

ISSUE 15 • MAY 2024

EESI MONTHLY DIGEST

Welcome to the Education, Experience and Strategic Insights (EESI) Monthly Digest

This is a platform to share news and updates from across the Directorate.

Each issue is published on the second Monday of every month. We welcome and encourage submissions.

If you have any items to submit, please send these by the last Friday of every month to:

uml.engagement@manchester.ac.uk

Message from Katy, Associate Director (EESI)

Hello everyone,

I hope you have enjoyed the lovely sunshine while it's lasted and maybe caught a glimpse of the Northern Lights over the weekend? Sadly, I missed them as I was away down south over the weekend.

So this is the first issue of our Digest under our new Directorate title, Education, Experience & Strategic Insights, or EESI as I am sure it will become known. It also marks the beginning of the new reporting structure for Customer Services, via Sarah Rayner (Head of Teaching, Learning and Students) along with some managerial adjustments in the Engagement and TLS Teams that I set out in my email on 1 May.

It's been a busy month for many of you as we have entered the final exam and assessment period of this academic year and begun the countdown to summer. We've got a slightly lighter than usual issue which is completely understandable.

The highlight of the last month for me was the wonderful event held on 3 May celebrating 10 years of the Library Student Team - *What we've done, we've done together*. The event was really well attended by friends and colleagues from a wide range of institutions across the sector. They were keen to hear about our how our Student Team has evolved and grown in both size and influence over the last 10 years, as well as to share their own institutional experiences.

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[Watch the video message](#)



The positive energy in the room was incredible and our Student Team facilitated discussions and demonstrated their brilliance with ease throughout. As I said in my opening remarks on the day, I simply cannot imagine running a library without the benefit of this amazing partnership, which has become so embedded in our culture. And I strongly suspect that we were the envy of the sector by the end of the day.

Another highlight for me this month was my visit last week to the newly opened [Flexible Learning Innovation Space](#) in the Booth Street East Building. This building has been designed to provide spaces suitable for staff and students to explore more experimental approaches to blended and flexible teaching, learning and assessment. Amongst other things it provides:

- a Tech Playground designed to be a safe space to test out new software and equipment;
- a well-equipped Hyflex blended learning classroom, a Virtual Reality classroom;
- a flexible video recording studio and associated green room;
- as well as a selection of individual and group podcasting suites.

All this, alongside two lecture theatres and some well-placed, drop-down study spaces. The facilities are being made available for booking via the central system, though some facilities may require some induction in advance. I am sure some of you will want to jump at the opportunity to test them out!

Looking ahead, [Together24](#) is very much on the horizon and the agenda has now been published, along with the Rylands award nominations. It looks amazing, so I hope you are all looking forward to the day as much as I am. Don't forget to confirm your attendance at both the conference and the after party, and to sign up for your preferred breakout sessions before they fill up!

I will look forward to seeing there if not before!
Bye for now.

Katy

News and updates

Engagement

Supporting our Departments with professional accreditation audits

Gemma Smith

Part of the work of the Engagement Librarians is to support Departments with their accreditation audits, to ensure our academic programmes are working to the highest internationally recognised standards and providing our graduates with a pathway to professional chartership.

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Ian Fishwick and I recently supported the Department of Chemical Engineering with their Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) accreditation visit. Since the previous accreditation, over £450 million has been invested in providing students with access to an extensive range of advanced and innovative teaching and laboratory spaces through the creation of the home of Engineering and Materials, (formerly Manchester Engineering Campus Development), and in new and flexible laboratory space for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in the James Chadwick Building.

As part of the audit process, the Engagement Librarians had to demonstrate to assessors how the Library is dedicated to fully supporting the effective delivery of the Chemical Engineering programmes. This is achieved through the provision of extensive subject specialist resources and through the development of our student's academic and professional skills, commencing with the foundational 'Get Started' programme and extending to the award-winning 'My Learning Essentials' (MLE) resources.



The assessors were particularly interested in how the Library assists students in developing essential skills such as group work, presenting, and report writing. We outlined how we respond to specific teaching/learning requests from Departments and, through active consultation with academics and Library colleagues and our wider knowledge of Faculty concerns, we create new or improved resources which are relevant across a Faculty. The MLE online resources supporting 'Group Work' and 'Report Writing' are both examples of this engagement and collaboration between the Library and academics.

Student Team update

We are thrilled to announce that Bethany Webster and Pranav Bharadwaj Gangrekalve Manoj, members of our Library Student Team, have been awarded an AdvanceHE Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA).

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**Teaching,
Learning, and
Students**



Teaching, Learning and Students intern, Tabita-Gabriela Juravle, has received a Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA), a substantial achievement recognising influence on teaching practice and showing impact far beyond her role.

The rigorous application process asked them to demonstrate their innovative approaches to teaching and learning and have been rightfully recognised and rewarded. This successful outcome speaks volumes about their contributions to higher education and the Library.



Congratulations to Beth, Pranav and Tabita on this well-deserved recognition of their outstanding achievements!

Staff updates

Engagement Team



Janette Watson, *Engagement Manager*

Janette Watson has been appointed to the newly created Engagement Manager role. She will support and deputise for the Head of Engagement, providing strategic and operational direction for the Team. She will share line management of the Engagement Librarians, initiating and developing new activity to support both Library and University strategic goals.

Customer Services



Tom Cleminson, *Customer Services Advisor*

Hello, my name is Tom and I have been with the Customer Services Team in the Library for the past few weeks. I have been made to feel incredibly welcome by every member of the Team, and I have adapted to the role very quickly thanks to them.

Before starting here, I worked in a public library in Lancashire for almost two years, and I am assuredly confident that my librarianship skills can only increase during my time here.



Joanna Peddie, *Customer Services Advisor*

I'm Joanna and I have recently joined the Customer Services Team in the Library. Everyone on the Team has been very welcoming, and I am looking forward to getting to know everybody better. There is a lot to learn and a lot to take in – I'm really enjoying it so far!

I studied English Literature at The University of Manchester, so after working in a variety of different jobs around the city, it's really nice to return here as a member of staff.

Outside of work I enjoy going to gigs, bouldering at the climbing gym, occasional hiking in the Peak District, and watching terrible reality TV.



Linda Schliebitz, *Customer Services Advisor*

Hi everyone, I'm Linda. It's great to be here. Everyone is so nice. A bit about myself... hmm.... I'm from Germany but mostly grew up in Ireland. My background is in Art and Art History. I love to paint and draw, and eat cheese. I'm looking forward to getting to know you all and learning about the Library.

Teaching, Learning, and Students



Anna Theis, *Teaching and Learning Services Manager*

Following a competitive selection process, we would like to congratulate Anna Theis on her appointment to the role of Teaching and Learning Services Manager. Anna will work alongside Neil Sprunt, the existing Teaching and Learning Services manager.

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