

welcome

Welcome to the second issue of our occasional newsletter. This month sees the launch of the most powerful version of intraLibrary yet. Read more about intraLibrary 2.3 in our cover article. We would welcome feedback on the newsletter so please get in touch. If you know people who would like to receive the newsletter they can sign up at <http://www.intrallect.com/news/newsletter.htm> where this and previous newsletters can also be found.



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Product Director

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launch of intraLibrary 2.3

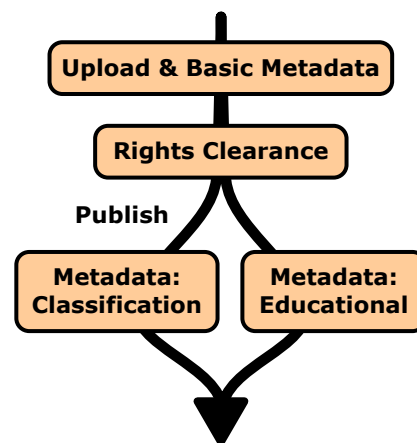
Workflows, digital rights and group management added

The latest version of Intrallect's Learning Object Repository (LOR) system, intraLibrary 2.3, will be released in May, close to the software's third birthday. IntraLibrary 2.3 marks the addition of major "enterprise" features on top of the robust version 2 architecture: configurable submission workflows, community licensing, group management, and a host of smaller enhancements.

Quality control is an important issue for any repository. The ability for users to find relevant resources depends on the metadata being consistent, correct, appropriate and useful. When a learning object is submitted to an intraLibrary repository, there can now be several stages to creating high-quality metadata. Different roles and even different parts of the metadata may be taken on by different types of specialist – educational metadata, technical metadata, copyright, classification, review. IntraLibrary 2.3 features a highly configurable solution so that organisations can manage a multi-role submission process.

Submission workflows help to improve metadata and content quality, without overloading users with unnecessary complexity. Multi-stage workflows can fit in with a range of management models. Learning objects move through the defined stages, where various parallel processes can take place (see diagram for a workflow example). Groups of

users can be assigned roles allocated with specific actions. Meanwhile, the default workflow still retains all the simplicity of intraLibrary's existing submission-procedure.



For communities struggling with copyright clearance and terms and conditions of use, intraLibrary 2.3 supports a flexible model for community licensing and defining usage agreements (see page 3 for more details).

There's more of course. User- and group-management features have been enhanced, to help administer large-scale installations. There is enhanced support for SCORM 1.2 content packages. Contributors can easily copy metadata from any learning object they can see in the system. The release of IntraLibrary 2.3 continues the rapid progress of Intrallect's intraLibrary, widely recognised to be the most robust, conformant and usable LOR system available; "a real LOR".

£33M funding for eLearning

HEFCE (The Higher Education Funding Council for England) is distributing a total of £33 million in capital funding to invest in e-learning for higher education institutions in England. The funds are

available for 2005-06 only and are to be invested in developing e-learning - specifically for equipment, software and course development costs. http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/circlcts/2005/cl05_05/

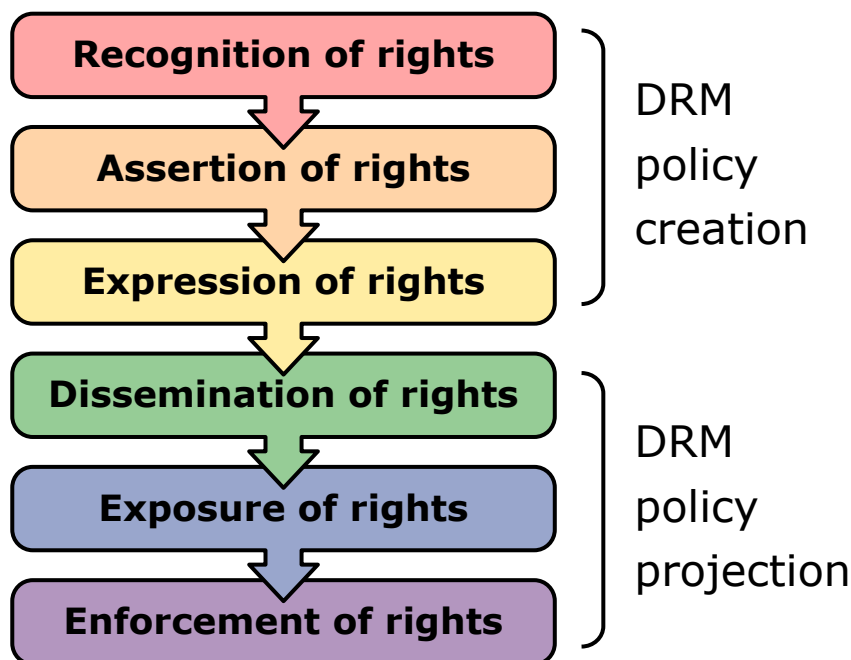
digital rights management

An introduction to a rapidly developing topic

What does digital rights management (DRM) mean to you? Is it a means of protecting the investment of publishers to ensure that pirate copies are not made and distributed, depriving the authors, publishers and other contributors from their rightful reward? Or, is it a means of sharing educational resources with others, safe in the knowledge that you will be recognised as the originator, and that the material will only be used for purposes you have approved? In fact, DRM should be able to support both of these scenarios and many more as well. In a recent study carried out by Intrallect for the JISC, DRM was defined as a six stage process.

