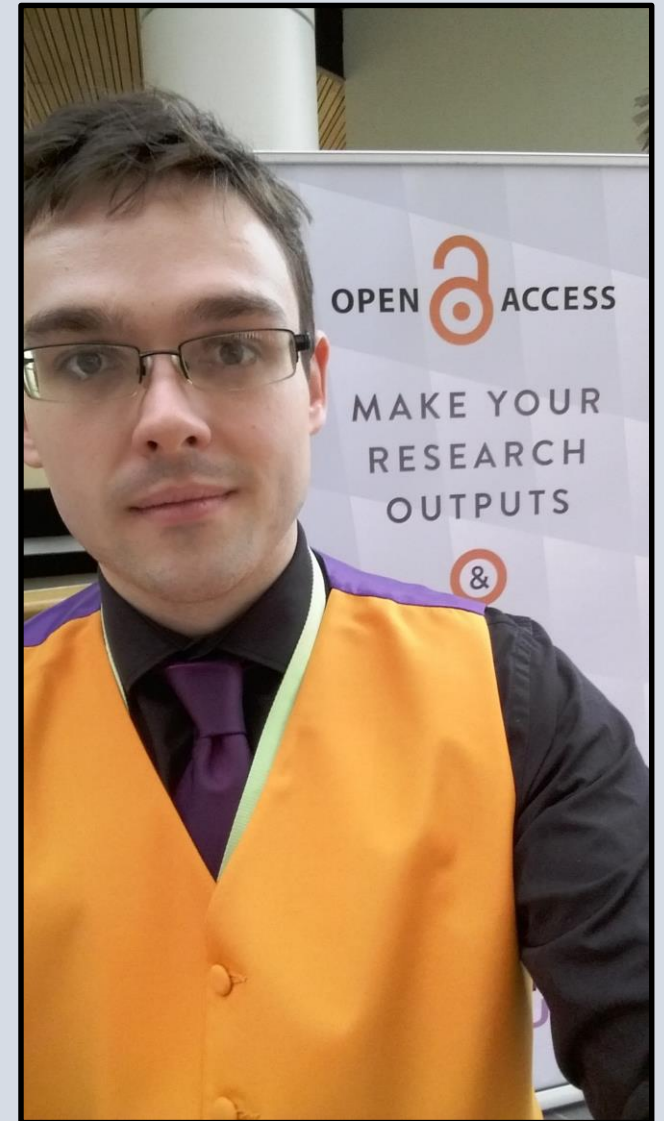# Demonstration of Roll20

https://roll20.net

George Bray (Robert Gordon University)

