive map.

Through Emma's detective work, around 500 place-names have been located using Ordnance Survey maps, place-name books, historical maps and gazetteers. This data was uploaded into Wikidata, as linked open data and further enriched with the location of detentions, trials, place of death and more.

There has been considerable media interest in the new map, including coverage from The Scotsman, BBC Radio 4 and the Smithsonian.com.

View the map: [witches.is.ed.ac.uk](http://witches.is.ed.ac.uk)

## IoT Service developing an **Intelligent Sustainable Campus**

**Simon Chapple**

The IoT Research and Innovation Service is assisting in the development of operational systems that enable an intelligent campus.

To support this, we have been working in collaboration with researchers, Estates, the Data-Driven Innovation hubs and others across the University to develop and deploy solutions that monitor our working environment. This includes temperature and CO2 level monitoring in Argyle House and occupancy monitoring in the Library.

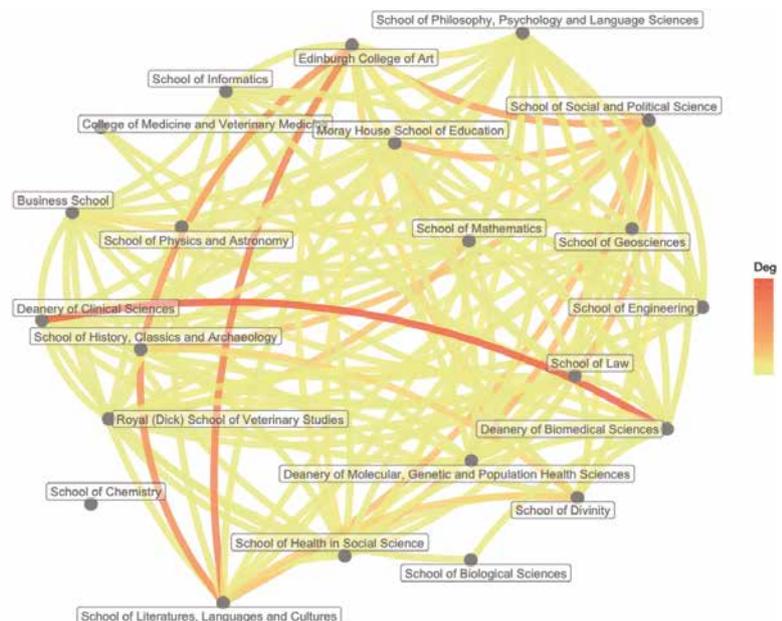
Additionally, to ensure sustainable use of resources, we are currently in the process of operationalising a sustainability-focused system named LILEE. The Little Interface for Lab Equipment Efficiency originates from a previous research project at the University ([www.enhance-project.org/lilee](http://www.enhance-project.org/lilee)) and provides effective multi-shared use of high-energy lab equipment to promote lower overall energy consumption.

During the summer we employed 4 students to construct a number of new LILEE units. Users simply swipe to log in to the LILEE unit, use the touchscreen to book capacity on the equipment and identify when they can combine their workloads with others. LILEE has been shown to save upwards of 20% of energy. We look forward to rolling out LILEE more widely across the University over the coming months.

## Visualising **The Curriculum Innovation Fund Project** completed

**Scott Renton**

Visualising The Curriculum is a project funded by the Innovation Fund to primarily examine diversity in the Library's Resource Lists. Justin Ho, a Digital Sociologist, was employed to visualise the trends by using interfaces that harness machine learning to determine the gender of a name. The findings will be presented to the Library Committee who will consider if this is something we could develop further.



## Western General Library new location

**Ruth Jenkins**

The Western General Hospital Library has moved to the refurbished Medical Education Centre on the 3rd floor of the Outpatients Building, from the previous location on the South Corridor.

