Please do make your students aware of the course and encourage them to complete it. It is in their interests to make the best start possible to their studies.

On all fronts

As you can see from our poster (above) we are going all out on all fronts to communicate to our students the resources and support they can get from both the library and IT services.

To support this further we will be repeating the half-hour “bite-size” sessions that were piloted last year. These will be run throughout the term and we will be letting you know when they are promoted.

Well, quite a lot it seems from all the information specialists sporting sore throats following induction week in which we saw all the new entrants (first year, direct entrants and masters) throughout the university.

This was just the first step in our induction campaign.

With the move to the Digital Learning Environment, this year’s Library and IT student induction includes an interactive course in Moodle, which was heavily promoted during our induction sessions.

We want to ensure that all new students get access to up-to-date, accurate and consistent information and that they are aware of all the services and support available to them.

Essentials

The Library and IT Essentials course can be found under Help/Student Materials on the DLE. You will also find material there about the DLE for returning students. Students will need to self-enrol for the course and then it will appear in their My Courses. All the basic information for getting started with Library & IT can be accessed anytime, anyplace, at the student’s own pace, and revisited if they need a refresher.

Quiz

The aim is to provide a quick and easy introduction to the Library and IT systems. There is an optional quiz at the end of the course for students to check they have taken in the key points and checklists for them to use to ensure they are course ready.

Please do make your students aware of the course and encourage them to complete it. It is in their interests to make the best start possible to their studies.
Graduation films

The Multimedia team has enjoyed another successful graduation. The whole team has worked very hard to film a number of honorary graduates sporting colours and countless student interviews. There are a number of videos that showcase the week up on the university’s YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/Plymouthuniversity](https://www.youtube.com/Plymouthuniversity).

And to blow our own trumpet for a moment they even had some nice things to say about the library.

We can fix it!

Visitors over the summer may have noticed we’ve had the builders in again. This is what they have been up to:

- Improvements to entrance area including an upgrade to the card reading mechanism on the access gates in the library foyer. New access arrangements mean that a separate reception desk is no longer required, freeing up library staff to provide ‘roving’ support at busy times of day.
- Visitor sign-in kiosk for students and staff who have forgotten their ID card which prints a one-day pass.
- LED lighting installed throughout the ‘old’ part of the building which improves lighting levels; reduces power consumption and enables significant cost savings in a 24/7 building.
- Online booking and self-service access to study rooms, using ID card & PIN. Students no longer have to queue at the information desk to collect and return a study room key.
- Complete review of signage in CSH Library & Babbage 102, with emphasis on clear, bright, directional signage. Graphic Communications & Typography students worked through July on design ideas for improved signage. Feedback from student focus groups told us that customers were confused by an overload of posters, so we are trying to keep it simple.
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New look Libguides

Over the summer we have given our Libguides a facelift. The launch of a new version has given us the opportunity to simplify the navigation and make them easier to use. We have also brought the subject specific resources more centre stage as the top feature on each subject homepage.

Another feature is that the Libguides will now be mobile device friendly.

Using past exam papers in your Moodle course

Staff can now provide links to past exam papers via their DLE course sites. Library staff will upload the papers onto the resource store and then staff can create the links on the relevant courses, providing students with quick access to the past papers. See here for more information.

The Lovely Lynda.com

An exciting new training and learning resource has now been launched and is available to all students and staff at Plymouth University.

Lynda.com is a comprehensive library of video-based training resources covering everything from commonly used software packages such as Microsoft Office to specialised applications in subject areas such as photography or web-development, as well as more generic topics including presentation, time management and negotiation skills.

Lynda.com’s online courses are continually updated and taught by industry experts. Each online course is divided into timed segments; you can watch just what is needed to answer a specific question, select the course transcript, brush-up on a new feature or, of course, view the entire course.

You can learn more about lynda.com by watching the introductory movie about the service and also how to use lynda.com.

Here are just a few of the benefits of using this service:

- Access to over 2800 courses and 110,000 tutorials with new releases every week
- Courses are available to view on your desktop, mobile or tablet device
- Watch complete courses or select topics as you need them
- Learn at your level, with beginner to advanced courses
- Up-to-date content helps to keep your skills current

Use your existing username and password to access this new resource http://lynda.plymouth.ac.uk

News & Events

Stay up to date with Library news by following @PlymUniLib on Twitter
Requesting off-profiles and ILLs

Those of you who have been to our Aspire training sessions will be aware of the new way of requesting copyright cleared e-offprints of journal articles and book chapters. However, our more seasoned Aspire users and those yet to do the course may have missed it. The process is very straightforward and there are simple instructions on our Aspire support pages.

Personal ILLs are still to be requested via Primo Academics and students are now able to place Inter Library Loans using a new mobile-friendly ILL web form. As well as looking good it makes notable staff efficiencies by automatically populating our system ready for sending to the British Library, thus reducing the time that was previously spent copying and pasting. The form can be accessed via the Primo homepage, as before.

...and finally

Drew & Co., our electricians, have been doing work in the lighting in the bookable study rooms. They were surprised to find hidden above the ceiling tiles not only hidden stashes of books but also pizza and takeaway boxes as well as the odd (empty) bottle of beer.

This newsletter is brought to you by your friendly neighbourhood information specialists...

Don’t forget that you can find out who is your Information Specialist as well as the resources and support for your subject area by looking at the Library Subject Guides.