New Library Website

On Tuesday 4th September the new Library website will go live. We hope you like the new, cleaner look. The aim is to make it more intuitive for users and it will be interesting to hear comments from new students who have not been familiar with the former pages. The address remains, as ever: http://www.port.ac..uk/library
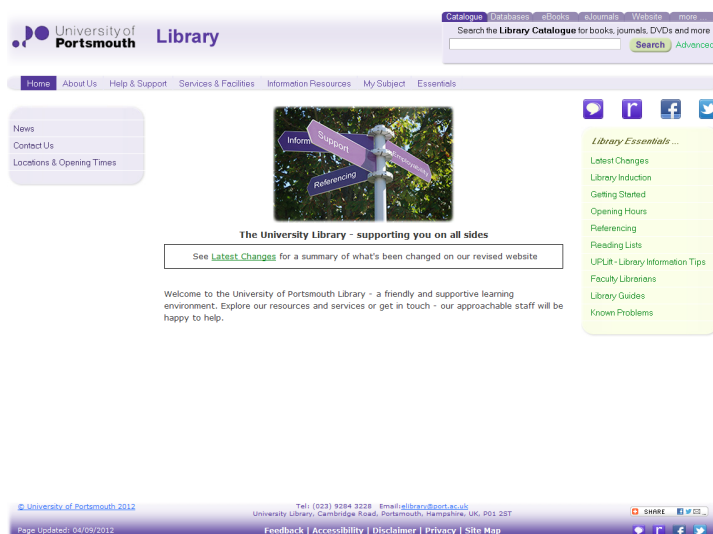
Essentially...
A couple of key things you'll no doubt note. There is a list of 'Library Essentials...' on the right hand side panel of many pages, and is always listed on the top bar menu. This list is simple to amend. So, for example, 'Library Induction' will be the near the top of the list for the next few weeks but then make way for something else. If you do have any ideas for items you'd like to see here, please let us know.

Search Widget
Perhaps the biggest change is the widget in the top right of the screen which keeps our search options visible at all times. This makes it possible to search the Library catalogue (or ebooks or the website and so on) at any point in your visit to our site. After some discussion it was felt best to let this widget default to the catalogue rather than the website, but let us know if you feel differently. May we take this opportunity to thank those staff who took the time and trouble to contribute thoughts on how you use the site and what's crucial in your teaching.

Discovery tool on the way
By Christmas this widget may also have within it (or have been replaced by) the discovery tool that we're planning on purchasing. For those who don't know a 'discovery tool' is a federated search option that will

search across many of our resources (catalogue, database journal articles, repository items and so forth) all in one go. It won't quite be the answer to life, the universe and everything as unfortunately it won't search *every* database, but it should make finding material of all kinds much simpler. We'll keep you posted on developments.

The URLy bird...
All your favourite pages should still be on the website and old URLs should work for some time to come, but you may wish to check any handouts, Moodle/Victory links and so on which you use to ensure that everything is up to date and students aren't left scratching their heads about where they've ended up.

Library Guides
One other significant change is to how we manage our large number of Library Guides. Some 214 altogether. You can find them here: http://www.port.ac.uk/library/guides/ or under Library Essentials. We reviewed them all over the summer laying out every single one on the floor to get a good overview. (See picture left). We've weeded some, we've rationalised others and even had a suggestion for a new one! The new management system that hosts them, however, should give us much better ways of keeping them up to date and allowing users to find them more easily. Try it and out and tell us what you think.

We trust you've had a good summer, been fired up by the dedication of the 'lympic athletes, and wish you all the best for the coming academic year.