Glossary of Terms

**Academic Integrity:**
Accepted academic standards of practice whereby all use of or reference to the work of others should be clearly and openly acknowledged.

**Access Management:**
Arrangements for granting access to learning resources.

**ADEPT:**
Alexandria Digital Earth Project

**ANGEL:**
A collaboratively developed virtual learning environment software suite.

**Athens:**
Authentication system used to afford access to UK JISC resources, provided by Eduserve.

**Atmospheric Correction:**
Correction needed to remotely sensed data to allow for atmospheric distortion.

**Blackboard VLE:**
A proprietary virtual learning environment software suite.

**Blended Learning:**
Learning through a mixture of face-to-face lectures and online activities.
**Glossary of Terms**

**Bodington VLE:**
An open source virtual learning environment software suite.

**BRDF:**
Bidirectional reflectance distribution function.

**CHCC:**
Collection of Historical and Contemporary Censuses, a JISC-funded program of learning materials covering UK censuses.

**CiteSeer:**
Search engine for scientific literature.

**CLAD:**
Collaborative learning activity design.

**CMAP:**
Software for designing concept maps

**CMS:**
Course management system

**ConceptVista:**
Software that provides an interactive environment for developing concept maps

**DEM:**
Digital elevation model, a data structure for the representation of a surface, usually the surface of the earth.

**DialogPLUS:**
A study jointly undertaken by the Universities of Southampton and Leeds in the UK and Pennsylvania State University and The University of California Santa Barbara in the U.S. as part of the JISC/NSF-funded Digital Libraries in the Classroom Programme.

**Digital Libraries in the Classroom:**
A jointly funded programme of JISC/NSF.

**Directional Reflectance:**
The dependence of light reflection on the directional orientation of the reflecting surface.

**Discussion Board:**
See Discussion Room
Glossary of Terms

Discussion Forum:
See Discussion Room

Discussion Room:
A software utility, generally provided within a virtual learning environment, where contributors can view and post comments in a themed discussion.

Distance Learning:
Delivery of education whereby students are remote from the physical location of teachers and learning resources.

DL:
Digital library

DLE:
Digital learning environment

DLESE:
Digital Library for Earth Science Education

Drainage Basin:
The geographical area drained by a river and its tributaries, a fundamental unit of the terrestrial landscape, also catchment.

EIA:
Environmental impact assessment

E-Learning:
See Electronic Learning

Electronic Learning:
Learning that occurs when a computer is used as the means of accessing learning resources and activities.

EML:
Educational modeling language

ENVI:
A software system for processing remotely sensed images.

EO:
Earth observation.
Glossary of Terms

**EO E-Activities:**
Earth observation electronic (interactive) tasks.

**EO Tutorials:**
Earth observation learning/teaching materials.

**EO Online Materials:**
Earth observation learning/teaching materials on the Web.

**EPC:**
Environmental Processes and Change (University of Southampton research theme).

**ESRC:**
Economic and Social Research Council (UK).

**FAQ:**
Frequently asked question

**Field Trip:**
ee Fieldwork

**Fieldwork:**
Learning activity which involves visit to site of geographical interest.

**Fluvial Geomorphology:**
The geomorphology of river systems and drainage basins.

**Forcing:**
In physical geography, an external perturbation to the system under observation.

**Formative:**
Assessment that does not contribute to the final grade awarded.

**Geography Exemplars:**
Examples of e-learning materials used in geography teaching.

**Geodemographic Classification:**
Multivariate small area classification methodology, typically using census-type datasets.

**Geomorphology:**
The study of the form of the earth's surface.
GIS: Geographic information system

GPS: Global positioning system

HEFCE: Higher Education Funding Council for England

HorizonWimba: Desktop conferencing tool

Hours of Student Learning: Calculated time in hours which students are expected to spend on a defined set of learning activities.

HTML: Hypertext Markup Language

IMAGINE: A software system for processing remotely senses images.

IMS: Originally “instructional management systems”, now only used as acronym.

Intute: Online service providing access to Web resources for education and research.

IT Literacy: Facility in the understanding and use of information technology (IT).

JISC: Joint Information Systems Committee (UK).

JISCPAS: JISC Plagiarism Advisory Service.

Jorum: Repository for e-learning materials provided by JISC.

KB: Knowledge base
Glossary of Terms

**Learning Nugget:**
Set of learning materials including learning objective(s), activities, resources and assessments.

**Learning Objectives:**
Statements of what a student is expected to be able to do, having followed a specified learning activity.

**Learning Objects:**
Discrete and separable elements of student learning; extensive discussion exists regarding qualifying size and content.

**Learning Outcomes:**
Statements of what a student is expected to be able to do, having followed a specified learning activity.

**Level:**
Stages of study, used to describe progression of a student through formal educational system.

**LMS:**
Learning management system

**Marking Criteria:**
Specification of the characteristics required of student work in order to achieve a range of marks or grades.

**MCQ:**
Multiple choice quiz, multiple choice question.

**MECA-ODL:**
Methodology for analysis of quality of ODL through Internet.

**M-learning:**
Learning that can take place anytime, anywhere through use of a mobile computer device.

**Moodle VLE:**
An open source virtual learning environment software suite.

**NSF:**
National Science Foundation (U.S.).

**Nugget:**
Set of learning materials including learning objective(s), activities, resources and assessments.
Glossary of Terms

NUTS:
Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics, a European hierarchy of areas for official statistics.

ODL:
Open distance learning

PBL:
Problem-based learning

People Exchanges:
Movement of students to learning resources.

Plagiarism:
The practice of presenting the work of others without acknowledgement as if it were one’s own.

Practical:
Classes in which students engage in a practical (including computer-based) activity.

Program:
A scheme of academic study.

Program Specification:
A formal document setting out the rationale, learning objectives, structure and assessment of a formal program of academic study.

QTI:
Question and test interoperability

Reload:
Reusable eLearning object authoring and delivery.

Remote Sensing:
Capture of data about the earth's surface by remote instruments.

Repository:
Archive of online materials and resources.

Repurpose:
The reuse of some or all of a set of existing learning materials in a different context.

RHS:
River Habitat Survey
Glossary of Terms

Shibboleth:
Software for effecting federated access management of user access to learning resources.

SCORM:
Shareable content object reference model.

Semantic Web:
Extension of the Web in which the semantics (meaning) of the information held is defined.

SLS:
Substantive learning stages

SPSS:
Statistical Package for the Social Sciences.

SSM:
Strongly structured model

Summative:
Assessment that contributes to the final grade awarded.

swiki:
Software for project teams to share files and jointly author content.

Tiddly Wiki:
A wiki program for electronic learning diaries.

UCM:
Upland Catchment Management, an undergraduate module taught at the University of Leeds.

UCSB:
University of California Santa Barbara.

UDM:
Universal data map

UKeU:
UK eUniversities, a company set up to deliver UK e-learning programs worldwide

Virtual Globe:
A software tool for interactive display of map and image data related to the surface of the earth, e.g., Google Earth
VLE: 
Virtual learning environment, a suite of online software for the delivery of learning materials to students.

Web 2.0: 
Web technology used to enhance creativity, information sharing, and, collaboration among users.

Wikipedia: 
Open access community encyclopedia project.

WILSIM: 
Web-based Interactive Landform Simulator.

World Campus: 
The “online campus” of The Pennsylvania State University.

XML: 
Extensible Markup Language