

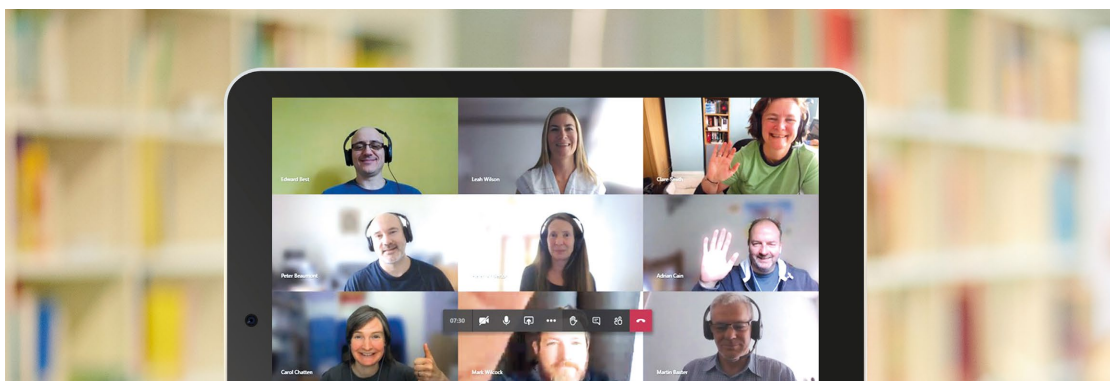


Fortnightly Update - ISSUE 6

Welcome to the 6th issue of Library and Learning Services fortnightly update, providing academic colleagues with up to date developments during Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Learning Technology Development

During the lockdown period LTD have continued to offer support for Learning Edge and all the digital tools that this comprises. The way in which we have delivered support has had to adapt and in some ways be more flexible due to the current conditions, but the team has adjusted extremely well to the different requirements of working from home.



In the weeks leading up to lockdown, the team delivered a range of sessions to

prepare colleagues in using digital tools to enable them to deliver their teaching remotely. Prior to lockdown and the policies around social distancing, these sessions were delivered in Catalyst, but post-lockdown the sessions moved online and were generally well attended.

Since lockdown began, we have seen a sharp increase in the use of the digital tools available via Learning Edge; particularly Collaborate and Panopto which have seen huge increases in use and participation. With this have come increased demands for support and help, both technical and practical. The volume of tickets created during March, April and May have been more akin to the start of an academic year as opposed to the end of one. Other tools such as MS Teams have had increased use during this period as colleagues looked at new ways to deliver teaching remotely.

A significant piece of work that the team has been actively involved in the preparation for, and subsequent delivery and monitoring of, has been the implementation of Time Limited Assessments (TLA). These formed the predominant means by which students would be assessed at the end of the academic year and, subject to a formal review, seem to have gone well during the assessment window 18th May to 5th June. Assessment continues in some areas of the University, and we'll continue to work with colleagues to assist and support them in the setup and running of these assessments.

As we look forward to the start of the next academic year the team are now working closely with colleagues from across the University on a number of fronts as we prepare to deliver teaching and learning in a new blended online way. Members of LTD are actively involved in the working groups as part of the broader Transition to Online Learning Steering Group, developing plans to prepare and assist colleagues in their planning and preparation for a blended online delivery model. Outputs from this work will include exemplar approaches to this form of delivery along with staff development offerings aligned to these approaches and information on student engagement planning and tracking.

We have also worked with colleagues across the institution in the preparation for and running of multiple online events. Some of these have been outside the of what would have been our normal remit, but it goes to show the stretch and flexibility that have been required.

Throughout the summer we will continue deliver support for colleagues remotely and look forward to returning to campus, and in particular into

Catalyst, in line with the plans for the wider service.

The Learning Technology Department support the use of the suite of tools known as Learning Edge and aim to develop the effective use of technology for teaching and learning. Common examples would be Blackboard, Collaborate Ultra, Ally, Qwickly & Turnitin but our [Quick Guide](#) illustrates other tools LTD support.

What do we do?

Provide consultation and solutions/suggestions for staff in academic or professional support services.

Devise and deliver [Professional Development](#) sessions for academics or professional support staff. We will run bespoke sessions for your department, and this has been popular during lockdown as staff are having to think differently about the ways of delivering exciting and engaging taught sessions.

Support the Government Accessibility Regulations in ensuring all information on our websites and VLE is accessible (Sept 2020 deadline). This includes advising you on [Creating Accessible Content](#) and the use of [Blackboard Ally](#).

Promote EMA best practice using Blackboard and Turnitin. Over the last couple of months, we worked closely with colleagues in the faculty to ensure the smooth running of the recent Time Limited Assessments. As a team we offered support, advice and guidance in the TLA process as well as developing a set of guides for students and staff.