The new Library space has improved study desks with power and USB sockets, fantastic views over Edinburgh and brings the Library in closer proximity to related learning and teaching spaces, such as seminar rooms and computer labs. The Quiet Study Room adjacent to the Library space will provide 24-hour access to the NHSnet and UoE open-access computers that had previously only been available during Library opening hours.



## New HR and finance system launching in 2020

**Barry Neilson**

The new University Strategy 2030 includes our aim to have more user-friendly processes and efficient systems to support our work. The Service Excellence Programme's goal of making our University an even better place to study and work is integral to delivering this.

We're working with people across the University to deliver a new web-based tool for HR and finance services. Going live from June 2020, its smart, user-friendly screen will allow us all to get day-to-day tasks done quickly and simply.

It will equip us for the future with simple, consistent ways of working and better data for decision-making.

[www.edin.ac/sep-news](http://www.edin.ac/sep-news)

## New College Library moves to David Hume Tower

**Hannah Mateer**

To enable estates work on the historic New College buildings, the New College General Collections will move to David Hume Tower from January 2020 to summer 2021. Access to some essential teaching resources may still be provided within New College.

Where possible, Special Collections items (including all archives and manuscripts) will be moved to the Centre for Research Collections in the Main Library in George Square. However, the bulk of the 3000 linear metres of Special Collections cannot be accommodated within the University Estate and will need to move into commercial storage for the project duration. During this time, these items will not be accessible.

ISG staff are working closely with the School of Divinity to ensure ongoing access to services and the continuing care of collections while estates work is underway.



## Sustainability in collections work: from collections content to conservation

**Rachel Hosker**

Our responsibilities as Archivists, Librarians, Conservators and Curators is about preserving for the future, for research, and holding information that can make us more sustainable. Our whole ecosystem of working with collections is about creating the right kind of environment to sustain informational content and infrastructure. You may think of the library as books on shelves and computers, however the Centre for Research Collections has specialist storage areas for all sorts of collections.

We have handwritten letters from George Washington, a papyri from AD 17, Alexander Flemings' Penicillin Mould, letters reputedly written in blood and films of student parties. The chemistry of all of these items requires specific temperatures, humidity, light levels and handling to ensure sustainability, future access and digitisation. Without these accredited spaces, which meet nationally recognised standards, there is the potential for degradation and loss. It's like a laboratory situation.

Going forward we'd like to consider where we source materials, how we recycle specialist materials and what impact our use of IT has on our carbon footprint when we are using computers to analyse, catalogue and make collections available.

The collections themselves also support research into environment and climate change. Our researchers have looked at collections that hold environmental data and weather reports over decades, such as the Salvesen collections, and the Scottish Marine Station for Scientific Research. These are being used to understand trends and changes to allow us to see what the climate is today and predict where it may change in the future.



## Charles Lyell's notebooks saved

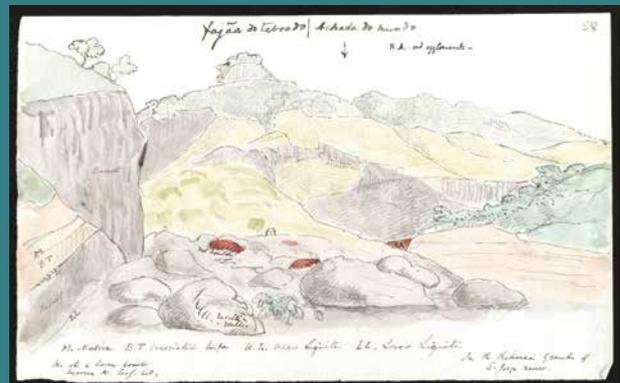


Lyell in 1840.  
Credit: Alexander Craig  
[Public domain]

Writings by Scottish geologist Sir Charles Lyell will be added to the University collections following a successful fundraiser. More than 1,000 supporters donated to purchase the collection from private owners, raising nearly £1 million.

Lyell influenced generations of scientists through his works and is credited with providing the framework that helped Charles Darwin develop his evolutionary theories.

