

Issue 9

Looking for new technologies to enhance your teaching?

Learning Resources are borrowing a range of equipment from the JISC Regional Support Centre to investigate how new technologies can be used in teaching. From Tuesday 24th February – Friday 6th March we will be offering demonstrations of the following equipment:

Turning Point Voting Kit – find out how to place audience response into the hands of those in your classroom. Voting can significantly enhance learning and promote meaningful interaction, motivation and enjoyment during lectures. Your audience can respond to the questions using special handsets or computers and the results are instantly shown on screen as graphs.



Visualiser - this helps people absorb and retain information by using visual technology. The camera picks up live images and allows you to view them over any display device. Show small objects or model an activity to the whole class at the same time. You can display a piece of paper, a transparency, a 3-dimensional object, a 35mm slide, an x-ray or even a large item or person to the whole room. You can point, annotate, zoom in and out, and get different views and angles by turning the object.



Wii, Wii fit, Wii Sports, Big Brain academy and Word coach – can the Wii's revolutionary input devices be used for non-entertainment purposes, such as education? Come along to try them and find out - have fun while encouraging learning from ice-breakers to collaborative learning, the emphasis is on attention, participation, motivation, and retention.

For more information or to book a demo session contact Tricia Haddock or Anthony Beal 01244 670576



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On-line resources

Learning Resources subscribe to various online resources which you will find useful for research. They are available from the Intranet Home page initially, then click on libraries, select your subject area, then choose 'Electronic Resources and Web links' from the list on the left hand side of the page. If you scroll down the list of icons you will see the choice of databases available to you.

Intute provides access to web resources for education and research. It is created by a network of UK universities.

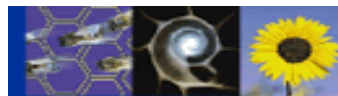


Infotrac is journal articles with diverse topics such as business, health care, humanities, sport and many others.



Newsbank is a collection of UK Newspapers both national and regional.

There are also subject specific choices such as Hairdressing training, ICT activities for maths and the Actors' Yearbook.



**HAIRDRESSING
TRAINING**

You can also choose a full text electronic book from myLibrary.



If you would like to access these resources from home you will need a 'MyAthens' account which authorises your use out of college. Please ask at the desk for more information.

Web Opac upgrade

The college library catalogue has recently been upgraded to make it speedier. It is available from any PC and laptop so if you want to see if the book you need is in stock, just go to the Intranet home page and select Library Catalogue from the middle of the page.



It is interesting to note that, during January, you logged onto Fronter, the college Virtual Learning Environment, 19,910 times! This includes visits while at home and whilst in college.

Learning Resources staff have been giving Network and Fronter inductions to students who enrolled in January. Don't forget that our 'iGuide' is available to everyone at the Issue Desks if you need extra help, or you can ask the helpful, friendly Learning Centre staff wherever you are.

Forthcoming events

Spring is a busy time around college. There are lots of things to get involved in. The end of February is Student Volunteer Week which encourages you to help out in the local community. March 5th is World Book Day which ties in with the issue of a new batch of Easy

Reader books.

March 11th is No Smoking Day - pick up a leaflet to help you to save your money AND your life! For Comic Relief Red Nose Day we plan to donate all your fines that week (9th to 13th March) to the fund and hope to have some red noses for you to buy. Watch

out for posters and notices as these dates come round.



Extended opening hours

We are pleased to announce that our service will be extended from the end of February. At Ellesmere Port we will be staying open an hour later on Friday afternoon until 4.30 pm and opening from 9am to midday on Saturday mornings.

Learning Resources

Christmas money for the Hospice

We raised £163 across all three Learning Centres during December with our Christmas activities. Chester and Capenhurst gave you a sweet in return for a donation and Ellesmere Port had a book 'sale' - choose your own price.

Our support for the Hospice continues - watch out for special promotions and the collection tins at all service points.

Filming Cindy the Musical

The first Performing Arts show of 2009 took place in St Helens on 29th January when Musical Theatre and Dance performed a spectacular rendition of Cindy The Musical. Digital Media were on hand to provide the programmes and filming service. The show was mixed live with the use of four cameras, therefore removing the need to edit the footage at a later date, and reducing the turn-around time. The DVDs will be available to the performers to show off their talents, and use as evidence towards their qualifications.



(Kyle Herbert as Arthur and Carly Cook as Cindy)

The eight page programme was also designed in house with contributions from the Directors and rehearsal photographs. These were in high demand on the night and quickly sold out. The next major event for Digital Media to work on will be Hope Springs in April.

Meantime the team are busy on-site helping students and tutors with portfolio work.

You can follow progress at twitter.com/wccdigitalmedia

PS Did you know that we have books on the College Library shelves that are over one hundred years old? We have 'Civil costume of England' which dates back to 1842 and a book about Wedgwood ceramics which is from 1908.

Both books have been inherited from the 'Chester School of Art' which must be a predecessor of the college at the beginning of the century.

