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This printed version of IS News contains only a few full news items with a number of brief introductory passages to others that may be found in their entirety in the on-line version. A particular article may be viewed by typing the URL in the address box of your web browser, or you can see the complete issue at: <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/news/isnews.asp>. Past issues and other recent news items and articles that are not contained in this printed version may also be seen there.

The Lounge@Rosser

Over the last year, we have been reviewing the best ways of providing informal computer working areas. While teaching workstation rooms continue to require us to maximise the number of PCs available, in non-bookable areas this is no longer the case, and this, together with the emergence of laptop and wireless working, is allowing us to move to less formal room layouts. We want to offer more relaxed working, with people easily able to use their own computers, as well as encouraging group working. As a result of discussions, Information Services has been involved in several initiatives over the summer.

The most exciting has been a combined Information Services and Residential Services project to create a completely new style of working area in what was the



Rosser Bar, now known as The Lounge@Rosser. This area, open twenty-four hours a day, offers comfortable seating including sofas, desks placed in clusters to allow convenient group working, and an adjustable desk for disabled users. Desk space and mains and network are provided for personal laptops, which can also be used in the informal seating areas using the provided WiFi service.

Two other projects are also in hand. These are less grand in scope but hopefully will be welcomed as providing more relaxed and flexible environments. Firstly, again in partnership with Residential Services, the furniture in the Pantycelyn Hall computer room is being replaced to give more flexible use and allowing the area to be generally smartened up. Secondly, the traditional workstation area at the far end of the Hugh Owen Library on E floor overlooking the Arts Centre has been cleared and the furniture replaced in a more informal style.

Such changes largely mirror the way that people use their laptops when out-and-about in internet cafes and such environments. For future planning, we will be monitoring the way these



new areas are used and their overall popularity. A number of other universities are now offering comprehensive facilities along these lines and it is important that Aberystwyth does not get left behind.

Jeremy Perkins, Assistant Director
Central IT Services
(jwp@aber.ac.uk)

Blackboard in Welsh

From the start of the current academic session, Blackboard now offers staff and students the option of logging in and browsing their courses in Welsh. Using a Welsh 'Language Pack' developed in Bangor, all users have the option to select a language preference at the bottom of the login screen before entering their username and password. Users are able to view Blackboard buttons, menus and instructions in Welsh – a facility which also extends into the Control Panel functions. Students will see that course menus now use Welsh rather than English labelling. (Please note that the Language Pack does not translate individual documents; you may also come across some English words or phrases – we apologise in advance for these gaps, and we are working with the providers of the interface to remedy them.)

We believe that this development will help further enhance the University's provision for e-learning, particularly through the medium of Welsh – a key point in the University's E-learning Strategy. The introduction of Blackboard in Welsh is part of the upgrade to Aberystwyth's version of the system which took place over the summer. The upgrade has introduced a range of new tools and features as well as opportunities for further additions to the system. More information can be found at http://alto.aber.ac.uk/en/bb/helpsheets/enterprise_update.php. Staff wishing to find out more about using the new features in their teaching can contact the Blackboard Team (bb-team@aber.ac.uk) for more information.

We are grateful to Canolfan Bedwyr and IT Services at Bangor University for all their work in developing the Language Pack, which was formally launched at the National Eisteddfod in August (www.bangor.ac.uk/news/full.php?id=290)

Kate Wright, E-learning Development Officer (kaw@aber.ac.uk)



Hugh Owen Library Changes

During the summer a few areas of Hugh Owen Library were upgraded to meet improved accessibility requirements. The opportunity was also taken to review the location of other services. The lift in the middle of the library has been upgraded to meet disability evacuation standards and new automated doors for mobility impaired users have been fitted on E floor by the old library entry. Carrel and toilet facilities were also improved.