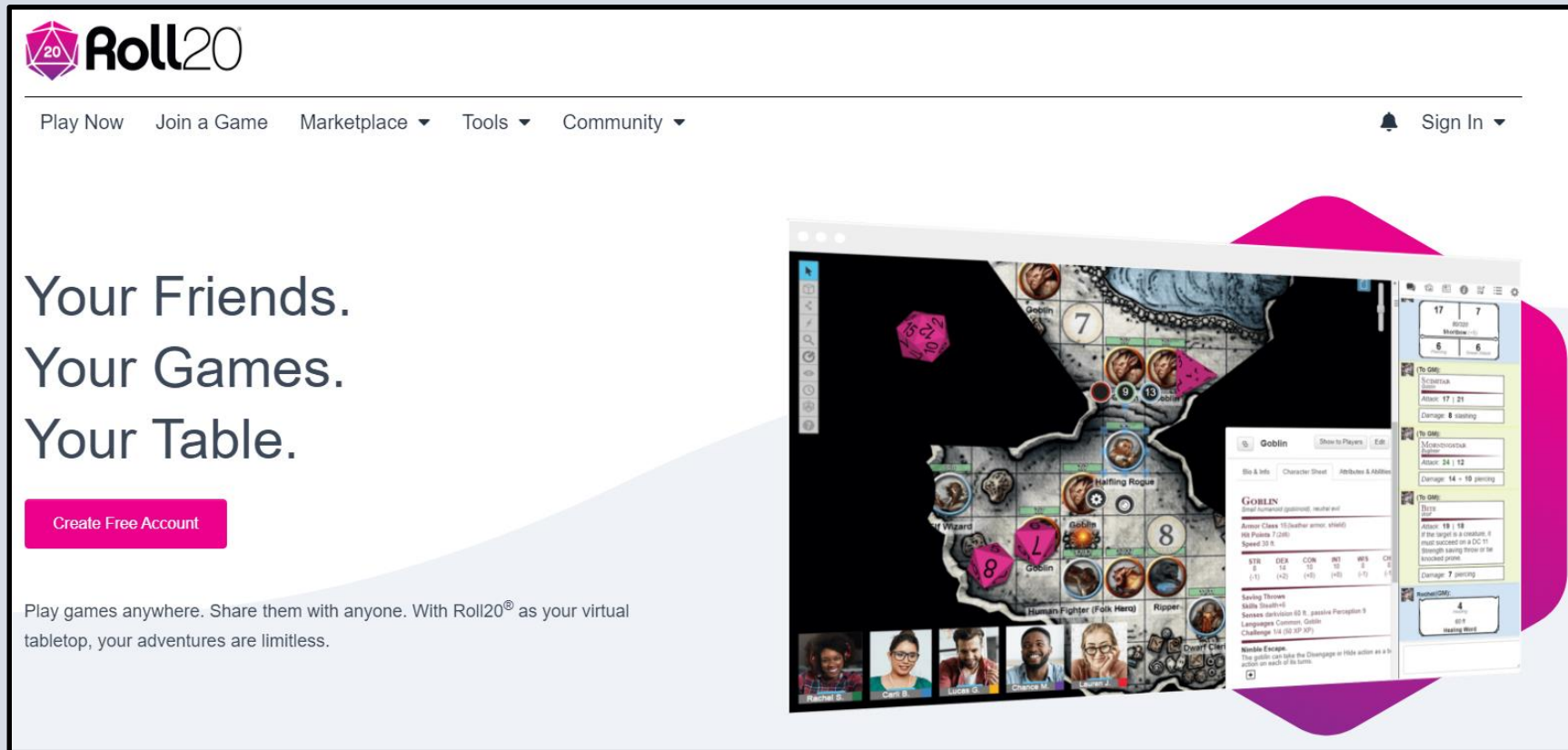g.r.bray@rgu.ac.uk

Who am I?

- Cataloguer and repository manager
  - Open Access
  - Resource description and discovery
  - Digital archiving

- Personal interests
  - Board games
  - Roleplaying games (D&D, Call of Cthulhu, etc.)
  - (Garish waistcoats?)

Self-portrait, Open Access Week 2017

What is Roll20?

- Online virtual tabletop
- Mostly for roleplaying games

Roll20 Homepage (https://roll20.net)

