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DELILA – Embedding Digital and Information Literacy OERs into the PG Cert

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Keywords

Open Educational Resource; Reusable Learning Object; JISC; PG Cert; Higher Education Academy;

The DELILA (Developing Educators Learning and Information Literacies for Education) project is funded by JISC and the Higher Education Academy (HEA) as part of the JISC OER (Open Educational Resource) phase two projects. During the first phase this project was piloted to assess the longer term sustainability of OERs when employed by universities and also when applied by educators within a specific subject. Phase two aims to extend the range of OERs available and make them easier to locate, whilst documenting how they can benefit the educational process[1].

DELILA is based on a partnership between LSE and the University of Birmingham and is led by Jane Secker from LSE. DELILA's first aim is to provide a model of embedding digital and information literacy support into teacher training courses that are accredited by the HEA such as the Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (commonly called the PG Cert). As a result participation in the project has already helped the Birmingham team to open channels of communication with the PG Cert co-ordinator in order to embed both information and digital literacy skills into the core modules of the course, rather than offering standalone training as was the case before DELILA started.

In addition to embedding the teaching materials into the PG Cert courses of both institutions, these resources will be made available to the wider academic community under a Creative Commons Share Alike licence and JorumOpen. To this end LSE and the University of Birmingham are in the process of customising their institutional repositories to deal with OERs. Birmingham and LSE both audited their current material used for teaching information and digital literacy skills, and identified a number of learning resources that could usefully be embedded into the PG Cert course. These resources were converted into a number of OERs so that they could be re-used by others. Each OER has been mapped to the SCONUL's Seven Pillars of Information Literacy (SCONUL, 1999) or Futurelab Digital Literacy (DL) framework (Futurelab, 2010), and the Professional Standards Framework (PSF) (HEA, 2006) which is used by the PG Cert as a national standard.

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[1] More information about both phases can be found at: http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/teachingandlearning/oer/phase2