We are planning to make the collection of 294 notebooks available to the public for the first time through our exhibitions programme and digitisation.



“ The acquisition of Sir Charles Lyell's notebooks is one of the most significant additions to our archive collection for many years and we are thrilled that they will be freely accessible to all. I would like to thank everyone involved in this campaign – especially those who made a donation, however large or small, to make this notable purchase possible.

–Jeremy Upton, Director,  
Library & University Collections

## Web content and **asset reuse**

**Stratos Filalithis**

The University's corporate web Content Management System, EdWeb, offers the means to easily reuse content, data and assets. The aim is to reduce duplication, save time and create a sustainable web content environment which makes best use of University-wide content and data sources. Some examples of EdWeb's features are the ability to make content, files or images available for reuse for all users, introduce bespoke external content and make use of the Research Explorer to enhance profiles' appearance.

To learn more, visit [edin.ac/edweb](http://edin.ac/edweb) and get in touch at [website.support@ed.ac.uk](mailto:website.support@ed.ac.uk).

## **Sustainable** processes, services and support

**Stefan Kaempf**

Developing and supporting large numbers of University applications provides an economy of scale, which allows us to apply common processes across these applications, resulting in less duplication, bespoke setups and wasteful support overheads. Over the years, Applications Directorate have been instrumental in establishing tools and processes such as the secure development lifecycle, EdGEL, automated deployments and user journey-based application monitoring.

For example, using a common software development lifecycle and EdGEL means that accessibility and security is built into software development by default. Automated deployment tools then ensure predictability and reduction in human intervention. Finally, once applications are deployed, a cross-application monitoring tool ensures stable and performant applications.

## Introducing the **University's Design System**

**Stratos Filalithis**

Following up on the introduction of EdGEL a few years ago, a new University-wide Design System is currently under development. While EdGEL focused on the look, feel and underlying code to deliver a consistent visual design, the new Design System will have a more holistic view. This will include the visual, editorial and functional digital user experience aspects. The goal is to create a continuously improving repository of resources, including guidelines, design elements, code and advice, as well as an overarching design process to drive a consistent and excellent user experience across the University digital estate.

To learn more about the design process and principles, visit [edin.ac/design-process](http://edin.ac/design-process) and get in touch at [website.support@ed.ac.uk](mailto:website.support@ed.ac.uk).

## **Sustaining Collections** access in project websites

**Kirsty Lingstadt**

CAHSS and Library & University Collections have been exploring ways to support continued access to Collections materials on legacy websites.

Funded research projects have resulted in collections being used in a variety of website-based outputs. While it is great to see Collections become more openly accessible, when project funding ends, so does support for these websites, and, in some cases, functionality stops working.

So how can we create better sustainability with these projects once they end? To address this, we are looking to use the University's infrastructure to ensure access continues to the Collections through the University's core websites.

## Sharing high quality media and courses

**Lorna M. Campbell**

A significant collection of media and course resources created for the University's online courses is being released under Creative Commons licence as open educational resources (OERs). This is in keeping with the University's commitment to sharing the highest quality teaching and learning resources showcasing Edinburgh at its best.

Open Media Bank on Media Hopper Create features over 500 high-quality video resources, created for a wide range of online courses that can be downloaded and re-used under open licence. Course materials include Fundamentals of Music Theory, Discovery of the Higgs Boson, Introduction to Programming and many more. With new online courses being developed across the University, we'll be adding new media resources to this channel as new courses come online.

[edin.ac/open-media-bank](http://edin.ac/open-media-bank)

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## Event self-check-in

**Alex Carter**

As part of the Enterprise API Programme, ISG Applications has delivered an innovative and cost-effective add-on to Event Booking to record attendance at events. The solution removes the need for using paper attendance lists at events, as well as ensuring accurate data for organisers.

It also means event organisers have robust data for follow-up activities with attendees, such as issuing certificates, recommending other courses or conducting surveys.

