BLE-Bulletin
Rounding up e-learning news for the Bloomsbury Colleges

Contents	Summer 2011
features the use of social media and how libraries are making use of web2.0 technologies such as blogs, wikis, Twitter and Facebook. To book a place: http://tinyurl.com/BLE-LibTech11 **3.2 Online Training** 	Please forward to any colleagues who might find this useful Your comments and contributions are invited. Please contact the BLE Officer, Yanna Nedelcheva y.nedelcheva@bloomsbury.ac.uk

1. Bloomsbury News

i) BLE migration to Moodle

The BLE's licence with Blackboard expires at the end of July 2011. This deadline provided an opportunity for the Colleges to review the existing platform and consider an alternative. The BLE Steering Group, commissioned a pedagogical comparison between Blackboard 9.1 (the latest version) with Moodle, and consulted with staff and students across all five participating Colleges (Birkbeck, IOE, LSHTM, RVC and SOAS). The result was overwhelmingly in support of switching from Blackboard to Moodle as the future VLE for all Colleges. In addition, this switch will also bring some significant savings to the consortium.

Early adopter courses will be running on the Moodle platform from September 2011 followed by *all* courses by the academic year 2012-13. An additional year with Blackboard will provide sufficient time to migrate users to the new platform, including moving course material and delivering training.

A migration project website and blog have been set up to keep all Bloomsbury staff and students informed about the process. Documentation will also be available on the website.
Website: http://www.bloomsbury.ac.uk/moodle
Blog: http://blemoodlemigration.blogspot.com

To find out more information at this stage, you can always contact the Project Manager, Sarah Sherman - s.sherman@bloomsbury.ac.uk
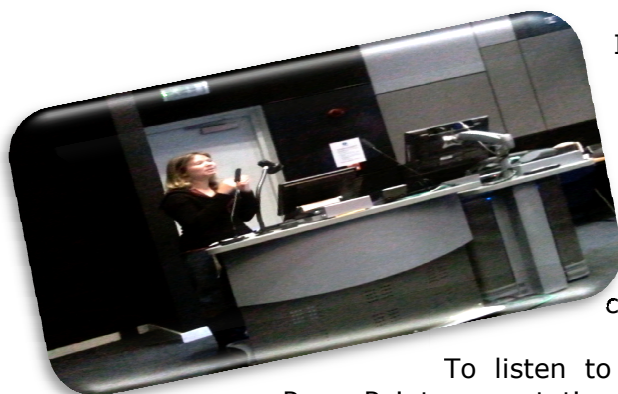
ii) Bloomsbury Media Cloud

The Bloomsbury Media Cloud platform, developed by the JISC funded project, formally launched in May at an event marking the occasion. External speakers from JISC, MGt Plc, MediaCore and JISC Digital Media talked about the importance of online

media and sheared services. For further details about the project, visit: www.bloomsbury.ac.uk/cloud
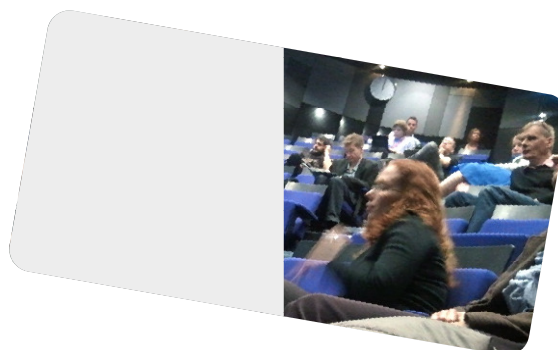
iii) Echo 360 Showcase

In April, we held the first Echo360* Showcase at LSHTM. The event was extremely successful, with over 40 people coming along to find out how Echo360 is used across the Colleges here in Bloomsbury and beyond. Excellent case studies highlighted how Echo360 is used and why students love it. In addition, we also heard about the challenges that lecture capture brings.

