



The latest news and views from the team at EDINA

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Welcome – A message from our Director

Dear Reader

Welcome to the latest edition of The EDINA Edit. As we settle into the new academic year, I am delighted to share a number of exciting developments that highlight our continued commitment to innovation, collaboration, and supporting the education and research communities.

One of our proudest achievements this term has been the successful launch of 'Spaces for Students' here at the University of Edinburgh. This intuitive web application uses live occupancy data to help students navigate campus and find study spaces that perfectly suit their needs. Read all about the launch below.

On the research and innovation front, this month marks the official kick-off of GenAI4Earth, a major multi-partner €9.9 million Horizon Europe project. This initiative perfectly demonstrates the power of cross-departmental collaboration, drawing on the shared expertise of EDINA and the Digital Curation Centre (DCC), here at The University of Edinburgh. This project aims to explore the transformative potential of Generative AI within Earth System Science.

Across our established platforms, we continue to evolve to meet the fast-changing needs of our users. For our secure AI platform, ELM[®], we are rolling out robust new budget controls and access to the latest frontier models. Noteable[®] is enjoying a fantastic start to the new term, and we are absolutely delighted to welcome the University of Groningen to our growing international community. Meanwhile, Digimap[®] users can now explore the landscape in unrivalled detail with new Land Cover data from the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH), alongside a fabulous new collection of historical maps from the National Library of Scotland.

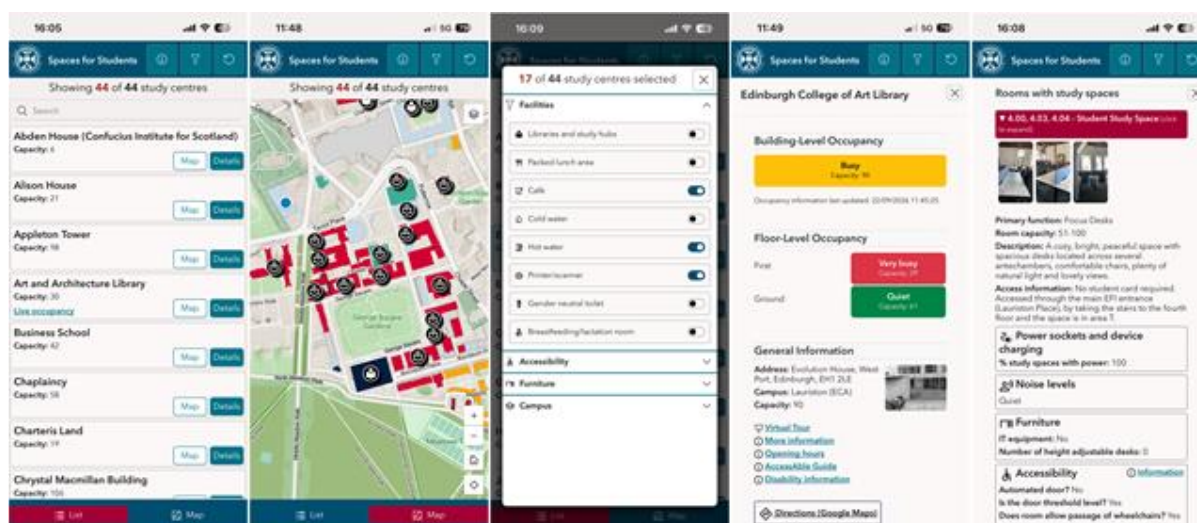
I hope you enjoy reading about these exciting updates in the articles below. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership as we embark on another busy and productive term.

Best wishes,
Anne Robertson
Director

[Check out our new website](#)

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NEW LAUNCH: SPACES FOR STUDENTS



Screenshots from the new Spaces for Students App

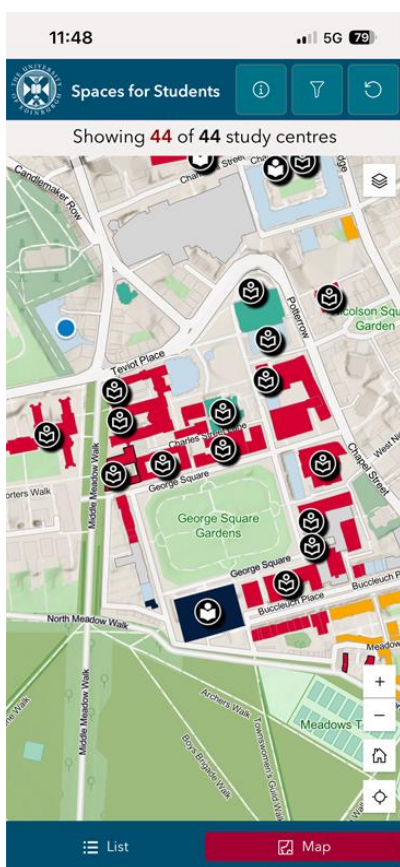
EDINA and the Estates Department at the University of Edinburgh, with input from EUSA, the Edinburgh University Students Association, have collaborated to create a new web application called Spaces for Students, which successfully launched during Welcome Week. Spaces for Students shows the location of all spaces across campus that any student can use for studying. It brings together useful information making it easy to find study spaces that suit students' needs or suggests alternatives when popular locations are busy.

