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EdReNe

**Second expert workshop on repository strategies:
program, list of participants and proceedings**

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eContentplus

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¹ OJ L 79, 24.3.2005, p. 1.

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Please note that the [web based version of this document](#) will be updated when relevant.

1 Introduction

This workshop took place at Reval Hotel Olümpia, Tallinn, Estonia, on September 16th-17th 2008.

The agenda for all expert workshops is settled on the basis of input from network members. During the second strategic seminar in Lisbon participants were asked to prioritize issues for this workshop. This list of issues will also serve as guidelines for producing the upcoming thematic synthesis report on repository strategies. The issues with highest priority for the second workshop in the series concerning *Repository strategies* were:

- Quality assurance strategies (editorial policies; technical quality assurance)
- Identifying the decisive benefits that trigger repository use by important target groups: professional publishers, public institutions, teachers...
- Connecting and cooperating with existing repositories (including overcoming barriers such as language, IPR, technical issues...)
- The cost of building and maintaining a repository (business models; initial costs; establishing a critical mass of content; sustainability...)
- Strategies for involving key actors in development process

Emphasis during this workshop was on presenting different strategies when setting up new repositories, and identifying what seems to trigger success and how pitfalls can be avoided. This was done through presentations of (very different) approaches of existing and upcoming repository initiatives, and elaborated through group sessions.

The focus was on elaborating the above issues in order to produce a comprehensive thematic report containing the most relevant information. Part of the basis of this elaboration was the results – most notably on quality assurance – from the first workshop on repository strategies.

2 Workshop summary

From the diverse nature of different settings and contexts for establishing educational repositories it is hard, if not impossible, to do a simple and rigorous presentation of best practise. In order to present the best possible advice to existing and coming repository owners, the coming thematic synthesis report on repository strategies will thus try to describe common obstacles and barriers, and provide examples of how they have been successfully dealt with within specific contexts. The general consensus from workshop discussions was that emphasis should be on case descriptions combined with data comparable across countries/repositories. There was a general consensus that the networks should collect comparable data through surveys of individual repository profiles and use this to identify relevant trends and strategy patterns.

This second workshop on repository strategies focused on presentation of different approaches and motivations for building repositories. The five issues given the highest priorities during the second strategic seminar were discussed following plenum presentations, and ideas on how these areas should be further analysed and elaborated were drafted in group sessions. In addition, existing reports and advice to repository owners on the same issues will be collected over the next months. Some examples emerged during the workshop, and members have provided others after. This will help provide as comprehensive a view on potential strategies as possible.

Part of the workshop was devoted to updating national contributions to the second version of the State of the Art report on educational repositories and defining in more detail the structure and content of a report on agreement templates for repository owners.

3 Agenda

Tuesday September 16 th 2008		
09.30	Welcome	Leo Højsholt-Poulsen, UNI•C
09.45	Reporting from 2 nd Strategic seminar and WS 3.1 on Repository strategies	Tommy Byskov Lund, UNI•C
10.00	<i>Plenum presentation:</i> WSOY's strategies and services on learning material repositories	Heikki Karjalainen WSOY
10.30	Coffee break	
11.00	<i>Plenum presentations:</i> Strategies for some national repositories in higher and further education National Digital Resource Bank	Charles Duncan Intrallect Fiona Iglesias NWLG
12.15	<i>Introduction to group sessions – survey results</i>	Tommy Byskov Lund, UNI•C
13.00	Lunch	
14.00	<i>Group sessions on the prioritised themes</i> Top priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality assurance strategies (editorial policies; technical quality assurance) ▪ Identifying the decisive benefits that trigger repository use by important target groups: professional publishers, public institutions, teachers... ▪ Connecting and cooperating with existing repositories (including overcoming barriers such as language, IPR, technical issues...) ▪ The cost of building and maintaining a repository (business models; initial costs; establishing a critical mass of content; sustainability...) ▪ Strategies for involving key actors in development process 	EdReNe members and external experts
15.30	Coffe break	
16.00	<i>..continued work and discussion on prioritised themes</i>	EdReNe members and external experts
17.00	Four reports from real life: Why teachers (don't?) use repositories...	Meeri Sild Pille Tina-Kuusik Katrin Sachs Kristel Mäekask (Estonian teachers)
18.00	First day finishes	
20.30	EdReNe dinner	

Wednesday, September 17th 2008		
09.00	Project stuff – administration	Leo Højsholt-Poulsen, UNI•C
09.30	<i>Presentations of new members:</i> Encyclopaedia Britannica Education	Adam Bates
10.00	Hot News around the table - news and issues to be taken up in the network	All members
10.30	<i>Plenum sessions and group sessions leading to decisions and further work on the deliverables of the second year:</i> Updated version of the State of the Art report on educational repositories in October 2008. We will be looking for evidence of success and impact (quantity and/or quality).	EdReNe members and external experts
13.00	Lunch	
14.00	<i>Initial discussion:</i> Templates for agreements between repositories and content owners/providers, December 2008. At the moment the relevance of this report is reconsidered, members' input on this issue is requested. Should we define another, better type of deliverable (e.g. "things to consider, when you establish a repository..") more useful to the network?	
15.15	Workshop evaluation	Tommy Byskov Lund, UNI•C
15.30	Workshop finishes	

4 Session summaries

The workshop dealt with the prioritised themes in plenum presentations with subsequent discussions as well as in group sessions/discussions.

