

EVENTOS

I JORNADAS CRAI.

UNIVERSITAT DE LES ILLES BALEARS

2003

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The Learning Centre model in the UK

The Learning Centre model in the UK

Graham Bulpitt
Director, Learning Centre



Sheffield Hallam University



● Sheffield

Aims

- to set out the background
- to describe the Learning Centre model
- to assess the impact on students, academic staff and LC staff
- to identify success factors and issues for the future

The broader context

The changing higher education landscape

- **more students**
- **financial pressure**
- **quality and students as customers**
- **trend towards flexible lifelong learning**
- **more independent and resource-based learning**
- **the potential of new technology**

“The heart of the university is no longer found in its lecture theatres and seminar rooms but in the learning resource centre...”

“...But students still want to be taught by well-informed and lively teachers...”

“...And they want to be able to interact with their peers, but...the opportunities for doing this are diminishing.”

Peter Scott, The Guardian, 29 September 1998

The Learning Centre model

What is a Learning Centre?

*'A dynamic environment
which integrates provision
to support a range of
independent and group learning
activities'.*

Learning Centre provision

- **library and information services**
- **computing provision**
- **multimedia production**
- **educational development**
- **educational research**

Aims

- to anticipate and lead change
 - to meet diversity of need
- through...*
- strong vision and culture
 - flexible working environment



Adsetts Centre

Key statistics

- **10,000 visits each day**
- **open 24 hours**
- **3 campuses**
- **230 staff**
- **Annual cost : £6 million**
- **£500,000 income**
- **2,000 international visitors since 1996**

Virtual learning environments

The virtual learning environment

*“ The aim is to create an electronic environment which replicates all the facilities of the real environment...
...allowing students to move seamlessly between the two...in a way which meets their own needs.”*

Blackboard5: Welcome Page - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Hel >> Address http://blackboard.shu.ac.uk/bin/frame.pl?item=my_inst&990528450 Go

Links Am BB5 BBC Egg HDE HTFC J KB LC >>

Welcome Courses Academic Web Resources Home Help Logout

TOOLS

- [Announcements](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Tasks](#)
- [My Grades](#)
- [Send E-mail](#)
- [User Directory](#)
- [Address Book](#)
- [Personal Information](#)

SEARCH THE WEB

Welcome, Richard!

Today's Announcements

Andrew Middleton - Development/Test Course

- Demonstration

Mel McClellan - Development/Test Course

- E-Learning project: Ethical Awareness
- CULTURE IN CONTEXT (Theme 1) for Industrial Design students

Nick Baker - Development/Test Course

- Investors in People guide
- Welcome

Richard Gibson - Development/Test Course

- Important announcement

My Courses

Courses you are teaching:

- [Andrew Middleton - Development/Test Course](#)
- [Mel McClellan - Development/Test Course](#)
- [Richard Mather - Development/Test Course](#)
- [Structure and Properties of Materials](#)
- [Valuation](#)

Courses in which you are enrolled:

- [Charlotte Green - Development/Test Course](#)
- [Imaging Principles and Practice 1](#)
- [Imaging Principles and Practice 2](#)
- [Imaging Principles and Practice 3](#)
- [Imaging Principles and Practice 4](#)
- [Imaging Principles and Practice 5](#)

Internet

Use of Blackboard

1. **course information and documentation**
2. **teaching materials**
3. **links to information sources**
4. **communication and discussion**
5. **assessment**
6. **learning materials**

Developing VLEs

- **information content v interactive, multimedia learning materials**
- **'neutral' space to design new models of course delivery and student support**

Alternatives to academic libraries

A glowing lightbulb is centered in the image. The bulb is illuminated from within, creating a bright yellow-white glow that fades into a dark blue background. The word "idea" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the middle of the bulb's glass. The base of the bulb, showing the screw threads, is visible at the bottom.