The solution is also a good demonstrator of our growing capability to safely and securely extract data from legacy systems and utilise that data to drive user-friendly apps and interfaces.

[www.ed.ac.uk/is/events-booking](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/events-booking)

## Open source at the University

**Turning to open source as the sustainable option**

**Anne-Marie Scott**

When we consider the kinds of software solutions we need, we have to think broadly in terms of sustainability. One aspect of that is to consider where an open source option might be the best fit. Open source is never without cost, but rather than paying license fees, sometimes the most sustainable solution is to join a practitioner community and invest in internal expertise. This can be particularly true in education where there are often sector-specific needs to be met.

ISG has history and expertise in this space: MyEd (launched in 2004) is based on the uPortal software; EdWeb (launched in 2014) is built on the extremely popular Drupal content management system; and the new Blogs.ed uses WordPress, almost the defacto standard for blogging software across the world.

**Edinburgh conference celebrates open source**

**Bruce Darby**

ISG hosted Open Edinburgh, a one-day conference on all things open source. Organised by Website & Communications summer intern Ritwik Sarkar, the goal of the event was to show how you do not need any technical coding skills to be able to contribute to open source.

The morning featured a Wikipedia Editathon, where attendees edited and created pages highlighting the achievements of Edinburgh graduates from many different backgrounds. The afternoon brought together speakers to present on why open source is the future.



Student intern Ritwik Sarkar closes the Open Edinburgh conference.

## Sustainable and ethical subtitling

### Anne-Marie Scott

Our recent Media Subtitling Pilot project tested a sustainable and ethical approach to creating subtitles, to inform how we might provide a centrally-supported service in the future. When investigating potential service models, we knew that accurate subtitles needed some human intervention. However, it was not always clear where commercial services' work was being done, and under what working conditions. We learned from academic colleagues that there is a big gig economy in audio transcription work.

We were also aware that in a diverse student population, opportunities for work with flexible hours that can be done from home could be really attractive. Our eventual pilot project offered living wage employment to our own students and was sector-leading in showing alternative student-led models for subtitling provision.

Read more about the Media Subtitling Pilot project: [edin.ac/subtitle-pilot](http://edin.ac/subtitle-pilot)

## Solving complex challenges through data collaboration

### Martin Donnelly

For 4 weeks in the autumn, the Research Data Support team hosted a visitor from Western Galilee College, Dr Tamar Israeli, who carried out a small-scale study on the collaborative data tools available to our researchers. Dr Israeli asked which ones researchers use in their work, and what else they feel they need from the University. Tamar is now back in Israel working on her report, the findings of which will key into our ongoing plans for the next phase of our service's continual development, helping us assist researchers to share and work on their data collaboratively, within and beyond the University's walls.

Effective and secure collaboration is a key enabler of Data Driven Innovation (DDI), a major theme at the University in the coming years, and one with a special potential for addressing global environmental and sustainability challenges.

## Ada Lovelace Day

Ada Lovelace Day celebrations have become an established part of the ISG calendar. This year we worked closely with School of Engineering to organise a day of activities. We created new Wikipedia pages for women scientists including Xia Peisu the Chinese computer scientist known as the "mother of Chinese computing" who studied at Edinburgh. We also hosted academic speakers including Dr. Nina Baker on the History of Women in Engineering and Professor Ursula Martin on "The Scientific Life of Ada Lovelace". We also enjoyed sticker making, badge making and laser cutting blue memorial plaques for inspirational women in STEM.



## Defining golden copies for sustainable data management

### Dave Berry

Our data is an asset. Like other assets, it needs sustainable management, or else we end up with redundant copies, old files cluttering our cyberspace, extra hardware to store it and potential security issues.

To avoid these problems, we define a 'golden copy' for each administrative data set, which is the authoritative source of that data. Retention rules ensure that old data is destroyed or archived.

