



## May 2014 Updates

Issue 12, May 2014

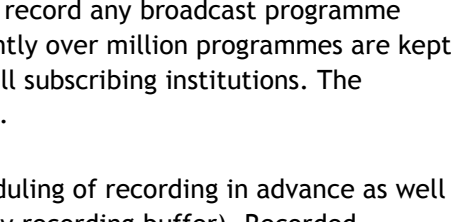
This monthly e-newsletter for UCL's E-Learning Champions will alert you to learning technology related events and developments. Please do forward this on to any of your colleagues who may also benefit. All E-Learning Champions have been subscribed to this list and you are welcome to invite others to subscribe for future newsletters using the link at the bottom of this page.

### Did you know?

Using Moodle Discussion Forums means you don't need to answer the same question multiple times. In the forums you reply once and everyone sees your response. Also, if you don't reply straight away students can also reply to help each other.

[Find out more...](#)

### Box of Broadcasts (BoB)



UCL staff and students have access to BoB (Box of Broadcasts)! Bob National is shared online off-air TV and radio recording service for UK higher and further education institutions. You can choose and record any broadcast programme from over 60 TV and radio channels. Currently over million programmes are kept in BoB archive and shared by users across all subscribing institutions. The recorded programmes are kept indefinitely.

The system allows on and off-campus scheduling of recording in advance as well as scheduling of missed programmes (30 day recording buffer). Recorded programmes can be grouped into playlists and edited into clips. Clips can be embedded into VLE and shared with other BoB subscribers.

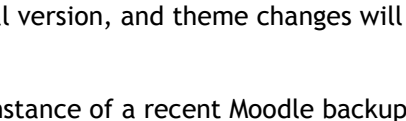
BoB features include:

- all BBC TV and radio content dating from 2007 (800,000+ programmes)
- over 10 foreign language channels, including French, German and Italian
- searchable transcripts
- links to social media
- a one-click citation reference, allowing you to cite programmes in your work

To access BoB, go to <http://bobnational.net>, choose UCL and use your UCL login details.

[Launch BoB now...](#)

### Moodle 2.6 - coming to UCL this summer...



The first release of the new Moodle 2.6 theme is on the [User Acceptance Testing \(UAT\) site](#). Bear in mind that this is not the final version, and theme changes will be added to the UAT instance incrementally.

This UAT version is created from an upgraded instance of a recent Moodle backup, which means that it contains your course data, layouts, templates etc. with the new Moodle 2.6 code and theme applied to it.

It is our intention to release updates to this environment at a minimum every 2 weeks up the point we do the actual upgrade on July 4th.

By providing you access to this instance we hope that you will do one or more of the following

- Provide constructive feedback on the look and feel of the new Moodle Theme as we introduce various elements over the next two months
- Review your course and see what features maybe affected by the upgrade or indeed even broken.

Beyond testing functionality, do not do any 'live' work in the UAT version - it is liable to be overwritten/deleted with no notice.

Please direct any feedback/comments/issues to [ele@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ele@ucl.ac.uk).

It will be useful for you to look in the current week's release notes and the [Moodle 2.6 FAQ list](#) to check that your issue hasn't already been logged.

Regards

The E-learning Environments team

### DigiFest update

Planning for our digital festival in November is now properly under way, but it is far from too late for you and your students to get involved!

Festival themes:

Activism | Politics | Ethics | Citizenship  
 Making | Sharing | Collaboration | Creative Commons  
 Identity | Professionalism | Footprint  
 Learning Technology | Future University

If you would like to contribute sessions/workshops/debates/discussions/demos/makes/hacks on any of the above themes, please [head over to Google+](#) and join our constantly growing planning group.

We are also hosting a series of online and face-to-face meetups to give everyone a chance to pitch in. Details on the Google+ Community page.

[Find out more...](#)

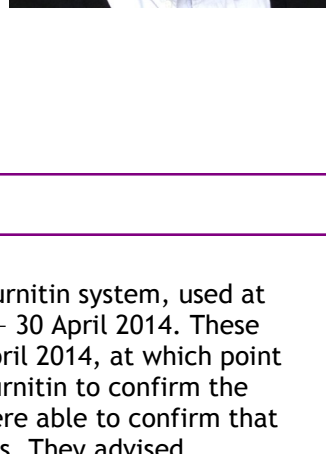
### Introducing Luke Davis

Communications Manager (Education) Luke Davis is the editor of the Teaching and Learning Portal - a one-stop shop for news, case studies and resources on the subject of teaching at UCL. We asked him about his work on the site and how UCL staff can get involved.

[Read more...](#)

Contact Luke at [l.davis@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:l.davis@ucl.ac.uk)

Visit the Portal at [www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning)



