Learning Objects - by Tina Goertz - Wednesday, 28 May 2008, 06:47 PM

Hi all, For more information on the definition, check out: http://www.sreb.org/programs/EdTech/pubs/PDF/05T03-PrinciplesEffectiveLO.pdf or http://tlc.uwaterloo.ca/projects/CCCO/cloe_about_def.html.

 (In addition, I was involved in the schema definitions for LOR's – IEEE (I triple E) was a good friend of mine…lol!!)

Learning objects once created are then tagged, usually by using the Learning Object Metadata standard and specifications – this can be complicated and difficult to work through as there are over 30 specific meta tags to address and sometimes very specific descriptors that you must use. After the LO is tagged, you can then upload into a repository and teachers can search for your LO based on a specific term. [this of course is based on the instructor/developer having access to a repository)While this sounds fantastic, there are some issues concerning the use and development of Learning Objects, they are:

Meta tagging standardized, but not that easy to use

- Instructors use words not necessarily descriptive or effective
- Some repositories will not allow for LOR's to be input into their database unless they have been tagged using their software or built in a specific rich media.
- Searching for LOR's can come up with hundreds of "finds", making it difficult to access quickly
- Not all LOR's are created equal; there are some really bad learning objects out there and some cannot be repurposed
- Copyright issues
- Not SCORM or IEEE compliant (this means that a LO will not work inside an LMS)
- Accessibility issues -- every LOR should be captioned, tagged and have text

While I'm not adverse to Learning Objects at all, for the majority of instructors that I have talked to and helped on this topic they all have found the experience very frustrating. Many have given up or have paid developers to come up with their own specific learning objects rather than finding repositories and searching.

In addition, some repositories do not allow just anyone to search. They have rules, instructions and more often than not, who can join too! best, Tina

> Re: Learning Objects - by Thomas Sheppard - Friday, 30 May 2008, 09:22 AM
>
> Would a rating system based on peer reviews help searching a LOR more effective? Software download sites like TUCOWS and CNet's Download.com have a ratings system in place where you can sort your search category based on Editor and User ratings. YouTube has a system where you can sort by category (Featured, Most Popular, Most Discussed, Most Recent, Most Responded, Most Viewed, Top Favourites, Top Rated), which I find useful. It seems it would make mining the digital debris more efficient.

Re: Learning Objects - by Tina Goertz - Friday, 30 May 2008, 06:52 PM

Hi Thomas,

LOR's are usually standalone repositories that do not have this kind of functionality and unless it is added in the back end coding, the sorting mechanism will be based on only a few variables.

Nice thought! best, Tina

Re: Learning Objects - by Tina Goertz - Monday, 2 June 2008, 05:21 PM

Hi,

The issue is not about viruses, instead it is about permissions -- you must have permission as a faculty member to access and be able to set up an account within the repository. This is not to say that all of them behave this way, but for the ones that I have worked in, this is the case.

You would think that it should be open, but there are a lot of FIPPA issues, etc. and they have really tightened the reins.

thanks for your post! best, Tina

> Re: Learning Objects - by Arlo Speer - Monday, 2 June 2008, 07:52 PM
>
> Geri, Tina, et al:
>
> The "permissions" issue is a significant one. It seems tied into the copyright thing (i.e., you have rights to this particular item, I don't!)
>
> I wonder if things like Web 2.0 concepts, wikis, blogs and the like will change that. It seems to me that we're seeing more and more material simply available for the taking from the web. Certainly, there are lots of "buy my book" or "subscribe (i.e., pay) for access to my material"; however, there also seem to be a number of places where one can simply access, read, download and perhaps even update material on the web. If we moved Learning Objects to the same level, they'd be available for all to use.
>
> Utopian? Probably. While it certainly stifles one's ability to become rich and famous from publishing educational material, it does make a whole bunch easier the process of learning from the material. I never did do all that well in History, but wasn't there a time way back when that scholars simply shared their knowledge with those keen to learn?
>
> Arlo

Re: Learning Objects - by Tina Goertz - Wednesday, 4 June 2008, 06:44 PM

Thanks so much for your post! Tina

> Re: Learning Objects
>
> by Ian Mugridge - Saturday, 7 June 2008, 06:06 PM
>
> I think I've commented on copyright elsewhere and it is an important topic. Sharing is one thing but pirating is quite another. The latter should probably be prevented if possible or at least monitored. And yes, the new technologies are making and will make a whole lot of difference. Even perhaps as making dinosaurs like me abandon their attachment to something called ownership of material.
>
> Ian