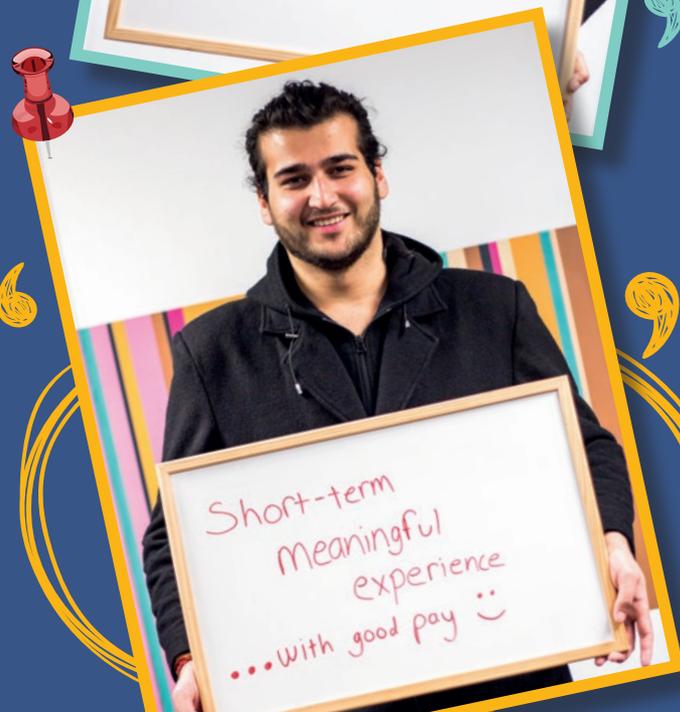
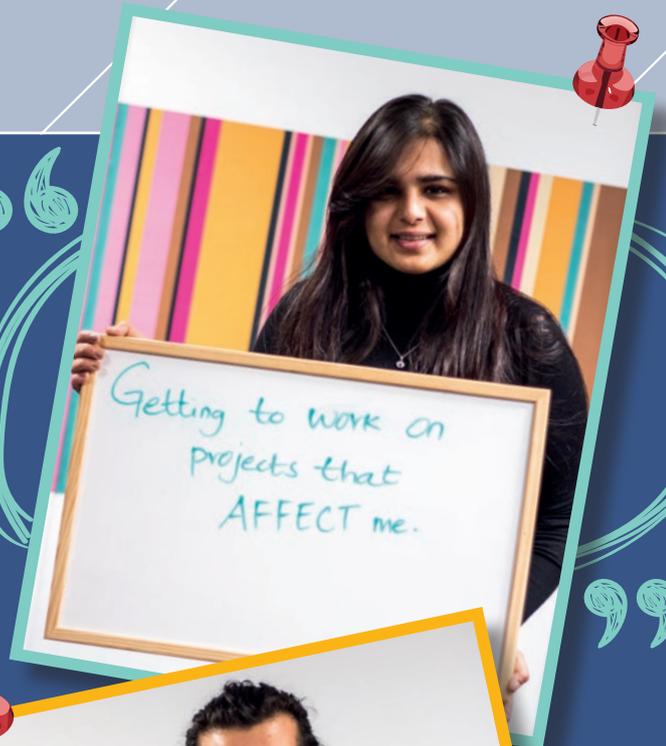


BITS

MAGAZINE

Issue 19, Autumn 2017

Sharing news and stories across Information Services Group and the University



Student employment

- page 2

Borrow a laptop 24/7

- page 4

Internship reflections

- page 8

60 second interview

- page 13

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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

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of **BITS** is **26 January 2018**.

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

FSC LOGO



Editorial

Our feature topic for this issue of BITS magazine is student employment. The students who work with us in Information Services Group bring a richness and diversity to our work environment, which benefits all our services. Their contribution helps us to stay in touch with the student experience at the University and ensures that we are always thinking about our most important user group. I hope you enjoy reading about the wide range of work that our student staff do and learning what they have to say about the value of that experience.

Our magazine is also packed, as usual, with project updates and news of new people and services. Students now have access to larger digital storage, 24-hour laptop loan, improved reading lists and recorded lectures. ISG colleagues have been working hard to digitise, describe, liberate and make open a rich range of online materials for students on and off campus.

Many ISG staff will remember that this time a year ago we were in the midst of relocating from many dispersed locations to new offices in Argyle House, a move which freed up new study spaces for students. We still have a considerable presence at the Main Library, and that building will be the focus for festivities this year as we celebrate 50 years of its iconic design. The building was originally designed to look a bit like a bookcase and is one of the busiest locations in Scotland. Argyle House was built one year later in 1968. Whether or not it attracts such birthday celebrations remains to be seen; all suggestions are welcome.

Please keep up to date with all our celebrations, news, events and activities via our websites and social media, and we thank you for all your support in delivering so many digital initiatives and innovations this year.

Melissa Highton
Director of Learning, Teaching and Web

ISG news

New people

Calum Robertson



Calum Robertson has joined ISG as Deputy Building and Services Manager.