### Turnitin issues between 28-30 April 2014

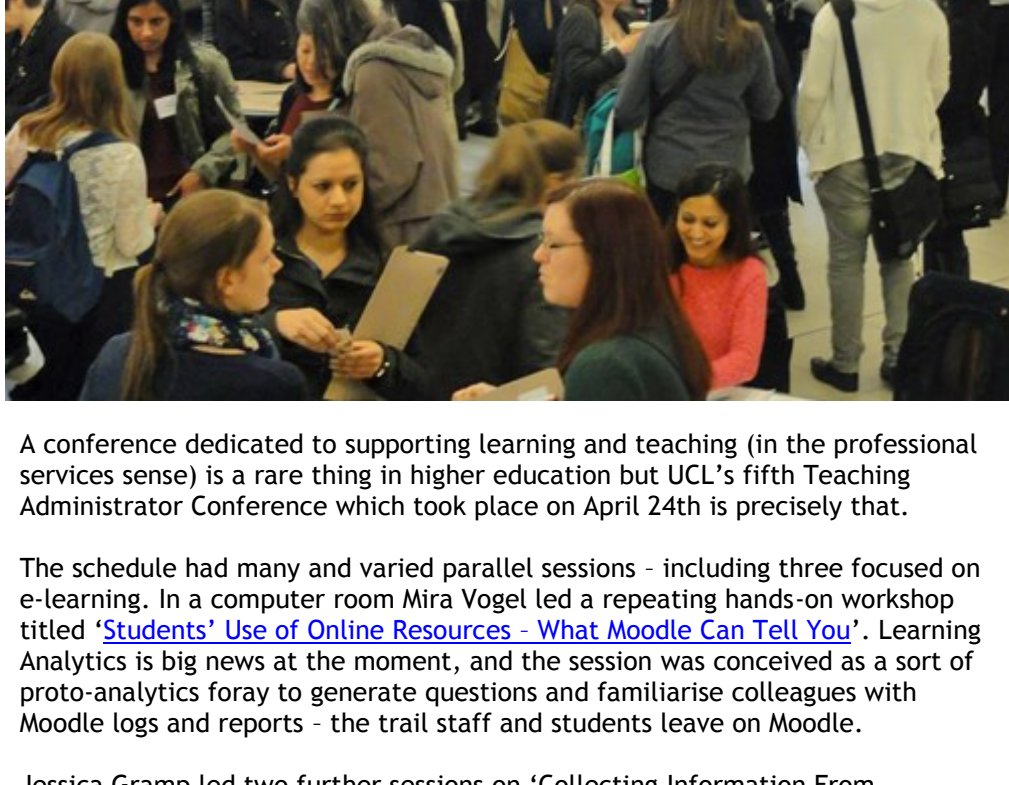
There was a prolonged period of problems with the Turnitin system, used at UCL for the submission, which lasted from 28 - 30 April 2014. These issues began at around 09:15 AM BST on Monday 28 April 2014, at which point the E-Learning Environments (ELE) team contacted Turnitin to confirm the issues were external to UCL. The Turnitin UK team were able to confirm that the system was experiencing intermittent global issues. They advised monitoring the updates on their Twitter feed @TurnitinStatus.

All of the issues were resolved at 08:10AM BST on Wednesday 30 April 2014 and it was announced that Turnitin UK had recovered from the backlog with no delays. For more details on the outage please [see the related E-Learning Environments blog post](#).

ELE would like to thank all of the staff and students who were attempting to use the system during this time, for their patience as understanding during this external issue.

[Read more...](#)

### UCL Teaching Administrator Conference 2014



A conference dedicated to supporting learning and teaching (in the professional services sense) is a rare thing in higher education but UCL's fifth Teaching Administrator Conference which took place on April 24th is precisely that.

The schedule had many and varied parallel sessions - including three focused on e-learning. In a computer room Mira Vogel led a repeating hands-on workshop titled '[Students' Use of Online Resources - What Moodle Can Tell You](#)'. Learning Analytics is big news at the moment, and the session was conceived as a sort of proto-analytics foray to generate questions and familiarise colleagues with Moodle logs and reports - the trail staff and students leave on Moodle.

Jessica Gramp led two further sessions on 'Collecting Information From Students - How Moodle Can Help'. Jess discussed the relative merits of Opinion and Moodle Questionnaire for course evaluation questionnaires, and demonstrated how Moodle Database allowed students to submit a project proposal and register first and second choices of supervisor at the same time.

Domi Sinclair led a session titled 'Designing Moodle for Your Future Self and Future Colleagues' in which participants took the opportunity to discuss and plan for (or even resolve) some of the pains at roll-over time. There were plenty of sessions related to matters other than e-learning, including Monitoring Student attendance and Engagement, Managing Student Expectations for Academic and Administrative Support, and Supporting Students With Disabilities.

[Read more...](#)

### UCL Teaching & Learning Exchange



**UCL Teaching & Learning Exchange: Disciplinary self defence: threshold concepts & incommensurability**  
 1-2pm Wed 14th May - Malet Place Engineering Building 1.02

The buzz around interdisciplinarity is usually about possibility; the language around threshold concepts, or disciplines as paradigms, is similarly about 'enabling'. This talk takes its cue from the work of the anthropologist Mary Douglas and turns over stones to see what happens when a discipline's integrity is perceived to be at stake and which models can give us a more nuanced map of the learning landscape.

[Register here...](#)

### Upcoming Summits & Horizons sessions

**E-Learning Champions PechaKucha**  
 19th May 2014 from 1pm-2pm

E-Learning Champions and others will share experiences and anecdotes of e-learning initiatives from across UCL in this quick-fire fun format.

Sessions include a sandwich lunch.

[Register here...](#)



### Designing Learning Landscapes: Mobile, Open, Inclusive

9:00 - 17:00 Friday, 30 May 2014

Goldsmiths University of London

This one-day, free conference is devoted to mapping the impact of technology-enhanced learning (TEL) in higher education over the last decade. The opening keynote is UCL's very own Andrea Sella, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry.

Panel discussions include:

- Developing Digital Literacies
- Distance Learning Case Studies
- Assessment
- SOOCs, Study Skills and E-portfolios
- Learning Analytics and OER

[Register here...](#)

### E-Learning Case Study

**Making history with iPads, peer assessment and MyPortfolio**

Dr Paul Walker, CALT, and Dr Zubin Mistry, UCL History, presented attendees at the UCL Teaching and Learning Conference 2014 with a pioneering first-year undergraduate history module.

[Read more...](#)

[Sign up to the UCL Teaching and Learning newsletter](#) for news, features, practical information and a column by the Vice-Provost (Education).