Reading Technologies – online and on campus

Reading is a core part of the learning experience at University, but we all know it can be a barrier for many learners.

To help students achieve despite difficulties with reading, teams across Student & Academic Services have worked together to provide online and physical support materials.

studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/reading-notemaking/

This new section of the Study Hub
- provides advice on how to find alternative formats – like video and audio
- recommends free and easy to use assistive technology and text-to-speech software
- helps users to get the most from e-books
- suggests strategies to make reading less challenging

Accessible kit to use and borrow from the library

Students and staff can now borrow kit to make studying easier direct from the library shelves, such as reader-scanner pens, hearing loops and dictaphones. In the Pensryn Campus Library there is also a simple to use scanner which reads the text of any printed document out loud or saves to audio file. There is also a magnifier allowing users to enlarge printed material and change colours and contrast.

Drop in sessions

Inclusive Learning are running bookable 1:1 sessions on ‘Using free apps for study’. These sessions will provide an opportunity to discuss and try out online tools and apps and link these with effective study skills. If you, or a student you work with, would like to know more about this, please contact inclusive@fxplus.ac.uk or visit inclusive.fxplus.ac.uk/drop-sessions.

What’s New?

Investment in digital archives

Almost £1m was spent by University of Exeter Library this summer on acquiring significant new online resources for the University.

These include e-books, e-journal back issues and large numbers of digitised archives, identified as part of the C21 Research Library Strategy. The archives cover newspapers from the UK, the Americas, Russia, South Asia and the Caribbean, the full collection of the State Papers Online, specialist archives on African and Irish history, LGBTQ history and culture, crime and punishment, 18th century drama and the archives of the East India Company. For more information and to get access, see the Library’s A-Z list of all resources available.

Two libraries, one dynamic collection

With the move of School of Writing & Journalism (SoWJ) to Falmouth campus, the decision was made to build the book collection at Falmouth through user-led demand.

This means the existing book stock will remain at the Pensryn Campus, but can be requested by SoWJ staff and students to be transferred to the Falmouth campus. The requested books will be issued to the user, and when they are returned, the books will stay at Falmouth. In this way, we will slowly build a collection that is hand-picked by all in SoWJ.

Pressreader

Falmouth University users now have access to thousands of newspapers and magazines from all over the world via Pressreader.

These publications are displayed exactly as in the printed versions, creating a valuable tool for learning about visual layout of newspapers, magazines and advertising. There is also an app you can download to keep up to date with the latest news and opinion. First time users should login to https://tinyurl.com/falmouthpressreader

Pressreader with their University authentication. Create your own account and you can then download the app.

Support for online and blended learning

We are continually creating new materials to support online and blended learning. These include:

- Study Hub: studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/
- Falmouth University Library Subject Guides: libguides.exeter.ac.uk
- University of Exeter Libguides: libguides.exeter.ac.uk

- all your study support materials in one place.
- access to the key online resources for your subject.
- guides to the subject-specific resources and research & information skills.
- Have a look to check out what’s new.

Mental health training

Student and Academic Services is working with HR to enhance mental health training and awareness for student-facing staff. The teams are developing a new menu of resources, including briefing sheets, online tools and group learning opportunities to help staff deal more confidently with concerns presented by students, to understand their role, and to signpost students effectively. The initial launch will be later this autumn, and the resources will be developed over the course of the 2018-19 year.

Bookable sessions

The ASK Academic Skills, Library and Archives teams provide a range of sessions to help your students achieve their academic goals.

Our interactive workshops are designed to fit in with your modules and assignments and can cover topics such as research, writing, referencing, critical thinking, group work and more.

Download our bookable sessions leaflet, tinyurl.com/bookablesessions and get in touch with the Library, ASK or Archives team to discuss further.

Welcome back to all university academics! In this year’s Academic Advisor we tell you what’s new, who we are in FX Plus and how we can help you – from student support to practical, day to day contacts.

In this issue:

- Study Hub
- Accessible kit to use and borrow from the library
- Drop in sessions
- Pressreader
- Support for online and blended learning
- Mental health training
- Bookable sessions
- Falmouth University Library Subject Guides
- University of Exeter Libguides
- Mental health training
- Accessible kit to use and borrow from the library
- Drop in sessions
- Pressreader
- Support for online and blended learning
- Mental health training
- Bookable sessions
- Falmouth University Library Subject Guides
- University of Exeter Libguides
Learn a new Language - Evening classes available

We are pleased to offer part-time evening modern foreign language courses during the autumn and spring terms. From the week commencing Monday 8 October, courses will start in Italian, French, Spanish, German and Latin for a range of levels and abilities. Courses are conversational and non-credit bearing and are open to students, staff and alumni of Falmouth University and the University of Exeter in Cornwall. Partners and immediate family over 18 years may also attend. Register here: languages.fxplus.ac.uk/eveningcourses

Catering choice

We are constantly improving our catering with new ranges, recipes and more choice.

For instance, this term we are offering campus-grown wheatgrass ‘shots’ to add to drinks from the brand new juice bar in the Stannary. We are also focusing far more on sustainability and will be piloting lots of new ideas at the ESI café.

Summer Works

Have included the creation of innovative Learning Lounges, Writers’ spaces and library improvements.

The School of Writing and Journalism (SOWJ) has been moved lock, stock and barrel from Penryn to Falmouth Campus, the Student Services corridor has been significantly improved and AMATA Café has a lovely new look and feel - why not pop down for a coffee?

FX Plus in brief and how we can help you

A brand new directorate has been created over the summer. **Student and Academic Services** is the result of Library and Academic Skills and Student Services merging. This move will offer ‘one voice and one service’, enabling us to build on the existing strengths of both teams and to be more proactive in supporting you.

**Compass on and offline:** Compass Online provides student information and support in one central location, with 24-hour access to self-help solutions. The option to log an enquiry is also available for students if further support, information and advice is required. For all contact details see ‘useful contacts’.

The **Campus Experience** team looks after the things that can brighten up your working life including food and drink (AMATA, ESI, Fox and Kooi cafes and the Stannary Bar, Deli and Kitchen), Penryn Sports Centre, the Little Wonders Nurseries, Penryn Campus Shop and Falmouth Campus Art Shop. It also organizes bespoke conferences and events including graduation and open days.

The **Estates** team includes Timetabling – and send it as a request to log an enquiry is also available for students to offer guidance and support. There are bookable rooms in The Compass including the online portal, www.fxplus.ac.uk/student/compass

The combined Estates and Facilities Helpdesk provides a central point for you to make general enquiries, report faults or request maintenance or facilities services. The **IT Helpdesk** including FindMe printer breakdowns and toner/paper orders can print, scan and copy material for you and also look after the FindMe printers on site. Audio Visual Services (AVS) support teaching via lecture theatres and seminar rooms.