We use the Enterprise Architecture repository to record our golden copy catalogue. We also use the repository to record how data flows between our systems and to identify opportunities to simplify these flows.

For more information, please contact [Dave.Berry@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Dave.Berry@ed.ac.uk).

## Double-screen training courses cut down on printing



**Catherine Koppe**

Using dual monitors for training courses has saved 800 printed workbooks to date. In 2017 the new ISG training suite opened in Argyle House, including 2 rooms fitted with PCs with 2 screens. Prior to this, the Digital Skills & Training team gave every course attendee a printed workbook, but the dual monitors allowed us to switch to using electronic workbooks. The workbook PDF is displayed on one of the monitors while the course participants work on the other screen.

## Recycling and consolidating at the uCreate studio

**Anthony Middleton and Anne-Marie Scott**

uCreate Studio, the University's makerspace, is supporting our sustainability agenda through recycling 3D printing and by becoming the new home of AV equipment loans.

While previously our 3D printing waste went to landfill (as the material used is not widely recyclable) we have now invested in Terracycle 3D printing zero waste boxes. These allow us to recycle all of our different kinds of plastic filament and even the spools the filament comes on. In the first 3 months of starting this, we recycled over 50 Kg of 3D printing waste.

Additionally, over the next year, we will consolidate all AV equipment loans into the uCreate Studio. This will include sets of DIY filming equipment designed to be used with your own mobile phones. Makes and models of phones will change over time, but because this equipment is generic it will continue to be useful for far longer than dedicated cameras.

You can visit the uCreate Studio in room 1.12 at the Main Library. [www.ucreatestudio.is.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ucreatestudio.is.ed.ac.uk)

## Online business **MicroMasters** course first in UK

**Nikki Stuart and Stuart Nicol**

The University has become the first in the UK to offer masters-level education that gives learners the opportunity to try before they buy.

MicroMasters programmes comprise a collection of fully online courses – learners can choose to study some or all of the modules within the programme with flexibility to schedule course dates around other business commitments. Learners can access content for free or pay to unlock additional content and assessments. We aim to lower the bars of access to new groups of students by offering MicroMasters as a stepping stone from open to formal accreditation.

The first MicroMasters is the Business School's 'Predictive Analytics for Business Applications', launched in partnership with one of the world's leading online education platforms, edX.

edX is a non-profit organisation built on an open source platform. Aligned to our institutional OER policy, we share all of our teaching materials under an open licence allowing them to be shared and reused by the wider community. Materials developed for the Predictive Analytics MicroMasters are already being used to benefit on-campus students.

<https://edin.ac/micromasters-analytics>



## Beekeeping for beginners



Andrew Millington, Learning Application Development Team Manager, shares his experiences of learning about beekeeping.

I had read the stories in the news about bees being under threat from disease and pesticide use, and wanted to see if I could help these vital creatures. I enrolled in a beginner's class for beekeeping, run by the Edinburgh and Midlothian Beekeepers' Association (EMBA).

The course covered theory such as bee anatomy and disease identification. We attended different apiaries to inspect hives with an experienced beekeeper. After the course had finished, I was given the opportunity to shadow Matthew Richardson, the beekeeper at the King's Building apiary. Having gained a deeper understanding of bees and having a lot of fun over the summer, I hope to set up my own hive next year to help Scotland's bee population.

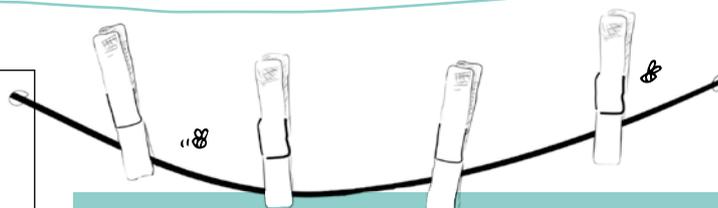
## International Digital Curation Conference 2020

**Alex Delipalta**

The 15th edition of the International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC) will be run in partnership with the Digital Repository of Ireland. The conference will be hosted at Croke Park, home of Ireland's Gaelic games, from 17-20 February. The programme will focus on community – the various stakeholders that play a role in ensuring digital objects are properly created, managed and shared.

