BOLD Showcase
Robert Burns Online Courses
Dr Ronnie Young
Headed up by Catriona MacDonald (History), Gerard Carruthers, Pauline Mackay and myself (Scottish Literature/centre for Robert Burns Studies)

BOLD Project funding to develop 2 courses:

   a. National media attention
   b. More than 14000 users worldwide have signed up for the MOOC to date
   c. ‘Gateway’ for recruiting for our longer distance course below

2. 10-week course on Moodle with 2 credit-bearing ‘strands’: (launched Sep 2016) http://moodle2.gla.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=8185
   a. ‘Blended’ honours option. Online lessons for Scot Lit hons students blended with traditional seminars
   b. Distance option. Available to external learners (£321 course fee), with online tuition and discussions in addition to Moodle lessons. Optional assessment for credit. Certificate available

• shared ‘core’ content; different level, audience and assessment
Transitioning to Blended Learning

- Robert Burns Online:
  - Our first ‘blended’ honours course
  - Taken as another hons option within Scot Lit MA

- Challenges
  - How to transition predominantly ‘literary critical’ and text-based teaching in a manner that is meaningful?
  - Transitioning from printed text to multimedia
  - Transforms and enhances the manner in which we teach Burns (and Literature/Culture more generally).
Transitioning via Moodle

- Use of standard University VLE to deliver largely self-contained course.
- While at the same time curating/linking out to relevant resources (websites and services, library database/subscriptions)
- Devising relevant activities using technology available
- E.g. Moodle ‘lessons’ plug-in
- Leading online learners through lessons (4 per week) with articles, activities, exercises, videos and slide presentations, interviews, poetry readings, songs, discussions, maps, images etc.
- (…rather than e.g. simply using Moodle as repository for documents and slides).
Burns as Songwriter

- Transition/transformation perhaps most evident when dealing with song
  - Recapturing Burns’s role as leading songwriter
  - Using technology to resituate Burns within the context in which he would originally have been performed and received

- Futurelearn MOOC used Spotify and YouTube playlists of Burns’ songs

- BOLD Moodle courses brought in bespoke recordings of voice and violin

- Also repurposed material from Period Performance Project
  - i.e. Burns’s songs for George Thomson’s *Select Collection of Scottish Airs*, with lyrics by Burns and scores by Hadyn, Beethoven etc, as they would originally have been heard
- **Video**
  - **Introductions**
    - Useful way to introduce different tutors for each week
    - Good for summarising general themes and approach to be taken each week
    - Location filming: Alloway, Irvine, Edinburgh, Cadder Kirk
  - **Interviews**
    - Embedded in individual lessons
    - Major collections/curators: Robert Burns Birthplace Museum; National Library of Scotland (right)
    - Modern editors: Patrick Scott of USC; Murray Pittock, editor of the OUP edn. of *Scots Musical Museum*
  - **Camtasia**
    - Powerpoint slides with voice-over for in-depth case studies
• Digital images enhance lessons by showing such things as
  – Manuscripts and publications
    – Plus portraits, paintings, engravings, etc
  – Maps
    – Re-used interactive maps from AHRC research project Editing Robert Burns for the 21st Century
    – Poetry and place: shows link between itinerary of Burns’s Tours and composition of key works.
  – Material Culture
    – Commemoration and celebration of Burns in popular and material culture key to understanding his reputation
    – Myth of Highland Mary driven by Victorian material culture, statues and ‘Burnsiana’
    – ‘Relic ware’ - Burns as ‘secular saint’
Support

- **Working with external institutions and Burns Scotland**
  - Robert Burns Birthplace Museum/National Trust for Scotland
  - National Library of Scotland
  - Dumfries and Galloway Museums
  - Irvine Burns Club
  - Voice recordings by Neil McGillivray

- **Media Unit**
  - Central role of David Collins and Nigel Hutchins
    - Filming and producing high-quality video
    - Recording and editing of poetry readings and musical performance

- **LEADS**
  - Vicki Dale and Sarah Honeychurch
    - Training
    - Course design
    - Online learning
    - Troubleshooting

- **Other Support**
  - School admin and colleagues
  - Jo-Anne Murray and MVLS
  - John Maguire in Arts

- **Library Copyright Team**
  - Advice regarding use of images
  - Auditing of courses
Supporting Learners

• Online induction material
  – Learners have to complete induction before beginning the course
  – Induction material courtesy of Jo-Anne Murray and MVLS
• Introduction to Moodle Lessons
• Honours blended course induction as part of week 1 seminar
• Guides to using/logging in to external services (via GUL)
  – OUP Online
  – ODNB
  – ECCO
• Audio Readings of Poetry
• Subtitling and transcriptions for video content
Consideration for Future Development

• Longer term plans for suite of Scottish Studies online courses

• Questions to address:
  – Ongoing support for existing courses
  – Centralisation of induction
  – Certification for short courses
  – PIP, Board of Studies and Infrastructure
  – University Admissions!