

InConTact

Newsletter of the RSC Scotland South & West

January 2011



You are Simply the Best!

For the past two years we have thoroughly enjoyed working on a vast range of case studies with our local institutions under our “Best of the West” banner. By putting a spotlight on innovative and creative examples of uses of technology in tertiary education in the west of Scotland, we aimed to inspire and encourage other institutions to follow suit by trying out some of the examples of best practice and engage in a knowledge exchange and collaboration.

Well, inspire you we did! To date we have recorded over 40 case studies, including a good number of podcasts and videocasts. All of them are all freely available on our website to download or just browse whenever and wherever you have internet access. With at least another 6 new case studies in the pipeline, we are continuing with this theme until our **Best of the West** awards event on June 10th, so if you have been meaning to contact us with an idea for a case study, let us know asap! We’d be happy to come out for a visit to discuss your idea for a case study and what format you would like, whether video, audio or written up by one of the team.

More information on the awards and how you can contribute to the case studies are on [page 3](#).



Information Literacy in the digital age

RSC Scotland South & West recently hosted our Learning Resources Forum which focused on Information Literacy.

We were lucky enough to have a virtual presentation from Katharine Reedy, Information Literacy Specialist at the Open University who gave us an overview of the work the OU are doing in the area of Information and Digital Literacy.



Information literacy in the digital age

Many of the useful resources highlighted by Katharine are freely available to use. The presentation has been recorded and can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/hSW5RA>

Microsoft vs Google

Microsoft

vs

Google

I've looked at clouds from both sides now

Here at RSC Scotland S&W we do our best to remain impartial when giving advice, so as not to promote one particular vendor or supplier over another. As champions of open source solutions whenever possible, what are the chances of hearing us advocate the use of a Microsoft product over the wonderful applications freely available from Google? Highly unlikely... and yet looking at Microsoft Live@edu, we have to confess to being more than mildly impressed at the Microsoft offerings.

Free for educational use, Live@edu is just one part of the online cloud services Microsoft are developing to give educational institutions a seamless integration of familiar and reliable id and communications solutions, at no extra cost.

Benefits

From a student perspective, MS Cloud computing is invisible. There is seamless access to all the services students have come to expect, using the same login id to access their email, calendars, document sharing and so on. As service providers, colleges & universities can embed Live@edu within existing Services. Best of all, it's a free service that Microsoft will maintain, so it can be dovetailed into the directory services of your institution.

Unlike Google Docs which is essentially a basic text editing tool, documents created in MS Word and uploaded to the cloud will retain its format, attachments, embedded graphics and so on.

To find out more about one of the world's biggest cloud rollouts, go to:
www.microsoft.com/education/solutions/liveedu.aspx

Awarding the very Best of the West



You've got to be
in it to win it!

We are often asked "So, which **IS** the best case study in the west?" Well, we have had at least one case study from each of our supported institutions and you are **ALL** winners in our eyes! That said, this will be our very last call for Best of the West case studies and to mark the end of our highly successful Best of the West theme, we have decided that this year's annual event in June will be slightly different. We are planning an awards ceremony to round off the day, along with the traditional cheese, wine and chat. All the contributions over the past three years will be put forward for the trophies, according to category.

There will be four JISC RSC Innovation in Technology Awards:

- Technology & Business Systems.
- Learning and Teaching.
- Access & Inclusion.
- Learner Services.



Be a Winner!

Got an idea for a case study? The deadline for submitting a suggestion for any new case studies is February 18th. Why not have a look at our website and see what clever ideas and innovations your neighbouring institutions have been working on. Be inspired and be in it to win it! Contact us here at the RSC and we'll schedule in a time for a chat about your case study idea. We're always keen to help!

Got an idea for a case study? Contact:

Theresa Duffy, theresa.duffy@glasgow.ac.uk

Best of the West case studies can be found at:

www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/best_of_the_west/BoW.htm

JISC Digital Media online tutorials



JISC Digital Media in conjunction with the Virtual Training Suite (VTS) have launched two new online tutorials: **Internet for Audio Resources** and **Internet for Video and Moving Images**.

