

## BLE-Bulletin

Rounding up e-learning news for the Bloomsbury Colleges

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### 1. Bloomsbury News



#### i) ALT 2010 Learning Technologist of the Year Award

The BLE technical team was honoured with a valuable acknowledgement from the [Association for Learning Technologists](#) (ALT) at their annual award ceremony last term.

The judges said: "The way in which the services collaborate, negotiate together and share services and their support is exemplary. It is likely to be a model that will occur more in the future. The saving on acquisition maintenance and support costs for products is substantial. The flexibility of those within the team and the technological approach taken make for a quality of service across the five institutions that would not otherwise be achieved."

The judges were impressed by the way in which five somewhat disparate organisations have been able to work together and agree on products to be acquired, and their ongoing support arrangements. They were struck by the programme of joint events and workshops, the balance between development and the involvement with the community. Read the full report: <http://repository.alt.ac.uk/817/2/LTOY201020v1.520for20web.pdf>

#### ii) Bloomsbury Media Cloud project



The current collaborative project is the Bloomsbury Media Cloud, funded by JISC, which is the development of a shared digital media platform. The aim of the project is to provide the Colleges with a facility to electronically distribute a range of media content such as videos, podcasts and audio recordings. For further details, visit [www.bloomsbury.ac.uk/cloud](http://www.bloomsbury.ac.uk/cloud)

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## 2. Blackboard News

### i) Blackboard Collaborate

Blackboard Collaborate – the union of Wimba and Elluminate - delivers an open, education-focused collaboration solution that enhance learning, reduce costs, and improve outcomes by enabling anywhere, anytime, instruction, meetings, and help. Read more about the company's roadmap here: [www.blackboard.com/collaborate](http://www.blackboard.com/collaborate)

### ii) Blackboard Learning & Teaching Conference 2011

At the University of Leeds this year, the Blackboard Learning and Teaching Conference 2011 provides the opportunity to share success stories and lessons learned with peers from across the UK and Western Europe. Previous delegates have found the most useful outcomes have stemmed from presentations made by Blackboard users, but there are also opportunities to hear about current developments and news from Blackboard itself. For more information, visit this [link](#)

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## 3. Other News

### i) Call for content contributions

PlagiarismAdvice.org is seeking contributions of content to enhance their website and would like to invite submissions for consideration from practitioners in all sectors. Submissions should be evidence-based and reflect current practice from within the academic community. Short proposals of around 250 words should be received by **4<sup>th</sup> February 2011**, and will be subject to peer review by the PlagiarismAdvice.org International Advisory Board ([more details](#)). Funding may be available for successful proposals from a minimum of £250 per project. <http://www.plagiarismadvice.org>

### ii) Learners to benefit from technology competitions

Learners who find digital information difficult to manage in today's high tech world, perhaps because of a disability, could enjoy more independence thanks to two new developer competitions. JISC TechDis launched the competitions on Saturday after consulting the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Technology Strategy Board, joint sponsors of the initiative. The first competition 'Plain Sailing' asks developers to create technology to help people produce and access their own personalised digital information anytime, anywhere. The second 'Making Waves' competition challenges developers to come up with technologies to ensure that learners with communication difficulties can function effectively and independently. Find out more at <http://www.jisctechdis.ac.uk/sbricompetitions>

### iii) The German National Library, Oxford University and Europeana agreement

The German National Library, Oxford University and Europeana have signed an agreement to digitise family papers and memorabilia from the First World War. The collaboration will bring German soldiers' stories online alongside their British counterparts in a 1914-18 archive. JISC planted the seed in 2008 when it funded The Great War Archive which is run by Oxford University Computing Services. <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/gwa/>

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## 4. Training & Events

### 4.1 Bloomsbury

To encourage more people across the Colleges to use Elluminate (virtual classroom software) and Echo360 (automatic lecture capture) we are preparing the following events:

- **11<sup>th</sup> Feb** - Elluminate: Show and Tell Day, 10am to 4pm at the IOE.
- **8<sup>th</sup> April** - Echo360: Show and Tell Day, 10am to 2.00pm at LSHTM.

Further details will be available shortly; for more information please contact Yanna Nedelcheva [y.nedelcheva@bloomsbury.ac.uk](mailto:y.nedelcheva@bloomsbury.ac.uk)

### 4.2 Online Training in Jan & Feb '11

There are some useful sounding online sessions being offered during January and February

#### i) Plagiarism Advice Webinars

Online sessions which take place on Wednesdays at 1500 GMT these are delivered via Webex on a range of topics relating to plagiarism and ensuring the integrity of student work. The schedule for January/February is as follows (please click the link to register):

- 19 Jan: [Getting the message across to students](#)
- 26 Jan: [How and why students plagiarise](#)
- 2 Feb: [Identifying and tackling plagiarism](#)
- 9 Feb: [Designing plagiarism out of coursework](#)
- 16 Feb: [Best practice for dealing with academic misconduct](#)
- 23 Feb: [Institutional policies and procedures](#)

#### ii) JISC Digital Media Online Surgeries on Screencasting

With so much educational content now delivered via computer screen - be it PowerPoint presentations, web pages and services, software demonstrations and training, or digital media - the process of capturing what you are doing on your computer and packaging this screen capture as an effective and accessible learning resource has become more and more important.

