



Well now that summer is fast becoming a memory, we turn our attention to the new session and the challenges ahead. I am delighted to announce that the RSC has successfully secured core funding for four more years to support our institutions until July 2010.

A significant portion of our efforts will concentrate on providing assistance and support for strategic development using our ePlan and other approaches.

Many of elements of ePlan are well underway within the community. In particular, e-Skills for eLearning, the eScore benchmarking exercise and the Training Needs Analysis have already been run in a number of Colleges. Eight other RSCs across the UK have requested our resources and at least two in England are beginning to actively use the ePlan resources in their own region.

My RSC team are to be congratulated on producing such widely acclaimed resources and are very actively at the forefront of delivering the revised RSC remit on a UK wide basis.

We look forward to continuing a high quality support service to our institutions, so please do get in touch with us for further information on ePlan or any other issues which we can help with in embedding e-learning across our sector.

Charles Sweeney, Manager

No More Mr Nice Guy!



The Regional Support Centre Scotland S&W have bid a fond farewell to their Network Officer, Andy 'Pandy' Wishart this summer.

After almost 6 years of secondment with the RSC, Andy Wishart has returned to the Dept of Computing Services at The University of Glasgow.

Andy has been with the RSC team since the outset in 2000. His networking knowledge and expertise have been put to the test regularly and he is well known for his "fire fighting" abilities for ICT troubleshooting.

Though sad to leave the RSC, Andy expressed his gratitude for the opportunity of working with Network Managers and Support Staff within the RSC's supported institutions and Regional partners.

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Old dogs and New Tricks

RSC Scotland S&W Manager, Charles Sweeney, was leading by example in the use of video conferencing recently at the RSC premises in Glasgow. Ever mindful of budget constraints, Charlie is keen to promote the benefits of face-to-face video conferencing in lieu of time consuming and costly travelling to meetings up and down the country. "It makes perfect sense for us to be using this technology and to set an example to our institutions" said Charlie.

The video conference meeting involved 8 other RSC managers across the UK and lasted just under two hours. Slight technical hitches meant that a couple of the managers were asked to turn off their webcams to aid their bandwidth, but despite this the video conference was considered a great success. Participants were able to see the PowerPoint presentation Charlie was giving on the e-Plan programme and all were able to join in on the resultant discussions.

Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?



Adapting PowerPoint for d/Deaf Learners

Often Deaf learners find difficulty in understanding new concepts and getting to grips with aspects of new learning, in particular those students who were born Deaf or become Deaf at a very young age. Many students communicate by lip-reading. For others, British Sign Language (BSL) may be their first or preferred language. BSL interpreters in class present information in 'real time', however this support is often unavailable for revision purposes. BSL interpreters can be difficult to source because of the scarcity of this service, while other students cannot afford this support.

With this in mind, TechDis together with JISC Regional Support Centre Scotland SW and Janet Jamieson, Lecturer in Design at James Watt College, decided to transform a traditional PowerPoint presentation, to make it more accessible for her Deaf learners. Learning materials created in PowerPoint can offer a useful way of presenting learning using not only traditional text based methods but can include visual images, hyperlinks and other media rich resources such as video.

The aim of this project was to create a learning resource which would encompass all of the following features:

- Images embedded into PowerPoint
- Spoken narration of information
- BSL interpretation

The resulting PowerPoint resource was integrated into MS Producer and a narration of the text was included along with a video of the BSL interpreter. The final version of this work will be on our website by the end of September 2006.

www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk





Intute is the new face of the Resource Discovery Network (RDN) launched July 2006. **Intute** is a national Internet service guiding you to the best of the Web for education and research. It's aimed at the UK higher and further education sectors and is relevant to students, lecturers, researchers and professionals.

With **MyIntute** you can personalise the functionality of **Intute** Internet services. It allows you to keep up with new resources in your field by sending email alerts and **MyIntute** can help you put together your own collection of online resources and create reading lists of online resources for your students.

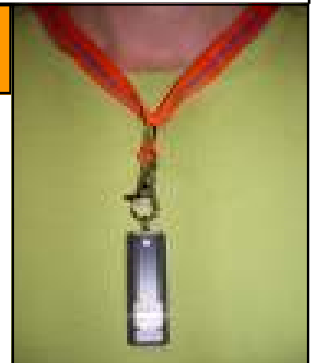
The **Intute Virtual Training Suite** offers free online tutorials teaching **Internet research skills** for different subject areas. The tutorials take around an hour to complete and are a quick and easy way to learn about the key Internet resources for your subject, and some Internet search tools and techniques that can improve your use of the Internet for research or study.

You can use **Intute** to find the best websites in your subject area, get easy access to online subject information such as free e-journals, research projects and papers, conference announcements, job sites, and news. <http://www.intute.ac.uk/>

e-Learning Questions? JISC Ask!

We really are here to help and "JISC Ask!" will be a regular feature of the RSC Newsletter. If you would like to send in a question about using technology or e-Learning, we would be happy to help.

The question will be answered by the most appropriate member of RSC staff and can be anonymous, if preferred. The sender of the question used will receive one of our pen drives with a JISC lanyard - JISC for the asking!



Q: *I hear about so many new technologies and software for e-learning and I haven't time to explore them fully. How do I decide which e-learning products I should learn about?*

A: It's easy to get overwhelmed with what's available. In the first instance I would suggest you concentrate on learning about the technologies that are currently available at your own institution. For example, find out what interactive whiteboards you have, check out your VLE and see if there is any resource creation software that your institution already owns.

To find out about more about tools in general take a look at the e-toolbox. This database has been developed by staff at the JISC Regional Support Centres across the UK. In the database you will find information about a variety of technologies and software which can be used to develop e-learning. Along with factual information about each product, you will also find links to the product website, and further information regarding license details and other associated information.

http://www.rsc-wales.ac.uk/tools/rsc_tools.asp

e-toolbox





JORUM

What is JORUM?

JORUM is a JISC-funded collaborative venture in UK Higher and Further Education to collect and share learning and teaching materials. JORUM consists of two services:

JORUM User provides access to the shared repository of resources. Teaching and support staff in institutions that will be able to find, preview, download, reuse and repurpose materials for use with learners in their institution. They will also find a collection of teaching support, staff development and case study materials to assist them in using the learning materials with students. Jorum Users will require an institutional user agreement with JISC and individual registrations.

JORUM Contributor opens up JORUM to any institution or project team that wants to share its learning and teaching materials with colleagues in the UK as well as grant-funded materials. Access to JORUM Contributor will require an institutional deposit agreement and individual registration. For further information on JORUM and to see if your institution has signed up, go to www.jorum.ac.uk

A Fresh look at JISC Training

Date	Title of Workshop	New Academic Year - New Years' Resolutions!
03 October	Writing for the Web	
04 October	Web pages from Scratch	The start of a new term is the ideal time to make a resolution to work towards your CPD, and there is no better place to look for training than your local Regional Support Centre! Further information about our training and booking forms are available on our website: www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/events.htm
05 October	What's Up and What's In	
10 & 11 Oct	Dreamweaver Essentials (2 days)	
23- 27 Oct	MOC 2400c Implementing & Managing MS Exchange Server 2003 (5 days)	
31 October	Blogs, Wikis and Social Networking	
01 November	Effective e-learning with Moodle	
07 November	Making Your Computer More Accessible	
14 November	Effective Management of e-Learning	
15 November	Change Management	
05 December	JORUM Workshop	
13 December	Creating Inclusive E-Learning Resources	

JISC at your Service!

For further details on any of our training or services:
 JISC Regional Support Centre Scotland South & West
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