Towards an Open Repository of Teaching Resources

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A Tale of 3 Repositories…

…and how the *Evolution* of a Repository of Learning Objects turned into a *Revolution* by mistake.
(1) CLARE: A Learning Object Repository

"Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, 'Certainly I can!'. Then get busy and find out how to do it."

- Theodore Roosevelt
Learning Objects
Building a Repository
The Repositories

CLARE
The Impact of Web 2.0

Expectations Have Changed
“When people are free to do as they please, they usually imitate each other.”

*Eric Hoffer (1902-1983) American philosopher and author.*
Workshops: Scenarios and Personas

Tom

**Secondary School French Teacher, consuming resources**

‘Tom is a teacher of French in a secondary school. He recently has taken on the responsibility of subject leader. He wants to locate new materials to blend with his classroom teaching to stimulate and motivate. He is planning to set-up a French learners’ website and to populate it with online resources. Particularly those that will be provide fun as well as learning for his students.’

Louise

**Learner (final year student on a degree course)**

‘Louise is studying advanced-level Italian and German at a UK university. She has just started her final year, and is aware that her German is considerably weaker than her Italian. She wants to do some independent study to boost the level of her German. She is particularly worried about her vocabulary, and her familiarity with modern German culture.’
What the Teachers Said

“It seems very flat, there doesn’t seem to be any depth.”

“It’s hard to see the most important information, because it’s mixed in with so much detail.”

“I can’t click on anything, the navigation could be better.”

“There’s no place to record how other people have used the Learning Object.”
Web 2.0 Usability Tools
The Repositories

CLARE

CLARE 3
Evaluation of CLARE 3
What the Teachers Said

“I recognise the zip file, but when I open it up I don’t know what to run to make it work.”

“I don’t know what half of these terms mean.”

“I don’t have digital resources to share. I print out my handouts and if I need them again I photocopy them or type them in again.”
(3) PuffinShare: An Everyday Repository Share

“Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.”

- Confucius
Requirements for Simplicity

- Ability to preview online
- Simple atomic resources (no content packages)
- A minimum set of *manual metadata*
- A maximum set of *automatic metadata*
- No need to download (can use from a URL)
- Targeted comments
- Interlinked metadata
- An open look and feel as well as an open policy
- A promiscuous search system
Observation 1

The community is eager to share their resources and wants a lightweight repository that they can incorporate into their everyday practice.

They are keen that the repository should have a user interface that follows the best-practice principles of Web 2.0 sites (social, interlinked, evolving and flexible).

Observation 2

Practitioners are enthusiastic about sharing learning assets: simple resources such as videos, audio files and presentations.

This is because of the simplicity of producing and reusing them (for example, there is no overhead of content packaging, or complex metadata authoring).

Faroes’ Aims

- Deploy an archipelago of lightweight repositories
- Explore issues that until now have been abstract – policies of social ownership and provenance – notions of trust and authority.
- Enabling Web 2.0 functions – Tagging, Virtual Collections, etc.
- Encourage the sharing of learning assets – Provide a number of bootstrap activities to support the community identify, upload and describe their assets
PuffinShare Storyboards
The Repositories

CLARE

CLARE 3

PuffinShare
Evolution or Revolution?

The first duty of a revolutionary is to get away with it.

- John Dickinson
Future Work

• We are currently working on a first version of PuffinShare
  – Hope to have a public beta by the Summer

• We will visit interested (potential) users
  – Help identify (and upload) digital resources
  – Gather feedback

Our Added Value?

• A place to collect and group your own resources
• Easy to distribute to students
• A way to develop Learning Objects from the ground up?
Questions/Comments

Thank you for listening