Building on the themes of space utilisation and campus digitisation we explored with many of you at the AUDE (Association of University Directors of Estates) conference earlier this year, EDINA is now offering our expertise to help other higher education institutions develop and deploy this platform across their own estate.

At the UoE, this brand-new web application helps students explore over 180 rooms across 40+ buildings, offering live floor-level occupancy data and detailed facility information to find the perfect spot for their study style. Students can use filters to identify study spaces with particular facilities such as hot water points, gender-neutral toilets, or height-adjustable desks. Photographs and short descriptions provide extra information so students know what to expect when they arrive.

If your university is looking to surface this level of detailed facility data to improve the student experience, our team can help you map and integrate your own campus amenities.

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Initial information on the location of study spaces was provided by the Estates Department. This was checked and updated by a student intern working with EDINA in summer 2026 to ensure that every space is accessible to all students.

Live occupancy information is included for the 13 libraries and main study hubs, helping students avoid busy locations. This information is provided through the Smart Campus initiative from the Internet of Things team and is updated every minute so students can be sure the information provided always remains up to date.

EDINA can consult with your technical teams to harness your similar IoT data, and explore how we can help seamlessly distribute foot traffic across all desired spaces on campus.

All spaces included in Spaces for Students are accessible to all students during normal building opening times, regardless of school affiliation. Bookable group study rooms are included with a link to the booking system (Booker).

For users with accessibility needs, Spaces for Students includes accessibility information with links to detailed AccessAble guides where available. Spaces for Students is a responsive web application, working seamlessly across desktop, tablet, and mobile devices without the need for any installation.

While the University of Edinburgh service is only accessible to users from the University, the underlying architecture is highly adaptable.

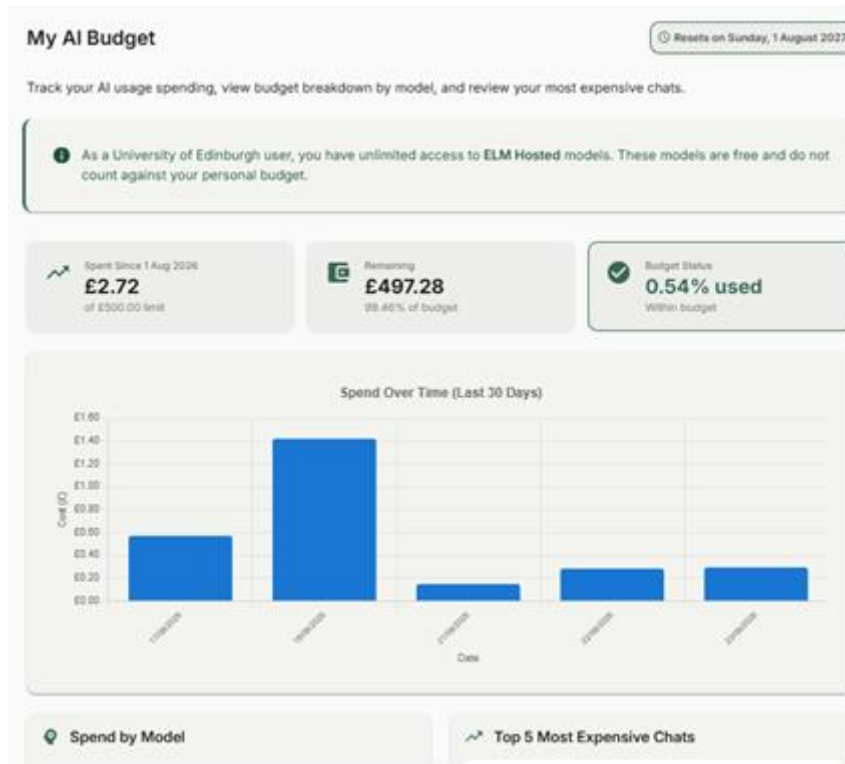
Ready to transform your own campus? Get in touch with the EDINA team today to arrange a demonstration and discuss how we can partner with your Estates and IT departments to build a bespoke 'Spaces for Students' platform for your institution.

[Learn more about our consultancy services](#)

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Latest Product News

ELM®



Screenshot of new AI Budget Tracker in ELM®

We are continually expanding ELM® to offer the most secure, predictable, and user-friendly generative AI platform for the education sector. Leading our latest release is the introduction of robust new budget controls. To give institutions complete financial peace of mind, a new dedicated budget page now offers transparent, real-time usage metrics and automated limits. This ensures that users can confidently leverage advanced AI capabilities with absolute certainty against unexpected costs.

We have also upgraded our model offerings to keep our community at the cutting edge. Alongside support for the latest GPT-6 variants, we have expanded our secure, locally “ELM Hosted” open-source options to include a brand-new model from Mistral. This ensures complete data sovereignty and clarity over exactly where your sensitive research data is processed.

Finally, we have rolled out several highly requested usability improvements. Users can now enjoy a streamlined interface with more workspace, a fully searchable chat history page, and extended one-hour system timeouts designed specifically for complex, uninterrupted research sessions.