He joins us from the Scottish Government where for the past 16 years he was the Facilities Manager for the Student Awards Agency for Scotland.

Calum's work is primarily focused on Argyle House, working with the Facilities team on highlighting potential health and safety issues, repairs and anticipating potential buildings issues before they occur.

“ My aim is to put processes in place so that we can provide a smooth and consistent service to all staff and buildings we represent. ”

Digitising The

STUDENT

THE ARCHIVE: 1980 - 1990

Gavin Willshaw

Thanks to a generous grant from the Alumni Innovation Initiative and hard work from project intern Olivia Nolan, the Library has been able to digitise and make available online every issue of *The Student* newspaper from 1980 to 1990.

This fascinating insight into life on campus, which includes moments of high drama such as the 'Great Library Fire' of October 1984, can be accessed online at:

libraryblogs.is.ed.ac.uk/thestudent



IT Support Desk

Rad Sargeant

Following a successful pilot, the IT Support Desk in the Main Library is now operating for the whole academic year.

Run by a combination of student staff and full-time professional IT staff, the main objectives of the service are to:

- improve the student experience by increasing the availability and accessibility of IT support and consultancy
- invest time and resources into training and developing the skills of our student staff, thereby giving back to the student community
- provide support to IS Helpdesk staff by encouraging referral of IT queries to the IT Support Desk



edin.ac/it-support-desk

IDCC18: Beyond FAIR - from principles to practice to global join-up

Alex Delipalta

The 13th International Digital Curation Conference will take place in Barcelona from 19-22 February. Every year we welcome delegates from over 27 countries across all disciplines involved in curating data. IDCC18 will focus on sharing practical lessons on the efforts made so far to curate data and pursue a digital data commons.

#idcc18
www.dcc.ac.uk



A vision for student employment

Gavin McLachlan, Laura Richardson and Gina Roberts

One of the main responsibilities of the University is to graduate students that are prepared, motivated, skilled and marketable. The modern job market they face is digital, fast-changing and very competitive. A key measure of university success is the percentage of students employed within 6 months of graduation. Though the University of Edinburgh does well on this measure, we feel we can do even better.

Having steadily increased our number of students employed over the last two years, we are now looking to strengthen student employment further still. Starting in the academic year 17/18, we will look to recruit more than 500 students every year and employ at least one student on every student-facing ISG project.

These employment opportunities give students a hands-on experience through a mix of paid internships and part-time work, adding a practical dimension to their learning. This is mutually beneficial for the University as well. By allowing students to be involved directly in projects, services and initiatives that affect them, it enhances the relationship between the students, ISG and the wider University.

ISG offers a range of areas for students to develop their employability skills from Project Services to Website and Communications, Special Collections and Help Services. Previous student employees have made practical contributions to the various projects and services such as MyEd Development, the MakerSpace uCreate Studio project and Metadata Games. We are also working closely with the University's Careers Service to enhance the learning and skills students develop during their employment. We participate in both the summer internship programme (Employ.ed on Campus) and an internship programme tailored specifically for PhD students (Employ.ed for PhDs).

We would like to encourage everyone to support and drive forward this critical programme. Let's give the students the awesome, rich, fun and professional work experience they deserve.

Find out more

- Our vacancies for students:** mycareerhub.ed.ac.uk
- Contact us:** IS.Student-Employment@ed.ac.uk
- Careers Service:** www.ed.ac.uk/careers
- Employ.ed internships:** www.ed.ac.uk/careers/employed-internships
- Edinburgh Award:** www.ed.ac.uk/careers/edinburgh-award

Benefits of student employment

For students:

Gaining professional experience:

“MY INTERNSHIP HELPED ME DECIDE WHAT I WANT FROM MY CAREER.”

Danielle Howarth
(CRC Evening Assistant)

A way to offset fee and living costs:

“SHORT-TERM MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE WITH GOOD PAY, WHAT ELSE CAN YOU ASK FOR APART FROM YOUR DEGREE!”

Shivashish Wali
(PG Student Research Intern)

Added value to their CV:

“I GAINED EXCELLENT PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE DIRECTLY RELATED TO MY STUDIES.”

Dominique Green
(Equality, Gender and Change PhD Intern)

A solid reference from ISG for future employers:

“AT ISG, I QUICKLY NOTICED THAT EVERYONE IS INCREDIBLY HELPFUL. THERE IS A TRULY COLLABORATIVE WORKING CULTURE HERE.”

Jemima John
(Media Team Intern)

Students get to experience working in a non-academic area, giving them a chance to explore different types of jobs:

“MY POST WITH ISG HAS REALLY HELPED BOOST MY CV IN TERMS OF GIVING ME NOT ONLY DEMONSTRABLE WRITING EXPERIENCE BUT ALSO VALUABLE SOCIAL MEDIA EXPERIENCE. HOPEFULLY, THIS WILL HELP IN THE FUTURE SHOULD I CHOOSE TO PURSUE A NON-ACADEMIC JOB.”

