

# BLE-Bulletin

Rounding up e-learning news for the Bloomsbury Colleges

<p><b>Contents</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Bloomsbury News</a></li> <li>2. <a href="#">Blackboard News</a></li> <li>3. <a href="#">Other News</a></li> <li>4. <a href="#">Training &amp; Events</a> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 <a href="#">Regional &amp; National</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>5. <a href="#">Funding Opportunities</a></li> <li>6. <a href="#">Resources</a></li> </ol>	<p><b>June/July 2008</b></p> <p>Please forward to any colleagues who might find this useful</p> <p>Your comments and contributions are invited. Please contact Sarah Sherman <a href="mailto:s.sherman@bloomsbury.ac.uk">s.sherman@bloomsbury.ac.uk</a></p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## 1. Bloomsbury News

### i) APT STAIRS Launch

The JISC-funded APT STAIRS project launched last month with an evening reception at the London Knowledge Lab. The event was very well attended by staff and students of the Bloomsbury Colleges, which included presentations from Google, JISC and the Project Team. To view photos from the evening, visit this link: <http://sites.google.com/a/jiscapt.net/project-plan/Home/News>



### ii) Bloomsbury Survey 2008

A cross-institutional, online survey for both staff and students of Bloomsbury is designed to measure the types of technology currently being used by different stakeholder groups. This retrospective analysis will serve to establish a basic usage pattern and to identify common benefits, drawbacks, pitfalls and opportunities, in order to inform the APT STAIRS project and the learning technology units across Bloomsbury. To complete the survey, and for the chance to win a number of Amazon vouchers, please visit [www.bloomsbury.ac.uk/apt/survey](http://www.bloomsbury.ac.uk/apt/survey)

[Back to Top](#)

## 2. Blackboard News



Blackboard

### i) Blackboard Outcomes System

The next release of the Blackboard Outcomes System, a part of Service Pack 2 for the Blackboard Academic Suite, Release 8, is now available. With guidance from Blackboard's clients and outcomes assessment experts in higher education, this release addresses critical issues and delivers significant improvements that enable better insight into institutional effectiveness, reduce the burden of manual, inefficient processes, and better engage faculty as partners in assessment.

[http://www.blackboard.com/products/academic\\_suite/outcomes\\_system](http://www.blackboard.com/products/academic_suite/outcomes_system)

ii) **Blackboard Academic Suite Release 8.0**

The BLE is planning an upgrade to Blackboard version 8, which focuses on three new critical-thinking tools, which support users:

- **Self and Peer Assessments:** Enables students to review and grade their own work by following key criteria set by their teacher, which encourages reflection;
- **SafeAssign:** Helps students learn crucial citation and plagiarism rules while helping staff ensure originality;
- **Blackboard Scholar<sup>(R)</sup>:** Enables users to find and share education-related resources with peers.

For information on additional features, including a video tour, visit

<http://www.blackboard.com/release8>

iii) **Regional Training opportunities are now available at Blackboard's Amsterdam office!**

Blackboard is opening up their office in Amsterdam for intensive, hands-on instruction in:

- Snapshot Administration
- Building Block Essentials
- Learning System Essentials
- Product Specialist Bootcamp
- And many other offerings!

For more information and detailed workshop descriptions, visit the [Blackboard Training website](#).

iv) **Learning Object Demos**



Learnign Objects has added new mini demos to their website to give you quick insight into Campus Pack in action. The demos show a few of the ways blogs, wikis, and podcasts can be used to engage learners.

<http://www.learningobjects.com/demos.jsp>.

[Back to Top](#)

### 3. Other News



i) **Great expectations of ICT: how HE institutions are measuring**

New research commissioned by JISC and carried out by Ipsos MORI suggests that students are starting to mix their social networking sites with their academic studies and inviting tutors and lecturers into their virtual space. Report available from: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/Home/news/stories/2008/06/greatexpectations.aspx>

ii) **JorumOpen**

Jorum, the UK national repository for learning and teaching materials funded by JISC, is to offer open educational resources. This will make it easier for lecturers and teaching staff to share and re-use each other's teaching resources.

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2008/04/jorumopen.aspx>

iii) **JISC Podcast: e-Portfolios and how they're supporting students in making vital decisions**

Case studies are giving real-life examples of how ICT can help widen participation and support learner progression. In this podcast, JISC programme manager

Sarah Davies talks with Philip Pothen about e-portfolios and how they're supporting students in making vital decisions about their learning, their work and their careers.

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2008/04/podcast41sarahdavies.aspx>

**iv) Federated Access Management Podcast**

More on FAM from the latest JISC podcast "Towards the future with federated access management"

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2008/05/podcast42mashagaribyan.aspx>

**v) Withdrawal of Athens interfaces from some Mimas services**

JISC's policy on access management for JISC services is that authenticated access via Athens should be replaced by federated access via the UK Access Management Federation.

