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STATIONERS'

C O M P A N Y

Innovation Excellence Awards 2024



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Innovation Excellence Awards 2024

Contents

3	Welcome from the Master
6	Judging panel
8	Start of term
12	Award for Business Process
14	Award for Communications, including Marketing
16	Award for Customer Experience
18	Award for Education Technology
20	Award for Product Design
22	Award for Start up
24	Innovator of the Year
26	What next?
28	Thank you

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It is all too possible for us, as members of a very ancient organisation, meeting in what is listed as a scheduled ancient monument, to forget that our members, both corporate and individual, have been at the forefront of innovation in one form or another over the centuries.

Paul Wilson
Master, The Stationers' Company

Welcome



It's a great pleasure for me to introduce the 2024 Innovation Excellence Awards and to welcome participants to what is the tenth of these annual awards.

It is all too possible for us, as members of a very ancient organisation, meeting in what is listed as a scheduled ancient monument, to forget that our members, both corporate and individual, have been at the forefront of innovation in one form or another over the centuries.

Whether it is the invention of copyright, the publication of the first newspapers in England, the introduction of powered presses by The Times in the early nineteenth century or the patenting of the Fourdrinier papermaking machine, members of this Company have been game-changers across the range of our industries. Innovation has been a part of the Stationers' Company culture for nearly 500 years, and it is one of our key objectives to remain relevant to innovation in our industries today.

The Company acts as an important forum for the discussion of matters as topical and yet as forward looking as the role of artificial intelligence in publishing. And our Innovation Excellence Awards offer a wonderful opportunity for companies to showcase a range and depth of innovation from methods of sustainably recycling paper cups and 3D printing through edtech software and an app to

support learning by paramedics and on to secure mobile telephone apps.

Undeniably, the future of our industries lies in innovation and the Stationers' Company sees its role as one of helping to support that innovation through these awards. For that reason, we thank the participants for their willingness to share their remarkable innovations with us, with each other and with the wider Stationers' Company community. More than anything else, they remind us that innovation in the UK is flourishing at a time when many other things seem less encouraging. It is a national strength.

This year the awards have been organised by Liverymen Vida Barr-Jones and Kate Howell who have taken over from Court Assistants Professor Linda Drew and Jill Jones. We are grateful to all of them for the huge amount of effort they put into the preparations and judging as well as the delivery of the event on the day.

I hope you will find the showcased entries as fascinating as I have and wish the entrants great success in taking their products and services to market.

Paul Wilson

Master,
The Stationers' Company



**Innovation
Excellence
Awards
2023**

THE
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Excellence
Awards**

Innovation Awards
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#EASInnovationAwards

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POLICE

INDUSTRY

Cultural, Heritage and Creative Industries



There is something so vital to the history of humanity, and that is the amazing series of innovations that have taken place, many of which are part of the history of the Stationers' Company.

Innovation is vital to problem solving, which in my view is vital to a successful society. In part, it is a function of historical knowledge – what has worked and what has not worked – but it is also out there on the edge of chaos, where we don't really have any answers and we need data even to begin to imagine exactly what's going on, which leads to theory, which leads then to engineering, which might lead indeed to an important innovation.

Dr Vint Cerf

Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist, Google
Honorary Freeman & Liveryman of the Stationers' Company

Judging panel

Vida Barr-Jones (Co-Chair)

Vida Barr-Jones is co-founder and CEO of Focus7 International Ltd, a design and growth agency based in Hertfordshire. An award-winning entrepreneur, Vida previously spent over 20 years with Spicers, Europe's largest stationery wholesaler, including 11 years as a Board Director. A strategic leader, specialising in change and transformation, Vida is a great communicator with a passion for excellence and innovation.

Kate Howell (Co-Chair)

Kate is a communications advisor and non-executive director specialising in food, communities and markets. For 12 years, she was Director of Communications and Engagement at Borough Market, responsible for building the market's brand, developing its communications, increasing engagement, and ensuring that the institution's through were heard through the media. She sits on The Mayor of London's Markets' Board and the board of Better Bankside, a business improvement district. A passionate advocate for equality in the industry, she is a member of Les Dames D'Escoffier, which supports women in hospitality, and is co-chair of Better Bankside's Women's Network.

