



November 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 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 not contained in this printed version may also be seen there.

Land, Life and Leisure Launched

A key source of up-to-date information about agriculture and the rural economy is now available to people living in West Wales as part of a pilot project.

The University of Wales Aberystwyth is opening up its Internet-based Land, Life and Leisure database to 60 public libraries across Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire.

Anyone in the three counties with a library card can use the free service, which was previously available only to subscribers, including universities, colleges and government organisations across the UK.

The project, which is funded by CyMal, Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales, as part of the Linc y Canolbarth scheme, is designed to give farmers, small business owners, countryside workers and school students access to the latest countryside information at the click of a computer mouse.

Land, Life and Leisure is a mine of information on all aspects of the rural economy, containing thousands of references to agriculture, rural affairs, animal sciences, countryside management, horse care, conservation, environmental topics, horticulture and gardening, forestry and tourism.

The database holds the latest news and research, web links, references to academic, professional

and popular periodicals, press releases, conference proceedings, reports and books.

Up to 400 records of newly published information are made available every week with around 20,000 items added every year.

Weekly contributions to the database are received from the University of Wales Aberystwyth, the Royal Agricultural University, Harper Adams University and Kingston Maurward, Myerscough and Pershore Colleges.

Land, Life and Leisure started life in the early 1980s as Update - the farming and countryside index compiled in the Welsh Agricultural College library and printed in weekly and monthly editions for agricultural colleges.

Since 1996, it has been available on the Internet, hosted by the University of Wales Aberystwyth, and since August, 2002 by Edina at Edinburgh University. In 2005, the database was renamed

Land, Life and Leisure to reflect that it now includes references to tourism and recreation, as well as agriculture and the countryside.



Phil Colbourn, John Harries the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Alyson Tyler from CyMal, Peter Roberts from the FUW and Dan Downes from NFU Cymru.

Land, Life and Leisure is available online via the Library Wales website at www.library.wales.org.

For more information, please contact Sue Ferguson at Land, Life and Leisure on 01970 621869 or Duncan Foulkes, public relations consultant, on 01686 650818.

Information Services: Love it / Hate it?

You can't live without it! During the week beginning November 13 you will have your chance to tell us what we're doing right and what we need to do to improve. Please use this opportunity to tell us what you really really want! Notice boards will be available all week throughout the University - post your suggestions or visit the webpage at: <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/suggestion/>

Chris Wilkins, Subject Support & E-Library Team (chw@aber.ac.uk)

Closure of the University Remote Access Service.

After 10 year of service, and given the improvements in pay-as-you-go internet services and the wide availability of broadband services, Information Services are announcing that, effective from the 3 January 2007, the Remote Access Service (RAS) will no longer be available.

Users are encouraged to seek alternative arrangements prior to this date to avoid being without internet services. As you're probably aware, there are hundreds of different Internet Service Providers to choose from, a selection of which are listed below.

Once connected via an Internet Service Provider, users can use the University's Virtual Private Network (VPN) service to gain access to University based resources. Information on how to setup a VPN connection can be found via the following URL <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/advisory/faq/100/>. Information Services will be able to help you with this transition, but unfortunately only as a paid for service.

<http://www.orange.co.uk>

<http://www.f2s.com>

<http://www.eclipse.net.uk>

<http://www.tiscali.co.uk>

<http://www.btopenworld.com>

Hefin James, Network Development Teamleader (ahj@aber.ac.uk)

Library System Voyager – Recent changes

During this summer we have seen two upgrades to the library system; we are now running version 6.1.

This version offers a number of new features:

- Searching the catalogue using the Keyword search
 - Voyager will now automatically search for records that contain all words you enter (no need to type + any more)
 - the truncation symbol ? can now be used in any position, e.g. col?r ?ymru
- Searching the catalogue using the Title search
 - there is no longer any need to type words in the exact order

For more information on searching in Voyager see: <http://voyager.aber.ac.uk/help/English/search.htm>

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

Repository Developments

Information Services is delighted to announce that it has recently been awarded funding from JISC to create a support centre to help HEIs across England and Wales to establish, manage and develop digital institutional repositories. Working alongside partners at the Universities of Nottingham, Bath and Southampton on this £1.4m project, Information Services will have particular responsibility for delivering both technical and organisational support to all HEIs in Wales. It is expected that project staff based at Aberystwyth will be able to help promote use of our own pilot institutional repository *Cadair* (<http://cadair.aber.ac.uk/dspace/>) as a means of showcasing the results of research carried out at UWA and to extend its use into the learning and teaching arena. Further information will be announced as the project develops.

