

## **DELIVER Update 2.**

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The DELIVER project, funded under the UK Joint Information Systems Committee '*Digital Libraries and Virtual Learning Environments*' Programme, is investigating ways to improve the integration of library materials into courses delivered using WebCT (an institutional Virtual Learning Environment) at both De Montfort University (DMU) and the London School of Economics (LSE). The project is focussing in particular on how staff and students use reading lists and how these lists can be better managed and delivered in online environments.

This Update is the second in the series, and covers the work of the project in March and April 2003. Further Updates will be published every month until the end of project funding (July 2003). If you would like to discuss or raise any issues about the project with the team, or if you are interested in becoming involved with the project, please contact one of the following team members:

John Paschoud, Project Manager ([J.Paschoud@lse.ac.uk](mailto:J.Paschoud@lse.ac.uk)).

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Ian Bloor, DMU Project Team Leader ([ipb@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:ipb@dmu.ac.uk)).

All documentation discussed in this Update is publicly available from the project website:  
<[www.angel.ac.uk/DELIVER/deliverables/](http://www.angel.ac.uk/DELIVER/deliverables/)>.

### **1. JISC 07/02 Programme Meeting.**

The JISC 07/02 Programme Meeting was held on 20 March 2003 and was attended by John Paschoud, Steve Ryan, Nicole Harris and Mark Simpson. The day was split into two strands: technical (attended by John and Nicole) and culture / pedagogy (attended by Steve and Mark). Full details and presentations for the day can be found on the JISC programme website:  
<[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=mle\\_divle\\_mar03](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=mle_divle_mar03)>.

The day was not only an opportunity for the projects to update each other on developments but also to discuss mutual development interests, including the resource list metadata requirements discussed in the next section. In addition to the main project presentation, the DELIVER project also presented its evaluation of Resource List Management Systems to the meeting, and was pleased to see the presentation of the Loughborough University Reading List System by Gary Brewerton.

## **2. Resource List Metadata Schema Developments:**

A central topic of discussion at the Programme Meeting was the need for a defined metadata description of a resource list format. This should include the 'wrapper' information (course, owner etc), resource information (bibliographic data, recommended status etc.) and pedagogical information (such as a comments field). By defining the required information for a resource list, this information can not only be passed easily between systems, but can also be easily exported and reformatted for display through different media (such as a Virtual Learning Environment).

The DELIVER project has been active in raising this need, and contributing to subsequent discussions by CETIS (Centre for Educational Technology Interoperability Standards) and the IMS Course Resources Interoperability Group. It is hoped that a standard specification will be developed through these bodies.

For more information see the recent discussion archives on the cetis-metadata jiscmail list <<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/CETIS-METADATA.html>>.

## **3. LSE Developments with ReadingListDirect:**

Since the decision to adopt ReadingListDirect for project development at LSE, the school has been active in addressing practical implementation requirements such as arranging training for staff, importing data, and discussing requirements with academics responsible for pilot courses.

It is hoped that demonstrable versions of the resource lists for the LSE pilot courses will be available shortly after the Easter vacation. The school will then be in a good position to address the join-up of these developments with core technical developments of the project to provide fully integrated services through WebCT.

## **4. DMU Developments with Talislist**

Talislist has been purchased and installed at DMU, the access rights are still to be set up. Library and academic staff are being approached to help with the evaluation of the system and comparison against the current paper based method.

A number of example resource lists will be entered by library technical support staff. These will provide a basis for introducing and training university staff on the system. In addition, access to Talislist through the VLE is being investigated.

## **5. Technical Developments**

DELIVER is building tools in-house to support the project requirements not addressed by the Resource List Management Systems, VLE enhancements, or institutional developments.

The core tools: the ANGEL Resource Manager, the ANGEL Smart Link Finder, and the ANGEL URL Harvesting Tools are fully documented on the project website.

Prototypes of these tools will be available for testing in May, in order to coincide with the ReadingListDirect and Talislist development stages.