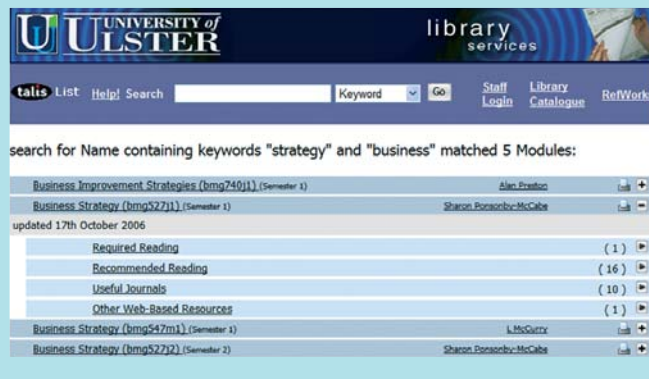


Let the Library take the strain

- resource lists online



The Library's online resource list catalogue contains lists for over 2000 modules, offering easy access to recommended reading.

Students – no need to search the library catalogue, we've done it for you. Just look up your module code to locate your books and journal articles. We've also linked directly to ejournals, ebooks and websites.

Staff – we will keep your resource lists current. Email your lists to the dedicated mailbox for your faculty and we will do the checking. We will also update them with new editions and can have articles or book chapters digitized for distance learning modules.

Link to the resource list catalogue from the Library homepage at: library.ulster.ac.uk or contact your faculty librarians for further information.

Course Validation /Re-validation Procedures

IT User Services has implemented a new business process to standardise and enhance our approach to course (re)validation. The new process aims to provide faculties with a more detailed (re)validation report that will outline ITUS' support of the teaching and learning experience.

The report will include a general overview of IT and media support provided to faculties, along with examples of particular training, technical support, or equipment provision that has been delivered by ITUS to support staff and students participating in the validated course. For more information contact Dr. Kenny McCartan on ext. 68231.

Windows Vista

In January, Microsoft released Windows Vista the latest version of its operating system. A number of computer manufacturers are now shipping their products with Vista as the pre-installed operating system.

At present, Information Services is evaluating Windows Vista. The department will not be providing technical support for this operating system until the evaluation is completed and the appropriate support mechanisms are in place. A statement will be issued when support becomes available. In the interim, an advisory note to users has been published regarding:

- incompatibility issues identified, including
 - oracle Jinitiator plugin issue
 - UU wireless login problem
- what to do when purchasing a new computer

The note is available from our website at: www.ulster.ac.uk/isd/itus/news/vista.htm

Coleraine Computer Room Refurbishment

The Coleraine Computer Room refurbishment was completed just before Christmas and no further disruption to service has been scheduled. Information Services would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and students who were affected for their patience during this essential work.

If you have a comment or query on any article in this Newsletter, please contact:

Keith Livingston:
sdk.livingston@ulster.ac.uk
or
Ciaran Cregan:
cr.cregan@ulster.ac.uk

IT User Services | Library | Reprographics | Archives | CIS

Information Services

Newsletter

Spring 2007

Exciting New Development at Coleraine Campus

In September 2007, a new £5.1M Learning Resource Centre will open in Coleraine providing, in one location in Central Buildings, an excellent learning environment with easy access to computers and printed materials.

Key features of the new facility

- Enhanced opening hours with 24 hour-opening of the IT area, and the entire facility open during semesters:
 - Monday – Friday
8.45 am – 10.00 pm
 - Saturdays and Sundays
1.00 pm – 5.00 pm
- Approximately 190 computers as well as wireless networking provided throughout the centre.
- Extensive print collections on new shelving with areas devoted to special and rare book collections.
- Approximately 680 study places split between IT spaces, individual study/reader spaces and group room study spaces.
- Six group study rooms - bookable by students for group activity.
- New service desk which is the first point of contact for all queries.
- A walkthrough Short Loan Collection – direct access to this stock.



Building and Refurbishment Timeline

Central Buildings Library will close on 25 May 2007 and the entire library service at Coleraine will be provided through the Library in South Buildings until 17 September, when the new LRC opens. During the refurbishment period, Central Buildings Library's materials will not be available. Library staff are working closely with academics to identify which resources need to be moved to South Library to support teaching, learning and research activities during the closure period. Although it will be impossible

to move the entire contents of Central Library to South Library, we intend having key resources transferred and readily available. The document delivery or inter-library loan service will continue to be available and we will use this service to provide materials urgently needed and which are not immediately accessible on campus.

We are looking forward to September when we will have an excellent Learning Resource Centre in Coleraine which will be technology and information rich.