A joint bid to JISC by Computer Science and Information Services for a Robot-Scientist repository project has also been successful. The Robot-generated Open Access Data (ROAD) project will investigate the use of open-source repository software to enable the automatic curation of robot-generated experimental data and metadata.

Further information: Stuart Lewis, Learning Technology Team (sdl@aber.ac.uk)

New Central System

One of the services provided by Information Services is a *central* computer service offering high processing capability and a range of software not found on PCs. Such software includes various applications packages and UNIX-based facilities.

The service has run successfully for a number of years on a DEC Alpha system, though during its life it then became a Compaq Alpha and finally an HP Alpha! The system is now showing its age both in terms of the level of processing power it delivers compared to newer systems and the high annual cost of little used proprietary software.

As such we have now replaced the system with an Intel-based LINUX system which is some fifteen times as powerful. It is expected that almost all software packages and utilities that were previously in use on the DEC system will continue to run without modification, so there should be no change to methods of working. It will however be necessary to recompile any code that was previously compiled on the DEC system.

It is likely that there will be the odd usage that we were not aware of that will not run successfully, so if something is no longer working please contact the Advisory Service - and accept our apologies - so that we can investigate.

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

Online Registration

This year, for the first time, online registration was offered to returning undergraduate and postgraduates. The new system allowed students to confirm their personal and address details before confirming their programme of study and module choices for the coming academic year. All of this was available after logging in to the secure website (<https://secure.mis.aber.ac.uk/student>) that gives students access to the data held about them on the University's MIS databases.

The system was well used, with three thousand two hundred students using the system, two thousand four hundred of whom were able to confirm that all their details were correct and complete the whole process.

Simon Hoadley, Database Development & Support Teamleader (sjh@aber.ac.uk)



The celebrated romance of the stealing of the mare. Translated from the original Arabic by Lady Anne Blunt, and verse by Wilfred Scawen Blunt. Gregynog Press, 1930.

interest, including papier mâché bindings. Covering the span from 1829 to 1899, the majority of titles fall within the period 1845 to 1885, with a peak representation around the year 1860. The collection acquired its name from the vendor, Tony Appleton, who operated as a bookseller in Brighton, and from whom the College purchased the collection in early 1971.

For more information on searching for and requesting Rare Books, go to: <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/publications/leaflets/l126h.asp>

For more information on specific collections, go to: <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/academicliaison/collections/>

Dermot Ryan, Collection Management Teamleader (drr@aber.ac.uk)

Network Enhancements August 2006 – July 2007

While we continue to introduce new services, over the last couple of years an increased emphasis has been placed on improving network reliability and resilience against equipment failure. We are now embarking on a major project that will further this objective in three specific areas:

- Central Network Switch
- Elderly BNC Cabling
- Llanbadarn Campus

For more information see: <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/news/nov06/network.asp>

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

Video Network Wales

I have joined the Welsh Video Network as a Teaching and Learning Advisor responsible for supporting videoconferencing in Further and Higher Education in Wales. I am based here at Aberystwyth and I am a resource for you and your colleagues to use. If you, or your colleagues, are not sure how to use videoconferencing, not sure what to use it for, and you think you would benefit from training and/or guidance - either technical or pedagogical - please get in touch and tell me what I can do to help you. I can show you how to use the equipment, help you find collaborative partners and content providers, or help train staff and students in the etiquette of teaching and learning using videoconferencing. Please contact me either by email or phone me on the number below and I'll get back to you.

