City of Glasgow College

Board of Management
Students, Staff & Equalities Committee

Date of Meeting	**Wednesday 31 January 2018**
Paper No.	**SSEC2-E**
Agenda Item	**8**
Subject of Paper	**Libraries & Learning Technologies Update**
FOISA Status	**Disclosable**
Primary Contact	**Joe Wilson,** Head of Centre Technical and Professional Education
Date of production	**22 January 2018**
Action	**For Noting**

1.   Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the Libraries and Learning Technologies Update.

2. Purpose of report

To provide an update to the Students, Staff and Equalities Committee on the ongoing activity and recent achievements of the Libraries and Learning Technologies teams.

3. Context

The Library and Learning Technologies teams are responsible for driving and supporting the use of learning technology across the College, managing and promoting access to a broad range of resources, and developing the digital and information literacy skills of staff and students.

We are an integral part of the CityLearning4.0 model, and contribute to a number of government, national, and local agendas around digital skills, inclusion, and widening access.

The teams will play an integral part in delivering key elements of the College enhancement plan

- Provide relevant training to teaching staff to develop classroom practice in line with the requirements of City Learning 4.0 Impact /To enhance delivery and to engage students within the classroom /To promote Retention and attainment.

- Develop communities of practice to share pedagogical practice which further enhances learning and teaching. Impact/To ensure that teaching staff reflect on classroom practice and broaden their range of teaching styles.

- Digital Learning requires to be more fully embedded in delivery within all curriculum areas to make effective use of the resources available in the classroom. Impact/ To promote student engagement in lessons and to ensure that students have the skills required for further study.

- Teaching approaches are traditional in some subject areas , delivery needs to be developed so that it is more personalised to the needs of the learners. Impact/ To enhance classroom practice and promote student engagement.

We also lead on embedding innovative practices through involvement in collaborative projects with partnership organisations, and by evaluating and sharing information on emerging technologies.

4. Impact and implications

Learning technology:

Learning Technologist Support

We have in the past experienced a high staff turnover in this area. Learning technologist skills are in demand and we had a large number of staff on fixed term contracts, working with HR we have increased the number of permanent staff in this team to ensure a better continuity of service across the College.

In house support includes a dedicated learning technologist in each faculty. Ongoing support for a range of skills around digital learning and design including training in H5P a free learning material authoring system.

In addition the team supports staff skills around Mahara, Turnitin, Lab in a Box and a range of innovative digital tools to support new modes of digital learning.

On a broader front to support Citylearning4.0, this session we will begin running a series of webinars to support staff who cannot get along to face to face training and improve access to training and development.

MyCity

MyCity began as the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and has been continually developed, year on year, into a portal for all our student-facing systems. Based on Moodle a virtual learning environment, usage and satisfaction rates among learners continue to grow year on year.

A system upgrade in August 2017 impacted on both the service and the methodology we have used in the past to collect data on active users – while the graph shows a dip in usage we are confident that usage is continuing to rise among both staff and learners.

We evaluate the performance of MyCity on an ongoing basis and work closely with IT who deliver the underlying technical platform.

We are currently working with IT to improve communication and technical support for MyCity to ensure the robustness and ongoing reliability of the service. In January the learning technology team were given access to a testing area and we have agreed a ongoing development timeline for the service. Future upgrades will take place in July and at times of lower usage.

We continue to review this landscape with our IT colleagues, college staff and learners for ways that we can improve the VLE platform.