As a result of implementing this policy, direct Athens interfaces to the following JISC-supported Mimas services will be withdrawn on 31 July 2008:

- Census Learning Resources (NB the learning & teaching materials only - NOT the census.ac.uk services)
- CrossFire
- Hairdressing Training
- Landmap
- Zetoc
- Jorum (a joint EDINA-Mimas service)

<http://www.mimas.ac.uk/news/2008/06/athens-withdrawal.html>

**vi)**



**HEFCE Strategic plan 2008-09**

HEFCE's strategy for the development of higher education in England to 2011. It was developed through extensive consultation and discussion with a wide range of stakeholders and has now been updated for 2008-09.

[http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2008/08\\_15/](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2008/08_15/)

**vi) New report on student plagiarism published**

The



results of the second phase of the Academic Misconduct Benchmarking Research Project (AMBeR) show that while HEIs vary in their application of plagiarism policies, there are clusters of consensus within groups of universities. The details highlighted by the research will be used by higher education institutions to review and develop their individual plagiarism policies in the future.

Institutions are also encouraged to use the project's results to examine their existing procedures and engender a complete and transparent picture of activity within the sector.

[http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/news/detail/uk\\_report\\_student\\_plagiarism](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/news/detail/uk_report_student_plagiarism)

[Back to Top](#)

## **4. Training & Events**

### **4.1 Regional & National**

**08/07/08 e-learning@greenwich/conference**

University of Greenwich

<http://www.gre.ac.uk/e-conference>

**09/07/08 'All Your Document Are Belong To Us': the Next Wave in Publishing Infrastructure**

British Institute of Radiology, 36 Portland Place

[http://www.alpsp.org/ngen\\_public/article.asp?aid=2433](http://www.alpsp.org/ngen_public/article.asp?aid=2433)

**10-11/07/08 JISC CNI meeting 2008**

Belfast

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/jisc-cni-2008/>

**14/07/08 Intellectual Property Rights and the VLE Workshop**

Woburn House London Cost £50

<http://www.rsc-london.ac.uk/1275/>

**14/07/08 Fifth Pan Commonwealth Forum (PCF5)**

University of London

<http://www.cde.london.ac.uk/support/events/event2987.htm>

**15-18/07/08 BbWorld'08**

Las Vegas, USA

<http://www.blackboard.com/company/events/bbworld08>

**29/07/08 Using Logfiles for Security**

Learning South West, Bishops Hull House, Taunton

<http://www.ja.net/services/training/courses/usinglogfilesforsec.html>

**31/07/08 Firewalls: Planning and Implementation**

ELSPA, London

<http://www.ja.net/services/training/courses/firewalls.html>

**06/08/08 Managing IT Security**

Peter House, Manchester

<http://www.ja.net/services/training/courses/managingitsec.html>

**10-12/09/08 ALPSP International Conference**

West London

[www.alpspconference.org](http://www.alpspconference.org)

**9-11/09/08 ALT-C 2008: Rethinking the digital divide**

Leeds

<http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2008/>

**16-19/09/08 UCISA-SDG Professional Skills for Advisory Staff**

[www.ucisa.ac.uk/groups/sdg/Events/2008/prof\\_skills\\_Sept\\_08.aspx](http://www.ucisa.ac.uk/groups/sdg/Events/2008/prof_skills_Sept_08.aspx)

University of East Anglia

**29-30/09/08 iPRES Conference 2008 The Fifth International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects**

London

[www.bl.uk/ipres2008](http://www.bl.uk/ipres2008)

**8-10/10/08 mLearn08**

University of Wolverhampton

[www.mlearn2008.org](http://www.mlearn2008.org)

### **13-15/10/08 Handheld Learning 2008**

The Barbican, London

<http://www.handheldlearning2008.com/>

### **4-7/11/08 JISC Online International Conference – Innovating e-Learning**

[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/elearning\\_pedagogy/elconference08.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/elearning_pedagogy/elconference08.aspx)

### **20-21/11/08 ReLIVE08**

Open University

<http://www.open.ac.uk/relive08>

### **2-4/12/08 Online 2008**

Olympia

<http://www.online-information.co.uk/index.html>

- TASI (JISC's Technical Advisory Service for Images) has announced a number of workshops from June to August: <http://www.tasi.ac.uk/training/>
- The BUFVC (British Universities Film & Video Council) presents a programme of courses taking place in June: <http://www.bufvc.ac.uk/courses/booking.html>
- One day JANET Training Courses are due to be held in June: [www.ja.net/training](http://www.ja.net/training)

[Back to Top](#)

## **5. Funding Opportunities**

### **i) JISC**

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/futurecalls>

### **ii) The Higher Education Academy**

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/learning/elearning/elro>

### **iii) Higher Education Academy Subject Centres**

<http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/tdf/>

[Back to Top](#)

## **6. Resources**

### **i) XERTE**

Xerte is a free authoring tool that enables practitioners to create high quality and interactive learning content. JISC Techdis has developed a template wizard that makes working with Xerte easier for non-technical curriculum staff. Learning objects are created with accessibility features such as user selection of colour and text size, a text to speech option and tab navigation already built in. Xerte helps users to focus on interactive design by providing tools that are fit for purpose and easy to use. Xerte and the templates, together with text and video guides are available free from: [www.techdis.ac.uk/getxerte](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/getxerte)

### **ii) Free Audio and Newspaper Resources from the British Library**

The BL is offering two major digital resources: Archival Sound Recordings and 19th Century Newspapers. Funded by the JISC, licenses are available for free to UK higher education.