The free-to-use tutorials have been designed to assist staff and students within the education sector to locate audio and video for use in teaching and learning.

Created as part of the **Virtual Training Suite** the tutorials have been funded by JISC Advance and can be found on:

www.vts.intute.ac.uk/tutorial/

JISCAsk is a service from the RSC Scotland South & West to help staff with queries about using ICT in Learning and Teaching.

If you have a burning question that we can use on our blog send it by email to support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk with JISCAsk in the subject line and we'll send you a pen drive - JISC for the asking!

Bookmark the JISCAsk blog www.jiscask.blogspot.com

The Digital Economy Act 2010: Implications for UK Colleges and Universities

JISClegal Legal Guidance for ICT in Education, Research and External Engagement.
information

The Digital Economy Act was passed by Parliament in April 2010. The Act places obligations on those providing internet access services to monitor and report on online copyright infringement such as peer-to-peer sharing and illegal downloading. For information on this and other legal implications for FE & HE, why not subscribe to the JISC Legal monthly newsletter?

www.jisclegal.ac.uk/Newsletter.aspx

Topic Briefings go Online



A new initiative underway for 2011 is to put our 20 minute topic briefings online

Our topic briefings provide an overview of new technologies coming into the mainstream. They describe the benefits and identify the issues and challenges that need to be addressed as they are rolled out and used more widely in Colleges and HEIs.

Topics include:

- ✓ Copyright & IPR
- ✓ e-Assessment
- ✓ Emerging Technologies 2011 - 2014
- ✓ e-Safety & e-Safeguarding
- ✓ e-Portfolios in practice
- ✓ Mobile Learning
- ✓ Modernising the Curriculum
- ✓ Understanding Web 2.0

5 briefings are currently available online from a new page on our website:

www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/topicbriefings/topicbriefings.htm

Meet the New Girl on Campus!



Grainne Hamilton

It felt like Santa arrived a little early at Todd Campus last year with the arrival of our lovely new member of staff on the 1st of November.

Grainne Hamilton joins the team as eAdvisor: e-Assessment. Prior to joining the team here at the RSC Scotland South and West, Grainne was the eLearning and Communications Manager for the Scottish Social Services Learning Network North, where she provided leadership on the use of technologies to support the learning and development of the Scottish social services workforce.

Grainne commenced her career in television, having graduated from the University of Birmingham with a BA (Hons) in Drama and Theatre Arts. A move into new media followed her work at the BBC, with roles in web software training and eLearning development for an IT company, then work on a national project supporting uptake of eLearning in Scottish social work education, while based at the University of Edinburgh. Following this, Grainne was based at the University of Strathclyde as the Teaching and Learning Technology Officer, where she led staff engagement with eLearning and e-Assessment across the University. During this role, Grainne worked closely with the team of the influential Re-Engineering Assessment Practices (REAP) project, led by Professor David Nicol.

Grainne is currently meeting with the FE and HE institutions in the RSC SW Scotland remit and will be providing a range of information dissemination, consultancy and training activities to support increased awareness and use of e-Assessment in teaching and learning practices.

If you have a burning e-Assessment question, contact Grainne on 0141 585 002 or email Grainne.Hamilton@glasgow.ac.uk

Bank on Success e-Assessments



Have a look at the e-Assessments from our Bank on Success project which can be freely downloaded and used in either Blackboard or Moodle learning platforms.

www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/bank_on_success/examples.htm

Pre-Recorded Inclusion Presentations

Watch again on demand at RSCTv

Accessing Information in Alternative Formats

A guide for lecturers, library and support for learning staff recorded on 7th December 2010.

Productivity, Accessibility and Teaching Tools

Recorded on 21st September 2010.

Watch both of these sessions at your leisure from your own computer from our website:

www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/rsctv/RSCTv.htm



Keeping an Eye on Inclusion

Join us at forthcoming events to keep you up to date with inclusive practice:



Inclusion in eLearning Forum - Friday, February 11th 2011

This forum will provide an opportunity to share in examples of good practice across the country with a focus on accessibility considerations in eLearning. Come along and listen to presentations on:

- Using Mobile Technology to Support Inclusion.
- A Journey of e-Inclusion at Forth Valley College.
- Creating Accessible Learning Resources Using the Xerte content creation tool.

