



The JISC RSC London e-Bulletin

September 2011

[New year, new challenges, new opportunities](#)
Graciano Soares, RSC London Manager

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New year, new challenges, new opportunities

The 2011-2012 academic year is already in full swing and the RSC London team is looking to extend its reach to engage with even more colleagues in the region and help to secure the benefits of technology for all our supported post-16 learning providers and their learners. Graciano Soares, RSC London Manager has posted details on RSC London News about [our regional focus](#) over the coming year. He writes, “Your feedback, our funders’ priorities and a revised remit will see our efforts this year converge on:

- championing the exploitation of technology to encourage innovative learning
- emphasising learner experience and staff development
- driving culture change through supporting management and decision makers and
- making the case for quality infrastructure and technical support to drive efficiencies.”

This first e-bulletin of the new academic year has news of the latest funding opportunities, our events listing and a selection of guides, toolkits and resources to help you get anything from an update on the latest in technology-enhanced learning, to those essential examples of innovation that works.

Our most important message as always is that we are here to help. You can access our full range of support by contacting [your RSC London adviser](#). Get the best from your RSC!

RSC London News

Working with partners...

As well as developing a full event programme for the year ahead, RSC London is contributing to a range of partner events. First up is FOTE11 – ‘Meeting Student Expectations’, at Senate House on 7th October. The FOTE Conference has its usual focus on the trends and technologies that

will impact teaching and learning over the next few years. If you have missed out on tickets you might want to contribute to the [conference blog](#) or follow #Fote11 on Twitter.

In November, members of the RSC London team will again be at the [AOC Conference](#) in Birmingham to showcase the work of FE colleges. This year the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London is in the spotlight for its work on supporting and enhancing the learner experience beyond the classroom. Another major partner event is the [NIACE Conference: Learning in a Digital World](#). This conference will focus on the needs of adult learners to acquire digital skills and includes a varied range of speakers and workshops including an RSC workshop on digital storytelling.

Staff Development Network

Also coming up in November is a meeting of the regional Staff Development Network. This group meets once a term in central London and is proving a popular, informal event for sharing ideas and good practice around CPD and staff development. Managers responsible for HR, CPD or staff development and who would like to join the network are invited to email k.dev@rsc-london.ac.uk.

JISC Advance and NIACE sign Memorandum of Understanding

[JISC Advance](#) is furthering its work with adult learning providers by signing a memorandum of understanding with The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education ([NIACE](#)). The memorandum sets out how the two organisations will work together to raise the quality of learning experiences for adults across the UK. More from: <http://www.jiscadvance.ac.uk/index.php/news/story/195>

Learning from IT Disasters

RSC London's Martin Sepion has taken a look at a recent Select Committee report on the government's use of IT and how departments can seek to avoid further examples of costly and unsuccessful IT projects. Read his blog post at: <http://rsclondonnews.blog.ulcc.ac.uk/?p=5404>

Other News

Review of Informal Adult Community Learning – NIACE Learner voice survey

Learners and other members of the public are being given a unique opportunity to have their say about the future of informal adult community learning, by responding to a new NIACE survey online. The NIACE survey is sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) as part of its review of Informal Adult Learning and is aimed at learners and those not currently learning. The closing date for responses is October 31st 2011

<http://www.niace.org.uk/current-work/the-iacl-review>

E-Guides Sharing and Sharpening Award 2011

NIACE is inviting applications for the E-Guide Award. For 2011 the theme is 'sharing and sharpening' and NIACE is looking for e-guides who not only share their knowledge with colleagues but who continue to update and sharpen their own skills. Closing date for nominations: 20 September 2011. Further details and the application form available from:

<http://www.niace.org.uk/current-work/the-e-guides-sharing-and-sharpening-award-2011>

National/Regional Events

19th September 2011 12.30pm-3.40pm [NIACE Policy Seminar FE Funding and Landscape: Loans, freedoms, flexibilities and funding](#) - NIACE, Renaissance House, 20 Princess Road West, Leicester LE1 6TP- Event fee £85 (includes lunch, tea/coffee)

30th September 2011 1.00pm ONLINE [JISC TechDis - Xerte Friday Online Session Biology/life sciences /agriculture](#) – FREE

