

Have You Seen This?

Syndication of the LTSN Maths, Stats & OR Network's News, Diary, Techwatch and resource links using JavaScript

**Received from: Ewan Crawford
Email: ewan@stats.gla.ac.uk**

Placing diary and other resources from the LTSN Maths, Stats & OR Network's website onto your own website can now be done quickly and easily. Simply visit our webpage <http://mathstore.gla.ac.uk/syndication/>

Syndication of resources is now regularly carried out between websites. Methods such as RSS (Rich Site Summary) newsfeeds and XML (Extensible Markup Language) with XML Style Sheets are becoming more and more frequent. However these approaches require a good working knowledge of the method used. An alternative approach adopted by news agencies such as the BBC and Scotsman is to use 'JavaScript includes'. This is much easier for most users.

How to use the facility

On visiting the web address above the following page appears:



Fig 1: Create a diary, news or resource link in JavaScript, or preview an example

From here one can choose to create code to share a resource such as our diary, news, techwatch or teaching resource database entries. Alternatively one can look at a preview example:

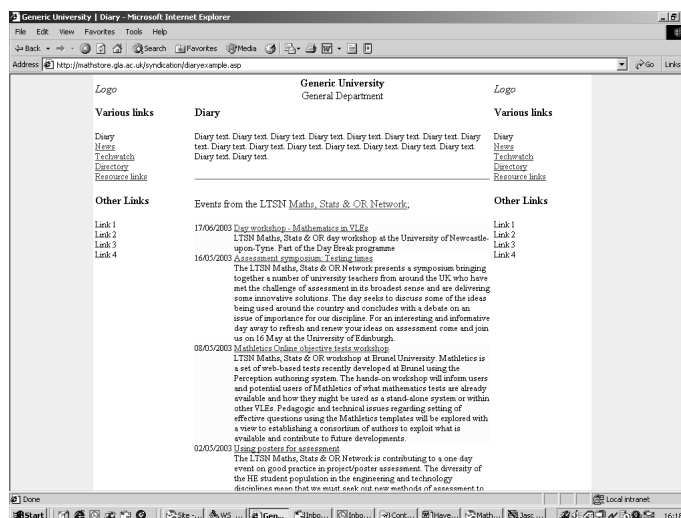


Fig 2: Preview of the Diary page of a Generic University

In this mock-up of a University webpage entries from the LTSN Maths, Stats & OR Network's diary have been incorporated into the contents of the page.

Have You Seen This?

To facilitate writing the short script following the link 'Create code for pasting' leads to a configuration screen. Here the script's parameters can be configured. Parameters include; number of days from now to include in the diary, which view of the database to use (Maths / Stats&OR / Maths, Stats&OR) and whether to include a header at the top of the inserted text.

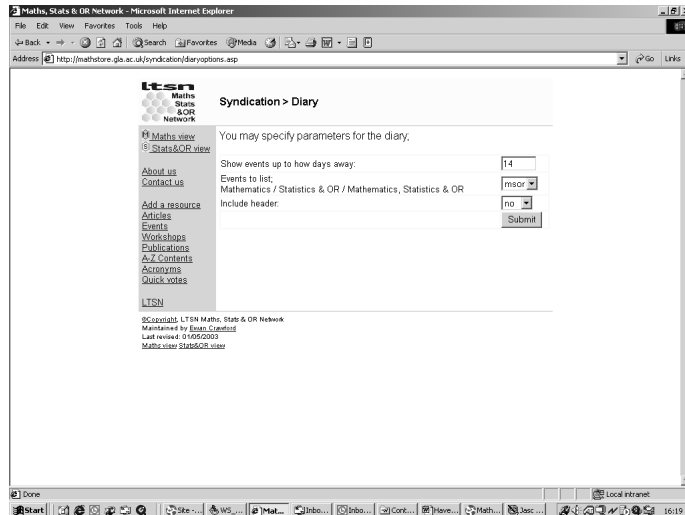


Fig 3: Configure the JavaScript's parameters

After submitting the script's parameters a final page gives the script text and a preview below of what would be produced. Simply copy the text from the textbox at the top of the screen and paste into the HTML of your webpage. An example of a basic HTML page is also given at the foot of the page.

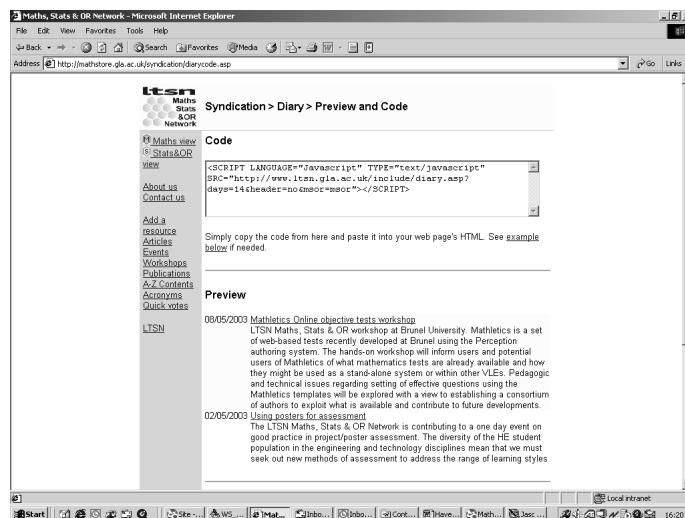


Fig 4: The JavaScript code required and a preview of the result of using the code

Intended use and future plans

At present a departmental webpage can now incorporate entries from the diary, techwatch or other resource. A list of teaching resources, such as Java Applets, can also be incorporated into a webpage, for instance as part of a course's website. It is possible to choose resource links by either category (Java Applet, Website etc) or subject (Linear Regression, ANOVA etc).

As the LTSN is committed to maintaining these databases teaching resources such as Java Applets will automatically be added and annotated as time goes on. In theory it may not be necessary to maintain a list of resources any more – the LTSN does that hard work for you.

If you are interested in using the facility, would like to have a bespoke version, or would like to add to the existing resources please contact Ewan Crawford, email ewan@stats.gla.ac.uk