Nia Ellis, Welsh Video Network Teaching and Learning Advisor (nrj@aber.ac.uk)

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Rare book displays

There are now two new rare book displays in the Hugh Owen Library, and one new display in Thomas Parry Library. The display on Level E in Hugh Owen has a theme of travel in Wales, featuring publications from the late 18th century to the middle of the 20th century. The areas covered include North Wales, Aberystwyth, Cardigan, and Gower. The Level F display features examples of fine printing and binding from the Gregynog Press. The Gregynog Press was established in 1922 by two sisters, Gwendoline and Margaret Davies at their house, Gregynog Hall in rural mid-Wales. During the next eighteen years the Press gained a reputation for producing limited edition books of the highest order and ranked alongside the leading Private Presses of the day. Re-established in 1978 under its Welsh title Gwasg Gregynog, the Press continues the traditions of its forebears.

Thomas Parry Library has a display featuring examples of Victorian colour printing and publisher's bindings from the Appleton Collection. The Appleton Collection consists of 450 items, which include examples of colour printing, excellent binding design (19 of the items have signed bindings) and others of particular binding

Information Services Computer Maintenance Contracts

Many of you are aware that last year Desk Top Services changed the way in which our computer maintenance contract system operates. Customers who have contracts are now issued with colour coded labels (2006-2007 are red) which have the contract number, serial number and expiry date, these must be stuck to the associated item which is on contract.

When a support call is logged, the customer is required to supply the serial number from the label; this allows DTS to tie the call up with the associated contract and ensure that the item is included in the contract.

As last year was the first year we used this method, DTS used a lot of discretion with the implementation of the procedure. We now feel that we can move on and that in future if no serial number is supplied when logging the call it will be dealt with as a parts and labour job. We would appreciate our customers' compliance with this procedure.

If anyone has any questions about the above please contact Nigel Thomas on ln@aber.ac.uk or telephone 2480.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Service

During the summer, Advisory released a new, easy-to-use Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) service. These FAQs are answers to the questions received most often by the Advisory team and aim to help students and staff make the most of IT, library and media facilities at UWA.

The new FAQs contain:

- a bi-lingual front-end
- a new search engine with results sorted by number of hits
- a dynamically-generated browse facility with questions sorted by number of hits
- pages compliant with W3C standards
- new and updated content
- new style and layout

All the content has been reviewed, and so far over a fifth of the FAQs have been translated, with the rest to follow. In addition, the new FAQs provide tools to help the Advisory team maintain existing pages and add new ones more efficiently. Please find our FAQs here: <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/advisory/faqs/> and let us know what you think by emailing advisory@aber.ac.uk so we can continue to improve the service.

Eduroam and the expansion of the wireless service

Users of the wireless service may have noticed a change in the network's broadcast identification to 'eduroam'. Eduroam is short for "Education Roaming", a service that allows a user who is visiting a participating institution to log on to and use the institution's wireless network by using the same username and password that they use at their home institution. This is achieved by the University participating in the JANET Roaming service (<http://www.ja.net/roaming/>), which operates a national level RADIUS* hierarchy, that currently has over 35 participating UK institutions. The JANET Roaming service in turn connects to the European eduroam RADIUS hierarchy, which allows users to connect and use wireless based services in institutions in over 30 European countries. For university staff and students, this means that as soon as they have configured their wireless laptop for local use, it will be ready to use the eduroam service at any participating institution. A full list of locations can be found by clicking on the eduroam logo at <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/wireless/>.

In addition to the move to use 'eduroam' as the default wireless service, extra wireless access points have been installed throughout the Penglais and Llanbadarn campuses to provide additional wireless coverage. It is hoped that full wireless coverage will be available in all four teaching campuses by the end of this academic year. For more information on the latest deployments, and guides to help you set-up your computer, please visit <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/wireless>

*RADIUS – Remote Authentication Dial In User Service is an AAA (authentication, authorization and accounting) protocol for applications such as network access or IP mobility. It is intended to work in both local and roaming situations.

Hefin James, Network Development Teamleader (ahj@aber.ac.uk)



Library Podcasts

Podcast library tours and accompanying maps for Hugh Owen Library are available online. They are designed to help you learn about the services and resources available to you. The tours are available to download freely to your mp3 player or listen to directly from your computer. There are also pre-loaded tours available on mp3 players for you to borrow from the Information Desk in Hugh Owen Library in exchange for your IS card.

For more information go to: <http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/elecinfo/guides/mp3help.asp>

Editorial Team

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