

SCOTTISH RSCs NEWSFEED

This blog-based news service is a joint product of the two Scottish RSCs, designed to provide up-to-the minute news and information on all aspects of ICT and how it affects teaching and learning. Here you'll find the latest from JISC as well as tips, trends and technologies from across the IT spectrum. NewsFeed appears fortnightly during term time. You can also subscribe to the NewsFeed with an RSS feed and receive updates directly to your mailbox as individual news items are added. To subscribe to Newsfeed follow this link:

www.tinyurl.com/788fbn

SCOTTISH RSCs INCLUSION BLOG

On our Blog read about:

-Microsoft Vista Ease of Access Centre. The complete guide to accessibility options in Vista.

-Our sister RSCs Scotland NE's eQuality Magazine (Dec 08) providing you with even more hints, tips and tricks.

-Excellence in Inclusivity Case Studies.

-YouTube resource featuring video clips highlighting the support which assistive technologies.

-Customising Internet Explorer (IE) for you and your learners.

-Using JAWS screen reading software to evaluate web accessibility.

Scottish RSCs Inclusion Blog can be found at:

www.tinyurl.com/8fwxvz

The Power of FireFox as an Accessible Web Browser Because the Internet is for Everyone !

Access Firefox is a great website created by a visually impaired man to promote the features that have helped him and other disabled users. Access Firefox showcases some of the free accessibility tools and features that are available for the Firefox web browser.



As well as showcasing some of the accessibility features that come pre-installed with Firefox, Access Firefox demonstrates the best Firefox Accessibility Extensions that can be added to support different users needs.

AnyColor is a fantastic Firefox add-on that allows you to apply preset Firefox colour themes to Firefox instantly and without having to restart Firefox. AnyColor also provides you with ways to easily create your own colour theme and the ability to specify your own images to be used for Firefox's interface.

Fire Vox is an excellent free text to speech talking browser extension for Firefox that can not only read web page text, but it can read the Firefox user interface as well including the main menus and sub-menus. This extension is very helpful for those who have poor vision and for those who may be blind.

The Accessibar Toolbar for Firefox is a fantastic tool that allows you to quickly and easily customise various visual settings of web pages for a more comfortable Internet surfing experience. Accessibar also offers a free and optional text to speech screen reader that is easy to learn and use.

The Firefox Accessibility Extension is another great accessibility extension for Firefox that offers a good amount of accessibility tools in a single toolbar, or through drop down menus. With this extension, you get virtually full control over web page display and navigation.

Colorful Tabs Extension that marks each Firefox tab with a different colour for easier tab identification.

Find out more at: www.accessfirefox.org/

SearchCloudlet is another free Firefox extension that helps users refine Google search results through the use of a tag cloud. Words that appear more often in the results appear as bigger, bolder tags that you can click on to re-start the query with that word tacked on. Cloudlet takes just a minute to install and doesn't clutter your browser bar, as it only appears when you use Google. A useful tool for more visual learners!

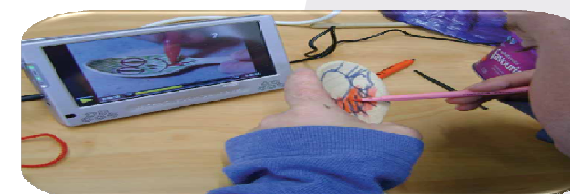
eQuality

Issue: Winter /Jan 2009



If you require this newsletter in an alternative format please contact us, [your](#) Regional Support Centre

Inclusive Learning Opportunities on the Move You Heard it Here First !



It has long been suspected that, for all of the difficulties of small screens, fiddly buttons and clunky navigation, mobile learning (m-learning) has much to offer disabled students and that this form of learning can present great opportunities to create more inclusive learning resources.

No resource is wholly accessible to all types of learner, and this is particularly true with m-learning where limitations on device size, functionality etc. can limit accessibility. Practitioners need to be able to mix and match their resources to suit their learners needs. However case studies highlighting innovative Practice in colleges and universities across the UK have provided firm evidence in support of the benefits of m-learning for disabled learners. They should provide plenty of encouragement for teaching and lecturing staff to explore the art of what is possible with mobile devices.

M-learning can still carry an aura of technical mystery:

"How is content created for mobile learning?"

"What kind of activities will work?"

"What software is needed, and how difficult or time-consuming will this creative process be?"

Designed to address these issues, a new publication **GoMobile** and its DVD companion **Upwardly Mobile** is on the brink of publication and due for release later this month.

Used together, these resources form a valuable toolkit for every practitioner who wishes to use mobile learning to promote inclusivity in learning and teaching, providing information on the accessibility pros and cons of mobile learning.

It provides a host of ideas and approaches on using mobile content created by tutors and learners and provides tips on distributing mobile content.

For more information go to: www.tinyurl.com/8nhsk8 or www.tinyurl.com/9udkfh

Happy New
Year from
RSC
Scotland
S & W

Access &
Inclusion
in eLearning

RSC
Scotland
South & West

For more
information contact
m.mckay@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk

Have you ever wanted to ask a question about eLearning but did not know who to ask? Worried that you may be asking a 'silly question'?

