

Information Strategy Update

Key achievements

Google Apps launched



The University is going Google! We are now rolling out Google Apps for Education to staff and students at the University. Students can sign up now from the student homepage. Google Apps provides:

- 25Gb of email quota
- An improved webmail and calendar interface
- Online collaborative software for documents, spreadsheets, presentations and other types of files
- Text and video chat, sites, groups, Google+ and other apps.

Harry Fairhurst Building open

The Harry Fairhurst Building opened in April 2011, offering:

- 550 new study spaces for students
- Collaborative and group study areas with flexible, modern furniture
- Specialist area for research postgraduates
- IT facilities and IT support.

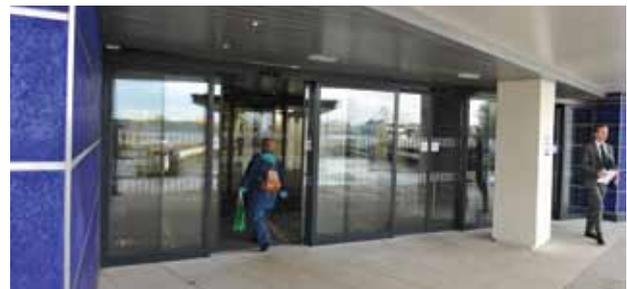


Photo by John Houlihan

Library refurbishment: complete February 2012

The £20m University Library refurbishment will be completed in February 2012, featuring:

- Improved study areas, IT classrooms and collaborative suites
- New entrance, opened October 2011
- New Library Café.



New student homepage launched

A new student home page with access to personalised news, links, timetables, library account and other key student systems was launched in October 2011. The new home page has received great feedback from users so far. However, this is only the beginning – further improvements

to the homepage are planned over the next year that will bring in new features and more personalised content.



Read on for further information about developments completed this year and coming soon...

World class information for teaching and research

- We continue to expand our **library collections** and have acquired **hundreds of e-journals, thousands of e-books and millions of digital images** across a wide range of subject disciplines over the past year.
- The **archive of Alan Ayckbourn**, one of the country's foremost dramatists, has been acquired by the University. The archive will be available to staff, students and the public in the Borthwick Institute for Archives. As part of the project, an Educational Outreach Officer will be employed within the TFTV department to forge closer links with the region's schools.
- The **University has been invited to join Research Libraries UK**, a prestigious group of leading research libraries in the UK and Ireland. The invitation is a reflection on the investment the University has made in its staff, buildings and services.
- The Library and Archives were pleased to win **JISC funding to digitise records of the York Cause Papers**. The York Cause Papers are held at the Borthwick Institute and are records of cases heard at the Church Courts of the diocese of York between 1300 and 1858. The work will be accessible from an online database and allow users to access high quality images of each Cause Paper page.



Photo by John Houlihan

New systems and tools

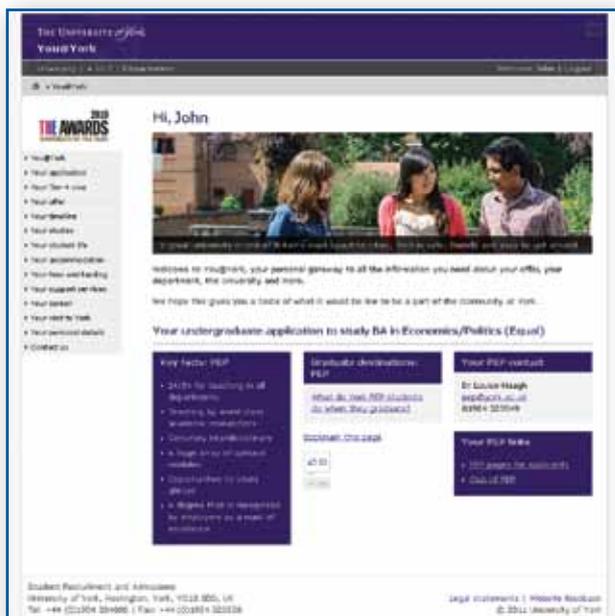
- **Windows 7 and Office 2010** were rolled out in all IT classrooms and study areas in Summer 2011, offering the latest Microsoft software to all students through supported PCs.
- **A Research and Information System** was launched in November 2010. The system stores data on research published by academics at the University, contributing to the University's research assessment and providing up-to-date profiles of staff for the University website.
- A **wiki service** was launched in October 2011. The service allows for collaboration and sharing of documentation between users across departments.
- Trials of a **high stakes e-assessment tool** have taken place during 2011 to investigate the possibility of providing a centrally supported service for delivering electronic assessments. The findings will provide recommendations for a future service.
- **York Print Plus** was rolled out to students in Summer 2011, replacing older printers with modern, multifunction devices that support printing, copying, scanning and faxing. The new system offers an improved service with massive cost and environmental savings to the University.
- A project to provide a **web-based system for submitting module preferences** has been started, which will allow students to choose their preferred modules online.

