

new !08 learning

9th July 2008
Institute of Education
London

Connecting the Future to the Past



National
Archive of
Educational
Computing

A one-day conference to share
hindsight from the past of educational
computing, create **insight** for the
present and **foresight** for the future.



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Aims & Objectives

New Learning '08 is the first in a series of events organised by Core Education UK, a not-for-profit consultancy, to further its aim to develop learning with technology.

This event is titled 'Connecting the Future to the Past' to reflect Core UK's interest in developing the National Archive of Educational Computing as a resource to inform present and future decisions.

A one-day conference to share **hindsight** from the past of educational computing, create **insight** for the present and **foresight** for the future.

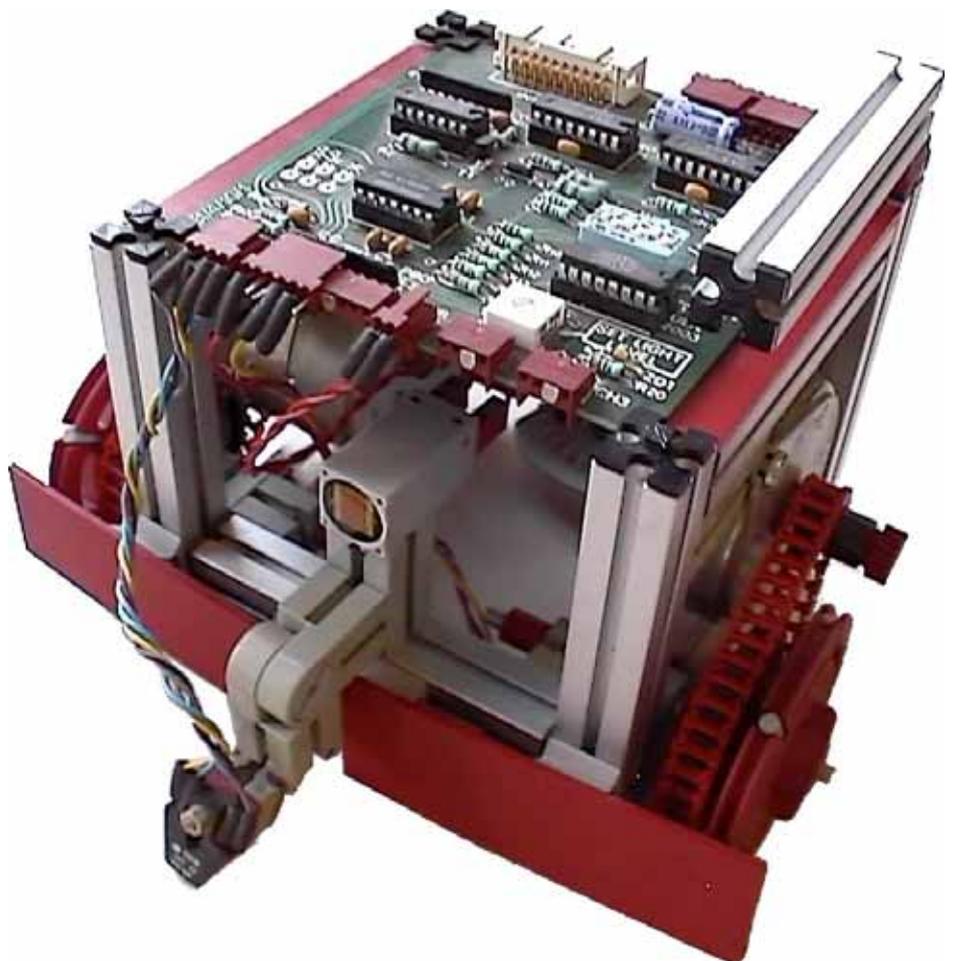
The development of educational computing in the UK began in the early 1970s. This has resulted in a wealth of knowledge, experience and artefacts. It is timely now to look at these materials and to represent them as an accessible and substantially complete collection of one nation's pioneering and world-renowned innovation. The 500 boxes of materials collected by Ultralab throughout the last eighteen years have been secured, and together with other partial collections could form a substantial archive. A website has been developed for this project, <http://www.naec.org.uk/>, which now needs further work.