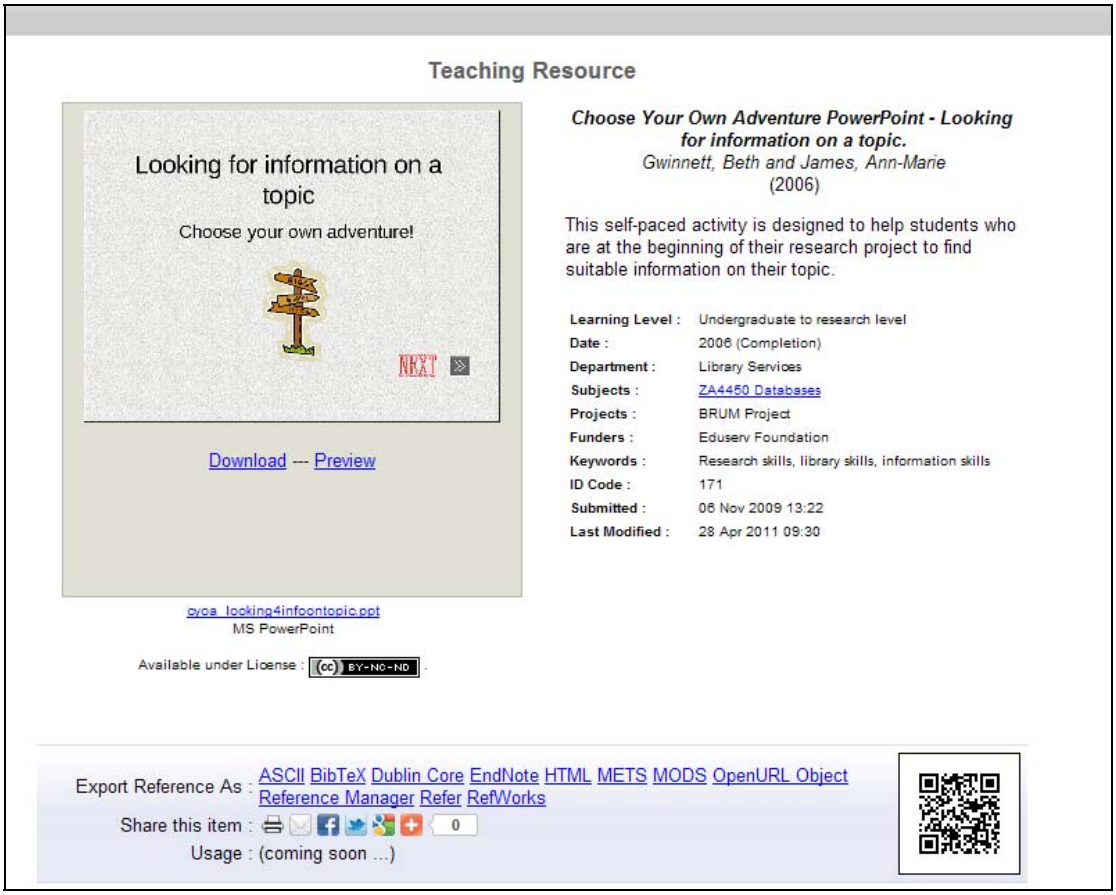

Figure 1: Example of how an OER covering topic formulation (the first step of information literacy) as it appears in the newly customised interface of the institutional repository at Birmingham.

The DELILA project has tried to address the two key concerns associated with the use of OERs, namely quality and the time needed to adapt the materials, by introducing an element of peer-review by representatives from the Information Literacy Group. The reviewers will act as critical friends and evaluate the OERs using a set of criteria to assess information literacy training developed in conjunction with the Research Information Network's Information Handling Group[2].

The project has already raised a number of interesting questions for the DELILA team regarding intellectual property rights and metadata issues. For example, one of the problems that the project team has had to deal with was copyright of databases' screenshots embedded in the OER material made available to the wider community. As gaining permission from the publishers would have been too time consuming, the screenshots were removed from the resources altogether. To address this problem a place holder was used instead and this is shown in figure 2 below.

[2] Further information about the work of the Information Handling Group can be found at: http://www.rin.ac.uk/our-work/researcher-development-and-skills/information-handling-training-researchers/information-lit

- Click on the **Find Resource** tab within eLibrary and type in **Business Source Premier** and click Go. A link to this database will appear below. Click on the link to access the database.

- You will be taken directly through to the 'Advanced Search' screen. At the top left hand side of the screen are search boxes for you to enter the terms or phrase for the subject you are researching.

Image: Screenshot of Ebsco Business Source Premier advanced search screen.

Subscription Resource: Yes

Edited: Yes

Amendments: Cropped to exclude browser window.
Boxes and arrows to highlight search screen, advanced search and 'limit your results' options

Date: October 2010

Tips:
Use speech marks to look for a phrase:
e.g. *"Net profit percentage"*
Use * to find words with different endings:
e.g. manag* finds manage, management, managed, managing etc

Figure 2: The yellow box is an example of a place holder used within the training material instead of the original screen shot of the database.

Overall, the project has achieved its aim of beginning to promote information and digital literacy skills through integration with institution's PG Cert courses and work in the area of OER will be developed further through JISC's next strand of projects supporting the development and implementation of institutional approaches to digital literacies across the entire workforce and including students[3]. For more information and project updates please visit the DELILA blog: http://delilaopen.wordpress.com/

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[3] http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/funding_calls/2011/04/grant411.aspx

SCONUL 1999. Information skills in higher education: a SCONUL position paper. Prepared by the Information Skills Task Force, on behalf of SCONUL . [Online]. Available at: http://www.sconul.ac.uk/groups/information_literacy/papers/Seven_pillars.html (Accessed 22 February 2011). (The Seven Pillars Framework was re-issued in April 2011 and can be found at: http://www.sconul.ac.uk/groups/information_literacy/seven_pillars.html)