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MERLOT



Giving (and Getting) Credit Where Credit is Due

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Goals of this presentation

- ▶ ***State the perceived shortcomings of current practices for distributing Reusable Learning Objects (RLOs)***
- ▶ ***Describe steps involved in a proposed solution***
- ▶ ***Discuss the issues and challenges most likely to arise***
- ▶ ***Identify people who want to work on the solution***

Problem Statement

- ▶ *After a Reusable Learning Object (RLO) is made available for distribution, it is currently not possible to know:*
 - *How frequently is it really being used, and by whom? (download statistics don't tell you this)*
 - *How valuable is the RLO? (could be based on interpretation of authentic usage data)*
 - *Who has improved or extended it?*
 - *What other RLOs might be out there that cover the same (or related) learning objectives?*



Proposed Solution Outline

- ▶ *Organize a formal system for RLO citations that parallels traditional literature citations (sort of)*
 1. *Establish/identify standard citation format*
 2. *Provide a convenient mechanism for generating citations*
 3. *Promote "Citations" section as a standard part of course websites*
 4. *Implement functionality to harvest RLO citation data from LMS course sites*
 5. *Implement a service to receive harvested RLO citation data and provide an interface for searching/analyzing the data*



1. Establish/identify standard citation format

► Using simple URLs as citations could be problematic

- Unpredictable structure
- Potentially fragile
- Not all RLOs necessarily live at a URL

1. Establish/identify standard citation format

► Previous work: JISC OLIVE Project

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/divle/olive.aspx>

The screenshot shows the JISC website page for the OLIVE project. The page title is "Open Linking Implementation in a Virtual Learning Environment". The page content includes a search bar at the top, navigation links, and a main heading. Below the heading, there is a warning that the webpage has been archived and its content will not be updated. The page also includes a "Summary" section with details such as start and end dates, funding programme, and project website. The "Aims and Objectives" section describes the project's goals, including enabling reference lists and learning object levels within a VLE.

JISC Search for Enter your search in the whole JISC site Go Accessibility | Site map | Glossary

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Activities by Topic

Programmes

Linking Digital Libraries & VLEs

► OLIVE

Home » What We Do » Programmes » Linking Digital Libraries & VLEs » OLIVE

Open Linking Implementation in a Virtual Learning Environment

This webpage has been archived. Its content will not be updated. [View web retention policy](#)

OLIVE is a collaborative project between Royal Holloway, University of London, and the University of Westminster. The project is a practical exploration of the OpenURL as a method of linking between VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) software and digital library resources at both reference list and learning object levels.

Aims and Objectives

Firstly to OpenURL enable reference lists held within the VLE to allow the seamless linking from the reference to the full text online (when available), to document delivery services, or to offer location services (e.g. look up the reference on a library catalogue). Secondly, to OpenURL enable the VLE at a learning object level to allow the LOM (Learning Object Metadata) to be passed to an OpenURL resolver, which could then offer appropriate resources, based on the LOM (this could be full-text journals, websites or other digital objects).

Summary

Start date
1 October 2002

End date
31 July 2003

Funding programme
[Linking Digital Libraries with VLEs programme](#)

[Project website](#)

Topic
[Learning Environments](#)
[Network & Infrastructure](#)

1. Establish/identify standard citation format

► Previous work: UKOLN Paper

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/distributed-systems/lo-identifiers/>

Distributed Systems

Identifiers for learning objects – a discussion paper



Introduction

This paper attempts to put forward a set of requirements for the identification of learning objects. This is a discussion paper, so comments are welcome – send them to the cetis-metadata@iiscmail.ac.uk mailing list. The intention is to develop a set of learning object identifier requirements that can be used to determine which of the current technologies ([URI](#), [URN](#), [URL](#), [PURL](#), [Handle](#), [DOI](#), [POI](#) ...) are best suited to the needs of the UK higher and further education community.



1. Establish/identify standard citation format

► Previous work: UKOLN Paper

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/distributed-systems/lo-identifiers/>

