



welcome

Welcome to Issue 7 of our newsletter. We've updated the look of the newsletter to reflect our new web site which we hope you like. In this issue, we are excited to introduce intraLibrary Connect and also let you know what we will be up to at ALT-C 2007.

If you know anyone who would like to receive the newsletter they can sign up at <http://www.intrallect.com/news/newsletter.htm> where the current and previous issues can also be found.



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contact us:
t: +44 870 234 3933
f: +44 1506 670 922
e: enquiries@intrallect.com

repositories without boundaries: announcing intraLibrary Connect

How do you use digital resources stored in repositories? Does the repository seem like a "place" where you need to go to find things or are the boundaries of the repository so flexible that the resources are just there – where and when you need them? IntraLibrary Connect is the web services suite for intraLibrary that removes the boundaries from the digital repository and makes its contents flow seamlessly into your everyday working environment.

IntraLibrary Connect has four functions: inform; discover; gather; store. All of these make it possible to use the repository through other tools. You can be kept up to date with all the latest resources in your repository while you go about your day-to-day work.

Let digital resources find the tools you use

Which tools do you use most? Email, web browser, news reader, portals, iTunes, search engines, library catalogues? Wouldn't it be better if the digital resources you want to see are fed into these tools for you? Then there would be no need to set aside valuable time to search a repository, possibly for resources that don't even exist there in the first place. Why not let intraLibrary Connect do the work of letting you know what is available as you work?

IntraLibrary Connect is based on open standards and exploits these standards without you needing to know any of the technical details. After all, how many of us really know how email works?

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intraLibrary™ Connect

welcome to new intraLibrary users

The popularity of intraLibrary as the way to manage digital resources continues to grow and an increasing number of institutions are selecting the product to manage a wide range of digital resources including learning resources, digital research papers, image libraries and digital collections. IntraLibrary's effortless configurability makes it an ideal choice to

meet the demanding digital management needs of today's universities and colleges.

Intrallect would like to welcome our most recent intraLibrary users onboard including Oxford Brookes University, Keele University, Derby University and Newcastle University.

repositories without boundaries: announcing IntraLibrary Connect

Removing the mystery around resource discovery

The key to using digital resources is *discovery*. We need to know that something exists before we can use it. But once discovered we need to be able to assess its value. IntraLibrary Connect can deliver an accurate description of digital resources (metadata) right into your chosen news reader, library catalogue or web browser. And, in a single click, you can see and try the resource, even if it is a complex interactive learning object.

And using the resource is even simpler. There is nothing to download, no software to install, simply cut and paste a URL to start using it wherever you like.

So how does it work?

IntraLibrary Connect is based on the following standards:

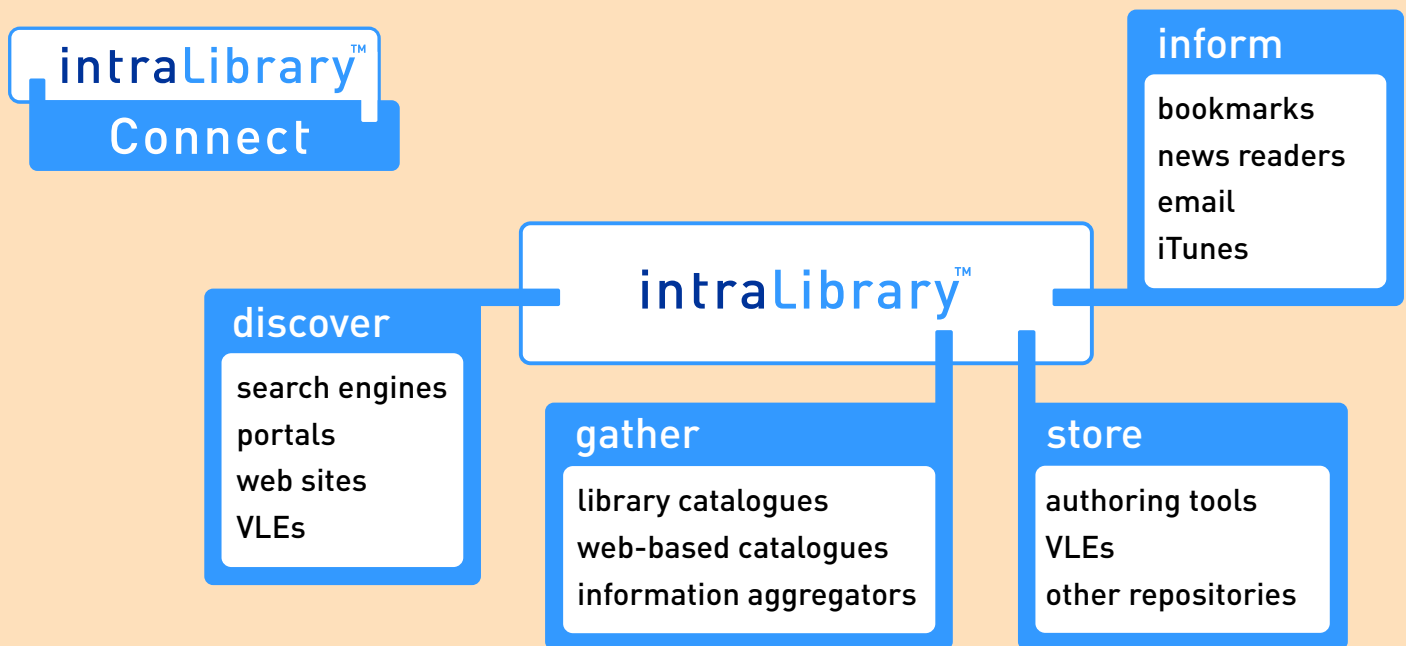
- **inform** uses RSS to feed your personalised searches or subject interests to your web browsers or news readers, with the added ability to use tools like Yahoo pipes to combine and filter information and present it in new

