CLOE OVERVIEW

The Co-operative Learning Object Exchange (CLOE) is a Canadian-based collaboration between universities and colleges for the development, sharing, and reuse of multimedia-rich learning resources, or Learning Objects (LOs). CLOE is a growing and vibrant community with membership in Ontario (all 18 universities and 7 colleges) and Memorial University of Newfoundland. In addition CLOE holds close affiliations with MERLOT as well as other national and international organizations.

The fundamental service provided by CLOE is the peer reviewed Learning Object Repository (LOR). Each institution develops multimedia learning resources to address instructional challenges shared by the partners, or uses/adapts learning objects created at another partner institution to use at their own institution. All materials accepted by CLOE must first pass the peer reviewed process. Usage is then tracked and each semester the authors receive a report detailing the usage of their materials. Feedback from the CLOE partners in that the peer review coupled with the reports of usage are a hallmark of CLOE, as they provide useful documentation for the authors at their annual performance review and/or promotion and tenure meetings.

From its beginning, CLOE realized that a LOR needs an active community that not only supports the LOR itself but also engages the partner institutions in research and practice associated with various related activities. To this end, CLOE puts a strong focus on collaborative projects amongst the partners. For example, the partners do not normally create LOs on their own but rather they do this in collaboration with other partner(s). This collaboration is supported each spring by Camp CLOE where partners come together for an intense one week course on instructional design covering all significant issues associated with the collaborative design, development, use, adaptation, reuse, and evaluation of LOs. Experience is showing that LOs created in this collaborative manner are free of local nuances that often hinder the reuse of LOs that are created by one institution only. Camp CLOE is documented on the CLOE website and sample CLOE LOs can be found at:

http://www.cloe.on.ca/sampler.

Deans and VPs at CLOE partner institutions often asked questions about the effectiveness of the use of LOs in teaching and learning. They ask these questions in an effort to help themselves make decisions about the allocation of resources within their institutions. To help answer these questions of effectiveness, CLOE has conducted nine Learning Impact Studies that document the effectiveness of nine LOs from the perspective of the authors, developers, and most importantly, the learners. This report is posted on the CLOE website.
Course Instructors often asked CLOE questions about how they could integrate existing LOs into their courses. To address this issue, CLOE created seven Case Stories. These stories each use text, audio, and video to document the creation, use, and sharing by the author and the subsequent finding and reusing of the materials by an instructor at another institution. These Case Stories are on the CLOE website and are often used by teaching and learning staff and others in presentations to faculty members at their institution.

Access to the CLOE LOR is currently restricted to partner institutions but the intent is that shortly CLOE will become accessible to the larger community as international efforts are brought forward for the sharing of LOs across the world. As such, CLOE is an active supporter of the new GLOBE initiative.

For more information on CLOE, contact info@cloe.on.ca.

Notes regarding hyperlinks:

GLOBE should be hyperlinked to:
http://taste.merlot.org/initiatives/globe.htm

MERLOT should be hyperlinked to:
http://www.merlot.org/