

# International collaboration in the development of Interactive Learning Objects in the Building discipline

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Interactive Learning Objects (ILOs) (as described elsewhere at this conference by Carter et al (2005)) are discrete learning materials delivered to on-campus and distance learning students. ILOs are supplemented by other activities (for example, face-to-face / tele-tutorial / video conference interaction with a lecturer), which draw on the content of the objects, and focus students' attention and subsequent activities. The development of ILOs is a challenging activity for many reasons, the key one being that an appreciable number of these objects need to be prepared to meet the expectations of students once an innovative approach such as this is implemented.

Loughborough University (UK) and the University of Newcastle (Australia) are collaborating in the preparation of Interactive Learning Objects (ILOs) for students in their 'construction management' and 'quantity surveying' undergraduate programs. These programs share a common basis, being accredited by the Chartered Institute of Building both in UK and Australia. Staff have been collaborating informally for some time, and have come to use the same software and delivery approach. Over the next two years, staff at Loughborough and Newcastle will develop ILOs that complement each other's requirements. This will enable both institutions to benefit from the arrangement. It is anticipated that salient aspects that will surface as a result of this partnership will include: harmonising quality assurance requirements of geographically remote institutions, development of appropriate evaluation strategies, case studies of innovative approaches in using ILOs and so on. These aspects will be reported in future proceedings.

The authors would welcome correspondence with like-minded academics and developers.

## References:

Carter, H., Dobbs, H, and Sher, W. (2005). Developing and Using Interactive Learning Objects in a Construction Management Program. To be presented at ED-MEDIA 2005:World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications. Montreal, 27 June-2 July.