

## **Announcement**

### **eLit2006**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Digital Literacies and Education**

This year's conference will take place at the University of Loughborough, UK ([www.lboro.ac.uk](http://www.lboro.ac.uk)). Dates are Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006. The First Announcement and Call for Proposals will be issued in January 2006. These and further details of the event will also be available on the eLit conference website (<http://www.elit-conf.org>) from January 2006.

The eLit conference series seeks to draw together those working in the literacies of the digital environment and their implementation in and implications for educational settings. These literacies would include ICT literacy, information literacy, media literacy, visual literacy, communication literacy, as well as broader concepts of digital literacy or eLiteracy. eLit2006 offers the opportunity for academics, researchers, learning enablers and supporters, and policymakers to meet on a contentious and ever-shifting ground that lies between all of them.

The digital can be heralded as the philosopher's stone of student empowerment – “that turneth all to gold” – releasing and helping to channel intellectual expression and action; or as an ingredient in a poisonous mixture which threatens the integrity of educational processes – turning learners into cynical plagiarists focused on mindless attainment of minimum thresholds for certification. Whatever its nature, all of us who facilitate learning in any way need to confront the impact and the power of the digital and to enable learners (as well as teachers) to gain control of it and make effective use of it in educational settings. Presenting students with a set of digital tools or a virtual learning environment or a student portal is not enough; we must consider what skills, understandings and attitudes they need to make best use of them.

But digital literacies affect the whole of society too. All aspects of society and culture are affected by the digital – there is literally no way of escaping it – and it is therefore crucial that we accept that digital actions are the result of human choices and not of technological inevitability. Digital literacies are a social product and a social driver. Their acquisition cannot merely be taken for granted. We as educators need to confront the making of individuals as learners, as citizens and as people in a society pervaded by the digital. eLit2006 offers an opportunity to debate these issues, and ask how we can move them further up the social, political and educational agenda.

#### **Address for Correspondence**

Allan Martin

Email me at: [a.martin@educ.gla.ac.uk](mailto:a.martin@educ.gla.ac.uk)