To reflect this growth in screencasting the JISC Digital Media team will be running a series of online surgeries in the New Year:

- **19/01/11** The major technical issues surrounding screencasting
- **26/01/11** Considerations for screencasts as teaching and learning support resources
- **02/02/11** Using a screencast as a lecture capture tool
- **09/02/11** Using a screencast to provide feedback

To find out more or to join any or all of the on-line surgeries please go to [www.jiscdigitalmedia.ac.uk/surgery](http://www.jiscdigitalmedia.ac.uk/surgery)

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### 4.3 Regional & National

#### Effective Assessment in a Digital Age Workshops

A series of free workshops based around the JISC Effective Assessment in a Digital Age publication [www.jisc.ac.uk/digiassess](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/digiassess) and associated online resources

[www.jisc.ac.uk/assessresource](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/assessresource) will take place during **January – March 2011**.

Workshops will be held in:

- **London** (20 January 2011)
- **Birmingham** (16<sup>th</sup> February 2011)
- **Bristol** (March 2011)
- **Newcastle** (24 March 2011)

*The workshops will be suitable for:*

- Lecturers, tutors and course leaders who design assessment and feedback for their learners on HE-level courses
- Intermediaries with a role in supporting practitioners with assessment, and technology-enhanced assessment (learning technologists, e-learning/ILT champions, staff developers, educational developers, academic registry)

**Booking information for the London workshop is now available from** [www.jisc.ac.uk/assessworkshops](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/assessworkshops)

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011** [Turnitin User Event - UK](#) Birmingham

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2011** [DL.org Workshop on Digital Libraries and Open Access: Interoperability strategies](#) British Academy, London

**9<sup>th</sup> February 2011** [Xerte Online Toolkits for Advanced Users](#) – Islington Learning Centre N5 2EG - £50

**14/15<sup>th</sup> March 2011** [JISC Conference 2011](#): Financial challenges - digital opportunities BT Convention Centre, Liverpool

**19/20<sup>th</sup> April 2011** [MoodleMoot UK2011](#) Senate House, University of London

- Staff Development training courses from the University of London: <http://www.london.ac.uk/staffdevelopment.html>
- The BUFVC (British Universities Film & Video Council) programme of courses: <http://www.bufvc.ac.uk/courses/booking.html>
- JISC Digital Media training programme: <http://www.jiscdigitalmedia.ac.uk/training/>
- One day JANET Training Courses: <http://www.ja.net/services/training/schedule/by-course.html>
- Library Related Conferences: <http://library2.usask.ca/~dworacze/CONF.HTM>
- JISC Legal's newsletter: <http://www.jisclegal.ac.uk/Newsletter.aspx>

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## **5. Resources**

### **i) New online resource from JISC InfoNet: Collaborative Online Tools for Business and Community Engagement**

This new infoKit examines the use of collaborative online tools to support the interactions between further and higher education and its business and community partners. It is the result of a JISC-funded project conducted as 8 trials situated in different contexts and making use of a variety of tools. The contexts include lifelong learning, collaboration within and across regions, international businesses involved in curriculum delivery, a community of practice and knowledge transfer networks. The infoKit can be found at: [www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/infokits/collaborative-tools](http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/infokits/collaborative-tools)

### **ii) Mobile and Wireless Technologies Review from JISC infoNet**

This review has been commissioned by JISC to review the literature on the use of mobile and wireless technologies for learning and teaching in UK further and higher education.

Mobile and Wireless Technologies Review is available in a number of formats at:  
<http://mobilereview.jiscpress.org>

### **iii) JISC Legal's e-Safety Tips**

JISC Legal has published a '**Top Ten e-Safety Tips**' guidance document. The purpose of the guidance is to serve as a quick reminder of the main areas to be addressed when thinking about meeting your organisation's e-Safety duty. The guidance can be accessed from:

<http://www.jisclegal.ac.uk/ManageContent/ViewDetail/tabid/243/ID/1611/e-Safety-Top-Ten-Tips-03082010.aspx>

### **iv) Using Flickr to Organise a Collection of Images**

This advice document from JISC Digital Media looks at how the photo sharing site **Flickr** can help you to organise a collection of images. As well as exploring some of the more useful features, this document also highlights Flickr's limitations and areas for particular consideration.

<http://www.jiscdigitalmedia.ac.uk/stillimages/advice/using-flickr-to-organise-a-collection-of-images/>

### **v) Guide to free and open source digital media software**

JISC Digital Media have produced a useful guide to various free and open source software tools that can be used for a range of digital media applications. This directory, whilst not claiming to be comprehensive, can provide an easy way into the maze of applications on the internet and a useful list of some of the most popular tools available. Available from:

<http://www.jiscdigitalmedia.ac.uk/crossmedia/table/open-source-and-free-software-directory/>

### **vi) JISC Legal: Recording Lectures**

This JISC Legal podcast, supplementing an earlier [guidance document](#), explores FAQs on the legal aspects of recording lectures.

<http://www.jisclegal.ac.uk/ManageContent/ViewDetail/tabid/243/ID/1746/Recording-Lectures-Podcast-27102010.aspx>

### **vii) Create & Convert: software for inclusion**

Create & Convert is a free tool designed to help learning providers comply with the Equality Act 2010 and specifically the onus on learning providers to take reasonable steps to ensure that their information is accessible. The Create & Convert tool can take documents in common electronic formats (MS Office, Open Office etc) and turn them into 'epubs' or talking books. For more information and to download Create & Convert:

<http://www.rsc-ne-scotland.ac.uk/eduapps/createconvert.php>

### **viii) Acumen**

Acumen is a new online resource designed to support colleges, universities and other learning providers in their work with small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The resources in Acumen represent a wealth of accessible and easy to use free tools and information sources on the use of ICT in business. Acumen also showcases the potential for HE/FE and business interaction using web technologies.

<http://www.jisctechdis.ac.uk/acumen/home>

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## **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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Please send comments and contributions for the next BLE-bulletin to:

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