4.1 Plenum presentations and discussions

Presentations on repository strategies

4.1.1 WSOY's strategies and services on learning material repositories (Heikki Karjalainen, WSOY)

A presentation from one of the leading educational publishers in Finland. The presentation detailed a strategy of providing both publisher produced and user generated content through a common interface (a platform with LMS functionality developed since launch in 2001). Teachers are presented with either “free content only” or can buy access to the commercially produced content which then also includes content produced by teachers. The commercial service (OPIT) has 134.000 users (September 2008) and includes interactive learning objects, lesson plans, tests, audio and video assets etc.

[Download presentation](#)

4.1.2 National Digital Resource Bank (Fiona Iglesias, NWLG)

Fiona Iglesias did a presentation on the background, business model and choices made so far in the ambitious project of establishing a National Digital Resource Bank – a project building upon the goal of each school having a learning platform by 2008, with the ambition to ease uptake and use through providing quality digital content.

The presentation covered the aspects of funding, delivery, content packaging, quality assurance, copyright (ownership and infringement handling), file formatting, metadata, harvesting, deployment and implementation. According to the project plan most English schools will have direct access to a common bank of free digital content within three years.

[Download presentation](#)

4.1.3 National Repository Strategies: Some Higher and Further Education Examples (Charles Duncan, Intrallect)

Charles Duncan presented an overview of the differences and similarities in the strategies chosen by three repositories: JORUM (UK, 600 institutions; higher and further education), COLEG (Scotland, 40 institutions; further education) and NDLR (Ireland, 21 institutions; higher and further education).

These repositories present three different types of motivations for building a repository: distribution of content; preservation of content; building a community of practice.

From these starting points the presentation introduced the choices made concerning content deposit and consumption, rights, ensuring ease of use, quality assurance, establishing a critical mass and ensuring sustainability.

[Download presentation](#)

4.1.4 Teachers using educational repositories

The workshop included presentations “from real life” in the form of Estonian teachers sharing their experiences with using educational repositories. They presented the motivating factors but also gave examples of some of the barriers and problems to using digital content from repositories. These brief presentations were used as input for the subsequent discussions on whether the current repository strategies match the needs and expectations of this important user group.

- Identifying the decisive benefits that trigger repository use by teachers
Katrin Saks, Pärnu Koidula Gymnasium ([link to presentation](#))
- Repositories – What’s there for teachers?
Meeri Sild, Lilleküla Gymnasium ([link to presentation](#))
- Painful experiences in author rights violation
Kristel Mäekask, Lilleküla Gymnasium ([link to presentation](#))
- Do teachers need repositories?
Pille Tiina-Kuusik, Lasnamäe Kindergarten-Elementary School ([link to presentation](#))

Presentation of new member

4.1.5 Education, content and Encyclopaedia Britannica (Adam Bates)

Adam Bates from Encyclopaedia Britannica presented the current status and future plans of Britannica’s work in the school market. With a 240 year history and tradition of content creation and moving through first digitalization and up to today where much emphasis is on providing access to content the way users want it – easy, flexible and through a number of different access routes and devices (web, LMS, portals, push technology, mobile access, eBooks, interactive whiteboards...).

A second new major trend is allowing users to both interact with and enrich existing content, as well as creating completely new content through an open publishing system.

[Download presentation](#)

Britannica Blog Forum: [Brave New Classroom 2.0](#)

News around the table

4.1.6 Brief news – suggestions for the network

To allow members to share ongoing or planned activities a brief session was devoted to present or discuss ideas and initiatives, which might be of interest to network members (both ideas to be taken up directly within the network, but also as informal sharing of ideas with a bit broader scope).

This first version of the session featured:

- Demonstration of drag’n’drop depositing and open search interface to intraLibrary – introducing the “invisible” repository
- Discussion on teacher training initiatives – concrete example [EPICT](#)

EdReNe project sessions

4.1.7 Administrative issues and evaluation

The workshop included the traditional update on project administrative issues (finances, web site updates, progress) as well as a brief evaluation of the workshop including suggestions for coming workshops.

