

For full versions of all the articles here go to the ALT Online Newsletter at newsletter.alt.ac.uk

BBC suspends free interactive learning service

by Stephen Heppell

The suspension of BBC's interactive learning service, branded as BBC JAM, in the middle of March has been described by David Puttnam as a "betrayal of a generation". Stephen Heppell argues that suspending JAM taken away a valuable free service used by children, parents (especially those home learners who have been so poorly served before) and schools. A further consequence is that innovative companies, which committed much to developing teams and projects, are facing lay-offs as they lose their BBC commissions.

Stephen argues that the pressure that was brought to bear on the BBC to suspend JAM is damaging its editorial policy. Learning and public service go hand in hand, he argues, alongside a healthy commercial sector. He encourages members to join him in urging the BBC to bring the service back.

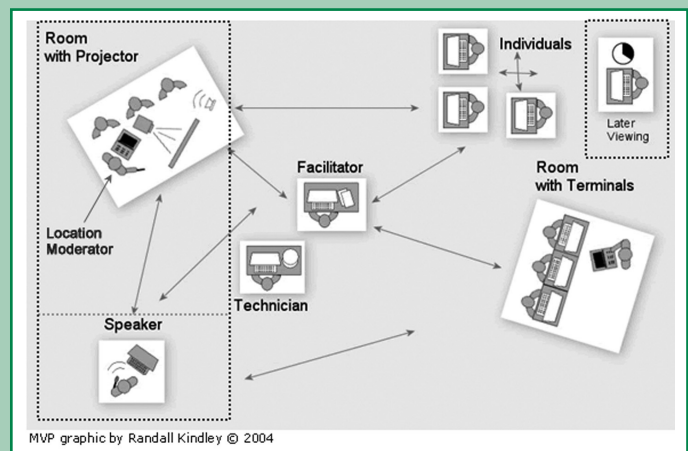
To continue reading go to newsletter.alt.ac.uk

Case study

A mass collaboration approach to e-learning: Multiple venue production

Tim Neumann and Allan Carrington

On 21st March 2006 Diana Laurillard from the London Knowledge Lab (LKL) interacted with more than 450 learners at 41 university campus locations in Australia and New Zealand via a multinational live webinar. The event used Asynchronous Audiographic web Conferencing (SAC) to provide simultaneous communication and interaction opportunities using multiple media and modes. The event was produced by the University of Adelaide in cooperation with the LKL, as a Multiple Venue Production (MVP). This case study discusses the organisational and pedagogical opportunities and challenges experienced in planning and implementing this 'mass collaboration' event.



Project news

HEAT (Higher Education Assistive Technologies): A funding scheme to enable staff in Higher Education to develop good practice in inclusive teaching through the use of technology

Simon Ball, TechDis

Simon Ball from TechDis, the JISC funded service that provides advice and guidance on issues regarding disability and accessibility in learning technology and e-learning, reports on the first phase of the HEAT (Higher Education Assistive Technologies) scheme. This scheme, funded by the Higher Education Academy, enabled the development of 19 projects, each of which explored the use of differ-

ent "assistive technologies" within learning and teaching across a broad range of subjects. Importantly, the article also announces a second phase of the scheme, which calls for further bids.

The closing date for bids is May 31st 2007, and further details can be found at www.techdis.ac.uk/geheatscheme.

NEWS AND REVIEWS

Chief Executive's report

News from Seb Schmoller

See Linda Creanor's message elsewhere in the ALT Newsletter for an explanation for the change of job title.

Getting involved in the work of ALT – Since the beginning of March the full memberships of all of our committees, along with details of our Trustees since our inception, have been published on the ALT web site at www.alt.ac.uk/altpeople.html. There have recently been several calls for expressions of interest in committee membership, and we are gratified at the number of able and committed people from all over the UK and further afield, and from a diverse range of roles, who have come forward. Do not let the fact that getting onto an ALT committee involves competition put you off from responding in future.

New organisational and sponsoring members – Readers of the ALT Digest will know that the British Council, Elluminate, the National Institute for Adult and Continuing Education (NIACE), and Reuters have recently joined ALT. Elluminate will be providing us with access to Elluminate Live!, a synchronous collaboration environment. The British Council has become a sponsoring member under a long term "umbrella agreement": over the next three years, around 25 institutions from less developed countries worldwide will be joining ALT, starting with several Palestinian universities in the West Bank and Gaza. The British Council will also be a Major Anchor Sponsor of the 2007 ALT Conference.

ALT and the Higher Education Academy: Memorandum of Understanding – In March we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Higher Education Academy, putting our long-standing collaboration onto a structured footing. One of the first fruits of the MOU is the Higher Education Academy's decision to support the production of the "What research has to say for practice" guides described below.

2007 "FE Practitioner" Conference – Next Autumn we will be running an e-learning practitioner conference with the Quality Improvement Agency (QIA), modelled closely on the similar event we ran in 2005 (see www.alt.ac.uk/fepec2005.html). The 2007 event will be in the National College for School Leadership on 11 October, with a closing keynote by Andrew Thompson, Chief Executive of QIA. A call for proposals for sessions at the conference will be issued in May.

