



May 2006

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 either by clicking on the URL or 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.

New spam filtering system

Over the past few weeks you may have noticed that the amount of spam arriving in your INBOX has been growing. This is because one of the spam filtering techniques used at Aber (greylisting) is starting to lose its effectiveness. The spammers are starting to use new software which is specifically designed to get around greylisting. Greylisting sits in front of all our other filters and has been responsible for blocking most spam over the past three years. Now that more spam is getting past it, the other filters aren't really doing a good job.

Time for a change

Over the past few years, the entire spam "landscape" has changed, and we now need to make changes to address this changed landscape. A new system has been designed, with much better controls over how and when messages should be blocked. In particular, it's now possible to specify the filtering preferences for mail aliases and mailing lists, and to specify that some addresses never receive mail from outside.

We will be retiring the old spam filtering system on 1 September 2006 and, since most of the new options aren't comparable with the old ones, you need to visit <http://spam.aber.ac.uk/> to set up your filtering preferences.

For the complete picture on what's new see:

<http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/news/may06/spam.asp>

CADAIR launched

Following trials of the DSpace repository software, we have started setting up and running a digital institutional repository, known as CADAIR (Cloddfa Asedau Digidol/Aberystwyth Institutional Repository). It can be found on the Web at <http://cadair.aber.ac.uk/>. The primary aim of CADAIR is to increase the visibility of UWA's research output by making it available on the Web. So far, some papers from the Department of Computer Science have been deposited, by way of a pilot scheme, and early results suggest that deposit does significantly increase the visibility of papers, for example by increasing their exposure in "Google".

Papers and other materials are easily deposited using CADAIR's Web interface, which also allows searching and browsing of the repository. Most publishers are happy for authors to self-archive their papers in an open access repository such as CADAIR and CADAIR's home page includes a link to enable authors to check their publisher's policy regarding self archiving.

CADAIR is currently being run as a pilot service. If it gets launched as a fully supported service it will be available bilingually.

To find out more about CADAIR explore the Web site or contact Jon Bell (jpb@aber.ac.uk), Stuart Lewis (sdl@aber.ac.uk).

Disability Discrimination Act 2005 – Disability Equality Duty Event

In February of this year, Information Services organised a Disability Equality Duty event, with speakers from the Disability Rights Commission, SKILL Wales and the British Dyslexia Association. We would like to thank Professor Lyn Pykett for taking the Chair at this event, where members of 5 Welsh universities were present, 14 representatives from UWA departments, CLAUD Cymru members, Regional Support Centre for Wales, the National Library of Wales, Dyfed Powys Police, Ceredigion District Council and Bronglais General Hospital NHS Trust attended. We would also like to thank the Translation Unit for their services.

Disability Roundtable Consultations

Information Services have now had two disability focused meetings as part of a new consultative process in support of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 Disability Equality Duty, looking at all aspects of the provision of library and computing support within Information Services. While not wishing to raise expectations unrealistically, we hope to continue to involve both staff and students in discussions about the effectiveness of our procedures, policies and DDA work improvements, and for them to help us identify both what we are getting right and what could benefit some attention. We have now collected our users' views from the first two meetings and will be getting together again at the end of April to enter the next phase of discussions. The group currently consists of members from Estates (both Security and DDA Works), the Students' Guild's Campaigns, Communications and Equal Opportunities Officer and the Guild's Disability Officer, the UWA Disability Officer, and Information Services staff representatives (Lending Services, Learning Technology, Software, Central IT and Operations, Library and Advisory Services). We would like to thank everyone for participating, but are particularly grateful to the students that took time to come and join us, and hope that more students will join us in this important activity in the future. If you or any of your students have an interest in joining this focus group, please contact Gill Price, on 2493 or by emailing gmp@aber.ac.uk

Three of the speakers' presentations may be viewed at:

<http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/disability/DED/presentations.asp>

Gill Price, Learning Technology Teamleader (gmp@aber.ac.uk)

IS User Survey 2006

Results of the IS User Survey for 2006 are now available on the web at:

<http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/library/survey-result.asp>

Over 700 users took time to give feedback on the whole range of library and computing services and their comments will be extremely valuable as we plan for new developments over the coming year. The winner of the associated prize draw was Michael Cavaye from the Department of International Politics and he will receive a book token for £25.



CyMAL Awards

Information Services has been successful in attracting some new funding from CyMAL, the Council for Museums Archives and Libraries in Wales, to allow for further service developments over the coming year. Over the last few months a new collaborative partnership, Linc y Canolbarth, has been launched between libraries in mid-Wales allowing for reader inter lending between the partner libraries and supporting a range of staff training initiatives.