4.2 Group sessions

4.2.1 Outlining the Thematic Synthesis report on repository strategies

During the first group session participants were divided into five groups, which were responsible for initiating the writing of a section of the thematic synthesis report on repository strategies. The five section headings were based on the topics identified as the most important during the second strategic seminar:

- Quality assurance strategies (editorial policies; technical quality assurance)
- Identifying the decisive benefits that trigger repository use by important target groups: professional publishers, public institutions, teachers...
- Connecting and cooperating with existing repositories (including overcoming barriers such as language, IPR, technical issues...)
- The cost of building and maintaining a repository (business models; initial costs; establishing a critical mass of content; sustainability...)
- Strategies for involving key actors in development process

Each group had access to survey results and background material collected prior to the workshop. Groups were asked to elaborate on these topics and identify what information should be included – and how this could be collected.

Output from group discussions (draft notes, mindmaps etc.) were uploaded to the Members Zone and will be used as valuable input for the production of the thematic synthesis report. They will be used for:

- Drafting the structure of the thematic synthesis report on repository strategies
- Defining the important issues to cover when producing case stories
- Identifying questions to include in repository profile surveys
- Improving the access to comparable data across educational repositories

The discussions again highlighted the need for detailing good examples and at the same time the complexity and difficulties of transferring “best practise” to different contexts.



Figure 1. Part of mindmap produced by the group focusing on *Quality Assurance Strategies*

4.2.2 State of the Art report – version 2

A group session was devoted to updating the national contributions to the next version of the State of the Art report (D2.6).

Participants were grouped according to country and faced with the tasks of i) updating their national section, ii) identifying comparable data across countries relevant to include and iii) commenting on the current structure / suggest new headings.

Updated country sections were uploaded to the Members Zone and will be further edited before inclusion in the upcoming State of the Art report.

[Link to updated national contributions](#)

4.2.3 Templates for agreements – defining structure and content

The final group session was used for discussing the form and need for the deliverable concerning agreement templates for use by repository owners (D5.5). The coordinator introduced two concrete examples of agreement templates to the groups

- one for a teacher entering new metadata to a repository, including uploading the digital content or linking to it at some server
- one for a professional publisher registering a new educational title

On the basis of these two examples the members discussed, what type of templates they (and therefore also other repository owners and content users and producers) need and find helpful in their daily work.

From the discussion some initial guidelines for this deliverable emerged:

- Produce materials that the network *need*
- Produce information that does not exist already (refer to it)
 - Example: Becta’s “Guidelines for repository owners”
(in Members zone – hopefully public some time in the future)
 - Example: “Providing access” guidelines from the Proaccess project
(in Members zone – also public when final version is ready from the project)
- Make a general section with summaries, advice and useful extracts and samples, and collect concrete examples to be in an annex
- Teachers’ agreement must be simple and easy to understand and operational. To simplify split it into more parts for each situation: Metadata only, Content too and Third party agreement, Who is legally responsible and carries the risk
- Publishers’ agreements should include only parts that publishers use: Quality assurance and measures should be clear; resources should have a ‘didactic aim’, but difficult to establish what didactic is

During and after the workshop members have contributed with a number of examples that will be further dealt with at the next workshop 5.2.

5 Participants

16 of 23 founding members were represented. In addition four associated members participated – giving a total of 33 participants.

Name	Organisation	Country
Astrid Leeb	Education Highway	Austria
Orland Cardona Perez	EAPC	Spain
Fabrizio Giorgini	Giunti Lab	Italy
Charles Duncan	Intrallect Ltd	UK
Hawle Reinhold	BMUKK	Austria
Andrew Kitchen	Becta	UK
Fiona Iglesias	North West Learning Grid	UK
Dolf Gagestein	APS IT-diensten	Netherlands
Jens Viggo Moesmand	BFU	Denmark
Brian Hudson	IML	Sweden
Rosa Maria Gómez de Regil	CNDP	France
Matija Lokar	UNI-LJ-FMF	Slovenia
Vladimir Batagelj	UNI-LJ-FMF	Slovenia
Heikki Karjalainen	WSOY	Finland
Martin Sillaots	TLF	Estonia
Nikos Zygouritsas	Menon	Greece
Hans Põldoja	TLU	Estonia
Cristina Mussinelli	AIE	Italy
Giulia Marangoni	AIE	Italy
Maria Loi	AIE	Italy
Christina Szekely	MSU	Sweden
Friedhelm Schumacher	FWU	Germany
Jolante Daugirdiene	ITC	Lithuania
Adam Bates	Encyclopaedia Britannica Education	UK
Paul Sire	sDae	Spain
Christian Komonen	Vetamix	Finland
Aimur Liiva	TLF	Estonia
Triin Kangur	TLF	Estonia
Per Thorbøll	UNI-C	Denmark
Leo Højsholt-Poulsen	UNI-C	Denmark
Tommy Byskov Lund	UNI-C	Denmark