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

1.   Bloomsbury News

i) BLE migration to Moodle Official

To mark the launch of Moodle in Bloomsbury, staff members in the Bloomsbury Colleges were invited to attend an Academic Showcase, which took place on Thursday 7th June. The event was divided three parts Moodle for Distance Learning, Moodle to support campus-based learning and Launch Reception. The event was attended by 80 people and highly recommended.

To listen to all recordings from the event and to see the PowerPoint presentations, visit
http://www.bloomsbury.ac.uk/moodle

ii) Moving to Moodle Videos
This series of videos has been put together, in conjunction with ULCC, to share the experiences of Bloomsbury's early adopters of Moodle. The purpose of the videos is to share the experiences across the Bloomsbury community, to support academics and course administrators, but also as useful resources for the wider e-learning community.

To view each video, use the links below or find them all at
https://sites.google.com/site/blemoodlemigration/videos

1. Moving to Moodle: Why
2. Moving to Moodle: The Advantages

iii) Bloomsbury Moodle Survey
The BLE team would be extremely grateful if you could spend a few minutes on a very short, online survey about the Move to Moodle, so we can ensure that we are meeting your needs regarding Moodle preparation:
https://bitly.com/BLE_survey_2012

iv) Arrivals and departures at the RVC
This term, the RVC waved farewell to Fiona Fenton, VLE Manager who has worked at the RVC for over 5 years. Fiona gave birth to Eva Frances on 1st June and the Fenton family will be heading to New Zealand later this summer. Sachin Taank, who has been the VLE Developer at the RVC, has recently taken up a new post at the Coventry University as a Learning Technologist. We all wish Fiona and Sachin all the best for the future. Thankfully, the RVC is not without e-learning staff – Ben Audsley joined the team in May and is working alongside Alistair Spark in the RVC's e-learning team.

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2. Other News

i) Cookie law is now in force in the UK
Guidance has been issued by the Government Digital Service (GDS) for government departments and other public sector bodies that are required to comply with the Privacy & Electronic Communication Regulations (PECR). From 26 May 2012 all website owners with a UK presence, are required to obtain informed consent from website users and subscribers in order to store information on their devices. Essentially only cookies that are deemed 'strictly necessary' for a service requested by the user are exempted from this consent requirement. The guidance focuses on ensuring that the main objective of the new regulation, the protection of website users' online privacy, is satisfied by public sector websites. As well as specific advice the document sets out a recommended template for a 'Use of Cookies' policy. The guidance can be accessed on the GDS website. And further information and analysis is available on the JANET Regulatory Developments Blog.

ii) International collaboration to help transform way library resource management
Kuali OLE, one of the largest academic library software collaborations in the United States, and JISC, the UK's expert on digital technologies for education and research, announce a collaboration that will make data about e-resources—such as publication and licensing information—more easily available. Together, Kuali OLE and JISC will develop an international open data repository that will give academic libraries a broader view of subscribed resources.
For more information, click here.

iii) ALT and Google
In line with Google's announcement during the 2011 ALT Conference, ALT will this year be working with Google to run a competition to seek out and celebrate examples of excellent uses of Google Apps in learning and teaching. ALT's team intends to make a detailed announcement about this in due course. The closing date for entries is likely to be towards the end of June, with winners announced at the 2012 ALT Conference in Manchester. For more information, click here

iv) London School of Economics replaces Siemens with cloud-based comms

The London School of Economics has signed a deal with InTechnology to replace its current on-premise communications tools, provided by Siemens, with a new cloud-based solution. The agreement will include the provision of over 3,000 telephone handsets, 1,000 softphones, 100 days training and 24/7 support for the entire university. For more information click here

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3.   Training & Events

3.1   Bloomsbury Events

i) Important Moodle training:
As part of the Moodle migration project there are a series of workshops taking place for staff in each College, tailored to help get started with Moodle. Please contact your relevant College team for specific dates and time for the sessions.