idea

Idea Store

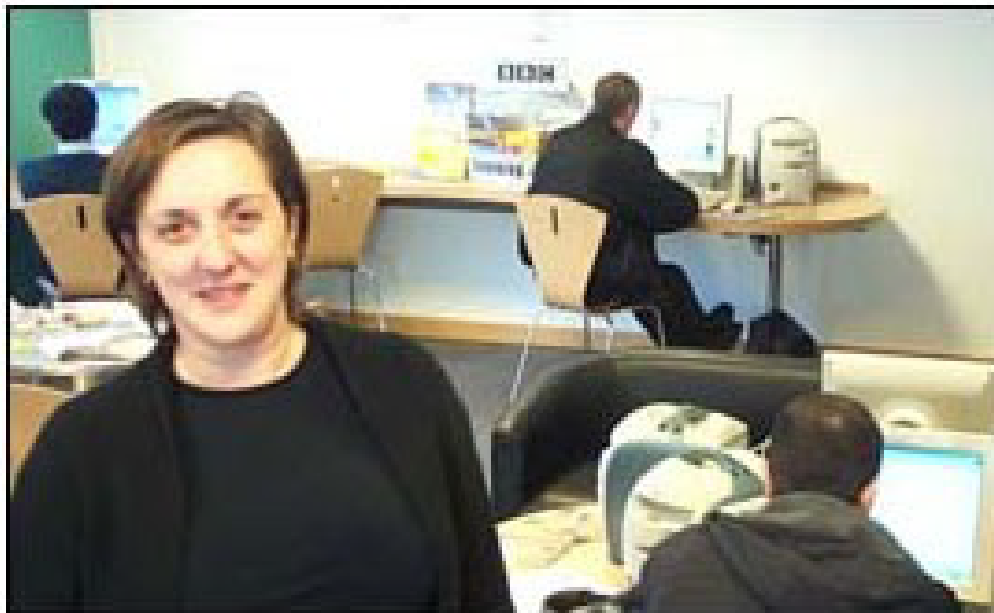
'The plan is to create a series of bright new buildings in local shopping areas - combining lifelong learning and cultural attractions with all the services normally associated with libraries...'

London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Idea Stores information pack.

The Idea Store

- **public library**
- **computing facilities**
- **advice centre**
- **adult education**
- **homework club**
- **exhibition and performance space**
- **café, crèche**

Welcome to the BBC Open Centre!



The BBC's Emma Gilliam in the Open Centre

The BBC's Open Centre in Sheffield is free to use. You can surf the web and learn about computers - without paying a penny!

Senior broadcast journalist Emma Gilliam tells us why the BBC is doing this.



A REVOLUTIONARY CONCEPT FOR LIVING AND WORKING IN THE 21ST CENTURY



The Source at Meadowhall is a multi-million pound training centre opening adjacent to Meadowhall in Spring 2003. A partnership between Meadowhall, Sheffield City Council and British Land, this unique facility will provide nationally accredited training at all levels, serving both businesses and the local community.

The Source will offer some of the region's premier learning facilities, including a dedicated IT suite, classrooms, conference facilities, gym, crèche and employment advice centre. By combining training with retail, leisure, crèche, dining and fitness facilities, we hope to create a relaxed and accessible learning environment that will motivate people from all walks of life.

For further information please email enquiries@thesource.meadowhall.co.uk or telephone 0114 256 8800 fax 0114 256 8666

Impact

Student experience survey

Most important services

1	Learning Centre resources	94%
2	Access to computers	92%
3	Quality of computing	91%
4	Learning Centre advice	90%
5	Access to Learning Centre	89%
.. 20	

The student's working week

	<i>hours</i>
Lectures	10
Seminars	2
Tutorials	1
Supported independent study	13
Unsupported independent study	14
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>40</i>

“Like the Open University where you never see anyone...it’s all done by computers...no thanks!”

***Student interviewed in evaluation study,
SHU, 1999.***

“It is the view of the group - and research studies reinforce this - that effective learning takes place in a social environment.”

Foresight. The Learning Process in 2020 Task Force.

Impact on learning

Meeting the needs of individual students through:

- improved access to supported learning environments - real and virtual
- exposure to a wide range of information and learning material
- opportunities to engage in different learning activities

Impact on tutors

- **more diverse student groups**
- **changing student expectations**
- **impact of new technology**
- **use of resource-based work**
- **changing role and skills**

Impact on Learning Centre staff

- **broader roles**
- **skills and experience**
- **career patterns**
- **educational focus**
- **collaborative working**
- **culture**

“The use of information resources - of whatever type - can fundamentally change the character of programmes of study and research...”

The key challenge for librarians is to collaborate with academic colleagues to exploit the potential of information resources in programmes of study and in research...

***...and to develop appropriate
information skills in students.”***

Reflections: success factors

- **collaborative, multi-professional teams**
- **academics receptive to others**
- **educational role of academic services staff**
- **supportive institutional frameworks**
- **share good practice**
- **multiple approach to institutional developments**

Research agenda

- **how do students interact with electronic learning environments?**
- **what are the changing needs of students working in libraries and learning centres?**
- **how can we identify and meet the learning requirements of individuals?**
- **what are the implications for the role of librarians and learning centre staff?**

Future developments

- **integrated support for students**
- **professional roles and boundaries**
- **materials for eLearning**
- **real and virtual environments**
- **flexible working for 24 x 7 x 52**