

Issue 24 – November 2007

# newsbytes

Stimulating and supporting innovation in learning

## "e4Me" a Personal Event



Over one hundred and sixty people converged on Easton College in July for the 7th e-Fair, 'e4Me'. Personalisation was the theme and was reflected in the opening keynote speech, 'Public Service, Personalisation and IT' made by John Stone, Chief Executive of the LSN. Throughout the day delegates attended a range of workshops on a variety of topics including inclusivity, VLEs, podcasting, evidence for RARPA, classroom technologies and SharePoint.

The ever popular 'Show and Tell' enabled regional providers to share a rich variety of in-house developments such as 'Using a VLE to Aid Differentiated Learning', 'Teach Tape it and Go!', 'Electronic Individual Learning Plans', 'Mobile ESOL Course', 'Virtual Learning in ECDL and Anatomy and Physiology Adult Courses', 'eMentors programme' and 'Moodle Implementation'.

An exhibition area enabled attendees to find out more about a range of JISC services, partner agencies and other sources of useful information and resources. The video diary room was a new feature where individual recordings were made to share experiences of the day. The effort put into making e4Me a success by a wide range of people, especially the RSC Eastern team, was rewarded by the feedback from delegates which showed universal positive ratings overall with 100% rating it as good or excellent!

A range of views were expressed on the content of the day, reflecting the individual needs and personal experiences. What was found was a desire for more workshops, 'Show and Tell' and a longer day. Of particular interest were the main features of the day, networking with others, workshops, keynote and 'Show & Tell'. The day was certainly inspiring with many saying that they would share ideas with their colleagues, start to create podcasts and integrate these with their own teaching approaches.

We look forward to the 8th e-Fair next summer and will try to offer content reflecting the wide array of ideas and suggestions put forward on the day



Gerard Hayes (RSC Eastern), Tricia Bell (Easton College), John Stone (LSN).

**Gerard Hayes, Manager, RSC Eastern**

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# Publications



## In Their Own Words

Designed as a flexible package to assist others in understanding the learner's perspective on e-learning, In Their Own Words also provides a range of resources for internal institutional use.

Order or Download.

email: [publications@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:publications@jisc.ac.uk)

<http://tinyurl.com/2vvrpd>



## Harnessing Technology Review 2007: Progress and impact of technology in education

The publication is described as "a strategy-level review of what current research and evidence tells us about harnessing technology for the benefit of learners," and is also available as a summary.

<http://tinyurl.com/33z6bo>



The LSN, has just released a draft publication of their pilot project (funded by the LSC) which explores and seeks to implement the framework for professional development in e-learning.

[www.learningtechnologies.ac.uk](http://www.learningtechnologies.ac.uk)

# Learner views of Web 2.0 technologies

The JISC recently commissioned IPSOS MORI to undertake research into the expectations of 'University hopefuls' for the use of ICT. Although this was specifically aimed at those planning to go to University rather than into FE, the findings may be of more general applicability

## The Importance of Face-to Face Interaction Contact

The survey found that traditional methods of teacher/pupil learning seem neither hierarchical nor outmoded to this group. They see personal, face to face interaction as the backbone of their learning. The authors of the report suggest that it would be interesting and relevant to carry out a similar study with students after their first year, who have begun to appreciate the many different ways learning can happen, to see if opinions differ significantly and if the potential for ICT is more easily understood once they have experienced it in education.

This age group suspects that if all learning is mediated through technology, this will diminish the value of the learning.

## The Role of Technology

The students felt that technology should:

- support established methods of teaching and admin
- act as an additional resource for research and communication
- be a core part of social engagement and facilitate face-to-face friendships at university

These principles run across all groups identified in the online research. Those who are leading edge users or have high use of ICT at school are perhaps more technology savvy and open to its use, but they do not want technology to encroach on their learning or social experiences.

Fundamentally, this age group suspects that if all learning is mediated through technology, this will diminish the value of the learning.

## Use of Web 2.0 Technologies

- 65% 'regularly' use social networking sites, such as Facebook, MySpace or Flickr (females more than males - 71% and 59% respectively) and only 5% 'never' use them.
- A quarter (27%) 'regularly' use wikis, blogs or online networks.
- Very few 'regularly' take part in an online community, for example a 'virtual world' such as Second Life (8%).
- 62% agree with the statement 'I expect IT to play a much bigger role in my learning than it does now' with regard to their time at university, although qualitative insight suggest that perhaps it's not clear to them how.

It has to be borne in mind that these students were being asked about their expectations at University, but we invite readers to consider whether the expectations or preferences of FE students are likely to be significantly different.