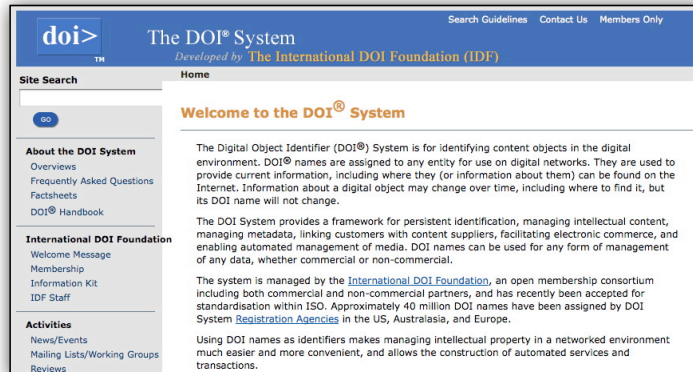
Learning object identifier requirements

1. *Persistent*
2. *Unique*
3. *Resolvable*
4. *Usable in Web browsers*
5. *Transportable among repositories*
6. *Simple to assign*
7. *Assignable in devolved environments
(without reference to a central service, to guarantees uniqueness)*
8. *Usable in non-digital environments*
9. *URI compliant*
10. *Free at the point of use*



1. Establish/identify standard citation format

- ▶ *Previous work: Digital Object Identifiers*
<http://www.doi.org/>



We need standards mavens!



2. Provide a convenient mechanism for generating citations

- ▶ *MERLOT could provide a service to generate citations*
 - *Ideally could be done as a one-click process, with options to provide metadata*
 - *Generation of CC license could include specifying a method for complying with "by attribution" requirement*
 - *Should increase likelihood of contributing RLOs to MERLOT*

We need programming talent and infrastructure support!



3. Promote "Citations" section as a standard part of course websites

Course Website	
Home	_____
Syllabus	_____
Resources	_____
Citations	_____

▸ Which LMSs to target?

- Market share
- Access to influence development

3. Promote "Citations" section as a standard part of course websites

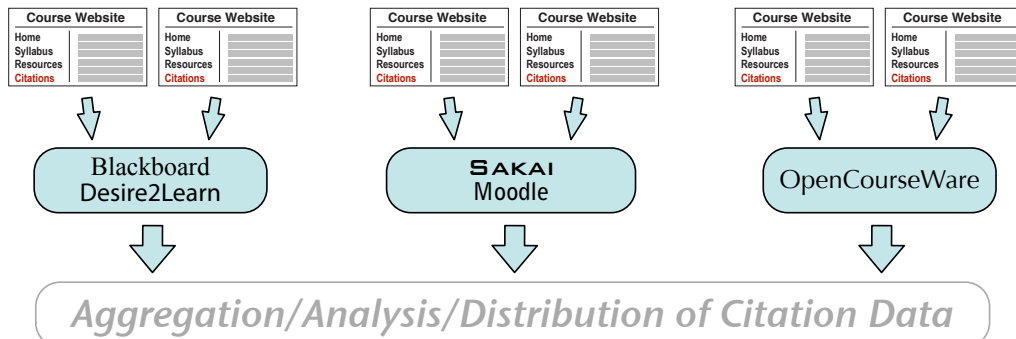
Course Website	
Home	_____
Syllabus	_____
Resources	_____
Citations	_____

▸ How to motivate faculty to use Citations section?

- Draw analogy to use of citations in research, as standard scholarly practice and professional responsibility
- Highlight value of "registering" use of citations as a means of getting informed about updates, and new RLOs of interest
- Compliance with attribution aspect of license

We need people who know how to motivate faculty!

4. Implement functionality to harvest RLO citation data from LMS course sites

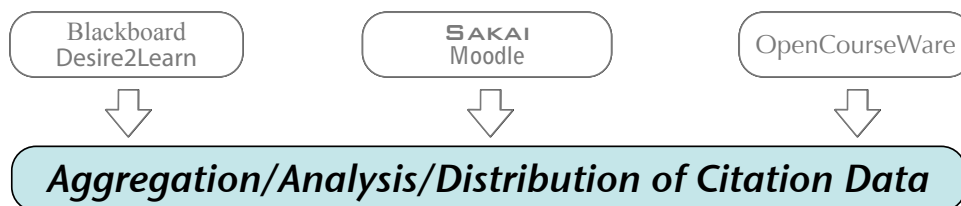


- ▶ *Crawling would require huge resources*
- ▶ *Need to account for use of RLOs not in an LMS*

We need people who can get things done with LMS vendors!



5. Implement service to receive RLO citation data & provide interface to search/analyze data



▶ *User queries can discover:*

- *Who has really been using my RLO?*
- *What derivatives of my RLO have been made?*
- *What related RLOs are out there?*

We need more programming talent and infrastructure support!



Thanks!

▶ *Victor Wong*

▶ *Carl Berger*

▶ *Chuck Severance*

▶ *Sorel Reisman*

"Using Learning Objects to Affect Educational Outcomes"

http://hstrial-sreisman.homestead.com/files/Downloads/Learning_Objects.pdf

MERLOT



Teaching and Learning
in a Networked World