Vicki Madden
(Digital Recruitment and Marketing PhD Intern)

Acquiring new skills, many outside their core area of study:

“I HAVE GAINED A WIDE RANGE OF VARIED EXPERIENCES WHICH WILL PROVE INVALUABLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MY FUTURE CAREER.”

Jill Morrow
(Museum Collections Intern)

Students have the flexibility to work around their academic timetable:

“WORKING WITH ISG GIVES ME A LOT OF FLEXIBILITY FOR WORKING ALONGSIDE STUDYING AND MAKING THIS WORK WITH MY TIMETABLE.”

Leander Rysanek
(MyEd Student Feedback Coordinator)

For ISG:

Access to a huge, flexible, highly-motivated workforce:

“OUR SUMMER INTERN, TOMAS, WAS A REAL ASSET TO THE TEAM.”

Susan Greig
(eLearning Advisor)

ISG benefits from a direct source of ideas and input from its largest customer base:

“STUDENTS BRING NEW IDEAS AND A FRESH PERSPECTIVE. IT'S ALWAYS INTERESTING TO HEAR THEIR THOUGHTS ON HOW THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SERVICE IMPROVED TO BENEFIT THEM.”

Marissa Warner-Wu
(Web Interfaces Team Manager)

The students provide a potential pipeline of future ISG staff:

“DUE TO A WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE TEAM AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF OUR WORK, GWION, OUR SUMMER INTERN, HAS CONTINUED TO WORK PART-TIME WITH US DURING THE SEMESTER.”

Garry Scobie
(Deputy Chief Information Security Officer)

ISG managers get additional management experience:

“SUPERVISING INTERNS HAS BEEN A GREAT INTRODUCTION INTO THE WORLD OF MANAGEMENT.”

Lauren Tormey
(Website Editorial Assistant)

The University graduates students that are more employable:

“MY WORK EXPERIENCE ALLOWED ME TO IMPROVE AND LEARN EMPLOYABLE SKILLS.”

Baber Rasheed
(Main Library Student Helper)

Students leave with a stronger connection to the University and an enriched, broadened experience:

“I ADMIRE THE WAY THE UNIVERSITY STRIVES TO HELP THE STUDENTS AND HOW WE ARE AT THE VERY CORE OF PROJECTS TO HELP US.”

Hasa Reddy
(Main Library Student Helper)

New Snapshot analysis of your website

Bruce Darby

Snapshot is an audit tool that allows EdWeb CMS editors and site managers to monitor and evaluate some key areas of their EdWeb site.

Developed by Patrick Chen, the Website & Communications summer intern, Snapshot allows you to enter a URL to gather information on:

- your site's structure
- how long ago pages were edited
- whether the site uses any data gathering techniques that could be viewed as privacy invasive



Patrick Chen (Web CMS Research and Enhancement Intern)

edin.ac/snapshot
edin.ac/edweb-enhance-experience

More space for your profiles and data

Murray Dippie

The new quotas for student profiles are now 500MB, and the student data servers are set to 2GB for both undergraduates and postgraduates. As part of the migration to Windows 2016 over the summer, we decided to rearchitect the underlying disk storage and increase the student quotas. We successfully completed the work before the start of semester with minimal disruption to students.



Borrow a laptop anytime from the Main Library

Barry Croucher

Students can now borrow a laptop anytime via self-service from the Main Library.

Simply go to the Main Library Helpdesk during service hours to register once for a Personal Identification Number. A laptop can then be issued from the self-service laptop cabinet located in the HUB on the Ground Floor.

Self-service is available 24/7, subject to availability of laptops for loan.

Students support lecture recording roll-out

Lorraine Spalding

Media Hopper Replay is now live in over 100 teaching spaces across the University. In the first month of semester, more than 3000 lectures were recorded by lecturers and replayed by students. To help colleagues get started in the lecture rooms, we recruited a team of 28 students who were trained to provide on-the-spot information and guidance. Three student interns coordinated the initiative, which has had a positive impact on academic colleagues looking for help with Replay, and has been positively evaluated by the students who took part.



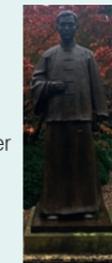
Featured thesis

Gavin Willshaw

This edition we feature the thesis of Dr Wong Fun (Huang Kuan), who graduated MD (Doctor of Medicine) in August 1855. Dr Wong was the first Chinese graduate of the University of Edinburgh and is also believed to be the first Chinese graduate from a European university.

A statue honouring his achievement was unveiled at the Confucius Institute in 2007 by former First Minister Alex Salmond.

