Learning Services

Fortnightly Update - ISSUE 1

Library and Learning Services will be providing a fortnightly update to academic colleagues to ensure you are up to date with developments and support we are providing during Coronavirus (COVID-19), and also share great new ways staff and students are using teaching and learning technologies, along with some statistics. The round up will include information from all teams in the department and also wider news from Catalyst.

We are all working from home but the good news - all of the services and support can still be provided virtually (of course we can't get the physical books to you, but we do have so much online). We are using Microsoft Teams and Blackboard Collaborate for staff and students virtual meetings and support appointments – either 1-2-1 or groups and students can contact the Help Desk via email or live chat.

We have created a specific area of our website which outlines to students (and staff) the help, support, extra resources, and technical hints and tricks they might want to utilise during this COVID 19 lock-down.
ehu.ac.uk/accessinglsonline

Support for teaching online

As working from home began, the Learning Technology Development Team created a range of support for academic staff which focused on taking teaching

online.
blogs.edgehill.ac.uk/learningedge/taking-teaching-online

We wanted to share with you the most recent usage statistics for Blackboard Collaborate Ultra - one of the main tools used for engaging with students online (we are also aware the system is being used by staff to support one another and hold team meetings and 1-2-1's with staff and students).

Here's our monthly stats for March and up to 17th April:

(Unique attendees is the count of attendees new each day of the month)

Alternative Assessments

For those modules where an exam would have taken place or students would have been on campus for presentations and performances, the support and advice has moved at a rapid pace. Academic Registry will be publishing the revised exam timetable very shortly.

Work in LTD over the next 3 weeks will involve supporting academics to use the appropriate online tools to assess students, and also, helping you prepare any technical guidance that you may need to use with your students to ensure they can access the tools and mechanisms as seamlessly as possible during this already stressful period.

Please contact LTD to let us know your plans LTDsupport@edgehill.ac.uk

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Good News Stories

Using new technologies and resources:

- **Staff sharing good practice, resources and help around the use of Bb Collaborate E.g.** - using breakout rooms, best headset for ease of use, 'office hour' sessions for students plus using a Discussion Board for 'keeping in touch'.
- **Sharing best practice for using Microsoft Teams with staff and students.**
- **Using Panopto with Padlet** to deliver a pre-recorded session which then automatically pauses at a specific point in the timeline and allows the students to work in a Padlet area directly from Panopto. Flipped classroom approach with an open chat session at the end when it would have been a workshop and the 'lecture' has been made available several days in advance.
- **Staff have created a video for Musculoskeletal Anatomy of joint movements but choreographed to music.** Now working with students to do the same and submit their own videos via Bb Assignment and

Panopto.

- **Examples of students submitting their own video presentations for summative assessment** – students have even used 'green screen' techniques to superimpose themselves over the top of their presentation so that they appear in the corner of the slides.
- **Using Collaborate to invite guest speakers** – Frank Cotrell-Boyce.
- **Doing a 'draw-along' with Illustrator Jim Field ('Oi Frog') via Collaborate.**
- **Using Collaborate to deliver a coding session to over 120 students** (all taking part alongside).
- **Lots of colleagues making good use of the additional free resources** which publishers are making available. It's a good chance for both staff and students to get involved in looking at resources for free and this may help us evaluate them in the future. Two good examples of this are 'Clinical Key' for FOHSCM and for creative colleagues, Screen Studies - which is a collection of online books from the BFI, Bloomsbury and Faber & Faber.

Staff Development

For staff interested in developing their digital skills or looking for some staff development opportunities, please look at the new 'Getting Digital Ready**' Wiki pages.** These pages aim to support staff working from home with digital staff development opportunities and include interactive guides, support materials, videos and LinkedIn Learning courses. The interactive guides have been designed to support staff, enhance their digital skills and provide them with the opportunity to engage in staff development.

Find out more about getting digital ready at http://www.ehu.ac.uk/staffdevelopment

UniSkills

The Student Engagement team are ready to support students with their academic skills to help plan assignments, find high quality academic information and help with academic writing and referencing.

Virtual 1-2-1 appointments are available weekdays between 8am and 6pm and we can also support students via email. The team will also be delivering our popular UniSkills workshops online. For more information about UniSkills and how to book a virtual 1-2-1 appointment or workshop go to our UniSkills pages. The web pages also contain lots of self-guided academic skills information that can be accessed 24/7 including online guides, videos and toolkits.

The SpLD team are also providing 1-2-1 specialist support virtually. Students who have an SpLD can contact the team as normal and appointments and support will be booked.

UniSkills Virtual Support
ehu.ac.uk/uniskills

Resources

Many publishers have also made additional resources available to support you through this period. For more information go to our Accessing Online Resources pages.

We are updating the additional resources information daily as publishers make content available for 'free' until 30th June (mostly).

Where we have been able to source eBooks for specific modules, we are adding these to reading lists. Please direct your students to reading lists in the first instance. UniSkills also have helpful guides for students who might be using eBooks for the first time.

Hot off the press today (20th April) are details of the latest eBook collection being made available. Vital Source - which is an excellent range of e textbooks has been added to the list of free resources until 30th June. The platform offers access to a wide range of subjects with books which previously have been unavailable to us as e textbooks. Thoroughly recommend all colleagues to take a look and sign post students. Create an account and login in with your Edge Hill email. Details here bookshelf.vitalsource.com and within the COVID resources pages.

We can provide help, support and guidance on using the technology to access all the Edge Hill University resources from home/off campus. Check out our

Using Technology pages which provide lots of useful troubleshooting information.

Help Desk Support

Please ensure your students are aware of how to get in touch with our help desk:

- They can contact our Helpdesk team via email or live chat. The virtual Helpdesk is staffed Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm and Saturday and Sunday 10am to 6pm. The Helpdesk team will be able to answer your enquiry or triage it to the relevant team within Catalyst.
- You can also access our Ask Us knowledge base which contains answers to the most popular questions.

Catalyst News

There will be an email sent to all UG and PG students from the Catalyst teams and Departments letting them know how they can continue to access support from us whilst Catalyst is closed. This is being sent to reinforce the messages on social media and the website. Careers are planning to follow up with bespoke emails to different cohorts of students in the next few weeks.

Student Services have also produced a newsletter for the parents and supporters network, again outlining all the support available.

Visit the Library & Learning Services webpages:
ehu.ac.uk/accessinglsonline

Keep the conversation going:
blogs.edgehill.ac.uk/ls
ehu.ac.uk/askus