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Available now in the current edition  
of the ALT Online Newsletter

E-learning to work: How e-learning is  
being used in prisons to teach offenders  
practical work based skills (and help the  
environment)

**By David Patterson, Gillian  
Broadhead and Peter Murphy**

JISC launches strategy for 2010-2012

**By Malcolm Read**

Google Wave in Education

**By Alan Cann, Jo Badge, Dick Moore  
and Cameron Neylon**

Learning Pool – sink or swim

**By Donald Clark**

The impact of OpenLearn: making The  
Open University more “Open”

**By Patrick McAndrew and Andy Lane**

Develop Me! Support Me! Engage (and  
retain) Me!

**By Becka Currant**

How to create a live online learning  
event

**By Phil Green**

In conversation with the University of  
Manchester’s e-learning team

**By Graham McElearney**

Even August

**By Melissa Highton**

e-books for FE-300 e-textbooks now live  
and free to FE colleges.

**By Anna Vernon**



## Chief Executive’s Report

### ALT meeting in Scotland

On 17 December ALT held a very productive and well-attended meeting for representatives of organisational members of ALT in Scotland and for Scotland-based members of ALT’s own committees. The meeting was led by Linda Creanor, who is a

Trustee of ALT, and it heard presentations from Paul Bacsich, Terry Mayes, and David Beards. One upshot from the meeting was to create a low volume jiscmail list for the representatives of organisational members of ALT in Scotland and for Scotland-based members of ALT’s own committees. Another is to hold at least one ALT meeting annually in Scotland to consider Scotland-related policy and organisational issues. Ideally ALT would like to establish similar arrangements to cover Wales and Northern Ireland and we will work on this during 2010.

### Research Excellence Framework – ALT response to consultation

During December ALT submitted a response to the UK Funding Councils’ consultation on the Research Excellence Framework (REF), written largely by the ALT Research Committee. The focus of the response was on the need to:

- ensure that interdisciplinary fields like learning technology are supported rather than thwarted by the REF;
- reduce burdens on universities by applying the REF in 2014 rather than 2013;
- strengthen the REF’s emphasis on research that involves collaboration between universities.

The full response is at <http://tinyurl.com/y8bcue6>.

### Desire2Learn and Blackboard settle patent dispute

During August 2006 ALT had constructive telephone meetings with Blackboard - <http://tinyurl.com/y9ajhex> - and with Desire2Learn - <http://tinyurl.com/ydr9uou> - about Blackboard’s patent infringement case against Desire2Learn. ALT’s Trustees were delighted to read in December that Blackboard and Desire2Learn, who are each longstanding sponsoring members of ALT, have settled their differences. ALT strongly welcomes the fact that a line has now been drawn under the dispute. There are identical statements on the ending of the dispute at <http://tinyurl.com/yepoth4> and <http://tinyurl.com/yfeyjz2>. Inclusion of this note in the ALT update (though not its detail) has been discussed with both companies.

### Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR)

Earlier in January ALT joined COAR - <http://tinyurl.com/yckhd7w> - a not-for-profit association of repository initiatives that was launched in October 2009. COAR aims to enhance greater visibility and application of research outputs through global networks of Open Access digital repositories.

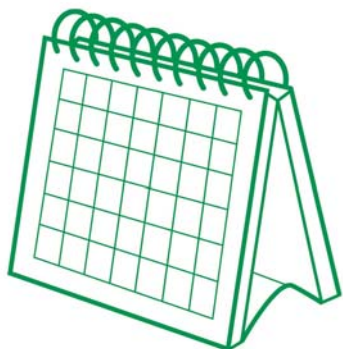
### ALT website – update

In December we issued a brief seeking quotes for Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the ALT website. We intend that Stage 1 will be completed soon after Easter.

### Opportunities for involvement in ALT

Over the next three months, if you are interested in getting more involved in ALT, please be on the look out for the forthcoming calls for:

- nominations for election as Vice Chair of ALT and for election as Trustees of ALT;
- expressions of interest in membership (from 1 September 2010) of each of ALT’s four operational committees – Further Education, Membership Services, Publications, Research;
- expressions of interest in Chairing or Co-chairing the 2011 ALT conference.



## Events

### **Rewiring Inclusion: Strategies, tools and techniques to promote barrier-free learning.** The National College, Nottingham. 9 February 2010 (with an evening session on 8 February)

A national one day conference organised jointly by ALT and JISC TechDis for any staff whose work or role affects learners and learning.

Session chairs and plenary speakers are:

- Julian Harty, Google;
- Dick Moore, Ufi/learnirect;
- Jane Seale, University of Southampton;
- Artur Ortega, Accessibility Evangelist for Yahoo! Europe;
- Dónal Fitzpatrick, Dublin City University;
- Peter Hartley, Bradford University;
- Alison Mills, The Manchester College;
- James Clay, Gloucestershire College.

£120 members of ALT; £160 non members of ALT; £100 dinner, bed and breakfast at the National College. **Booking deadline:** Tuesday, 2 February 2010; <http://www.alt.ac.uk/conferences.php>

### **ALT-C 2010: "Into something rich and strange" – making sense of the sea-change.** The 17th International Conference of the Association for Learning Technology will be held at the University of Nottingham, UK, 7-9 September 2010.

There will be a welcoming keynote from Saul Tandler, the University of Nottingham's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, and Professor of Biophysical Chemistry.

Our keynote speakers will be:

1. Barbara Wasson, Professor of Pedagogical Information Science at the Department of Information Science and Media Studies, University of Bergen, Norway;
2. Sugata Mitra, Professor of Educational Technology at Newcastle University;
3. Donald Clark, Board Member of Ufi, and former CEO of Epic Group plc.

We will announce the names of our Invited Speakers during early 2010.

The Calls and Guidelines for the 2010 ALT Conference are available at <http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2010/papers.html>. **The submission system closes on 15 February 2010.**

Further information, with a sign-up form for low volume email distribution list about the conference, is available from the conference website <http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2010>.

### **Mobile Enabling Technologies**

#### **One day workshop, 25 March 2010, University of Bradford**

Dr Christine Dearnley, Stuart Walker, John Fairhall, Jak Radice.

[http://www.alt.ac.uk/workshop\\_detail.php?e=348](http://www.alt.ac.uk/workshop_detail.php?e=348)

### **Podcasting in Learning and Teaching**

#### **One day workshop at Sheffield Hallam University (date to be confirmed)**

Graham McElearney of Sheffield University and Andrew Middleton of Sheffield Hallam University.

### **Twitter in HE workshop, 5 May 2010**

Matt Lingard of LSE and Tony McNeil of Kingston University.

### **Building a Game in a Day workshop (date to be confirmed)**

Scott Hewitt of Real Projects and Steve Harris of Anglia University.

Further information on all ALT's events: <http://www.alt.ac.uk/events.php>.



## Submission and Contact Details

### **ALT Online Newsletter**

Articles, comments, reviews and previews are welcomed for the next issue of the ALT Online Newsletter, <http://newsletter.alt.ac.uk/>

Please contact the Editor for further details and a style guide, or go to [http://www.alt.ac.uk/alt\\_n](http://www.alt.ac.uk/alt_n)

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For more information go to <http://www.alt.ac.uk/membership>