The Learning Centre approach to eLearning

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Aims

- to set the University background
- to describe the Learning Centre model and work in eLearning
- to assess the impact on students, academic staff and LC staff
- to draw out key issues for success

Sheffield Hallam University Profile

- 23,000 students
- 2,800 staff
- 10 Schools of Study
- 5 Research Institutes
- 3 campuses
- Annual budget £110 m

Challenges for universities

- broadening participation in higher education
- continuing funding pressures
- exploit new technologies
- reach out to new student markets
- competition in a global market

Learning Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Sheffield Hallam University

- flexible delivery
- high quality support for diversity of students
- exploit potential of new technology

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
- media production studio
- Learning and Teaching Institute
- Learning and Teaching Research Institute

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

"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, <u>The Guardian</u>, 29 September 1998

Virtual libraries

An alternative to new buildings? but...

- social dimension
- staff support
- centralisation
- change in activities

The virtual learning environment

" ...the eighth virtual floor of the Learning Centre...

 ...The aim is to create an electronic environment which replicates all the activities of the real environment...

...allowing students to move seamlessly between the two...

...in a way which meets their own needs."

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

[   ] GO!

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

Blackboard

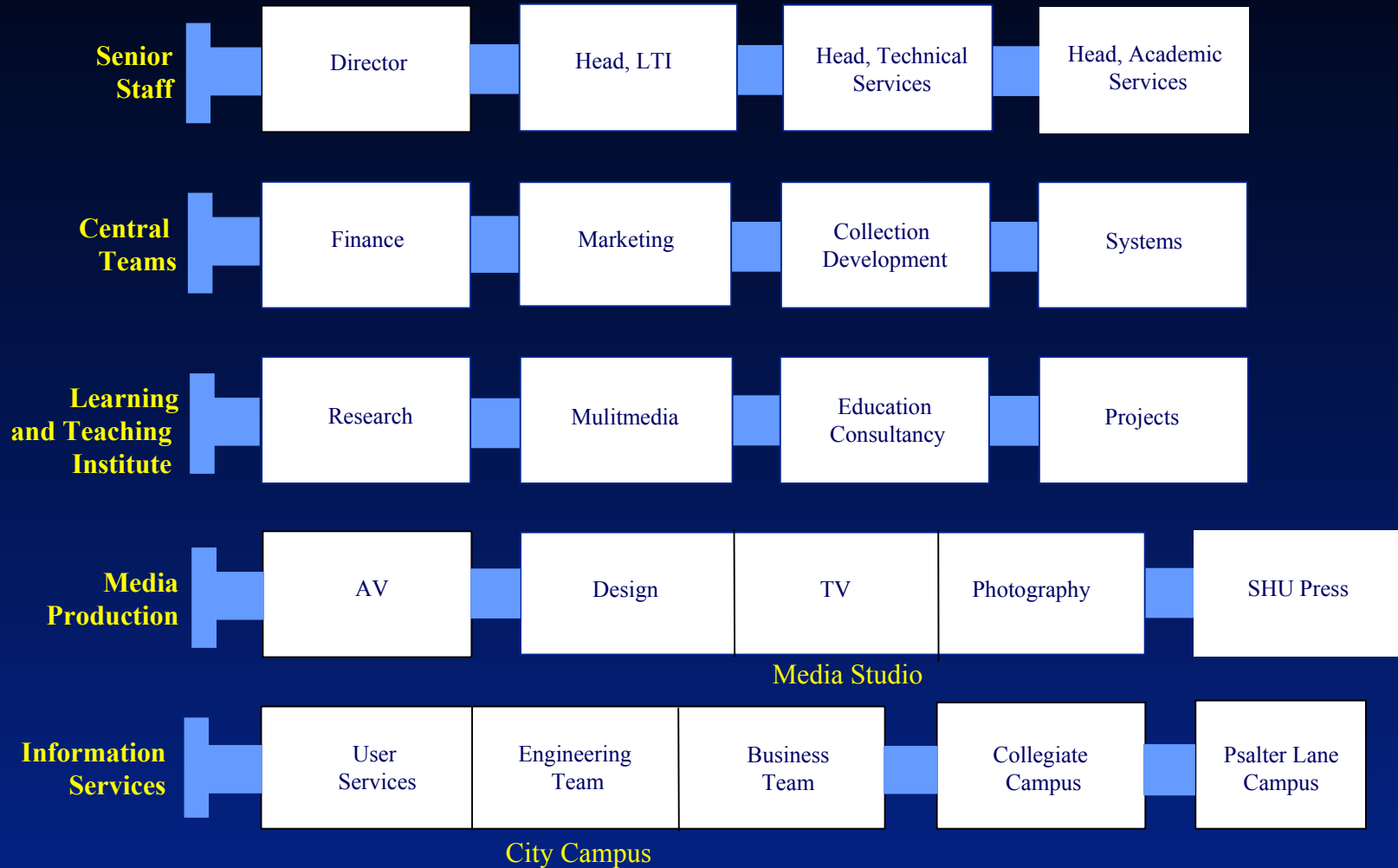|	Bb	Total
Enrolled users	10,000	23,000
Enrolled instructors	580	1,000
Courses	270	5,000

