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the e-assessment association

November 2017

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the eAA

Every time we sit down to pull together a newsletter, we reflect on the months that have passed since we last wrote to you all. This last few months have certainly kept us busy as we have worked hard to bring you the new, updated, improved 2018 e-Assessment Awards, sponsored by PSI.

You can enter now via our Awards website and I urge you all to reflect on who you could nominate for the Lifetime Contribution Award as well as considering freely entering your company or your institution, your qualification or your research project in this year's awards. One of last year's winners told us how she found both the application and the shortlist phase* an incredibly useful and reflective process that enabled her to really look back over what they had achieved and their strengths and perhaps areas where they can improve moving forwards.

*The shortlist phase is where we invite all shortlisted applicants to join an online interview attended by all four judges on their Award panel, the Award entrants and any supporting partners.

It has been a time for collaboration and working with partners towards a common goal. We are delighted to have welcomed two new sponsors on board and to have forged stronger links this year with related industry organisations including E-ATP. In this newsletter we also bring you news from CIEA and SQA Futures. Where there is synergy with other organisations we welcome all opportunities to work together and improve the flow of information and the sharing of knowledge.
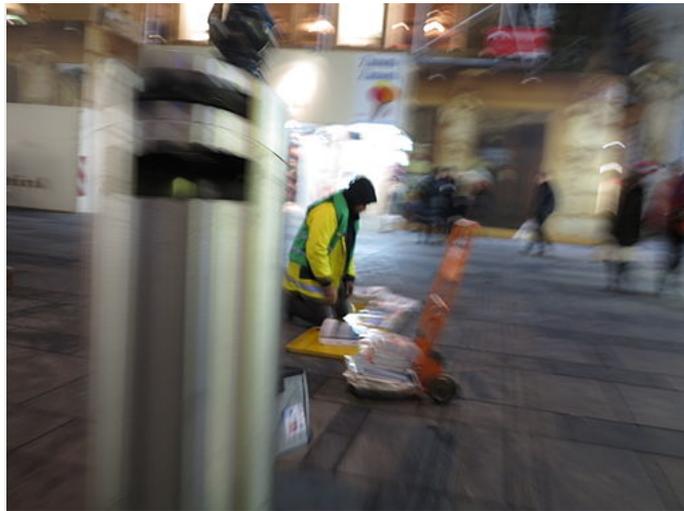
Best wishes

Matt Wingfield, eAA Chairman

Contents

- New e-book: Assessment, Feedback & Technology
- Thank you to our supporters

e-assessment in the news

NAPLAN Online - we've been following the stories about the plan to bring it online in 2018. The latest story from earlier this month: "Schools up in arms over online NAPLAN plan".

Mumbai University - Not great news for the On-Screen Marking (OSM) assessment method that was to be adopted.

A good news e-assessment story from **Azerbaijan** however, as their national assessment and e-marking system is well reviewed.

In other news we noted:

Launch of the International Examination Officers' Association

ProctorExam and Assessment Systems Corporation Partner

eAA Announcements

e-Assessment Awards 2018 - NOW OPEN

With a brand new online entry process, a brand new category, completely revised criteria and a new panel of independent judges. Please enter, spread the word and help us celebrate the very best e-assessment practice worldwide.
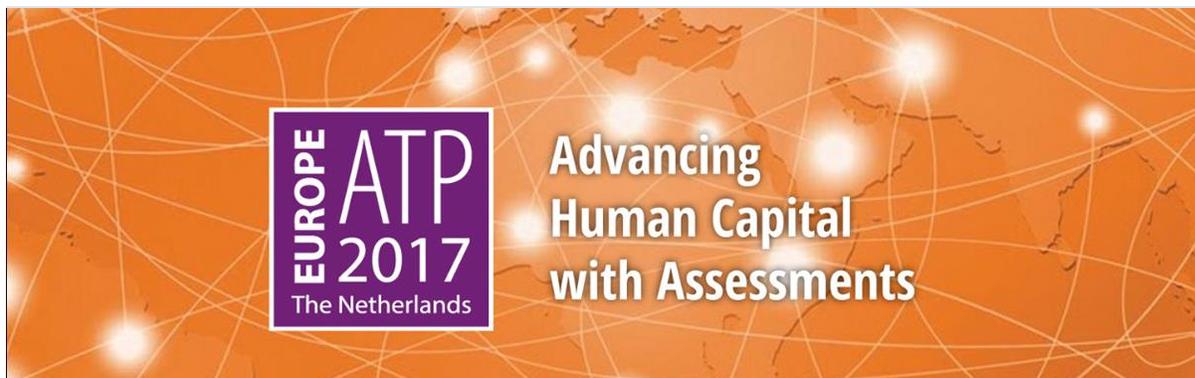
EATP 2017

The eAA secured a breakout session at eATP in September: "Case Studies from the Winners of the 2017 e-Assessment Awards" Led by our Vice Chairman Patrick Craven, the session was supported by the winners of the Best Institution, Best Use of Summative Asssssment and Export Awards. Thanks to Louella Morton, TestReach, Vegard Sivertson, Cirrus Assessment and Martha Gibson, Edinburgh Business School.