18th October 2011 JISC Digital Media [Managing Digital Media Collections](#) - Bristol BS8 1HH - £150 (Full JISC Digital Media training calendar <http://www.jiscdigitalmedia.ac.uk/training/>)

4th November 2011 [NIACE Conference Learning in a Digital World](#)–The Abbey Centre, London, SW1P 3BU - £150

15-17th November 2011 [AoC Annual Conference](#) – ICC, Birmingham – Fees apply

22-25th November 2011 ONLINE [JISC Online Conference Innovating e-Learning 2011: Learning in transition](#) – Fee £50

Funding opportunities

LSIS Leadership in Technology (LIT) grant based intervention 2011

LSIS invites bids up to a maximum of £6,000 for project grants for technology based improvement interventions. The grant is designed to support learning providers who identify a particular improvement that can be tackled through the innovative use of technology and organisational development. The deadline for applications is 12.00pm on **Monday 26th September 2011**. Full details, eligibility criteria and application forms are available from: <http://www.lsis.org.uk/workingwithlsis/opportunities/funding-opportunities/Pages/default.aspx>

LSIS Resource Utilisation Network Fund 2011

LSIS invites bids for grant funding from further education and skills providers to join the Resource Utilisation Network Fund. The network is designed to support projects which deliver significant improvements in efficiency, effectiveness or the generation of financial surplus, in sector practice. Bids up to a maximum of £15,000 are invited for:

- new projects which have not received previous funding;
- developing or scaling previously funded successful projects.

The deadline for applications is 12.00pm on **Monday 3rd October 2011**. Full details and application forms are available from:

<http://www.lsis.org.uk/workingwithlsis/opportunities/funding-opportunities/Pages/default.aspx>

LSIS Stepping Up in Sustainability Fund 2011: Grant funding opportunities in sustainable development

LSIS is seeking bids from individual providers or groups of providers who wish to develop their original projects, or initiate new projects, in return for grants of up to £5,000 or £7,500.

The closing date for applications is 12.00pm on **Monday 3rd October 2011**. Full details and application forms are available from:

<http://www.lsis.org.uk/workingwithlsis/opportunities/funding-opportunities/Pages/default.aspx>

HE Academy: Departmental Grant Scheme

The HE Academy has announced funding totaling £300,000 available through its Teaching Departmental Grant Scheme. There is a maximum of £30,000 per project. Project duration will be 15 months. Successful bids will demonstrate team impact across the department, longitudinal impact and will include evaluation and dissemination criteria. The hosting institution will be expected to contribute funds towards the project.

The submission deadline is midnight, **October 23rd 2011** with projects to commence on January 23rd 2012. Further information and eligibility details are available on the HE Academy website from: <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/funding>

Resources

New look for Sorted, the online sustainability tool for learning and skills sector

Sorted is an online resource for sustainability in the Learning and Skills sector. LSIS has supported improvements to the site which now includes a filtered search. Users are now able to search by type of institution, strategic or operational resources etc.

<http://www.eauc.org.uk/sorted/home>

Latest JISC Resources: Emerging Practice and the Mobile Learning infoKit

JISC's "Emerging Practice in a Digital Age" is a newly published guide to technology-enhanced institutional innovation. It is available at: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/digiemerge> .

To augment this guide, JISC infoNet is also developing a Mobile Learning infoKit. The first version of this resource is available at <http://bit.ly/mobilelearninginfokit>.

JISC Legal responds to cloud computing developments

JISC Legal has responded to a growing demand for guidance on cloud solutions by creating a comprehensive "Cloud computing and the law", toolkit. The aim of this resource is to guide educational professionals through the legal aspects of implementing cloud computing solutions in their institutions. The toolkit is available from: <http://bit.ly/o4EMb0>

Open Educational Resources: The value of reuse in higher education

Open educational resources (OER) are materials which educators make available online to learners and also to other educators, to share, re-use and remix. This report summarises the findings of a recent JISC commissioned study. It is written primarily for teaching staff and those supporting curriculum delivery processes who may not have considered the potential value of OER. The report is available as a PDF from:

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/programmes/elearning/oer/OERTheValueOfReuseInHigherEducation.pdf>

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Your comments and contributions are invited.*