

Alt-C 2002

Conference Abstract

Title

The JISC SHELL Project: Connecting learning environments in higher and further education.

Abstract

There is a clear need to support learners as they move between institutions in Further and Higher Education in a political climate characterised by a sharpening focus on agendas of widening participation and lifelong learning. The increasing use of managed and virtual learning environments provides a context in which to explore the benefits of interconnected online systems.

This short paper aims to introduce the SHELL project, a JISC-funded project which is part of the JISC "*Managed Learning Environments for Lifelong Learning*" programme. The project commenced March 2002.

The first phase of this three year project involves the University of Plymouth, Cornwall College, Exeter College, North Devon College and Somerset College of Arts and Technology. In the second phase, involvement will extend to other institutions in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Bristol and the Channel Islands.

The SHELL project aims to develop the integration of online technologies across institutions in support of lifelong learning. IMS standards will be used to support the automatic transfer of student data between the various student records systems and online learning environments. This will provide individual students with portal access to online materials from the point of single registration, and also allow them to have permanent internet based access to their transcripts of marks and other records such as personal development profiles.

A number of themes of particular interest in this project will be discussed, spanning aspects of technical implementation / IMS standards, and issues of organisational change and staff / educational development. At the heart of all of these themes is the experience of the learner in a changing environment.

The project will explore and disseminate the experiences of implementing large scale change between the partner institutions, with the potential of serving as a model for information exchange between learning environments at a national level.

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