A gap exists between users who ask “where are the learning resources”, and the content providers who ask “where are the users”.

In repositories users search or browse for relevant resources among the vast supply on the market. Therefore, in many countries ministries of education, authorities or professional organisations have established repositories of educational resources.

Repositories are key disseminators of information on available learning resources, and attempt to help users locate relevant learning materials, as easy as possible. Supporting legal sharing, development and remixing of materials created by educators is becoming an increasingly important focus area for educational repositories.

The strategies for educational repositories vary – some host content, others only provide descriptions; some hold only free materials, others only commercial content; some only list digital materials, others include traditional text books. The common denominator is to ensure easy access to available learning materials.

– join the discussion

edrene.org
Themes of discussion include
- Policies and strategies of repositories of learning resources
- Identifying successful policy actions
- The future of repositories in a rapidly evolving web environment
- Functionalities and features of a repository
- Encouraging teachers' knowledge sharing
- Optimising number of titles and users
- Ensuring ease of use - usability, wizards, help and support
- Quality criteria and quality assurance
- Reviews and evaluations
- Building your own content from repository resources
- Involving commercial publishers and associated agreements
- Rights protection and management
- Ethics, screening and clearing

Events

From 2007 to 2010 the network has arranged four strategic seminars and 10 expert workshops.

In the years to come EdReNe will arrange semi-annual seminars, and we invite all stakeholders to join the network.

The events address the different aspects of the overall goals of the network, and engage both members and external experts in the work. Together members of the network prioritise the issues to be discussed, and provide input on their relevant fields of expertise. The events aim to be highly interactive and provide concrete results – this is why the network is built.

The EdReNe website includes a Members Zone for discussion and planning in between the face-to-face events.

The output of the EdReNe network is published on the web, see www.edrene.org.

All things considered?

EdReNe’s overall goal is to make it easier for users to find and use content of high quality.

- Licensing schemes
- Strategies for providing copyright cleared material for education
- Providing guidelines for users/teachers/producers
- Standards and interoperability
- Connecting and cooperating with existing repositories
- Facilitating exchange between repositories and Learning Management Systems
- Development and harmonisation/mapping of metadata application profiles
- Pedagogical metadata and links to curriculum

For all issues, a common effort is to identify best practice examples – and examples not to follow.

EdReNe will link to, and collaborate with, other cross-national and local initiatives dealing with learning resources and educational repositories.
As well as proceedings and presentations from all events, a number of reports are available for download from the EdReNe website, including:

Current status of European Educational Repositories

Templates for agreements and guidelines for repositories and content owners/providers

Consolidated recommendations on repositories of educational content

Four synthesis reports on:

- Policies and strategies of educational repositories *Planning, building and running a repository – strategic decisions*
- Engaging users and producers *Getting educators involved – using, sharing and improving digital content*
- Standards and interoperability *Are current standardization bodies in sync with actual user needs?*
- Rights issues *Is copyright legislation in tune with educators’ expectations?*

Network members

AIE – Associazione Italiana Editori, Italy
ALLIANZ S.p.A., Italy
ANSAS – Agenzia Nazionale per lo Sviluppo dell’Autonomia Scolastica (former INDIRE), Italy
apsit – aps IT diensten, The Netherlands
AtIT, Belgium
Becta – British Educational Communications and Technology Agency, United Kingdom
BFU – Brancheforeningen for Undervisningsmidler, Denmark
CNDP – Centre National de Documentation Pédagogique, France
CTE – Centre de technologie de l’éducation, Luxembourg
CTIE – Centre suisse des technologies de l’information dans l’enseignement, Switzerland
DGIDC – Ministry of Education, Portugal
EDEN – European Distance and E-Learning Network, Europe
EduWeb, Portugal
EENET – European Expert’s Network for Education and Technology, Europe
Encyclopaedia Britannica Education, United Kingdom
ENIS Austria, Austria
EUN – European Schoolnet, Europe
FWU – Institut für Film und Bild in Germany Wissenschaft und Unterricht, Germany
Giunti Labs, Italy
IKT Senteret, Norway
IML – Umeå University Department of Interactive Media and Learning, Sweden
Intrallect, UK
ITC – Centre of IT in Education, Lithuania
Kennisnet – Stichting Kennisnet Ict op School, The Netherlands
KlasCement, Belgium
Lektion.se, Sweden
LTSScotland, Learning and Teaching Scotland, United Kingdom
Menon Network, Europe
NCTE – National Centre for Technology in Education, Ireland
Ontwikkelcentrum, The Netherlands
Open University/OLnet, United Kingdom
sDae – Sociedad Digital de Autores y Editores, Spain
ShareTEC, Europe
Skolverket – The Swedish National Agency for Education, Sweden
SLO – the Netherland’s Institute for Curriculum Development, The Netherlands
SMART Technologies, United Kingdom
Teachable.net, United Kingdom
TLF – Tiger Leap Foundation, Estonia
TLU- CET – Talinn University, Estonia
UNI+C, Denmark
UNI-LJ-FMF, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
UPF – Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
VETAMIX, Finland
EdReNe – a Thematic Network

EdReNe brings together members from
• Web-based repositories of learning resources
• Content owners
• Other stakeholders within education

The members share, develop and document strategies, experiences, practices, solutions, advice, procedures etc. on the organisation, structuring and functionality of repositories.

EdReNe develops practical guidelines and recommendations, but most importantly, constitutes a collegial network of European repository nodes and stakeholders.

The network has the role of connecting the many providers of learning resources with the education community. Existing repositories may cut some corners, and new repositories may have a less costly and much less complicated path in life.

Do you wish to join EdReNe?
EdReNe invites all stakeholders interested in sharing experiences and opinions on repositories of learning resources to join the network.

All members may participate in the work and events organised by the network, and they have full access to the Members Zone of the EdReNe website.

Members cover their own costs from participating in work and events organized by the EdReNe network.

Contact
www.edrene.org
info@edrene.org

edrene.org
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