Roll20 basic functionality: game instances

List of game instances accessible by the logged-in account

Roll20 basic functionality: pages
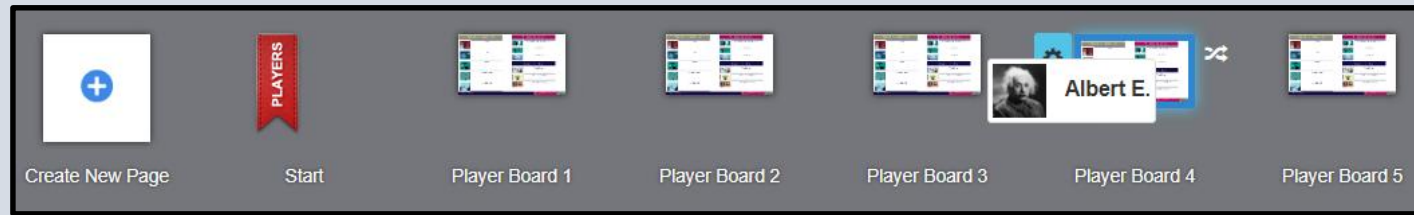
List of pages within a game instance, showing the GM dragging the player "Albert E." to a specific page.
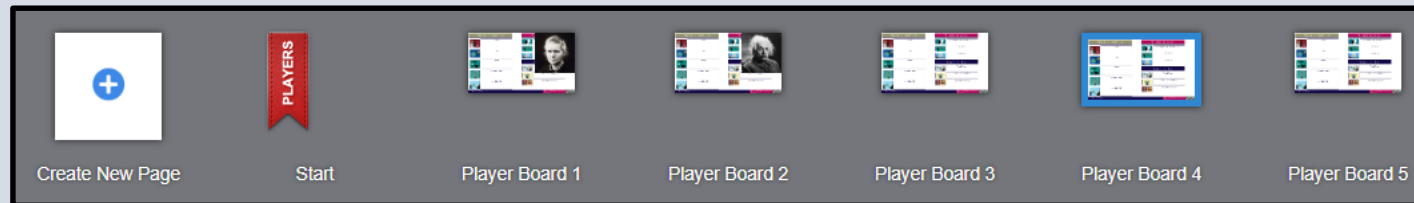
List of pages within a game instance. The GM's active page is highlighted blue. Pages with player avatars on them are visible only to the relevant players. All other players can see only the page with the "Players" banner.
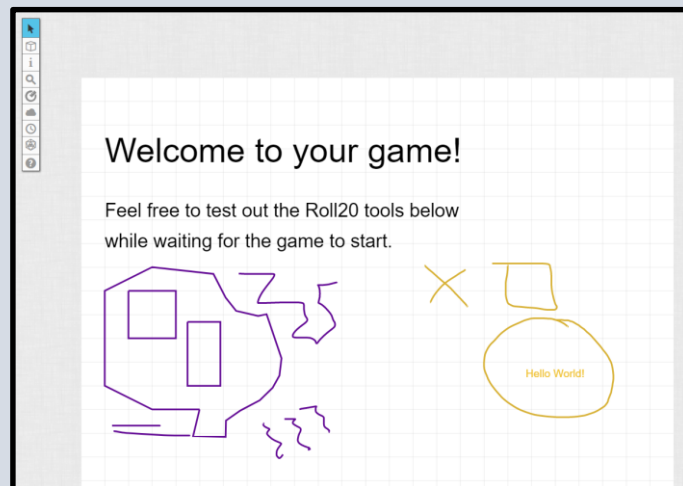
Text and drawing tools, available both to players and the GM.
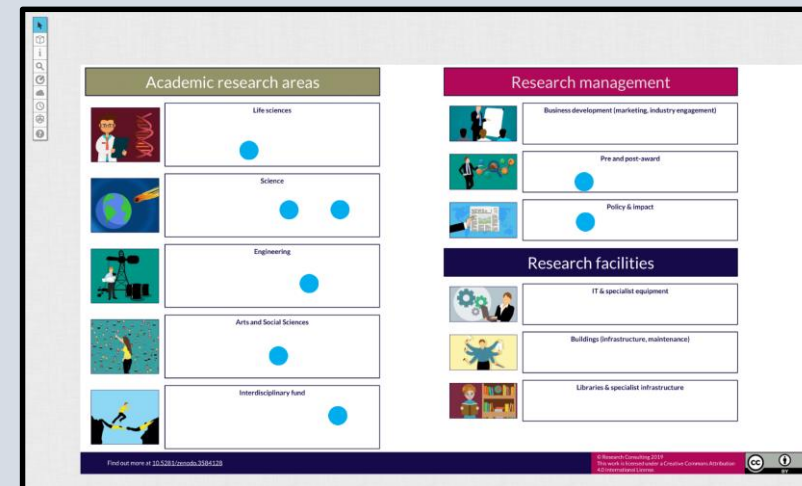
This page has an image (the game board) set as the background. The blue circles are set as tokens that the player can move around themselves.

Roll20 basic functionality: sidebar

Sidebar tabs.
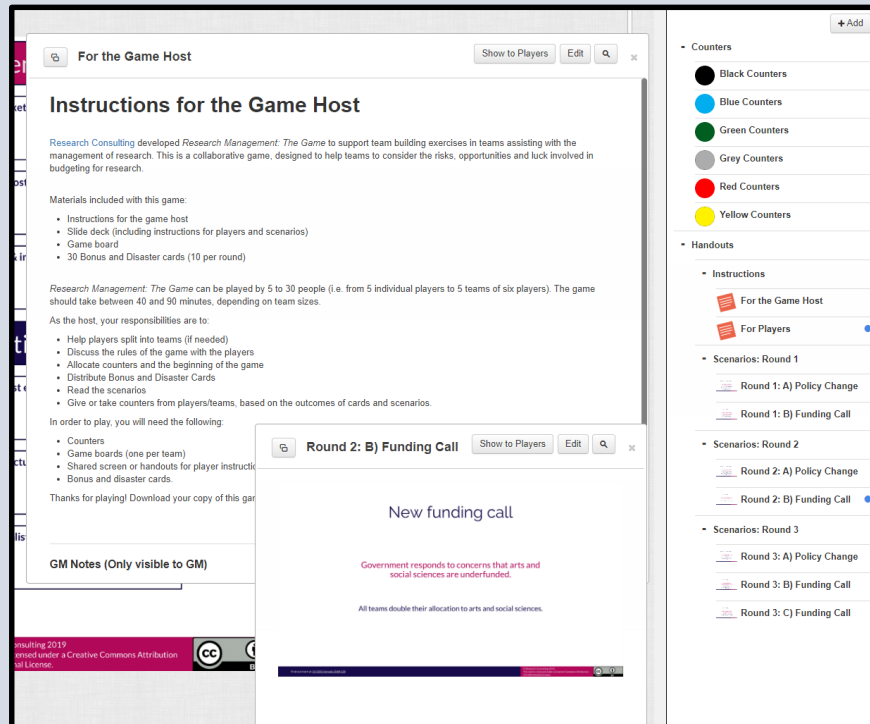
Handouts. Blue dots next to a handout mean that it is also visible to players. Handouts can be either text (edited within Roll20) or uploaded images.