Investigate and test new system features before launch, taking into account the perspective of both staff and students.

Maintain Learning Edge systems, including course archiving and rollover processes in Blackboard as well as the Library System for Learning Services.

Accessing LTD Support

We provide a helpdesk service for staff with technical or user queries. You can email us ltdsupport@edgehill.ac.uk or try our online knowledge base [Ask Us](#) which has the answers to many of your questions. Using this central support hub is the fastest way to get help as the system is covered every weekday. Our [Wiki](#) pages also contain lots of useful guidance and support, bookmark this page we know its not easy to find!

Free access to some resources coming to an end

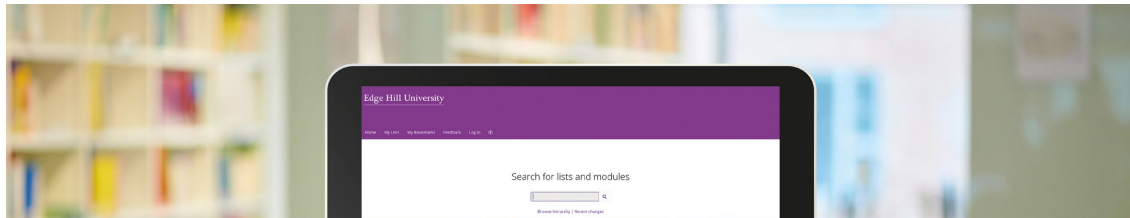
In the wake of the pandemic, publishers have granted free access to a range of different databases and digital platforms such as Vital Source e-textbooks, Statista and Bloomsbury Collection. What's more, some of our existing digital collections were supplemented with extra items. Usage statistics have been strong for some resources, indicating that this opening of access has been well received around the University.

However, in many cases the free access will cease very soon – several providers will withdraw provision on 30 June (see our dedicated page for details). Certain providers such as JSTOR however, will continue free access until later in the year.



We really want to hear your feedback regarding these resources and whether you feel there is a case for purchasing ongoing access where possible. We can provide usage statistics if you are interested. Please contact lsacademicengagement@edgehill.ac.uk with your feedback.

September Planning



Reading lists

As we come to the end of this semester and start to plan for the next, now is the time to update your Reading Lists Online. This time round, it is of course

crucial to select resources which students can access while away from campus. Library and Learning Services will aim to purchase digital copies of textbooks where available, but unfortunately not all publishers make digital editions available.

Please contact our Academic Engagement Team should you have any queries or training needs: lsacademicengagement@edgehill.ac.uk

The Reading Lists Online Guide and training videos are available on the Learning Services Wiki: <https://go.edgehill.ac.uk/display/ls/Training++Reading+Lists+Online>



Get in touch with our specialist accessibility team!

The new government accessibility regulations come into force in September. This will ensure our digital services will be truly accessible for all, but represents a lot of work in order to organise learning and teaching content.

For a limited time, Learning Services have a dedicated team who can help. They will enhance the accessibility of your Word and PowerPoint files and manage access to journals and articles via online reading lists. The team is available to help at the current time while most of us working from home – please get in touch ASAP email LTDSupport@edgehill.ac.uk

Staff Development

We have moved our staff development offer online!

Every Summer, Library and Learning Services usually provides ‘Academic Staff Development Fortnight’, a series of workshops to sharpen your digital skills and update you on the resources available to support your practice. After much success, this summer we will release ‘Staff Development Online’ - interactive online toolkits posted on a fortnightly basis, aiming to continue supporting you with key activities such as moving teaching

and learning online, disseminating your research, and more.

Alongside the interactive toolkits (that can be undertaken at a time to suit you) we will offer synchronous online sessions, making our session leads available at specific times to support you and answer any questions.



Starting Monday 6th July, Staff Development Online will be available via the Learning Services wiki pages, directing you to the online toolkits and materials. Look out for more information from your Academic Engagement Specialist.

Research Support

‘How to get published in Taylor & Francis journals’

Earlier in June we organised this webinar, provided by a leading academic publisher. 39 researchers attended, and put their questions to the publisher. You can watch the recording and also see the slides from February’s ‘getting published’ event with Emerald & IEEE here: <https://wke.it/w/s/xaR-0K>

Figshare gets its first event!

Although the 2020 SOLSTICE/CLT Conference did not take place on-campus

this year, we worked with the Centre for Learning and Teaching to host a mini-conference on Figshare. This featured talks from our Visiting Professors and Visiting Fellows on learning and teaching in the wake of the pandemic. You can see their recorded talks and slides here:

https://figshare.edgehill.ac.uk/Contributions_from_Visiting_Professors_and_Visiting_Fellows

If you would like to host your virtual event on Figshare, please contact Liam Bullingham, Research Support Librarian

liambullingham@edgehill.ac.uk



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

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