

Workshop

## “National Learning Object Repository” @ SVC Days 2007

lead by

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Agenda	Discussion	Responsible
About the LOR	Motivation, criterias and architecture of the LOR	RB
Tasks	Possible use scenarios of a LOR	All
Demo	User interfaces (Fez, own prototype)	CR

RB welcomed the ~20 participants of the workshop and outlined the planned procedure. He then held an general [overview presentation](http://switch.ch/export/sites/default/services/els/LOR/documents/2007-10-LOR-Workshop-presentation.pdf) (http://switch.ch/export/sites/default/services/els/LOR/documents/2007-10-LOR-Workshop-presentation.pdf) about the state of the LOR (Learning object repository) project at SWITCH.

A lively discussion soon started, some of the most important topics/questions were:

*For whom is the LOR? Teachers or students?*

RB clarified that at least in the first phase of the project, the LOR will be targeted at the teachers. It will give them the possibility to re-use the resources in their own teaching activities.

In a later step, it can be imagined that students access the objects directly in the LOR. This assumes that it is possible to store and provide whole courses in the LOR, which could also be worked through directly in the repository.

*How can we convince teachers to share their learning material?*

Often it is just the simple problem that teachers are not even aware of the possibility. It is therefore extremely important to promote the LOR, so it gets wide publicity.

On the other hand, if teachers are not confident enough about their products (“It is not yet ready to be made available”, “It is not good enough”), this might be some sort of a quality control.

The aim has to be to change the attitude of the teachers, to make them proud of their products and also to recognize their teaching activities (and not just judge them by their research merits).

### *Will it be an open or reviewed scheme?*

SWITCH won't have the resources for a review of all content by paid experts. So in order to get some evaluation of the resources, there can be several possibilities: Star system (Amazon, Merlot), social tagging, number of downloads, etc

### *Why do you not use an already established repository (Merlot)?*

SWITCH doesn't want to give the content away to a place where we can't control what is happening with it. With an in-house solution (which uses available software (Fedora) as much as possible), SWITCH can guarantee the appropriate usage of the content as defined by the content provider.

It additionally allows for a tight integration with existing structures of the Swiss higher education environment, eg. AAI.

### *What about long-term access? For alumnis?*

It is up to the institutions to decide how they are going to grant access to their alumnis. It is planned that the repository will provide a history of a learning object (Versioning). When it comes to long-term storage, it is crucial to enlist the know-how of librarians, because they are the experts in this field.

Some additional remarks by the workshop participants and leaders:

- The LOR is not about harmonizing content or telling students what they have to learn in certain subjects. This will remain the sole responsibility of the universities.
- The integration with existing LMS is crucial. The export to the LOR should be as simple as possible (One-click export).
- The LOR will not replace the different LMS's in use today. In a later phase it is the intent to allow for the import/export of learning objects via the LOR using standards (SCORM, IMS Content packaging, METS).
- Previewing of content within the LOR is a wishful feature. This would allow to decide about the usefulness of a resource before actually downloading it (or contacting the owner of the objects and asking her if she allows to re-use her material). This also shows the teachers what others have done, which might make them more confident to try it out themselves.

The participants of the workshop brainstormed and presented some possible [use case scenarios](#) they have for a future LOR.

CR then presented an already existing user interface to the Fedora repository called Fez and pointed out some of the short-comings of the system which lead to the decision to develop an own solution. A prototype of the front end was also shown.

RB wrapped up the workshop and thanked all attendees for their active participation.

The most important [findings and open questions](#)

(<http://switch.ch/export/sites/default/services/els/LOR/documents/2007-10-LOR-Workshop-conclusion.pdf>) raised in the workshop were later plenum by RB.