

MHS eLearning Update

Volume 1, Issue 6

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The University of Manchester

Blackboard maintenance

In order to ensure the stability of Blackboard it is sometimes necessary to undertake essential maintenance of the system.

From 27 September regular maintenance of Blackboard has been scheduled from 2am-5am GMT on Sunday mornings. This will include approximately 30 minutes downtime. Please be aware of this when planning work.

Key dates for Blackboard 9

This [article](#) provides a list of key dates, including the course unit life cycle (when courses become visible to student and staff, and when they are no longer available).

Reminder: the **confirmed dates** for annual maintenance of Blackboard during the Easter vacation are **4pm on Thursday 31 March until 12.01am on Monday 4 April 2016**. Please bear these dates in mind when planning teaching and learning activities.

Please
Note

Useful knowledge base articles

- Key dates for Blackboard 9 [\[link\]](#)
- Knowledge Base: supportcentre.manchester.ac.uk



FBMH and Bb9

In preparation for the implementation of the new faculty structure the eLearning teams are working with the FBMH Operational Group Campus Solutions workstream to understand how the restructure will affect course units and organisations (eg programme spaces) in Blackboard. Some of this work cannot be undertaken until the new structure has been finalised and published.

We do know that the restructure means that new course templates will need to be created, and that there *may* be some changes (for this year only) to the way in which you activate your course units. Please **do not activate** any Blackboard courses for the 2016/17 academic year until further information is available. Once we have more detail we will put together a process for ensuring as smooth a transition as possible for Blackboard and related systems. In the meantime, you should start reviewing the content of your course units, removing from the content collection any files which are no longer required.

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Key things to note

- Blackboard maintenance—Easter dates
- Preparation for Bb9 in FBMH



Online Learning Strategy Group

The OLSG working group **to develop, in collaboration with Schools, a set of strategic objectives around online learning** met on 19 January 2016. Jane Mooney, Roger Harrison and Diane Bennett attended on behalf of MHS. The group will consider how online learning can be developed and embedded within the overall Teaching, Learning and Student Experience vision. Key issues were identified, and will be turned into a set of draft objectives which will be circulated for discussion with Schools to inform a framework/action plan for online learning, with the explicit purpose of embedding online learning within the normal activities of the student teaching and learning experience.

The Online Learning Strategy Group (OLSG) met on 2 February 2016. Key points include:

- a governance structure for activity related to the **Distance Learning expansion project** has been approved by the University's Senior Leadership Team; the structure covers strategy and operations; expansion of distance learning will be overseen by the Distance Learning Project Group (operational) and the Distance Learning Steering Group (strategic); Pam Vallely is liaising with Deans about faculty representatives for the project group;
- negotiations with Pearson are on-going and a revised contract is being considered; pending a contract being agreed with Pearson, the University will launch three DL programmes on a smaller scale in September 2016 without the support of Pearson;
- Pam Vallely and Ian Hutt are planning a series of roadshows for schools and faculties in March/April;
- the Student Lifecycle Project will commence in February 2016, with key outcomes expected in June 2016; it includes identifying a student system fit for purpose for DL programmes and will be piloted by MBSW; Louise Walmsley is currently co-ordinating internal stakeholders.

Any comments or queries from MHS will be raised by Roger and Jane. You can feedback/feed forward directly to roger.harrison@manchester.ac.uk or jane.mooney@manchester.ac.uk or via diane.bennett@manchester.ac.uk.

Terms of Reference, the OLSG Reporting Structure, and minutes of meetings can be found on the TLSO website: <http://www.tlso.manchester.ac.uk/e-learning/>

Turnitin & bibliographies



Did you know that you can opt to exclude a bibliography (or list of references) from the originality report in Turnitin? Doing so means that you avoid a 'false positive' if there are references which many students may have used. But this will only work if the author has included a heading of either 'bibliography' or 'references' in the body of the work. Otherwise Turnitin has no way of determining the bibliography from the rest of the content.

You may want to remind your students of this prior to submission of coursework.



Resources and articles

BERA SIG Educational Technology

The **British Educational Research Association** has a special interest group for [Educational Technology](#) which aims to “provide a meeting place for BERA members interested in the application and impact of new technologies in education across both curricular and professional areas”.