These six stages are summarised as follows.

- **Recognition of rights** is the stage at which staff, employers and suppliers all need to be aware of what rights exist (copyright, moral rights and database rights, among others), who the rights holders are, and how uses might be licensed.
- **Assertion of rights** is provided by a legal framework in which people and organisations can assert their rights in a form that is defensible under law. Although copyright does not need to be asserted, you may need to make your creations available under a licence if you wish to permit uses that go beyond what is permitted under copyright.
- **Expression of rights** has traditionally involved only a copyright statement in a human-readable form. While this is still important it is also essential to take account of machine-to-machine communication when considering digital rights management. This is achievable through digital rights expression languages (DREs) which allow the asserted rights and permitted uses to be expressed in a machine-readable as well as a human-readable form.
- **Dissemination of rights** ensures that



wherever a resource is described its rights are also described. In the digital world it is common to discover resources through search engines, resource hubs, catalogues, or portals. Descriptions of resources are disseminated to these tools by various means. It is important that rights information is also disseminated so that people can see the permitted uses and constraints placed on each resource.

- **Exposure of rights** is the stage at which a user will see the rights information associated with a resource. This most often occurs when searching for resources. If there are differences between the permitted uses for different objects then these should be easily apparent without detailed scrutiny of licence conditions. Terms or symbols that have a clear and unambiguous meaning need to become familiar to everyone if rights information is to become effective.
- **Enforcement of rights** includes both protective measures to ensure that rights are not infringed and steps to be taken when infringements are detected.

Basic protective measures ensure resources are only accessible by people who have accepted the licence conditions.

The first three of these stages are used to define or create a DRM policy while the last three are concerned with putting that policy into practice. Or, as LaMacchia¹ succinctly states:

The ultimate goal of a distributed DRM system is for content authors to be able to project policies governing their content into remote environments with confidence that those policies will be respected by the remote nodes.

For a much more detailed analysis of digital rights management see <http://www.intrallect.com/drm-study/>

¹LaMacchia, B, 2002, *Key Challenges in DRM: An Industry Perspective*, ACM Workshop on Digital Rights Management, Washington.

community licensing in intraLibrary 2.3

Following the explosion of open source software, and the success of Creative Commons, communities are seeing the value of sharing learning material on commonly-understood licensing conditions. IntraLibrary 2.3 can be used to apply your community's chosen licensing model, by defining a set of standard licences with well-defined properties. If that sounds a bit daunting, a model based on Creative Commons itself will be included with the system.

When learning material is released into a

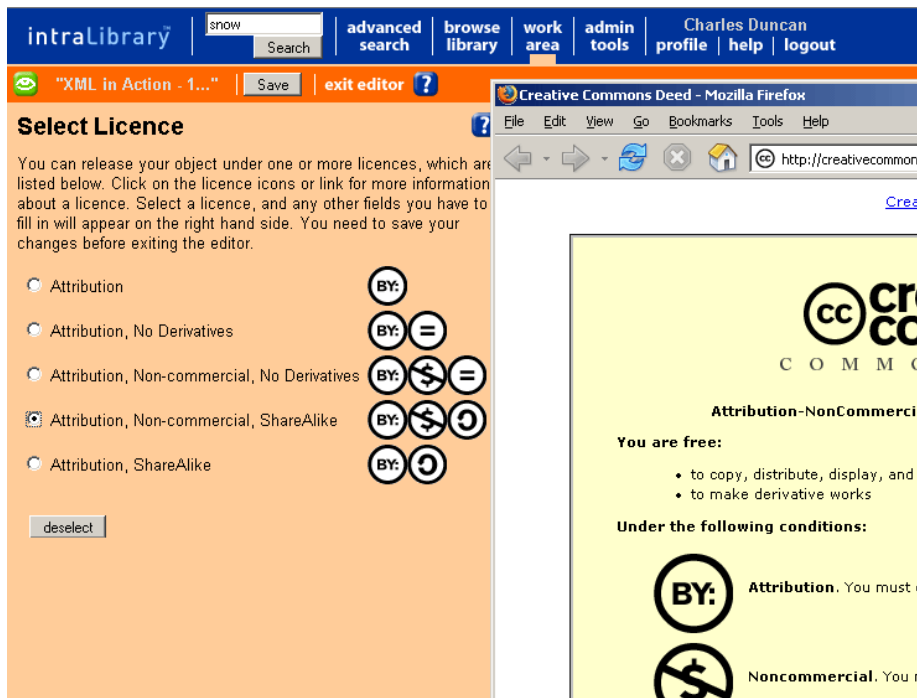
community, the copyright holder may want to offer or withhold certain rights. Until now the choice has often felt like "all or nothing". IntraLibrary 2.3 enables the intermediate approach pioneered by Creative Commons and similar initiatives. Users make their material available to a community, but clearly state the conditions under which they do this, and trust users of the material to keep to these conditions.