Read his thesis at edin.ac/fun-thesis



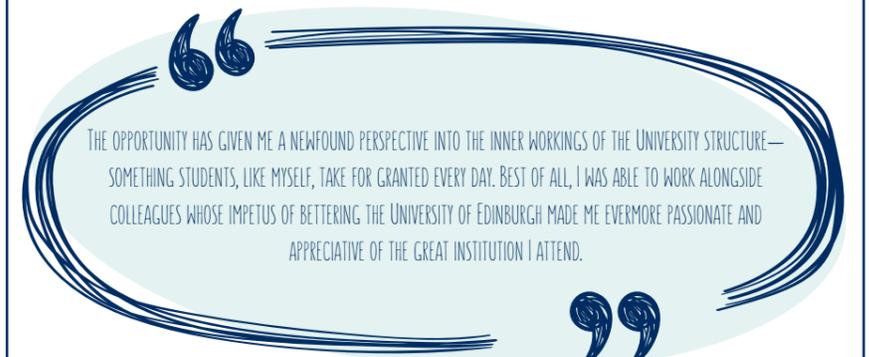
By Gajjanti (Own work) [CC BY-SA 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0)], via Wikimedia Commons

Resource Lists

Angela Laurins

An amazing team of students—Morag Donnachie, Michael Malvenda, Margaret Sharkey and Mattaea Ball—played a crucial role in checking the quality of migrated data and resource lists on Leganto, the new reading list system.

The team worked diligently to create and review new resource lists to make sure they were ready for the start of semester. The insight and feedback they gave us into student use of Library services was incredibly valuable and helps remind us why we're here.



Michael Malvenda
(Student Resources Assistant)

resourcelists.ed.ac.uk

Student interns delivering for Project Services

Nikki Stuart

This year Project Services employed three student interns, one for each of the support group portfolios. Alongside their own research projects, our interns supported project delivery through activities including:

- process mapping for the University Clearing process and Estates Archibus upgrade
- drafting and agreeing standard text with stakeholders for exam timetable notifications
- monitoring our services closely for readiness at the start of semester



Hannah Kingsland
(Project Management Intern)

Watch Hannah speak about her internship experience on Media Hopper: edin.ac/project-intern

www.projects.ed.ac.uk



Service Desk Certification

Lisa McDonald

The User Support Team (IS Helpline) have achieved Service Desk Certification with the Service Desk Institute for a second year. The team retained and improved on their 3-star 'Customer-led' rating after completing a 2-day surveillance audit. This was a great achievement in light of the introduction of a new certification standard.

We had representation at audit from several directorates in ISG, and our auditor praised us for our collaborative approach to service delivery, which has been enhanced by our co-location in Argyle House. It was noted that we have many strong examples of cross directorate working, and the involvement of colleagues from across ISG in the audit process demonstrated our enthusiasm for the overarching goal of continual service improvement.

EOSC

European Open Science Cloud

Magdalena Getler

The Digital Curation Centre (DCC) is involved in many data infrastructure projects and most recently the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC Pilot).

One of the project's goals is to ensure all researchers in Europe have access to an open-by-default, efficient and cross-disciplinary research data environment supported by FAIR data principles (findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability).

The DCC is leading the work on Skills and Capabilities. We believe that the necessary skills and education in research data management, data stewardship and data science should be provided throughout the EU as part of higher education, the training system and on-the-job best practice in the industry.

To find out more contact
Magdalena (Magdalena.Getler@ed.ac.uk)
or Angus (A.Whyte@ed.ac.uk).

www.eoscpilot.eu

Recognition for your professional skills through CILIP

Christine Love-Rodgers

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT CILIP, THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS?

CILIP provides a professional registration route recognising the skills and values of information and library practitioners in a wide range of roles through a reflective portfolio of evidence. A group of us are meeting informally once a month to support each other with CILIP Certification, Chartership or Fellowship. We are also holding an introduction event for CILIP on 7 December, where you can hear not only from CILIP members, but also from other staff in the University who are undertaking CILIP professional registration.

Book now at edin.ac/cilip-intro

Christine.Love-Rodgers@ed.ac.uk



Simulated Phishing Training

David Creighton-Offord

As part of efforts to prevent loss of data and to protect our staff both at work and at home, the Information Security team will be rolling out a series of simulated phishing emails across all staff.

These emails will imitate real attacks. They are designed to give a realistic experience within a safe and controlled environment.

If you click on the simulation, you will be provided with on-the-spot training materials, including clues you may have missed as to why the email should have been suspicious.

There is no penalty for falling for one of the simulations, but take the time to read and understand our guidance materials to help you avoid being caught out in future.

The data collected will help us to better focus our training going forwards.

www.ed.ac.uk/infosec

InformationSecurity@ed.ac.uk

Open Content Intern

Susan Greig

Tomas Sanders joined us as our Open Content Intern this summer, working on a project preparing multiple resources from Geoscience and Psychology students to be openly licensed. These resources were then published online on websites such as TES connect.

Throughout his internship, Tomas was very proactive and tried to engage more people in the reuse of Open Educational Resources and their creation, writing two excellent posts for our team blog. He contributed to and helped run the @OpenEdEdinburgh Twitter account and website open.ed.ac.uk.

Tomas presenting his poster at the Open Educational Practices (OEP) Conference



I'VE SEEN FANTASTIC, INSPIRING PARTS OF THE UNIVERSITY WHICH I WOULDN'T HAVE ENCOUNTERED OTHERWISE.

Tomas Sanders
(Open Content Intern)

What is TES Connect?