ways, such as in iTunes.

- **discover** uses SRU/SRW to adapt search portals to include the repository in searches or just to add search capability onto your own web pages (see CD-LOR article, page 3).

- **gather** uses OAI-PMH for bulk harvesting of metadata into library catalogues, information aggregators and web-based catalogues.

- **store** uses APP to publish resources directly to the repository from a range of digital creation tools (see SWORD article on page 3).



see IntraLibrary Connect in action at ALT-C



“Connecting Learning Object Repositories” Tue 4 Sept, 2:15pm, East Midlands Conference Suite 2

An overview of the existing and emerging technologies supporting connections between federations of learning object repositories and between these repositories and other tools, particularly those relevant to social networking and designing your own learning spaces (e.g. RSS, Yahoo Pipes, Web service based search and retrieve).

“Evolution of learning resources - How the process can be accelerated?”

Wed 5 Sept, 9:00am, PC Lab, East Midlands Conference Centre Suite 4

This demonstration of the life-cycle of digital learning resources takes the view that learning objects evolve rather than being created afresh with no parentage. There are many, many educational “objects” in digital form and when new objects are created the inspiration, text, structure, images, and often a whole lot

more evolve from previously existing resources.

Adaptation of e-learning content is a significant step beyond simple re-use or interoperability. Adaptation is the ability to take an e-learning object and change it, and then reconstruct the e-learning course with a new repurposed set of e-learning objects.

This is a joint demonstration between MyKnowledgeMap and Intrallect.

intraLibrary Connect in action...

discover

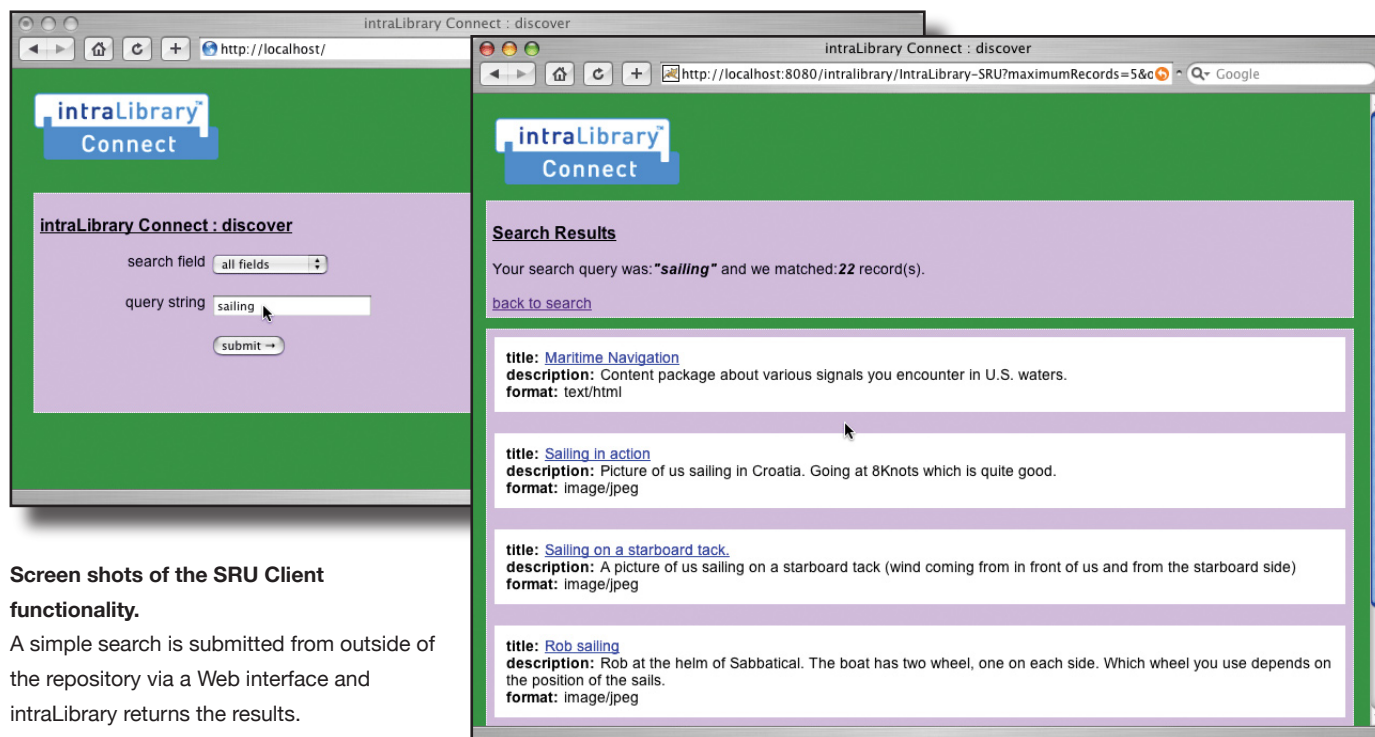
CD-LOR project explores repository portal access

