Learning objects developed to help CSU students acquire and hone Information/ICT Literacy skills and abilities

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Goal of the Initiative

**Information Literacy** and **Information and Communication Technology Literacy (ICT) Literacy** are conceptual frameworks developed to help individuals to attain and hone important information acquisition, production, and problem-solving skills – abilities critical for succeeding in our Information Age.

The Information/ICT Learning Objects Initiative has begun an initiative to develop a suite of e-learning activities that can be utilized in multiple learning environments: learning management systems (LMS) or linked from course or instructional websites. Providing an e-learning solution allows faculty to reach a wider student audience, positively impacting students’ abilities to acquire these skills during their academic careers and to retain them throughout their lives.

**Why Information Literacy learning objects?**

Since 1995, the CSU has been a leader in promoting and advancing Information and ICT literacy. Discipline and Library faculty have forged successful partnerships to integrate information literacy competencies within CSU campus curricula. Face-to-face instruction has been the primary delivery mode for information literacy instruction. However, it is impossible to reach all levels of students (undergraduates, graduates) for information literacy instruction with the current level of staffing. Newer technologies, such as learning management systems, social networking, and screen casting software, have made online learning a viable complement to face-to-face instruction methods.

Now, discipline and library faculty have an opportunity to reach a greater number of students, without respect to time and space, with information/ICT literacy online learning materials.

**Outcomes**

For the purposes of this initiative, digital learning objects are defined as web-based, interactive, self-contained, reusable learning materials used to support a specific learning objective. A repository of learning objects covering the following core Information/ICT literacy concepts and skills are being collected or developed:

- Defining an information need
- Locating information (includes search strategies)
- Evaluating information (e.g. periodical content, books, data, visual media, websites)
- Integrating and Managing information
- Creating and Communicating information
- Using information ethically

The input and feedback from CSU faculty, students, and librarians is key to this Initiative’s success. In spring, 2008 surveys were distributed to obtain information about which information literacy learning objects are most important to these education stakeholders. Analysis of this input will guide what is collected or developed for the repository.

**Time-frame**

This project will be completed in 2 phases. Phase 1 is targeting learning objects aimed at lower-division undergraduates for attainment of core Information/ICT literacy proficiencies. Phase two will be directed towards the discipline-based needs of upper-division undergraduates and the more sophisticated information and research needs of graduate students. The Core Development Team is taking a dual-pronged approach to this initiative: first, reviewing existing online learning materials to see if any can be added to the CSU repository; second, development of new learning objects to address the gaps identified in the review of existing materials. It is anticipated that some IL learning objects will be available in fall, 2008.

**Benefits**

**Improved Student Learning.** Learning objects meet a critical teaching and learning need because they can be used in a variety of instructional modes – as part of an online, hybrid, or in-person instruction environment; they can be accessed without regard to time or space constraints, thus providing learning at the point of need for students; and, due to their multimedia format, they address multiple learning styles.

**Extended Reach.** This system-wide driven project will enable faculty at the 23 campuses to extend their abilities to provide learning experiences to students for these core abilities.

**Aligned with Strategic Planning Goals.** In the Core Performance Goals and Accountability Measures section of the **CSU Access to Excellence** strategic planning document, one goal deals with student access and success in the CSU. The increased student learning and engagement goals of this project align themselves with the accountability indicator dealing with increasing overall educational attainment.

For more information, please contact
Stephanie Brasley:  
sbrasley@calstate.edu