<http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/idcc20>

You can register on ePay until 3 February:  
[edin.ac/epay-idcc](http://edin.ac/epay-idcc)



## Kind Clothing: Sustainable Fashion

**Lorna M. Campbell**

Kind Clothing: Sustainable Fashion is an open educational resource (OER) designed for children aged 10-14 by Geosciences student Hannah Fieldsend. The resource includes customisable materials, notes and slides for 3 interactive sessions that introduce learners to the concept of fast fashion and conscious shopping, covering topics including global clothing production, consumption and textile waste, sweatshop labour, sustainability and environmental issues. There is also a practical activity to create a craft project from recycled clothing.

The Kind Clothing resource pack, which includes Curriculum for Excellence outcomes and learning objectives, is available to download from TES Resources under Creative Commons licence: [edin.ac/kind-clothing](http://edin.ac/kind-clothing)

Visit Open.Ed to find out more about the University of Edinburgh's OERs: [open.ed.ac.uk](http://open.ed.ac.uk)





Dawn



Jo



Jon



Laura



## 60 seconds with ISG Sustainability Champions

**The University's Sustainability Champions are leading the push to become more sustainable at work.**

**In this 60 seconds mashup, we hear from 4 of our ISG Sustainability Champions about why they signed up for the role and how they would like to see the University become more sustainable.**

### **Jon Jack, Learning Technology Team Manager, Education Design and Engagement**

#### **What made you want to become a sustainability champion?**

I spent time living in Norway and had first-hand experience of how cities can be made more bike-friendly. I wanted to see how the University can influence the city to take action, and I want to learn how I can be more sustainable myself, both at home and at work.

#### **How would you like the University to become more sustainable?**

I would like to see the University remove the meat option from catering (as other Universities have done). I would also like to see the University offer more support for cycling to work by influencing Edinburgh City Council to develop safe cycleways for our colleagues to come to work by bike.

### **Dawn Holmes, ISG Project Management Office**

#### **What made you want to become a sustainability champion?**

I'm concerned about the negative impact that we're having on the world around us and want to do my part to help change that.

#### **How would you like the University to become more sustainable?**

I'd like sustainability to become an integral part of everything we do, from planning meetings (no plastic cups, no paper copies of slides, no meat in catering) to procurement choices (was it ethically produced, what will happen to it when we're done with it) and everything in between.

### **Jo Craiglee, Head of Knowledge Management and ISG Planning, Corporate Office**

#### **What made you want to become a sustainability champion?**

Doing background research to help with writing the Sustainable IT policy really brought it home to me how little most of us actually know about the environmental impact of the things we use on a daily basis and take for granted. I decided I wanted to do more and be more proactive in pushing the sustainability message.

#### **How would you like the University to become more sustainable?**

We need to think about what we print to save on paper and we should be using video conferencing instead of making long journeys. In truth, I think the path to the University becoming more sustainable starts with each and every one of us taking responsibility for ourselves and the impact we have on the environment – we should all be sustainability champions!

### **Laura Arnautovic, Training Coordinator, Digital Skills and Training**

#### **What made you want to become a sustainability champion?**

I've had a general interest in environmentalism and sustainability for many years, and this has become heightened over the past few years due to the greater urgency of the issue. Being a sustainability champion will hopefully help me gain more knowledge on the subject and become part of the wider discussions on sustainability within the University.

#### **How would you like the University to become more sustainable?**

We seem to do quite well at the smaller things (charges on take-away cups, recycle bins, water points), but I'd like to see more movement in the bigger areas of renewable energy, sustainable design choices for building upgrades, more flexible working from home arrangements to reduce commuting emissions and the general electrification of buildings, vehicles and equipment.

