

## **Exploring Content Re-use: Technical and Organisational Issues Sharing WebCT Content via an Online Repository.**

Sarah Delfante

*The University Of Western Australia Library*

### **Abstract:**

Exploring content re-use: Technical and organisational issues sharing WebCT content via an online repository.

Much of today's university teaching materials are delivered online via a Learning Management System (LMS) such as WebCT. Teaching materials and content stored within WebCT are difficult to share with other WebCT courses and impossible to share with other Learning Management Systems such as Blackboard or Moodle.

The University of Western Australia has implemented HarvestRoad's Hive learning content management system as an online repository to store and manage teaching materials offered to students. A side project to implementing this repository is looking at storing the Library's WebCT content in Hive for re-use across multiple courses.

The objective of the project is to be able to decouple content from WebCT and allow it to be used by any course in a standards-compliant LMS. Content will then be able to be authored once and shared without needing to be copied or repurposed. This will introduce efficiencies and improved work processes, as updates to content will be immediately reflected across all instances reducing maintenance time and cost.

The project is exploring the technical issues of content re-use: software used, separating content from presentation, and technology and standards compliance.

As well as the technical issues the project is shedding light on the practicalities of content re-use and how it requires an organisational shift in thinking to author reusable training material in order to be effective.

This paper will outline why the UWA Library is migrating its WebCT content into Hive, the technical and organisational issues faced, and give an overview of how the content re-use functionality has had an impact on the Library and the implications for the wider academic community.