Constitutional Review

Please look out for the forthcoming e-poll as we seek to improve and refine our constitution. It may not make fascinating reading, but we need our members support to improve and update our paperwork.

Special Interest Groups

Remote Proctoring SIG webpage coming soon along with an update with regards to our Mathematics SIG to follow too.

6 facts to know about ATP/E-ATP

At the recent E-ATP conference in the Netherlands, the e-Assessment Association was there to promote the e-Assessment Awards and delivered a well attended breakout session looking at case studies from the 2017 Awards.

Working in partnership with ATP, the e-Assessment Association feels there is great synergy between the two international organisations and is looking forward to continuing to work together. With thanks to the organisers of the E-ATP conference,

and to the Association of Test Publishers itself, here are the six key things you ought to know about ATP.

1. Established in 1992, The Association of Test Publishers ("ATP") is an International non-profit organization representing providers of tests and assessment tools and/or services related to assessment for clinical, occupational, certification, licensure, educational or other similar uses.

2. ATPs' membership is composed of the leading publishers and assessment service providers in today's testing industry.

3. Presently there are four Regional Divisions that are active as subgroups of ATP's global membership: Asia, India, Europe and North America. Regional Divisions provide added networking opportunities for members and provide a forum for the unique regional needs of assessment professionals in different geographic areas.

4. Europe-ATP (E-ATP) is the Regional Division that brings together European test publishers and related organisations for the purposes of networking, sharing innovative ideas and creating both educational and marketing opportunities related to testing and assessment in Europe.
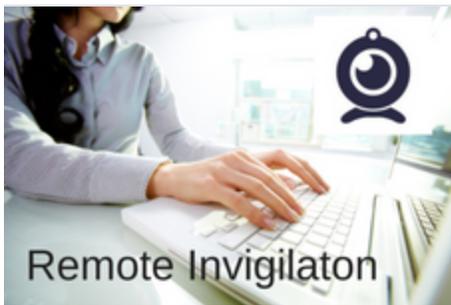
5. The mission of ATP remains the same throughout its Regions, though there may be a different emphasis placed on a particular aspect of the mission depending on the needs and cultural norms of the area. The mission of ATP and its Regional organisations is:

- To promote and preserve the general welfare of testing and its value to society, in all its forms and uses;
- To organize test publishers into a permanent body to foster and maintain collegial relations among themselves and to establish, through the Association, working relationships with other professional and business groups whose interests and activities affect the test publishing community;
- To encourage a high level of professionalism and business ethics throughout the testing community;
- To serve as the principal organization that monitors and responds to regulatory and legal rulings as well as legislative, regulatory and judicial initiatives that pertain to the business of publishing and applying test and assessment instruments;
- And, to increase the strength and cohesiveness of the test publisher community by providing programs of education, training and exchanges of ideas on operations and industry trends.

6. Some of the benefits of belonging to ATP include:

- Leadership opportunities that can provide professional growth and high quality educational experiences for you as a professional, or for your staff;

- Networking opportunities at the highest levels of the test publishing industry that help you enrich your contacts, enhance your career as a professional, and enhance the profile of your organization;
- The opportunity to be part of a community that provides important benchmarking information and opportunities for your business and industry;
- and the all-important "cross-pollination" opportunity -- Being part of a community that gets you outside of your own niche in testing and assessment, and allows you to engage with "parallel" niches that may provide you with a new way of looking at challenges, issues and solutions.

Case Study: Institute of Directors

How the Institute of Directors Used Online Assessment and Remote Invigilation to Transform their Certification Delivery

Who thought it would be possible for a company director to sit a certificate exam from their car, while being invigilated over the web?

While this is an unusual situation, members of the Institute of Directors (IoD) can now sit their exams using remote invigilation, which gives great flexibility, privacy and convenience.

Over an 18 month period, the IoD have worked with TestReach to transition their certification programme from a purely paper-based exam to being run online using remote invigilation.

The IoD team won the Team Contribution of the Year at the Federation of Awarding Bodies in 2016 and **Best Institute at the e-Assessment Awards in 2017** with their case around the successful implementation of computer based assessment and remote invigilation.

[Click here to read the full case study](#) to learn more.

CIEA asks: Assessment - time well spent?