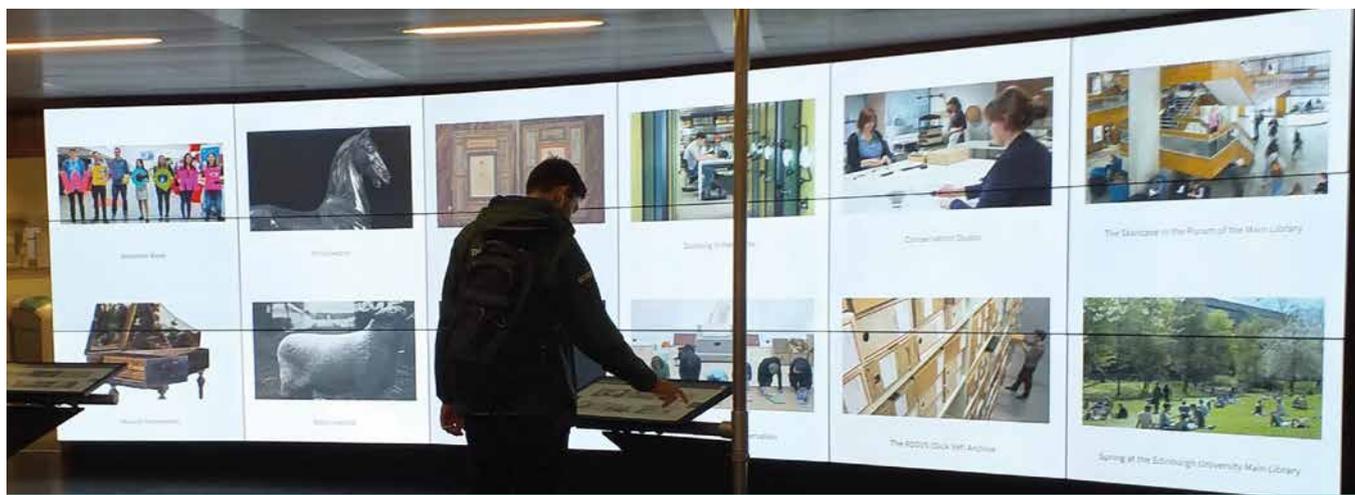
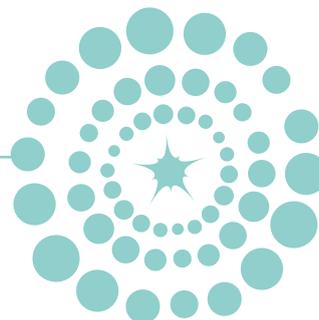
## New Digital Wall at the Main Library

**Carla Arton**

The Digital Library is thrilled to announce that our first Digital Wall went live in September. The Wall supports learning, teaching and research by providing a physical space within the Library to browse, discover and interact with digitised collections and digital resources.

Currently you can view a curated selection of content from [images.is.ed.ac.uk](https://images.is.ed.ac.uk), many of which are open-licensed, including musical instruments, art collections, early maps, documentary photography and iconic items like the 70-metre long Mahabharata Scroll.

You can visit the Digital Wall on the 1st floor of the Main Library and download open licensed images of the Mahabharata Scroll from [images.is.ed.ac.uk](https://images.is.ed.ac.uk).



## Journal of Visualized Experiments (JoVE)

**Fiona Brown**

The Journal of Visualized Experiments (JoVE) aims to help increase the productivity of research and advance research and science education by making and publishing videos of scientific experiments.

JoVE is the only peer-reviewed, scientific video journal. In addition, JoVE Science Education can assist students understand fundamental scientific techniques and key concepts and the content can be embedded in VLEs. JoVE was established by a researcher who found it easier, and less wasteful of resources, to replicate experiments which they could see being carried out.

The Library has a subscription to JoVE Unlimited, giving students and staff access to the entire JoVE content.

<https://edin.ac/jove>