#1MinuteCPD

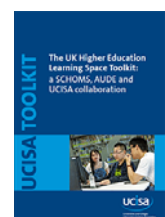
During 2016 [@1minutecpd](#) aims to help you “improve your digital skills one minute at a time, one day at a time” via a daily Twitter posting. There is an accompanying WordPress blog - [1minutecpd.wordpress.com](#) - where you can catch up on those you’ve missed. So far tools have included: Snip it! (the Windows snipping tool); podcasting your PowerPoints; YouTube; using discussion forums for formative assessment; using Twitter in your teaching; changing your Google image settings for only images labelled for reuse, screencasting; screen grabs (different tools available); adding a Twitter feed to Moodle; resizing browser content; useful extensions to Chrome.

Interested in podcasting?

The Guardian’s Higher Education Network (13 Jan 2016) featured [an article](#) from Todd Landman (PVC, Nottingham), “Podcasting is perfect for people with big ideas. Here’s how to do it”. He describes podcasting as “a great means of communication: it captures the human part of knowledge creation” and “like a fireside chat - it allows listeners to hear experts discuss their work in their own voices, and allows the experts to express themselves more freely than in the usual academic forms of dissemination.”

UK HE Learning Space Toolkit

A new publication has been published as a collaborative venture between SCHOMS, AUDE and UCISA. It provides guidance for audiovisual, IT and estates teams and demonstrates why the provision of excellent learning spaces should be a strategic, institution-wide concern. See: www.ucisa.ac.uk/learningspace



What would you like to see in the eLearning Update?

Tell diane.bennett@manchester.ac.uk

Conferences and events

3 Feb 2016 90 min webinar	Blackboard 2016 Product Update 10am-11.30am or 2pm-3pm	http:// go.blackboard.com/2016FebruaryRoadmapWebinar
3-4 Feb 2016 London	Learning Technologies [#LT16UK]	http://www.learningtechnologies.co.uk/
26 Feb 2016 Ormskirk	ALTNWESIG Spring meeting at Edge Hill University (plus campus tour)	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/altnwesig-2016-edge-hill-university-tickets-21017976333
2 Mar 2016 Liverpool	ELESIG North West @ LJMU: Big Data v Little Ethics	http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/? u=d8ae0c780c&id=72484f7509#Events for Elesig in the North West
2-3 Mar 2016 Birmingham	Jisc Digital Festival (free) [Digifest2016]	https://www.jisc.ac.uk/events/jisc-digital-festival-02-mar-2016
6-8 Apr 2016 Groningen	Blackboard Teaching and Learning Conference 2016 [#BbTLC16]	http://experience.blackboard.com/Groningen2016/
19-20 Apr 2016 Edinburgh	Open Culture [OER16]	https://oer16.oerconf.org/
25-28 Apr 2016 Dublin	Ireland International Conference on Education [IICE-2016]	http://www.iicedu.org
9-11 May 2016 Lancaster	Networked Learning Conference [NLC2016]	http://www.networkedlearningconference.org.uk/
6-8 Jun 2016 Edinburgh	Understanding the essence(s) of portfolio-based learning [programme]	http://www.aaebl.org/?page=edinburgh_2016
15-16 Jun 2016 London	Enabling Transformational Change and Innovation in Higher Education via Technology [#FutureEdTech]	Cfp deadline: 29 Feb 2016 futureedtech.com
17 Jun 2016 London (KCL)	10th Excellence in Teaching Conference [10eitc]	http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/learningteaching/kli/ NewsandEvents/Events/eitc/index.aspx
9-11 Aug 2016 Madison, USA	Distance Teaching & Learning Conference [DLTL2016]	https://dtlconference.wisc.edu/
6-8 Sep 2016 Warwick	ALT Annual Conference 2016: Connect, Collaborate, Create [#altc]	https://altc.alt.ac.uk/2016/
12-14 Sep 2016 Midlands (tbc)	PebbleBash '16—The Global Gathering	https://www.pebblepad.co.uk/l/events.aspx
13-15 Sep 2016 Leeds	BERA Annual Conference Leeds 2016 [BERA2016]	https://www.bera.ac.uk/beraconference-2016/
13-16 Sep 2016 Lyon, France	11th European Conference on Technology Enhanced Learning [EC-TEL 2016]	http://www.ec-tel.eu/index.php?id=732
19-20 Oct 2016 Birmingham	World of Learning Conference & Exhibition [#WOL16]	https://www.learnevents.com/

<http://www.mhs.manchester.ac.uk/intranet/admingroups/teachingandlearning/elearning/>