Learning Technologist of the Year Award – The Higher Education Academy's e-Tutor of the Year Award was run for the last time in 2006. ALT will be running a Learning Technologist of the Year Award this year, with a Judging Panel chaired by Professor Gilly Salmon. We will issue an application pack during May, with a closing date in June. The award will be made at the 2007 ALT Conference Dinner. ALT member organisations who would like to contribute to the prize(s) for the winner(s), please contact me.

What research has to say for practice Guides – The 2007-2010 ALT Strategy, which you can download from the ALT home page, commits us to produce and maintain some "what research has to say for practice" guides, using Wikimedia technology to facilitate the input from the wider learning technology community. The Eduserv Foundation, Becta, and the Higher Education Academy have each generously agreed to contribute £20,000 to this initiative. Around 10 guides will be produced over the next 12 months.

sschmoller@alt.ac.uk 23/3/2007

ALT news

Same role, new job title

Linda Creanor, Chair of ALT Trustees

Last year ALT's Trustees decided to change the title of the senior post within ALT from "Executive Secretary" to "Chief Executive". This change will be implemented with effect from 1/4/2007, with no changes to the main responsibilities of the post or its grading. At the same time the fraction of a post Seb Schmoller holds will increase from 0.5 to 0.65. The post will continue to perform the functions of Executive Secretary of the Association.

JISC news: publications

Planning and designing technology-rich learning spaces

Two new resources from JISC on 21st century learning space designs

Five video case studies are now available which add further insights to the design concepts for learning and teaching explored in 'Designing Spaces for Effective Learning'. A limited number of CDs of these case studies is still available for those who missed them at the JISC conference.

Planning and designing technology-rich learning spaces is also the title of the latest infoKit from JISC infoNet. This valuable resource gives guidance to managers planning new builds and offers an extensive image gallery at: www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/infokits/learning-space-design

For more information on other new JISC publications see the article at newsletter.alt.ac.uk

Research news

Better networked learning: From theory to praxis to software design

Michael Feldstein, Oracle

Currently there is relatively little cross-fertilization between learning theory research and networked learning praxis; likewise, praxis does not inform the design of Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) as often as it could. Both gaps occur partly because of the lack of a common language among the constituent groups. In this article Michael Feldstein advocates a programme to use the linguistic forms of the pattern language and the use case, and for bridging the two linguistic forms, as a way of forming a common language allowing experts in theory, praxis, and software design to work more closely together.

Conference reviews

ELI 2007, Atlanta

Jacquie Kelly and Steven Warburton

Following an open call to members, Jacquie Kelly and Steven Warburton were chosen to represent ALT at the EDUCAUSE Electronic Learning Initiative (ELI) conference in January. Neither had attended this event before and they both found the event very stimulating. They kept weblogs during the conference (conference-weblog.alt.ac.uk/eli2007/) and wrote a report for members. Highlights from their trip are presented here.

24 Hours to secure collaboration on interoperability -

Global governance of standards for e-Learning

Kevin Donovan

The Global 2007 conference was held in London on 19th March. Sponsored by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) – the organisation responsible for the Shareable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM) – and with support from the key interoperability standards organisations, the event was held to discuss good practice relating to the use of technology in “learning, education and training”. More importantly, it was the start of the process by which the stewardship of SCORM is transferred from the US Department of Defence (which manages ADL) to a new body, Learning Education Training Systems Interoperability (LETSI).

CAL'07: Development, disruption and debate

Claire McAvinia

CAL '07 was held in Trinity College Dublin, from 26-28 March. The conference provided participants with a forum to discuss the alleged disruptive nature of technological development in the area of learning at the individual, institutional and national level. There were four conference themes:

- ICT & Learning – So What? asked why technology has not had a disruptive effect on education.
- New Directions examined the technological and conceptual developments that are having, or could have, a disruptive effect on education.
- Creative Expression & Learning reported on research in creative expression by, or for, learners.
- ICT for Development (Education) explored the use of e-learning technologies in developing countries.

Director's report

News from Rhonda Riachi

ALT-C 2007: registration information - Registration is now open, so don't delay (we had to close booking three weeks early last year!). Authors will receive news about the status of their submissions by 18 May. If you have not heard the outcome of your submission by 18 May, please email alt_administrator@brookes.ac.uk. All principal presenters must register by 8 June; and all remaining presenters must register by the early bird rate deadline on 29 June. Registration closes on 11 August. For more information go to www.alt.ac.uk/altc2007

Call for ALT-C 2008 Chair (or Co-chairs) - The venue for ALT-C 2008 is Leeds University, which has a large campus in the heart of the city. We are now seeking an experienced Chair or Co-Chairs to lead the programme committee for this key event. Planning and organisation of ALT-C is the responsibility of the Director and the Chair/Co-Chairs, with support from other key committee members. The Conference Chair (or Co-Chairs) will also receive extensive support from ALT's permanent staff. For more details about the role please contact me on rriachi@brookes.ac.uk. Deadline for expressions of interest: **Friday 4 May**. A call for programme committee members will go out when the chair or co-chairs have been confirmed. We also welcome expressions of interest to chair ALT-C in future years.