- **Archival Sound Recordings** provides access to music, spoken word and environmental sounds from the British Library Sound Archive. The collections provide a wealth of inter-disciplinary, primary source material to liven up classes and inspire students. The resource covers broad range subject areas, including history, English, music, art & design, media, social sciences and political studies. <http://sounds.bl.uk/>
- **19th Century Newspapers** provides access to national, regional, and local 19th century British newspapers. It includes 48 titles, totalling approximately 2.2 million pages, which reflect the social and political developments of the time. As a multi-disciplinary research database, this resource is relevant to anyone studying 19th century history. <http://www.bl.uk/collections/britishnewspapers1800to1900.html>

**iii) Sustainable IT (SusteIT)**

Managing environmentally sustainable ICT in FE & HE The SUSTE-IT project reflects the increasing importance of ICT-related energy and environmental issues, in the education sector and elsewhere. For example, electricity consumption in (and carbon emissions from) computers and printers are rising rapidly and new regulations, such as the WEEE Regulations, are requiring action on end-of-life equipment. A one year project for the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) SUSTE-IT is investigating ways in which information technology within universities and colleges can be made more sustainable. <http://www.heepi.org.uk/jisc/sustainable-ict.htm>

**iv) Building the 21st century library: new report from JISC and SCONUL**

"Libraries should look for increased value from their principal library-wide computer systems, ensure that those 'library management systems' are integrated with other institutional systems and look to break down barriers between library users and resources." Briefing paper and full report available from: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2008/04/lms.aspx>

**v) BBC Motion Gallery JISC Service**

BBC Motion Gallery have recently launched a new service through JISC Collections with nearly 100 colleges and universities already signed up for the 30 day trial. BBC Motion Gallery is the BBC's archive clip licensing business. This new JISC service allows all staff and students of subscribed institutions to access a vast collection of clips for use in presentations, lectures, coursework and media. Search through a vast collection of moving imagery on topics such as Current Affairs, Sport, Natural History, Medicine, Geography, The Arts and many more. <https://jisc.bbcmotiongallery.com>

**vi) JISC Legal publishes Updated Code of Practice for the Further and Higher Education Sectors on the Data Protection Act 1998**

The Code of Practice is designed to provide guidance to the FE and HE sectors on issues of specific relevance to their day-to-day operations. As such, the Code of Practice does not provide an in-depth examination of the general principles of the Data Protection Act 1998, which are widely available elsewhere, but concentrates on key issues of concern to FE and HE institutions. <http://www.jisclegal.ac.uk/publications/DPACodeofPractice.htm>

**vii) JISC Comparative Study of e-Journal Archiving Solutions**

The report is the result of a call by the JISC, issued in January 2008, for a Comparative Study of e-Journal Archiving Solutions. The Invitation to Tender asked for a report that would be published for wide use by institutions to inform policies and investment in e-journal archiving solutions.

[www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/media/documents/jisc\\_collections/reports/e\\_journals\\_archiving\\_%20solutions\\_report\\_final\\_080518.pdf](http://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/media/documents/jisc_collections/reports/e_journals_archiving_%20solutions_report_final_080518.pdf)

**viii) Study Skills Online**

A popular web site for study skills, mostly aimed at university students but it is also useful for years 12 & 13. Google places this in the world top 10 and it has had over 130000 hits so far.

<http://people.brunel.ac.uk/~mastmmg/ssguide/sshome.htm>

**ix) Launch of Visual Arts data service (VADs)**

Students and academics looking for visual arts images now have online access to a collection of over 100,000 images on the new VADs website. The image resources are free and copyright cleared for use in UK Higher and Further Education.

<http://www.vads.ac.uk/news/relaunch.html>

**x) The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913**

A collaboration between the Open University, and the Universities of Hertfordshire and Sheffield, The Old Bailey Proceedings Online makes available a fully searchable, digitised collection of all surviving editions of the Old Bailey Proceedings from 1674 to 1913. <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org.uk/>

**[Back to Top](#)**

Please send comments and contributions for next month's BLE-bulletin to:  
Sarah Sherman, BLE Service Manager, [s.sherman@bloomsbury.ac.uk](mailto:s.sherman@bloomsbury.ac.uk), 07515 580 385.