Anyone who would like further information should use one of the following routes:

| | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------|
| Website: | library.ulster.ac.uk/coleraine/lrc | |
| Email: | colerainelrc@library.ulster.ac.uk | |
| Speak to: | | Telephone |
| David McClure | Campus Library Manager | 24364 |
| Colette McKenna | User Services Librarian | 24743 |
| Elaine Urquhart | Assistant Director Library | 66370 |
| or | | |
| Kay Ballantine | Life and Health Sciences Sub-Librarian | 24257 |
| Niall Burns | Social Sciences Sub-Librarian | 66970 |
| Gerard McFall | Business & Management Sub-Librarian | 68144 |
| Jim Fitzsimons | Engineering Sub-Librarian | 66963 |
| Janet Peden | Arts Sub-Librarian | 24546 |

IT User Services Media Technology Website

IT User Services has created a new media technology website to highlight the range of media technology available to academic staff to support teaching and learning. The site details the services currently offered by IT User Services - such as photographic and graphic design services - as well as providing 'how to' information on media technology such as video conferencing. The site also contains a news section with articles on the introduction of media technologies in the University, such as video streaming, and links to further information and materials online. ITUS are keen to further their support for teaching and learning by actively piloting new media technologies with academic staff.

For more information contact Dr. Kenny McCartan on ext. 68231 or visit the new media technology website.

www.ulster.ac.uk/isd/itus/media/



Engineering News



Visitors from Malaysian Department of Finance

During November and December, representatives from the Malaysian Department of Finance visited Jordanstown LRC. They were here as guests of SCOBE and were particularly interested in the LRC since they are planning to develop an information centre in Malaysia. They attended a series of talks presented by library staff and are pictured here with Mick Carragher and Jim Fitzsimons.

JORUM Lunchtime Talks

In October and November, Mick Carragher presented a series of lunchtime talks at Coleraine, Magee and Jordanstown on JORUM, a learning object repository.

JORUM is a JISC funded collaborative project to collect and share learning and teaching materials from UK Further and Higher Education institutions allowing their reuse and repurposing. It is run jointly between EDINA and MIMAS national data centres. It provides access to a shared repository of resources. Teaching and support staff in institutions with access to JORUM will be able to find, preview, download, and use teaching materials. Resources range from simple materials such as Word documents or Powerpoint presentations to complex learning packages that combine various multimedia formats.

For more information visit JORUM at: www.jorum.ac.uk

Access to IT Resources for Visitors

Some visitors to the University may require access to IT services such as email, internet and office applications. Information Services can provide a temporary IT account which will allow the visitor access to the workstations in a corporate IT facility (such as a student laboratory or LRC) or use their personal laptop to access the wireless

network. Visitor Codes can be provided for individuals or for groups (such as conference delegates) and applications must be supported by a member of staff. Further information for both visitors and their University sponsors is available on our website at:

www.ulster.ac.uk/isd/itus/rad/visitors/



Corporate IT Laboratory Review 2007

In April, Information Services will be conducting its annual software profile review of the student IT laboratories. Members of academic staff that require faculty-related software to be hosted on corporate systems should contact their Faculty Software Co-ordinator as soon as possible to ensure that their request is factored into the implementation schedule. Faculty Software Co-ordinators will liaise with Colin Todd (ext: 24522, email: ac.todd@ulster.ac.uk) who is our contact concerning all faculty software hosted on the CITL service.

Lecturers planning to use specialised software must ensure that it will be compliant with Windows XP. To assist us in our planning, it would be appreciated if faculty staff would:

- review their current software deployment within CITL services
- check the compatibility of the CITL hosted applications with Windows XP
- ensure that upgrades are available by June 2007
- compile and forward an updated list of applications to be hosted from October 2007 to their Software Co-ordinator (who will liaise with ITUS).

This list should clearly indicate:

- product name and the campuses on which it is required
- confirmation that you can furnish an XP compliant copy of the product and associated licence
- any software that will not be required after June 2007
- that you have formally communicated this detail to all relevant academic staff within your faculty

Wireless PC Tablet Pilot



IT User Services is collaborating with the School of Nursing to explore the use of Wireless PC Tablets, with the aim of enhancing the teaching and learning experience. PC Tablets are handheld devices similar to a wireless laptop, however, their smaller size enables the user to be more mobile. They can deliver presentations, lectures and seminars without the need to be constrained to a static PC or laptop. In addition, the touch screen controls allow the user to 'draw' or 'write' on materials displayed on-screen, thus enabling users to annotate presentations with relevant information and contributions during lectures or seminars. If the pilot study is successful IT User Services is keen to investigate the potential of using Wireless PC Tablets in a broader context to support teaching and learning across the University.

For more information contact Dr. Kenny McCartan on ext. 68231.



Life and Health Sciences News

New Electronic Resources available from the Library's database list

ENVIROnetBASE is a new collection of over 120 e-books from CRC Press covering a range of Environmental Science topics. It can be accessed from off-campus using a specific username and password, available from Library staff.

Encyclopedia of Forensic and Legal Medicine is published online by Elsevier. The aim of this Encyclopedia is to provide a reliable starting point for validated information relating to medical and legal issues in Forensic Science.

Step-Up steps out at Jordanstown

The University's Step-Up programme has been running successfully at Magee since September 2000. An introduction to the LRC and the University's library services has always been a crucial element in the student's introduction to the University.

In September 2006, the programme was extended to Belfast. On 13 October the students, all from the Greater Belfast area, visited Jordanstown LRC. Library staff demonstrated online resources available to the students and they were given guided tours of the facilities. Each student was given a goodie bag of pens, highlighters, notebooks, post-its and bookmarks!