

mStir: IS Gets into Smart Phones!

Information Services is currently investigating how its services and those of the University may take advantage of the new generation of mobile phones, known as smart phones, to improve services to students. As part of this work, the mStir trial will be operating throughout this semester.

To access mStir, enter m.stir.ac.uk into your phone's web browser. mStir contains a number of trial apps for the use of current students to help us explore the possibilities and limitations of providing a wider range of smart phone services in the future. Apps in this trial include:

- > find the locations of free PCs in the Labs and library

- > listen to Listen Again recordings of lectures
- > browse the library catalogue
- > useful University and staff contact numbers
- > how to use IS services videos
- > sports news including results

IS wants to know how useful you find these apps and what others you would like to see. There is a feedback app in mStir which you can use to tell us your experiences and aspirations.

Mark Toole

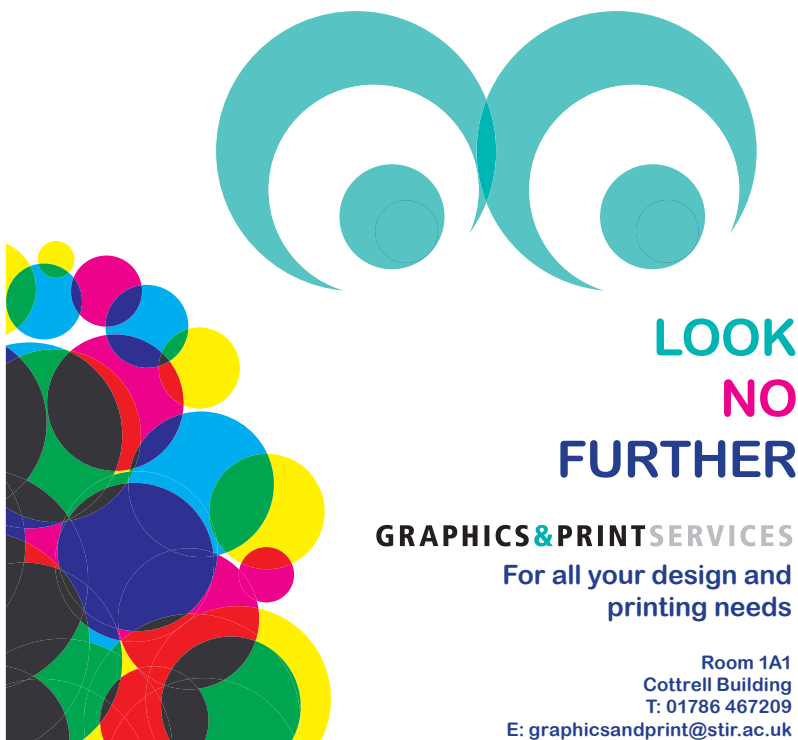
Director of Information Services



The mStir mobile interface

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Purchase of Joe Ingleby Sculpture

With generous assistance from the National Fund for Acquisitions, the Art Collection has recently purchased Joe Ingleby's Reservoir Tap. This outside steel sculpture is a welcome new addition to the permanent Art Collection, and will already be familiar to many, since it has been on loan to the University since 1995.

Reservoir Tap was made for the 1995 Scottish Sculpture Open 8 at Kildrummy Castle, Aberdeenshire, which then toured to the University of Stirling's MacRobert Arts Centre. At the end of the exhibition, the Curator of the Art Collection requested that Ingleby's work remain sited within the grounds as a loan. Over a number of years this temporary measure has been renewed to such an extent that Reservoir Tap has become part of the landscape of the campus, including being featured on the front of the 'Stirling Alumni' magazine (Autumn 2006) and as part of the Art Collection web site. The purchase has secured its future with the University.

Joe Ingleby is a Glasgow-based artist whose work regularly combines the natural and the mechanistic. Reservoir Tap is a sheet steel work with a cogged section that 'holds the lid' on a lower vat-like base. This lower section is suggestive of the emerging top of an underground vat or reservoir. Above, the metamorphic cogged shape opens up, leaf-like. It is a loosening lid or tap, evolving into an organic form, teetering to break free. With its 'reservoir' reference it is appropriately sited near a small loch close to the MacRobert.

We are very pleased to have been able to ensure that this well-loved sculpture remains a permanent



The Reservoir Tap by Joe Ingleby

feature on the site. For those interested in Ingleby's work, other publicly sited examples can be found nearby in Alloa (Time Vessel, 1998, is situated on Clackmannan Road) as well as in Rutherglen, Glasgow (Slipstream, 2001 overlooks the Clyde at Dalmarnock Bridge).

Rhona Ramsay

Part-time Curator, Art Collection

Document Delivery for 3rd Year Students

From this semester, access to the Document Delivery service will be extended to third-year undergraduate students. It had previously been available only to staff, postgraduate, and fourth-year students. The primary reason for extending the service is not only the direct benefit to third years, but also for future dissertation support. Feedback from fourth-year students suggests many of them are not aware of the service until it is too late for them to make full use of it for their dissertation. Earlier introduction might help this, and the email we send to all fourth-year students will become a reinforcement message rather than an introductory one.

There are some necessary limitations on how the service can be used. Most importantly it is for individual research only; Document Delivery cannot be used by students on the same taught course researching the same topic. This is a legal restriction, but it also makes practical sense in that if more than one student requires the material it would be much better to purchase and make it available in the Library collection in the normal way.

The extension will initially be for a trial period to assess whether the additional costs and staff resource can be absorbed without detriment to the overall service. Currently

electronically-delivered articles cost £5.94, and books £9. In addition there is an asbestos problem in the British Library affecting much of their collection, which means much more work in sourcing documents must be done in-house.

David Gardiner

Library and IT Enquiry Services

Information Services Newsletter Schedule for 2011

ISSUE is produced bi-monthly by Information Services for staff and students of the University. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be sent to the editor Steve Boulton, ext 6883, email steven.boulton@stir.ac.uk.

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