

FAQ: Box of Broadcasts

What is Box of Broadcasts?

BoB National is a collaboration between Cambridge Imaging Systems and the BUFVC (British Universities Film and Video Council) is a simple to use, off-air recording system that maximises the potential offered by the ERA (Educational Recordings Act) Plus license recently purchased by the University. BoB allows any authorised user to schedule a digital recording of any programme appearing on Freeview or free-to-air satellite services and add it to personalised playlist. Recordings are selected from a key-word searchable, web-based programme guide, which displays 7 days of digital TV and radio broadcast information. All requested digital recordings are stored in a database that can be searched, accessed and tagged by any authorised BoB user. For more information: http://www.boxofbroadcasts.com/bob_national.html

How can I access Bob?

<http://bobnational.net/>, go to federated log in and log in with your ISS username and password.

Why when I log in does it say Hello, 7tdw7tr89aefyq38uq90f?

You can easily change your username by going into the My Bob section and selecting 'preferences'.

Where can I get support for logging in to the BoB system?

If you encounter other colleagues that can't access BOB because their username is not recognised, it might be best to raise an ISS Helpdesk call. ISS will be able to check our user administration database and establish if the user is set up for Athens and Shibboleth access. It might be best to title e-mails 'Athens and Shibboleth access problems' rather than 'BOB login problems' otherwise the Helpdesk may advise colleagues to contact BOB technical support instead.

It may be that the ISS Helpdesk can confirm that the log-in issue is connected to a fault in the BOB system. In such cases, it would be very helpful if the symptoms of your issue could be shared with the BOB community on the mailing list so that we can try to gauge the scale of the potential problem and work with the BOB support team to try to resolve the issue.

Where can I get support for using the BoB interface?

Currently Bob is in pilot for 1 year so the main support is by the user community within the University which you can join by signing up to a mailing list at:

<http://lists.leeds.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/bob>

Your faculty may offer specialised support and advice for the use of the VLE and other learning technologies. It is likely that these members of staff will be able to help you on request. There is a user guide at: http://bobnational.net/bob_user_guide/7.html

Where can I get advice on how I might best use the BoB system for supporting my teaching and learning activities?

First of all you could browse to the University of Leeds Casebook (<http://www.sddu.leeds.ac.uk/casestudies/>) – we are actively encouraging colleagues to spread the word about their excellent work.

However, until we build a representative collection of such examples, feel free to get in touch with Dragos Ciobanu in SDDU (d.i.ciobanu@leeds.ac.uk) and have a chat about how you could use this tool in your teaching.

How many recordings can I make?

You can make up to 3 recordings a day. We are currently in discussion with BOB about the possibility of establishing a 'superuser' role for key teaching and library staff but, in the meantime, it is possible to access any recordings that have been requested by other BOB users.

BOB also provide a 7-day Buffer which gives users a chance to record any broadcasts they may have missed first-time round.

Can students make recordings?

Yes: all staff and students have the ability to record content.

If all my students are asked to watch the same programme will this affect the transmission?

The likelihood of all the students watching the content at the same time is pretty slim; this has not been noted as an issue.

Can I download the content to keep on DVD?

No. With Bob National there is no ability to download content to DVD. You can store content on DVD for educational purposes under the condition of ERA + however you would need to request this via the BUFVC TRILT Service (<http://bufvc.ac.uk/tvandradio/trilt/>) (logging in with your ISS username and password) and there is an additional charge or record on your own personal equipment.

How long will my recordings remain?

Material selected for recording is currently stored indefinitely in BOB. If any change to this arrangement needs to be made in future years you can be reassured that the BOB team will not make any such changes without a full consultation with their user base.

Can students access content from outside the UK?

The terms of the ERA+ license are such that digital storage and distribution of off-air broadcast material for educational purposes is only available in the UK. The BOB system is carefully constructed to manage such restrictions, so its users need worry less if they are adhering to the requirements of ERA+

Can we have a joint account for our group/network?

All individuals across the University have access to BoB and can make their own playlists searchable and viewable a wider network.

Can we advertise to students?

We certainly want students to be utilising BoB for their studies and students should be encouraged to watch programmes or clips that you think would be beneficial to them.

What is the best way to highlight a programme to a student?

There are several ways that BOB content could be highlighted to student users. Here are some of them:

- 1) A tutor could set up specific searchable and viewable playlists in the 'My BoB' facility and direct students to these playlists as a whole
- 2) Students could be informed of the time, date and channel for an important broadcast and search for it in the BOB interface rather like finding an appropriate article in a journal or a book from a reading list
- 3) Students could be asked to add specific clips or programmes from a 'viewing/media' resources list to their own playlists for future reference
- 4) Tutors could provide a link to the unique URL webpage of a particular programme, primarily through the VLE or, in some cases through email, etc. Students would then need to log in to BOB to access the link
- 5) A final option would be to embed a video in the VLE by cutting and pasting the embed code provided with each video in BOB into the HTML editor of a VLE item.