TES Connect is the go-to place online for school teachers to find lesson plans and re-usable resources. University of Edinburgh staff and students have uploaded 28 resources so far, and they have been viewed over 2,676 times and downloaded over 1,308 times.

www.tes.com/member/OpenEd

From the scriptorium to the screen: exploring Medieval Manuscripts in the Digital Age

Rachel Hosker

We will be launching an exciting project with three student internships to look at our Medieval Manuscripts as digital resources. The project will be revisiting the old descriptions to create a fully searchable catalogue with embedded images. This will enable us to test some of the International Image Interoperability Framework technology for transcription and translation. By layering data, images and potentially user-created content, this project will provide a multifaceted digital resource that will open up new perspectives and research paths.



Open Culture, Open Media

Lucy Kendra

Mary Hutchison (OER Intern) supported a project in Learning, Teaching and Web Services to surface a significant amount of high quality MOOC-generated media for use as Open Educational Resources. As a result, over 500 media items are available on Media Hopper. The collection includes a growing bank of downloadable, openly licensed snippets for reuse and remixing in learning and teaching contexts.

Explore the emerging collections on media.ed.ac.uk by entering *openmediabank* or *openmediasnippets* in the search box (then click the Search Channels button).

We'd love to hear about examples of reuse:
L.Kendra@ed.ac.uk

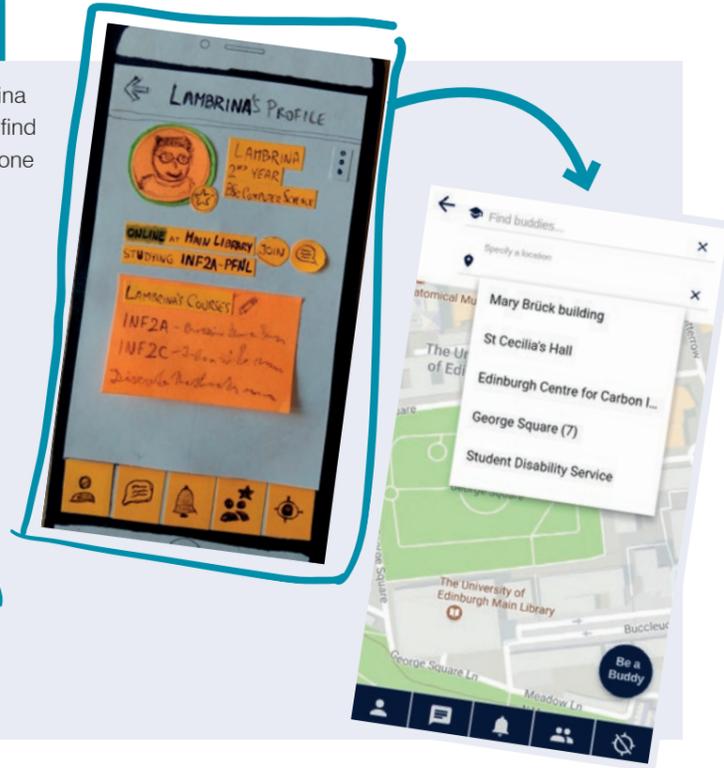
Aerial Footage snippet (CC-BY): George Square and the Old College at Sunrise



Direct link for download and reuse: edin.ac/oc-sunrise

MyEd Buddy Finder

Created by MyEd Development interns Sam Sucik and Lambrina Lolova, Buddy Finder is a new web app which helps students find others, connect and study together on campus. With smartphone visits of MyEd becoming more prominent, the product was created primarily for small screens using the Progressive Web App approach.



FROM DAY 1 AND THROUGHOUT THE INTERNSHIP, WE WERE GIVEN ONE THING: FREEDOM. AS AN AUTONOMOUS TEAM, ALL INITIATIVES AND DECISIONS WERE UP TO US TO MAKE. WE HAD A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THINGS FROM THE OTHER SIDE, AND LEARNED A LOT ABOUT CORPORATE LIFE, TEAMWORK, NEWEST TECHNOLOGY TRENDS AND THE MANY ASPECTS OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING.

Sam Sucik and Lambrina Lolova (MyEd Development Interns)



Information Security internship

Gwion ap Rheinallt worked with the Information Security team this summer on a variety of tasks, including web development, editing promotional videos and writing code to interact with social media.

I WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND AN INTERNSHIP AS A GREAT WAY OF GAINING EXPERIENCE WHILE YOU'RE AT UNIVERSITY. YOU WILL GET AN INSIGHT INTO THE WORLD OF WORK THAT'S DIFFERENT TO ANYTHING YOU'LL LEARN THROUGH YOUR STUDIES ALONE. IN MY CASE, I FOUND THE WORK VERY REWARDING, AND IT HAS REINFORCED MY BELIEF THAT INFORMATION SECURITY IS A FUNCTION THAT'S DESTINED TO PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR WORLD.

