

Farewell Athens

At the end of July 2008 JISC funding for the ATHENS authentication service is due to end, so the ATHENS route to our subscribed electronic resources will no longer be available. This note is to advise you of the alternative arrangements being put in place.

For resources that use the Athens service (a small handful for on campus use but many for off campus use), authentication will in most cases be via a new service called Shibboleth. We are currently working on implementing Shibboleth through the UK Access Management Federation system. Most

suppliers have indicated that they hope to be Shibboleth compliant by the end of July. This should mean that you will simply need to use your University login and password when prompted to gain access to a resource (very similar to the devolved Athens system). In some cases you will first have to indicate which institution you belong to—this may be by selecting UK Access Management Federation and then selecting University of Portsmouth from a pick-list.

Once logged in to a Shibboleth resource, logging into others

during the same session should be seamless.

A number of known suppliers will definitely not be compliant by 31st July, or at all. In these cases off campus access is being enabled via the iChain server, which acts as a proxy server so that users can be recognised as if they were on campus. Access to these resources will again be by using your University login details at the appropriate screen.

We do not know how suppliers will handle the changeover from Athens to Shibboleth in terms of personal accounts set up by users for storing references, rerunning searches on a regular basis or for receiving

contents pages. If you make use of these services it may be advisable to print out details of any searches you store and to make a note of what you do with each service in case your personal data is lost in transition.

You can keep up-to-date with developments by keeping an eye on our Website. At present the Athens page <http://www.port.ac.uk/library/athens> gives information about the changing service.

Ian Mayfield



I don't know about anyone else but this week has been one of a lot of undelivered emails for one reason or another. Dave Walker explains where they've gone:

weblogcartoons.com



OUR EARTH IS BEING ORBITED
BY ONE THOUSAND BILLION
ITEMS OF UNDELIVERED E-MAIL

New Journal

The new *Journal of Virtual Worlds Research* may be of interest to those using Second Life (or other virtual worlds) in their teaching or research.

Open access and available:
<http://jvwresearch.org/>

Just one example article from the first issue:

'Avatars Are For Real: Virtual Communities and Public

Spheres' by Eiko Ikegami and Piet Hut which usefully compares Japanese social poetry composition (from which we get haiku) and virtual communities. Amongst other things it quotes the old master himself, Basho.

So why no avatars of the great and the good in the National Portrait Gallery yet?

ELIN off campus

ELIN is now available off campus. The URL on the website should enable access by linking:

<http://elin.port.ac.uk>

This works without a login using IE but will require a University login if you're using Firefox. Let us know of any problems.