2017   2016   2015   2014

400

300

200

100

0

Sep   Oct   Nov   Dec   Jan   Feb   Mar   Apr   May
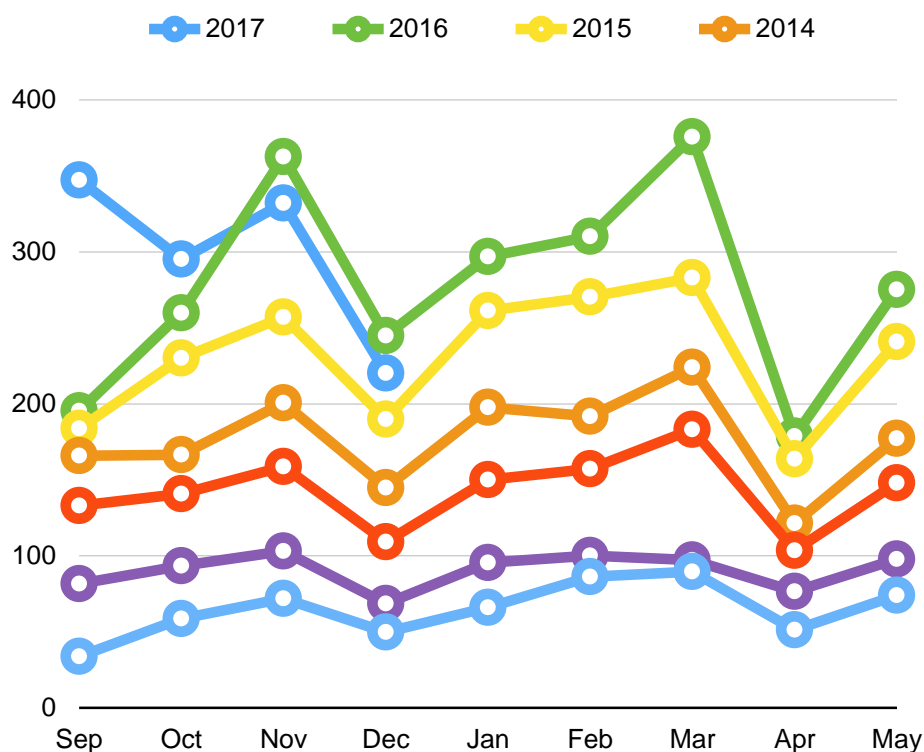
Introduction of OneFile

The learning technology team have been supporting the roll out of a new e-portfolio system OneFile to support the delivery of the modern apprenticeships across the college. The new system replaces the Learning Assistant Platform that was previously used and offers a number of system improvements over the previous system.

 Initially we used the training supplied by the supplier Onefile to train all staff in the use of the new system. We have now developed our own manuals for training centre managers, assessors and candidates and we will increasingly deliver this training in house.

OneFile is currently used by over 600 organisations and is a cloud-based e-Portfolio which allows for assessment of criteria based qualifications such as Apprenticeships, SVQs and ongoing CPD competence. The e-Portfolio can be accessed 24/7 from any device, and the app can even be accessed offline for work-based contexts without wi-fi or data coverage. This can fully replace paper based recording and reporting, and significantly reduce the number of assessor visits

Library Services

The library offers a comprehensive range of physical resources: including print books, journals and DVDs; and in the past year there has been an increase in the number borrowed by over 4%. All resources are catalogued in-house adhering to the latest cataloguing standards that allow all library users to easily identify resources that meet their needs. Library staff provide advice and guidance on how to find, access and use these resources effectively. Additionally we provide space for quiet and group study, access to PCs, Macs and laptops, printing, photocopying, scanning and a self-issue service

The library offers a wide range of digital resources to support students and staff with online learning and teaching. These include online journals, e-books, media archives like Box of Broadcasts, and searchable repositories of images and music cleared for educational use.

This session we have continued to explore the most cost effective means to access copyright materials for learning

We have extended the opening hours of the library in consultation with the students on weekdays

We have expanded the range of digital resources available to learners – this including access to digimaps for nautical science.

We have broadened the range of support offered to support Citylearning4.0

Regional and National Projects Current Examples

Koha is our library management system, manages all our collections and transactions.

The Help Desk at CoGC provides front line support and development across the three Glasgow Colleges [9 Libraries] for the Koha Library Management System. Our annual membership is circa 43,000 users

Clipper Project Online Video Annotation Toolkit for Research and Education Consortium project – funded by Jisc. Led by COGC. The only FE college in a competition with the leading UK universities, and one of the successful finalists to go all the way through the 3 stages of the competition http://blog.clippertube.com/ https://clipperdev.com/ .
We are now ready to actively promote this service

In addition both the library and Learning technology team have a pipleline of new funding bids.

The teams will continue to provide support through the 2017-25 plan and, in particular, will contribute to the planning, implementation, and delivery of a number of transformative initiatives:

☐ **City Learning 4.0:** will be underpinned by excellence in digital capabilities and is likely to support increased online delivery and the development of advanced technological skills.

☐ **The Centre for Technical & Professional Education:** designed to pioneer innovation in learning and teaching by driving the adoption of new pedagogies and technologies.

☐ **The Student Experience Strategy:** particularly the physical and online learning environment, but also across other aspects reliant on digital capabilities and access to technology.

This report details just some of the excellent work currently being undertaken by the Libraries and Learning Technologies teams and highlights their critical contribution to the planning and implementation of our new emerging model for Education.