Gwion ap Rheinallt (Information Security Intern)

Thesis Hub internship

Catherine Koppe

PhD intern Candela Sanchez has been working with the Digital Skills and Training team to create an online resource based on the 'Producing a thesis using Word' classroom course. Candela has created a 'Thesis Hub' Learn course with links to Lynda.com videos and other resources. The course will be made available in early 2018 for students to self-enrol.



THESIS HUB COVERS ALL ASPECTS OF USING MICROSOFT WORD FOR WRITING LONG DOCUMENTS - FROM STYLES TO CREATING SECTIONS AND ADDING REFERENCES. EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED TO WRITE YOUR THESIS EFFORTLESSLY AND WITH STYLE!

Candela Sanchez (Thesis Hub Intern)

THESIS HUB

Student contribution to the ongoing review of Library Collections

Hannah Mateer

Library & University Collections began a Collections Rationalisation Project in 2016-17 to increase the efficiency of Library space. To achieve this, project staff are carrying out collection assessment to highlight priority collections; identify collections requiring conservation and cataloguing; and determine collections that can be disposed of or transferred to offsite storage.

Seven student interns worked on different projects across collections. This included work on:

- cleaning and scoping collections at New College Library so that further work can be undertaken to improve discoverability and access to materials
 - auditing artworks, helping to assess their condition and improve records
 - sorting, processing and conserving a longstanding backlog of unprocessed books
- The students have made a great contribution to the overall project, and we have been able to provide them with valuable work experience.

Student employment in Enterprise Services

Graeme Wood

Our student employees have been invaluable not only with the work they do, but also in providing a student voice in the wider activities that we undertake.

Final year Neuroscience student Constantin has been working with us on a project to support our virtual hosting service. This has been successfully piloted over the last few months, and version 2 of this is in the pipeline.

We also employed a first year Informatics student to work on an Innovation Project looking at the feasibility of applying EdGEL to the mailing list service. He also helped us with a variety of Helpdesk activities, which proved invaluable to us meeting project deadlines during a very busy period.



Library & University Collections interns

Serena Fredrick

Library & University Collections hosted six Employ.ed student internships over the summer.

The interns spent 10 weeks working with us in all areas of the division to gain some practical work experience.

The projects they worked on ranged from our Rare Books to the Anatomical Museum.



DOING AN INTERNSHIP FOR ISG HAS GIVEN ME INSIGHT INTO A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FACET OF THE UNIVERSITY. I HAVE MET NEW PEOPLE, GAINED NEW SKILLS AND LEARNT ENORMOUSLY ABOUT THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD AND ABOUT MYSELF.

Nathalie Bertaud (Early Library Records Intern)

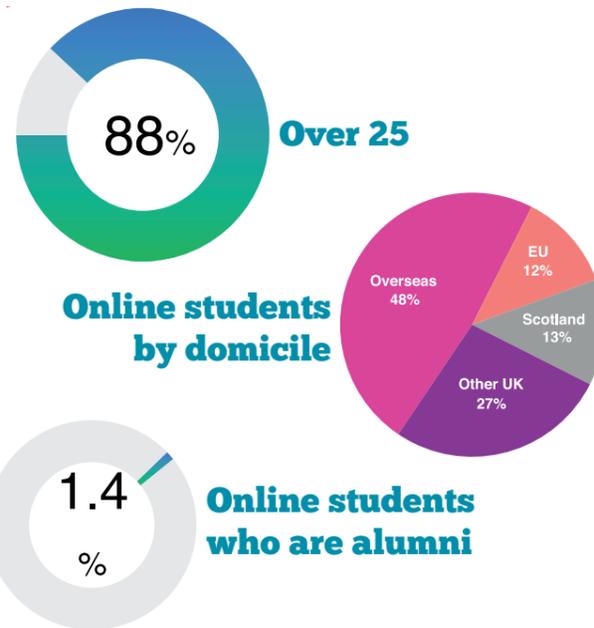
Distance learning students at Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh currently has about 2,920 distance learning students studying via online programmes at masters level. We have 65 programmes (with about 100 permutations).

In terms of cohort size, 7 out of the top 10 are CMVM programmes. Most other programmes teach fewer than 35 students per year. We have 62% women studying online masters compared with 57% of all masters students. Our online students are also older than our on-campus ones: 88% are over 25. We have students from 134 countries studying online. 60% reside outside the UK, but that is not very different from the domicile of our on-campus students. The top 6 countries are all English speaking (Scotland, England, USA, Australia, Canada, Ireland) and account for 59% of students.

A significant difference in the student mix is that there are few Chinese online students, whereas they account for 21% of campus based PGT students. Our MOOC learners come from all over the world, but despite there being 2 million of them, only 80 apply for online masters.

Only 1.4% of our online learners are our alumni.



Liberating the curriculum

Sarah Ames & Diva Mukherji (EUSA)

The Library has been working with student-led projects, Project Myopia and LiberatEd, to support the goal of diversifying the University's curriculum.

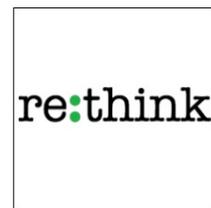
LiberatEd is an initiative to prompt and enable discussions between staff and students about diversifying and decolonising the curriculum. Project Myopia, founded by two students from the University, is a website devoted to diversifying university curricula by providing crowdsourced material from students.