Sally Beken

Sally has worked in tech transfer for over 15 years, using her expert knowledge of polymers to help build numerous collaborations and support companies accessing funding for innovative projects. She has been an innovation lead at Innovate UK and monitored a portfolio of over 60 projects and steered the scope for plastics-related competitions. She is determined to see less plastic waste entering the environment while realising the positive benefits of polymers in mitigating climate change and supporting sustainability. She founded and currently heads up the UK Circular Plastics Network and leads on the smart sustainable plastic packaging activity at KTN.

Linda Drew

Professor Linda Drew brings to the panel expertise from the design, content, media and technology disciplines in the education sector. She has held several senior leadership roles in specialist creative higher education, including Vice Chancellor of Ravensbourne University London and Deputy Director at the Glasgow School of Art. Currently chair of governors at the Stationers' Academies, she focuses a lot of her energy on supporting young people and enterprise in the creative content and communications industries. She is also an experienced chair, board member and trustee in creative industries and education, including with start-ups and community interest companies.

Helen Esmonde

Helen was the founder of Esmonde Publishing Limited, a publisher of stationery and books for major UK retailers, museums, charities and thinktanks. After her business was acquired by the GMC Publishing Group in 2012, Helen stayed on as Publishing Director, retiring in 2020. She is a Past Master of the Stationers' Company – the first woman to lead the company in its more-than-600-year history. She sits on the Court of the Stationers' Company, the Council of

City and Guilds and the Development Board of Book Aid International and is a trustee of the publishing company Hymns Ancient and Modern. She is also Cluster Director of the Leigh Academies Trust, providing board oversight of academies in southeast London and northwest Kent.

Jill Jones

Jill brings to the panel publishing leadership expertise from the print, digital and educational technology sectors. Formerly MD/CEO for global academic publishers McGraw-Hill Education EMEA and Cengage EMEA, she was also a non-executive director and board member of Bloomsbury Publishing PLC and of TLN in the Netherlands. She now divides her time between a number of non-executive roles, including tech start-ups and SMEs. She is a Stationers' Company Court Assistant, chair of the Industry Committee and a former co-chair of the Innovation Excellence Awards.

Kate Stone

Kate is the founder, Chief Technology Officer and self-described 'creative scientist' of Novalia, a highly innovative company that blends art, science, design and technology to create immersive marketing experiences for some of the world's biggest brands, including McDonalds, Bud Light, Pizza Hut, Google and Unilever. Now based in Los Angeles, she is a lay member of the Editors Code of Practice Committee in the UK, a former chair of the executive board of the MIDI Manufacturers Association and chair of the board of Just Bee, a charity in Dundee that helps the vulnerable and underserved.

Tim Webb

Tim, a qualified mechanical engineer, worked for a company that made industrial finishing equipment before starting his own business manufacturing anti-set-off powders for offset litho printing. Tim sold his final interest in this company in 2010. In 1991, he was elected to the council of the British Federation

of Printing Machinery Suppliers (BFPMS), which was subsequently renamed the Printing Industry Confederation (Picon). Tim was elected chair in 2000, appointed executive director in 2007 and retired from Picon at the end of 2014.

Andy Wilson

After starting his career at Aardman Animation, Andy moved on to work on television services, broadcast innovation, product management and digital rights for the BBC, where his roles included Head of Delivery for BBC micro:bit, a highly ambitious education and technology initiative that allowed a million children to discover coding through a new computing device. Andy joined Dropbox, where he led the growth and technical delivery of the Digital Production Partnership. He is now Senior Director of New Product Solutions & Media at Dropbox, helping to develop new creative products for over 700 million registered users.

Paul Wilson

After careers in the army and the Foreign Office, Paul joined the British high-security printing company De La Rue, which produces banknotes and documents of identity. As Managing Director of the company's identity systems business, Paul oversaw the company's biometric passport development programme, which sought to create a fully integrated biometric passport solution for governments. Currently Master of the Stationers' Company, Paul remains interested in the interplay of technology and security to deliver reliable and efficient public services.

Start of term

Why the time was right for an education technology award to be added to our programme



As The Stationers' Company Innovation Excellence Awards celebrate their 10th anniversary, it's a fantastic opportunity to reflect on the changes we've seen in the world of content and communications over the past decade.