Then JISCAsk us! Have a look at our JISCAsk blog at:

<http://jiscask.blogspot.com>



Here you'll find all the questions sent to us and answered by our team of eAdvisors. You can also send any questions you have by email to:

support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk

Put JISCAsk in the subject line and we'll answer your question and add anonymously to our Blog

Online Tools to Help Improve Our Mental Health



Created by Dr Chris Williams a Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry at The University of Glasgow. This powerful online life skills/self help resource is based on the well respected Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) approach to promoting mental health, and is aimed at helping people manage the demands that put them under pressure in their everyday life.

It is an excellent resource for people who are experiencing stress or depression and interested in working through these issues in a constructive way.

Living Life to the Full provides a range of audio, video and self help resources to help reflect on how we approach everyday situations and how our perception of what is happening in our everyday life can impact on our mental health. This resource provides guidance through a structured form of support that aims to alter the unhelpful thinking and assists people to reconsider or reframe behaviour that commonly occur during times of stress.

Find out more at:

www.livinglifetothefull.com

Many more resources can be found on the Supporting Student Mental Health Website at:

www.ssmh.ac.uk

Thanks to Sandy MacLean at SFEU for her contribution to this article. If you would like further information about mental health support in your institution please do not hesitate to contact Sandy MacLean at:

sandy.maclean@sfeu.scotlandscollleges.ac.uk

Guide to obtaining textbooks in alternative formats

The guide is for anyone who needs to source text books in an alternative format for a reading impaired learner.

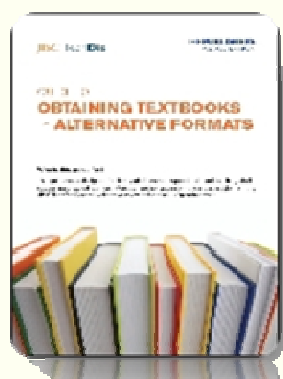
This is potentially a complicated area. Disability law protects disabled learners by requiring the educational institution to make appropriate provision. Copyright law protects publishers from inappropriate copying of textbooks. Between these two sets of rights are the staff who have to provide alternative formats in a timely manner to disabled learners.

In most cases the optimum accessibility solution is to obtain the textbook in electronic format. This allows immediate personalisation of text size, colours and contrast. In addition, electronic text is usually an important intermediate stage for the production of non-text formats such as audio or Braille.

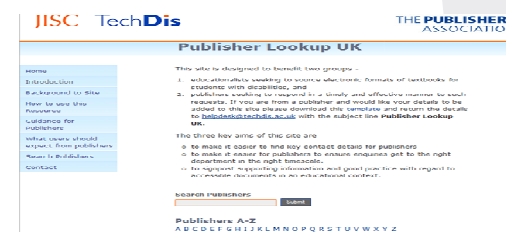
This guidance is specifically designed for library staff, learner support staff and subject tutors and lecturers supporting disabled learners. It should help anyone trying to get digital versions of textbooks to:

- Understand the processes involved.
- Recognise additional in-house work that may be required once the digital version has been obtained.
- Maximise the likelihood of a successful outcome.
- Evaluate your own institutional processes.
- Assess alternative interventions.

Find out more at: www.techdis.ac.uk



Publishers LookUP UK



TechDis have also worked collaboratively with The Publishers Association to produce an excellent web based resource called Publishers LookUP UK. The purpose of the website is to enable educationalists working with disabled learners to get an electronic version of published texts as quickly as possible.

Supported by representatives from TechDis, RNIB and several publishers, the ultimate goal is to improve access to publications in a way that is both cost-effective and sustainable by integrating into the publishing workflow.

Publishers LookUP UK is designed to be used in several ways:

- As a signpost to good practice with regard to accessible documents in an educational context. This includes reading documents online, converting documents, creating accessible PDFs, dealing with images, creating audio, finding free assistive technology tools etc

- As a referencing tool, this website helps you to find key contact details for the publisher you require either through the alphabetic lists or via the search dialogue.

- As communication tool, this website provides a direct e-mail link to the appropriate department and supplies a pre-agreed subject line to ensure your e-mail is appropriately identified and delivered.

Find out more at:

www.publisherlookup.org.uk

Find Out How Students Work Smarter with eLearning Resources at LexDis



www.lexdis.ecs.soton.ac.uk

The LexDis project explores the experiences of disabled learners in accessing eLearning materials.

The aim of this initiative is to provide a greater understanding of the issues experienced by disabled learners and to increase insight into the issues that staff in colleges and universities need to consider when creating inclusive eLearning resources.

The need for such a project has been highlighted by previous JISC studies of learners' experiences. However these more general studies do not fully illustrate the particular issues experienced by a range of students with disabilities nor do they highlight the issues of accessing information with a variety of assistive technologies.

Easier Viewing of YouTube Videos

Easy YouTube Player is an alternative way of watching YouTube videos.



Created by Christian Heilmann, a web developer and accessibility advocate, he created Easy YouTube Player in response to frustrations experienced by assistive technology users and people with learning disabilities in accessing YouTube. Chris wanted to make sure that everybody who wants to see videos on-line can do so—regardless of age, ability or web proficiency.

<http://icant.co.uk/easy-youtube/>