In an attempt to control noise levels we have for several years designated large areas on E and F floors as quiet study zones. In answer to reader requests for more regulation of noise levels we have now designated the South End of F floor as a silent study zone and have also created a new group study area in the centre of F floor adjacent to the computers and opacs where more noise is tolerated. We have also upgraded the computer workstation area at the south end of E floor to provide a more attractive mix of study spaces with new furniture which seems to be well appreciated by users.

On the ground floor of the Library (Level D) we are now displaying new books and daily newspapers in the hope that these may be of interest to readers who are able to drop in for a few minutes between classes. We are also experimenting with vending machines in both Hugh Owen and Thomas Parry Libraries offering a limited range of drinks and snacks.

Bill Hines, Assistant Director Library and Advisory Services (whh@aber.ac.uk)



Online Research Repository

Aberystwyth University's online research repository is to be officially re-launched as a full IS service over the coming months, following its success as a pilot project. Talat Chaudhri was appointed in the new full-time post of Repository Advisor from mid September (funded by JISC), and is responsible for developing and promoting the service among the academic departments. It will be a showcase for the intellectual output of the University, as part of a co-ordinated research strategy. It is hoped that the repository will contribute significantly in the long term to the international research profile of its academic staff and research students. The main holdings will be published academic research and e-theses. It is a simple process to self-archive within subject-based collections, but a mediated service is also offered. The new visual identity of the repository is under development, while the present web pages can be found at <http://cadair.aber.ac.uk>

Talat Chaudhri, Repository Advisor (tac@aber.ac.uk)

Changes to Printing & Photocopying for Academic Year 2007/8

Printing and photocopying services have been significantly changed this term to allow us to substantially improve the service by offering more printers and copiers and by increasing the availability of colour and A3 printing. The previous printers and photocopiers have been replaced by combined units (sometimes known as Multifunctional Devices or MFDs), a large number of which offer both black-and-white and colour. All have the A3 size paper available. You only need to pay into one quota which can be used for any combination of copying, printing, black-and-white, colour, A4, A3. This means you can pay for copying as well as printing with a credit card if you want, and the coin collection machines (valueloaders) will give credit available for both uses. This represents a substantial change to our printing and photocopying services, and while we are confident the service will be markedly improved, we do of course welcome feedback on the changes, whether in support or highlighting problems.

For more information see: <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/news/computing/printing.asp>

Jeremy Perkins, Assistant Director Central IT Services (jwp@aber.ac.uk)

AberListMan

Over the summer, the Systems Team has developed a replacement for Majordomo, the mailing list management software used at the University. Titled "AberListMan", it provides the most used functionality of Majordomo, in a set of easy to use web pages.

AberListMan allows you to:

- 1) administer your list using your standard University username and password;
- 2) view all of the mailing lists you own;
- 3) see what mailing lists you are on;
- 4) edit your own mailing list descriptions and set your own review dates;
- 5) accept emails to your list with large attachments;
- 6) delegate administration of the lists to other users;
- 7) administer a list, but yet not be a member of the list;
- 8) restrict who can post to your mailing list.

We have a web page with information on the new system at: <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/advisory/faq/23/>

And you can access AberListMan by going to: <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/advisory/faq/247/>

Of course, we welcome any feedback you may have on the new service – please contact Advisory (advisory@aber.ac.uk) with your comments.

Matthew Fullwood, Systems Support Team (mtf@aber.ac.uk)



New Book Return Facility

Coming into Hugh Owen Library it is hard to miss our new books return machine, affectionately called 'The Monster' by library staff. This new facility allows you to return your loans and discharge them from your library account. A receipt listing the returned titles is printed - keep this in your files as proof that you have returned the item to the library.

'Behind the scenes', the machine flags recalled or reserved material for immediate action and sorts material into different trolleys based on the book's location in the library. Another great advantage is that the books return machine automatically re-activates the security mechanism in the book – a task that library staff used to have to do manually.

The new system has already proved popular with users and will help to speed up the process of returning items to the shelves for other borrowers. Some 60% of book loans are now dealt with through the self issue machines which have been installed at the counter, and in the longer term we hope to automate most circulation traffic, thereby freeing staff time for other activities. If you are in doubt as to how to use this new facility, library staff will be happy to assist you.