In 2014, paying by mobile phone and 'BookTok' were no more than ideas in the UK; fast forward to 2024 and more of us access news online than on TV and publishers are forging ahead with innovations such as sustainable typography and the application of AI. What I've seen at Pearson – the world's lifelong learning company – is no exception. Technology is transforming not just what learning looks like, but also where and how it can happen.

As well as displaying content, our interactive platforms now harness data and insights to generate feedback and recommendations that support and personalise learning like never before. The latest digital innovations are shaping learning experiences and also breaking down barriers to accessing them in the first place. In fact, eight in 10 students believe technology makes it easier for all students to participate at school (Pearson School Report 2024).

We've seen this first-hand with our groundbreaking remote invigilation pilot: hundreds of students who couldn't sit exams in schools and colleges took them from home, meaning they could progress in their learning journeys alongside their peers. In the words of one of those students, it was "a gamechanger" that has altered the trajectory of their life.

With technology having such transformative power for learning and learners, it's fantastic that education technology (edtech) innovation is being recognised in its own category at the Awards for the first time this year. We believe that innovation doesn't happen in isolation. That's why we're so proud to sponsor this new award and champion the edtech community.

Learning from you and with you is invaluable and can unlock even more possibilities for education across the globe. Together, the innovations we shape are not only challenging what's possible but changing lives for decades to come. We're excited for what's next.

Hayley White
VP Assessment, Standards and Services,
Pearson



THE STATIONERS' COMPANY WARRANT

A MARK OF QUALITY AND EXCELLENCE

The Stationers' Warrant has celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. Over the past decade, it has established itself as a highly esteemed mark of quality and excellence within our industries, reflecting our unique reach and expertise.

Winning entries have the honour of using the Warrant logo on their product or for promoting their service. As our marketplaces have changed, so the Stationers' Warrants have been applied across an ever-wider range of recipients, from classic stationery products to cutting-edge digital services.

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Innovation Excellence Awards

THE STATISHERS' COMPANY

The Awards: Winners & Shortlists

Award for Business Process 2024

Shortlist

Bloomsbury
for Bloomsbury Digital
Fashion Masterclass

Epic Print Ltd
for Cupround

Parkside Flexibles
for recyclable paper-based
flow wrap for chocolate

Xerox
for FreeFlow Vision
Connect

Winner

Epic Print Ltd
for Cupround

Only around one in 400 single-use drinks cups are currently recycled. Cupround is a project that aims to shift that ratio by getting used cups out of people's homes and into the recycling system. The project is based on boxes, made from recycled single-use cups, which arrive in a flattened crash-lock format. Each box can fit up to 20 large cups, with a carry case enabling easy transport. The boxes can be collected from and returned to members of the National Cup Recycling Scheme, which include McDonalds, Costa Coffee, Pret A Manger and Caffè Nero.



Merit

Xerox for FreeFlow Vision Connect

Xerox FreeFlow Vision Connect is a web-based software solution that offers real-time, at-a-glance visibility and control of production operations. The dashboard screen monitors, tracks and benchmarks performance across printers and sites.



Highly commended

Parkside Flexibles for recyclable paper-based flow wrap for chocolate

Parkside Flexibles' innovative paper-based flow wrap has allowed ethical chocolate brand Cox & Co to switch from its previous bioplastic solution to a fully recyclable paper-based option without compromising on the performance of the packaging.



Award for Communications, including Marketing 2024

Shortlist

Barley Communications
for Purpose Plus

Message Matrix
for Message Matrix

Shimmr
for Shimmr AI

Winner

Barley Communications
for Purpose Plus

In 2023, after becoming a certified B Corp, the social purpose communications agency Barley Communications launched its Purpose Plus proposition. This innovative approach to communications, based around the themes of people, clients and work, and the environment and wider world, helps charities, commercial businesses and public sector organisations engage and communicate with audiences on issues that matter.

barley

COMMUNICATION THAT MATTERS

Merit

Shimmr for Shimmr AI

Shimmr AI generates and deploys automated advertising to drive e-commerce for book publishers. The advertising continuously self-optimises in order to find new audiences for books and convert their interest into higher revenues.



