

## Board of Management

### Students, Staff & Equalities Committee

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 15 March 2017</b>
<b>Paper No.</b>	<b>SSEC2-H</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Subject of Paper</b>	<b>Libraries &amp; Learning Technologies Update</b>
<b>FOISA Status</b>	<b>Disclosable</b>
<b>Primary Contact</b>	<b>Joanna McGillivray, VP Student Experience</b>
<b>Date of production</b>	<b>February 2017</b>
<b>Action</b>	<b>For Noting</b>

#### 1. Recommendations

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

## **1. Recommendations**

The Students, Staff and Equalities 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 team.

## **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 current City Learning model, and contribute to a number of government, national, and local agendas around digital skills, inclusion, and widening access.

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

### **3.1 New City Library**

The City Library team have successfully moved in the region of 25,000 items into their new purpose built, state of the art, library facilities. There are a variety of study environments available on all four levels of City Campus Library, including: a dedicated quiet study room on level 5; a large group study area on level 3; and a touch down area on level 2, outside the library, where you can access thin clients, sit and socialise, and eat your lunch.

The new space has been incredibly popular with library users and we have consistently doubled our footfall month after month, and seen substantial increases in access to other services within the library, even physical borrowing has increased, in spite of a broad global downward trend across the rest of the sector. The demand is so high we are reviewing our opening hours and plan to permanently extend access.

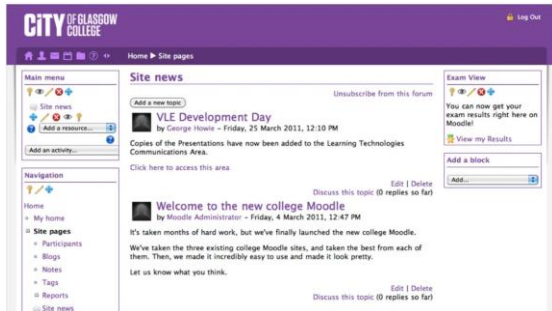
We welcome our new Libraries Manager, Penny Robertson, who is a chartered librarian and has worked within the digital environment for over 15 years, specialising in creating access to digital content, the management and governance of information and the creation and use of metadata to develop information services in Scotland.

Many of you know Penny as she has worked for many national agencies in Scotland, specifically Jisc, SQA, SLIC and CILIP Scotland. Her educational background includes postgraduate qualifications in Information Technology and Online and Blended Education.

### 3.2 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.

2011:

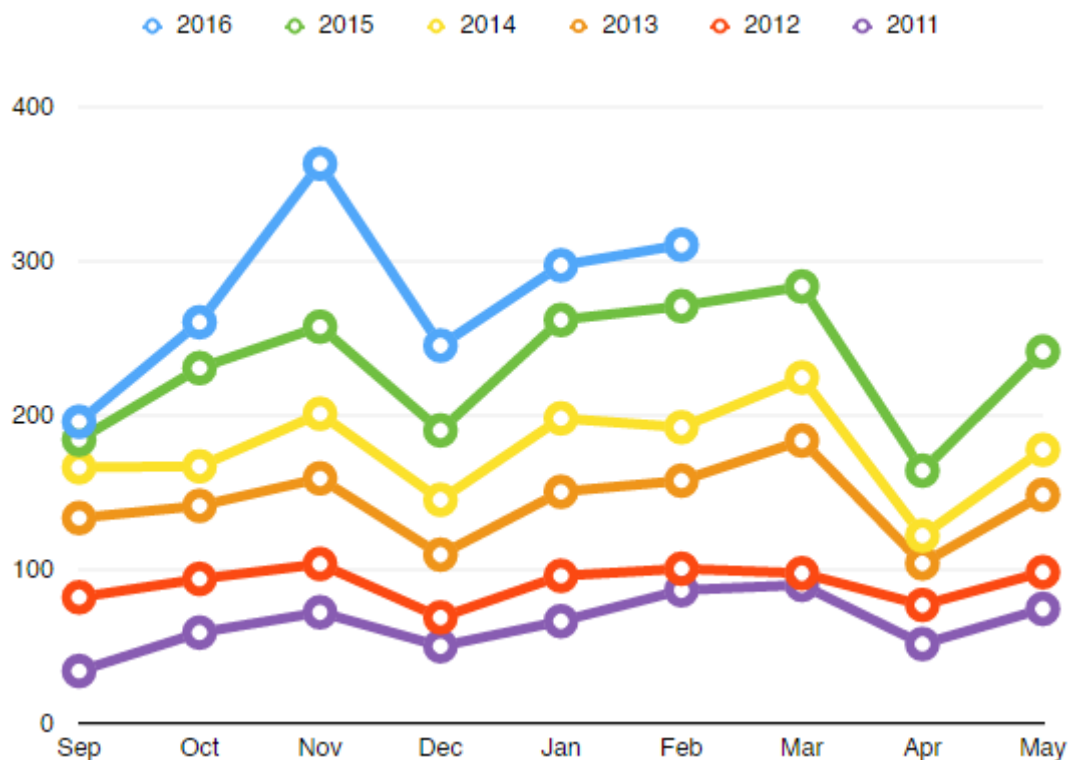


2017:



This student-focused improvement, along with support from senior management, and appropriate training and support for lecturers, has resulted in steady year-on-year growth in usage:

(Visits: 1000s)



We also know from our student survey that the number of students who believe MyCity has supported them on their course has risen from 58% (2011-12) to 85% (2015-16)

We continue to put students at the centre of our plans for MyCity: last year we carried out a student-led review of features and functionality and this fed into a roadmap for development. We updated the Content Management System and now we're recruiting a developer to support the next phase of this ongoing improvement.

### **3.3 Training and Support**

We provide first line support to staff and students, as well as deliver training to staff and students. Our new distributed service delivery model places Learning Technologists in the heart of curriculum teams where they can provide the timeliest and most appropriate support, whilst remaining part of a central team and able to share ideas and practices. A number of the team are undertaking the PDA in Teaching Practice to develop their pedagogical skills, as well as their reputation as experts and "teacher trainers".

We have updated our training portfolio and we are experimenting with new delivery models, for example, we launched a series of Weekly Webinars covering a variety of topics.

We are also developing the PDA in Technology Enhanced Learning and Teaching. We will be the first to deliver this qualification when it launches next year.

### **3.4 Virtual Reality**

Thousands of schools and Colleges have participated in the Google Expeditions Pioneer Programme and in December we were lucky enough to have Google on site for two full days. From the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Library, we led more than 30 classes on guided virtual field trips, including: all Seven Wonders of the Modern World, inside the human body, back in time, under the sea at the Great Barrier Reef, and even into space.

In January Google came back to create a virtual expedition so anyone, anywhere in the world, will be able to take a virtual tour of our super College and our amazing facilities. This will be launched later in the year.

In the interim, a 360 tour of the library is available here: <https://roundme.com/tour/85002/view/214060>

### **3.5 City Learning Lab**

The concept is based on providing a student-owned space for play and innovation. Interior Design students will re-design the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Library Space to incorporate the needs and expectations of a broad range of stakeholders. Ideas so far include: a photo/video booth for students to photograph their work, or interview each other; a craft table for students undertaking more practical work; a robotics table; a "genius bench" like in the Apple store (for all our gadgets); and a presentation space for students to

practice their presenting skills.

### **3.6 E-Assessment Update**

We are developing an open E-assessment course in collaboration with the Open University. Following on from the successful CiTeA project (to investigate barriers to e-assessment on behalf of the sector), the course will be made available as a self-study resource on The Open University's OpenLearn platform and will incorporate the use of digital badges to certify completion.

Badges also feature in another project where we are working with design agency Snook on implementing Open Badges through Moodle. As a College, we have used [Open Badges before for staff CPD](#) but for this pilot we are looking at awarding badges for outcomes in SQA units. Snook have developed a Badge plugin for Moodle which extends the current Badge functionality and will allow students to directly link and evidence the achievement associated with a unit outcome. There are 3 class groups taking part in the pilot which we hope to roll out more widely.

We recently tendered for a commercial e-portfolio system on behalf of the College. Onefile were successfully awarded the contract and we are preparing to roll this out next month. 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.

### **3.7 Shared Service: Library Management System**

City of Glasgow College, together with Glasgow Kelvin College and Glasgow Clyde College have procured an Open Source Library Management System. Following feedback and recommendations from the Scottish Library and Information Council funded 'U-Lib' project, which City of Glasgow College undertook on behalf of the sector, the move to an Open Source solution will facilitate a greater level of integration with other College platforms, particularly MyCity. Another significant benefit is a greater level of integration with College student records systems, which allows us to extract much more meaningful data.

The "Go Live" date is scheduled for the 17th July 2017, in advance of the 2017-18 academic session across the Glasgow Colleges.

## **4. Impact and implications**

Libraries and Learning Technologies have supported stakeholders across the College in the context of the previous strategic plan. They have, for example, supported lecturers to best use technology-enriched learning spaces, and to create innovative learning materials.

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.