College	Contact email
Birkbeck Support	moodle@bbk.ac.uk
IOE Support	vle@ioe.ac.uk
LSHTM Support	elearning@lshtm.ac.uk
RVC Support	learn@rvc.ac.uk
SOAS Support	ble@soas.ac.uk

ii) Wikipedia workshops
From May to October 2012, the British Library is hosting an AHRC-funded Wikipedian in Residence. Andrew Gray, a professional librarian and Wikipedia volunteer, will be working to help establish ties between the Wikimedia community and institutional staff.

As part of the residency program, he will be running a series of workshops around the country for the AHRC, aiming to provide training and support to specialists who are interested in contributing to Wikipedia or other Wikimedia projects, or learning more about engaging and collaborating with the Wikimedia community. The second of these workshops will be hosted at **Birkbeck** on the afternoon of **Monday 20th August**, 1 pm to 5 pm, and is open to all e.g. teaching staff, librarians, postgraduate students and researchers.

The workshop will involve a short general introduction to the projects and a discussion of how they are created and developed, followed by a more in-depth practical session involving learning the basics of editing and engaging with other contributors. Extensive IT skills are not required!

To book your place, please complete this short form:
http://bit.ly/Wikipedia_Workshop_June12

Save the date for the next workshop **Monday 20th August.**

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3.2   Regional & National Events

04/07/12 Employer Engagement in a Digital Age, University of Greenwich
05/07/12 Promoting Digital Literacy through OER: the release, use and reuse of open educational resources, University of Bedfordshire (event held at St Anne's College, Oxford University)
31/08/12 eAssessment Scotland 2012, University of Dundee

05/09/12-07/09/12 Designs on eLearning, University of the Arts
11/09/12-13/09/12 ALT-C 2012 - A confrontation with reality, University of Manchester
5/10/12 Future of Technology in Education conference, University of London
20/09/12 Mobile Applications and e-Readers Showcase, University of London.
24/09/12-26/09/12 The fourth International m-libraries Conference, The Open University
04/10/12-5/10/12 Novice International Conference: Insights for online professional communities, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest
19/10/12 Joint conference of the Southern England Consortium (SEEC) and the Northern Universities Consortium (NUCCAT), Aston Business School Conference Centre
19/10/12 Research in Distance Education, University of London

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4.   Resources

i) Cookie law is now in force in the UK
Cookie law is now in force in the UK – and there are different way of dealing with it. In this podcast, John X Kelly, lawyer at JISC Legal, discusses the definitive guide to the law. Mike Nolan, head of web services at Edge Hill University, shares top tips from his approach.
Listen to the podcast http://bit.ly/Noc4nu
Read the JISC Legal guidance http://www.jisclegal.ac.uk/cookies

ii) Moving e-portfolios into the mainstream
JISC launches three resources to help universities and colleges to implement e-portfolios effectively at scale -created from successful practice in the UK, Australia and New Zealand. The materials explore the ways in which you can help to boost learner achievement, enhance employability and even support the development of new courses. The e-portfolio implementation toolkit and five supporting video case studies, Stories of e-Portfolio Implementation, can be found at http://www.jisc.ac.uk/eportimplement.

iii) Public sector saves £28 million through open access, but much greater rewards to come, says report:
Open Access to published scholarly research offers significant benefits to the UK, according to two reports released today by the UK Open Access Implementation Group. The UK public sector already saves £28.6 million by using open access. The reports make it clear that both the public sector and the voluntary sector would see further direct and indirect benefits from increased access to UK higher education research publications. Already, more Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations use open access than pay for subscriptions, despite the fact that subscription journals make up the vast majority of journals on offer. For more information visit: Public sector saves £28 million through open access

iv) Web Conferencing - A Practical Guide
Compiled by JISC Regional Support Centre, South West, this guide covers the key features of some of the major web conferencing tools, both free and paid for. View or download from: http://www.jiscrsc.ac.uk/media/171774/web_conferening.pdf

v) Assessment and Feedback Programme Resources
Transforming Assessment and Feedback is a new area on the JISC Design Studio. Developed as part of the ongoing JISC Assessment and Feedback programme it will form a hub for existing and emergent work on enhancing assessment and feedback practice with technology. This is a dynamic set of resources that will be updated as the programme progresses.

5.   Funding Opportunities

5.1   JISC
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/futurecalls

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

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