To listen to all recordings of the event and to see the PowerPoint presentations from the day join this online group, which also provides further opportunities to discuss and ask questions about Echo360: http://tiny.cc/Echo360

*The EchoSystem records the instructional media that is the backbone of the teaching in a course. Echo360 offers a variety of recording options; it is flexible and fully automatic, can be used in a lecture theatre or on a laptop.

iv) New and updated BLE website
Recently, we updated the BLE website and now it has lots of information about the structure of the BLE and its achievements. You can find information about recent and future showcases that are organised in Bloomsbury and also details about the projects that we are currently managing: http://www.bloomsbury.ac.uk/ble/

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2.   Other News

i) HEFCE announces Cloud services for education and research
HEFCE and JISC are moving forward in delivering cloud-based services for UK education and research. A £12.5 million fund was announced in February that aims to help universities and colleges deliver better value for money by working together more effectively (Note 1). HEFCE and JISC now confirm the projects and partners appointed to deliver the two parts of this work: a national cloud infrastructure and supporting services.
http://hefce.ac.uk/news/hefce/2011/hecloud.htm

ii) Open up educational resources legally with new JISC tools
Making your educational resources openly available is not always straightforward when there are multiple licences involved – but two new JISC online wizards can help navigate the issues.
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2011/06/CClicence.aspx

iii) HE leaders give their views about new thinking on the future of higher education
Higher Education Academy (HEA) Chief Executive, Professor Craig Mahoney, has added his voice to a new publication which brings together a range of bold, new ideas about the future of higher education. Blue skies: New thinking about the future of higher education, is published by the Pearson Centre for Policy and Learning.
http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/news/detail/2011/blue-skies-may-2011

iv) Flexible, dynamic and reassuring: plans outlined for new QAA Quality Code
The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) has published its report on a consultation held earlier this year on changes to what has, until now, been known as the Academic Infrastructure. These changes include strengthening and reshaping the various reference points used by universities and colleges to set and maintain academic standards and quality.
http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Newsroom/PressReleases/Pages/quality-code-plans.aspx

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3.   Training & Events

3.1   Bloomsbury Events

29th July
Bloomsbury Library & eLearning Conference:
Libraries 2.0? Web 2.0, Social Media, Learning
IOE Media Centre
The 3rd annual conference features the use of social media and how libraries are making use of web2.0 technologies such as blogs, wikis, Twitter and Facebook.
To book a place: http://tinyurl.com/BLE-LibTech11

3.2   Online Training
i) Maximising Turnitin - Grademark & PeerMark
See how you can get more than just Originality Checking from Turnitin. GradeMark enables richer feedback without taking additional time. Register for online sessions below:
- **Thursday 21st July 2011 at 1400 (BST)**
- **Thursday 4th August 2011 at 1400 (BST)**

iii) Interpreting the Originality Report from Turnitin
For users to get a greater understanding of how to interpret the Originality Report and how this can be used to improve student feedback and performance. Please click on the date you wish to attend to register:

- **Wednesday 13th July 2011 at 1500 BST**
- **Wednesday 27th July 2011 at 1500 BST**

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3.3   Regional & National Events

26th July DELILA Dissemination event: One day event for developers of information and digital literacy teaching and learning material (Senate House, University of London).

6-8th September ALT-C 2011: Thriving in a colder and more challenging climate, Leeds

21st September Turnitin UK User Group Meeting, Manchester

22nd September Digital Literacies Workshop, Manchester (Free)

6th October Digital Literacies Workshop, Bristol (Free)

17-18th November 16th Annual SEDA Conference 2011 Using Technology to Enhance Learning**,** Aston Business School Conference Centre in Birmingham

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4.   Resources

i) Transforming curriculum delivery through technology: Stories of challenge, benefit and change
This new JISC guide summarises the benefits of technology in curriculum delivery as evidenced by the 15 projects in the Transforming Curriculum Delivery Programme http://jiscdesignstudio.pbworks.com/w/page/12458422/Welcome-to-the-Design-Studio

Accompanying the guide is a series of radio shows entitled 'JISC On Air'. The latest show entitled 'Efficiencies, enhancements and transformation: how technology can deliver,' includes interviews with two projects involved in the programme, discussing the impact achieved in two very different contexts and disciplines. http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/elearning/jisconair.aspx

ii) New online collection tells story of British women's struggle for the vote
A unique collection relating to British women's fight for the vote 100 years ago is now available online through the Visual Arts Data Service (VADS). View the new Women's Library Suffrage Collection at: http://www.vads.ac.uk/collections/WLS

iii) Darwin's personal library goes online
Notes and comments scribbled by Charles Darwin on the pages and margins of his own personal library have been made available online for the first time. In total, Darwin's library amounted to 1480 books, of which 730 contain abundant research notes in their margins http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/collection/darwinlibrary

iv) UNESCO joins iTunes U
UNESCO has joined a host of other educational bodies in providing free content via iTunes U. The content includes: several hundred films, podcasts, and documents available in three languages (English, French and Spanish), ranging from training support materials, to policy reports and journals, and lectures, interviews and documentaries which can be downloaded for free to a computer, iPad, iPhone or iPod touch http://www.unesco.org/new/itunes/.