Nominations for vacancies: AGM 2007 - There will be three vacancies on the Central Executive Committee for the Vice-Chair and two Trustee positions. These important roles are all three-year terms and will commence from the Annual General Meeting in Nottingham on 5 September. If the posts are contested, the election will be conducted via secure Internet ballot (using Electoral Reform Services) and the results announced in the summer. Members must notify the office (alt@brookes.ac.uk) by 31 May if their email address has changed, as notification of the secure login procedure will be sent via email. The deadline for nominations is **31 May**. Nominators should complete the form on the web site at www.alt.ac.uk/docs/agm_notice_2007.pdf or contact me for more details (rriachi@brookes.ac.uk).

CAMEL gets a BELT - ALT is running another project with JISCinfoNet using the CAMEL model (Collaborative Approaches to the Management of E-Learning) funded by the JISC Committee for Learning and Teaching and involving the HE Academy Subject Centres. Details are being finalised as we go to press. The project will explore evidence for the benefits of e-learning to institutions and the working title is CAMEL BELT.

Retirement of the ALT-J Editors - After a combined service of twenty years, all three Editors of ALT-J have announced their wish to retire over the coming year. Grainne Conole will retire in July, followed by Jane Seale in September and Martin Oliver in March 2008. They have done a wonderful job in raising the profile of the journal and improving the standard of submissions, and I know members will join me in thanking them for all their hard work.

A call for a new Editor and Deputy Editor is going out to members during April with a closing date of **1 June**. Please forward this call to interested colleagues and contact me if you require further information.

rriachi@brookes.ac.uk



Workshops

CMALT Workshops

9 May 2007, Higher Education Academy, York;
15 May 2007, Northampton University, Park Campus.

Edublogs 2.0: the educational uses of social software, blogs, RSS (Really Simple Syndication), wikis and social referencing systems

17 May 2007, The Learning Lab, Telford

Can mobile devices be used in pedagogically effective ways?

13 June 2007, The Graduate Centre, London Metropolitan University

Evaluating learning technology in context

25 June 2007, London Knowledge Lab, Institute of Education

Views from the other side: listening to learner voices

26 June 2007, Glasgow Caledonian University

To book places go to www.alt.ac.uk/events.php.

Conference

ALT-C 2007: Beyond control Learning technology for the social network generation

Nottingham, UK, 4-6 September

Keynote speakers:

Professor Sir Colin Campbell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham

Dr Michelle Selinger, Education Strategist, Cisco Systems

Dr Peter Norvig, Director of Research, Google

Professor Dylan Wiliam, Institute of Education

ALT-C 2007 will feature four themes introduced by invited speakers as shown:

Designing learning spaces: **Tim Rudd**

Large-scale implementation: **Frank Rennie**

Learning and internationalism: **Hans-Peter Baumeister**

Learning technology for the social network generation: **Marion Miller**

Major Anchor Sponsors:

Adobe; Becta; Blackboard; The British Council; Desire2Learn; Eduserv; The Higher Education Academy; The Joint Information Systems Committee; JISC TechDis; Positive Internet Company Ltd; The Scottish Funding Council; Toshiba Information Systems (UK) Ltd; Ufi learndirect; and the University of Nottingham.

Key dates

Presenters' registration deadline: **8 June** Earlybird registration deadline: **29 June**

Registrations close: **10 August**

www.alt.ac.uk/altc2007



ALT-N

Articles, comment, reviews and previews are welcomed for the next issue. Please contact the Editor for further details and a style guide.

Please note that only summary versions are published in the printed newsletter. Full versions appear in the online newsletter at <http://newsletter.alt.ac.uk>

Advertising rates

£300 for quarter page advert or £400 to insert a one-page flyer (no VAT)

Deadline: **15 June 2007**

For editorial contributions contact the Editors:

Guin Glasfurd Brown
guin@caret.cam.ac.uk

Morag Munro
morag.munro@dcu.ie

For advertising queries contact
alt@brookes.ac.uk

Association for Learning Technology

For further information on ALT contact:

Rhonda Riachi
Director, ALT
Gypsy Lane, Headington
Oxford, OX3 0BP
Tel: 01865 484125
Fax: 01865 484165
alt@brookes.ac.uk

Annual ALT subscriptions:

Individual UK	£52
Reduced rate (student, retired, unemployed)	£25
Individual non-UK	£65

For organisational membership and other details go to www.alt.ac.uk/membership.html

The views expressed in this newsletter are the authors' own and not necessarily those of ALT.

© Association for Learning Technology
Authors are granted the right to reproduce the contribution provided that advance notice is given to ALT.

www.alt.ac.uk

Registered Charity No 1063519