

TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

TOWARDS FLEXIBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

FOLLOW-UP EVENT FOR THE LEARNING AND TEACHING CONFERENCE 2009

Wednesday 11 March 2009

Never “on loan”: how to provide 24/7 access to reading materials in heavy demand Abstract

Name(s) of presenter(s)/facilitator(s): Sandra Franklin (Library, Academic Services), Dawn Holland (Library, Academic Services), Helen Fenwick (History), Alison Price-Moir (History)

Email contact for the primary presenter: d.holland@hull.ac.uk

Abstract:

Responses from students to the National Student Survey perennially indicate varying levels of dissatisfaction regarding the number of copies of set texts within the Library. While acknowledging that this is a frustrating issue for students the library needs to balance finite funding and physical space with maintaining the breadth and depth of its collections.

The advent of electronic books (e-Books) and the new digitisation agreement from the CLA (Copyright Licensing Agency) have increased the digital options available to supplement physical resources. This presentation aims to provide a demonstration and discussion of these options and how they can support academic staff needing to ensure large cohorts of students have access to materials which need to be read during a limited time period to fit in with weekly seminars and tutorials.

E-Books

Over recent years publishers have increased considerably the number of E-book publications on offer. E-Books provide several different flexible options, not available with traditional physical counterparts including the option to present URL links to E-Books chapters within VLEs.

Digitisation Service (Electronic Short Loan)

Electronic Short Loan started as a pilot project 2004 and has been steady growing since with approximately 600 book chapters and journal articles now converted into PDF files which students can view or download from their desktop 24/7. In August 2008, the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) Higher Education photocopying and digitisation licence, extended permission for the library to digitise book chapters and journal articles from UK publishers and a large majority of American publishers (including US University Presses). From December 2008 the Library announced that this service would be freely available to the University Community.