v) Sustaining and Embedding Innovations: Good Practice Guide
Last year JISC produced a good practice guide to sustaining and embedding innovations based on the experience of these two programmes as well as other JISC and sector initiatives. The original guide has been updated by the author Peter Chatterton and developed into an online resource. The intention is that it will evolve with experiences from other programmes http://sustainembed.pbworks.com.

vi) Confused by copyright? In the dark about IPR?
A new elearning module from the JISC-led Strategic Content Alliance is to help update people dealing with intellectual property rights in universities, colleges, museums, libraries and other public bodies.
Access the module at http://www.web2rights.com/SCAIPRModule
Property Rights (IPR) toolkit is also available from:
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/themes/content/contentalliance/reports/ipr.aspx

vii) Two of the Royal College of Art's most important collections have been made available to the general public through a new digitisation project which is accessible through the Visual Arts Data Service (VADS) http://www.vads.ac.uk.

The Record of Student Work http://www.vads.ac.uk/collections/RCAROSW is a rare collection, containing over 30,000 slides of student work, which dates back to the 1960s and includes early work by notable College alumni including David Hockney, Tracey Emin, Ridley Scott and Thomas Heatherwick.

viii) CJOm - Cambridge Journals Online goes mobile
Cambridge Journals Online host over 100 of SOAS' e-journal subscriptions; including the

Bulletin of the School of Oriental & African Studies and the China Quarterly. The site is now available in a mobile version, which is designed for ease of use with smart phones (inc. iphone/pod, Blackberry and Android compatible devices).
http://jnls.cup.org/ [For off-campus login use 'Shibboleth login' button].

ix) Colonial Film: Moving Images of the British Empire
A new website which holds detailed information on over 6000 films showing images of life in the British colonies. Over 150 films are available for viewing online. You can search or browse for films by country, date, topic, or keyword. Over 350 of the most important films in the catalogue are presented with extensive critical notes written by the academic research team http://www.colonialfilm.org.uk/

x) Recording Lectures and Screencasts Webcast
A free 'Recording Lectures and Screencasts' webcast (originally streamed live on 13 April 2011), can now be accessed in captioned, bite-sized segments. Presented as a panel discussion with experts from JISC Legal, JISC Digital Media and JISC Techdis, this webcast is a practical, relevant guide to the legal, technical and accessibility issues involved in recording lectures and screencasts
Recording Lectures and Screencasts Webcast

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5.   Funding Opportunities

5.1   JISC

i) JISC Grant Funding 06/11: JISC eContent Capital Programme: Call for Projects
The JISC invites institutions to submit funding proposals for projects related to the creation and use of digital content. Funding of up to £5.4 million is available. The deadline for receipt of proposals is 12 noon UK time on Monday 15th August 2011. Further information and full eligibility details can be found at:
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/funding_calls/2011/06/econtentcapital.aspx

ii) Roadmap of future JISC grant funding
JISC has updated the future calls section of its website to show planned Grant Calls and Invitations to Tender up to July 2011. Full details and eligibility criteria can be found at:
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/futurecalls.aspx.

iii) JISC Funding: Course Data - Making the most of Course Information Capital Programme - Call for Letters of Commitment
JISC has announced a HEFCE-funded programme designed to help prepare the sector for increasing demands on course data. All eligible institutions are invited to take part in Stage 1, by submitting a letter of commitment (deadline 12:00 noon UK time on Wednesday 7th September 2011) signed by key senior staff, in order to receive £10k of JISC funding. Further information about the call is available from:
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities.aspx

JISC further calls
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/futurecalls

5.2 The Higher Education Academy
http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/learning/elearning/elro

5.3 Higher Education Academy Subject Centres
http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/tdf/

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