The full report is at [www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/publications/studentexpectations](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/publications/studentexpectations)

Thomas Rochford, e-Learning Advisor, RSC Eastern

Source: [www.jisc.ac.uk](http://www.jisc.ac.uk)



# JISC infoNet kit



JISC infoNet is pleased to announce the launch of the Information Management infoKit [www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/information-management](http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/information-management), an online resource freely available to all FE and HE institutions. The Information Management infoKit is based upon the well established principle of the information lifecycle which provides a consistent framework for managing all types of internal information. As well as this main strand of generic good information management practice, the infoKit also includes two further strands of more detailed guidance relating to records and email management. Both of these are structured around the same lifecycle model but provide the more focused, detailed information required when seeking to manage these particular types of information.

## The three strands included within the launch of the infoKit are:

- Managing the information lifecycle
- Records management
- E-mail Management

Over time they will be augmented with the addition of further subject-specific strands all based on the same underlying lifecycle model. Links to all three resources are also available from: [www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/news/information-management-resource](http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/news/information-management-resource).

Following the approach outlined within this infoKit will help ensure that the management of information created within your institution is consistent, proportionate and fit for purpose. It is not dependent on the installation of expensive new technology nor does it assume that all information will be captured and managed in a single place by a single system. Instead it seeks to provide a conceptual framework which can be applied whenever and wherever a new system or process is to be introduced, or as part of a review of the management of information created by existing systems and processes.

Steve Bailey, Senior Adviser for JISC infoNet said: "There is no one single system or methodology which can be adopted to effectively manage the volume and variety of information which institutions now hold. This resource acknowledges this fact and provides a flexible and extensible approach which still retains a consistency of approach at its core."

Dr Gill Ferrell, Service Director for JISC infoNet said: "The management of an institution's information assets is increasingly being seen as a strategic priority. This resource will help institutions to cope with the demands they face today in this area and help them plan for the challenges of tomorrow."

**Steve Bailey, Senior Advisor  
(Records Management), JISC infoNet**



# Oaklands students help lecturers embrace ICT

Oaklands College has deployed a 35 strong army of student 'eMentors' to ensure teaching staff and learners are up to speed with the new ICT equipment available at the college.



**OAKLANDS COLLEGE**

Having recently invested £400,000 into ICT, the college was keen to enable lecturers and students to make use of the new equipment - such as electronic whiteboards and the college's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) - in their lessons as quickly as possible. Based on the premise that younger people tend to have more confidence with electrical gadgets, the eMentoring scheme was launched last year and students have since been assisting lecturers and students whenever necessary.

The scheme has proven to be a great success, benefiting lecturers with their insecurities towards technology, whilst at the same time empowering and engaging students. Richard Everett, Director of eLearning at Oaklands and mastermind of the eMentoring concept, said: "Oaklands' eMentoring works on the principle that the person in the household who knows how to use the DVD player is, more often than not, the child. And the same is true with IT. Because young people have the attitude that takes technology for granted, they see it as just another tool and are not frightened of finding out how to use it when they do not know - they just try."

Oaklands' eMentors can be called to help with everything from assisting lecturers with equipment such as laptops, projectors and electronic whiteboards, to encouraging fellow students to make use of the college's VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) and reporting IT faults to the Helpdesk.

## Case Study

Nineteen year old James Belmont took up the role of eMentor a year ago. He is currently studying for a Foundation Degree in ICT and Multimedia at the college and finds his eMentor role very rewarding. He explains: "I am very keen to work in IT once I am qualified and I saw the eMentoring scheme as a chance to not only help others less comfortable with technology - which I enjoy doing - but also for me to gain valuable work experience."

James is on hand during his classes to assist teachers if necessary and is often called to other classes, when he is not in lessons, to help with the ICT equipment. He said: "I have found that most lecturers are relieved my assistance is at hand, as it means any problems can be resolved quickly and they can get back to teaching."

He continued: "Students are also happy about the arrangement as they know they can approach me with a problem and get back to their studies once it has been resolved. Also if regular issues arise I can take this back our eMentors meetings where we together try to resolve the issue so it doesn't happen so frequently in future."

Alison Shiel, a Lecturer in Business at the college explains how the eMentors



James Belmont with Richard Everett and Alison Shiel at Oaklands College

scheme has helped her: "James supported me as an eMentor in the Foundation Degree in Business I teach. He helped me to get to grips with using electronic registers quickly and other new IT equipment. The scheme is excellent for peer learning and for engaging students and I feel that eMentors have proved themselves to be an invaluable and indispensable resource."

