British Standards Online BSOL™

London South Bank University



# How a leading technology university uses BSOL to save time and resources

"Using BSOL we have made a significant saving because before it was practically a full time job to update them manually. Anyone contemplating BSOL should go ahead. It's useful and easy to use."

Lesley Stackpoole, Information Adviser
London South Bank University

## Customer needs
• A more cost-effective and userfriendly way to give students and academics access to standards.

## Customer solution
• British Standards Online (BSOL) provides online subscription access to the most complete collection of British, and adopted European and international standards available.

## Benefits
• Considerable value for money – accessed 1000's of standards making cost per standard negligible
• A significant saving on the staff costs of manually updating hard copy standards
• Supports the University's aim to fully equip students for future employment
• Improves the level of service provided to academics and students.

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## Background

With three campuses, four faculties and over 24,000 students, London South Bank University (LSBU) is one of London's largest, and best known universities.

It specializes in providing vocational courses that equip students for professional careers. The University maintains strong links with industry and business to make sure courses are highly relevant, and teaching emphasizes the acquisition of leading-edge knowledge so that graduates are ready to meet current and future industry demands. The Sunday Times University Guide 2011 ranked LSBU as the top modern university for graduate starting salaries in the UK.

## Why choose BSOL

LSBU's library has held standards for a very long time, principally for students and staff in the Business and the Engineering, Science and The Built Environment faculties.

Standards are a key resource providing up to date information on best practice, regulatory requirements and the application of current and emerging technology. That being said, keeping on top of updates to the standards collection was 'practically a full time job'according to Lesley Stackpoole, Information Adviser at LSBU. The sheer volume of critical standards within all sectors now is quite overwhelming and unmanageable. BSOL was brought in to make standards' portfolio management more efficient.

## How BSOL is used

All LSBU students and staff can access BSOL via their LSBU network password. This lets users download and print one hard copy of a standard for internal use. In practice the service is used by around 500 individuals in any given calendar year,





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generally in construction, engineering and applied sciences, from foundation degree level to PhD and beyond.

"Through BSOL we make standards available to students who are learning and who are using standards in current industry placements, and to researchers,"

says Lesley Stackpoole.

"We need the full range of standards to support their work. For example an engineering product design student might be designing anything from a piece of medical equipment for use in an operating theatre to a safety helmet for sports."

**The value of using BSOL**

The subscription to BSOL means that LSBU no longer has to commit staff time to managing its standards portfolio, resulting in

"a significant saving,"

says Lesley Stackpoole.

Moreover LSBU is receiving considerable value for money from its investment in the BSOL subscription. In one year alone LSBU downloaded thousands of standards, the cost of which would be far beyond the University's budget if they were to be bought individually. However using BSOL the University was able to meet the needs of its users fully and cost effectively.

LSBU also finds BSOL "very easy to use."

According to Lesley Stackpoole, "Students pick it up quickly." Lesley Stackpoole alsonotes that BSOL delivers the intrinsic benefits of information accessed online: users don't need to attend a library; they can easily search the full range of what is available; standards can be accessed 24/7; and the accessed version is always up to date. BSOL is also the most authoritative source of standards available. In subscribing to BSOL, LSBU has improved the level of service provided to academics and students. Finally the University has contributed towards its core policy of equipping students for future employment. By providing unrestricted access to BSOL, students become familiar and comfortable with the standards they will use in 'the real world.'

Find out more about BSOL at
**bsigroup.com/bsol**

## Your business could benefit from Standards Online (BSOL), just like South Bank University.

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