Chat log.

Asset Library. Visible only to the GM.

Custom cards that have been dealt to a specific player from a deck. Clicking on the card enlarges it for easier visibility.

Roll20 pros and cons

- Pros
  - Supports many different game mechanics (dice, cards, counters…)
  - Provides various ways to control what players can see (e.g. splitting players into teams, showing only relevant handouts…)
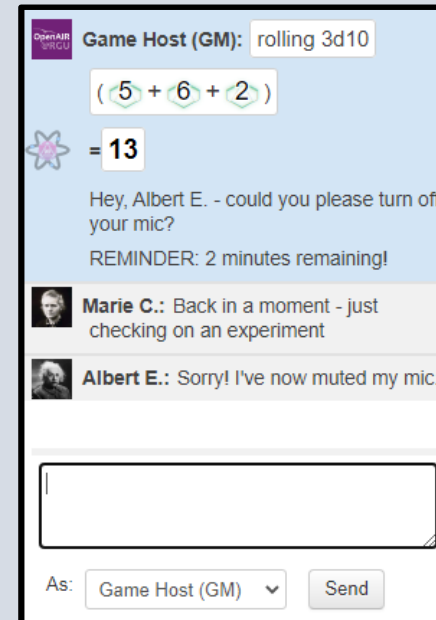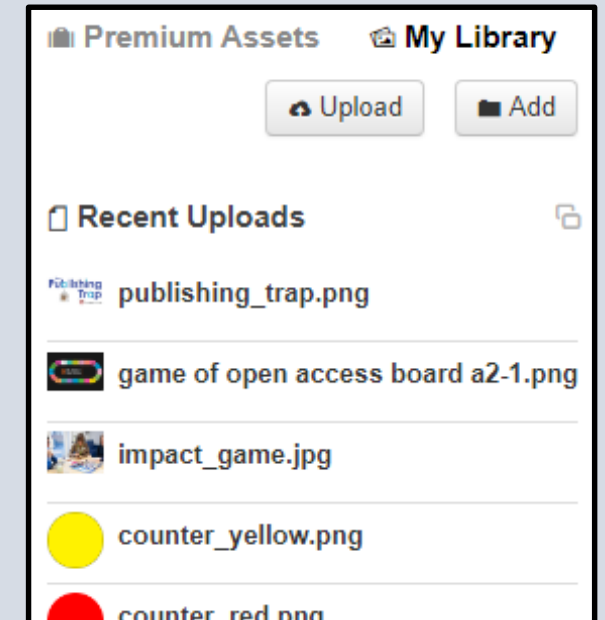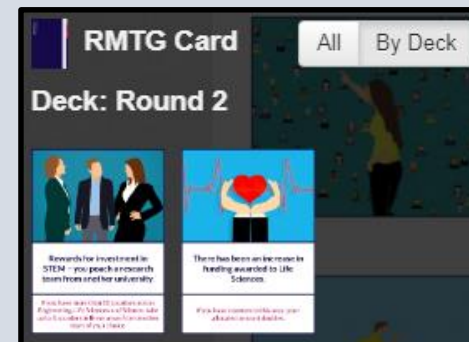 - Free to create an account, and to create or join game instances

- Cons
  - Everyone has to have an account
  - PDFs must be converted into image files before uploading
  - Difficult to share the content of a game instance with other GMs, and time-consuming for each GM to create their own instance of a game

Thanks for listening!

Links:
- Roll20 homepage – https://roll20.net
- Roll20 support pages - https://roll20.zendesk.com/

Thanks to Research Consulting for letting me use my unofficial Roll20 adaptation of their game (*Research Management: The Game*) for this presentation.

Feel free to get in touch with any further questions or for a more in-depth demonstration: g.r.bray@rgu.ac.uk