Technology wise, the college has recently invested in:

- \* Wireless networking - allowing every classroom to have internet access
- \* Electronic white boards
- \* IT projection facilities
- \* eLearning material via the VLE
- \* State of the art media equipment
- \* On line group discussion forums and bulletin boards
- \* Secure file access so you can work from home
- \* SMS messaging

Oaklands College Principal Mark Dawe, expressed his feelings towards the eMentoring programme and the importance of ensuring new ICT technology is integrated in learning: "It is fantastic that the students involved are not only helping us immensely to ensure new technology is used smoothly in the classroom, but they are also gaining valuable work experience which will benefit them greatly when looking for work once they have finished their studies."

He added: "Since the introduction of new technology, we are already seeing improvement in our year on year grade attainment. For example, with this year's A Level results we noticed a 17% increase in AS Level Business Studies and Biology grades; subjects where eMentors are regularly used."

"I have advised my teaching staff that they have no other choice but to embrace new technology. If they didn't, they wouldn't have a job in five years' time. And it wouldn't be me putting them out of a job, it would be the students. They would refuse to be taught in any other way."

eMentoring is growing from strength to strength at Oaklands. The scheme has been nominated for an eGovernment award and the college expects to hear if they have been successful in October.

**Submitted by Richard Everett, Director of e-Learning, Oaklands College**

# JANET Collaborate and JANET txt launch at full thrust



The JANET community has responded with great interest following the launch of two of their new services; JANET txt, a cost effective text messaging service for education and JANET Collaborate, a networking tool for providers to find and share ideas with other providers via video conferencing.

## JANET txt

In May 2007 JANET launched its new SMS (Short Messaging Service) for the JANET community. The idea behind JANET txt is to provide organisations that are connected to JANET, with the opportunity to send and receive text messages, to and from relevant individuals and groups.

Many HE and FE institutions, Personal and Community Development Learning providers and community based projects have already signed up while other organisations are still in negotiations as how best to integrate the service across their organisation.

### Some of the key features and benefits of JANET txt are:

- **Cost**
- **Integration**
- **Accessibility**
- **Reliability**
- **Control**
- **Two-way communications**
- **Flexibility**

If you are interested and would like more information, contact PageOne.  
[www.pageone.co.uk/janetxt](http://www.pageone.co.uk/janetxt)

## JANET Collaborate Prototype

The JANET Collaborate pilot project has been launched for members of the educational community. The prototype is available for FE/HE teachers and lecturers, support staff and research institutions.

The JANET Collaborate service enables users to:

- Find other members to collaborate with and join video conferences with museums
- Share ideas and opportunities with others.
- Organise all offered or accepted opportunities, messages and other interactions with fellow members.

At the launch of JANET Collaborate on 3rd October 2007, guests including various content providers, educational institutions and support agencies were given a chance to catch a glimpse and learn about the benefits of the service.

Guest speaker and ex-children's television presenter, John Craven compared the service with the 1980s children's show SwapShop, but instead of swapping toys he identifies JANET Collaborate as:

"Swapping opportunities and enhancing collaboration amongst schools and with content providers"

To read more about JANET Collaborate launch you can take a look via the following link: [www.janetcollaborate.ac.uk/](http://www.janetcollaborate.ac.uk/)

**Ben Hutchens, Information Officer, RSC Eastern**

Source: [www.janet.ac.uk](http://www.janet.ac.uk)

# Welcome to New Staff

## Lynn Whitmore

Lynn joined us in August as e-Learning Advisor for Work Based Learning (WBL) providers.

Lynn and RSCe colleagues will be supporting WBL in a variety of ways including guidance on e-learning strategy and development, promotion of the Centre for Excellence in Leadership (CEL) programmes and the NIACE e-guides programme.

Lynn has a breadth of experience of working with WBL, HE and FE. She has led the development and implementation of e-learning within a Higher Education Institution. Lynn's wide experience and background will be beneficial to our new WBL clients and to our other supported sectors.



## Malcolm Bodley

Malcolm joined RSCe in September as e-Learning Advisor with a focus on Further Education. Originally from a motor vehicle background, he brings with him experience in Initial Teacher Training, Staff Development, A&V unit delivery & coordination, 14-16 programmes, community projects and cross college e-learning coordination.

This means that RSCe will ensure that support needs specific to FE have a specialist attention which forms part of the overall RSCe approach with each sector (ACL, HE and WBL) having an e-advisor who oversees an individual sector whilst also working across the range of supported sectors and activities.



## Ben Hutchens

Our newest member started on the 5th November. Ben will be working in the newly created role of Information Officer which has been set up to support the growth and development of the QIA Excellence Gateway (<http://excellence.qia.org.uk/> <http://excellence.qia.org.uk/>).

This will include collecting case studies of best practice from around the region for the Excellence Gateway. Ben will also be actively working on communications between RSCe and our clients and we anticipate producing podcasts and vidcasts over the next few months.