For further information and to book your place at this free event:

http://bit.ly/e-inclusionforum_Feb2011

Make IT Accessible by Dolphin Computer Access - Friday April 1st

This session will introduce some key universal rules for making reading and learning materials accessible. The course will introduce computer software to assist in making reading and learning materials accessible as specific alternative formats. These formats include large print, MP3 audio, DAISY talking book and Braille. Booking information to follow on our events page at:

www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/events.htm

Accessible ICT on a Budget and E-safety for Students with Profound and Complex Needs - Part 1 on Tuesday May 10th 2011

In collaboration with Scotland's Colleges, the Scottish RSCs and The BRITE Initiative.

<http://events.scotlandcolleges.ac.uk/events/show/3831>

RSC Scotland South & West on iTunes



A wide range of audio and video podcasts are available on iTunes, including some of The Best of the West case studies.

Our podcasts can be found on iTunes or through our website:
www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/podcast/Podcasts.htm

Just what your iPod was made for!

Sharpen up your work with business with free and accessible tools from TechDis



Universities and colleges have always enjoyed a close relationship with the SME community, playing a key role in digital inclusion over recent years. This is important not only for regional and national economies but also to the range of institutions and partners involved.

As academic institutions increase their reliance on technology to deliver workforce development and knowledge transfer activities and as their students (the future workforce!) become more digitally savvy, there remains a large portion of the SME community in need of ICT skills to keep pace with change. How do we tackle the digital divide that exists with some of our SME partners?

As part of the JISC **Business and Community Engagement** programme, JISC TechDis has developed Acumen, an online resource designed to support colleges, universities and other learning providers in their work with business.

Acumen showcases the potential for HE/FE and business interaction using web technologies and demonstrates the potential of the web as a way for institutions to engage with SMEs and to deliver information, expertise, collaborative projects and services along with a wealth of free tools and information sources on the use of ICT in business. From company start up to evaluating business ideas and incubation support, Acumen offers a simple way for academic initiations to ensure that SMEs receive reliable advice about the business use of information and communications in technology. www.jisctechdis.ac.uk/acumen

Date for your Diary – 21 February 2011



**Enhancing Business Performance:
The Role of Technology in developing Skills and Knowledge**

e-Science Institute, 15 South College Street, Edinburgh

Free one day conference in Edinburgh exploring how HE/FE institutions are using technology to improve business and employer engagement. Find out about the technical solutions, opportunities and challenges of employer engagement!

Book your place at: www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/1127/





RSC Newsfeed

Throughout the year, staff from both Scottish RSCs scour their favourite websites to bring you the latest and most interesting new technologies and innovation to add sparkle and value to teaching and learning.

Newsfeed is blog based which means you have the chance to comment on any item that takes your interest. In addition all items will be archived and the archive is searchable.

www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/news.htm#newsfeed

Contact Details

JISC Regional Support Centre Scotland South & West,
1 Todd Campus, Acre Road, Glasgow G20 0XA.

Tel: 0141 585 0022/23.

Fax: 0141 585 0020.

Email: support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk

Website: www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk

JISC RSC Scotland South & West Team

Manager - Fionnuala Carmichael

fionnuala.carmichael@glasgow.ac.uk

Administrator - Kirsty Menzies

kirsty.menzies@glasgow.ac.uk

Senior e-Learning Advisor:

Curriculum Management - Joan Walker

joan.walker@glasgow.ac.uk

e-Learning Advisors:

Technical Infrastructure - Mark Clark

mark.clark@glasgow.ac.uk

HE Coordination - Theresa Duffy

theresa.duffy@glasgow.ac.uk

e-Assessment – Grainne Hamilton

grainne.hamilton@glasgow.ac.uk

Accessibility & Inclusion - Margaret McKay

margaret.mckay@glasgow.ac.uk

Staff Development & e-Resources - Celeste McLaughlin

celeste.mclaughlin@glasgow.ac.uk

