Top Marks for eAssessment Scotland

Scotland's largest annual e-assessment conference was held on the 25th of September at Dundee's Hilton hotel. The conference brought together speakers from schools, colleges and universities to showcase Scottish innovation and best practice in the field. The event was organised by the University of Dundee's Library & Learning Centre and supported by the Scottish JISC Regional Support Centres, e-Assessment Association, Scottish Qualifications Authority, eLearning Alliance and Higher Education Academy.

A packed programme included keynote presentations from Professor Dai Hounsell (University of Edinburgh), Martyn Ware (SQA) and John Connell (CISCO Systems); an exhibitor showcase; the inaugural Scottish e-Assessment Awards and a closing address by new University of Dundee Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pete Downes. Delegates were also able to select from a diverse series of parallel sessions including talks on the use of wikis in the formative assessment of writing at Perth Academy; the use of serious gaming as a means of evidencing workplace skills; accessible e-assessment; and a project at the University of Edinburgh allowing students the choice of typing essay exams on their own laptop.

“"The success of the conference exceeded all our expectations and the positive feedback has been overwhelming” said Dr David Walker who along with Dr Lorraine Walsh and colleagues from the Library & Learning Centre arranged the event. “On the day around 170 people attended and we had a waiting list of more than 50. The conference has proven that there is a real appetite in Scotland for a cross-sectoral event on e-assessment and planning is already underway for eAssessment Scotland 2010.”

Winners of the Scottish e-Assessment awards were drawn from five categories and announced by Professor Cliff Beever, chair of the e-Assessment Association. The winning submissions were:

**Formative e-Assessment (joint winners)**
- University of Edinburgh – e-scape Scotland
- Hermitage Academy – Formative e-Assessment in Mathematics Using SCHOLAR

**Summative e-Assessment**
- University of Dundee Medical School – Free Text Response Progress Test

**e-Portfolios/ePDP**
- Dumfries & Galloway College – Embedding e-Portfolios into the FE Curriculum

**e-Assessment Administration**
- Scottish Water – Using e-Assessment in a Business Context

**Innovation**
- University of Strathclyde – SIMPLE (SIMulated Professional Learning Environment)

You can learn more about the event at the conference website: [http://www.e-assessment-scotland.com/](http://www.e-assessment-scotland.com/)
Scottish Higher Education Digital Library – SHEDL

What is SHEDL? SHEDL is a new digital Library, backed by all of Scotland’s HEIs, which will give academics access to more than 1500 specialist publications. It’s an online shared initiative that makes key journals more widely available.

SHEDL is the first scheme of its kind in the United Kingdom, and the initiative is seen as being vital to the development of Scottish-based research, more than half of which is rated internationally excellent or world-leading.

Scotland’s HEIs suggest that SHEDL, by allowing easier access to more journals, will stimulate better research, and support learning and teaching.

Leading academic publishers – Cambridge University Press, the American Chemical Society and Springer – have signed up for the pilot scheme, negotiated by JISC Collections and led by the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL).

The journals from these three publishers are all available now through the University of Dundee Library & Learning Centre catalogue. Further publishers are planning to join SHEDL from the beginning of 2010, as the project continues to grow.

For further information get in touch with your Liaison contact http://www.dundee.ac.uk/library/about/sbjliaison.html

Coming soon: new, improved self-service!

A new project is underway in the LLC; RFID (radio frequency identification) technology will enable us to automate the issuing and returning of books, reducing the need to queue and providing you with a flexible and efficient service during our extensive opening hours.

New self-service equipment will replace the two existing self-issue machines in the Main Library and at DOJ, and additional machines will be installed in the Main Library, DOJ Library, the Law Library, Ninewells Medical Library and Fife Library. The new machines can issue several books at a time, and are much faster and easier to use than the old ones. You will also be able to pay fines, renew your books and check your Library record at the new self-service stations. In the Main Library, an automated returns machine will enable you to return books 24/7; there will be an external ‘letter-box’ to ‘post’ your books into securely when the building is closed, and they will be discharged from your record immediately.

We plan to implement the new services next summer, in time for the start of session in September 2010. Library & Learning Centre staff, as always, will be on hand to help, if required.

Turning Point proves a Vote Winner

The Turning Point electronic voting system (sometimes referred to as personal response system or clickers) continues to grow in popularity across the University. Turning Point enables academics to create interactive presentations in Microsoft PowerPoint and to gather student responses to questions and statements via credit card size handsets. The software is effective at facilitating in-class discussion and represents a powerful tool for classroom-based formative testing.

