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

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### 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
- Plagiarism
- Writing skills
- Grammar
- Referencing

### 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:

- 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.

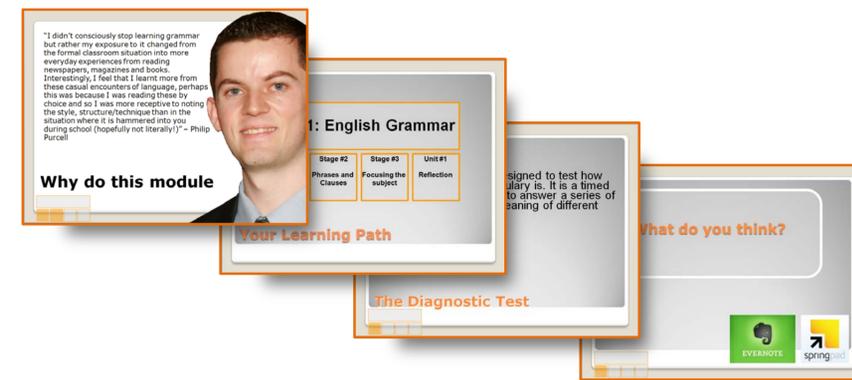
It was intended that the learning objects would:

- 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

### How To resources:



### Reinvent resources:



### 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

### 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”  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 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”  
 3<sup>rd</sup> year Humanities student

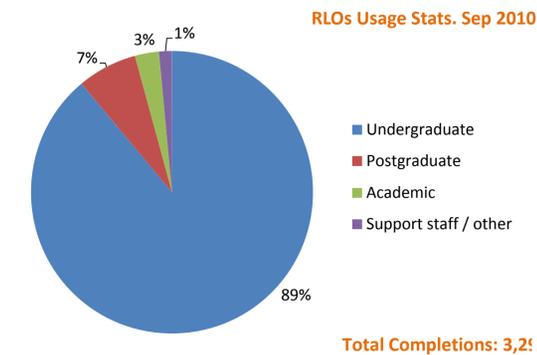
“The study techniques and essay and report writing tutorial has hopefully improved my English writing and report structure”  
 1<sup>st</sup> year Engineering student

### Evaluation

Mechanisms used to measure effectiveness of learning objects include:

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

Since September 2010 when the first RLO was launched, the tutorials have achieved nearly 3,300 completions with over 2,260 students providing online feedback via SurveyGizmo.



### Future Directions

- Additional funding via the NDLR will facilitate delivery of new RLOs
- Embed tutorial into further academic modules
- Increase collaboration with teaching staff
- Tutorials integrated into new Learning to Learn Module – September 2012
- Include audio and tutorial translation
- Ongoing staff training / skills development
- Seek funding for further software provision
- Ongoing development and evaluation of existing tutorials
- Interact and collaborate nationally and internationally

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