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BLE-Bulletin

Rounding up e-learning news for the Bloomsbury Colleges

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1. Bloomsbury News

i) Elluminate Showcase



The Elluminate event held in Bloomsbury on 11th February was extremely successful, with over 70 people (virtual and in the flesh) coming along to find out what Elluminate is and how it is used across our Colleges here in Bloomsbury. Four excellent case studies were presented highlighting how Elluminate is used to:

- enable students from all over the world to learn together and interact in innovative ways (IOE)
- deliver Continuing Professional Development (RVC)
- teach students new languages (SOAS)
- deliver distance learning to global students (LSHTM)

To listen to a recording of the event, visit this link: http://tiny.cc/Elluminate_Live_Feb11

ii) Bloomsbury Media Cloud project



The Bloomsbury Media Cloud platform developed by the JISC funded project, will formally launch in May at an event marking the occasion. External speakers from JISC, MGT Plc, MediaCore and JISC Digital Media will be talking about importance of online media and shared services. For further details about the project, visit: www.bloomsbury.ac.uk/cloud

iii) BLE Platform Review

The Bloomsbury Learning Environment (BLE) Blackboard licence is up for renewal this August and as part of the BLE's commitment to providing staff and students in the Colleges with increased flexibility, the BLE Steering Group is managing an evaluation of alternative learning environment, Moodle. The evaluation is made up of a number of elements - a pedagogical comparison between Moodle and Blackboard 9.1 (the latest version) and staff/student consultation activities. A Moodle consultation survey was commissioned following an event on Friday 25th March, where attendees heard speakers from other HE institutions present their Moodle implementations. You can view a recording of the event here: <http://bit.ly/BLE-consultation-event>. A Moodle Business Case will be presented to the Bloomsbury Heads of Administration and Colleges in May for their consideration. The final decision then will be announced to the Bloomsbury community later this summer. For further information, please contact Sarah Sherman (BLE Service Manager) - s.sherman@bloomsbury.ac.uk

iv) The WikiVet project receives £ 100,000 to support a new initiative to publish commercial content on the site.

The Opening Veterinary Access to Literature (OVAL) project involves the repackaging of currently restricted-view veterinary educational resources into an open format, which will then be made freely accessible to an international audience of veterinary online learners. The OVAL project will help to address these issues by adapting quality peer reviewed articles and datasheets provided by commercial partners and integrating these in to the widely used WikiVet veterinary educational portal. Currently, there is an extensive range of veterinary literature produced by private sector publishers which has a limited readership due to the prohibitive costs. However, with the significant market changes associated with e-publishing, there is now a good business case for making some of these resources free to view. The OVAL project intends to use this opportunity to develop an innovative model for repurposing online journals and text books as Open Educational Resources (OER).

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2. Blackboard News

i) Blackboard Launches CourseSites - an online system for instructors

Blackboard Inc. announced the launch of CourseSites by Blackboard, a free, fully hosted and supported online course system featuring the Company's latest teaching and learning technologies. The offering gives individual K-12 and higher education instructors an innovative, high quality cloud-based option to host online courses or add a Web-based component to traditional ones.

The simple, easy to use system gives educators greater choice and flexibility for online courses in a system with cutting edge features that encourage experimentation. CourseSites is designed to support instructors who may not have access to a learning management system at their institution or school, or who may have access to an older platform system from Blackboard or a competing course management provider. There is no license fee, no hosting fee and no additional setup required for instructors to get started.

For more information about CourseSites, please visit: <http://www.coursesites.com>

ii) Blackboard Teaching & Learning Conference 2011

WHEN: 11-13 April 2011

WHERE: Leeds, UK

VENUE: University of Leeds

The most rewarding moments at Blackboard conferences come from the presentations made by Blackboard clients. The Blackboard Teaching and Learning conference program will feature sessions led by Blackboard clients from all over the world. This is a great opportunity to connect with colleagues and share best practices, as well as gain insight from the Blackboard staff.

