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Challenges and the future

Original Citation

Stone, Graham (2012) Challenges and the future. *Serials-eNews* (261). ISSN 1476-0576

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Well what a year! The end of UK Higher Education as we know it, budgets cuts, an internal restructure and voluntary severance scheme at the University of Huddersfield followed by the busiest first term any of us can remember! However, dwindling resources and change are not new phenomena, and if anything they will make us work smarter and keep pushing for the extra mile. 2011 has certainly seen some very innovative projects from Huddersfield, including the Library Impact Data Project (<http://library.hud.ac.uk/blogs/projects/lidp>), Huddersfield Open Access Publishing (<http://library.hud.ac.uk/blogs/projects/hoap/>), which aims to publish as many as 9 journals via the University Press in 2012, Lemon Tree - gamification in the library (<http://library.hud.ac.uk/blogs/projects/lemontree>) and the MyReading project (<http://library.hud.ac.uk/blogs/projects/myreading>) to name but a few.

2012 sees us entering a brave new world, where we will have to compete harder than ever with our competitors. But libraries continue to work together and projects such as KB+ (<http://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/KnowledgeBasePlus/Knowledge-Base-Plus--a-Shared-Service-for-UK-Academic-Institutions/>), the JISC eCollections service (<http://www.jiscecollections.ac.uk/>) and OAPEN-UK (<http://open-uk.jiscebooks.org/>) are innovative projects that show the kind of community led action we need in order to move forward. With resource cuts of over 5% a year becoming a reality, we need to negotiate harder than ever to protect the resources we need to support our students, researchers and academics. But we also need to come up with some real alternative solutions that are sustainable in the long term.