Highly commended

Message Matrix for Message Matrix

Message Matrix is an AI-powered message switchboard that allows organisations to share content, contacts and processes with clients over WhatsApp in a secure, compliant and intelligent way.



Award for Customer Experience 2024

Shortlist

Message Matrix
for Message Matrix

Metaverse Learning Ltd
for Metaverse Learning
Educational Programs

MX Reality
for MetaDiverse

Pearson
for Remote Invigilation

**Prima Business Control
Software Ltd**
for Prima Engage

Springer Nature
for Snapp

Winner

Metaverse Learning Ltd
for Metaverse Learning
Educational Programs

Created in collaboration with education and industry partners, Metaverse Learning's Education Programs are immersive learning tools that mine the potential of extended reality, including virtual reality, virtual environments and augmented reality. By stimulating multiple senses and enhancing memory retention and cognitive processing, they seek to grab students' attention, keep them engaged in learning and support them through to success.



Merit

Pearson for Remote Invigilation

Pearson's successful pilot of a remote exam invigilation allowed 150 students, many with SEND, anxiety, health issues or geographical challenges, to complete international GCSE exams from their chosen setting.



Highly commended

Springer Nature for Snapp

Snapp, Springer Nature's new peer review platform, utilises automation, AI and machine learning to free up time in the review process, enabling authors and editors to focus on research.



Award for Education Technology 2024

Shortlist

Dot Dot Fire
for Money Wise School

Metaverse Learning Ltd
for Metaverse

Pearson
for Remote Invigilation

Perlego
for Perlego

UCAS
for Discover Your Choices

Winner

UCAS
for Discover Your Choices

This impressive collaboration between the UCAS admissions service and the careers education platform Springpod enables those with an account on the UCAS Hub to explore, interact with and sample university subjects, courses and work experience online before they apply. Aimed at 13-24 year-olds who are considering their options, it seeks to improve social mobility by removing barriers and widening access to higher education and the world of work, irrespective of background or location.

UCAS

Merit

Perlego for Perlego

Perlego is a digital library that provides subscribers with unlimited access to over a million academic, professional and non-fiction e-books and offers learning tools, study guides and an AI research assistant.



Perlego

Highly commended

Dot Dot Fire for Money Wise School

Money Wise School is a series of game-based financial literacy interventions for schools, including a financial literacy eSports competition, a game-based curriculum, and a CPD workshop for teachers



DOT DOT FIRE®

Award for Product Design 2024

Shortlist

Dorling Kindersley
for DK LEGO World Builder

Epic Print Ltd
for Coffee Notes

Kolbus UK Ltd
for Auto Box BX Motion

**Offset Print and
Packaging**
for PlayStation Access
Controller Slipcase

Reflex Group
for Linerless Lite

Springer Nature
for Snapp

Sun Chemical
for SunVisto AquaGreen
Range

Winner

Kolbus UK Ltd
for AutoBox BX Motion

Short-run corrugated box-making machines have been on the market for the past 10 years, but their effectiveness has been limited by the narrow scope of their capabilities. The Kolbus AutoBox BX Motion is capable of producing digitally printed, inline glued boxes, ranging from lightweight to heavy duty. Creating high-spec boxes in short run lengths without the need for expensive tooling and lengthy make-readies, it provides speed, simplicity and flexibility, with functions including digital print, die cutting and box gluing.



Merit

Reflex Group for Linerless Lite

Linerless Lite marks a significant advance in linerless labels setting new standards for sustainability and efficiency. The labels consist of less than 1% mixed material, allowing them to meet On-Pack Recycling Label guidelines.



Highly commended

Offset Print and Packaging for PlayStation Access Controller Slipcase

Commissioned by Sony for the customisable, accessibility-focussed PlayStation Access controller, this slipcase is designed so that users can easily remove the product from the box using one hand, with minimal effort.



Award for Start Up 2024

Shortlist

Epic Print Ltd
for Coffee Notes

Perlego
for Perlego

Shimmr
for Shimmer AI

Winner

Perlego
for Perlego

Perlego is a digital library that provides subscribers with access to over a million academic and professional e-books. It is the first and only platform in the publishing industry to aggregate books from the majority of global publishers under an unlimited, 'all-you-can-read' subscription. This helps break down barriers to affordability, geography and availability often associated with traditional publishing. The platform offers innovative learning tools, study guides and an AI research assistant.