Due to the success of the system, and to accommodate increasing demand, the Library & Learning Centre (LLC) has purchased an additional 50 handsets taking the total number of bookable handsets available on main-campus to 160. In addition, a dedicated kit of 50 handsets has been purchased to facilitate use at the University’s Fife campus. A project, funded by the University’s Alumni Development Fund, also sees the introduction of a dedicated ‘Turning Point Room’ in the Dalhousie Building equipped with a permanent set of 120 handsets.

Bookings and support for the Turning Point system is co-ordinated by Karen Millar and Yvonne Osler in the LLC’s Educational Development Division. Bookings for the ‘Turning Point Room’ in the Dalhousie Building (3G02 - Lecture Theatre 1) should be made via the University’s Web Room Bookings system. If you would like more information on Turning Point please email assess@dundee.ac.uk
Did you know that the University of Dundee Library & Learning Centre (LLC) has seven sites - four within Dundee, and the other three in Perth, Stracathro and Fife? Read on......

Fife is one of the sites that specifically supports the School of Nursing and Midwifery, but has a broader remit to provide a service for all of the staff and students of the University, regardless of discipline. If you live, work, or study in or around Fife, you’ll find the LLC is a convenient space to use, whether it’s to collect/return books, use as a study space, or if you need help accessing resources.

The Fife LLC has a wide range of facilities including both Silent and General Study Zones; PCs and WiFi access; laptops to borrow for use in the Library; multi media playback facilities; books, journals, photocopying/printing facilities and an e-access area, not to mention the staff who can assist with all your enquiries, no matter how large or small.

Although the primary focus of the collection at Fife is nursing and midwifery, you can request books from all the other sites to be sent to Fife for collection or to use on site. Equally you can return books from any site to Fife. Materials are transferred to and from other sites on Monday and Thursday afternoons.

So if you want to return that book that you almost forgot about, but can’t get to Dundee in time, why not return it to Fife, and see what else we can offer...

If you’re based in Fife and struggle to get to Dundee on a regular basis, the Fife Campus Library may provide the solution for you.

More information about Fife Library & Learning Centre, including contact details, and opening times, can be found on the LLC website [www.dundee.ac.uk/library](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/library)
How do you find old statistics? It’s not always easy. Help is at hand, the Library & Learning Centre subscribes to the Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791 – 1845.

Providing full text access to detailed parish reports for the whole of Scotland, both the ‘Old’ Statistical Account (1791-99) and the ‘New’ Statistical Account (1834-45) cover a wide range of topics including education, religion and social customs.

Together, the Statistical Accounts provide important reference sources for a half century spanning the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions. Locally created and factually based, the two Accounts allow comparisons to be made parish by parish at a time of rapid and significant change; they also offer a unique reference and research source for the study of local and national life in Scotland in this period.

For more information contact one of the Humanities Liaison contacts in the Main Library.

Any feedback contact us at library-newsletter@dundee.ac.uk

Director’s Cut

Information Provision and Management - The Latest  by Richard Parsons

Managing the provision of academic information for students and staff in a constantly changing world is a challenge that LLC staff meet every day. We are also responsible for many of the academic systems that are used to access, administer and present this academic information.

Very soon, there will be an exciting advance in the field of resource discovery, or academic search, available to staff and students. The LLC is currently working with a company called Serial Solutions to provide Dundee access to a web-scale search environment called Summon. It offers a single point of access through keyword searching to the library books, journal articles, newspaper articles, DVDs, broadcast recordings and more. The system promises to operate in a Google-like manner, while providing access to the University’s licensed resources.

We have recently completed upgrades to the Aleph Library Management System and the Blackboard Learning Environment. Both of these new systems presented unforeseen challenges initially, which have been largely overcome, and both now offer advanced platforms. These systems are crucial to supporting learning, teaching and research throughout the disciplines, and the LLC is committed to supporting them at the highest level possible.

LLC Top Tips

1. Bookmark the LLC webpage - http://www.dundee.ac.uk/library
2. Always check the due date when you renew books online
3. Find out who your LLC Liaison contact is
4. Learn how to use “My Library Card” – it’s in the LLC catalogue!
5. When all else fails “Just Ask”