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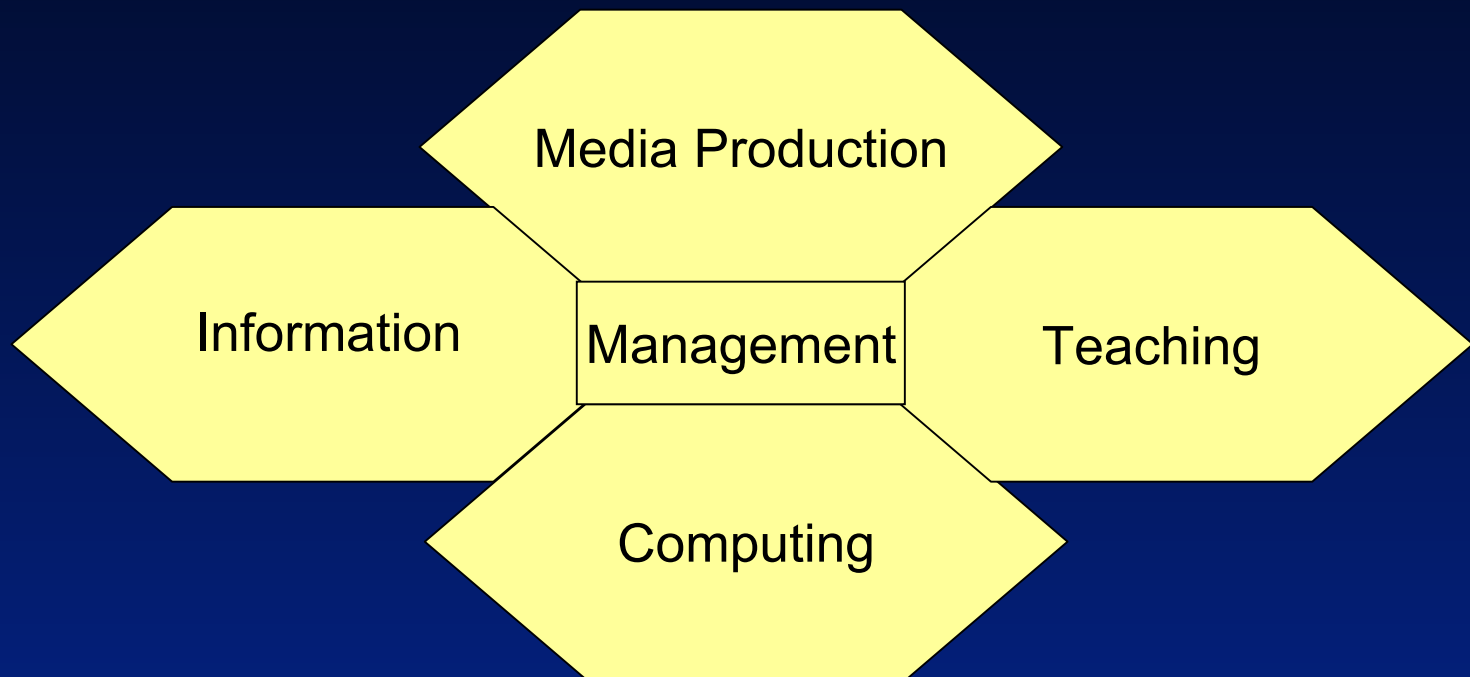
1. course information and documentation
2. teaching materials
3. links to information sources
4. communication and discussion
5. assessment
6. learning materials

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Learning Centre
Team Structure Chart

Senior Staff	Director	Head, LTI	Head, Technical Services	Head, Academic Services

Central Teams	Finance	Marketing	Collection Development	Systems

Learning and Teaching Institute	Research	Mulitmedia	Education Consultancy	Projects

Media Production	AV	Design	TV	Photography	SHU Press

Media Studio

Information Services	User Services	Engineering Team	Business Team	Collegiate Campus	Psalter Lane Campus

City Campus

Staff development framework

Case study: Multimedia (1)

initial concept *(senior staff)*

literature survey *(Information Specialists)*

discussions with academic staff *(LTI)*

production of material *(media studio)*

customisation of material *(multimedia designers)*

Case study: Multimedia (2)

staff development work *(LTI)*

technical support *(systems team)*

support for presentations *(AV staff)*

support for students *(Information advisers)*

evaluation *(educational researchers)*

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

	hours
Lectures	10
Seminars	2
Tutorials	1
Supported independent study	13
Unsupported independent study	14
TOTAL:	*40*

"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 students

- meets expectations of learning style
- volume and depth of demand
- skills development
- changing support requirements
- trend towards integrated use of resources
- some evidence of improved academic performance

Impact on tutors

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

Key issues for success

- 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

eLearning developments

- **University strategy**
- **annual plans**
- **staff development**
- **projects**
- **course validation**
- **evaluation**

The Learning Centre has collaborated with Schools and departments to provide:

- **the educational lead**
- **integrated support**
- **research and evaluation**

 for eLearning