Perlego

Merit

Shimmr for Shimmr AI

Shimmr AI generates and deploys automated advertising to drive e-commerce for book publishers. The advertising continuously self-optimises in order to find new audiences for books and convert their interest into higher revenues.



Innovator of the Year 2024

UCAS
for Discover Your Choices

UCAS



Anyone with exciting innovations in communication technology should participate in this fantastic competition! The Stationers' Company have been supporting and propagating innovation back to William Caxton, thought to be the person who brought the printing press to the UK in 1476.

Anyone nervous about 'Big Tech' providing solutions to our education challenges should be aware of the Company's mission to be the most effective independent forum in the UK communications and content industries, actively contributing to the strategic development, success and education of these industries!

Matthew Mayes
Co-founder, A-dapt
Winners of the Innovator of the Year Award 2023

What next?

An update from one of
last year's award winners



Glassboxx enables publishers to sell and deliver digital and print content directly to readers through a flexible, secure DRM. Available across iOS, Android, MacOS, Windows and web browsers, the Glassboxx app provides a direct sales and fulfilment solution, detailed analytics and marketing features.

Glassboxx Winner of the Award for Service Development 2023

Since submitting our entry last year, we have partnered with Gardners, which has played a key role in our Retail Direct Glassboxx solution. This is being used by the Australian book retailer Dymocks, showing the global nature of our innovation. We have also packaged a new Academic Publisher Direct solution based on the popularity of our branded apps in the academic sector, which builds on our Publisher Direct solution.

Our team has also grown exponentially across customer services, sales and tech and the amount of clients we now have has led to us taking on additional developers. We have also created a Publisher Success team to provide the support we feel our clients deserve in helping to grow their sales with our solutions.

Winning the Innovation Excellence Award last year has enhanced our reputation within the industry, as well as adding to our credibility as a very fast-growing global business. This was further added to when we were awarded a Stationers' Warrant, which we are very proud of.

“We are dedicated to putting readers first in everything we do, a mission rooted in inclusivity, by giving them the opportunity to read in the format of their choice. We found Glassboxx to be the right partner to help us accomplish these goals. We wanted to ensure the best service and shopping experience possible and Glassboxx is helping us to achieve that. Their responsiveness, creativity, and care for our readers has been absolutely outstanding.”

Katie Hope
Marketing and Sales Director,
Princeton University Press

Thank you

It has been a great honour for the pair of us to jointly chair these Innovations Excellence Awards.

It has also been a significant challenge, not just because the volume of entries was so great – the largest number we've ever received – but because the quality of those entries was so consistently high that selecting winners proved a truly monumental task.

In particular, we saw a surge in entries for the Product Design category, the continuation of a pattern suggestive of a golden era of product innovation. We also launched a new category, Education Technology, sponsored by Pearson, which proved to be heavily contested, with entries that emphasised the application of AI but also showed a strong focus on improving outcomes for students and educators.

Our thanks to Pearson and to our other main sponsor Picon for the phenomenal support that makes these awards possible.

Our thanks too to all the judges, whose experience, knowledge and time were given freely. We're particularly grateful to Jill Jones and Linda Drew,

the outgoing Co-Chairs, who leave huge shoes to fill and have steered us through our first year with grace and patience – their passion for and dedication to the awards have elevated them to where they are today.

It takes a team to make a project like this happen and the expert support of Katie Dare in particular has been absolutely essential to the co-ordination of the awards. Thanks too to Giles Fagan, the Clerk, and to the whole team at Stationers' Hall, especially Karyn Keating for her communications guidance and support for the awards across social media.

Our thanks to Mark Riddaway for giving his time and expertise to this brochure, Hobbs Printers for generously gifting us the print, and Georgina Brown, a Winston Churchill memorial trust fellow, for interviewing the award winners for the second year in a row. And finally, let us raise a glass to Castelnau for laying on the fabulous champagne reception.

**Vida Barr-Jones
& Kate Howell**

Co-Chairs,
Innovation Excellence Awards 2024

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