In intraLibrary 2.3, there is a set of permissions and constraints that can be attached to a licence for using material.

These permissions and constraints are backed up by a properly drafted legal agreement, which is openly available on the organisation's website. Intrallect can't define your community's licences for you, but intraLibrary has the flexibility to support most of the open licences you can think of.

If a licensing model is enabled, contributing material to the repository involves a simple extra step. Users are offered the choice of one or more licences under which they can release their material to the community. They choose the licence that most closely matches the conditions they want to impose on potential users of the material, and insert details of the copyright owner. When searching the repository, other users will see that learning object with icons next to it, which represent the most important conditions of the chosen licence. Clicking these icons opens a pop-up showing the full licence agreement.

The community licensing solution in intraLibrary is built on a well defined information model, which can be mapped onto recognised XML specifications for exchanging copyright agreements, know as rights-expression languages. This means the licences defined in intraLibrary have forward compatibility, and can potentially be harvested, understood and further exposed by a range of systems.



Screenshot of Creative Commons being used in intraLibrary

case study: university of highlands and islands

The University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) Millennium Institute is a federal Higher Educational institution composed of 14 independent FE colleges and research institutions that come together in a partnership to deliver higher education to the Highlands and Islands region of Scotland. To do this teaching and research materials are created and moved between the partners

and used in online and face-to-face environments. In this situation the UHI represents in miniature the problems faced by the UK education sector in sharing educational materials and managing their use and is committed to developing an IPR framework to support these activities.

John Casey, Learning Materials Manager at UHI said "The UHI is using intraLibrary

to support the sharing of modular teaching materials in order to cut the costs of developing new courses. It is currently developing workflow models and metadata profiles. The new licensing capabilities allow us to develop an IPR framework integrated into the use of the repository supporting our institutional e-learning strategy."

partnership with Talis

Intrallect and Talis form strategic partnership

Intrallect is pleased to announce its partnership with Talis (<http://www.talis.com>), the UK's leading provider of library management systems. The alliance will enable the companies to provide a unique, seamless environment in which academics and students can view, manage and access the information held within Intrallect's learning objects tool and Talis' library management solutions.

Intrallect is now acknowledged as the leader in Learning Object Management Systems (LOMS) for the academic sector. Its intraLibrary software is being used by universities throughout the world to manage, reuse and share digital learning objects. Talis is the leading supplier of systems for public and academic libraries in the UK, with over 50 university and higher education colleges using its library management systems.

"Increasingly libraries are holding materials in digital or electronic format, not just hard copy," said Charles Duncan, CEO, Intrallect. "Library resources are also being integrated into Virtual Learning Environments and academic portals. Lecturers, librarians, students and researchers are demanding easier

and quicker ways of finding and using these resources. At Intrallect we specialise in managing some of the most complex of these digital resources – learning objects. We have worked successfully with Talis over a number of years on joint projects and have decided to formalise this by appointing them as a value added reseller for intraLibrary."

Lee Cox, head of product development, Talis, said: "By combining intraLibrary with our Talis Alto library management system, Talis Prism resource discovery solution and Talis List, our electronic reading list system, we can offer a unique and totally integrated system to academic libraries. We believe this combined solution will offer great advantages to both academics and students by reducing the administration involved with managing information, improving the visibility and accessibility of learning objects and enhancing the user's experience. Thanks to our partnership with Intrallect, the academic community can now fully exploit the potential of the next generation of e-learning, distance learning and VLE solutions."



From left to right: Charles Duncan and Martin Morrey from Intrallect and Lee Cox and Gary Beddow from Talis

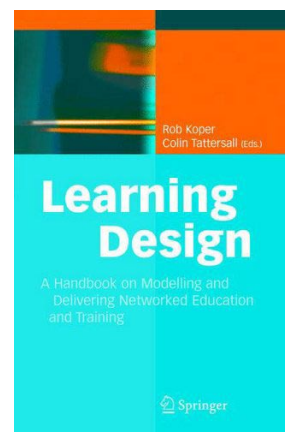
news

New users of intraLibrary

Intrallect is pleased to add University of Aberdeen, Edinburgh City Council, IVINURS (International Virtual Nursing School), and Glasgow Caledonian University to the intraLibrary user community.

Learning Design Book

A new book, Learning Design: A Handbook on Modelling and Delivering Networked Education and Training, edited by Rob Koper and Colin Tattersall, and featuring a chapter by Intrallect, is available from Springer, ISBN: 3-540-22814-4.



CIE - Creative Commons

The Common Information Environment Group has awarded Intrallect a contract to investigate the applicability of Creative Commons licences to public sector organisations in the UK. The work is funded by the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA), the British Library, the Department for Education and Skills, the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and the Museums and Libraries Archive.

LADIE

Intrallect will work with the Universities of Southampton and Dundee to produce an e-Learning Reference Model for JISC through the Learning Activity Design in Education (LADIE) project.