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Developing Reusable Learning Objects at ITT Dublin via the Irish National Digital Learning Repository

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Developing Reusable Learning Objects (RLOs) at ITT Dublin via the National Digital Learning Resources repository


Aims & Objectives

To develop reusable teaching and learning objects covering core academic skills; to enhance the student learning experience and provide learners with opportunities to develop, reflect and assess their progress as they acquire an independent approach to learning; to facilitate student transition from second to third level and develop information literacy. RLOs include:

- Academic research
- Study skills
- Writing skills
- Grammar
- Plagiarism
- Referencing

How To resources:

- Sound pedagogical principles
- Constructivist approach
- An active learning experience
- An element of reflective learning
- Requirement for critical thinking and problem solving
- Elements requiring collaboration between students
- Engaging, interactive content
- Available 24/7 as self paced online resources

The interactive software Articulate Studio 9 was chosen to produce high quality digital material. This software facilitates rapid e-learning development and the creation of engaging courses, presentations and quizzes.

It was intended that the learning objects would:

- Be SCORM 1.2 compliant
- Adhere to best practice international accessibility guidelines
- Be Reusable Learning Objects
- Be hosted digitally via the ITT Dublin library website, the Institute’s virtual learning environment (Moodle) and the NDLR

Design of RLOs

In designing and developing the RLOs the team considered the needs of a range of learning styles and agreed on the following:

- Feedback
- Collaboration
- Technical issues
- Design
- Ongoing staff training / skills development
- Interact and collaborate nationally and internationally

What our users say:

- "Great tutorial - very good explanation of plagiarism and how to avoid it. Thought the quiz was very useful – meant I could check that I understood the material in the tutorial - thanks" 2nd year Science student
- "This tutorial is an extremely useful resource for my business students. I will also add to my teaching on Moodle. Thanks!" Business lecturer
- "I felt the library tutorial was a great way to find out how to organize and apply the skills necessary in order to complete a literature review. Very easy to use and very helpful" 9th year Humanities student
- "The study techniques and essay and report writing tutorial has hopefully improved my English writing and report structure" 1st year Engineering student

Challenges

- Time Commitments – creating resources dependent on student/staff availability
- Technical issues – audio and training, managing version control
- Design – ensuring tools were interactive, engaging and meeting pedagogical needs
- Collaboration – integrating tutorials into academic modules
- Feedback – not all usage stats being captured at start of project

Evaluation

Mechanisms used to measure effectiveness of learning objects include:

- Informal feedback
- Library website (Google Analytics)
- Moodle (Institute VLE)
- Online survey tool (SurveyGizmo)

Since September 2010 when the first RLO was launched, the tutorials have achieved nearly 3,300 completions with over 2,300 students providing online feedback via SurveyGizmo.

References