



CTI: Customised Tools and Interfaces

CTI021: Developing the WebCT Template

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1. Introduction

One of the key outcomes of the DELIVER User Needs Analysis was the need to develop a Library Template within the institutional Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) used by both partner institutions. This was seen as a direct, easily achievable, and supportable way of including library resources and services within the VLE. At the beginning of the DELIVER project, both LSE and De Montfort University used WebCT as the main institutional learning environment and the template was thus designed within WebCT. De Montfort University have subsequently changed environments, and are focussing on Blackboard as the main institutional environment. Developments within this environment will continue at De Montfort outside of the DELIVER project.

2. Methodology

The rationale behind the Library Template was that it should be:

- Fully customisable by course owners. Each course should have freedom of choice as to which sections are included.
- Course specific. All resources used should be directly relevant to the course in question and customisable by the course owner.
- Fed from a variety of appropriate resources and systems, including existing School web pages, commercially supplied systems and resources and in-house developments.
- Easy to use and integrate within courses.

In this respect, the template as applied in the LSE WebCT environment is a good example of appropriate use of technology. Each section maximises the potential of in-house developments (including open-source software), commercially supplied systems, internally developed resources and external resources (both free and licensed). It is also appropriate to the medium and audience. The DELIVER project was keen to develop an area that showed good practise in the use of a Virtual Learning Environment as a tool to support directed learning, rather than duplicating the functionality of more appropriate tools and systems in the School (such as the institutional website, and the Library system).

The template was fully developed by the Centre for Learning Technology at LSE. This team have the appropriate knowledge regarding both the audience and the medium for the template. They were able to make sensible and appropriate choices concerning terminology and icons used and support materials provided to best meet the needs of course developers.

3. The WebCT Template

Each of the tools developed enable access from within WebCT to appropriate resources and tools held and supported by the Library. By default, they are accessed via a Library icon on the Home page of all new WebCT Courses and the sections can be included in part or whole to existing courses as desired.




The table below shows the icons used for each section and provides an overview of the section and how the information is supplied. For more information about the tools used, please see the deliverables table on the project website <www.angel.ac.uk/DELIVER/deliverables/>.






Type Key:



- **Link:** a direct link to a system or web page in place within the School.
- **Custom:** a (blank) holding page and instructions on how the course developer may wish to annotate and develop.
- **RM:** makes use of an ANGEL Resource Manager, as developed by the ANGEL project. This is essentially a centrally maintained database of information (such as electronic resources, data sets, exam papers) that provides users with a stable link to a resource. If a resource location is changed, the location information only needs to be updated in the central database. Coupled with the DELIVER Smart Link Finder to provide suitable VLE functionality.
- **SLE:** makes use of the DELIVER Smart Link Finder. This works in conjunction with the ANGEL Resource Manager to allow course developers to discover appropriate resources, submit to a central database (or select from an existing database) and insert a stable URL to the resource into their course. This resource will then be centrally maintained on their behalf.
- **COMM:** makes use of a commercially supplied system.

For more information about the ANGEL Resource Manager, please visit the ANGEL web pages <<http://www.angel.ac.uk/download/>>.

For more information about the DELIVER Smart Link Finder, please visit the DELIVER web pages <<http://www.angel.ac.uk/download/>>.

Icon	Type	Usage
 Library	Link	Main Library Icon.
 Library Catalogue	Link	This provides a direct link through to the institutional Library OPAC homepage < http://catalogue.lse.ac.uk/ > and is recommended as the very basic level of support for courses. Supporting documentation reminds course developers that the link to the catalogue can be included on any page within their course(s).
 Multimedia Resources	Current: Custom Planned: RM	This provides a link to a WebCT Organiser page which you can then be customised to include links to multimedia resources. The DELIVER project identified a need for more effective management and development of multimedia resource holdings, and has recommended that the School pursue this development. It is hoped that multimedia resources will be held in an ANGEL Resource Manager and

	SLF	<p>customisable via the DELIVER Smart Link Finder in the future.</p> <p>Course developers are encouraged to continue to use appropriate links to resources throughout their course pages.</p>
 <p>Journal Reading Room</p>	<p>Current:</p> <p>RM</p> <p>SLF</p> <p>Planned:</p> <p>COMM</p>	<p>This page provides information on full text electronic journals available to LSE staff and students. It will initially allow course developers to search the existing library e-journal listings <http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/elelib/e-journals.htm>, and select appropriate references for their course.</p> <p>LSE is currently evaluating e-journal management tools. On selection and implementation of such a tool, this area will be linked appropriately to the commercial system.</p>
 <p>Data Library</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>SLF</p>	<p>The Data Library is a rapidly expanding electronic resource archive at LSE, currently maintained within an ANGEL Resource Manager <http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/datlib/Default.htm>. Course developers will be able to search this resource, and select appropriate stable links using the DELIVER SLF.</p>
 <p>Electronic Library</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>SLF</p>	<p>The Electronic Library is a collection-level database of appropriate course resources maintained in an ANGEL Resource Manager by the Library at LSE <http://library-2.lse.ac.uk/EL/info/>. Course developers will be able to search this resource, and select appropriate stable links using the DELIVER SLF.</p>
 <p>Exam Papers</p>	<p>Current:</p> <p>Link</p> <p>Planned:</p> <p>RM</p> <p>SLF</p>	<p>This will provide a link to the current exam paper listings maintained by the library. It is hoped that this resource will be developed using an ANGEL RM in the future, to provide for functionality in conjunction with the DELIVER SLF.</p>
 <p>Online Resource List</p>	<p>COMM</p>	<p>This will link to the appropriate course resource list, either within the commercial system selected by the School, or directly to exports taken from the commercial system and reformatted.</p> <p>Course developers will be encouraged to make use of the commercial system, although they will be permitted to mount Word or html resource lists in this area if preferred.</p>

 <p>Information Skills</p>	<p>Link</p>	<p>This section provides a link to information maintained on the library website including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A booking form for Information Skills training courses. - The Library Catalogue Online Training Course. - An Introduction to the Data Library. - An Introduction to Legal Research On-line. - The Virtual Training Suite; on-line training in how to do subject-specific research on-line.
 <p>Social Science Updates</p>	<p>Custom</p>	<p>This section provides course developers with an introduction to RSS feeds, and how to integrate them within their course. The section makes use of the RSS feeds to information held in SOSIG <http://www.sosig.ac.uk/> as a subject-appropriate resource for LSE.</p>