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Noteable®



The new academic year is off to a fantastic start following our successful summer release. We are thrilled to see hundreds of users across dozens of courses already actively utilising Noteable to power their coding coursework, scientific experimentation, and complex data simulations this term.

We are also delighted to officially welcome the **University of Groningen** to the Noteable community as our newest international partner!

To help you and your students get the most out of the platform this semester, we have an excellent lineup of webinars.

If you missed Pawel Orzechowski's, Lecturer in Programming for Data Science, insightful session earlier this week, the recording is now available to watch on demand.

Be sure to also register for our upcoming live sessions:

- **From Student to Support: A View From Both Sides of Noteable** Friday 2 October, 13:00-13:45 BST | [Register Here](#)
- **Creativity and Programming with Text.** Thursday 5 November, 13:00-13:45 GMT | [Register Here](#)

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Digimap®



The 3M Map showing an agricultural area

We are thrilled to announce that the revolutionary new 3m Land Cover Map data from the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) is now available in Environment Digimap.

This first-of-its-kind, high-resolution dataset provides an uninterrupted national map capable of identifying individual trees, hedgerows, and small habitat patches. It offers a significant boost for academic research, environmental management, and climate resilience planning by allowing users to explore the landscape in unrivalled detail. You can read more about on the [UKCEH website](#).

In addition to our environmental updates, we have added a fabulous new collection of maps from the National Library of Scotland (NLS) to Historic Digimap. These stunning latest additions provide invaluable historical context, making it easier than ever to trace land-use and landscape changes over time.

[Log in to Digimap today to explore these fantastic new layers](#)

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Meet the EDINA Talent: Jim Killough



Jim and family about to get wet!

1) Who are you and what does your day in life here at EDINA look like?

I am Jim Killough, Sales Manager at EDINA. I have been part of the team for a little over a year now. A day in my life in EDINA remains largely focused on our amazing ELM® platform. It is my role to engage with other higher and further education providers across the UK and Europe and find out about their plans and aspirations around AI adoption. No two conversations are the same. It is one of the most important and transformative topics in education right now and I feel privileged to play my part in promoting access in a safer, more secure and more sustainable way, through ELM®

2) EDINA launched in 1996 So, where were you and what were you doing 30 years ago.

I was a stereotypical, precocious, angst ridden 16 year old growing up in small town Ireland. I thought the world was against me, and I thought I knew it all already (it really wasn't! And I definitely didn't). I was a guitarist in a pretty woeful punk band called J. Stein. I am embarrassed typing this even now. And I had a passion for music, movies and comics. At 16 I was already dreaming of escaping Ireland to university and a big city somewhere.... a choice which I narrowed down, not by looking at the quality of university or course on offer, but by laying my band t-shirts out on the floor of my bedroom one night and looking at which city most of them stopped at!

3) If you could invent one thing, what would it be?

It would be some sort of cloning device that would allow me to get the perfect balance between spending time with my family and being hugely successful in my career. With an 11 and 9 year old and an amazingly successful and busy wife the balance and juggle right now is real.

4) When you aren't busy at EDINA, what is one hobby/interest you enjoy?

See above! It's all about Louise, Cameron and Euan right now. I am at my happiest when the 4 of us are out and about together doing the things we love, sharing new experiences and seeing the Cameron and Euan grow as kind, curious, and passionate young boys. I also like to bake. Bread specifically, and I am currently trying to master the perfect French baguette.

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GenAI4Earth: Shaping the future of AI in Earth Sciences



We are proud to announce our involvement in the newly launched **GenAI4Earth** project, a €9.9 million Horizon Europe initiative! This week, colleagues Joy Davidson and Clara Lines Diaz travelled to Santander, Spain, to represent DCC and EDINA for the project's official kick-off meeting. They join a consortium of 17 partner organisations from across Europe, alongside our University of Edinburgh colleagues at the Centre for Sustainable Forests and Landscapes.

This major project is a fantastic example of cross-departmental collaboration, drawing on the shared expertise of EDINA and the Digital Curation Centre (DCC). Speaking on this milestone, Anne Robertson, Director of EDINA and DCC, said:

"The landmark GenAI4Earth project is proof of what we can achieve when we collaborate across disciplines. I am delighted we secured our participation in this project and thrilled by the opportunities ahead to deliver more innovative solutions, tackle ambitious global challenges, and empower educators and researchers with tools that truly make a difference."

GenAI4Earth will explore the transformative potential of Generative AI within Earth System Science. By cross-utilising diverse and fragmented data sources—ranging from satellite and in-situ observations to climate models—the project will develop trustworthy, reusable GenAI services within the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) ecosystem.

Building on FAIR data principles, the initiative will demonstrate the power of AI through real-world pilots in **urban resilience, agro-environmental monitoring, and seismology**. Ultimately, GenAI4Earth aims to foster confidence in AI-enabled dataspaces while promoting responsible, transparent, and frugal computing.

Stay tuned for more updates as we embark on this exciting journey to advance discovery across Earth, climate, and environmental sciences.

You can learn more about the project's vision at <https://genai4earth.earth-data.eu/>

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