Improving access to information

- The **University's Timetabling system** has been overhauled during the last 12 months and now provides new facilities to download or subscribe to individual timetables, improved searching and printing functionality and additional information about activities. Further works are underway to support process improvement with Departments and links to other key systems.
- YorkSpace, a portal for University alumni, was launched in July 2011.** The site allows alumni to keep in touch with each other and the University free of charge, and provides access to professional networks, career support and the ability to book on alumni events and free public lectures.
- You@York, the new gateway for undergraduate offer holders, was launched in October 2011.** Content is tailored for users, recognising them by name and displaying information about their department, including typical graduate destinations, key facts and contact details. Offer holders can manage parts of their application online, book visit days and see their fee status. They can also find out what it's like to be a student at York by completing interactive VLE modules available on the site.



- Digital Screens** have been installed in a number of locations across the University, allowing for timely news and information to be relayed quickly across the campus.
- A new **University Card** has been launched. It has a new design and will become the single card used for building access, library, printing, sports centre and other uses.
- The University **internet connectivity has now doubled in capacity**, following the installation this year of a second link to the JANET network.
- Wireless access improvements** have been made across the University in the last year. All buildings on Heslington East have wi fi access, with the Library and Harry Fairhurst Building also having wi fi throughout.
- A new **online recruitment system** was launched in September 2011, offering a streamlined process for reviewing and shortlisting job applications, speeding up the selection process.
- YorSearch, the Library search tool, was updated in September 2011.** The upgrade allows users to search for both books and articles from the same interface for the first time. The system will be upgraded later this year to also include results from White Rose Research Online.
- The University has agreed to become an early adopter of the **next generation Library Management System, Alma**. This important step allows the University to influence the development of our next Library system, which will support the University's growing digital resources.



Digital library developments

The York Digital Library (YODL) launched in March 2011, offering access to useful electronic resources for staff and students. Key resources added to YODL in the past year include:

- Exam papers from the past 5 years, now easily accessible online to all students
- A selection of Masters theses from the York Management School, Centre for Medieval Studies and other Departments
- Items from Library Special Collections, Minster Library, Borthwick Archives and Mount School
- Further teaching collections of images under licence from the History of Art Department

The Library now provides an **Electronic Key Texts Service** that makes core materials for courses available electronically, improving access for students to essential reading.

The **art world in Britain 1660 to 1735** project launched in October 2011, offering online sources and research tools relating to the arts in early modern Britain. The project is a collaboration between the University Library, the History of Art Department and Tate Britain.



About the Strategy

The University Information Strategy was developed in 2008 through a wide consultation process. £1.5m was allocated by the University to help kick-start the strategy, along with £20m for Library and learning spaces.

Developments towards the strategy are a collaboration between support and academic departments, with user input from staff, students, researchers and other users.

Further information and updates

For regular updates on Information Strategy projects, visit the Information website at: www.york.ac.uk/information-directorate

Comments and ideas

Please send any comments on these developments or additional ideas to meet your information needs to: Stephen Town, email: stephen.town@york.ac.uk or Ian Hall, email: ian.hall@york.ac.uk
Staff and students can also give feedback to their Academic Liaison Librarians.