

OUCS: ICTF Report

Hilary Term 2011

1. Move to UAS

As of 1/1/11 OUCS became part of UAS, moving from the Academic Services and University Collections division. It now reports to the Registrar.

2. University Shared Data Centre (USDC)

As of 24/1/11 the keys to the new Shared Data Centre were handed over to OUCS. Work is now beginning in earnest re the soft fit-out, and building key infrastructure services for roll-out to the University. Further information:
<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/datacentres/southparksroad>

3. New Head of Network and Telecoms

We are delighted to announce that Henryk Glogowski has joined us from Bristol University to head up our Network and Telecoms group.

4. OUCS News Hilary 2011

Now available at <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/publicity/>. The major focus this time has been on supporting research projects.

5. OpenSpires Continuation

The OpenSpires project released hundreds of hours of Oxford digital learning content as Open Content Resources (OER) in appropriate ways via appropriate online platforms. The project has had global impact, as the resources are from world-class speakers and researchers. Oxford academic colleagues are supported in changing practice by becoming 'open content literate' to make informed choices regarding the materials they release and choose to reuse.

The OpenSpires bid focused on supporting strategic institutional learning and encouraging cultural change. The project began in 2009 as a HEFCE/JISC OER pilot project. Follow on projects have continued and expanded this work. Our current OER projects are: Triton, Ripple, Listening for Impact and OER Impact Study. The outcomes will promote the sharing of effective practice that may inform and influence policy in other research-intensive institutions in the UK HE sector and beyond.
<http://openspires.oucs.ox.ac.uk/>

6. Nexus SharePoint upgraded to SharePoint 2010

The Nexus SharePoint service has been upgraded to SharePoint 2010 (1 Feb 2011). The

SharePoint service is currently available to a group of early adopter departments and colleges, whose sites have now been migrated to the new service. OUCS plans to offer a University-wide SharePoint service from the beginning of Trinity Term 2011. In the meantime we will be developing support documentation and training materials, as well as fixing bugs that may be reported by existing users. Enhancements in SharePoint 2010 include:

1. Office Web Apps: These are browser-based versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote. They enable the associated documents to be viewed, edited and created without MS Office or any compatible client application being installed. These will work in Internet Explorer 7+, Firefox 3.6 and Safari 4.04.
2. Better cross-browser support
3. Wiki style editing of pages: This will make editing your pages easier. You can add text and web parts more easily.
4. Ribbon Navigation: This makes relevant menu items more accessible. If you are familiar with Office 2007 or 2010 the SharePoint 2010 interface should be intuitive.
5. Enhancements to Document Management: A lot of functionality has been added with 2010 including multi-user editing of documents, document sets, metadata navigation and managed metadata columns.
6. Social Features: Mysites in SharePoint 2010 are about much more than a personal web space to store documents, although that is still at the heart of them. The 'Newsfeed' and 'Colleague' features allow you to keep in touch with what others are doing.

If you have any questions about the Nexus SharePoint service please email sharepoint@oucs.ox.ac.uk or visit <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/nexus/sharepoint/> (to be updated).

7. The Great War Archive, Europeana extension

This is an online community collection relating to the material culture and general ephemera from the First World War submitted by the general public. The project builds on the pilot work of the First World War Poetry Digital Archive and RunCoCo, both JISC-funded.

Supported by the Europeana Foundation this will initially involve the team from OUCS LTG working with Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (the German National Library) to collect family memories and images of photographs and everyday documents from the general public in Germany that relate to the First World War in a campaign entitled "Erster Weltkrieg in Alltagsdokumenten - Europas virtuelles Gedächtnis - Europeana" Website: <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/gwa/>

8. Mobile Oxford wins UCISA Award for Excellence

The 2010 UCISA Award for Excellence, sponsored by Eduserv, has been won by the University of Oxford for the development of mobile applications information services,

through the Mobile Oxford Project, to the staff and students of the University as well as services for the general public in Oxford. Further information from:
<http://www.ucisa.ac.uk/members/awards/excellence.aspx> and the Mobile Oxford site,
<http://m.ox.ac.uk/>

There is a big campaign to market Mobile Oxford at present. Please help with this!

9. New Freshers Fair Survey report

Some Freshers Fair Survey responses from 2010 have been analysed by division and PG/UG. <https://staff.oucs.ox.ac.uk/marketing/index.xml.ID=freshers-fair>

10. Information Security Best Practice Project

The project aims to help members of the collegiate University employ best practice within information security, by providing an Information Security Policy and an Information Security Toolkit. The policy is currently being drafted in collaboration with the Information Security Advisory Group, OxCERT, Council Secretariat and the Legal Services Office. Further information:
<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/network/security/ISBP/>

11. OUCS bids to PICT

OUCS has presented three bids to PICT this term, all of which have been supported by the Divisions through the OUCS Mgt Cttee meeting: 1) funding to get dual-site resilience for core OUCS services in the OUCS shared data centre; 2) improvements to WebLearn and Turnitin integration and support for Turnitin; 3) first phase of creating a scalable infrastructure for media storage (to support podcasting initiatives).

12. OUCS budget

OUCS is forecasting that it will be on budget for 2010-11. It is also being asked to make a 10% reduction in net expenditure by 2013. It is achieving this so far, meeting and exceeding targets (mainly through OMIS and early retirements though this is not without its knock-on effects causing a greater strain on staff), but this will also be affected by discussions around the possible college contribution to OUCS's costs (currently OUCS receives no funding from colleges for use of its core services).

Stuart D Lee
March 2011