The **aim** of the day is to discuss and identify the value of the archive materials in the context of interpretation and and to demonstrate support for further participation and development.

The **substance** of the event will be a serious consideration of past experience in terms of its power to inform future decision-making.

The **objectives** of the day will be to:

1. Identify a list of factors which could be incorporated into a public statement;
2. have participants sign up to the statement;
3. have participants commit to their level(s) of support within the following:
Say What You Know About / Tell A Story Or Two / Contribute Stuff / Edit The Material / Advise On Curation / Organise Meetings / Find Support;
4. listen to alternative views and advice for later consideration;
5. lay the foundations for creating an archive that is sustainable, understandable and of relevance to future generations;
6. enjoy our time together!



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Programme

09.30 Tea / coffee / registration

10.00 Mike Aston – My first (and last) meeting with Captain Grace Hopper

The question put to Mike when inviting him to speak was – ‘how can we harness past lessons to shape future education?’. Few could have been as assiduous in answering that question



through their actions – Mike keeps busy with projects currently in Swaziland, Zimbabwe, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Turkmenistan. He has a long history in educational computing pioneering A-level Computer Science in 1970 and going on to act as a key partner to Bill Tagg in the Advisory Unit for Computer Based Education in Hatfield. Writing in 1989, as a contribution to the future-gazing 2010 Education report, Mike speculated –

“2010 – Learning about computers confined to small elitist group of pupils, studying in specialist centres. All other children continually assessed on their performance, with I. T. being the main form of delivery. They will have no understanding of how they are manipulated by the technology or of how it works.”

“2010 – Archimedes spotted at jumble sale in Potters Bar, but unfortunately no software available to test whether it still works.”

Both have some truth and perhaps foresee the very need for this archive. Mike told me he get lots of ‘déjà-vu’ moments nowadays and he’s not sure we are learning from our mistakes or building well on our successes.

10.45 Break-out session 1 – Capturing stories and reflections

In this session we split into five groups to recount important, possibly personal, stories, but with a purpose – as well as identifying the ‘five Ws’ - When, Where, What, Who and Why, try to explain the impact your story had on you and others and, what you would advise for the future. If possible, capture the story in video / audio or online by completing the form on the website. (<http://www.naec.org.uk/stories>) As a group, plan to present the essence of the stories in three minutes!

12.00 Plenary report-back – Sharing our stories

Each group has three minutes to report their outcomes.

12.30 Lunch

13.30 John Davitt – Future technologies and the opportunities for learning

John has almost as long a legacy as Mike, but his focus has been on digital creativity and making sense of the issues through his writing and public speaking. Soon to keynote at the Alan November conference in Boston, John has run creative projects with schools, developed software and has delivered hundreds of training sessions that help teachers make the most of new technology. And, in all his work, bright new ideas are tempered with good old-fashioned common sense. “The more I think about it, the more I see myself as a guide to the blindingly obvious,” says John.



14.15 Break-out session 2 – Translating the morning’s stories into future action

In groups again, to consider how can we discover foundations which are reasonably future-proof from our experience so far with educational computing, and can we make the case for a National Archive of Educational Computing.

15.30 Plenary report back – Advice to policy, practice and parents

Each group has two minutes to report their outcomes, and a chance to clarify and discuss next steps together.

16.00 Conclude and depart

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Participants

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Venue & contact

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**A Centre for Excellence
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The **WLE Centre** is located on Level 4 of the main building of the **Institute of Education**, which is to the right of reception as you enter through the main door.

The address is: University of London, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 0AL.

The nearest **Underground Station** is **Russell Square** (Piccadilly Line). On leaving the station in Bernard Street, cross over the road and turn left. After 175m go straight over the traffic lights at the corner of Russell Square, then after 90m turn right into **Bedford Way**. The IOE main entrance is 90m on the left.

The WLE centre administrator is Manos Agianniotakis on 020 7911 5531.

Please contact Richard Millwood on 0779 055 8641 if you need any help.