An excellent example of the discover component of intraLibrary Connect is the SRU Client developed by the CD-LOR project (see article on page 4) to offer Open Access portals into digital repositories. The tool is easily configurable so that can be included on any web site to offer users the chance to create search queries. These are then submitted to the repository and the matching results are delivered and presented in an interface whose look and

feel is also completely configurable. In this way anyone can search the contents of the repository, or specific collections within the repository, without the need to be a registered user. It is therefore easy to create multiple portals offering different features and with different "branding" from the same digital repository. In some cases it may be desirable to limit access to the descriptions of the objects, as a taster to show what is available for registered

users, but it is also possible to make the digital objects themselves directly available through this portal. The SRU Client makes creating Open Access repositories simple.

This same SRU Client can be adapted to many different purposes. For example, it could be used without a query interface to perform a number of pre-configured searches to find digital objects on particular subjects or of particular types. Or it can be built onto any web site.



Screen shots of the SRU Client functionality.

A simple search is submitted from outside of the repository via a Web interface and intraLibrary returns the results.

store

Intrallect at the cutting edge of SWORD

Many customers have asked Intrallect to provide a simple interface for automatically depositing materials into their intraLibrary repositories. Rather than create a proprietary solution, Intrallect decided to collaborate with others to create an open specification that could be supported by a range of repository systems, authoring tools and packaging tools. This collaboration led

to the JISC SWORD project, managed by UKOLN. "SWORD" stands for "Simple Web Service Ordering Repository Deposit".

There were clear benefits in using an existing specification, with a large community of implementors, as the foundation for SWORD. The original goal of the IETF's Atom Publishing Protocol (APP), was to standardise how content is

published to blogs, but it is also being used in other areas, such as the Google Data API. SWORD is a profile of the APP that meets the most urgent needs of the repository community for a deposit interface. Software teams from Intrallect, ePrints and DSpace are all busy implementing the SWORD profile of the APP, and a reference client will be provided as open source software.

community dimensions of learning object repositories

The JISC-funded CD-LOR project (Community Dimensions of Learning Object Repositories) has recently come to an end. Intrallect was proud to participate in this project which has produced a number of useful deliverables the most notable of which are the Structured Guidelines for setting up or evaluating LO repositories and an SRU client (see CD-LOR article on page 3).



ALT learning object competition

Intrallect would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who entered the recent Learning Object competition being run in conjunction with ALT C.



The judges were impressed by the quality and diversity of entries received which came from a breadth of organisations including universities, colleges, public sector organisations and private companies. The learning objects themselves included submissions from the UK, Ireland and also Canada covering topics as diverse as fire safety, human genetics and business management theory.

A shortlist of seven entries has been identified and they will be showcased in a special session at the ALT-C 2007 Conference. The competition winners will be announced at the ALT-C Conference dinner on Wednesday 5th September.

The project set out to identify and analyse the factors that influence the uptake and implementation of learning object repositories within a range of different learning communities. Project activities included desk research, workshops, use case writing and implementation as well as user trials of new repository functionality. The Structured Guidelines represent the synthesis of all that work and are designed to help you to implement or evaluate your learning object repository. In fact, the project team feels that the principles behind the guidelines could apply to any kind of repository.

The guidelines consist of a series of questions based on the properties

(dimensions) of the communities it aims to serve, as well as those of the repository itself. For example, the following properties of a community will have implications for the sharing of resources within that community: Purpose, Composition, Dialogue, Roles and Responsibilities, Coherence, Context and Pedagogy.

To find out more go to the CD-LOR website (<http://academy.gcal.ac.uk/cd-lor/>) or see the short paper Peter Douglas will be giving at this year's ALT-C Conference on Tue. 4th Sept., 2:15pm, East Midlands Conference Suite.



new look for Intrallect website

Intrallect has refreshed its online presence with the help of Edinburgh based specialist digital agency LINE who have helped develop a new look and feel for the Intrallect website. LINE were recently awarded the New Media Agency of the Year 2006.

The newly launched site includes a shift in emphasis to reflect the fact that in addition to assisting clients in the higher education sector, Intrallect is now also increasingly working with clients in the

schools, professional bodies and wider corporate sectors.

Many of the features that were valued in the existing site including access to industry specific white papers and articles have been retained but there are also improvements such as online promotional demonstrations of intraLibrary and more detailed news and events coverage.

To learn more, why not see for yourself at <http://www.intrallect.com>

