

ISC14D028

Title: *Transition of VHS support mechanisms for teaching*
Author: Mark Jones, Alicia McConnell (ISD)
Date: 23 January 2015
Circulation: ISSC – 9 June 2015
Agenda: ISC14A003
Version: Final
Status: Open

Issue

Due to the underlying trend to move away from analogue video formats to digital, all VCRs will be removed from teaching spaces from Sept 2015. This requires the support for the conversion of VHS video tapes to digital formats on DVD or available via streaming.

Recommendation

Recipients are invited:

- To note the change in use of video technology in teaching spaces;
- To note the support put in place to retain use of material in VHS video format

Resource Implications

Resource implications for the support and transfer of video material are described in the paper.

Risk Implications

Any risks associated with the transfer are described in the paper.

Equality and Diversity

The change is not expected to have any impact on individuals with protected characteristics.

Timing of decisions

From September 2015, use of VHS machines to play video in teaching spaces will no longer be supported.

Further Information

- Mark Jones (ISD), x2442, mark.jones@uea.ac.uk

Discussion

Transition of VHS support mechanisms for teaching

Mark Jones and Alicia McConnell

23rd January 2015

From September 2015, VCR technology will no longer be supported in teaching spaces.

ISD and EST work together to provide teaching spaces at UEA that are maintained and refurbished to set standards for technology and finish. Technology standards take into account developments within the industry and the hardware available with the objective being that staff experience a consistent and reliable experience in all seminar and lecture theatre spaces. Due to an underlying trend to move from analogue to digital technologies it is has not been possible to purchase or adequately maintain VCRs for the past three years. This has resulted in some uncertainty for staff as they can use old VCRs in some spaces but not in others.

From September 2015 VCRs will be removed from all teaching spaces at UEA but workstations in teaching spaces will continue to be able to play DVDs.

ISSC is advised of the following solutions that enable VCR content to be transferred to a digital form.

A system has been created to enable the digitisation of VHS material to one of two formats. Either the content can be transferred to DVD and used traditionally with the DVD players in teaching spaces or it can be digitised directly into eStream and delivered online.

This short video (3 mins) describes and demonstrates the system and the way it will work for academic colleagues: [Robin Sanford UEA Studio Technician : interview January 2015](#).



Although the transfer process is straightforward, all colleagues will be fully supported by studio technicians in the use of the system.

Help sheets and video instructions will be available with the system and sign-posted from the spaces where VHS recorders have been removed

Colleagues will need to account for material-transfer time to allow the system to transfer in real time.

If content is uploaded to eStream, it will be necessary to restrict access so we comply with copyright restrictions. Current ERA regulations suggest that licenced material can be used online within a bounded learning environment, ie we cannot make it freely available on the web, these restrictions will be met through eStream and Blackboard.