## Events

### January

18th – Mobile Learning Day, £50  
Venue to be confirmed

25th – e-Learning Forum,  
Venue to be confirmed

29th – CEL Work Based Learning:  
Realise, London

### February

1st – Technical Managers Forum,  
Huntingdonshire Regional College

19th – Second Life,  
City College Norwich £75

28th – Digital Creativity Event,  
London £50

### March

7th – VLE Forum,  
Venue to be confirmed

12th – Getting to grips with  
Podcasting,  
West Suffolk College £50

14th – Learning Resources  
Managers Forum, Acer, St. Ives

tbc – Heritage User Group,  
London

### April

15th – JISC Conference,  
Birmingham

23rd/24th – RSC Eastern/  
Netskills Assessment Solutions,  
Letchworth £75

Planned Events:  
Copyright in the Digital Age,  
SharePoint Show and Tell

### May

16th – e-Learning Forum,  
Great Yarmouth

Planned Events:  
Moodle 1.8  
e-Portfolios  
Learning Resources Conference

[info.rsc-eastern.ac.uk/events](http://info.rsc-eastern.ac.uk/events)

# Websites

Lifelong Learning UK has launched a new microsite to support teacher education and development. With new regulations about to come into force in England for initial teacher training, CPD and qualifications for principals, this website aims to clarify and support the reform process. There are extensive FAQ on all the reforms and links to other information from LLUK.



[www.lluk.org.uk/ittreforms/index.htm](http://www.lluk.org.uk/ittreforms/index.htm)

The aim of the Online Copyright Activity is to inform and educate practitioners in the FE and HE sectors in the UK some of the key issues about using copyrighted material in a digital online environment and the role of JISC Collections (and the JISC Model licence) in the provision of solutions to these issues. The activity is targeted at teachers and lecturers in FE and HE. It will also be useful for curriculum managers, learning technologists, learning resources staff and any staff who deal with digital resources.



<http://restricted.jisc.ac.uk/freearea/copyright/0000.html>

JISC Collections in partnership with DataSalon Ltd has launched a free online database comparison tool today, which aims to help librarians make informed decisions about future subscriptions to online resources 'the Academic Database Assessment Tool'.

<http://www.jisc-adatcom/adat/home.pl>

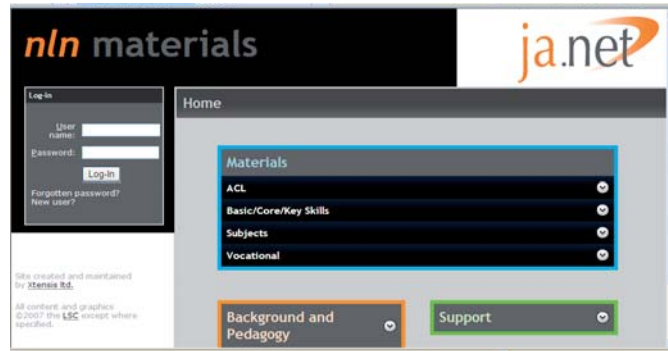
[RSC Eastern del.icio.us](http://del.icio.us/rsceastern)

Social bookmarking is a great way of sharing in the community. Why not take a look at some of our favourite websites? Use the tag list or cloud tag.



<http://del.icio.us/rsceastern>

# NLN Materials Service



One of the most substantial and wide-ranging collections of e-learning materials in the UK has been improved and re-launched, it was announced today. The new NLN materials service, funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), is available and free to all authorised organisations in the post-16 education sector. It now provides a unified point of access to its materials and a range of new features such as collection creation, powerful search and browse, and export for easy import into virtual learning environments or use on CD, DVD, or Intranets.

JISC has funded the hosting and support of the NLN materials service through its national data centres; Mimas and Edina for over six years and, in addition to the improvements to the service outlined above, the new service rationalises the previous hosting arrangements and simplifies access for all UK education sectors, enabling users from authorised organisations in education to access the NLN materials free of charge under licence from the LSC.

The management of the service will now be provided by JANET(UK) in partnership with the LSC and the hosting and support service contract has been awarded to Xtensis Ltd, which has been involved in the NLN Materials programme since its inception.

Hetesh Morar, JISC Contracts Manager, said: "JISC would like to thank colleagues at Mimas and Edina for their hard work and dedication over the last six years in providing this valuable service to its community and for the support given in transitioning to the new service. Their work has provided a firm foundation for current and future developments which we hope will ensure that the NLN materials service continues to meet the needs of its many users." Visit [www.nln.ac.uk](http://www.nln.ac.uk)

**Source:** [www.jisc.ac.uk/news](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news)

**Enquiries to** Maryse Fisher, e-Learning Advisor, RSC Eastern

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# Images from the 7th eFair "e4Me" a Personal Event

