Chapter IX

Using Open Archives and Learning Objects for Reusing CSL

Contents:
The SCORM – Sharable Content Object Reference Model

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Abstract

In this chapter the SCORM standards as a mean of creating skills to support the conception and development of e-learning devices (contents and systems) are introduced. It is shown how the SCORM, combined with new technologies/techniques as metadata harvesting, XML family, RSS, and feedreaders, offers a potentially substantive approach to understanding the dissemination of open archives initiatives and learning objects repositories in a variety of contexts. Furthermore, understanding the underlying assumptions and theoretical constructs through the use of the

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Introduction

In the last decade, e-learning has been a widespread matter of interest both for entities (institutions) and people. In particular, the discussion focused on the way to guarantee the e-learning systems effectiveness and efficiency. What supports this reflection is essentially the identification of adequate mechanisms to guarantee the consistency of the learning processes supported by the information and communication technologies.

On the other hand, other fundamental questions regarding the content of such learning processes appeared. Can we share our knowledge? Moreover, can we share our work? Can we distribute the work? What do we get in advantage with all this? If we have interest in sharing our work, how do we achieve such a goal? In this context, references are to be found to support not only the conception and development of e-learning devices (contents and systems), but also the reuse of these devices. In this aspect, the SCORM (sharable content object reference model) can bring decisive contributions in the learning objects and in the institutional initiatives that promote “open archive” systems and metadata harvesting.

In next section, we will define a learning object repository. Moreover, the XML family and RSS (really simple syndication) format will be defined. In our opinion, such technologies can promote the learning objects repositories. In this section, the reader will find a list of the main international institutions and relative norms for the creation of institutional repositories. It will be boarded the innovative institutions and organizations that spread the use of open archives and free software. These organizations essentially aim to the sharing and use of metadata and systems that deal with Learning Objects storage and distribution.

The following section will detail the SCORM standards. It will describe the architecture model and the main standards involved. It begins with an introduction to the SCORM norms, later justifies the SCORM CAM (SCORM content aggregation model), the SCORM RTE (SCORM run-time environment), and, finally, talks about the SCORM SN (SCORM sequencing and navigation).

In the second to last section, you can see examples of learning objects repositories. In particular, it will describe the proposal of a repository elaborated
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