

Paul Bacsich

Professor Paul Bacsich is Director of Matic Media Ltd, a consultancy company active in e-learning systems and methodologies. His main business activity at present is benchmarking e-learning, for which he is undertaking a series of contracts for the Higher Education Academy in support of their benchmarking programme. He is the initial inventor of the Pick&Mix benchmarking methodology (now in the public domain) and a commentator on international benchmarking systems and issues.

His other work is mainly concerned with finalising the last two of the four planned volumes of reports on the UK e-University (UKeU) and in organising the UKeU archive.

His ongoing academic links are as Visiting Professor of e-Learning in the School of Computing Science at Middlesex University and an advisor to the "Beyond Distance" Research Group at the University of Leicester. In the last year he has also done academic work for the University of Oxford, University of Lincoln, Greenwich University and the Arab Open University.

Paul is active in several UK bodies including being Chair of the Publications Committee of ALT (the UK Association for Learning Technology) and a member of the Commissioning Panel for the UK Technology Enhanced Learning Programme (TeL), which has recently awarded its first round of grants.

He is a frequent speaker at international events including in the recent past outside Europe in Australia, China, Colombia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

From 2003-04 Paul was Director of Special Projects at UK eUniversities Worldwide Limited (UKeU). Among his activities there was competitor analysis of e-universities and virtual learning environments and assisting with the setting up of the EU TELCERT project "to develop innovative software testing and conformance systems to assure interoperability in eLearning content and technology". Prior to that he was for seven years Professor of Telematics and Head of the Telematics in Education Research Group (TERG) at Sheffield Hallam University, where he carried out studies in costing, evaluation and change management aspects of e-learning as well as running a number of technical projects in the run up to the UK e-University..

He started his academic career at the Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford, then moved to the UK Open University where over 24 years he held a variety of academic, managerial and research posts including Assistant Director of the Knowledge Media Institute (KMI) - during the latter part of that period he was very active in EADTU as a member of the Media Methods and Technologies committee and the manager of several UKOU contributions to European projects.