Library & University Collections has provided space for the projects' reading group to meet, and hosted a 'micro-exhibition' in the Library foyer, led by the student groups, for Black History Month. The Library is committed to continuing and growing our relationship with these exciting and important initiatives.

Project Myopia: projectmyopia.com
LiberatEd: edin.ac/liberated

Open Access student journal

Roza Dimitrellou



December will see the launch of *re:think*, an Open Access journal focusing on creative ethnographic work.

Composed and curated by undergraduate students, *re:think* is a PTAS-funded project. It is led

by an editorial collective of students with the support of John Harries, Laura Major and Lauren Wilks of the School of Social and Political Science, and in collaboration with the Social Anthropology Society.

re:think is supported and hosted by the Library's newly-upgraded journal hosting platform alongside a range of student and academic-led journals.

journals.ed.ac.uk

Scoping Statistical Analysis Support

Diarmuid McDonnell

Scoping Statistical Analysis Support was a six-month project, supported by the ISG Innovation Fund, aimed at identifying gaps in statistical analysis training provision at the University, and the potential role of the Data Library in addressing these gaps. The project employed a PhD intern, Cindy Nelson-Viljoen, via the Employ.ed scheme.

The project's findings will inform future planning of statistical analysis support and training within the Data Library, ISG and the University.

edin.ac/stat-support

Thomson-Walker collection metadata

Alasdair MacDonald

Metadata for digital objects on the University's online Image Collections website is often detailed and informative, but doesn't always use the controlled vocabularies for persons or subjects that would allow it to assimilate with metadata relating to other collections. The Metadata Services Innovation Fund Project for 2016/2017 selected 255 scanned images from the Thomson-Walker collection of medical prints as a test case for reusing and enhancing existing metadata, with the aim of making the collection discoverable in DiscoverEd.



Two postgraduate students worked with staff from Metadata Services for six weeks in May and June to create a data set in Resource Description and Access (RDA) format covering both the physical objects and their digital counterparts. Pairing students interested in cataloguing with experienced staff allowed for a useful exchange of perspectives and ideas.

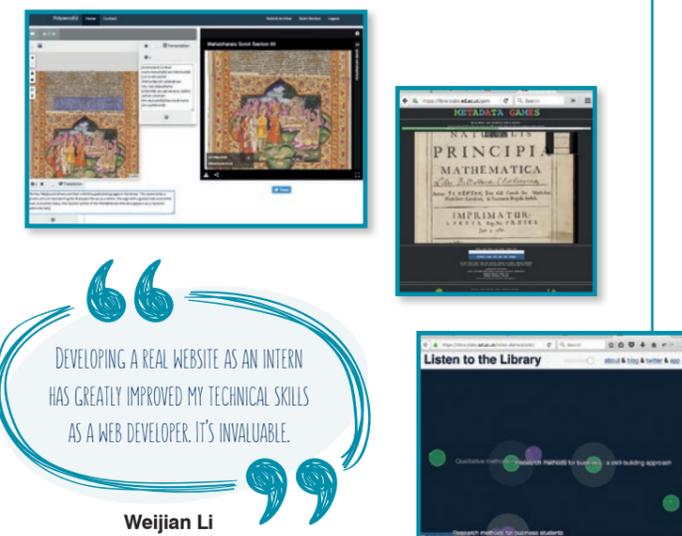
Digital Development Library

Scott Renton & Claire Knowles

The Library Digital Development team had a very busy summer, thanks to the participation of eight talented and hard-working interns: Sameer Bansal, Kiersten Hay, Weijian Li, Indra Lukmana, Titi Luo, Erin Nolan, Kris Tsvetanov and Sanyam Yadav.

Innovation is at the centre of all of our work, so it was great to have the chance to see project ideas come to fruition, above and beyond our initial expectations. Their endeavours covered a variety of areas, including web design and development, content management systems, data visualisations, analytics mining and IIIF. We witnessed an exciting overhaul of our Metadata Games (edin.ac/metadata-games); saw development of real-time audio/visual alerts created by Listen To The Library (edin.ac/listen-library); and look forward to researchers transcribing and translating archival texts in the Polyanno application.

The Library will undoubtedly benefit from the digital outputs and new knowledge of their contributions. However, we hope that that benefit has been mutual, and that the experience of working in the team environment has been enriching and useful for the interns.



Healthy Working Lives

Kathryn Mackay

The Healthy Working Lives group have run a number of events over recent months, including hosting a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support, which raised over £220. Many thanks to all staff who baked, bought cakes or helped set up for the event.



We also ran a pumpkin carving competition in October. Jonathan Santa Maria won the creative carving prize, but all the entries were outstanding.

You can see all the entries at: edin.ac/isg-pumpkin

Continuing with the theme of photography, our annual ISG Photography Competition is open. This year's theme is hobbies and the competition is open until 8 December.