For more information about Blackboard Teaching & Learning Conference 2011, please visit: <http://www.bbworld.com/2011/TeachingAndLearning/content.asp?id=1798>

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3. Other News

i) Intellectual Property Office Publishes Latest IP Insight

The February edition of the Intellectual Property Office newsletter is now available. The newsletter includes links to IP related stories which have featured in the news in the last month, and an article on IP and website design which may be of interest to those in universities involved in spin out companies. The newsletter is available at <http://www.ipo.gov.uk/news/newsletters.htm>.

ii) 'Twitter Messages Not Private' Rules PCC

The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) has ruled that information posted on Twitter should be considered public and publishable despite the claim that this information was private and was only meant to be seen by the user's 700 followers. The decision follows a complaint by a Department of Transport official that the use of her tweets by newspapers constituted an invasion of privacy in what is the regulator's first ruling on the re-publication of information posted on Twitter. The PCC ruled that the publicly accessible nature of the information was a "key consideration" in its ruling and that the articles did not constitute "an unjustifiable intrusion" into the complainant's privacy despite the individual involved having a clear disclaimer that the views expressed by her on Twitter were personal and not representative of her employer. This ruling should serve as a reminder to institutions to have clear policies and practices in place for its Twitter users. The guidance should caution staff and others about the public nature of postings and should describe to users what the permissible limits are concerning posting work related information on Twitter. Further details on the BBC website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-12393893>.

iii) Cybercrime, £1000 Per Second is Criminal

According to the UK government, cybercrime is costing the country around £1000 every second. The report, conducted by the Office of Cyber Security and Information Assurance in the cabinet office, focused on cybercrime areas such as identity theft and intellectual property theft as well as crimes against the government. As a result, organisations are spending more and more on cyber security therefore, further and higher education establishments are reminded of the ever increasing need to ensure that their IT infrastructure is well equipped in dealing with the threat posed by sophisticated cyber hackers. For more details on this news story please visit: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-12492309>. Alternatively, you may wish to access the report from the Cabinet Office website at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cost-of-cyber-crime>. For JISC Legal's guidance on this area, visit <http://www.jisclegal.ac.uk/LegalAreas/ComputerMisuse.aspx>.

iv) EU Report Highlights Pros and Cons of Cloud Computing

The European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) has published its report 'Security and Resilience in Governmental Clouds' to aid public administrations in understanding and managing the operational, legal, and security requirements surrounding cloud computing.

The stated main objectives of the 146 page report are 'to highlight the pros and cons, with regard to information security and resilience, of community, private and public cloud computing delivery models; [and] to guide public bodies in the definition of their requirements for information security and resilience when evaluating cloud computing service delivery models.' Whilst the report is based on analysis of three major groups – healthcare, local government administration, and publicly-owned cloud infrastructure as a business incubator, the issues raised are of relevance to IT management in institutions currently looking to migrate computer systems/services to the cloud. The press release (17/01/2011) and a link to the report is available from the ENISA website at <http://www.enisa.europa.eu/>.

v) JISC Techdis Launch New Website

Those of you concerned with accessibility issues in the use of technology will be interested to visit the new website of our sister organisation, JISC Techdis. The Service specialises in supporting organisations within the education sectors, and are able to offer a wealth of specialist advice on technology and inclusion. The new website improves the accessibility of their advice and has enhanced search features to make navigation easier. It can be found here: <http://www.jisctechdis.ac.uk/>.

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4. Training & Events

4.1 Bloomsbury

Illuminate Training Session

We will be offering another Illuminate Training Session on Monday 09 May at 3.00pm. This training session is conducted remotely so participants get a first hand's experience of the tool similar to potential online delegates. Instructions on how to set up the computers (audio wizard) will be sent out prior to the session.

During the training session participants will become familiar with various tools and build confidence in using Illuminate.

In this session you will learn how to:

- use the main environment window,
- upload a presentation
- use the Whiteboard
- use text chat
- create a web tour
- conduct polls
- create break-out rooms
- record a session

Book here: http://tiny.cc/Elluminate_training

4.2 Online Training

i) JISC TechDis Xerte Friday training programme

Xerte Friday online sessions are designed to support teaching practitioners who want to embed the use of Xerte online toolkits in their teaching. For 2011 the programme will be subject focused to encourage a wider range of staff to start on the Xerte Toolkits

learning curve. Subjects included in the current programme and how to join details available from:

<http://rsclondonnews.blog.ulcc.ac.uk/2011/01/25/jisc-techdis-xerte-friday-subject-focused-training/>

ii) Plagiarism Advice Webinars

There is a series of webinars looking at various aspects of Plagiarism prevention, with a pedagogical rather than technical emphasis. Upcoming session:

- 13 April: [Institutional policies and procedures](#)

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4.3 Regional & National

- **19/20th April** [MoodleMoot UK2011](#) ULCC - Senate House, University of London
- **11th May** 10.00 – 4.00 [e-Safety workshop](#) - Brettenham House, WC2E 7EN - RSC London/RSC Eastern Event – Free
- **25 May** [Echo360 Community Conference Europe](#) - The London School of Economics and Political Sciences.
- **25th May** 10.00 – 4.00 [Digital Creativity 2011](#) - Islington City Learning Centre, N5 2EG - RSC London/RSC Eastern Event - £50
- **8/9th June** [SOLSTICE \(CETL\) and CLTR Conference 2011](#) - Edge Hill University, Ormskirk, UK.
- **15/16th June** [Sixth International Blended Learning Conference](#) - University of Hertfordshire in partnership with the Higher Education Academy and JISC Advance at The Fielder Centre, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK
- **6th July** [Enhanced and Transformed: Tales from the Digital Age](#) (Call for papers – closes 1st April) - University of Greenwich, London – Fees
- **6/8th September** [ALT-C 2011 - Thriving in a colder and more challenging climate - Call for proposals](#)
- **17/18th November** [16th Annual SEDA Conference 2011](#) Using Technology to Enhance Learning, Aston Business School Conference Centre in Birmingham

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5. Resources

i) New report launched by LIDC highlights what works in distance learning for health professionals

LIDC's new report, 'Distance Learning for Health: What works' by Chris Joynes, presents findings from a global review of distance learning programmes for medical professionals in low and middle income countries.

The report was launched at the occasion of the LIDC-3ie seminar 'What works in international development? Internet-based medical education: findings and lessons from a realist review.' A summary of the seminar presentations will be available online soon.

Read more: http://www.lidc.org.uk/news_detail.php?news_id=117

Download the Executive Summary:

<http://www.lidc.org.uk/assets/DL4H%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>

Download the full report: <http://www.lidc.org.uk/assets/DL4H%20Report%20Full.PDF>

ii) The Google Art Project

Google has used its 'Street View' technology to make tours and digitise artefacts from galleries around the world. The project currently includes:

- Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin - Germany
- Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian, Washington DC - USA

- The Frick Collection, NYC - USA
- Gemäldegalerie, Berlin - Germany
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC - USA
- MoMA, The Museum of Modern Art, NYC - USA
- Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid - Spain
- Museo Thyssen - Bornemisza, Madrid - Spain
- Museum Kampa, Prague - Czech Republic
- National Gallery, London - UK
- Palace of Versailles - France
- Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam - The Netherlands
- The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg - Russia
- State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow - Russia
- Tate Britain, London - UK
- Uffizi Gallery, Florence - Italy
- Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam - The Netherlands

The site allows you to both 'tour' the museums and galleries, as well as view the artworks. You can also save 'collections' of images to revisit - requires a (free) google account.

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

<http://www.googleartproject.com/c/faq> [guide]

iii) OAPEN (Open Access Publishing in European Networks)

Open Access Publishing in European Networks (OAPEN) provides access to open access monographs in a range of subjects including the social sciences and humanities. Includes titles in a range of European languages.

<http://www.oapen.org/>

iv) Briefing Paper - Transforming curriculum design: transforming institutions

This briefing paper looks at the lessons and resources from JISC's ongoing **Institutional Approaches to Curriculum Design** programme, it will benefit others undertaking institutional transformation.

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/briefingpapers/2011/bpcurriculumdesign.aspx>

v) VADS adds vintage fashion images to its digital collection

VADS offers over 120,000 fully cross-searchable images which are free to use and copyright cleared for learning, teaching, and research. For more information about VADS collections, see <http://www.vads.ac.uk/collections/>

vi) Witches on trial in 350-year-old notebook

A 350-year-old notebook describing the execution of innocent women for 'consorting with the Devil' has been published online with JISC funding by The University of Manchester's John Rylands library.

The notebook was written by Puritan writer Nehemiah Wallington who describes a supposed coven of witches who lived in the Suffolk village of Manningtree.

See and search Wallington's notebooks close up <http://bit.ly/h1sb7A>

6. 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/>

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