Christiane Kloos, Library Systems Officer (cek@aber.ac.uk)

New Electronic Resources

We now subscribe to the following resources:

- *PsycARTICLES*, via CSA
- Behavioural Science (Psychology) and Physics packages (Taylor & Francis ejournals)
- *British Psychological Society* (ejournals)
- JSTOR - new Arts & Sciences V Collection
- *Archive of Celtic-Latin Literature Online* (ACLL) added to the Brepolis Database collection
- *Keesing's Record of World Events*
- Landmap Service archive via the National Grid Service (NGS)
- *International Medieval Bibliography Online* added to the Brepolis Database collection
- *Nature, Nature Materials and Nature Physics* now available electronically
- *Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film* (ebook)
- *American Institute of Physics* (AIP) (ejournals)
- *American Chemical Society* (ACS) (ejournals)

For more information on these, and other on-line resources, see our Latest News web pages at:

<http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/elecinfo/einews.asp>

New Athens login buttons

Login @ Aber

Due to the new institutional name change and the advent of new systems of authentication, we have changed our yellow Athens login buttons as shown.

Sandra Morris, Electronic Information Development Officer (ssm@aber.ac.uk)

Sharepoint at Aberystwyth University



SharePoint is a web-based system that offers collaboration and document management. Collaboration features include shared calendars, tasks, contacts, and discussion boards. Document management features include versioning, backup, secure access, and remote access to documents over the web. It integrates closely with Microsoft Office applications such as Outlook and Word. SharePoint also offers “Web 2.0” collaborative technologies such as blogs and wikis.

SharePoint can be used to:

- Store, share, and collaborate on documents
- Share contacts, tasks, and calendars
- Manage projects, teams, and meetings
- Share ideas and developments with blogs
- Easily gather information and collaborate using wikis

Currently SharePoint is available as a pilot. It is being used within Information Services (IS) to manage projects and meeting documents. IS is also hosting a SharePoint site being used by the Repositories Support Project (RSP). In addition

it is used to store documents and support various University-level committees. A SharePoint Interest Group is being created for staff who have an interest in using SharePoint and/or would like to become involved in the pilot.

If you are interested in joining this group please contact tim.davies@aber.ac.uk.

Public Service PC Refresh

Following a mini-tender process through the IRDA desktop framework agreement, IS has procured 550 Dell PCs to replace the aging stock of PCs in public service. This covers centrally-timetabled teaching rooms, bookable and non-bookable rooms across campus. These new PCs bring numerous benefits to Aberystwyth University, including:

- Performance: Greatly improved performance. This eliminates slow login times of the past and enabling the support of the latest software.
- Monitors: Much larger 19” and 20” flat screen monitors that are both height adjustable and swivel.
- Desktop Space: Reduced form factor means more desktop space for books, notes etc. This is a consistent request from students in surveys.
- Consistency: Consistent hardware is more efficient for IS to support.
- Aesthetics: The new PCs and monitors look much better and demonstrate that Aberystwyth University invests in its IT provision.
- Lower Energy Consumption: The new PCs and monitors have lower energy consumption than the older equipment and enable the implementation of power saving schemes.
- Vista capable: The new equipment fully supports Microsoft Windows Vista and Office 2007.

Tim Davies, Desktop Systems Manager (tid@aber.ac.uk)

New Inter Library Loan Charges

The British Library Document Supply Centre has increased the charges for obtaining Inter Library Loan materials. The costs, which were implemented on 1 November 2007, are as follows:

- Books £8.05
 - Photocopies £5.25
 - Renewals £3.10
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Editorial Team

Elgan Davies (epd), Laurence Dupont (lrd), Mary Green (mcg), Jacqui Kenton (jck), Christine Hughes (cmh), Dermot Ryan (drr), Jackie Woollam (jaw), Kate Wright (kaw).

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