Details on how to submit your photograph:

edin.ac/is-photo-17

ISG & McEwan Hall

This summer marked the conclusion of a two-year project to refurbish McEwan Hall. From hosting and capturing iconic images of the Hall to live streaming graduation ceremonies, ISG plays its part in preserving the legacy of the Hall and taking it into the future.

We hope you enjoy this featured illustration from our collections of William McEwan as Father Christmas gifting the Hall to the University in December 1897.



60 seconds with:
Laura Richardson



ISG offers a wide range of work experience for students, and it is important that we continue to promote this to the student body so we become a go-to area for employment opportunities.

Tell us about your position.

I am the Employment Officer for Student Experience within ISG. My role is a blend of Human Resources and Career Services, which makes it a particularly interesting area to work in. One of the key themes of the University's strategic vision is student experience, and student employability has a big part to play in this experience. The purpose of my role is to promote, facilitate and support student employment in ISG, in order to ensure a positive recruitment and employment experience for our students and staff.

What are the challenges of your job?

Each student is different and one of the crucial aspects of my role is to understand the circumstances and needs of each student, and be able to tailor my guidance accordingly. This is challenging, but also exciting and rewarding.

Another challenge is to get students to think more broadly about employment within the University. ISG offers a wide range of work experience for students, and it is important that we continue to promote this to the student body so we become a go-to area for employment opportunities.

What do you find most exciting about it?

I am an alumna of the University and I remember that, when I was a student, I often wondered about my future and how to get onto the career ladder. This can be a daunting thought for students. In ISG, our staff are creating student employment opportunities that are mutually beneficial: we get an invaluable student perspective on our services, and students get the opportunity to gain work experience and skills that will benefit their career development. I find it rewarding and exciting working on a project that allows me to benefit both students and the University.

In addition, I enjoy the fact that my job allows me to collaborate with different people from across the University, like students, the Careers Service, as well as various departments within ISG.

Tell us about your professional background.

My background is in careers and employability. I began working for the University in 2014 at the Careers Service; I was an Internships Advisor for their Employ.ed internship programme. That role led straight into my current position. I am lucky enough I still work closely with my colleagues in Careers, as their specialist knowledge and support is integral to the success of ISG's work on student employment.

What do you like to do outside work?

I am a very keen runner. I enjoy training and I have run two marathons over the last couple of years. I am also a foodie and I love to cook – which offsets all the running. In my spare time, I am gradually making my way through Edinburgh's excellent restaurants and food places. I also enjoy getting out to the countryside and walking my sausage dog Ted, and spending time with friends and family.

Erasmus+ International Staff Week 2017

Stephanie Hunt

Alongside a group of library staff, I recently had the opportunity to visit Berlin for the Erasmus+ International Staff Week to meet with professionals in the academic and international sector from all over Europe.

We enjoyed a visit to the libraries of the Freie Universität, where we learned about the history of the integration of the Freie libraries and explored the current technologies used at library helpdesks, including touch screen guides to books.

Also on offer was a variety of lectures and networking events. I found the session on Alma especially interesting as it really illustrated the common challenges and crossover we share in the sector. Another highlight was hearing about the archive catalogue created to record the history of the Nazi Loot Victims Artworks.

Wiki Loves Monuments 2017 – Capturing our cultural heritage

Ewan McAndrew

Wiki Loves Monuments is the world's largest photo competition and takes place in September each year. It is a way of documenting our country's most important historic locations for future generations.

This year Scotland uploaded a record 2,100 pictures of its listed buildings and monuments—6 times more than last year's tally—and 1,350 images of these were uploaded by ISG staff. This powered the UK to 6th place in the global competition, overtaking France, India and the United States.



View the pictures at bit.ly/ScotPics and read more about the competition at bit.ly/WLMScot

Repository Fringe

Martin Donnelly, Fiona Wright & Ewan McAndrew

This year marked the 10th Repository Fringe where we celebrated the progress we have made over the last 10 years to share content beyond borders and debated future trends and challenges.

Martin Donnelly (Digital Curation Centre - DCC) chaired a session mixing live and remote talks, and presented an overview of work recently carried out with SPARC Europe on analysing national Open Data and Open Science policies.

Wikimedian in Residence, Ewan McAndrew, and Histropedia's Navino Evans returned for three practical Wikidata workshops, showcasing how to add data manually and in bulk to the free and open knowledgebase. Video tutorials from the day are on Media Hopper: edin.ac/wikidata-wikisource

DCC Director Kevin Ashley put the cap on a packed programme summarising the event and highlighting fundamental themes from a stimulating set of contributions.

Presentations are available to download from the University's repository at: edin.ac/repofringe-archive



Library at 50

Rachel Hosker

Our iconic library building is 50 this academic year, and we're celebrating the architecture, people and happenings through social media and events.

The building, by architect Basil Spence's practice, set the tone for many other University library buildings of the time, and we talked to the principal architect on the project, Andrew Merrylees, at an event in November.

As well as this, we are unveiling a newly commissioned artwork to mark this year and the life of the Library.

Watch out for announcements.

Repository
Fringe 2017