In our opinion, time spent on assessment is time well spent. As a charity, incorporated by Royal Charter, the Chartered Institute of Educational Assessors (CIEA), promotes excellence in all aspects of educational assessment.

When developing assessments there are common principles of good practice which can be employed to ensure that all learners are assessed in a valid, reliable, fair, transparent, and accurate manner.

The Chartered Educational Assessor is the benchmark of CIEA assessment excellence and we are pleased to invite members of e-Assessment Association to join our new Chartered Educational Assessor course being held on **24 and 25 November 2017** at the University of Hertfordshire.

Find out more about our Chartered Educational Assessor training.

The total cost of this course, which includes two online sessions, a two day face to face course and a 6 month assignment in which participants will quality assure the assessment processes and procedures of a department, school or organisation, is £850.

Benefits of the training

- Develop and enhance knowledge, skills and experience in educational assessment and gain professional recognition
- Join an exclusive network of Chartered Educational Assessors.
- Apply standards of good assessment practice for organisations

"*I thought I knew a lot about assessment, but I discovered that I didn't, and my knowledge base was steadily ratcheted up. The wide breadth of the course meant that there was always something new and often surprising.*" - Christopher Reynolds CEA

CASE STUDY: Read more about Christopher Reynolds' experience of the CEA programme.

Email the CIEA

Reporting from Surpass Conference 2017

by Karen Pernyes at the e-Assessment Association

This year the e-Assessment Association was invited by one of the eAA's Founding Sponsor's, BTL, to their annual Surpass Conference.

I was there to promote the 2018 e-Assessment Awards and admit I was expecting a standard user-centric conference; however I was pleasantly surprised to find myself at an engaging and thought-provoking e-assessment event, with the thread running through being the evolving Surpass platform.

Here are the 6 key points that I personally took away from the event:

1. Steve Wheeler, an excellent keynote speaker, taught me the term Ipsative Assessment. Worth looking up if it's new to you.

The conference opened, as perhaps expected, with company and product updates from directors Sonya Whitworth and Andy McAnulla. Then Wheeler, who isn't a user of the software, or directly involved in assessment as an Awarding Organisation, delivered a fresh thinking approach as to how we might look towards assessments in the future.

2. BTL is expanding overseas, now working with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) as well as Prometric. This is as big as it sounds.

The eAA recognises that e-assessment is not confined by national borders as the first year of the e-Assessment Awards proved, with strong entries coming in from every continent. So it was encouraging to see a company that has been working across Europe for years now, reaching in to the US and bringing back different, interesting ways of tackling every-day problems and alternative methods of reporting and testing.

3. Collaboration, Innovation and clever use of data in assessment is paving the way for some very exciting technical developments.

Ian Morgan from WJEC CBAC spoke about how the organisation is a huge advocate of using technology to enhance the assessment cycle (they developed the first general qualifications to be delivered on-screen in the UK). He revealed insights into how they are looking at e-assessment, e-portfolios and e-processing (the online marking of exam papers), all backed up by research from CCEA and QualWales. They are now working with a consortium including BTL and AlphaPlus Consultancy to deliver on-screen adaptive assessment from 2018.

4. UK based organisations are testing thousands of candidates overseas, and distance learning accounts for much more than we realise.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) has 25% of its students overseas, across 26 countries and over 150 different locations. Their speaker, Adam Birt gave me one of my favourite quotes of the day: "Technology should enable, not lead, assessment". Although testing overseas wasn't a deliberate topic of this session, it became clear throughout the course of the conference just how many awarding organisations rely on efficient, secure and stable technology to deliver their tests overseas.

5. Technology moves fast, and it's important for developers to keep up.

My second new term of the day was Scrum Development and is another one to look up if it's new to you. BTL are clearly using this style of dev at an impressive scale to rapidly deliver ongoing improvements as they pull on constant feedback from their clients and partners. I was also informed that BTL have covered this topic as part of their customer facing webinar series, recording of which will be made available soon.

6. Hold the front page. User Conferences can be entertaining!

There was a "Play" room where BTL staff were helping people on a bank of computers, but more than that, other delegates were sharing tips on how they use the system. Okay - that doesn't perhaps sound as fun as it looked, but we're looking forward to our invitation to next year's event apparently due to take place aboard the SS Great Britain in Bristol next October.

BTL have created a real international community without hierarchy, where everyone's input is welcomed. Everyone is aiming to improve both their use of the platform as well as aiming to help BTL with development and future direction. Very much a two-way (or even multi-way) approach. I spoke to Ben at BTL who told me the annual gathering of Surpass users is now in it's 10th year and summed it up nicely:

"*It has grown to become so much more than an opportunity to gather product feedback. With a strong emphasis on knowledge sharing and problem solving, this event has given birth to the phrase 'Surpass Community' which sits firmly in line with our core conference objectives of transparency, innovation and collaboration.*" - Ben Brady, Marketing Assistant at BTL Group Ltd.

