# SSERC Conference 2009

The SSERC Conference and AGM was held in the Carnegie Conference Centre in Dunfermline at the end of November. In a successful and enjoyable programme the conference keynote address on the subject of "The Role of Web-based Resources in Science & Technology Education" was delivered by Ollie Bray [1], National Adviser for Emerging Technologies in Learning at LT Scotland [2]. In a witty and informative session Ollie encouraged the teaching profession to embrace the technology which younger people already use in a social way. To read more about what he said, have a look at Ollie's Blog post [3] or Twitter [4] him with your comments.

The official launch of the Science3-18.org website gave an opportunity to hear Ian Birrell, Network Designer at SSERC, update delegates on the progress made on development of the Science3-18.org over the past year. Ben St. Johnston and his team at Learning Curve Software in Edinburgh set up the initial structures and transferred all the materials from the old ISE 5-14 website. The new site is what is called a content-managed website meaning that we can offer 'google-esque' search facilities for users looking for resources etc.

Much of the development process has also taken place with help and feedback from a limited number of users who were given access to the new site when they requested to be registered with the



*Home page*



*Continuing Professional Development page*

old site. Since January 2009 word had got around and the site managed to clock up 150,000 pages viewed by some 25,000 visitors from 151 countries.

The Home Page is split into three main areas, namely *Curriculum Resources*, *Continuing Professional Development* and a link to the *SSERC SafetyNet* website [5]. The first of these has a menu structure which contains the Experiences and Outcomes for all science & technology-related CfE subject areas plus content statements and suggested practical activities for all SCQF learning outcomes up to Level 7. Therefore, they are available in one, easily searchable place.

An increasingly large number of exemplar articles continue to be added across all subject areas. To date, including curricular data, over 4000 articles have been added. Many of these will have been aired as practical activities, teaching methodologies and technician notes in some of the acclaimed SSERC-run CPD courses. Earlier this year we gathered a group of Primary teachers together and, with support and resources, asked them to come up with real, practical activities in support of the Experiences & Outcomes in CfE. You will need to log-on as a registered user to view these examples of 'Electricity Enterprise' and 'Ice Activities'.

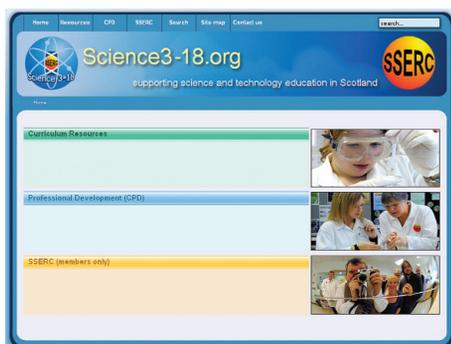The second main area of the site is *Continuing Professional Development*. This contains information about *CPD Courses* at SSERC, *Learning & Teaching Methods*, *logging-in*, *News*, links to *Other Organisations* and *Contact SSERC*. You can fill in an online form to apply for any of the **residential or non-residential courses**. This information is then passed directly and electronically to the admin system which has been set up in SSERC.

The third area links to SSERC SafetyNet site [5]. In 2010 this will be replaced by a new SSERC site with a design similar to the new Science3-18.org site.

To make sure you get the most out of the website you need to log-on as a registered user as many of the new resource articles have been designated as **registered** – this means that they will only be visible to registered users or those with a **Glow username & password** who have logged on via the link provided on the site.

For more information or a personalised log-on please send your name, school and interest in Science3-18.org to: ian.birrell@sserc.org.uk or check out the site at www.science3-18.org

The continued support of the Scottish Government through cooperation with Learning & Teaching Scotland means that we can strive towards making the Science3-18.org site universally useful to all. The basic structure is now in place to increasingly serve existing needs as well as allowing us to react to the anticipated curricular changes.

## References

[1] http://www.olliebray.com/
[2] http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/index.asp
[3] http://olliebray.typepad.com/olliebraycom/2009/11/curriculum-for-excellence-science-change-and-new-technologies-sserc-conference-2009.html
[4] http://twitter.com/olliebray
[5] http://www.sserc.org.uk/members/SafetyNet/Safety_MENU.HTM
[6] http://tiny.cc/ohtfk
[7] http://tiny.cc/ICE754