Basic information about the new venture is available on the web at:

www.lincycanolbarth.org.uk

Further funding has now been made available to develop this partnership during 2006/7, allowing for a number of new initiatives which will encourage the outreach of the University to the local community. CyMAL have also provided funding for a collaborative initiative between Ceredigion Archives and Information Services allowing for the employment of a Graduate Archive Trainee Assistant within the two institutions.

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

E-learning Strategy

The University has recently approved a new E-learning Strategy which can be seen at:

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic/e-learning/>

The Strategy aims to “actively to support and encourage the appropriate use of information and communications technologies (ICT) in learning and teaching at all levels” and has a number of strategic aims to achieve this. Staff from the Learning Technology Team will be implementing a number of new initiatives during the next 9 months including consulting with all departments about their current and future use of e-learning.

Access to Information Services Facilities

Information Services offers access to the University Libraries, Email facilities, Central Computing services and Public Workstation rooms to registered IS users. Such access is controlled by IS in accordance with University policy to minimise the risk of misuse of these facilities.

The web page at http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/regulations/is_access.asp sets out details of the procedures required to register for access to IS facilities and to ensure user access is not terminated prematurely.

Any enquiries should be sent to: is-access@aber.ac.uk



World Book Day

Colour and fun were the order of the day in Thomas Parry Library earlier this year with eye-catching displays celebrating World Book Day 2006. Aimed particularly at potential children’s librarians amongst DIS students, the displays drew inspiration from colourful publicity material and beautiful new books in the Children’s Collection. Attention was focused mainly on recent award-winning books, as well as a range of bibliographic resources available to help in their selection.

Lisa Venning, Lending Services (ejv@aber.ac.uk)

Review of the AStRA Project

The AStRA (Aberystwyth Student Records and Admissions) System Project was initiated in March 2001 to replace out-dated hardware, to develop web based access to student and admissions records and to provide greater flexibility in reporting and analysing this data. In August 2005 the project was formally completed and in January 2006 an end of review was conducted together with a survey of users.

The review concluded that the project had been a significant success. The project had met most of the aims and objectives and had been completed slightly late but under budget.

For further details see: <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/news/may06/astra.asp>

Athens passwords have now been discontinued

UWA Athens login

We have now been using the DA (Devolved Authentication) system of accessing Athens-authenticated electronic journals and resources for over a year. This has proved to be an easier method of access for most off-campus users as it only requires the use of the usual UWA login and password. So that we do not have to maintain the two systems in parallel, the old (Classic) Athens password system has now ended. You will no longer need to have a separate Athens password; your usual UWA email password will be used to access these resources

To learn more about the new system go to: <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/news/may06/athens.asp>

New Software Available

For information on upgrades and latest version of Nvivo, Keypoint, SPSS, EndNote and the withdrawal of Hummingbird Exceed, go to:
<http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/news/may06/newsa.asp>

Test of Disaster Plan

Information Services carried out the planned test of their Disaster Plan on Thursday 5th January which proved very successful. Can we thank everyone for their forbearance and for the feedback we have had.

For the short report on how the day went see:

<http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/news/computing/disasterreport.asp>

JoEy – UWA's access to ejournals

JoEy has been redesigned with a streamlined, and bilingual, interface. As we now have access to the full text of over 6000 electronic journals, covering all subjects, JoEy has become an important link to accessing the full text of research papers and articles online. Use the databases and indexes on ElecInfo to find out what articles and papers have been written on your topic and then find the journal on JoEy. Please use the 'Info' and 'Password' buttons for details of the databases and ejournal services and how to access on and off-campus.

JoEy also now includes links to the many sources of open access journals, as well as table of contents alerting services, and provides RSS feeds to keep you informed of any journals added to JoEy :

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

JoEy: <http://www.aber.ac.uk/is/ejournals/>

Sandra Morris, Electronic Information Development Officer, Subject Support & E-Library Team (ssm@aber.ac.uk)

Designing Libraries: the resource for library design, planning and building

www.designinglibraries.org.uk



Team Members:

Andrew Isherwood, Alan Clark, Helena Earnshaw and Michael Dewe

The successful UWA Aberystwyth based portal and database on library design and planning, has just received further substantial funding for the next 2 years from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. Initially concerned with public libraries in the UK, it can now expand its remit to include all types of library worldwide and will continue its development as a vital resource for anyone concerned with any aspect of library design.

The Designing Libraries team can be contacted at: info@designinglibraries.org.uk

Alan J Clark, Coordinator Designing Libraries Project

Training Courses

Remember that Information Services offers a wide range of courses for both students and staff. Details of all the courses are available at:
<http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/courses/>

Editorial Team

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

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