Note from BTL:
Highlights of key presentations will made available to attendees and the wider Surpass Community. If you are a prospective Surpass user and interested in seeing more form Surpass Conference 2017 please contact BTL directly via marketing@btl.com

Update from SQA Futures – Future of Assessment

"Qualifications ecosystems need to pre-emptively disrupt from within or risk being unprepared for digital transformation."

SQA Futures Project's latest blog post, published a few days ago, follows a series of significant events discussing issues around assessment which revealed "*a widespread belief that the pace of change in the workplace and the world generally is becoming so great that we need to find new ways to ensure we prepare individuals to adapt and thrive in the face of these changes*."

The post goes on to say,

"*If the World Economic Forum is right in its predictions, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which is already underway, will see all of us needing to re-skill and up-skill far more frequently than we have had to in the past.*"

How do you assess the knowledge and skills needed for jobs, and industries that haven't been created yet?

How do you prove that someone is resilient, and able to adapt to change?

How do you get people to demonstrate and capture these skills?

These are some of the points they are aiming to address through their work looking at the future of assessment.

To read the latest blog, click here.

The 2018 e-Assessment Awards

The e-Assessment Association is proud to launch the second year of the International e-Assessment Awards. Last year we had nearly 100 entries, from every continent. 18 entries were shortlisted and the winners

were announced at the inaugural Gala Dinner last March, with some given the opportunity to join us at E-ATP2017.

This year we have a brand new online entry form, a brand new category, refined criteria and improved online judging process. Each Award is judged by a panel of four independent experts, and we are proud to welcome some new names to this list this year, including Martyn Ware, Head of Business Change - Assessment Futures at SQA and Dr Stuart Kime, Director of Education at Evidence Based Education (EBE).

We are delighted to welcome back PSI as Headline Sponsor for the second year running. Thanks also to RM Results for sponsoring the Innovation Award, ACER UK for sponsoring the Lifetime Contribution Award and AlphaPlus Consultancy for sponsoring the brand new 'Best Transformational Project' Award.

Adrian Palmer-Geaves, Chief Innovation Officer, PSI Services LLC was asked to write a few words for this our second year of the Awards:

"*Last year, when the e-Assessment Association took the bold step of launching an entirely new Awards programme, we immediately recognised the value of what they were trying to achieve and took on the role of headline sponsor. We're delighted that their courage was rewarded and the first ever e-Assessment Awards was a tremendous success.*

At the time, we said that only if we were willing to collaborate as an industry and share ideas and best practice, would we achieve technology's full potential to enhance the assessment process. That view has not changed, and PSI is delighted to be continuing its support for the Awards programme into its second year. The bar was set high in 2017 in terms of the quality and ingenuity of the entries, but we're confident that, for 2018, our industry will once again rise to the challenge and showcase the very best in e-Assessment solutions."

ENTER NOW AT www.eassessmentawards.com

Interested in sponsoring one of the Awards? Please contact Karen at marketing@e-assessment.com for a sponsorship pack.

SAVE THE DATE! Join us if you can for the Awards Gala Dinner in London, UK on 18 APRIL 2018

with learning technologies. ✓ Indeed.

Assessment Feedback & Technology

New e-book: Assessment, Feedback & Technology

Assessment, Feedback & Technology
Contexts and Case Studies in Bloomsbury

We spotted the release of this e-book on Twitter and wanted to highlight it here in case you missed it (with kind permission from the author).

In 2014, the Bloomsbury Learning Environment (BLE) Consortium initiated a wide-ranging, two-year-long research and dissemination project focusing on the use of technology in assessment and feedback. Our aim was to understand and improve processes, practices, opportunities and tools available to the institutional members of the BLE Consortium. From the project, we produced three research papers investigating current practice and 21 case studies describing both technology-enabled pedagogy and technical development. Now presented as a free ebook, co-edited by Leo Havemann and Sarah Sherman, we offer the flavour of the variety and breadth of the BLE's activities relating to the project theme as a contribution to the education sector's widening conversation about the interplay of assessment, feedback, pedagogy and technology."

Twitter: @leohavemann   @BLE1

Weblink: http://www.ble.ac.uk/ebook

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.

Henry Ford

Photo by NASA on Unsplash

Thank you to our supporters

The e-Assessment Association relies on the financial support of our corporate members.

We are delighted that this year, alongside many who have supported the eAA from the very beginning, we can now welcome **Learnosity** and **TestReach**. We look forward to bringing you case studies from all our sponsors in the coming year.